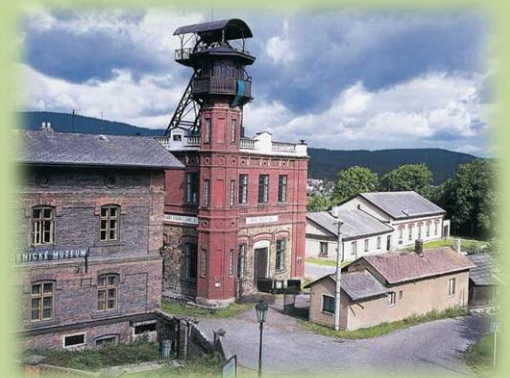




# EQUITANA

## bicycle and motor trip tips



## Antonín Dvořák memorial

Vysoká u Příbrami

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

The Neo-Renaissance castle at Vysoká u Příbrami, extensive park, the Rusalka villa and the beautiful surrounding countryside are the places that had inspired the composer Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904) for over twenty years of his creative life. The castle at Vysoká u Příbrami, designed and built by architect Čeněk Gregor in 1878 at the order of Dvořák's brother in law, Count Václav Kounic, is now open for the public all the year round. The latest exhibition from 1994 reveals interesting facts about the original castle owners, the Kounic family, while a greater part of the exhibits offers to the visitor information on the life, work and stays of Antonín Dvořák at Vysoká. The castle premises include a concert hall and library; the recently opened Václav Kounic gallery serves the purpose of a cultural centre for short-term exhibitions.



## Karel Čapek memorial at Stará Huť

Stará Huť

[www.capek-karel-pamatnik.cz](http://www.capek-karel-pamatnik.cz)

The memorial was established in 1963 at the house where the author spent the last three years of his life. Following extensive reconstruction of the building and refurbishment of the exhibits, the memorial re-opened on 25 April 1997 to honour the memories of Karel Čapek and his wife, the actress and author Olga Scheinpflugová. Since 1998, the house attic has accommodated an independent exhibition on the life and work of the journalist and author Ferdinand Peroutka. The countryside around Stará Huť is noted for its natural beauty where the memorial itself can be reached via marked tourist paths, by road or rail.



*Karel Čapek*

## The war memorial at Slivice

Slivice u Milína

On 11 May 1945, three days after the official ending of World War II, the last armed conflict took place at Slivice. The battle scene was a triangle formed by the villages of Buk, Milín and Slivice. About 3,000 SS soldiers were fleeing the Soviet Army to surrender to the US Army when they were attacked by some 300 resistance fighters and local citizens. These were rather poorly armed and soon 60 of them were killed. Only when a tank platoon of the 2nd Ukrainian Front under Marshall Malinovski arrived to help them, the Germans fell into Russian captivity. The war memorial is witness to annual reconstruction of the 1945 battle of Slivice with the participation/assistance of the Army of Czech Republic, the Milín municipality, the District Museum at Příbram, the Military and Arms Clubs from Příbram and the Brdy, the Police of Czech Republic, the Military History Club of Czech Republic and the Czech Freedom Fighter Union.



# The Vojna memorial at Lešetice

Lešetice

[www.muzeum-pribram.cz](http://www.muzeum-pribram.cz)

The main feature of this memorial is the Museum of Victims of Communism accommodated at a branch facility of the Mining Museum of Příbram. The original prison camp for German prisoners of war in 1947 -1949 was to become in 1949 -1951 a forced labour camp and afterwards a detention centre for the political prisoners of the communist regime in 1951 to 1961. Visitor tour A – Camp Area will take you to the renovated camp command facilities, correction room (the so-called bunker), sick bay, the house of culture, accommodation facility G and others. Installed at the camp command building is an exhibition called Persecution after February 1948 and the Third-Resistance Movement. Visitor tour B – the permanent exhibition Uranium in Czech History maps out the developments in uranium mining over the last two centuries and its impact on the Czech science, technology and social environment. Visitor tour C – the ORBIS PICTUS gallery features the contemporary European graphic arts and the so-called “Infinite Canvas” installed at the former new kitchen building.



