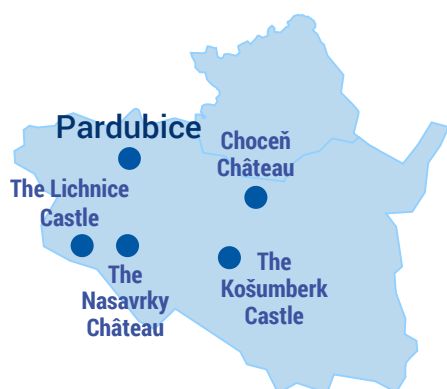




The secrets of our ancestors

Are you interested in finding out how our ancestors lived? Do you like history, but you want to learn more than what you can easily find in books or on the internet? Visit the Lichnice Castle and follow in the footsteps of the Celts at the Nasavrky Château! You can also find a number of hidden treasures and references from the past at the Košumberk Castle and the Choceň Château.



Day 1 – In search of the Girls' Rock and the Celts

The Lichnice Castle

Some tips for your trips around: Třemošnice, Seč

The Nasavrky Château

Some tips for your trips around: Nasavrky, Slatiňany

Day 2 – Museums that fascinate

The Košumberk Castle

Some tips for your trips around: Luže, Skuteč, Předhradí

Choceň Château

Some tips for your trips around: Zámky na Orlicí, Ústí nad Orlicí, Vamberk, Žamberk

DAY 1:

The Lichnice Castle

The history of the **Lichnice Castle** began to be written around 1250. It was constructed on a strategically positioned rocky knoll at an altitude of 480 metres above sea level. It was a so-called guard castle.

In 1410, Lichnice became a **royal castle**, because it was purchased by King Wenceslas IV. It burnt down in 1610 and was then demolished after the end of the Thirty Years War at the command of Ferdinand III. The castle then became a source of cheap stone for the construction of village houses.

The castle ruins and a small exhibition dedicated to its history and owners recall the former significance of the House of Lichtenberg.

A lookout tower has been built in one of the towers. The top of the tower above the ramparts is reached via a wooden staircase that twists around a single column. The view alone will clear up any doubts as to why the ancient builders chose this spot for their castle. It provides a wonderful view.



The memorial tree known as Žižka's Oak and the **Girls' Rock (Dívčí kámen)**, which is shrouded in legends, are other places of interest within the vicinity of the castle. The imprints of two horseshoes recall the story of the beautiful castle lady, Milada. She sent her suitors to the precipice above the Lovětín Gorge, where her father had tragically died. Once there, any fearless knight who wanted to marry her had to turn around three times on his horse so that his horse's shoes left an imprint. However, the cliff was tough and not even the hardest of horseshoes left a mark on it. Eventually the brother of one of those who had perished on the floor of the gorge below passed the test. He inserted diamonds into his horse's shoes and completed the task. He then fired an arrow at Milada and killed her...

Popular events held at Lichnice include the folk festival and programs focussed on swordplay and archery.



Some tips for your trips around:

Seč – 13.6 km

- The Seč Reservoir – The Seč Reservoir was constructed on the Chrudimka River in 1924–1934. Its flooded area of 220 hectares is also used for recreation, fishing and sports diving.
- The Oheb Castle ruins – Visit the Oheb Castle ruins which provide wonderful views of the Seč Reservoir.

Třemošnice – 19.8 km

- The Berl Lime Works – Become acquainted with this unique technical monument which is a European rarity. It is a 150-year-old lime manufactory, which was once fed by a 5-kilometre cableway. It now serves as a museum of Iron Mountain lime production.



Recommended restaurant: SRC Lihovar Třemošnice www.lihovartremosnice.cz



Recommended accommodation: SRC Lihovar Třemošnice www.lihovartremosnice.cz

DAY 1:

The Nasavrky Château

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

Visit the château in **Nasavrky**! It is one of the town's dominant features. It stands on the site of a former fortress, which was built in the 10th to 11th centuries. It served as a guard centre for the customs officers guarding the security on the regional trails.

Only part of the masonry from the original fortress has been preserved. It was demolished in 1600 at the wish of Václav Záruba of Hustiřany. It was subsequently replaced with a two-storey château with **sgraffito** work. The decorations in the barrel-vaulted ground-floor entrance hall are also valuable.

Prior to 1839, an official building, which now serves as the Municipal Authority, and a smaller building, which was used as a prison, were built next to the Nasavrky Château. It housed a shop and a gymnasium after 1939. The repair of the château started after 1987, whereupon the building subsequently

became the seat of the Regional Administration for the Iron Mountains Landscape Park.

Nowadays, the château facilities are mainly used for cultural and social events. It is the venue for the Nasavrky Palette exhibitions, musical evenings or the Nasavrky Musical Summer festival. The ceremonial hall, which is decorated with a large statue by the well-known Czech sculptor Olbram Zoubek, is the venue for weddings or citizen welcoming ceremonies.

The first floor houses the **In Search of the Celts** permanent exhibition. It presents the culture of the Late Iron Age in the Chrudim Area. It focusses on the life in the oppidum that stood on a promontory above the Chrudimka River, about two kilometres from Nasavrky, in the second and first centuries BC. This is probably the only oppidum located in East Bohemia.



Some tips for your trips around:

Nasavrky

- The Nasavrky Celtic Archaeological Park – The Celtic Archaeological Park has been established at the upper end of Nasavrky, by the road to Kameničky. This involves a reconstruction of a Celtic “town” from the Late Iron Age, i.e. from the 2nd and 1st centuries BC.
- Kaštanka – Walk through the unique chestnut grove in the centre of the town!

