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The region of South Bohemia has one of the highest number of historical monuments in the Czech Republic. The Rožmberks, Schwarzenbergs and other noble families left an enormous heritage here, one whose beauty dignifies and whose dramatic history teaches wisdom. The thirteen most significant monuments are administered to by the state, including the castle of Hluboká nad Vltavou, Český Krumlov, Jindřichův Hradec, and others who have now become popular destinations. The other hundreds of monuments are tended to by townships and private owners, and a great majority of them are open to the public. Our public monuments are hosts to artists and some tell mysterious stories in which Perchta of Rožmberk plays a part as well, known as the White Lady.



REGION OF ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

Where to go around Borovany

The dominant feature of this small town is the former Augustinian Monastery with its church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary, founded in 1455. The history of the monastery and places of pilgrimage in the surroundings is the subject of the exhibition in the monastery museum in the parish house, open in the summer months together with a narrative provided by the town information center. We recommend a hiking trip for children and adults alike, or take a bike or car to the surrounding area. In the quiet environment beyond the village of Dvorec, near the road to Trhové Sviny awaits a surprise for you – a family farm of exotic animals where lions, tigers, monkeys, llamas, crocodiles, snakes, and spiders are raised. The birthplace of Jan Žižka in the natural setting of Trocnov, 3km west of Borovany, is a favourite destination with a marked hiking route around the area, including archaeological digs and a small museum dedicated to the time of the Hussites.

REGION OF ČESKÝ KRUMLOV

The unique Museum Fotoatelier Seidel

This museum is not only for photographers and photo buffs. Josef Seidel and his son František were among the most significant photographers. In addition to the studio itself, several photographs mapping the life of ordinary people from the Šumava foothill region and around Český Krumlov have been preserved. The original photo studio, now completely reconstructed, conceals a remarkable amount of original photographic equipment as well as a relatively large portion of photos that were created here. The extensive technical equipment, thoroughly restored and mostly functional, now presents visitors with an opportunity to understand the process of classic photograph production.

REGION OF ČESKÝ KRUMLOV

Monuments and tourist attractions of the town of Vyšší Brod

The most renowned historic monument of the town of Vyšší Brod is certainly the Cistercian Monastery. Its simple beauty and unique cultural significance have recently earned it the status of a Czech national cultural monument. A tour of the monastery with a guide includes a visit to the fascinating Gothic architecture. This, the third largest monastery library in the Czech Republic, boasts over 70 thousand precious volumes. Several works of the monastery collections far exceed the borders with their significance (Master of the Altar of Vyšší Brod, Madonna of Vyšší Brod, Závěš's Cross...). Another popular tourist destination is the Postal Museum, located in the monastery complex. Close to the monastery there is the beginning of two educational trails, the Abbot Trails I. and II. If it's art you like, you can visit the local gallery, found in the historic town hall building on the square, also the site of the municipal information center. Exhibitions in this gallery take place regularly during the season, from June to the end of August.



REGION OF JINDŘICHŮV HRADEC

Jindřichův Hradec state castle and chateau

The monumental collection of buildings of the Jindřichův Hradec castle and chateau, designated a national cultural monument in 1996, is one of the most extensive historical monument complexes in the Czech Republic. Visitors are greeted with three visitors' routes, divided by historical constructional phase. The castle grounds are often used as live on-site theatre sets as well as for concerts and other events which have now turned the castle into a renowned cultural and social center.

Červená Lhota state castle

This is one of the most visited castles in South Bohemia, literally arising out of the lake surface on a rocky island. The castle interiors represent an authentic picture of aristocratic living quarters of the last owner from around 1910. Part of the castle complex is also a landscape park. The most popular aspect of the location is undoubtedly the Castle Pond, which offers unexpected views onto the castle itself and surrounding nature from rented boats.



REGION OF LIPNO

Monuments in Horní Planá and surroundings

The dominant feature of the town of Horní Planá is the original Gothic church of St. Margaret, later reconstructed in pseudo-Gothic style. Also worth a visit is the top of Dobrá Voda (Good Water) in the forest park with its old pilgrimage site, decorated with the Baroque chapel of the Virgin Mary with the classicist organ J. Breinbauer. The Stifter memorial is also part of the forest park, honouring the most renowned figure of history of Horní Planá, the writer, poet and painter Adalbert Stifter. Also be sure to visit Zadní Zvonková, where you'll find a completely renovated pseudo-Gothic church of St. John of Nepomuk and the Zadní Zvonková/Glöckelberg museum. When mentioning Adalbert Stifter, the lake known as Plešné jezero should also be mentioned – this is the only glacier lake in the South Bohemian area of the Šumava Mountains, and the widest in Šumava, at 1 kilometer wide. It is topped by a rock cliff on the opposite side of the lake that reaches to a height of 1311 meters AMSL, where you'll find a memorial to Adalbert Stifter – an obelisk from Pleckenstein granite (1876 - 1877). The Schwarzenberg navigational canal is a technical monument from the end of the 18th century and served to float wood from the Šumava forests until 1961. The author of the canal was architect and engineer Josef Rosenauer.