# Řimbaba - the God's Blessing mine

Bohutín

The mine was opened in 1843 following extensive terrain research by mining ditches. The main shaft was 270m deep and it had, including the “Řimbaba” gallery, altogether five work levels (the gallery and levels 2, 3, 7 and 9). The total length of tunnels at the Řimbaba mine was 5,850m. The mining activities never reached the expected efficiency as the ore veins were rather thin, inconsistent and of poor silver content (on average 0.09% Ag and 40% Pb). In 1900 the mine was closed based on a commisional decision and the fact that some ore fields originally considered workable proved actually unworkable. Thus the mining activities at Řimbaba were discontinued for ever.



# The pilgrimage place of Svatá Hora

near Příbram  
[www.svata-hora.cz](http://www.svata-hora.cz)

The whole site of Svatá Hora was developed based on the plans worked out by architect Carlo Lurago and Jesuit P. Benjamin Schleyer in 1658, and it is considered one of the most valuable Early-Baroque edifices in Bohemia. The construction proceeded in stages and parts as the accumulated financial resources permitted. The same reasons posed limitation to the progress of the decoration work. The cloister is presently accessible from the east direction via the Prague gate or from the south via the Březnice gate. When the Jesuit order took over the site in 1647, they built the Virgin Mary Assumption cathedral. Every year, up to 250,000 believers used to go on a pilgrimage to Svatá Hora. The main portal of the Prague gate including a balustrade and two octagonal corner towers was built in 1702-05 after the design by K. Dienzenhofer. The gate is decorated with busts of saints and cirriatides by J. Brokof. The cathedral itself was erected in the middle of a yard on a terrace with a balustrade bearing 62 sculptures. At the front there are three open chapels with rich stucco decorations. The most valuable part of the cathedral interior is a 200kg silver altar piece with a small sculpture of Virgin Mary of Svatá Hora, a black Gothic Madonna holding Infant Jesus carved of pear wood and made complete with a gold crown in 1732. In front of the cathedral there is an open space with a Marian column at the centre. An interesting feature of the place is sheltered staircase of 450m leading from the town up to Svatá Hora.

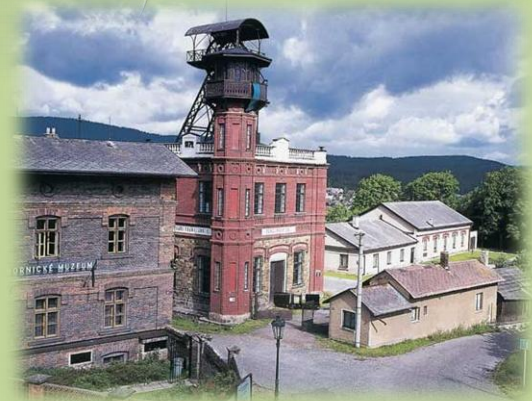


# The mining museum

Příbram

[www.muzeum-pribram.cz](http://www.muzeum-pribram.cz)

