



Světlá nad Sázavou

Světlá is referred to as the town of glass and stone. Since the 17th century, many small glassworks have operated in the Světlá area, with the one in Josefův Důl being the largest. In 1967, the construction of a modern glass manufacture commenced in Světlá, and its construction

was very closely connected to the establishment of the glass-making school, which is still in operation, with certain modifications.

The town invites tourists to visit the local underground and the Museum of Světlá and Vicinity housed by the chateau, which features an exhibition devoted to the history of the town and its important figures.

In the nearby Ledeč nad Sázavou, you can see a Gothic castle with an observation tower that houses the local museum. Jewish roots are commemorated by the synagogue, which has occasional exhibitions, and the Jewish cemetery. People interested in glass-making should not miss the nearby open-air museum. In Tasice, you can find the Jakub Glassworks where the famous TV series The Sons and Daughters of Jakub the Glassmaker took place.



Telč

Telč is justly considered to be one of the most beautiful towns in the Czech Republic. The Chateau and the town's historical core, which has a triangular square lined with burghers' houses that feature Renaissance gables and arcades, were inscribed on the UNESCO heritage list in 1992. In addition to the chateau halls, worth a visit are also the gallery in the Fire-fighters' House and Telč House, which presents local history and legends from Telč and the area in the form of large ceramic figures and paintings. A view of the town can be had from the observation towers of St. James' Church and the Church of the Holy Spirit. An interesting way to spend time may be a visit to the nearby Oslednice lookout tower and a boat ride on Štěpnický Pond.



Třebíč

This city that lies along both sides of the River Jihlava was established in the 13th century. Its Jewish quarter and the Romanesque-Gothic St. Procopius Basilica were inscribed on the UNESCO heritage list in 2003.

The St. Procopius Basilica is a part of a former Benedictine monastery that was later converted into a chateau. Today, it houses the Vysočina Museum in Třebíč – the museum will be under complete renovation until 2013; in summer, visitors can see the renovation process during tours. The history of the strong Jewish community is noted by well-preserved buildings in the Jewish town and the Jewish cemetery, and a synagogue with unique wall paintings from the early 18th century. A fine view of the town can be had from the lookout tower of St. Martin's Church. From there, you cannot miss the Dutch-style windmill built in 1836.



Třešť

The town has earned its renown for the skill of the local nativity scene artists, to whose art the local museum devotes an extensive exhibition. In addition to other noteworthy facts, there is a mention of the world-renowned economist and native son Josef Alois Schumpeter, and an inventory of the rooms of the local chateau. The Jewish community is commemorated by the well-maintained Jewish cemetery, and a synagogue with a modern exhibition of one of the most prominent 20th century writers, Franz Kafka. We can set out from the town on bike or foot in search of the source of the Moravská Dyje River or to Roštejn Castle, which offers a tour of the castle interior and an observation tower.



The Obrataň – Jindřichův Hradec Narrow-gauge Railway

The standard gauge of railway tracks throughout the world is 1,435 millimetres, but there are exceptions that are today considered to be technical rarities. One of them is the railway that passes through Vysočina, from Jindřichův Hradec to Obrataň. It was put into service in 1906 and retained the old Austrian gauge of 760 millimetres. In summer, the railway comes to life with historical steam engines.



Velká Bíteš

Every September, Velká Bíteš comes to life with one of the largest folk festivals in the central sub-highland area – the traditional Bíteš Feast. The town's pride, the Church of St. John the Baptist, with its medieval fortifications, has survived in nearly mint condition. In the town, you can also visit the regional museum with an exhibition on local history, geography, and nature and with mineralogical and geological exhibitions.



Velké Meziříčí

The oldest monument in town is the chateau, where you can see not only the interiors of the chateau chambers, the exhibition With the Symbol of Seven Feathers on the town's history, and a collection of minerals, but above all, an exhibition devoted to bridges.

Aside from the chateau, you can also visit the old synagogue, with an exhibition hall and an exhibition on the history of the Jewish community, and the Jewish cemetery. You can also climb the observation tower of St. Nicolas' Church. A point of interest is also the Vysočina motorway bridge that spans the town, as it is the highest and second longest bridge on the D1 motorway.



