

**Czech Republic**  
Land of Stories

**Vysocina Region**



**Castles, chateaux**  
and historical objects  
in Vysočina



# VYSOČINA REGION

The inspiring Vysočina region, located in the very heart of the Czech Republic, is awaiting you. Nature lovers will enjoy woody hills, rolling meadows and pristine rivers; those eager to learn and see new things can set out towards the imaginary triangle of UNESCO sites or explore the half-forgotten history of castles, chateaux and castle ruins. Great experiences await families with children. Join us on a journey to the most interesting attractions that authentic Vysočina region has to offer.

For more tips on interesting places and hiking suggestions in Vysočina region, please go to the tourist portal

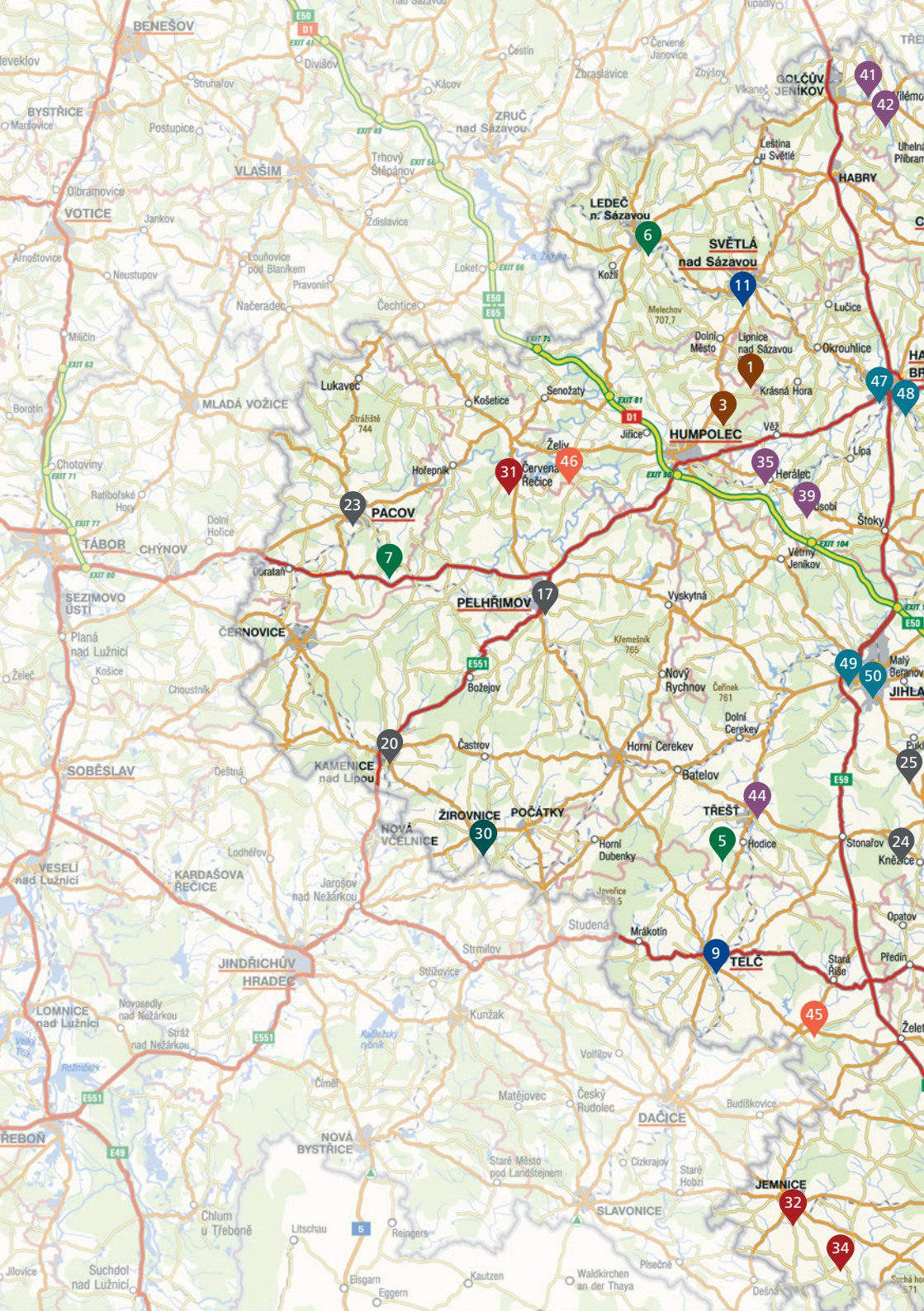
[www.vysocina.eu](http://www.vysocina.eu)





## CONTENT

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| MYSTERIOUS CASTLE RUINS | 6  |
| FAIRY-TALE CASTLES      | 9  |
| ROMANTIC CHATEAUX       | 12 |
| FAMILY ESTATES          | 15 |
| PLACES OF LEARNING      | 18 |
| SMALL GEMS              | 24 |
| AWAKENING TREASURES     | 27 |
| CHATEAU RESIDENCES      | 30 |
| SPIRITUAL STRONGHOLDS   | 34 |
| NOBLE RESIDENCES        | 36 |





# Mysterious CASTLE RUINS



*Ruins of Lipnice nad Sázavou Castle*

## Lipnice nad Sázavou Castle 1

One of the mightiest Czech castles is referred to as the Stone Guard of the Posázaví Region. It was built on a hillock from where an extraordinary view of Železné hory and Žďárské vrchy peaks opens up. The typical silhouette of the castle is delimited by the large residential Thurnovský and Trčkovský Palaces and a monumental tower, the defensive Large Tower, and the residential Samson Tower with a lookout gallery. A unique feature is the gothic church of St. Lawrence, where the first Hussite priests in the Kingdom of Bohemia were ordained.

