

Baroque

Czech Republic

Through All the Senses

Vision of Baroque



Baroque overwhelms. Baroque fascinates. Baroque inspires. Why? Because it was a vision of movement, dynamism, emotion and faith.

When the enormous round boulder set atop a rigid stone sea of Renaissance finally moved, it brought down an avalanche of restlessness, changes, questions and exploration. The history of mankind never witnessed an era that wished to alter the world and turn its face to God to such an extent as Baroque.

Faith was reflected in the vast numbers of **crosses, wayside crosses, chapel-shrines** with deep niches or pillars, **forest shrines** and **pilgrimage churches** scattered around the countryside. Having once flowed like the ocean, suddenly the landscape was full of islets, landmarks and places, where just stopping or looking around would move your heart and set you to thinking.

The ostentatious scream of Baroque to the heavens will not leave anyone feeling apathetic even today. Our contemporary understanding of beauty was and still is significantly influenced by Baroque. Graceful curves, arches, spirals, spectacular and opulent paintings, splashes of colour, gold everywhere you look, sculptures with animated

expressions giving the impression that people were turned to stone at the peak of a surge of emotion...

And then there is Baroque **monumentality**. Baroque style took control of the Czech landscape and endlessly toyed with **dimensions, perspectives, vistas** and **optical illusions**. There are temples, which upon entering, make you feel as if you have shrunk and become a tiny awed observer of a magnitude reaching far beyond human dimensions. On the other hand there are churches seemingly as big as the human soul, where one feels as if they have entered into themselves.

Baroque style changed the world, changed towns and the landscape alike. New structures were erected and the old ones rebuilt – anything straight and pointed had no place anymore and so was curved into decorative arches, conforming to the phenomenon of that time – the oval shape.

Towns witnessed the mushrooming of **gold-plated churches, Marian** and **plague columns**, gratefully

towering into the sky like hands clasped in prayer praising the Lord for sparing them from the Black Death. The boom of secular buildings did not lag behind – ranging from **lavish chateaux**, palaces and **urban houses** to wonderful **gardens** and **allegorical fountains**.

The landscape gradually started showing off stretches of fields with balks between them and tree lined alleys. Man began changing the countryside into vast unfenced gardens adapted to an ingenious concept and ambitious plans. Having been influenced by Baroque, farmers and ordinary folk alike imparted their farmsteads and houses with a plethora of arcs and curves. Baroque altered the Czech landscape beyond recognition and similar places can probably only be found in just a few areas around the world.

Get inspired through all the senses for your baroque journeys at www.czechbaroque.com



Top 10

In a country filled to the brim with **Baroque gems** it is difficult to choose the ten shiniest jewels. There will always be someone saying - why didn't you include this or that ... So let us view the selected sites as dignified representatives of everything significant that Baroque means for the Czech Republic, as phenomena, that if you haven't seen, you cannot say you know **Czech Baroque**. In addition, eight of them have made it onto the **UNESCO** World Heritage List.

1 Prague

Considered to be the most significant of the dozens of Baroque Houses of God in Prague, the **Church of St. Nicholas** in Lesser Town is a masterpiece of the famous father and son architects, the Dientzenhofers. Not far from here you will find the Czernin and Wallenstein Palaces as well as the stone **Charles Bridge** still adorned by thirty, mostly Baroque, statues and sculptures. Built by Jesuits behind the bridge, the **Klementinum** complex features a unique Baroque Library and Astronomical Tower. Another magnificent library dwells in the **Strahov Monastery**. Finally, the **Troja Chateau** in the city outskirts crowns its own Baroque garden.

2 Kutná Hora

The **Church of the Assumption of Our Lady and Saint John the Baptist** in Sedlec, Kutná Hora, is a triumph of the "Baroque Gothic" style of the ingenious architect Jan Blažej Santini. He was also behind the restoration of the nearby **Church of All Saints**, having designed the ornamentations consisting of bones in the renowned **ossuary**. The world of the rare breed of Baroque horses can be explored if you take

a short trip to the **National Stud Farm in Kladruby nad Labem**.
www.destinace.kutnahora.cz
www.ossuary.eu
www.nhkladruby.cz

3 Kuks

The breathtaking **Kuks Hospital with its preserved Baroque Pharmacy, infirmary, Church of the Holy Trinity** and remarkable **sculptural decorations**. All these structures were harmoniously integrated into the rolling Elbe basin landscape on the initiative of the open-minded Count František Antonín Špork.
www.hospital-kuks.cz

4 Olomouc

Being regarded as the symbolic heart of the city, the impressive **Plague Column of the Holy Trinity** is the largest sculptural group in the Czech Republic. In addition, the city boasts a unique set of **Baroque fountains**. The interiors of the **Archbishop's Palace** are absolutely breathtaking, while the picture gallery of the **Archdiocesan Museum** looks after true **gems of Baroque fine art**.
tourism.olomouc.eu

5 Kroměříž

This beautiful town is dominated by the Baroque chateau, the former summer residence of Olomouc bishops and archbishops

and laced with **Baroque gardens** of unprecedented beauty. **Kroměříž Chateau Gallery** takes care of the second most important collection of paintings in the Czech Republic. Experiencing the **Flower Garden** during the **Hortus Magicus Festival of Baroque Culture** is a real treat for all the senses.
www.zamek-kromeriz.cz
www.hortusmagicus.cz

6 Valtice

An imposing **chateau** with a renovated **Baroque theatre** surrounded by a cultural landscape with its roots stretching into the Baroque period works as a magnet for visitors to the region of grapevines and exquisite wine.
www.czechtourism.com/c/valtice-chateau

7 Mikulov

A vast **chateau complex**, the High Baroque façade of the **Dietrichstein Tomb**, major sites commemorating the Jewish community as well as the remarkable **Holy Hill** with Stations of the Cross and the Chapel of St. Sebastian make the town of Mikulov a sought-after Baroque gem.
www.mikulov.cz

8 Zelená hora

The **Pilgrimage Church of Saint John of Nepomuk** is the most renowned work of Jan Blažej Santini-Aichl. Here he managed to materialise all of his ideals, intentions and visions. But there are more Santini's creations – such as the **Lower Cemetery** resembling the shape of a human skull, or a chateau today housing the **New Generation Museum** focusing on the world of

