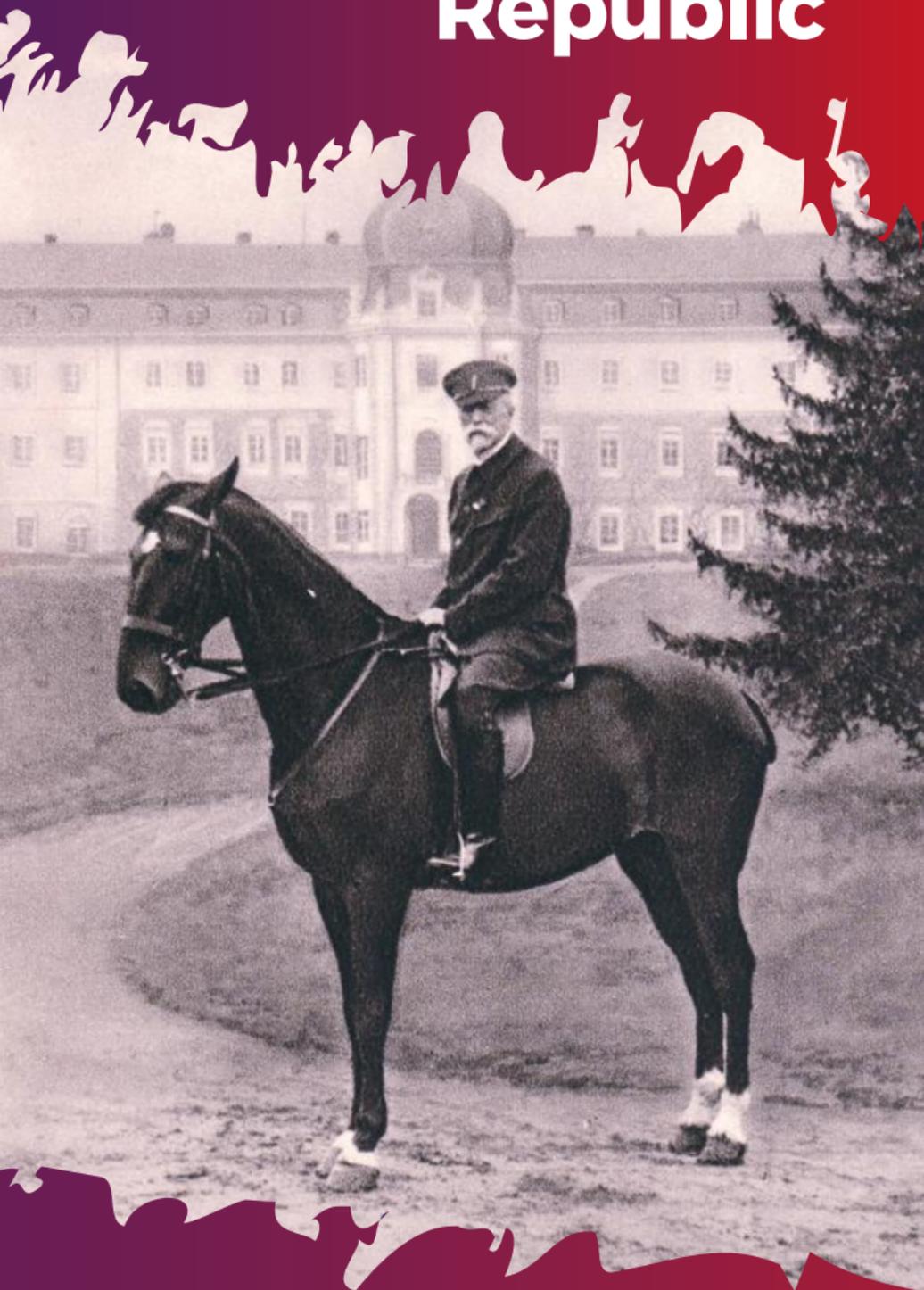


Central Bohemia Tourist Board

Central Bohemia during the First Republic



Foreword

To mark the centenary of the Czech(oslovak) Republic we have prepared some interesting outings around Central Bohemia for your enjoyment. We'll take you to places linked to the First Republic and to some of the 'great and the good' historical figures who shaped the cultural, social, political as well as the industrial, scientific and technical scene between the wars. On the following pages are places to discover around Prague that we're sure you'll find most rewarding to visit.

