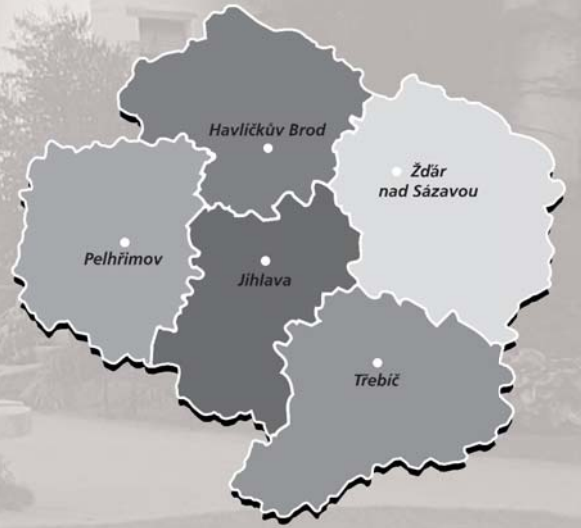




Castles, chateaus and monasteries





CASTLES, CHATEAUS AND MONASTERIES – A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST

The picturesque Vysočina landscape, with its rounded, tree-covered hilltops and wide river valleys with their beautiful seasonal transformations offers unlimited opportunities, not only for those who enjoy active relaxation but also for those who are lovers of art and history. For centuries, the landscape has felt the presence of man. In the deep forests along both sides of the former Czech-Moravian border, past generations established trading routes and the fortresses to protect them. They drained the marshy soils, mined silver and set up villages and townships. The past centuries have left a number of historical landmarks across the region – haughty Gothic castles, starry-eyed Renaissance chateaus and splendid Baroque monasteries. Throughout their history, these landmarks have

seen both periods of great prosperity as well as periods witnessing the destruction of war. Many well-known architects, sculptors and painters have embellished these landmarks with works of art, which continue to captivate visitors. More than twenty of these landmarks are open to the public. The history of the region is told through its archaeological relics and written records, museum exhibits and art collections. Join us on our journey into the past.

Ledeč nad Sázavou



The castle was built in the 13th century. Throughout its existence, the castle has undergone numerous reconstructions – in the Renaissance style, in the Baroque style and most recently, a reconstruction after a fire in 1897. Even with these numerous reconstructions, many of the architectural elements of the castle have been preserved. These include a cylindrical tower,

a Renaissance loggia and two original gates. Today, the castle complex is home to a museum with exhibits that are unique with respect to the methods used for the installation of the collections – they are a perfect example of a 1930's style museum presentation. The exhibits depict the life of the local craftsmen and contain an extensive numismatic collection plus a collection of clocks and paintings. The collection of weapons is located in a hall with Renaissance sgraffito decoration. The museum gallery offers a year-round exhibit of paintings and photographs. During the summer months, the castle courtyard becomes the location of musical and theatrical performances.

Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Husovo náměstí 60, 584 01 Ledeč nad Sázavou, Tel.: +420 569 721 471, +420 569 721 507, E-mail: informacni.centrum@ledecns.cz, www.ledecns.cz



Contact:

584 01 Ledeč nad Sázavou, Tel. +420 569 721 200, +420 731 612 457, E-mail: ic.marie.znojemska@ledecns.cz, www.ledecns.cz

Lipnice nad Sázavou



The castle, founded in the early part of the 14th century, was one of the mightiest of the Czech castles. In the early 16th century, the castle underwent a Gothic reconstruction and later on, the structure was remodeled in a Renaissance style. The castle's chapel, which had been damaged during the raids of the Thirty Years War, was rebuilt in the Baroque

style. After a fire in 1869, the property was abandoned and later underwent a partial reconstruction dating to the early part of the 20th century. The castle's great tower offers views looking out over a distance of 70 km. In addition to a visit to the tower, the tour includes a visit to the armory, an exhibit of Gothic stove tiles, the Saint Laurence Chapel and a tour of the large cellars, which house an original medieval well. From June through September, the castle's courtyard becomes a venue for various theatrical and musical performances and demonstrations of sword fighting.

Contact:

582 32 Lipnice nad Sázavou, Tel.: +420 569 486 189, E-mail: lipnice@brno.npu.cz, www.pruvodce.com/lipnice





Recommended Points of Interest:



A small house under the castle is the location of a memorial to the famous Czech writer and humorist Jaroslav Hašek. It was here that he wrote his famous novel „The Good Soldier Schweik“. Hašek can also be remembered in the nearby „U české koruny“ pub, which was reconstructed by his

grandson Richard (www.hasektour.cz). The novelist himself is buried in the old local cemetery and the town holds its annual festival of humor and satire in his honor.



