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Dark Tourism in the British Isles

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Zásady pro vypracování:

Cílem bakalářské práce s názvem *Temný turismus na Britských ostrovech* je představení pojmu *dark tourism* a jeho destinací na Britských ostrovech. V teoretické části se práce zabývá vymezením fenoménu temného turismu a zmapováním turistických destinací tohoto typu ve Spojeném království Velké Británie a Severního Irsku a v Irské republice. V praktické části je vytvořen příklad zájezdu orientovaného na temnou turistiku na Britských ostrovech.

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Prohlášení

Prohlašuji, že jsem bakalářskou práci *Dark Tourism in the British Isles* vypracovala pod vedením vedoucího závěrečné práce samostatně a uvedla jsem všechny použité prameny a literaturu.

V Hradci Králové dne

Poděkování

Za odborné vedení mé bakalářské práce, velkou míru ochoty a trpělivosti při zpracovávání mnohokrát děkuji vedoucímu práce Mgr. Janu Sukovi, Ph.D.

Anotace

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Cílem bakalářské práce s názvem *Temný turismus na Britských ostrovech* je představení pojmu *temný turismus* a jeho destinací na Britských ostrovech. V teoretické části se práce zabývá vymezením fenoménu temného turismu a zmapováním turistických destinací tohoto typu ve Spojeném království Velké Británie a Severního Irsku a v Irské republice. V praktické části je vytvořen příklad zájezdu orientovaného na temnou turistiku na Britských ostrovech.

Klíčová slova: temný turismus, Britské ostrovy

Annotation

BENÁKOVÁ, Leona. *Dark Tourism in the British Isles*. Hradec Králové: Pedagogická fakulta Univerzity Hradec Králové, 2022. 49 s. Bakalářská práce.

The aim of the Bachelor's thesis entitled *Dark Tourism in the British Isles* is to introduce the phenomenon of dark tourism and its destinations in the British Isles. The theoretical part deals with the definition and description of dark tourism; furthermore the thesis will map tourist destinations of this type in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as in the Republic of Ireland. The practical part will propose an example of a tour focused on dark tourism in the British Isles.

Key words: dark tourism, British Isles

Abstrakt

Tato bakalářská práce se zabývá temným turismem se speciálním zaměřením na Britské ostrovy. Teoretická část představuje a vysvětluje tento turistický fenomén specializující se na návštěvu míst spojených se smrtí a/nebo jinými tragédiemi. Dále je tento typ cestovního ruchu kategorizován podle destinací, které pod něj spadají, jako jsou například temné výstavy, žaláře, svatyně nebo válečná místa. Jsou uvedeny různé podkategorie, na které lze temný cestovní ruch rozdělit, tj. cestovní ruch spojený s holocaustem, cestovní ruch týkající se pohřebišť, cestovní ruch související s komunismem, cestovní ruch zaměřený na oblasti katastrof a další.

První kapitola se zabývá také motivací k účasti na tomto druhu cestovního ruchu. Tou je obvykle touha po vzdělání, zábavě, uctění památky nebo osobní prožitek strachu či smutku. Bakalářská práce otevírá i otázku morálky a zabývá se chováním návštěvníků v místech s takto citlivou tematikou. Neměli by například pořizovat nevhodné fotografie, být hluční, smát se a obecně se chovat neuctivě.

Další klíčovou částí této práce je představení sedmnácti produktů a destinací temného cestovního ruchu na Britských ostrovech. Ty jsou rozděleny do kategorií podle toho, zda se nacházejí v některé části Spojeného království, tedy v Anglii, Walesu, Skotsku nebo Severním Irsku, nebo v Irské republice. Mezi nejznámější památky, které jsem v této práci zpracovala, patří Tower of London, Edinburgh Castle a Kilmainham Gaol. Kromě těchto velmi populárních míst jsem se rozhodla přidat i další, pro širokou veřejnost možná méně známá místa vhodná pro temnou turistiku, jako jsou kostel a krypty svatého Michana, hostinec The Mermaid Inn nebo atrakce Edinburgh Dark Side Tour. Pojednáno je také o dvou místech, která se na rozdíl od ostatních nechtějí stát turistickým cílem a návštěvníky nevyhledávají. Konkrétně se jedná o bývalý Denbigh Asylum pro duševně choré, jehož budova je dnes v tak zchátralém stavu, že by bylo nebezpečné se k ní přiblížit. Druhým místem je vesnice Aberfan, která se stejně jako předchozí zmíněné místo nachází ve Walesu a v minulém století ji postihla katastrofa, při níž zahynulo více než 100 dětí, a která dodnes velmi ovlivňuje dnešní obyvatele.

V praktické části jsem vytvořila turistický itinerář, jehož hlavní cíle tvoří výše uvedený seznam temných památek. V itineráři je zastoupena každá ze zmíněných částí Britských ostrovů a jeho účelem je ukázat, jak takový zájezd na místa spojená se smrtí a tragédií může vypadat. Zájezd je koncipován na 12 dní a pro šest dospělých osob, nejlépe s

alespoň základní znalostí angličtiny. Mezi hlavní cíle patří dva významné hřbitovy, a to Highgate Cemetery, který býval hlavním hřbitovem Londýna, a Glasgow Necropolis, kde nalezlo věčný odpočinek asi 50 000 lidí. K dalším významným destinacím patří vybombardovaná katedrála v Coventry a krypty svatého Michana, kde si návštěvníci mohou prohlédnout několik mumií. Kromě toho se zúčastní také prohlídky Edinburgh Dark Side Tour a Belfast Mural Taxi Tour, kde se seznámí s temnou historií jednotlivých měst. Itinerář zahrnuje i památky známé a oblíbené mimo temný turistický okruh, a to Tower of London, Edinburgh Castle a Kilmainham Gaol. Účastníci si nenechají ujít ani slavný přírodní útvar Beachy Head, hostinec Mermaid Inn, proslulý svými strašidelnými příběhy, a rozsáhlou výstavu Titanic Belfast. Zájezd by vyšel přibližně na 1 571 GBP (45 045 CZK) na osobu, tedy 9 426 GBP (270 270 CZK) pro celou skupinu.

Britské ostrovy jsou pro temný turismus a zájemce o něj důležité, protože nabízejí širokou škálu destinací, které spadají pod tento typ cestovního ruchu. Ať už se jedná o hřbitovy, hrady, památníky, hladomorny a další různé expozice. Samozřejmě nechybějí ani lokality, jako je například dříve otrávený Anthrax Island nebo dočasné památníky, jako je Poppies Tower of London. Tuto rozmanitost jsem demonstrovala v teoretické i praktické části této práce. Díky této variabilitě a mnoha příkladům jsou Britské ostrovy vhodné pro každého, ať už se zajímá o temnou turistiku obecně, nebo se zaměřuje na její konkrétní aspekt.

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Introduction

Over the decades, tourism has become one of the popular hobbies, whether it is hiking with friends, family holidays or exploring the world on your own. Moreover, tourism can be divided into many categories, according to the locations/products it focuses on, its participants and other criteria. Perhaps to the surprise of some, travelling to places that are somehow related to death or other disaster, tragedy forms a separate category of tourism as well. Although travelling to cemeteries and various shrines to pay homage or visiting war museums and memorials is nothing new, the so-called dark tourism was only concretised in the 1990s and has been only recently slowly coming into awareness.

This touristic category is accompanied by negative connotations. It is not uncommon that when people do learn about it, they condemn it for being immoral and unethical, since it is linked with such a delicate subject as death. At the same time, visiting war museums or even former concentration camps and educating oneself in the dark area of history is not unusual; even some schools organise excursions to these places, and no one questions it. Yet this may also fall under the umbrella of dark tourism, which some are quick to judge.

The aim of this Bachelor's thesis is therefore to present the phenomenon of dark tourism. In the theoretical part, dark tourism is defined and further approached by describing its possible subcategories and addressing the motivation to participate in this tourism. Furthermore, the question of morality, ethics is also raised and the (in)appropriate behaviour of tourists is discussed. An introduction of the sights of dark tourism across the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland follows. For clarity, they have been divided according to the countries in which they are located.

The practical part then proposes an itinerary of a possible tour focusing mainly on the sights of dark tourism located in the British Isles. The main destinations of the twelve-day road trip are selected from the list of destinations given in the theoretical part. These include well-known tourist landmarks like the Tower of London or Edinburgh Castle, along with lesser-known locations such as St Michan's Crypts in Dublin.

Theoretical part

1 Dark Tourism

Dark Tourism is one of the many types of tourism and it has become more popular in recent years. However, some people may find it weird, disturbing, or even kind of perverse. The truth is that dark tourism can be in fact enriching and educative.

1.1 Definition

“By dark tourism is understood tourism that involves travel outside the place of residence to visit places, attractions, and activities associated with death, suffering, misfortune, fear, or sadness.” (Kotíková, 2013) It was the researchers Lennon and Malcolm who first came up with this name – dark tourism, back in 1996. Other possible terms include grief tourism (Lochmannová, 2015) or thanatourism, which is derived from the Greek *Thanatos* meaning death. In science books, some prefer the term thanatourism since it sounds more emotionally neutral than the words dark or grief (Kotíková, 2013).

As concerns sites associated with dark tourism, among such belong museums, cemeteries, prisons, torture chambers, concentration camps, war sites, ruins, places of natural disasters, ghost towns, bunkers, et cetera (Hohenhaus, n.d.).