You can choose between the three routes below, or combine them, so as to experience the atmosphere of the First Republic first-hand.

Nora Dolanská,
Director of the Central Bohemia Tourist Board

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THE FIRST REPUBLIC

On 28 October 1918, Czech statehood began a new chapter. In the aftermath of WWI and the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, an independent Czechoslovak State came into being. This State, common to the Czechs and Slovaks, had been conceived, proposed, and promoted by resistance leaders in exile, headed by **Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk**, who was also to be elected the first Czechoslovak President.

Society and Politics

The period of the First Republic glows with a golden aura in our collective memory; the blossoming of a new State, and of society as a whole. Hand in hand with social and cultural development came a burgeoning of culture, science and business.

Culture and Science

The inter-war period was a high point for 20th century Czech literature and drama. It gave rise to many hall-marks of Czech culture. One of the most significant writers of the time was Karel Čapek, also a close friend of T. G. Masaryk, who in turn was the focus of many personalities of the then intellectual elite.

Modern Architecture

The emergence of an independent Czechoslovakia after World War I also prompted the development of architecture and civil engineering. The new State extended over what had been the economically most developed territories of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and so was more than able to embark on sizeable construction projects. There was a need for new buildings to cater for the incipient State offices, banks, schools, factories and social facilities. The modern era brought with it a host of new architectural trends, with Czech Cubism prominently taking its place alongside Functionalism.

Industry

After the war, Czechoslovakia followed up on its industrial heritage and very quickly found its place among the world's industrial powerhouses. Numerous new industrial plants sprang up, and the more traditional brands stepped into the modern era. There was a commensurate boom in the financial sector – giving rise to sizeable banks and credit unions. Agriculture, too, enjoyed growth, working closely with industry. Czechoslovakia ranked high among the world's exporters of sugar, beer and hops, with a flourishing food industry (breweries, sugar refineries...). Large industrial centres, in the regions of Pilsen, Kladno and Ostrava focused on engineering, chemicals, and the mining of raw materials, especially coal.

Sport

The burgeoning of industry and modern technology in the early 20th century brought new opportunities to sport, too. Perhaps the most striking novelty of the period in this respect was automotive sport, which quickly gained wider popularity. More traditional sports did not lag behind, however. Taking pride of place in Czech and Slovak sport was the Sokol (Falcon) movement, whose main goal was to foster physical and moral development in society. Sokol was also historically closely linked with the national revival movement. At this time, many modern sports facilities were built, the "sokolovny", or Sokol sports halls.

Route Map



Route I

Nižbor (glassworks) – **Lány** (Castle, T.G.M. Museum) – **Rakovník** ('Sokolovna') – **Kralupy nad Vltavou** (Masaryk bridge)

Going by car from Nižbor to Lány takes about 20 minutes by road II/116, from Lány to Rakovník it is about 20 km or 23 minutes taking roads II/227 and II/236, and from Rakovník about 50 minutes (55 km) taking road II/227, followed by the D6 motorway, which you leave at exit 25, continuing along II/236 and I/16, then down II/240 to Kralupy nad Vltavou.

Route II

Hrusice (J. Lada memorial) – **Ondřejov** (observatory) – **Konopiště** (castle) – **Štěchovice** (reservoir dam, the St John Rapids educational trail) – **Stará Huť/Strž** (K. Čapek memorial) – **Mníšek pod Brdy** (château) – **Zbraslav - Jíloviště** (rally course)

Going by car from the village of Hrusice to Ondřejov takes about 7 minutes along road III/3353, turning right onto road II/335. The drive from Ondřejov to Konopiště is about 22 km. First, take road III/6031, then 14 km along road I/3, then turn onto road III/1061 towards Konopiště. From Konopiště head



out about 7 km along road III/1057, then along road III/1056 and then 8 km down road II/106 to Štěchovice. From Štěchovice you'll go 10.2 km along road II/102, then turn right onto road II/114. After 10 km on you'll reach Stará Huť at the Strž pond, directed by brown route signs to the Karel Čapek memorial. From the Memorial, you'll take road II/114 towards the D4. Leave the D4 at exit 18 onto road II/116 towards Mníšek pod Brdy. From Mníšek pod Brdy it takes about 10 minutes to reach Jíloviště along the D4 motorway.

