Czech
UNESCO
Treasures
New Title 2018
UNESCO stands for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which was founded in 1945. The Czech Republic actively participates in the activities of this international organisation. After all, Czechoslovakia belonged among the founding countries.

With regard to its area and number of inhabitants, the Czech Republic can boast of the fact that it ranks among the countries with the greatest concentration of world heritage sites. An inscription in the UNESCO World Heritage List confirms the exceptionality of the site and the need to protect and maintain its cultural and natural heritage for future generations.

A quarter of a century has passed since the first sites and places of the Czech Republic were inscribed in the World Heritage List maintained by UNESCO. The first Czech places inscribed were the historic centres of Prague, Český Krumlov and Telč. In the course of time, other places were added, such as the Baroque Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc, the Renaissance castle of Litomyšl or the functionalistic Villa Tugendhat in Brno. Nearly all artistic styles are represented in the Czech properties.

Moreover, Czech heritage under the patronage of UNESCO is literally within reach. The most remote UNESCO sites are approximately 300 kilometres apart. Most of them can be purposefully linked during a Czech cultural heritage sightseeing trip. It would be wrong to believe that the United Nations only protect what people can touch. UNESCO also promotes recognition and protection of so-called immaterial (intangible) heritage, which includes traditions, knowledge and skills. Among the phenomena within the territory of the Czech Republic inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage is Slovácko Verbuňk, a male solo dance from the Slovácko Region, shrovetide door-to-door processions and masks in the villages of the Hlinecko area, the traditional Ride of the Kings in the Slovácko Region, falconry, and the tradition of puppetry in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

UNESCO also provides its protective auspices to nature. Six areas in the Czech Republic – the Giant Mountains (Czech: Krkonoše), the Třeboňsko area, the Křivoklátsko area, the Bohemian Forest (Czech: Šumava), the White Carpathians (Czech: Bílé Karpaty) and Lower Morava (Czech: Dolní Morava) – received the status of a biosphere reserve within the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere programme. Besides valuable natural ecosystems, these places show a harmonious relationship between the environment and the people living there. Global UNESCO geopark Bohemian Paradise (Czech: Český ráj) focuses on getting to know as well as the protection of the geological, natural, and cultural heritage of the Earth.

We hope that this guide to the UNESCO treasures in the Czech Republic becomes a source of inspiration for your trips. The world appreciates Czech wonders. Discover them, too.

whc.unesco.org
en.czech-unesco.org

Who else would like to expand the ranks of UNESCO World Heritage?

Pgs. 14–15

Twelve architectonic sights and historic centres. Five varied cultural traditions and manifestations. In addition, six biosphere reserves and one geopark. That sums up Czech cultural and natural wealth in prestigious lists under the patronage of UNESCO.
Graceful medieval sights, fabulous squares or functionalist architecture. Twelve Bohemian and Moravian world heritage sites are the evidence of the history of mankind and the cultural achievements of their era. They are definitely worth visiting. Cultural sights offer an inspiring walk back to the past. Experience the beauty of various regions of the Czech Republic and the genius loci of local places inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List.
Český Krumlov

The unique look of Český Krumlov is predetermined by its position in the meanders of the Vltava River.

The town and its historic centre with numerous significant architectonic sights represent an exceptionally valuable and well-preserved complex of a medieval residential town, which developed since the 13th century and which is connected to one of the most powerful aristocratic families of Bohemia – the House of Rosenberg.

The town has maintained its original urban structure and is remarkable due to the large number of well-preserved late Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque burgher houses, which stand out thanks to the variety of decoration of their facades. The value of the town is emphasized by the dramatic terrain, the composition of architectonic landmarks and the intact connection to the surrounding landscape.

A Gothic castle was generously remodelled into a palace-style residence in the Renaissance style, which was completed in the Baroque era. The Masquerade Hall, which Josef Lederer decorated with illusion ball scenes in 1748, is well worth visiting.

The castle theatre is one of the oldest ones and represents the most comprehensively preserved Baroque theatre stage of this kind in the world. The castle has five courtyards, contain over 40 buildings and spread from the town district called Latrán up along a rocky ridge. The castle premises is enclosed with a large castle garden.

What is also worth visiting is the St. Vitus Church, a significant late-Gothic sight with a precious network vault, Baroque chapels and abundant internal equipment. In this church you can also see valuable relics commemorating the Houses of Rosenberg and Schwarzenberg.

Telč

Telč appeals to each visitor through its grandiose composition of castle, church buildings, and burgher houses. The unique historic centre developed throughout the centuries inside an unchanging layout defined by a fortification system formed by ponds, moats, walls, and gates.

Its urban structure is reflected in its Gothic foundation. The outer appearance of the town’s buildings was primarily determined during the Renaissance period under the rule of the town’s most important personage, Zachariáš of Hradec. He rebuilt his family seat into a grand representational residence in the second half of the 16th century.

