

# TOP



# tourist attractions



[www.piseckem.cz](http://www.piseckem.cz)

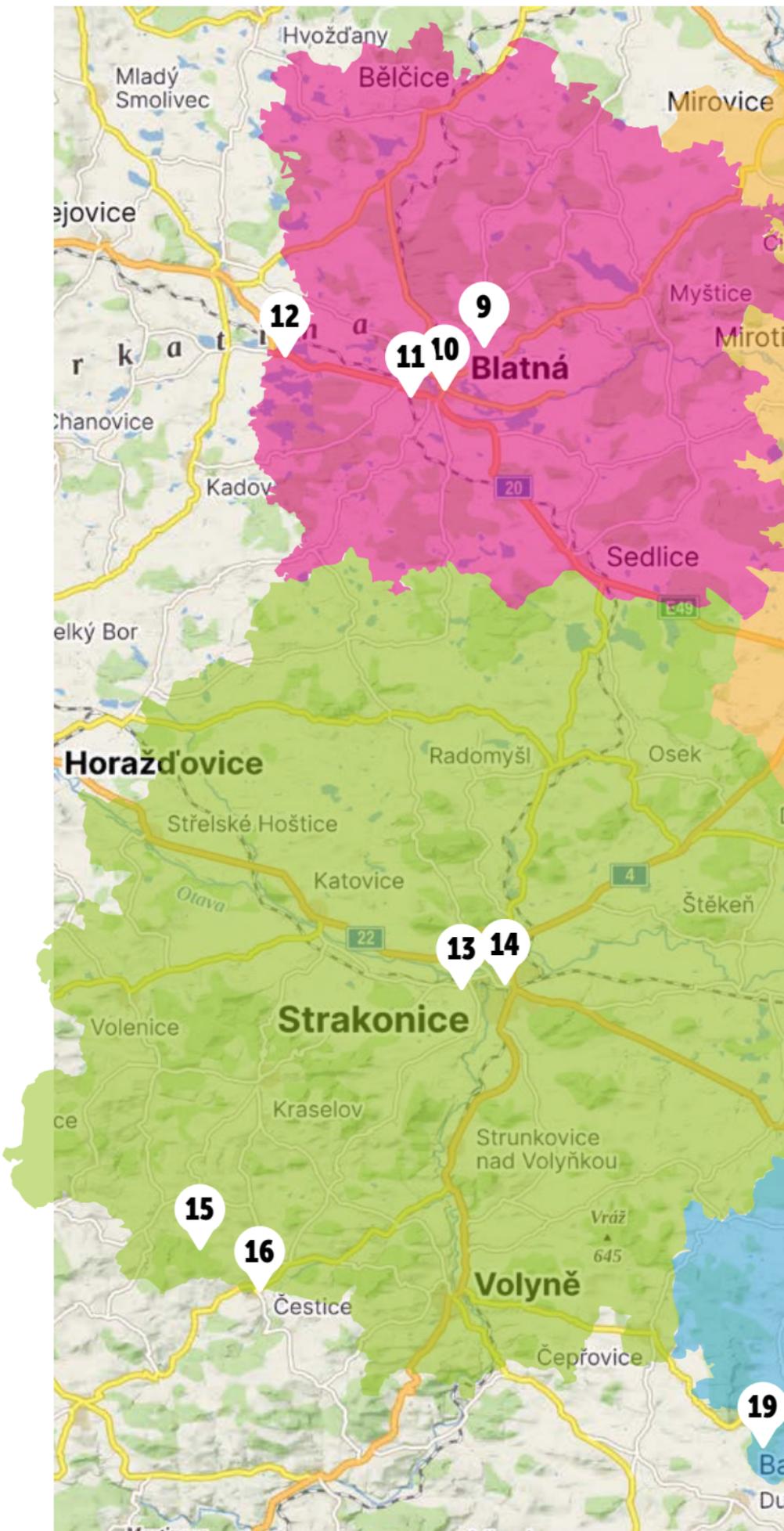
South Bohemia 

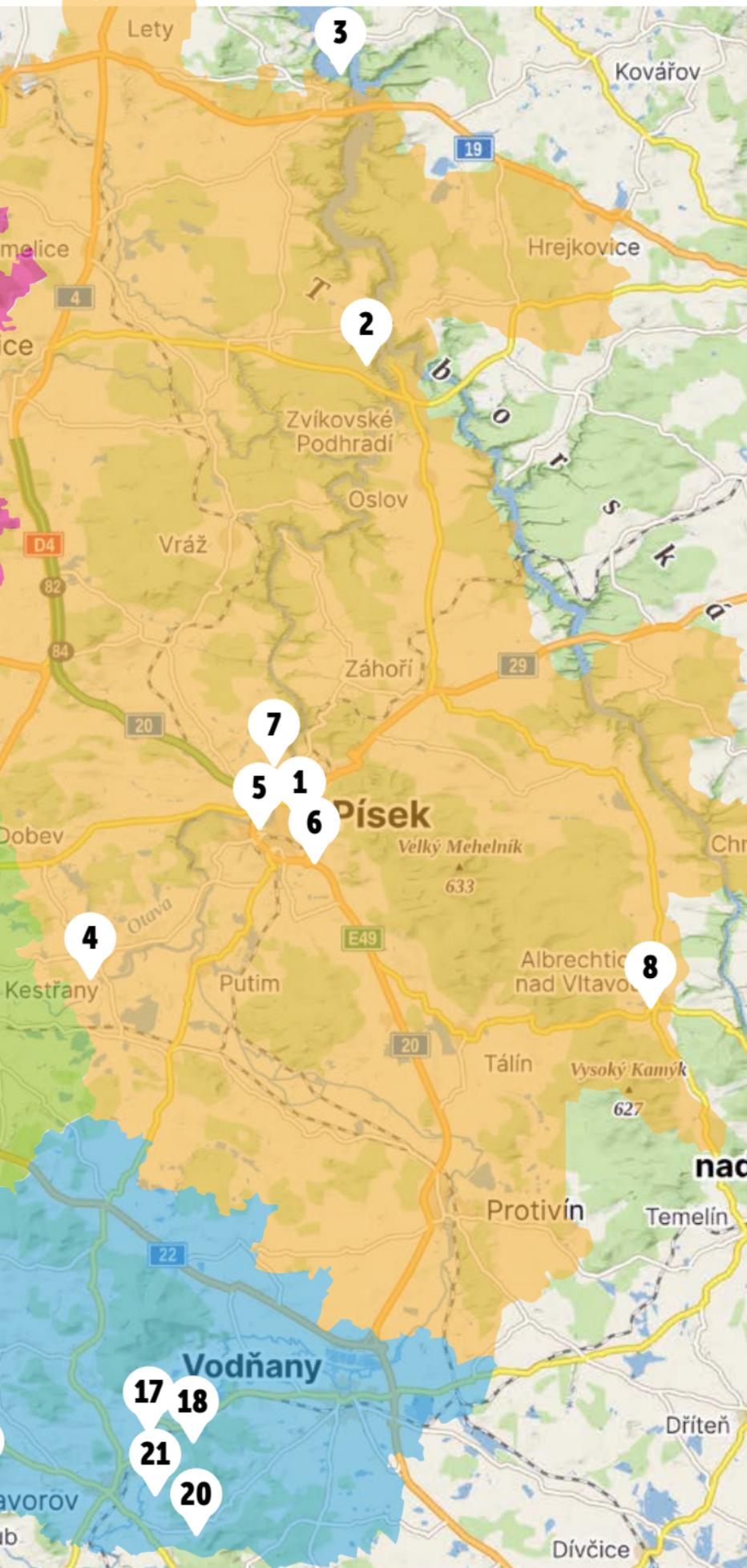




## TOP tourist attractions

Welcome to one of the most beautiful corners of South Bohemia. The natural centres of this region include the towns of Písek – a historical gem on the Otava River, Blatná – the town of roses, Vodňany – the Venice of South Bohemia, and Strakonice – the flourishing town. We are the destination with the highest number of sights and tourist attractions in the entire region. In this publication, we offer you at least a brief list of the most interesting ones. Be sure to visit the beautiful castles of Zvíkov and Helfenburk, and the chateaux of Orlík, Blatná and Lnáře. Take a trip to the Orlík Reservoir and admire the beauty of nature and the impressive bridge structures from there. You will also find a number of observation towers and romantic viewpoints here, and hundreds of kilometres of hiking and cycling trails will lead you to other interesting sights.





# TOP tourist attractions

in the tourist region

Písek – Blatná – Strakonice – Vodňany:

## **PÍSEK Region**

1	Historic town centre of Písek.....	8
2	Zvíkov Castle.....	10
3	Chateau Orlik.....	12
4	Kestřany Fortress .....	14
5	Prácheň Museum in Písek.....	16
6	Sladovna – interactive play-gallery.....	18
7	The Stone Bridge.....	20
