

**Czech**Republic  
Land of Stories



Czech

UNESCO

Treasures

New Title 2018



P. 20  
Bohemian Paradise – UNESCO Global Geopark



The entire Czech Tourism edition in one place



Cover photo: Telč

**Twelve architectonic sights and historic centres. Five varied cultural traditions and manifestations. In addition, six biosphere reserves and one geopark. That sums up Czech cultural and natural wealth in prestigious lists under the patronage of UNESCO.**

UNESCO stands for the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation**, which was founded in 1945. The Czech Republic actively participates in the activities of this international organisation. After all, Czechoslovakia belonged among the founding countries.

With regard to its area and number of inhabitants, the Czech Republic can boast of the fact that it ranks among the countries with **the greatest concentration of world heritage sites**. An inscription in the UNESCO World Heritage List confirms the exceptionality of the site and the need to protect and maintain its cultural and natural heritage for future generations.

A quarter of a century has passed since the first sites and places of the Czech Republic were inscribed in the World Heritage List maintained by UNESCO. The first Czech places inscribed were the historic centres of Prague, Český Krumlov and Telč. In the course of time, other places were added, such as

the Baroque Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc, the Renaissance castle of Litomyšl or the functionalistic Villa Tugendhat in Brno. **Nearly all artistic styles** are represented in the Czech properties.

Moreover, Czech heritage under the patronage of UNESCO is literally within reach. The most remote UNESCO sites are approximately 300 kilometres apart. Most of them can be purposefully linked during a Czech cultural heritage sightseeing trip.

It would be wrong to believe that the United Nations only protect what people can touch. UNESCO also promotes recognition and protection of so-called immaterial (intangible) heritage, which includes **traditions, knowledge and skills**. Among the phenomena within the territory of the Czech Republic inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage is Slovácko Verbuňk, a male solo dance from the Slovácko Region, shrovetide door-to-door processions and masks

in the villages of the Hlinecko area, the traditional Ride of the Kings in the Slovácko Region, falconry, and the tradition of puppetry in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

UNESCO also provides its protective auspices to **nature**. Six areas in the Czech Republic – the Giant Mountains (Czech: Krkonoše), the Třeboňsko area, the Křivoklátsko area, the Bohemian Forest (Czech: Šumava), the White Carpathians (Czech: Bílé Karpaty) and Lower Morava (Czech: Dolní Morava) – received the status of a biosphere reserve within the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme. Besides valuable natural ecosystems, these places show a harmonious relationship between the environment and the people living there. Global UNESCO geopark Bohemian Paradise (Czech: Český ráj) focuses on getting to know as well as the protection of the geological, natural, and cultural heritage of the Earth.

We hope that this guide to the UNESCO treasures in the Czech Republic becomes a source of **inspiration for your trips**. The world appreciates Czech wonders. Discover them, too.

[whc.unesco.org](http://whc.unesco.org)  
[en.czech-unesco.org](http://en.czech-unesco.org)



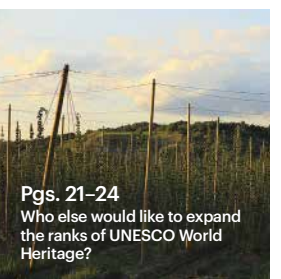
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Who else would like to expand the ranks of UNESCO World Heritage?

# UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Graceful medieval sights, fabulous squares or functionalist architecture. **Twelve Bohemian and Moravian world heritage sites** are the evidence of the history of mankind and the cultural achievements of their era. They are definitely worth visiting. Cultural sights offer an inspiring **walk back to the past**. Experience the beauty of various regions of the Czech Republic and the genius loci of local places inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Prague, Old Town Square



## Prague



Historic Centre of Prague (1992)

The historic centre of Prague is a unique urban complex which includes the historic Prague towns of the Old Town, the Josefov Jewish Quarter, New Town, Lesser Town, Vyšehrad, and Hradčany.

Among the cities in the Czech Republic, Prague has held the supreme position as the metropolis from the Middle Ages to the present. It has fulfilled its representational role throughout its history and still retains its character as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Prague's artistic, social, cultural, and political significance is evident both in its grandiose mediaeval foundations and its extraordinary architectural heritage. The city holds a concentrated number of world renowned landmarks such as the **Prague Castle**, the **Charles Bridge**

with Baroque sculptures and medieval towers, **the National Theatre**, **Rudolfinum**, **Art Nouveau buildings**, and countless stylistically diverse churches and monasteries, as well as younger residential, commercial, and administration buildings built over the centuries on both banks of the Vltava River.

In Prague there are a number of architecturally significant palaces with artistic gardens. **Wallenstein Palace** (Czech: Valdštejnský palác), which was built together with a garden and a riding hall in 1623–1630, is one of the largest ones. The **Vrtba Garden** (Czech: Vrtbovská zahrada) was established when architect F. M. Kaňka was building the palace. The sculptural decoration was created by M. B. Braun.

The landmark of the Old Town Square in the centre of the city is the **Old Town Hall**. It is decorated with a world-famous **astronomical clock** dating back to the beginning



Průhonice Park and Castle

of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, which still works. The **Powder Tower** (Czech: Prašná brána) is a part of the original fortification of the Old Town. The **Municipal House** (Czech: Obecní dům), one of the most important Art Nouveau buildings of Prague, was built next to it at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In the metropolis you can also find a complex of sights of the former Jewish Quarter, **now known as Josefov**. The **Old New Synagogue** (Czech: Staronová synagoga) is one of the oldest synagogues in Europe; its core dates back to the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

Besides the Prague Conservation Area, the World Heritage List also includes the **Průhonice Park and Castle**.

[www.prague.eu](http://www.prague.eu)  
[www.pruhonickypark.cz](http://www.pruhonickypark.cz)

## Holašovice



Holašovice Historic Village (1998)

The South Bohemian village of **Holašovice** is a representative of the large collection of comprehensively preserved villages in the Czech Republic.

Holašovice has been highly valued in literature for a long time, so its inclusion on the

World Heritage List may be considered as a culmination of many years of the legal **vernacular heritage protection** and, of course, the responsible approach of the farm buildings' owners. The layout of the village demonstrates advanced level of founders' activities in rural landscape during the peak phase of the mediaeval colonization of the Czech Lands. The ensemble of farmhouses is centred around a large rectangular square with the **Chapel of St. John of Nepomuk**. The **houses and granaries** mainly face into the square with **gabled façades**, while the courtyards are accessible through brick or stone entrance gates. The village's structure has been preserved from a period of modifications carried out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when it acquired a specific form known as „**Folk Baroque**“. This interesting artistic style reflects the inspiration of rural builders of urban architecture, especially in its Baroque and Neo-Classical elements.

Come to see the annual **Traditional Old-Time Country Fair**. It takes place in July and consists of a folk fair with demonstrations of traditional and untraditional crafts from all over the Czech Republic and from abroad.

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



Holašovice

## UNESCO World Heritage stories teller tips:

“Český Krumlov is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful small towns in Europe. In Český Krumlov, I would suggest you take your time to soak up the fairy tale atmosphere in the streets and pop into some of the small local shops and cafes – each has its own story to discover.”

Michael Turtle /UNESCO World Heritage Journeys copywriter/  
visitworldheritage.com



Český Krumlov



## Český Krumlov



Historic Centre of Český Krumlov (1992)

The unique look of Český Krumlov is predetermined by its position in the meanders of the Vltava River.

The town and its historic centre with numerous significant architectonic sights represent an exceptionally valuable and well-preserved complex of a medieval residential town, which developed since the 13<sup>th</sup> century and which is connected to one of the most powerful aristocratic families of Bohemia – the House of Rosenberg. The town has maintained its original urban structure and is remarkable due to the large number of well-preserved late Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque burgher houses, which stand out thanks to the variety of decoration of their facades. The value of the town is emphasized by the dramatic terrain, the composition of architectonic landmarks and

the intact connection to the surrounding landscape.

A Gothic castle was generously remodelled into a **palace-style residence** in the Renaissance style, which was completed in the Baroque era. The **Masquerade Hall**, which Josef Lederer decorated with illusive ball scenes in 1748, is well worth visiting. The castle theatre is one of the oldest ones and represents the most comprehensively preserved Baroque theatre stage of this kind in the world. The castle has five courtyards, contain over 40 buildings and spread from the town district called Latrán up along a rocky ridge. The castle premises is enclosed with a large **castle garden**.