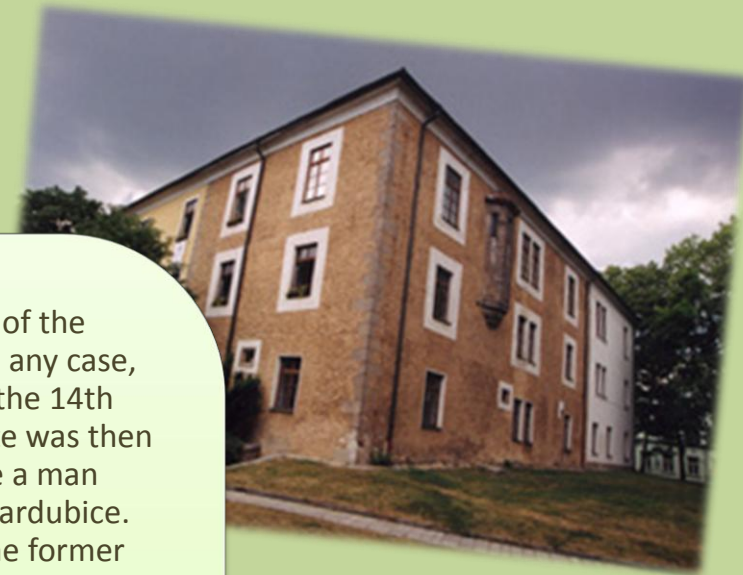
A unique collection of ore-mine buildings, facilities and equipment (such as pit-head gear, sludge house, technological and administration buildings), the minor's house, church, a minors' pub from the 19th century and mining technology and tooling. The museum features 26 permanent exhibitions in the original facilities of the Ševčinská, Anna and Vojtěch mines. The visitors are offered walks of the underground galleries of silver-ore mines. There are two visitor tours to choose from: tour A is found within the Ševčinská pit from 1813 dug at the site of a medieval mine dating back to the 16th century, and tour B at the Anna pit dug in 1789 near an older medieval pit and the Vojtěch mine. Among the most valuable exhibits are items protected by the government as technological heritage sights such as the steam winding engine at the Vojtěch mine from 1889, the steam winding engine at the Anna mine from 1914 and the mining compressor from the Generál Štefánik mine installed in 1928.



# The Ernestinum mansion

Příbram

Archaeological excavations suggest that in the 13th century at the site of the present Zámeček mansion there was a wooden fortified settlement. In any case, rebuilding of a wooden fortress into a small stone castle at the half of the 14th century is a historical fact. The town of Příbram and the attached estate was then part of the property of the Prague diocese whose head was to become a man close to Emperor Charles IV, the first archbishop in Prague, Arnošt of Pardubice. It was him who ordered a small stone castle to be built at the site of the former wooden fortress. After its owner, this prominent object overlooking the town of Příbram was given the name of Ernestinum. Of the original construction from the second half of the 14th century, preserved to date has been the eastern part of the chapel presbytery including a Gothic ribbed-arch bay. The castle used to be the residence of the burgrave and administrator of the archbishop's estate. Arnošt of Pardubice himself was known to have visited there quite often, as documented by the deeds issued in 1358 and 1360. According to a local folktale, the archbishop himself carved a wooden sculpture of Virgin Mary and had it placed at the castle chapel. Several centuries later, the sculpture was transferred to Svatá Hora. The **František Drtikol gallery** is located at the historical building of Zámeček (Ernestinum). František Drtikol (1883 in Příbram – 1961 in Prague) was the first Czech photographer to gain world-wide recognition. Though his pictures were presented to the public at many exhibitions and publications, the gallery at Zámeček in Příbram offers the first permanent exhibition of Drtikol's lifetime work.



# The open-air museum

Vysoký Chlumec

[www.vysoky-chlumec.cz/html/muzeum.html](http://www.vysoky-chlumec.cz/html/muzeum.html)

Vysoký Chlumec lies 35km east of Příbram and 8km south-west of Sedlčany, in the picturesque countryside of central reaches of the Vltava. In 1998, the Mining Museum of Příbram purchased from the Lobkowicz family a three-hectare land site in the cadastre area of Vysoký Chlumec. One year later, the open-air museum of rural architecture of central reaches of the Vltava started to transfer to this area selected types of folk-style houses and constructions that would otherwise perish at their original sites. Thus transferred to the natural environment of a stream valley have been complete farmsteads, peasant and crofter cottages, farm buildings, technological facilities utilising water power and minor sacral objects, in most cases originating from the 18th to the beginning of the 20th centuries. When completed, the open-air museum may include 20 to 25 transferred and re-novated buildings.



