



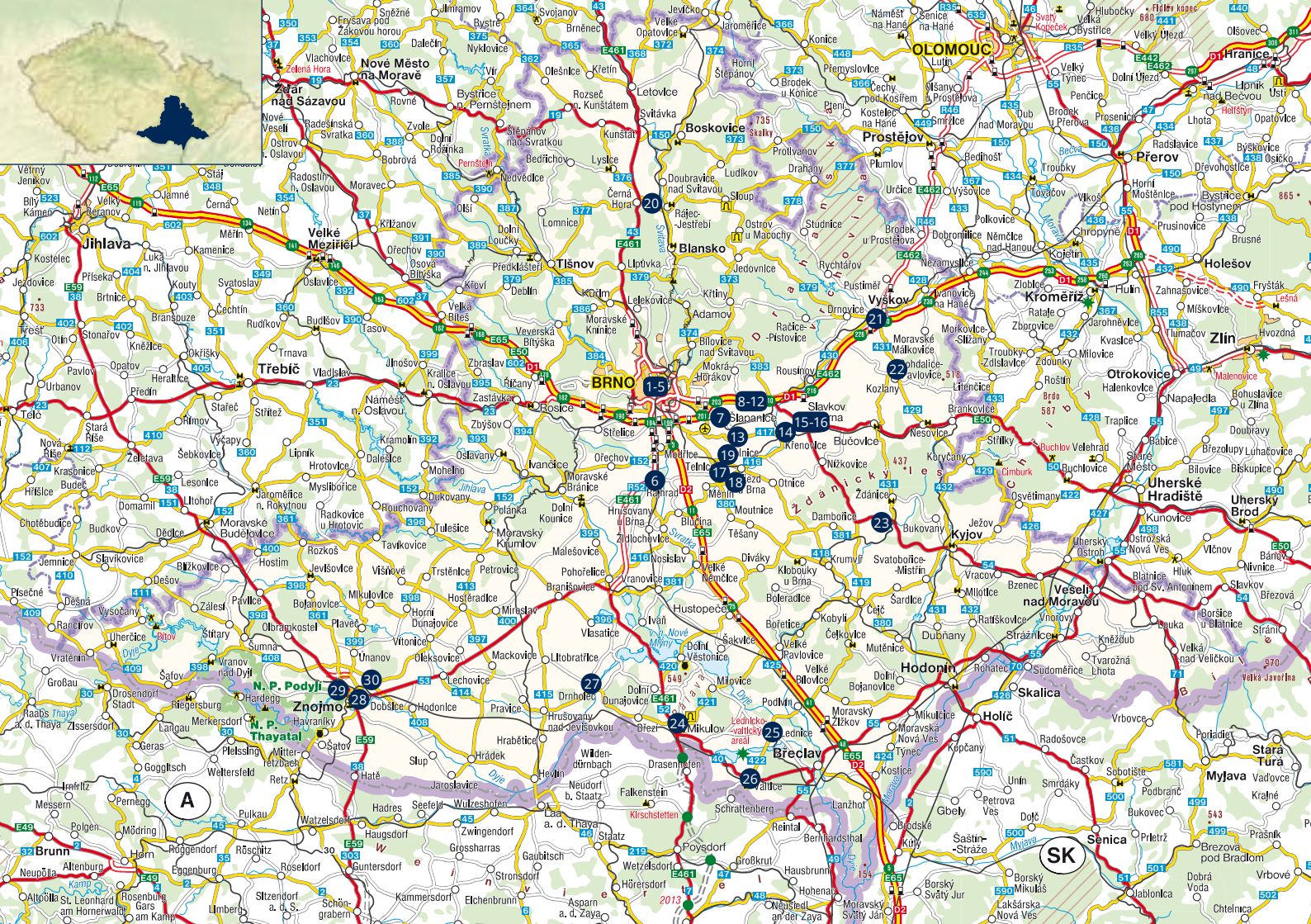
# NAPOLEONIC MORAVIA

EUROPEAN HISTORY WITHIN REACH



European Union  
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## Travel Guide

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For further information on the project Top destinations of South Moravia as well as information on other destinations go to [www.vyletnicile.cz](http://www.vyletnicile.cz)

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# Welcome to South Moravia

Allow me to introduce you South Moravia in a way that has not been so well-known, yet. Our county is not only a region of wine and sun – it has also been a place of significant events of European history that occurred at the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century. Attempts for transforming influences of power in Europe of those days resulted in a series of Napoleonic wars the impacts of which can be witnessed even now – more than two hundred years later. More than shiny and colourful uniforms of soldiers fighting in the Three Armies, we tend to commemorate the acts of reconciliation and peace negotiations that followed the battles. In any case, Napoleonic wars have been firmly anchored in the history of our region and they should remind us of past times. Let us follow this guide then and get back to times two centuries ago and disclose places of interest as well as destinies of people who had lived and dwelled there.

**Mgr. Václav Božek, CSc.**

*Vice-Hetman of South Moravian County*

## European History within Reach

Napoleon, Francis I, Alexander I – these are the names of the emperors that have significantly influenced the European history and its further development. During the period of Napoleonic wars these outstanding emperors reached Moravia, thus drawing the European history on its territory. Even though the event most frequently mentioned and connected to them is the Battle of Austerlitz, there are a number of other places in South Moravia that have been tied to Napoleonic campaigns, too. From a distance of two centuries we are able to look upon the past events through contemporary people's eyes enabling us to get familiar with historical events of the time and identify places of interest in the region. Our aim is to provide you, visitors of South Moravia, with unforgettable impressions, suggestions as well as hindsight thus making your stay in our region convenient and pleasant as much as possible.

The travel guide in your hands has resulted as an output of the *"Napoleonic Moravia"* project. Step by step we intend to form a manifold mosaic of tourist destinations as well as events closely tied to times of clashes with Napoleon in South Moravia. A number of people has been involved in the project – municipal and South Moravian Region authorities, museum and monument custodians as well as military history club members - our common aim is to guarantee the maximum possible convenience for you during your stay in order to attract you back to South Moravia again.

**JUDr. Vladimír Gašpar**

*ředitel Regionální rozvojové agentury jižní Moravy*



# Preface

*“Napoleonic Moravia” is a travel guide that tends to focus on selected destinations for tourists in South Moravia and that have closely been linked with two battles taking place in this region at the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century. The guide also includes a description of eight new tourist trails. They should help you to combine particular destinations within a day or more-day trips.*

The battle named by Napoleon - the Battle of Austerlitz - of December 2, 1805 has been more renowned out of the two that had taken place on the territory of South Moravia. The Allies – Austria and Russia were fighting against France. The battle went to history also under the name *“The Battle of the Three Emperors”* as all the three emperors had been present – French Emperor Napoleon I, Austrian Emperor Francis I, and Russian Tzar Alexander I. However, the armistice after the Battle of Austerlitz did not last too long. Soon a new war broke out and enemy forces reached the territory of Moravia again. On July 10 and 11, 1809 the French troops under the command of Emperor Napoleon and the retreating army of Archduke Charles Ludwig of Austria met at the Battle of Znojmo. The historical recordings most frequently focus on details regarding the battles themselves, less space has been devoted to local people’s sufferings and their miseries so far. And it was particularly the impact of the battle and the foreign armies long-lasting stay that caused common people’s hardship that we tended to recall in the guide. You will also learn interesting details on outstanding personalities of each particular army. Have you known, for example, that the Austrian Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein, having been respected by Napoleon himself, had been fighting at the Battle of Austerlitz on his own estates? And do you know which of the generals was drowsing during the pre-battle meeting of the Allies? Or – why do they call the obelisk in Lednice *“the Slap?”* If you are interested, go on reading and you will learn a lot more.

All the places linked with Napoleonic battles in Moravia have been arranged in thirty target spots. We will not only stop at most famous places of Slavkov (Austerlitz) or Znojmo (Znaim) battlefield, we will also visit the regions of Mikulov, Moravian Slovakia or the Moravian Karst. Places historically interlinked with Napoleon as well as attractive spots for tourists – these were the key factors for selecting out locations described in the guide. Thus, each spot denotes details of particular Napoleonic battles as well as information how the historical events have been commemorated there and also any other places of interest that might be attractive for tourists. The guide is not a detailed book on history - historical events mentioned there have been introduced in adequate and attractive way that involves also some stories and legends. So, enjoy your reading and get acquainted with the region that entered world history due to its ties with the above mentioned battles.

The Authors

# 1) Three Emperors Threaten to Clash

*Brno is a city in the heart of Europe. It is hospitable to tourists as well as to its own citizens. There are no far distances to get anywhere and local people feel close to each other. Thousands of students dwell in Brno and it also offers job opportunities for people from all over the world. This is one among a number of other reasons why Brno is a city full of new ideas, creativity or even bohemian way of life. The following pages, however tend to get you back to the past, to the period of the Napoleonic campaigns, the course of which had significantly influenced people's lives, the region's landscape as well as its further development.*

Massive city walls guarded by vigilant defenders and the Špilberk Castle – a fearful fortification built above the steep city hill – one of the strongest ones in the Habsburg monarchy. It was the image of Brno in 1805, in the period of the Three Emperors' clash. It was believed there would have been no better place to defend against enemies. Surprisingly enough the city surrendered and voluntarily opened its gates - the fact that shocked even Napoleon himself.

Even though since spring 1805 the potential clash between the empires became more and more probable, anybody would hardly believe

that the battlefields would reach the territory of Moravia. The huge French army was camping on the English Channel coastside ready to invade the British Isles. The English, however, managed a clever and successful diplomatic strategy - to sign an alliance with Russia and Austria, in fact the third Anti-French Coalition. Thus, instead of their troops, the English set on money for war operations to finance their allies.

The news about Russian and Austrian troops' movement westwards reached Napoleon as late as in the middle of August 1805. Instead of invading the British Isles, Napoleon ordered his troops to march inlands to meet the enemies. Thus, the Third Coalition War began.

## Campaign across Austria as Far as South Moravia

The French army was marching fast eastwards. They managed to cover one thousand kilometres within eight weeks. Even today the same distance would take you at least thirteen hours by car. French soldiers were able to move 25 – 30 kilometres daily and it was a really incredible pace. Moreover, they had to face clashes with enemies on their way. Near the fortress of Ulm (Germany), they had defeated the Austrian

General Mack's troops numbering thirty thousand soldiers thus having reached an open way towards Vienna. The Emperor of Austria Francis I had hastily fled the capital leaving it defenceless to foreign enemies. Having reached Vienna, the French troops moved fast towards Brno.

The city was short of time concerning profound defence, moreover it totally failed after the Emperor and his Court had fled and Vienna fell. In those days, of course, news spread very slowly and the situation was largely obscured by gossips. Information from distant regions was highly distorted and amended by people's speculations. As a result, some Moravians were awaiting the French troops with great expectations, they believed, for example, that the French might have abolished their peasant duties. As the French army moved on and people had witnessed their plundering, their opinions changed. Personal clashes with soldiers meant bitter disappointment for most of them. Since the very beginning, Moravia was obliged to supply the enemies with food, horse fodder and money as well.





## Both Nobility and Soldiers Escape from the French

On 17<sup>th</sup> day of November, total panic burst out after the news on the French troops' stepping upon the Moravian territory near Znojmo (Znaim). Whoever from the local nobility was able to flee did so. The imperial road from Brno to Olomouc (Olmütz) was soon desperately overcrowded – the situation very similar to the

present one drivers witness during traffic jams. *"On those days all the nobility were leaving either Brno or their own estates. The roads were overcrowded and offices quit all their activities,"* as stated in the local chronicle by Jan Čupík of the village of Olešnice.

When on Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> even the Špilberk garrison fled, the citizens of Brno found themselves in deep shock. Fear, anxiety and total despair – more than these emotions

were experienced by all those who remained unprotected. Citizens were left to defend the city walls on their own.

The first French soldiers of the mounted cavalry led by Marshal Murat followed by other cavalry units entered the city of Brno on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. They broke in via Brněnská brána (Brno Gate) at the end of the contemporary Pekařská Street (the Baker Street) and within a couple of minutes they conquered





the inner city. That day the city remained silent, there was almost no other noise except the loud horse gallop. The everyday city life was interrupted. *"All cafes and shops were closed. The city looked like a nightmare. From time to time you might have seen no one else but a French soldier,"* as recollected by priest Horký of the village of Myslibořice.

## Napoleon's Memorable but Fearful Arrival in Moravia

The French occupying the city announced Napoleon's ceremonial arrival in Brno for the following day. The Emperor of France was wearing a brown coat and a bicorne hat, that distinguished him from all the rest of his marshals and generals, appeared at five in the afternoon. Following the other recordings by priest Horký, Napoleon was accompanied by the *"rulers of the hell"*: *"He was surrounded by Mamluks that looked like devils. They had naked necks and bearded faces, their bodies were sunburnt and they had wide bands round their waists full of daggers as well as short curved sabres dangling on a string."*

Napoleon's arrival meant nothing else but fear and misery for common people. They were worried that they might have occurred in the middle of a direct clash. As soon as the French started building ramparts around Židovská brána (Jewish Gate) – the place of the present

central railway station – the citizens of Brno were overwhelmed with gossips on the impending military clash.

Napoleon, however had different plans concerning the battlefield location. He wanted to lure the Allies out to a slightly undulating terrain between Brno and Slavkov (Austerlitz). Starting from November 21<sup>st</sup>, he regularly attended this territory accompanied by his generals and faced them with the following challenge: *"Gentlemen, examine this ground carefully, it is going to be a battlefield - you will have a part to play upon it."* He never returned to Brno earlier than at night. Approaching the city, the windows welcomed him with two lit candles in each of them and their flames reminded shining stars on the evening sky. Do you, perhaps, think that citizens of Brno favoured Napoleon so much? No, not at all, there certainly was no favour on their side. People were instructed to do so. It was Napoleon himself who ordered the ceremonial illumination. Even after the French army transferred closer to the battlefield the city was not relieved of war miseries.



**Tourist Information Centre (A)**  
Radnická 2, 602 00 Brno  
tel. (+420) 542 427 150  
[www.ticbrno.cz](http://www.ticbrno.cz), [www.ccrjm.cz](http://www.ccrjm.cz)  
GPS: 49°11'34.94"N, 16°36'31.03"E

### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. View from the Špilberk Castle over the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Paul
2. Emperor Napoleon I
3. Tsar Alexander I
4. Emperor Francis II



## 2) Governor´s Palace

*“Místožřitelský palác” (the Governor´s Palace) was originally an Augustinian Monastery. During the reign of Joseph II it was confiscated and it became the Moravian-Silesian centre of the governor. The contemporary governor Count Lažanský left the palace hastily short before the battle. More than a monastery, the palace looks like a splendid feudal manor - in short - an authentic palace. And could there be a more exclusive place for an emperor to be accommodated in? In 1805, Napoleon decided to dwell in the palace and he also based the General Staff of the French army there. Thanks to prior Matheus Pretcher, who had the palace reconstructed in favour of his abbacy candidacy, it resulted in a magnificent Baroque-style palace. The spectacular masterpiece was completed in 1752. And indeed, the same year, Matheus Pretcher was elected the abbot.*

### Palace Housed Significant Personalities

One of the outstanding members of the General Staff dwelling in the palace was Marshal Mortier. If Mortier had taken over his father´s skill, he might have been a wealthy cloths merchant. However, his intentions were different. He was active in politics and later he entered the army. Both his abilities and appearance were excellent. With the height of 195 cm, he was the tallest of all Napoleon´s marshals. In the army he acquired the nickname “Grand Mortier” (the Great Mortar). By the way, a certain Sergeant Coignet had to face just the opposite problem concerning his height. Even though he did not reach the required 173 cm, he became a grenadier of the Imperial Guard. You may ask how it could have happened – did he have a special

privilege? No, not at all. Coignet managed to join the army by a small trick – putting a pack of playing cards into his stockings when passing through military recruitment.

### Napoleon´s Lavish Army Parade

After the first night spent in the Governor´s Palace, Napoleon went on commanding his subordinates. He decided to organize a military parade in the afternoon right in front of the Land House (the present Moravské náměstí - Moravia Square). The parade was conducted in order to boost morale and it was organized every day until the army was definitely transferred to the battlefield. “La Grande Armée” (the Great Army) – was the name given to the Napoleonic troops organized in seven army corps, which









were large field units that were capable of independent action until other corps could come to the rescue and its soldiers utilized all types of weapons. Very special component of the army was constituted by major artillery forces under the Emperor's direct command<sup>[1]</sup>. When people noticed a shiny uniformed soldier, they immediately recognized him as an Imperial Guard member. It was the most prestigious part of the army and its members disposed of all then known weapons. The Guard included selected soldiers having passed through a number of battles. Apart from wearing higher quality uniforms, they were entitled for certain privileges.

Apart from the Mamluks, the French corps were also composed of some other foreigners, even of some Moravian youngsters. There is, e. g. a story from a small town – Doubravník - to be mentioned. During the French invasion, the Slezák family lodged in a French officer. On the leave, he said the following farewell words to the landlord: "*Tak s pánembohem strýčku!*" ("*God help you, uncle!*") The landlord's startled face could not hide his shock – he was unable to puzzle out the soldier's good knowledge of Czech. Moreover, the officer left a bag of gold coins under the eiderdown in his room. The Slezáks were afraid of being accused of robbery and they went to catch him up. What a shock it was for them when the officer confessed his name was Filip Slezák and he was a distant relative of



theirs who had been recruited into the army some years ago. Frankly, neither Czech nor Moravian youngsters were willing to fight on behalf of the Emperor of Austria. Military service was a nightmare for them as it lasted for ages. Since 1802, the situation has slightly improved. Soldiers were recruited “merely” for seven or fourteen years. The above mentioned Filip Slezák later joined the Napoleonic army, however it was dangerous for him to reveal his identity as he might have been accused of having deserted from the Austrian army.

## Recalling the French and the Swedes

In fact, Napoleon was dwelling in the Governor’s Palace twice. As you know, first it was in 1805 during the Battle of Austerlitz. Later the Emperor of France returned to the palace in 1809, this time it was during the Battle of Znojmo. Both his stays have been commemorated by a bronze memorial board depicting the imperial eagle and Napoleon’s portrait that has been attached to the palace facade.

Nevertheless, the Napoleonic army was not the only huge army from abroad that marched that far as Brno. There is a bronze model of the city of the year 1645 when the

city was besieged by the Swedes. The bronze model has been placed on Moravské Square (Moravia Square) just opposite the Governor’s Palace. The Swedish General Torstenson and his army of 28,000 soldiers had had a much harder task to pass than his French colleague who came here 160 years later. He had to fight hard to conquer the city but he failed. The mere 1,500 city defenders faced a huge Swedish dominance for long-lasting 112 days.

**i** Moravian Gallery  
Governor’s Palace (A)  
Moravské náměstí 1a, 662 26 Brno  
tel. (+420) 532 169 111  
[www.moravska-galerie.cz](http://www.moravska-galerie.cz)  
GPS: 49°11'51.795"N, 16°36'30.348"E

### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. Church of St Thomas and the Governor’s Palace
2. City of Brno Model of the Year 1645
3. Memorial Board of Napoleon on the Governor’s Palace Facade
4. Governor’s Palace
5. City of Brno Model of the Year 1645

The Governor’s Palace and its reputation do not belong only to the history. Even today it can offer a number of interesting sights. As part of the Moravian Gallery property, you can find there, e.g. a permanent exhibition of ancient art starting from the Gothic period up to 19<sup>th</sup> century where a number of masterpieces from different parts of Europe can be admired.



### 3) Slaughterhouse on Vegetable Market

*When contemporary citizens of Brno stroll through the place called "Zelný trh" (the Vegetable Market) and head for the theatre or they just do some vegetable shopping, they hardly think of this particular place and its history. "Zelňák," as they call it, has been a marketplace of various commodities for almost 800 years. In the times of the Battle of Austerlitz, however, the market had witnessed a lot of blood on its cobble stone pavements. The surrounding buildings lodged outstanding personalities and some of them served as capture places.*

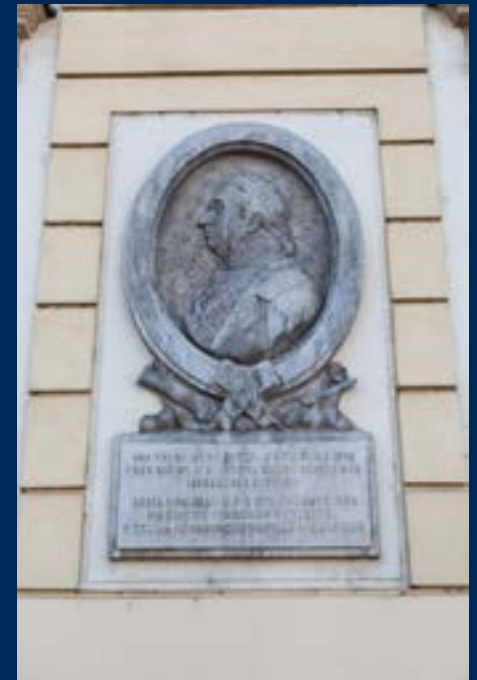
#### One-eyed General Kutuzov

Just before the Battle of Austerlitz (December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1805), part of the retreating Russian army was passing by the city of Brno and headed further towards Vyškov (Wischau). It was only the Commander-in-Chief of the Allied troops General Kutuzov and his staff who spent a night in Dietrichštejnský palác (Dietrichstein Palace) on the Vegetable Market. This Russian general had been in the army since he was sixteen years old. He had a perfect memory, good command of words and he was believed to be as cunning as a fox. He proved his qualities, e.g. in the Russian-Turkish wars, where, however, he had suffered serious injuries and lost one of his eyes.

A white memorial board on the facade of the Dietrichstein Palace is to commemorate the Russian general. Just a few steps farther, in No.2 Dominikánska Street (Dominican Street), a memorial board recalls another defeated personality from the Battle of Austerlitz, namely Francis of Habsburg. It is worth mentioning that in fact, he was both Emperor Francis I and II as well. In 1792 he was enthroned as the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation (the empire included both lands of Austria and Bohemia) and held the name of Francis II. In the same year he became the King of Bohemia and the King of Hungary. In 1804 he was crowned as the Emperor Francis I of Austria. When the Holy Roman Empire was dissolved in 1806, he was deprived of the title of the Roman Emperor keeping his title of the Emperor of Austria Francis I, the King of Bohemia and the King of Hungary.

Due to his Decree – "*Moravské zemské muzeum*" (Moravian Land Museum) could have been established, then known as Francis' Museum – a significant act for the city of Brno. The very core of the contemporary Moravian Museum has been composed of Dietrichstein Palace on the Vegetable

Market. Thanks to the exhibition "*Extinct Life in Moravia*," you have a good opportunity to experience a trip back to the Palaeozoic Era and explore the major Moravian fossils in the same way as the young boys did in the film "*The Way*









*Back to Primeval Ages"* (characters from a very popular Czech science fiction film for children). Further on you can admire a number of various archaeological excavations from the territory of Moravia or a collection of minerals as well.

## Vegetable Market Replaced by Huge Slaughterhouse

After General Kutuzov had left and Brno was besieged by Napoleon's troops the palace provided accommodation for French Marshal Lannes. However, there was no exciting view out of his windows. In those days the Vegetable Market turned into a huge bloody and stinky slaughterhouse. The city of Brno was obliged to provide the French with 26,000 pounds of meat daily, i.e. about 23 cows. The peasants from the surroundings carried the cattle there and the French slaughtered them right in the middle of the market. Sanitary standards of those days were rather poor and as a result there was an enormous smell of cattle waste.

Another outstanding building of the Vegetable Market – the Reduta Theatre – added to significant role in the history of the city. The Reduta Theatre is the oldest theatre building in Central Europe. After the Battle of Austerlitz, the French kept Russian

prisoners of war there and later it became a hospital for wounded soldiers. Those who were unable to be transferred to Brno, remained in field hospitals close to Austerlitz battlefield, e.g. in the villages of Šlapanice (Schlappanitz) or Ponětovice (Puntowitz). General Thiébault, heavily wounded, was one of those having been transferred to Brno. His wounds were very severe, he suffered from inner organ lesions and as many as seven fractures. He had almost zero chance to survive. Anticipating his close decease, Napoleon delivered a funeral oration on his behalf: *"What a magnificent way to pass away."* Thanks to doctors' extraordinary care, however, the General survived. Kajetán Unterweeger, the Printer House caretaker in Orlí Street (Eagle Street) where the General spent his convalescence period, was probably the only one who was not really happy about it. *"The General has his own surgeon, butler, cook, three servants, fourteen horses and eight entourage men. He occupies six rooms, all of them have to be heated. God help me. I have no idea what else I am to settle and deliver,"* he complained.

The Reduta Theatre interior had been seriously damaged by exploiting it for military purposes. The theatre renter – Mayer – went bankrupt and left Brno in 1807. Nowadays, Reduta is a part of the National Theatre. It bridges over tradition with modern theatre, history and the present. It offers first stage performances of drama,



opera and ballet in the Czech Republic. It is also a venue of regular exhibitions, concerts and lectures.

## Parnas Fountain or Brno Underground Recall Old Times

"Parnas," the Baroque-style fountain is situated as a dominant of the Vegetable Market and it silently confirms the former French army's

presence in the city. There is a rocky cliff growing out of the central fountain and you can spot the mythic hero Héracles in its lower part. He is holding a club in his hand and with his other one he is drawing Cerberos – the Underworld watchdog's chain. Another interesting sight for tourists is "Brněnské podzemí" (the Brno Underground). One of its parts is located right below the Vegetable Market. If you decide to explore it, descend 212 stairs and there, 6-8 metres

below the square surface, you will spot a historic wine cellar, an alchemist workshop, food storing samples or even some torturing tools. The next part of the Brno Underground network includes "Mincmistrovský sklep" (Mintmaster's Cellar) located below Dominikánské Square (Dominican Square). The city of Brno is in possession of the second largest ossuary in Europe underneath St. James' Church on Jakubské Square (James Square).



### Moravian Land Museum (A)

Zelný trh 8, 659 37, Brno

tel. (+ 420)533 435 280

www.mzm.cz

GPS: 49°11'30.761"N, 16°36'30.953"E

Futher Spots:

Labyrinth below Zelný trh (B)

GPS: 49°11'34.635"N, 16°36'34.163"E

### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. Memorial Board of General Kutuzov on the Dietrichstein Palace Facade
2. View upon the Parnas Fountain in the middle of Vegetable Market
3. Ancient Parnas Fountain
4. Dietrichstein Palace
5. Fresh Fruit and Vegetable are Marketers' Greatest Hits



## 4) Obelisk in Denis Gardens

*The municipal park "Denisovy Sady" was established in 1804 and it has been merited to the Moravian Governor Count Mitrovský. To commemorate the end of long-lasting war miseries an obelisk was erected in the park in 1818. It is a quadrangular pyramid with four gilded lions in each corner. The act of the opening ceremony might have been probably rather stressful for the Austrian Prince Ferdinand as it was his first public performance. The participant of the solemn act, the Duke of Opava and Count of Krnov Johann I Joseph, Prince of Liechtenstein, who commanded the Austrian-Russian cavalry during the Battle of Austerlitz, had certainly recalled some significant moments of the battle as well as his meeting with Napoleon in the place called "Stará pošta" (the Old Post Station). The Emperor of Austria Francis I delegated him as his envoy to surrender to Napoleon when the Allies were defeated.*

Originally, the park was named on behalf of the Emperor Francis I as "Franzensberg," or less officially "Francl." Later it was re-named after the French historian Ernest Denis who became famous for spreading Czech history abroad and who established a Czech library in Paris. Every year, on the turn of May and June the park is the place of the first fireworks shots within "Ignis Brunensis" - the fireworks competition festival.

### Soldiers Plundered All - Splendid Buildings and Plain Households

During the Napoleonic campaigns, Brno went through hard times. After they had occupied the city, the French marshals and generals wanted to enjoy their stay there and they confiscated the most splendid palaces of local aristocracy.

Soldiers were garrisoned in plain burgher houses and monasteries. There was not too much comfort for them, as there were about 20 - 25 soldiers per house. The original house-owners were deprived of all their rights – they often had to sleep on plain benches or even on the ground as there was no room left for them. Ground floor shelters were often turned into horse stables. These people were not only deprived of their dwellings, they also had to feed their "uninvited guests." And the city itself was burdened with heavy supplies - they were obliged to provide the French with – 5,000 pairs of boots and 26,000 pounds (about 11.8 tons) of meat, 20,000 loaves of bread and 14,000 portions of oats and hay daily. This was a typical way of acquiring food in foreign territories. The soldiers usually claimed from municipal and village deputies to provide them with an exact







volume of stock. The costs were to be compensated by the defeated country. As times were tough, it was not easy for the Moravians to meet the orders. It was obvious that soldiers requisitioned everything they found, quite often with the assistance of local people, as some of them quite enjoyed the situation of disclosing hidden stocks.

## Brno Full of Captives and Wounded Soldiers

As you know, during the battle the French started to transfer their wounded soldiers and captives to Brno. Little by little, their number mounted to thousands – some of them suffered from lacerated wounds, serious head injuries, others lost their limbs or eyes. A number of horses suffered because of leg injuries that prevented them from any movement. *"We were totally shocked, we cried like babies,"* the priest Horký recalls. Not only the wounded hit the city – a plague of typhoid fever spread very fast and caused other hundreds of people's death. The plague was cut by first frost around Christmas time.

