



Unique gems of culture and history

Close your eyes and try to daydream. Do you ever wonder how things were done at the chateau in times gone by? Discover unrivalled and unique places that offer you a wide variety of cultural experiences in Litomyšl, Nové Hrady, Kostelec nad Orlicí, Opočno or Kamieniec in Poland.



Day 1 – Unique treasures

The Litomyšl Castle

Some tips for your trips around: Litomyšl, Nové Hrady, Vysoké Mýto

The Nové Hrady Chateau

Some tips for your trips around: Litomyšl, Luže, Vysoké Mýto

Day 2 – The cultural heart of the Podorlicko Region

New chateau Kostelec nad Orlicí

Some tips for your trips around: Zámky na Orlici, Vamberk, Borovnice, Rychnov nad Kněžnou

The Opočno Castle

Some tips for your trips around: Opočno, Dobruška, Přepychy

Day 3 – A piece of the Kladská Paradise

The Kamieniec Palace

Some tips for your trips around: Polanica-Zdrój, Klodzko, Wambierzyce u Radkowa

DAY 1:

The Litomyšl Castle

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

Discover the charm of the 16th century renaissance castle in Litomyšl! Did you know that its uniqueness has led it to be **included in the UNESCO World Heritage List**? It is well-known for the unique **sgraffito decorations** on its façade, which were mainly the work of Italian masters. There are more than 8000 sgraffito decorations, each of which is said to be different.

The castle theatre is yet another treasure. It is the second largest palace theatre in the Czech lands. The preserved mechanical scenery changing system is a point of interest. If you are an art lover, you are sure to admire the collection of sculptures by **Olbram Zoubek** in the château cellars.

The Litomyšl castle offers **2 tour circuits**. The first one, the Wallenstein Tour, will take you to the first floor of the castles western wing with the representative and private

rooms of Count Anton I of Wallenstein-Wartenberg and his wife Cajetana Fünfkirchen. The interiors include the original fittings and classicist wall paintings by the painter Dominik Dvořák. The tour culminates in a visit to the authentic home theatre of the Wallenstein-Wartenberg family dating from 1797.

The second tour, the **Thurn-Taxis Tour**, will take you to the guest and private rooms of Prince Albert Maria Thurn-Taxis and his spouse, Princess Margaretha of Austria. The guest suite recalls the stay of Emperor Franz Josef I and Archduke Franz Ferdinand d'Este in September 1889. You will also see the home Chapel of Saint Monika and Saint Michael dating from the 18th century.

The château also provides a unique atmosphere during **the Smetana's Litomyšl music festival**.



Some tips for your trips around:

Litomyšl

- The Portmoneum – the Josef Váchal Museum – A house with carved furniture and unique interior paintings by Josef Váchal. Figures of devils, goblins and ghosts that initially seem incoherent alternate with classical Christian motifs or references to Hinduism or other oriental teachings on its walls.
- The Church of the Discovery of the Holy Cross – This unique baroque church combines history with contemporary architecture and modern decoration. There is a spacious viewing terrace between the church spires, which provides views of the château and the square.

Nové Hradý – 15.7 km

- The Nové Hradý Château – you can see the exceptional Art of Furniture exhibition and view the private areas of the owners of the “Little Schönbrunn” or the “Czech Versailles”. You can also visit the Museum of Motorised Bicycles, the English Hat Gallery and the French garden or the English landscape garden with its sandstone Way of the Cross.

Vysoké Mýto – 16 km

- The Museum of Czech Car Bodywork – The museum will show you how coachbuilders proceeded when producing a car's bodywork and acquaint you with the history of the legendary Sodomka Factory.



Recommended restaurants: Castle café Litomyšl www.zamecke-navrsi.cz



Recommended accommodation: Castle apartments Litomyšl www.zameckearthmany.cz

DAY 1:

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

The Nové Hrady Château

The rococo chateau in Nové Hrady is known as the “**Little Schönbrunn**” or the “**České Versailles**”. It was built in the style of French summer residences by Count Jean-Antoine Harbuval de Chamaré in 1774–77.

The magic of this gem of East Bohemia becomes immediately apparent once you pass through the monumental entry gate, as the chateau facility opens up before you.

The permanent exhibition includes the exceptional Art of Furniture exhibition and there is also the opportunity to view the chateau owners' private living quarters. The French garden with its fountains or the decorative vegetable garden in the second courtyard are also worthy of attention.

The area includes a natural amphitheatre or an English landscape garden where it is possible to follow a sand-



stone Way of the Cross to the remnants of the original Gothic castle.

