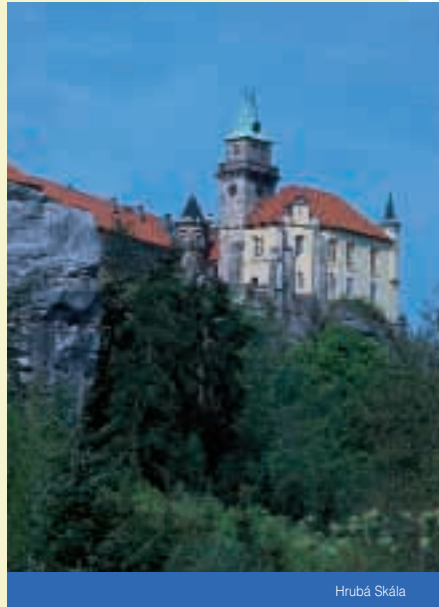


SO DO YOU KNOW

where you're going to spend your holidays now?

Before you start packing your suitcases, rucksacks, and gown for the palace ball where – you never know – you might meet your prince or princess, and before you book a room at a chateau (Hrubá Skála, Roztěž, Lázeň) in our beautiful country, don't forget that these addresses can supply you with additional useful information.



Hrubá Skála

www.czechtourism.com

- official tourist presentation of the Czech Republic



This is the logo of official tourist information centres

Approximate flight time from selected European cities to Prague

Wien	.....1 hour	Dublin	.....2,5 hours
Berlin	.....1 hour	Amsterdam	.....1,5 hour
Frankfurt	.....2 hours	Bruxelles	.....1,5 hour
Paris	.....2 hours	München	.....1 hour
London	.....2 hours	Frankfurt	.....1 hour
Madrid	.....2,5 hours	Zürich	.....1 hour
Roma	.....1,5 hour	Sofija	.....2,5 hours
Budapest	.....1,5 hour	Bucuresti	.....2,5 hours
Warszawa	.....1,5 hour	Athina	.....2,5 hours
Moskva	.....2,5 hours	Lisboa	.....2,5 hours
Helsinki2,5 hours	Kobenhavn2 hours
Stockholm2 hours		

www.czech-airlines.com

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A history of peculiarities



The chanel house in Sedlec, Kutná Hora

Castles and chateaus are also the right place to go for sensation hunters. Who would expect to find the head of a mammoth at Lednice Castle, an inscribed UNESCO site? Do you think the only place for

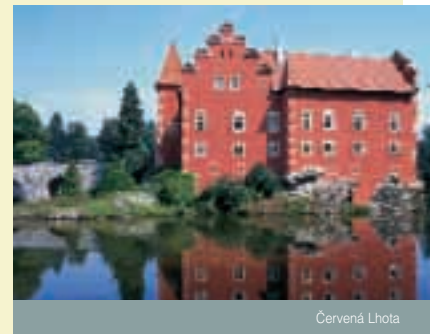
human bones is in a grave? Think again. The chanel house at Kutná Hora will set you straight – chandeliers, candelabras, and even the monstrance are made of human bones and skulls. Not to be outdone, the chateau at Kunštát has a unique cemetery for dogs. And if you thought counterfeit money was only a scourge of the modern day, take a trip to the ruins of Křídlo Castle. If you're lucky, you might find coins forged by the owner of the estate back in the 15th century. If you go to Mikulov, don't miss the giant wine cask from 1643, built to hold 1,010 hl of wine.



Stars of the silver screen

Film buffs can relive the adventures of their favourite film stars, because many castles and chateaus have been the setting for a number of Czech movies, especially fairy tales.

Recently, Hollywood crews have increasingly been coming to the Czech Republic to shoot their films (Bouzov, Hrubá Skála, Zbiroh, Krakovec, Klokočín, Vranov nad Dyjí, Červená Lhota, Roztěž).



Červená Lhota

Gourmets



Fancy dinner at the castle?

Experts in the culinary arts will also find something to whet their appetites when they visit Czech castles and chateaus. If you're not keen on the genuine English punch at Hrádek u Nechanic,

you can at least find out how they distilled plum brandy at Vizovice, see how they cooked two centuries ago at Zbiroh, where the kitchen and its curious equipment has been preserved, or taste true sacramental wine from the Archbishop's cellars in Kroměříž.



Meeting the aristocracy

As you wander around Czech castles and chateaus, you may even come across the blue-blooded descendants of noble lines. After the fall of Communism, many aristocratic residences were returned to their original owners, who now take care of their legacy themselves and sometimes even choose to live in their castle (Nelahozeves, Mělník, Roudnice nad Labem – the Lobkowitz family, Orlík – the Schwarzenbergs, Kost – the Kinský line, Boskovice – the Mensdorff family, Rychnov nad Kněžnou – the Kolowrats).



Konopiště

Memories of world statesmen



While the chances are that you didn't know them personally, records, pictures, and memorial plaques still let you reminisce about the important people who have stayed at Czech castles and chateaus (Kynžvart, Duchcov, Lipnice nad Sázavou, Hukvaldy, Konopiště, Hodonín, Ivančice, Krásný Dvůr, Střekov, Velké Březno, Veverí, Zákupy, Radeň).

Castles



Czech Republic

A touch of magic

CASTLES AND CHATEAUS

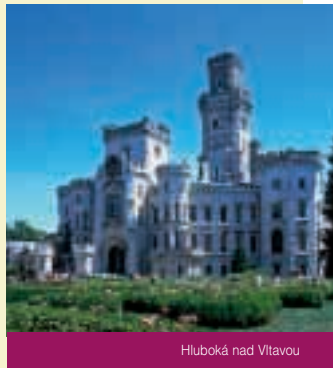
Castles and chateaus primarily bear witness to how good a memory we have and to centuries of cultural tradition, but they are much more than places where all life and fun has disappeared under layers of dust accumulated over past centuries. They are not just an excuse for boring numbers, dates, and strange-sounding names of long extinct noble families. Castles and chateaus can still be a source of entertainment, adventure, romance, and suspense. Everyone can find something to interest them and they don't have to be history buffs.