Orlík u Humpolce



The medieval castle was abandoned in the early part of the 17th century and the only original parts of the structure that have been preserved are the rectangular tower, the entry gate and the remains of the residential buildings and walls. There are newly built elements, which include a bread oven

and a replica of a 15th century ceramic stove. During summer months, visitors can try their hand at baking their own bread and practice their pottery-making skills. Every year in early July, the local Medieval Fair attracts hundreds of visitors to the castle.

Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Havlíčkovo náměstí 91,
396 01 Humpolec, Tel.: / Fax: +420 565 532 479,
E-mail: mekis@infohumpolec.cz, www.infohumpolec.cz

Contact:

Castrum, o.p.s., Hradská 818, 396 01 Humpolec,
Tel.: +420 565 518 180, +420 777 347 511,
E-mail: orlikhumpolec@seznam.cz, www.pruvodce.com/orlik,
www.castrum.wz.cz

Trip Ideas:



Located about seven kilometers from Humpolec is the town of Kaliště, the birthplace of the world famous conductor and composer Gustav Mahler. The house in which Mahler was born has a music room, which is used for frequent concerts and international masters' courses in contemporary music interpretation.

Contact:

394 51 Kaliště u Humpolce 9, Tel.: +420 565 546 528, +420 777 868 239, E-mail: info@mahler-penzion.cz, www.mahler-penzion.cz

Želiv



The town is located near the junction of the Želivka and Trnava Rivers, ten kilometers from the city of Humpolec. Želiv's dominant feature is the local Premonstratensian Monastery, one of Vysočina's oldest centers of civilization. The monastery was founded in 1139 by Benedictine monks. Ten years later, the Benedictine Order was replaced by the Premonstratensian Order, which has occupied the monastery up to the present day. Located in the upper courtyard is the Abbey of the Birth of the Virgin Mary with its two towers. The abbey's valuable Baroque interior decoration dates to the period 1713 – 1720 when the church was renovated in a gothic-baroque style by the famous architect Jan Blažej Santini. The monastery's convent contains a preserved Baroque refectory, the capitular hall and a fresco-decorated library. Gustav Mahler used to often visit Želiv during his vacations and, for a number of years, the composer Bohuslav Martinů lived and worked there as well. Even today, the local summer art events attract a number of music lovers.

Contact:

394 44 Želiv, Tel.: +420 565 581 193,
E-mail: opatstvi@seznam.cz, www.zeliv.cz





The originally Gothic castle was later rebuilt in a Baroque style and later still, in the 19th century, it was remodeled to a romantic gothic design. Visitors will have a chance to learn about the castle's history and view the local furniture exhibit, which offers a peak into the life at the castle in the second half of the 19th century. Another interesting attraction for visitors is the permanent exhibit of historical motorcycles from the late 19th, early 20th centuries – some of which are unique. The most valuable motorcycle on exhibit is an 1898

Kámen



Laurin & Klement. The castle is surrounded with a landscaped park with dominant and extensive Alpine rockery. The castle is the location of various seasonal exhibitions that are held throughout the year and the Knights' Hall is used as the venue for frequent concerts, social gatherings and weddings.

Contact:

394 13 Kámen u Pacova 1, Tel.: +420 565 426 609, +420 736 731958, E-mail: hrad.kamen@quick.cz, www.hradkamen.pacov.info



Contact:

393 01 Pelhřimov, Masarykovo náměstí 12, Tel.: +420 565 323 456, +420 565 323 184, E-mail: muzeum.pelhrimov@quick.cz, www.muzeumpe.cz

Pelhřimov

The chateau was built in the middle of the 16th century on the location of an old Gothic structure. The remains of the original structure are still evident in the cross vaults located on the ground level of the chateau. After a major fire in 1682, the chateau was rebuilt in a Baroque style. Its current design as a double-wing structure with a French mansard roof and a square clock tower dates back to 1767 when the property underwent a major reconstruction. Located on the first floor of the chateau is the original Renaissance banquet hall with its decoratively painted ceiling. The chateau was used as the town hall until 1849 and it later served as the seat of the local court. The first museum exhibits were installed in the chateau in 1908. The collections include paintings, folk art, porcelain, glass, furniture and clocks.



Recommended Points of Interest:

The tower of the local Church of Saint Bartholomew offers an excellent view of the city and its surrounding landscape. On the way to the tower's viewing gallery, visitors can see the church's bells and the bell ringer's chamber containing a collection of historical photographs. The city has a walking trail that helps the visitor examine the architectural styles of more than forty major structures. The former town jail houses the exhibits of a torture chamber, a dungeon and a prison chapel. Children especially, will be amused by the collection of wax figures of fairytale characters at the local House of Horrors and by the more than one hundred curiosities that can be found at the Museum of Records (www.dobryden.cz).