8	Chapel Cemetery.....	22

## **BLATNÁ Region**

9	Blatná Municipal Heritage Zone.....	24
10	Castle Blatná .....	26
11	Castle Park Blatná.....	28
12	Lnáře Castle .....	30

## **STRAKONICE Region**

13	Strakonice Heritage Zone.....	32
14	Museum of Central Otava Region.....	34
15	Hoslovice Mill.....	36
16	Mach's apiary.....	38

## **VODŇANY Region**

17	Vodňany Heritage Zone.....	40
18	Vodňany Museum .....	42
19	Helfenburk Castle.....	44
20	Lomec Pilgrimage Site .....	46
21	Haniperk Lookout Tower.....	48





## Historic town centre of Písek

Písek is the third largest town in southern Bohemia with its history dating back to the Middle Ages. The main reason for establishing the settlement was mineral wealth found here in the form of gold-bearing sand. From the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, a gold panning village stood on the left bank of Otava River. The settlement was then called „Na Písku“ (On the Sand).

Today, the historic centre of Písek is an urban conservation area. Its most significant monument is undoubtedly the oldest preserved bridge in the Czech Republic – **the Stone Bridge**, built in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The bridge is older than Charles Bridge in Prague. **The Prácheň**



**Museum** definitely deserves your attention and a visit. If you enjoy admiring views from towers, we recommend climbing the steps of **Tower of the Deanery Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary**. Have you come to Písek with your children? Your steps will likely lead to **Sladovna gallery** where you can enjoy the largest interactive space for children of all ages in the Czech Republic – you can spend the whole day there. The **giant sand sculptures** near the Stone Bridge are also a big tourist attraction. They adorn the banks of the Otava River from mid-May until the beginning of December.

[www.pisek.eu](http://www.pisek.eu)





## Zvíkov Castle

This royal castle above the confluence of the Vltava and Otava rivers, historically associated with the Přemyslid dynasty, represents an example of Czech medieval architecture. It is a must-see place in South Bohemia. Zvíkov is one of the most important examples of Czech medieval secular architecture and is definitely worth a visit.

### Experience Zvíkov Castle:

- Mysterious atmosphere of the Middle Ages in the castle palace
- Royal chambers and cellars
- Panoramic views of the confluence of the Vltava and Otava rivers



- Archaeologic exhibition
- Pleasant self-guided tour of the royal palace

**Practical information:**

- Car park is located 400m from the castle (fee).
- Easy access for cyclists.
- Wheelchair accessible restrooms
- Souvenirs, refreshments.
- Theatre and fencing performances.
- Steamboat landing located below the castle.