Route III

Mladá Boleslav (Škoda museum) – **Dobrovice** (sugar factory) – **Lysá nad Labem** (Benies villa) – **Poděbrady** (spa, hydroelectric plant) – **Libodřice** (Bauer's villa)

Leave Ml. Boleslav (Škoda auto) by car and drive some 13.2 km to Dobrovice along the D10, turning off at exit 39 and following road I/16. From Dobrovice drive about 30 km to Lysá nad Labem - Litol (Benies Villa) along road III/01013, then along the I/38 toward motorway D10, leaving the motorway at exit 27 onto road II/272. From the municipality of Litol you head out toward Poděbrady along road II/272 onto the D11 motorway, leaving at junction 35 onto road II/329 and then continue along the II/611 to Poděbrady. From Poděbrady, head for about 25 km along the II/611, followed by the I/38, then down the I/12, from which you turn onto the III/12541, and road III/12538 brings you to Libodřice.

Route I

By taking Route I, you will get acquainted with the production of crystal glass in Nižbor; take a stroll through the Castle Park in Lány; see an exhibition on the life of the first Czechoslovak President T. G. Masaryk, as well as a presentation about the First Republic period, and about the Czechoslovak Legions. To round things off, you can enjoy the distinctive technical landmarks in Rakovník and Kralupy nad Vltavou.



NIŽBOR GLASSWORKS

traditional Bohemian crystal production

The history of the glassworks in Nižbor, in the Křivoklát district, dates back to its inception in 1903. The founder, Antonín Rückl, belonged to a well-established glassmaking family, which had indeed built several other glassworks. In 1923 these glassworks were combined into a Rückl family-owned joint-stock company, making almost the entire range of domestic and decorative glassware between the wars. In 1945, all businesses were nationalized, however. The glassmaking business returned to its rightful family owners, or indeed their heirs, only in 1992. That year, the glassworks was put back into production by Jiří Rückl, who died in September 2017 aged 77.

In addition to utilitarian and decorative objects such as hand cut crystal glass, the glass factory also makes sporting trophies and cups. Their creations include the Czech Lion Prize statuette, or the President's Cup. During the glassworks tour you'll learn about the various stages of producing crystal glass by hand; the furnaces, the craftsmanship of glass-making, marking up and grinding.



Lánská 141
267 05 Nižbor

GPS: 50.0033236N, 14.0004336



www.ruckl.cz



LÁNY CHÂTEAU

The summer residence of Czechoslovak and Czech Presidents

The Baroque chateau in the village of Lány near Prague, set among the Křivoklát forests, has since 1921 been the official summer residence of Czech(oslovak) Presidents, and as such, not open to the public. It opens its doors on days commemorating the birth and death of T. G. Masaryk. Otherwise, you can visit the large Castle Park, and the Palm House, which dates from 1879. The park covers an area of 110 hectares (272 acres) and is open from the beginning of March to the end of October. Also accessible is a showpiece section of the Lány deer-park, with a wooden viewing tower overlooking the deer range. You can also take a walk along a 5-km nature trail connecting the village of Lány with this showpiece section of the deer-park.

The first President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk was very fond of Lány Chateau. After his abdication from the Office of President in 1935, he relocated here for good. He came to choose Lány as the final resting place for himself and his family. The Masaryk family tomb at Lány cemetery reminded of Czechoslovak democracy even during times of oppression.