Žďár nad Sázavou

The greatest tourist attraction of Žďár nad Sázavou is the Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora. This major work of architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichl was registered on the UNESCO list of world cultural and natural heritage in 1994.

Another place that is worth a visit is the chateau grounds on the site of a former Cistercian monastery. There, you can see the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the Well Chapel, the Book Museum, and an exhibition of Jan Blažej Santini and of Baroque Art from the collections of the Prague National Gallery. Nearby the grounds is an arched Baroque bridge, bearing eight statues of saints. You can see the collections of the regional museum in the former 13th century fortress in the centre of the town. On a walk through the general area, children and adults alike will be pleased by Michal Olšiák's concrete sculptures bearing names such as Fool, Mammoth, Hamroň, Horse, or Border Stone.



Želiv – The Želiv Monastery

The Želiv Monastery was established in the mid 12th century. In the 15th century, the abbey came to be held by the Trčka of Lipa family, who converted a part of the monastery into their family seat, now known as Trčka's Castle. Monastery life was only renewed in 1622. The monastery saw its period of greatest flourishing in the first half of the 18th century, when the important architect Jan Blažej Santini participated in the renovation of the monastery church. Today, visitors can get to know the most interesting parts of the monastery if they take the tour, or taste the special local monastery beer that is brewed there.



Vysočina Region



Vysočina Playfully





Brtnice

The name of the famous architect and designer Josef Hoffmann is linked with Brtnice. The life and work of this representative of Viennese Art Nouveau are depicted in an exhibition in his birth-house in the square. The town's landmark is the extensive castle; we can also find a Jewish cemetery there and two Baroque bridges richly decorated with sculptures. From there, you can set out on foot to the nearby ruin of the Gothic Rokštejn Castle.



Číhošť – The geographic centre of the country

As surviving border stones document, the former border dividing the historical lands of Bohemia and Moravia passed through Vysočina. Geographers also calculated that the geographic centre of the Czech Republic lies in Vysočina, near the village of Číhošť.



Dalešická Reservoir

The Dalešice water system was established between 1970 and 1978 in connection with the construction of the nearby Dukovany Power Plant. It includes Dalešice Reservoir, the Mohelno buffer reservoir, the Dalešice pumped-storage hydro-power plant, and the Mohelno flow-through power plant. Dalešice Reservoir consists of a 100-meter tall clay embankment dam. Tourists can have an unusual experience if they visit the information centre of the pumped-storage power plant, where they can see four sets of machines in action with reverse Francis turbines. Another attraction is a boat ride on Dalešice Reservoir. You can get on at any of the several stops.

Near Dalešice Reservoir, not far from the village of Kramolín, is Babylon, the oldest stone lookout tower in Moravia, built in 1831. In the town of Dalešice, you can visit a brewery featuring a museum of Austro-Hungarian Beer-making, which became famous thanks to the film Cutting it Short.



The D1 Motorway

The D1 motorway is the most important transport artery in the country, running across the entire Vysočina Region, figuratively cutting it into northern and southern parts. The plan for the construction of what is still the longest motorway in the country was approved in November 1938. The original plan was to link Prague with Carpathian Ukraine. The ambitious plan was never fully implemented.



Dešov

The rural heritage reserve Dešov features houses typical of South-West Moravia. Most of the residential and farm buildings are made of clay or brick. Thanks to this region's fertility, local farmers were able to pay more time and attention to decorating the facades of their houses. The decorations of some of the gables reflect motifs of Baroque architecture, which has found an integral position here in a ruralised form.



Dolní Rožínka The DraXmoor Castle of Horror

The 14th century chateau grange was converted into the DraXmoor Castle of Horror. The exhibition is attractive mainly for children and presents moving models of witches, dragons, and other fairytale monsters, complete with sound.



Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou

The town boasts one of the most extensive Baroque chateau grounds in Europe. In addition to the interior of the chateau, you can also visit the extensive park and charming garden; worth a visit are also St. Margaret's Church and the Museum of Poet Otakar Březina. His tomb with a sculpture by F. Bílek can be seen at the local cemetery. The nearby Moravské Budějovice offers a tour of its chateau, featuring exhibitions called The Development of Crafts, History of Moravské Budějovice, and Butcher Shops. The tower of St. Giles' Church boasts views of the countryside.