The castle bears a complex yet complete layout with an arcaded courtyard, Renaissance garden, and a later landscaped park with Empire style greenhouse.

The so-called Golden Hall with coffering and impressive figural wood carving belongs to the most valuable interiors of the castle of Telč. An elongated square is surrounded by burgher houses with gables and arcades, in many cases also with abundantly decorated facades of Renaissance, Baroque or Classicist styles. A large Jesuit palace was built in the 17th century with the Church of the Name of Jesus, and in the 18th century the town was decorated with many sculptures including a Marian column.

A visit to the historic centre, which is inscribed in the World Heritage List, can be connected, for example, with the Historical Fair, which takes place in autumn. It commemorates the nobleman Zachariáš of Hradec and his contribution to the development and boom of Telč.

www.telc.eu
www.zamek-telc.eu

UNESCO World Heritage stories teller tips:

“Český Krumlov is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful small towns in Europe. In Český Krumlov, I would suggest you take your time to soak up the fairy tale atmosphere in the streets and pop into some of the small local shops and cafes – each has its own story to discover.”

Michael Turtle /UNESCO World Heritage Journeys copywriter/ visitworldheritage.com
UNESCO World Heritage stories teller tips:

“When you visit, make sure to take note of all the striking symbolism that’s hidden in the design of the building. I love seeing how World Heritage Sites are related to each other. A statue in Prague marks where St John of Nepomuk was apparently killed, and a cathedral in Kutná Hora designed by the same architect as the pilgrimage church shows an architectural evolution. So you can travel through the Czech Republic and see three World Heritage Sites all linked together!”

Michael Turtle/UNESCO World Heritage Journeys copywriter/visitworldheritage.com

**Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora (1994)**

The Pilgrimage church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora in Žďár nad Sázavou is an extraordinary work by architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel and is also the most original example of the „Baroque Gothic” style.

It was built in 1719–1722. It is dedicated to John of Nepomuk, an important church dignitary in the second half of the 14th century. He was tortured and killed for his disagreement with the church and its patron saints. The overall modest central church has a unique floor plan and spatial design which is based on the symbolism of the five stars in the halo of St. John of Nepomuk.

You can follow in the footsteps of Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel in Žďár nad Sázavou, for example, to the monastery farm yard Lyra, which is the ground plan of the ancient musical instrument – Lyra. We also recommend visiting the former Cistercian monastery and the current castle. You should not miss the interactive New Generation Museum, which is situated directly in the castle. The museum makes use of multi-media presentation and combines the exhibits with audiovisual projections and music; both children and adults will enjoy it very much.

www.zelena-hora.cz/en

**Litomyšl**

The Renaissance castle in Litomyšl was built on the site of a 14th-century bishop’s seat. Between 1568 and 1581 the priest Giovanni Battista and Ulrico Aostalli built it for Vratislav of Pernštejn in the form of a representative monumental residence inspired by Italian palaces.

Vratislav of Pernštejn married Maria Manrique de Lara, a member of the Spanish aristocracy, who brought to Bohemia a family relic – a wax statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague. The castle has three courtyards and the outline of the main part is divided by gables and chimneys. Lavish agraftito decoration on all castle façades with the motif of traditional envelopes and figures, dominated by two large battle scenes, were treated by these two Italians as well. The three-storey arcades of the main courtyard, of which one forms an illusive backdrop allowing beautiful views through the arcades, are absolutely unique. In the Baroque-style interiors you can find a well-preserved Classicist castle theatre dating back to the end of the 18th century, which also includes set of painted stage sets and decorations by Josef Platter. Close to the castle theatre is a part of the main building where you can see the bedroom, dining room and study room of the Smetana family. A visit to the castle can be enhanced by a thorough tour of the entire so-called Castle Hill, where you can find other sights, such as the Church of the Finding of the Holy Cross with a priest college, monastery gardens and a museum located in the former priari gran school.

The town calls itself the Spa for the Spirit. Although you cannot find any healing springs in Litomyšl, the spa season generally opens at the end of April. People are treated through a great atmosphere, good food and drinks. Cultural events continue to be held during the summer when the town hosts the second oldest musical festival in the Czech Republic – Smetana’s Litomyšl.

www.zameck-litomysl.cz
www.litomysl.cz
www.zamecky-navrsi.cz

**Litomyšl Castle and castle grounds (1999)**

www.czechtourism.com
Kutná Hora

As a royal mining town in the Middle Ages, Kutná Hora was the second most important seat in Bohemia after Prague.