Besides the world-famous sites which are practically compulsory stops on any tour of the Czech Republic, such as Karlštejn, Konopiště, Hluboká, and Český Krumlov, there are dozens of lesser known castles and chateaus which, although not so famous, can match the above-mentioned sites in impressiveness and originality.



Places of dreams and romance

For many of us, castles and chateaus are primarily places of romance, dreams, and mystery. It is just as easy to succumb to the enchantment of luxury palaces with gorgeous interiors and well-tended gardens (Hluboká, Lednice, Konopiště, Kroměříž) as it is to be captivated by the rugged beauty of the ruins of medieval castles which, over the centuries, have suffered from the ravages of time, fires, or enemy troops (Hukvaldy, Rabí, Točnick, Trosky). Visitors are quick to daydream, imagining inhabitants long gone, their everyday joys and woes, and the great dramas of love and hate which once unfurled in the ancient walls around them.



Hluboká nad Vltavou

Places of fateful encounters



Weddings still take place at the castle today

Many castles and chateaus offer the betrothed who want to enjoy their special day in a romantic place the opportunity of holding their wedding in a palatial hall or castle chapel (Sychrov, Bečov, Vizovice, Lipnice nad

Sázavou, Hukvaldy, Častolovice, Hluboká, Hrubý Rohozec). Unattached girls might lose their hearts to a handsome man among the swordsmen who invest their enthusiasm and determination into reviving the glory of ancient jousting and other chivalrous tournaments at many castles (Bouzov, Náchod, Lipnice nad Sázavou).



Memories of battles long gone

Medieval knights in shining armour are not the only attraction. Reconstructions of battles and military skirmishes from the time of the Baroque and the Napoleonic Wars are also a big crowd-puller.



Točnick

Many castles were the sites of famous battles that had a fundamental influence on Czech and European history (Austerlitz, Rabí, Hrádek u Nechanic, Horažďovice). The ingenious systems of defence and fortification that can be found at castles and Baroque strongholds (Hukvaldy, Rabí, Pernštejn, Kaceřov, Josefov) also deserve our attention and admiration.

Places of tales and legends



You might see the White Lady on a night time visit

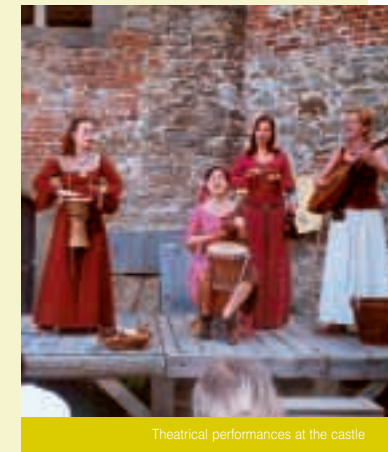
Want to send shivers down your spine? Then visit some of the mysterious sites immersed in strange tales and legends. There are plenty of them – try Sychrov, Zvíkov, or Radaně, which by all accounts are still haunted. Your blood will curdle

in your veins when you hear about the burning of witches (Velké Losiny) or see a reconstruction of an execution (Bečov) or torture (Sychrov). Want more? Well, go meet the ghosts on a night time tour (Sychrov, Bečov, Kynžvart, Náchod). You can also go on a quest for treasure (Potštejn, Trosky, Kašperk) or look for secret corridors (Grabštejn, Benešov nad Ploučnicí, Pernštejn).



Treasure houses of culture and art

Tourists thirsty for culture should set off on the trail of painters, sculptors, and architects whose magnificent works can be admired at many sites as permanent fixtures of original chambers and halls (Kuks, Roudnice nad Labem, Bečov, Kroměříž, Telč, Karlova Koruna, Plasy). Music lovers and avid theatregoers are sure to appreciate the cultural festivals that take place at many castles, especially in the summer months (Bechyně, Hrádek u Nechanic, Český Šternberk, Bouzov, Náchod, Český Krumlov, Kutná Hora).



Theatrical performances at the castle

Places of unique collections



Kuks – Braun's statues

The more inquisitive tourists should pay a visit to castles and chateaus offering exhibitions of museum collections (Kámen, Rabí, Kynžvart, Lipnice, Nebílovy, Častolovice, Jánský Vrch, Nové Město nad Metují, Nový

Jičín, Strážnice). Those who prefer machinery and technology to pictures and statues won't be disappointed either. Many castles and chateaus have rare technical artefacts and interesting historical machines and equipment (Jilemnice, Humprecht, Bechyně, Kutná Hora-Hrádek, Most, Plasy, Zákupy).



Places in the heart of nature

Nature lovers can enjoy the centuries-old trees and other rare exotic trees and shrubs often found in castle gardens (Kroměříž, Průhonice, Sychrov, Roztěž, Slatiňany). Are you fond of animals? Well, Czech castles and chateaus have something to offer animal-lovers too. Besides the bears which guard several Czech castles (Konopiště, Český Krumlov, Točnick), the zoos at some castles look after much more exotic animals (Vrchlabí Monastery, Lednice, Kroměříž). At Slatiňany, you can admire the graceful curves of Kladruby and Przewalski horses and take in an exhibition of horse history containing 2,100 artefacts.



You don't need to go to the zoo to see bears – you can find them at some castles