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Bystřicko
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**BYSTŘICE
NAD PERNŠTEJNEM**
TOWN GUIDE



Bystřice nad Pernštejnem

You mustn't miss



Pernštejn Castle

A fairytale Gothic-Renaissance castle, a representational residence of the Pernštejns, who were the richest and most powerful family in the Kingdom of Bohemia in the 16th century. The castle looks like it is from a fairy tale, has never been conquered and is a true feast for visitors' eyes.



The Zubštejn Ruin



The castle, which was called Lapis (Stone) in Latin, was built in the 14th century in Gothic style and belonged to the lords of Medlov. The name Zubštejn was documented for the first time in 1358. The rest of the palace with four vaulted rooms and part of the entrance tower, to whose gate led a drawbridge, survived until today. The castle is associated with a number of legends and the popular Festival of historical fencing, music and dance of Castle Zubštejn takes place here in July.



The little church of St. Michael in Vítovice

According to legend, the stone church of St. Michael was built at the instigation of St. Methodius, who had personally sanctified it. It is a single nave in mostly Gothic style, probably from the first half of the 13th century. The most valuable monuments are a stone baptismal font from the 13th century, a refectory from the original stone altar, and frescoes from about the mid-14th century.

The Town Museum

The Town Museum of Bystřice n. P. offers a number of interesting and diverse exhibitions. It is hard to understand Bystřicko without visiting it.



The Sports Hall



You can have fun in the gym, on the climbing wall, in the pool or at bowling. Details can be found below.

The Swimming pool



An outdoor swimming pool with three heated pools will surely help you relax...

Town sights

What was left to us by our ancestors



The parish church of St. Lawrence dominates the lower part of the square and from the 13th century it has undergone many renovations into the late Baroque style. It became not only the religious centre but also a characteristic feature of the town. Its sanctification suggests that it was built at the time of the colonization of the region. In the late 15th century the church was fortified by bastions and a separate tower. The major reconstruction occurred shortly after the middle of the 18th century, when the nave was significantly enhanced and prolonged, the existing tower was demolished and two towers at the front and aisles with the choir were built. After the great fire in 1841 a new roof was made, the towers were lifted and six damaged bells were replaced with new ones. In 1873, an adjustment to the frontage was created and remained the same until today. In 1999, the church received a new facade and was covered with a copper roof. The adoring statue of St. John Nepomuk is also remarkable. There is the Iron Cross from 1860 (renovated in 2008) outside the church.

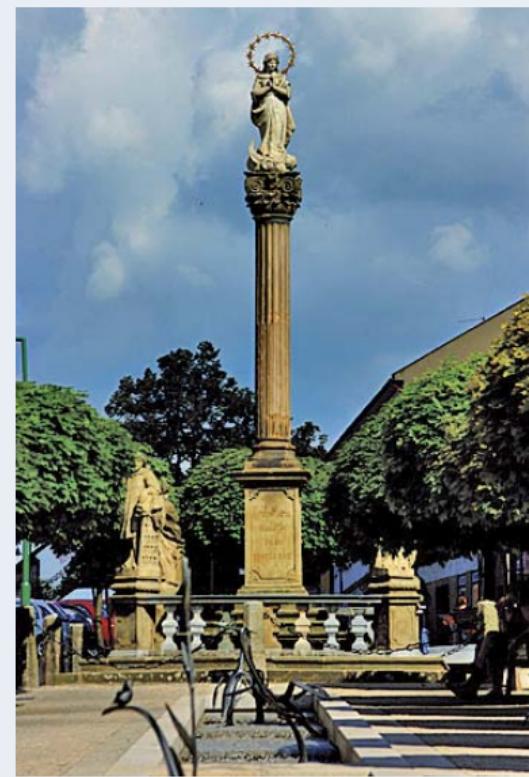




The nearby town museum of Bystřice n. P. is located in the former town hall. Until the late 15th century there used to be a parish courtyard with a rectory in this area near the church. In 1495 it was abolished and divided to enable the construction of houses. After the town fires, the town hall was modified several times.

