



The ruin Košumberk

The pilgrim Church of the Virgin Mary dominates the city's skyline. It was built at the basalt hillock Chlumek nad Luží by an Italian architect G. B. Alliprandi in conformity with the project of P. I. Bayer in 1690-95. The decoration of the interior was designed for example by woodcarver J. F. Pacák and painter J. J. Heintsche. This is a unique baroque building.



The pilgrim church in Luže

Nové Hradý

If we travel through the Litomyšl region, we should not forget to visit Nové Hradý. The rococo castle Nové Hradý was built by Jan Antonín Harbuval-Chamaré in 1773-83 according to a principle of the strict axial symmetry. The castle has been repaired recently and it is open for the public. Sometimes it is called "The East Bohemian Versailles".



The castle Nové Hradý

Proseč

The village is known primarily because of the pipe production. For the first time the village was mentioned in 1349 when it was a part of the Litomyšl domain. The dominant gothic St. Nicholas's Church is situated in the middle of the cylindrical main square. The only preserved civic house was built on three carved pillars in the end of the 18th century. Currently there is a seat of a museum with an exposition of the pipes. In 1903-12 the village was a home of writer Teréza Nováková and during the World War II it was a shelter of Thomas Mann.



The Pipe Museum in Proseč

Ústí nad Orlicí region



The square in Ústí nad Orlicí

Jan Pernér MSc

(1815-1845) an innovator of the railway transport in Bohemia.

Jan Pernér was a son of a miller from Bratčice, later the Pernér's family moved to Pardubice. He was a designer and a builder of the main imperial railroad Olomouc – Česká Třebová – Pardubice – Prague. He was an engine-driver in the first train to Prague in 1845. Pernér tragically died when he was 30. He was wounded during one of the first train drives at the mentioned railroad near Chocen on 9th of September 1845 and died in his father's mill-house in Pardubice on 10th September 1845.



Ústí nad Orlicí

In the middle of the 13th century an original Slavonic settlement started to spread there during the reign of King Přemysl Otakar II and the foundation of the current city was laid. A textile industry and an engineering industry started to develop in the middle of the 19th century owing to the construction of the railway from Olomouc to Prague. These facts had a controlling influence to the city being that since then it has been called "The East Bohemian Manchester". Unfortunately the local significant textile company Perla was dissolved and a long tradition of the textile industry finished on 30th September 2009 due to the world financial crisis. The city can be proud of a great architectonical inheritance. We should remind the provost Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary or the oldest building of the Unity of the

Brethren in the functional style designed by architect Kamil Roškot and built in the middle of the 16th century. Furthermore there is a Hernych's villa in the Art Nouveau style or the sculpture of the drumming legionnaire created by Josef Mařatka.

Česká Třebová

The only Romanesque style rotunda in the Eastern Bohemia region is located in Česká Třebová. It is a part of the St. Catherine's Chapel and we can find it in the middle of the cemetery on the right riverbank of the river Třebovka.



The Romanesque rotunda in Česká Třebová

The previous stone rotunda was built in the middle of the 13th century and about one century years later it was rebuilt to the gothic style.

Vraclav

One of the oldest Slavonic settlements in the region is placed not far from Vysoké Mýto. The village was established at the hillock called Vraclav or originally Vratislav. The settlement was founded in the middle of the 11th century to protect the local trade route. The first mentions from 1073 and 1088 are a little bit disputable, but the Kosmos's inscription about the slaughter of the family of Vršovci from 26th of October 1108 is considered to be true. Vraclav was a significant and strategic point until the foundation of the nearby royal town Vysoké Mýto in the middle of the 13th century. Vraclav was soon abandoned. The remains of the settlement were later used to the construction of the baroque St. Nicholas's Church and the last pieces of walls were used in the 19th century for the construction of the surrounding buildings. In 1908 the memorial of the slaughter of the family of Vršovci was revealed there.

Vysoké Mýto

The history of Vysoké Mýto is quite long. The first mention comes from 1256. The town is situated at the Trstenická trade route and it became the Bohemian dowry town in the 14th century. The symmetrical plan of the city with the central square in the middle is original. The square is one of the largest squared ones in Bohemia. In the centre of the city there are naturally the most noticeable monuments as the gothic St. Lawrence's Cathedral, the belfry from the 16th century, the Choceň tower, the Prague and Litomyšl gates. Also the water tower and the monastery tower are in the walls.