War reparations, defeated Austria was obliged to compensate to victorious France, were the last bitter drop for the Moravian-Silesian Lands. Brno was also obliged to compensate a significant portion of them. People fell in total despair:





*"No other city had suffered so much as Brno had during this war."* The toughest burden of the city was removed on 12th January, the day when the last French soldier had left the city.

## Where from Is the Most Spectacular View upon Brno?

All the above mentioned miseries are forever to be commemorated by the Obelisk in Denis Gardens. The Obelisk itself was slightly damaged during a strong storm in May 1887, when its top was hit by lightning stroke that went down the western side leaving some split block-stones behind. Even though later they were replaced, some smaller cracks have survived until present days. The park is not only a place to recall history, people come here for entertainment and relax. When strolling through reconstructed city walls, you may run across a musician playing his accordion or dancers, e.g. salsa dance instructors. The high spot experience, however is the most romantic view upon the city from there. You can see places like the Špilberk Castle, Mendlovo Square (Mendel's Square) with Augustinian Monastery and Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady. The square was named after the famous genetist Johann Gregor Mendel, the abbot of the ancient Augustinian Monastery, who experimented with peas plants that brought forth two generalizations which later became known

as Mendel's Laws of Inheritance. Mendel turned to experimenting with honey-bees to extend his work to animals. He was so fascinated by honey-bees that he had the plain Špilberk slopes planted for supporting their activities. Mendel's work was rejected at first, and was not widely accepted until after he died. In 1900, however, his work was *"re-discovered"* by European scientists. Not only biologists but anyone interested can go through Mendel's greenhouse where he used to experiment. It is placed in the abbacy garden in the Old Brno district – the place where Mendel's Museum has been located as well.

Another spot among the renowned sights of Brno placed not far from Denis Gardens has been familiar with all citizens of the Czech Republic - or at least they have passed through it during an act of payment – the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul has been depicted on the Czech ten-crown coin. This dominant is certainly worth visiting - its 84-metre high towers were designed by the architect August Kirstein. Though built in Gothic style, both towers are Neo-Gothic and its interior has prevailingly been in Baroque style.



### Obelisk in Denis Gardens (A)

GPS: 49°11'27.132"N, 16°36'20.326"E

#### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. View from Denis Gardens over the Špilberk Castle
2. View from Denis Gardens over the City of Brno
3. – 4. Obelisk with a Pavilion and Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in the Backgrounds
5. Obelisk in Denis Gardens



# 5) Špilberk Castle and Assassination Attempt

*The Špilberk Castle, known also as the Prison of Nations, was believed to be the heaviest prison of the Habsburg monarchy. It is the place where most dangerous criminals were imprisoned, although a great number of them were political prisoners. When built (in the second half of 13th century), Špilberk was the royal castle of Czech Kings and the seat of Moravian Margraves. Since 17th century, the castle was turned into an unquerrable fortress. Its underground casemates and dungeons served as a fearful prison. It became the place of grim, lengthy suffering for French revolutionaries, Italian carbonari as well as Czech political prisoners. Among those who were imprisoned there are Franz Trenck, a soldier and one of the most controversial persons of the period, the Italian writer and dramatist Silvio Pellico or Václav Babinský, a Czech outlaw. Even such a military expert as Napoleon must*

*have been pleased by the fact that the fortress was not to be conquered. Another good news for Napoleon was that the fortress defenders left behind about 3,000 cents of gun powder, 60 cannons, 6,000 rifles, a number of uniforms, boots and foodstuff<sup>[1]</sup>. His high spirits, however were soured when he received the one-month old details on the lost sea-battle near Trafalgar. "I cannot be everywhere," he declared with grinding teeth and it encouraged him even more to prove the Allies his strength on land.*

## Devilish Plan or How to Get Rid of Napoleon

By the way, there might have been a chance to force the French march fast from Špilberk back to Paris with catastrophic news, may a certain Kristl from Bouzov (Busau), an apprentice at

Mittermaier's guild in Brno, have succeeded in validating his idea. "Napoleon is a damned man, he brought nothing else but bad luck and war to us. I will take my rifle and make it short," he said to his master. The apprentice had a plan to shoot Napoleon dead at the moment he would pass through Brněnská brána (Brno Gate) towards the Špilberk Castle. Even though his words were brave, in fact he failed to complete his intentions. Who knows what happened? Maybe, he was not really serious about it, maybe his rifle failed to shoot or it was his master who persuaded him not to do so. Anyway, Napoleon survived and he was crossing Europe in good health 16 more years and in 1809 he returned back to Brno again. It was in the period of Austrian defeats near Wagram and Znojmo. Under the cease-fire, the French army occupied a part of South Moravia including Špilberk.









This time Brno and its citizens were not inflicted so much as during the first occupation, however it had fatal consequences for the Špilberk Castle. When Napoleon examined it closely again, he had its walls demolished and ordered to land up the well as he did not want to leave such a strong fortress behind. Thus, Špilberk definitely lost its original military significance<sup>[49]</sup>. Since about the middle of 19<sup>th</sup> century, Špilberk had served as barracks for soldiers for more than a hundred years. Later the Špilberk prisoners suffered there two more times – those imprisoned of military but most of all of political reasons. First, it was during the World War I and second, a much more severe situation, during the first year of Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. A number of detained Czech patriots lost their lives there.

Špilberk is a place of interest even today. In its museum you can find seven permanent expositions devoted to the history of Brno, arts and architecture as well as a wide selection of short-time exhibitions. During summer months the Castle courtyard and other premises are venues for various culture events, concerts, theatre performances or historic scenes. A visit to mysterious and obscure underground labyrinth of casemates may serve as a high spot event for the braves - even today it is a rather grim experience.

## Heroic Decease of General Valhubert

Another place to remind the Battle of the Three Emperors is the grave-stone commemorating General Valhubert – a French officer in the highest rank who lost his life in the battle. It is placed in “Tyršův sad” (Tyršův Garden) between Kounicova and Botanická Streets – not far from the Brno centre. Jean-Marie Mellon Roger-Valhubert, known as General Valhubert was in charge of defending the Santon Hill occupied by the French against Bagration’s Allied corps during the Battle of Austerlitz. He was deadly wounded somewhere there by a cannon ball or a shrapnel<sup>[10]</sup>. He passed away keeping his

heroism until the very last moments – when his soldiers wanted to help him, he thundered at them: *“Return to your positions, I will die here. It is useless to lose six more men because of me!”* He did not complain of his heavy wounds nor did he groan at all. He must have suffered a lot, nevertheless, he was able to dictate his last will: *“Go and tell the Emperor that I would die within an hour. I wanted to achieve more ... I leave my family in his hands.”* Though objecting the soldiers transferred him to the field hospital in Šlapanice and later to Brno. In spite of the utmost care the General passed away three days later.



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Špilberk Castle (A)

Špilberk 1, 662 24 Brno

tel. (+ 420) 542 123 661

www.spilberk.cz

GPS: 49°11'39.41"N, 16°36'0.12"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík, Archiv CCRJM)

1. Špilberk Castle Cannons
2. Inner Courtyard
3. Pavilion and View over the Old City of Brno
4. Špilberk Castle
5. Entrance Gate to the Castle
6. Memorial to General Valhubert in Tyršův Garden



## 6) Rajhrad Monastery

*The name “Rajhrad” or rather “the Eden Castle” (in Czech) was given by the ancient Slavs as late as in 8th century when they had built a fortified seat there. The Rajhrad hill-fort ceased to exist about one hundred years later. Thanks to its advantageous position on trading crossroads the name Rajhrad (Gross Raigern) had not been forgotten. The place turned into a natural trading centre and in 11th century a village was founded there. 200 years later it was big enough to achieve the privilege of organizing seven-day annual markets. Its long-lasting history has been confirmed by a number of significant cultural sights. Among the most frequently visited ones is the Benedictine Monastery that is the oldest monastery in Moravia. The whole complex has been under reconstruction for several years thus enabling a step by step opening of its premises to the general public. Its most attractive part to be visited is the place called “Památník písemnictví na Moravě” (Museum of Literature in Moravia) that belongs to TOP places to be visited in South Moravia.*

### Written Sources Reflect Old Times

The complete history of Moravia has been introduced through written documents on a two-storey space. The interactive part of the

exhibition will certainly attract your attention. If you open drawers you can explore book copies and some rare manuscripts, e.g. records of Prokop Diviš, the inventor of lightning conductor. Modern era has been represented by manuscripts of outstanding writers and politicians. The most impressive, however is the monasterial library with ceiling frescos and rich gilded stuccoed ornaments. Imagine ancient Benedictine

monks in their long habits there, humble and incredibly patient in handwriting sacral books on vellum. The archives contain as many as 65,000 volumes of books.

### Allied Troops March and Purposeful Fire

Following the Rajhrad priest's records we learn that concerning the Battle of the Three Emperors,







local people had recognized first soldiers on 17<sup>th</sup> November. *"That day there was a continuous flow of Austrian and Russian troops crossing Rajhrad and heading towards Brno and Tuřany. They were marching so hastily as if the French had been chasing after them,"* priest Petr Siedl wrote. And indeed, the French were approaching very fast. The retreating Russian troops intended to slow down the enemy's march and not far from the monastery, they set fire to a new wooden bridge over the river "*Svratka*" (Schwarzach) at night of 18<sup>th</sup> November. Threatening local people with death penalty, they forbade them to stop the fire. Next day the French reached Rajhrad – Marshal Murat and his corps were progressing on the imperial road. As soon as soldiers had come across the devastated bridge, they immediately ordered the local authorities to build a new one. People managed to build it within one night<sup>[8]</sup>.

Later, Marshal Davout and his 15,000 soldiers transferred from Vienna to Rajhrad. Davout reached Rajhrad the night before the battle – on December 1<sup>st</sup>. He housed in the monastery dining hall and was waiting for news about the rest of his units. Finally, Friant's division of his corps arrived – they managed a 113 kilometre-long march from Vienna across Mikulov in 40 hours<sup>[8]</sup>. Davout was probably the most competent of all Napoleon's marshals. He graduated from the same military academy as the French Emperor. He was very clever and had a good flair

to foresee his rivals' intentions. No wonder Napoleon had originally planned a significant role for his unit in detaining the Allied army attack within the territory of Zlatý potok.

## Rajhrad Monastery as Emergency Hospital

After the Battle of Austerlitz was over, several hundreds of Russian captives were held in the monasterial church. The Benedictine monastery gave shelter to a great number of casualties, too. *"All the chambers echoed with laments of the wounded. We were unable to look at their suffering. To help them to relieve we poured them oil and wine,"* the Rajhrad priest described the horrors of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1805. At the beginning monks were responsible for treatment, later substituted by military and civic health care personnel. All the wounded and ill persons remained in the monastery until the end of February, 1806. They say, some of them settled and set up families in Moravia. Due to it, a number of originally French surnames, like Bíza, Galet, Foret, Remeš or Šalé<sup>[16]</sup> can be found in regions of South Moravia. It should be admitted, however that these were exceptional cases. Due to the French law such soldiers were considered deserters. And from Austrians' point of view they were looked upon as enemies. Concerning French-sounding names

the explanation could be much simpler. Most of these names on the south-eastern territory of Moravia stem from earlier period than the Battle of Austerlitz. In about the middle of 18<sup>th</sup> century – the villages of Čejč, Krumvíř and Terezín in the Hodonín estate were flooded by tens of families coming from France. They were invited by the husband of the Empress Maria Theresa, Francis I Stephan, who was of French origin (Lorraine region). He wanted his nationals – colonists from France - to settle the abandoned villages in the South of Moravia. They, indeed settled in Čejč and its surroundings and their descendants have survived until today.

Contemporary Rajhrad is a relax area south of Brno, due to its location and good transport facilities. There is a good network of bike trails and hikers will enjoy the beautiful surroundings, famous for a number of orchards, gardens and vine-yards, too.







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Museum of Literature in Moravia (A)

Klášter 1, 664 61 Rajhrad

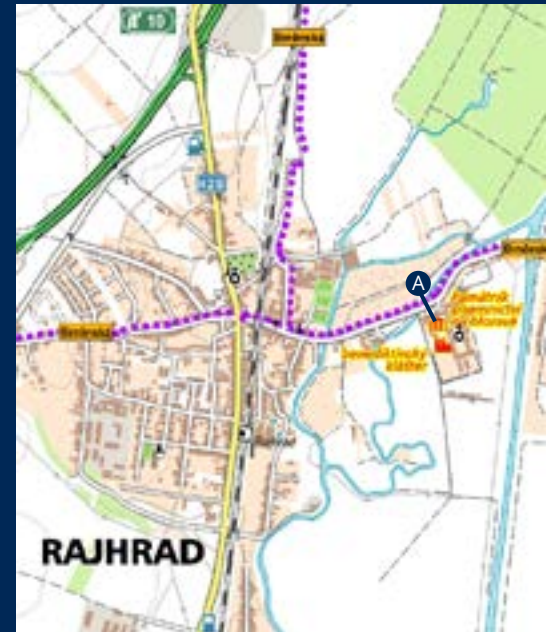
tel. (+ 420) 547 229 136

rajhrad.muzeumbrnenska.cz

GPS: 49°5'25.908"N, 16°36'55.224"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. Benedictine Monastery in Rajhrad
2. Interior of the Museum of Literature
3. Rich Choice of Tourist Routes in the Surroundings
4. Interior of the Benedictine Monastery





# 7) Progressive Medical Treatment in Šlapanice

*At the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century, Šlapanice was prevailingly an agricultural centre supplying Brno with bread and milk. In those days the population counted eight times less people than it is today. Even though its inhabitants were not directly involved in the battle itself, they were unable to avoid a number of troubles as all the three armies, one by one, were marching across their village.*

## Shelter for Allied Troops' General Staff

The Commander-in-Chief Kutuzov was the first one to arrive in Šlapanice on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1805. Next day the General left for Rousínov (Rausnitz) and from there he headed for Olomouc where he was supposed to join the other Russian army of General Buxhöwden. On November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1805 – when the French occupied the whole territory south of Brno, Šlapanice sheltered the Allies' General Staff. The same day, the Commander of Austrian-Russian cavalry, Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein lodged in the local parish. As the only one out of all generals he would fight on his own land. Among others, he was also in possession of the Pozořice (Posoritz) estate. It was in 1805, after his elder brother had died, when he inherited

all the estates in Moravia, Austria and Bohemia that belonged to his family. He was reluctant to leave his castle in Valtice but after the fall of Vienna, he was obliged to take over the command of the devastated imperial cavalry<sup>[14]</sup>. His units set camps on fields near Šlapanice. The village was full of Russian soldiers, too. They occupied all the streets, set out fire and cooked meals confiscated from local people. *"They took two of my hogs I just planned to slaughter. They also confiscated all my chickens, hay, straw and wood,"* as recorded by the Šlapanice priest František Arnošt Franke in the local chronicle.

The Allied troops did not stay long in Šlapanice, they left the village at dawn the next day and they were retreating towards Vyškov. This, however, did not bring too much relief to local people. The leaving soldiers were very soon exchanged for the French. As soon as they appeared, they immediately required wine, money, clothes and boots.

## New Ways of Medical Treatments

On that crucial day of the Battle of Austerlitz, the village of Šlapanice occurred in the French rear and it provided them with ideal space for

taking care of casualties as well as detained captives. After the battle was over, about 400 captured Russians were imprisoned in the local church. Military doctors could utilize two larger buildings in the village – the monasterial scholastery and the Blümegens' Chateau – where they installed a field hospital and a surgical outpatient-station. The castle history goes back to 18<sup>th</sup> century when it belonged to the Moravian Land Hetman – Jindřich Kajetán Blümegen. Nowadays, there is a secondary school in its premises.

During the battle, however, the place was under the command of the Surgeon-in-Chief of the Imperial Guard, Jean Dominique Larrey, who introduced some completely new methods of medical treatment, e.g. providing immediate basic treatment. They organized the so called *"flying ambulances"* – mobile military hospitals on horse carriages. To elicit the situation – in those days heavily wounded soldiers were left helpless on battlefields for long hours. In spite of heavy wounds many times they tried to help themselves and get out of battlefields at all costs. Larrey and his subordinates were able to save tens of lives due to a well-organized system of first aid, although they lacked major medical devices. Those who were unable to be

2. 12. 1805 BITVA TŘÍ CÍSAŘŮ



„LÉKAR JE A MUSÍ BYT PŘÍTELEM HUMANITY“  
Jean Dominique Larrey



transferred remained in the castle hospital. In the morning, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, there were 190 of them.

In those days surgery was rather tough, including mostly limb amputations that were frequent even in cases when injuries were not complicated, just to prevent the wounded from more serious complications. Larrey and his colleagues were real experts in lobe amputations – they managed these operations within incredible two to four minutes. In those days, when general anaesthetic was unknown yet, speed was crucial for patients' survival. To achieve anaesthetic impacts, doctor Larrey applied opium or he overcooled injuries. However, most frequently they gave schnapps to their patients to make them drunk. By mere coincidence, it was in 1805 when another anaesthetic – morphine – had been invented. Doctors' efforts many times failed and they were frequently desperate not only with their wounded patients, but because of low sanitary standards contagious diseases spread among local people, too.

## Šlapanice Have not Neglected Doctors' Heroic Efforts

Thousands of soldiers who lost their lives in battlefields near Šlapanice have been commemorated by the Column of the Crucifixion built-in to a house facade in Jiříkovská Street,



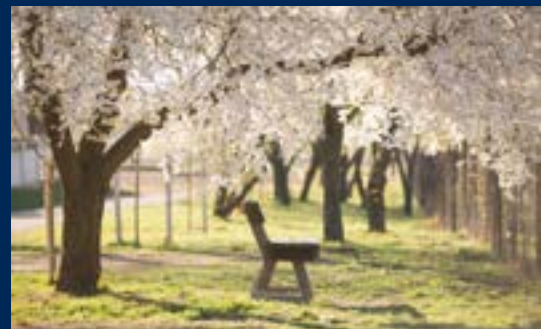


where victims from the castle hospital were buried. Their remains had later been laid in the local cemetery in Šlapanice and in 1965 a Cenotaph with engraved letter "N" was erected there. Surgeon Larrey and his fellow-doctors were awarded with a special monument on their behalf placed on cross-roads of Riegrova and Brněnská Streets (Rieger and Brno Streets) in 2005.

The Church of the Assumption of Our Lady is the landmark of Šlapanice where hundreds of Russian captives were held after the Battle of Austerlitz. The former premises of the scholastery house the Museum of Brno Region where we can find the testamentary fund of the prominent Czech landscapist Alois Kalvoda. Out of the other attractions - two restored horse-carriages from the turn of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries are worth seeing. Contemporary activities in the Museum often focusing on children.

### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. *Detail on the Doctors' Monument*
2. *Church of the Assumption of Our Lady is a Natural Landmark of the Village*
3. *Surroundings of the Blümegens' Castle Offer a Number of Nooks Tempting to Have a Pleasant Relax*



**i** **Museum in Šlapanice (A)**  
 Masarykovo nám. 18,  
 664 51 Šlapanice  
 tel. (+ 420) 544 228 029  
 slapanice.muzeumbrnenska.cz/  
 GPS: 49°10'9.372"N, 16°43'37.559"E

**Futher Spots:**  
**Blümegens' Castle - school (B)**  
 GPS: 49°10'7.9"N, 16°43'30.1"E

**Doctors' Monument (C)**  
 GPS: 49°10'3.2"N 16°43'36.2"E

**Built-in Crucifixion (D)**  
 GPS: 49°9'56.9"N, 16°43'52.2"E

**Cenotaph (E)**  
 GPS: 49°10'15.1"N, 16°43'44.5"E



# 8) Žuráň Hill and Famous Blood-Stained Red Sun

*The Žuráň Hill belongs to one out of many landmarks of the Three Emperors' Battle. It is a slope partially piled up of earth and stones as long ago as the ancient times of nations' migration. It is a silent witness of the 1805-year clash as well as a number of other historic events.*

Do you find the name "Žuráň" rather strange? Those of you who guess of its German origin are right. The word "*Schurain*" means, in fact, a boundary highland. The French call it the Emperor's Hill or Napoleon's Table as Napoleon Bonaparte situated his headquarters and led the first phase of the Battle of Austerlitz from there. The hill, that is located on the right-hand side of the northern edge of the battlefield, provided him with a wonderful view over most of the battlefield area from the Santon Hill over Tvarožná (Bozenitz) as far as Pratecké výšiny

(the Pratzen Heights) occupied by the Allies and he was able to see as far as the upper flow of the stream called Zlatý potok. Napoleon was hoping that the Allies would start the attack and they would leave their advantageous position of Pratecké výšiny southwards to Zlatý potok valley. As soon as they would descend, Napoleon planned to attack their positions on Pratecké výšiny and invade them from the rear.

## The Battle of the Three Emperors Bathing in Sun and Blood

Since the early morning of the day "D" Napoleon was providing his marshals with detailed instructions concerning the battle. Freezing soldiers hold their weapons firmly in their hands, ready for attacking the enemies. They

are waiting for orders - they trust their Emperor and are full of expectations that this day would end their long journey and they would soon be on the way back home. At seven thirty the horizon on the east starts shining and cutting the mist, the red sun is rising over the hill behind Holubice (Holubitz). The beautiful view takes aback all, even Napoleon himself is puzzled for a while. This moment was so exceptional that the scarlet sun of Austerlitz became a legend.

The sun-rise and sun-set framed the beginning and end of the bloody fight. Victory for one party, defeat for the other one, death of several thousands of soldiers directly on the battlefield as well as disaster and misery of common people who were involved against their will. The sun had witnessed it all before it set in the evening. And it was the sun that







supported Napoleon also by dissipating the mist over Pratecký vrch (the Prätzen Hill) and set light upon the Allied troops marching down the hill towards Telnice (Telnitz) and Sokolnice (Sokolnitz). His own troops – Soult's 4th Corps headed by two divisions under the command of Generals Saint-Hilaire and Vandamme - were still cloaked by dense fog. It was eight in the morning when Napoleon raised his right hand and suddenly gave his units a clear signal: *"Let us end this war with a stroke of thunder!"* he shouted. What happened afterwards was like one sharp blow or *"a lion's leap"* – a metaphor that became immortal.

Before the battle started, Napoleon pretended the weakness of his forces because he wanted the Allies to conclude he had planned to retreat. He intended to provoke them so that they would envelop his right flank and they would cut the retreat communication line to Vienna. The French Emperor had a plan that his soldiers would attack and recapture the Heights, then from the Heights they would launch a decisive assault to the centre of the Allied army, cripple them and then encircle them from the rear. French Marshal Davout, approaching Rajhrad was ordered to attack them in the area of Zlatý potok and chase them in-between his units and those French ones attacking from Pratecké výšiny to the valley. The Allied army was supposed to find itself in a clench with no chance to escape.

By *"the lion's leap"* from Jiřkovice (Girzikowitz) towards Pratecké výšiny – the divisions under the command of Generals Saint-Hilaire and Vandamme succeeded in seizing Pratecké výšiny during that morning. They reached the Allied forces rear on their descent from the Heights to the Zlatý potok valley and split their army. This particular manoeuvre has been considered decisive for the final triumph of the French army.

## On the Eve of Legendary Battle

Let us travel back in time on the eve of the legendary battle. Napoleon is said to spend it not far from the Žuráň Hill in a road-side inn *"Pindulka"* where he ordered his favourite meal – potatoes on onion. The inn derives its name from the original owner Matěj Pindula – a citizen of Brno. Now, the building has been utilized by the South Moravian Road Administration and Maintenance Office and there is no public admission.

Napoleon spent some nights before the battle also in the former road-side inn *"Kandia"* not far from the ancient road to Olomouc. He wanted to get good knowledge of the terrain he selected for the future battlefield. He probably spent the night in the house No. 12, the evidence of his stay was to be engraved on the ceiling joist.

## Soldiers Did not Have Special Treatment

There is a number of stories on Napoleon's dining and lodging. Maybe, you would like to know something about common soldiers and their dining and lodging in their camps. As soon as armies set out for military campaigns, soldiers got nothing more but a small financial allowance to buy food. Unlike the Allies, the French army was not accompanied by a number of bakeries and food-wagons and that was also the reason why they were able to transfer so fast.

It was an exceptional case when soldiers were given extra portions of food. On foreign territories they confiscated food from local people. Many other armies often chaotically robbed and wasted what they had, Napoleon on the other hand, had a well-organized system of confiscating stocks. The system was under the control of catering officers who, under death penalty threat, accounted for strict discipline and further re-distribution. The truth is, however, that these strict rules were valid only until the battles started. As soon as they were over, commanders indulged their soldiers much more freedom and looser discipline, usually on behalf of local people.

## Battle of Austerlitz Memorial on Žuráň

To be able to absorb the authentic atmosphere of the unforgettable event we recommend a trip to the Žuráň Hill. On its top you can find two maple trees and a granite blockstone with a relief map depicting the battlefield plan with some eliciting details. It contains also the quotation proclaimed by Napoleon when the battle was over:

*"Soldiers, My nation will welcome you with open arms. It will be enough to say: I fought at Austerlitz, in order for everyone to rejoin: This is a hero!"*  
Napoleon

The Žuráň Hill is visible from far distance. There is a yellow sign for hikers from Šlapanice and the path leads on to the Santon Hill.



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Žuráň Hill (A)

GPS: 49°10'47.265"N, 16°44'17.160"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík, Z. Podhrázský)

1. Žuráň Hill at Sun-rise
2. Battle of Austerlitz Monument
3. Detail of Troop Positions on the Monument
4. Žuráň Hill Decorated by National Flags
5. The Monument is Visible from Far Distance



# 9) Merciless Fights for Santon Hill

*The Santon Hill, a witness of glorious times of Napoleonic era, not only reveals old historical testimonies on the outstanding Battle of the Three Emperors but it is also a place for nature lovers. The hill has advantageous strategic position. Its slopes have revealed a number of archaeological excavations of earlier, medial and later Stone Age periods as well as some other findings from pre-historic and historic times.*

## Santon Hill Besieged by French Troops

The favourable strategic position had attracted not only our ancestors but also those who came after. Napoleon decided the Santon Hill (originally called Padělek) would guard the left flank of the French army. The 17<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Regiment, under the command of General Claparède,

was chosen for its defence. The General not only entrenched the hill in three rows, he also supported it with 18 heavy cannons. It was not an easy task to defend the place and Napoleon himself directly ordered the soldiers to defend it at all costs. The French fulfilled their task and the local land had soaked with blood of fighting enemies.

On the day of the battle two Infantry Divisions of 5th Corps of Marshal Lannes and the Cavalry Corps of Marshal Murat stood firmly on their positions - on the right hand side from General Claparède. They left their positions after nine in the morning only after they had observed Marshal Soult's units besieging Pracký kopec on their right. The Russian units under the command of General Bagration are to be observed advancing from Pozořice (Posoritz) Post Station

on the far north-west marching in their direction. The General entered the army when he was 17 years old. He is fearless, totally devoted to his service and overlooking any sign of danger. He passed by the Pozořice Post Station, crossed the Pozořice Stream and is about to clash with Lannes' Corps and French cavalry under the Hill. The Russians make an attempt to avoid the Santon Hill on the right. The French battery welcomes them with massive fire from the trenches. Bagration and his artillery answer the fire. The Russians succeed in besieging Tvarožná for a while, however, soon they are forced to retreat from their positions because of strong artillery cannonade and a counter-attack of 17th Infantry Regiment accompanied by Marshal Lannes' units. After two in the afternoon, Bagration orders his retreat towards Rousínov.









## Valhubert's Decease

It was this particular battlefield where French General Roger-Valhubert was severely wounded by a cannon ball during the fight with Russian soldiers. As mentioned above, he died some time later in Brno. A memorial board placed in the centre of the village as well as the Monument of General Roger-Valhubert, that has been placed near the road towards the Santon Hill, commemorate this significant, though stirring past. We can observe a small chapel devoted to Virgin Mary on the hill from far distance. Before the battle French soldiers devastated the cha-

pel and utilized the material for entrenchment. It was built there again in 1832. Local people believe in a legend about the small statuette of Virgin Mary. When destroying the chapel, soldiers wanted to burn the statuette but after the battle was over, local people found it unharmed in ashes. A replica of a French cannon, recalling the period of the outstanding battle, is placed in front of the Municipal Office in Tvarožná. There is a small museum and panorama devoted to the Battle of Austerlitz and it is available for visitors during office hours (or any other prior appointment).

The general public, however, has been well aware of Tvarožná not only because of organizing a number of commemorative events but mostly due to the fact that annual re-enactments of the Battle of Austerlitz take place there. For more than twenty years on the turn of November and December military event and history fans from all over Europe and from the overseas have come here to recall the historic events. They wear authentic replicas of historic uniforms and they perform a certain phase of the battle, though the winner is known in advance. Ignoring the cold weather, the performance has been very popular among visitors and they watch it with great enthusiasm.