Baroque, and the adjacent monastery courtyard with a lyre shaped ground-plan.
www.zelena-hora.cz

9 Český Krumlov

The world's oldest surviving (and fully functional!) **Baroque theatre** can be admired in the **chateau** with the restored **Baroque garden** and the unique **Cloak Bridge**. The chateau is the true crown of the urban complex and is something you have never seen before.
www.ckrumlov.info

10 Holašovice

A South Bohemian village, where you will fully grasp the phenomenon of **rural Baroque**. Ornate façades and gables of homesteads and farm buildings create a fabulously looking area.
www.holasovice.eu

West Bohemian Bonus

The top ten beautiful sites include the unique project of **West Bohemian Baroque**, represented by the fascinating monasteries in **Kladruby and Plasy**. Their Baroque makeover is intertwined with the names of Baroque giants – Santini and Dientzenhofer. Finally, there is **Mariánská Týnice** where Santini's complex of Provošt's residence and the Church of the Annunciation of Our Lady will leave you speechless and where you can also visit the **Baroque Centre and Summer Baroque Festival** during the holidays.
www.klaster-kladruby.cz
www.marianskatynice.cz
www.czechtourism.com/c/plasy-monastery/



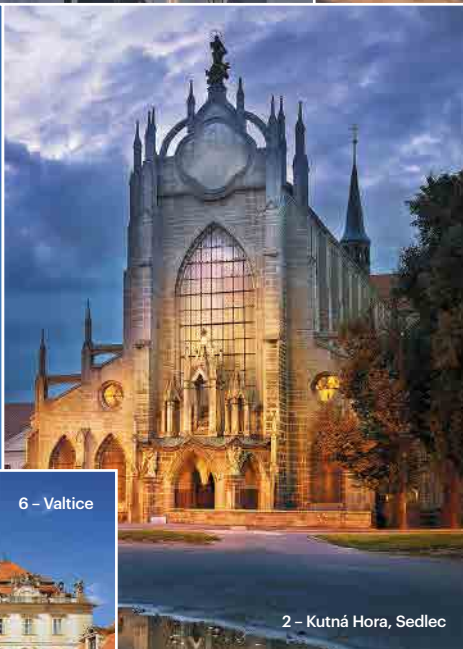
1 – Prague



3 – Kuks



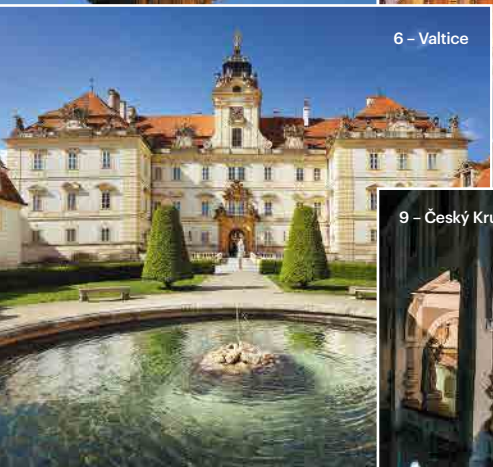
4 – Olomouc



2 – Kutná Hora, Sedlec



5 – Kroměříž



6 – Valtice



8 – Český Krumlov



10 – Zelená hora



7 – Mikulov



10 – Holašovice

Despite its relatively small size, the Czech Republic boasts more than 250 Baroque chateaux that can be found in almost every other village. Aristocratic residences in the countryside display the beauty of their ornamentations and harmony with the surroundings. A perfect witness to the love of symmetry, which was then an unwritten law. Baroque chateaux are like pearls from a dazzling necklace, which snapped above the landscape.

Chateaux
Scattered like

Pearls in the Landscape



Český Krumlov



Karlova Koruna



1 Veltrusy

A dream of Count Václav Antonín Chotek that came true. The **High Baroque chateau** with an X-shaped central building looks like a butterfly on a flower. The symmetrical horseshoe of the side wings surrounds the typical Court of Honour enclosed by allegorical sculptures by **Matthias Bernard Braun**. The beautiful **English landscape garden** resembles a "decorative farm" and ranks among the oldest in Europe. www.czechtourism.com/c/veltrusy-chateau

2 Vranov nad Dyjí

Vranov Chateau is the most striking landmark of the **Podýjí** landscape. Being regarded as an excellent example of European Baroque architecture, it is situated on a high rock above the River Dyje and conjures up fantastic impressions of floating on clouds. The chateau features the breathtaking **Hall of Ancestors** with remarkable illusionist frescos and a unique **chateau chapel**. www.zamek-vranov.cz

3 Valtice

Valtice Chateau crowns the generous landscaping and urban vision of the noble House of Liechtenstein. Baroque is omnipresent here - the town is Baroque and so is the cultural landscape of the **Lednice-Valtice Complex**. The massive chateau consists

of a four-winged building with ornate interiors, a Spanish horse stable as well as a tastefully refurbished Late Baroque theatre. Open all year round, the **Wine Salon** tasting exposition will bring a smile to the face of many of a fine wine connoisseur. www.czechtourism.com/c/valtice-chateau

4 Karlova Koruna

Face to face with this unusual structure, a lover of Baroque will immediately recognize the style of **Santini**. Thanks to him the noble family of Kinsky gained a truly original residence, surrounded by a park stretching harmoniously along the three axes of the chateau. In addition, Santini designed a separate chateau chapel located nearby. www.karlovakoruna-zamek.cz

5 Český Krumlov

Being second in size only to Prague Castle, this castle and chateau complex owes its magnificent appearance to Baroque. Creating a splendid landmark of the town, the extensive grounds boast a fully functional **Baroque theatre**, one of the world's best preserved facilities of its kind. The **chateau park**, the **Masquerade Hall**, **Cloak Bridge**, **Chapel** and **Dining Hall** are all perfect examples of Baroque taste and thinking. www.zamek-ceskykrumlov.eu www.ckrumlov.info



Valtice



6 Libochovice

Quite rightfully referred to as the Baroque Gem on the River **Ohře**, **Libochovice Chateau** stands in absolute harmony with the picturesquely meandering river. Baroque tapestries, stoves, the huge **Saturn's Hall**, as well as the **French garden** all bear the striking, neat signature of Baroque. www.zamek-libochovice.cz

7 Troja

The **summer residence** of the Sternberg family inspired by an Italian Baroque

suburban Villa, surrounded by an extensive **garden** with fountains, statues, an Orangery and natural labyrinth adorns the bank of the River **Vltava** on the edge of **Prague**. It is highlighted as another triumph of Baroque symmetry as the **Grand Hall** decorated with frescoes glorifying the Habsburg family is flanked on both sides by several lounges leading down one after another forming the left and the right wings topped off with tower-like belvederes. en.ghmp.cz/troja-chateau



A Baroque garden is actually a logical extension of a chateau in the landscape. Ruled by symmetry and geometry and featuring spectacular vistas, floral displays, opulent areas of colours and shapes, as well as statues, fountains, sala terrena and gloriettes, the concept of the Baroque garden is modelled on the ideals of Versailles Palace Gardens.