The provost St. Lawrence's Church was founded in the end of the 13th century. Firstly it was mentioned in 1249. The church was damaged by a fire several times and for the last time in 1744. The baroque Communion table was bought from the cancelled Cistercian monastery in Sedlec near Kutná Hora and it was installed together with the Brandl's painting of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in 1787. The church was exigently rebuilt in 1892-1904 to the gothic style. The restoration was made under the direction of architects F. Schmoranz and J. Mocker.

Dobříkov u Chocně

The distinct dominant of the city is the wooden folk building with the tower covered by a shingled roof. The church was originally built in 1679 in Velká Kopaň in Carpathian Ruthenia and it was carried to Dobříkov in 1930 owing to the senator Václav Klofáč. The church was damaged then and the tower was not completed. After the reconstruction it was donated to the Czechoslovakian Hussite Church. The church is made from the oaken planks in the byzantine-gothic style.



The wooden church in Dobříkov



St. Václav's Church in Letohrad and the detail of the sculptural decoration of the plague column in the square



You can see the carved loggias with the folk ornaments indoors. In the castles' neighbourhood you can find the remainders of the gothic-renaissance fortress.

Letohrad

The town can be proud of the early baroque castle and the unique baroque granary where the crafts museum is placed. Current castle was built in 1680-85 at the place where the original fortress was situated. The period owner was the earl Hynek Jetřich Vitanovský of Vlčkovice. Next to the castle there is a baroque chapel with remarkable stucco decorations (nowadays it is the St. Václav's Church). Especially the stuccos by G. Maderna at the arch of the nave are precious. The biggest and substantial reconstruction was made in the 1990s. In autumn 2002 the first little exposition was opened in the castle. Let us move to the main square of Letohrad now. There you can see the 15 m high plague column with a gilded sculpture of the Virgin Mary. It is also decorated by the sculptures of Saint Karel Bartolomějský, St. Florian, St. Roch and St. Šebestián.

Žamberk

The town was founded approximately at the end of the 13th century. The first mention comes from 1341 when the confiscated possession including the Žamberk town was returned to Jan of Potštejn and his under-aged brothers by King Jan Lucemburský. At the end of the 16th century the domain of Mikuláš of Bubno was moved from the castle Litice to Žamberk, where he built a renaissance castle. The current form of the castle was created in 1810-1815. The massive two-towered St. Václav's Church is regarded the dominant building of the city. The previous wooden church was established in 1369, but afterwards it burnt down and then it was built again in 1729-38 under the management of the architect D. T. Morazzi from Chrudim. The side Communion table was decorated by the painting of St. Antonius made by the Czech baroque genius Petr Brandl.



St. Václav's Church in the centre of Žamberk

Litice nad Orlicí

In the high colonization era of the region during 13th and 14th century a gothic castle was built at the promontory above the village Litice nad Orlicí. The time when the castle was a property of King Jiří of Poděbrady is considered to be its most glorious period. Nowadays the building of the southern palace with a high prismatic tower is in the best condition.

Kláštorec nad Orlicí

At the periphery of the town we can recognize the gothic Church of the Saint Cross, built probably at the end of the 13th century. According to the bull of Pope Bonifác VIII from 1295 the monastery belonged to the Order of the Cyriacs, also known as the Orlitz. The monastery came to an end in 1421. Only the church was saved and then repaired in 1452. The south-western corner is regarded a rarity because of the paintings with Czech inscriptions from the middle of the 15th century, discovered in the 1950s. There are two small devils with strange-shaped tails pictured in the paintings. Neither the meaning of the paintings nor the place of their origin is obvious. The reason for being put at the ecclesiastical building and then immediately removed by the Catholic Church remains is a mystery.