## Named after Hill in Egypt, St. Anthony or Christmas Crib?

And what is the story of the strange sounding name of the Santon Hill? Apart from "*Santon*," you can come across the name - "*Napoleon's Hill*" - though this is quite rare today. There are legends that it was Napoleon's soldiers who named it "*Santon*" as it reminded them of a hill they came across during their campaigns in Egypt. More probable is the story that "*Santon*" is a corruption of the French name of Saint Antoine (St. Anthony). Another story says the name comes from south of France - "*Santon*" is a name for a Christmas

crib model there decorated with a number of figures of various professions. The local “*santons*” have been typical local souvenirs up till now.

If geology is your hobby, you should know the Santon Hill is part of Drahanská vrchovina (the Drahanská Highland) originating in the earlier Palaeozoic era. There are good opportunities for observing its rocky surface on plain slopes in northern and western directions and also on its western and southern wood-covered slopes in lower altitudes. Those interested in botany will not miss the fact that due to favourable geologic and climate conditions, the area is a habitat for mostly thermophilic steppe-flora and other kinds of plants preferring dry and warm climate, many of them protected.



#### Santon Hill

GPS: 49°11'18.798"N, 16°45'50.166"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík, B. Hrdinová)

1. Chapel of Virgin Mary - Interior
2. Fertile Fields in the Surroundings
3. Symbolism of the battle in the Surroundings
4. Santon Hill and the Chapel on Its Top
5. Generals Participating in the Battle
6. Monument of the Battle victims





# 10) Place Called "Stará pošta"

*Important towns used to be connected through post routes with relay stations having been situated every two Vienna miles (i.e. about 15 kilometres). Thanks to this system, the couriers were able to meet settled transport speed. Since 1785, one of these stations was situated on the imperial road between Brno and Olomouc, not far from Pozořice and Kovalovice. Later the post station had been transferred to Pozořice and the original one was denoted to as "the Old Post Station"*

*(Stará pošta). Before the Battle of Austerlitz, the place was utilized by French Marshal Murat as his headquarters. Later it was in hands of Prince Bagration who started his attack on the Santon Hill from there. And later, his retreat had been backed by Austrian artilleryists from their positions not far from that place. And Napoleon himself considered the Old Post Station as a key point. Accompanied by his marshals he had led one of major meetings there before the battle started.*

## Post Station - Silent Witness of Dispute between Napoleon's Marshals

It is said Napoleon's subordinates had had a harsh dispute even before their meeting started. Marshals Murat and Soult wanted to persuade Marshal Lannes, who belonged to Napoleon's closest commanders, to persuade the Emperor to retreat. Lannes, though being strongly against their proposal, agrees and he prepares a personal letter for the Emperor. Before he could finish it, Napoleon appears in the Old Post Station and after reading the letter, he admits the following: "Does Marshal Lannes intend to retreat?" The answer comes from the side of Soult: "Excellency, the Fourth Corps will be able to double its power." Lannes is persuaded that Soult plays games to blame him of being a coward and to show off in Napoleon's eyes. He bursts out in anger, calls Soult "a loser" and continues as follows: "These two persuaded me to write the letter." Napoleon ignores their quarrel, as in the meantime Lannes is insulting Soult and tends to provoke him to meet in a duel. In the end, Napoleon agrees with Lannes and orders the French army to retreat towards Brno.





## Prince, Diplomat, and Herald of Peace – Johann I of Liechtenstein

Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein, Commander of the Allied Russian-Austrian cavalry, was probably the only one among the Allied troop members who was perfectly familiar with local terrains, as he was the owner of the Pozořice estate. His cousin, Johann Baptist Joseph Morris of Liechtenstein, also took part in the battle. He was a commander of the combined cavalry brigade in the Corps of General Buxhöwden, who was known for his absolute enthusiasm for fighting and he never fell in panic whatever may have happened during fights. During the Battle of Austerlitz, however, the General is believed to command his soldiers in less than sober state. Unlike his cousin, Morris was fighting on the left flank of the Allied troops. Nevertheless, he too, was unable to avert the Alliance's defeat. The Emperor of Austria Francis I delegated Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein to Napoleon to offer the Allied troops' capitulations. And may you ask why it was Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein who headed to meet Napoleon in Pozořice Old Post Station - certainly not because he would be the only one to find his way there. He was an excellent diplomat, one of the very few among Austrian generals having been respected by Napoleon himself. Napoleon arrived in the Old

Post Station in Pozořice when the battle was over. The day was almost dawning when the contented Emperor lay down and fell asleep. However, he was not allowed to have a long rest. His aide started to wake him up saying the following: *"The Prince of Liechtenstein is approaching."* Napoleon let the Austrian diplomat speak and accepted his capitulations. *"Your Excellency, there is nothing left to be seized,"* Liechtenstein said. *"The Battle has been completed so perfectly - there is nothing else to be added to its glory but peace."*

## Post Station Surroundings Hide Ancient Treasure

The Old Post Station reveals deep wine cellars underneath. It is said the French celebrated their victory there. The Old Post Station and its close surroundings provide a number of opportunities to recall the Austerlitz clash where not only people lost their lives. The common misfortune of thousands of dead soldiers and their horses has been commemorated by a life-size statue – depicting a bullet-hit stallion. The statue has been placed in the middle of fields behind the Old Post Station, not far from a car park. Thousands of dead horses had left a number of traces behind – people came across horseshoes, or horse equipment components. Not far from the Old Post Station, on the way







towards Rousínov, we can find another memorial - devoted to the memory of two Austrian artillery batteries under the command of Major Václav Jan Frierenberg who warded off General Bagration's column retreat at the final stage of the Battle of Austerlitz.

## What Does Santon Cannon Ball Taste Like?

You can experience the real atmosphere of Napoleonic times right in the premises of the Old Post Station that turned into a stylish restaurant with accommodation facilities. You can, e.g. book in advance a guide wearing a replica of an imperial grenadier uniform. On the spot you can visit horse stables or a small Napoleonic museum. Some authentic artifacts linked to the battle are on the show as well. All your senses are exposed to perceive the genius loci of the place. The local restaurant menu includes specialties of the Czech and Moravian cuisines but you can also taste dishes preferred by Napoleon, like - "*Chicken a la Marengo*" - the recipe comes from the Emperor's personal cook called Dunan. Another specialty is called "*Santon Cannon Ball*" (minced meat in bread) served with a wooden spoon - you can keep it as a souvenir. The two above mentioned dishes are not included in the standard menu, however there is no problem to order them in advance. By the way, speaking about meals, did you know that semi-processed soups

were developed by Proust and Parmentier - two French chemists living during the era of Napoleon? They evaporated the broth to get a syrup, poured it in patty-pans and left it to gel and finally dry. These dried cubes were dissolved in boiling water and they were utilized mostly in naval and military canteens.

The Old Post Station provides the opportunity to spend a night there as Napoleon did. A trip to an open-air swimming-pool in nearby Kovalovice may be a good idea for entertainment or active relax. There are historical buildings that used to be in property of the Liechtenstein family - the former curia domini, fortress and prison - have been deprived of their original functions. They have been reconstructed and completed and today they are utilized as a house of culture, municipal office, library and restaurant.



### Stará Pošta (Old Post Station)

Stará pošta 109, Kovalovice, 683 01

tel. (+420) 517 375 985

web.: [www.staraposta.cz](http://www.staraposta.cz)

GPS: 49°11'6.666"N, 16°49'34.295"E

### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. - 2. Stará Pošta (Old Post Station)

3. Well in the Area of Old Post Station

# 11) Elite Guards Clash Near Holubice

*The village of Holubice (Holubitz) is situated about 5 km north-west of Austerlitz. Off north is the part of Holubice called Kruh (Kruch) – originally called Tři dvory (Three Yards) that shared its autonomy with Holubice. At the end of 1970s, during the D1 motorway construction, a burial place of the second half of 10th century had been disclosed in its surroundings. The burial place included the most ancient coins of Hungarian Kings and the Přemyslid Dynasty, thus shifting Holubice among most significant archaeological sites in the territory of Moravia.*

On the eve before the Battle of Austerlitz, the Allied troops (about 85,000 men) occupied positions following the line from Pozořice, Holubice, Prace (Pratze) up to Újezd (Augezd) by Brno. During the battle both Holubice and Kruh witnessed heavy cavalry clashes. The 5th French

Corps supported by General Murat's cavalry marched on towards Holubice and pushed the Allies towards Rousínov. Last but not least – on the side of the Alliance the Russian Imperial Guard was held in reserve. It constituted an elite unit of the top of the Russian high society involving about 10,000 men. The unit was under the command of Grand Duke Constantine, the younger brother of the Russian Tzar Alexander. He must have been really shocked by the situation he had rushed into – the Guard was supposed to be in reserve for progressing Allied columns – instead they occurred in the front line, furthermore they had been attacked by Marshal Lannes units near Blažovice (Blazowitz) and they had to defend themselves. Lannes was a very capable tactician, he had a good flair for fight and last but not least – he was very popular among his soldiers.

## Fierce Combat Between Elite Units

The Russian Guard Cavalry makes an attempt to reverse the situation – in the meantime its right flank has been backed by cavalry column headed by Prince of Liechtenstein. The Russian Guard Cavalry attacks the centre of Vandamme's division. Napoleon has already left his position on Žuráň and transferred to "Staré vinohrady" (Old Vine-yards Hill) and together with his Imperial Guard he is thoroughly watching the course of the battle. It is almost twelve at noon. Two French regiments fight hopelessly with the Russian Guard Cavalry. Sensing trouble, Napoleon orders part of his Imperial Guard - the Mounted Grenadiers and Mounted Jaegers with the famous Mamluks forward to help them. They are stopped for a while





OSTRÁ RÍŽ  
TŘI ČISLA  
1. 1. 1945  
VĚROU  
MILNÍ ČLENŮ  
KARLOVSKÝCH  
GRANATÁŘŮ  
A OBEC HOLUBICE  
1945 - 1945

VOJSE KRATKY MNOHE  
TUOJ LÍZ  
NĚKTERÉ PŘEC VŠAK  
DUM NEDOSLY

ČEST JEDNÉ PAMĚTI  
ČEST DEN OPALENÝM



by grape-shots of Russian cannons (such type of bullets consisted of board cover filled with small iron balls – when shot, the cover fell to pieces and the contents turned into lethal shower). Nevertheless, some of the cavalymen manage to intrude into the Russian formation – they soon have to retreat though.

Colonel Morland, the Commander of the attack, failed and lost his life inside the Russian formation. Napoleon orders his aide, General Rapp to lead the next attack of the Jaeger Cavalry – this time the French were more successful and the Russian Guard is forced to retreat – leaving hundreds of dead and wounded behind. The combat between the two elite units could not have significantly influenced course of the battle, nevertheless, it became immortal and entered the history – not only because it was a duel of elite units on both sides but also because it proved another evidence of efficiency and harmony as specific components of the French Army.

## Spirit of French Revolution Continues to Live

Major problem of the Allied army was its command - it was unable to function as an organic unit, nor could it utilize landscape

advantages. The Army performed complicated manoeuvre operations and, in general, it executed in a very awkward manner. The language barrier was another handicap – a number of Allied commanders failed to receive orders and proper information in time as there was not enough time to translate them. They only could have relied on their own skills and adjust

their commands following their former military experience and instincts.

On the other side, the French Army was in favour of a number of indisputable advantages. First of all, the French introduced modern fighting methods – it was just a couple of years after the French revolution and its spirit and



enthusiasm have still survived among soldiers. Moreover, France had already introduced compulsory military service, i.e. each of the French soldiers was in fact an armed citizen.

The new French revolutionary army had also substituted the outdated elements of linear tactics by new tactics of free formations. Napoleon followed the innovations and he contributed by adding some new tactical and organizational elements. An important role was to be played by artillery focused into large formations and applied in bulk volumes. The French Army counted half a million men, and in those days it was the second largest army after the Russian troops. There were many young recruits among them who passed only a basic military drill and during fights they often followed their basic instincts.

Their reactions in combination with enthusiasm, revolutionary spirit and their intentions to fall for their homeland, were often puzzling for their enemies. During fights they were able to create mobile and very flexible formations. In the French Army the military career was conditioned by merit, by proving one's capabilities, while in the Allied troops the chief commanding posts were accessible exclusively to aristocracy.

## From Gigantic Soldiers to Granite Monument

You will find a mixing plant in the place where the Russian Guard Cavalry used to line up and it is impossible to miss it. Its industrial look coincides with the genius loci expressed by three gigantic figures of soldiers and a cannon. If you pass on the motorway southwards to Holubice, you will see the clash point westwards and even farther Žuráň and Santon in the same direction. If you decide to continue the other way round (leftwards from underpass), you will reach a place called "Valše" - a former water mill between Holubice and Křenovice (Krzenowitz) on the Rakovec Stream. Grand Duke Constantine's uhlans had been pushed that far. The military event has been commemorated by a granite monument above the village on the right-hand side of the connecting way to the main road towards Olomouc.

Every year, one week before the battle anniversary, the local authorities organize a march to the Memorial of the Battle of Austerlitz victims. The event is especially attractive for children who are equipped with different sorts of lanterns.

i

Stará Valcha (A)

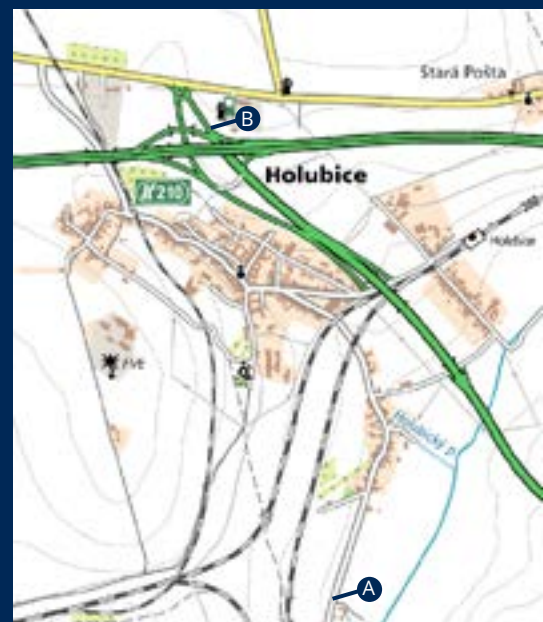
GPS: 49°9'42.557"N, 16°49'12.968"E

Monument of the  
Battle of Austerlitz Victims (B)

GPS: 49°10'58.8"N, 16°48'5.8"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. - 2. Former Battlefield by the Village of Holubice
3. - 4. Monument of the Battle of Austerlitz Victims
5. Bridge by Stará Valcha



# 12) Fires of Jiříkovice

*The village of Jiříkovice (Girzikowitz) lies south-east of the Žuráň Hill, in the north it is bordered by the road to Olomouc. Due to a legend, the village was named after its founder, a certain man called Jiří (George). Even though Jiříkovice had not been involved in direct fights, its surroundings served as starting position for Soult's 4<sup>th</sup> Corps before their attack on Pratecké výšiny (Pratecké Heights). During the battle and also after it was over, too the village provided shelter for the wounded. A famous story - under the name "Fires of Jiříkovice" - has been linked to the place.*

## Flames for Emperor of France

On the eve before the battle Napoleon was checking the position of his troops. All of a sudden he stumbles – he may have stumbled over a tree root or a sleeping soldier's leg - who knows? Somebody lights up a wisp of straw in order to light the Emperor's way. Soon some others join him and hail the Emperor by lifting straw on their weapons. The forthcoming battle coincides with 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Emperor's coronation. Touched by this display, Napoleon will have frequently recalled it. The exceptionality of that moment as well as soldiers' enthusiasm could have hardly been described.

However, straw was burning fast and hiding inhabitants sadly watched how thatches from their houses and barns disappeared at the cold night. And it was not only this exceptional occasion when French soldiers, in order to keep themselves warm, were burning all they found – window frames, gates, and fallen trees, too. In the meantime, commanders have received details on the forthcoming battle. The Corps of Marshal Nicholas-Jean de Dieu Soult are to oppose the centre and left flank of the Allied army near the villages of Jiříkovice and Telnice (Telnitz). His father was a notary and Soult served in the army since he was 16 years old. His military career started to boost after the revolution, when Napoleon recognized his talent. During the Battle of Austerlitz he commanded the largest Army Corps involving three infantry and one cavalry divisions. Undoubtedly, he had not disappointed his Emperor.

## What a Spectacular View

There is a wonderful view point - the road in the north of the village leading from Tvarožná to Jiříkovice. You can observe the Roketnice Stream valley – the place around Žuráň – the French Grenadier Division was concentrated there. Farther eastwards, there is the place

called "Staré vinohrady." Northwards, behind Žuráň, in location called "Loučky" was the cavalry reserve of Prince Murat. Murat was a son of an inn-keeper and his father wanted him to become a clergyman. Instead of that, however, he was recruited into the army and his career in the royal cavalry sky-rocketed. His position was definitely sealed by his marriage with the Emperor's sister Caroline. He was a very enthusiastic man, courageous, sometimes a little big-mouthed. He was well aware of his prestigious position and he liked to show off his wealth. On the other side, he was renowned for well organized drilling of Napoleonic cavalry.

## Emperor of France and His Battle Plan

Napoleon worked out his plan in details. He enabled the Allied army to take favourable defensive positions on Pratecké výšiny (Pratecké Heights) and Staré Vinohrady (Old Vine-yards). He counted on the fact that the Alliance would attack the French in the locality of Zlatý potok valley and they would descend to the stream where they might have expected the core of the French army. The French left flank would turn southwards and attack the right side of the Allied army and would push them towards 3<sup>rd</sup> Army Corps of





Marshal Davout. In the meantime, Davout would advance from Rajhrad to Sokolnice (Sokolnitz) and form a barrier against the Allied columns descending from the Heights.

Napoleon was absolutely right concerning his rivals' intentions and his opening gambit proved his military skills. Nevertheless, his plans partially failed – Davout's Corps had reached their positions after a long and exhausting march from Vienna and they were rather weakened. Their arrival was crucial in determining the success of the French plan. Although with enormous difficulties, they fulfilled their task and had not allowed the Russian and Austrian units to attack the French rear positions. The decisive moment for the further progress of the battle was the fact that the Allies decided to attack farther in the south than Napoleon had expected. Therefore the Allies had to reorganize their deployments. This "operation" had lasted for longer time than it was good for them – the infantry columns stumbled over each other and in the process they ran into cavalry columns of Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstien that slowed them down even more. The delay caused that Marshal Soult had to fight to reach Pratecký kopec (Hill). Davout had enough time to strengthen the Zlatý potok defense and beat off the Allies in the area between Telnice and Sokolnice - the Allies' original area for decisive assault.





## Rohlenka Was not Named after Cornet Roll

A road-side inn named "*Rohlenka*" ("*rohlik*" in Czech is a cornet-shape roll in English), used to stand on the northern side of Jiříkovice near the road to Olomouc. It might have been named after one of its original renters called "*Rohlena*" or due to its position in "the corner" (in Czech "*roh*") of the field. The most probable, however is the fact that it got its name from a bulge in Jiříkovice area where the inn had been built, as local people called this place "*Rohel*." "*Rohlenka*" has been running ever since – you can find a motor-way restaurant here (during its reconstruction in the middle of 90s of the last century, they discovered a mass grave there and it supports the theory that there had been a field hospital in 1805).

In the nearby village of Ponětovice (Puntowitz) - south-west of Jiříkovice, there used to be a temporary aid station. It is believed that the way to the field hospital in Šlapanice was red of wounded soldiers' blood. If you come to visit this place in summer time you can stay at Ponětovický rybník (pond) – situated in a picturesque valley between the villages of Jiříkovice and Ponětovice.



Rohlenka (A)

GPS: 49°11'3.658"N, 16°45'26.704"E

Friendship Tree

GPS: 49°9'58.281"N, 16°45'17.043"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. Friendship Tree at the Outskirts of Jiříkovice
2. Rohlenka Road-side Inn





# 13) Peace Monument

*Even though you would not expect anything special about the village of Prace (Pratze) located in South Moravia, it is just the opposite way round. Its very unusual name would prompt that this is not just an ordinary place. It is believed the name was derived from the word "wash" (in Czech – "prát"). There used to be a sheep shelter and a woolen mill at the river-side. The original word "prát" (wash) had been corrupted to the present name Prace. The village had a significant meaning for Napoleon, too - it became the symbol of his glorious victory. The hill has been famous also for the Peace Monument having been erected in the memory of all the Battle of Austerlitz victims.*

## Fight-or-die Siege of Pratecké Height

We have already mentioned Napoleon was able to win the battle due to his military flair and good portion of blessing. And it was just the ridge of Pratecké Height having been occupied by the Allied troops that played a crucial role in it. The Emperor of France abandoned the strategic position on Pratecké výšiny and his intention was to lure the Allies out to the Zlatý potok valley and fake the French army was on retreat. And so it happened. As early as at seven in the morning, thousands of Russian

soldiers were descending to the valley. More than an hour later, the last - fourth column of soldiers has set out for descent. The delay, as mentioned above, had been caused by the last minute plan shift on the side of the Allies. Afterwards, Napoleon is ready to fulfil his plans and gives a sign to start the attack. He intends to occupy the Height and attack the Allies from the rear. There is fast advance of Saint-Hilaire and Vandamme's attacking formations from Soult's Corps towards the Height. Frozen lumps of clay crumble under their feet. The soldiers are almost running – their pace is about 120 steps per minute. The French remain





cloaked by fog for a long time. As soon as they emerged, they were not more than 700 hundred metres from the top. Only as late as then they had been noticed by the Allied troops of Kolowrat's division. One of the aides headed to General Kutuzov with the news. Kutuzov, though in shock, did not panic. His intention was to defend the hill at all costs. He ordered the Austrians under the command of Kolowrat to make it as short as possible to the top. Then he sent the Russian part of the column across Staré vinohrady to re-siege the village of Prace, that had already been occupied by the French.

In spite of the unexpected situation the Allies were able to organize their defence fast and the French were met with a tough resistance and their attack was not as simple as Napoleon intended<sup>[14]</sup>. They started a two-hour desperate fight that cost heavy toll of both sides. Toughness of Russian soldiers was especially extraordinary and it had been mentioned in memoirs by General Thiébault.

The French besieged the hill at about two in the afternoon. Nevertheless, the success of this particular attack was far from the final victory. Napoleon's "*lion's leap*" was in fact dissolved in a series of merciless fights. Both sides were fighting proving extraordinary courage and enthusiasm and it was a drawn

battle for a long time<sup>[14]</sup>. Finally, the victory was on the side of the French military flair but the truth is - that day brought more blessing for the French.

## Peace Monument and Miraculous Stone

Memorials have been erected not only to commemorate those who lost their lives in battles but also as an eternal reminder for next generations. And it exactly is the case of the Monument on the Pratecký Hill - to commemorate all

soldiers who died at the Battle of Austerlitz. The Monument is very special – it is a 26-metre high pyramid-shape memorial topped with an ancient Slavic cross towering over the countryside. The reverent atmosphere of this place has perfectly been confirmed by the Prophet Isaiah's words: "*My fallen shall arise again*" – that have been engraved above the chapel gate. The Monument resulted from the initiative of priest Alois Slovák and it was designed by architect Josef Fanta. If you check the Monument in details you will observe four statues of shield-holders. The three of them are symbols of the





three army fighters and the fourth one is the battlefield territory – Moravia. The Monument entrance has been lined with statues of lamenting mothers and wives and by ellipse-shaped inscription-bearing granite plates. You will certainly be attracted by the interior - there is a chapel with a marble-made altar and an ossuary below containing soldiers' remains that were found in the former battlefield. The interior has also had some specifications, e.g. there is an extraordinary acoustics of the place – if you are in one corner of the chapel you will hear the other man whispering in the opposite one. Is it incredible, perhaps? Another good reason for you to visit the place. A story claims there is a miraculous stone on the floor of the Monument. In case you step on it and you think of something special, it will certainly come true. The only problem is, nobody has ever identified its exact position.

## Multimedia Exposition - Experience Enjoyed by Everyone

Another place to explore in the surroundings is the museum of the monumental battle exposition. You will find there models of soldiers in contemporary uniforms, weapons or preserved objects from the battle but also a great number of various pictures, documents, video-recordings and books. The top experience, however

is to watch the audio-visual multimedia programme in the middle of the exposition, where soldiers seem to be enlivened right in front of you. The museum is a favourite place for school excursions and, it is for sure, pupils are always excited about it. And you should not forget to take a family photo at a replica of an Austrian three-pound cannon that is placed on the museum terrace.

Every year the historical events are commemorated in a ceremony which takes place on the anniversary day of the battle at the beginning of December. In the area of the Peace Monument there is also a memorial devoted to Austrian General Jirčík - the only general of Czech origin who participated in the battle. Together with his soldiers of the infantry brigade he heroically defended Pratecké návrší.

The Peace Monument deserves to be included among TOP destinations to be visited in South Moravia. Each of the places being denoted to as TOP spots are to meet a number of criteria – these focus especially on quality of the services offered. All tourist attractions being involved in the selected group are to be found on the web page [www.vyletnicile.cz](http://www.vyletnicile.cz). May you choose any of them, you will certainly be well-contented.



### Peace Monument (A)

K Mohyle míru 200, 664 58 Prace

tel. (+ 420) 544 244 724

[mohylamiru.muzeumbrnenska.cz](http://mohylamiru.muzeumbrnenska.cz)

GPS: 49°7'40.999"N, 16°45'46.357"E

### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. - 2. Peace Monument.
3. Statues of Lamenting Women  
at the Monument Entrance.



# 14) Pre-battle Meeting in Křenovice

*The village of Křenovice (Krzenowitz) became a place where both parties found their lodgings. First it was occupied by the French, later exchanged for the Allied troops. It was right there, at a local house No. 65, the former "Spáčilův statek" (Spáčil's Farm) where the significant pre-battle meeting of the Russian-Austrian headquarters took place on the eve of the battle. Next day, the nearby place "Staré vinohrady" witnessed a bloody battlefield. As Křenovice so Staré vinohrady had been conquered by both parties for a couple of times. Before the beginning, it was in French hands who left the hill and it was taken over by the Allies. The place with troublesome access was finally re-conquered by the French and Napoleon himself was watching the final duel between the two Imperial Guards from there.*

On December 1<sup>st</sup>, a number of generals came to Křenovice. On the same day, local people were ordered to leave their houses immediately. All did so but a certain Jakub Fuchsa, who was hiding in a cellar and stayed there until the battle was over. When he got out he was in deep shock – he could see the Russians running towards Austerlitz (Slavkov) and Vážany. They did not even managed to pick up their knapsacks they had left behind in Křenovice before the battle.

The local people, however, have not forgotten about them. The Russian "leather bags" have completed their local clothes for many years after the battle was over.

## Weyrother's Plan Did not Impress Kutuzov at All

Austrian General Franz von Weyrother was responsible for the battle plan on the side of the Allied troops. The Russian command required him as a Chief of Staff<sup>[23]</sup> as he was well acquainted with the local territory. As early as on November 28<sup>th</sup>, Weyrother informed both Emperors on details of the plan during their stay in Vyškov. Now his task was to let the plan know to those who were supposed to lead the Allied troops. Since eight in the evening, officers were filling the room and Weyrother unfolded a detailed battlefield map. Then, with an extraordinary extent of self-confidence, he started to explain the details of his plan. After he finished, he had looked around his audience in a manner as a teacher when addressing his pupils. One of the generals put down a notice recalling his school years: *"He was speaking so loud and with such a self-confidence proving his absolute dominance over us all, thus confirming our total incapability. He acted as a professor reading*

*lecture to his students. Kutuzov, who had been sitting and drowsing in the corner before we came, went on snoring loud."* In any case, Weyrother was unable to catch his listeners' attention. And when Kutuzov came around, he admitted: *"As far as I can see it, there is no other way but postpone the battle as much as possible. We have not got any news on Archduke and his army and the army positioning on the Heights is favourable for us."* In spite of these comments, the proposal was adopted. Translations from German to Russian, however, had taken too much time and couriers were unable to deliver the instructions earlier than at six in the morning. Even more complicated was the instruction delivery to division commanders who received them as late as nine in the morning and some officers were delivered nothing at all – they only had to rely on their own experience and military flair.

## Battle Plan Weaknesses

The plan revealed its weaknesses soon after the battle had started. Weyrother did not count on the fact the French would base their defence in the place called "Zlatý potok" or that instead of faking their retreat they would start to attack. He also neglected another fact that the Russian army was not very flexible and thus unable to





adjust its forces to frequent variabilities on the battlefield. Since the very beginning, Kutuzov, the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian army, had expressed strong doubts on the strategy, however, his proposals were rejected. This was another evidence of the fact that Kutuzov was deprived of the competent authority and it was some other people who took over final decisions, among them Weyrother, or the Emperor of Russia Tzar Alexander. To commemorate Kutuzov a monument was erected on the square in Křenovice, in 2005. Apart from it, there is a memorable plate recalling the pre-battle meeting placed on the No. 65 House, the former Spáčil's Farm. The farm is a private property and it still belongs to the Spáčil family. In Křenovice, there is also a church – Kostel sv. Vavřince (Church of St Lawrence) - the place where Russian captives were held. You will certainly observe a special type of railing with motives of Napoleonic soldiers placed on the square curve not far from the confectionery's and the local inn.