The Museum of Motorised Bicycles is located in the former baroque granary. Ladies are sure to enjoy the **English Hat Gallery** located in the orangery which can boast more than one hundred exhibits in a variety of shapes and colours. There is a pleasant walk to the red and fallow deer farm. There is also a chateau **labyrinth**, if you wish to get lost in safety.

The local café offers the opportunity to sit either inside or outside on the terrace in the courtyard. The café is also a seasonal **gallery** and exhibitions are held there every year.

The Nové Hrady Château traditionally hosts **concerts** that constitute part of the Smetana's Litomyšl music festival.



Some tips for your trips around:

Litomyšl – 15.7 km

- The Litomyšl State Château – A renaissance chateau with unique sgraffito decorations on its façade. It has been included among the UNESCO world heritage sites.
- The Portmoneum – the Josef Váchal Museum – A house with carved furniture and unique interior paintings by Josef Váchal. Figures of devils, goblins and ghosts that initially seem incoherent alternate with classical Christian motifs or references to Hinduism or other oriental teachings on its walls.

Luže – 10.3 km

- The Pilgrimage Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help – It is one of the most significant manifestations from the period around 1700, not only within a Czech context, but also within the context of the entire Central European baroque.
- The Hamza Park and Arboretum – a park connected to the lower castle area at Košumberk. The wonderful view of the castle and many animals, including fallow deer and mouflons, is sure to pleasantly surprise you.

Vysoké Mýto – 16.5 km

- The Museum of Czech Car Bodywork



Recommended restaurants: Castle Restaurant Nové Hrady www.nove-hrady.cz



Recommended accommodation: Penzion Kamínek v Nových Hradech www.penzion-kaminek.cz

DAY 2:

New chateau Kostelec nad Orlicí

If your heart beats for culture, we have good news to share with you! It is a safe bet you will like the **new chateau in Kostelec nad Orlicí**. It was built in the Empire style in the 1930s by the Viennese architect Jindřich Koch for Count Josef Kinský, the then owner of the Kostelec estate. The Kinský family then reclaimed it in restitution, restored it to its original beauty and the property is today considered the **cultural heart** of the region.

You will travel two centuries back in time in the **chateau exposition** "Life in Biedermeier" and will see the living spaces, including the beautiful Mirror Hall. On dates fixed in advance, Count František Kinský, the owner himself, will guide you around here.

You will find the **Kinský Gallery** on the mansion's second floor. There is always an interesting exhibition of prevailing modern art to explore here.



A vast number of **concerts** of not only classical music will await you here. If you are a quality food lover, the September Food Festival at the chateau is an obvious choice for you. However, you can always take a rest at **Tonio's chateau café and restaurant** and taste some of its excellent cuisine prepared with fresh ingredients.

Do not miss a walk through the chateau **park** created in the English style, embraced by a plethora of mature trees and fragrant flowers. One can see as far as to Potštejn Castle from here.

Are you looking for a stately and pleasing at the same time venue for your **wedding ceremony**? Whether you choose the Hall of Mirrors or the shade of an almost 200-year-old plane tree, the staff at the New Chateau will make sure this day will be remembered as one of your most beautiful ones. The kind words pronounced by František Kinský, who will be marrying you in person, are certainly going to brighten the event.



Some tips for your trips around:

Zámky na Orlicí – in close proximity

- Doudleby nad Orlicí Chateau, Častolovice Chateau, Potštejn Chateau, Potštejn Castle and Litice Castle - Visit the breath-taking aristocratic residences of the Czech Loire!

Vamberk – 7 km

- Lace Museum – Embark on an absorbing journey through the history and present of bobbin lace. You can also try this breath-taking craft by yourself here and buy a beautiful piece in the adjacent shop to adorn your home.

Borovnice – 12 km

- Homol Pilgrimage Site - Discover the monumental Scala Santa stairs leading to the Pilgrimage Church of Our Lady of Sorrows and meet the legend of the Countess who had them built.

Rychnov nad Kněžnou – 13 km

- Studánka Resort – Enjoy the silence in the heart of the Včelný Forest at the four-star Studánka Hotel offering a wellness centre and excellent cuisine.



Recommended restaurants: Toniova zámecká kavárna a restaurace www.zamekkostelecno.cz
Hostinec U Hubálků, Kostelecká Lhota www.uhubalku.cz



Recommended accommodation: Hostinec U Hubálků, Kostelecká Lhota www.uhubalku.cz

DAY 2:

The Opočno Castle

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

If you are an admirer of beautiful castle interiors, you will be stunned by the Renaissance **Opočno Castle**.