[www.hrad-zvikov.cz](http://www.hrad-zvikov.cz)





## Chateau Orlik

Orlik Chateau is the most visited monument in southern Bohemia. This impressive chateau, towering on a rocky point above the Vltava River, will captivate the hearts of all lovers of history and romance. Add this chateau to your list of must-see places! Orlik (derived from Czech word 'Orel', in English 'Eagle') used to resemble an eagle's nest. After flooding the valley of Vltava by Orlik Dam, reflection of the chateau is now mirrored in the reservoir's calm water surface.

Chateau Orlik offers one tourist route. With the exception of four rooms on the first floor, the interiors have been preserved in their original condition in which



the Schwarzenberg family was forced to leave them in 1948.

**Practical information:**

- Car park is located 500m from the castle (fee).
- Easy access for cyclists.
- You can enjoy a walk through an extensive English park with a view of the Orlik Dam.
- Souvenirs, refreshments.
- Steamboat landing located below the castle.



[www.zamekorlik.cz](http://www.zamekorlik.cz)



## Kestřany Fortress

Are you looking for an unusual experience filled with history and mystery? Then visit the picturesque village of Kestřany where a unique pair of two well-preserved fortresses – the Upper and Lower Fortress – await you. Discover this tourist attraction in southern Bohemia!

### Experience the Middle Ages:

- Walk freely through the interiors and soak up their unique atmosphere.
- Get enchanted by the fascinating story of the 14<sup>th</sup>-century fortress and 18<sup>th</sup>-century Baroque castle.
- Meet the owner of the fortress, who will be happy to



answer your questions and guide you through the fortress even during the off-season.

**Practical information:**

- Free parking available in the village.
- Easy access for cyclists.
- Extensive Kestřany Golf Course located nearby.
- Traditional gold panning competition on the Otava River in Kestřany every year in August.

[www.kestrany.cz](http://www.kestrany.cz)





## Prácheň Museum in Písek

Visit the Prácheň Museum in Písek, located in a former 13th-century royal castle. Discover another must-see site. Founded in 1884 as the Municipal Museum, it was initially located in several buildings scattered around town. Housed in the former royal castle since 1902.

The museum offers permanent exhibitions on: Prehistory and Slavic Age, The Origins of the Castle and Town of Písek, History of the Region, Protected Areas, Mineral Resources, Cultural Traditions of the Písek Region, Gold in Otava River, Fish and Fisheries (aquariums with live fish), Písek Countryside in the 19th Century, Gallery of Czech Monarchs and Lapidarium. Visit the Gallery on



the second floor of the wing located above the river, the Small Exhibition Halls on the ground floor or the corridor along the museum library and enjoy a wide range of temporary exhibitions.

**Practical information:**

- You can also pay a visit to the Adolf Heyduk Memorial.
- The museum has a branch in Protivín.
- Don't forget to stop at the museum gift shop.





## Sladovna – interactive play-gallery

Sladovna Písek is a renovated complex whose history dates back to the 19th century. It originally served as a malt house, a facility for malt production which is the main ingredient used for brewing beer. After extensive reconstruction in 2010, the malt house was transformed into a lively cultural centre with unique genius loci – the largest children's gallery in the Czech Republic. Visit this unique place and enjoy some lovely moments there with the whole family. Interactive exhibitions make you forget your age and take you back to a time of fun and discovery. Sladovna Písek offers inspiration, play, entertainment and knowledge through interactive exhibitions for children and adults alike.



### **Practical information:**

- Most interactive exhibitions and programmes are offered in pre-scheduled time blocks with a lecturer so it is advised to book your visit in advance.
- A charming Balzám Café, a place with romantic indoor and outdoor seating right by the Otava River, is also housed in the Sladovna building. Concerts and various events are held here during the summer months.

[www.sladovna.cz](http://www.sladovna.cz)





## The Stone Bridge

The Stone Bridge in Písek – a national cultural monument – was built on the orders of the king before the end of the 13th century, along with the town itself. It is at least half a century older than the famous Charles Bridge in Prague. There is only one older bridge in Central Europe, in Regensburg in Bavaria.