Important rebuilding took place in the early 18th century. The year 1808 on the facade is the year when the town hall merged with another municipal building and started looking the way it does today. However, the fire of 1841 also affected the building. Since 1963 there was the local history museum. After several years of restorations, the museum was reopened in April 2008. There are a number of expositions, for example the Evolution of Settlements along the upper Svatka or Uranus in the Highlands. There are also historical and ethnographic collections, agriculture, arts and crafts, old school, mineralogy, the history of appeal, artistic cast iron from ironworks in Štěpánov or the area devoted to Gustav Pfleger Moravský and to the paintings by Alois Lukášek.

There are several listed buildings on the square: No. 1 (Museum), No. 52 (Baroque inn with a preserved year 1756), No. 62 and No. 64, as well as a fountain with statues of Saints Cyril and Methodius (1892), a column with a statue of the Virgin Mary, the four patrons of the city on a pedestal (St. John of Nepomuk, Lawrence, Sebastian and Florian, 1727) and a sandstone cross with Pieta (1881).



A striking building is the late Gothic cemetery church of the Holy Trinity (1614-1615), which originally belonged to non-Catholics. After the defeat at Bílá Hora (White Mountain) the Lutheran church was changed to Catholic. There is a very interesting tomb inside with illegible Latin text and an unused tomb of the Mitrovský family from 1735.



The baroque chapel of St. Anne near the current Penny Market was built in 1749 by a Bystrice citizen Josef Peksa. It was abolished during the time of Joseph's reforms in 1788, but in 1804 it was reinstated and newly sanctified. In Bratrská (Fraternal) Street there used to be a prayer room of Czech Brethren from the 1540s.

The new yard is an interesting economic building which was originally established in the early 17th century. Two centuries later it received its present form, which is now a derelict classicist mansion with columns and ground-floor wings. There used to be a manor house with a distillery and later also a breeding station. In the coming years a Centre of Green Knowledge is going to be built there.



The rectory used to stand on the site of the current museum in the Square, near the church of St. Lawrence. After 1495 it was built on the current site, but it also burnt out in 1666. The rectory was built mainly in Baroque style in 1735.



The stone bridge over the river Bystrice is probably one of the last remains of the original settlement Bystrice from the 13th century and across it probably led the oldest path to the Zubštejn castle. The axes of the vaults are not perpendicular to the axis of the path.

An interesting example of modern architecture is the building of Česká Spořitelna, a functionalist building from 1932 with sculptures on the front. The building of today's college and secondary school, a project by the architect Beneš, a pupil of the famous architect Le Corbusier, was at the time of its creation (completed 1961) among the most modern in Europe.



The Statue of T. G. Masaryk in front of the primary school of TGM Vincent Makovský was created in 1938 and it is said to be the best ever statue of Masaryk. It has been removed from the stand three times for political reasons (in 1940, 1961 and 1984), but it was returned back every time! The statue was lent to the exhibition „Where is my home?“ in Prague in the spring of 1990.

In addition to these monuments there is also a former mansion in Dománek. It was built in 1686 in Renaissance style, but was later changed to a block of flats. You will find more monuments near Bystřice. These are especially the ruins Zubštejn, Aueršperk and Kozlov (Hradis-ka); numerous chapels particularly the chapel of St. Anne's in Pivonice and above all the church of St. Michael in Vítovice and a tower in Karasín. Just a short walk away is the fabulous Pernštejn Castle, which is part of the town's name. Another rarity of this region is the Wild West town Šiklův mlýn near Zvole. More information about these is provided in other promotional material such as leaflets „Zubří Country by Bike or on Foot,“ „Trips by Car, Bicycle or on Foot,“ „Seven Wonders of the Bystřice Region“ and „Zubštejn ..“



The Liberation Memorial, the work of Miloš Axman with verses by Fr. Halas, was unveiled in 1960.

Sport activities

Where can you play sports or relax?