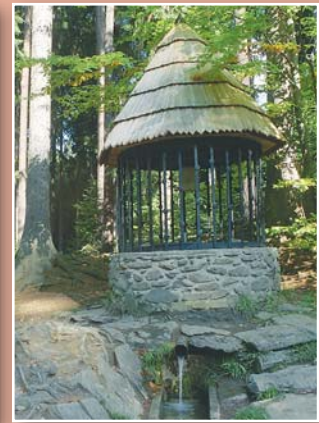
Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Masarykovo náměstí 10, 393 01 Pelhřimov, Tel.: / Fax: +420 565 326 924, E-mail: ic@kzpe.cz, www.pelhrimovsko.cz

Trip Ideas:



Located less than ten kilometers east of Pelhřimov is Křemešník Peak (elevation: 765 m), a famous pilgrimage site associated with the legends of the waters of a miraculous spring. The path to the top is lined with the stations of the cross. The Pilgrimage Church of the Holy Trinity dates back to the 17th century. Located on the top of the hill is a watchtower and the surrounding forest contains a nature trail.



Kamenice nad Lipou

The chateau was reconstructed in the same location as an original 13th century Gothic castle. This major reconstruction took place between 1580 – 1583. During the reconstruction, the chateau's courtyard and palace retained their original layout, spacious rooms were added outside of the walls of the original castle and two floors of arcades were built. The arcade on one of the floors was filled in during the mid-20th century by the chateau's last owners. From 1946-1998, the chateau was used as a children's sanatorium for the treatment of respiratory illnesses. This was followed by a complete reconstruction and, as of July 2004, the chateau has been the home of an exhibit devoted to the history of the town and its chateau as well as housing wrought iron items from the collections of the Arts and Crafts Museum in Prague. The chateau also houses a hall used for various types of ceremonies and a separate concert hall.





Contact:

Arts and Crafts Museum in Prague, Zámek Kamenice nad Lipou, Náměstí Čsl. armády 1, 394 70 Kamenice nad Lipou, Tel.: +420 565 432 667, E-mail: zamek.kamenice@upm.cz, www.upm.cz
 Museum of the city, Náměstí Čsl. armády 1, 394 70 Kamenice nad Lipou, Tel.: +420 565 434 168, E-mail: muzeum@kamenicenl.cz, www.kamenicenl.cz

Trip Ideas:



A technical curiosity that visitors might find of interest is the narrow gauge railway, which has been in operation since 1906. During the summer months, the railroad offers numerous opportunities for romantic trips through the local area and, on occasion, the train is pulled by an original early steam locomotive. For the latest information, visit www.jhmd.cz.

Recommended Points of Interest:

The park surrounding the chateau is the location of an ancient lime tree, which, according to legend, was planted in 1248 and from which the town has taken part of its name „nad Lipou“ (or „near the lime tree“). The perimeter dimension of the base of the lime tree is 6 meters and two of the trees major lower limbs extend out a combined total of approximately 36 meters. The crown of the tree was struck by lightning and fell down in 1824.



Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Náměstí Čsl. armády 52, 394 81 Kamenice nad Lipou, Tel.: +420 565 432 101, Fax: +420 565 432 190, E-mail: pokladna@kamenicenl.cz, www.kamenicenl.cz



Žirovnice

The early Gothic stone castle was rebuilt in 1550 into a Renaissance chateau; and, in a later period, it was remodeled in the Baroque style. The hall located in the chateau's south wing and the former chapel contain a valuable collection of early gothic wall paintings dating from the late 15th century. The chateau houses a series of museum exhibits documenting the history of the processing mother-of-pearl. Since 1864, the city has been famous for its manufacturing of mother-of-pearl buttons. The local exhibit of historical sewing machines contains 130 representative examples. The dining room, music room and the main bedroom of the chateau allow the visitor



to see what life was like in the 19th century. The chateau's tower offers views of the town and surrounding countryside. A number of exhibitions are held in the local gallery each year. The chateau's interiors are used as a venue for regular flower shows and, every year, the courtyard becomes the location of a jazz and swing festival.

Contact:

394 68 Žirovnice, Zámek č. 1, Tel.: +420 565 494 095,
E-mail: zamek@zirovnice.cz, www.zirovnice.cz



Roštejn

The originally Gothic stronghold was rebuilt in the 16th century and turned into a Renaissance hunting estate. After being struck by lightning in 1915, the castle suffered a major fire and it was not until the 1960's that the property began to be slowly restored. It was finally opened to the public in 1969. The castle is currently home to a museum. Its exhibits include collections of porcelain, pottery, pewter and period furniture. There is also an exhibit of weapons used in hunting, an exhibit of stone cutting, as practiced in the Vysočina Region, and an exhibit on the natural treasures of the surrounding Jihlava Hills. The dominant feature of the castle is its 53-meter high heptagonal tower that can be climbed as part of the tour of the castle so that visitors can enjoy the view of the surrounding countryside. The castle's historic halls are used as a venue for wedding ceremonies and other social gatherings. In June, during the annual historical banquet, the castle's courtyard is transformed into a medieval marketplace; and, in August, it becomes the location of traditional jazz performances. Summer weekends, the castle is open to visitors for night tours with an accompanying program.