To give an illustration of this matter, some of the most famous sites of dark tourism include Ground Zero in New York, Robben Island, Waterloo, the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, the coasts of Thailand and Indonesia hit by the tsunami and others. (Zelenka and Pásková, 2012).

Although historically visiting places associated with death and suffering is nothing unusual, it was not until the 1990s that dark tourism specifically began to be academically discussed and defined (Light, 2017). Nowadays, dark tourism ranks among the fastest growing and most discussed branches of tourism (Mandelartz, 2016).

1.2 Categories of Dark Tourism

According to Stone (2010), dark tourism is differentiated into seven categories based on its products. Namely dark fun factories, dark exhibitions, dark dungeons, dark resting places, dark shrines, dark conflict sites and dark camps of genocide.

Sites of dark fun factories are linked by their focus on entertainment. This category is considered less authentic, “lighter” and even family-friendly precisely due to its orientation towards amusement (Stone, 2010). Dark fun factories include artificially built attractions (like houses of horror or haunted castles) and places dedicated to myths and legends (e.g. count Dracula) (Kotíková, 2013). A typical example of a dark fun factory is the London Dungeon.

On the other hand, dark exhibitions aim to educate and thus are more thoughtful and authentic in comparison to dark fun factories. For example, museums (Stone, 2010). Visitors casually learn about history (Kotíková, 2013), and museums (and other sites falling under the category of dark exhibitions) do not necessarily need to be situated in the location of the actual event that they are discussing.

Dark dungeons combine entertainment with education, so it depends on the particular site which aspect is targeted more. To this category belong for instance the Galleries of Justice and the Bodmin Jail Centre in the United Kingdom or the Old Melbourne Gaol in Australia.

Dark resting places are simply final resting places, in other words, cemeteries and individual graves. Although their main purpose is to commemorate and pay respect, these places have lately acquired more commercial function, and in some cemeteries guided tours are not unusual.

Sites considered a part of dark tourism with a rather temporary character are dark shrines. They are usually created at the scene of death shortly after it has taken place. Various people throng there with flowers, often having had no direct relationship with the deceased. These places are also commonly featured in the media. However, some of them may become permanent or at least long-term, such as the spot where Princess Diana died, despite the fact that the shrine has been relocated.

Another category, originally having an educational and commemorative aspect, but gradually gaining an entertainment aspect, are dark conflict sites. These are associated with wars, battlefields and reenacting of battles. Frequently visited are, for example, venues of World War One.

Last but not least, dark camps of genocide are the darkest category. They deal with locations associated with atrocities and genocides and provide not only education but also an emotional experience. The most famous sites are those related to the Holocaust, specifically the Auschwitz or Dachau concentration camps (Stone, 2010). The Dachau concentration camp was opened in 1993, thereby becoming the first Nazi concentration camp in Germany. In spite of the fact that the records of them have been destroyed, this camp is known for the terrifying medical experiments that took place there (Bathory, 2018).

In addition to this classification, dark tourism can be divided into several more specific types of tourism, subcategories. Hohenhaus (n.d.) mentions specifically Holocaust tourism, disaster area tourism, grave tourism, Cold War and Iron Curtain tourism, genocide tourism, prison and persecution site tourism, communism tourism, cult-of-personality tourism, nuclear tourism and so-called “icky medical” tourism. Sharpley and Stone (2009) also refer to battlefield tourism.

Holocaust tourism is connected with travelling to concentration camps and their memorials, also museums focused on this historical matter, former ghettos and even some places related to the Nazis (Hohenhaus, n.d.). One of the sites falling into this subcategory is the Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Germany, located 35 km from Berlin. It is a place of execution of prisoners, although it was not originally built for this purpose. Nevertheless, over 30,000 of them eventually died here (Bathory, 2018).

Disaster area tourism deals with locations struck by natural or man-made disasters. It is a bit complicated with this subcategory though. Such catastrophes are usually floods, fires, earthquakes, or storms and so their traces do not have to be permanent, and places affected by them are usually relatively quickly rebuilt, thus there are no more sites of disaster tourism to visit. Despite this, visiting this kind of location before the reconstruction can be seen as disrespectful and unethical. In fact, it may be considered voyeurism. Naturally, there are exceptions that one may visit (Hohenhaus, n.d.). An example is volcanic eruptions in Iceland, which caused an increase in the number of visitors (Stainton, 2022).

Grave tourism focuses on cemeteries, graves and mausoleums of famous people and ossuaries. As an example may therefore be given the Sedlec ossuary in the Czech

Republic (Hohenhaus, n.d.) which is decorated with approximately 70,000 skeletons arranged by a woodcarver František Rint (Bathory, 2018).

As typical sites falling under the subcategory of Cold War and Iron Curtain tourism are perceived museums dealing with this topic or the remains of the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall.

Unfortunately, the holocaust perpetrated by the Nazis was not the only massacre in our history, and so alongside holocaust tourism, genocide tourism has emerged. It deals with sites associated with other mass killings, e.g. genocide in Cambodia or Srebrenica (Hohenhaus, n.d.). In Cambodia, millions of people were murdered by a group called Khmer Rouge. Not even children and infants were spared. Visitors of the killing fields of Choeung Ek will not only find there a memorial but mass graves and bones protruding from the ground as a reminder of the terrors as well (Bathory, 2018).

Those interested in prison and persecution site tourism visit former gulags in Russia, KGB and GDR jails and other places of repression. However, some mental asylums may also be included in this subcategory (Hohenhaus, n.d.). Examples, therefore, include Western State Asylum and Pennsylvania prison, both located in the USA. Western State Asylum was built in 1828, surrounded by gardens and footpaths lined with flowers. Nevertheless, the place soon became a nightmare. Patients involuntary underwent sterilizations, electric shock treatments, lobotomy and other experiments were performed on them. They were put in straitjackets and restrained too. The asylum was relocated, turned into a prison in the 1970s and not closed until 2003. Like Western State Asylum, Pennsylvania Prison (built in 1907) became overcrowded, leading to horrible conditions and escalating to torture and murder (Bathory, 2018).

Communism tourism mainly includes museums concerning this subject. More extreme are tours to countries still controlled by the communist government. Furthermore, this subcategory includes visits to the mausoleums of communist leaders (primarily Lenin, Mao Ce-tung, Ho Chi Minh and former leaders of North Korea), even though these sites overlap with grave tourism.

Cult-of-personality tourism overlaps with communism tourism, however, deals with not just communist leaders. Interestingly, these personalities do not have to be deceased. To

give an illustration, sites related to the former Turkish leader Atatürk, Erich Honecker from the GDR or Stalin may be mentioned as examples of cult-of-personality tourism.

Sites of nuclear testing, places hit by the atomic bomb, locations of non-military nuclear catastrophes and dedicated museums all come under nuclear tourism. Among the most well-known sights belong Chernobyl, Hiroshima and Nagasaki or Nevada Test Site in the USA.

Icky medical tourism concentrates on exhibitions showing real body parts and other medical displays (Hohenhaus, n.d.). A concrete example is the Human Body exhibition, which offers visitors a look at preserved human bodies (Kotíková, 2013).

The interest in visiting battlefields after the end of World War One developed war-related tourism and gradually gave rise to the subcategory itself – battlefield tourism. Nonetheless, it does not only refer to real locales of battles but also memorials, museums, military graves and further sites associated with this theme (Sharpley a Stone, 2009). For instance, Military Museum in Hanoi deals with the military history of Vietnam (Bathory, 2018).

1.3 Motivation to Participate in Dark Tourism

Products of dark tourism are created based on participation motivation, what people, so-called dark tourists, are looking for in such a place and what they expect from it – demand. Motivations can be multiple at the same time and dark tourism is thanks to them often combined with another type of tourism.

There are four types of motivation for choosing to visit locations connected with death, fear or disaster. The first is respect for the memory of the departed, honouring the dead and suffering. Dark tourism participants travelling with this purpose usually pay tribute to famous as well as ordinary people. Those in question mostly died a tragic death, were executed, or were imprisoned or tortured.

The second kind of motivation covers education and knowledge. Dark tourists visit important historical sites and learn about history.

Another possibility is the desire for a personal experience of fear, threat and sadness. People with such motivation can attend for example reconstructions of historical battles

or funerals of celebrities or travel to a certain location where a war conflict still takes a place.

Lastly, play and entertainment. Visits to artificial attractions, houses of horror and haunted castles, but even visits to torture chambers and other historical sites associated with legendary figures are typical of this motivation. Indeed, some of these characters are merely mythological. Moreover, the further back in time a particular event occurred, the more the site related to it loses the ethical aspect of piety (Kotíková, 2013).

1.4 Morality

Nonetheless, the topic of death and suffering can be considered controversial and uncomfortable and comes jointly with the question of morality, ethics. Naturally, these concerns and uncertainties are transferred to dark tourism itself.

People who find the theme of death unsettling, uneasy and in some cases even taboo may quickly judge and denounce the trend of dark tourism and its participants. To give an example, Stone (2009) quotes Avis who argues that consumers of dark experiences enjoy observing extreme human suffering which is a product of the violent media-driven culture. He also describes it as a “sick kind of tourism” and suggests the possibility of starting wars just because of the profit of dark tourists. Hohenhaus (n.d.) mentions that some may state that dark tourism is a form of voyeurism, however, he rejects this accusation and calls it over-generalization.