What is also worth visiting is the St. Vitus Church, a significant late-Gothic sight with a precious network vault, Baroque chapels and abundant internal equipment. In this church you can also see valuable relics commemorating the Houses of Rosenberg and Schwarzenberg.

[www.ckrumlov.info](http://www.ckrumlov.info)  
[www.zamek-ceskykrumlov.cz](http://www.zamek-ceskykrumlov.cz)



Český Krumlov, the Masquerade Hall



Burgher houses in Telč

## Telč



Historic Centre of Telč (1992)

Telč appeals to each visitor through its grandiose composition of castle, church buildings, and burgher houses. The unique historic centre developed throughout the centuries inside an unchanging layout defined by a fortification system formed by ponds, moats, walls, and gates.

Its urban structure is reflected in its Gothic foundation. The outer appearance of the town's buildings was primarily determined during the Renaissance period under the rule of the town's most important personage, Zachariáš of Hradec. He rebuilt his family seat into a grand representational residence in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. **The castle** bears a complex yet complete layout with an arcaded courtyard, Renaissance garden, and a later landscaped park with Empire style greenhouse.

The so-called **Golden Hall** with coffering and impressive figural wood carving belongs to the most valuable interiors of the castle of Telč. An elongated square is surrounded by **burgher houses** with gables and arcades, in many cases also with abundantly decorated

facades of Renaissance, Baroque or Classicist styles. A large **Jesuit palace** was built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century with the Church of Jesus, and in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the town was decorated with many sculptures including a Marian column.

A visit to the historic centre, which is inscribed in the World Heritage List, can be connected, for example, with the Historical Fair, which takes place in autumn. It commemorates the nobleman Zachariáš of Hradec and his contribution to the development and boom of Telč.

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



**UNESCO World Heritage stories teller tips:**

“When you visit, make sure to take note of all the striking symbolism that’s hidden in the design of the building. I love seeing how World Heritage Sites are related to each other. A statue in Prague marks where St John of Nepomuk was apparently killed, and a cathedral in Kutná Hora designed by the same architect as the pilgrimage church shows an architectural evolution. So you can travel through the Czech Republic and see three World Heritage Sites all linked together!”

**Michael Turtle** /UNESCO World Heritage Journeys copywriter/  
visitworldheritage.com



## Žďár nad Sázavou



The Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora (1994)

The pilgrimage church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora in Žďár nad Sázavou is an extraordinary work by architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel and is also the most original example of the „Baroque Gothic“ style.

It was built in 1719–1722. It is dedicated to John of Nepomuk, an important church dignitary in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. He was tortured and killed for his disagreement with the monarch but later became one of the Czech patron saints. The overall modest central church has a unique floor plan and spatial design which is based on the **symbolism of the five stars** in the halo of St. John of Nepomuk.

The shape of the church is determined by the intersections of circles in the shape of a five-pointed star; the church has five entrances, five altar niches, two times five chapels around a central space, and five stars and five angels on the main altar. The top of the dome bears the **symbol of the saint’s tongue** which serves as an attribution to the seal of the confessional. The church is surrounded by a complex



Litomyšl Castle

cloister layout which is compositionally linked to the central building.

You can follow in the footsteps of Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel in Žďár nad Sázavou, for example, to the monastery farm yard Lyra, which is the ground plan of the ancient musical instrument – Lyra. We also recommend visiting a former Cistercian monastery and the current **castle**. You should not miss the interactive **New Generation Museum**, which is situated directly in the castle. The museum makes use of multi-media presentation and combines the exhibits with audiovisual projections and music; both children and adults will enjoy it very much.

[www.zelena-hora.cz/en](http://www.zelena-hora.cz/en)

## Litomyšl



Litomyšl Castle and castle grounds (1999)

The **Renaissance castle in Litomyšl** was built on the site of a 14<sup>th</sup> century bishop’s seat. Between 1568 and 1581 **Italians Giovanni Battista and Ulrico Aostalli** built it for **Vratislav of Pernštejn** in the form of a **representative monumental residence inspired by Italian palaces**.

Vratislav of Pernštejn married Maria Manrique de Lara, a member of the Spanish aristocracy, who brought to Bohemia a family relic – a wax statue of the Infant Jesus of

Prague. The castle has three courtyards and the outline of the main part is divided by gables and chimneys. Lavish **sgraffito decoration** on all castle facades with the motif of traditional envelopes and figures, dominated by two large battle scenes, were created by these two Italians as well. The **three-storey arcades of the main courtyard**, of which one forms an illusive backdrop allowing beautiful views through the arcades, are absolutely unique. In the Baroque-style interiors you can find a well-preserved Classicist **castle theatre** dating back to the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, which also includes set of **painting stage sets** and decorations by Josef Platzer. Adjacent to the main building is a park with a premises that is closed off with buildings of the former carriage hall, stables, riding hall and an originally Renaissance **brewery**, which was rebuilt at the Baroque style by František Maxmilián Kaňka at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the brewery of Litomyšl, there is, besides others, the apartment where

famous composer **Bedřich Smetana** was born – his father was a head brewer. In the local exposition you can see the bedroom, dining room and study room of the Smetana family. A visit to the castle can be enhanced by a thorough tour of the entire so-called Castle Hill, where you can find other sights, such as the Church of the Finding of the Holy Cross with an piarist college, monastery gardens and a museum located in the former piarist grammar school.

The town calls itself the **Spa for the Spirit**. Although you cannot find any healing springs in Litomyšl, the spa season generally opens at the end of April. People are treated through a great atmosphere, good food and drinks. Cultural events continue to be held during the summer when the town hosts the second oldest musical festival in the Czech Republic – Smetana’s Litomyšl.

[www.zamek-litomysl.cz](http://www.zamek-litomysl.cz)  
[www.litomysl.cz](http://www.litomysl.cz)  
[www.zamecke-navrsi.cz](http://www.zamecke-navrsi.cz)



Litomyšl Castle

Church of St. Barbara, Kutná Hora



**UNESCO World Heritage stories teller tips:**

“Kutná Hora is a perfect day trip from Prague – but you’ll get a lot more out of the city if you stay overnight.”

Michael Turtle / UNESCO World Heritage Journeys copywriter/  
visitworldheritage.com



St Procopius' Basilica, Třebíč

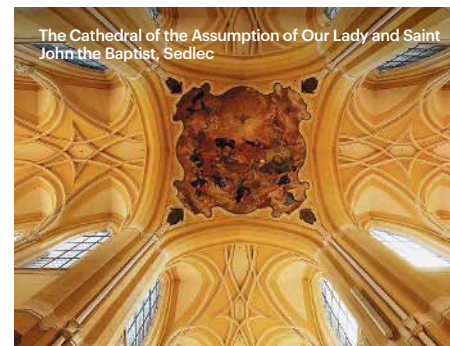
## Kutná Hora



The Historical Town Centre with the Church of St. Barbara and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec (1995)

As a royal mining town in the Middle Ages, Kutná Hora was the second most important seat in Bohemia after Prague.

Medieval Kutná Hora is also known as „the treasury of the Bohemian kingdom“ because of the area’s rich silver deposits and the **royal mint** in the Italian Court. The town’s importance peaked in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century, when the architecturally most important church in the town was built and dedicated to **St. Barbara**, the patron saint of miners. A period of stagnation began from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century that fully manifested itself in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Efforts to revive its old mining glory failed, but the town’s unique architectural expression and atmosphere still serve as the reminders. The list



The Cathedral of the Assumption of Our Lady and Saint John the Baptist, Sedlec

of local gems is extended by the **Cistercian monastery** in nearby Sedlec, founded in the mid-12<sup>th</sup> century and whose new vaulting was designed by Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel during repairs and remodelling in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The picture of the town is complemented with perfectly maintained public areas including a square with a unique, late-Gothic **Stone Fountain**. **Stone House No. 183** in Wenceslas Square is one of the most valuable Gothic burgher houses in Bohemia. The status of a world heritage site helped Kutná Hora restore most of its important landmarks.