Lipnice was held by Bohemian kings and many important aristocratic families. Its fame ended with a fire in 1869. The 20th century brought it new life when the Czech Tourist Club took care of the castle and has been slowly repairing it ever since. At the beginning, you could have met the author of the world-famous Good Soldier Švejk, Jaroslav Hašek, who used to live in the lower castle and who would guide tourists through the castle in a very original way.

Repairs to the castle are still continuing and each year, visitors can look forward to new surprises.

[www.hrad-lipnice.cz](http://www.hrad-lipnice.cz)

## Rokštejn Castle Ruins 2



One of the largest ruins in Vysočina rises above a rocky hillock and stands above a picturesque valley of the Brtnice River near the village of Přímělkov. The first mention of the castle dates back to 1289. From history's perspective, the castle was ephemeral as it was destroyed and abandoned during the Hussite wars. Torsos of two castle palaces and remains of farm buildings have been preserved. The dominant feature and its greatest attraction is a 17-metre tall prism tower.

The history of the castle was uncovered through systematic archaeological research that has been going on since the 1980s.

The area is accessible throughout the year and in the summer months, you can join a guided tour and climb the tower. Cyclists will pass the castle on the Jihlava-Třebíč-Raabs route.

[www.brtnice.cz](http://www.brtnice.cz)



## Orlík Castle 3 Ruins

Orlík can be easily accessed from Humpolec's town centre or from the local neighbourhood of Rozkoš. A small castle museum reveals the castle's rich history to its visitors. It also displays archaeological findings, especially the medieval art of stove tile-making. These tiles inspired the construction of replica tile furnaces. At the annual medieval festival, you can see stove tiles baking in a medieval ceramic kiln and bread baking in the old castle kitchen.

The recently opened castle tower, which has been awarded for successfully combining contemporary architecture with protected structures, and especially the rich cultural programme, will entice you to visit the castle.

[www.hrad-orlik.cz](http://www.hrad-orlik.cz)

## Zubštejn Castle Ruins 4

A castle whose Latin name is Lapis (stone) and which lies above the village of Pivonice near Bystřice nad Pernštejnem was built on long rocky ridge on the right bank of the Svatka River to protect the trade route from Brno to Polička. The first written mention of the castle dates back to 1344 and before long, the castle was referred to as Zubštejn. It was most likely initiated by the Lords of nearby Pernštejn. The fate of the castle was sealed at the end of the 16th century when it

was already declared abandoned. Today, you can see the remains of a palace with four vaulted rooms and a part of the entrance tower connected to a drawbridge. The castle ruins can be freely accessed and in summer, they are alive with culture. For visitors' convenience, a wooden bridge connecting the bridgehead and the core of the castle has been built. If you look far into the distance, you may see all the way to the city of Brno.

[www.info.bystricenp.cz](http://www.info.bystricenp.cz)





# Fairy-tale CASTLES



## Roštejn Castle 5

This late-Gothic castle, which rises above the romantic landscape of Javořické vrchy near the village of Doupě, was built by the Lords of Hradec in the first half of the 14th century. The original name of the castle, Rosenstein, corresponds to the coat of arms of the family, which bears a five-petalled rose. The most significant redevelopment happened under Zachariáš of Hradec when a Renaissance hunting castle surrounded by a large game park appeared.

Despite its turbulent history, the castle has remained true to its hunting origins. This is evidenced by the recently opened interactive exhibition focused on nature, hunting and game management and featuring a unique botanical hall. The Chapel of St. Eustache and an atypical seven-sided tower offering a unique view of the surrounding forests are open to the public.

[www.hrad-rostejn.cz](http://www.hrad-rostejn.cz)

## Ledeč nad Sázavou Castle 6



Ledeč nad Sázavou Castle dominates the countryside and the town from a limestone promontory high above the Sázava River. Frequent ownership changes throughout history have not diminished its charm and the current gradual repairs being made to Renaissance plaster are restoring its authentic look. Therefore, it is not surprising that the castle's monumental Medieval architecture now provides the ideal setting for filming historical documentaries and has been attracting film crews from around the world for several years.

Visitors can climb the castle tower offering breath-taking views of the town and the landscape crossed by the Sázava River, which is linked to the name of Jaroslav Foglar, a writer and scouting pioneer whose life has had a positive influence on many generations. The castle houses a museum dedicated to his life, work and scouting activities. You can also visit the Municipal Museum and several other smaller exhibitions.

[www.hrad-ledec.cz](http://www.hrad-ledec.cz)

## Kámen Castle 7



This originally Gothic castle from the 13th century was named after a large rock (in Czech kámen) that overlooks the surrounding area. For almost two hundred years, it was a royal feud castle and then for another two hundred years, it was occupied by one of the branches of the Bohemian Malovec family. In 1974, the castle opened to the public as a museum of single track vehicles produced in Czechoslovakia. The focus of the exhibition was partially related to an important event in the history of motorsports, the establishment of the International Motorcycling Federation. That took place in Paris in December 1904, but the idea

for founding the Federation was conceived in Pacov, Czech Republic, in July. The route of the Pacov Motorcycle Circuit, which took place in 1905 and 1906, ran next to the castle. New exhibits are continuously being added and the last one is a unique specimen among motorcycles, a Böhmerland-Čechie 600 from 1928. In addition to motorcycles, the castle also offers a guided tour dedicated to types of housing from the 19th and the early 20th centuries and a visit to a nearby chapel, the former tomb of the Malovec family.

[www.hradkamen.cz](http://www.hradkamen.cz)



# Romantic CHATEAUX



## Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou Chateau 8

The Baroque form of the chateau was created by the famous Austrian architect J. Prandtauer and was shaped by the vision of the Questenberg family in the 18th century; under their possession, Jaroměřice became a centre of a rich cultural and social life. A library and a gallery were founded, theatre performances were held and a chateau music band was formed and led by bandleader František V. Míča. The chateau's famous musical past is commemorated by many cultural events, including the spectacular Peter Dvorský International Music Festival.

