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Dark Tourism in the USA

Temný turismus v USA

Bakalářská práce

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Prohlašuji, že jsem tuto bakalářskou práci vypracovala pod vedením vedoucí bakalářské práce samostatně a uvedla jsem všechny použité prameny a literaturu.

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Klíčová slova: temný turismus, Alcatraz, města duchů

Annotation

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The aim of the bachelor thesis is a presentation of this phenomenon and introduction of major dark tourism sites in the USA as well. The thesis is divided into two parts. The theoretical part defines the concept of dark tourism and introduces the most interesting tourist destinations, primarily in the west of the US, California. In the practical part, a tour across California is planned for a group of potential clients. The tour comprises exploring of California ghost towns and visiting, among other things, Alcatraz Island with a tour of the former prison.

Keywords: dark tourism, Alcatraz, ghost towns

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Introduction

Taking a tour of the death camp of Auschwitz, visiting the Killing Fields in Cambodia, discovering of mysterious ghost towns, walking through the Aokigahara Forest in Japan or calling on Pripyat near Chernobyl. These are the activities sharing one common feature – their negative, sometimes brutal, past. This phenomenon is nowadays known as dark tourism. Although people have been engaging in travelling to these sites since a long time ago, the topic of dark tourism has been explored in recent years.

The aim of this bachelor thesis is presenting this recently discovered form of tourism and giving general information about the most significant dark tourism sites around the world. Since dark tourism comes in a very wide variety of forms, the most important ones are described in the theoretical part as well. A partial purpose of the work is also vindication of dark tourism, since many people only imagine brutality and massacre under this term. The work should clarify, that people keen on dark tourism do not thrive on viciousness, rather are interested in history and humanity within all its dark aspects.

Even though the USA is a huge country offering many attractive dark tourism sites, California has been chosen as the most suitable state for a suggested road trip, since San Francisco is home to one of American premier dark tourism attractions – Alcatraz. A significant part of the work is devoted to this former penitentiary, as it receives huge influx of tourists yearly. Otherwise, San Francisco is one of the most popular cities in the USA in terms of general tourism and even one of its best-known landmarks, the Golden Gate Bridge, has its very dark sides too. Moreover, there are located plenty of ghost towns, which represent remains of California Gold Rush. The trip is planned across central California, starting in Los Angeles and ending in San Francisco. Two of Californian most famous ghost towns, Calico and Bodie, are included in 11-day road trip and whole journey is accompanied by visiting some Californian most significant natural monuments as Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley, and Yosemite National Park. The itinerary contains basic information concerning the trip, detailed schedule and final calculation.

1 Dark Tourism

1.1 Definition and history

Tourism is a social, cultural and economic phenomenon which entails the movement of people to countries or places outside their usual environment for personal or professional purposes. This widespread phenomenon heavily influences contemporary world in economic, social, ecological and political spheres. As every industry has trends and innovations, the tourism industry is no exception. In a rapidly evolving world, new trends are appearing and taking hold all the time. Among these new trends it is also included an increasingly popular dark tourism.

Dark Tourism is an individual or mass tourism, focused on places associated with death and suffering – battlefields, slavery, concentration and extermination camps, places of natural and man-made disasters, mass graves and war cemeteries, places of executions and torture chambers (Zelenka and Pásková, 2012).

According to Kotíková (2013), the term dark tourism can be understood as tourism, which involves travelling from the place of permanent residence for the purpose of visiting places, attractions and activities related to death, suffering, misfortune, fear or sadness.

The definition of dark tourism is linked to an alternative terminology that has emerged during the development of this phenomenon. The term dark tourism was first coined by professors at Glasgow Caledonian University – Malcolm Foley and John Lennon in their publication of the same name, in 1996. Sharpley (2009) mentions the terms as thanatourism (from Greek ‘Thanatos’ meaning dead), morbid tourism, black spot tourism, grief tourism or fright tourism. Nevertheless, a factor common to all these terms or forms of tourism is an association between a tourism site, attraction or experience and death, disaster or suffering. Consequently, definitions of dark tourism focus on this relationship between tourism and death.

The topic of dark tourism is not a new phenomenon and has been explored to a certain extent in recent years. Dark tourism has historical origin and has arguably occurred ever since people have had the means and motivation to travel for leisure. It is supposed that pilgrims became the first dark tourists, as they often set out to visit sites of executions. Early dark tourism might have constituted attendance at Roman gladiatorial games or

touristic visits to battlefields such as to Waterloo or Gettysburg in the immediate aftermath of the conflicts (Institute for Dark Tourism Research).

1.2 Products of Dark Tourism

Products of the dark tourism vary a lot, primarily due to the motivation of the visitors. For that reason, dark tourism offers a wide variety of products which differ in their 'darkness' – from those, which evoke real sense of grief to those, which serve only as an amusement product. According to Sharpley (2009), dark tourism can be classified into seven main levels:

Dark Camps of Genocide belong amongst the darkest spectrum of dark tourism, where genocide, terror and catastrophe are the main subject. This level of dark tourism includes concentration and extermination camps (e.g. Auschwitz-Birkenau), places, where genocide was caused by political regime (e.g. Cambodia) or battlefields (e.g. Waterloo).

Dark Exhibitions are focused on education and offer opportunities for cognition and learning via presentation of products connected with death, suffering and terror. In contrast to the places of genocide, dark exhibitions do not necessarily have to be found on the location, where the event took place (e.g. US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.),

Dark Resting Places are represented especially by cemeteries, which have historical and artistic meaning. Cemeteries are perceived as a part of cultural heritage and are important from the environmental point of view, primarily those, which have character of a park (e.g. Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris).

Dark Dungeons can be whether an authentic product with a rich history, such as prisons (also called Prison Tourism), or artificially created attraction for the purpose of amusement (e.g. London Dungeon). Amongst the most sought-after prisons belong former US penitentiary Alcatraz.

Places of Catastrophes or Disaster Tourism are terms indicating places connected with natural disasters or disasters caused by human activities. Among the most significant examples of Disaster Tourism belong Ground Zero in New York and Pripyat, ghost city near Chernobyl.

Re-enactments of Battles are becoming a popular part of tourism which attract attention of participants and spectators. The re-enactments offer an opportunity to find out how the event exactly happened in the past. An example of the re-enactment is the Battle of Austerlitz which is annually recalled in the Czech Republic. Another example might be a re-enactment of assassination of John F. Kennedy.

In the Track of Slavery – the aim is visiting of places which are related to history of slavery. Among exemplary destinations belong Cape Coast Castle or Elmina Castle in Ghana or Gorée Island in Senegal – the places which were used for slaves trading across the Atlantic Ocean.