Fascinating Symmetry of Gardens



1 Buchlovice

A perfect example of an **aristocratic Baroque residence** designed from the very beginning as part of a beautiful terraced garden matching the natural terrain. The garden starts on the highest terrace on the same level as the chateau and its neat symmetry is highlighted by ponds with fountains and sculptures.
www.zamek-buchlovice.cz

2 Dobříš

The terraced garden of **Dobříš Chateau** was inspired by French landscaping art, representing a perfect example of a **Rococo garden concept** with lots of statues and a noticeable axis finished off with a typical **Orangery** resting on the horizon when viewed from the chateau buildings.
www.zamekdobris.cz

3 Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou

The interiors of the fabulous **Jaroměřice Chateau**

merge into an impressive **Baroque garden** with a double staircase, fountains, statues, amazing carved benches and plant features arranged in remarkable shapes. The garden regularly hosts the **Peter Dvorský International Music Festival**.
www.czechtourism.com/c/jaromerice-chateau
www.arskonzert.cz/mhfpd/en

4 Duchcov

Stretching from the very buildings of the chateau, the Ducal Garden boasts a system of pools, jets and fountains, along with **sculptures by Matthias Bernard Braun**, meticulously shaped trees, a large terraced double staircase ruled by the polygonal axis of strict symmetry. The paths here remember the steps of **Casanova, Mozart, Haydn, Chopin, Beethoven, ...**
www.czechtourism.com/c/duchcov-castle



5 Český Krumlov

Over recent decades the Baroque nature of the chateau garden with three terraces has been significantly restored, displaying a beautiful **cascaded fountain** adorned with statues of **water deities, nymphs, and animals**. The unique late Baroque Summer-house **Bellarie** features a Baroque kitchen and an artificial cave. In addition the **Festival of Baroque Art** is held in parts of the chateau and garden every September.
www.ckrumlov.info
www.zamek-ceskykrumlov.eu

6 Praha

The gardens of Prague's aristocratic palaces used to serve the same purpose as those situated around chateaux. Regarded as probably the most spectacular of these, the terraced **Vrtba Garden** boasts a sala terrena and Braun's statues. However, considered as the most valuable, the Early Baroque **Wallenstein Garden** encompasses a pond with an artificial islet, fountains,

statues and a grotto. More Baroque elements can be found in **Prague Castle's Royal Garden**.
www.czechtourism.com/c/baroque-vrtba-garden-prague
www.senat.cz/informace/index-eng.php
www.hrad.cz/en/prague-castle-for-visitors

7 Kroměříž

The world's most renowned of all Czech Baroque Gardens, the **Flower Garden** in Kroměříž is a bit of an oddity since it does not adjoin a palace, but is conceived as a separate entity, representing the only preserved garden of this type in Europe. It is an example of an Early Baroque landscaping concept with astonishing symmetry and geometry. Fountains, labyrinths, bodies of water and separate structures constituted a turning-point in garden development. Adjoining the **Archbishop's Palace**, the **Chateau Garden** is partially of a Baroque nature, even though it was later transformed into an English landscape garden.
www.zamek-kromeriz.cz



Wayside crosses, chapel-shrines, tree alleys, stretches of fields with balks, pilgrimage churches, statues along paths and on bridges, meadows, ponds, ... Landscape touched by man and transformed, a land with a Baroque soul. However, the ambition of Baroque man to glorify God's work went much further. Whole areas became targets of their landscaping projects. Nature was subjected to mathematics and cultural landscapes started to emerge. So set off for these places and explore their contemporary look exhibiting so many Baroque imprints.

Landscape with a Baroque Soul

Marian Garden, Saint Ann Chapel



Skalka

1 Wallenstein Landscape

When, after the Battle of White Mountain, the famous General **Albrecht von Wallenstein** decided to turn Jičín into his residential town, he invited prominent Italian architects and commissioned them to create an aristocratic residence amidst a designed landscape, unrivalled in Central Europe at that time. The geometric tendencies in the countryside between **Veliš Hill** and the village of **Valdice** join seven major points, such as for example the **Church of St. James the Greater, Valdice Gate**, the impressive linden alley and a summer loggia with a terraced garden. www.albrechtzvaldstejna.cz

2 Marian Garden

In the near vicinity of the Wallenstein Estate, **Count Šlik** created a somewhat less spectacular but very sophisticatedly designed landscape, where the intentions of man are fused even more harmoniously with nature. Between the towns of **Jičín** and **Kopidlno**, he built the churches, chapels, chateaux, forest shrines and a system of interconnected alleys. The whole complex was intended for paying homage to the Virgin Mary.