Lanškroun

The city was founded perhaps in the middle of the 13th century as one of the centres of the Lanšperk domain. The first mention is from 1258. The monastery that was established there at the end of the 13th century was destroyed during the Hussite period. The family of Kostka of Postupim were the next owners of the town and they rebuilt the rest of the monastery to the castle around 1507. It was damaged during the Thirty Year's War by the Swedish army. After 1858 the majority of the buildings were pulled down and the whole area was formed as a square. Nowadays it is called the Jirásek's square. Also the west wing of the original monastery building was changed into a school.

Previous gothic style provost St. Václav's Church is first-ly mentioned in 1350. The gothic cathedral burnt down in 1645, then it was repaired and eight years later the aisle was added. Until the 18th century there was no tower. The com-



The ruin Žampach

plete reconstruction was finished in the 19th century.

We are certainly interested also in the ruins of the Orlicko-ústecký region. For example the ruin of **Lanšperk** (founded during the reign of King Přemysl Otakar II), **Brandýs nad Orlicí** (known especially thanks to the stay of Jan Amos Komenský in the 1620s) and **Žampach**. The last mentioned one is renowned as a residence of the marauding knight Jan of Smojno, also called The Armour. The Armour was dubbed a knight by King Charles IV. However when he started to rob the surroundings the emperor came with troops and had him hanged in 1356. Previously Žampach used to be a mighty castle but nowadays we can find only some remains of the walls and the gate. The whole palace almost disappeared.



One of the timbered houses in Jablonné nad Orlicí

Jablonné nad Orlicí

Jablonné nad Orlicí is known primarily owing to the several curbed wooden houses that are situated on the main square. They were recorded in 1304. In addition, you can find here a significant ecclesiastical monument at the knoll above the city. A baroque St. Bartholomew's Church with rococo decorations was established in 1725. Nearby there is a morque and an interesting graveyard's gate from 1730 with the sculptures of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Králíky

Although Králíky is one of the youngest towns in the region, it has a long-standing wood carving tradition. The first mention comes from 1577. Not far from the city on the peak originally named Lysá hora, there was built a baroque pilgrim Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. It was established at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries by the bishop Tobiáš Jan Becker from Hradec Králové. At first in 1701-04 he built the cloisters and then in the alley, which leads from the city, he founded eight hexagonal chapels. In the 18th century a valuable sculptural group of the Stations of the Cross was added there (several sculptures are currently exposed in the pilgrim St. Nicholas's Church in the Vraclav village near Vysoké Mýto). The construction was successfully finished with the building of the monastery at the beginning of the 18th century.

The entrance gate at the Stations of the Cross to the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary



Šumperk and Jeseník region



The castle in Velké Losiny

From the Králíky region we pass by the massif of Krállický Sněžník to the Hanušovice village, where we can turn off to the south to Kopřivná and visit the ruins Nový hrad. At one time it was one of the largest castle complexes in the North Moravia. Its proud silhouette of the walls and the tower dominated the local area along the Morava River in the 14th and 15th century.

Kolštejn

After the excursion we return to the original route and we head for the **Branná** village (since 1949 it has been called Kolštejn). The ruin of **Kolštejn** is situated at the rocky promontory above the valley of the Branná River. Its strategic location helped to protect the former road leading from Moravia to Silesia. The castle is shielded by the wide renaissance castle from the north. The first written record of the castle is stated in the document from 3 May, 1325. The inscription confirmed the trade between Jan Wustenhube and the monastery in Kamienec Żąbkowicki. A late renaissance church is also a notable monument of the village.



The late renaissance church in Branná

Jeseník

The town was established at the confluence of two mountain rivers Staříč and Bělá. The first settlers started to name the town Frývaldov (frei vom Walde). The name was not changed until 1947 when the town was renamed to Jeseník. Thanks to the enlargement of the ironstone, silver and gold, the mining the city was awarded the mining status in 1506. As early as the 16th century the mining industry decreased and finally came to an end. The inhabitants worked especially at the linen industry. The water fort Jeseník is placed near the Bělá River to the east from the square. The fort was surrounded by

Vincenz Priessnitz

(1799 – 1851), lived in Gräfenberg at Frývaldov (nowadays called Lázně Jeseník), was a founder of natural healing. He promoted treating illnesses with work, fresh air and pure mountain water. Thus he founded hydrotherapy.