Zámecká ulice
270 61 Lány

GPS: 50.1239319N, 13.9562403E



www.hrad.cz/en/prague-castle-for-visitors/other/the-lany-chateau-10272



THE T. G. MASARYK MUSEUM AT LÁNY

exhibitions and exhibits of the First Republic era, of T. G. Masaryk and of the Czechoslovak Legions

The Museum guides you through exhibits about the first Czechoslovak President, presenting not only the Masaryk family, but also the Czechoslovak Legions and the First Republic period itself. A nearby Lány building houses a historical overview of the Czech Red Cross and the personal history of Alice G. Masaryk. The exhibits are divided up by subject – T. G. M. and his family, T. G. M. and his time as an academic, T. G. M. and World War I, the presidential period and, last but not least, T. G. M. and the First Republic, encompassing life in 1918-1938 society. The newly refurbished Museum has a study room on the ground floor, a café, a lecture hall for concerts and exhibitions and features a compact exhibit about the Lány municipality in the café.



Zámecká 197
270 61 Lány

GPS: 50.1259297N, 13.9551086E



www.muzeumtgm.cz



SOKOLOVNA RAKOVNÍK

The Rakovník 'White House'

This geometrically modern building by Prague architect Otakar Novotný dates from 1913-1914 and is characterized by an indented, unplastered, white brick façade, giving rise to the 'White House' epithet for the sokolovna. It was opened on 13 June 1914 and immediately became the sports and social hub of the town of Rakovník. The elegant and showy building has hosted e.g. the world-renowned tenor Karel Burian. In 1926 it became the venue for the fervent welcoming of President T. G. Masaryk during his official visit to Rakovník. Nowadays the sokolovna is used exclusively for sports purposes.



Tyršova 733
269 01 Rakovník

GPS: 50.1021839N, 13.7331739E



www.sokolkarakovnik.cz



MASARYK BRIDGE – KRALUPY NAD VLTAVOU

to this day the only bridge across the River Vltava in Kralupy nad Vltavou and the surrounding area

The Masaryk bridge in Kralupy nad Vltavou connects both banks of the Vltava River and is still the only road bridge over the Vltava River at this location. Its construction between 1926-1928 was the culmination of many years of effort by the town. This reinforced concrete bridge spans the Vltava River with one arc stretched between two embankments. The construction is quite singular, with the central arch spanning 80 metres (as no pillars were allowed to obstruct the river). The bridge project was drawn up by Jarolím Farský and Jiří Kroha. During the First Republic, tolls were charged for crossing the bridge. The toll revenues were to help with the upkeep. The tollhouse on the Kralupy bank of the bridge is still there, though its door and window are now walled-up. On both sides of the bridge are granite commemorative plaques, one carries a description of the construction of the bridge and an embossed coat of arms of the town, the second bears a relief portrait of the bridge namesake, T. G. Masaryk.



Mostní
278 01 Kralupy nad Vltavou

GPS: 50.244465N, 14.313318E

Route II

On route II you'll take a look at the unforgettable illustrations and books by Josef Lada; in Ondřejov Observatory you'll see the largest telescope in Czechia; at Konopiště you'll get a reminder of the Sarajevo assassination as well as the life of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his family. After that you can enjoy a stroll through the beautiful natural surroundings of the Štěchovice reservoir, at the Karel Čapek memorial at Strž you'll get to take a look at memorabilia, documents and hitherto unseen mementos of this influential writer. In Mníšek pod Brdy you will learn about the lives of the aristocracy in the First Republic, and finally take a drive down memory lane, remembering the first Czech lady car racing driver Eliška Junková.



JOSEF LADA MEMORIAL IN HRUSICE

the summer villa of the Lada family, with an exhibition on the life of this Czech painter

The memorial is itself the Lada family's summer villa, built by Josef Lada in the 1930s. It was given over to the nation by his daughter Alena in the 1960s, so as to house the commemorative Josef Lada Museum.

The Museum presents the vigorous life and work of Josef Lada, the Czech painter, writer and illustrator, well known for his portrayal of Hašek's Good Soldier Schweik.



Č.p. 115
251 66 Hrusice

GPS: 49.90914N, 14.78134E



www.joseflada.cz/en/ladas-region/memorial-museum/



ONDŘEJOV OBSERVATORY

a very notable European scientific workplace

Ondřejov Observatory has stood on Žalov hill, above the village of Ondřejov, for over a hundred years. It is one of the most important scientific institutions of its kind in Europe. The whole surrounding area is landscaped as a large park with rare trees and numerous modern sculptures. Set in these surroundings are the Art Nouveau building and dome of the original Observatory, designed by the architect Josef Fanta. As part of the guided tour of the Observatory you'll see the largest telescope in the Czech Republic, whose main mirror is 2 metres across, housed in an instrument weighing some 200 tonnes in all.