1.3 Spectrum of Darkness

Not all dark tourism attractions have the same level of ‘darkness’. Strange and Kempa (2003) were the first who distinguished degrees on the scale of darkness in tourism sites. They compared Alcatraz in the USA and South Africa Robben Island (famous for holding political prisoners including Nelson Mandela during the Apartheid era), both being former prison which had been transformed into tourism attractions. Nevertheless, Robben Island still maintains its seriousness in its interpretation whereas Alcatraz is already being presented in a commercial way. By maintaining a higher political influence and focusing more on education, honouring and remembrance, Robben Island is being perceived as a darker shade than Alcatraz.

The distinction between the different levels of the dark tourism spectrum is mainly determined by the temporal and spatial distinctions between sites. This shows that there is a substantial difference between the places where the death really occurred, and which are only associated to death. As an example, may serve a holocaust death camp such as Auschwitz, a place of death and atrocity, in comparison to Washington Holocaust Memorial Museum, a place only associated to death and atrocity.

In general, the darkest tourism sites are situated at an authentic location (where tragedy in fact occurred), present higher degree of educational purpose and focus more on commemoration rather than commercialism. The lighter tourist sites are typical for better tourist infrastructure and entertaining function, which means they offer a less authentic experience (Sharpley, 2009).

1.4 Motivation

As mentioned above, a demand for the products of dark tourism differ according to the tourists' motivation. Kotíková (2013) presented main factors, which affect the demand for dark tourism:

- Tribute to the deaths and suffering, memorialisation
- Education, cognition
- Personal experience of fear
- Entertainment, play

In the first case, by visiting a particular location, the participants want to pay tribute to the memory of specific individuals, both prominent figures and ordinary people who were jailed, tortured, executed or perished by tragic death during disasters.

However, visiting dark tourism destinations can have an educational goal. Through visits to major historical sites, participants become acquainted in non-violent form with major events in contemporary history.

If the motivation of tourists is a personal experience of fear, this theme can be interpreted differently. It may be a visit to objectively dangerous places, such as war conflict sites, where conflicts between enemy parties persist. Another motive is to attend funerals of eminent figures or to participate in reconstructions of historical battles and other staging experiences associated with sadness, fear and suffering.

Dark tourism can also be a source of entertainment. Particularly events that took place a long time ago and which are losing the ethical aspect of respect or humility in relation to death. Visiting of dungeons or places associated with legendary and rather mythological characters (e.g. Elizabeth Báthory) serves primarily as a source of amusement. This category also includes artificially built attractions, arousing feelings of fear – haunted castles and chateaus, houses of terror and the like (Kotíková, 2013).

2 Dark Tourism around the World

2.1 Europe

2.1.1 Pripyat

Pripyat – named after the local river – was founded in 1970. It was designed as a Soviet paradise, housing the thousands of plant workers and their families. After the Chernobyl disaster the city's life was abruptly shattered. Most of the nearly 50,000 inhabitants who were then driven away were never to return to their homes. The abandonment happened so quickly and unexpectedly that all objects of inhabitants' material life were just left behind. That makes the city of Pripyat one of the most iconic and famous ghost towns on the planet.

Chernobyl and Pripyat have been a popular dark tourist's attraction since the radioactive Exclusion Zone surrounding them opened up to visitors, but after the release of the popular HBO drama Chernobyl, travel interest in the Ukrainian site has grown considerably. The HBO miniseries increased interest in visiting Chernobyl and Pripyat of 40 % only few months after the show was released.

Nowadays everyone who is at least 18 years-old can book a guided tour. The Chernobyl tour companies guarantee that all routes are far away from contaminated areas. In general, the greatest risk while exploring Pripyat is not from radiation but from the dereliction itself that is all around (Černobyľská historie).

“The name Chernobyl is better known than Kiev, or Ukraine itself but Chernobyl is not a historical place. It is a sleeping lion. And when the lion is sleeping, you do not open the cage” (Wall, 2004), comments Iryna Gagarina, the Ukrainian tourist board's executive director.

However, these days the local community is dependent on the influx of tourists and dark tourism now flourishes in the region. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that a terrible tragedy occurred there, and people should comport with respect for all who suffered and sacrificed (Wall, 2004).

2.1.2 Auschwitz

This site in the south-east of Poland is said to be the epitome of all dark tourism. Auschwitz has become synonymous and symbolic byword for the whole Holocaust, and it is quite common that 'Auschwitz' is used in reference to any atrocities committed against humanity. Over two million people visit the site annually these days and it is estimated more than 60 million people have visited in total up to now. That makes Auschwitz a place where niche tourism meets mass tourism (AUSCHWITZ).

During operation, the Auschwitz KZ consisted of three major parts and more than 40 subcamps. The first part was Auschwitz (the main camp known as Stammlager). It was established in 1940 in an isolated location in former military barracks. The second part of the complex was Birkenau (sometimes known as Auschwitz II). It was built in 1941 some three miles from Oswiecim in a village called Brzezinka. Its original inhabitants were resettled to make a way for the largest development of the entire Nazi system of concentration camps. It was in Birkenau that the main installations for mass killing were built. The third part of the camp was built on land adjacent factory producing fuel, called Monowitz. In this extermination centre the Germans killed some 1,6 million people.

The camp was abandoned in 1944 by the Germans who set part of it on fire and dynamited crematoria and gas chambers. By 1947 the Polish parliament had declared the remainder of the camp would be preserved as a memorial. The work of the International Auschwitz Committee achieved the designation of Auschwitz-Birkenau as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site (Lennon and Foley, 2010).

2.1.3 Pompeii

Pompeii is one of the most important archaeological sites on Earth for its Roman remains and relics and the largest and well-preserved Roman town. Some 2.5 million tourists visit Pompeii each year, making it one of Italian most popular attractions.

A volcano near the Bay of Naples in Italy, Mount Vesuvius, has erupted more than 50 times. The most famous eruption took place in the year 79 A.D., when the volcano buried Pompeii and other cities (Herculaneum, Stabiae, Torre Annunziata) under thick layer of ash and lava. An estimated two thousand people died in the disaster. For about 1700 years the site was covered under the volcanic shroud and was forgotten until its rediscovery in the 18th century, when Pompeii was found mostly intact. Amongst the glorious mosaics

and other cultural relics was found preserved remains of human bodies. It has also been possible to reconstruct the daily life of the town through the preserved written records. Collectively, the ruins of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Torre Annunziata were declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1997.

Nowadays the remains of Pompeii city walls are 3 km in circumference, and they enclose an area of about 66 hectares. There are many remains of public buildings and hundreds of private homes of various architectural styles. Two-thirds of the town have been uncovered, however the remaining third is still buried and many modern buildings have been constructed over it, making future excavations practically impossible (Jahemski, 2020).

