



Castle romance with a helping of stories and relaxation

Treat yourself to some castle romance with a helping of stories and relaxation! Visit the “villa of Czech queens” at Svojanov, search for treasure in Potštejn, allow yourself to be pampered at Orlice Fort, return to the golden era of the Litice Castle or succumb to the magical enchantment of the Sarny Castle for three days full of unforgettable experiences.



Day 1 – Castle romance

The Svojanov Castle

Some tips for your trips around: Polička, Březová nad Svitavou, Bystré

The Potštejn Castle

Some tips for your trips around: Zámky na Orlici, Vamberk, Vrbice, Borovnice

Day 2 – Let yourself be pampered!

Orlice Fortress

Some tips for your trips around: Letohrad, Lanškroun, Suchý vrch

The Litice Castle

Some tips for your trips around: Žampach, Žamberk, Rychnov nad Kněžnou

Day 3 – A return to lost times

The Sarny Castle

Some tips for your trips around: Vambeřice u Radkova, Velká Hejšovina, Klodzko

DAY 1:

The Svojanov Castle

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

Would you like to experience a large **servicing of romance**? Visit **Svojanov**! One of **the oldest royal castles** in the Czech Republic, it rises proudly near Polička in the middle of deep woods above the picturesque valley of the Křetínska River. The unique architecture of this "**villa of Czech queens**" suitably combines the Gothic and Empire architectural styles.

Get to know the wide range of fables, legends and mysterious stories that surround the castle. The Empire-style palace will acquaint you with how people lived there in the 2nd half of the 19th century. You can also admire the Gothic columned hall, the kitchen or the pantry. You will discover beautiful ceiling paintings in the Empire-style rooms. The Gothic cellars and torture chamber and the Squires' House will give you some idea of how the medieval castle garrison lived.

You can ascend the **26 metre** high castle tower, which provides a fairytale view of the surrounding countryside.

You can also set off on a romantic walk through the local gardens. The extensive baileys and defensive bastions are also fascinating.

Accommodation is available directly at Svojanov Castle. A stay in the guesthouse is a unique **experience**. The 10 rooms located on the first floor of the Empire-style entry building are equipped with themed furniture dating from the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. As such, you will truly feel like you are "at the castle".

Svojanov Castle can also create a magical **atmosphere for weddings**. The wedding venues are the Gothic garden, the Empire-style palace or the Knight's Hall of the Squires' House. **The reception** can then be held in the Squires' House banquet hall or in the hunting salon.



Some tips for your trips around:

Polička – 20.5 km

- The Gothic town fortifications – The massive stone battlements with 19 bastions are among the best preserved fortification systems in Central Europe. They are 1220 metres long and surround the entire historical core of Polička.
- Bohuslav Martinů's family room – Climb 192 steps into the spire of Saint James' Church, where the famous composer was born, and enjoy the wonderful view of the town and its environs.

Březová nad Svitavou – 15 km

- The Jára Cimrman Lookout Tower – This well-covered lookout tower made by the underrated Czech genius is 20 metres high. There are 75 steps to the top.

Bystré – 8.9 km

- The Church of Saint John the Baptist – The church, which is considered to be the oldest place of pilgrimage to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in the Czech Republic, constitutes the town's dominant feature.



Recommended restaurant: Castle restaurant, Svojanov www.svojanov.cz/en



Recommended accommodation: Pension in the castle, Svojanov www.svojanov.cz/en

DAY 1:

The Potštejn Castle

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

Do you like stories? If so, let yourself be told a **story of a fairy-tale treasure**. It was in the 14th century that the rebellious knight Mikuláš, whose burglarious raging had to be stopped by the future King Charles IV himself, supposedly hid a treasure at **Potštejn Castle**.

400 years later, Count **Harbuval Chamaré**, the then owner of the estate, decided to find the treasure. He had been trying to do so for 35 long years, so hard that he almost managed to undermine the castle. However, he did not find what he had searched for. This story inspired writer **Alois Jirásek** to create his **Treasure novel**.

The castle is owned by the municipality today. If you set out on a tour of Potštejn, you will be awaited by countless romantic niches and reminders of history long gone. As part of the **sightseeing tour**, you will see the majestic remains of the mansion, the chapel of St. John of Nepomuk with its holy stairs, a history exhibition inside the entrance

gate and the “Holy Sepulcher”, which is the last stop on the Way of the Cross.

It is along this very way that you can peacefully conquer the castle hill and rise to the ruins. Before the walk, make sure you get refreshed at the **Clock Brewery** situated in the village centre.

Planning a **wedding**? Potštejn Castle is a truly magical place for the wedding ceremony. If you opt for the outdoor variant, you can look forward to being rewarded by the breathtaking views of the surroundings. However, the castle chapel in the courtyard is a great choice, too.