Bystřice n. P. offers truly great sports options. First of all, a multipurpose sports hall with a hall with a 47 x 24,7 m Taraflex artificial turf , which can be divided into three separate parts, and also one of the best climbing walls in the country. It is also possible to use the swimming pool with a rich program of rehabilitation and the gym in the basement, then there is also the option to play squash, bowling, billiards or table football and there is a well-equipped bar.



Near the lobby you will find an outdoor swimming pool with three heated pools. There are two beach volleyball courts and a playground. Sporthotel then offers accommodation mainly in connection with the use of the sports facilities, but also for individual travellers and corporate events. More on www.arealsportu.cz.

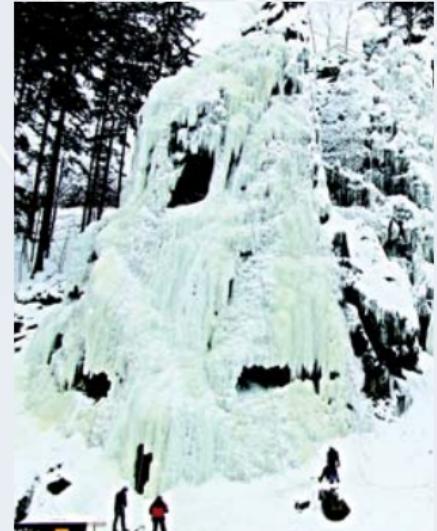




A new feature is the Tomáš Dvořák athletic stadium with tartan oval, an area for jumping and a football and handball pitch. There are three football pitches in the town, two with grass surface and one with artificial grass in the local area Domanín. There are also a volleyball ground, a tennis centre with four clay courts, an indoor tennis hall and several smaller school gyms. Near the sports hall there is the Akcentrum Bystřice n. P. (rope centre) The rope park was opened on 16th October 2006 under the name Siesta Park. At the beginning of 2013 the rope park was transferred to a new owner, who renamed the area AKCENTRUM due to the expansion of services in the sports centre. More on www.akcentrum.cz



Winter sports enthusiasts will appreciate the Karasín winter ski resort with a slope with artificial snow (www.karasin.cz). Cross-country skiing tracks around Bystřice n. P. are maintained by a snowmobile and they lead from the town to the area of Borovinka in Domanín and on to the well-maintained tracks in Novoměstsko. A natural ice wall in the village of Vír is also popular in the winter.



A cycle path will take you out of the city to Domanín pond and there are newly constructed cycle paths around Bystřice. If you like roller skating, there is a new track near the football pitch. There are a number of attractive landmarks very near the town. They can be visited by car as well as by bike or on foot. You will find more information in leaflets "By Bike or on Foot through Zubří region „Trips by Car, Bicycle or on Foot," „Seven Wonders of the Bystřice region „ or in the map of the micro region Bystřicko.

Social events

Events in Bystřice



The town Bystřice n. P. organizes a variety of cultural events, which take place mainly in the community centre (www.kdbystricenp.cz) and in the attic of the municipal museum (www.muzeumbystricko.cz). There is also a modern city library (www.knihovna.bystricenp.cz), a newly built amphitheatre at the bottom of Masaryk Square and the Youth Centre (www.ddmbystrice.webnode.cz) in Bystřice.



The previously mentioned museum is also worth a visit. There is an exhibition on the history of the town and its surroundings in the former Old Town Hall. In the same building there is also the Tourist Information Centre of Bystřice (www.info.bystricenp.cz). It provides a wide range of services including the sale of stamps, postcards, maps and souvenirs, it offers promotional leaflets and you can also use its Internet cafe. You can also visit a small museum of small motorcycles with a wide range of both Czech and foreign motorcycle makes (www.malirstvi.jihlavsko.com). It is just a few steps away from the town museum.

The Foundry Symposium at Masaryk Square is becoming a new tradition. You will see things such as casting sculptures, blacksmith craft demonstrations and enamelling and you will be able to try some of them right on the spot. The competition in manual dexterity "Bystrický kutil" (The Handyman from Bystrice) is organized annually to promote interest in the craft.



