



## Find the château gems!

Be transported back to the time of Franz Josef I and his wife Elizabeth of Austria, known as Sissi, during a visit to the château in Kladruby nad Labem. Discover the unique architectural château gems in Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Kvasiny or Lower Silesia – the Kamieniec Ząbkowicki Château.



### Day 1 – The times of Franz Josef I and his Sissi

#### The Kladruby nad Labem Château

Some tips for your trips around: Pardubice

### Day 2 – Unique château interiors

#### The Rychnov nad Kněžnou Château

Some tips for your trips around: Zámky na Orlici, Rychnov nad Kněžnou, Vamberk, Žamberk

### The Kvasiny Château

Some tips for your trips around: Dobruška, Opočno, Deštné v Orlických horách

### Day 3 – The pearl of Lower Silesia

#### The Kamieniec Ząbkowicki

Some tips for your trips around: Ząbkowice Śląskie, Bardo, Gold Mine in Złoty Stok

## DAY 1:

# The Kladruby nad Labem Château

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When touring **the château in Kladruby nad Labem**, you will be transported back to the time of Emperor Franz Josef I and his wife Elizabeth, also known as Sissi. You will follow their footsteps through **twelve** period furnished halls and rooms, view the **church** that they had built there and hear about their strange habits and remarkable fates.

The imperial château stands in close proximity to the main stables and forms the core of the **National Stud Farm in Kladruby nad Labem** along with the Church of Saint Wenceslas and Saint Leopold. The main stables are a flawlessly laid out group of classicist buildings. The entire facility represents a unique cultural landscape consisting of meadows, pastures, avenues, blind arms of the Elbe and historical buildings.



The National Stud in Kladruby nad Labem is one of **the oldest stud farms** in the world and at the same time is also home to **the oldest original Czech horse breed**, the Kladruber. The core herd of Grey Kladruber was declared a national cultural monument in 2002. In 2019, the stud celebrated even greater success; the Kladruby Elbe region was entered into the prestigious **UNESCO** list as a Landscape for the Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruby nad Labem.

However, there is more to see than just the **stables**. You should also be sure not to miss **the carriage room and the tack room**. You can take a close look at the imperial carriage of Emperor Ferdinand I or the state carriage of T. G. Masaryk, as well as other valuable carriages and sleighs. Don't forget to visit the Lesovna, one of the oldest baroque log cabins in the region. You can also try out the carriage ride simulator.



## Some tips for your trips around:

### Lázně Bohdaneč – 15.1 km

- The Bohdaneč Treatment Spa – The atmosphere of a spa and a place of rest and beneficial peace is supplemented by the surrounding nature, the spa park and the town centre with its fountains. You can also admire both classical and modern architecture there. Especially the unique work of Josef Gočár – the Gočár Spa Pavilion.

### Pardubice – 24.7 km

- The Pardubice Château – The Pardubice Château is considered unique in Europe due to its area and appearance. This rarest treasure of early renaissance architecture is

located in the very heart of Pardubice, behind massive protective ramparts.

- The East Bohemian Gallery – Visit the East Bohemian Gallery in Pardubice where you will find a unique permanent exhibition of fine art and interesting current exhibitions.
- The city's historical centre – The historical centre of Pardubice is a wonderful collection of several architectural styles – the painted façades on the citizens' houses dating from the late Gothic period merge with those from the early renaissance and thus create the unique atmosphere of a local closed market. The remnants of the city fortifications are represented by the Green Gate.



**Recommended restaurants:** Bistro pod Hřebčínem [www.bistropodhrebcinem.proweb.cz](http://www.bistropodhrebcinem.proweb.cz)



**Recommended accommodation:** Tillerova vila Lázně Bohdaneč [www.penziontillerovavila.cz](http://www.penziontillerovavila.cz)



## DAY 2:

# Rychnov nad Kněžnou Château

www.castlesandpalaces.eu

František Karel I. Kolowrat Liebsteinský had the four-winged **Rychnov nad Kněžnou Château** built in 1676 on top of a sharp slope of Kněžna River. The estate was gradually receiving its present appearance, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century also most likely under the baton of the famous builder Jan Blažej Santini Aichel. The castle is currently owned by the Kolowrat Krakow Liebstein family. Together with the facade of the **Church of the Holy Trinity**, it represents **one of the largest Baroque complexes in Bohemia**. It thus represents a unique dominant feature of the town, known as the **"Rychnov Hradčany"**.

The **castle tour** includes rooms where you can admire the original furniture, Kolowrat fans, glassware, weapons and a collection of paintings by famous painters, such as Karel Škréta or Hans von Aachen. You will certainly be interested in seeing the so-called **Moravian Excalibur**, too – the only preserved ceremonial sword in our country.