The legend says that Priessnitz was inspired by a wounded female roe deer, which he observed as a child, as she was coming to the spring to treat her wound until she completely healed herself. When he was 14 years old he hurt his arm and he treated it with the wet packs. In his 16 he sustained a severe injury of the chest. The bonesetter declared his injury incurable and he supposed to be a disabled person for ever. But Priessnitz treated himself on his own with the assistance of the cold compresses and water until he was completely fit.



a triple moat and it was also adapted to accommodation. At the beginning of the 15th century the tower was destroyed and replaced by a residential building that currently makes a southern part of the new-established complex fortified by the 8m high wall. The entrance gate was situated in the northern part. Nowadays you can find there a significant exposition of geology and mineralogy of the Jeseník region. The exposition of the history of the fort is located on the ground floor of the western wing, in the so called knight's hall.

Velké Losiny

A gorgeous renaissance castle with arcades, frescos and sgraffiti is an impressive dominant of the town. The most imposing is the octagonal tower. The original part of the castle, which is preserved in almost unchanged form, is an example of the aristocrat way of living in the 16th century. The castle was extended in the 17th century and nowadays it is surrounded by a beautiful park. The interiors are furnished in several styles from the renaissance to the classicism. The real gem is the Knight's hall with a renaissance ceiling which is decorated by wooden caskets. The castle is ingloriously famous owing to the witch trials. These inspired Václav Kaplický

to write the book "Witches hammer" and Otakar Vávra to make a homonymous film.

Velké Losiny is also known thanks to the paper-mill. Paper is still made by the traditional manufacture way. The paper-mill is regarded as a cultural and technical monument and the Museum of paper is situated indoors. It shows us the establishment and the progress of the paper industry there. The excursion is enriched with professional interpretation.

We can see other churches in the near villages, such as in **Maršíkov** which is currently a suburb of Velké Losiny. The late gothic evangelical wooden church with an inbuilt octagonal tower was consecrated in 1609 and dedicated to St. Michael (the archangel) in 1609. An interesting thing is to compare the church with a similar timbered church in the nearby village **Žárová** (the original name was Nová Ves) and its quadrilateral tower. St. Martin's Church from 1611 is slightly smaller than the church in Maršíkov. Although from the historical point of view the first one is more valuable in many ways, because its interior as well as the exterior survived in the original form till nowadays. Since we can suppose that both of the churches were designed by the same architect (probably Michel Hilbert), St. Martin's Church helps us to get the information about the form of the second one.

Šumperk

Šumperk was founded in the 13th century as an administrative centre of the region of the precious metal mining. However the textile production gradually prevailed. The town was



The wooden church in Maršíkov

always the royal property, frequently pawned to the prominent aristocratic families. The town has a dark past. The Swedish army ran through Šumperk during the Thirty Year's War, then a fire broke out there in 1669 and ten years later it was affected by the witches' trials when 25 people died.

The textile industry remarkably grew in the 19th century. Prominent architects from Vienna created the modern shape of the town also in the 19th century. Their pieces of work can be found in different parts of Šumperk. Consequently the town was called "The little Vienna". One of the most important historical monuments is a former monastic Church of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary from 1669. The complete reconstruction proceeded from 1990 to 2005. Also the Geschader's house, John the Baptist Church, the renaissance-gothic castle of the family of Žerotín and the remains of the city's walls are among the most important monuments in Šumperk.

Úsov

Approximately 20 km southwards from Šumperk an old castle dominates the local scenery. The former gothic castle is considered to be one of the oldest ones in Moravia. It was probably established in the middle of the 13th century evidently due to the order of the Czech king. The castle was a residence of the family of Šternberk, the family of Boskovic and since 1597 of the family of Lichtenštejn who built the baroque building there. The Museum of Forestry and Hunting was placed there by Jan II of Lichtenštejn and you

can see there a wide-ranging exposition of the fauna of the Lichtenštejn's domain and his journeys to Poland, Italy, Africa and India. The museum is regarded as the unique one in this category in the Central Europe.