## *"Zlatá hora"* at Present and Past Times

Zlatá hora (The Golden Mountain) is towering above the village of Křenovice. When you reach its top you will observe a stone-made cross of conciliation - due to tradition, it comes from the period of Great Moravia. There is also a



mass grave where hundreds of soldiers, who lost their lives in the battle, rest in peace. Local people call it "*Na krchůvku*." The unusual Czech word "*krchůvek*," denoting old cemeteries, has been used to name some other similar places within the Czech Republic, too.

Every year, on Friday, on the eve of the Battle, local people of Křenovice organize gatherings of soldiers at campfires. You may find not only military fans in French and Austrian uniforms there but also military cooks, carriages and the so called vivandières or cantinières (the Czech version "*markytánky*" is a corruption of the German word – Marktfrau). It was common for cantinières to provide food and drink in field canteens and each of them had her "*husband*" in regiment or in batallion whose position was respected and they provided the women with protection. The women often followed soldiers in battlefields and they nursed the wounded there. The event provides visitors also with military clash shows and it is completed by a march of uniformed soldiers with lanterns towards the mountain Zlatá hora.

## "Staré vinohrady" and Its Battle Clatter

You should not omit visiting the place called "*Staré vinohrady*" either. It is a place General Kutuzov had chosen for his headquarters. At

eight in the morning, accompanied by the Emperor Francis and Tzar Alexander, he was watching the French soldiers' advancement and his own soldiers' descent. The place Staré vinohrady is available to be "*conquered*" as it was done by the French in the past. You should be on alert though, as it will not be that easy. Today, the hill is in the middle of fields and the access is not very easy, however from historic point of view the place is of the utmost interest of all battlefields concerned. There are good chances for you to discover a number of other reminders that have been scattered all over the place. There is a Column of the Crucifixion south-east of the top, on the crossroads from Prace to Křenovice and from Blažovice (Balzowitz) to Zbýšov (Zbeichow). Surrounded by a slightly undulating terrain, so typical for South Moravia, it is an ideal place to take a photo or two. Off southwards near the road, you will come across a monument devoted to the Three Emperors. It is composed of three stone columns recalling the Three Emperors and on its top there is a symbol of the Battle – the Sun. The monument has been erected on the place where all of them – the Russian Tzar Alexander, the Emperor of Austria Francis and the Emperor of France Napoleon – were passing by at different times of the day - December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1805.

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Spáčil's Farm (House No. 65) (A)  
GPS: 49°8'34.084"N, 16°49'42.010"E

Zlatá hora (Golden Mountain) (B)  
GPS: 49°8'45.9"N, 16°48'51.9"E

Staré vinohrady (Old Vine-yards)  
GPS: 49°8'41.9"N, 16°47'26.2"E

### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. Stone of Reconciliation in Zlatá hora (Golden Mountain)
2. Railing with Napoleon on the Square



# 15) Slavkov Castle

*It is a magnificent Baroque-style castle and it is one of the TOP destinations to be visited in South Moravia. It is dominating over the town of Slavkov (Austerlitz) by Brno. It is famous due to the legendary battle of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1805 that was named after then Austerlitz (now Slavkov) – “the Battle of Austerlitz.” The Chateau enchanted all the Three Emperors who were lodged there. You may not know, however, that it has been linked to some other historical personalities, first of all the outstanding Moravian dynasty of the Kaunitz (Kounic) Family.*

The Castle history goes back to 13<sup>th</sup> century when there was a commendam of the Order of German Knights. The Order was founded as early as in 1190 on the territory of the former Kingdom of Jerusalem and it was one of the greatest and mightiest Christian Knight Orders

of the Medieval Age. At the beginning of 15<sup>th</sup> century, however, the Order fell into debts and it lost its former influence. In about 1509, the Slavkov estate together with surrounding villages had been purchased by the Kaunitz Family. It was Oldřich of Kaunitz who had a Renaissance-style Castle built on the place of the older foundations. And it was the same family that initiated the Baroque-style reconstruction of the Castle.

## Castle - Lodging Place for Three Emperors

The Slavkov Castle had hosted valued guests before the battle started. Two of the Three Emperors were dwelling there – the Emperor of Austria Francis I and the Russian Tzar Alexander I. And the Chateau did not remain

abandoned even when the battle was over. Napoleon had his headquarters transferred there. The reasons for doing so were practical and prestigious – when the Austrian envoy Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein had reached him early morning on December 3<sup>rd</sup> on the place called Stará pošta with the offer of capitulations, he mentioned, by the way, the fact that both the Emperors were dwelling in the Castle. “Another good reason to do so,” said Napoleon to himself and decided to transfer to the magnificent building with all his entourage.

## What to Call the Memorable Battle?

Napoleon put aside his sword and reached for a pen to devote some time to diplomatic affairs. One of his first concerns was what to call the







currently completed battle<sup>[14]</sup>. Napoleon was thinking what name should be given to the battle that was taking the area of 120 square kilometres at places called Prace, Tvarožná, Telnice, Šlapanice and many other villages. *"So many names? It is impossible. It must be something special - an extraordinary name,"* this is what Napoleon might have thought. After a while he probably called out: *"Yes, I've got it."* In spite of the fact that the battlefield was situated more ahead of Brno, the Emperor named it after the place where he and his staff were dwelling – *"Bataille d'Austerlitz"*, i.e. the Battle of Slavkov (Austerlitz). In the evening Napoleon addressed his troops with proclamation from the balcony of the Chateau and he finished his speech as follows:

*"Soldiers,  
When I have completed everything,  
that is necessary for ensuring the happiness and prosperity of our fatherland,  
I will lead you back home to France.  
There you will be treated to my most kind and generous care. My nation will welcome you with open arms.  
It will be enough to say:  
I fought at Austerlitz,  
in order for everyone to rejoice:  
This is a hero!*



## Where Was Armistice Treaty Signed?

The Slavkov Castle was not only the place of significant statesmen's lodging but also that of important historic events. Even though the armistice conditions had been agreed upon by Napoleon and Francis, the Emperor of Austria at the place called *"Spálený mlýn"* (The Burnt Mill), they signed the Treaty in the Slavkov Castle two days later – on December 6<sup>th</sup>, in the premises of the contemporary Hall of History. Neither of the Emperors participated in the solemn act. On the Austrian side it was Johann I, Prince

of Liechtenstein and on the side of the French it was Marshal Louis-Alexandre Berthier who signed the Armistice Treaty. When he looked at all those present, Berthier could see faces full of expectations. With an expression of happiness in his face, he reached for the pen and signed it. The Treaty had fatal consequences, as it confirmed the demarcation line, thus dividing the territories for the French and Austrian armies in Moravia and the rest of lands of the monarchy. It also ordered the Russian army to withdraw from the territory of Austrian monarchy, namely Moravia and Hungary within fifteen days.

## Napoleon's Bed is Missing, Some Other Treasures are Not

The Chateau and its marvellous garden can be admired in the same way as during Napoleon's stay. During the sightseeing it is so easy to imagine those days. It is believed that you can observe the bed Napoleon spent some nights in. This, however is not true – the exhibit-bed has been composed of a number of various parts from 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some of its wooden components come from other facilities, e.g. from a pulpit. The Emperor was provided with an absolute luxury in the Chateau, but in general, Napoleon was not dependant on too much comfort. For example, during his stay on Žuráň Hill, he spent a couple of hours lying in a provisional hut that had been built by his miners. It was his typical lifestyle – he was working a lot and sleeping very little, only a couple of hours a day. And when there was a battle ahead, he rather preferred his plank bed.

When you stay in the Chateau you can visit some of historic or artistic exhibitions that take place there. Not only school pupils are to be attracted by the Chateau underground space or the exposition devoted to Napoleon on the first floor and in the basement where visitors have been guided through Napoleonic war periods with focus on the 1805 military

events. On the first floor there are not only models of soldiers and that of Napoleon himself but also a number of original historic documents – mostly weapons, uniforms and military equipments. The basement space provides a visitor with the opportunity to get acquainted with the pre-battle atmosphere (soldiers situated in lying positions), the particular battles (French cavalry attack on Russian infantry) but also with hard after-battle times (field first-aid station). Part of the exposition has been devoted to modern battle reconstruction recalls. And, yes, it is allowed to touch Napoleonic weapon replicas.

The Napoleonic war period has been regularly recalled due to a special action under the name "The Napoleonic Days" that take place regularly in the middle of August on the particular Saturday that falls closest to Napoleon's birthday (August 15<sup>th</sup>). The Slavkov Castle has been known for organizing a number of concerts here, too. There is a wide choice for those who are interested – popular, folk and classical music concerts. The most renowned among all of them has probably been the Classical Music Festival – *Concentus Moraviae*, involving 13 Moravian towns.



**Chateau Slavkov by Brno (A)**  
Palackého náměstí 1,  
684 01 Slavkov u Brna  
tel. (+420) 544 221 685  
[www.zamek-slavkov.cz](http://www.zamek-slavkov.cz)  
GPS: 49°9'17.426"N, 16°52'27.18"E

### **Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. *Front Side of the Slavkov (Austerlitz) Castle*
2. *Chateau Park and Statues by Giovanni Giuliani*
3. *South-Eastern Corner of the Park*
4. *Portico View on the Court-yard*
5. *North-western Wing of the Slavkov Castle*





# 16) Slavkov u Brna or Austerlitz?

*The Slavkov history goes far back to distant past as proved by one of the oldest municipal coat-of-arms in the Czech Republic of the year 1416. It was not earlier, however than after the Battle of the Three Emperors that Slavkov went world-famous. The truth is that its name "Slavkov" has been used only within the Czech environment. Foreigners are more familiar with its name "Austerlitz," though its German origin is doubtful. The word "Austerlitz" is of Czech origin and it is a corruption of the name "Novosedlice" - a settlement that used to be located in the place of contemporary Slavkov. Old amanuenses attempted to re-write its German version as "Nouzedeliz, Nausedlitz, Neusserlic, Nausterlitz" and, finally, it was the word "Austerlitz" that remained. The origin of the word has been explained by the outstanding Czech historian, politician and writer František Palacký.*

## Napoleon and Peacocks of Slavkov

In the town of Slavkov by Brno there are a lot of legends on Napoleon, some of them have quite interesting backgrounds. As we have already mentioned, after the Battle was over, Napoleon came to the Slavkov Castle – residence of the Kaunitz Family. It is said that once when he

went out for a walk to the surroundings, he caught sight of a flock of peacocks – a curiosity of Slavkov they had in curia domini. A small boy-herd used to graze them every day on the fields between the Castle and a game-park. As soon as Napoleon observed them he gave the boy a sign to drive them close. And the boy did so. The beautiful birds were proudly walking on the path.

What a wonderful show! Napoleon is completely startled. And then, the small boy tore out two pieces of feathers and handed them over to Napoleon. "Thank you," said Napoleon delightfully and rewarded the boy with a coin. It is believed, however that peacock feathers cause bad luck. Could the boy be blamed for anything like that?





## The Kaunitz Family's

Apart from the Castle, the Kaunitz (Kounic) Family were responsible for more masterpieces of architecture in other parts of Slavkov. They had a Town Hall and some burgher houses built on the local square. This ancient Moravian dynasty of earls and counts includes a number of family members who achieved important Europe-wide positions. It was, e.g. Dominik Ondřej Kaunitz - an outstanding diplomat - who was appointed imperial Vice-Chancellor of the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation. The Family was also related to Austrian Count Metternich. Klemens Metternich started his career as an envoy at the Saxon Court. Due to his diplomatic career he travelled all over Europe. The top of his promotion was the post of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs and later also the State Chancellor, in fact the Prime Minister of the imperial government. Thanks to his diplomatic flair Austria has re-gained a powerful position among great empires. Most statesmen, however did not like him too much. Napoleon, for example, commented on him as follows: *"Everybody tells lies from time to time but it is too much to tell nothing else but lies."* Metternich not only loved politics he also adored women. In spite of the fact he was an immigrant from Rhineland, due to his marriage with rich Eleonora Kaunitz, the granddaughter of the prominent 18th century diplomat and famous

State Chancellor of the Queen Maria Theresa Václav Antonín Kaunitz, he managed to join the Vienna Court top society. Thanks to the Kaunitz Family, his incredible career of a politician could have started. It was Metternich's credit of sealing a new alliance with France - namely by marriage between Archduchess Maria Louisa and Napoleon - after Austria was defeated in another battle in 1809. Several years later it was him again who created a coalition against Napoleon and initiated the Congress of Vienna in autumn 1814, that settled peace in Europe for several decades.

Kostelík sv. Jana Křtitele (the Chapel of St. John the Baptist) is the place of eternal rest of the Kaunitz Family and it is situated in the outskirts of Slavkov called *"Špitálka."* There is the Family Sepulchre below the southern part of the Chapel, containing among others also the bodily remains of Count Václav Antonín of Kaunitz.

## Chapel of St. Urban

After historical sightseeing of Slavkov you can continue your tour to those places where the French guards had their patrol stations before the Battle. Due to an excellent view from the hill that is situated northwards of the town, soldiers were perfectly able to watch their enemies' preparations. There is the







Chapel of St. Urban on the top of the hill. Its slopes were covered with vine-yards up to 19th century. It is not surprising then that the cross-shaped chapel has been dedicated to St. Urban, the patron of all wine-growers and gardeners. It was from this place where a cannon shot announced the Allies march from Olomouc towards Brno. Soldiers utilized the Chapel also for less noble reasons and this fact, of course, must have been reflected on its damaged state and as a result it was inevitable to pull it down. However, in the years 1858-1861 a new chapel was erected on the same place.

Sports enthusiasts will certainly appreciate a golf course in the Chateau surroundings with an excellent view upon it. Summer months may be attractive for outdoor swimming-pool activities – there is a 50-metre swimming-pool for swimmers and a small one available for children. Among other sports facilities, you will find beach volley-ball courts, basket-ball and foot-tennis (fut net) playgrounds. Car fans have good opportunities to participate in uphill rally “*Slavkovské serpentíny*” (Curvy Roads of Slavkov) or the Festival of Oldtimers with participation of a number of oldtimer fans from all over the Czech Republic and Central Europe.

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#### Chapel of St Urban (A)

GPS: 49°10'12.181"N, 16°53'17.453"E

#### The Kaunitz Family Crypt (B)

GPS: 49°9'8.797"N, 16°52'19.634"E

#### **Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. *Palackého Square and the Church of the Resurrection of the Lord*
2. *Chapel of St Urban above the Town of Slavkov*
3. *Entrance to the Family Crypt*



# 17) First and Last Shots of the Battle in Telnice

*The village of Telnice (Telnitz) turned to become the focus place of tough fights on 2nd December, 1805. The Allies intended to bypass the right flank of the French Army but they did not consider the French would disclose their tactics and that they would be well-prepared for the assault. The village had changed occupants for several times during the Battle of the Three Emperors.*

## French-Russian Gun-fight

The first shots echoed in Telnice at night of December 1<sup>st</sup>, during gun-fights between Austrian hussars and French soldiers<sup>[2]</sup>. They ceased for some time and shootings started again between two to three in the morning. The Austrian Corps under the command of Lieutenant Field Marshal Michael von Kienmayer wrested the village from the French units of

Marshal Legrand. However, they lost it to a counter-attack, and the French managed to sustain their positions even though Kienmayer's borderers tried to recapture it. The Austrians suffered heavy losses in men and had to retreat even though they were partially successful in breaking the French lines. Due to the night gun-fight Napoleon became aware of the fact that the Allied troops extended further southwards than he had supposed and as a result he made final alterations in his plan. He sent a courier to Marshal Davout with a message to move towards Sokolnice (Sokolnitz) instead of Tuřany (Turas). In his final version, the French Emperor counted on Kobylnice – Telnice (Kobelnitz -Telnitz) defence line and he was well aware the French troops in the south would be in minority compared to the Allies. He hoped to keep them busy in order to accomplish his "lion's leap," i.e. to occupy

Pratecké návrší and attack the Allies from the rear. At about seven in the morning, the Russians under Lieutenant General Dochturov joined the fight - 1,600 French soldiers and four cannons<sup>[14]</sup> had already been ready to oppose them. Although the French had to retreat from the village, they managed to re-organize their units at the place called Zlatý potok. They were assisted by a brigade from Marshal Davout's Corps who arrived at about nine thirty and it resulted in increasing the number of French soldiers up to 12,000 men including 2,500 dragoons in the area Kobylnice – Telnice. Nevertheless, the numerical advantage of the Allies was still more than three times as big as theirs<sup>[15]</sup>.

The French continued in counter-attacking the occupied village and in one bayonet attack they were able to chase the Russians out of Telnice.







Lieutenant General Dochturov organized his infantry for a counter-attack and the French made hasty preparations for their defence by fortifying against the Russians in local houses. In the meantime, there started an unwilling gun-fight between two units of the French army because of dense fog and cannon smoke. Dochturov immediately took advantage of the situation and recaptured the village. After ten in the morning, the fights calmed down. Later, the French retreated towards Otmarov (Ottmorau) and both Telnice and Sokolnice<sup>[15]</sup> remained in hands of the Russians. Nevertheless, Napoleon's soldiers were able to fulfil the order and keep a larger part of the Allied Army busy for quite a long time.

## Misery and Suffering of Local People

Local people were those who suffered most of direct clashes. That day the parish in Telnice occurred right in the middle of the battlefield. *"Cannon balls were flying through windows and there was a terrible mess everywhere. All of us present were cringing in the dining hall corner. Thank God, nobody was injured,"* as described in the local priest's notes. As soon as the battle was over, the French garrisoned in Telnice and they started organizing burial of dead bodies, although the burial act itself was performed by local peasants. According to the parish chronicle - more than 140 dead bodies rest in peace in mass graves



there. The French confiscated all bread, meat and other foodstuff from local people. *"They confiscated two horses, four cows, one calf, 16 hogs, 44 buckets of wine, more than 12,000 litres of oats and many other things,"* as stated in the local chronicle. It is said the local priest was deprived of everything but a coat, shirt and a pair of leather boots.

## Memory of Soldiers' Heroism

Telnice has been situated about 14 km south-east of Brno. The war miseries of the village and its surroundings have been commemorated by several Columns of the Crucifixion there. It is believed that one of them, in Růžová Street (Rose Street), stands on a place of a mass grave. Another one has been erected about 100 m off the road towards Újezd at a former field path in the place called *"Odměrka."* The first shots of the Battle of Austerlitz started exactly at these places. Napoleon also stopped here twice. First, it was on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, when accompanied by his marshals, he was observing the spot of his triumph. Second, it was on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1809 when the French troops returned to Moravia again. Due to a Hungarian initiative, another memorial on soldiers' heroism has been erected in the village. A carved memorial made of wood *"kopjafa"* especially

commemorates all those who died here and had been recruited into the Austrian army from the lands of the former Hungarian Monarchy. Dominating over the village is the Baroque-style Kostel sv. Jána Křtitele (Church of St. John the Baptist) - its foundations were laid as late as in 12<sup>th</sup> century and it had been re-built for several times. The 18<sup>th</sup> century-Baroque-style redesign had been executed under the leadership of an outstanding Moravian architect František Antonín Grimm, who was responsible for some other works, e.g. the re-buiding of the neighbouring Sokolnice Castle or the Castle in Napajedla (Napajedl) in the County of Zlín (Zlínský kraj). F. A. Grimm together with his father are buried in the Capuchin Tomb in Brno.

Telnice is attractive for all who are fond of active relax – there is a Brno Wine Trail and some bike trails, too. The surroundings of the village have been noted for some very special species of plants.

### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. - 2. Parish in Telnice
3. Column of Crucifixion *"Na lopatě"*
4. Church of St John the Baptist
5. *"Kopjafa"* Memorial

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**„Kopjafa“ Memorial (A)**  
GPS: 49°6'5.0"N, 16°43'10.2"E

**Church of St John the Baptist (B)**  
GPS: 49°6'7.524"N, 16°43'5.952"E

**Column of Crucifixion  
in Růžová Street (C)**  
GPS: 49°5'57.0"N, 16°42'47.8"E

**Column of Crucifixion *"Na lopatě"* (D)**  
GPS: 49°6'7.2"N, 16°43'30.5"E



# 18) Famous Chapel and Legend on Ponds

*In the afternoon the French occupied Pratecké návrší and in the central sector of the battlefield the fights were over. Consequently, Napoleon's troops situated on the Heights started to march south-westwards. At about one in the afternoon, Napoleon met Marshal Soult and his staff not far from the Chapel of St. Anthony of Padua on the hill above Újezd (Augezd) by Brno. And later, in the afternoon, he was watching the Allied troops withdrawal from there.*

## Seized in Frozen Ponds

Below the slope, the country flats off in the south and south-west and in times of the Battle it was covered with two huge ponds – Měnínský and Žatčanský. The former, comprising the area of 514 hectares, used to be one of the largest water areas in Moravia. Napoleon could have observed the country far away southwards as well as the three Russian columns in the valley having been pressed by French regiments from two sides<sup>[14]</sup>.

Pratecké návrší rises above Újezd into a place called "Stará hora." In the afternoon the ridge was flooded with French soldiers. At the end of the battle they start descending – the same act as the Allies were doing in the morning. Now, the Allies have occurred squeezed from all parts - from north - masses of soldiers were rolling – Divisions of Saint-Hilaire and Vandamme, the Dragoon Division of Boyé and six grenadier battalions of Oudinot. From the other side they were opposed by Davout with Friant's Division from the side of Telnice and Sokolnice. The space for retreat was considerably limited and general panic seized the Allied army. The French were pushing them heavily from both sides. There was a way out further southwards - for those who were strong and happy enough to withdraw. However, an annoying obstacle – the two ponds - crossed their way. In case life is concerned there is usually too little time to consider the best possible solutions. Masses of Allied soldiers were escaping across frozen ponds and French artillery pounded towards the men. The ice was broken due to the bombardment and due to recent couple of warmer days that caused the ice melted. The ice broke under heavy burdens, the men drowned in the viciously cold ponds







and several Russian artillery pieces went down along with them. Later the French propaganda and Napoleon exaggerated this incident and toll it cost as a real horror, though the truth was not that tragic. Due to various sources, after the ponds had been drained, there were some tens of dead horses, cannons but only two or three corpses of Russian soldiers. It is also said that the ice broke due to the French cannon shots from the Chapel of St. Anthony of Padua. That may also be strongly doubted as the distance was too long for the French artillery radius. In any case, for the Russians who were in majority at this sector of the battlefield, the end of the battle was an absolute disaster. Small residues of what used to be the Russo-Austrian army were able to escape safe – those not killed, were captured by the French<sup>[14]</sup>. After four in the afternoon darkness fell over the country and as a curtain it ended this particular act of the Napoleonic wars. *"I have seen a number of lost battles but nothing like this,"* Russian General Langeron put down in his notes.

Újezd by Brno is situated about south-east of Brno and it is one of the oldest villages of the region. The local quarry on the place called "Stará hora" provided stone for the Peace Monument. The above mentioned Chapel of St. Anthony of Padua is towering above the village and it has been closely connected to the French as it is believed they used to keep hay there. After the battle, the chapel was deteriorating and finally,



in 1814 it was completely destroyed. 49 years later they built its new version on the same place. The initiative was supported also by Louis Adolphe Thiers, a French historian and later President of the Third Republic of France, who came to visit Újezd. The place, where Napoleon was watching the final phase of the clash, has been available even today, however the view has been hindered by overgrown trees and bushes. Unfortunately, the chapel has been situated in the middle of gardeners' colony. If you move a little farther westwards, there is a good view upon the whole former battlefield area.

## From Fishing to Sugar Beet Growing

The village of Žatčany has been situated in the most southern part of the Austerlitz battlefield. Gossips on the fact that victims on the side of the Allied troops were buried on ponds bottoms spread fast among local people and they caused people had refused buying the local fish. Due to it there were heavy economic losses and as a result the ponds had been drained. Their total collapse had been completed during Napoleon's continental blockade, when Europe boycotted overseas goods import, first of all sugar. It was inevitable to compensate shortage of the commodity and it was one of strong

incentives for sugar industry development in the region of South Moravia. Dried up bottoms were convenient for sugar beet and wheat growing<sup>[2]</sup>. The former pond location has still been evident. You can utilize a bike trail, called "*In the Footsteps of Napoleon*" that has been passing through and connecting most important battlefield spots. It is 37 km long and both its start and finish are in Šlapanice. You should not omit a former mill-house on the embankment by Žatčany where you can observe five in-built cannon balls in its gable. There is also a church, one of the oldest ones in Moravia, its history dates back to 12<sup>th</sup> century.

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Chapel of St Anthony of Padua (A)

GPS: 49°6'34.8"N, 16°45'23.3"E

Embankment of the Former  
Žatčanský Pond (B)

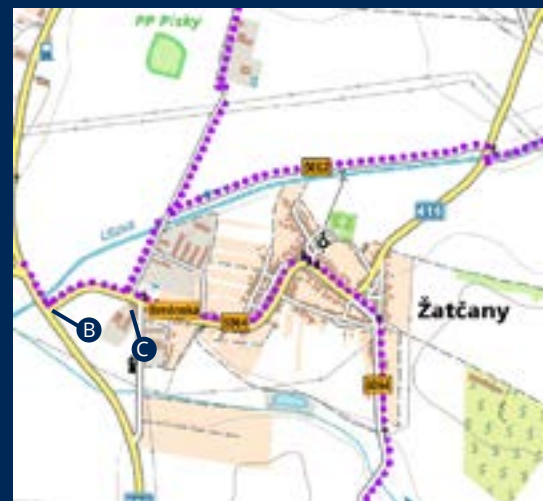
GPS: 49°5'14.2"N, 16°43'16.3"E

Mill by Žatčany (C)

GPS: 49°5'12.7"N, 16°43'20.3"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. Pratecké Height
2. Chapel of St Anthony of Padua
3. Church of the Holy Trinity





# 19) Pheasantry in Sokolnice

*The village of Sokolnice (Sokolnitz) is situated on the right bank of the stream "Zlatý potok," about 11 km south-east of Brno. The first written document on its existence goes back to the year 1408 and its history has closely been connected to the Dietrichstein and Mitrovský Families. These two families had been in possession of the Sokolnice Castle, towering above the village, for many generations. Originally, it was a Renaissance-style fort obtained by the Dietrichstein Family in 1705 for 154,000 coins of gold. The Sokolnice estate was comprised of six villages – Horákov, Kobylnice, Ponětovice, Sokolnice, Telnice and part of Jiříkovice. In the middle of 18th century the original fort had been re-built in a storeyed, three-wing mansion (originally they planned to build a completely new mansion but due to a lack of money, they decided to re-build the original premises). The reconstruction – in French style - was designed by Baroque-style architect Antonín Grimm. The Chateau of Sokolnice has a clock tower ended with a Latin cross and it has become a quite unusual type of construction within the local area. The Castle burnt down during the Battle and since 1843 its last owners of noble origin, the Mitrovský Family of Nemyšl, had it reconstructed in Neo-gothic style. Today the Castle houses a home for senior citizens.*

## War Symbols on Pheasantry Wall

The beautiful manor park together with game-park (pheasantry) have been accessible for visitors. The Zlatý potok (stream) is flowing across and there are some rare wood species growing in the park. If you make an appointment in advance, you are allowed to visit the chapel dedicated to

the Raising of the Holy Rood. Paintings on its ceiling are very special, especially corner thumb sketches that are below coat-of-arms and sculpture decorations originating from works of Ignác Langelacher are worth seeing, too. The chapel was consecrated in 1750. The Battle of Austerlitz has been recalled by a French-made cast-iron grenade that has been built-in to the former hunters' lodge wall belonging to the Chateau.







The nearby pheasantry (a circumvallated park in the valley of Zlatý potok that is flowing across), or rather its wall has been a subject of passionate disputes of many historians. Strong doubts have been expressed on the fact whether the firing positions of the five French cannons have been marked correctly on the wall. And concerning the age of the walls there are disagreements, too – according to some sources they are from the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century and it means during the Battle of Austerlitz they had not been there, yet. There are no reliable documents available that would prove the fact that the French would have ever placed any cannons in the area. If the cannons had fired against a slope that would have certainly decreased the efficiency of the target area. Moreover it would have been an extraordinary inconvenient position for the French – if enemies had been on the height opposite the pheasantry, they would have had an open view upon them. On the other hand, how could infantry-men, without any artillery support, have been able to face as many as 30,000 Allied soldiers descending Pratecké návrší? Five signs (or crosses) on the perimeter wall of the pheasantry mark the original location where five French cannons were supposed to stand.

## Soldiers Are Made by Uniforms They Wear

The truth is that Sokolnice witnessed fierce battles. You may ask how particular army members differed from each other. What were the distinguishing signs among particular uniforms? We are going to give some details on French, Russian and Austrian uniforms in particular. The French wore blue uniforms, The Russians were in green ones and the Austrians had white uniforms. There were not only differences among armies, there were also contrasts according to their positions within particular armies. Infantry, artillery or cuirassiers – they all were wearing specific types of uniforms. All the three armies that were fighting in the Battle of Austerlitz have surmounted a number of changes and these were reflected also in uniform amendments. New types of uniforms and head-gears belonging to them have been introduced. It is quite interesting, however, that the French army has not quit the typical plait – compared to the armies of Austria and later also that of Russia who had done so. The French Imperial Guard strictly insisted on wearing plaits.