3 Kuks

Another enlightened proprietor, **Count Špork** commissioned landscaping

of the countryside around his **summer residence in Kuks**. The chateau with a spa adjoined an exquisite garden on one side of the river. Later he had a **monastery** and a **Hospital** built opposite the chateau ... along with several chapel-shrines, fountains and statues scattered in the countryside, uniquely combining the chateau environment with the surrounding woods. Admittedly, the chateau does not exist today, and only some of the spa houses have survived, but an exposition in the newly renovated Hospital invokes a truly extraordinary experience. Kuks Hospital is a stunning island of Baroque art in all senses of the word. www.hospital-kuks.cz

4 Broumovsko

This time not a secular but religious impulse enabled the creation of a unique project to build nine significant landmarks of the countryside around **Broumov** – nine churches. **Otmar Daniel Zinke**, the Abbot of the Benedictine Order from the Broumov Monastery, invited for this job none other than the most prominent architects: **Christopher Dientzenhofer** and his son **Kilian Ignatius**. Churches became new landmarks in the landscape and have remained such to this day. Wandering from one to another is magically charming. www.broumovsko.cz



Svatý Hostýn

5 Skalka

Warding off the plague was a frequent incentive for erecting structures in gratitude to the Lord. Servatius Ignatius Engel of Engelsflussu conceived this mission on a rock promontory above **Mníšek pod Brdy** very generously indeed. He had a place of pilgrimage featuring the **Church of Mary Magdalene**, monastery, hermitage and Stations of the Cross built, having significantly landscaped the countryside. www.mnisek.cz

6 Svatý Hostýn

Regarded as a striking landmark of **Hostýn Hills**, the Pilgrimage **Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary** is at the centre of the much sought-after pilgrimage site, which boasts quite a unique phenomenon in having two sets of **Stations of the Cross**. This magnificent Baroque church is visible from the entire **Haná Region**. Apart from its dominating effect, the long staircase starting at the **Water Chapel** overarching

the spring of healing water is another landscape-forming element. www.czechtourism.com/c/holy-hostyn

South Moravia and East Moravia

If you were looking for a large-scale Baroque landscape complex in the whole of Europe, you would definitely end up in Moravia. The Baroque style completely changed this region. In the vicinity of **Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou, Mikulov, Slavkov u Brna, Buchlovice, Velehrad, Kroměříž**, and **Hostýn** as well as many other sites, outstanding landscaping projects were conceived. Famous throughout the world, the **Lednice-Valtice Complex** began its systematic construction just around the time of Baroque. The **Moravian countryside** is still not only charming, but also oozes Baroque hospitality. Why not take a bike and explore it following one of the attractive wine cycling trails. www.jizni-morava.cz www.vychodni-morava.cz





The Statue of St. John of Nepomuk, Charles Bridge

Outstanding Personalities of Czech Baroque

Art in the Baroque period literally spilled into the countryside. Notable artists began to appear even in the most remote regions, frequently leaving behind stunning pieces of work. Music became an important part of life, even among common folk. Sculpture experienced a huge boom, painting received completely new impulses and architecture strode on at the greatest pace of all.



Barokní divadlo v Českém Krumlově



Kutná Hora

Architects

Being the oldest of the famous Italian architects working long-term in the Czech lands, **CARLO LURAGO** constructed the spectacular building of Prague's Klementinum, rebuilt the adjacent Church of the Holy Saviour and designed the Church of St. Ignatius on Charles Square. Throughout Bohemia there were many churches and chateaux created by this giant. If searching for the most prominent family of master builders, you would certainly come up with the **DIENTZENHOFERS**. Father **CHRISTOPHER** and his son **KILIAN IGNATIUS** designed several amazing buildings. They often worked together, as in the case of the Church of St. Nicholas in Lesser Town, Prague. Prague's Loreto, Břevnov Monastery, Portheimka Palace, Monastery in Teplá, Kladruby Convent, Broumov Monastery and its estate along with hundreds of other ecclesiastical and secular buildings throughout the country make up the fascinating legacy of the Dientzenhofers. Perhaps the most remarkable architect of his time was **JAN BLAŽEJ SANTINI-AICHEL**. His vision stood apart. He is regarded as the creator of the mystical and deeply symbolic style referred to as Baroque Gothic. His most famous masterpiece is the pilgrimage site on Zelená hora near Žďár nad Sázavou,

while more of his unique structures can be found in Kladruby, Kítiny, Kutná Hora, Plasy and Chlumec nad Cidlinou. Santini's work and life is explored in Mariánská Týnice Museum and the New Generation Museum in Žďár nad Sázavou. www.santini.cz

Sculptors

Probably the most important sculptors of Czech Baroque were **MATTHIAS BERNARD BRAUN** and **FERDINAND MAXMILIAN BROKOFF**. It is incredible that Braun joined the sculptors' guild with quite possibly his most ingenious masterpiece, the statue of Lutgardis situated on Charles Bridge. His legendary statues of Virtues and Vices can be found at Kuks. Brokoff owes his fame mainly to sculptural groups of Jesuit Saints on Charles Bridge. Several statues of saints standing on this famous bridge (including a wooden mould for the statue of St. John of Nepomuk) brought recognition also to his father John.

Painters

Numerous Czech Baroque masters are represented in our selection by **PETR JAN BRANDL**. He painted mainly religious motifs, but also created several outstanding portraits and noble houses were vying for his services. Many of his works can be seen in the

collections of the National Gallery in Prague. The spirit of the grace of Italian Baroque was brought to Czech lands by **KAREL ŠKRÉTA**, who lived in Venice for years, after his family had gone into exile following the Battle of White Mountain. In Prague he painted altarpieces in the Church of Our Lady before Týn and the Church of St. Procopius. Another of his masterpieces is the Passion Cycle adorning the Church of St. Nicholas. www.ngprague.cz

Composers

From a long list of cantors, band leaders and choirmasters let us choose the two most prominent names. Early Baroque is represented by the Knight **ADAM MICHNA OF OTRADOVICE**. It was he who gave Czech Baroque music an impulse for rapid development. His hymns such as *Loutna česká* (Czech Lute), *Svatořeční muzika* (Holy Year Music), *Česká mariánská muzika* (Czech Marian Music) as well as his mass music can be heard on concert stages even today. High Baroque is exemplified by **JAN DISMAS ZELENKA**, a master whose creativity reached far beyond Czech borders. Admired by Bach and Telemann, Zelenka was original and unique, often considered to be a Catholic counterpoint to Johann Sebastian himself. Dozens of mass and religious songs, the excellent Requiem,

Magnificat, *Te Deum* along with the brilliant secular piece *Sub olea pacis et Palma virtutis* rightfully belong in the treasure chest of world Baroque.