The second floor of the chateau is home to the **Eagle Mountains Museum and Gallery**. Attractive exhibitions are regularly held here. Various **cultural events** take place at the Rychnov Château. Come and see an exhibition of historic cars and motorcycles or the traditional Château Christmas Markets. Walk through the freely accessible area of the chateau, stop by at the chateau's **café** located in the second courtyard and treat yourself to a cup of outstanding coffee and other goodies.

East of the church is a **unique bell tower**. It is a late Renaissance structure dating from 1604. The bell named Kryštof, which was cast in 1602 by Jan Benešovský from Moravská Třebová, also deserves much attention. It weighs in at 7 tons and is one of the largest and most valuable bells to be seen in the Czech Republic.



## Some tips for your trips around:

### Zámky na Orlicí – 10-15 km

- Doudleby nad Orlicí Château, Častolovice Château, Nový Kostelec nad Orlicí Château, Potštejn Château, Potštejn Castle and Litice Castle – Visit the breath-taking aristocratic residences of the Czech Loire!

### Vamberk – 7 km

- Lace Museum – Embark on an absorbing journey through the history and present of bobbin lace. You can also try this breath-taking craft by yourself here and buy a beautiful piece in the adjacent shop to adorn your home.

### Rychnov nad Kněžnou – 1 km

- Karel Poláček Memorial – Synagogue – Discover the exposition of Judaism in Podorlicko region and a monument dedicated to the famous writer, who was one of the most important Jewish personalities in the region.

### Žamberk – 21 km

- Municipal Museum – Visit the Žamberk Museum and learn about the local history, important natives and folk and art crafts in the area. You will also see a neo-Gothic pharmacy and a unique mechanical nativity scene here.



**Recommended café:**

H&H Castle Cafe RK [www.hhcastlecafe.cz](http://www.hhcastlecafe.cz)

**Recommended restaurants:**

Restaurace Hotelu Havel [www.hotelhavel.eu](http://www.hotelhavel.eu), Restaurace Panorama [www.restauracepanorama.cz](http://www.restauracepanorama.cz), Madlenčina restaurace [www.hotelstudanka.cz](http://www.hotelstudanka.cz)



**Recommended accommodation:** Hotel Havel [www.hotelhavel.eu](http://www.hotelhavel.eu), April hotel Panorama [www.aprilhotel.cz](http://www.aprilhotel.cz), Hotel Studánka [www.hotelstudanka.cz](http://www.hotelstudanka.cz)

# DAY 2:

## Kvasiny Château

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Discover a hidden gem below the mountains! Did you know that Kvasiny Chateau was first built on the site of a late Renaissance fortress at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century? It acquired its current Classicist style form during the reconstruction in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The estate was then bought by František Karel Janeček in 1928, who founded the famous JAWA car factory near the chateau. The devastated chateau was returned to the Janeček family in restitution after 1989. It is being taken care of by Soňa Klímová-Janečková today.

**Mosaics from the world of puppets** will await you here during the **castle tour**. Besides the puppets themselves, you will peek under the puppetry lid and you will get a taste of the secrets of home theatre, too. You can inspect the rescued inventory items in a period lounge. You will also discover a new chateau history and the JAWA phenomenon exhibition here. By prior arrangement, the staff will also be happy to open the **chapel**



**of St. Anthony of Padua** with a historic organ and illusory paintings or the **Hunting Hall** for you. A gallery is also open at the chateau, where various remarkable exhibitions alternate.

You can combine the tour of the chateau with an enjoyable walk around a ten-hectare **park** with a number of rare trees and other interesting plants.

Make sure you also visit the chateau during one of the many attractive **cultural events or exhibitions**. It will not surprise that Chateau Sunday Shows featuring vintage cars and motorcycles, not just of the JAWA brand, are held here. Summer months present a historic battle and a period market during the Půta Castle Festival. Advent time in Kvasiny has been traditionally associated with the popular exhibition Nativity Scenes at the Chateau and also with the Christmas Punch guitar trio concerts.



### Some tips for your trips around:

#### Dobruška – 13,5 km

- František Vladislav Hek's birthplace – Would you like to learn more about the national awakener who became the model for the TV series hero F. L. Věk? Visit the house he was born in.
- Exposition of military geography – Visit Rýdl's Villa and get acquainted with military geography, its instruments and devices, the art of creating maps and securing the military troops.

#### Opočno – 15 km

- Permanent František Kupka and Luboš Sluka exhibition – Learn about the life and work of František Kupka, one of the

most important painters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the music composer Luboš Sluka.