Fričova 298
251 65 Ondřejov

GPS: 49.9101750N, 14.7800089E



www.asu.cas.cz



KONOPIŠTĚ CASTLE

the main seat of the successor to the Hapsburg throne Franz Ferdinand d'Este and his wife Sophie Chotek

Originally a castle from the 13th century, modelled after French fortresses, it owes its current appearance to the turn of the 19th and 20th century. At that time, the castle was owned by Archduke Franz Ferdinand d'Este, the successor to the Austrian throne, and its last aristocratic owner, who had it adapted to the romantic castle style.

The castle exhibits are in part devoted to important historical events – the assassination of Franz Ferdinand d'Este in Sarajevo, regarded as one of the events that sparked off World War I in July 1914. You'll see exhibits from the private life of the Archduke and his family. As part of the guided tours you'll get to see reception and guest rooms, a collection of weaponry and many hunting trophies.

Since 2015 the Hunter tour includes a secret staircase in the tower, connecting the study rooms of Ferdinand d'Este and of his wife Princess Sophie of Hohenberg, née Chotek. Along this route you will also see hunting corridors full of trophies, the armoury, the Chamois and Antler rooms, the library, or the shooting gallery with acoustic and moving targets. You can visit the extensive castle park, which includes three nature trails and greenhouses with rare flowers on an expanse of 340 hectares (840 acres).



Konopiště 1
256 01 Benešov

GPS: 49.7795586N, 14.6568056E



www.zamek-konopiste.cz/en



ŠTĚCHOVICE RESERVOIR

the construction of the Vltava River waterworks and their significance

In the early part of the 20th century the Vltava river was widely used for lumber rafting and classic river-borne transport, especially of wood, stone and salt. After WWI came the proposal to build two high reservoir dams, at Slapy and Orlik. The first two waterworks of the cascade, at Vrané and Štěchovice, were built in the 1930s, largely for navigational purposes. The Štěchovice lake is the smallest of the Vltava cascade reservoirs, at 7.4 km long and covering an area of 114 hectares (282 acres).

You can visit the Štěchovice hydroelectric plant, where you'll see as part of your guided tour a set of informative display panels about the beauties of local wildlife and the environs, interesting and unique photos from the history of the construction of the power-plant. Also included is a trip to see the power-plant in action.

Or take a lovely stroll through the 'St John Rapids' nature trail between Štěchovice and Třebenice, some 8.5 km long. In Nové Třebenice you can board a river paddle-steamer back to Štěchovice, or the shuttle bus. The display panels tell of local municipal history, the Štěchovice and Slapy dam, the St John Rapids, natural beauty spots, rafting or hiking and living the outdoor life ("tramping"). The trail was much hiked between the wars, and backwoods settlements sprang up along the Vltava.



Prof. Lista 329
252 07 Štěchovice

GPS: 49.8430350N, 14.4499028E



THE KAREL ČAPEK MEMORIAL AT STRŽ

the summer residence of the writer Karel Čapek

Set in a beautiful landscape of forests and lakes around Dobříš, the house where the writer Karel Čapek resided between 1935-1938 is well worth a visit. It features an exhibit devoted to the life and work of Karel Čapek, his wife Olga Scheinpflugová and the journalist Ferdinand Peroutka.

After WWI the house was acquired from the Colloredo-Mansfeld family by their estate manager Václav Palivec, who in 1935 donated the Empire style house as a wedding gift, for the lifelong use of Karel Čapek and Olga Scheinpflugová. The writer spent the following years tending to the house and garden. It was at this time that he penned his literary works (e.g. War with the Newts, Travels in the North, The White Disease, The First Rescue Party, the Life and Work of the Composer Foltýn). He also hosted 'the great and the good' of Czech culture and politics, especially so in the summer of 1938.