Visitors can tour the large Baroque complex through several guided tours, including a tour of the parish Church of St. Margaret with unique fresco decorations in the dome.

The chateau, which is referred to as Moravian Versailles, is surrounded by a regularly shaped French garden with rich sculptural decorations; the French garden passes into a natural landscape park.

[www.zamek-jaromerice.cz](http://www.zamek-jaromerice.cz)

## Telč Chateau 9



The current appearance of the chateau was shaped in the 16th century by Italian masters who were invited by Zachariáš of Hradec, who held the domain at that time. Influenced by impressions of their trip to Italy, he and his wife Kateřina of Wallenstein started to rebuild the Gothic castle, which gave rise to one of the gems of Moravian Renaissance architecture. What was also crucial for the development of the estate was the fact that it was never sold and instead was passed down from generation to generation.

Guided tours take visitors not only to stunning Renaissance halls with magnificent wooden cassette ceilings, but also to residential rooms that used to belong to the last castle owners from the Podstatzky-Lichtenstein family, and to the chateau's cellars and gallery. An extraordinary artistic experience can be had in the Chapel of All Saints, where the initiator of the redevelopment and his wife are laid to rest under a marble gravestone. Since 1992, the historical town centre, including the chateau, has been inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

[www.zamek-telc.eu](http://www.zamek-telc.eu)

## Náměšť nad Oslavou Chateau 10



The appearance of the castle was significantly affected by the Žerotín family, who turned the originally Gothic castle into a Renaissance chateau. Another important family was the Haugwitz family; one of them was Henry William III, a great lover of music. Thanks to him, Náměšť na Moravě became a hub of musical life in Moravia. The government confiscated the chateau from the Haugwitz family in 1945 and it briefly served as President Edvard Beneš's residence in Moravia, which brought about a number of remarkable structural adjustments.

Guided tours will take visitors to representative rooms decorated with a unique set of tapestries from the 16th to the 19th centuries and to the Haugwitz's private apartments. The chateau library contains the precious Kralice Bible, whose publishing was funded by the Žerotín family. The chateau complex is loosely connected to a game reserve in which fallow deer are kept. The game park is open to the public only during summer holidays.

[www.zamek-namest.cz](http://www.zamek-namest.cz)

## Světlá nad Sázavou Chateau 11



The current neo-Renaissance appearance of the chateau was shaped under the possession of the Lords of Salm-Reifferscheidt who entrusted Viennese architect Svatoš with its redevelopment in 1869. The political turmoil of the 20th century transformed the chateau chambers into a school and a boarding house. 2014 marked the beginning of a new era when the current owners started to gradually restore the chateau's lost magic. Today, it is a popular place for relaxation and fun and features four guided tours: Historic European Glass; His-

toric Weapons, Paintings and Sculptures; the Kingdom of Dolls; and The Fairy-Tale Tour on the Sázava River, where children learn about local legends in an interactive way. The chateau also offers refreshments in a cafe and accommodation in suites with beautiful views of the chateau park. The landscaped English park, covering an area of 18 hectares and including ponds, is the ideal place for walking.

[www.zameksvetla.cz](http://www.zameksvetla.cz)

# Family ESTATES



## Žďár nad Sázavou Chateau 12

This Cistercian Monastery, founded in 1252 by Boček of Kunštát, turned into an aristocratic residence over the centuries. The modern history of the chateau starts with the return of the Kinsky family into Žďár nad Sázavou in 1992 when they reclaimed their property. The work commenced by his ancestors has been resumed by Constantin Kinsky and his wife, Marie. In 2015, they opened an interactive and multimedia New Generation Museum in the former chateau brewery. The exhibition can help visitors to understand the chateau grounds,

originally a monastery, which experienced its largest boom under Abbot Vaclav Vejmluva, who commissioned architect Jan Santini Aichel to renovate it. After that, you can venture out on a monastery tour in Santini's tracks. Other exhibitions include a family gallery of the Kinsky family and the Baroque Art from the National Gallery in Prague collections, which evokes the cultural environment of monasteries in the 17th and 18th centuries.

[www.zamekzdar.cz](http://www.zamekzdar.cz)

## Velké Meziříčí Chateau 13



In 1995, this large chateau complex returned to the hands of its last legitimate owners, the Podstatzky-Lichtenstein family. Originally a Romanesque castle from the 13th century, it was remodelled in the Baroque style after a massive fire in 1723 caused extensive damage throughout the town. Today, the chateau houses a museum presenting the history of the town of Velké Meziříčí, and since the castle features an extraordinary view of the 76 m-high Vysočina bridge, the highest bridge on the D1 highway, it is no surprise that

there is also an exhibition on roads and bridges. Visitors can see stylishly furnished chateau rooms decorated with the owner's authentic belongings and the renovated Knight's Hall, with its recently revealed unique fresco depicting a scene from the legend of St. Margaret, including a Latin text that was compiled by Italian priest Jakub de Voraigne between 1261 and 1266.

[www.muzeumvm.cz](http://www.muzeumvm.cz)



## Maleč Chateau 14



After successful restitution, the chateau is again held by a descendant of the Rieger family, Václav Macháček-Rieger. The Imperial appearance of the chateau was shaped in 1827. Thanks to extensive remodelling over the past several years, the current owner was able to open an exhibition dedicated to his ancestors in 2018. Between 1862 and 1902, the chateau served as a summer residence for the famous Czech politician and publicist F. L. Rieger, and his father-in-

law and historian František Palacký spent the last 14 years of his life there. He wrote a part of his "History of the Czech Nation in Bohemia and Moravia" while living at the chateau. A new exhibition is accompanied by a narration by Prof. Jiří Štaif, a historian and leading 19th-century expert from Charles University. The chateau lies adjacent to an English park with a variety of valuable tree species.