2.2 Asia

2.2.1 Killing Fields in Cambodia

After becoming Cambodia independent from France in 1953, the country suffered great political instability and civil strife. In 1975, communist troops, known as the Khmer Rouge, under Pol Pot captured Phnom Penh city and seized power. The principles of the Khmer Rouge were to evacuate people from urban to rural areas (collectivisation of agriculture), eliminate money usage, the class system and religion and execute intellectuals and bourgeoisie. A period of repression began in order to establish a new order – a return to a ‘year zero’. According to the Cambodian Genocide Program at Yale University, it is estimated that, in the period from 1975 to 1979, 1.7 million people (21 % of the country’s population) lost their lives. In 1975, Vietnam invade Cambodia, took over the country and a less extreme communist regime assumed power. Most of the people decided to leave the country and those who stayed were living under Vietnamese military occupation. In 1993, a democratic system was introduced (Sharpley, 2009).

The two main sites for dark tourism visitation are the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide, known as S-21 and the Cheung Ek Genocidal Centre. Tuol Sleng site was originally a school which was taken over by the Pol Pot regime as a torture, interrogation and execution centre. Discovered by the Vietnamese when they entered Phnom Penh in 1979, it was opened in 1980 as a Museum of Genocide. Those imprisoned at Tuol Sleng who did not die there under torture were transferred to the nearby Cheung Ek killing fields for extermination. More than 300 mass graves were dug in Cambodia during this terrible

period however Cheung Ek is believed to be the largest – the place where more than 17 000 civilians were killed and buried in mass graves. The centre is dominated by a 30-metre high glass walled stupa containing some 8000 skulls of victims (S-21 Prison and Choeung Ek Killing Fields).

2.2.2 Aokigahara Forest in Japan

Aokigahara is located at the northwest base of the country's highest mountain, Mount Fuji. Due to its high density of trees, Aokigahara is also known as a Jukai – which means a 'sea of trees'. The forest is about 13.5 square miles and was formed around 1,000 years ago.

The Aokigahara Forest is the most popular site for suicides in Japan. It is also known as the world's second-most common location to commit suicide, after the Golden Gate Bridge in California. Locals do not know exactly why this forest has become so popular for the suicides however, the most famous theory is that it happened after the publication of Seiko Matsumoto's novel in 1960, in which the main heroes go there to commit suicide. Darkness of the forest is also intensified by a history of the forest which is associated with an ancient practice from Japanese folklore called *ubasute* – taking an elderly or sick relative to a remote area and leaving them to die. Nevertheless, the recent spike in suicides in the forest is more likely caused by Japan economic downturn than by the romantic ending of the book.

The rate of suicide has led officials to place a sign at the forest's entry urging suicidal visitors to seek help and not take their own lives. Statistics on Aokigahara's suicide rates vary, because the forest is so lush that some corpses stay undiscovered for years or might be forever lost. However, some estimates claim as many as 100 people a year have successfully killed themselves there. Nevertheless, Japanese authorities have stopped publishing exact suicide numbers in order to avoid making the place even more popular (Aogigahara Forest).

2.2.3 Hiroshima

The Second World War contributed to a growth in battlefield tourism, both in Europe and elsewhere. Numerous battlefields or sites of conflict in the Pacific region, from Pearl Harbour to Hiroshima, continue to attract large numbers of tourists (Sharpley, 2009).

On August 6, 1945, the American aircraft Enola Gay dropped the world's first atomic bomb, Little Boy. The nuclear blast at Hiroshima killed more people in an instant than any other killing in history and many more died of the immediate and long-term after-effects, mainly burns and radiation sickness. In total nearly 140,000 people died and many more were affected by this incident (A-BOMB DOME, HIROSHIMA).

In 1954, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was created in memory of the victims of the nuclear attack. The park's main facility is the Peace Memorial Museum which surveys the history of Hiroshima and the advent of the nuclear bomb. The most iconic image associated with Hiroshima is the A-Bomb Dome, also known as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. It has been preserved in the same state as immediately after the bombing and in 1966 was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park includes also Children's Peace Monument or Cenotaph for the A-Bomb Victims which is an arched tomb for those who died because of the bomb, either because of the initial blast or exposure to radiation.

As Hiroshima maintains its status as a popular destination for dark tourism, the city wants to do more to promote itself as a symbol of peace, rather than devastation. Hiroshima today sees its role in the world as campaigning for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and their testing, and advocating peace in general (Hiroshima).

3 Dark Tourism in the USA

The USA is a big country that offers a diverse variety and huge number of sites for the dark tourism ranging from one of the world's top dark tourism attractions as National 9/11 Memorial, to the 6th Floor Museum in Dallas, where a president John F Kennedy was assassinated. A relatively large number of dark sites in the US is related to the Cold War, especially the development, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons. That makes the USA also the most attractive country for a nuclear tourism.

3.1 Alcatraz

3.1.1 History

In 1775, the Spanish explorer Juan Manuel de Ayala sailed into San Francisco Bay, mapped it and named one of the islands "Isla de los Alcatraces" (Island of Pelicans). The name was lately anglicized to Alcatraz.

The greatest change that affected not only Alcatraz, but whole California, occurred after the discovery of gold along the American River in 1848. California spread out and population of San Francisco increased rapidly. After becoming California an US state, there was a purpose to protect the land and its mineral resources.

To guard the entrance of the San Francisco Bay the "Triangle of Defence", was designed. The plan included fort at Alcatraz Island, Fort Point and Lime Point. Construction of the fort began in 1853 and after its completion in 1859 it became the most powerful Pacific Coast defence.

However, Alcatraz had never participated in any battle directly and by the late 1850s was more used as a prison for military convicts. Military prisoners rebuilt the old prison into a new one and the island was re-designated "Pacific Branch, U.S. Military Prison, Alcatraz Island" in 1907. After its completion in 1912, it became the largest reinforced concrete building in the world.

Nevertheless, the operation of the prison proved to be very expensive, especially importing water, food and supplies. The army closed Alcatraz and transported convicts to other US prisons. The fort was replaced with new workshops, military buildings and other prison facilities. In 1934 Alcatraz became a federal prison.

After 29 years of operation as United States Penitentiary, the island became too expensive to maintain as a prison. Alcatraz was in very poor condition and an estimated 3-5 million dollars was needed just for reconstruction of corroded building materials. Another reason for closure of the prison were the operational costs. Alcatraz was three times more expensive than other US prisons, which was caused by the isolation of the island. Not only food, fuel and supplies had to be imported, but even fresh water, because the island had no source (Alcatraz Origins).