Medieval Kutná Hora is also known as “the treasury of the Bohemian kingdom” because of the area’s rich silver deposits and the royal mint in the Italian Court. The town’s importance peaked in the late 15th century, when the architecturally most important church in the town was built and dedicated to St. Barbara, the patron saint of miners. A period of stagnation began from the mid-16th century that fully manifested itself in the 17th century. Efforts to revive its old mining glory failed, but the town’s unique architectural expression and atmosphere still serve as the reminders. The list of local gems is extended by the Cistercian monastery in nearby Sedlec, founded in the mid-12th century and whose new vaulting was designed by Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel during repairs and remodelling in the 18th century.

The picture of the town is complemented with perfectly maintained public areas including a square with a unique, late-Gothic Stone Fountain. Stone House No. 183 in Wenceslas Square is one of the most valuable Gothic burgher houses in Bohemia. The status of a world heritage site helped Kutná Hora restore most of its important landmarks.

Besides the historical centre, which is inscribed in the World Heritage List, Kutná Hora also lures visitors to other places. Tourists should not miss, for example, the ossuary in the cemetery church of Sedlec.

The Jewish Quarter and the St. Procopius Basilica – important monuments of Jewish and Christian cultures – are located on the left bank of the Jihlava River.

The former Jewish quarter has preserved an exceptionally dense urban structure. The cores and layouts of the houses are mainly Renaissance and Baroque, containing numerous stylistic details. Many of the houses are interconnected, while the quarter is complemented with dark passageways, narrow streets, and alleys. The most valuable building of the Jewish town is the Rear Synagogue on Blahoslavova Street, comprehensively restored in 1988–1997. There are unique Baroque wall paintings from the 18th century in the interior. The local paintings are considered to be the oldest example of preserved synagogue painting decorations in Moravia.

An integral part of the quarter is the Jewish cemetery on the north side of the hill Hádek, holding nearly three thousand tombstones. The ceremonial hall from 1903 stands at the cemetery entrance. The dominant landmark of Třebíč is the former Benedictine monastery (founded in 1101), with its architecturally outstanding Late Romanesque Basilica of St. Procopius. The Basilica’s unmistakable interior with unique vaults, large vaulted crypt, richly profiled entrance portal covered by the columned entrance hall, numerous stonework details, and murals in the sacristy all make this one of the most remarkable monuments of medieaval architecture.

Combine your world heritage trip with the Jewish Shamayim cultural festival in July, or with the cultural and historical festival of the Revived Jewish Town. In August, you can visit the Festival of Three Capes (Slavnost Tří kápí).

Třebíč

The Historical Town Centre with the Church of St. Barbara and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec (1995)

The Jewish Quarter and St. Procopius Basilica at Třebíč (2003)

The Cathedral of the Assumption of Our Lady and Saint John the Baptist, Sedlec

The Culhavá (1997), Svatopaun (1998), and the Church of St. Mary Magdalene (1999)
You may think that the castles are the highlight of the Lednice–Valtice Cultural Landscape, but I feel it’s the parks and gardens that surround them that are the most enthralling. Give yourself time to get lost amongst the forests, explore the flower gardens, discover buildings hidden in the trees, or take a boat ride on the river. I love that, with such a large landscape, there are so many different ways to experience it."

Michael Turtle /UNESCO World Heritage Journeys copywriter/visitworldheritage.com
Brno

The Tugendhat Villa is one of the most important buildings of 20th century world-class architecture and is the best pre-war work of Mies van der Rohe.

It was built in 1929–1930 for Greta and Fritz Tugendhat. At the time, it was quite unique both for its skeleton metal structure and its specific technical equipment, and for its concept of open space. Its representative parts were conceived as a work of art in particular, including an emphasis on detail and the locations of the individual pieces of furniture and art accessories. In 2010–2012, a thorough restoration was carried out with the participation of foreign experts; during this time, the villa with its adjoining garden was restored into what it looked like when it was completed in 1930. The villa’s unique technical equipment was also restored, such as the air-conditioning machine room, the drop windows, the elevators, and the boiler room. The interiors are furnished with exact replicas of the original furniture. When visiting the interior of the villa, do not forget to perceive its unique conception and exceptional materials.

You can find a famous onyx wall there. The material for the wall was extracted from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco. In the dining room you can admire a semi-circular partition made of Macassar Ebony.

The villa is situated directly next to another significant villa that is open to the public – a carefully restored Art Nouveau villa of the parents of Greta Tugendhat, known as the Löw-Beer Villa. A part of the original large piece of land of Löw-Beer Villa was given as a gift to the Tugendhats on which to build a villa, which entered the history of modern architecture.