[www.zamekmalec.cz](http://www.zamekmalec.cz)

## Chotěboř Chateau 15



Dobrzenský of Dobrzenice has been based in Chotěboř since 1836, with the exception of the period from 1948 to 1993, when the family resided in forced exile. After that, some family members returned to their homeland and started looking after their returned property.

In the 18th century, Count Willian Leopold Kinský had an early Baroque Italian-style chateau built in the place of a Gothic fortress. The chateau was reformed in the 19th century and then again after a fire in 1927. Jan Václav Baron, later Count Dobrzenský of Dobrzenice, co-founded the Municipal Museum in Chotěboř, which has been based in the chateau since 1952. The tour takes visitors to a Baroque hall, the original chateau dining hall and the chateau's Chapel of the Holy Trinity from the beginning of the 18th century, with rich stucco decorations.

[www.cekus.eu](http://www.cekus.eu)

# Places of **LEARNING**



*Chateau – Vysočina Museum in Třebíč*

## Chateau – Vysočina Museum in Třebíč 16

The most notable landmark of the town of Třebíč was originally a Benedictine monastery with St Procopius' Basilica, which was founded in 1101 and rebuilt into a chateau after the devastating wars of the 16th century. St Procopius' Basilica, built in the Romanesque-Gothic style, is a great testament to French and south-western German art inspiration. Visitors most admire the entry portal from the early 13th century and the Romanesque crypt. The chateau houses the Vysočina Museum in Třebíč. The chateau tour shows visitors how the last owners from the Wallenstein family once lived. Attractive historic premises provide a setting for modern

exhibitions that focus on the monastery's history and both living and non-living nature, and present significant personalities from throughout the region. Typical nativity scenes from Třebíč and moldavites are also on display. An interactive exhibition in the lower chateau will certainly appeal to those who prefer live demonstrations of history over descriptions.

The chateau grounds with St Procopius' Basilica, together with the Jewish quarter and cemetery, are inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

[www.zamek-trebic.cz](http://www.zamek-trebic.cz)

## Chateau – Vysočina Museum in Pelhřimov



The chateau was built by Adam Říčanský of Říčany around 1550 and shortly thereafter, it passed down to the town of Pelhřimov. After a fire in 1682, a municipal jail was added to the chateau. Another fire in 1766 destroyed a large portion of the chateau; thanks to later repairs, the chateau was rebuilt into its current appearance. Councillors would meet here until 1849, when an Imperial-Royal (c.k.) district court moved to the chateau. Since 1908, it has housed a museum. Today's exhibitions guide visitors to the history of the

Pelhřimov region and show them famous locals who were born here, including sculptors Josef and Zdeněk Šejnost. Popular parts of the museums are the fresco hall and the former dining hall of the Lords of Říčany, which later served as a council hall and a courtroom. The ceilings and walls are covered in frescoes showing biblical scenes and theological and secular virtues. Visitors can also visit a former municipal jail furnished with exact and true copies of torture instruments.

[www.muzeumpe.cz](http://www.muzeumpe.cz)

## Chateau – The Horácká Gallery in Nové Město na Moravě 18



The history of the local aristocratic residence dates back to the early 14th century and is associated with the Lords of Lipá and especially with the Pernštejn family. In 1585, the fortress, the town and the domain passed down to Vilém Dubský of Třebomyslice, who undertook a costly renovation and turned the rather dilapidated residence into a Renaissance chateau in 1589. However, the current appearance of the chateau is from 1874, when it was rebuilt again in the Neo-Renaissance style. Today, the chateau houses the Horácká

Gallery, which is unique for featuring pieces by locals Jan Štursa and Vincenc Makovský, but also by other important figures of Czech sculpture from the first half of the 20th century.

An extraordinary exhibit is the glass collection from the Škrdlovce glassworks. In summer, attractive late Gothic underground corridors are open to visitors and the chateau's courtyard becomes a concert venue

[www.horackagalerie.cz](http://www.horackagalerie.cz)

## Chateau – Museum of Crafts and Trades in Moravské Budějovice 19

The chateau was built in the early 17th century by Rudolf Heinrich von Schaumburg on the site of four Renaissance town houses and buildings that once formed the old town hall. Under the Counts of Wallis, the buildings were unified with a Classicist façade. Since 1947, the chateau has housed a museum, currently a branch of the Vysočina Museum in Třebíč, featuring vanished and dying crafts in a unique exhibition. A pre-

sentation of rural crafts has found its place in the building of twelve former Meat Markets, a structure which is shaped like a horseshoe from 1839, located not far from the chateau.

The chateau and Meat Markets building will be closed in 2019 and 2020 due to renovation.

[www.muzeum.mbudejovice.cz](http://www.muzeum.mbudejovice.cz)

## Kamenice nad Lipou Chateau 20



This originally Gothic castle was rebuilt in the 19th century. A four-wing structure with a regular layout surrounds a rectangular courtyard with well-preserved Renaissance arcades. In the second half of the 20th century, the chateau was used as a children's sanatorium. In 1998, the chateau was passed down to the administration of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague and has been used as a publicly accessible furniture depository. In the south wing of the chateau,

the Municipal Museum operates a permanent interactive exhibition entitled the Museum for All Senses. Each year, the chateau hosts Hračkobrání, a popular festival of wooden toys. The chateau's park is dominated by a 700- to 800-year-old lime tree (in Czech lipa), after which the town was named.