Because of its unique natural resources and human histories, the island became a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and one year later, in October 1973, Alcatraz was opened for the first time to the public. More than 50 000 people visited Alcatraz during a first year it was open. Currently the island welcomes more than 1,4 million visitors each year.

After the closure of Alcatraz, in 1963, the U.S. government declared the island as a redundant federal property. The Treaty of Fort Laramie from 1868 states, that all abandoned and retired federal lands could be claimed by Native Americans. On November 20, 1969, about 80 Native Americans sailed to Alcatraz and claimed the island for all the tribes of North America, citing the Treaty of Fort Laramie. Their official aim was to build a Native American Studies centre as the former centre in San Francisco had burned down and the community needed a new place to assemble.

The community, which called itself the Indians of All Tribes, was led by Richard Oakes, a young Mohawk ironworker. Shortly after the beginning of the occupation, Oakes released the Alcatraz Proclamation, announcing an offer to purchase the island for \$24 in beads and cloth – the same price that Indians received for Manhattan in 1626. Oakes also sent a message to the San Francisco Department of the Interior: "We invite the United States to acknowledge the justice of our claim. The choice now lies with the leaders of the American government – to use violence upon us as before to remove us from our Great Spirit's land, or to institute a real change in its dealing with the American Indian."

The government decided to negotiate, however Indians wanted nothing less than the deed to the island. The government negotiators insisted that the Indian people leave the island and that the transfer of the land is impossible. Despite all warnings, the Indians continued settling on the island and over time they established a school and started a radio station. The occupation was supported by many activists by importing supplies. The federal institutions were instructed not to interfere and wait.

Nevertheless, as time passed, the situation became unsustainable. Many of original occupiers had to leave to return to school and were replaced by the new ones, who were drug addicted or homeless. By May 1970, the government cut off all electrical power and telephone service and few weeks later a fire destroyed several historical buildings on the

island. In June 1971, after 18 months of occupation, armed federal marshals removed the last 15 activists from Alcatraz.

Nowadays, many Indian people consider the occupation of the island as a new beginning and reawakening of American Indian culture and traditions. Each year they return to Alcatraz on Thanksgiving Day to commemorate the occupation (We Hold the Rock).

3.1.2 Characteristic and famous escapes

Penitentiary Alcatraz was designated primarily for the most dangerous prisoners and prisoners who did not follow the rules and regulations at other Federal institutions. Despite being Alcatraz one of the most known prisons in the US, it held less than one percent of the total Federal prison population. The capacity was 336 prisoners, but it was never reached, the average population was about 260-275 (Escape Attempts).

“The purpose of Alcatraz was actually to completely isolate some of American worst. You broke the rules or broke the law, you went to prison. If you broke rules in prison you came to Alcatraz” (Alcatraz: No Way Out, 0:40-0:55).

The cellhouse included four blocks (A-Block, B-Block, C-Block and D-Block), wardens’ offices, the visitation room, the library and the barber shop. A-Block was primarily used for materials storage. There were only few prisoners who were locked-up in the cells in A-Block, after 1946 riots. D-Block comprised 36 segregation cells and 6 solitary confinement cells. B-Block and C-Block formed the main space of the cellhouse, there were 336 cells. The cells typically measured 2,7 metres by 1,5 metres. Each cell was equipped with a sink with running water, a bed and a toilet.

Prisoners were given four rights: food, shelter, medical care and clothing. Privileges as access to the prison library or recreational activities, had to be earned through hard work. Inmates were granted by one visit per month, which had to be approved in advance. There was a strict daily routine, that had to be kept. A day started with a morning whistle at 6:30, prisoners cleaned their cells, dressed and got ready for a count. Then all inmates moved into the mess hall for breakfast. Prisoners had different activities during a day – some of them worked at the docks or in the laundry area, some were allowed spend their time at the library. At 4:30 prisoners marched to the mess hall for dinner, then returned to their cells, lights out was at 9:30. In total, there were 13 official counts within 24 hours (Facts and Figures).

Alcatraz was the first prison in the USA, equipped with hardened steel bars in cells. The steel was also called tool resistant because it could withstand cutting with a hacksaw. Another new technology at Alcatraz was a mechanical locking system that enable guards to open each cell doors remotely by pulling levers, so there were no guards walking down the corridor with a bunch of keys. Whole complex was also surrounded by barbed wire and guarded by seven watchtowers with snipers.

However, the biggest advantage of Alcatraz was the natural setting of the island with its location more than a mile from land in any direction, surrounded by freezing water. Average temperature of water is about 12 degrees Celsius. If the prisoner tried to swim from Alcatraz to the mainland, he would die of hypothermia after only 30 minutes. Also, the tidal current speed reaches about 10 kilometres in an hour, so there was a high probability of being washed away into the Pacific Ocean (Alcatraz: No Way Out).

Despite these harsh conditions, 14 escape attempts were made during 29 years of operation of the Federal prison. 23 men were caught, 6 were killed during their escape, and 2 of them drowned. It is officially said, that no one ever succeeded in escaping from Alcatraz (ALCATRAZ: Rules and Regulations).

An escape of John K. Giles was one of the most shocking and ingenious. Giles was considered a loner without any close friend or companions. He also seemed to be fragile and physically weak and for that reason, no one suspected him of trying to escape. He worked at the loading dock where he unloaded army laundry sent there to be cleaned. Over time he managed to assemble the components of a military uniform. In July 1945, he had put on his stolen uniform, hid it under his working overall and after the regular count of prisoners, he got on board of an army launch. The Alcatraz guards discovered his absence almost immediately and as the launch reached Angel Island, Giles was arrested and sent back to Alcatraz (Quillen, 2016).

Among the most discussed and unclarified escape attempts belongs escape of Frank Morris and Clarence and John Anglin. The escape busted the myth, that Alcatraz is escape proof. In 1962, Morris and Anglin brothers had placed realistic dummy heads in beds in order not to be missed during night counts and then crawled through the ventilation in the back of their cells. On the roof of the prison they stitched raincoats together to make a raft and got in the water. No sign of the men was found, and they were never seen again.

They are officially listed as missing and presumed drowned (Escape: Breakout from Alcatraz).

To this day, the opinions on the survival of the prisoners differ a lot. Author of the 'Riddle of the Rock', Don Denevi (Escape: Breakout from Alcatraz, 35:25-35:45), argues: "There is no proof, that they drowned. Any time there is a drowning, those corpses usually wind up on the shores. For three, to not wash up anywhere, tells me, they definitely made it."