The structure, made of Vltava granite, was originally protected by towers on both banks. It has seven arches and is 110 metres long. Defensive towers used to stand on both banks, however, these have not survived to our days. In the 18th century, the railings were decorated with Baroque sculptures of St. John of Nepomuk with angels, St. Anne,



St. Anthony of Padua and a Calvary sculpture. The original works have now been replaced by copies.

The bridge has been threatened by floods many times. During the last one, in August 2002, it was completely swallowed by the raging Otava River. The water flow was 50 times greater than is the norm and only the Baroque statues protruded above the water surface. The floodwaters tore down the railing, one of the angels and damaged the bridge deck. Thanks to a public fund-raising campaign, the bridge was soon repaired. Today, you can stand on the bridge again and enjoy a peaceful view of Písek.

[www.pisek.eu](http://www.pisek.eu)





## Chapel Cemetery

You will find it at the eastern foothills of Písek Mountains in a village called Albrechtice nad Vltavou. A village cemetery with uniform chapels decorated by folk paintings and verse epitaphs surrounds the Church of St. Peter and Paul. A total of 108 chapels stand here along the cemetery wall. Come and soak up the mysterious atmosphere. The chapels in Albrechtice cemetery represent an absolute rarity as, in addition to paintings they also feature verses from the lives of the deceased written by local priest named Vít Cíza in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The history of the paintings in the arcade chapels of the cemetery dates back to 1841 when the first group of



three paintings was created. Within five years, the rest of the chapels were painted on the cemetery wall.

**Practical information:**

- Visit the nearby Vysoký Kamýk lookout tower.
- You can book a guided tour of the cemetery at the local information centre.

[www.albrechticenadvltavou.cz](http://www.albrechticenadvltavou.cz)





## Blatná Municipal Heritage Zone

Blatná, a picturesque town in the South Bohemian Region, boasts the prestigious title of the “Town of Roses”. This nickname is no coincidence, as roses have played an important role here since the 19th century. The town was made famous by grower Jan Böhm, whose extensive rose plantations belonged among the largest in Europe in the 1930s. At that time, up to a million roses bloomed here every year! Today, Blatná is once again becoming the centre of rose cultivation in the Czech Republic. The town is adorned with numerous rose bushes which can be found in parks, gardens and squares. All of this creates a unique open-air rose museum. ARTfestival – an exhibition of



roses – is held here every year to celebrate the beauty and history of roses.

**Practical information:**

- There is plenty of parking available in the town centre.
- Blatná represents a typical tourist town with many cafés and patisseries.
- You can find a small exhibition dedicated to the local narrow-gauge railway by the Přední Topič pond.
- Take a walk along the Blatná Queens Trail – more information is available at the local information centre.



[www.plantaz-blatna.cz](http://www.plantaz-blatna.cz)



## Castle Blatná

Today's Blatná castle complex ranks among the most architecturally significant and historically valuable monuments of its kind in the Czech Republic. With its long history, unique architecture in rare preserved environment of parks and water areas, as well as its current condition, it is one of the jewels of castle complexes. Alongside Švihov and Červená Lhota, it also is one of the best-preserved water manor houses in the Czech Republic.

The estate was returned to the Hildprandt family after 1991, specifically to Bedřich Hildprandt's wife Cornelia and her two daughters, Josefina and Jana. The current owners are



intensively engaged in its restoration and strive to make it accessible to visitors.

**Practical information:**

- There are three tourist routes and a special children's tour.
- During the holidays, you can also enjoy night-time tours of the castle.
- There is a pleasant 'Oh My Deer Café' in the castle courtyard.
- Many interesting events are held here throughout the year.



<https://zamek-blatna.cz/>



## Castle Park Blatná

Although it is part of the castle, the extensive English park deserves to be mentioned separately. Covering an area of 42 hectares, it belongs among the most charming places in the region. The entire park is criss-crossed with streams, bridges and paths lined with beautiful walkways. Baron František had an artificial hill with rocks built in the south-western part of the park in 1810, along with a new road. Additionally, caves were created there, connected by stone corridors. The park also used to have an orangery, a theatre, a Swiss house, a gamekeeper's lodge and a shooting range, but these buildings are now a thing of the past. Today, only the Empire-style



house where the Hildprandt family lives remains in the park.