[www.upm.cz](http://www.upm.cz)

[www.muzeumvsemismysly.cz](http://www.muzeumvsemismysly.cz)

## Budišov Chateau 21



The chateau stands on the site of an original water fortress from the 13th century. It turned into a sumptuous Baroque summer residence in the 1720s when the adjacent park was also changed into the French style and decorated with a rich collection of sculptures. However, only the torsos of the sculptures have been preserved. Today, the chateau serves as a public depository for the Moravian Museum and houses unique natural history collections. The zoological collection includes some of the oldest stuffed birds, mammals, fish and amphibians, completed with trophies from hunting expeditions to Africa, Asia, and Canada, and new additions gathered during study and collector trips from the 1980s and 1990s.

[www.mzm.cz/zamek-budisov/](http://www.mzm.cz/zamek-budisov/)

## Přibyslav Chateau 22



Around 1560, Zachariáš of Hradec had a Renaissance chateau built. Later, the chateau was rebuilt to suit the tastes and needs of its later owners. In recent history, the chateau has been associated with the Centre of the Fire Services Movement and shows visitors the history of fire protection. The exhibition presents different methods of firefighting, the development of firefighter associations from the mid-19th century, the development of firefighting uniforms and samples of both historical

and contemporary equipment and technology. You can also see a hall dedicated to international collaboration among CTIF countries, where firefighting uniforms from different parts of the world are on display. In the Přibyslav Chateau park, you can see an equestrian statue of Jan Žižka by Bohumil Kafka, commemorating the death of the Hussite military leader Jan Žižka of Trocnov during the siege of Přibyslav Castle.

[www.chh.cz](http://www.chh.cz)

## Pacov Chateau 23

The castle in Pacov was founded as early as in the 13th century. It was rebuilt into a chateau three hundred years later. With the arrival of the Discalced Carmelites Order in the early 18th century, the aristocratic residence turned into a monastery for some time; eventually the monastery was closed down under a decree issued by Emperor Joseph II. The last owners of the domain was the family of attorney Adolf Weiss from Prague, who had the east wing torn down in 1884. This intervention disrupted the original four-winged layout. After WWII, the chateau was taken by the army, which remained there until 1992. A general renovation that took place in the first decade of the 21st century turned the chateau into a centre of regional cultural and social life. Besides the Municipal Authority, a library and an information centre, the chateau also houses a museum that presents local history and works by famous Pacov natives, poet Antonín Sova and painter Jan Autengruber.



[www.zamekpacov.cz](http://www.zamekpacov.cz)

## Kněžice Chateau 24

This Renaissance hunting chateau was built by the Walensteins on the site of an earlier fortress at the end of the 16th century. Under the Collaltos, who held the chateau until 1945, it was rebuilt first into the Baroque and then again around 1800 into the Classicist styles. In the early 21st century, the chateau was bought by

the municipality and a renovation began. Once the construction was finished, the Municipal Authority and the municipal library moved there and an exhibition entitled "Living and Non-Living Nature around Kněžice" opened to the public.

[www.muzeum.me.cz](http://www.muzeum.me.cz)

## Příseka Chateau 25



The history of the chateau dates back to the 15th century. The original fortress built by Volf Beránek of Petrovec became part of the Brtnice domain after the battle of White Mountain. In 1623, it passed down to the Italian Collalto family, who held it until the early 20th century; after that it was used mostly for farming purposes and slowly became dilapidated. Since 2015,

the chateau has housed a unique museum of toy cars featuring the largest collection of models in the Czech Republic. The museum's owner has collected about ten thousand of them. For the most part, they are models that were made in Czechoslovakia in the 20th century.

[www.muzeumauticek.cz](http://www.muzeumauticek.cz)

## Lesonice Chateau 26

A fortress dating back to 1225 was rebuilt into a Renaissance chateau, and under the Reichenbach-Lessonitz family, it was torn down in the early 19th century, after which two new Classicist style buildings were erected. Since 2007, the chateau has been held by the municipality, which opened the Museum of Folk Bands

here. The museum maps the history of village music bands, especially Kosmák's band, but has also exhibits on the history of Lesonice and the local peasant rebellion in 1775. You can visit the museum all year round after calling the Municipal Authority to arrange a time.

[www.lesonice.cz](http://www.lesonice.cz)

## The Fortress and the Memorial of the Kralice Bible in Kralice nad Oslavou 27

A Gothic fortress from the second half of the 14th century was later rebuilt into a Renaissance chateau. Between 1578 and 1620, the chateau became a refuge for a secret print shop. The Czech translation of the Bible, today known as the Bible of Kralice, was printed here. The importance of Kralice is also documented by the fact that Jan Amos Comenius visited the town in 1626. The foundations of the fortress were only dis-

covered during an archaeological survey conducted between 1956 and 1971. Today, the fortress is part of the Memorial of Kralice Bible built according to a design by Prof. architect Bohuslav Fuchs. Among other things, the museum shows many exhibits from the archaeological research surrounding this history-infused location.

[www.mzm.cz/pamatnik-bible-kralicke](http://www.mzm.cz/pamatnik-bible-kralicke)

# Small GEMS



*Polná Castle and Chateau*



## Polná Castle and Chateau 28

The castle was erected in the mid-12 century next to a crossroads of trade routes near the former borderland. Although it had witnessed many important state visits, debates and negotiations throughout its history, beginning from the mid-18th century, it would serve only as a residence for aristocratic officials. Its architectural development is well documented by parts of both the castle and the newer chateau that have been preserved. In 1922, the abandoned castle was bought by factory owner and benefactor from Polná Václav Pojman, who donated it to the Sokol Movement and the

Polná Museum Association. Today, the site is used for cultural and social purposes and it is also the seat of the municipal museum. A rarity among the museum exhibits is the merchant's shop with furnishings that date back to the mid-19th century and which were taken from a Polná family's shop. Museum tours document crafts and trades that existed in the town, explain the structural development of the castle to the visitors and show them an exhibition of clocks.