Contact:

588 56 Telč, Doupě 1, Tel.: +420 567 243 738,
E-mail: rostejn@mail.cz, www.cmail.cz/rostejn, Http://muzeum.ji.cz



Trip Ideas:



The nearby town of Třešť is known for its two hundred year old tradition of hand-carved wooden crèches. Visitors can learn about this traditional craft at the local museum, which also presents an exhibition of other contemporary craftwork. Visitors can also watch the wooden figures being made during a traditional summer fair visited by many woodcarvers from across the Czech Republic. During the Christmas season, about twenty of the crèches can be seen on displayed in the houses of their creators.



Contact:

589 01 Třešť, Rooseweltova 462, Tel.: +420 567 214 597 (Museum), +420 567 234 567 (Tourist Information Center), +420 567 214 586 (Třešť Society of Crèche Makers), E-mail: muzeum.trest@centrum.cz, info@trest.cz; <http://muzeum.ji.cz>, www.trest.cz



Telč



contains a large collection of firearms. A separate second tour takes the visitor through the chateau's residential areas, used by the last private owners who lived there until 1945. The furnishings of the rooms provide a good representative example of the interiors favored by the nobility at the time. The chateau's southwest wing is the location of several museum collections that document the history of the city and its local craft traditions. The chateau's 'Garden Gallery' houses exhibition space featuring the work of the famous Czech artist Jan Zrzavý. The chateau's historic halls and courtyard are a sought after location for concerts of various types. Each July, the city hosts a gathering of students from European music schools; and, in August, there is a festival of folk music. The park of the chateau, with its neoclassical greenhouse in the center, is an ideal location for relaxing walks.

Since 1992, the Renaissance chateau and the town's historical center have been on the list of World Heritage Sites maintained by UNESCO. Originally a gothic fortress, the castle was rebuilt in the 16th century by the Italian architect Baldassare Maggi. The basic tour of the landmark offers a visit to the chateau's magnificent halls containing the original wood paneled ceilings, valuable furniture and an extensive painting collection. One of the most spectacular parts of the tour is the 'Golden Hall', in which the ceiling is composed of a set of 30 octagonal panels decorated with elaborately carved figures. Another historically valuable part of the chateau is the stucco decoration that can be found in the chateau's All-Saints Chapel. In addition to several 15-16th century suits of armor, the 'Knight's Hall'

Contact:

588 56 Telč, Náměstí Zachariáše z Hradce,
Tel.: / Fax: +420 567 243 821, +420 567 243 943
(Tour Reservations), +420 567 243 918 (Museum),
+420 567 243 649 (Gallery),
E-mail: zamek-telc@iol.cz, <http://www.zamek-telc.cz>



Recommended Points of Interest:



The city's two watchtowers offer an ideal spot from which to take in an aerial view of the entire city. The Late Romanesque period Tower of the Holy Spirit (49 meters high) is the city's oldest preserved architectural landmark. A second tower, which is a part of the Church of Saint James, located nearby to the chateau, is 60 meters in height and contains two historically valuable bells.



Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Náměstí Zachariáše z Hradce 10, 588 56 Telč, Tel.: +420 567 112 407, +420 567 112 408, Fax: +420 567 112 403, E-mail: info@telc-etc.cz, www.telc-etc.cz, www.telc.eu

Nová Říše



The Premonstratensian monastery was founded in 1211 as a convent. The monastery's current appearance reflects the two reconstructions that took place in the mid-16th and in the 19th centuries. The most important feature of the monastery is the library with its ceiling frescoes and a collection of more than fifteen thousand volumes. The Monastic Church of Sts. Peter and Paul is decorated with wall frescoes by Jan Lukáš Kracker





and is furnished with historically valuable pieces of furniture – the choir benches and a richly carved pulpit that dates from the turn of the 17th and the 18th centuries. The monastic complex also houses an exhibit dedicated to the Vranický brothers – two composers who were well-known members of the Viennese musical scene at the end of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Contact:

588 65 Nová Říše, U Kláštera 1, Tel.: / Fax: +420 567 318 110, www.novarise.cz



Moravské Budějovice



Since 1947, the former chateau, which was built in the mid 17th century on the location of an earlier town hall and four burgher's houses, has been the home of several collections of the arts and crafts museum. The exhibits of the collections offer a look into the history of the city and its chateau and they document the rural and town arts and crafts that no longer exist or are in the process of disappearing. Parts of the museum's collections are located in the area of the original meat market. The chateau's stables are often used as a venue for various fairs and exhibits and the courtyard is the location of a traditional folk festival and summer concerts.