A functionalist café called ERA is often called as a little sister of Villa Tugendhat. You should definitely see it and complete your Brno functionalism trip with a cup of excellent coffee.

www.tugendhat.eu

Olomouc

The Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc is the most remarkable example of a Baroque monument specific to central Europe. It superbly highlights the main square of one of the most important cities in Moravia. It was built over the course of several decades and was finally consecrated in 1754. The primary purpose of its construction was to serve as a spectacular celebration of the church and faith as well as an expression of gratitude for the end of two waves of the plague that befell Moravia in the early 18th century. It is the work of the master stonemason Wenzel Render, with stone sculptures on religious themes by the sculptor Andreas Zahner and other artists from Moravia. The ensemble of sculptures on the top of the column made of wrought gold-plated copper plate is the work of goldsmith Simon Forstner. The column is extraordinary not only for its sheer size (with a height over 32 meters above the circular base, and a 17 meter diameter) and rich sculptural decoration, but also for the high quality of its artistic design and the combination of materials used. The placement of a small central chapel with gilded cannonball replica on the column. It reminds us of the fact that the monument was hit by Prussian cannons several times during the siege of 1758. At that time, a deputation of citizens of Olomouc bravely went to the Prussian general asking him not to destroy the column. Surprisingly, the general accommodated them.

Besides the Holy Trinity Column, you can admire other precious sculptural sights in Olomouc, for example the Marian Column in the Lower Square and Baroque fountains.

www.tourism.olomouc.eu
Discover the treasure of the intangible heritage of the Czech Republic under UNESCO. It includes verbal traditions, scenic art, social habits, rituals and festivals, knowledge and practices related to nature and the space and traditional crafts. The Czech Republic undertook to appreciate them and support their transfer between generations. The Czech Republic has five traditions in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

**Slovácko Verbůňk**

1. **listed since 2008**
   An improvised male dance has several regional forms within the region of Slovácko. Everyone dances solo. Originally, verbůňk was a dance of conscripts. A young man performed this dance to say goodbye to his family before leaving home for the army. An inseparable part of verbůňk is pre-singing of a song. The dance gradually became a part of various ceremonial events. Every year, the best dancers compete, for example, at a folk festival in Strážnice, which takes place during the last weekend of June.
   
   www.nulk.cz/2017/01/22/slovackyverbunk/
   www.facebook.com/slovackyverbunkofficial

2. **listed since 2010**
   Shrovetide door-to-door processions and masks in the villages of the Hlinecko area
   Shrovetide door-to-door processions with playful masks in the Hlinecko area were expected to ensure a good harvest and fertility and welcomed the forthcoming spring. The tradition is still alive and is always held before Easter. Its roots date back to the pre-Christian times. Every mask in the procession has its own role and place. The procession is opened with a mare and closed by a knacker. Between them are the so-called red masks followed by black ones. The festival is accompanied by music and local spirits.
   
   www.okansen-vysocina.cz
   www.betlem-hlinsko.cz

3. **listed since 2011**
   This folk custom from south-east Moravia has its set course. The group is usually led by barkers followed by aides with drawn sabers, who lead the king – an underage boy with a rose in his mouth. They are followed by other crew members wearing folk costumes. The whole group, rides on decorated horses and stops from house-to-house reciting short rhymed speeches to the inhabitants and viewers, which are either full of praise or entertainment. Probably the best known and the most popular is the Ride of the Kings in the village of Vícno, where the tradition stretches back more than two hundred years.
   
   www.jizdakralu.cz
   www.mestohluhicz/kultura/
   www.mesto-kunovice.cz/jizdakralu

4. **listed since 2016**
   Puppetry in Slovakia and the Czech Republic
   Puppetry is an inseparable part of Slovak and Czech theatre and literary tradition. It was spread massively especially by wandering puppet masters. They played in Czech and contributed to the national revival process in the 18th and 19th centuries. The archetype of a comic hero was Kašpar (CR), Gašpar (SR). Other characters were local, especially comic and folk ones. In the Czech environment, the marionette theatre is significantly associated with both professional and folk art and involves carving, decorating, making costumes for puppets, creation of decorations, etc. The long-standing tradition of puppetry in our country is further developed by a number of festivals, such as Lounářská Chrudim, which was established in 1951 making it the oldest festival of this kind in Europe. It is always held at the turn of June and July.
   
   unima.idu.cz/cs/ceske-loutkarstvi
   www.skoronice.cz/jizda-kralu
   www.mesto-kunovice.cz/jizdakralu
   www.jizdakralu.cz
   www.skoronice.cz/jizdakralu

5. **listed since 2010, last expansion in 2016**
   Falconry – a living human heritage
   This special hunting method using trained birds of prey, especially falcons, hawks and eagles, experienced a boom in the Czech lands between the 14th and the 16th centuries. In the second half of the 20th century there was a rebirth of falconry, which proved economically successful. Professional falconers are used, for example, by airports, which wish to protect the space along the runways against undesirable flocks of birds. As far as the Representative List of Intangible Heritage of Humanity is concerned, the Czech Republic shares the tradition of falconry with other 17 countries. You can see a demonstration of training of falcons and falconers wearing historical costumes at the castle of Opočno in October, where an international meeting of falconers is traditionally held.
   
   www.sokolniictvi.net
   www.zivakrotavy.cz
   www.sokolniictvi.cz
   www.sokolniictvi.cz
UNESCO
Natural wonders

Biosphere reserves are an example of the coexistence of nature and people. Explore valuable natural ecosystems as well as unique creations of nature and man. A territory marked as “UNESCO Global Geopark” allows the society to get to know, protect and use the geological heritage of our planet in a more responsible manner. Do not hesitate and start learning about the nature of the Czech Republic, which is appreciated by the United Nations, too.