Žulová

The rarity of the village is the classicist St. Joseph's Church which replaced a former castle. The castle was probably built illegally at the end of the 13th century on the land of the Vratislav bishopric by already mentioned Jan Wustenhube. In the last third of the 16th century the castle was rebuilt in the renaissance style. Afterwards it was conquered and sacked by the Swedish army in 1639. The castle gradually became a ruin but in 1703 it was built again and converted into a brewery. In the next century the whole complex was donated to the city by the bishop Hohenlohe to establish a church there. Only the cylindrical tower in the fore-part of the castle was saved. Its walls are 4m wide. Instead of the tower, which is called the bergfried, only a piece of the wall on the northern side survived. The wall was broken through on the ground floor



St. Joseph's Church in Žulová

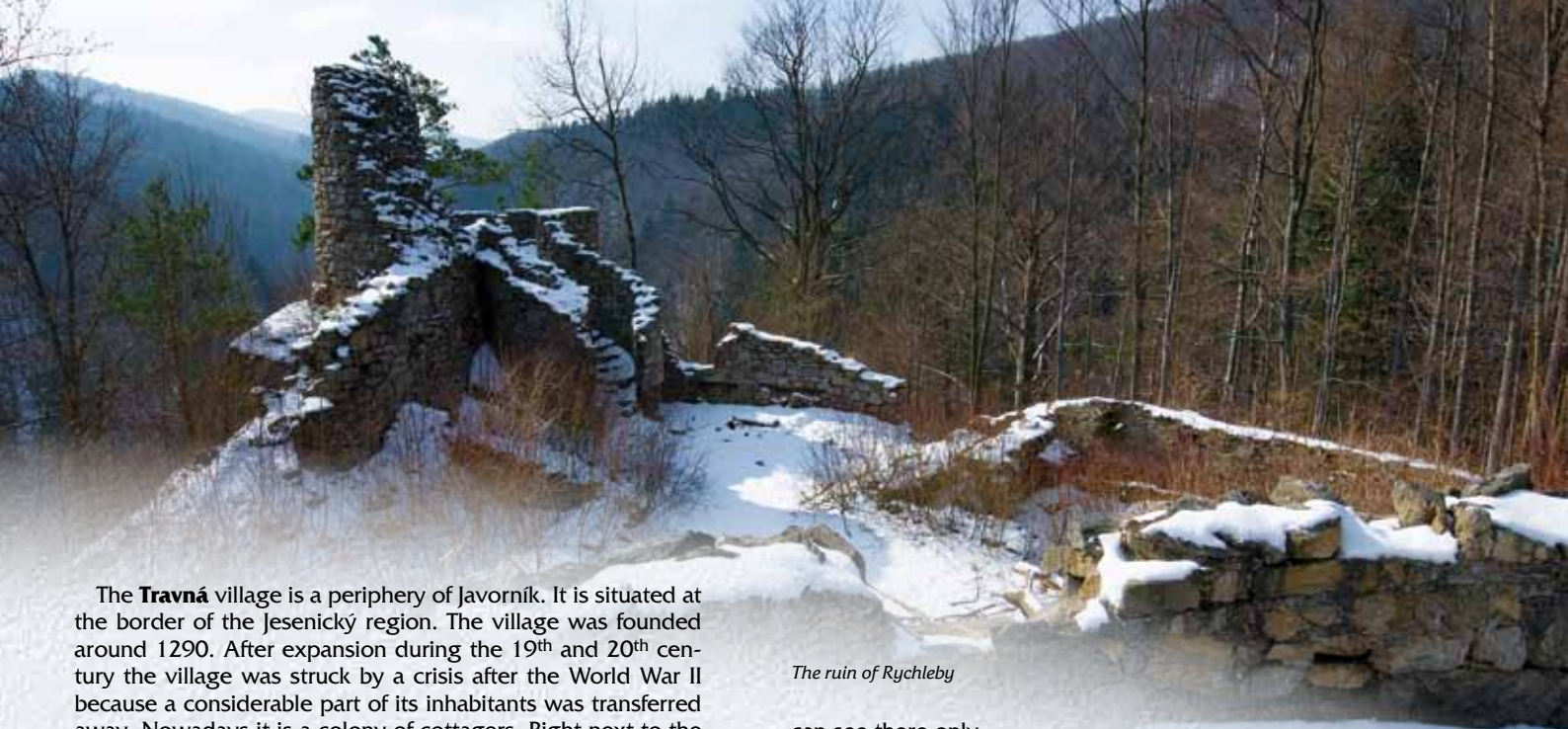
of the tower. Then the entrance hall was established together with the belfry at the top of the tower.