If you wish to experience a **distinct atmosphere**, make sure you visit the castle during the theatre festival or the night-time staged tours, which are organised here regularly. It is beautiful here from spring through autumn, and, at the end of the day, the winter views are well worth a hike to the main gate either. Anyways, pull in at Potštejn and see for yourself.



Some tips for your trips around:

Zámky na Orlici – in close proximity

- Doudleby nad Orlicí Château, Častolovice Château, Nový Kostelec nad Orlicí Château, Potštejn Château and Litice Castle – Visit the breath-taking aristocratic residences of the Czech Loire!

Vamberk – 5.5 km

- Lace Museum – Embark on an absorbing journey through the history and present of bobbin lace. You can also try this breath-taking craft by yourself here.

Borovnice – 7 km

- Homol Pilgrimage Site – Discover the monumental Scala Santa stairs leading to the Pilgrimage Church of Our Lady of Sorrows and meet the legend of the Countess who had them built.

Vrbice – 7 km

- Vrbice – Climb onto the wooden lookout tower on the Kastel hill overlooking the region from a height of 25.5 meters.



Recommended restaurant: Restaurace Pod Lipami, Potštejn www.podlipamipotstejn.cz

Recommended brewery: Brewery Clock, Potštejn www.pivovarclock.cz/en



Recommended accommodation: Castle hotel, Potštejn www.zamekpotstejn.cz

DAY 2:

Orlice Fortress

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

Located on the outskirts of the town of Letohrad, **Orlice Fortress** was built at the end of the 13th century. It served economic purposes from the 17th century onwards. Contrary to the ancient times, you do not have to conquer it anymore today – you can let yourselves be **pampered** here instead. To make visitors feel great here, it certainly helps that the premises have been refurbished by the current owner – the company EYWAN s.r.o.

Now you can choose any of the **4 sightseeing routes**. You can survey the historic rooms of the Renaissance fortress on the ground floor and explore the underground Gothic parts. On the upper floors, you will encounter appealing exhibitions featuring a period printing workshop, products of the no longer existent Eagle Mountains glassworks, archaeological finds and a collection of Czech fauna. Worth admiring is also the well-preserved figural sgraffito on the outer walling of the fortress.

The fortress will also tease your taste buds. Enjoy the culinary treats made with fresh local ingredients in the **restaurant** sporting a roofed terrace offering some commanding views. If you are planning on a longer trip, book a stay at the **hotel** and make use of the **wellness studio** services, too. The generally romantic atmosphere can be only bettered by taking a stylish **boat ride along the pond** below the fortress.

You can also spend your **wedding day** as if in a fairy tale at the fortress. There are countless magical places where you can say your “yes”. Whether you choose the chateau courtyard, the hunting lounge or the refurbished column hall, you will always be in the best hands.

You will also have fun during the countless **cultural events**, such as the regular night sightseeing tours, the International Music Festival or the various concerts and theatre performances staged within the historic fortress courtyard's settings.



Some tips for your trips around:

Letohrad – 3 km

- Museum of Crafts – The largest museum of its kind in the Czech Republic will take you back to a time when people relied mainly on their dexterity and craftsmanship.
- City Museum with a Baroque Chateau and Jára Cimrman's room – Discover the history of matchmaking and Napoleon's sleigh in the city museum, the footprint of Alfons Mucha in a nearby chateau and the museum of the Czech “great” Jára Cimrman.

Lanškroun – 17 km

- Lanškroun Ponds – A unique system of seven ponds offers a wonderful setting for rest, walks, refreshment and fishing. Make sure you visit the bird observatory and the Hláška lookout.

Suchý vrch – 21 km

- Lookout tower on the Suchý vrch hill – Climb the mushroom-like former water tower and take a look around. Kramář's tourist lodge next door offers the right kind of mountain wellness.



Recommended restaurants: Orlice Fortress www.tvrzorlice.cz/en, Restaurace Nový dvůr Letohrad www.novydvur-letohrad.cz



Recommended accommodation: Orlice Fortress www.tvrzorlice.cz/en

DAY 2:

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

The Litice Castle

Litice Castle is perched on a rocky cliff in a deep bend of the Divoká Orlice River surrounded by forests. It has been standing here since the end of the 13th century. However, it saw its “golden era” in the 15th century, when, being the royal seat of **King George of Poděbrady**, it benefited from extensive and costly building modifications. Litice thus became one of the most important fortresses in Bohemia and was called “**the other Karlštejn Castle**”. Some sources even claim King George intended to create a solid shelter for the crown jewels and provincial deeds here. This plan fell through in the end though. 200 years later, the castle no longer met the ever-increasing demands of the nobility and started to decay. It is managed by the National Monuments Institute today.