UNESCO Natural wonders

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Bohemian Forest

Declared in 1990
Area: 1670 km

Mountain forests resembling primeval forest, glacial lakes, peat bogs, rivers and their canyons – this all represents the values preserved up to now, which the Bohemian Forest (Sumava) is abundant in.

The entire area is situated in a mountain region along the Czech-Austrian and Czech-Bavarian borders. The local countryside has always been influenced by human activities. Gold has been extracted here since the 10th century. Glassworks were established and even pearls were hunted in the Bohemian Forest. The first mention of freshwater pearl mussels in the Blanice River dates back to 1590 (it was found in a letter of Petr Vok to the steward of the manor of Vimperk). The spring area of the Blanice River is the richest deposit of freshwater pearl mussels in the Czech Republic. The Bohemian Forest is also the last big Central-European area with an extensive manner of utilization. The forest covers more than 65% of the area of the biosphere reserve. The peat bogs, meadows and pastures are also absolutely special. The Bohemian Forest is a home to many species of animals, for example the northern birch mouse. Rarely, you can even come across a Eurasian lynx.

www.br-sumava.cz
www.npsumava.cz

Lower Morava

Declared in 2003
Area: 349 km

The youngest and smallest of the Czech biosphere reserves is located south of Brno next to the border shared with Austria and Slovakia.

You can find 31 special areas of conservation there as well as two internationally important wetlands, 20 locations of the Natura 2000 European nature protection system, the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List, two nature parks, etc. Lower Morava (Dolní Morava) is a popular destination for visitors on foot and on bikes. They come to admire limestone bars of Pálava, and the westernmost projection of the Carpathians with the town of Mikulov and distinctive village in their foothills. Visitors should not miss wine tasting at any of the local renowned wine-growers or a stroll around the so-called garden of Europe, which is a nickname often used for the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape. The largest cultural landscape in central Europe was created by the House of Liechtenstein. This beautiful landscape will enchant you with its historical ponds, alleys and castle parks.

At the confluence of the rivers of Morava and Dyje there is the largest complex of bottomland forests and meadows in the Czech Republic and the largest game park in the country where the breeding of deer was founded by the Liechtensteins as early as in the middle of the 19th century. Tourists are offered a view back in the history through archaeological findings in a Slavonic fortified settlement in Pohansko.

Those who want to get to know the typical Moravian folk culture with folk costumes, singing and dances (including the recruit dance “verbuňk”) should not miss local folklore festivals or traditional feasts, which are held in Podluží every June.

www.dolnimorava.org
palała.ochranaprirody.cz

www.czechtourism.com 17
White Carpathians

Declared in: 1996
Area: 715 km²

Flowers all around. This is a brief description of the meadows of the White Carpathians (Bílé Karpaty), which rank among the most floral places in the world.

In an area of 4 × 4 km² you can see up to a hundred various kinds of plants including grasses, herbs and rare flowers such as iris, gladioli and gentians. In addition, about thirty kinds of orchids grow on the borderline of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The mountains in the south-east of the country are one of 26 Czech nature conservation areas. The local countryside has been cultivated by local people in a sensitive manner for thousands of years. Between Strážnice and Strání you can find large meadows scattered with oaks and lime trees. Cottages, meadows and pastures, broad-leaved forests and creeks intertwine here. The vast old beech woods in the peaks of the border ridge and around Vlášský Pass are the jewels of the White Carpathians, which should be passed through with peace and respect. The forests in the lower altitude are mostly formed by oaks and hornbeams, and you can especially admire the unusually rich young groves flooded with wild garlic in spring.

The White Carpathians have inspired many artists, including composers Leos Janáček and Vítězslav Novák. Numerous folk songs and dances were created there. Folklore is still alive today, and people wear diverse coloured folk costumes during traditional celebrations, such as at Carnival, Easter or during feasts. Other elements of the rich folk culture can be seen in the ornaments of some houses, chapels, column shrines and other constructions. The area is great for hiking and cycling. Those who wish to learn more during their outings can hire a local qualified guide.

www.bilekarpaty.cz
bilekarpaty.ochranaprirody.cz

Giant Mountains

Declared in: 1992
Area: 548 km²

It is the only place in the world where you can find and experience the arctic-alpine tundra.