#### Deštné v Orlických horách – 17 km

- Museum of Winter Sports, Tourism and Handicrafts – Visit the museum targeting the life and work of highlanders. You will find the exhibits of glassmaking, laundry machines and historic skis here. Every year, the popular "Melting glass with wood" event takes place here.



#### Recommended restaurants:

Restaurace Hotelu Havel [www.hotelhavel.eu](http://www.hotelhavel.eu), Restaurace Panorama [www.restauracepanorama.cz](http://www.restauracepanorama.cz), Madlenčina restaurace [www.hotelstudanka.cz](http://www.hotelstudanka.cz)



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# DAY 3: The Kamieniec Ząbkowicki

The palace in **Kamieniec Ząbkowicki** is an architectural **pearl** of Lower Silesia and the best example of neo-Gothic architecture. It was built in the second half of the nineteenth century upon the initiative of **Princess Marianna of Orange** (1810–1883) on the basis of a preliminary design by architect Karl Schinkel, after whose death the implementation of the plans was taken over by his student – the young architect Ferdinand Martius.

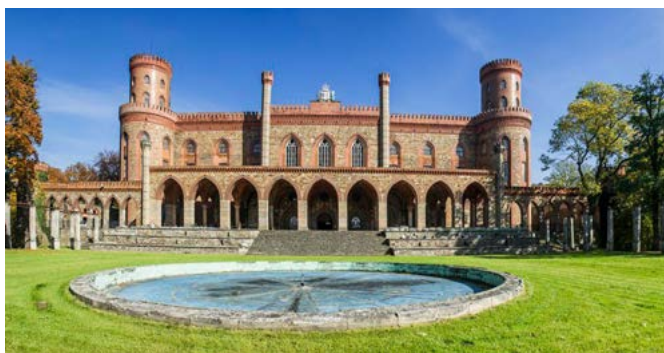
The cornerstone for the construction of the palace was laid on October 15, 1838, and on April 20, 1839, work began on the construction of the residence. Princess Marianna constantly interfered with the design of the palace, changing the smallest details. There were more than **100 larger and smaller rooms in the palace**, a palace chapel and two huge halls. One of them, the most representative, the so-called dining room, was decorated with two enormous frescoes: The Wedding at Cana and The Feast of Belshazzar.

The construction of the palace was completed 33 years after its commencement – on May 8, 1872, however, minor works on the building, as well as interior furnishing, lasted until 1902. After

World War II, the historic palace was devastated and looted, and what was left of it was consumed by a fire that broke out on January 22, 1946. In 1986, the building was leased to a private person for 40 years. In 2012, the commune regained the building, and then began its reconstruction in a short time.

Thanks to **numerous investments**, which made it possible to carry out cleaning, renovation and conservation works, the building gained a new splendor and since May 2013 it has already been open to tourists. Guided tours are ready for tourists, guides tell stories about the past of this gigantic object in a very interesting way. The sightseeing route includes a terrace with breathtaking views of the Kłodzko Valley and restored rooms with many historical souvenirs from the heyday of the facility. The extensive park by the palace, ideal for a walk surrounded by greenery is also noteworthy.

After sightseeing, **the palace cafe** is the perfect place to rest and reflect on this unique facility which is still to face many years of subsequent investments.



## Some tips for your trips around:

### Ząbkowice Śląskie – 12 km

- City of the Leaning Tower and Frankenstein – an extraordinary town in Lower Silesia with unique attractions. It is here that the only such Leaning Tower is located and it is in Ząbkowice Śląskie that the terrible story about Frankenstein has its roots. There is a Renaissance castle in the city open to the public, constructed in 1522–1532 on the site of a gothic defensive castle. You can also visit the Chamber of Regional Memorabilia and the Church of St. George.

### Bardo – 12,5 km

- A charming Lower Silesian town famous for many attractions, such as the Cistercian Basilica of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Stone Bridge, the Museum of Sacred Art, the ruins of a medieval castle and the Cistercian Mountain Chapel. A place for rafting on the Nysa Kłodzka river.

### Gold Mine in Złoty Stok – 11 km

- One of the biggest tourist attractions in Poland. On the premises of the facility you will find underground rafting and underground railway, restaurants, bars, accommodation, hiking and biking trails, the only underground waterfall in Poland and the only medieval mining village in Europe.



**Recommended restaurants:** Karczma w Starej Kuźni w Złotym Stoku (11 km) [www.kopalniazłota.pl](http://www.kopalniazłota.pl)



**Recommended accommodation:** Hotel Bardo (12 km) [www.hotelbardo.com](http://www.hotelbardo.com), Złoty Jar Hostel (12 km) [www.zlotyjar.pl](http://www.zlotyjar.pl)