# The water castle at Blatná

Blatná

[www.blatna.info](http://www.blatna.info)

The original water fortress was rebuilt to a Gothic castle in the 14th century, with major modifications in the 15th century under Lev of Rožmitál who also brought on rapid cultural and economic developments of the nearby settlement of the same name – Blatná. Later castle modifications were carried out by master builder Benedikt Rejt. In the 17th century, a new Renaissance palace was erected on part of the original Gothic foundations giving rise to one of the country's most important and beautiful water castles. The view of its white tower reflected on the water top is well known to most Czechs as the castle appears in many historic and fairy-story films. "Šíleně smutná princezna" (The maddeningly sad princess), a gem among the Czech films, was made in 1967. "Bílá paní" (The white lady) was shot two years earlier, and the Czech film director Jitka Němcová used Blatná and its surroundings as the setting for making her fairy-story film "Kříšťálek meč" in 2007. The castle park of 42 hectares is among the most attractive sights of Blatná. It is open to the public and, since the time of Ferdinand Hildtprandt, father-in-law of the present owner, Ms Kornélie, people have used the short cuts across the park when walking from one end of the town to the other. Numerous springs, small bridges and tree-lined walk paths, as well as a large herd of freely grazing and tame fallow deer contribute to the pleasant atmosphere of the castle park.



# The Zvíkov castle

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



Zvíkov ranks among the oldest Czech Royal castles. It was built at the site of a prehistoric settlement on a narrow rocky promontory overlooking the confluence of the Vltava and Otava rivers. The castle was founded by King Václav I before 1234, but its major developments are associated with Přemysl Otakar II (+1278). Added to the original castle tower was a relatively large four-winged palace of irregular layout and, towards the end of the 13th century, bastions and gates, farm buildings and a watch tower (Hláška) provided with an edge and made higher in 1554. The heyday period of the castle ended in the 17th century and, after 1648, Zvíkov fell into disrepair. First before the mid 19th century, a new roof was erected on the castle chapel and the towers were repaired. More extensive repair work was executed after 1881 and then about one hundred years later. Thanks to these renovations, the castle has been preserved in a very good condition. From far off, the castle can easily be identified by its three towers: the Black (Hlízová) tower found at the castle centre, the Red tower and Hláška, a defence round tower in a bolt position. The most important part of the castle is the Royal palace including a castle chapel of rare value. Today Zvíkov is a protected national cultural heritage sight.



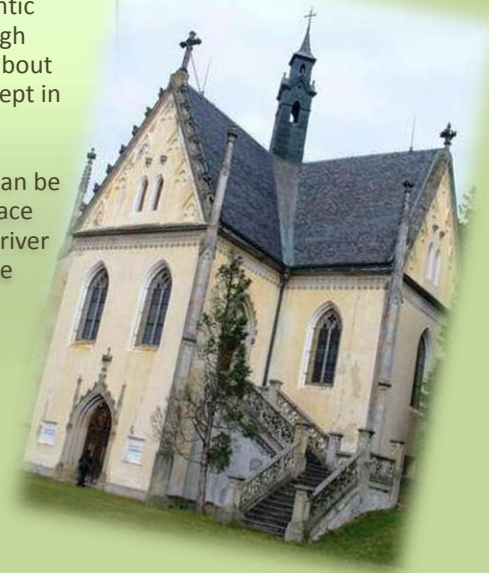
# The Orlík castle

Orlík nad Vltavou

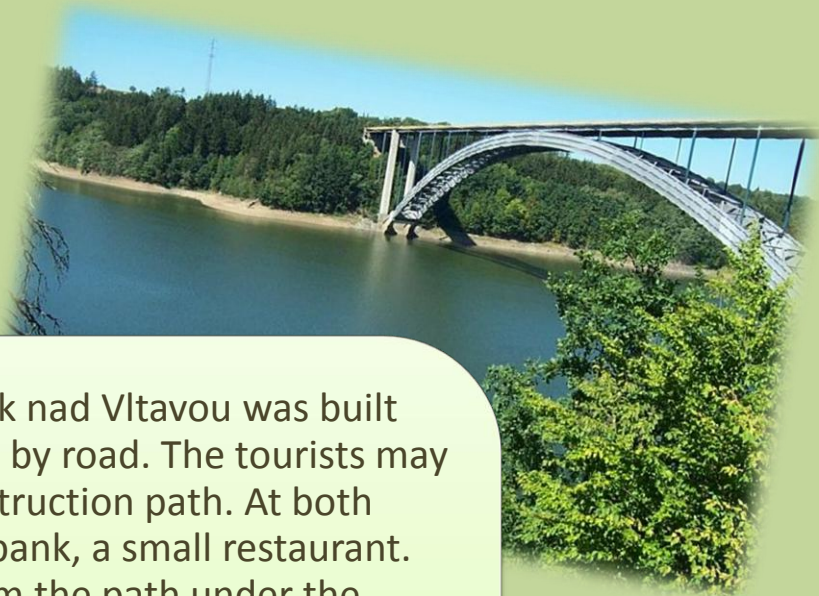
[www.schwarzenberg.cz/cs](http://www.schwarzenberg.cz/cs)