Those who argue against dark tourism as well, but have a less drastic point of view, commonly advert to disrespectfulness. Problematic is the behaviour of the visitors. For instance, to the most typical unsuitable manners belong taking ill-conceived photos, laughing, talking loudly, making inappropriate comments, being indecently dressed and overall – showing general signs of disrespect (Stainton, 2022).

This leads to the question of whether people behaving in such a manner are true dark tourists, and consequently to the question of the intention of visiting dark tourism locations. As was previously stated, dark tourists seek dark sites for the sake of memorialisation, education, etc. Hohenhaus (n.d.) then distinguishes two types of dark tourists, primary and secondary. Primary dark tourists have one or more of the aforementioned motivations, they usually have at least some awareness of the place to be visited and come to educate themselves even more deeply. On the other hand, secondary

dark tourists do not have a special interest in dark sites and only visit them when they are part of the general tourist itinerary of the place concerned. To that end, the undesirable kind of behaviour mostly occurs among the second-mentioned type of tourists.

Another key fact to remember is that the morality of dark tourism is linked not only to the behaviour of the participants, but also to the timing of their visit. Hohenhaus (n.d.) counters that dark tourism should be considered voyeurism, nonetheless, admits that it can descend to it if the visit to dark sites is inappropriately timed. He adverts to Hurricane Katrina as an example of unethical tourism when crowds arrived in New Orleans to see the aftermath of the disaster. Of course, the correct timing is difficult to determine and can vary from place to place and event to event. There exist also opposite cases where the return of tourists has been encouraged (e.g. in Thailand) (Hohenhaus, n.d.).

All things considered, everything comes down to behaviour and, above all, motive and intention. The bad perception of dark tourism could be possibly changed for the better through respectful conduct of the tourists. Visitors of dark sites should act appropriately for the chosen location, they should not take selfies and smiley photographs, if possible, keep off having strangers in their pictures, turn off the sound and flash when taking photographs, wear suitable clothes, not laugh and not make any improper comments. In simple terms, tourists should observe the basic rules of respectful behaviour.

Then again, dark tourism comprises a wide range of places, events and circumstances, and the ethical aspect always changes along with these, so the question of morality remains open and should be further explored. At the same time, however, dark tourism needs not only be influenced by morality but can itself influence and reshape it, and thus become a tool for adjusting general moral and ethical boundaries (Sharpley a Stone, 2009).

Some places use their dark side to encourage tourism, while others do not want to become a target for dark tourists as the matter may be too sensitive for the locals, et cetera. Both types are discussed in the following section, looking at specific examples of dark tourism destinations in the British Isles.

2 Dark Tourism in the British Isles

The British Isles are an archipelago off the northwest coast of Europe, surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea and the English Channel (Velká Británie, 2001). This archipelago is made up of two larger islands, namely Great Britain and Ireland, which are considered to be the main ones, and many smaller islands, the Isle of Man, the Hebrides, the Orkney Islands, the Shetland Islands and the Isles of Scilly.

It is also home to two sovereign countries – the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The United Kingdom consists of countries called England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and extends across the whole island of Great Britain and also includes a part of the island of Ireland, however, most of it belongs to the Republic of Ireland (Britannica, 2020).

The countries of the United Kingdom are discussed first, listed geographically, followed by the Republic of Ireland. The particular dark tourism destinations are then ordered alphabetically.

2.1 England

Stretching across more than half of the island of Great Britain, England is the largest country in the United Kingdom. However, unlike the others, it does not have its form of self-government. On the other hand, owing to its history, it is often mistaken by foreigners for the whole of the United Kingdom. The capital London is based here, and other major centres include Manchester, Liverpool or Birmingham. England consists of 8 regions and is home to over 50 million people (Kellner, 2021).

2.1.1 Beachy Head

Visitors who have taken a ferryboat to England across the English Channel have probably visited or at least seen one of its dark tourism sites – Beachy Head. It is a 163 metres high chalk cliff on the outskirts of Eastbourne in East Sussex. Here starts the South Downs Way, which enables hikers to walk up the Birling Gap cliff and enjoy views of the famous Seven Sisters chalk hills (Velká Británie, 2001). Beachy Head is subject to erosion and thus retains its famous white colour. In addition to the cliffs, you can see an eponymous lighthouse with the typical appearance – a tower of white and red rising in the water (Hohenhaus n.d.).

As far as history is concerned, one of the most significant moments of this place is the Battle of Beachy Head, which took place on July the 10th, 1690. The French were led by Admiral Anne, Count of Tourville, and had the advantage of a larger fleet. The navies first met by the Isle of Wight, but no clash occurred at that time. The English Admiral Torrington sought to draw back, however, Queen Mary II was of the opposite opinion and forced him to fight. The battle eventually happened near Beachy Head and ended in a French victory. The consequences were France's short-term domination over the English Channel and the incarceration of Torrington in the Tower of London and the subsequent stripping of his title (Britannica, 2013).

Nonetheless, perhaps surprisingly, this event is not the reason, why this site falls under the category of dark tourism. The actual cause behind it is the fact that it is one of the places with the highest number of suicides in the world. Another such place, much more famous in terms of this issue, is the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, in the US (Hohenhaus n.d.). Approximately 20 suicides a year are committed at Beachy Head (Bathory, 2018). This may be surprising precisely because there is not much information regarding the matter on the site itself and only minor protective measures have been introduced (Hohenhaus n.d.).

2.1.2 Coventry Cathedral

Coventry Cathedral is located in the city of the same name and its history dates back to the year 700 when a women's convent was established on this site (hence the name). With its age, this place boasts a rich back story, from its destruction by the Vikings, rebuilding, imprisonment of the Royalists during the English Civil War, to its elevation to a cathedral (Coventry Cathedral, n.d.). Nevertheless, one of the most significant moments in its history (and the reason why it falls under the category of dark tourism) was in 1940, when it was targeted for bombing by the German Luftwaffe during the Second World War (Hohenhaus, n.d.). Specifically, on November 14th (Coventry Cathedral, n.d.). This happened on the account of the city's role as an armaments centre at that time (Velká Británie, 2001).

As a reminder of the futility of war, it was decided not to repair the cathedral but to preserve its remains. As chance would have it, the bombardment caused two roof timbers

to fall down to form a cross, later accompanied by the words 'Father Forgive' was moved to the altar.

On the other hand, a new cathedral was built next to the ruins of the old Gothic one. In 1962 Sir Basil Spence designed it in the Brutalist style. At first sight of the new cathedral, the stained-glass windows that are part of the nave may catch the eye (Coventry Cathedral, n.d.). Above all, the 66 angels and saints depicted on them make them so interesting (Hohenhaus, n.d.). The interior, meanwhile, is notable for the tapestry *Maiestas Domini* by Graham Sutherland (Velká Británie, 2001).

The new cathedral functions not only as a monument to the old one and for spiritual purposes but it also hosts exhibitions (Hohenhaus, n.d.).

2.1.3 Highgate Cemetery

Between 1832 and 1841 seven new cemeteries were built in the capital city, namely Kensal Green, West Norwood, Abney Park, Brompton, Nunhead, Tower Hamlets and Highgate, which became the principal cemetery of London. This outburst of burial ground construction was due to the increase in population during the Victorian era, which unfortunately resulted in a high mortality rate, as it was a period of epidemics such as cholera (Bathory, 2018). Bodies were buried practically anywhere possible, including among houses, even pubs and shops. Sometimes it was necessary to resort to illegal and poor-quality burials. Graves were overcrowded, so the use of quicklime, which aids decomposition, was not uncommon. In this way, an already dug grave could be reused much earlier (Bickersteth, n.d.). Pandemics thrived at that time because bacteria from more or less ubiquitous bodies spread further. The seven previously mentioned cemeteries were therefore built at the instigation of a statute passed by Parliament as a solution to this situation (Bathory, 2018). For the purpose of their construction, the London Cemetery Company was founded by the architect Stephen Geary.

Highgate Cemetery was opened and dedicated to St James on that occasion in 1839 as the third in order of the total seven. The first person to be buried there was thirty-six-year-old Elizabeth Jackson from Soho, on May the 26th of that year (Bickersteth, n.d.).

Among other things, the Victorian era was exceptional in its relationship to death. The people of that time had magnificent tombs built in memory of their deceased loved ones,

yet they served not only to pay homage but also to display and prove their wealth. These graves and tombs were created in the style of Gothic architecture (Bathory, 2018).

Some of the architecturally significant constructions in this cemetery include the Church of England chapel and a second chapel, which served dissenting believers, in the Tudor Gothic style. Interestingly, although oppositional, both chapels are part of a single building. As another example of Gothic architecture may serve the Terrace Catacombs. These catacombs consist of 55 burial chambers, each containing fifteen loculi. In total, it can accommodate 825 bodies. Noteworthy are also the Egyptian Avenue containing sixteen vaults and the Circle of Lebanon with thirty-six vaults in the Classical style (Bickersteth, n.d.). However, the most famous object in this cemetery is the grave of ‘the father of communism’ – Karl Marx, who died in 1883 (Johnson, n.d.). He was subsequently relocated to a new grave in 1954, which features the inscription ‘Workers of All Lands Unite’, but above all, a large bust of this German philosopher, added two years later (Hohenhaus, n.d.). Other famous personalities who have found eternal rest there include the author Mary Ann Evans, better known by her pen name George Eliot (Johnson, n.d.), or Douglas Adams, author of *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* (Hohenhaus, n.d.).