One of the most notable escapes in Alcatraz is so called 'Battle of Alcatraz', notorious especially for its violence. The escape attempt was planned by Bernard Barney Coy and other five convicts were involved in the plan. Coy worked as a prison janitor which allowed him a partial access around the cellblock. Thanks to this position he had an opportunity to observed flaws in the prison's security. On May 2, 1946, six convicts managed to overpower cellhouse officers and gain the access to weapons and cellhouse keys. However, after finding they lacked the key to unlock the yard door, their plan began to fall apart. Instead of giving up, they decided to fight. After some officers were shot by one of the prisoners, three participants of the riot surrendered and returned to their cells, hoping their involvement would be missed. The battle ended on May 4, when bodies of the main three initiators were discovered. Two other participants were sentenced to dead and one received a life sentence. In total, during this escape attempt two officers died and about eighteen were injured (The History Guy: History Deserves to Be Remembered).

3.2 Ghost Towns

As a ghost town can be considered any abandoned city, town, or village which still have visible remains as for instance empty buildings. A town often becomes a ghost town as a result of the exhaustion of some natural resource or due to natural or human-caused disasters as floods, war, pollution or nuclear disasters. Some ghost towns have become tourist attractions all over the world. Amongst the most famous ghost towns nowadays belong for instance Pripyat, abandoned after the Chernobyl disaster; Craco in Italy, abandoned due to a landslide; or Hashima Island in Japan, once known for its undersea coal mines.

California has the second largest number of ghost towns in the US, after Texas. The ghost towns in California sprang up as a result of the discovery of gold and subsequent

abandonment of settlements after depletion of gold stocks. Former thriving towns nowadays represent a historical monument – a sign of commemoration of the days of the Gold rush.

3.2.1 History

The California Gold Rush began on January 24, 1848, when a gold nugget was discovered by James Wilson Marshall at Sutter's Mill on the American River. At that time California was not yet a state and the population of the territory consisted of approximately 8,000 people. The news set off a chain reaction around the world, resulting in influx of thousands of prospective gold miners, known as forty-niners, travelling by sea or over land to San Francisco and the surrounding area. By August 1848, 4,000 gold miners were in the area, and within a year about 80,000 had arrived at the California goldfields. By the end of 1849, the non-native population of California was estimated at 100,000.

To accommodate the needs of miners, gold mining towns spread across all over the region. However, the mining camps lacked housing, sanitation, law enforcement and crime rates in the goldfields were extremely high. These settlements that lacked other viable economic activities soon became ghost towns after the gold was exhausted.

According to estimates, more than 300,000 people came to the territory during the Gold Rush. Despite the fact, that some 2 billion dollars in gold was extracted, only few people grew rich. During the time, as gold became more and more difficult to reach, individual gold-diggers could not compete with technological facilities of the major mining conglomerates. Though gold mining continued throughout the 1850s, it had reached its peak by 1852.

Effects of the Gold Rush were substantial. On the one hand, San Francisco developed a vibrant economy and became a thriving city. Also, a system of laws leading to the admission of California as a state, was created. On the other hand, many Native Americans were attacked and pushed off traditional lands, and gold mining caused environmental harm. New mining methods and the population boom permanently altered the landscape of California (California Gold Rush).

3.2.2 Bodie

One of the largest and the most famous mining camps in California was Bodie. Bodie is located in the Bodie Hills east of the Sierra Nevada and northeast of Yosemite National Park. It is one of Californian best-preserved ghost towns.

Gold was discovered here in 1859 by a group of prospectors, including W. S. Bodey, after whom the town was named. With the gold rush came dozens of businesses to Bodie. Saloons, dance halls and opium dens soon lined the streets of the city and gunfights and robberies became common occurrences in the camp. That contributed to city's poor reputation for its violence and gave rise many legends related to Bodie's lawlessness. In 1881, Reverend F.M. Warrington described the town as 'a sea of sin, lashed by the tempests of lust and passion'. In the late 1870s, Bodie had a population of about ten thousand and was the second largest city in the state and its mines produced gold valued at more than 100 million dollars. However, Bodie's heyday was short-lived, the boom started to slow during half of the 1880s and the population decreased from its peak to approximately 1,500 people. In 1932, a fire destroyed all but 10 % of the town and Bodie faded into a ghost town during the 1940s. In 1962 the small part of the town that had survived the fire was designated a State Historic Park and a National Historic Landmark and currently receives about 200,000 visitors yearly.

Nowadays Bodie is preserved in a state of 'arrested decay' – exists as it did when the last residents left. The interiors of almost 200 abandoned wooden buildings are maintained as they were left, many of them still have furniture and belongings inside. Among the most popular places to visit there belongs Main Street, the central road that leads through Bodie and features many of the area's most popular buildings. It also includes the museum and visitors centre which offers a lot of exhibits (Varney, 2012).

3.2.3 Calico

Calico is located in in Calico Mountains of the Mojave Desert region of Southern California. In 1881, four prospectors discovered silver in nearby mountain and opened the Silver King Mine, which was Californian largest silver producer in the 1880s. People flooded in from all over, some of them for chance to find some silver for themselves, others as laborers to work in the mines established up in the mountains and canyons. During its heyday, almost three thousand people were living there. Nevertheless, fame of

Calico only lasted about 15 years. Unlike a lot of other old mining towns turned into ghost towns, Calico did not slow down because the silver ran out, Calico slowed down because of the Silver Purchase Act, which drove down the price of silver. In 1907 the town was completely abandoned. People together with many of the original buildings were moved to nearby Barstow and Yermo. In 2005, Californian governor at the time proclaimed that Calico was to be California Silver Rush Ghost Town (History of Calico Ghost Town).

“Calico and Bodie are the extremes of what the term ghost town encompasses. Bodie is in a state of arrested decay, carefully preserved so that we can experience the past. Calico is always changing, an asphalt-line homage to capitalism that stretches the term ghost town to its limit – and perhaps beyond” (Varney, 212).

Nowadays, Calico is a ghost town theme park containing attractions and many buildings with elaborate false facades and gingerbread architecture that tourists would expect to see in Western-themed town. The park operates mine tours, gunfight stunt shows, gold panning, several restaurants, narrow gauge Calico & Odessa Railroad, a Mystery Shack, and number of souvenir stores. There is available overnight camping and special events are held throughout the year.

4 Itinerary

The US is a huge country that offers an overwhelming number of destinations for lovers of dark tourism, as well as those who want to relax and explore new places. Therefore, it can be very difficult to choose the right state to visit. However, there is California – a state on the southwest coast of the US where, even now, many people are heading to pursue their American dream, to gain fame and fortune. California is a place that combines the best of the best – beautiful weather, fascinating history, breathtaking nature, delicious food and last, but not least, thrilling desert ghost towns. They are easy to drive, fascinating to explore, and may leave people thinking about which one they would like to live in.