REGION OF PÍSEK

The pearls of the Orlik reservoir

Zvíkov, the king of Czech castles, lies on the confluence of the Vltava and Otava Rivers. The castle is open to visitors during the summer tourist season, and in addition to the castle itself you may also attend the Zvíkov Theatre Summer which hosts a number of performances. The most well-known play is called Zvíkovský Rarášek, or the Zvíkov Trickster. From Zvíkov, you can take a boat to the next castle, Orlik. This used to stand high atop the rough river on a bold promontory, while today it's surrounded by the lake from all sides. The castle offers organized tours of the interiors. The extensive castle park presents itself as an opportunity to enjoy a romantic stroll.

REGION OF PRACHATICE

Prachatice ramparts

The Prachatice ramparts served their purpose of protecting the town in the Middle Ages and now have witnessed its bloom, glory, and subsequent decline. There is an educational trail which follows around the walls with five stops. The trail is 1.5km long. It begins at the Dolní - Písek Gate and lasts 45 minutes. The tour teaches about the fortification system of towns, as well as the history of the town and its archaeological research. More information can be found in a brochure available at the information center.

Lookout tower of the soon-to-come Archeopark

Come to Netolice and visit the lookout tower of the soon-to-come Archeopark. On the site of the acropolis of the former Přemysl castle, written about as early as 981 AD in the Kosmas chronicles, an archaeological park is scheduled for construction, focusing on the less known period of the emergence of the Czech nation in the early Middle Ages, from the 10th to 13th century. This is the first South Bohemian archaeological monument to be presented as a direct reconstruction with the use of archaeologically confirmed period techniques, materials and instruments. The first phase of the archeopark construction has been completed – this is a demonstration of fortification walls and a defence tower, which also serves as a lookout tower with a view of the town and Šumava.



REGION OF STRAKONICE

A trip to Vodňany

In the center of the town of Vodňany you will find a Municipal Gallery and Museum. The museum is situated in the former Jewish Synagogue, which was built in simple classicist style in the late 19th century. From the beginning of May to the end of September, the ground floor presents an exposition of the fishing tradition in Vodňany including a history of the town, the local fishing industry and milling. Models of water constructions are displayed as well as fishing tools, dry and alcohol preparation of fish from the collection of the Fishing Technical School in Vodňany. The exhibition hall in the upper floor of the Synagogue is open for seasonal expositions. The town hall building hosts a nearly year-long Municipal Gallery, founded in 1967 by Dr. Blahomír Zahour. He donated 157 pictures from 95 Czech painters from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries to the town. The gallery also contains a memorial hall to Mikoláš Aleš, František Herites and Julius Zeyer. Here you can enjoy the pictures of these renowned painters, or learn about the discovery of Vodňany gold in 1927.

REGION OF TÁBOR

The treasure of Tábor

Have you ever wanted to discover a real treasure? The Tábor treasure can be seen in the newly opened exposition, where four thousand silver coins from the Jagellonian period are on display. These coins, together with other items of daily use, were discovered during the reconstruction of house no. 308 in the historic center of Tábor. Because this archaeological finding represents an exceptional opportunity to look several hundred years back into history and at least partly imagine the life, work and thoughts of Tábor burgher residents several centuries ago, they have been prepared as a permanent exposition to the general public and are known as the Treasure of Tábor. The exposition can be found in the Renaissance malt-house in the complex of the former Tábor brewery, now Hotel Dvořák.

Blatské Museum in Veselí nad Lužnicí

The exposition of museum treasures located in the Weis House represents an art historical collection from the 16th to 19th century. Five halls contain artefacts documenting the life in this small town at the time – small scale guild production, residential culture and education, church relics (Baroque statues, paintings, liturgical items, clothing) and displays of weaponry from the 19th century. Among the most attractive items is a still-functional music box (polyphone) and a burgher playing chair. The hall itself is devoted to national history manuscripts of Blata. The memorial hall of Karel Weid (1862-1944) offers visitors his life history and the works of this music composer and collector of South Bohemian folk songs.



REGION OF VIMPERK

Vimperk – memory of the centuries

The most significant monument of Vimperk is the castle, originally a fortified castle, built on a high hill in the middle of the 13th century. The only parts remaining from its original structure are the Vlčkova four-sided residential tower and parts of the fortification walls. The castle was expanded over the centuries to include a new part with a long arcaded gallery. The castle complex also includes an advanced cannon bastion „Hasselburg” from 1479, now a significant example of Medieval fortification building methods. You may also visit the Museum of National Park Administration and Protected Landscape Area Šumava in the castle as part of your visit, with its exhibitions of Flora and Fauna in Šumava. This is particularly popular with children, as is the Glassworks and Bookprinters of the region of Vimperk and the town's history. The summer season sees an increase in the number of painting and photo exhibitions on exhibit in Vlčkova Tower. As for other monuments, we recommend a visit to the Minimuseum of the Vimperk branch of the Gold Route on the town square as well as the municipal bell tower. All monuments are operated by the tourist information center. Other points of interest include the Path of the Cross, the Solar water works, and the Monastery Viaduct technical monument.