[www.muzeum-polna.cz](http://www.muzeum-polna.cz)

## Kamenice u Jihlavy Fortress 29



From its foundation, the fortress was held by the Benedictine Monastery in Třebíč; when the monastery was closed down, it passed together with the town to aristocratic owners. The current appearance was shaped in the 16th century when extensive structural adjustments were made. The façade is covered in sgraffito and above the Renaissance entry portal, you can see three coats of arms that belong to noble families, namely the Lords of Žerotín, the Lords Osovský

of Doubravice and the Lords of Wallenstein. An interesting discovery made in 2009 was an inscription of three morally religious statements in the northern façade. Today, the fortress is used by a local museum and houses exhibitions documenting the history of the village, famous natives and nature. The museum is accessible subject to previous appointment.

[www.kameniceujihlavy.cz](http://www.kameniceujihlavy.cz)

# Žirovnice Chateau 30



The first written records mention a Gothic castle back in the 13th century under the Lords of Hradec. The most significant structural adjustments were made under the Vencelíks of Vrchoviště throughout the 15th century when the castle was decorated with frescos. In addition to paintings in the chapel and the Knight's Hall, the chateau features unique painted decorations in the Green Room, which is said to represent a standard secular interior from the late Gothic period. The last owner, Sternberg, sold the chateau to the town

and the building was turned into offices to administer the domain and into rental apartments. An extensive remodelling in the second half of the 20th century made it possible to use the former chateau as a museum. The greater chateau grounds also include a brewery. Beer was brewed here until 1865 and today, the building holds exhibitions. Under the Sternbergs, a large granary was added to what today houses the Exhibition of Rural Traditions and Crafts.

[www.zirovnice.cz](http://www.zirovnice.cz)



# Awakening **TREASURES**



## Červená Řečice Chateau 31

In the 12th century, an original fortress became the centre of the vast Řečice domain held by Prague bishops. Even prior to the Hussite wars, the entire property was sold to secular hands. The chateau experienced its largest expansion in the 16th century, when it was under the Leskovec family domain. A remarkable Renaissance figure was Šebastián of Leskovec, who rebuilt the Gothic castle into an imposing Renaissance residence. After property confiscation following the Battle of White

Mountain, Fickle Fortune awarded the chateau back to the Prague archbishop, who owned it until 1948. A private owner has been trying to change the fate of the decaying chateau and is planning to open it to the public to the greatest extent possible and turn it into a cultural and social centre. Due to renovations, access to the chateau is limited now.

[www.cervenarecice.cz](http://www.cervenarecice.cz)

## Jemnice Chateau 32



This was originally a feudal castle founded most likely in the first half of the 13th century. According to some sources, Queen Elisabeth of Bohemia was supposed to have lived here. Her stay is associated with the annual Barchan town festival, which has been held in Jemnice since the mid-14th century. The contemporary appearance of the chateau is attributed to Alfons Pallavicini. He had it rebuilt according to a design by Viennese architects at his wife Gabriela's request, who was impressed

by the Hofburg in Vienna. After WWII, the chateau passed under state control and until 1992, it was used by the Czechoslovak army. Today, it is owned by the town of Jemnice, which has been striving to renovate it and responsibly use it. In the summer season, visitors can see thematic exhibitions displayed in parts that have already been repaired.

[www.tic.jemnice.cz](http://www.tic.jemnice.cz)

## Brtnice Chateau 33



A Renaissance chateau was built on the site of an originally Gothic castle in the 13th century and served as a representative Wallenstein residence. The Renaissance arcades are a magnificent structural element and are attributed to an Italian master. After the Battle of White Mountain, the domain passed to the Collalto family, who held it until 1945. Under their possession, the Entrance Hall was decorated with paintings by Karel František Töpper; they depict Imperial visits received by the Collaltos at the chateau. Due to lengthy legal disputes concerning

ownership in the late 20th century, the chateau became dilapidated. An important role in its rescue was played by the town of Brtnice, which provided essential maintenance during times of uncertainty. Today, a final decision has finally been made regarding ownership and the private owner intends to continue with restoring the chateau and its grounds. The chateau is open to the public during the summer season.

[www.brtnice.cz](http://www.brtnice.cz)

## Police Chateau 34



The chateau was rebuilt from an original 14th century fortress. The biggest changes made to the chateau and its Renaissance style from the 16th century are attributed to Jan Tavikovský of Tavikovice. Under the rule of the Berchtolds, Baroque decorations were added. The last owners were the old Wražda family. In 1945, the chateau passed under state control and it slowly became dilapidated. Today, it is held by the municipality of Police, which has been striving to sensitively redevelop it and wants to find an adequate use for the structure. Visitors can see the chateau with its well-preserved Renaissance courtyard, chateau chapel and a five-story tower. In 2018, an RAF museum opened in the chateau; its aim is to show visitors the legacy of Czechoslovak pilots and soldiers who fought in WWII against fascism. An exhibition on old motorcycles has also found its home in the chateau.

[www.obec-police.cz](http://www.obec-police.cz)

# Chateau RESIDENCES



## Herálec Chateau 35



The chateau, situated 8 km east of Humpolec, gained its romantic appearance during the 19th century, when it was rebuilt in the Neo-Gothic style in several stages. An extensive redevelopment project began in 2009, when the chateau was purchased by its current owners. Its renovation is one of the better examples of the revival

and transformation of a historically protected building. The chateau and adjacent English park have been transformed into a beautiful place that is currently being used as a high-standard hotel with a gourmet restaurant.

[www.chateauheralec.com](http://www.chateauheralec.com)

## Dukovany Chateau 36



An originally older structure from 1790 was rebuilt into a chateau for Countess Maria Brigita Canal-Malabaila, née Chotková, by Brno building master Jan Amon. Today, it houses a hotel and a restaurant. A short guided tour introduces visitors to the chateau's history and takes them

into six lounges and the Pantheon fresco hall, which is used as a ceremonial or concert hall.