The advertised holiday is suitable for almost everybody who is interested in dark tourism, history and keen to discover new places and have adventure. Despite being created primarily for ‘dark tourists’, the program is designed to be enriching in multiple ways. The program includes a tour of the most interesting places in California. During the holiday, there is also plenty of free time which may be used at participants’ discretion.

The stay is designed for 5 people who are in good physical condition and do not have serious health problems. Due to some physically demanding trails of the trip, we do not recommend the journey to children and the elderly.

The tour is planned on September, especially because of the weather in California. The entire state starts to cool off and clear up, but it is still sunny, warm and the likelihood of rain is very low. However, remember to pack high-quality sunscreen, as the sun shines almost every day. In Los Angeles, daytime averages in September hover around 21°C, with highs of up to 27°C, while further up the coast in San Francisco, temperatures are cooler with a daytime average of 14°C and highs of 21°C.

Concerning the clothing – packing to Los Angeles and San Francisco is up to you, just follow the weather forecast. However, as we plan to discover National Parks and ghost towns, pack some sport clothes, specifically more light layers to stay warm and covered (but ones that you can easily shed if it gets too hot) and be sure to bring hiking boots. Even though there are some very nice hike, they are not always easy to manage. Also add a good pair of comfortable shoes for your leisure activities. It is also recommended to bring a headwear, sunglasses and an insect repellent.

At the very beginning of this adventurous holiday, participants can look forward to exploring the second most populous city in the US – Los Angeles. We will spend two glamorous days in the City of Angeles and discover its most famous places as Hollywood Walk of Fame, Beverly Hills or Venice Beach. There will be also opportunity to visit some dark tourism sites. More detailed information related to these sites may be found below, in the description of individual days. In Los Angeles we will draw our strengths and set out for an exciting journey across California. As we will cover relatively long distances, a comfortable SUV for six people available throughout the holiday, is included. The following days will be in the spirit of exploring wilderness areas and beauties of Nationals Parks, starting from Joshua Tree National Park – fascinating nature preserve of granite rocks and picturesque forests, where two distinct desert ecosystems, the Mojave and the Colorado, come together. From Joshua Tree National Park, we will head to Calico Ghost Town – former largest silver mining camp in California. Then we will move on from one desert to another one, to the largest national park in the United States, Death Valley – the hottest and driest place in North America. Next stop will be Bodie – the most famous and well-preserved ghost town in whole California. After spending time in a wonder of nature and a photographer’s paradise – Yosemite National Park, we will head to our last stop, San Francisco. Before heading back to home, we will enjoy limitless view of the Golden Gate Bridge, ride a renowned SF cable car and visit Alcatraz, where some of the American most notorious criminals were incarcerated. Departure is planned from San Francisco International Airport.

4.1 Day 1

September 7, Monday

The first day of our trip is basically all spent on the way to the destination. The departure is scheduled on Monday 7th September at 13.00 from Vaclav Havel Airport, Prague. It is recommended arrive to the airport at least two hours in advance. After approximately an hour and a half long flight, there will be transfer in Warsaw from where we will head to Los Angeles. The plane from Warsaw takes off at 16.45. While waiting for the flight, you can relax or do some shopping in the duty-free zone. Since the journey takes more than sixteen hours in total, we recommend put on comfortable sportswear. Reaching the destination is planned at 20.00 of local time. At the airport there will be waiting a car to take you to Budget Inn Hollywood approximately half an hour away. The accommodation

is furnished simply however it is convenient for our purposes. Budget Inn Hollywood is located in the heart of Hollywood and offers a free Wi-Fi, a cable TV and air-conditioned rooms.

Table 1: Day 1 Schedule

September 7, Monday					
From	To	Departure	Arrival (local time)	Flight duration	Transfer
PRG	WAW	13:00	14:20	1h 20min	2h 25min
WAW	LAX	16:45	20:00	12h 15min	-
LAX	Budget Inn Hollywood	21:00	21:30	-	-

4.2 Day 2

September 8, Tuesday

A morning is going to start by going up to the Griffith Observatory, which features space-related exhibits, star shows and a telescope. Admission to the building is free. It is also a great place to see Los Angeles from above, as well as the famous Hollywood sign. From the observatory we will move on to Hollywood Boulevard to see one of the biggest magnets of LA – The Walk of Fame. Currently it encompasses 2,690 five-pointed stars embedded in the sidewalk along the street. Down the street from the Walk of Fame there is a famous TCL Chinese Theatre, where countless blockbuster movies held its premiere. In the concrete of theatre’s forecourt, the participants can take look at handprints and footprints of celebrities. Right next to the Chinese Theatre is located Dolby Theatre – home of Academy Awards. There will be a guided tour which takes approximately 30 minutes. Next stop will be LA Farmers Market where will be time to get some refreshment and discover surrounding on one’s own. Either it is possible visiting The Grove – beautiful open-air shopping centre, or not far from there is located Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust which is highly recommended to visit (admission is not included in the price of the trip). The day is finished with a walk on the Sunset Strip, well-known for its nightlife and high-end boutiques on Rodeo Drive, in Beverly Hills.

Table 2: Day 2 Schedule

September 8, Tuesday	
Time	Plan
8:30-9:00	Moving to Griffith Observatory
9:00-11:00	Griffith Observatory
11:00-11:30	Moving to the Walk of Fame
11:30-12:00	The Walk of Fame
12:00-14:00	Chinese Theatre + Dolby Theatre
14:00-14:30	Moving to LA Farmers Market
14:30-16:30	Free Time
16:30-17:00	Moving to Beverly Hills
17:00-18:30	Sunset Strip

4.3 Day 3

September 9, Wednesday

The third day is much more recreational compared to the previous one. The potential client will start the day at the Santa Monica Pier – the official endpoint of the legendary highway Route 66. Then they will spend the morning strolling along the Santa Monica Beach, relaxing in Tongva Park and visiting Third Street Promenade – famous open-air shopping street. Since in Santa Monica there is paved path that follows the shoreline, it is planned to rent a bike to get to Venice Canals – man-made canals modelled after Venice in Italy. Just a short ride from the canals there is famous Venice Beach. There will be cycling around the Venice Boardwalk famous for its colourful graffiti, street performers, and funky shops. From there the group will move back to Santa Monica and head to Malibu to see some of the most picturesque beaches in Southern California.