Besides the historical centre, which is inscribed in the World Heritage List, Kutná Hora also lures visitors to other places. Tourists should not miss, for example, the **ossuary in the cemetery church of Sedlec**.

[destinace.kutnahora.cz](http://destinace.kutnahora.cz)

## Třebíč



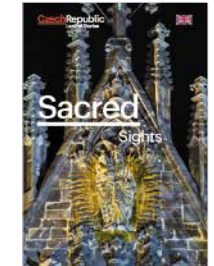
Jewish Quarter and St. Procopius' Basilica at Třebíč (2003)

**The Jewish Quarter and the St. Procopius Basilica – important monuments of Jewish and Christian cultures – are located on the left bank of the Jihlava River.**

The former Jewish quarter has preserved an exceptionally dense urban structure. The cores and layouts of the houses are mainly Renaissance and Baroque, containing numerous stylistic details. Many of the houses are interconnected, while the quarter is complemented with dark passageways, narrow streets, and alleys. The most valuable building of the Jewish town is the **Rear Synagogue** on Blahoslavova Street, comprehensively restored in 1988–1997. There are unique Baroque wall paintings from the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the interior. The local paintings are considered to be the oldest example of preserved synagogue painting decorations in Moravia. An integral part of the quarter is the **Jewish cemetery** on the north side of the hill Hrádek, holding nearly three thousand tombstones. The ceremonial hall from 1903 stands at the cemetery entrance. The dominant landmark of Třebíč is the **former Benedictine**



More about Czech sacred sights



**monastery** (founded in 1101), with its architecturally outstanding Late Romanesque **Basilica of St. Procopius**. The Basilica’s unmistakable interior with unique vaults, large vaulted crypt, richly profiled entrance portal covered by the columned entrance hall, numerous stonework details, and murals in the sacristy all make this one of the most remarkable monuments of mediaeval architecture.

Combine your world heritage trip with the Jewish Shamayim cultural festival in July, or with the cultural and historical festival of the Revived Jewish Town. In August, you can visit the Festival of Three Capes (Slavnost Tří kápí).

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



Download application Jewish Bohemia and Moravia here!



## UNESCO World Heritage stories teller tips:

"You may think that the castles are the highlight of the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape, but I feel it's the parks and gardens that surround them that are the most enthralling. Give yourself time to get lost amongst the forests, explore the flower gardens, discover buildings hidden in the trees, or take a boat ride on the river. I love that, with such a large landscape, there are so many different ways to experience it."

Michael Turtle / UNESCO World Heritage Journeys copywriter/  
visitworldheritage.com



Lednice Castle



## Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape



The Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape (1996)

The Lednice-Valtice complex is a unique and vast cultural landscape, designed mostly in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries during the reign of the House of Liechtenstein.

The main architectural complexes are the **Lednice and Valtice Castles** with their extensive parks. The originally Baroque castle in Lednice was rebuilt to its romantic Neo-Gothic style in 1846–1858 by the architect Georg Wingelmüller.

Its important parts include a **palm greenhouse** (Georg Wingelmüller, 1843–1845) and monumental **Baroque riding halls** (Johann Bernhard Fischer of Erlach, 1688–1696); ascending the **minaret** in the park, which is 60 metres high and built at the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, offers a unique experience, too. Valtice Castle received its current Baroque appearance through gradual remodelling during the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This entire very beautiful area is interlaced with ponds and alleys. It also contains woods and large agricultural



areas, especially vineyards. Besides the castles, the premises include a number of architecturally important, although small romantic tiny structures and follies, the so-called **salets**, which are ingeniously integrated in the landscape. Most of them are open to the public, for example John's Castle (Czech: Janův hrad), the Colonnade (Czech: Kolonáda), Temple of the Three Graces (Czech: Chrám Tří Grácií), Pond House (Czech: Rybníční zámeček), Apollo Temple (Czech: Apollonův chrám), Diana Temple (Czech: Dianin chrám), Pohansko House (Czech: zámeček Pohansko); other numerous architectural sights of the villages of this large area are also worth visiting.

Besides the interiors of the castles of Valtice (representative halls, Baroque theatre) and Lednice (Red Hall and a library with a lavishly carved staircase) you should also see the Border House (Czech: Hraniční zámeček), which was built on what was then the borderline between Lower Austria and Moravian Margraviate, which we are reminded of by an inscription on the facade. The house is a pleasant stop when wandering around the large cultural landscape.

[www.zamek-lednice.com](http://www.zamek-lednice.com)  
[www.zamek-valtice.cz](http://www.zamek-valtice.cz)

## Kroměříž



Gardens and Castle at Kroměříž (1998)

The castle and gardens in Kroměříž serve as a fine example of the formation of a Baroque residential complex.

It includes the **castle** residence of the Olomouc Bishops (later Archbishops) with its highly valuable interior art decoration and collections. Visit **Manský Hall**, which used to be the representation hall of the secular power of Olomouc bishops. It is richly decorated with imitation marble and gilt carvings. The large gardens were an integral part of the castle's representation and facilities. The castle building is directly adjoined by the extensive **Podzámecká Garden**, which has been preserved in its landscaped form from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. It contains a number of romantic structures and valuable trees, but also an impressive part of the carefully landscaped large

flowerbeds. The formally designed **Flower Garden**, also known as „Libosad“, was founded outside the city walls in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century under the design of the imperial architect Giovanni Pietro Tencalla. In an international context, it represents a unique and authentically preserved example of Early Baroque garden art. The vegetation components are complemented by numerous architectural and artistic structures.

Do not miss a show of Baroque music, theatre and dance performances and other merrymaking at the Baroque culture festival called **Hortus Magicus**, which takes place at the beginning of September. Now, the premises of the gardens and the castle are the National Centre of Garden Culture in Kroměříž focussing on information, educational and presentation activities associated with this heritage.

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





**UNESCO World Heritage stories teller tips:**

“Brno is definitely worth a visit, even though it isn’t as famous as Prague, and the Tugendhat Villa should be on your list of things to see. The Tugendhat Villa is a real treasure and I think it’s so important that architectural monuments like this have been protected on the World Heritage List and are now open to the public. Try to make a reservation in advance for a tour of the Tugendhat Villa because there are only a limited number of spots each day.”

Michael Turtle /UNESCO World Heritage Journeys copywriter/  
visitworldheritage.com



Interior of Villa Tugendhat, Brno



Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc

## Brno



Villa Tugendhat in Brno (2001)

**The Tugendhat Villa is one of the most important buildings of 20<sup>th</sup> century world-class architecture and is the best pre-war work of Mies van der Rohe.**

It was built in 1929–1930 for Greta and Fritz Tugendhat. At the time, it was quite unique both for its skeleton metal structure and its specific **technical equipment**, and for its concept of open space. Its representative parts were conceived as a work of art in particular, including an emphasis on detail and the locations of the individual pieces of **furniture and art accessories**. In 2010–2012, a thorough restoration was carried out with the participation of foreign experts; during this time, the villa with its adjoining garden was restored into what it looked like when it was completed in 1930. The villa’s unique technical equipment was also restored, such as the air-conditioning machine room, the drop windows, the elevators, and the boiler room. The interiors are furnished with exact replicas of the original furniture.

When visiting the interior of the villa, do not forget to perceive its unique conception and exceptional materials.

You can find a famous **onyx wall** there. The material for the wall was extracted from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. In the dining room you can admire a semi-circular partition made of Macassar Ebony.

The villa is situated directly next to another significant villa that is open to the public – a carefully restored Art Nouveau villa of the parents of Greta Tugendhat, known as the **Lów-Beer Villa**. A part of the original large piece of land of Lów-Beer Villa was given as a gift to the Tugendhats on which to build a villa, which entered the history of modern architecture.

A functionalist café called **ERA** is often called as a little sister of Villa Tugendhat. You should definitely see it and complete your Brno functionalism trip with a cup of excellent coffee.