Javořice (837 m above sea level)

Javořice is the highest point of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands and therefore also of the Vysočina Region. It is dominated by a 164-meter television broadcasting tower. On their way to the top of the hill, visitors can stop and get refreshed at the spring called The Source of the Lord.



Jemnice

Jemnice, the town of Queen Eliška, comes to life every June with the Barchan Festival. But it offers many other opportunities for a visit, including a tour of the museum featuring the exhibitions History of Jemnice, Mining for Minerals, and the Jemnice World of Tea. Another experience can be gained by climbing the tower of St. Stanislav's Church or a tour of St. Vitus' Church, including its crypt. In the nearby village of Police, you can also admire the interior of the local Renaissance chateau or view the countryside from its observation tower.



Jihlava

The regional capital is situated on the historical border between the Moravian and Bohemian lands. It boasts one of the largest historical squares in Central Europe, featuring an architecturally valuable set of burghers' houses and ecclesiastic buildings, which, together with the adjoining laneways, constitute the foundation of the Jihlava urban heritage reserve. Underneath the square is a labyrinth of underground passages on several levels, which were created when medieval cellars were linked. The mining fame of the town is commemorated by a miner's parade every other year. The observation tower of St. James' Church and the only surviving gate in the medieval town fortifications, the Gate of Our Lady, boast panoramic views of the city and its environs.

Tourists in Jihlava will be especially captivated by the renovated town hall building with its monumental gothic hall, decorated with quotes from the Bible, classical authors, and proverbs. The most frequently visited points include the Vysočina Regional Gallery; the Vysočina Museum in Jihlava, with an exhibition of silver mining and coin mintage in the city; and Gustav Mahler's house, devoted to the composer's life and work. A draw for children is the zoological garden with an African village, a Shetland island, and an acclaimed collection of clawed monkeys. The Vodní ráj water park is open to the public all year round.



Kališře

The village features the birth house of the world-famous conductor and composer Gustav Mahler.



Kamenice nad Lipou

You can sit in the shade of the 800-year old linden tree in the park of Kamenice Chateau, which today houses an exhibition of the municipal museum and the Prague Museum of Decorative Arts. A technical attraction is the local narrow-gauge railway from Obrataň to Jindřichův Hradec, which passes through the town.



Náměšř nad Oslavou

The pride of the town is the majestic Baroque bridge adorned with statues of twenty saints, which boasts a nice view of the Renaissance chateau, which is open to the public. The municipal museum features an exhibition on Papírník's Printing House and on the photographic studio of Ondřej Knoll.



Nová Řiše – Monastery

The Premonstratensian monastery with the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul was founded in the 13th century. The interior of the church boasts rich Baroque frescoes. The guided tour includes the church as well as the prelatore, halls of notable figures, and the rich monastery library, which houses over 20,000 volumes. The library's most precious treasures include four volumes of a herbarium from the 1740s that became the models for the decor of the so-called Nová Řiše pottery.



Nové Město na Moravě

In the more than 70 years of organising the annual Golden Ski competition, the town has become renowned primarily as a winter sports centre. But it also has a cultural face. The local Highland Gallery presents the works of important Czech 19th and 20th century sculptors and a collection of glass made in glassworks. In the town museum, you can find exhibitions of the folk culture of the Highland area, an exhibition on glass-making and iron-forging, and an exhibition on skiing. An interesting attraction is the original Vír Mill, with original carved figures. The centre of the town is adorned with original sculptures.



Pelhřimov

Pelhřimov is known as the town of records and curiosities. The most noteworthy achievements in the area are presented to visitors by the exhibition Golden Czech Hands, located on the Embankment of Records, and especially by the Museum of Records and Curiosities in the Jihlava Town Gate.