Javorník

We can visit the castle Janský vrch in Javorník in the north of the Jeseníky region. Its current impressive appearance comes from the 16th century. It replaced the gothic castle which was built there in the 13th century as a possession of the Dukes of Svidník. They donated the castle to the Vratislav's bishop in 1348. It was damaged during the Hussite wars and repaired as late as the 16th century, especially owing to the bishop J. Thurzo. The reconstruction ran in the 17th and 18th centuries. Since the 17th century it had been a seat of the Vratislav's bishops. The park was created there in 1800 and it was added to the French gardens from 1776. Indoors you can imagine the owner's way of living thanks to the preserved renaissance style and biedermeier style furniture. Furthermore you can see an extraordinary collection of pipes and smokers' necessities there.



The castle Janský vrch



The ruin of Rychleby

The **Travná** village is a periphery of Javorník. It is situated at the border of the Jesenícký region. The village was founded around 1290. After expansion during the 19th and 20th century the village was struck by a crisis after the World War II because a considerable part of its inhabitants was transferred away. Nowadays it is a colony of cottagers. Right next to the village there are several monuments, such as:

The Church of the Virgin Mary – this mighty church together with the presbytery replaced a little former church in 1878-82.

Regarding the lack of the space its Communion table is not oriented to the east.

The Chapel of the Virgin Mary La-Salleta is a pilgrim place, rebuilt in 1851.

The spring of the Virgin Mary Lourds and the imitation of the cave with the sculpture of Virgin Mary were built in 1889. Not far from there you can walk through the neo-gothic Stations of the Cross from 1894.



Rychleby

The ruin of the castle Rychleby appears at the unapproachable rocky foreland of the Přílbový Peak not far from Javorník. The date of the foundation and building cannot be exactly determined. Some of the local historiographers assume that the castle was established at the beginning of the 12th century, but in accordance to the foundations the 13th century is considered to be the century of the origin. The plan of the castle and the fortification were adapted to the local terrain. The entrance led across the deep moat that was spanned by a drawbridge. The castle was surrounded by the walls in the northern and eastern side. Right on the opposite side to the entrance there was a massive cylindrical tower. At some point at the turn of the 15th and 16th century the castle was abandoned and gradually became a ruin.

When remembering the pilgrim places it is necessary to mention the pilgrim Church of the **Virgin Mary at the Zlaté Mountains** (Maria-Hilf). The church was built in the beginning of the previous century to dignify Virgin Mary. It was destroyed in 1973, but in 1995 it was built again thanks to the donations of the faithful from inland and foreign countries.

There are other poetic ruins located in the Jeseník region. They were probably founded in the 13th century and each of them is in a manner of speaking interesting. These castles protected the border between Silesia (the Nisa Principate) and Moravia (the Opava region). The first of them is called **Edelštejn** – in this area it was a castle with the most modern fortification. Its ruin is situated at the hillock of the Příčný peak not far from the Zlaté Mountains. The massive cylindrical tower that stood in the middle of the south wall was a dominant of the castle. Nowadays you can find there merely a great rubble cone. The next one is named **Kaltenštejn**, a large castle of the Vratislav's bishops was situated at the hill near Černá Voda. Currently you

can see there only a massive ruin called "Hradisko" or "Biskupská čepice". The next poetic ruin is **Koberštějn** – a gothic castle was built at the rocky foreland of Zámecká Hora west-eastward to the Černá Opava valley. Its ruin noticeably dominates the local skyline. The last ruin is named **Leuchtenštejn** near the Zlaté Mountains and just a rest of the tower survived.