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

## Olomouc



The Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc (2000)

**The Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc is the most remarkable example of a Baroque monument specific to central Europe.**

It superbly highlights the main square of one of the most important cities in Moravia. It was built over the course of several decades and was finally consecrated in 1754. The primary purpose of its construction was to serve as a spectacular **celebration of the church and faith** as well as an expression of gratitude for the end of two waves of the plague that befell Moravia in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is the work of the master stonemason **Wenzel Rener**, with stone sculptures on religious themes by the sculptor Andreas Zahner and other artists from Moravia. The ensemble of sculptures on the top of the column made of wrought gold-plated copper plate is the work of goldsmith Simon Forstner. The column is extraordinary not only for its sheer size (with a height over 32 meters above the circular base, and a 17 meter diameter) and **rich sculptural decoration**, but also for the high quality of its artistic design and the combination of materials used. The placement of a small central chapel with

reliefs into the body of the column is also exceptional.

Try to find a gilded cannonball replica on the column. It reminds us of the fact that the monument was hit by Prussian cannons several times during the siege of 1758. At that time, a deputation of citizens of Olomouc bravely went to the Prussian general asking him not to destroy the column. Surprisingly, the general accommodated them.

Besides the Holy Trinity Column, you can admire other precious sculptural sights in Olomouc, for example the **Marian Column** in the Lower Square and **Baroque fountains**.

[www.tourism.olomouc.eu](http://www.tourism.olomouc.eu)






# Charm of UNESCO traditions

Discover the treasure of the intangible heritage of the Czech Republic under UNESCO. It includes **verbal traditions, scenic art, social habits, rituals and festivals**, knowledge and practices related to nature and the space and **traditional crafts**. The Czech Republic undertook to appreciate them and support their transfer between generations. The Czech Republic has five traditions in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



Carnival

## Slovácko Verbuňk

1  listed since 2008

An improvised male dance has several regional forms within the region of Slovácko. Everyone dances solo. Originally, verbuňk was **a dance of conscripts**. A young man performed this dance to say goodbye to his family before leaving home for the army. An inseparable part of verbuňk is pre-singing of a song. The dance gradually became a part of various ceremonial events. Every year, the best dancers compete, for example, at a folk **festival in Strážnice**, which takes place during the last weekend of June.

[www.nulka.cz/2017/01/22/slovakky-verbunk/](http://www.nulka.cz/2017/01/22/slovakky-verbunk/)  
[www.facebook.com/slovakkyverbunkofficial](https://www.facebook.com/slovakkyverbunkofficial)

## Shrovetide door-to-door processions and masks in the villages of the Hlinecko area

2  listed since 2010

Shrovetide door-to-door processions with playful masks in the **Hlinecko area** were expected to ensure a good harvest and fertility and welcomed the forthcoming

spring. The tradition is still alive and is always held before Easter. Its roots date back to the pre-Christian times. Every mask in the procession has its own role and place. The procession is opened with a mare and closed by a knacker. Between them are the so-called red masks followed by black ones. The festival is accompanied by music and local spirits.

[www.skanzen-vysocina.cz](http://www.skanzen-vysocina.cz)  
[www.betlem-hlinsko.cz](http://www.betlem-hlinsko.cz)  
[www.vortova.cz/index.php?nid=774&lid=cs&oid=39471](http://www.vortova.cz/index.php?nid=774&lid=cs&oid=39471)

## Ride of the Kings in the south-east of the Czech Republic

3  listed since 2011

This folk custom from south-east Moravia has its set course. The group is usually led by barkers followed by aides with drawn sabres, who lead the king – **an underage boy with a rose in his mouth**. They are followed by other crew members wearing folk costumes. The whole group, rides on decorated horses and stops from house-to-house reciting short rhymed speeches to the inhabitants and viewers, which are either full of praise or entertainment. Probably the best known and the most popular is the Ride of the Kings in the village of **Vlčnov**, where



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More Czech traditions on: [www.czechtraditions.com](http://www.czechtraditions.com)



the tradition stretches back more than two hundred years.

[www.jizdakralu.cz](http://www.jizdakralu.cz)  
[www.mestohluk.cz/kultura/](http://www.mestohluk.cz/kultura/)  
[www.mesto-kunovice.cz](http://www.mesto-kunovice.cz)  
[www.skoronice.cz/jizdakralu](http://www.skoronice.cz/jizdakralu)


## Puppetry in Slovakia and the Czech Republic

4  listed since 2016

Puppetry is an inseparable part of Slovak and Czech theatre and literary tradition. It was spread massively especially by wandering puppet masters. They played in Czech and contributed to the national revival process in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The archetype of a comic hero was **Kašpárek** (CR), Gašparko (SR). Other characters were local, especially comic and folk ones. In the Czech environment, the marionette theatre is significantly associated with both professional and folk art and involves carving, decorating, making costumes for puppets, creation of decorations, etc. The long-standing tradition of puppetry in our country is further developed by a number of festivals, such as **Loutkářská Chrudim**, which was established in 1951 making it the oldest festival of this kind in Europe. It is always held at the turn of June and July.

[unima.idu.cz/cs/ceske-loutkarstvi](http://unima.idu.cz/cs/ceske-loutkarstvi)  
[www.chbeseda.cz](http://www.chbeseda.cz)

## Falconry – a living human heritage

5  listed since 2010, last expansion in 2016

This special **hunting method** using trained birds of prey, especially falcons, hawks and eagles, experienced a boom in the Czech lands between the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there was a rebirth of falconry, which proved economically successful. Professional falconers are used, for example, by airports, which wish to protect the space along the runways against undesirable flocks of birds. As far as the Representative List of Intangible Heritage of Humanity is concerned, the Czech Republic shares the tradition of falconry with other 17 countries. You can see a demonstration of training of falcons and falconers wearing historical costumes at the castle of Opočno in October, where an international meeting of falconers is traditionally held.

[www.sokolnictvi.net](http://www.sokolnictvi.net)



# UNESCO Natural wonders

**Biosphere reserves** are an example of the coexistence of nature and people. Explore valuable natural ecosystems as well as unique creations of nature and man. A territory marked as “**UNESCO Global Geopark**” allows the society to get to know, protect and use the geological heritage of our planet in a more responsible manner. Do not hesitate and start learning about the nature of the Czech Republic, which is appreciated by the United Nations, too.


Biosphere Reserve Bohemian Forest

## Biosphere Reserves



Bohemian Forest

### Bohemian Forest

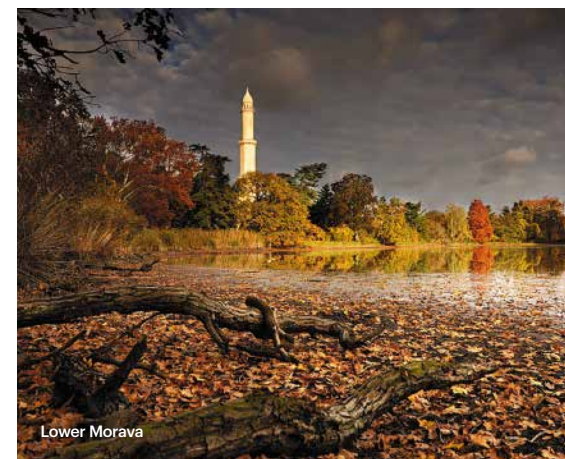
 Declared in: 1990  
Area: 1670 km<sup>2</sup>

**Mountain forests** resembling primeval forest, **glacial lakes, peat bogs, rivers and their canyons** – this all represents the values preserved up to now, which the Bohemian Forest (Šumava) is abundant in.

The entire area is situated in a mountain region along the Czech-Austrian and Czech-Bavarian borders. The local countryside has always been influenced by human activities. **Gold** has been extracted here since the 10<sup>th</sup> century, **glassworks** were established and even **pearls** were hunted in the Bohemian Forest. The first mention of freshwater pearl mussels in the Blanice River dates back to 1590 (it was


found in a letter of Petr Vok to the steward of the manor of the Blanice River is the richest deposit of freshwater pearl mussels in the Czech Republic. The Bohemian Forest is also the last big Central-European area with an extensive manner of utilization. The forest covers more than 65% of the area of the biosphere reserve. **The peat bogs**, meadows and pastures are also absolutely special. The Bohemian Forest is a home to many species of animals, for example the **northern birch mouse**. Rarely, you can even come across a **Eurasian lynx**.