In April 2017, a new exhibition was opened to the public, presenting as yet unseen memorabilia items and archival documents relating to the author's life. You can round off your visit with a seven-kilometre walk in the footsteps of Karel Čapek, where he used to go as a Strž resident.



Stará Huť 125
262 02 Dobříš

GPS: 49.7737992N, 14.2070708E



www.capek-karel-pamatnik.cz



MNÍŠEK POD BRDY CHÂTEAU

how the aristocracy lived

The First Republic period is brought to life by guided tours of the chateau. You will see the residence and lifestyle of early 20th century nobility, the period furnishings of reception rooms, including the hunting salon, the library, the winter dining room, the preparation room, the study, etc. Another guided tour circuit takes you into the private rooms of the last owners, the Kast family. You'll get to see the private bedrooms, children's rooms, bathrooms. Everything is duly furnished down to the smallest detail, including the toys and teaching aids of the period.



nám. F. X. Svobody 1
252 10 Mníšek pod Brdy

GPS: 49.8682381N, 14.2582911E



www.zamek-mnisek.cz



ZBRASLAV – JÍLOVIŠTĚ ROAD RACE

to commemorate the Czech lady car-racer Eliška Junková

The Zbraslav – Jíloviště uphill race had its première on 25 March 1908, organized by the Czech Motorcycle and Automobile Club. Of the 17 motorcycles and 16 cars taking part the first champions were the domestic brands of Laurin & Klement and Walter.

The famous race is retraced every year at the beginning of September, with a veteran car race to the hilltop. It also honours the legendary Czech lady car racer Eliška Junková. This lady, well ahead of her time, raced Bugatti cars, and in the 1920s was the only one to give the men a run for their money in Grand Prix racing. She made history with her success in the Zbraslav – Jíloviště race, which she won outright in 1926.

You can trace the route by bicycle, car or motorbike, or even walk it, to this very day. This lovely walk through wooded terrain with vistas of Vrané nad Vltavou is 4.5 km long.



Zbraslavské nám.
156 00 Praha-Zbraslav

GPS: 49.976146N, 14.393401E



www.zbraslav-jiloviste.cz

Route III

Route III will take you to see the production sites of Škoda Auto; in Dobruška you'll find out all about sugar and its manufacture; you'll get to admire the Cubist features of the Benies villa, as well as taking a stroll through the beautiful spa park in Poděbrady. Here you can see one of the oldest buildings on the Elbe River, the Poděbrady hydroelectric power-plant. And finally, you are encouraged to visit the beautiful Cubist villas in Libodřice.



ŠKODA MUSEUM

during the First Republic, Škoda ownership was a mark of prestige

In 1895 the “Laurin & Klement” joint venture was founded in Mladá Boleslav by Václav Laurin and Václav Klement. This went on to become the ŠKODA company, and is thus one of the oldest automotive brands in the world.

The automobile manufacturer’s history is brought to life in the museum, located in the historic production halls. You can follow up your visit to the museum with a look at the adjacent production lines.

The period of the First Republic gave an impetus to the surge of the brand in the newly formed Czechoslovak Republic and it became the flagship of Czech industry.



tř. Václava Klementa 294
293 60 Mladá Boleslav

GPS: 50.4187919N, 14.9139031E



www.museum.skoda-auto.cz



DOBROVICE SUGAR FACTORY / DISTILLERY

one of the oldest sugar-beet sugar factories in the world

Sugar has been refined in the town of Dobrovice near Mladá Boleslav since 1831, more than 185 years non-stop. The sugar mill has undergone significant modernization in recent years and today stands as the largest such in Central and Eastern Europe. The Dobrovice region is rightly called the cradle of the Czech sugar industry. The memorable museum exhibition next to the factory tells you all you need to know about the cultivation and selective growing of sugar beet, the history of sugar and alcohol production, as well as current trends. The display items include a sugar loaf, scale-model of the sugar refinery and distillery, classic farm machinery and the various manufacturing technologies. As for the town itself, showcased here is a stone-age prehistoric, 5500-year-old statue of a little ram, discovered locally. The seasonal guided tours of the sugar refinery and the distillery company Tereos TTD, a. s. in production are much acclaimed.



