



Třebíč – Uniqueness of Multiplicity

Most of its foreign visitors head straight for the oldest part of the town, called Podklášteří ("Bellow the Monastery") or the old Jewish quarter in the district of Záměstí ("Beyond the Bridge"). In the evening tourists can be seen here leafing through cabalistic scriptures and drinking kosher wine. At one time Třebíč belonged to major centres of both Christian and Jewish culture in Moravia, and even today it still gives testimony about the coexistence of Jews and Christians.

The Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc – Fullness of Faith

The monumental column is 35 metres tall, was erected in the 18th century, and is a supreme example of architecture characterised as Olomouc Baroque. It is decorated with a multitude of Baroque statues which form the largest sculptural group in Central Europe. It owes its existence to mason and architect Wenzel Rener, who was the first to come with the idea to create it, and outstanding sculptor Ondřej Zahner.



Villa Tugendhat – Onyx Heart

Villa Tugendhat in Brno was the last great project designed by architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in Europe before he moved to the USA. It is a unique specimen of functionalist architecture from the period between the two world wars. It has three storeys and is situated on sloped terrain. The structure consists of a steel skeleton carrying ceramic ceilings. Villa Tugendhat, re-opened to the public in 2011 following a demanding renovation, is admired by visitors from all over the world.

Prague – Diversity in Unity and Unity in Diversity – I, II

Prague – lying in the very heart of Europe and holding the third place among European cities which attract the largest number of visitors – offers a rich assortment of architectural styles, and boasts probably the most beautiful urban skyline in the world.



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NATIONAL JEWELS

(Národní klenoty – památky UNESCO)



UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The history of the Czech Lands is rich and eventful. Here people coming from all corners of the world built and embellished hundreds of castles, châteaux, convents and monasteries, and contributed to the overall architectural character of Czech towns and cities. The purpose of this series is to introduce you to some of the most noteworthy Czech historic monuments which have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

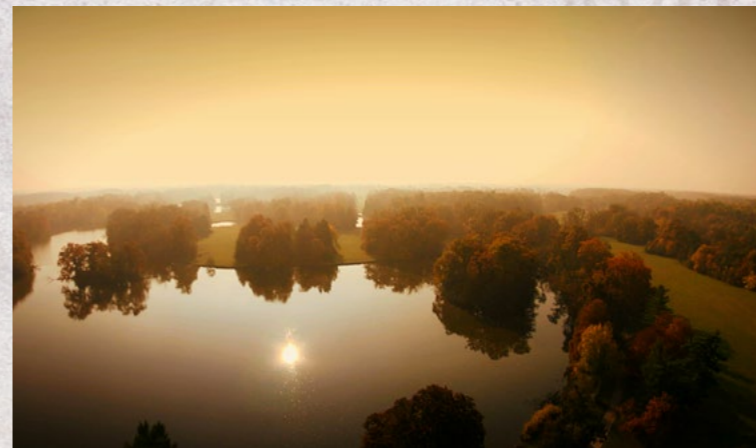
13x26' – guide in vision, HD, m/e track, © 2012
13x14' – guide out of vision, HD, m/e track, © 2015

 Česká televize

 PRODUCTION

Český Krumlov – From the River to the Sky

A well preserved Renaissance town in Central Europe... as if created by opposites. Mysticism on the one hand, rationality on the other; spontaneity as opposed to planning. Český Krumlov had its heydays, when it was the centre of Central European politics, culture and education, but also periods of steep falls into insignificance. Many a masterpiece was created in Český Krumlov by artists of world renown – painter Egon Schiele, poet Rainer Maria Rilke and prose writer Gustav Meyrink, to mention at least a few. And the horrifying story of the local princess inspired Bram Stoker to writing his famous novel Dracula.



The Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape – Gleaning Jewel

The Lednice-Valtice cultural landscape is an aesthetic rarity. It spreads out on nearly 300 square kilometres, and in terms of size ranks among the major items of the world cultural heritage on the UNESCO list. The land it lies on once belonged to the Lichtensteins, who managed to imprint the vast area with a stamp of pompousness, by erecting grand structures and making cultivation arrangements, while at the same time putting emphasis on respect for the natural landscape, keeping in fertile and self-reliant.



Telč – Lake Rose

A town in which literally a treasure, from the historic point of view, has been preserved. Just look at the marvellous square and the adjoining chateau, which have been here, looking the same for 500 years, and you will agree. But a long way had to be gone before we could stand here today and relish the atmosphere of the late-medieval town.

Kutná Hora – Monte Carlo of the Middle Ages

Kutná Hora is a unique city, which has left its distinctive mark on European history. Reflection of its bygone wealth and glory is still evident today, and offers us a rare opportunity to get a glimpse of the spirit of the Middle Ages.



Holašovice – Bequest of the Middle Ages

The value of our ancestors' bequest does not always lie in its size, pompousness or high commercial price. Even an ordinary piece of jewellery which once belonged to our grandmother may become a precious family treasure. It is passed by one generation to the next, together with the stories of the people who wore it. And in the course of time, it becomes a heritage of incalculable worth with which we have been endowed by our ancestors. Precisely this sort of jewel is the South Bohemian village of Holašovice. No celebrity was born here, and instead of grand palaces, it boasts "ordinary" gabled farmsteads with a history reaching as many as eight centuries into the past. Dozens of human life stories and fates are hidden behind each of the charming gables.



The Church of St John of Nepomuk on Zelená Hora (Mt.) – The Secret of Language

There are few churches in the Czech Republic which can be called absolutely unique, with no match in the world. But the pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Žďár nad Sázavou is definitely one of them. It merits this attribute not only for its architecture or the genius loci, but just as much thanks to the symbolism connected with its designer – the brilliant Baroque architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel.



Kroměříž – March of Time

In Kroměříž, time seems to be passing in much the same way today as it did 350 years ago, when one enlightened and forward-looking bishop uplifted the town devastated by the ravages of the Thirty Years' War. He had a magnificent, symbolic project created, combining the arts of painting, sculpture, interior and garden architecture. The tribute he paid to the heavenly nature will never stop fascinating us by its symbolism expressing the incessant march of time, and the message about the transience of human existence.

Litomyšl – Bloody Romance

Without exaggeration, Litomyšl can be called a Renaissance gem of East Bohemia. Shining but also dark history of the Middle and the Modern Ages marched through it, and personages as famous as composer Bedřich Smetana, writers Alois Jirásek and Božena Němcová left their indelible mark on it. An architectural monument of particular value, inspired by Italian stimuli, is the arcaded Renaissance chateau, dating back to 1568. Despite structural adaptation of the interior, its Renaissance appearance, including unique sgraffito decoration of the façades and gables, has been preserved.