Bílá Voda

The picturesque village is situated in the northern part of the Jeseník region and furthermore it is the northernmost village of the Czech Silesia. Bílá Voda replaced a former settlement in 1532. The period of being the Lichtenštejn's domain was the period of the greatest development. During the Lichtenštejn's reign at the end of the 17th century a baroque castle was built at the western periphery of the village. At the beginning of the 19th century a large baroque monastic complex was established at the opposite eastern periphery. The monastery was a property of the Piarist Order who engaged in the education of the local youth. Therefore the building of a grammar school was also the part of the complex. In the 1950s the nuns were transferred there and most of them are buried in the local cemetery.

An interesting fact is the unnatural establishment of the borderline near Bílá Voda. It originated as the result of the deal between Queen Marie Terezie and the Prussian King Fridrich II from 1742. At first it was understood as a provisional measure, but finally it survived to the present.

The monastery in Bílá Voda



Ząbkowicki region



The castle Kamieniec Ząbkowicki

Marianne Wilhelmina Frederika Loise Charlotte,

Princess of Orange and Nassau
(1810 - 1883)

Princess Marianna was a daughter of the Dutch King. She was very temperament and intelligent even as a child. When she was 20 she married the youngest son of the Prussian King Albrecht IV. However she was too bright to be only a figurehead at the Prussian court. Furthermore she was more intelligent than men and that was a reason to divorce.

After the divorce she settled in Bilá Voda. She extended the local castle. Although her opportunities were limited, she markedly influenced the reconstruction of the castle and owing to her decisions she contributed to the economical development of the whole area and she is still remembered with respect.



Ziębice

The city was founded most likely in the 13th century. Formerly it was a seat of one of the Silesian dukedom. In spite of the huge urban housing development during 17th, 18th and 19th century we can see there a large number of valuable historical buildings. In the first place it is the historical town hall with a renaissance tower from 1561. The oldest monument is an early gothic St. George's Basilica, built from 1256 to 1275. Later it was extended in the late gothic style during 1477-1504. The bell tower from the 15th century stands aside. The evangelic church from the 1890s replaced the former residence of the Duke of Münsterberg, the grandson of the King Jiří of Poděbrady. This residence was established after the demolition of the former duke's castle. During the excursion through the city we can pass by the monastery with the St. Peter and Paul's Church from 1729-30 and the fragments of the city walls with the massive Paczkowská Gate from the 14th century.

Henryków

The noticeable monument of the city is primarily the Cistercian abbey from the 13th century decorated in the baroque style. The Księga Henrykowska (the book) originated there. It describes the history of the Cistercian Order. Furthermore the first known Polish inscription, the first sentence in Polish language was written there by the monk Peter. Around the abbey there is a garden with several protected trees.

Now we cross the border from Javorník to the Polish territory. Even there we can find some beautiful castles and other monuments that are valuable from the architectural point of view. Our "travelling" is divided into different counties (powiat in Polish). The Polish county is formed of several gminy. Powiat is usually formed of several smaller units called gminy which are similar to the Czech districts.

Kamieniec Ząbkowicki

Kamieniec Ząbkowicki is our first Polish destination. The already mentioned Princess Marianna of Orange built there a neo-gothic castle in the 19th century. It is surrounded by a park that includes precious woods. The castle has some of the Mauritanian elements thanks to the designer K. Schinkel. Nowadays only a part of the castle is open to the public.



Henryków, the Cistercian abbey



Żabkowice Śląskie, the leaning tower

Żabkowice Śląskie

This town can also offer a beautiful experience to the tourists. Instead of the well-known leaning tower (krzywa wieża) also the remains of the renaissance castle from 1532 can be found there. It was built by Duke Karel of Münsterber. The imposing tower hall is situated right next to the tower in the historical centre with interesting civic houses.

Srebrna Góra

There is a ruin of a massive fortress westwards from Żabkowice. The Srebrna Góra is undoubtedly the largest fortress of this kind in Europe. It was built in 1765 – 1777 under the management of the lieutenant colonel L. W. Regeler. Gradually other fortresses were established – Donjon, Wysoka Skała, Fort Rogowy, Fort Ostrog and a lot of smaller ones. The fortresses Donjon and Ostrog are in the best condition. We can also admire the Prussian corps engineer school. You can learn a lot of interesting facts, e.g. the Donjon fortress was able to resist the attack for 12 months, it was equipped with a bakery, a well (the deepest one was 80 m deep), a stable, a food store etc.