[www.br-sumava.cz](http://www.br-sumava.cz)  
[www.npsumava.cz](http://www.npsumava.cz)



Lower Morava

### Lower Morava

 Declared in: 2003  
Area: 349 km<sup>2</sup>

**The youngest and smallest of the Czech biosphere reserves is located south of Brno next to the border shared with Austria and Slovakia.**

You can find **31 special areas of conservation** there as well as two internationally important **wetlands**, 20 locations of the Natura 2000 European nature protection system, the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List, two nature parks, etc. Lower Morava (Dolní Morava) is a popular destination for visitors on foot and on bikes. They come to admire limestone bars of Pálava, and the westernmost projection of the Carpathians with the town of Mikulov and distinctive village in their foothills. Visitors should not miss wine tasting at any of the local **renowned wine-growers** or a stroll around the so-called **garden of Europe**, which is a nickname often used for the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape. The largest cultural landscape in central Europe was created by the House of Liechtenstein. This beautiful landscape will enchant you with its historical ponds, alleys and castle parks.

At the confluence of the rivers of Morava and Dyje there is **the largest complex of bottomland forests**

**and meadows in the Czech Republic** and the largest game park in the country where the breeding of deer was founded by the Liechtensteins as early as in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Tourists are offered a view back in the history through archaeological findings in a Slavonic fortified settlement in Pohansko.

Those who want to get to know the typical Moravian **folk culture** with folk costumes, singing and dances (including the recruit dance “verbuňk”) should not miss local folklore festivals or traditional feasts, which are held in Podluží every June.

[www.dolnimorava.org](http://www.dolnimorava.org)  
[palava.ochranaprirody.cz](http://palava.ochranaprirody.cz)



Bohemian Forest

Lower Morava



Velká Javořina, the highest mountain of White Carpathians




Třeboň Basin



Pond fishing, Třeboňsko Region

## White Carpathians

 Declared in: 1996  
Area: 715 km<sup>2</sup>


Flowers all around. This is a brief description of the meadows of the White Carpathians (Bílé Karpaty), which rank among the most floral places in the world.

In an area of 4 × 4 metres you can see up to a hundred various kinds of plants including grasses, herbs and rare flowers such as iris, gladiolus and gentian. In addition, about thirty kinds of orchids grow on the borderline of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The mountains in the south-east of the country are one of 26 Czech nature conservation areas. The local countryside has been cultivated by local people in a sensitive manner for thousands of years. Between Strážnice and Strání you can find large meadows scattered with oaks and lime trees. Cottages, meadows and pastures, broadleaved forests and creeks intertwine here. The vast old beech woods in the peaks of the border ridge and around Vlárský Pass are the jewels of the White Carpathians, which should be passed through with peace and respect. The forests in the lower altitude are mostly formed by oaks and hornbeams, and you can especially admire the unusually rich young groves flooded with wild garlic in spring.

The White Carpathians have inspired many artists, including composers **Leoš Janáček** and **Vítězslav Novák**. Numerous folk songs and dances were created there. **Folklore** is still alive today, and people wear diverse coloured folk costumes during traditional celebrations, such as at Carnival, Easter or during feasts. Other elements of the rich folk culture can be seen in the ornaments of some houses, chapels, column shrines and other constructions. The area is great for hiking and cycling. Those who wish to learn more during their outings can hire a local qualified guide.

[www.bilekarpaty.cz](http://www.bilekarpaty.cz)  
[ochranaprirody.cz](http://ochranaprirody.cz)

## Giant Mountains

 Declared in: 1992  
Area: 548 km<sup>2</sup>

It is the only place in the world where you can find and experience the arctic-alpine tundra.

It shows why the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše) were declared a **national park** – both in the Czech Republic and in Poland. The area belongs to the “elite” group of a mere sixteen cross-border biosphere reserves in the world.



Eurasian lynx

About twenty thousand years ago, in the last Ice Age, the Scandinavian continental glacier almost reached the Giant Mountains, the highest mountains of the Czech Republic. In that age, glacier cirques received their definite shape known today – **Sněžné jámy, Labský důl, Obří důl, Kotelní jámy...** In that age some species of plants and animals, typical of the harsh north, became stable there. The remnants of the Ice Age include the **Cloudberry** or **Alpine Emerald**. North and north-west of the Giant Mountains there are no big hills or mountains all the way to the Baltic Sea. Thus, all winds are stopped by the peaks of the Giant Mountains. That is the reason why the climate in the Giant Mountains is unusually **harsh** considering the altitude; you can experience it, for example, on the highest peak of the

Giant Mountains – **Sněžka** (1,603 metres above sea level).


There are also large forests in the Giant Mountains. There are a lot of **log cabins and lodges** with their typical architecture. You can also see various species of grass and meadow flowers including hawkweed and orchids. Meadows with pastures were formed thanks to many generations of local mountain people – tireless farmers, who used them as a source of livelihood and therefore took care of them.

[www.krnapp.cz/en/](http://www.krnapp.cz/en/)



Křivoklátsko

## Křivoklátsko

 Declared in: 1977  
Area: 628 km<sup>2</sup>

Almost two thirds of the Protected Landscape Area of Křivoklátsko is covered with broad-leaved and mixed forests.

More than 1,800 species of vascular plants and at least 84 species of woody plants have been preserved in this area up to now. About **120 species of birds** nest there. The well-preserved condition of the forests of this region is a result of the **hunting and gamekeeping tradition** connected with Czech princes and kings, the original owners of this area. The countryside surrounding majestic **Křivoklát Castle** is very colourful. It is dominated by the **Berounka** River. It modelled a deep, occasionally canyon-like

valley in the rocky base during long millennia. The river is also the reason for the warmer mezzoclimate of the area. On the contrary, the tributaries on both sides of the river create narrow valleys the bottom of which can only rarely be reached by rays of sunlight. The temperature in the valleys is very low most of the year, which resembles the conditions of mountain or submontane regions. The **temperature inversion** is typical in Křivoklátsko. It is one of two main causes of the fact that there are so many species of plants and animals there. Besides them, you can also admire architectonic landmarks, such as **castles and chateaus** (besides Křivoklát mentioned above also, for example, Krakovec, Týřov, Žebrák, Dřevíč, Veliz, Jívno and Jinčov). **Nižbor**, where we can find traces

of a late La Tène Celtic oppidum, was a settlement developing for about a thousand years.

[krivoklatsko.ochranaprirody.cz/en/](http://krivoklatsko.ochranaprirody.cz/en/)

## Třeboň Basin

 Declared in: 1977  
Area: 700 km<sup>2</sup>

The Třeboň Basin biosphere reserve can be best characterised by water.

The landscape abundant in ponds and wetland in the south of Bohemia, well-preserved streams (Lužnice, Dračice), hundreds of kilometres of artificial channels of which the most famous are the Golden Channel (Czech: Zlatá stoka) and the New River (Czech: Nová řeka), and especially almost **five hundred ponds**, which are often connected into a large system, are definitely worth seeing. It is the ponds that gave the Třeboň Basin its well-known face. You can admire the largest Czech pond called **Rosenberg** (Czech: Rožmberk) or the deepest one called **Staňkovský**.

This biosphere reserve contains large forests, peat bogs, green meadows and pastures, picturesque villages and precious cultural sights. The central and northern parts of the biosphere reserve were declared a **special protection**

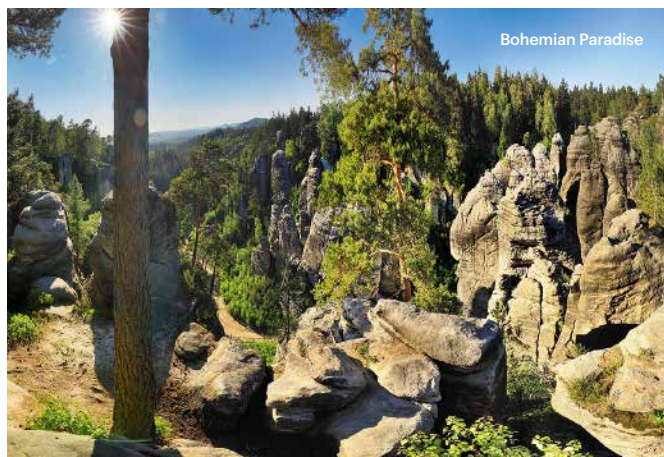
area for 19 species of birds within establishment of the European system Natura 2000. The Protected Landscape Area of Třeboňsko is often poetically known as the “**region of otters and sea eagles**,” as there is a large population of both species, which have become extinct elsewhere.

