



EQUITANA

Short trip tips



The Březnice castle

www.zamek-breznice.cz



The original Gothic fortified settlement of the ancient Czech family of Buzic dated to the first half of the 13th century was rebuilt during the 16th and 17th centuries to a Renaissance castle by Jiří Lokšan of Lokšany, the secretary of the Czech king Ferdinand I. The so-called Lokšany library from 1558 is the oldest Renaissance library in Bohemia. After the battle of White Hill, in 1623, the castle became property of the Royal Prosecutor, Přebík Jeníšek z Újezda. The most important modification of this period was the construction of the chapel of Virgin Mary in the Early-Baroque style executed by master builder Carlo Lurago. In 1728-1872, the castle was property of the Krakovský family of Kolovraty. The last private owners until 1945 were the Pálffy of Erdöd; the castle then became the national property. At present three castle exhibitions focus on the history of individual noble families, architectural styles and arms from the Renaissance period to the 19th century. The visitors can see the family picture galleries, the Africa salon, Renaissance dining room, castle armoury with collections of arms from the 16th to the 19th centuries, the Renaissance “Lokšanská” library, the Ludvík Kuba gallery etc.

Tour 1: Family picture galleries, the Africa salon, African elephant, Renaissance dining room, and halls furnished in the Baroque, Renaissance and Empire styles

Tour 2: The castle armoury with arms from the 16th to the 19th centuries, the banqueting hall, the Renaissance Lokšanská library

Tour 3: Complete Round 1 + the banqueting hall and the Lokšanská library

Visits to the Early-Baroque castle chapel from 1625-1632

The Ludvík Kuba gallery; pictures of South-Bohemia countryside from the period 1895-1950

Partially restored was a Renaissance garden between the castle and its peripheral fortifications.

The castle area also includes an English-style park of 20 hectares.



The Jewish ghetto of Lokšany in Březnice



A short walk from the Březnice castle will take you to the town square where you may admire the originally Jesuit church of St Ignatius. The church was built in 1642 -1650 by the Italian master builder Carlo Lurago (who also designed the Early-Baroque chapel of Virgin Mary at the Březnice castle) and is noted for valuable wood carvings. Located in close vicinity of the church is a charming Jewish quarter founded by Ferdinand of Lokšany in 1570. The neighbourhood bearing the name of its founder, Lokšany, includes two small squares, a synagogue, an Empire-style town hall and a Baroque palace of the Lokšan family. The Jewish quarter used to be a ghetto consisting of twenty-four houses connected with the town by a narrow street and gate. If you continue your excursion outside the town in the direction to Rožmitál pod Třemšínem, you will, after about a half-kilometre walk, find a Jewish cemetery. Those who found the works of Carlo Lurago interesting (the church of St Ignatius and Virgin Mary chapel) should visit the town cemetery where the same master builder erected the church of St Roch.



Jewish cemetery at Březnice

The cemetery is located 1.2km in the south-west direction from the town square, east of the road to Přední Poříčí by the Vlčava stream. It was founded before 1617 and extended in 1855. The oldest legible gravestones date back to the end of the 17th century. The last burial took place here before 1943. A renovated ceremonial hall in the Neo-Gothic style stands next to the cemetery. The south-east part of the cemetery was devastated and stands now empty.



Jesuit college including the church of St Francis and Ignatius

The Jesuits had built their base at Březnice with the assistance of Přebík Jeníšek of Újezd, the Royal prosecutor in the trial against the Czech rebels in 1620, who became the castle owner three years later. The Jewish residence from 1638–51 was eventually turned into a college. Following the Jesuit order liquidation in 1773, the college started to serve as vicarage for the town of Březnice. The vicar's residence was transferred to Březnice from the nearby Bubovice in 1778. The church is open to visitors.





The Herold brewery at Březnice

www.pivovar-herold.cz

The Herold castle brewery at Březnice, founded in 1506, brews beer using the traditional technology based on much manual labour. A combination of our own malt, hops from Žatec, spring water from deep wells, love of the profession and the skills of the master brewer and other brewery employees warrants the excellent taste of the Herold beer. The small independent brewery has a Czech owner. We do not rush the beer maturing process; it takes time to make a good beer. High rewards for our products in beer-tasting contests and appreciation of the beer lovers both in Czech Republic and abroad are both pleasant and binding on us. The Baroque edifice of the brewery and malt house is a protected national cultural sight. It is an outstanding architectural jewel including the sculptures of St Joseph and John the Baptist decorating the front façade of the castle brewery.