The mansion, which is associated with the famous Trček from Lípa line and later with the Italian Colloredo-Mansfelds, is a state-possessed castle today. The beautiful historic **interiors** aside, you can also explore African and Indian collections in the ethnographic hall here, some 10,000 volumes in the castle library and a huge collection of works of art by mostly Italian and Dutch authors in the local picture gallery.

The **extensive collection of historical weapons and armour**, which is one of the most significant in the republic, is also of great interest. Listening to the well-founded narrative of the guide, you will be admiring unique hunting and oriental pieces, too.

Make sure you visit the castle during one of its **cultural events**. Concerts, musical and theatrical performances are held here in



the chateau's courtyard, while smaller events are staged in the picture gallery.

Lovers of birds of prey should not miss Opočno in October, when the traditional international meeting of falconers takes place here.

The **castle park** surrounding the summerhouse and the Golden Brook valley allures to walking along and exploring the rare species of trees. Check out the opposite slope too, from which you can relish some wonderful views of the castle and the townlet around it.

Would you like to get married at a castle? The Opočno one offers several beautiful venues suitable for a **wedding ceremony**. You can choose a dining hall with its Renaissance vault, a large picture gallery, a castle courtyard or some of the charming niches of the chateau park. If you prefer a small wedding indeed, the staff will dress any interior of the Opočno castle to suit your event.




Some tips for your trips around:

Opočno

- Permanent František Kupka and Luboš Sluka exhibition – Learn about the life and work of František Kupka, one of the most important painters of the 20th century, and the music composer Luboš Sluka.

Přepychy – 5.5 km

- Dřížeňské Valley – Walk along the Stations of the Cross to the Chapel of Our Lady of Lourdes and taste the spring, which never dries up.

 **Recommended restaurants:** Kozí chlívěk, Deštné v Orlických horách www.kozichlivek.cz/en,
Valentino Caffé a pizzeria U Jakuba, Opočno www.valentino-caffe-a-pizzeria-u-jakuba.business.site

Recommended pub: Pivovarská hospůdka, Dobruška www.pivovardobruska.cz

Recommended café: Ateliér Renata, Opočno www.atelier-renata.cz

 **Recommended accommodation:** Kozí chlívěk, Deštné v Orlických horách www.kozichlivek.cz/en

Dobruška – 5 km

- František Vladislav Hek's birthplace – Would you like to learn more about the national awakener who became the model for the TV series hero F. L. Věk? Visit the house he was born in.
- Rampušák Brewery – Make the arrangements for a tour of the Family Brewery. You will witness the whole process of production of the beers, which you will taste on site and will be invited to buy and take along home.

DAY 3:

The Kamieniec Palace

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

The palace is in the Kłodzko Valley in the village of Kamieniec. Its style is eclectic. The Kamieniec **Palace is a centuries-old history captured in architecture**, garden, and landscape. It is situated among gently undulating hills; the residence is in the heart of the picturesque Kłodzko Valley. There is a picturesque garden, a tea house and farm buildings on the premises. Currently, the facility has a hotel with ten unique rooms.

The palace **restaurant** located on the Flavours of Lower Silesia trail deserves attention. **The kitchen** at the Kamieniec Palace is a combination of the regional cuisine of the Kłodzko Valley and the creativity of the palace chefs. The facility is open to the public on selected days.



Some tips for your trips around:

Polanica Zdrój – 8 km

- A health resort in the Kłodzko Valley, with an extensive Spa Park, Pump Room and restaurants.

Kłodzko – 11,5 km

- one of the most beautiful cities of Lower Silesia with a rich history of over 1000 years, the Czechs, Germans and Poles made their presence felt there. The three cultures influenced the development of the town, its economic and social life, as well as its shape and character. Wonderful architecture, monuments,

works of art, magical places, and contemporary events – all they create the unique atmosphere of Kłodzko. The biggest attraction of the city is the Fortress dated back to the 17th and 18th centuries.

Wambierzyce u Radkówa (10 km)

- Basilica of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sanctuary of Wambierzycka Queen of Families and Patroness of the Kłodzko Region – a baroque basilica located in Wambierzyce near Radków in the Kłodzko powiat. It was built in the years 1715–1723.



Recommended restaurants: Palace restaurant www.palackamieniec.pl



Recommended accommodation: Accommodation in the Palace www.palackamieniec.pl