As the spring sunshine is ideal for trips in the countryside, there are a lot of organized trips, bike tours and walks all across the micro region Bystricko; for example "Vír Trips of František Šťastný", "Hiking (Unity Eagle)" or the "Memorial of Zdeněk Vavříček". And we mustn't forget the local burning of witches with a prize for the best witch or wizard mask. The atmosphere is very friendly there and the night finishes with fireworks. May is also the opening month of the summer tourist competition "With Vodomil Zubří countries" which lasts until the end of October and takes tourists to the most beautiful and interesting places in the region. Furthermore, we mustn't forget to invite you to

farmers' markets which start in the spring and end in the autumn.

There are several events happening in May. There is the traditional nationwide festival of children's choirs called "You sing, I sing, We sing" in the community centre, then the Academy of the Youth Centre, celebration of Mother's Day and the aforementioned hikes and bike tours. A traditional festival called Majáles did not take place for several years, but the tradition was renewed in 2011 and one of the weekends in May always becomes a royal weekend. It is full of practical jokes, fun and competitions and the patrons of the events are the local secondary schools.





June in Bystřice n. P. is linked with the name of the internationally acclaimed music festival Concentus Moraviae. We organize performances in St. Lawrence Church at Masaryk Square and there are other performances in the community centre or newly in the museum as well. The beginning of the month is also marked by the celebration of Children's Day, in which the entire town and its surrounding areas as well as local sports and organizations are involved. The town also regularly participates in the nationwide event Car Free Day, which includes a rich program for children and adults on Masaryk Square.

The summer holiday season begins in June and is associated with a summer cultural festival Bystřice Summer, which includes musical and theatre performances of various genres. It is held from mid-June and continues until the end of August. Everyone will find their favourite genre here - rock, pop, folk, jazz, blues, theatre, etc. The big beat festival Pelíšek Fest is very popular.



At the beginning of July, the summer cinema at the football stadium starts showing films. Then there is a fun fair of Cyril and Method in Vítová and the Festival of historical fencing, music and dance, held at the castle ruin Zubštejn near Pivonice. The square in Bystřice comes alive in August when there is the fun fair of St. Lawrence and then the Foundry Symposium mentioned above. Also don't miss the chance to look at the wonderful vintage cars at Memorial race František Prosecký sen. Sports enthusiasts can visit the holiday tournament in street ball, football, floor ball, beach volleyball, tennis or shooting, which is organized by the sports centre.



There is a lot to do in the autumn as well. You will still have time to take part in "Vodomil's hikes around the Beauties of Bystřicko" or in other organized walks; or to visit a traditional exhibition of small animals organized by the agricultural college. In October there is Bystřice Feast: there are various stalls in the square, the traditional Maypole is raised and you can watch skilful fencers, a carnival, majorettes and see the traditional verdict on the ram.



The end of the year is mainly about Christmas celebrations. There is a Christmas Fair which is linked to a cultural program of Christmas Carols in Masaryk Square and the Town Museum. There is also Christmas academy of schools in the community centre, Christmas concerts of the music school, shows in the church and community centre and sports tournaments in the sports hall.

The last and first event of the year is a New Year's Eve celebration in the square with large fireworks and a New Year's speech given by the representative of Bystřice.



Something from history

A Brief History of Bystřice nad Pernštejnem

Dobrý den z Bystřice n. Pernštejnem.

J. J. Šimek



NÁKRES Vojtěcha Štěpánka v BYSTRICI. ZAMĚŘENÉ CHRAŘENO.

The town Bystřice nad Pernštejnem is located about 50 km from Brno. It is part of the district Žďár nad Sázavou and belongs to the Highlands (Vysočina) Region. It is the centre of the micro region Bystřicko. The town has ca. 8,500 inhabitants and its size is 5,308 hectares. The Lords of Medlov established their administrative centre at the "clear water" (bystrá voda) and called it Bystřice as early as the 13th century, during the colonization of the south-eastern part of the Highlands. According to a document from 1238, which was preserved as a copy from the late 13th century, in Bystřice there was a church belonging to the monastery in Doubravník. By 1348, the small town had become Bystřice. At that time it also became the property of the Moravian Margraves, and therefore its seal was dominated by the Margravial Moravian eagle. In the first half of the 15th century the hereditary estate of Bystřice became the property of the Pernštejn family, which granted them new privileges and enabled an extraordinary development.