Highgate Cemetery consists of two parts, the west and the east, which was added later due to the great profitability of the London Cemetery Company. In its heyday, Highgate experienced as many as 30 funerals a day. Nevertheless, gradually pompous tombs fell out of fashion and ordinary graves began to be built, and the situation even escalated to the bankruptcy of the founding company (Bickersteth, n.d.). The western section was closed, and the cemetery was becoming overgrown with lush flora (Hohenhaus, n.d.).

To preserve this magnificent final resting place, the organisation The Friends of Highgate Cemetery was formed in 1975 (Bickersteth, n.d.).

Today, approximately 170,000 people are buried there in 53,000 graves (Bathory, 2018) and the cemetery is still in active use (Bickersteth, n.d.).

2.1.4 Lidice Memorial in Coventry

The Czech footprint in the UK can also be found in the dark tourism sector, specifically the city of Coventry entered into a partnership with Lidice and seven years later a memorial was erected in the centre to commemorate the victims of the burning of this

Czech village in 1942. In addition, Coventry provided a contribution to the reconstruction of Lidice (Embassy of the Czech Republic in London, 2017).

2.1.5 Mermaid Inn

The Mermaid Inn is a restaurant and hotel in one located in Rye, East Sussex. The rebuilt building in Tudor style is 602 years old with cellars dating even back to 1156 (The Mermaid Inn, n.d.). The Mermaid is considered one of the most haunted hotels in the United Kingdom. It owes this label to ghost stories about a pair of fighting ghosts, a man walking through walls, an old man sitting on the edge of hotel beds, or the wraith of a woman in white/grey lingering by the fireplace, to name a few. This place was even featured on an episode of the TV show 'Most Haunted Live' (Bathory, 2018). Both the hotel and restaurant are still open, and it is also possible to take a guided tour with the owner Judith Blincow (The Mermaid Inn, n.d.).

2.1.6 Poppies Tower of London

As an illustration of a temporary location of dark tourism, the red poppies at the Tower of London might be listed.

Since 1919, a two-minute silence has been held regularly in Britain at 11 am on 11 November in remembrance and honour of soldiers fallen in the First World War. Three years later, the symbolism of the poppy was added to this tradition, the origin of which is credited to the poem "*In Flanders Fields*" by the military doctor John McCrae (Černá, n.d.).

From then on, on the anniversary of the signing of the WWI armistice, poppy flowers have been appearing on lapels across the UK and beyond.

In 2014, as part of the 100th anniversary of the start of the so-called 'trench warfare', a red field consisting of 888,246 ceramic poppies was created at the Tower of London to commemorate soldiers who died fighting in the war for Britain. The artist behind the project is Paul Cummins. This temporary memorial, entitled 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red', quickly became a tourist attraction (Bathory, 2018).

2.2 Wales

Wales is located in the western part of the island of Great Britain, with a population of over three million people and its capital being Cardiff. Other than English, Welsh is

spoken here as well. Tourism is an essential sector for Wales (Smith, Carter and Gruffudd, 2021).

2.2.1 Aberfan

In South Wales, there is a small village called Aberfan which used to take a part in the local coal mining industry. Unfortunately, this proved to be fatal when a landslide occurred on a site of a waste dump produced by the mining activity, burying the local school in particular. This tragedy happened on 21 October 1966 and claimed a total of 144 lives, including 116 children (Backhouse, 2022). Nowadays it is commemorated by a section of its victims in the local cemetery and a memorial garden, where pathways mark the original ground plan of the destroyed school.

Although Aberfan falls under the umbrella of dark tourism, this small village differs from many other sites by not wishing to become a subject of the tourist industry (Hohenhaus, n.d.).

2.2.2 Denbigh Asylum

North Wales Hospital, also known as Denbigh Asylum after the locality where it is situated, was opened in 1848 as the first asylum in Wales. It was built in Tudorbethan style by Thomas Fulljames. The building is U-shaped with a clock tower and a large wooden entrance door and a capacity for up to 200 patients, who contributed greatly to the running of the mental hospital. Indeed, facilities of this type at the time aspired to self-sufficiency and thus the kitchen, laundry, forge, farms and more were also part of Denbigh Asylum.

However, it is claimed that the asylum spent more on wine and other alcohol than on medicines. On top of that, the patients were not given any proper treatment or medicine and only chloral hydrate was used to sedate them. Furthermore, nocturnal suicides and other deaths were problematic since night shifts were not introduced until 1860.

Despite this, capacity was filled at the time and notwithstanding its increase, Denbigh suffered from persistent overcrowding in the same way as other mental asylums. At the worst times, patients were even forced to sleep in the corridors and on the floor.

In the 40s of the 20th century controversial treatment methods began to be practised, the most famous of which is lobotomy. Nonetheless, antidepressants and other various drugs

became more accessible and gradually the number of residents began to decline. In spite of this, North Wales Hospital was not closed until 1995 (County Asylums, n.d.). Today, the building is rapidly decaying and is also associated with some ghost stories (Bathory, 2018).

2.3 Scotland

Scotland is the northernmost country in the United Kingdom and the second largest on the island of Great Britain. Prominent are the capital Edinburgh and the city of Glasgow. Over five million people live in the country, some of whom also speak Scottish Gael or Scots (Moulton, 2021).

2.3.1 Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh Castle stands on the volcanic crag known as Castle Rock, overlooking the city 135 metres above sea level (Lewis, 2017). It ranks among the oldest fortified constructions in Europe (Edinburgh Castle, n.d.). The castle today consists of a group of buildings constructed in the range from the 12th to the 20th century (Velká Británie, 2001), with the oldest preserved one being the Chapel of St Margaret (Lewis, 2017), albeit the original fortress was built in the 6th century by Edwin, King of Northumbria (Velká Británie, 2001). During this long history the castle has had several roles, from royal residence, to fortress, prison and more (Edinburgh Castle, n.d.).

To give an illustration, some of the most important ‘dark’ events include the so-called ‘Black Dinner’. In 1437, King James I was murdered and succeeded by his six-year-old son James II. At such a young age, however, he was naturally not eligible to rule, and thus Archibald Douglas, 5th Earl of Douglas, took over as his regent. Not long after, Archibald died, so power fell to be divided among William Crichton, 1st Lord Crichton and Lord Chancellor of Scotland, Sir Alexander Livingston of Callendar, and James Douglas, Earl of Avondale. Despite that, the House of Douglas remained powerful and influential, and so the three men decided to intervene. Therefore, in 1440, they invited the 6th Earl of Douglas, 16-year-old William, and his younger brother to Edinburgh Castle to have dinner with the then ten-year-old King James II. In the middle of the dinner, the young Douglas boys were hauled away to Castle Hill, where they were convicted in a mock trial and executed. The event is associated with the head of a black bull, which was

brought just before the boys were dragged away, as a symbol of death (Heritage Daily, 2021).

Another bloody incident was again linked to the Douglas Clan. This time Janet Douglas fell victim at Edinburgh Castle in 1537. Janet was guilty only of coming from the Douglas family. Her brother Archibald was the stepfather of the then King James V, whom he practically imprisoned. Yet James managed to escape and take control of Scotland. Unable to take revenge on Archibald, who had found refuge in England, he decided to punish his sister at least. Also playing a role in Janet's unfortunate end was her admirer William Lyon, whose love turned to hate and managed to accuse her of plotting the king's murder.

Edinburgh Castle was besieged on several occasions and even occupied for a time, for example by Oliver Cromwell. However, later during the Seven Years' War, the castle became a prison for captured Frenchmen. One of them is said to haunt the castle to this day (Spooky Scotland, 2021).

Today the castle houses the National War Museum and the Scottish National War Memorial, as well as the Scottish Crown Jewels and the Stone of Destiny, which was used for coronation purposes. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site and makes a popular tourist destination (Lewis, 2017).

2.3.2 Edinburgh Dark Side Tour

Edinburgh's long and rich history contains many dark moments, which are the focus of a specialised two-hour guided tour of the city. The participants will learn about the local past and tales of witch-burning, killers, cannibals and the murder of Mary Queen of Scots' husband. The tour also includes a visit to Canongate Kirkyard and Calton cemetery, for example (SANDEMANs NEW Europe, n.d.).

2.3.3 Glasgow Necropolis

The Glasgow Necropolis was established in the 1830s on the site of the former Fir Park under the direction of head gardener George Mylne in the Victorian style. He was followed a year later by George Mylne's stepmother, a Christian Elizabeth Miles. Indeed, it was an interdenominational cemetery from the very beginning.

Alongside the graves, Glasgow Necropolis features 3,500 tombs and a total of around 50,000 people have been interred there. Several monuments by various sculptors and architects can be admired at the site as well.

Glasgow differed from most burial grounds of its time by keeping records (specifically information on age, sex, occupation and cause of death) of those buried. They also kept a visitors' book (The Friends of Glasgow Necropolis, n.d.).

The Necropolis offers, inter alia, views of the city and Glasgow Cathedral can be found in the immediate vicinity (Hohenhaus, n.d.).

2.3.4 Gruinard Island

Gruinard, alias 'Anthrax Island', is a two-kilometre long and one-kilometre-wide island off the northwest coast of Scotland. It gained its nickname from the testing of biological weapons by the British in 1942 during World War II. Britain and its allies feared the use of biological weapons by enemies (Gruinard Island, n.d.), even though they were banned by the Geneva Protocol in 1925. However, the prohibition did not apply to testing (Aaron, 2021), so they decided to begin testing themselves in case the enemy did strike after all. Gruinard was chosen as a suitable location for its isolated and uninhabited state (Gruinard Island, n.d.).