Contact:

676 01 Moravské Budějovice, Náměstí Míru 1, Tel.: +420 568 421 100, E-mail: muzeum@ktymb.cz



Recommended Points of Interest:

The viewing gallery at the top of the tower of the Church of St. Giles offers an excellent view of the city and surrounding countryside. When the weather is good, one can even see the outline of the Alps in the distance.

Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Náměstí Míru 26, 676 02 Moravské Budějovice, Tel.: +420 568 422 817, E-mail: info@euronest.cz, www.mbudejovice.cz



Jaroměřice nad Rokytou

The original Renaissance chateau was built on the location of an old Gothic moated fortress. It was later rebuilt into a large Baroque chateau complex that included the parish Church of St. Margaret. The chateau is surrounded by a symmetrical, French-style garden, which gradually turns into a natural park. The chateau contains its original interiors with valuable furnishings and collections. The local historical exhibit recalls the musical traditions associated with Count Jan Adam Questenberk. These traditions are continued through the annual music festival and the international opera festival held at the chateau. Visitors to the chateau have the choice of two different tours, which provide access to all of the different areas of the chateau. Each winter, the chateau hosts a traditional Christmas market.



Contact:

675 51 Jaroměřice nad Rokytou, Náměstí Míru 1,
Tel.: +420 568 440 025, +420 568 440 237,
E-mail: jaromerice@brno.npu.cz, www.zamek-jaromerice.cz

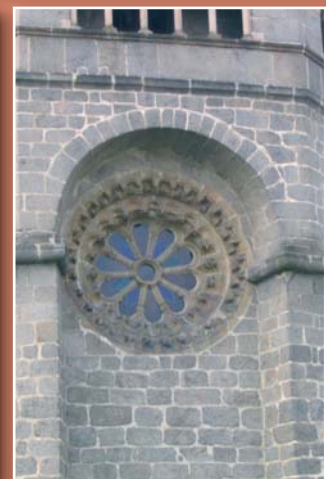
Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Komenského 1029,
675 51 Jaroměřice nad Rokytou, Tel.: +420 568 440 132,
Fax: +420 568 441 514, E-mail: info@meks-jaromerice.cz,
www.meks-jaromerice.cz, www.jaromericenr.cz

Třebíč



The chateau was built in the 16th century on the remains of a large Benedictine monastery, originally established in 1101. The only thing that has been preserved from the original monastic buildings is the Late-Romanesque monastic Basilica of St. Procopius, dating from around the year 1250. The basilica is one of the most important architectural landmarks of its type in Central Europe. In July 2003, it was declared, along with the local Jewish quarter, as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site. Some of the noteworthy features that would be of interest to visitors include the chateau's columnar, triple-aisle crypt, the wall paintings located in the chapel, the stone lobes of the Romanesque windows and the valuable entry gate. Today, the chateau is home to a museum. Its exhibits provide a look into the natural beauties of the city's surrounding areas, the history of the local settlements and

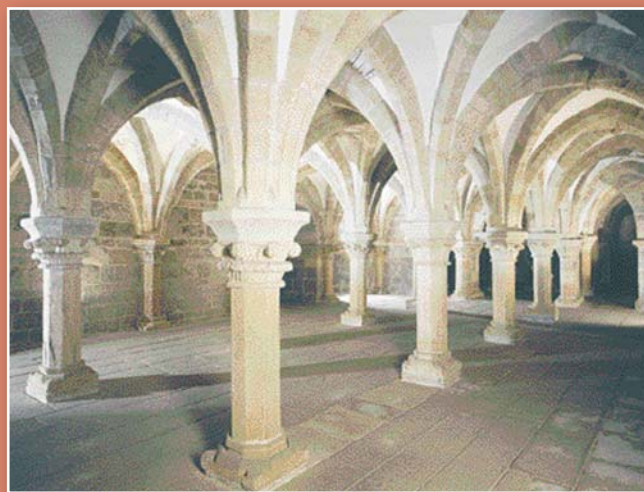
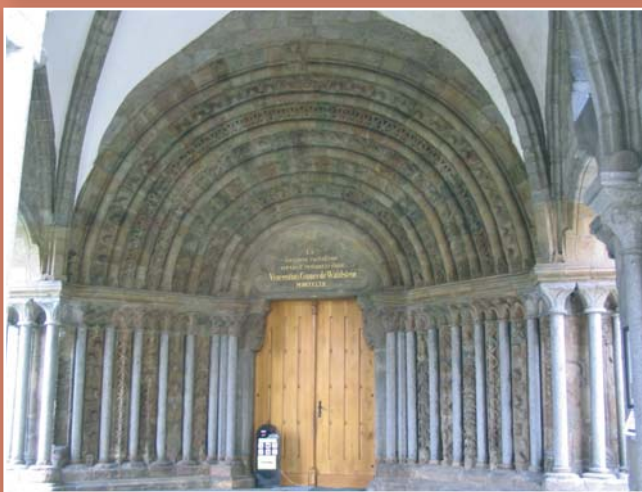




crafts – including the manufacturing of pipe, the traditional making of crèches and the discovery of Moravian moldavite, a semi-precious stone. Throughout the year, in addition to the permanent exhibits, various temporary exhibitions are held in the areas of the chateau's former stables, the harness room and the chapel. The Stone Hall, which is embellished with rich armorial decorations, is used as a venue for classical music concerts. Among the best-known events held here are the annual museum fair and the slow-pipe-smoking contest held here every year in the fall.