Table 3: Day 3 Schedule

September 9, Wednesday	
Time	Plan
8:00-8:30	Moving to Santa Monica
8:30-11:00	Tongva Park, Third Street Promenade
11:00-11:15	Cycling to Venice Canals
11:15-13:30	Venice Canals, Venice Boardwalk
13:30-14:00	Moving back to Santa Monica
14:00-14:30	Moving to Malibu
14:30-17:00	Point Dume State Beach, El Matador Beach

4.4 Day 4

September 10, Thursday

The next day the participants are going to leave Los Angeles and set up on the way to the Joshua Tree National Park. After arriving to the Joshua Tree, there will be a short rest for refreshment and buying some food and water for the following days. Then the group will enter the park through the west entrance in Joshua Tree, drive south through the park, and exit out the south entrance. A first stop is Barker Dam Nature Trail, loop trail that leads to an actual dam built by early cattle ranchers. Next point is nearby Hidden Valley, one of the most popular trails in the park, easy to hike. Then is planned head over to Cap Rock and afterwards to Keys View to enjoy wonderful views of the desert valley. After a break at Keys View, follows moving on to Skull Rock followed by an easy hike. As the participants leave the Mojave Desert and enter the Colorado Desert, they will notice the landscape changing. One of the last stops is Cholla Cactus Garden, place dominated by plant called teddy bear cholla. After that follows moving on to Cottonwood Spring Visitor Centre, which will be the last point of the way. Follows moving to Barstow, where the accommodation in Days Inn motel is arranged.

Table 4: Day 4 Schedule

September 10, Thursday	
Time	Plan
7:00-10:00	Moving to the Joshua Tree National Park, refreshment
10:00-10:30	Moving to Barker Dam Trail
10:30-11:10	Barker Dam + moving to Hidden Valley Trail
11:10-11:50	Hidden Valley + moving to Cap Rock Trail
11:50-12:20	Cap Rock + moving to Keys View Trail
12:20-14:00	Keys View + moving to Skull Rock Trail
14:00-15:00	Skull Rock + Cholla Cactus Garden Trail
15:00-15:45	Cholla Cactus Garden + moving to Cottonwood Visitor Centre
15:45-18:45	Moving to Barstow, motel Days Inn

4.5 Day 5

September 11, Friday

The fifth day is going to start with moving to nearby Calico Ghost Town. The group will discover the town on their own. It is recommended to visit Lucy Lane Museum with photographs and documents from Calico origin, explore an authentic silver mine with mining exhibits and take an historical tour on a train around the hill to see some historical sites and mining equipment. It is also possible to buy there some souvenirs in more than fourteen shops. Before heading to Death Valley, there will be a break in the Calico House Restaurant. Moving to K7 Bed and Breakfast takes approximately two and half hours. After arrival there will be time to relax for and get ready for the next day.

Table 5: Day 5 Schedule

September 11, Friday	
Time	Plan
8:30-9:00	Moving to Calico Ghost Town
9:00-12:00	Calico Ghost Town
12:00-13:30	Lunch at Calico House Restaurant
13:30-16:00	Moving to Pahrump, K7 Bed and Breakfast

4.6 Day 6

September 12, Saturday

Saturday is going to start with moving from Pahrump to Death Valley. A first stop is Ashford Mill, which offers a great and vast view of Death Valley. The next stop is Death Valley most popular attraction – Badwater Basin, the lowest point of entire North America. Afterwards, potential clients will move on to Natural Bridge. The trail is an easy hike through a shaded canyon. The next stop is Devil’s Golf Course – once a lake, this area has now dried up leaving salt formations in its place. After reaching another point, participants will acknowledge, that Death Valley is not just a flat land with soil and sand. Artist’s Palette proves, that a desert can be amazingly colourful. Afterwards, moving on to Furnace Creek Visitor Centre is scheduled. The refreshment might be bought there. One of the last stops will be Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes, from where the participants will head to the last stop – Father Crowley Vista Point, a famous spot for fighter jets to test their skills. The day will be finished by reaching Big Meadow Lodge motel in Bridgeport.

Table 6: Day 6 Schedule

September 12, Saturday	
Time	Plan
8:00-9:00	Moving to Death Valley, Ashford Mill
9:15-10:00	Ashford Mill + moving to Badwater Basin
10:00-11:45	Badwater Basin + moving to Natural Bridge Trail
11:45-12:30	Natural Bridge Trail + moving to Devil’s Golf Course
12:30-13:30	Devil’s Golf Course + Artist’s Drive
13:30-14:00	Moving to Furnace Creek Visitor Centre
14:00-16:00	Rest time + moving to Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes
16:00-17:30	Mesquite Flat Sand Dunes + moving to Father Crowley Vista Point
17:30-21:00	Father Crowley Vista Point + moving to Bridgeport, Big Meadow Lodge motel

4.7 Day 7

September 13, Sunday

The next day is going to start with moving to Bodie State Historic Park, nearby Bridgeport. In Bodie, there will be enough time to explore it on one's own. It is possible to walk along Main Street, the central road that leads through Bodie, where besides other things Visitors Centre offers interesting exhibits. Amongst the other recommended stops is for instance Methodist Church – the only church still standing in the city, where is a possibility walk into. It is recommended to do not miss Bodie Bank and Standard Stamp Mill, the most successful of all the mining companies in Bodie. After visiting Bodie the group will set off to Mono Lake, the largest natural lake in California. After reaching south of the lake, there will be enough time to admire its unique ecosystem and scenic limestone formations. The last stop is nearby June Lake where is arranged an accommodation in Lake Front Cabin. The participants can spend the rest of the day according to their wishes.

Table 7: Day 7 Schedule

September 13, Sunday	
Time	Plan
8:30-9:00	Moving to Bodie State Historic Park
9:00-11:30	Staying in Bodie
11:30-12:30	Moving to Mono Lakes
12:30-13:30	Staying at South Tufa Area
13:30-14:00	Moving to June Lake
14:00	Free time

4.8 Day 8

September 14, Monday

Since the potential clients will be fresh after previous rest afternoon, a journey to Yosemite National Park is going to start early morning in order to do not miss a guided

bus tour. There is scheduled a one-way tour to Glacier Point and then hiking back to Yosemite Valley. The tour included the best of Yosemite National Park – El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall, Half Dome Yosemite Falls in Yosemite Valley, Tunnel View and Glacier Point. The Four Mile Trail leading back to the Yosemite Valley takes approximately 3 hours and is considered strenuous. Before hitting the trail, there will be possibility to buy food and beverages at Glacier Point Snack Stand. After conquering the trail, there will be enough time for rest and refreshment. Follows moving on to San Francisco, where an accommodation is arranged in Surf Motel.