We recommend to stop for a while on the road from Prace to Sokolnice, on the way from the Peace Monument, and take a look around the countryside. You will see the south-western part of the battlefield in front of you where the Armies



were fighting all day long. Part of Soult's Army Corps was ordered to keep the enemy within the territory between Kobylnice and Telnice until 3<sup>rd</sup> Corp of Marshal Davout would arrive.

In the middle of the village there is a romantic pond with a small island in it. Those who are interested can go in for sporting or relaxing forms of angling on a number of other water areas within the surroundings. North-west of the village is

a protected area "*Bottom land in the valley of the Dunávka River*". It is a unique place called "*Žabárník*" - a habitat of endangered species of birds, amphibians, reptiles and many other animals. The region has been encompassed in the "*Cezava*" micro-region, involving five more villages (Kobylnice, Sokolnice, Telnice, Žatčany and Újezd by Brno). Apart from natural beauties, the territory includes a number of historical and religious-type monuments.

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Zámek (A)

GPS: 49°7'8.5"N, 16°43'35.5"E

Bažantnice (B)

GPS: 49°7'29.4"N, 16°43'55.4"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. Pheasantry Wall with Firing Post Mark
2. - 3. Chateau of Sokolnice
4. French Cannon Ball Built-in the Wall



## 20) Soldiers in Moravian Karst

*Merciless foodstuff confiscation burdened also the estates north of Brno as well as the areas of the Moravian Karst – before the battle and after it was over, too. Villages of – Boskovice (Boskowitz), Borotín, Jevíčko (Gewitch), Letovice (Letowitz), Tišňov (Tischnowitz), Rájec and Černá Hora – they all have witnessed the three armies' lodgings, though not in such an extent as those places situated closer to the battlefields. Thousands of loaves of bread, legume, flour, oats, beer, fat and a number of other articles were to be delivered not only to the French but also to the Allied Army.*

Local chronicles have recorded the following facts: "French wars yoked our village hard and high prices and poverty made our lives even worse. And all this had been topped off by the French army that flooded our regions," as written by Petr Svoboda, the Tišňov village chronicler.

### "Špitálka" in Černá Hora

After the ferocious battle was over, soldiers organized hospitals for the wounded at any place available. In the village of Černá Hora (Black Mountain), medical treatment was provided in a house called "Špitálka" – a place where they had treated the local poor for many years. "It was probably the Austrian wounded and ill soldiers and perhaps also the Russians who were treated here as the general hospital for the French army was mostly focused in Brno and its surroundings. Many of the wounded soldiers died here. They were buried not far from the Column of the Crucifixion that was situated there," as described by the local author Josef Pilnáček. The original Column had to give way to a new road construction but its true model is to be found just a couple of metres away.

### Remarkable Brewery

During the battle of the Three Emperors local people were obliged to consign also casks of wine and it is very probable that beer, too. The village of Černá Hora has been closely tied to brewing – there is the oldest continuously running brewery in Moravia. The first direct document on its existence is of the year 1530. If you are interested, there is 60-minute guided tour through the brewery available with beer tasting at the end. There are some other sights of interest, e.g. the school building designed by Bohuslav Fuchs, a renowned Czech architect, or a chateau in neo-Renaissance style where some outstanding events took place in the past. Unfortunately, the chateau has not been available for the general public.







In July 1866, during the Prussian-Austrian wars negotiations on further development in Europe were carried on there. France was represented by Vincent, the Count Benedetti, the envoy of Napoleon III (nephew of Napoleon I). He met von Moltke - the Commander of the Prussian Army, and the Minister of Prussia - Otto von Bismarck. This man, who was one of the most influential politicians of 19<sup>th</sup> century, became the first Prime Minister of Prussia and the first ever in the Council of Imperial Chancellors. Apart from that, Bismarck has been distinguished for his efforts of constituting united Germany and for his rigorous approach to the way of solving political problems, that resulted in his nickname "*an Iron Chancellor.*"

## Rájec Chateau Gallery – Eye-catching Spot

Campaigns of Napoleon had hard impacts upon the estate of Rájec, too. Local people were obliged to consign lots of foodstuff for military granaries in Brno. The local Chateau in Rococo-Classicism style has had close connections to France – there are hundreds of paintings by Baroque and Romantic-style artists there. The Romantic-style masterpieces on the show were created to confirm their patriotic character as a result to similar trends in England and France but they also presented very up-to-date reactions on threatened positions of the Habsburg

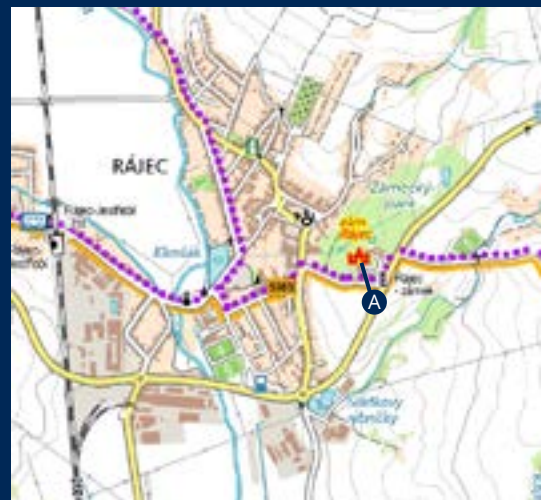


monarchy during the wars with Napoleon. The chateau can boast of a unique treasure - a library containing 60,000 volumes of books - comprising the largest chateau-type library in the Czech Republic. It contains the original edition of the Great French Encyclopaedia by d'Alambert and Diderot. The French-style chateau park is also worth seeing as you can observe perfectly mown lawns and masterly cut bushes there. Apart from the treasures of architecture, the village of Rájec-Jestřebí has been closely linked to the aristocratic Salm-Reifferscheidt-Raitz Family. The founder of the Moravian branch of the Salm Family was Antonín Karel Salm-Reifferscheidt who had purchased the estate of Rájec in 1763. Apart from the estates of Rájec and Blansko, he was in possession of an old dynasty dominium in the Ardennes, later lost by his descendants. And what is all this to do with Napoleon? It was exactly him who confiscated their property. All over his life-time Antonín Karel Salm-Reifferscheidt had been in service of the Imperial Court. Due to his excellent education, he was a tutor of Joseph II and he was also a chamberlain-in-chief of Maria-Theresa.

## Surrounded by Caves and Stalactites and Stalagmites

The town of Rájec-Jestřebí has been denoted to as the Northern Gate to the Moravian Karst

- one of the most important karst regions in Europe. Incredible local beauties of nature attract visitors for hiking and exploring them, out of which "Sloupsko-šošůvské jeskyně" (Sloup-Šošůvka Caves) deserve special attention. They are made of huge corridors and underground gorges. Some other places as Balcarka Cave have rich and colourful stalactitic decorations, Kateřinská Cave (Catherine's Cave) is renowned for its unique limestone columns and in Punkevní Cave (Punkva Cave) there is an underground river. Do not miss a visit of the nearby famous Macocha Abyss reaching the depth of 138.4 m.



**Chateau Rájec nad Svitavou (A)**  
Blanenská 1, 679 02 Rájec-Jestřebí  
tel. (+420)516 432 013  
[www.zamekrajec.cz/](http://www.zamekrajec.cz/)  
GPS: 49°24'33.778"N 16°38'38.350"E

Further Spots:  
**Černá Hora Brewery (B)**  
GPS: 49°24'52.32"N 16°34'55.64"E



### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. Chateau Rájec nad Svitavou
2. Chateau Černá Hora
3. - 4. Černá Hora Brewery
5. Gallery in the Rájec Chateau

# 21) Vyškov – Former Versailles of Moravia

*The ancient episcopal town of Vyškov (Wischau) is situated on the upper flow of the River Haná, about 40 km north-east of Brno. The history of Vyškov goes back to 12<sup>th</sup> century, due to its suitable position on trading crossroads from Brno to Olomouc and Kroměříž (Kremsier). On the other side, its strategic location increased risks of potential attacks during war times. The town was plundered by the Hussites and during the Thirty-Year-War it was twice besieged by the Swedes. The town saw its largest economic flourishing in 17<sup>th</sup> century. The then Bishop Karl II von Liechtenstein-Kastelkorn had a huge wing with rich gallery added to the Chateau.*

## Vyškov Chateau with Eye-catching Gardens

The Chateau together with the Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary and the Renaissance Town Hall have created the typical skyline of the town. The Bishop had the marvellous chateau garden increased. In those times Vyškov acquired the name "*Versailles of Moravia*." It is believed that the famous gardens of Kroměříž, that are on the UNESCO world heritage list, had been inspired by the local chateau garden. The outstanding period of the town history was cut by the fire in 1753. The Chateau was

reconstructed but it has never reached its former status. Today, there is a museum involving eight permanent expositions, e.g. it contains a large collection of Vyškov folk ceramics, the manufacturing of which goes back to 18<sup>th</sup> century. You will also learn a lot of interesting information on Alois Musil, one of the most distinguished experts on Arabic and Oriental cultures on the turn of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, who is a native of Rychtářov (today part of Vyškov). He has been renowned for exploring a desert castle in Kusejr Amra on the present territory of Jordan. He was a Catholic priest and scientist commanding some Arabic dialects and as an Austrian spy and military agent he was involved in the war affairs in the Near East during the World War I. He was a cousin of Robert Musil – a famous Austrian writer. Musil described his rich experience from the Near and Middle East in adventurous novels taking place in Arabic world. If you love reading - it is a good chance to borrow his books from the local library.

## Victory and Defeat – Never Ending Story

The French army intruded into Vyškov on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 1805 and Napoleon Bonaparte arrived at the Chateau the same day. He wanted

to meet his generals – Treilhard and Milhaud there. He was carefully inspecting the terrain on his way to Vyškov. One day before his arrival, the Russian army of General Kutuzov had left the town towards Olomouc - he had planned to join the units led by Emperor Francis and Tzar Alexander in order to form the Allied Russo-Austrian Army.

However, not too much time after, the troops switched their positions again. On November 25<sup>th</sup>, there was an attempt on the side of 5,000 Russian Cossacks to conquer the town. The French sustained and stayed there until November 29<sup>th</sup>, however after fierce clashes it was besieged by the Allied troops again. It is said that after the so called "*Vyškov Scuffle*," horse hoofs tread down the surrounding fields so much that the following season seed corn was unable to break the crust.

Short time afterwards the Allied troops organized a meeting in the Chateau premises. Both, Russian Tzar Alexander and the Emperor of Austria took part in it. They both spent a night there, too.

Real historical events concerning the Battle of Austerlitz, including the two Emperors meeting





in Vyškov create a realistic background of the world-known novel by Leo Tolstoy – *“War and Peace.”* The State Library Archives in Moscow also deposit a painting – *“Tzar Alexander in Vyškov after the French Retreat on November 28th, 1805.”*

The historical events have also been reflected in a number of folk songs. One of them is tied to Vyškov and it recalls the places where troops were passing by:

*“Not far from Prostějov and Vyškov,  
My horse lost its shoe.  
Oh, please shoe it back again, my farrier,  
My horse does not suit a Hussar.”<sup>[7]</sup>*

Every year in November and December there are regular commemorative events to recall the Battle of the Three Emperors in Vyškov. Soldiers wear replicas of historical uniforms and some of them take part in marches lasting a couple of days. They follow the original battle route and in some villages and towns they re-enact clashes similar to those that occurred in 1805.

## Jewish Synagogue and Meridian Cutting Town in Two Halves

At the end of 19th century, a neo-Romanic synagogue was built on the south-eastern part of the

Masaryk Square in Vyškov (in those days there were a couple of Jewish families living in Vyškov, constituting about 5% of the total population). Its location, on the main square, has been quite unique. There is a Jewish cemetery in about 1.5 km eastwards of the synagogue.

Another point of interest is that 17<sup>th</sup> Meridian of Eastern Longitude runs through Vyškov. There is a board denoting the exact spot placed in the Masaryk Square pavement. The Square itself is rather unique due to its triangel shape and especially well observed from the Town Hall Tower.

The town itself has preserved its military environment. Since 1936 there is a military garrison that has constantly been increasing its prestigious position as the most important training centre for the Czech professional army staff members constituting an integral component of the University of Defence in Brno. There is a good opportunity to observe some air bombers, reconnaissance airplanes or some other military equipment in the Vyškov Air Museum (situated in the local airport area).





## Contemporary and Pre-historic Animals

There is a ZOO, situated in about ten-minute walking distance from coach and railway stations, not too far from the town centre. The ZOO park has been placed on the area of 4 hectares and all visitors can explore a number of domestic and farm animals from all over the world. Another popular attraction is the unique “*Dinopark*,” with plenty of life-size models of pre-historic animals, as well as a 3D cinema hall within its environment.

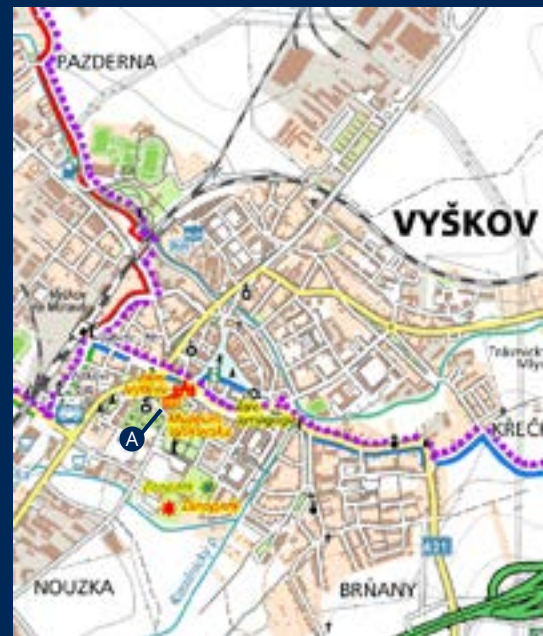
The Vyškov region contains a number of unique objects of history - rests of fortified hill-forts, castles, small chapels and objects of folk architecture, e.g. thatch-roofed cottages in the villages of Ježkovice (Jeschkowitz) and Ruprechtov. A former stone-quarry has been turned into an outdoor swimming-pool in the village of Luleč. Some other places of interest are, e.g. a nature park called “*Říčky*” and a picturesque Rakovecké údolí (Rakovec Valley). North-east of Vyškov unfolds the miscellaneous landscape of Melicko region. Apart from dense woods and a Medieval castle rests, you can explore ruins of a 12th century Romanic rotunda devoted to St. Pantaleon, the Patron of physicians.

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**Vyškov Region Museum (A)**  
 nám. Československé armády 475/2,  
 682 01 Vyškov  
 tel. (+420) 517 348 040  
[www.muzeum-vyskovska.cz](http://www.muzeum-vyskovska.cz)  
 GPS: 49°16'35.720"N, 16°59'49.470"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. Chateau Gardens
2. Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary





## 22) Rare Guests in Chateau of Bohdalice

*Bohdalice (Bochdalicz), a small Moravian village situated not far from Vyškov, has been renowned due to its history. Shortly before the Battle of Austerlitz, on 29th day of November, 1805 - two distinguished personalities spent a night there - Russian Tzar Alexander and Francis, the Emperor of Austria - both on their way to Vyškov. They took advantage of the hospitality of the local Chateau that belonged to the aristocratic Family of Manners. Wolfgang Manner - brother of the then owner of the estate - was responsible for supplying the Allied troops with foodstuff during their stay on the territories of Moravia and Silesia.*

### Arrival of Statesmen was in Friendly Atmosphere

Neither Tzar Alexander nor Emperor Francis have arrived alone. They were followed by their

troops that went on occupying the areas of neighbouring villages causing lots of troubles to local people. The arrival of the Tzar has been recorded in the local sources as follows:

*"Alexander has arrived on time, accompanied by the Guard of Cossacks. He immediately checked his perfectly mustered army - all of them were like marble-hewn. After the soldiers saluted their Tzar, they fired a rifle-shot to his tribute. Alexander was pleased and he was keeping his good mood all the time. With a proud expression on his face he addressed his soldiers encouraging them that they would certainly defeat their tiny little rival."*

A board on the left-hand side of the Chateau entrance is to commemorate the Russian Tzar and his visit.

### From Convent of Jesuits to Manner Dynasty

And now let us go back to the Bohdalice Chateau history. The very beginning of the village has been tied to the Jesuits who had purchased the village in 17th century. In the place of the Castle there was nothing but a farm-stead and a fort there. Within a century or so the construction had acquired new shapes. The Jesuits had rebuilt the fort and turned it in a Renaissance residence. In 1783, an aristocrat and knight - Raimund Manner, who was an imperial official in Vienna, purchased both the castle and the estate. Apart from his official activities, he was keen on fruit tree and vine-yard growing. He developed these activities and behind the castle he grounded an orchard and a vine-yard. The Manner Family had been in possession of





the Castle until the end of the World War II, when all their properties were confiscated. Later a school was established there and it has survived up till now. The young children of pre-school and school-age may feel as *"living in castle."* The former Castle Hall has been utilized not only for school festivities but it is also a wedding hall. The Castle premises have not been available for visitors.

## Church of Assumption of Virgin Mary Cloaked in History

The village of Bohdalice offers a number of other sights to be explored, e.g. the Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary that was built on the foundations of a former wooden church in the years 1807-1814. It was Johann Manner – son of a Bohdalice merchant Raimund Manner – who initiated the construction. Art-lovers would immediately recognize that the church was built in Classicistic style with some late Baroque features. In the burial place there is the Manner Family Sepulchre. All the family members buried there have been listed on two steles placed on the rear wall of the church. Some other places of interest include the Baroque Statue of St. Jan Nepomucký (St. John of Nepomuk) of the beginning of 18<sup>th</sup> century and a stone-made crucifix of the year 1845. If you decide to visit these places you should not miss the so called *"Crucifix of Constantine and Methodius"* – an ancient

stone-made cross that has been situated in the midst of fields out of the village – as a symbol of reconciliation it has been there for centuries. It is believed that it was built to commemorate the two missionaries Constantine and Methodius who came to introduce Christianity and ancient Slavic alphabet in Moravia. Due to a legend there used to stand an old lime-tree with a sacrificial place. As they were passing by, they had ordered to cut the tree and had a crucifix built there - as a symbol for taking up Christianity. There is a way to the Crucifix from the Chateau towards the church. As soon as you reach it you keep on walking until you come to the end of the village and you go on towards the village of Kučerov (Kutscherau) – there is a place called *"Pískál."* In summer time when fields are covered with crops you may easily fail in finding it as it is right in the middle of fields facing the place called *"Větrníky."* There is a peculiarity concerning reconciliation crucifixes and stones in general - their origin has been tied to criminal acts – they used to be built by criminals as a sort of purgatory for their delicts.

## Tzarist Festivities

The Museum of E. Müller in Bohdalice is another place where history can be explored. It is open every Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. or at any prior arrangement. Once in two years local people organize there the so called Tzarist Festivities

– in cooperation with military history clubs. They re-enact the historical events of those days taking place in Bohdalice – the unique fact of the two Emperors' stay but also war events taking place in the region - more than 200 years ago. During the festivities visitors, both children and adults, can explore a military camp but also some combat shows or a parade of historical uniforms.







**T. E. Müller Museum (A)**  
 Bohdalice 118, 683 41  
 tel.(+420)721 409 081  
 www.muzeumbohdalice.cz  
 GPS: 49°12'51.488"N, 17°1'51.197"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. Memorial Board on the Russian Tzar's Stay in the Chateau of Bohdalice
2. Steles of the Manner Family
3. - 4. Chateau of Bohdalice
5. Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary
6. Column of Crucifixion



## 23) Meeting at “Spálený mlýn”

*There is an old mill situated on Spálený potok (the Burnt Stream) between Žarošice (Scharoschitz) and Násedlovice (Nasedlowitz) known as “Spáleňák” (The Burnt Mill) that witnessed another outstanding historical event. The two Emperors - Napoleon and Francis I - met there and under the local lime-tree – ear witness of their dialogue - they agreed upon war armistice and its tough conditions.*

Let us go back to a rainy day of December 4<sup>th</sup>, 1805. Napoleon was the first one to come. He ordered his soldiers: *“Make two fires and put up a tent.”* The Emperor Francis I arrived much later – he was well aware the armistice conditions – a cruel account for the lost battle – would be rather tough. The Emperor of Austria was not accompanied only by his soldiers but also by Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein. Napoleon

walked to welcome him at his carriage and he allegedly delivered the following words: *“Your Excellency, you force me to dwell in palaces like this for two months,”* and pointed out at the tent. *“It is quite obvious that this type of dwelling suits you perfectly, sir – so there is no reason for you to complain,”* was the reply of Francis I.<sup>[15]</sup> as confirmed by eye-witnesses. The skinny Habsburg, wearing a long frock coat and a bicorne hat, pronounced the sentence with a smile, however it was very soon replaced by a more concerned expression on his face.

### Why Did Emperors Meet under Tree?

The original intention was to meet inside the mill, however unbearable odor and lack of space made the Emperors change their

plans and negotiate outside, under the nearby tree-top. Four people participated in the dialogue – Francis I together with the Prince of Liechtenstein on one side and Napoleon and Marshal Berthier on the other one. Both the Emperors were slowly walking round the tree pausing from time to time at fire to get warm. Officers of both sides stand aside at courteous distance from the statesmen around the other fire. *“What a pity we can’t hear anything,”* they think. As the officers could not hear too much and the parties involved in the dialogue had not left any written record – we only have partial information on its contents<sup>[15]</sup>. It is said that during the dialogue both Emperors had been in good mood. To conclude their meeting, Napoleon said: *“So, Your Excellency, you promise not to start war with me any more?”* *“I swear and I will keep my promise,”* was the reply of Francis I.









Since then local people called the tree – “*the Imperial lime-tree*.” Later a place called “*Janův dvůr*” (John’s yard) was built near-by with a paved path leading to the tree. Almost one hundred years after the two Emperors’ meeting, they installed a commemorative board on its facade<sup>[5]</sup>.

*“Two days after the Battle of Austerlitz,  
On the 4th day of December 1805,  
The two Emperors - Francis I and Napoleon  
Met under the local lime-tree,  
To negotiate armistice  
And bring the bloody war to end.”*

Times were passing by and there was nothing but a dozy trunk left of the tree attracting no attention any more. In 1919, they planted a “*younger sister*” of the Imperial lime-tree on the same spot and there has been a high-grown tree now. The legendary meeting point has also been commemorated by a white inscription on a coat-of-arms shaped shield and by an obelisk having been surrounded by four more freshly-planted lime-trees. You should know that part of the original tree trunk has been preserved yet – it is placed in the Chateau of Slavkov and in the Vrbas’ Museum in the Chateau of Ždánice (Steinitz) where one complete wing of the museum has been devoted to Napoleonic times including more than fifty exhibits.

## Places around “Spálený mlýn” Are Attractive for Both Historians and Sportsmen

The surroundings of “Spálený mlýn” have been attractive even today – you will certainly be fascinated by the nature park Ždánický les (Ždánice Forest) offering wonderful opportunities for trips and hiking. If you wish to explore more of the surroundings you can do so by utilizing a number of bike trails crossing through local vine-yards and wine cellars, flowering meadows and green hill-sides. You are free to choose from the wine trails of Moravia, Bzenec (Bisenz), Mutěnice (Mutenitz) or Kyjov (Gaya). It is a challenge for cyclists as it is passing through undulating terrain of Kyjovská pahorkatina (The Kyjov Heights). On the 90 kilometre-long track you will pass steep uphill and downhill in the foothill of the Chřiby Highlands and some hilly parts, too. You will certainly enjoy the magnificent look upon woods, bounds, vine-yards, orchards and fields. One of the most spectacular views is from the stone-made view-tower called “Brdo,” the highest place of the Chřiby Highlands.

The town of Kyjov is situated on the south-east foothill of the Chřiby, dominated by the Renaissance Town Hall. The local Chateau, with sgraffitos decorations by Jan Köhler,

was built at about the same period and it houses the local history museum now. The town has been considered the centre of the folk culture of Moravian Slovakia and it is famous for its folk festival called “The Moravian-Slovakian Year in Kyjov”, which takes place every four years. It has had the longest tradition in the Czech Republic and it has been the most significant folk show in the region since 1971. It has always attracted thousands of people to participate and admire the local folk costumes that rank among those with the richest ornaments and embroideries all over Europe.



### Vrbas' Museum in Ždánice (A)

Zámek 1, 696 32 Ždánice

tel.: 725 920 846

<http://www.muzdanice.cz>

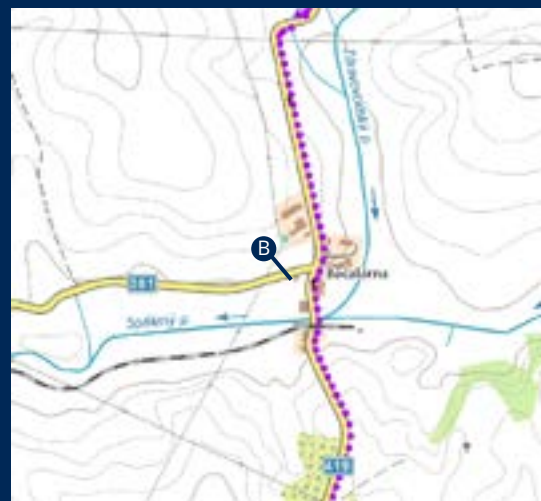
GPS: 49°3'54.832"N, 17°1'30.800"E

### Janův dvůr (John's Yard) Farm (B)

GPS: 49°1'30,3"N, 16°57'45,4"E

### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. Janův dvůr (John's Yard) Farm
2. Memorial Board on the Wall of the Farmhouse
3. Imperial Lime Tree
4. The Emperors Meet after the Battle
5. Bike Trail in the Foothill of the Chřiby Highlands



## 24) Mikulov Castle

*There are not too many places you can denote to as magic ones but Mikulov (Nikolsburg) in Moravia is one of them. It is situated in the heart of Mikulov wine sub-region – extraordinarily rich and not only in grape-vines. The region is the gate to “the Pálava Protected Landscape Region” rich in fauna and a number of unique plants typical exclusively for this particular area. The region is part of the Biospheric Protected Area of Lower Moravia that has been included in the UNESCO worldwide network of biospheric protected areas due to its extraordinary nature values. In spite of the fact that Mikulov was not directly involved in the battles with Napoleon, it deserves being listed in the places of interest for tourists. In 1805, one of the Austrian corps on retreat was passing through the town and four years after it was besieged by Napoleon after his victorious Battle of Wagram.*

History of the town goes back to 12<sup>th</sup> century when there was a trading settlement that went on growing fast. Since the middle of 13<sup>th</sup> century Mikulov and its Chateau belonged to the noble Family of Liechtensteins. Later owners of noble origin were the Dietrichstein Family – they had the Chateau reconstructed in Baroque style. Thanks to the activities of the Olomouc bishop Cardinal Franz von Dietrichstein, one of the most significant politicians of his times in Moravia, Mikulov had been developing as an unofficial capital city of the country.

### Armistice Had not Lasted Long

Napoleon stopped for a short visit in the local Chateau on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1805 on his way from Brno to Vienna (a salon on the first floor

of the Chateau is to commemorate the event). Even though the peace negotiations had been in progress diplomats of both parties were obliged to leave Moravia due to typhoid plague and move to Bratislava (Pressburg).

The long-lasting process of finalizing the peace treaty conditions was completed as late as on December 26<sup>th</sup>. It was signed in the Archbishop's Palace (Primaciálny palác) in Bratislava and it has been known as the “Pressburg Peace” (The Treaty of Pressburg). Aftermath was a complete disaster for Austria – they were obliged to give up Austrian and Italian territories - recognize French territory captured in Italy and cede land to German states (Napoleon's German allies). They were also obliged to pay 140 million francs in war indemnities.







However, Austria did not want to give up the idea of revenge and there was a good opportunity for doing so in 1809 when France was busy with their military activities in Spain. At the beginning of April they invaded Bavaria, the French ally - thus initiating a war with France. The French were taken by surprise and at the Battle of Aspern-Essling - Napoleon had been defeated for the first time. The following Battle of Wagram brought victory to Napoleon again. The army of the Austrian Empire under the command of Archduke Charles, the younger brother of Emperor Francis I, remained in command of a

significant and still cohesive force and decided to retreat to Moravia, where he clashed again with the French and was again defeated, at the Battle of Znojmo (Znaim). The French Corps of Marshal Davout came as far as Mikulov and afterwards they were ordered to join the battle.

Today there is a museum in the castle and it has been unique due to its position – it is towering upon the so called Zámecký kopec (Castle Hill) situated in the middle of the town. Apart from some temporary exhibitions visitors can explore the Dietrichstein Gallery, castle library

and a specific viticulture exposition with a huge wine barrel on display. With its volume of 101,400 litres and weighing more than 26 metric tonnes it ranks as the eighth largest barrel in Europe. It is big enough to place the whole castle band inside but a drummer. The impressive chateau park with fascinating details has been reconstructed at the end of the 90s of the last century.