Explore the remains of this magnificent royal castle. King George’s **sightseeing tour** will acquaint you with the local

history and architecture. Local archaeological finds, photographs, period engravings and an exhibition of sculptures by Jaroslav Šafr are all awaiting you here. Climb the tower of the castle palace, where George of Poděbrady once lived, and admire the view of the meandering river below you. You need not worry about leaving your dog alone somewhere either – just feel free to take it along with you!

You can choose Litice Castle to be the venue of your **wedding ceremony**. The staff will be delighted to prepare it for you in the southern castle palace and its outdoor areas.

If you love hiking and sightseeing, make sure you join the popular **Three Castles March** held in May. Litice aside, it will also take you to the castles of Potštejn and Žampach. There are usually 12 hiking and cycling routes and 6 scooter routes to choose from.



Some tips for your trips around:

Žamberk – 13.5 km

- Prokop Diviš’s native house – Learn everything about his life and work. Right next to the house, you will see the scientist’s most famous invention – a lightning rod.
- Municipal Museum – Visit the Žamberk Museum and learn about the local history, important natives and folk and art crafts in the area. You will also see a neo-Gothic pharmacy and a unique mechanical nativity scene here.

Žampach – 13 km

- Žampach Arboretum – Walk through the extensive arboretum displaying over 550 species and varieties of woody plants. You will also find a small collection of bamboos and some cosy niches with seating options here.

Rychnov nad Kněžnou – 16.5 km

- Rychnov nad Kněžnou Chateau – Discover one of the largest and most beautiful Baroque complexes in the Czech Republic. The unique seat of the Kolowrat line with the Church of the Holy Trinity hides countless gems that should not escape your attention.



Recommended restaurant: Restaurant Penzionu Zátíší, Litice nad Orlicí www.penzion.litice.sweb.cz



Recommended accommodation: Penzion Zátíší, Litice nad Orlicí www.penzion.litice.sweb.cz

DAY 3: The Sarny Castle

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

Situated on a rocky **protrusion of the slopes** in the valley of the Ścinawka river between the Owl and Stołowe Mountains, the historic complex in Sarny is one of the most architectural-ly interesting historical palace and farm complexes within the present borders of Lower Silesia. Until recently, abandoned and forgotten, for several years the Sarny Castle has been re-gaining its beauty shaped by successive owners from 1590.

In the facility, apart from the main building that is open to the public, there is also **the Chapel** of the St. John of Nepomuk with a painting dating back to 1738. Currently, the chapel is the center of early music, hosting concerts and master classes. The chapel is also on the sightseeing route. The Sarny Chapel is one of the few Catholic churches in Poland not owned by the Roman Catholic Church.

The Sarny Castle has one of the most beautiful **castle cafes**, designed by the specialist MaisondeRome Interior Design studio. It offers exceptionally tasty and always fresh cakes, 17 kinds of tea unavailable in shops and a carefully selected collection of wines and beers. The stylish cafe in the Gatehouse is the perfect place to organize celebrations for groups of up to 40 people. In the Great Hall of the Sarny Castle, you can organize a party for groups of up to 100 people (e.g., an elegant dinner during a **conference** or a **wedding** in the boho style).

Within the territory of Sarny Farm there is also the **Composers' House** which offers 10 luxurious rooms with a timeless design, finished in 2020 using the highest quality materials, equipment, and furniture.



Some tips for your trips around:

Wambierzyce u Radkówa – 10 km

- Basilica of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sanctuary of Wambierzycka Queen of Families and Patroness of the Kłodzko Region – a baroque basilica located in Wambierzyce near Radków in the Kłodzko poviat. It was built in the years 1715–1723.

Szczeliniec Wielki – 20 km

- Szczeliniec Wielki – the highest peak (919 m above sea level) in the Stołowe Mountains, in the Stołowe Mountains National Park. It belongs to the Crown of Polish Mountains and is one of the greatest tourist attractions of the Sudetes, with a landscape reserve and panoramic terraces with a panorama of the Sudetes.

Kłodzko – 20 km

- one of the most beautiful cities of Lower Silesia with a rich history of over 1000 years, the Czechs, Germans, and Poles made their presence felt there. The three cultures influenced the development of the city, its economic and social life, as well as its shape and character. Wonderful architecture, monuments, works of art, magical places, and contemporary events – they all create the unique atmosphere of Kłodzko. The biggest attraction of the town is the Fortress dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries.



Recommended restaurants: Graniczna Restaurant in Radków (10 km) www.smakidolnegoslaska.pl



Recommended accommodation: Accommodation at the Composers' House www.zameksarny.pl