Visitors especially love the large herd of fallow deer that graze freely through the park, as well as a flock of peacocks. The park is adorned with many old oak trees.

**Practical information:**

- The park is open all year round.
- There is an admission fee to enter.
- You can book a special walk with local alpacas.

<https://zamek-blatna.cz/>





## Lnáře Castle

This extensive Baroque complex with a large park surrounded by ponds was built in the 17th century. In the 20th century its walls literally witnessed history. It was purchased by Prague lawyer Jindřich A. Vaniček in 1936. During World War II, the castle was used as a training centre for the Hitler Youth and, at the end of the war, soldiers from General Patton's Third Army were housed there. General Vlasov surrendered at the castle. Lawyer Vaniček returned after the war, however, the castle was nationalised and confiscated in 1948. Afterwards, it fell into disrepair until 1972 when the Czechoslovak General Prosecutor's Office started repairs. The building was used by the Office of the Government as a recreation centre for



high-ranking Communist officials from 1985. In the early 1990s, thousands of privatisation projects were approved in the castle, and members of the Czech and Slovak governments negotiated the division of Czechoslovakia here. The castle was returned to the descendants of lawyer Vaniček in 1992, and they opened it to the public in 1999.

**Practical information:**

- You can book a wedding ceremony at the castle.
- You can also reserve accommodations at the castle.
- A unique Cat museum is also located here.



<https://zameklnare.cz/>



## Strakonice Heritage Zone

Strakonice is often called the town of a thousand flowers, and rightly so, as it is adorned with a flood of colours from early spring to late autumn. Many visitors seek out this town on the Otava River not only for its delicious beer and interesting history but also for the variety of flowers in its streets. Have you heard about The Strakonice Bagpiper and the rich history of bagpiping? The history of the town dates back to 1243. We recommend admiring the town directly from the river – there is nothing easier than renting a pedal boat or a classic boat at the campsite. You can also rent a scooter at the information centre, ride through the town and enjoy the sight of many different flowers at sunset. The town of flowers at the conflu-



ence of the Otava and Volyňka rivers was created by gradual merging of four smaller settlements: Strakonice, Bezděkov, Žabokrtý and Lom. They all merged into one vassal town, which now represents the heart of the Strakonice region.

**Practical information:**

- Explore the town walking along one of it's educational trails.
- Enjoy local beer and excellent cuisine.
- Visit it's renowned sports facilities.
- During summer months, take a dip in the largest outdoor swimming complex in the region.



<https://info.strakonice.eu/>



## Museum of Central Otava Region

Visit the Museum of Central Otava Region in Strakonice and enjoy an unforgettable family trip. Discover the world of bagpipes, the history of the Sovereign Order of Malta, ČZ motorcycles and much more. After extensive renovations, the Museum of Central Otava Region reopened with a new exhibition that will captivate the whole family. Numerous displays have been complemented by a variety of interactive features. You can play puzzles or memory games on touch screens, assemble real bagpipes and play them, listen to audio and video recordings of bagpipe bands, watch a fairy tale performed in a puppet theatre or play in a replica Saracen tent. You can dress up as a knight, feel replicas of gloves and a sword in your hands, step on the gas pedal of



the motorbikes on display, sit on the racing bikes. The chapter house and cloister, the black kitchen, and the Rumpál observation tower have also been reopened.

**Practical information:**

- Parking is available directly at the Strakonice Castle complex.
- Two tourist routes are available.
- There is a small zoo in the castle moat.
- If you choose the second tour, you can climb up the Rumpál observation tower.