Worth a visit is also the Vysočina Museum in Pelhřimov, which offers not only an exhibition devoted to the work of Josef and Zdeněk Sejnosta and the historical development of the Pelhřimov area, but also a tour of the Town Prison. An opportunity to view exhibits related to the film work of director Oldřich Lipský and his brother Lubomir can be had in Lipský Hall or the First Czech MUSEum. Pelhřimov also has its Museum of Monsters in the medieval cellar of the Burgrave's House, boasting rich sgrafitti decorations. Visitors can get to know the town's most significant architectural monuments on the Architectural Style Trail. Also the climb to the observation tower of St. Bartholomew's Church is rewarding. In the area, you can visit the massive Kámen (Rock) Castle, located in a village of the same name, not far from Pelhřimov.



Počátky

In 1868, the poet Otakar Březina was born in Počátky. Today, his birth house constitutes a part of the local museum and features an exhibition devoted to the life and work of the famous native. Other parts of the museum exhibitions present the town's history. The landmark of the town square is the Church of St. John the Baptist with an observation tower and a fountain with a sculpture of St. John of Nepomuk. The town's environs are inviting for a visit. In the nearby St. Catherine Spa, you can see the pilgrimage church and visit the St. Catherine Wellness Resort. The nearby town of Žirovnice invites visitors to see its castle and exhibition in the chateau grange.





Dukovany Nuclear Power Plant

The Dukovany Power Plant is one of the country's two nuclear power plants and its production covers approximately 20% of the country's electricity consumption. Its first reactor block was put into operation in 1985, the fourth and last block two years later. Since 1994, a modern information centre has been available to visitors, informing them about how the facility operates.



Havlíčkův Brod

The town of Havlíčkův Brod is associated with the famous journalist and writer Karel Havlíček Borovský. He lived in the so-called Havlíček House, which today houses the Vysočina Museum in Havlíčkův Brod. Aside from the museum, worth a visit is also the Art Gallery, presenting 20th century prints and illustrations and an exhibition devoted to painter Otakar Štáfl. In the town centre, you can admire Baroque and Classicist gables on houses, two historical town halls, and the monastery Church of the Holy Family, and you can climb the observation tower of the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.



Humpolec

The town offers tourists several opportunities for tours. They can see the museum of the anthropologist dr. Aleš Hrdlička and visit the HLINÍKÁrium – a museum inspired by the famous Czech film Marečku, podejte mi pero. The urban interpretive trail "In the Footsteps of History" and the Jewish cemetery invite visitors for walks, and they can climb the observation deck of the tower of St. Nicolas' Church. Another place to visit is the local Bernard brewery, which offers guided tours. Not far from the town, the ruins of Orlik Castle can be seen.



Chotěboř

Chotěboř and its surroundings will charm lovers of both culture and nature. Worth visiting is the entire historical centre of the town, which has been declared a heritage zone, but especially the Baroque chateau with its extensive park. The chateau is the town's most important sight. Today, it houses the municipal museum, which has a rich collection of fine arts boasting a comprehensive collection of the local native, painter, and illustrator Zdeněk Rykr. In the immediate vicinity of the town is the Doubrava River Valley Nature Reserve, which invites visitors with its majestic rock towers and waterfalls.



The Žďárské vrchy Protected Landscape Area

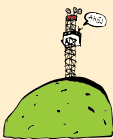
The Žďárské vrchy hills stretch across the central part of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, which are characterised by the alternation of meadows, pastures, fields, forests, lakes and interesting rock formations. Among the most interesting parts of the protected landscape area are the Dářko and Žákova hora National Nature Reserves. Whereas at Dářko, we encounter valuable micro-systems of peat bogs and damp peaty meadows where endangered plant species grow, in Žákova hora, we encounter an extremely well-preserved fir and beech virgin forest, which has been minimally disrupted by human intervention. Tourists are drawn here by rock formations, such as Devět skal and Čtyři palice.



1613

Kralice nad Oslavou The Kralice Bible Memorial

The Kralice fortress housed a secret printing house of the Union of Brethren from 1578 to 1620. During that time, the printing house of the Brethren published 76 religious as well as secular books, including textbooks. The most significant work is the six-volume Kralice Bible. The building containing the memorial was erected next to the fortress in 1967-1969, on the basis of a design by architect Bohuslav Fuchs.