[www.zamekdukovany.cz](http://www.zamekdukovany.cz)

## Valeč Chateau 37



Smil Osovský of Doubravice had a Renaissance chateau built on the site of older fortress foundations, which is documented by the year 1534 being cut into the stone portal on the first floor. A new chapter in the chateau's history began with its renovation in 2011, when it was

turned into a spa hotel and cultural centre. The owner also lets visitors take a glimpse at stylish period-furnished rooms and lounges, a library and other historical sections.

[www.hotel-valec.cz](http://www.hotel-valec.cz)

## Štěpánov Chateau 38

The chateau was built in place of an older fortress most likely in the mid-18th century when Štěpánov was an independent farmstead. The last extensive renovation took place between 1997 and 2001. Today, the chateau offers spacious suites and representative rooms that can

be used for weddings, corporate events, and other social events. The chateau park, the garden and surrounding forests create an oasis of peace.

[www.zamekstepanov.cz](http://www.zamekstepanov.cz)

## Úsobí Chateau 39

The appearance of the chateau was essentially shaped by Jodok Göldin of Tiefenau in the 18th century; at that time, a chapel was added that spreads over two floors. However, the distinctive balcony supported by Ionian columns was not added until Neo-Baroque adjustments

were made in the 19th century. The chateau is used for accommodation, as a concert venue and for weddings, baptisms and other ceremonies. The owner also allows visitors to take a tour of the chateau.

[www.zamekusobi.cz](http://www.zamekusobi.cz)

## Radešín Chateau 40

Originally, this was a farmyard for the Žďár monastery. Architect J. B. Santini was involved in its rebuilding efforts, which occurred in the 18th century. Today, the chateau houses the Centre of Ballooning, because its ample and spacious area makes it possible to combine

balloon take-offs and flights with operating team facilities. The Centre offers sightseeing flights, different events and accommodation.

[www.balonovyzamek.cz](http://www.balonovyzamek.cz)



## Hostačov Chateau 41



Over the centuries, nearly all architectonic styles have affected an original fortress located at the Železné hory foothills. Today, the chateau is a pleasant and peaceful place that offers relaxation in our fast-paced modern

lives. The area also includes a vast forest park with two ponds and the largest Czech disc golf park.

[www.chateau-hostacov.cz](http://www.chateau-hostacov.cz)

## Vilémov Chateau 42



Vilémov Chateau stands on the site of a now-defunct Benedictine monastery. Its current appearance was shaped in the 18th century, when it was owned by the Italian Carretto-Millessimo family. In 1991, it was returned to the Reiský de Dubnic family, who has held it ever since. In addition to accommodation, the chateau offers conference rooms for holding social events.

[www.vilemovcastle.cz](http://www.vilemovcastle.cz)

## Rozsochatec Chateau 43

Although the chateau has been in the village for several centuries, its current appearance did not take shape until after a large fire, when its new owner, JUDr. Otto Mettala, who bought it in 1892, had to completely re-

pair it. Through restitution, the chateau and farming estate were returned to his family, who turned into an inviting hotel suitable for all ages.

[www.zamekrozsochatec.cz](http://www.zamekrozsochatec.cz)

## Třešť Chateau 44

The predecessor of the current chateau was a Medieval fortress that has been entirely ruined by later remodeling. Its today's appearance is attributed to structural adjustments that began in 1860 under Ferdinand and Leopold of Sternbach. The building is owned by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and is used

as a hotel and a restaurant and a venue for holding scientific seminars and symposia.

Due to ongoing renovation works, the chateau will be closed between November 2018 and October 2020.

[www.zamek-trest.cz](http://www.zamek-trest.cz)

# Spiritual **STRONGHOLDS**



*The Premonstratensian Monastery in Nová Říše*

## The Premonstratensian Monastery in Nová Říše 45

A Premonstratensian convent was founded by Markvart of Hrádek and his wife Vojslava in 1211 for the Norbertine Sisters (Premonstratensian Sisters), but when the last female inhabitant died after the end of the Hussite wars, it was changed into a monastery. Its Baroque appearance was created during the 18th century, when it flourished the most, both economically and culturally. A corridor connects the monastery to the Church of St. Peter and Paul from the second half of the 17th century, which is filled with preserved painted decorations and valuable furniture. The church used to be a place of meditation for the famous poet and local teacher Otokar Březina. A rare object found in the monastery is its library with more than 20,000 volumes. It also includes

four rare volumes of an 18th century herbarium, which inspired the local Nová Říše pottery. Troubled times for the monastery occurred between 1942 and 1989, when it was first occupied by SS units and turned into a Hitler Youth seat and then later used as a military warehouse. The Premonstratensian monks returned to the monastery in 1991 and initiated necessary repairs. During the summer season, valuable historical parts of the monastery can be accessed by visitors. The monastery houses the Memorial to Brothers Pavel and Antonín Vranický, 18th-century composers and friends of Mozart, Beethoven and Haydn.

[www.klasternovarise.cz](http://www.klasternovarise.cz)

## The Premonstratensian Monastery in Želiv 46



A monastery in a valley referred to as the "Valley of Happiness", situated at the confluence of the Želivka and Trnávka Rivers, was founded by Přemyslid Prince Soběslav I and his wife Adléta in 1139 for Benedictine monks who came from the Sázava monastery. Not long after, they were replaced by Premonstratensian monks.

