

**Title:** Development of the Status of Prague – Tourist Destination in the Central European Space

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***Abstract***

The objective of this thesis is to analyse the development of the status of Prague as a destination of city tourism in Central Europe since 1989. Prague, the Czech capital, is compared to other capitals in the region – Berlin, Vienna, Bratislava, Warsaw, and Budapest. The research is focused especially on a comparison between Prague on the one hand and Vienna and Budapest on the other in the period 2003-2011. For the research presented in the submitted thesis, secondary data from national statistical offices of the selected countries and specialized statistical databases were used. This quantitative research has been combined with qualitative studies. Since 1989, Prague has transformed from a destination of “former Eastern bloc” into a destination comparable with major cities of Western Europe. The development of tourism in Prague has been rapid and misbalanced. Tourism impact on Prague is higher than in other capitals of Central Europe, especially in its historical centre. This thesis presents major theoretical characteristics of city tourism and applies them on the case of Prague – the development of city tourism, its sustainability, supply, demand, and fundamental problems such as a overcrowding of the centre, touristification, tourist inflation, and effect of tourism trap and subsequent decline of the destination.

***Key words:*** Tourism, city tourism, development of tourism, Central Europe, Prague, Vienna, Budapest