The Orlík castle used to stand high in the Vltava valley; now it is just a few meters above the Orlík river dam lake. The castle was founded in about mid 13th century. It originally consisted of a small palace building protected on the approach side by walls and three defence towers. The devastating fire in 1508 and subsequent release of the castle from vassal duties had brought on extensive reconstruction in the Gothic style. The Renaissance modifications from before 1558 were carried out under the guidance of the Italian master builder Augustin. The beginning of the 19th century when Duke Karel Schwarzenberg chose Orlík for his residence significantly increased the importance of the castle. After the fire in 1802 causing disruption and delay of the reconstruction work planned and executed by K. J. Lang, another storey was added to the palace building. This reconstruction project resulted in a romantic Pseudo-Gothic appearance of the castle, further accentuated by the façade renovation in 1860-1862. The richly furnished palace interiors demonstrate the way of life of the Czech nobility in the 19th century. Remarkable interior decorations can be seen in the Teska hall where Jan Teska made carved coffered ceiling and wall lining in 1882 -1884. The decorations and furniture in the magnificent Rytířský (Knight) hall are done in a similar romantic style. The Empire style can also be found at the castle, in particular in the furniture Karel Schwarzenberg brought from Paris. The extensive English park was established at the beginning of the 19th century. Its creation took about 100 years whereby many rare trees and bushes were planted at the park site. Until 1948, the park had been kept in perfect condition. After the castle nationalisation the park maintenance was neglected and, following the construction of the river dam, Orlík lake flooded parts of the park area. Since the castle was returned to the Schwarzenberg family in 1993, the maintenance of the park has been resumed and new improvements on it can be seen every year. Located in the immediate castle vicinity is the **castle aquarium** featuring the "Under the surface of Orlík lake" exhibition and permanent exhibition of historic photographs called "The lost river" showing the river and the surrounding countryside prior to construction of the river dam. The **Schwarzenberg family vault** in the Neo-Gothic style built in mid 19th century can be found in the northern part of the castle park.



## Žďákovský bridge



The Žďákovský bridge across the Vltava valley near Orlík nad Vltavou was built almost 40 years ago. It connects Milevsko and Březnice by road. The tourists may reach it via marked tourist paths or the Zvíkov-Orlík instruction path. At both ends of the bridge there are car parks and, on the left bank, a small restaurant. The bridge offers stunning views of Orlík lake while from the path under the bridge you may admire the daring bridge forms. The bridge construction under the supervision of J. Bursa and J. Zeman took place simultaneously with that of the Orlík river dam. The bridge was completed and opened for the public in 1967. The bridge name refers to the now flooded village of Žďákov where there used to be a ferry and, from time to time, a wooden bridge. The Žďákovský bridge is 543m long and it spans the river 50m above the lake which is up to 60m deep there. The bridge weight is approximately 4,000t. It is the largest bridge of its kind in the world.



## The Mikoláš Aleš memorial

at Mirodice

[www.mirodice.cz/Pamatnik/Pamatnik.htm](http://www.mirodice.cz/Pamatnik/Pamatnik.htm)

The cottage on the sloping bank of the Lomnice river where Mikuláš Aleš was born on 18 November 1852 and where he spent in modest circumstances the sunny and joyful childhood years was built by Jan Famfule in 1803. In 1907 the cottage burnt down and its site remained town property until 1937. The new cottage was built after the design by architect Koula. The present condition of the cottage is the result of the modifications carried out in 1952 when it became a memorial to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Mikuláš Aleš's birth. Since 1990, the cottage also houses an exhibition on the puppet master Matěj Kopecký.