Contact:

674 01 Třebíč, Zámek 1, Tel.: / Fax: +420 568 840 518,
E-mail: muzeum@zamek-trebic.cz, <http://zamek-trebic.cz>



Recommended Points of Interest:

The dominant feature of the city, visible from a great distance, is the majestic tower of the local Church of St. Martin (72 meters in height). The tower's clock has a face measuring 5.5 meters in diameter with hour numerals 60 cm high. The clock is among the largest in Europe. The gallery at the top of the tower offers breathtaking views of the entire city. The local Jewish quarter and its two synagogues are considered to be a European rarity from both an historical and urban perspective. In July 2003, these landmarks became UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites. A history trail provides a pleasant way for visitors to guide themselves through the Jewish quarter. The so-called 'Rear Synagogue', housing an exhibition on the history of the local Jewish community, is accessible to the public. The synagogue contains restored wall paintings with ornamental and floral motifs and liturgical Hebrew texts dating back to 1706-07. More than three thousand gravestones can be found in the Jewish cemetery.



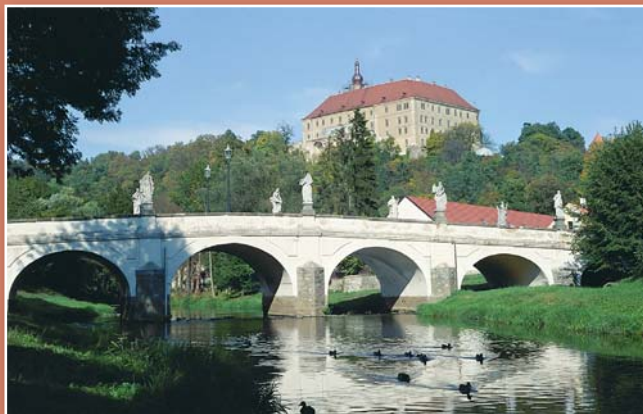
Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Karlovo náměstí 53, 674 01 Třebíč,
Tel.: +420 568 847 070, E-mail: info@kviztrebic.cz,
www.kviztrebic.cz, www.trebic.cz

Rear Synagogue branch, Tel.: +420 568 610 023,
E-mail: infosynagoga@kviztrebic.cz

Basilica branch, Tel.: +420 568 610 022, +420 777 746 982,
E-mail: infobazilika@kviztrebic.cz

Náměšť nad Oslavou



The predecessor of today's chateau was a medieval castle. Only one of the castle's cylindrical towers exists today from this early period. The chateau was rebuilt in a Renaissance style and later underwent a Baroque updating. The chateau's chapel is decorated with sculptures and paintings that were brought in from a closed Capuchin Monastery. The vaults in the chateau's library are embellished with rich stucco and fresco decorations. The library contains sixteen thousand volumes – some of the most valuable of which are the six-volume Bible of Kralice, dating back to the beginning of the 17th century. After World War II, the chateau was briefly used as the home of the country's president. The halls of the chateau house a large collection of tapestries dating from the 16th though 19th centuries. The chateau's library is often used as

the location for classical music concerts and the courtyard frequently hosts performances of folk music. Costumed tours, showing scenes from the life at the chateau, have become extremely popular with tourists and visitors. The chateau is surrounded by a park and in the summer, visitors can enjoy a relaxing walk through the estate's game preserve, known for its fallow deer.



Contact:

675 71 Náměšť nad Oslavou, Tel.: / Fax: +420 568 620 319,
E-mail: zamek.namest@telecom.cz, www.zamek-namest.cz



Recommended Points of Interest:

The bridge across the Oslava River (1737) is one of the oldest preserved stone bridges in the Czech Republic. The bridge is 62 meters in length and, with its rich sculptural decorations, it is often compared to the famous Charles Bridge in Prague.

Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Masarykovo náměstí 100,
675 71 Náměšť nad Oslavou, Tel.: +420 568 620 493,
Fax: +420 568 620 338, E-mail: mks-namest@iol.cz,
www.namestnosl.cz





The chateau stands on the location of a medieval moated castle that was rebuilt in the 1570's. The chateau's current baroque look dates back to 1715 when the old castle underwent through another reconstruction. The Late-Baroque improvements were completed in the 1780's. A park, with rich sculptural elements in a classical style, was added to the property at the same time. The chateau contains a collection of birds, mammals, fish and amphibians. In addition to the characteristic local species,

Budišov



visitors can also view trophies from hunting expeditions to Africa, Asia and Canada. There are also exhibits providing an introduction to the fauna of the Danube delta. The chateau's interiors are decorated with Rococo paintings with Chinese motifs.

Contact:

675 03 Budišov, Tel.: +420 568 875 198, www.mzm.cz



Contact:

594 01 Velké Meziříčí, Tel.: +420 566 522 206, +420 566 522 773, E-mail: muzeumvm@muzeumvm.cz, www.muzeumvm.cz

Velké Meziříčí



The original Gothic castle was later rebuilt as a Renaissance chateau. It was then enlarged in the Baroque style. An adjacent building later underwent remodeling with a pseudo-gothic look. The Gothic loggia and the Renaissance entrance gate are the only architectural features that have been preserved. The chateau's interiors are embellished with stucco and painted decorations and furnished with period furniture. The chateau houses a museum that has, since the 1980's, specialized in the history of the road building industry. Various road and bridge construction projects are represented through models, photographs and design drawings. Other exhibits can be found in the chateau's main rooms and these include both an exhibit on cubism and one on marine life. The chateau's park has a covered wooden bridge which was brought in from a nearby village and reconstructed in 1986. Each September, the chateau comes alive with historical characters, who gather here to reenact one of the events that were important in the chateau's history.

Recommended Points of Interest:



The preserved Jewish quarter is a reminder of the previous Jewish settlement here. The Old Synagogue, built during the first half of the 16th century in a Gothic-Renaissance style, offers an exhibit on the history of the local Jewish community. The dominant feature of the town square is the high tower (64 meters) of the Church of Saint Nicholas, built in the middle of the 15th century.

The tower's clock is the largest illuminated clock in the Czech Republic. The tower's viewing gallery offers excellent views out across the entire city.



Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Radnická 29/1, 594 13 Velké Meziříčí, Tel.: +420 566 501 107, Fax: +420 566 521 657, E-mail: ic@mestovm.cz, www.mestovm.cz

Nové Město na Moravě



The origins of the chateau date back to the second half of the 16th century. Ransacked by the Swedes in the mid-17th century, the chateau was later rebuilt and expanded in the Baroque style. The current look of the chateau complex, including the neo-Renaissance façade, dates back to the 1870's. The chateau has a gallery with an exhibit of sculpture and free-blown glass. In addition to the permanent exhibits, the gallery hosts seasonal shows. The

picturesque courtyard of the chateau is a popular venue for concerts and art events.

Contact:

592 31 Nové Město na Moravě, Vratislavovo náměstí 1, Tel.: +420 566 654 211, E-mail: horacka.galerie@nmm.cz, <http://hg.nmm.cz>



The old Renaissance town hall houses the collections of the local museum. The collections present a history of the local glassmaking, folk art and even have an example of a school classroom dating back to the 1930's. An important part of the exhibits is dedicated to the history of skiing and ski manufacturing, which has a long tradition in the area

Recommended Points of Interest:



(<http://hm.nmnm.cz>). Numerous sculptures and statues by two famous local sculptors can be found in open locations throughout the town.

Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Vratislavovo náměstí 97, 592 31 Nové Město na Moravě, Tel.: +420 566 650 254, +420 566 650 255, Fax: +420 566 617 202, E-mail: ic@nmnm.cz, www.nmnm.cz



The Cistercian Abbey, which was founded in 1252 and closed down four centuries later, was revived in the 18th century by the architect Jan Blažej Santini in a Gothic-Baroque style. After a fire in 1784, the monastery underwent reconstruction and was turned into a chateau. In the historical parts of the chateau, visitors can tour the Convent Church of the Ascension of the Virgin Mary and admire its richly decorated interiors. There are exhibits dedicated to the region's Baroque architectural landmarks, the work of the architect Santini and an exhibit of old pianos. The Prelature houses a book museum dedicated to the history of the culture of the book

Žďár nad Sázavou



in Europe and book printing. The most remarkable part of the complex is the Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk on Zelená Hora (The Green Hill). The church was built between 1719 – 1722, based on a design by the architect Santini, and it is considered to be his finest work. Due to the original composition of this Czech gothic-baroque edifice and its ingenious design in a shape symbolizing the five-pointed star of St John Nepomuk, the church was designated as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site in 1994. The symbolism of the magical number 'five' can be seen in a number of features in the interior of the church such as the church's five altars and five aisles and the five stars and the five angels embellishing the main altar. The courtyard of this pilgrimage site is surrounded by a cloister with a set of five gates and chapels. The gates, located in the center of each arm are covered with cupola-shaped roofs and decorated with sculpture.