It shows why the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše) were declared a national park – both in the Czech Republic and in Poland. The area belongs to the “elite” group of a mere sixteen cross-border biosphere reserves in the world.

About twenty thousand years ago, in the last Ice Age, the Scandinavian continental glacier almost reached the Giant Mountains, the highest mountains of the Czech Republic. In that age, glacier cirques received their definite shape known today – Sněžné jámy. Labšákův, Obří důl, Kotelní jámy... In that age some species of plants and animals, typical of the harsh north, became stable there. The remnants of the Ice Age include the Cloudberry or Alpine Emerald. North and north-west of the Giant Mountains there are no big hills or mountains all the way to the Baltic Sea. Thus, all winds are stopped by the peaks of the Giant Mountains. That is the reason why the climate in the Giant Mountains is unusually harsh considering the altitude; you can experience it, for example, on the highest peak of the Giant Mountains – Sněžka (1,603 metres above sea level).

There are also large forests in the Giant Mountains. There are a lot of log cabins and lodges with their typical architecture. You can also see various species of grass and meadow flowers including hawkweed and orchids. Meadows with pastures were formed thanks to many generations of local mountain people – tireless farmers, who used them as a source of livelihood and therefore took care of them.

www.ckrnp.cz/en/

Křivoklátsko

Declared in: 1977
Area: 628 km²

Almost two thirds of the Protected Landscape Area of Křivoklátští is covered with broad-leaved and mixed forests.

More than 1,800 species of vascular plants and at least 84 species of woody plants have been preserved in this area up to now. About 120 species of birds nest there. The well-preserved condition of the forests of this region is a result of the hunting and gamekeeping tradition connected with Czech princes and kings, the original owners of this area. The countryside surrounding the Giant Mountains is unusually rich in wild garlic and other plants and animals there. Besides them, you can also admire architectonic landmarks, such as castles and chateaux (besides Křivoklát mentioned above also, for example, Krakovce, Týťov, Zhořel, Dřevíč, Velíz, Jivno and Jinčov). Nižbor, where we can find traces of a late La Tène Celtic oppidum, was a settlement developing for about a thousand years.

křivoklatsko.ochranaprirody.cz/en/

Třeboň Basin

Declared in: 1977
Area: 700 km²

The Třeboň Basin biosphere reserve can be best characterised by water.

The landscape abundant in ponds and wetland in the south of Bohemia, well-preserved streams (Lužnice, Dračice), hundreds of kilometres of artificial channels of which the most famous are the Golden Channel (Czech: Zlatá stoka) and the New River (Czech: Nová řeka), and especially almost five hundred ponds, which are often connected into a large system, are definitely worth seeing. It is the ponds that gave the Třeboň Basin its well-known face. You can admire the largest Czech pond called Rosenberg (Czech: Rozhemberk) or the deepest one called Staněkův.

This biosphere reserve contains large forests, peat bogs, green meadows and pastures, picturesque villages and precious cultural sights. The central and northern parts of the biosphere reserve were declared a special protection area for 19 species of birds within establishment of the European system Natura 2000. The Protected Landscape Area of Třebůvsko is often poetically known as the “region of otters and sea eagles,” as there is a large population of both species, which have become extinct elsewhere.

trebonosko.ochranaprirody.cz/en/
UNESCO Global Geopark

Bohemian Paradise

Declared in: 2005

Area: 742 km²

Indisputably, gorgeous sandstone rock cities (Hruboskalsko, Klokoč and Besedice Rocks, Prachov Rocks, Plážane Valley, etc.) are the symbol of the Bohemian Paradise (Český ráj).

In addition, the heart of Bohemia also includes volcanic hills, meadows, forests, ponds and castles and chateaus (e.g. Kost, Vranov, Frydlétejn, Valdštejn, Kamburk, Hrubý Rohozec, Hrubá Skála). In the geopark you can see hills of Palaeozoic and Tertiary volcanic origin. Especially Trosky, a Tertiary volcanic hill with a medieval castle ruin, is absolutely unique. In the course of time, wind, water, frost, sunshine and other natural forces have influenced the Earth’s surface. They gave rise to sandstone rock cities with hundreds of spires, gorges, corridors and ravines. The presence of water underground gave rise to numerous caves. In the Bokov Caves you can admire a large karst system with the largest underground lake in Bohemia. Last but not least, Bohemian Paradise is a rich deposit of gemstones, fossils, iron ore, copper, coal, stone for construction, roofing slate, silica sand, limestone, and clay for pottery and brick-making. The geodiversity of the territory created a perfect environment for nearly 1,000 species of land plants and approximately 30,000 species of animals. The landscape and nature of Bohemian Paradise belong to the cradles of Czech tourism, mountainenvironment and the protection of natural and cultural heritage. Bohemian Paradise can serve you as an excellent geological textbook, offering surprise, adventure, entertainment and knowledge. The history of Earth and the geological processes that formed it, together with human artefacts, are the most interesting aspects the Geopark offers. In addition, the Bohemian Paradise Geopark shows how natural conditions influenced the development of human society and its effect on the landscape. Located within the territory of the Geopark are archaeological findings from 18 different ancient culture settlements, medieval castles and rich folk architecture. There are also large rock formations and lookout points with enchanting views of the surroundings and romantic ponds reflecting the sandstone rocks. Come discover Earth in context and enjoy this unique jewel of the Czech cultural landscape, without haste and with respect to its values.