## Písek

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



Písek is a historic town of less than 3,000 souls on the Otava river in South Bohemia. Among the town sights are the oldest stone bridge in Bohemia from the 13th century, a castle, the Virgin Mary's Birth church dominating the town with a clock on the church tower, and remains of the town fortifications removed during the industrial evolution period. Písek is sometimes referred to as university town because there are more secondary schools than would be expected in a town of its size. The historic town centre and the adjoining streets have been carefully restored and are now a protected municipal zone. "Středověká krčma" (Medieval pub) is a popular restaurant in town.



## The South Brdy and Třemšín

[www.brdy.info/brdy/jizni.php](http://www.brdy.info/brdy/jizni.php)



At the top of Třemšín used to stand a castle founded by the Buzic family from probably the beginning of the 13th century. Written records dated 1349 speak of a certain Beneš of Třemšín. Around 1420, the castle was devastated by the Hussites. Archbishop the Prince Salm rebuilt Třemšín in a romantic style, contrary to its former history. In the 1860s, the top of Třemšín was the scene of both religious and mundane festivals. An 18m-tall viewing tower was erected there in 1888. The present viewing tower is an adapted surveying structure but it offers but limited views due to the tall trees growing around it. The chapel standing on Třemšín dates back to 1771 and was allegedly erected on top of a filled-up well. Near the Třemšín chalet under the hill top there is the Gangloff Cross (made of beech-tree branches tied together with a rope). It dates back to 1870 when the Prince's and Archbishop's forest supervisor Karel Gangloff had it placed there to commemorate his years in office. As an outstanding forestry expert he played in important role in forest management. He also invented various instruments to measure wood mass and a shingle-making machine. The twin beech tree growing near is 200 years old, with the trunk 170cm wide and split 250cm above the ground. It probably originated from two intertwined young beech trees.



## The Central Brdy near Tok; Příbram

[www.brdy.info/brdy/tok.php](http://www.brdy.info/brdy/tok.php)

[www.brdy.info/brdy/dobriv.php](http://www.brdy.info/brdy/dobriv.php)

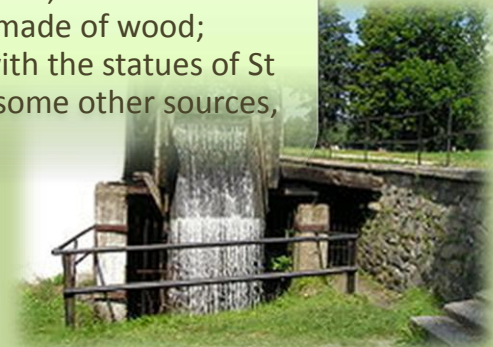
**Tok** is a hill 865 metres above the sea level. From its flat top the visitor will see Příbram, Octárna and Svatá Hora. In the opposite direction it is Valdek and the Koníček ridge with the Křivoklát hills on the far horizon. The Tok woods are rich in mushrooms, blueberries and cranberries. On the hillsides there are two well maintained springs: Knížecí and Mariin. The latter is quite strong and the water safe to drink.



**Třemošná** is a hill 778 metres above the sea level near the town of Příbram. It raises above the surrounding woods as a long ridge with steep slopes, appearing from the north-west as a pointed round-top hill. Třemošná is a dominating natural feature of the Příbram district. Its ridge is formed by the following minor peaks: Malá Třemošná (701m), Velká Třemošná (778m), Ohrádka (747m) and Malá Ohrádka. The hill is mostly covered with spruce woods with small beech woods at places where the original forest has survived.



**Dobřív** is a village boasting of lovely old cottages (a protected rural zone), the excellent “Stará hospoda” restaurant, a historic bridge across the Klabava and a water-powered hammer mill in operative condition. References to a hammer mill at Dobřív date back to 1379, while the existing mill has been in operation since 1656. The original mill building was made of wood; to its present form it was rebuilt in 1825 –30. The so-called Swedish bridge with the statues of St Barbara and St John of Nepomuk was built in the 17th century (according to some other sources, in mid 18th century).