Table 8: Day 8 Schedule

September 14, Monday	
Time	Plan
5:30-8:00	Moving to Yosemite Valley Lodge
8:30-9:45	One-way bus tour to Glacier Point
9:45-11:00	Glacier Point
11:00-14:00	Four Mile Trail
14:00-15:00	Rest time
15:00-19:00	Moving to San Francisco, Surf Motel

4.9 Day 9

September 15, Tuesday

Since the motel is located not far from Pier 33 Alcatraz Landing, a walk is planned to get there. The Alcatraz Tour begins at 10:00, however it is recommended arriving at least half an hour in advance. The tour takes approximately 4 hours, including cruise to the Island, taking the Cellhouse audio tour, exploring the rest of the Island a returning back to Pier 33 (Alcatraz Cruises). After Alcatraz Tour follows moving on to Pier 39, a place famous for street entertainers, view of bay, and sea lions hanging out on the docks. There will be a short rest and time for lunch. Follows driving across the Golden Gate Bridge and going to Fort Baker to enjoy a view of the bridge and city skyline across the harbour. After moving back across the bridge, the group will drive down the curviest street in the world – Lombard Street. The day is finished on the North Beach.

Table 9: Day 9 Schedule

September 15, Tuesday	
Time	Plan
8:30-9:30	Moving to Pier 33
10:00-14:00	Alcatraz Tour
14:00-14:15	Moving to Pier 39
14:15-15:30	Rest time
15:30-15:45	Moving to Fort Baker across the Golden Gate Bridge
15:45-16:30	Fort Baker
16:30-17:00	Moving to the North Beach
17:00	North Beach

4.10 Day 10

September 16, Wednesday

After previous physically demanding days, Wednesday will be spent according to one's own fantasy. Since San Francisco has so much to offer, the potential clients will not definitely get bored. Recommended is visiting Golden Gate Park - home to gardens and museums, also called lungs of the city. Chinatown, which is the largest Chinatown outside of Asia and the oldest of its kind in North America, is also worth visiting. There are plenty of museums, for instance Museum of Modern Art or the Cartoon Art Museum. Highly recommended is also visiting Twin Peaks – one of the finest views out over the city and bay. The guide will be available on phone whole day if necessary.

Table 10: Day 10 Schedule

September 16, Wednesday	
Time	Plan
	Free Time

4.11 Day 11

September 17, Thursday

The last day is suggested to dedicate morning time to packing or visiting some nearby places that participants did not manage the previous day. It is required to get in front of the motel no later than 13:15. Departure from motel is scheduled at 13:30 as it is necessary to get there at least two hours in advance to check in. The plane from San Francisco takes off at 16:25 and scheduled arrival to Warsaw is for 13:00. There will be 2 hours for transfer. Arrival to Prague is scheduled for 16:35.

Table 11: Day 11 Schedule

September 7, Monday					
From	To	Departure	Arrival (local time)	Flight duration	Transfer
Surf Motel	SFO	13:30	14:00	-	-
SFO	WAW	16:25	13:00	11h 35min	2h 10min
WAW	PRG	15:10	16:35	1h 25min	-

4.12 Calculation

Calculation is not quite accurate, and the final price may slightly differ due to food and gasoline prices and other expenses, which depend on every single participant. Calculation includes flight ticket, accommodation, entrances and fees, car rent, gasoline and food. Flight is provided by Polish Airlines LOT and the price of the return flight ticket is inclusive of one cabin luggage and one checked-in luggage. Final price of accommodation includes three nights at Budget Inn Hollywood Hotel, one night at Days Inn Motel, K7 Bed and Breakfast motel, Big Meadow Lodge motel, Lake Front Cabin and three nights at Surf Motel. Accommodation prices are calculated according to website Booking.com. Final price of entrances and fees includes Dolby Theatre admission, entrance fee to Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley, Bodie, Yosemite National Park, price of the Glacier Point Tour, ticket to Alcatraz and Golden Gate Bridge toll, which are calculated according to their official websites. The other attractions selected by you are not included. A rented car is a full-size SUV Nissan Armada, offering enough space for 6 people, including a guide, and baggage. Average fuel consumption of chosen car is 12,4

litres per 100 kilometres (Rentalcars). The approximate price of gasoline is calculated according to the monthly average of U.S. gasoline prices (Global Petrol Prices) and distances were estimated according to website Google Maps.

The table below shows prices in USD and CZK for both one participant separately and for the whole group. Prices are rounded for better clarity and translated according to the average dollar rate in June 2020 (X-Rates). The table shows the final price of the trip, which is 1 771 USD (42 138 CZK) for one person.

Table 12: Calculation

		USD	CZK
Flight Ticket	Person	855,2	20 353
	Group	4 275,8	101 765
Accommodation	Person	337,4	8 030
	Group	1 687	40 151
Entrances, Fees	Person	121,9	2 899
	Group	609	14 494
Car Rent	Person	73,9	1 759
	Group	369,4	8 794
Gasoline	Person	32,24	767
	Group	161,2	3 836
Food	Person	350	8 330
	Group	1 750	41 650
	Person (in total)	1 771 USD	42 138 CZK
	Group (in total)	8 855 USD	210 690 CZK

Conclusion

Dark Tourism is a rather unknown and new phenomenon that has existed for years without conscious knowledge. The aim of this work was outlining the topic, as many people nowadays have not known nor heard about the term and most of them engage in dark tourism unconsciously. A purpose of the second part of the work was presentation of dark tourism in a practical way by planned tour.

In the theoretical part of the work main features of dark tourism were described, including general information and brief history of this phenomenon. As the products of dark tourism vary a lot, main seven levels of dark tourism were described as well. It also has been shown that many different kinds of touristic sites can be categorized as being part of dark tourism, some with a lighter or darker shade of darkness. Following examples of dark tourism sites around the world have been chosen precisely because of their diverse shade of darkness – from those, which evoke real sense of grief to those lighter ones. Information about diverse motivation of tourists engaging in dark tourism were given as well. A significant section of the theoretical part was dedicated to former penitentiary Alcatraz. Alcatraz history was described in detail as well as general characteristic and several famous escapes. Brief history of California Gold Rush and two famous ghost towns finishes the theoretical part.

The theoretical part includes a 11-day road trip across California planned in order to show that dark tourism is not about thriving on viciousness, rather about cognition of history sometimes with all its dark aspects. It should also give tourists ideas how to possibly spend active holiday in California in a different way than most of travel agencies offer. The itinerary was suggested for group of five people in a good physical condition. Besides other things, the plan includes few nights spend in Los Angeles, exploring of two Californian ghost towns, and visit of Joshua Tree National Park, Death Valley and Yosemite National Park. The trip is finished in San Francisco with a visit one of the American most prominent dark tourism sites – Alcatraz. The calculation in the end gives and approximate price of the trip, including all spends during the stay.

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