This pleasant countryside with a flat or slightly rolling terrain is a paradise for cyclists, and the Lužnice River is very popular with paddlers. The **spa of Třeboň** uses the sources of local healing peat for treatment of diseases of the locomotor system. In Třeboň you can visit a number of architectonically important **cultural sights** (Třeboň castle, the Church of Saint Giles and the Queen of Heaven with an Augustinian monastery, Schwarzenberg tomb).

[trebonsko.ochrana.prirody.cz/en/](http://trebonsko.ochrana.prirody.cz/en/)



# UNESCO Global Geopark



## Bohemian Paradise

Declared in: 2005  
Area: 742 km<sup>2</sup>

Indisputably, gorgeous sandstone rock cities (Hruboskalsko, Klokoč and Besedice Rocks, Prachov Rocks, Plákaňek Valley, etc.) are the symbol of the Bohemian Paradise (Český ráj).

In addition, the heart of Bohemia also includes volcanic hills, meadows, forests, ponds and castles and chateaus (e.g. Kost, Vranov, Frýdštejn, Valdštejn, Kumburk, Hrubý Rohozec, Hrubá Skála). In the geopark there are many places that are worth visiting. Film makers know this very well; therefore many popular Czech films and fairy tales were made there.

The most valuable parts of the geopark are situated in the landscape park of the same name. The territory of Bohemian Paradise repeatedly formed the bottom of seas and lakes in the course of the geological history of hundreds of millions of years. In the geopark you can see hills of Palaeozoic and Tertiary volcanic origin. Especially Trosky, a Tertiary volcanic hill with a medieval castle ruin, is absolutely unique. In the course of time, wind, water, frost, sunshine and other natural forces have influenced the Earth's surface. They gave rise to sandstone rock cities with hundreds of spires, gorges, corridors and ravines. The presence of water underground gave rise to numerous caves. In the Bozkov Caves you can admire a large karst system with the largest underground lake in Bohemia.

Last but not least, Bohemian Paradise is a rich deposit of gemstones, fossils, iron ore, copper, coal, stone for construction, roofing slate, silica sand, limestone, and clay for pottery and brick-making. The geodiversity of the territory created a perfect environment for nearly 1,000 species of land plants and approximately 30,000 species of animals. The landscape and nature of Bohemian Paradise belong to the cradles of Czech tourism, mountaineering and the protection of natural and cultural heritage.

Bohemian Paradise can serve you as an excellent geological textbook, offering surprise, adventure, entertainment and knowledge. The history of Earth and the geological processes that formed it, together with human artefacts, are the most

interesting aspects the Geopark offers. In addition, the Bohemian Paradise Geopark shows how natural conditions influenced the development of human society and its effect on the landscape. Located within the territory of the Geopark are archaeological findings from 18 different ancient culture settlements, medieval castles and rich folk architecture. There are also large rock formations and lookout points with enchanting views of the surroundings and romantic ponds reflecting the sandstone rocks. Come discover Earth in context and enjoy this unique jewel of the Czech cultural landscape, without haste and with respect to its values.

[www.geopark-ceskyraj.cz](http://www.geopark-ceskyraj.cz)



Discover more about UNESCO Global Geoparks: [www.globalgeoparks-network.org](http://www.globalgeoparks-network.org)



# Who else would like to expand the ranks of UNESCO World Heritage?



National Tentative List:  
[whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/state=cz](http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/state=cz)

Other Czech sights strive to be added to the World Heritage List, too. Among the candidates for recognition and increased protection by the United Nations is, for example, Žatec – the Hops Town, Ještěd, Karlštejn Castle and West-Bohemian spas. The places that the Czech Republic plans to nominate for the inscription can be found in the so-called National Tentative List. The selection of the localities itself is a proof of their exceptional character.

### 1 The Betlém Rock Sculptures in Nový les near Kuks

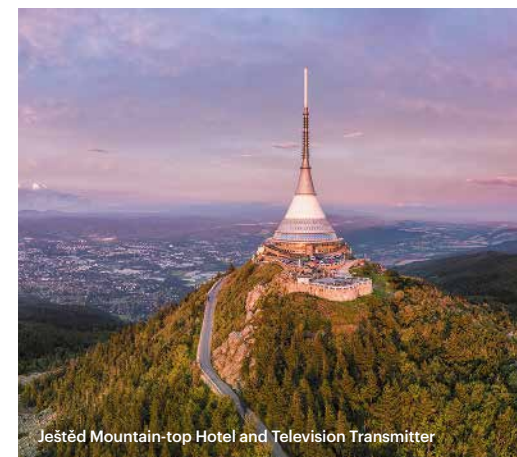
One of the most remarkable High Baroque sights in Central Europe. The exceptional sculptor Matthias Bernhard Braun sculpted directly into sandstone boulders along the forest path from Kuks to Nový les the hermits Garinus and Onufrius, a scene from the Old Testament (Jacob's Well) and from the life of Jesus Christ and the saints (the Nativity of Jesus, Arrival of the Three Kings, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Mary Magdalene and the Vision of Saint Hubertus). The work was initiated by Earl Franz Anton Sporck within magnanimous development of the landscape when building the complex in Kuks.

[www.hospital-kuks.cz](http://www.hospital-kuks.cz)

### 2 Ještěd Mountain-top Hotel and Television Transmitter

The remarkable structure of an exceptional shape, which combines the function of a television transmitter and a mountain-top hotel on the mountain of Ještěd (1012 m a.s.l.), was created by architect Ing. arch. Karel Hubáček. He was awarded a prestigious Auguste Perret Prize for his design in 1969. Ještěd is an excellent example of architecture of the late 1960s. In 2000 the building in the form of a revolving hyperboloid was chosen as "The Building of the Century" in an architects' survey.

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



### 3 Karlštejn Castle

The main task of this splendid castle, which was founded by Czech king Charles IV in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, was to protect precious crown jewels, royal treasure, documents, and extensive collections of holy relics. Karlštejn became a place of rest and contemplation for the ruler. The castle core consists of the five-storey Imperial Palace, a lower residential tower with the Church of the Virgin Mary and the exceptionally precious St Catherine's Chapel. The castle conception culminates with the monumental Great Tower with the Chapel of the Holy Cross, which is lavishly decorated, for example, with a cycle of panel portraits by Master Theoderic dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

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

### 4 Landscape for Breeding and Training Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruby nad Labem

A stud farm in Kladruby nad Labem, probably the oldest in the world, was founded by Emperor Rudolph II in April 1579. The first written mentions of local horse breeding date back even to the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The historical premises of the stud farm consist of the main stable with a riding hall, a small chateau, a church and residential buildings of the staff. The farm in Kladruby nad Labem is completed with those in Františkov and Josefov. The nearby landscape is surrounded by meadows and pastures, economic and bottomland forests with numerous alleys. A unique part of the stud farm landscape is formed by Mošnice Landscape Park, which was created in a sophisticated manner in the original bottomland forest by the Elbe River and which contains an interesting collection of woody plants.

[www.nhkladruby.cz/national-stud](http://www.nhkladruby.cz/national-stud)





### 5 The West Bohemian Spa Triangle and Great Spas of Europe

This name covers three spa towns in West Bohemia – **Karlovy Vary**, **Mariánské Lázně** and **Františkovy Lázně**, which are geographically close but, on the other hand, different from one another. All of them offer numerous mineral water springs and unique architecture (colonnades and buildings of historical styles, Classicism and Art Nouveau), and all of them dispose of large cultivated gardens and parks, which gradually convert into the adjacent landscape enriched with numerous small structures and lookouts. The spa towns of the West Bohemian Spa Triangle are trying to win the world heritage mark along with spas of six other European countries. And the Czech Republic acts as a coordinator of their joint nomination under the name **Great Spas of Europe**.

