



Strakonice Castle

We Live Among Monuments

STRAKONICE



Jihočeský kraj

The project was cofinanced by the Region of South Bohemia.

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MUZEUM STŘEDNÍHO POOTAVÍ
STRAKONICE



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www.muzeum-strakonice.cz



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www.hradstrakonice.cz





The majestic castle of Strakonice and its genius loci have been hiding the mystery at the very heart of the Otava and Volyňka confluence until now. At first sight, you will be enchanted by buildings of many architectonic styles that have been preserved until now; after all, the castle still has the same appearance as in the 13th – 14th centuries.

The gothic buildings date back to the first third of the 13th century when the noble family of Bavor started to build the castle. In 1243 they gave a part of the castle to the Johannites, representatives of the church order of knights, who resided there for nearly 700 years. A cylindrical tower with a cutting edge called Rumpál is an example of constructions that date back to the period of the joint rule of the Johannites and the noble family of Bavor. This tower was to serve as a castle protection element but it was also used as a torture chamber and a prison. You don't need to fear its dark staircase now because it will take you to the very top where you can enjoy a beautiful view of the surroundings.

The oldest part of the castle is the Church of St Procopius (earlier the Church of St Adalbert), the cloisters and a capitular hall with rich fresco decoration. A Romanesque window with profiled stone jamb has been preserved above the entry to this hall.

The primary seat of the noble family of Bavor was the southern castle palace (the museum), which was completed with a Renaissance tower called Jelenka with a wooden painted joist during the rule of Grand Prior Jan of Rožmberk in the 16th century. Besides residential rooms, the castle also included an armoury, a mill, a kitchen, a bakery, a blacksmith's workshop and a brewery with an inn. The Johannites also had the oldest building of the northern wing built – it used to be a burgraviate, today it is the Smidinger's Library.

The youngest residence of the premises is a Baroque two-storey manor, which is situated at the entrance to the castle and which Grand Prior Ferdinand Leopold Dubský of Třebomyslice had built in the eastern part of the castle in the 18th century.



Other Interesting Features

- one of the oldest noble castles of south Bohemia and the largest preserved castle compound in the Czech Republic
- demonstration of all architectonic styles, including Romanesque and Baroque
- an exceptional combination of secular and church powers
- the main seat of the order of Johannites in the Czech lands during the Hussite Wars
- the largest preserved cycle of mural paintings north of the Alps
- the largest exposition of bagpipes and bagpiping in the Czech Republic
- National Cultural Sight since 1995