Albrecht von Wallenstein

One of the most important Generals of the Thirty Years' War, military genius, as well as successful entrepreneur, politician, horse expert and the man behind significant construction projects. Wallenstein Palace is just the top of the impressive pyramid of the incredible number of buildings he financed. His high demands on architects were legendary, mercilessly firing them if he was even a little dissatisfied with their work. www.albrechtzvaldstejna.cz

Polyxena of Lobkowitz

The list of personalities must include at least one significant woman of the Baroque period. A faithful Catholic, patron and supporter of religious orders, Polyxena born to the House of Pernstein, donated a rare wax-coated statue of the infant Jesus, which she had received as a wedding gift from her Spanish mother, to Discalced Carmelite Friars with the Church of Our Lady Victorious in Prague. Today, the statue is famous around the world as the **Infant Jesus of Prague**. www.pragjesu.cz

Unknown Baroque Gems

There are people, who in Egypt, are content with just pyramids, in Paris with the Eiffel Tower and in the Czech Republic with Charles Bridge, while having no idea how much more they are really missing. Then of course there are people who like to discover hidden treasures. This country is full of them and many of them rank among Baroque pearls and gems. They are scattered around the countryside, and are definitely worth looking for and finding.



Ploskovice

Ploskovice

Ploskovice Chateau, a delicate two-storey structure built on the edge of a terrain fracture, adapted as a terrace with open arcade galleries in the shape of lobster claws, with artificial grottos on the level of an extensive Baroque park, was a dream-come true for the Grand Duchess Anna Marie of Tuscany. The dream of a place of refuge, home, paradise. Here every woman feels like a Princess and every man like a courteous knight. www.czechtourism.com/c/ploskovice-chateau

Krásný Dvůr

Young Count Franz Josef Czernin had the **family residence in Krásný Dvůr** rebuilt in the spirit of the time into a magnificent Baroque chateau, logically incorporating the surrounding landscape and becoming its centrepiece. The three-winged building embraces the Court of Honour, where a trio of tree alleys used to fan out further into the countryside. The existence of the alleys is still quite visible today. The beginnings of the famous and unique surrounding park date back to the Baroque period, but it was imparted with the landscape park character some time later. www.krasny-dvur.cz

Casanova's Duchcov

The list of world Baroque personalities should

undoubtedly include **Giacomo Casanova**. This philanderer and man of many talents spent the last thirteen years of his life at **Duchcov Chateau**. Looking after Count Wallenstein's library, he was reminiscing and writing. For example he was the author of the first science fiction novel in the world. Searching for his tracks in the chateau and the gardens is exciting. The chateau itself cherishes several of them and in the Baroque garden you will quite possibly be able to hear the silent echo of his footsteps. www.czechtourism.com/c/duchcov-castle

Nebilovy

Two opposite buildings, forming a Court of Honour. In the Czech Republic an absolutely unique structure perfectly representing Viennese Baroque style. The chateau is gradually regaining its former appearance and shelters various gems, such as the oldest Central European Baroque still life paintings - large canvases by German painter **Gottfried Libalt**. The **Ballroom** features the fascinating, newly restored murals by **Antonín Tuvora**. Thanks to his mastery, you get the impression that the painted plants grow directly from the floor and stoop over you from the ceiling. www.czechtourism.com/c/nebilovy-chateau



Plasy



Vernéřovice

Dientzenhofer's Churches

The significance of father and son Dientzenhofer for the Czech landscape and urban appearance is indisputably extraordinary, as they designed dozens of churches among other things. In the **Broumov area** you will find eight of them situated quite close to each other and representing an important element of the Baroque landscape concept. If you venture out a little further, make sure not to miss the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in **Přeštice**, Pilgrimage Church of Mary Magdalene in **Skalka near Mníšek pod Brdy**, Pilgrimage Church in **Chlum Svaté Maří near Sokolov**, Church of the Virgin Mary of Sorrows in **Dobrá Voda** near České Budějovice and the Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary in **Nicov**, the Prague **Loreto**, the **Churches of St. Nicholas** in Lesser Town and Old Town Square, **Břevnov**

Monastery... and that is just the beginning.

Unknown Santini

He was different, he was unique. His "**Baroque Gothic**" is full of symbols, references, mystery. **Zelená hora** is known by everyone, but how about setting out for **Obyčtov** to see with your own eyes the tortoise shaped Church of Our Lady of the Visitation? Or for **Křtiny** to visit the Church of the Name of the Virgin Mary, the monasteries in **Rajhrad** near Brno, in **Želiv**, **Kladruby**, or in **Plasy**. And what about the little-known, but wonderful churches in **Bobrová**, **Zvole**, **Mladotice** or in **Chotouň**, a farmstead in **Hubenov** (Kralovice) and **Karlova Koruna** Chateau in **Chlumec nad Cidlinou**. Wandering to explore Santini's genius is fascinating, wherever it may be. www.santini.cz

Baroque Mysticism

The love of God was awaking in Baroque man and he continued to nurture it. He built symbols of his faith everywhere around himself. The mystery of the divine intention was an essential topic of man's life and death, which he tried to learn to accept. Modern man can understand precious little of his thoughts and desires. Nonetheless, traces of the passion, humility and love are still more than evident. And what's more, they are breathtaking and fascinating thanks to their veracity.

Jičetín pod Jedlovou



Strilky



Klatovy

Infant Jesus of Prague



Memento mori

Death as a part of human life, as the gateway to redemption, was one of the main themes of Baroque mysticism. Church crypts were turned into ossuaries full of eerie ornamentation made of human remains after plagues and wars, put together from tens of thousands of bones that no cemeteries were able to accommodate but yet had the right to be respectfully laid to rest.

One of the world's most renowned ossuaries is in the **Church of All Saints in Kutná Hora** and it clearly bears Santini's signature. The second largest ossuary in Europe (after the Paris catacombs) **beneath the Church of St. James in Brno** was discovered as late as 2001 and was not opened to the public until a few years ago. It astounds and makes

one contemplate the relativity of human desires. A different, far more intimate feeling is aroused by the ossuary in Santini's **Church of the Name of the Virgin Mary in Křtiny**. The 12 skulls painted with laurel wreaths and the letter T have still not fully revealed their secrets.

The attempt of Baroque man to come to terms with his own mortality is well illustrated also in the **cemetery in Strilky**, as the whole place is more a work of art than anything else. Its placement in the landscape displays High Baroque features, as do the statues along with magnificent stone vases and a cemetery chapel.