www.geopark-ceskyraj.cz

Who else would like to expand the ranks of UNESCO World Heritage?

1 The Betlémské Rock Sculptures in Nový les near Kuky

One of the most remarkable Baroque sights in Central Europe. The exceptional sculptor Matthias Bernhard Braun sculpted directly into sandstone boulders along the forest path from Kuky to Nový les the hermits Garinus and Odufrius, a scene from the Old Testament (Jacob’s Well) and from the life of Jesus Christ and the saints (the Nativity of Jesus, Arrival of the Three Kings, Saint John the Baptist, Saint Mary Magdalene and the Vision of Saint Hubertus). The work was initiated by Karl Prinz Anton Sporck within the magnificent development of the landscape when building the complex in Kuky.

www.hospital-kuky.cz

2 Ještěd Mountain-top Hotel and Television Transmitter

The remarkable structure of an exceptional shape, which combines the function of a television transmitter and a mountain-top hotel on the mountain of Ještěd (1012 m a.s.l.), was created by architect Ing. arch. Karel Hubáček. He was awarded a prestigious Auguste Perret Prize for his design in 1969. Ještěd is an excellent example of architecture of the late 1960s. In 2000 the building in the form of a revolving hyperboloid was chosen as “The Building of the Century” in an architects’ survey.

www.visitleberec.eu

3 Karlštejn Castle

The main task of this splendid castle, which was founded by Czech king Charles IV in the 14th century, was to protect precious crown jewels, royal treasure, documents, and extensive collections of holy relics. Karlštejn became a place of rest and contemplation for the ruler. The castle core consists of the five-storey Imperial Palace, a lower residential tower with the Church of the Virgin Mary and the exceptionally precious St Catherine’s Chapel. The castle conception culminates with the monumental Great Tower with the Chapel of the Holy Cross, which is lavishly decorated, for example, with a cycle of panel portraits by Master Theodorik dating back to the 14th century.

www.hrad-karlstejn.cz

4 Landscape for Breeding and Training Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruby nad Labem

A stud farm in Kladruby nad Labem, probably the oldest in the world, was founded by Emperor Rudolph II in April 1579. The first written mentions of local horse breeding date back even to the beginning of the 14th century. The historical premises of the stud farm consist of the main stable with a riding hall, a small chateau, a church and residential buildings of the stuff. The farm in Kladruby nad Labem is completed with those in Františkov and Josefov. The nearby landscape is surrounded by meadows and pastures, economic and bottomland forests with numerous alleys. A unique part of the stud farm landscape is formed by Mošnice Landscape Park, which was created in a sophisticated manner in the original bottomland forest by the Elbe River and which contains an interesting collection of woody plants.

www.nhkladruby.cz/ national-stud

Other Czech sights strive to be added to the World Heritage List, too. Among the candidates for recognition and increased protection by the United Nations is, for example, Žatec – the Hops Town, Ještěd, Karlštejn Castle and West-Bohemian spas. The places that the Czech Republic plans to nominate for the inscription can be found in the so-called National Tentative List. The selection of the localities itself is a proof of their exceptional character.

www.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/state=cz

Discover more about UNESCO Global Geoparks: www.globalgeoparks-network.org
The unmistakable artistic expression of the current spa is determined by buildings by Dušan Jurkovič, who created a system of spa buildings here inspired by folk buildings of the Carpathian area and by the decorativeism of Art Nouveau. Although the symbol of Luhačovice is the so-called Jurkovič House, there are numerous other architecturally valuable sights dating back to the 1st half of the 20th century in the town.

www.luhacovice.cz

The largest Moravian spa and Great Spas of Europe nomination under the name a coordinator of their joint the Czech Republic acts as along with spas of six other Triangle are trying to win of the early Middle Ages. The nearby Church of St. Margaret of Antioch in Kopčany, which dates back to the 9th century, is considered the oldest standing Great Moravian church building in Central Europe.

www.velka-morava.eu

The Beauty of this Renaissance town is highlighted by burgher houses, which have been preserved in their original Gothic layout of narrow plots. Their exterior corresponds with the artistic conceptions of the Renaissance era and most of them date back to the period after the town fire of 1538. You can admire imaginative facades, rich shapes of gables and abundant sgraffito decoration.