The first mention of Bystřice Town hall is from 1493 and of the town hospital from 1465. The settlement was officially declared a town through the intercession of Vratislav Pernštejn on 11th April 1580. Since that time Bystřice has had half a bison head and half a black eagle with spread wings in a gold field as its emblem.

Bystřice became an important producer of cloth, but the city was damaged by a number of major fires, the largest ones in 1585, 1666 and finally in 1841, when 116 houses with outbuildings, two manor houses, the church, the town hall, the brewery and 62 full barns burned down.

From the mid-19th century Bystřice has been a town with a rich cultural and social life. Bystřice used to be described as „closer to Pernštýn Castle“, the official name from 1881 was “Bystřice nad Pernštýnem”, and since 1925 it has been finally called “Bystřice nad Pernštejnem.” The development of Bystřice is mainly associated with the introduction of the railway in June 1905 and with the expansion of the mining industry in the area since the end of the 1950s.

In the years 1949 - 1960 Bystřice was a district town, within whose scope fell 93 municipalities. This was also a time of building development: two housing estates, a health centre, new schools, offices and shops were established.

Nowadays, Bystřice nad Pernštejnem is a modern town with an extensive network of stores, restaurants, hotels, services and schools. Its sports facilities are better than those in a lot of larger towns. And because of its interesting sights as well as beautiful countryside, Bystřice is an attractive destination for holidays, recreation or tours.

Bystřice n. Pernštýnem

Náměstí



Our famous people

People who influenced history

Several interesting and important people who have influenced our cultural and social life were born in Bystřice. Let us mention at least some of them.

Izaiáš Cibulka (about 1533 – 1582) was one of the main translators of the Kralice Bible, an expert on Hebrew and the pupil of Blahoslav. The printing works from Ivančice were moved to Kralice in 1578 and that was when he became one of the leading figures. Three issues of the Kralice Bible were printed under his supervision between 1571 and 1578.

Jan Kapita (around 1548-1589) was another of the translators of the Kralice Bible and also the publisher of Postila (1586).

P. Mgr. Tomáš Bernard Ignác Jelínek (1640 – 1687), Master of Arts and Bachelor of Theology at the University of Prague, during his life a highly-valued author of a collection of sermons and Latin verses and epigrams, and a patriot.

Antonín Boček (1802 – 1847) the first Moravian provincial archivist and historian best known for the release of the “*Codex diplomaticus et epistolaris Moraviae*”, which gathered and published hundreds of documents relating to the history of Moravia.



Karel Šmídek (1818 - 1878), a priest, a philosopher and an educator. By publishing the article „Literary Tourism in Moravia in recent times“ (CMM 1870) he became the founder of literary history in Moravia. Among his other works are „The Journey from 1843,“ „Science, Nationality and the Church“ (1847) and „On the Slovak literary split „ (1860).

Karel Šmídek (1834 - 1921), a significant cultural figure, who strongly influenced his listeners by his extensive knowledge of history and pedagogy. His work served as textbooks for Czech teacher training institutes in Moravia. Especially significant is his book „The Pedagogical Importance of Grandma by B. Němcová.“



František Veselý MD. (1862-1923) was a patriotic physician, the founder of modern hydrotherapy, a patron of the arts, a brilliant orator and journalist and the author of plans on making the gorge and caves in Sloup accessible. The spa in Luhačovice became famous thanks to him but he was fired from there by his ungrateful superiors! He financed the Prague premiere of Janacek's *Jenufa* but did not receive an invitation to it!

Eduard Schwarzer, MSc (1872 - 1932), an expert on hydraulic engineering, the author of the project of the transfer of the Vltava river at Maniny and the designer of the railway station in Prague. He helped to establish the Prague ZOO and was a long-time chairman of the Club for Old Prague. He is also the author of several projects for his hometown.