Let us follow the path of the mysticism of death to **Mikulov**, South Moravia. There used to be a beautiful Baroque Church of St. Anne with a Loreto Holy Hut. Unfortunately it was destroyed by fire, but the splendid frontage with two towers and the mystique of the place have remained to this day. After the departure of Baroque, the monumental **Dietrichstein Tomb** was erected on the site of the former church in the mid-17th century, holding the remains of the family members even from the Baroque period. www.ossuary.cz www.ticbrno.cz www.baroknihrbitov-strilky.cz

Sign of the Cross

Motifs of the life of Christ became omnipresent in the Baroque period. Various village folk felt the need to build at least a wayside cross, not to mention the aristocracy and the Church itself. The whole country witnessed the mushrooming of **Stations of the Cross**, which poured out of Houses of God, surrounded churches, and then ran up and down the hills. Referred to as the Czech Netherlands at that time, Šluknovsko, a Roman Catholic island in the middle of a Protestant sea, had fourteen of them built – matching the number of the stations. The Way of the Cross in **Jičetín pod Jedlovou** ranks among the most beautiful in the country.

It was not only the martyrdom of Christ that fascinated Baroque man but also his birth and childhood. Since Baroque times crowds of worshippers from all over the world have flocked to the Chapel of the Holy Cross of Prague's **Church of Our Lady Victorious** to bow before a modest wax statue of the **Infant Jesus of Prague**. Having been brought to Bohemia from Spain by Manrique de Lara y Mendoza, mother of **Polyxena of Lobkowitz**, and then donated by Polyxena to the order of Discalced Carmelite Friars, the statue lost both of its hands during wartime turmoil. After receiving new hands, the Infant Jesus began being

credited with many a miracle, recovery and even the deliverance of Prague from the Swedish siege. Since 1741 the Infant Jesus has been placed in the side chapel in a silver box. www.pragjesu.cz

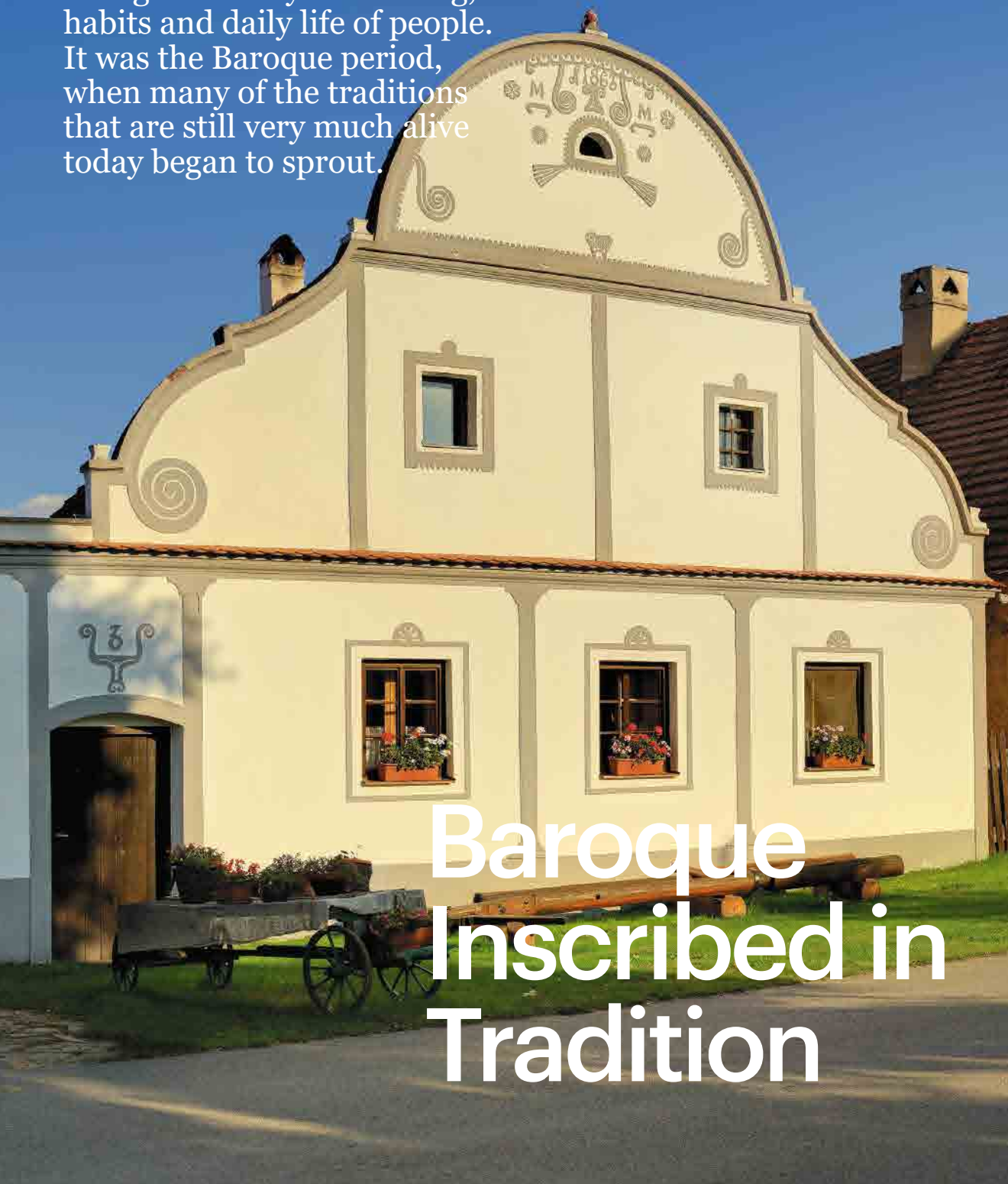
Saint on the Bridge

Having been cast in Nuremberg using **Jan Brokoff's** wooden mould, a bronze statue of the future Czech Patron Saint, **John of Nepomuk**, was mounted on **Charles Bridge** in 1683. At that point nobody could have anticipated that its installation on Prague's stone bridge would incite such massive spreading of St. John's statues onto bridges across Europe. Most of them, obviously, can be found in the Czech Republic as they stand on almost every other bridge.

Dozens of churches consecrated to Saint John demonstrate the respect the Czech nation has always had for this saint. Admittedly, the most famous of these structures is Santini's creation on **Zelená hora** with the impressive representation of St. John's tongue on the inner side of the dome, but most emotions will undoubtedly be aroused on a visit to **Nepomuk**, where a majestic church designed by Kilian Ignatius Dienzenhofer and consecrated, obviously, to Saint John of Nepomuk, was erected on the spot of this Saint's birthplace.