<https://muzeum-st.cz/>





## Hoslovice Mill

This uniquely preserved medieval water mill is located in the village of Hoslovice, 17 km southwest of Strakonice near the Hoslovice stream. It consists of three buildings – a mill with a residential area, stables with a shed and a barn. A visit here takes you back in time. The authentic picture of life at the mill is reinforced by the original farm equipment with a functioning grinding mechanism and domestic animals. You will also be impressed by the life story of the last millers – the Harant family.

The atmosphere is enriched by regular events with programmes for children, the turning of the mill wheel, demonstrations of old craft techniques combined with



tastings of traditional dishes and freshly baked bread.

The watermill and the miller have appeared in three Czech fairy tales: Kouzla králů (The Magic of Kings), Vodník a Karolínka (The Water Sprite and Karolínka), and Tři bratři (Three Brothers).

**Practical information:**

- There is a new car park approx. 300 m from the mill.
- Climb the nearby lookout tower.

<https://mlyn-hoslovice.cz/>





## Mach's apiary

Mach's apiary in Krušlov represents a unique gem not only in the Czech Republic but also in Central Europe. Immerse yourself in the world of bees and discover the beauty of folk creativity in this amazing work by Josef Mach, a self-taught woodcarver and a passionate beekeeper. Explore the unique collection of 65 decorated beehives in the form of little houses, which are full of functional details.

Admire the elaborate woodcarving and painting decorations of the apiary with many details and symbolic motifs. You can also watch the bees doing their daily hard work from spring to autumn. The apiary is surrounded



by a picturesque garden with domestic animals and the nearby meadow offers a beautiful panoramic view of the Šumava foothills.

**Practical information:**

- Parking is available near the apiary.
- An interactive educational bee trail leads from the apiary to Čestice, where you can learn in detail about the life of bees, beekeeping and bee products.
- You can visit the local lookout tower and the beautiful Calvary complex in Čestice.

<https://kruslovskyvcelin.cz/>





## Vodňany Heritage Zone

The name “Aquileia Bohemorum – Czech Venice” is now used mainly in literature, but the people of Vodňany are still rightly proud of it. The town has a rich cultural life. Moreover, it represents a pleasant place for your holiday thanks to a number of preserved monuments, architecture and nature trails around the Blanice River.

The town centre is surrounded by a preserved belt of original town fortifications. Although the gates have not been preserved, you can visit the bastions which are part of the walls. The Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary is the most important architectural monument in Vodňany. It was first mentioned in writing in 1327. It acquired its cur-



rent neo-Gothic look between 1894 and 1897, designed by Josef Mocker. The decorations of interiors and gables were designed by Mikoláš Aleš. The church is open during services or for groups that book a visit in advance at the Vodňany Town Museum and Gallery.

**Practical information:**

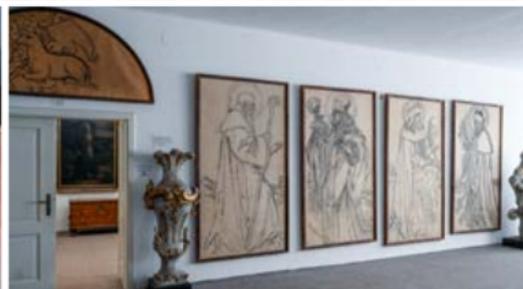
- You can park directly on the square.
- The historic town centre is surrounded by an almost continuous belt of preserved town fortifications.





## Vodňany Museum

Visit an important regional cultural and historical institution which was founded as an exhibition in 1895 and opened as a permanent exhibition in 1905. It is located on the second floor of the historic town hall building located on Náměstí Svobody [ Freedom Square]. Nearly 14,000 items are exhibited there, archaeological finds which date from prehistoric times to the Middle Ages (e.g. Vodňany gold, Chelčický treasure), Baroque furnishings from the deanery church (e.g. the statue of God the Father by Lazar Widemann), a model of a statue of a Muse by Jaroslav Maudr, and a picture gallery (including works by Vojtěch Hynais, Karel Vítězslav Mašek, Jan Zrzavý), a number of cardboard drawings for sgraffito by Mikoláš Aleš, collec-



tions of furniture, textiles, ceramics, glass and jewellery, memorial halls dedicated to Julius Zeyer and František Herites with the original furnishings from his pharmacy and library, and a collection of cutting weapons and firearms. In the natural history collection you can admire a crocodile from the Nile, to give an example.