Václav Jicha (1874 - 1950) was born in a family of a teacher from Bystřice and became an insurmountable watercolour painter. He became the founding member of SVUM in Hodonín and a student of Janáček, a friend of Kosmák, and a colleague of Březina. His 80 watercolours were exhibited in Prague (1910) and later in Scotland, Germany, France, Yugoslavia and Poland.

Otto Eisler (1893 - 1968) was a prominent architect of the Brno interwar avant-garde. The Eisler Brothers Company designed key buildings for the architecture of Brno at the time, such as the construction of the palace Moravia, the Avion Hotel and Villa Tugendhat. He was the first designer of the Brno Zoo.



Josef Eduard Vašica (1909 - 1975), a composer and educator, the author of dance songs, operettas and educational work.

In neighbouring Karasín (now part Bystřice n. P.) was born the founder of our social novel Gustav Pfleger Moravský (1833-1875). The novel "From a Small World" is the first Czech social prose, it depicts the first workers' revolt of 1844. Critics deemed it to be his best work and the novel does well even when compared to the contemporary novels from all over the world. Antonín Dvořák wrote the music for Pfleger's 18 poems in 1865. Josef Václav Myslbek made a bust of him in 1883 (it was bought by the society Věnava later and you can find it in the museum in Bystřice). His work was also highly valued by Jan Neruda, who was his schoolmate.



Here are a few more influential people who worked in Bystřice.



Academic painter Alois Lukášek (1911 - 1984), a well-known painter of the landscape in Bystřicko, he was also a teacher in our town. You can find a lot of his works in Bystřice today.

Bohuš Schwarzer (1921 - 2004) is the author of several remarkable chapters about the city's past. He published in the town's newspapers, but also in the Journal of Moravian Homeland. He created crossword puzzles and riddles for the magazine "Hádanka". He wrote two dozen well-researched historical manuscripts on the past of Bystřice.



Josef Kšíca (1926 - 2001), a valuable teacher, a talented choirmaster Bystřice, a sensitive musician and composer. In Bystřice Withers founded a children's choir "Kohoutek", a mixed grammar-school choir and a choir called "Highlands". He wrote beautiful music for the poems by Mil. Buřeš, Fr. Halas, Old. Mikulášek as well as for his own. His songs from Pivonice and Hlučínsko were published in the „Guide Through A Collection of songs.“ and his „Folk Songs from Kravaře“ (1998) were published separately.

Miloslav Ištvan (1928 - 1990), a composer and educator, grew up in Bystřice. He was an associate professor at JAMU (Janáček Academy of Musical Arts) and the author of "Winter Illuminates", "Czechoslovak Shine", "Vocal Symphonies", "Tributes to J.S.Bach", "Smuténky" and a jingle for the 400th anniversary promotion of Bystřice a town.



A famous family of painters – **Rossi** – are currently working in Bystřice: the married couple **Karel** (1955) and **Božena** (1957), Karel’s brother **Tomáš** (1955) and almost all their offspring.



A remarkable painter **Milada Čermáková** (1922) was born in the local area Domanínek. She painted landscapes and austere characters and won a silver medal for her proposals of the Olympic medal (1968).

In addition, these people have also worked in Bystřice: the inventor **Vavřín Krčil** (1895 - 1968); the resistance fighter **Vincent Koutník** (1911 - 2007), an honorary citizen of Bystřice, and the winner of the Czechoslovak War Cross from 1939 and the Medal for Heroism; a museum curator and grammar school teacher **Jaromír Procházka** (1926 - 2010), the author of local history and pedagogical writings; an educator and historian **Jaroslav Teplý**, PhD. (1927); the painter **Jan Kletečka** (1925) and **Eduard Valdhans** (1928). The painter **Anna Poustová** (1940), the musician and composer **Josef Kšica jr.** (1952), the priest and writer **Milan Badal** (1956), the art theorist **Radek Horáček** (1959), the painter **Vladimír Havlík** (1959), the painter **Jiří Štourač** (1960), the composer **Radim Linhart** (1963) and many others studied here.



Milada Čermáková



Vincenc Koutník



Eduard Valdhans



Jan Kletečka



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