Baroque changed not only the face of Czech towns, villages and the landscape, but also changed the way of thinking, habits and daily life of people. It was the Baroque period, when many of the traditions that are still very much alive today began to sprout.

Holašovice



Baroque Inscribed in Tradition



Christmas in Český Krumlov



Mushroom and hulled grain "Kuba"

Folk Baroque

When at the end of the Baroque era, Holy Roman Emperor Josef II banned pilgrimages and processions, people quietly defied him. Continuing their habits in spite of the order, they intensified their defiance by a demonstrative increase of building work – ranging from sacral structures in the landscape to the absolutely new design of their farms and houses. This is how **Rural Baroque** was born. So as in many parts of the country where one may encounter rural log dwellings or Upper Lusatian Houses, South Bohemia is blessed with magnificent gables of farmhouses full of curves and curls enchanting us even today. Ordinary builders were able to imitate the style of the great architects in a very original way and adapt it to their needs, resulting in something resembling a fairytale. Just have a look in **Holašovice**, take a walk along the village green and you will understand.

Rural structures of log or other types stand preserved not only in villages, but mostly in open-air museums. The seemingly idyllic depiction of past village life, houses, workshops, drying houses, churches, beehives, saws ... spiced up with extensive programmes of fairs, markets and festivals. The best known open-air museums are located in **Rožnov pod Radhoštěm**

(considered one of the oldest and largest in Central Europe), in **Veselý kopec, Zubrnice, Kamenická Stráň, Přerov nad Labem, Kouřim, Příkazy and Rymice**.
www.holasovice.eu
www.vmp.cz
www.czechtourism.com/c/vesely-kopec-open-air-museum
www.skanzen-zubrnice.cz
www.polabskemuzeum.cz/prerov-nad-labem
www.skanzenkourim.cz
www.hanackeskanzen.cz
www.muzeum-km.cz/rymice_main.php

Food not Only for the Spirit

The spiritual dimension of everyday life did not mean that Baroque man did not know how to have a good time. As today, food and drink played an integral part. Anyway, these are Baroque traditions that we are probably most keen to continue.

Traditions associated with beer and wine production are very much alive. In the Baroque period there was not one monastery that would not brew the amber nectar. The current boom of local breweries brings **monastic breweries** back to life again – beer is produced in **Břevnov, Želiv, Osek, Vyšší Brod, Broumov and Strahov**.

Likewise, **winemakers** draw on traditions rooted in Baroque. Many wine regions

of “Moravia” and “Bohemia” feature beautiful and still functioning **Baroque wine cellars** – some of the most renowned can be found in **Pavlov**, as well as in **Velké Pavlovice, Brno, Uherské Hradiště, Petrov, Kroměříž, Perná and Dolní Kounice...**

It was Baroque **gastronomy** that formed the foundations on which typical Czech cuisine was built. Up to this day many chateaux put on special food days and festivals of Baroque cuisine, in particular **Plzeň** is quite noted for them. A good guide on how to try meals, which used to be cook in our country three hundred years ago, is also provided by the **Czech Specials** brands. Restaurants priding themselves on holding this title offer Czech dishes, drawing on tradition but at the same time reflecting current gastro trends.
www.czechspecials.cz

Traditional Public Holidays

Easter and Christmas in the Baroque period were far more important holidays than they are today. For people in the time of Baroque they had a deep mystical meaning. At **Christmas** people had not started giving each other gifts yet, but they met up on the occasion of magnificent religious celebrations, as well as folk theatrical performances and puppet shows. The theatre still plays an essential part

in traditional Christmas markets, which you will encounter more or less in every major town. Enjoying Christmas in the Baroque atmosphere of **Český Krumlov, Prague and Olomouc** is truly a very emotional experience.

In folk tradition **Easter** used to also be connected mainly with the “holy” theatre; however, traditional **Easter carol-singing** has really not changed much over the centuries. Today the typical Easter habits and customs can be witnessed mostly in **villages of South and East Moravia**. Easter carol-singing, whipping girls with Easter sticks, wooden rattles, water soakings, enhanced by everyone dressed in folk costumes, carol songs, dancing, and, of course, some good wine or plum brandy.
www.czechtraditions.com

 Application
Czech traditions:



Google Play, App Store

Needless to say the idea of spas dates back to ancient times, but in the Baroque era spas became a tremendously interesting cultural phenomenon. Established in many places around the country, they were constructed and run by townsfolk and aristocracy as well as religious orders. In the Baroque period there were close to seventy spas in Czech lands, with two-thirds of them having been newly built.

Spa Boom

Karlovy Vary



Mariánské Lázně



Karlovy Vary



1 Karlovy Vary

It is believed that people used to be aware of the existence of hot, healing springs in the spot where Karlovy Vary stands today as far back as the Bronze Age. However, the real boom of spa treatments did not come until the Baroque period. The explosion of Baroque architecture was felt even by the spa industry. The first bathhouse, the **Mill Spa**, was built in 1711, when Russian Tsar Peter the Great stayed in the town. Promenades were constructed, options for providing entertainment were explored, a theatre was built, the Saxon and Bohemian Halls were erected on the very spot where the **Hotel Pupp** now stands and production of thermal spring salts was commenced.

This period, also saw the arrival of prominent spa experts, such as Dr. **David Becher**, regarded as the most important of them. He introduced a variety of new treatment methods, such as drinking water at springs, walking as part of the therapy and balancing drinking and bath treatments. He

was very active in planning spa building development. Karlovy Vary enjoyed its first wave of popularity and Europeans started coming here to explore the place. The glory of the most famous Czech spa, triggered by the Baroque era, continues today. www.karlovyvary.cz/en

2 Teplice

The second oldest Czech spa is Teplice. At the time, when Baroque began to control spiritual and social life, Teplice had just one stone house where spa care used to be provided. Baroque completely transformed the town and the spa alike. The 17th century saw the onset of Teplice's popularity as one of the spa places to visit, culminating in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, when the town was quite deservedly referred to as the **Salon of Europe** or **Little Paris**. Artists, rulers, military leaders, politicians, nobility – anyone who was anyone just had to be seen here. **Goethe** used to come here for six months at a time, from spring to autumn. He met **Beethoven** here and went to salons with Emperors and Kings.