Anthrax is a bacterial disease and one of the most terrifying weapons of this type due to its effectiveness and high resistance (Aaron, 2021). The poisoning can be done through inhalation, ingestion or through an open wound, with inhalation being the most lethal, killing up to 80% of those infected, even despite medical attention (Gruinard Island, n.d.).

Accordingly, bombs containing anthrax spores and a flock of approximately 80 sheep were placed on the island as test subjects (Patowary, 2017). The project was led by scientists from the experimental station at Porton Down in southern England under the auspices of The British War Office and was successful, as the entire flock died over the course of three days.

The intention behind the experiment was to possibly poison the German cattle and thus cause a food shortage, but also eventual poisoning of the people (Aaron, 2021). This plan was codenamed 'Operation Vegetarian' and would only be implemented if Germany used

biological weapons first. In the end, this did not happen, and the prepared devices were destroyed (Patowary, 2017).

Anyway, before the war ended, several more tests were carried out on Base X, as scientists called Gruinard Island, in which many more sheep died. What is more, to dispose of their bodies, they decided to store them in caves and then blow those up. Unluckily, the explosion threw the bodies of the infected animals into the sea and at least one sheep carcass made its way ashore (Aaron, 2021).

After the end of World War II, the island continued to be monitored for a number of years, but outside of these purposes, entry was prohibited due to persistent infection. In the early 1970s, the bacterium was no longer detected on the surface, though still deeper in the soil. Warning signs about poisoning and no trespassing were still being arranged, on the other hand, there was no more government involvement. The situation changed a decade later when in 1986 the decontamination of the island began at the instigation of the public. Its success was once again proved by the sheep. The junior defence minister Michael Neubert declared the island once again habitable on 24 April 1990, and not long afterwards Gruinard was sold back to its original owners, who had sold it to the government for £500 at the time of the war (Gruinard Island, n.d.).

Today, the so-called ‘Anthrax Island’ seems like any other island off the Scottish coast and is home to sheep and rabbits (Aaron, 2021).

2.4 Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is the smallest and the only country in the United Kingdom that does not lie on the island of Great Britain but on the island of Ireland. With less than two million people living there, it is also the least populated country. The status of the capital city has Belfast (Britannica, 2022).

2.4.1 Black Taxi Political Tours Belfast

Relatively a short time ago a violent conflict raged in Northern Ireland between Protestant unionists, called loyalists, and Roman Catholic nationalists, aka republicans. The conflict lasted from 1968 to 1998 and was known as ‘the Troubles’ or simply the Northern Ireland Conflict. The republicans demanded that Northern Ireland become part of the Republic of Ireland, while the royalists sought to remain within the United Kingdom. Additional important players became Ulster Defence Regiment, Royal Ulster Constabulary and the

British army as peacekeepers. However, the most salient figure in the conflict turned out to be the nationalist and national independence-demanding Irish Republican Army, whose actions were labelled by some as terrorist.

The Troubles was characterised by blockades, street fights and even bomb attacks. Over the 30 years of the conflict, approximately 3,600 people have died. At the heart of the riots emerged the capital and the city of Derry.

The conflict resulted in the Good Friday Agreement of 10 April 1998. The Agreement created institutions dealing with government relations within Northern Ireland, Ireland and Britain (Wallenfeldt, n.d.).

Black Taxi Political Tours offer a ride around the city and important sites of the conflict with the driver as a guide. A standard ride takes around an hour and during the tour, it is possible to stop, for instance, at the murals that criss-cross the city and take a photo. Probably the most iconic feature is the so-called Peace Wall, which separated the Protestant community from the Catholic one in West Belfast. The Wall is taller than the Berlin Wall used to be and is now covered in graffiti. The most well-known street is Falls Road, where the rides are focused mainly.

Nowadays, several companies offer this service, varying in quality and coverage. In addition to taxis, it is possible to attend bus or classic walking tours as well (Hohenhaus, n.d.).

2.4.2 Museum of Free Derry

Another site is also dedicated to the North Ireland Conflict and is located in Londonderry, also called simply Derry. It is the Museum Free Derry and deals primarily with the event known as Bloody Sunday. Therefore, the museum is sometimes referred to as the Bloody Sunday Museum (Hohenhaus, n.d.).

Bloody Sunday took place on 30 January 1972 and although illegal, it was a peaceful demonstration organised by the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association and attended by around 10,000 people. The British army was supposed to arrest the demonstrators, unfortunately, violence broke out, resulting in British soldiers shooting unarmed civilians. As a result, this tragic event left 13 dead and 14 wounded, one of whom later succumbed to his injuries. The 2010 Saville Report concluded that the shooting was unjustified. The

British Prime Minister at that time, David Cameron, apologised for the tragedy and financial compensation was later promised to the families of the victims (Britannica, 2022).

Opened in 2007, the museum stands in the area of the infamous event and tells the story from the perspective of the local community and the people who witnessed it (The Museum of Free Derry, n.d.).

2.4.3 Titanic Belfast

Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland, is where the world-famous steamship Titanic was built. In 2012, on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic, a modernist exhibition building was opened there. It cannot be overlooked as it resembles the bows of the Titanic and its sister ships and is even the same high. The exhibition features nine galleries with each having its own theme.

Visitors are first introduced to the appearance of Belfast at the beginning of the 20th century in the first gallery. It was an economically strong city with the shipyard making most of its money, but also producing whisky and cigarettes, for instance. The second gallery allows you to view a replica of a pillar of the gantry under which the steamships Titanic and Olympia were built and other shipbuilding constructions. The following gallery deals with the launching of Titanic and mentions the launch of Olympia as well. Gallery number four covers the technical equipment of the iconic liner, plus shows replicas of cabins of each class. Visitors may even touch some of the fabrics, ropes or wood panelling from the Titanic. Computer interactions are included too. The fifth gallery explores life on board and the sixth one details one of the main reasons the Titanic became so famous – the sinking. Included are recordings of interviews with those who survived. The theme of the seventh gallery is the subsequent investigation of this disaster. The penultimate gallery discusses the media coverage of Titanic, exemplified by James Cameron's 1997 Oscar-winning film. Moreover, attendees can test their knowledge of the Titanic myths and learn the real facts. The last gallery is dedicated to the wreck of the Titanic and displays footage of it. Of course, a souvenir shop is not missing in the exhibition centre (Hohenhaus, n.d.).

2.5 Ireland

The largest part of the island of Ireland is occupied by the independent Republic of Ireland, whose capital is Dublin. The population is similar to that of Scotland with over five million people living there. In addition to English, the official language is Irish. Unlike the United Kingdom, the currency is not the pound sterling but the euro, which means that the Republic of Ireland is a member of the European Union (Britannica, 2022).

2.5.1 Kilmainham Gaol

Kilmainham Gaol is located also in Dublin, and it is a former prison that opened in 1796. Kilmainham jailed common criminals too, nonetheless, it is best known as a place for political prisoners. These include Robert Emmet, Anne Devlin or Charles Stewart Parnell and others. Some of the prisoners were even executed there (Kilmainham Gaol Museum, n.d.).

The prison was closed in 1924. Today it is the largest unoccupied prison in Europe and houses a museum (Heritage Ireland, n.d.). Visitors will not only learn details about the people who were captured there but also about the historical episodes of the 1798 Rebellion, the 1916 Easter Rising, the Anglo-Irish War in 1919-1921 and the Irish Civil War of 1922-1923, as all of these events affected Kilmainham (Kilmainham Gaol Museum, n.d.).

2.5.2 St Michan's Church and Crypts

St Michan's Church, located in Dublin, was founded in 1095, making it one of the oldest churches in the Irish capital. It gained its fame among dark tourists and beyond for its crypts displaying preserved mummies. It is believed that their preservation is due to the constant temperature, dry air and methane emitted from under the church by the rotting flora.

To give an illustration, the mummies shown include three nameless bodies, which are nicknamed the Nun, the Thief and the Crusader (Gray and Wallis, 2007). The Crusader is supposed to be 800 years old and has his legs folded into a cross in his coffin, whereas the Thief has both legs cut off and one of his arms as well, allegedly for theft, hence his nickname.

Others buried in the crypt include brothers Henry and John Sheares, members of the United Irishmen. In 1798 the brothers were convicted of treason and publicly executed in Dublin.

Access to the crypts is only allowed with a guide and until 2019 it was possible to touch one of the mummies for luck. This custom gradually deteriorated the condition of the mummy; however, it was prohibited mainly on account of an incident from that year when a man severed and stole the head of the Crusader. Despite this event, the crypts were later reopened to the public.

St Michan's Church also boasts an 18th-century organ on which George Friedrich Handel is said to have practised his work *Messiah* before playing it in public for the first time (Rooney, n.d.).

Practical part

3 Itinerary

For the practical part of this Bachelor's thesis, I decided to design a tour in the scope of the dark tourism, oriented to the British Isles, i.e. the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Within the United Kingdom, it includes all its main parts, namely England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The heritage sites are selected from the list in the theoretical part of this paper.