## Tři trubky, Padrtské lakes and Praha hill in the Brdy

**Tři trubky** (Three trumpets) is the name of a hunters' lodge erected in the late 1880s, i.e. the period of receding romanticism. The Douglas fir tree standing nearby is 160 years old and should allegedly be the second biggest in the country. The surroundings include enchanting sceneries such as a meadow with deserted cottage and apple tree (the former gamekeeper's lodge). At the site of the Tři trubky hunter's lodge, the Klabava (the Padrtský stream) joins the Třítrubecký stream.

**Padrtské lakes** were founded between 1550 and 1565 as water reservoirs for the local iron-making industry. The original area of Horní lake was 115 hectares – now it may be mere 84 hectares. The Dolní lake has also grown smaller, from 66 to about 29 hectares. The cycling path leading along the Horní Padrtský lake dam is open at weekends.

**Praha** is the second tallest hill in the Brdy (862 metres above the sea level, compared to the tallest Tok – 865m). Installed at the meteorological tower at the hill top is a radar used to detect major precipitations (thunderstorms occurring within 250km distance). The mixed wood covering the hillsides is of a mountainous character. The hill top is the source area for the Třítrubecký stream.



## Rožmitál pod Třemšínem

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

**St John of Nepomuk church:** The former settlement around the castle, now the town square with the protected municipal zone is the setting for the town church of St John of Nepomuk, originally a Baroque chapel of St John of Nepomuk, rebuilt in 1904-5 by architect Josef Fanta in the Neo-Baroque style. Preserved on the gallery of the organ loft has been a cast-iron plaque from 1852 with one of Ryba's maxims: "To be better, watch your doings everyday and subject them to scrutiny". The church organ was installed in 1905.



**The Holy Cross Raising parish church at Starý Rožmitál** is the oldest sight of Rožmitál pod Třemšínem. It dominates the town and jointly with the town gate, vicarage and the curate's house constitutes a protected cultural heritage zone. There used to be an old cemetery next to the church, closed down due to lack of space. At the same time a new cemetery was opened further off. Of the old cemetery now only hanging plates and the vicar Šolle's grave remain. Apart from the old Gothic portals, the most valuable sight of the church is the historic organ, sometimes called Ryba's organ, played in 1788-1815 by the Rožmitál choirmaster and composer Jakub Jan Ryba. It is a Baroque a double-manual instrument with more than 700 pipes accommodated in a beautiful Late-Baroque (Rococo) cabinet. Hundreds of visitors come all the year round to listen to passages from the Czech Christmas Mass by J.J. Ryba and, at Christmas time, join the Christmas Eve service with the complete performance of this piece. It is believed that the church at Rožmitál was the first place where the famous Czech Christmas Mass was performed in 1796.



## The castle

at Rožmitál pod Třemšínem

The castle was built in the second half of the 13th century by Oldřich of the Buzic family. According to a legend, the castle was overgrown by brier bushes, which gave rise to the name of Rosenthal, later changed (Czechified) to Rožmitál. In the 16th century the castle was sold to the Gryspeks of Gryspachua and rebuilt to a Renaissance-style palace. Since 1623, it served the purpose of a summer residence for the archbishop in Prague. In the 20th century, there were flats and offices of Státní lesy (the National Forests) company. For the time being, the castle is closed for the public.



## Podbrdské museum

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

The main museum exhibition spaces including a picture gallery and a Czech Christmas Mass memorial are found in a two-storey building, an extension of a factory hall. The museum also features a collection of historic vehicles, barn, outdoor class room and children's playground. On 1 July 2010, Rožmitál pod Třemšínem opened its new "Podbrdské" museum with Jakub Jan Ryba and Czech Christmas Mass memorials, picture gallery and a collection of historic vehicles, mainly of the Aero make. The museum exhibitions provide information on the history of the poor region under Třemšín – both the older history when the estate was administered by the members of the Lev of Rožmitál family, and the more recent times when Jakub Jan Ryba taught school and composed his music there. The investments into the Podbrdské museum in Rožmitál amounted to over CZK 70 million of which part was received from the Regional Development Fund of the European Union.