The turbulent times of the Hussite wars brought about sieges and exploitation of the monastery. Subsequently, when the monastery was seized by the Trčkas of Lípa, Trčkův Castle, which is still there today, was built. Religious life was restored in Želiv in 1622 and the monastery resumed its three original missions: spiritual, cultural, and economic. Redevelopment after another devastating fire that occurred in 1712 was undertaken by Jan Santini Aichel. An essential part of the monastery is the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, with two towers on the façade and a valuable Baroque interior décor. In 1950, the communists closed the monastery down and interned 464 priests and monks there; their names have been inscribed on the monastery's walls since 2013. The monastic community resumed its work in 1991. Today, the monastery offers not only religious services, but also takes visitors on tours of the grounds, provides accommodation and brews its own beer. A unique experience is taking a tour of the local brewery.

[www.zeliv.eu](http://www.zeliv.eu)

# Noble RESIDENCES



*The Vysočina Museum and The Art Gallery in Havlíčkův Brod*

# The Vysočina Museum in Havlíčkův Brod 47

## Burgher House – Havlíčkovo Square No. 19

This late Gothic building, originally referred to as Rolandovský, today Havlíčkův, stands out due to its distinctive corner bay window and turret. The façade was rebuilt in the Neo-Gothic style in 1871 by architect František Schmoranz from Slatiňany. In 1832, the building was bought by merchant Matěj Havlíček, writer Karel Havlíček's father. Karel Havlíček briefly stayed in the house with his wife Julie and daughter Zdenka before being deported to Brixen. Today, the building houses the Vysočina Museum in Havlíčkův Brod, which was founded in 1874 and is one of the

oldest museums in the Czech lands. Four rooms of the original apartment feature a permanent exhibition entitled "Karel Havlíček Borovský – His Life and Legacy" with many personal and period items on display. However, the museum's collections are also rich in other objects, especially glassware, archaeological findings, paintings, sculptures, manuscripts and rare prints. The museum holds a series of seasonal exhibitions that primarily focus on the history and life of the Havlíčkův Brod region.

[www.muzeumhb.cz](http://www.muzeumhb.cz)

# The Art Gallery in Havlíčkův Brod 48



## Burgher House – Havlíčkovo Square No. 18

The building, originally called „Chmelvodovodský“ or the „Old Pharmacy“, comes from the first half of the 15th century. It has been remodelled several times. During a 1997 renovation, when it was acquired by the gallery, numerous Gothic and Renaissance architectural elements were discovered, including fragments of a Gothic saddle portal and a broken arc on the second floor, which proves that its former owners were wealthy. Today, it houses the Art Gallery in Havlíčkův Brod which, since its inception in 1965, has focused on paintings and sculptures created by regional authors. Among Czech galleries, it has a special distinction – it is the only Czech gallery that specializes in modern book illustrations, drawings and graphics created after 1918. Gallery collections include about seven thousand pieces of art that are regularly presented to the public in alternating exhibitions. Throughout 2018, the gallery has been undergoing an extensive renovation.

[www.galeriehb.cz](http://www.galeriehb.cz)

# The Vysočina Museum in Jihlava 49

Two architectonically valuable buildings on Jihlava's main square house the Vysočina Museum in Jihlava, founded in 1892.

## Burgher House – Masarykovo Square No. 57

Originally a maltsters' house, this building was purchased by the Drapers' Guild in 1630 and period documents refer to it as the House of Masters. The building

contains a preserved Drapers' Guild hall with all-wooden joists and full wall panelling. The building is connected to a courtyard via an arcade corridor.

## Burgher House – Masarykovo Square No. 58

This house, significantly remodelled between 1580 and 1590, has a well-preserved high ceiling with groin vaults coming from the end of the 16th century and as such, it is an exceptional example of Jihlava Renaissance art. The year inscribed in the middle of the vaults reveals that the building was renovated in the 18th century.

The flagship exhibition of the museum entitled "From Gothic to the Present – Eight Centuries of the Town's History" will guide visitors through the most important moments of Jihlava's history. Jihlava's mining past

is commemorated by the Mining and Minting in the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands exhibition featuring an adorable slide. Children will also appreciate the permanent exhibition focused on the flora and fauna of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. However, other exhibitions are also very interesting, such as the Beauty of Medieval Sculpture, the Geology of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands and the Lapidarium. Museum exhibition halls hold very popular seasonal exhibitions.

[www.muzeum.ji.cz](http://www.muzeum.ji.cz)



# The Vysočina Regional Gallery in Jihlava 50

The gallery spreads over two Renaissance buildings in Jihlava's historic centre and covers art from the 19th century to the present.

## Burgher House – Komenského Street No. 10

This building did not exist until two adjacent buildings were combined in 1864. The original buildings, built on narrow and elongated Gothic plots, have been greatly affected by fires and structural adjustments made over the centuries. The wealth and social importance of the owner in the 16th century is documented by a preserved entrance portal, both lower halls (referred to as maashaus), the basement and especially the upper two-story hall, which is finished with an eight-piece

vault and preserved paintings in the left wing of the house. The paintings depict eight angels playing different musical instruments. In the early 1960s, the double building was remodelled into a gallery.

Exhibitions in the gallery in Komenského Street display mostly modern and contemporary art; it is also used by the Alternativa Gallery and the IGLoo sound gallery, which provides a unique space to allow for presenting artists working with sound.

## Burgher House – Masarykovo Square No. 24

This two-story building was built on the site of an original Gothic building in the 16th century; the stone entrance portal, vaulted hall on the ground floor (maashaus) and a hall on the first floor are still preserved today. Its valuable cove vault most likely comes from the end of 18th or the beginning of the 19th centuries; this architectonic feature is only rarely found in towns. Building remodelling works occurred in 1989 and in

the same year, the Regional Gallery in Jihlava started to operate here by opening a permanent exhibition from the gallery's collections.

The permanent exhibition rotates a selection of pieces from its own Czech art collections, but there is also space for holding exhibitions focusing on the art of the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries.

[www.ogv.cz](http://www.ogv.cz)





**Vysočina Tourism, p. o.**

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**Castles, chateaux and historical objects in Vysočina**

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