The 12-day tour is designed for six people, is not suitable for children and is recommended for those with at least a basic knowledge of English. The date of the tour is set from 1st to 12th September. The main destinations are sites associated with dark tourism, nevertheless, they are also supplemented by sightseeing of common tourist attractions and landmarks of the visited places. The programme includes visits to nine cities, specifically Eastbourne, Rye, London, Coventry, Denbigh, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Belfast and Dublin. Potential participants will also spend one night in Leeds; however, this city will serve only as a stopover. They will be accompanied by one guide and will travel around the islands of Great Britain and Ireland via a rented passenger car.

On the first day, the participants will meet their guide at Václav Havel Airport in Prague, from where they will fly to London Heathrow Airport. The same day they will move to Eastbourne, walk along Beachy Head and finish the day in Rye with a visit to the Mermaid Inn. The following day will be devoted entirely to London, where they will visit Highgate Cemetery in the forenoon and spend the afternoon walking around typical London landmarks. The day after will also be spent in London, but everyone will be able to enjoy it in their own way thanks to the free programme. The fourth day is reserved for a visit to the Tower of London, followed by a transfer to Coventry, where on the fifth day the famous cathedral will be explored. Afterwards, a departure to Denbigh is planned; the participants will tour the town and head towards Leeds, which will serve as a stopover on their way to the Scottish capital. On the sixth day, the group will participate in the Edinburgh Dark Side Tour. The seventh day will also be spent in this beautiful city, first half of it by visiting Edinburgh Castle but the rest of the day will be free to enjoy entirely at the participants' own discretion. A visit to Glasgow will ensue on day 8, with Glasgow Necropolis being the main destination. On the ninth day, the group will leave the island

of Great Britain and fly to Northern Ireland, specifically its capital, Belfast, which will be the last stop within the United Kingdom. There, the following day, they will explore the Titanic Belfast exhibit and take part in one of the famous Taxi Tours. On the penultimate day, they will move on to Dublin, where they will visit the well-known former Kilmainham Gaol. The final destination of this expedition will be St Michan's Church and the participants will view the mummified bodies hidden in its crypts.

3.1 Day 1, September 1

The first day, Thursday 1st September, starts in Prague at Václav Havel Airport, where the direct flight to London Heathrow Airport departs at 10:20. Travellers may bring one personal item of luggage (which must go underneath the seat). Checked bags cost an extra fee. It is recommended to be at the airport at least two hours in advance, therefore the tour participants will meet their guide at 8 am at the airport entrance. The group will arrive in London at 11:35 local time, so the flight will take two hours and fifteen minutes. At this point, the participants will have the opportunity to purchase light refreshments as lunch will follow later. The tour will not stay in London on the first day. A rental car will be ready at the airport and a departure to the seaside town of Eastbourne in East Sussex is scheduled for 12:00. The journey will require approximately two hours with an expected arrival time of around 14:00. Lunch is planned at The Beach Deck restaurant with a view of the sea. The restaurant offers dishes such as burgers or seafood, and vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options are also on the menu.

A fifteen-minute drive to Beachy Head is planned for 15:15, followed by a one-hour walk along the South Down Way tourist route. Among other things, the participants will be presented with a view of the Beachy Head Lighthouse, and the guide will educate them about the unfortunate uses of this beautiful place.

At 16:30 the group will leave for Rye, arriving at 17:45. Arrangements are made to check in at The River Haven Hotel, located approximately 300 metres from the centre, at 18.00. The clients will be accommodated in three rooms with two single beds and en-suite bathrooms. The rooms also feature Wi-Fi, flat-screen TV, electric kettle, alarm clock and more.

A tour and dinner are scheduled for 19:00 at the famous Mermaid Inn, located just a seven-minute walk from the accommodation. The group will explore the interior, learn

about the history and ghost stories associated with the Inn and enjoy such menu choices as the Romney Salt Marsh Hogget or Corn Fed Chicken and Confit Leg. Once dinner is over, there will be given free time for the rest of the evening. After a long day, travellers can relax at the hotel or take a walk around Rye to see, for instance, St Mary’s Church, medieval archway Strand Gate, Landgate House or visit the many scenic spots.

Table 1: Day 1

DAY 1	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	meeting at the airport
10:20-11:35	flight from Prague to London
12:00-14:00	journey to Eastbourne
14:00-15:15	lunch time
15:15-15:30	journey to Beachy Head
15:30-16:30	walk around Beachy Head
16:30-17:45	journey to Rye
18:00	check in at The River Haven Hotel
19:00	Mermaid Inn, free time

3.2 Day 2, September 2

On Friday, September 2, the group will meet at 8 am for a breakfast provided as part of the accommodation. This is followed by a departure to London at 9:30. The journey will take approximately two and a quarter-hour with arrival at Highgate Cemetery at around 11:45. At 12:00, the clients will attend a guided tour of the cemetery, allowing them to explore the western part, which is only accessible with a guide. They will even investigate some of the crypts. The tour takes around 70 minutes. Then they will get another half an hour for the eastern part, which is free to view without a guide. At 13:40, the next order of business is a ten-minute walk to Bistro Laz, where pizzas, seafood, grilled dishes, or pasta are served. After lunch, the group is scheduled to depart for their accommodation at The Fox and Goose Hotel, arriving at 15:50. Again, they will be staying in three rooms of two. The rooms include a private bathroom, hairdryer, ironing facilities, electric kettle, coffee maker, Wi-Fi, air conditioning and more.

At 16:39 the participants will take the tube from Hanger Lane underground station to St Paul's, reaching the destination at 17:17. The station is located by St Paul's Cathedral, which is the starting point for the afternoon tour of central London. The tour will continue passing by Westminster Palace and Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and finally Trafalgar Square. Duration will be around one hour and a half. The group will then make their way through Chinatown to Tottenham Court Road underground station, returning to Hanger Lane at 19:46 after a half-hour ride. From then on, the participant will be free to go. They can dine directly at the hotel, which houses a pub, or there is a McDonald's chain in the immediate proximity and other restaurants a short distance away.

Table 2: Day 2

DAY 2	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	breakfast
9:30-11:45	journey to London
12:00-13:40	tour of Highgate Cemetery
13:50-15:25	lunch time
15:50-16:20	check in at The Fox and Goose Hotel, free time
16:39-17:17	metro ride
17:17-19:15	walk around the city
19:15-19:46	metro ride
19:46	free time

3.3 Day 3, September 3

On Saturday, September 3 will be a completely free program at the discretion of the tour participants. To give an illustration, they can visit the London Dungeon, take a ride on the London Eye and enjoy the view of the capital from above, or just wander the streets and soak up the London atmosphere. The guide will be available throughout the day.

Table 3: Day 3

DAY 3	
TIME	PLAN
	free time

3.4 Day 4, September 4

On Sunday there will be a meeting again at 8 am for breakfast provided by the hotel. Check-out will follow an hour later and at 9:15 departure to the city centre. The first destination of the day will be – the Tower of London. The group will arrive there at approximately 10:10 and will have three hours to explore the Tower. Visitors can view the Crown Jewels, the notorious ravens, the infamous Bloody Tower, hear stories of prisoners tortured in this place and much more.

There will be an hour and a half break for lunch at 13:10. Right in the vicinity of the Tower of London is a fast-food chain KFC, a supermarket Tesco, as well as many restaurants and other eating establishments. At 14:45 the group will set off for Coventry, arriving in two hours and one quarter.

In this city, they will check in and spend the rest of the day as they choose. This time the participants will stay overnight at the Village Hotel Coventry, again in three rooms in pairs. As in previous cases, the rooms have en-suite bathrooms, Wi-Fi, TV, electric kettle and hairdryer. The hotel has a restaurant but also includes a swimming pool and a gym. There are several parks in the vicinity of the Village Hotel, nevertheless, the participants may also take a walk just over 2 km to the city centre where, besides the famous cathedral, are also other sacral buildings, a transport museum, a watch museum, and the Lidice Memorial.

Table 4: Day 4

DAY 4	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	breakfast
9:00	check out
9:15-9:55	journey to the city centre
10:10-13:10	visit to Tower of London
13:10-14:45	free time
14:45-17:00	journey to Coventry
17:00	check in the Village Hotel Coventry, free time

3.5 Day 5, September 5

The Village Hotel Coventry provides breakfast, for which the group will meet again at 8:00. Check-out will take place at 9:45, after which the group will transfer by car to Coventry city centre. There, the new cathedral opens at 10:00 and the participants will tour it along with the ruins of the old Coventry Cathedral. Three quarters of an hour are set aside for the tour.

After the tour of the cathedral, clients will be given an hour free to have lunch or buy something to eat on the way, as there is planned an approximately two and three-quarter hours drive to the town of Denbigh. Right in the centre of Coventry, there are plenty of restaurants, fast-food outlets, a Tesco supermarket or for example Coventry Market.

Estimated arrival in Denbigh is at 14:30. The guide will take the group around the town, showing them the ruins of Leicester's Church and Denbigh Castle and finally Denbigh Asylum. Unfortunately, there is a strict prohibition on approaching this former mental hospital! The group will, however, at least get to see it from a distance and the guide will give them an insight into its history.

At 16:00 will follow the drive to Leeds, where the journey will take about two and a half hours, so the expected arrival is at 18:30. Leeds will only serve as a stopover for an overnight stay on the way to the next stop, Edinburgh. The group will be staying at the Hotel ibis Styles Leeds City Centre Arena, where they will again be accommodated in

three twin rooms with en-suite bathrooms, Wi-Fi, television, electric kettle and so on. The rooms even feature air conditioning and are soundproofed. Breakfast is again included.