[www.karlovyvary.cz](http://www.karlovyvary.cz)  
[www.frantiskovy-lazne.cz](http://www.frantiskovy-lazne.cz)  
[www.marianskelazne.cz](http://www.marianskelazne.cz)

### 6 The Spa in Luhačovice

The largest Moravian spa with unique architecture has been using mineral waters for treatment since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Its main construction boom took place at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The unmistakable artistic expression of the current spa



Karlovy Vary

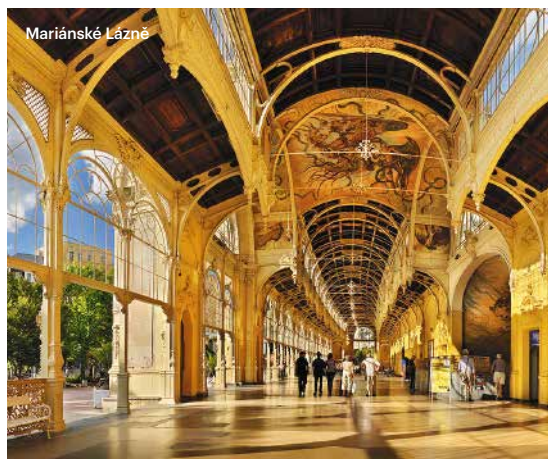
is determined by **buildings by Dušan Jurkovič**, who created a system of spa buildings here inspired by folk buildings of the Carpathian area and by the decorativism of Art Nouveau. Although the symbol of Luhačovice is the so-called Jurkovič House, there are numerous other architectonically valuable sights dating back to the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the town.

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

### 7 Sites of Great Moravia – Slavonic Fortified Settlement in Mikulčice and Church of St. Margaret in Kopčany

The fortified settlement in Mikulčice was one of the significant centres of the empire of Great Moravia and the **best-preserved archaeological sight of the West-Slavonic State** of the early Middle Ages. During the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century stone churches were built and large burial sites were created around them. The nearby Church of St. Margaret of Antioch in Kopčany, Slovakia, which dates back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century, is considered the oldest standing Great Moravian church building in Central Europe.

[www.velka-morava.eu](http://www.velka-morava.eu)



Mariánské Lázně

### 8 The Industrial Complexes in Ostrava

Due to the heavy industry, stagnating Ostrava grew into a city during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The **authentically preserved premises of coal mines, coke plants and blast furnaces**, which were functional until recently, represent the industrial heritage of Ostrava. Among the most typical premises are **Anselm Mine / Eduard Urx, Michal Mine / Petr Cingr in Ostrava-Michálkovice** and **Větrná jáma Vrbice Mine**. A genuine symbol of the entire city is the large **complex of the Hlubina Mine, coke plants and blast furnaces of ironworks called Vítkovické železářny**, where one can perceive the continuity of the entire technology of the production

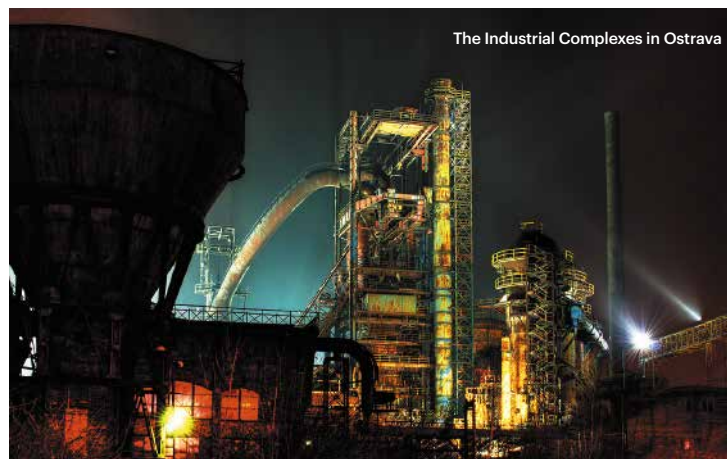
of iron on the basis of black coal in one place. The premises are undergoing major modifications for some new functions and are a popular venue for cultural events.

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

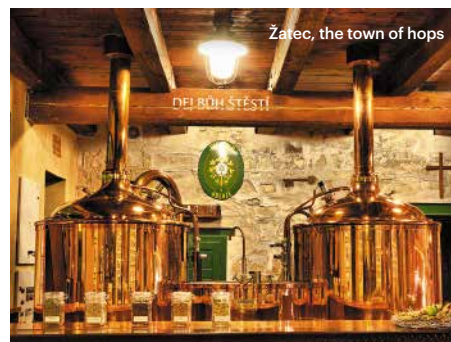
### 9 Renaissance Houses in Slavonice

The beauty of this Renaissance town is highlighted by **burgher houses**, which have been preserved in their original Gothic layout of narrow plots. Their exterior corresponds with the artistic conception of the Renaissance era and most of them date back to the period after the town fire of 1530. You can admire imaginative facades, rich shapes of gables and abundant sgraffito decoration.

[www.i.slavonice-mesto.cz](http://www.i.slavonice-mesto.cz)



The Industrial Complexes in Ostrava



Žatec, the town of hops

### 10 Handmade Paper Mill in Velké Losiny

This unique technical sight belongs to the oldest businesses of this kind in Europe that are still working. The **paper production tradition** in Velké Losiny dates back to the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Handmade paper is still produced from cotton and linen using traditional procedures in authentic historical buildings. Due to its high quality and durability it is especially used in art. In the paper mill of Velké Losiny you can see not only the paper production technology itself, but also an exposition of the **history of the paper production** in Bohemia.

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

### 11 Žatec – the Hops Town

Žatec has been associated with processing of hops since the Middle Ages, when hops were dried in lofts of many town buildings and exported to many countries, which gave local hops a reputation of

high quality. The main boom of processing of and trading with hops occurred in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when a **remarkable complex of buildings** connected with the processing of hops was gradually built in Prague Suburb. Among those buildings are drying rooms with typical high brick chimneys, packing rooms and certification offices, where hop growers had the origin and quality of their hops confirmed. Those who are fond of hops and beer can learn more about the history in the **Hop Museum**, the largest facility of its kind in the world, which was established in the original hop-related buildings.

[www.zatec-thetownofhops.com](http://www.zatec-thetownofhops.com)

### 12 Fishpond Network in the Třebon Basin

Besides forests and rare peat bogs, the South-Bohemian landscape near Třeboň is interwoven with a network of ponds and artificial channels, which determine the character of the entire environment. The Třeboň Region is considered a **symbol of Czech fish farming**. The history of building ponds in the Třeboň Region is closely connected especially with the House of Rosenberg, who operated in that area between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The courage and ingenuity of fishpond builders of Třeboň



Renaissance Houses in Slavonice

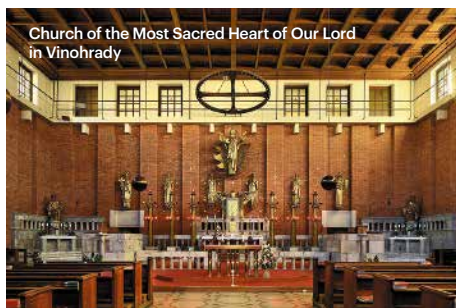
when establishing ponds and auxiliary water channels turned the inhospitable swampy countryside into a thriving area of high aesthetic quality. Among the most famous works are large fish ponds called **Svět and Rosenberg (Rožmberk)** near Třeboň and the artificial **channels Zlatá stoka and Nová řeka**, which divide the waters of the Lužnice River so that it keeps the water regime of the countryside balanced. A comprehensive picture of Czech fish farming is made complete by fish tanks, and traditions connected with “fishing out”, which are associated with some public events, are very popular.