## Historical Centre of Mikulov Hides Exceptional Sights

The natural centre of the town acquired its present appearance in the last decades of 16th century when the square was transferred to the close proximity of the chateau entrance. There are a number of marvellous Renaissance buildings, a fountain (with the coat-of-arms of the Dietrichstein Family) and a massive Baroque-style column – the Sculpture of the Holy Trinity. In the lower part of the square there is the funeral chapel and the sepulchre of the Dietrichstein Family. In the nearby Komenského Street you will find the oldest Piarist College with rich decorations in the Church of St. John the Baptist. The Order of Piarists was responsible for founding the first schools and spreading education in town resulting in one of the most important phases in development of Mikulov.



Mikulov has been especially important for the Jewish community – it was established there in 15<sup>th</sup> century and for 300 years it used to be the seat of the regional Rabbi of Moravia (the Rabbi Löw officiated there in the years 1553-1573). You should not avoid Husova Street (Hus Street), especially the so called Upper Synagogue where there is the Museum of Jewish History and Culture. The Jewish Rabbis rest in peace in the Jewish grave-yard below Kozí vrch (the Goat Hill). With the area of two hectares and 4,000 tomb-stones, it is the second largest one in the Czech Republic.

## Romantic View from Holy Hill and Cheerful Festivities

It requires some physical effort to climb up Svatý kopeček (The Holy Hill/ Tanzberg) but you will be awarded with a wonderful view from its top. "*Kopeček*," as it is called by local people, is dominated by the Chapel of St. Sebastian and it is among the oldest pilgrimage places in Moravia. The way to the top has been lined with Baroque-style calvary. On the right-hand side you will see Kozí vrch (the Goat Hill) with Kozí hrádek (the Goat Tower) – there is a view-tower now. Originally, it was a barbican with embrasures on its walls built in 15th century.

Due to its charming atmosphere, the town of Mikulov has been a favourite destination place for tourists. Apart from wine-related events (e.g. Wine Markets of Mikulov in May, Open Wine Cellar Festival in July, etc.) there is a number of other culture events, for example concerts in the Chateau park or the Mikulov Music Festival in October. A different type of "*concert*" has been organized for gourmands offering them local gastronomy specialties

– "Festival of Podyjí Region" (Podyjí – Region around the Thaya River). Nature lovers would certainly appreciate visits to the cave called "Na Turoldu," famous for its rugged system of corridors, chambers and domes of seven floors. For a couple of years, Mikulov has been organizing re-enactments of military-historical events recalling the period of Napoleonic campaigns, that go beyond the Czech borders.



### Regional Museum in Mikulov (A)

Zámek 1, 692 15 Mikulov

tel. (+420) 519 309 014

[www.rmm.cz](http://www.rmm.cz)

GPS: 48°48'22.986"N, 16°38'9.701"E

### Futher spots:

#### Sepulchre of the Dietrichstein Family (B)

GPS: 48°48'24.157"N, 16°38'21.804"E

#### Jewish Graveyard (C)

GPS: 48°48'39.420"N, 16°38'16.441"E

### Photographs: (V. Kovalčík)

1. Historic Square in Mikulov
2. Side- View on the Mikulov Castle
3. Detail of the Mikulov Castle Ornament
4. Mikulov Castle
5. Tanzberg - Holy Hill





## 25) Lednice “Slap”

*There is 23-metre high sand-stone column towering half-way between Lednice (Eisgrub) and Přítluky. Its pyramid-shape top is ended with a golden star and it is known as “a Slap” among local people. There have been some stories to explain this peculiar name. Some sources say the column was erected on the place where - Count Alois Joseph I, the estate owner - was slapped by his wife. The stories, however differ in the reasons for doing so - some of them claim her husband gambled off the whole village, others say it was because of his infidelity.*

### Cenotaph – Tribute to Austrian-French Peace

The Cenotaph bears an inscription stating that its construction was initialized by the Peace Treaty of Campo Formio (Italy) concluded between Austria and France eight years before the Battle of Austerlitz. Alois Josef I, brother of Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein – famous from the Battle of Austerlitz – had the white obelisk of Lednice built in 1798. Being of noble origin he was not obliged to enter the Austrian army, nevertheless he followed his more renowned brother and did so. Due to his poor health condition, he had to leave military service soon and devoted his life to his greatest hobbies – forestry and gardening.

He planted a lot of exotic-type trees both for economic and aesthetic reasons and he also laid out the Lednice park in an English style with a range of follies constructed for decoration.

### Developing Lednice by the Liechtensteins

The noble Family of Liechtensteins have been closely connected to the history of South Moravia. Lednice passed into their hands in the flow of 14<sup>th</sup> century and it had been linked to them for more than 600 years. Thus the estate of Lednice became the oldest property under the care of a single family up to 20<sup>th</sup> century. Every year thousands of tourists come to admire the splendid Romantic castle in Lednice that became a summer residence of the Princes of Liechtenstein. It was built on the original place of a fort and during long eight centuries it had been reconstructed for several times. Its appearance had been influenced by Gothic, Renaissance, Classicism and neo-Gothic styles resulting in its present fairy-tale look.

The Liechtenstein Family belong to the oldest aristocratic dynasty in Central Europe. Their family-tree originated from Henry I who obtained an estate around Mikulov. In those days

the Family settled in Moravia and Silesia and they continued in cumulating their property. The Family of Liechtensteins were the wealthiest dynasty in Moravia, huge lands in their possession brought them an enormous source of profit. As a result, they were building splendid residences and developing their estates. They decided to reside in a nearby place called Valtice (Feldsberg) – it will be mentioned in details later on. Among outstanding personalities of the Dynasty is the above mentioned Lieutenant Field Marshal and later General of Cavalry Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein who, together with his cousin General-Major Morris Liechtenstein, participated in the Battle of Austerlitz. The former ranked among the most esteemed generals and diplomats in Austria and he was respected and appreciated by Napoleon, too. In the years 1805 and 1809 he was accredited by Emperor Francis to carry on armistice negotiations with Napoleon.

The members of the Liechtenstein Family were closely tied to nature. Romantic and picturesque countryside of golden fields, green woods and flowers have been combined up with ponds and a number of magnificent buildings. As a result, the country was called “*Lednice and Its Gardens*” or “*The Garden of Europe*,” and it was enscribed









in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1996. The Lednice-Valtice Area has been considered the largest man-made landscape complex in Central Europe. The highest extent of the heyday of Lednice has been credited to the Liechtenstein Family – they had been cultivating and improving it for centuries.

## Chateau Surroundings Fascinate All Tourists

The Chateau of Lednice has been surrounded by a magnificent French-style garden characterized by geometric details and regular arrangements passing to a vast English garden. Apart from hundreds of flowers, flower beds, hedges, fountains and statues - there are some smaller pavilions scattered throughout the whole complex. Visitors are recommended to visit the greenhouse of palm trees that is the oldest place of the type in Europe. The greenhouse is almost one hundred metres long and it domiciles plants from sub-tropical, mainly South American regions and it was initiated by Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein in 19<sup>th</sup> century. Another attraction of the Lednice Area is an artificial cave “*grotta*” situated below the Chateau – you will explore both man-made and natural stalactites and stalagmites brought from the Moravian Karst and models tied to local legends there. In the middle of the Chateau Park there is a pond that had cost a fortune to build. To create it they had to pay

about one million gold in coins (it was about ten thousand times more than a rich bride’s dowry). It lasted seven years to give it its present look and 700 people including French captives of Napoleonic wars were engaged in works. The Chateau Pond is just a small part of the pond network in Lednice and its surroundings. The Lednice Garden includes a Minaret, a solitary sixty-metre tower. Local stories denote that craftsmen were afraid of climbing up a spiral-type scaffold that had been used during its construction. It is said that an imperial corporal decided to prove its safety – he successfully climbed it up riding his horse.

## War and Besiege of Lednice in 1809

Not only outstanding masterpieces of architecture shaped Lednice – it was the war events, too. On April 10, 1809 the Austrian Army crossed the Inn River, thus starting the Fifth Coalition War against France. Later, battles were transferred to the territory of Moravia – as a result the town was occupied by the Battalion of 13<sup>th</sup> Light Regiment of Davout’s Army Corps. After signing the armistice he returned to Mikulov, Valtice and Lednice regions and his units were garrisoned there as long as the “*Schönbrunn Peace Treaty*” was signed the same year in October.



**Chateau of Lednice (A)**  
Zámek 1, 691 44 Lednice  
tel. (+420) 519 340 128  
[www.zamek-lednice.com](http://www.zamek-lednice.com)  
GPS: 48°48'5.462"N, 16°48'20.001"E

Further Spots:  
**Obelisk**  
GPS: 48°49'33.11"N 16°48'6.33"E

### **Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. Obelisk in Lednice Called “the Slap”
2. Chateau of Lednice
3. Minaret – Landmark of the Chateau Park



## 26) The French in Valtice

*Valtice (Feldsberg) has been proud of the title "the nation's capital of wine." The region involves such a number of vine-yards that they would cover the area of eight hundred football stadiums. Unfortunately, the town history has been involved in less positive events tied to Napoleonic wars, too. Domestic and foreign soldiers were passing through it and local population was burdened with financial and foodstuff requisitions.*

In December 1798 the Russian units, led by Commander Suvorov, were passing through Valtice heading for Italy. In those days Russia, together with Austria and Great Britain were members of the Second Coalition. Suvorov was a very talented general and Russian Tzar Pavel (Paul) sent him to help the Austrians. After crossing the Alps, the Russo-Austrian Army was

successful in their fights against the French for several times. Later, however some disputes broke out between the Allies. Even though Suvorov was promised to have the utmost authority, very strict instructions concerning further course were coming from Vienna. Due to insufficient support on the Austrian side, the Russians decided to withdraw from the Second Coalition in October 1799.

### Napoleon and His Army Occupy One Third of Austria

After the defeat of the Austrian Army at Ulm in 1805, Napoleon invaded Moravia through Znojmo (Znaim) and Pohořelice (Pohrlitz) for the first time. When he won the Battle of Austerlitz, crowds of Austrian and Russian captives were marching through the town of Valtice, soon

followed by typhoid plague. Up till January 8, 1806 - there were more than 11,000 men and 5,000 horses - thus increasing the town population five times.

War events returned back to Valtice a couple of years after the Battle of the Three Emperors. In connection with the Battle of Znojmo (in July 1809), parts of Marshal Davout's Corps occupied the town and nobody would have expected then they would stay there for four long months until the "Treaty of Vienna" was signed. Austria proposed armistice again when the Battle of Znojmo was almost over and Napoleon agreed under one condition: "My troops will occupy one third of Austria as long as the peace treaty is signed." And so it happened. Napoleon's army occupied Znojmo and Brno Counties including Mikulov in Moravia and northern part of Lower







Austria including Valtice. (Yes, indeed – Valtice had constituted part of Austria during the whole period of Medieval Times and the New Age. Valtice was annexed to Czechoslovakia as late as after the World War I, based on the “Treaty of Saint-Germain,” in 1919). The four-month occupation of Napoleon’s troops meant a complete disaster for local population – due to high financial and foodstuff burdens lots of people were thrown to absolute poverty.

## Surrounded by Juicy Grapes

That part of town history tied to wine has been much more joyful. Grapevine has been cultivated in Valtice for more than two thousand years. The Liechtensteins, who little by little turned Valtice into a magnificent residence of their family, were also very talented in grapevine cultivation. At the end of 14<sup>th</sup> century, Valtice was acquired by Johann I of Liechtenstein, a hofmeister (a specific medieval position at Court) of the Duke of Austria (namesake of Johann I Joseph, Prince of Liechtenstein famous of the Battle of Austerlitz) and ever since the estate of Valtice had been in possession of the Family up to 20<sup>th</sup> century and since 1560 also their family residence. The Liechtensteins were taking good care of the town and supervising its development and progress. Their very exceptional Chateau has often been denoted to as “*Versailles of Moravia*” (as it was in case of

the Chateau in Vyškov). The main staircase view, in front of the Chateau looks like the one in Versailles.

As early as in 1858, Johann II of Liechtenstein organized the very first wine exhibition in the Riding Hall of the Castle. Enthusiastic visitors were tasting delicious wines from about two thousand bottles and high-spirited guests were singing and laughing all over the premises. All of them regretted the only thing that they could not have taken the wine home. To do so, was possible only half a century later when the first wine fair was organized in Valtice. The tradition has been going on ever since and if you come to Valtice in spring there is a wonderful opportunity for you to participate in wine-tasting. It may be an unforgettable event for you to taste excellent awarded wines in the Salon of the Wines of the Czech Republic (a wine-tasting display of the annual selection of 100 best wines from the Czech Republic). It is possible to taste wines in the Chateau cellar dating from 15<sup>th</sup> century (one of the oldest and largest ones in Central Europe).

Both the Chateau and the Salon of the Wines belong to the TOP destinations of South Moravia. Valtice can also boast of the largest wine cellar of the type in the Czech Republic called “*Křížový*” (Cross-shaped due



## Wealth of Lednice-Valtice Area

The Valtice surroundings are enchanting, too. Beauties of nature, splendid nooks have been in perfect harmony with magnificent buildings and other sights. The so called Colonnade (known as "*Reistna*" - it is a reminiscent of the Gloriette at Schönbrunn in Vienna) undoubtedly dominates the space between Valtice and Lednice. The sight in the shape of a memorial arch with two side-wings and 24 Corinthian columns had been built by Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein to commemorate his father – Francis Joseph I as well as his three younger brothers who died at their young ages. In the side-wings there are staircases leading to a terrace with unforgettable view all over the country.

Apart from wine-related events, there is a good chance to witness the so called *"Napoleonic Days"* - the historical re-enactment events of the battles taking place in spring. The event takes place in the Chateau area and the park in Valtice and more than one hundred enthusiasts, wearing Napoleonic uniform replicas, take active part in it. The main purpose of the event is to acquaint spectators with the typical military environment on the turn of 18th and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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GPS: 48°44'22.002"N, 16°45'20.189"E

1. Monastery of Merciful Brothers and the Convent Church of St Augustin
2. - 5. Chateau of Valtice



# 27) Retreat Clashes at Drnholec

*History of the village located app. 10 km from Mikulov, on the left bank of the Dyje (Thaya) River, is at least as interesting as the origin of its name. The original German name "Dürnholz" means "dry wood." It describes the area quite well, as Drnholec is among the driest locations in Moravia. This might be very well true, but the place is definitely not "dry" of historical events. There are also some historical sites like the local castle, Renaissance Town Hall or the Church of the Holy Trinity to name just a few. There is also a connection to Napoleon, whose troops invaded the village before and after the Battle of Znojmo (the Battle of Znaim) in 1809.*

## French and Austrian Armies Head for Moravia Again

You have already learnt that after the Battle of Austerlitz the cease-fire between the Austrians and the French did not last long. Only four years later, they were fighting again. At first, the Austrians, led by Archduke Charles Ludwig of Austria, were successful at home. They won the Battle of Aspern-Essling, but were defeated at Wagram afterwards. Archduke Charles was a courageous leader and he was the first one to actually defeat Napoleon in a battle - a good

reason for him to enter the history. In spite of the defeat at Wagram (July 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 1809) the Austrian army was able to continue fighting. It did not lack supplies nor weaponry or other military equipment. The Austrians retreated to Moravia as they did a few years ago but not that far as Brno - and they had not even intended to. Charles wanted to form his troops in Bohemia. He wanted to march there through Znojmo, Moravské Budějovice (Mährisch Budweis) and Jihlava (Iglau).

All the Austrian corps but one are progressing on the road to Znojmo and Hollabrun. Only Count Rosenberg, a native of the Austrian Graz, has another task. He was supposed to misguide the French, thus enabling a smooth retreat of the Austrian army. The 4<sup>th</sup> Corps led by Rosenberg moved towards the Austrian village of Laa and the Moravian village of Mušov (Muschau). At first, the French army followed and misinterpreted the enemy's course of retreat<sup>[11]</sup>. Napoleon orders the Corps of Marshal Marmont and Marshal Masséna to follow the Austrians. They were supposed to locate the enemy and find out which direction they were retreating. Napoleon would then dispatch their main forces in that direction.

You might find interesting that Marmont was promoted to become a marshal after the Battle of Wagram. He was a well-educated man and a brave soldier, lacking the ability of strategic thinking though. Masséna, on the other hand, had no formal education. Nevertheless, he was able to make it from a non-commissioned officer to a post of marshal in 10 years. He had excellent military flair and abilities, but was also known to be rather greedy as money concerned.

## Fortune Telling for Radetzky

Rear columns of Rosenberg's 4th Corps were formed by Lieutenant Field Marshal Radetzky's division who were prepared to counter-attack the French. Radetzky was an aristocrat of Czech origin. He studied at the Knight Academy in Brno - a training school for young noblemen, future officials and diplomats - where they received their general higher education. His military career was long and successful and he became one of the most respected military commanders of 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a legend that his outstanding military career was predicted by an old gypsy woman, when he was 18 years old. She also told him he would not die in a battlefield. And, indeed, it happened as





predicted. Radetzky died at the age of 91 - he slipped on freshly waxed floor of his Milan residence. He fractured his femoral neck and died due to complications that followed the injury. Let us return to the events that are about to happen around Znojmo. Radetzky's rear division managed to misguide the patrols of Marmont's 11<sup>th</sup> Corps, pretending that the

Austrian army was retreating towards Brno. A number of minor clashes occurred between the French and the Austrians as they were bumping into each other. Radetzky's infantry fortified itself against the French at Drnholec and the village witnessed fierce fights.

## Discovered Intentions

The fact that both armies clashed at Znojmo was a result of coincidence combined with some previous events. Due to one cavalry mission that failed, the French had discovered where the Austrian army was heading after all. The Austrian Count Rosenberg sent some of his cavalry to explore the area around the village of Dyjákovice (Tajax), located to the west of Drnholec, on the road half-way to Znojmo. French patrols followed them and they advanced more westwards than they intended, thus discovering the main Austrian Corps retreating towards Znojmo.

Marshal Marmont immediately sends a courier to the French Head Staff, sets forth for Dyjákovice where he will stay in the local castle (July 9<sup>th</sup>). The operation, however was not that smooth as described. It was rather tough for him to organize his Corps - as they were passing through the wine region most of his soldiers got drunk so much that their

marching became a disorganized crawl. Local people had to put up with French soldiers even after the Battle of Znojmo was over. Four of the French regiments set up a military camp on the Layerberg Hill, near the village. All the villages in their vicinity had to supply them with oats and wine. On top of this, the French had free access to drinks in local pubs. Costs of their three-month stay mounted to millions in today's currency. They drank as many as 170,000 litres of wine!

If you visit Drnholec today, you will notice the castle silhouette on the skyline as you approach the village. On its place there used to stand a 13<sup>th</sup> century medieval castle. Later, the whole area (since 14<sup>th</sup> century) belonged to the Liechtenstein Family until it was purchased by Christopher of Tiefenbach, 200 years later. Apart from the Renaissance castle, we recommend you to visit the local parish. It is one of the oldest buildings, dating back to the Gothic period when the village was founded. And do not miss the Church of the Holy Trinity with an impressive pipe organ dating back to the first half of 18th century. Kilometre-long vine-yards surrounding the area are very impressive and, of course, you can taste the local wine production, too. If you come here in summer, you can cool down in "Nové mlýny" (New Mills) water reservoir. It actually consists of three water reservoirs on the Dyje River - bordering the nature park Pálava.





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Castle (A)

GPS: 48°51'23.439"N, 16°29'20.491"E

Church of the Holy Trinity (B)

GPS: 48°51'24.815"N, 16°29'15.798"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík)

1. Church of the Holy Trinity
2. Detail of a Statue in front of the Church
3. Drnholec Castle





# 28) First Day of the Battle of Znojmo

*The village of Dobšice (Klein Tesswitz) has been closely tied to wine production for centuries and it is located just outside of Znojmo. There are many wine cellars there where you can taste local wines and experience true Moravian hospitality. A more obscure chapter of the village history is connected with the 1809 events when Dobšice almost completely burnt down.*

Count Rosenberg's cover-up manoeuvre, that was supposed to misguide the enemy, failed. The French found out that the Austrian Imperial-Royal Army had been marching towards Znojmo. On July 9th, Archduke Charles was informed on the Austrian army having been located by the enemy and that Marmont's Corps constituted a serious potential threat for them. He immediately ordered a quick retreat towards Znojmo. Most of the retreating corps including the baggage train (logistic support of the marching troops) reached Znojmo on July 10<sup>th</sup>, at 3 in the morning<sup>[1]</sup>.

Most forces of Marshal Masséna's 4th Corps were at least a day of swift march away. At this point, Marmont's 11th Corps, composed of three infantry divisions, light cavalry as well as thirty cannons, constituted much more threat as they were progressing from Dyjákovice (Gross

Tajax), only a few hours away from Znojmo. And the Austrians have not been complete, yet. Parts of the corps are still in the surrounding villages near Znojmo, with the rear columns still scattered on the territory of Lower Austria.

## Ups and Downs of Both Parties

Marmont's plan is to break through the left bank of the Dyje River as far as a stone bridge of Oblesovice (Oblas) on the south-eastern edge of Znojmo. He wanted to split the retreating army in two parts. Archduke Charles is well aware of this plan and posts 5 cavalry brigades and 12 cavalry regiments forming a defense line. They are to create a wide defensive curve and hold up Marmont until the last of the Imperial-Royal Corps pass through. In the afternoon Marmont's Corps (app. 10, 000 men) arrive at the scene and he orders a full-scale attack on Dobšice and surrounding villages. This is how the two-day Battle of Znojmo begins.

The first day, heavy fights storm mainly at Dobšice. Twenty of the French cannons are deployed above the village. Rumble, dust and debris are everywhere as cannon balls fall on roofs of local houses. No wonder, they are soon on fire. The village changes hands several times

that day. Finally, in the evening Marmont realizes that he is facing the complete Austrian Imperial-Royal Army - not only the rear units as he had suspected. Together with the nearby reinforcement, the Austrian army of 60, 000 men greatly out-numbers Marmont's 10, 000 soldiers. He immediately sends his envoys to Napoleon who was anxiously awaiting the news about the enemy's retreat in Wolkersdorf near Vienna. He was staying there since the Battle of Wagram. Another envoy has been sent in the direction where Marmont anticipated Masséna's Corps were located.

Even though his situation was hopeless, Marmont finally managed to seize Dobšice. The 81st French Infantry Regiment fiercely attacked the village and chased out the Austrian Grenadiers. Přímětice (Brenditz), Kuchařovice (Kukrowitz) and Suchohrdly (Zuckerhandl) are still in hands of the Austrian army. Archduke Charles realizes that a coordinated retreat towards Moravské Budějovice is out of question that evening. The baggage train is progressing too slowly. He sends Bellard, the Commander of 1st Corps to Marmont hoping to arrange cease-fire. However, Marmont strictly declines, as he has already received the news that Masséna and his men are not too far away.



## Darkness Brought Temporary Cease-fire

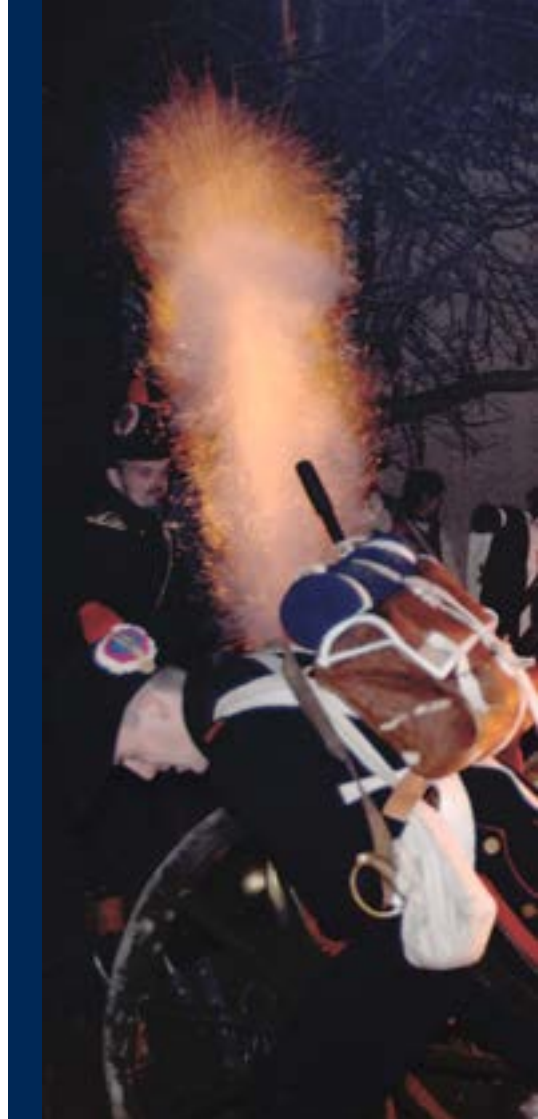
Archduke Charles relocates towards the village of Olbramkostel (Wolframitzkirchen) and issues orders for the following day. The troops begin to shift their posts and the manoeuvre continues until the following morning, causing occasional disorientation



of the corps. Little did they know that, in the meantime, the enemy had increased in numbers. Napoleon had dispatched all his free troops. He arrived at Laa, together with his Imperial Guard, 2 Cuirassier Regiments and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corps of Marshal Oudinot around 10 in the evening. Marshal Oudinot is a veteran of the Battle of Austerlitz and he is about to be joined by another one – Marshal Davout is approaching from Mikulov with his 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps and other troops. The first day of fighting is over. In order to gain access to Znojmo, Dobšice had to be seized.

## Local Wine Cellars Can Also Be "Conquered"

In Dobšice, it is not unusual to smell gunpowder even today. Every year, in July the events of the battle are being re-enacted there with many soldiers participating in exact replicas of uniforms and weaponry (including cannons). There is live music and you can taste local wine production in wine cellars. However, if you like wine, you can come any time. There are three "wine alleys" in Dobšice with numerous beautifully decorated wine cellars offering good selection of high-quality wines. What a perfect way to spend a lazy afternoon! In the public wine cellar you can also admire pictures from the Battle of Znojmo re-enactment.







Monument in the Memory of  
the Battle of Znojmo Victims (A)  
GPS: 48° 51' 1.95"N, 16° 4' 47.92"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík, KVH Orlice Znojmo,  
Lucie Schovancová)

1. Wine Cellars in the village of Dobšice
2. Monument in the Memory of  
the Battle of Znojmo Victims
3. Re-enactment of the Battle



## 29) Battle of Znojmo and Another Victory

*For most citizens of the Czech Republic, Znojmo is a synonym for delicious pickled cucumbers or wine that this town has been famous for. However, Napoleon assisted in shaping the town's history as well. He stayed there in 1805 before the Battle of Austerlitz and four years later the town witnessed another of his triumphal victories at a battle that went to the history as the Battle of Znojmo (the Battle of Znaim).*

As for the total number of soldiers, the French army had a great numerical advantage over the enemy. However, French troops were scattered in the area and gradually re-grouped from various directions. The Austrian army was progressing in bulk and was able to strike more effectively at the beginning. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, the French army had app. 100, 000 men. However, due to the ongoing re-grouping, some of them did not even get a

chance to participate in the fights<sup>[12]</sup>. Battalions of volunteers were fighting on the Austrian side as well. The so called "Landwehr" (home-defence) was established before the war in 1809. Soldiers (volunteers) were drafted whenever the country was at risk. The Znojmo county sent three battalions of Landwehr to protect the town in the Battle of Znojmo.

### Day Two of Heavy Fights

The battle went on for two days. On July 10<sup>th</sup>, heavy fighting took place mainly around the village of Dobšice. Nothing had been decided yet and rifle shooting and cannon fire announced that a new day was dawning. Marshal Masséna's Corps arrived at the scene during the previous night. After a brief reconnaissance, Masséna decided to fight his way across the river Dyje

and capture the bridge in Oblekovice (today Oblekovice is part of Znojmo). Since the shooting had started at 8 in the morning, the bridge was captured by the French artillery and lost again two more times. Before 9 a. m. Marmont's Bavarian Infantry Division was attacking the Austrians from its position near Dobšice and pushing them towards Znojmo.

Masséna's men successfully captured the bridge. The Marshal himself was watching the events from the other side of the river. He could not directly participate in the battle as his leg had been wounded the day before. He was notably irritated by this and was yelling and screaming all around.

Capturing Loucký monastery (Louka Monastery) in Znojmo was definitely a good reason to







celebrate for the 18<sup>th</sup> French Infantry Regiment. Apart from the monastery itself, they seized the well-stocked wine cellars underneath. They immediately began to plunder them and before too long, they barely could stand straight. Their commander Legrand had a difficult time to force them to continue fighting. Well, history proves that whenever an army was progressing through a wine region, it had a negative impact on the fighting discipline and it substantially slowed down soldiers' actual progress.

Around 10 in the morning, the French reinforcement together with the French Emperor himself appeared on the horizon of Dobšice. Napoleon immediately takes charge of the situation from his outpost between the villages of Dobšice and Suchohrdly.