Slatiřany – 9.4 km

- The Slatiřany Château – This cosy aristocratic residence at the foot of the Iron Mountains will enable you to catch a glimpse of the life of one of the most prestigious aristocratic houses in the old monarchy, the House of Auersperg.
- The Slatiřany National Stud – Take a guided tour of the stables which have been home to black Kladruber horses for more than 70 years. You will see the stables of the breeding stallions and mares, including the youngest foals in the spring months, but also the carriage room, the historical saddle room of the House of Auersperg and the training centre.



Recommended restaurant: Hotel Šustr www.hotel-nasavrky.cz



Recommended accommodation: Hotel Šustr www.hotel-nasavrky.cz

DAY 2:

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

The Košumberk Castle

Let's go to **Košumberk**! Its now bare walls merely hint at the former glory of the castle, which was established at the beginning of the 14th century. Only part of the burgrave's house, which now houses the remarkable **castle museum**, has survived to the present.

The first written mention of Košumberk dates from 1312. The Lords of Chlum remodelled it in the late Gothic style at the end of the 14th century. It received its renaissance appearance after a fire in 1573. A Czech Brethren school was established there in the second half of the 16th century to educate young Protestant aristocrats. These included **Albrecht von Wallenstein**, who later gained fame as a general.

In 1684, Košumberk passed into the ownership of the Jesuit College in Hradec Králové. The castle was listed as having been abandoned at the end of the 18th century and it

gradually transformed into a ruin. It is now possible to see the torso of the square tower, part of the palace walls, the gate and the remnants of the fortifications.

Košumberk is a frequent backdrop for a number of interesting cultural events, such as the Košumberk Summer, for example. It includes theatrical performances, concerts or summer film screenings.

Weddings have also been regularly held there since 2000. It is also possible to hold a small reception there after the **wedding**.

The Hamza Sanatorium is located near the Košumberk Castle. This expert rehabilitation institution has a more than one-hundred-year tradition and provides post-operative and long-term care to children and adults from the entire Czech Republic. Its motto is "sit down, stand up and take a step".



Some tips for your trips around:

Luže

- The Hamza Park and Arboretum – is located in the Hamza Sanatorium's forest park and it includes a valuable collection of domestic and foreign tree species, including species from North America and Asia.
- The Healthcare Museum – the exhibition at the Hamza Sanatorium documents the individual periods in the development of healthcare, especially with regard to how this influenced the care at the facility.
- The Pilgrimage Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help – an exceptional early baroque structure that was once one of the most sought out pilgrimage sites in the Bohemia.

Skuteč – 9.2 km

- The Municipal Museum – the Municipal Museum's permanent exhibitions present the history and the present of the traditional crafts of the Skuteč area, namely stonemasonry and cobbling.

Předhradí – 12.1 km

- The Rychmburk Castle – the Gothic Rychmburk Castle recently opened to tourists after a 70-year period, during which it was used for other purposes.



Recommended restaurant: Hotel Vídeň www.vychodni-cechy.info



Recommended accommodation: Accommodation Harmonie www.harmonieluze.cz

DAY 2:

The Choceň Chateau

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

The chateau is situated right in the city centre. It was built in the Renaissance style on the banks of the Tichá Orlice in 1562, receiving its present classicist form in the 19th century. For a long part of its history, the estate was owned by the Kinský family from Vchynice and Tetov. The chateau is home to the Orlické Museum today and one of its sections serves as the Elementary Art School.

Accompanied by a **guide**, you can also visit the **pseudo-Gothic chapel with beautiful stained glass windows**. The original furnishing includes an altar made of white Carrara marble with an interesting sculpture of the Virgin Mary and Jesus Christ. Worth noting is also the six-octave, two-register pressure harmonium. Nowadays the chateau chapel is being used primarily for **chamber concerts** or church and civil weddings.

Orlické Museum offers several highly attractive exhibitions. The **history** exposition illuminates the history of Choceň and its surroundings. You will even see **Melantrich's Bible** here,



one of the most significant editions of the Bible in Renaissance Bohemia, as well as a unique **map of the Choceň estate** dating from 1811.

In the **archaeology exposition**, you will get an opportunity to take a view of the reconstruction of the cremation burial ground of the Lusatian culture originating from nearby Běstovice. The **palaeontology** section will surprise you, for example, by the remains of a prehistoric pterodactyl, mammoth tusks or by the skull of a cave bear.

The **geology exhibition** presents mainly Mesolithic fossils of cephalopods. What is not so usual is the **brick-making section of the museum**, which maps the now defunct brickyards and the bricks themselves, mostly from the district of Ústí nad Orlicí.

Do not miss the opportunity to visit Choceň Chateau also **at Christmas**, when it is fully absorbed in the festive atmosphere. A traditional **fair** is held here on a regular basis.



Some tips for your trips around:

Zámky na Orlicí – 17-25 km

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

Vamberk – 18 km

- Lace Museum – Embark on an absorbing journey through the history and present of bobbin lace. You can also try this breathtaking craft by yourself here and buy a beautiful piece in the adjacent shop to adorn your home.

Ústí nad Orlicí – 18 km

- Ústí nad Orlicí Municipal Museum – The exposition of the Municipal Museum, which is housed in the majestic Hernych Villa, will acquaint you in an absorbing way with the local textile traditions and the town's history.

Žamberk – 25 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.



Recommended restaurant: Měšťanský pivovar Hylváty www.pivovar-ustinadorlici.cz



Recommended accommodation: Hotel na zámečku Hylváty www.pivovar-ustinadorlici.cz