www.1slavonice-mesto.cz

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www.luhacovice.cz

This unique technical sight belongs to the oldest businesses of this kind in Europe that are still working. The paper production tradition in Velké Losiny dates back to the end of the 16th century. Handmade paper is still produced from cotton and linen using traditional procedures in authentic historical buildings. Due to its high quality and durability it is especially used in art. In the paper mill of Velké Losiny you can see not only the paper production technology itself, but also an exposition of the history of the paper production in Bohemia.

www.visitostrava.eu

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www.1slavonice-mesto.cz

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www.1slavonice-mesto.cz
14 Rock Cities in Bohemian Paradise

The romantic landscape on the left bank of the Jizera River is distinguished by ten sandstone rock cities that represent the most complete and diverse system of characteristic features and forms of the sandstone phenomenon in the temperate area. Mass movements, collapsing, salt erosion, numerous rock cavities, alcoves, overhangs, rock gates, windows, balancing boulders and combs represent the abundance of shapes and forms. The deep gorges and valleys are lined with sandstone rocks and towers, adjacent to plateaus with far reaching views of the skyline of high hills with a system of ponds and creeks among flowery meadows. The rock cities are part of the UNESCO Bohemian Paradise global geopark.

www.cesky-raj.info

15 Extension of the World Heritage Site “Historic Centre of Prague” with Important Monuments in Its Vicinity

Prague, the historic centre of which has been on the World Heritage List for a quarter of the century, has a lot of valuable monuments situated near the centre, which could enrich the list. For example, you can go and visit the Müller Villa in Štětsice, one of the most important buildings of inter-war modern villa architecture. A dynamic Baroque style can be appreciated in the large complex of the Břevnov Monastery. Since 2000 the National Tentative List has included a Renaissance hunting lodge called Hvězda, the unique ground plan of which has the shape of a six-pointed star and which was designed on the basis of the plans by Ferdinand of Tyrol. Another unique feature of this structure is an extraordinarily abundant stucco decoration.

16 Mining Cultural Landscape of the Ore Mountains

The area between the Czech Republic and Saxony is rich in various mineral materials, of which silver and tin were mined in the biggest volumes, and later, for example, also cobalt, bismuth, nickel, tungsten, black coal, and last but not least, uranium, the extraction of which in the surroundings of Jáchymov was associated with misuse of political prisoners’ work. The Region of the Ore Mountains has a mining history longer than 800 years. It is still preserved in many mining towns established in various stages of the extraction, and especially in many technical sights in the landscape, including sophisticated linear water canals facilitating the extraction and production processes. The nomination in the Czech Republic is represented by a series of places including the historic cores of the towns of Krupka, Jáchymov and Horní Blatná, and other large areas with important cultural sights. Many towns and mining landscapes are also situated in the Saxon part of the Ore Mountains (Krušnohoří), where the symbol of the project is the university town of Freiberg.

www.montanregion.cz

17 The Timeless Humanistic Architecture of Jože Plečnik in Ljubljana and Prague

The Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord in Vinohrady, Prague, is a timeless work imbued with hidden symbolism. This unique structure by Slovenian architect Josip Plečnik was inspired by, among other things, early Christian basilicas. The massive church tower is decorated with the largest clock in the Czech Republic. Plečnik left his original “handwriting” in Prague Castle; too, in a number of interiors, but especially in enriching the space of the courtyard and south gardens. The World Heritage List nomination is coordinated by Slovenia; Plečnik enriched its capital city of Ljubljana with several buildings and improvements of public spaces.

www.prague.eu

UNESCO World Heritage stories teller tips:

“Visiting the World Heritage Sites of a country is the perfect way to trace its story and see the highlights of history. The UNESCO-protected sites in the Czech Republic make up an incredible collection that stretches from the Middle Ages until the Second World War. I think it is one of the best selections in Europe for its diversity, quality and visitor experience. Each site is, in its own right, a pleasure to visit and extends your understanding of the country. Together, as a group, they paint a vibrant picture of the rich cultural heritage of the Czech Republic.”

Michael Turtle / UNESCO World Heritage Journeys copywriter/ www.worldheritage.com
1 - Slovácko Verbúň, recruit dances
2 - Shrovetide door-to-door processions and masks in the villages of the Hlinecko area
3 - Ride of the Kings in the south-east of the Czech Republic (Vlčnov, Hluk, Kunovice, Skoronice)
4 - Puppetry in Slovakia and the Czech Republic
5 - Falconry, a living human heritage

UNESCO World Heritage site
UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage
Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geopark
UNESCO Treasures

Regional capital
Voluntary organization
Global Geopark
Bohemian Paradise

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