

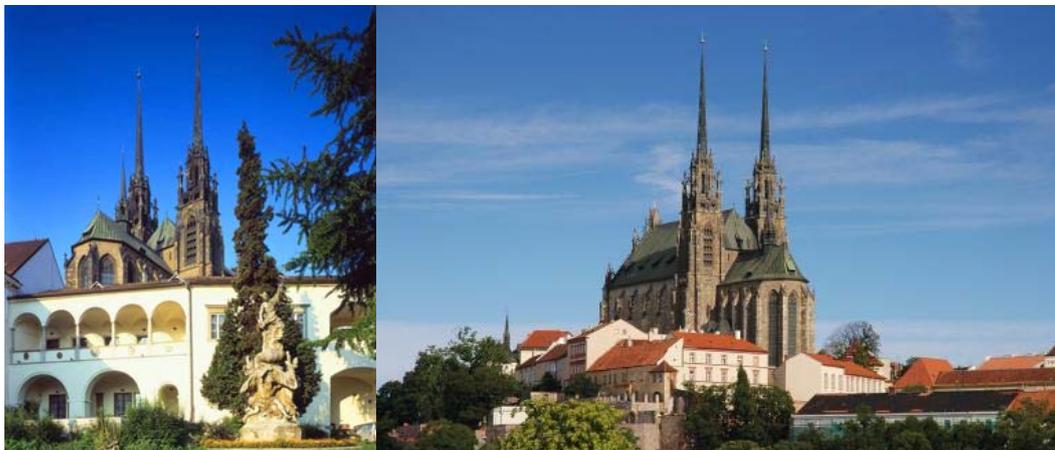
Spilberk Castle and fortifications

The castle was built in the first half of the 13th century on top of a hill bearing the same name. The original building often changed hands and the medieval part was later rebuilt. In the 18th century Špilberk was transformed into an enormous Baroque fort which also became a feared prison, with the casemates being particularly notorious. It became the place of grim, lengthy suffering for French revolutionaries, Italian carbonari, adherents of the Young Italy movement as well as Czech political prisoners. The prison was also a place of terror during the second world war. Since 1961 Špilberk has been a museum under the administration of Brno city and is used for exhibition purposes. The former prison cells and casemates are also open for viewing.



Petrov Cathedral

The Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul is located on the top of this hill, known as Petrov, on the presumed site of the former Brno castle (including a chapel) that dates from the 11th and 12th centuries. After the castle's demise the free-standing Romanesque basilica was rebuilt as a Gothic cathedral in the 13th century, further modified in the 15th and 16th centuries, and converted to the Baroque style in the 18th century. Its current neo-Gothic form dates from the turn of this century. Since 1777 the cathedral has been the seat of the Brno bishopric. The original church crypt from the 12th century is now accessible to visitors.



Tugendhat Villa

The Tugendhat Villa in Brno, the most prominent completed European work of its creator Mies van der Rohe, has become one of the milestones in the history of world 20th century architecture. Its importance was recognised in 2001 by its inclusion amongst the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Sites. The building is constructed around an extensive steel frame supporting a ceramic ceiling. The network of steel load-bearing columns passes through the entire height of the building, and in the living quarters they form an important stylistic and aesthetic element. The most striking and dominant feature of the living area is the onyx wall that creates breath-taking lighting effects.

Further information can be found on the web pages of [the Museum of the City of Brno, www.tugendhat-villa.cz](http://www.tugendhat-villa.cz).



Veveri castle

The extensive castle area above the Brno dam originated at the turn of the 12th and 13th centuries and hunting castle of the Moravian margraves. Since the end of the 20th century an extensive reconstruction has been performed, so offering to the visitors is an interesting comparison of the changing sightseeing routes and comparison of the repaired parts of the area with those that will wait for the restoration.



The chateau Lednice

National cultural showplace. After complicated development from a gothic fortress through renaissance, baroque and classical appearance the last reconstruction is preserved in historicist neo-gothic style from the period 1846 – 1858. It is a masterpiece by gifted Viennese architect Jiří Wingolmuller and his successor Jan Heidrich. The building is covered by fine trimmings of decoration with Gothic windows, portals, oriels and battlements, vials and spouts that act as in a fairy tale. It all is also raised by precious interiors, decorated coffer ceilings, engraved facings and door cases and self-contained staircases.

For more information see <http://www.lednice.cz/en/information/tourist-attractions/>



Lednice is part of the World Heritage and Biospherical Reservation UNESCO. It is located about 55 km southeast of Brno. The protected area measures 30x10 km and is an example and proof of symbiosis between people and nature. Here are 37 sights (castles, strongholds, churches, minaret, outlook-towers, museums, prehistoric settlements, statue Venus of Vestonice) and beautiful nature (Palava Hills, vineyards, white rocks, lakes etc.).

The green-house

The construction of the greenhouse opened the last reconstruction of the chateau in 1844 and with its modern iron framework and semicircular form it was very progressive at that time. Up to the present day it belongs among prominent technical monuments. The green—house is 92 metres long, 13 metres wide and 10 metres high. The roof construction is laid on two lines of cast-iron columns shaped as bamboo stems. The plantation under the glass-shingled roof evokes a perfect illusion of subtropical and tropical vegetation.



The Minaret

The building was established in years 1798 – 1802 according to the project of architect Hardmuth as a view closing of main centre line of the park. It stands on swampy ground on wooden piles. It consists of a one-stored-building and a three-stored tower with galleries. The ground floor is opened by arcades and decorated by moral texts from the Koran; eight rooms on the first floor are conches and enriched by Moresque ornaments. There is an excellent view of the park, The Palava hills and The White Carpathian Mountains from the 60 metres high tower.



Moravian Karst

Moravian Karst is one of the most important karst area of Central Europe. It is located about 30 km northeast of Brno. In the area of Moravian Karst, there are more than 1100 caverns and gorges. But only 4 caves of the all number are open to public. There are [Punkvevní jeskyně](#) (Punkva Caves) with their underground river – during the cruise you can see there the bottom of the famous Macocha Abyss. Another cave is [Kateřinská jeskyně](#) (Catherine's Cave) with its unique limestone columns. [The Balcarka Cave](#) is full of colorful stalactitic decoration. [Sloupsko-šošůvské jeskyně](#) (Sloup-Šošůvka Caves) are made by huge corridors and underground gorges.

For more information see <http://www.moravskykras.net/en/moravian-karst.html>



Slavkov chateau

Slavkov near Brno is another name for Austerlitz, world-known as the battlefield where Napoleon defeated the combined armies of the Russian and Austrian Empires on December 2, 1805. The Baroque chateau seen here was mainly the work of Italians. It was designed by the Lucca architect, Domenico Martinelli; the sculpture was mostly the work of Giovanni Giuliani; the interiors, as well as the frescos and plaster work, were done by Andrey Lanzani and Santino Bussi. Beginning at the turn of the 18th century, the chateau was over 60 years in the making. The paintings of the central hall and the chapel, dating from the 1760's, are the work of J. Pichler. The chateau includes a gallery of paintings, inherited from the 17th and 18th century collection of the Kounic family, and a historical museum with a permanent exhibition on the theme of the Battle of Austerlitz.

Further information can be found on the web pages <http://www.zamek-slavkov.cz/en/indexen.htm>



Golf near Brno

There are three golf-courses near Brno. For more information see the following links.

Slavkov: <http://www.hotelausterlitz.cz/en/index.html>

Kuřim: <http://www.golfbrno.cz/gb2hriste.html>

Drahan Highlands: <http://www.sokrates-golf.cz/fx/en/97/golf.html>