**Practical information:**

- You can also visit the nearby synagogue, where you can find an exhibition on local fishing.
- Take your children to visit the Trail of the Stork Vodňan.

[www.muzeumvodnany.cz](http://www.muzeumvodnany.cz)





## Helfenburk Castle

Helfenburk Castle, located on the wooded Malošín Hill near Bavorov, is one of the largest castles in the Czech Republic. The romantic ruins of the Gothic Helfenburk Castle, founded in the 14th century by the Rožmberk family, offer not only tours but also romantic overnight stays. They are undoubtedly one of the most interesting tourist attractions. Are you longing for an unforgettable trip? Come to one of the most visited castles in southern Bohemia. Walk along the walls of the breath-taking ruins of this 14th-century Gothic castle and soak up the atmosphere that takes you back in time. Discover the



secrets of three gates, two towers (18 m and 15 m high) and the extensive castle palace. Climb to the top of one of the castle towers and get captivated by the beauty of the picturesque landscape of Šumava and Pošumaví from a bird's eye view.

Be advised: it is difficult to move around the castle, people with reduced mobility may require assistance.

[www.helfenburk.com](http://www.helfenburk.com)





## Lomec Pilgrimage Site

Visit Lomec, a hidden gem with an impressive Baroque church, a meditation garden and the largest burial mound site in southern Bohemia – an ideal trip for lovers of art and beautiful nature. Lomec, a picturesque village north of Netolice, is famous primarily as an important pilgrimage site with the Pilgrimage Church of the Virgin Mary. The church, built between 1692 and 1702 by Count Buquoy, represents a masterpiece of Baroque architecture and attracts believers and art lovers from far and wide. The church captivates visitors with its central altar, richly carved and inspired by Bernini's papal altar in Rome. The



meditation garden offers a peaceful place for contemplation and relaxation.

**Practical information:**

- Free parking is available near the complex.
- There is a group of Slavic burial mounds from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> century along one of the access roads to Lomec – the largest and best-preserved burial mound site in southern Bohemia.
- The nearby historic town of Netolice with its picturesque centre and castle is an ideal destination for a trip.

[www.lomec.cz](http://www.lomec.cz)





## Haniperk Lookout Tower

The observation tower is located in beautiful countryside near Vodňany. It is a real gem among the most visited tourist destinations in South Bohemia. The wooden tower, built in 2019, is a true copy of the observation tower on Boubín, with one difference - a covered viewing platform. The tower is 24.5 metres high, and the covered viewing platform is 21 metres above the top of the mountain. To enjoy the view, you will climb 110 steps. Views from the tower include Hluboká Castle in the southeast, the church in Rudolfov near České Budějovice, České Budějovice, Novohradské Mountains and Klet Mountain with its transmitter. In the south you can observe the peaks of Chlum, Knížecí Stolec and Libín. The southwest view shows you Šumava peaks



Bobík and Boubín and to the west you can observe Mařský vrch with its transmitter near Vimperk. You can also see the ruins of Helfenburk near Bavorov, the town of Bavorov and to the north the towns of Písek and Protivín. To the west, you can see the nearby town of Vodňany and Temelín nuclear power plant on the horizon.

**Practical information:**

- Open year-round, free admission.
- Parking is available near the village of Svobodné Vodňanské Hory.
- Hiking trails: yellow from Bavorov and Křepice.

[www.infocentrumvodnany.cz](http://www.infocentrumvodnany.cz)



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further trips:



**[www.piseckem.cz](http://www.piseckem.cz)**

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[www.jiznicechy.cz](http://www.jiznicechy.cz)  
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Further information is available  
at our information centres.



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<https://info.strakonice.eu/>

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