Teplice

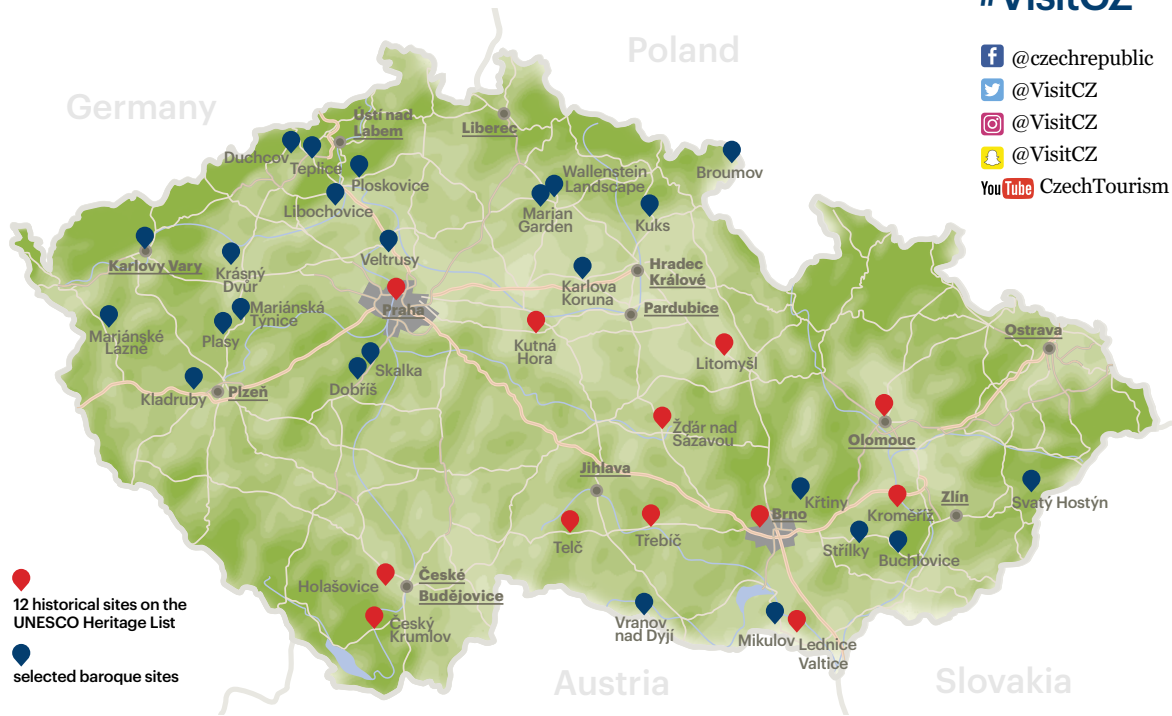
Going back to the Baroque era, we can notice another fundamental turning point in the fate of the town – the spa became the property of the **Clary-Aldringen** family, who started to invest generously, building and promoting the spa throughout Europe. They began to construct new spa houses, erected a theatre and joined the spa with the chateau and chateau gardens. **Matthias Bernard Braun** created for them one of the most beautiful plague columns in the country. Boasting an extremely glorious past, Teplice also has great potential today. www.czechtourism.com/t/teplice

3 Mariánské Lázně

It is actually thanks to Baroque that the youngest of the West Bohemian spas ever saw the light of the day. In the second half of the 18th century the place was still covered in dense forests, marshes and impassable paths. The fact that healing springs were hidden there

was then known only to a few monks from the nearby monastery in **Teplá**. They tried to make the area accessible, but were not very successful. It was not until 1779, when the monastery physician managed to persuade the abbot that the springs were really very beneficial and that he should personally try their effects. The abbot was very excited about the results of the water-based treatment. Seven years later, the monastery finally received permission to construct a spa building, the first house of the future town. Being one of the first noted guests to come here and sing the praises of Mariánské Lázně, **Goethe** remarked in 1820 that here he felt like he was in America, where a town would spring up from the wilderness in just three years. Although established quite late compared to other spas, its popularity rocketed, at one point surpassing even that of Karlovy Vary. Mariánské Lázně truly deserves its fame even today. www.marianskelazne.cz

Practical Information



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The Czech Republic is a landlocked country in Central Europe, bordering with Germany to the West, Poland to the North, Slovakia to the East and with Austria to the South. The outermost points of the country between West and East are 493 km apart, between North and South 278 km.

The Czech Republic is a member of the European Union. Since Jan. 1, 1993 it has been an independent state, previously it was part of Czechoslovakia. The territory of the Czech Republic consists of three historical lands – **Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia.**

Area: 78,864 km²
Capital City: Prague
Administrative Structure: 14 regions
System of Government: Parliamentary Republic
Population: 10.4 million
Religion: roughly two-thirds of the population are non-

believers, Catholicism is the most widely followed religion
Official Language: Czech
Time: the time zone is UTC + 1, both summer time and winter time are used
Currency: Czech koruna (CZK)
Dialling Code: + 420
Internet Domain: .cz



Important Telephone Numbers:

- 112** SOS Emergency Call
- 155** Emergency Medical Service
- 158** Police of the Czech Republic
- 156** Municipal Police
- 150** Fire Brigade

Transportation



The largest and major Czech airport is the Vaclav Havel Airport in Prague-Ruzyně, which meets all European standards and has three terminals.

In the Czech Republic, traffic drives on the right, speed limits: motorway/ outside of municipalities/in municipalities – 130/90/50 km/h.

The dense road network is dominated by 19 motorway sections totalling 1,247 km. Motorway use in the Czech Republic is subject to a fee via motorway toll stickers, which can be purchased at petrol stations or post offices; the drive-through toll is not paid by passenger cars.



Railway and bus services are widely used, including a network of cycle buses. Tourists can also opposing trademark for cableways and passenger boat traffic. Larger towns have very good public transport networks.

A good service is provided by the IDOS transport information system, which is a software interface searching for connections of different types of public transport, including combinations (www.idos.cz).

In the Czech Republic it is not permitted to drive after consuming any amount of alcohol whatsoever.



www.czechbaroque.com

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through all of your senses**

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