The fortress Srebrna Góra



The guides in Srebrna Góra wear period uniforms

Złoty Stok

Złoty Stok was originally a miner's town and its progress was connected with the gold mining. Nowadays you can visit the old gold mines that are open to the public. An exposition was made there to remind the millennial history of the gold mining. It is placed in two shafts: in 500 metres long Gertruda's shaft there is a collection of the maps and plans of the gold mining from 18th to 20th centuries, the equipment for gold melting or the underground hydraulic mechanisms. The second shaft is 300 metres long and it was established in the 18th century. Here you can find the only underground waterfall in Poland.

Bardo

Bardo is sometimes called Varta, because it is an original name of the town. We can meet the name Varta even in Božena Němcová's book The Grandmother (see above). Tourists can find there a large number of the ecclesiastical buildings and also a ruin of a knightly castle from the 14th century, but the most important monument is certainly the Basilica of the Virgin Mary. In the middle of the Communion table there is a Roman Madonna that reminds of the existence of this place of pilgrimage since 13th century. The local former fortified settlement was established in the 11th century to defend the Poles against the Czech state. Therefore the original name was Wartha (ger.), which means "the guard".



Bardo, The Basilica of the Virgin Mary and the Madonna from its Communion table



Kłodzko region

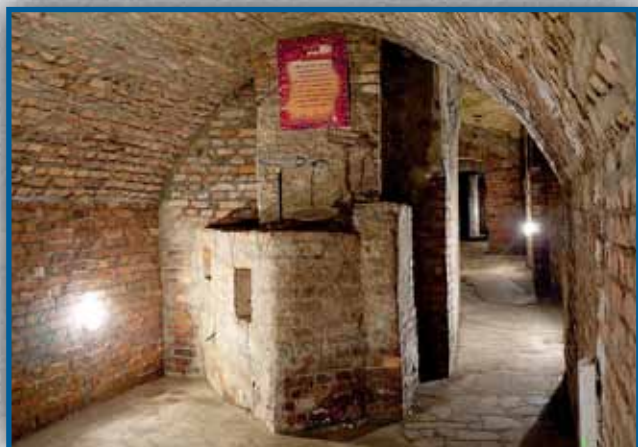


The stone bridge and the Church of the Assumption on the Virgin Mary, Kłodzko

Kłodzko

The town's architecture is particular because of the military character. At the rocky hill above the present town a fortified settlement existed in the 11th century, later it was converted into a royal castle. During the reign of the king Jiří of Poděbrady the castle became a comfortable residence. From the 1550s to 1620s the castle was more and more fortified. Until 22nd October 1622 it defended Polish state against the imperial troops as the last fortress. In 1742 the Prussians defeated Kłodzko. The following period meant another huge fortification of the town. The former castle was demolished. The fortress met its requirement till 1869. Afterwards it was used as a jail. During the World War II the branch of the concentration camp Gross Rosen was established in the main fort.

Nowadays the fortress Kłodzko (Twierdza Kłodzka) is the greatest unique local object. This large and the most valuable fortification system in Poland from the 17th century is



The tunnels in the fortress in Kłodzko

Arnošt of Pardubice

(1297 – 1364) was the last Prague bishop (1343-44) and also the first archbishop (1344-64).

He came from an aristocratic family from Pardubice, his origin was derived from a family of Malovcové. Arnošt spent his childhood in Kladsko where he studied at the ecclesiastical school. Then he moved to Broumov, Prague, afterwards he studied law in Bologna and Padova for 14 years.

Right there in Italy he met the future king Karel IV. After his return to Bohemia in 1339 he was ordained. On 5 January 1343 the Prague bishop Jan IV of Dražice died and Arnošt became his successor. He worked as a bishop for one year and then on 30 April he was appointed the archbishop. On 2 September he crowned Karel VI a king. He also worked in the king's service. The period documents and inscriptions described him as a handsome and skilful diplomatist and a good rhetorician. At this occasion he met Petrarca who was invited to Prague in 1356 by the king. After the establishment of the Prague university in 1348, Arnošt became the chancellor.