In the afternoon the sky over Znojmo is clouded and soon it begins raining. The tired soldiers are immediately wet to the bone. Wet weather does not suit gunpowder, either. Rifles and muskets are not working properly, bayonets need to be used with partial success on both sides. The French are moving towards Znojmo but are quickly fought off all the way to Starý Šaldorf (Alt-Schallersdorf). The Imperial-Royal Cavalry, consisting mostly of Czechs, Moravians and Silesians, were considered best of the time and it gave them good credit in battlefields. The French are unable to fight their way through

in order to avoid the Austrian army from retreating towards Moravské Budějovice<sup>[11]</sup>.

Archduke Charles is informed about the arrival of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Corps of Marshal Davout around 6 in the evening. Now it is absolutely clear that the enemy is stronger and has numerical advantage. Active resistance would have catastrophic consequences. The Archduke sends his Chief of Staff Wimpfen to Napoleon with an armistice offer and the French Emperor accepts it.

## Napoleon and Prokop Diviš in Loucký Monastery

After the battle was over, the French Emperor accompanied by a part of his Guard set forth to the parish of Louka, where he visited the local Premonstratensian monastery. The monastery was founded in 1190 by Count Conrad Otto of Znojmo and his mother Maria. Long-term support of the major Czech royal dynasty the Přemyslids meant a lot of material possession and growing estates for the Monastery. It soon became one of the most important religious and commercial centres of South-Western Moravia. Its present, mostly Baroque, appearance is the outcome of 18<sup>th</sup> century reconstruction. Originally, there was a plan for the estate to cover a much larger area. This plan had been carried out only half-way through as the monastery was abolished in 1784 as part of

Emperor Joseph II religious reforms. In the first half of 18<sup>th</sup> century, the world-famous inventor Prokop Diviš was a prior and later a priest in the monastery. Apart from his religious activities, he was very keen on scientific research, especially experiments based on electricity and its effects. He was, for example, the one who invented and built the first lightning conductor. After a short visit to the monastery, the French Emperor set forth to Vienna, this time avoiding Znojmo. He visited the town a few years earlier on his way to the battlefield of Slavkov (Austerlitz). That time he had stayed in burgher Schulze's house. Today it bears the name Ugartův Palace (Ugart's Palace). It is located on Horní Square (Upper Square) and there is a stylish Napoleon-look restaurant on the ground floor. A commemorative board on Ugart's Palace facade reminds of Napoleon's visit in town. According to historical records he and his entourage stayed just overnight and on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 1805 they left for Brno. The French came back after the Battle of the Three Emperors was over. They did not leave the impoverished town before January 1806.

## Large Scale of Sights and Live Statues in Streets

Znojmo has definitely been worth visiting as there is a lot going on there. You should not miss visiting the late Baroque-style building - "*Daunův*

*Palace*" (Daun Palace) - in the historical centre - a place where famous General Masséna lodged in 1809 during the occupation of the town (there is a commemorative plaque in the passage of the building).

Another sight definitely worth seeing is the Romanesque Rotunda of St. Catherine, the only remains of a castle used by the Přemyslid counts as well as the Znojmo Castle or Muzeum motorizmu ( the Classical Car Museum). The Gothic Church of St. Nicholas, the Town Hall View-tower or the Znojmo Underground, are among the town's most distinguished landmarks.

A vast maze of connected passage-ways, the Znojmo Catacombs (Znojenské podzemí) is a 30 km-long and four-storey deep underground complex that belongs to the largest underground labyrinths in Europe. It also belongs to the TOP destinations in South Moravia. This unusual underground walk-about is even more exciting thanks to the exhibition called *"the Mysterious Znojmo Catacombs."* Fairy-tale characters, an alchemist work-shop, grim dungeons and even "enlivened" stone rocks are to be seen here. If it is too hot outside, you can cool down in the local outdoor swimming-pool by the Loucký Monastery.

A tourist train connects all the major sights in Znojmo. If you come here in summer, there is a good chance that you will run into Napoleon or the famous composer and violinist Vivaldi strolling in the streets of Znojmo as live statues. If you decide to walk around at night, it is likely that you will run into another historical character, the town's *"bellman"* announcing 9 and 10 o'clock at night.



#### South Moravian Museum in Znojmo (A)

Masarykovo nám. 11, 669 02 Znojmo

tel. (+ 420) 515 226 529

[www.znojmu.cz](http://www.znojmu.cz)

GPS: 48° 51' 15.01"N 16° 3' 2.58"E

#### Further Spots:

##### Loucký Monastery (B)

GPS: 48°50'29.000"N, 16°3'28.001"E

#### Photographs: (Znojenská beseda)

1. Napoleon's Memorial Board on Ugart's Palace Facade
2. Znojmo Underground
3. Rotunda of St Catherine
4. Church of St Nicholas



# 30) Armistice Treaty in Suchohrdly

*First written reference of Suchohrdly dates back as far as 13th century. Its unusual name (Suchohrdly is translated as "dry throat") is allegedly of Slavic origin. According to historical sources, the village had been named after a typical feature of local people's characters. They were supposedly very hard-working but they also enjoyed various festivities. This is why they were called "people with dry throats." Moreover, it is well known that local residents were almost solely wine-makers and excellent masters, too. They exported their wine that far as Vienna. Apart from farming, the village of Suchohrdly (then Zuckerhandel) is also famous for the historical events related to the Battle of Znojmo in 1809. The village had suffered a lot during that time. Napoleon himself, led the fight from the local oak tree situated on a hillock known as "Hájek." And the armistice that ended the French-Bavarian-Austrian war had been sealed in a farmhouse in Suchohrdly.*

## Famous "Napoleon's" Oak Tree

It is July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1809 - the second day of fightings that entered the history as the Battle of Znojmo. From the hillock in Suchohrdly, standing under a large oak tree, Napoleon commands all his available troops to move towards Přímětic (Brenditz) – a former village, nowadays a suburb

of Znojmo. He orders a bypass of the Austrian left flank with the intention to gain control over the road leading to Moravské Budějovice and thus cutting the Austrians off from retreating towards the town of Jihlava. The Imperial Guard that accompanied Napoleon all his way from Vienna to Znojmo, remained close to his commanding post. You will not find the original oak tree of the battle in Suchohrdly any more, it did not survive. In 1931, however another oak tree had been planted on the spot of the former one. However, a fragment of the original "Napoleon's Oak Tree" can be observed in the South-Moravian Museum in Znojmo.

## Napoleon Accepts Armistice

The very last moments of the Battle of Znojmo are also tied to Suchohrdly. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 1809 the French General Staff had its outpost in a farmhouse, known as "Červený dvůr," (the Red Yard). Marshal Berthier was the Chief of Staff. He was known to be one of the few, who were brave enough to deliver bad news to Napoleon and it is said he did so voluntarily. This time however, there was no bad news to be delivered, on the contrary - the Chief of the Austrian Staff, General Wimpfen, arrived in the afternoon. He was sent by Archduke Charles with an offer of armistice.

Napoleon immediately called a meeting of his Marshals. It did not take too long to announce their decision. "We suggest to dismiss the armistice," they told unanimously. They were sure of their victory and wanted to crush their enemy, not to end the battle with an armistice. "Too much blood has been shed," uttered Napoleon and against his Marshals' disapproval, he accepted the offer. And, indeed he was absolutely right - the fights claimed lives of more than 3,000 French soldiers and their Allies and more than 5,000 lives on the side of Francis I, the Emperor of Austria.

At 7:30 p.m. cease-fire was ordered by the French Emperor. Early morning on July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1809 the armistice was signed at "Červený dvůr," by Marshal Berthier, on behalf of Napoleon, and by Baron Wimpfen, representing the Austrian party. Nowadays, the farmhouse is still a private property and if you are interested to visit the place, you will find it not too far from the crossroad in direction towards the village of Kuchařovice. An info board, reminding of the historical events, can also be found there.

As soon as all the matters at "Červený dvůr" were settled, French and Austrian Staff Officers rushed to the still fighting corps to announce cease-fire.





*Napoleonseiche bei Znaim*  
*Napoleons Standard 1809 — Schlacht bei Znaim*





However, it was largely ignored for some time and both sides continued fighting. French and Austrian Staff Officers were riding up and down the lines and had to wave white flags above their heads when entering the area. Despite their effort, it took them quite a while before they could separate the two enemy forces. On top of that they had to run away from bullets fired at them, more or less on purpose, by soldiers from both sides. You can imagine how physically and emotionally exhausting that task was for all of them.

The armistice of Znojmo had been signed for the period of one month with a 14-day notice period. For Austria, its conditions were very bitter, not very much different from those of the Battle of Austerlitz. The French wanted to annex the area of the whole Znojmo and Brno Counties. Austria had to give up large areas of its own territory what was confirmed by the "Schönbrunn Peace Treaty," in October 1809.

## Battle of Znojmo Most Likely Should not Have Occurred

Following various historical sources, the Battle of Znojmo should not have occurred at all. The Prince of Liechtenstein was sent as a peace envoy to Napoleon by Emperor Francis I, as early as 7th July. However, his mission failed as the negotiator did not reach Napoleon. Commanders of the French corps refused to disclose the

exact location of the French Emperor. Had the Prince of Liechtenstein found Napoleon, it is highly probable, that armistice would have been signed a few days earlier and the Battle of Znojmo would not have occurred at all. However, history cannot be modified. What can be done though is that you will come and visit the places in South Moravia that have witnessed these historical events.

When visiting Suchohrdly, make sure you stop by the local bell-tower called "Zvonička" after you climb up the hill where the famous oak tree used to grow. It is a cultural monument that was built in 1829, and a famous "Zvon svobody" (Liberty Bell) can be found inside. It was named after the Slavic missionaries Constantine and Methodius (they influenced the cultural development of the Slavs and were thus called "Apostles to the Slavs"). For additional information on what to visit in Suchohrdly and its surroundings, you can stop at the tourist info centre that is located in the so called "Havranův dům" (Raven's House). After the World War II, the house was given to the partisan leader - Indra Bohuslav - his covername was "the Raven," thus the name. Nowadays, a local library is situated in the building. There is also a hostel and a wine cellar for rent. There are various exhibitions and other events to be organized there.

i

Červený dvůr (Red Yard) (A)  
GPS: 48°52'12.372"N, 16°5'35.398"E

Napoleon's Oak Tree (B)  
GPS: 48°51'49.018"N, 16°5'39.209"E

Havranův House (C)  
GPS: 48°52'4.041"N, 16°5'24.411"E

**Photographs:** (V. Kovalčík, KVH Orlice Znojmo)

1. View over the village of Suchohrdly
2. Napoleon's Oak Tree in the Past and Nowadays





# Tourist trails

Now you have been well acquainted with places of interest in South Moravia that have been tied with Napoleon – Emperor of France and the two battles under his command of the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century. Next parts of the guide will let you know how to combine visits of the memorable places and monuments within four types of one-day trips and four types of those covering more than one day. It is up to you whether you decide to split the more-day lasting trip in one day and visit selected spots of interest. Each particular trip includes information on route details, level of challenge, length in kilometres, means of transport, recommended seasons for trips, itineraries as well as particular targets from the guide that have been tied with outlined trails. Some trails have been suggested in a way that you are free to choose from varieties depending upon whether you decide for hiking, biking or driving a car. When selecting trails we have had in mind not only well-trained hikers but also families with children and seniors, too.

We have divided the tourist trails in three different categories according to their level of difficulty. Trails labelled green are easy and suitable for everyone; even an unconditioned person will comfortably handle them. Orange means a longer, but still quite comfortable trail or a trail that includes more sights. Red colour marks the most challenging trails suitable for well-trained and fit tourists and enthusiasts.

Each trail will also provide you with detailed itineraries regarding where to start your trip, where to turn on your way or which sign to follow. Itineraries depict Napoleonic monuments on each particular trail as well as suggest some other attractive spots worth seeing on your way. Each trail contains numbers of those chapters that have been linked with particular trail.

## Pictogram key:



Trail recommended for hiking



Bike trail



Trail to be completed by car



Easy trail, number states length in kilometres.



Moderate tourist trail, number states length in kilometres.



Difficult tourist trail, number states length in kilometres.

Which season is suitable for the tourist trail?



Tourist sight, number indicates relevant chapter of the Travel Guide.



# Battle of Austerlitz Landmarks

## Scenario A - hiking / on bike

### Route:

Šlapanice (Žuráň)/Sokolnice – Peace Monument – following the yellow sign to Hostěrádky-Rešov – Zbýšov – Křenovice – Slavkov u Brna (Austerlitz)

### Itinerary:

If you choose the trail either hiking or riding a bike (available also for children on a safe bike trail) start from the village of Šlapanice - you can get there by trolley-bus from Brno. First you should climb up the Žuráň Hill – there is the best view upon the whole battlefield area and you will also find there a map with details on the three armies' battle positions.

You should devote more time to exploring the Peace Monument – its expositions are very interesting and there will be enough time left to manage the rest of the itinerary. There is a new yellow sign that would lead you to Hostěrádky-Rešov and then following the railroad, you will get to Zbýšov. You can join the Educational trail of the Three Emperors that will lead you to Křenovice – a place that is full of sights linked with Napoleon, e.g. a monument to General Kutuzov, a commemorative board on the wall of Spáčil's Farm (No. 65) – a place where the pre-battle meeting of the Allies took place. And from there - you can move on by train wherever you need.

Note: You can start your hiking or biking trip also in Sokolnice – there is an easy access there by train from Brno. You will climb up to the Peace Monument from the railway station and then you will follow the same trail.



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19





## Scenario B - by car

### Route:

Žuráň – Santon – Stará pošta (Old Post Station) – Slavkov u Brna (Austerlitz) – Peace Monument

### Itinerary:

We start on the Žuráň Hill – just a short way from Šlapanice. If you set out for the trip from Brno, follow the old road towards Vyškov. You will spot the two lonely trees on Žuráň from far away – they are on the right side of the road. When you explore the countryside, go back to the road and keep your way to the roadhouse called “Rohlenka.” Recent excavations have revealed that there used to be a field-hospital during the Battle of Austerlitz and a road-side inn was there many years ago, too. You should focus on the village of Tvarožná with the Santon Hill – one of the most important places of the battle. Opposite Santon you will find a monument commemorating French General Valhubert who lost his life during fierce fights on December 2nd, 1805.

Keep on driving towards Vyškov and stop on the place called “Stará pošta” (Old Post Station) – you will find a stylish Napoleon-look restaurant there. The place witnessed one of the most important meetings of Napoleon and his aides before the Battle of Austerlitz. And be sure not to avoid the local museum or the horse stables. There is another interesting place to be explored in Stará pošta. The local monument devoted to horses should commemorate their sufferings and recall the sad fact that not only people lost their lives in clashes. The next stop is in Slavkov (Austerlitz). There are four sightseeing tours available there. And there is no better place to complete your trip than on the Peace Monument. The multimedia exposition taking place there will certainly drag you in the middle of the battle. The whole trail can be completed the other way round, too. It is exclusively up to you whether you prefer natural beauties of the battlefield first or you will start your sightseeing tour in the multimedia exposition hall.



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

8, 9, 10, 13, 15



# Napoleon and the Liechtenstein

## Scenarios A, B - hiking / on bike

### Route:

Scenario A) Břeclav – by boat to Lednice to Janohrad – following the green sign to Lednice – following the red sign round the Lednice ponds to the Temple of the Three Graces – St. Hubert – Chateau Rendez-vous to Valtice (back to Břeclav by train)

Scenario B) Břeclav – Lednice – taking the road towards Podivín to the cenotaph - back to Lednice - Lednice – Valtice (back to Břeclav by train)

### Itinerary:

You reach Břeclav easily either by train or riding a bike. There is a modern construction of church with its bells hanging outside on the square. Then pass round the Břeclav Chateau and a former brewery to the Nature Park “*Niva Dyje*” (Bottom Land of the River Dyje), utilizing the bike trail of the Educational trail “*Lužní les*” (Meadow Forest). You will enjoy hiking or riding on blacktopped road – just beware of mosquitoes in summer. Another choice is to go by boat. The starting point is at the Rowing Club in Břeclav. We recommend you to find out the time-table in advance ([www.lodnidoprava.com](http://www.lodnidoprava.com)) to prevent you from unexpected waste of time. You will land not far from Janohrad – it is the place you get to if you decide to utilize a bike trail and cover the whole distance on your own. Riding a bike is forbidden in the chateau park – there are enough racks to park them there. And certainly do not avoid visiting the magnificent chateau with a unique staircase made of one single piece of wood or a huge chandelier with 116 branches for holding candles.

Finishing sightseeing tour in the chateau and its park, we suggest bike-riders to make a short turn-off that would lead them a little farther in their efforts of following Napoleonic clashes. In Lednice you should follow the main road and turn right towards the village of Podivín. Turn left as soon as you cross the bridge over the River Dyje. The path will lead you straight to the local obelisk called “*the Slap*”. Then you should return back to Lednice and go on to Valtice utilizing the so called Liechtenstein’s bike trail. Rybníční Zámeček (Pond House) is a nice place where you can stop for a while and imagine what the countryside looked like during the era of the Liechtensteins. You can observe Apollonův chrám (Apollo Temple) as well as the Tři Grácie (Temple of the Three Graces) from there. The architects of those days were well-aware of best places what to place and where. To continue in your trip, take the way to Nový dvůr (New Yard). If you have enough time turn your way towards Apollo Temple - there is a good chance to have a swim there. Then pass by the Three Graces towards Svatý Hubert (a column structure of St Hubert). The path will lead you straight towards Rendez-vous or Temple of Diana. Visits are possible there in the summer you can enjoy wine-tasting, too. Not far from there is the town of Valtice with the magnificent Chateau. And you should not avoid going to the monastery of Merciful Brothers. There is good train connection from Valtice back to Břeclav.



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**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

25, 26

## Scenario C - by car

### Route:

Lednice – Valtice – Mikulov

### Itinerary:

The best way to get to Lednice is to take the D2 Brno - Bratislava motorway and take the Podivín exit. You will be in Lednice within a couple of kilometres. Before you cross the bridge over the Dyje River, you should stop for a while and walk towards “the Slap” obelisk. Although it stands in a fenced game-park it is accessible for cyclists and hikers. Then keep on to the Chateau of Lednice and then to Valtice. The road is lined by the Bezruč Alley. And there is a wonderful view upon local vine-yards - you can observe them even driving a car. The road No. 40 will lead you to Mikulov – a late-afternoon strolling through the town will certainly not disappoint you.



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

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# A Short Trip to Vyškov

## Scenario A - by car

### Route:

Vyškov, Town Hall, TIC ( Tourist Information Centre)- Chateau (museum) - Bohdalice

### Itinerary:

The trip start is on Masaryk Square in Vyškov. The local TIC (Tourist Information Centre) will provide you with the most up-to-date information on what to see or taste in town. There is a spectacular bird-eye view from the top of the Town Hall tower. From there – it is not more than one hundred metres to the Castle – a place where the Allied Staff held their meeting before the Battle of Austerlitz. The Castle houses a museum now. You certainly do not want to miss some of its eight permanent exhibitions. Typical Vyškov ceramics (majolica) forms a unique collection. And you should certainly visit the Chateau gardens – originally they were supposed to be laid out in the same way as the renowned gardens in Kroměříž. The plans, however had been thwarted by fire, you can find some similar loggias there, though. After delightful impressions from the gardens you should drive on straight to the village of Bohdalice-Pavlovice.

There is a local museum of Tomáš E. M. Müller – part of its expositions has been devoted to the 1805 battle period. The two Emperors - the Russian Tzar as well as the Austrian Emperor – spent a night at the Bohdalice Chateau before the Battle of Austerlitz. It is just a short walk from the museum to the chateau. Nowadays, there is a school in its premises, so you can observe it only from outside. The two outstanding guests' stay, however has been commemorated by a commemorative board on the chateau's facade. If you are lucky enough you will find a stone-made Cross of Reconciliation in fields beyond the village. You should take the way from the chateau, passing by the church as far as the end of the village towards the village of Kučerov – there is a place called "Piskál." The Cross is placed amid fields not far from power poles.



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

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## Scenario B - by car / hiking

### Route:

Vyškov, Town Hall, TIC (Tourist Information Centre) – Chateau (museum) ZOO and Dinopark  
(optional - Aquapark or Air Museum)

### Itinerary:

This is a special type of trip suitable for families with children. If they are up to – take them to the chateau museum. Children will certainly be impressed by traveller Alois Musil and his adventurous books. In the local Gothic-style cellar they sometimes organize fencing performances. And then - let us go and see animals - though the local ZOO in Vyškov is not a typical one. They keep domestic and farm animals from all over the world there. You will find, e.g. a unique collection of hens including the species of fighting hens or a curly-hair hog – mangalitz!

And there is a special train taking you back to pre-historic period - a small tourist train drives you to Dinopark. Children will certainly love huge replicas of ancient lizards or a 3D cinema performance. And if it is too hot outside, take your children to the local aquapark. Another choice is to visit the Air Museum – in about four kilometres of the city centre near the road towards Pustiměř. Both children and adults may take the opportunity to sit in a cockpit of an air-fighter.



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

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# Following Napoleon off North from Brno

## Scenario A - hiking

### Route:

Rájec-Jestřebí – following the bike trail Černá Hora – following green sign on the trail Bořitov  
- Pod Velkým Chlumem - crossroads Pod Malým Chlumem - Obora - Doubravice nad Svitavou (railway station).

### Itinerary:

We start at the railway station in Rájec-Jestřebí – in direction Brno – Česká Třebová. Before you continue to Černá Hora, follow the yellow tourist sign that will lead you to the Rájec Chateau. It used to be in possession of the Salm-Reifferscheidt-Raitz Dynasty. The Salms had enough troubles with Napoleon – it was the French Emperor who confiscated their estates in the Ardennes. While staying in the Chateau you should not miss its gallery nor the largest chateau-type library in the Czech Republic. And the perfectly maintained chateau-park is also worth visiting. Then return back to the railway station – the total turn off is about 3.5 kilometre long. You should keep on following the yellow sign towards the place called “Nad Jestřebím” – it will lead you to the edge of a build-up area of family houses where the trail turns left. You, however should keep right following the bike trail to Černá Hora.

During the Battle of the Three Emperors, local people were obliged to supply soldiers with foodstuff and wine and beer as well. Černá Hora has been renowned for its brewery up till now. There is a brewing restaurant on the square where you can have some refreshment and observe historical brewing equipment and facilities located in its patio. After having a rest, you can go on hiking following the green sign towards Bořitov. You will come across a round-about where you find a Cross of Crucifixion and a road-house called “Špitálka” – a former place of a military hospital after the Battle of the Three Emperors. Pass through the village of Bořitov and turn round houses and gardens to a field path following the left bank of the Lysický potok (stream). You should get to woods of Velký Chlum. At the foothill there is a group of statues devoted to Hussites – created by the native sculptor Stanislav Rolínek. The green sign will drive you to a road-fork called “Pod Malým Chlumem.” If you are still enthusiastic enough and not too short of time turn towards a view-tower on the top of the hill of Malý Chlum. With good visibility you can catch a sight of distant Praděd Hill in the Jeseníky Mountains. Then you should return back to crossroads of signed trails. If you take the red-signed trail you will reach the village of Obora and passing it through as far as Doubravice nad Svitavou you will reach the local railway station to get to Brno by train. There is a restaurant on the other side of the River Svitava across the bridge at your disposal, too.



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

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## Scenario B - on bike

### Route:

Rájec-Jestřebí – Doubravice nad Svitavou (equal to Scenario A) – Rájec-Jestřebí Chateau – Rájec-Jestřebí (railway station)

### Itinerary:

The trail from Rájec-Jestřebí as far as Doubravice nad Svitavou follows the Scenario A hiking trail. The bike trail from Doubravice goes through the village and in its centre it adds to the main road. After turning to the right keep your direction towards Rájec-Jestřebí and Blansko. In Rájec turn right again to the Chateau – you can spend some time visiting it or having a rest in its surroundings. Then return back to the square and keep on biking to the railway station where the bike trail ends. It is up to your decision whether you visit the Rájec Chateau at the start of your bike trip or at its finish. If you choose the latter – it will be a perfectly completed circle – just keep opening hours in mind. We recommend to check them on web pages [www.zamekrajec.cz](http://www.zamekrajec.cz).



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

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# The Most Beautiful Towns in South Moravia

## Day One: Brno

### Route:

Brno, main railway station – passing through the Bašty Street and Denis Gardens – Petrov Cathedral – Zelný trh (Vegetable Market) with TIC (Tourist Information Centre) in Radnická Street – Masarykova Street – Svobody Square (Liberty Square) - Rašínova Street – Moravské Square (Governor's Palace) – Česká Street – Komenského Square – Husova Street – Špilberk Castle (optional trail back to the main railway station – Rajhrad)

### Itinerary:

Almost all tramway lines go to the Brno main railway station and the coach station is just a few metres off – thus an ideal starting point for your trip. Take the stairs up the Bašty Street – in summer water flows through the reconstructed park to Denis Gardens. Pass round the Obelisk to the end of the park. You can see the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul from there. We recommend to mount up to one of its towers. Pass through the gate – its arch decorated in Gothic Revival style is the only one of its type in the Czech Republic – towards Zelný trh (the Vegetable Market). In its upper part you can explore the Dietrichstein Palace. If you are keen on history, do not miss visiting the Moravské zemské muzeum (Moravian Land Museum) located in the palace. Another choice is to see the Labyrinth below the Vegetable Market. Whatever your choice - take Masarykova Street then cross the central Svobody Square, further on Rašínova Street as far as the Governor's Palace- a place where Napoleon was lodged during his stay. When you pass through Komenského Square you will get to a wide avenue – Husova Street – climbing it up, you will come to the main entrance of the Špilberk Castle. You are passing through the biggest park in Brno. The Castle offers exhibitions or mysterious casemates to explore.

If you are not too tired set out for a trip to Rajhrad that is 15 kilometres away. You find a monastery and a unique library there. There is also a museum called Památník písemnictví na Moravě (Museum of Literature in Moravia) with interactive exposition. You will admire Moravian writers in a book-tunnel and manuscript copies can be removed from drawers and explored in details. The renowned inventor Prokop Diviš has been recalled by a water-filled cylinder – a twisting squared log creates whirlpool on its bottom. Driving a car it will take you a quarter of an hour to get there on R 52 road. A number of trains and buses shuttle there in about five times an hour. Tourist Information Centres in Radnická Street will help you to choose suitable places for accommodation. In Brno we recommend you to book it in advance.



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

2, 3, 4, 5, (6)

**\*Length in km:**

city tour round Brno app. 4 km

(+ 15 km to Rajhrad)

## 2. den: Znojmo

### Route:

TIC – Town Hall Tower – Loucký Monastery – Church of St. Nicholas – St. Catherine's Rotunda – Znojmo Underground

### Itinerary:

Set out to Znojmo in the morning. It will take you about an hour by car, by coach from the Brno Coach Station - Zvonařka - it will be just a little longer. When you get to Znojmo, first of all head to a TIC (Tourist Information Centre) – you will need a map to find your way in medieval streets of the town. Just next door is the Town Hall Tower – 170 steps upward but there is a splendid view upon the city from all sides. Do not miss the house where Napoleon spent a night – there is a commemorating board on its facade on Horní Square. One useful information: public toilets are available on the Square with Znojmo veduta (a large-scale cityscape). Then go on your way to Loucký monastery. Most part of the 2.5 kilometre-long stroll will pass along the Dyje River. In 1809, during the Battle of Znojmo (Znaim) the place witnessed heavy fights. The bridge over the river was an important strategic point and after conquering it French soldiers celebrated their victory in well-stocked Loucký monastery wine cellars. Wine-tasting is available for you, too. And in summer you can have a refreshing swim in the nearby swimming-pool. From May till October there is a tourist train available – it has eight stops within the city and it is a 90-minute guided tour. So, do not hesitate and hop on (get the timetable information from the TIC or they are available on city web pages in advance). You will pass by the Church of St. Nicholas. You can hop off any time and with your valid ticket you can complete the tour later on. There is a magnificent view from the Church of St. Nicholas, not far from there you will find St. Catherine's Rotunda, too.

Enjoy the view upon the Dyje River valley bridged over by a 220-metre high railway viaduct based upon the Eiffel Office project as well as a beautifully flourishing Kraví hora (Cow Mountain) with its rare flora. If you intend to visit the Rotunda we recommend you to get the details in advance – it has been infrequently accessible because of rare frescoes inside it. If you have a chance to get inside even speaking is forbidden during the visit – dampness from exhales could harm the paintings. They depict legends on the Přemyslid dynasty. If you find the “no speaking” sign too limiting for you - explore the place from outside and direct your steps to the Znojmo Underground. It can be found below a Renaissance-style house on No. 2 Slepčí Market (Hen Market). It is just a few steps from the Town Hall where you started your tour. And search the entrance very carefully, as you are to start in the patio first. The underground tour will take about two hours. There is a number of opportunities to get a convenient accommodation in Znojmo – there is no problem to choose the most suitable one for you. And the same is to be said about Mikulov.