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

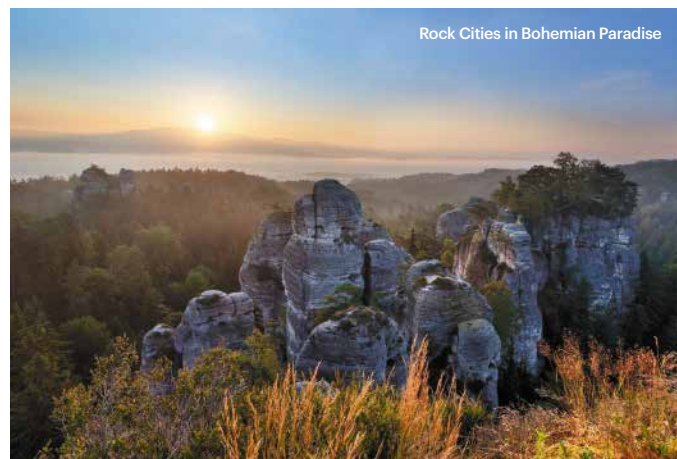
### 13 The Fortress of Terezín

The fortress of Terezín, established in 1780 by Austrian Emperor Joseph II, belonged among the **best ones in Europe** at the time of its completion in terms of strategic and constructional aspects. Terezín is especially infamous as a symbol of Nazi persecution of Jewish inhabitants during World War II; however, it is also a significant **proof of the perfection of construction of fort-like bastions**. The bastion-based concept of the Main and Small Fortresses had a **significant strategic purpose** and the entire fortress was perfectly hidden in the countryside, a feature which was expected to make it difficult to conquer





Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord in Vinohrady



Rock Cities in Bohemian Paradise

#### 14 Rock Cities in Bohemian Paradise

The romantic landscape on the left bank of the Jizera River is distinguished by ten **sandstone rock** cities that represent the most complete and diverse system of characteristic features and forms of the sandstone phenomenon in the temperate area. Mass movements, collapsing, salt erosion, numerous rock cavities, alcoves, overhangs, rock gates, windows, balancing boulders and combs represent the abundance of shapes and forms. **The deep gorges and valleys** are lined with sandstone rocks and towers, adjacent to plateaus with far reaching views of the skyline of high hills with a system of ponds and creeks among flowery meadows. The rock cities are part of the UNESCO Bohemian Paradise global geopark.

[www.cesky-raj.info](http://www.cesky-raj.info)

#### 15 Extension of the World Heritage Site "Historic Centre of Prague" with Important Monuments in Its Vicinity

Prague, the historic centre of which has been on the World Heritage List for a quarter of the century, has a lot of valuable monuments situated near the centre, which could enrich the list. For example, you can go and visit the **Müller Villa** in Střešovice, one of the most important buildings of inter-

war modern villa architecture. A dynamic Baroque style can be appreciated in the large complex of the **Břevnov Monastery**. Since 2000 the National Tentative List has included a Renaissance hunting lodge called **Hvězda**, the unique ground plan of which has the shape of a six-pointed star and which was designed on the basis of the plans by Ferdinand of Tyrol. Another unique feature of this structure is an extraordinarily abundant stucco decoration.

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

#### 16 Mining Cultural Landscape of the Ore Mountains

The area between the Czech Republic and Saxony is rich in **various mineral materials**, of which silver and tin were mined in the biggest volumes, and later, for example, also cobalt, bismuth, nickel, tungsten, black coal, and last but not least, uranium, the extraction of which in the surroundings of Jáchymov was associated with misuse of political prisoners' work. The Region of the Ore Mountains has a **mining history** longer than 800 years. It is still preserved in many mining towns established in various stages of the extraction, and especially in many technical sights in the landscape, including sophisticated linear water canals facilitating the extraction and production processes. The nomination in the Czech Republic is



Müller Villa in Prague

represented by a series of places including the **historic cores of the towns of Krupka, Jáchymov and Horní Blatná**, and other large areas with important cultural sights. Many towns and mining landscapes are also situated in the Saxon part of the Ore Mountains (Krušnohoří), where the symbol of the project is the university town of Freiberg.

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

#### 17 The Timeless Humanistic Architecture of Jože Plečnik in Ljubljana and Prague

**The Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord** in Vinohrady, Prague, is a timeless work imbued with hidden symbolism. This unique structure by Slovenian architect **Josip Plečnik** was inspired by, among

other things, early Christian basilicas. The massive church tower is decorated with the largest clock in the Czech Republic. Plečnik left his original "handwriting" in **Prague Castle**, too, in a number of interiors, but especially in enriching the space of the courtyard and south gardens. The World Heritage List nomination is coordinated by Slovenia; Plečnik enriched its capital city of Ljubljana with several buildings and improvements of public spaces.

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



Biosphere Reserve Giant Mountains, Sněžka

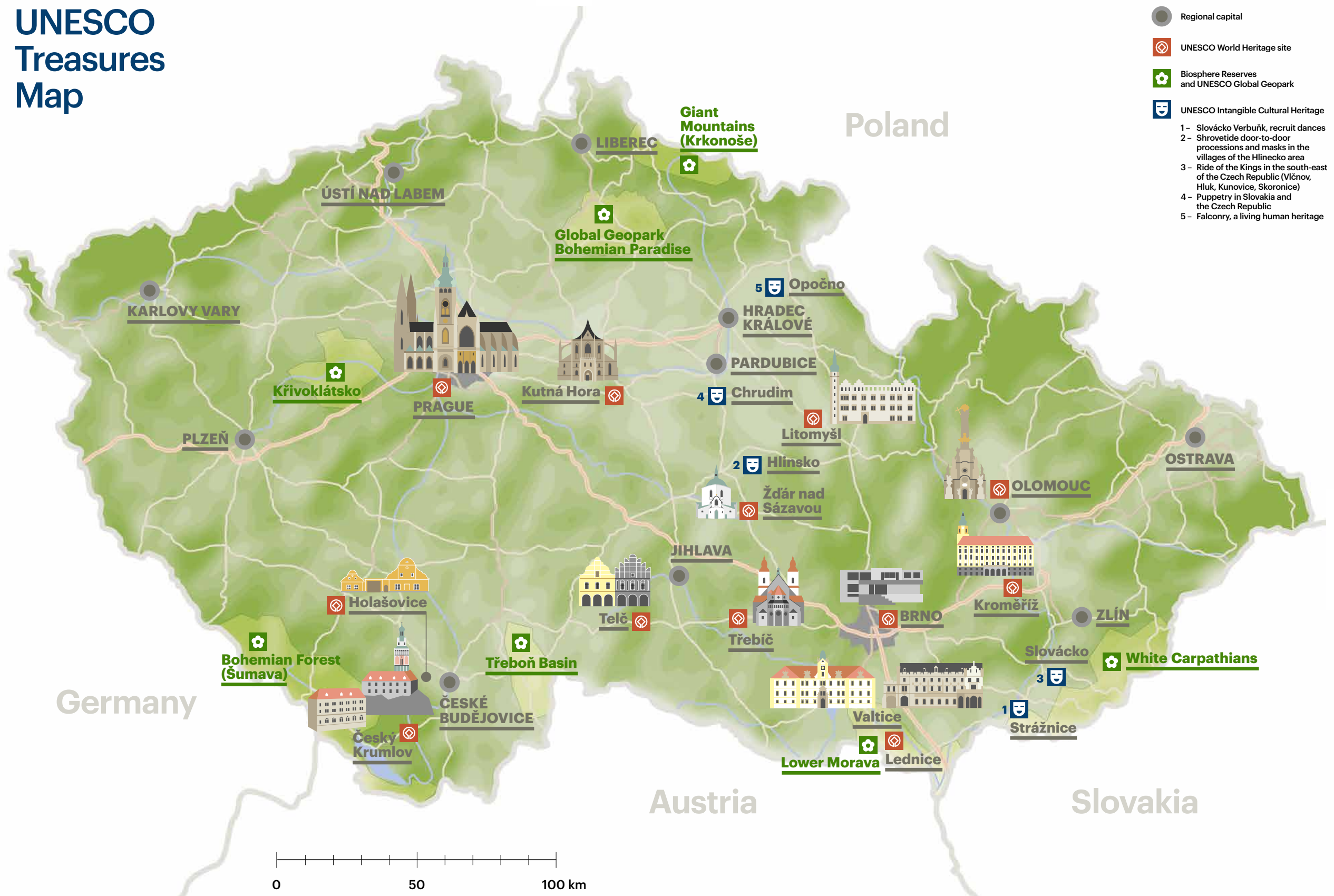


#### UNESCO World Heritage stories teller tips:

"Visiting the World Heritage Sites of a country is the perfect way to trace its story and see the highlights of history. The UNESCO-protected sites in the Czech Republic make up an incredible collection that stretches from the Middle Ages until the Second World War. I think it is one of the best selections in Europe for its diversity, quality and visitor experience. Each site is, in its own right, a pleasure to visit and extends your understanding of the country. Together, as a group, they paint a vibrant picture of the rich cultural heritage of the Czech Republic."

**Michael Turtle** /UNESCO World Heritage Journeys copywriter/  
[visitworldheritage.com](http://visitworldheritage.com)

# UNESCO Treasures Map



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