Křemešník

After climbing to the top of Křemešník, 765 metres above sea level, you will be welcomed by the Baroque grounds of the Church of the Holy Trinity, which was once one of the most frequently visited pilgrimage sights in Vysočina. The extensive grounds feature ambits, the Way of the Cross, God's Tomb, and a fountain. Near the church is the so-called Wind Chateau, which is also called At the Seven Ravens, because of the unusual decorations of the tower. It was designed for the sculptor and medal-maker Josef Sejnosta by architect Kamil Hilbert, who cooperated in the completion of St. Vitus' Cathedral in Prague. Wonderful views of the area can be had from the Pipalka lookout tower, which was built between 1992 and 1993.



Křižánky

The rural heritage reserve Křižánky stretches along both sides of the River Svratka, and the historical border of the Bohemian and Moravian lands divides the village into Bohemian and Moravian parts. Křižánky is a mountain village with dispersed houses, comprised primarily of timbered houses typical for the Horácko region, on the border between Moravia and Bohemia. The specific features of the local houses are timbered gables with folded plates and hipped ends.



Lipnice nad Sázavou Castle Ruin

The name of one of the country's most important writers, Jaroslav Hašek, is connected to Lipnice nad Sázavou. The author of the Fortunes of the Good Soldier Švejk lived there until 1923 and now rests in the local cemetery. You can see not only Hašek's grave, but also a memorial with an exhibition devoted to his life and work. The true landmark of the village however is the ruined Gothic castle that affords distant vistas across the area. In the nearby quarries, we can also find the sculptures Bretschneider's Ear, the Mouth of Truth, and Golden Eyes. These were created recently as a part of the National Memorial of Eavesdropping.



Mohelno – The Mohelno Serpentinite Steppe

The Mohelno Serpentinite Steppe Nature Reserve offers a spectacle unseen elsewhere in the country. Its geological bedrock is serpentinite. This kind of bedrock makes for an extremely warm and dry microclimate, which gave rise to unique prairie-like meadows stretching above a meander of the River Jihlava. Visitors can set out on a tour of the steppe along a nature trail that has two circuits and enjoy impressive views of the Mohelno Water Reservoir and the Dukovany Nuclear Power Plant.



Pohled' Michal's Farmhouse

Michal's Farmhouse is the only open-air museum in Vysočina. The Michal family farmed there from the end of the 16th century to 2000, when the farmhouse was bought by the town, which set up an exhibition there devoted to the life of rural people, mapping the period from the end of the Thirty Years War until the abolition of forced labour in Bohemia.



Polná

A significant landmark of the town is the castle that was later converted to a chateau and that today houses the municipal museum. There, you can view a clock exhibition, the lapidarium, Kunštát Hall, a pharmacy, and a general shop. The museum also includes an old school complete with a classroom dating to 1866. You can learn about the history of the Jewish community on a tour of the synagogue – the Regional Jewish Museum, the Jewish cemetery, and the surviving Jewish town, which has a triangular layout. Also worth visiting is the decanal Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which offers the possibility of climbing the observation tower.



Přibyslav

In Přibyslav, a Renaissance chateau was built on the foundations of an old Gothic fortress. Today, it houses the Fire-fighters' Museum. The interesting tour that offers a look into the history of fire-fighting equipment is not the only attraction of the town. Aside from fire-fighting devices, you can also see the local museum or climb the tower of the Church of St. John the Baptist. Not far from the town is Žižka's Cairn, which commemorates the death of the Hussite military leader.



The Rosička Lookout Tower

A modern 42-meter telecommunication tower, which today also serves as a lookout tower, offers a great view of the Žďárské vrchy hills and the Sázava River Area. Views of the countryside from the observation deck 24 meters above ground open up to visitors once they have ascended the 140 steps.



Šiklův Mlýn – Šikl's Mill Old-West Town

The Old-West town of Šikl's Mill, near Zvole nad Pernštejnem, offers an interesting experience for the whole family. The largest natural entertainment park in the country offers attractive Old-West performances, adrenaline entertainment in the Military & Off-Road style, a natural swimming facility, and rides on horseback or in a stage coach.



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