Dobrovická muzea, o.p.s.
Palackého nám. 2, 294 41 Dobrovice

GPS: 50.3661747N, 14.9639181E



en.dobrovickamuzea.cz



BENIES VILLA IN LYSÁ NAD LABEM

a villa designed by Emil Králíček, with a remarkable roof garden

In 1912, the Viennese sugar-baron and entrepreneur, Michael Benies had an unusual villa built near his sugar refinery, in the municipality of Litol near Lysá nad Labem. This he then gave as a wedding gift to his daughter, who was getting married to the Viennese diplomat, Dr Heinrich Benedict. It is one of the most remarkable Cubist buildings in the Czech Republic, designed by the prominent Czech architect Emil Králíček. The biggest oddity, and one which put the Benies house among the architectural landmarks of its time, was a roof garden on a flat roof, something utterly novel in 1912. After the war, the house served as the sugar refinery's administrative building. This was in turn demolished in the 1990s, and the villa's beautiful garden destroyed. These days, you can at least appreciate the villa's exterior.



Lysá nad Labem – Litol
Sídliště č.p. 1461/44
289 22 Lysá nad Labem

GPS: 50.1866775N, 14.8497250E



PODĚBRADY SPA

an oasis of tranquillity, nature and history

The spa town of Poděbrady is located some 50 km east of Prague in the Elbe river basin lowlands. The city is renowned for its spa, focused on the treatment of ailments of the heart and circulatory system. The spa zone is also known for its parks, two colonnades and a promenade centre. The spa park is a popular haven, a place of relaxation not just for the spa visitors. In the midst of the park you'll find the Libenský Colonnade dating from 1938, and welcoming you at its entrance, a statue of T. G. Masaryk, by the sculptor Otto Gutfreund, which was ceremonially revealed here in 1927. You'll be sure to admire the flowerbed clock, the Villa Kouřimka (which makes an appearance in the 'Rose Garden Clinic' television series) as well as the Ober-eigner Villa, designed by the architect Josef Fanta. At the end of the Colonnade you can peruse the railway station building constructed in 1932, a highly regarded architectural gem, as the oldest Functionalist station in the Czech Republic.

Famous Czech visitors to the spa include Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, Karel Kramář, Edvard Beneš, Vlasta Burian, František Halas, Franz Kafka, Emmy Destinn, but also Václav Havel, Miloš Forman, and many more.



Jiřího náměstí 39/15
290 33 Poděbrady

GPS: 50.1427006N, 15.1183511E



www.lazne-podebrady.cz/en



PODĚBRADY HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER-PLANT

one of the oldest technical works on the Elbe

1914 saw the start of construction of the river locks, and a year later of the hydroelectric power station. The building project was delayed by the outbreak of WWI. Construction was finally completed in 1923. The Poděbrady hydroelectric power-plant is one of the oldest buildings of its kind on the Elbe River. The project was developed by the locally born architect Antonín Engel. He designed the power-plant building in neo-classical style, with Cubist elements. The Poděbrady hydroelectric generating station itself has survived to this day, and is still running, with all its technical features largely in their original form.



Vodní elektrárna Poděbrady
Labská 71, 290 02 Poděbrady

GPS: 50.1388225N, 15.1215067E



BAUER'S VILLA

a peerless Czech Cubist villa by Josef Gočár

Bauer's Villa is a great example of Cubist architecture, situated near Kolín, designed and built between 1912–1914 for local estate owner Adolf Bauer by the excellent architect Josef Gočár.

The Villa is accessible to the public as a cultural monument, evoking the ambience of the early 20th century, since it has been refurbished to its original form. The surviving elements include the fireplace, the wooden fitted wardrobe, the bookcase, bathroom fittings and the technical infrastructure of the villa.

On the first floor, you'll find an exhibition devoted to Czech Cubism, Josef Gočár and the original villa owners, Adolf Bauer and family.



Libodřice č.p. 111
280 02, Libodřice

GPS: 50.006316N, 15.087656E



www.nck.cz/bauerova-vila/en/index.php



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at Lány, Roman Fiala, Pavel Frič

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Further publications:



Majestic
Accommodation



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Tourist Board**



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