Contact:

Visitors Center - Žďár nad Sázavou Chateau, Tel.: +420 566 629 152, E-mail: itc@zamekzdar.cz, www.zamekzdar.cz

Recommended Points of Interest:



The road leading from the center of the town to the chateau crosses a Baroque stone, triple-arched bridge across the Sázava River. The bridge was built around 1760 and it is embellished with a set of eight sculptures representing various saints.



Contact:

Zelená Hora – Historical Area, 591 02 Žďár nad Sázavou,
Tel.: +420 566 622 855, +420 724 663 716,
E-mail: zel.hora@brno.npu.cz, www.zdarns.cz

Tourist Information Center – SANTINI TOUR Travel Agency,
Náměstí Republiky 24, 591 01 Žďár nad Sázavou,
Tel.: +420 566 628 539, Fax: +420 566 625 808,
E-mail: santini@santinitour.cz, www.zdarns.cz

Polná



Originally a 13th century castle, the large chateau was completed in 1584. The chateau later underwent several remodels and today, the entire complex stands as an example of various architectural styles – there is the Gothic castle, the Renaissance wing of the chateau and the Baroque service buildings. The chateau's salons, decorated with preserved remainders of Renaissance period paintwork, house a museum exhibit dedicated to the history of the castle and the local town. Located on the ground floor are a period merchant's shop and an exhibit of original crafts. The local lapidarium offers an exhibit on stone cutting. An exhibit of historically interesting clocks contains more than 140 unique examples – among the most interesting of which are a tower clock works and a fully functional orchestrion. The historical 19th century pharmacy is equipped with instruments that were still in use 40 years ago. The smaller exhibit spaces in the chateau are used for seasonal exhibitions and shows. The courtyard of the chateau is frequently used as a venue for rock, swing and classical concerts.



Contact:

588 13 Polná, Zámek 486, Tel.: +420 567 212 336,
+420 567 212 765, www.mesto-polna.cz



Recommended Points of Interest:



In an historically protected building located near the chateau, visitors can view an exhibit titled „Old School”. In addition to the original furniture, the artifacts on display in this period 1866 classroom include various writing and learning tools. During the tour, visitors can also take a look at the original natural science cabinet and the teacher’s private quarters. The local synagogue, built in 1684, houses the regional Jewish museum, which documents the rich Jewish history of the area through an exhibit of photographs and old documents.

Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Husovo náměstí 39,
Tel.: +420 567 559 211, E-mail: infocentrum@mu-polna.cz,
www.mesto-polna.cz



Příbyslav



The chateau was built around 1560 by reconstructing an old Gothic castle in an Italian Renaissance style. In the 18th century, the chateau was expanded and later remodeled in a Neo-Classical style. Located in the courtyard of the chateau is the original arcaded Renaissance gallery designed as a Tuscan-style colonnade. The chateau is currently the home of the local fire-fighting museum, offering an exhibit of fire-fighting equipment and modern fire detection systems. In addition to a library containing original collections of books as well as a collection of professional publications, the chateau has a ceremonial and lecture hall and several classrooms. The museum is owned by the Czech Association of Firefighters.

Contact:

582 22 Příbyslav, Husova 300, Tel.: +420 569 430 050, +420 569 430 046, E-mail: patekj@iol.cz; www.dh.cz, www.chh.cz

Recommended Points of Interest:



The town museum is located in an historical burgher's house (so-called Kurfürst's House), dating from 1654. The museum offers an ethnographic exhibit, a collection of minerals and an exhibit of medieval period mining.



Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Bechyňovo náměstí 45,
582 22 Příbyslav, Tel.: +420 569 484 361,
E-mail: ic@pribyslav.cz, www.pribyslav.cz

Chotěboř

The early Baroque chateau was built in the early 18th century on the location of an old Gothic stronghold. The only part of the castle preserved in its original condition is the Chapel of the Holy Trinity with its rich stucco decorations. Through its history, the chateau has undergone two reconstructions – one in the 19th century and one, after a fire, in 1927. The chateau is surrounded by a fifteen-hectare English park, situated amidst a natural preserve in the Doubrava River valley. The exhibits of the museum document the town's historical development and contain extensive art, archaeological, geological and ethnographic collections. There is also a valuable collection of books, which includes several rare manuscripts, first editions and old prints. Throughout the year, the museum hosts various temporary exhibitions.



Contact:

583 01 Chotěboř, Riegrova 1, Tel.: +420 569 623 293,
E-mail: muzeum-chotebor@cbox.cz,
www.muzeum-chotebor.org



Contact:

Tourist Information Center: Krále Jana 258, 583 01 Chotěboř,
Tel.: / Fax: +420 569 626 634, E-mail: infocentrum@chot.cz,
www.chotebor.cz



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