After check-in, the participants will have leisure time. As the accommodation is located near the centre, they can stretch their legs with a walk to the Town Hall, Leeds Cathedral and of course, have dinner, with countless pubs and restaurants to choose from.

Table 5: Day 5

DAY 5	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	breakfast
9:45	check out
10:00-10:45	visit to Coventry Cathedral
10:45-11:45	free time
11:45-14:30	journey to Denbigh
14:30-16:00	walk around Denbigh
16:00-18:30	journey to Leeds
18:30	check in at the Hotel ibis Styles Leeds City Centre Arena, free time

3.6 Day 6, September 6

On Tuesday, September 6, check-out will follow an hour after breakfast, and the group will make the approximately 360 km drive to Edinburgh. A half-hour stop at a gas station is planned at the halfway point. The estimated arrival in the Scottish capital is around 14:15. Here the group will move on to have lunch together at the Royal Mile Tavern in the city centre, where they can try some of Scotland's classic dishes, such as the famous haggis. Those less adventurous, nevertheless, can taste something different, British fish and chips for instance.

Check-in at Pollock Estate – Summer Accommodation is scheduled at 16:00. The accommodation there is not too different from the others, again the clients will stay in rooms for two with private bathroom, Wi-Fi, breakfast included and so on... Subsequently, the clients will be given just over two hours of free time.

Then will follow the Edinburgh Dark Side Tour at 18:30, where the group will walk through the city with a local guide and learn about the points and places in Edinburgh’s history of which visit falls under the category of dark tourism. This walking tour will take approximately two hours and it will be the last point on that day’s agenda.

To arrange dinner, they can use the services of a restaurant with a buffet menu in the accommodation or visit another food service in the area.

Table 6: Day 6

DAY 6	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	breakfast
9:00	check out
9:15-14:15	journey to Edinburgh
14:15-15:45	lunch time
16:00-18:10	check in the Pollock Estate – Summer Accommodation, free time
18:30-20:30	Edinburgh Dark Side Tour
20:30	free time

3.7 Day 7, September 7

On Wednesday, the participants will traditionally meet for breakfast at 8:00 and then an hour and a half later they will spend approximately three hours visiting Edinburgh Castle. During the visit, they will be able to examine the exterior and interior of the castle, the famous Stone of Destiny, the oldest crown jewels in Britain called the Honours of Scotland, the Mons Meg cannon, and learn about prisoners from the castle’s dark history, or visit the National War Museum located on the castle grounds.

The rest of the day will be free for everyone to spend as they wish. Apart from the castle, there are plenty of other interesting sites to view. To give an illustration, they can visit Holyroodhouse Palace, St Giles Cathedral, the National Museum of Scotland, the Scott Monument, the Gallery of Modern Art, or explore a bit of nature and take a walk around Arthur’s Seat. The guide will of course be available throughout the day.

Table 7: Day 7

DAY 7	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	breakfast
9:30-12:30	visit to Edinburgh Castle
12:30	free time

3.8 Day 8, September 8

On Thursday, September 8, the group will meet at 8:00 for breakfast. Check-out from the accommodation is scheduled for 9:15 followed by a departure to Glasgow with an expected arrival at around 10:30. The first stop in this city will also be the main stop of the day and that is Glasgow Necropolis. Admission to the cemetery is free and the clients will enjoy a two-hour walk to view the local tombs and graves, and their guide will introduce them to the monuments of this burial ground and its history. The group will then move to the other side of the city, closer to the accommodation, and have lunch outside at the Golden Grill. It is a local fast-food stand that serves a variety of filled rolls and hamburgers at reasonable prices.

Check-in is planned for 14:20 and will be followed by an hour and a half of personal time. The group will be staying at Sandyford Lodge – Hotel West. However, this time the clients will sleep in groups of three in two rooms. The guest will still be provided with an en-suite bathroom, Wi-Fi, television, ironing facilities, hairdryer, and electric kettle. The price includes breakfast once again.

At 16:00 there will be a collective walk around the city. The group will walk from their accommodation to George Square where they can see the Sir Walter Scott Column, Glasgow Cenotaph/Glasgow War Memorial and Glasgow City Chambers, then walk to the People's Palace and the final joint point will be the park Glasgow Green near the Palace. This tour will last approximately one hour and a half, after which, at around 17:30, the clients will be granted free time for the rest of the day. They may continue to explore on their own many other parks, such as Kelvingrove Park near their hotel, where the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is located, or view St Mary's Scottish Episcopal

Cathedral, Merchant City Clock Tower, McLennan Arch, walk along the River Clyde or follow the Mural Trail in the city centre.

Table 8: Day 8

DAY 8	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	breakfast
9:15	check out
9:30-10:30	journey to Glasgow
10:30-12:30	visit to Glasgow Necropolis
12:50-14:10	lunch time
14:20-16:00	check in at the Sandyford Lodge, free time
16:00-17:30	walk around the city
17:30	free time

3.9 Day 9, September 9

On the ninth day, the clients will be flying from the island of Great Britain to the island of Ireland, specifically to the city of Belfast in Northern Ireland, the last stop within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. They will meet for breakfast at 8:00. After breakfast, they will have time to pack, take a walk around the area or simply relax. However, they must check out of the hotel at 10:30. At 10:45 they are scheduled to leave for the airport, where, inter alia, the rental car will be returned.

At 13:55 they will depart with Easyjet, it is a direct flight, the journey will take approximately an hour, so arrival is expected at 14:50. Then they will leave for their accommodation, which takes half an hour. They will be staying at the Balmoral Hotel in three rooms of two, remaining two nights and breakfast is again included. The group will have just over an hour free to rest and refresh after the flight, followed by a walk around the city together and see Belfast City Hall, St Anne's Cathedral, Obel Tower, the Royal Courts of Justice and end the tour at St George's Market. Thereafter they will enjoy leisure time to spend the evening as they wish.

Table 9: Day 9

DAY 9	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	breakfast
10:30	check out, free time
10:45-11:00	journey to the airport
13:55-14:50	flight from Glasgow to Belfast
15:20-16:30	check in at the Balmoral Hotel, free time
16:30-17:15	walk around the city
17:15	free time

3.10 Day 10, September 10

On Saturday, after breakfast a visit to Titanic Belfast awaits at 9:45. The journey there will take approximately fifteen minutes. Here they will tour all the Titanic Experience galleries, which will educate them about the past and fate of the Titanic and things associated with it, and they will also be taken aboard the SS Nomadic. The visit to Titanic Belfast will consume around three and a half hours. Afterwards, the group will have lunch together at The Barking Dog, where they cook Irish, British, and general European cuisine. Subsequently, they will move to the city centre where they will be picked up by a taxi as part of the Mural Taxi Tour. On this hour and a half long ride, the driver will also serve as their guide, showing them Belfast's beautiful murals and enlightening them about its not-so-distant history. The rest of the day will again be at leisure.

Table 10: Day 10

DAY 10	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	breakfast
9:45-13:15	Titanic Belfast
13:35-15:00	lunch time
15:00-15:30	walk to the city centre
16:00-17:30	Mural Taxi Tour
17:30	free time

3.11 Day 11, September 11

Sunday, September 11 will begin with breakfast at 8:00. An hour and a half later, the participants will check out of the hotel and drive about one hour and three-quarters to the final destination of this tour – Dublin. Meaning they will also be leaving the United Kingdom and moving to the Republic of Ireland.

Then it will be just in time for lunch, so they will proceed to a pub called Harkin’s Bar, located on the way to that day’s main destination - Kilmainham Gaol.

The group will reach the former prison shortly before 13:30, take a guided tour, visit the museum, and spend approximately two hours at the site. Subsequently, they will check into the Carlton Hotel. The participants will afterwards be given the rest of the day off, which they can use to explore the Irish capital on their own.

Table 11: Day 11

DAY 11	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	breakfast
9:30	check out
9:45-11:30	journey to Dublin
11:30-13:00	lunch time
13:20-15:20	visit to Kilmainham Gaol
15:45	check in at the Carlton Hotel Blanchardstown, free time

3.12 Day 12, September 12

On Monday, the tour participants will return to the Czech Republic. They will meet for breakfast at 8:00 and check out of the hotel at 9:15. Before departing, however, they will move back into the city and visit the last destination of this tour, that being St Michan’s Church and Crypts. The group will have a guided tour of the crypts and a self-guided tour of the church. The visit of this site is scheduled for 10:00 and the duration will be around one and a quarter hour.

At 11:15 the group will head to the Dublin Airport, which is a 30-minute drive. The flight will be operated by Ryanair and is scheduled to depart at 15:30 with a change at London

Stansted Airport, for which they will have a little less than two hours. The scheduled arrival in Prague at Václav Havel Airport is at 21:20.

Table 12: Day 12

DAY 12	
TIME	PLAN
8:00	breakfast
9:15	check out
10:00-11:15	visit to St Michan's Church and Crypts
11:15-11:45	journey to the airport
15:30-16:45	flight from Dublin to London
18:35-21:20	flight from London to Prague

3.13 Calculation

The total price calculation for this tour consists of four categories, namely transport, accommodation, entrance fees and travel insurance. Transport includes three flights, tickets for the London Underground, car rental and fuel costs. Air transportation is provided by British Airways, Easyjet, and Ryanair. Information on all three flights were sourced from *Booking.com*. Passengers are allowed to bring one personal item that fits under the seat in the airplane, however, due to the length of the trip, there is a checked baggage charge calculated into the price. The information about the connections and the price for tube tickets was taken from the official website (Transport for London, n.d.).