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

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**\*Length in km:**

one-day round trip through the city - its length  
depends upon a number of sights to be visited



## Day Three: Mikulov

### Route:

Mikulov, TIC – Chateau – Kozí hrádek (Goat Tower) – jeskyně Na Turoldu (cave) – Svatý kopeček (Holy Hill) with its Calvary

### Itinerary:

The TIC is located right on the square. You cannot miss the Castle – its silhouette is visible probably from all sides. The gardens deserve special attention but the permanent exhibitions are also worth visiting. We suggest to enjoy special view-points – they have been perfectly carried out by well-trained architects of the Dietrichstein Family. You can get a glimpse of the tower Kozí hrádek (Goat Tower) from the Castle – there has been a tourist view-tower now. You can get there passing through a romantic “*wine alley*” – a good chance to have a rest in one of many gardens in front of wine cellars in summer. If wine is not your favourite – hurry up to the cave called “*Na Turoldu*.” The guided tour there is like a space trip and guides enjoy telling various funny stories on disclosing its mysteries. And nature-lovers will certainly appreciate a chance to climb up Svatý kopeček (Holy Hill). And you may be well surprised what a romantic place it is!

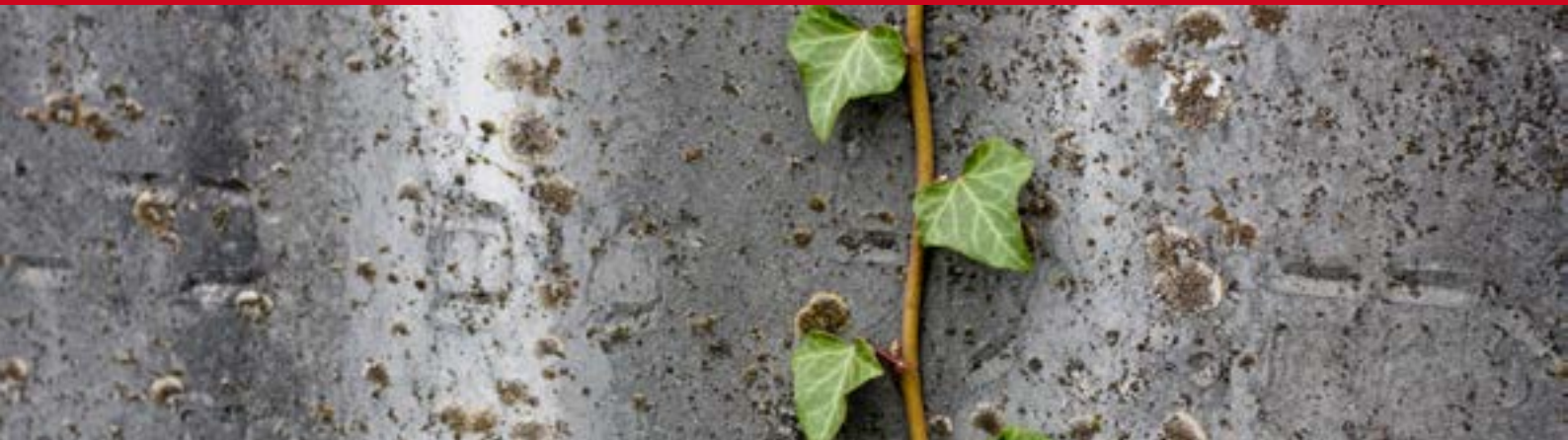


**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

24

**\*Length in km:**

one-day round trip through the city - its length  
depends upon a number of sights to be visited





# Across the Battlefield of Austerlitz

## Day One: Southern Parts of the Battlefield

### Route:

Brno, Líšeň – Podolí – Šlapanice – Kobylnice – Sokolnice (railway station) – Telnice – Žatčany – Újezd u Brna (railway station) – Hostěrádky - Rešov – Šaratice – Zbýšov – Křenovice - Hrušky – Vážany nad Litavou – Slavkov u Brna (Austerlitz)

### Itinerary:

The starting spot is in Mariánské valley in the Brno suburb of Líšeň – there is a quiet road towards Podolí and Šlapanice. The road will lead you to Kobylnice and then to Sokolnice. Apart from sights tied to Napoleon, you can take pleasure in the pond called “Balaton.” It is a well-known spot where people from surrounding areas go for trips and relax. There is a special fish restaurant and angling contests take place there, too. Then keep on biking to Telnice and Žatčany. Between Žatčany and Újezd u Brna the way passes through the embankment of the former Žatčanský pond. At the end of the Battle of the Three Emperors the Allied troops were escaping that way. It is a good place to stop and observe the countryside there and while relaxing try to imagine the place covered with ponds instead of fields. Maybe it will refresh you a little in hot summer days. But you should not stay there too long – there are some other villages to visit on the way. After you leave the village of Zbýšov turn right to a field path and following the green sign you will get to Křenovice. There is a monument to commemorate General Kutuzov and you will certainly observe a special type of railing with motives of Napoleonic soldiers placed on the village square or Spáčil's Farm, (No.65 House) where the Allies had their meeting before the battle. And from there keep on riding through the village of Hrušky and Vážany nad Litavou to Slavkov u Brna (Austerlitz). If you ride fast you will have enough time to stop at the swimming-pool or try the local specialties in one of restaurants on the square or in the Chateau.



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19





## Day Two: Northern Parts of the Battlefield

### Route:

Slavkov u Brna (Austerlitz) – Rousínov (railway station) – Viničné Šumice – Kovalovice – Pozořice – Sivice – Tvarožná – Šlapanice/Brno

### Itinerary:

You should not avoid visiting the Chateau in Slavkov (Austerlitz) where the armistice after the Battle of Austerlitz had been signed between France and Austria, on December 6, 1805. Nowadays, there is a special exposition devoted to Napoleon. From Slavkov u Brna we head to Rousínov – if the local church is open it is worth going there. Its history is has been cloaked but you will find the relics of St. Valentine there. Passing through Viničné Šumice you will get to Kovalovice – a good place for refreshment in the local outdoor bio-swimming-pool in summer. It is a pure biotope – no chemicals at all and very low admission fare. The atmosphere of the place is wonderful, water is four-metre deep and due to its dark bedrock it keeps warm. Then stop in the village of Tvarožná – you will find a number of places commemorating the Battle of the Three Emperors – like a replica of a French cannon in front of the Municipal Office or the Santon Hill with a chapel where fierce fights went on. The yellow sign will lead you from Tvarožná to Šlapanice. You will pass by the Žuráň Hill where Napoleon had his outpost during the Battle of the Three Emperors. If you want to learn as much as possible regarding the Battle of Austerlitz – drop in the museum on the square. During the battle it was the head office of French Marshal Soult – you will find a commemorative board on the facade. There are trolley-buses, buses and trains going from Šlapanice to Brno.

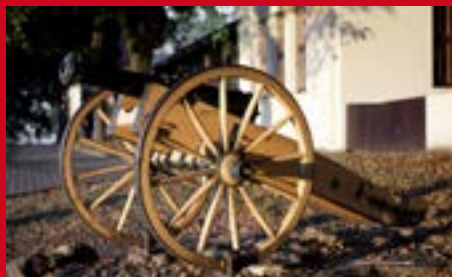


23



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

7, 9, 10, 15, 16



# Around Znojmo and Mikulov by Bike

## Day One: From Mikulov do Drnholec

### Route:

Mikulov – Bavory – Perná – Dolní Dunajovice – Brod nad Dyjí – Drnholec – Novosedly (railway station)

### Itinerary:

You and your bike will easily reach Mikulov by train. The starting point of the trail is at car park near the bank beyond the square and it is equal to the Wine Educational Trail of Mikulov (Vinařská naučná stezka Mikulov). Explore the city centre, get enough information and leaflets from the local TIC (Tourist Information Centre) and do not forget to see at least one of the exhibitions in the Chateau where Napoleon spent a night after the Battle of Austerlitz. Then keep on the marked trail through Kostelní Square, Pavlovská and Dukelská Streets. As soon as you get out of the city - on the crossroads - take direction to the left towards Bavory and Perná. Before you reach the village of Perná turn left on the crossing towards Dolní Dunajovice. Now you leave the Wine Educational Trail of Mikulov and join the Stará hora Wine Trail. Both Wine Trail signposts contain information on long and rich wine-growing history in the region. There are all vine-yards around you. Before the Battle of Znojmo, marching across the wine-growing region caused troubles even to French Marshal Marmont's Corps. It is said that some of his soldiers got drunk as a lord. So, be careful.

Our trail follows the Educational trail through Brod nad Dyjí as far as Novosedly. After the Battle of Znojmo, four French regiments put up a military camp in the mountains of Brod surroundings. Turn right at the crossroads before you reach Novosedly, then cross the River Dyje and drive up to Drnholec. Even before the Battle of Znojmo had started there was a clash between the Austrian divisions of Lieutenant Field Marshal Radecky and parts of French Marshal Marmont's Corps. There is a Chateau, a parish built in early Gothic style, or the 18th century Church of the Holy Trinity. Leaving Drnholec return the same way back to the crossroads.

The Educational trail Stará hora round Novosedly will take you to the railway station – there are trains to Znojmo every hour – and it takes 40 minutes to get there. Just do not miss the last one. Information regarding accommodation facilities will be accessible from the TIC office but we recommend to do it in advance. And you can also return to Mikulov – it is not more than fifteen minutes by train to get there.



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

24, 27

## Day Two: Following the Traces of the Battle of Znojmo

### Route:

Znojmo – Dobšice – Dyje – Suchohrdly – Kuchařovice – Přímětice

### Itinerary:

Go for a trip to Dobšice, it is only a couple of kilometres off Znojmo. In July they organize a festival “Conquering Dobšice Wine Cellars” and it is connected with re-enactments of Napoleon’s fights there at the Battle of Znojmo in 1809. Wine tasting is available all year round. The local rosé wine has been renowned. A monument recalling Napoleon and historical events tied to him are placed in the village centre. Passing by the River Dyje you will get to the village of the same name. When you reach the crossing with the local road No. 408, turn left towards Suchohrdly – you can visit the place where the original, so called Napoleon’s oak-tree used to grow and where from Napoleon commanded the Battle of Znojmo. Now a much younger oak-tree has been planted there. And on the farm “Červený dvůr” (the Red Yard) Napoleon accepted the Austrian armistice proposal even against strong disapproval of his own marshals – thus bringing the Battle of Znojmo to its end. The farm has been a private estate and you will find it not far from the crossroads in direction towards Kuchařovice. There is an info board, reminding of the historical events. And we move on towards the villages of Kuchařovice and Přímětice. In the latter village there is a unique cross-shaped wine cellar and a Memorial of Prokop Diviš with his famous lightning conductor. From there you can return to the starting point – the city of Znojmo where you can explore some places linked with Napoleon, too, e.g. Daunův Palace on Masaryk Square or Loucký monastery, to mention just a few.



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**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

28, 29, 30





# Following the Traces of the Austerlitz Peace Treaty

## Day One : Slavkov u Brna (Austerlitz)

### Route:

Chateau of Slavkov – St. Urban Chapel – outdoor swimming-pool in Slavkov (optional)

### Itinerary:

You can feel Napoleon's spirit in the air in a picturesque town of Slavkov (Austerlitz). If you decide to come by car, we recommend to park it right on the square. Another choice is to come by train. In the present Historic Hall of the Chateau – the armistice treaty had been signed by Johann I, Prince of Liechtenstein and French Marshal Berthier two days after the Battle of Austerlitz. There are four types of tours available in the Chateau – it is up to you to decide for the one that would be attractive enough even for your children. Another good thing for you is that the guides have been at your disposal all year round – every day with the exception of Monday, in high season every day. In summer it may be a good idea to go to the local outdoor swimming-pool. If you decide to go to St. Urban's Chapel you will be awarded not only by a splendid late afternoon view upon the countryside. It is the place where from French soldiers watched the progress of the Allied Russo-Austrian army from Olomouc towards Brno. The chapel is devoted to wine-growers' patron. As late as in 19th century slopes of the hill were still covered with vine-yards.

If you decide to stay in Slavkov overnight, there are several possibilities you may find on [www.jizni-morava.cz](http://www.jizni-morava.cz).



**The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:**

15, 16



## Day Two: Spálený mlýn (The Burnt Mill)

### Route:

Slavkov u Brna(Austerlitz)– Bučovice – Žďánice (Vrbaš´ muzeum) – Janův dvůr (Jan´s Yard)

### Itinerary:

After spending a night in Slavkov, drive on across Bučovice to Žďánice and its local chateau. The chateau park may be interesting for you to explore – it involves a hundred-year-old burial place for dogs. What is most exciting, however, is visiting Vrbaš´ Museum (Vrbašovo muzeum) that has been located in the Renaissance-style chateau. As soon as you enter it you will be like Alice in Wonderland – whether you are a child or an adult. There are marvellous objects to be explored – children mostly love mobile exhibits like replicas of an old wind-mill and an old village, locomobile, a wind pump and many others. There are about fifty exhibits linked with Napoleon. And as you could have observed it in Slavkov, here you can also observe a fragment of Napoleon´s lime-tree from the place called *“Spálený mlýn”* where the two Emperors - Napoleon and Francis I - decided upon armistice after the Battle of the Three Emperors.

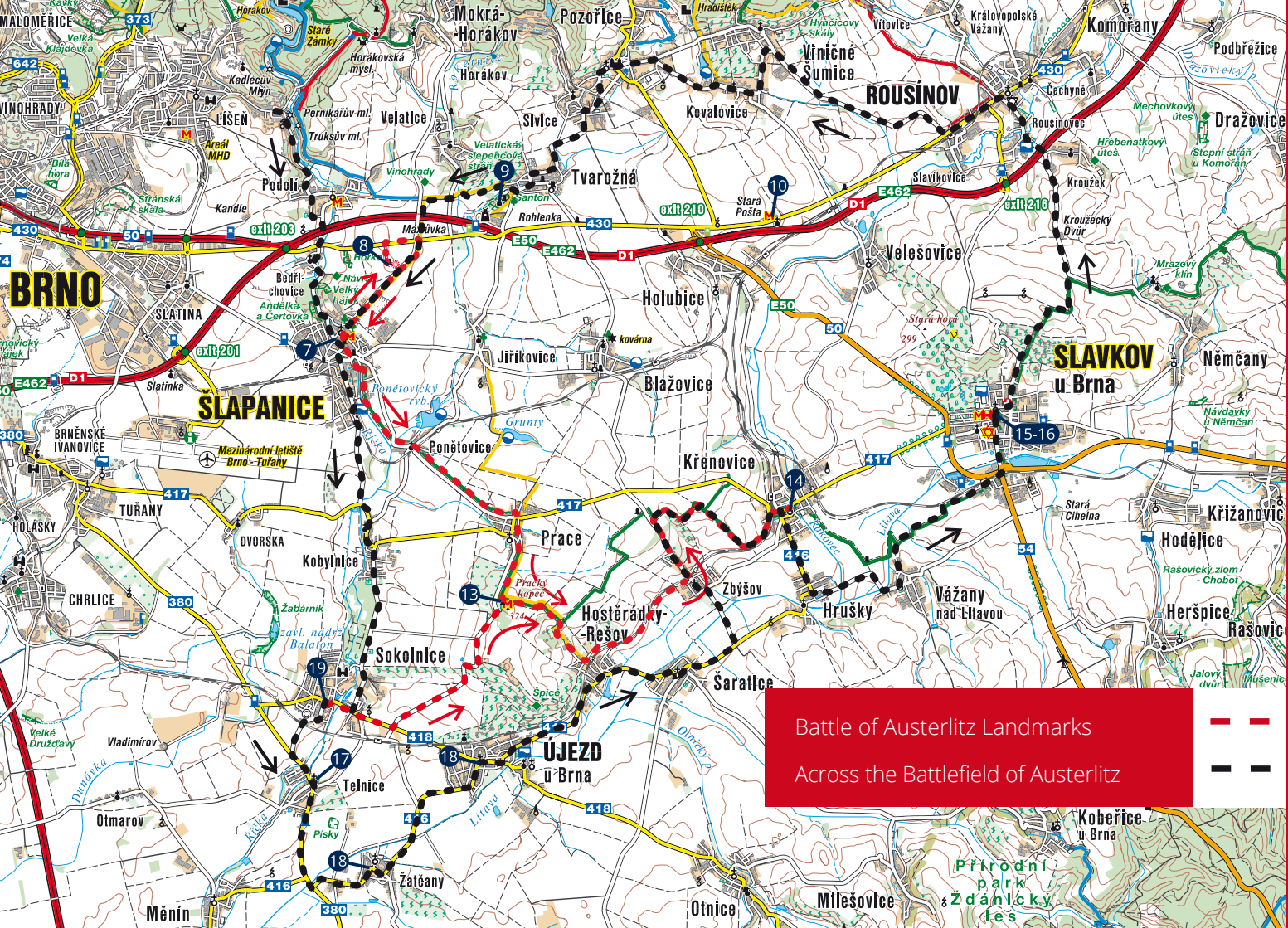
You will reach the place leaving Žďánice passing through Archlebov and Žarošice towards Násedlovice. Between the villages of Žarošice and Násedlovice there is a settlement called *“Janův dvůr”* (Jan´s Yard). The Emperors of France and Austria met there and it has been commemorated by an inscription in Czech and German languages as well as an info board, obelisk and the *“younger cousin”* of the original Imperial lime-tree.



The following chapters of the guide  
have been tied to the trail:

23

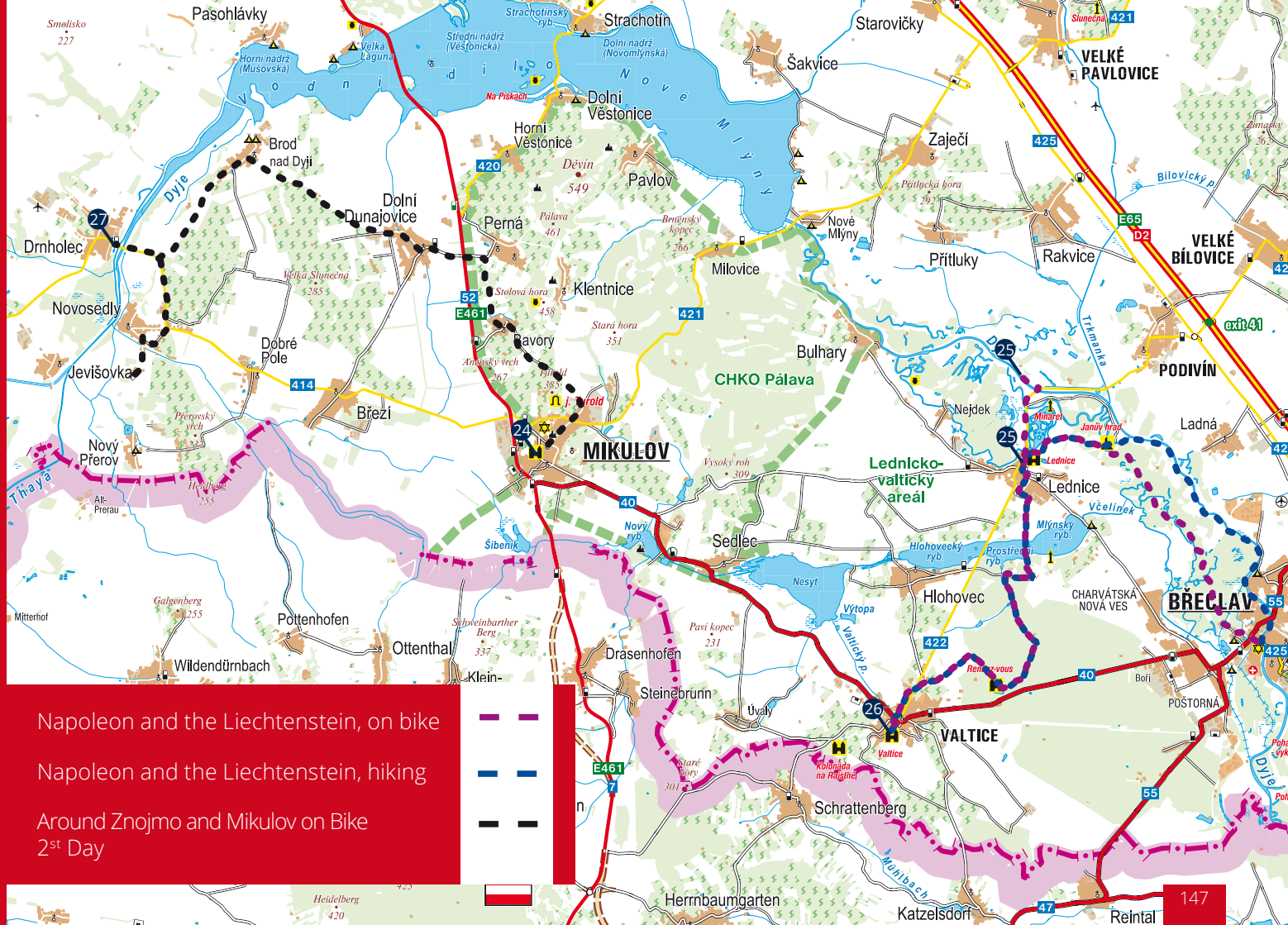




Battle of Austerlitz Landmarks

Across the Battlefield of Austerlitz





Napoleon and the Liechtenstein, on bike

Napoleon and the Liechtenstein, hiking

Around Znojmo and Mikulov on Bike  
2<sup>st</sup> Day

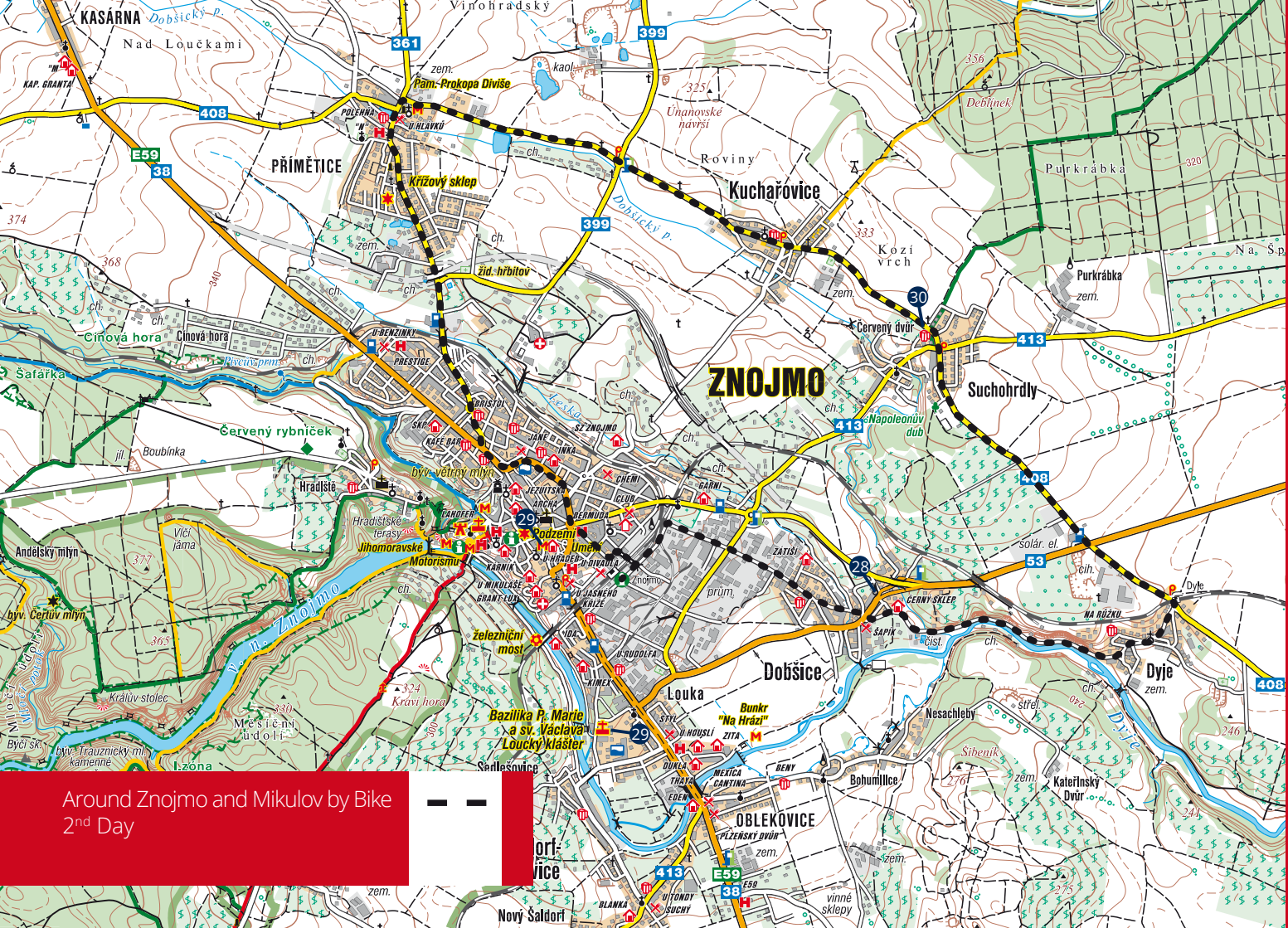


## A Short Trip to Vyškov (B)



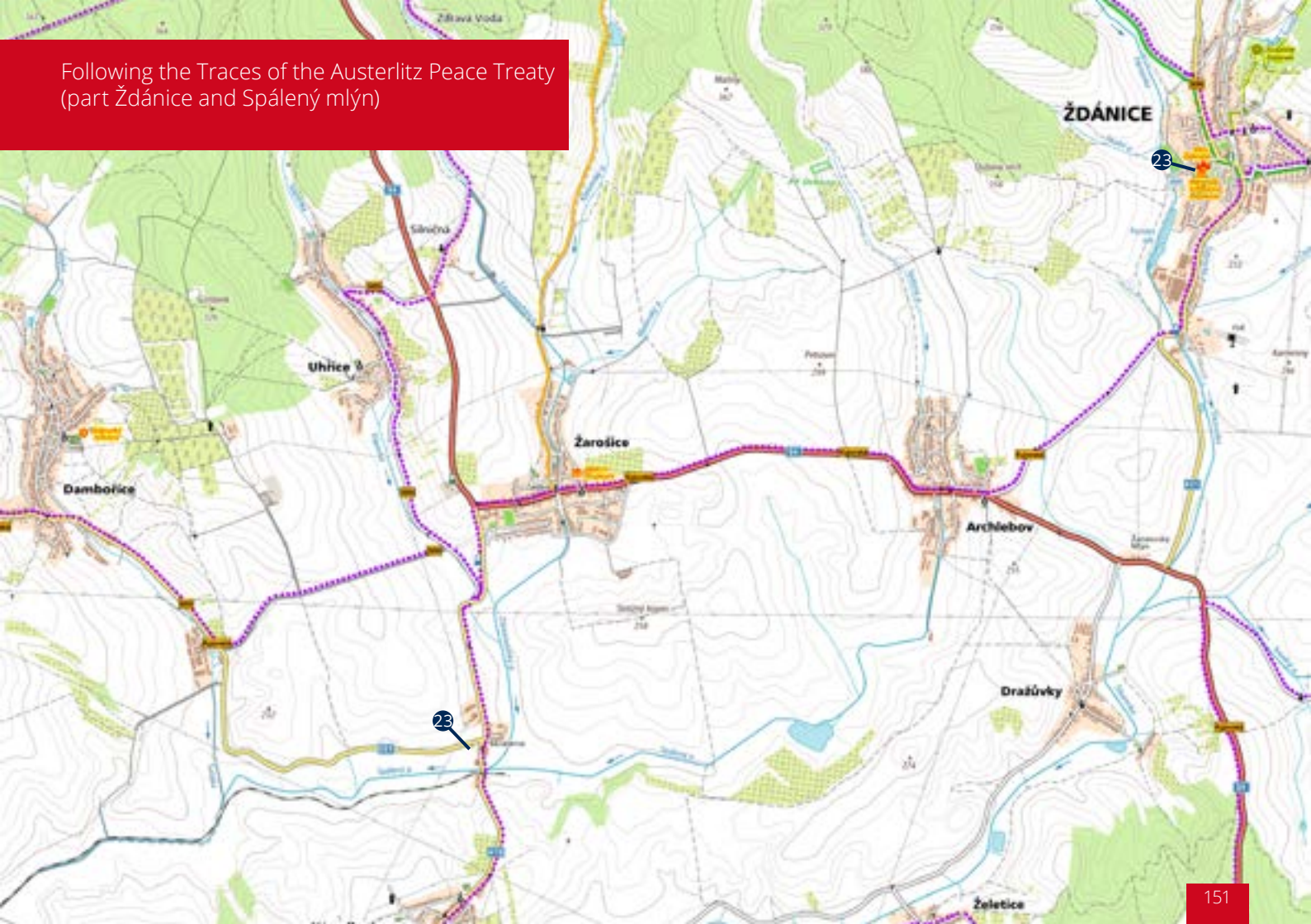






Around Znojmo and Mikulov by Bike  
2nd Day

Following the Traces of the Austerlitz Peace Treaty  
(part Ždánice and Spálený mlýn)





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# Other Significant Battles of Napoleon

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 – Battle of Trafalgar (ES)      | 5 – Battle of Borodino (RU) |
| 2 – Battle of Austerlitz (CZ)     | 6 – Battle of Leipzig (DE)  |
| 3 – Battle of Aspern–Essling (AT) | 7 – Battle of Waterloo (BE) |
| 4 – Battle of Wagram (AT)         |                             |



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