

HRADECKRÁLOVÉREGION

The Hradec Králové Region is located in the north-easter part of the Czech Republic. Thanks to its natural diversity and rich history, it is one of the most attractive destinations in Central Europe.

HRADECKRÁLOVÉ – A TEXTBOOK OF ARCHITECTURE

Hradec Králové is the largest city of the region, located 100 kilometers from Prague. In the Middle Ages it was a dower city of Czech queens, and a fortress town until mid-19th century. Each historical period left in the city architecture its imprint. This is why it is said that Hradec Králové is an open-air textbook of architecture, with Art-Nouveau and Functionalism strongly presented. Expressive houses, schools, and office buildings were designed by important architects of European renown: Jan Kotěra and Josef Gočár.

The White Tower Renaissance bell-tower, the Hradec Králové dominant, was reopened on 23 May, 2015 after a two-year renovation. The clock was repaired and a new bell bench was built to hold the third largest and second heaviest bell in the Czech Republic, named Augustine.

The sightseeing tours to the tower have become a new and unique experience thanks to the installation of a new audio-visual system combining lights, music, and images. The new glass model of the tower weighs one ton and measures 3.6 meters, and is the largest and heaviest glass object ever manufactured in the Czech Republic.

www.hradecko.eu

CHATEAUX ON THE RIVER ORLICE – AN ORLICKÉ HORY (EAGLE MOUNTAINS) PHENOMENON

Some 30 kilometers away from Hradec Králové, on the river Orlice, you can find five private chateaux: Častolovice (Neorenaissance), Nový Zámek in Kostelec nad Orlicí (Empire), Doudleby nad Orlicí (Renaissance), Poštějn (baroque), and Kolowrat in Rychnov nad Kněžnou that was - along with the frontispiece of the Holy Trinity church - designed by the famous baroque builder Jan Blažej Santini, and it is one of the grandest and most beautiful baroque complexes in the Czech Republic.

www.eaglemountains.cz/castles-chateaux

KRKONOŠE MOUNTAINS

Krkonoše is the highest mountain range in the Czech Republic and a popular destination for skiers and snowboardists in winter, and cyclists and hikers in summer. For its geological uniqueness and diverse flora and fauna it was proclaimed a National Park in 1963. You can reach Sněžka, the highest

Krkonoše peak (1603 m), from the tourist center Pec pod Sněžkou using a new cableway. In the ridge area you can find the springs of the river Elbe whose waterfall plummets down 40 meters to a glacier-created valley. It leaves the Czech Republic after 380 kilometers near Hřensko.

www.krkonose.eu

BROUMOV MONASTERY

The Broumov Benedictine monastery is a grandiose complex whose present shape is the result of a

baroque reconstruction by architect, K. I. Dientzenhofer (1723-1748). The Broumov monastery and its monastery garden underwent an extensive refurbishing last year. In 1999, a true copy of the Shroud of Turin was discovered on the ceiling of the St. Adalbert church. The monastery offers tours through its baroque interiors, including its unique library, the monastery garden, and the Modern Art Gallery. You can accommodate in the monastery Guest House, in the former cells for the monks.

www.broumovsko.cz

ZOO IN DVŮR KRÁLOVÉ

Do you like wild animals? Head to Dvůr Králové nad Labem where you can find one of the most beautiful zoos in the Czech Republic. On 60 hectares, it keeps the largest collection of African animals in Europe. The uniqueness of the zoo dwells both on the

diversity of the animals and the way how the animals are presented to the public. Along with a classical zoo section, you can go for a safari where, as in African national parks, there are no barriers between animals and people

www.zoodvurkralove.cz

KUKS HOSPITAL BAROQUE COMPLEX

Count František Antonín Špork built, 300 years ago, a spa with spa houses on the left bank of the Elbe, and a hospital for veterans, a hospital garden, and the Holy Trinity church with a family crypt on the right bank. At that time, Kuks became a European cultural center. The spa has not been preserved to present days, but the buildings on the right bank have remained to become a very special location. The majestic Kuks Hospital with the church and the terrace, and a group of allegoric sculptures of Virtues and Vices by Matyáš Braun dominates the entire valley. The two-year refurbishing of the buildings and the garden was finished in the spring. During the works, fifty murals from the 18th century were discovered that further increased the attractiveness of the complex. An educational marked trail takes you from Kuks to the nearby Braun's Bethlehem – world unique sculptures carved directly in the sandstone.

www.zkuskuks.cz

JOSEFOV FORTRESS CITY

The Josefov fortress is a unique work of European urbanism and the art of fortification. The fortress was built under the reign of the Hapsburg Emperor Josef II. Go to the rectangular streets of the fortress city, admire the mightiness and technical qualities of the ramparts and moats, and follow the steps of history alongside unknown soldiers and famous generals. You can also visit the "Joseph Festival" and see the battle for the fortress on 18 July 2015; and during the "Living Josefov", on 24 – 26 July 2015, you can learn about the civic life in the former fortress city, and the regular daily life in the military camp.

www.pevnostjosefov.cz

www.kladskepomezi.cz

KOST CASTLE

The Kost castle is one of the most beautiful and best preserved Gothic castles in the Czech Lands. It was founded in the 14th century and, reportedly, was never conquered. The castle is located on a mighty sandstone promontory at a meeting point of two rocky valleys. One of the features of the castle is a tower with a trapezoidal ground plan.

For its atmosphere and charming interiors, the castle is a sought-after location for both domestic and foreign filmmakers, and has appeared in numerous movies such as the Brothers Grimm, and Hanibal.

www.kost-hrad.cz

www.cesky-raj.info