The rented cars are specifically a Peugeot 5008 for transport around the Great Britain and a Ford Tourneo on the island of Ireland. The cars would be rented through *Rentalcars.com*, from where I drew the price information. Fuel costs are associated with car rental and are also listed in the table below. I have calculated the price for these using the price from 4 July 2022, the source is *Gov.uk*. For the calculation of the duration and length of journeys between each destination I used *Google Maps*.

Table 13: Calculation – Transport

Transport		GBP	CZK
Flight from Prague to London:	person	222.77	6,411.88
	group	1,336.60	38,471.28
Flight from Glasgow to Belfast:	person	69.28	1,994.23
	group	415.68	11,965.38
Flight from Dublin to Prague:	person	81,36	2,341.80
	group	488.16	14,050.80
Metro tickets:	person	12.60	362.67
	group	75.60	2,175.99
Car rental – Peugeot 5008:	person	194.83	5,607.66
	group	1,168.98	33,645.93
Car rental – Ford Tourneo:	person	163,50	4,706.00
	group	981,00	28,236.01
Fuel:	person	44,65	1,285.11
	group	267,89	7,710.68
In total:	person	788.99	22,529.35
	group	4,733.91	136,256.07

Accommodation includes one night at the River Haven Hotel, the Village Hotel Coventry, the ibis Styles Leeds City Centre Arena and the Sandyford Lodge – Hotel West and two nights at the Fox and Goose Hotel, the Pollock Estate – Summer Accommodation and the Balmoral Hotel. Information regarding these facilities and the price for their services has also been obtained from *Booking.com*.

Table 14: Calculation – Accommodation

Accommodation		GBP	CZK
The River Haven Hotel	person	50.08	1,441.50
	group	300.49	8,649.00
The Fox and Goose Hotel	person	104.07	2,995.33
	group	624.42	17,972.00
Village Hotel Coventry	person	60.54	1,742.50
	group	363.24	10,455.00
ibis Styles Leeds City Centre Arena	person	29.52	849.67
	group	177.12	5,098.00
Pollock Estate	person	85.36	2,456.83
	group	512.16	14,741.00
Sandyford Lodge	person	31.47	905.67
	group	188.82	5,434.00
Balmoral Hotel	person	103.34	2,974.33
	group	620.04	17,846.00
Carlton Hotel	person	173.16	4,984.00
	group	1,038.96	29,904.00
In total:	person	637.54	18,349.83
	group	3,825.24	110,098.98

The penultimate category, entrance fees, consists of the cost of tickets to Highgate Cemetery, Tower of London, Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh Dark Side Tour, Titanic Belfast, Mural Taxi Tour, St Michan’s Crypts and Kilmainham Gaol. The other sites visited together are admission free. Opening times and ticket prices have been taken from the official websites listed in the bibliography.

Table 15: Calculation – Admission Fees

Admission Fees		GBP	CZK
Beachy Head	person	0.00	0.00
	group	0.00	0.00
The Mermaid Inn	person	0.00	0.00
	group	0.00	0.00
Highgate Cemetery	person	15.00	431.75
	group	90.00	2,590.47
Tower of London	person	29.90	860.61
	group	179.40	5,163.66
Coventry Cathedral	person	0.00	0.00
	group	0.00	0.00
Edinburgh Dark Side Tour	person	16.00	460.53
	group	96.00	2,763.18
Edinburgh Castle	person	18.00	518.09
	group	108.00	3,108.54
Glasgow Necropolis	person	0.00	0.00
	group	0.00	0.00
Titanic Belfast	person	21.50	618.83
	group	129.00	3,712.98
Mural Taxi Tour	person	22.83	657.00
	group	136.98	3,942.00
Kilmainham Gaol	person	6.88	198.03
	group	41.28	1,188.16
St Michan’s Church and Crypts	person	3.00	86.35
	group	18.00	518.10
In total:	person	133.11	3,831.19
	group	798.66	22,987.14

Travel insurance is provided by Uniqa and is the so-called ‘comfort’ version. It includes acute dental treatment, accident insurance that covers permanent damage or death by

injury and compensation for hospital stays. Liability and baggage insurance are also included.

Table 16: Calculation – Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance		GBP	CZK
Uniqa	person	11.63	334.83
	group	69.80	2009.00

Since everyone will pay for their own food, this item is not included in the final table. Nonetheless, the prices for main meals in the catering facilities that the group will visit together average around £13 in the UK and around €14 in the Republic of Ireland. I selected these facilities using the *Tripadvisor* site. Breakfast will be provided by the accommodation facilities.

It is up to everyone how much money they want to bring, but they have to expect higher prices as they will be mainly in the bigger cities. They must also remember that, including the day they return to Czech Republic, they will spend two days in the Republic of Ireland, where, unlike the United Kingdom, the currency is not the pound but the euro.

For currency conversion I used *Kurzy.cz* and the resulting prices are converted according to the exchange rate on July 4, 2022, when 1 GBP equalled 28.783 CZK. The twelve-day trip therefore works out at £1,571 (45,045 CZK) per person, however, the final price may vary due to changes of the cost of fuel, food, any additional fees and other expenses of individual participants. The costs shown in the tables are rounded.

Table 17: Calculation – Final Price

		GBP	CZK
Transport:	person	788.99	22,529.35
	group	4,733.91	136,256.07
Accommodation:	person	637.54	18,349.83
	group	3,825.24	110,098.98
Entrance fees:	person	133.11	3,831.19
	group	798.66	22,987.14
Travel insurance:	person	11.63	334.83
	group	69.80	2,009.00
In total:	person	1,571	45,045
	group	9,426	270,270

As the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is no longer a member of the European Union, citizens of the Member States, including the Czech Republic, no longer need only an identity card to enter the country, but must have a passport that is valid for the duration of their stay. As this tour is a temporary stay for tourism purposes, the participants do not need any visa (Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí České republiky, n.d.).

The tour is suitable for experienced dark tourists, but also for those who are not yet familiar with this phenomenon and would like to learn about it through experience.

Conclusion

The present Bachelor's thesis is concerned with dark tourism, with a particular focus on the British Isles. The theoretical part introduces and explains this tourist phenomenon specialising in visiting places associated with death and/or other tragedies. Furthermore, this type of tourism is categorised according to the destinations that fall under it, such as dark exhibitions, dungeons, shrines or war sites, for example. Various subcategories into which dark tourism can be divided are listed, i.e. holocaust tourism, grave tourism, communism tourism, disaster area tourism and others.

The first chapter also discusses the motivation for participating in this type of tourism. That is usually a desire for education, entertainment, commemoration, or a personal experience of fear or sadness. This thesis opens the question of morality and deals with the behaviour of visitors in places with such sensitive subject matter as well. For example, they should not take inappropriate photographs, be loud, laugh and generally behave with disrespect.

Another key part of this work is the introduction of the seventeen dark tourism products and destinations in the British Isles. These are categorised according to whether they are located in a part of the United Kingdom, i.e. England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, or in the Republic of Ireland. Some of the most famous landmarks I have worked on in this thesis include Tower of London, Edinburgh Castle and Kilmainham Gaol. In addition to these very popular places, I have decided to add other, perhaps lesser known to the general public, places suitable for dark tourism, such as St Michan's Church and Crypts, the Mermaid Inn or the attraction Edinburgh Dark Side Tour. Two places that, unlike the others, do not want to become a tourist destination and do not seek out visitors are also discussed. In particular, the former Denbigh Asylum for the mentally ill, whose building is nowadays in such a state of disrepair that it would be dangerous to go near it. The other is the village of Aberfan, which, like the previous site mentioned, is located in Wales, having suffered a catastrophe in the last century in which over 100 children died, and which still affects today's inhabitants very much.

In the practical part, I have created a tour itinerary whose main destinations consist of the aforesaid list of dark attractions. Each of the mentioned part of the British Isles is represented in the itinerary, and its purpose is to demonstrate what such a tour to places

associated with death and tragedy might look like. This trip is designed for 12 days and for six adults, preferably with at least a basic knowledge of English. Among the main destinations belong two important cemeteries, namely Highgate Cemetery, which used to be the main cemetery of London, and Glasgow Necropolis, where around 50,000 people found eternal rest. Other major destinations include the bombed-out Coventry Cathedral and St Michan's Crypts, where visitors can see several mummies. In addition, they will also take part in the Edinburgh Dark Side Tour and the Belfast Mural Taxi Tour, where they will learn about the dark history of each city. The itinerary also includes sights well-known and popular outside the dark tourist circuit, namely the Tower of London, Edinburgh Castle and Kilmainham Gaol. The participants will also not miss the famous Beachy Head natural formation, the Mermaid Inn, famous for its ghost stories, and the extensive Titanic Belfast exhibition. The tour would cost approximately 1,571 GBP (45,045 CZK) per person, thus 9,426 GBP (270,270 CZK) for the whole group.

The British Isles are important for dark tourism and those interested in it, as they offer a wide range of destinations that fall under this type of tourism. Be it cemeteries, castles, monuments, dungeons and other various exhibits. Of course, there is no shortage of locations such as the formerly poisoned Anthrax Island or temporary memorials such as the Poppies Tower of London. I have demonstrated this diversity in both the theoretical and practical parts of this thesis. This variety and multiple exemplars make the British Isles suitable for those interested in dark tourism in general, or focusing on a particular aspect of it.

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