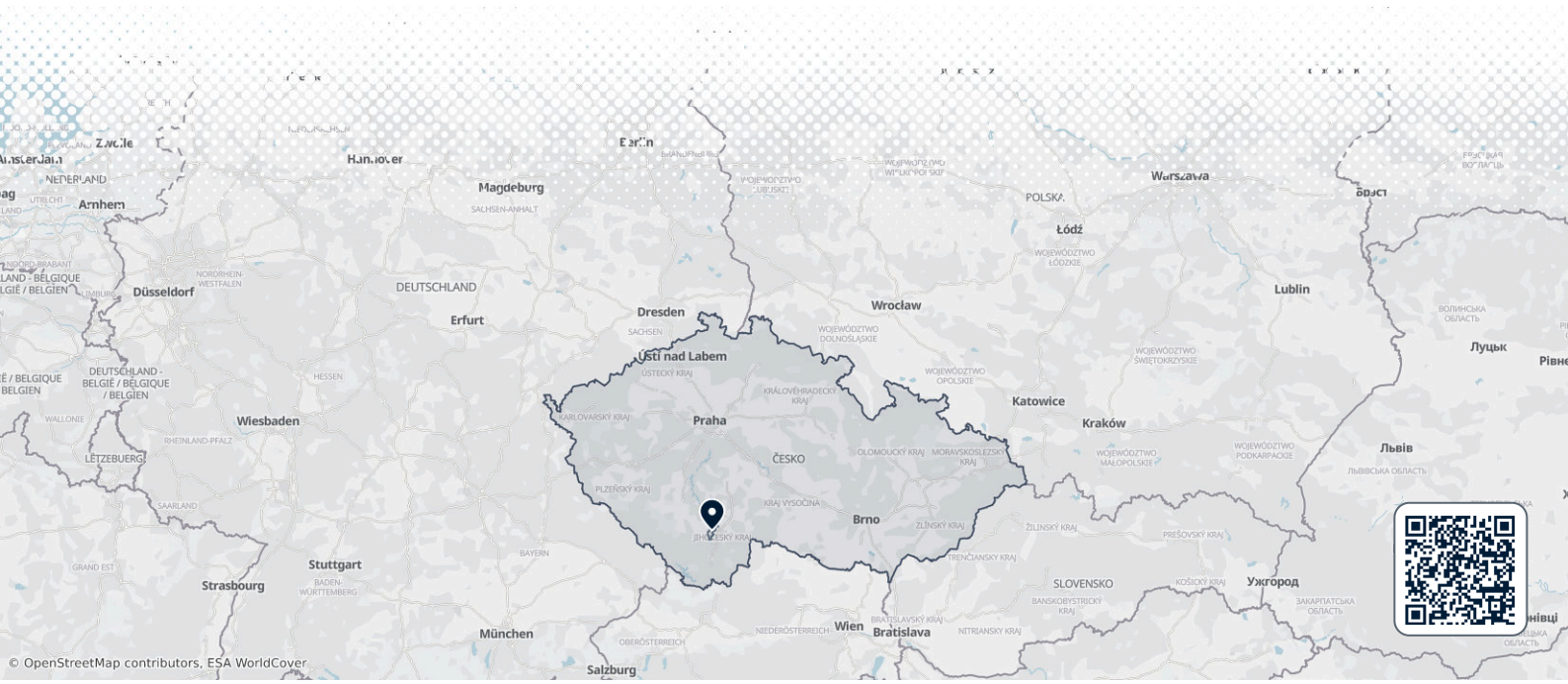


# Hluboká nad Vltavou

České Budějovice · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



## Overview

Hluboká nad Vltavou is a small town on the Vltava River in South Bohemia. It is best known for its white castle, which the Schwarzenberg family rebuilt in the style of Windsor Castle. The castle sits on a hill above the town and is one of the most visited castles in the Czech Republic.

The town is only about 10 km north of České Budějovice, so many people come for a day. Staying a night or two lets you add the zoo, the hunting lodge museum, walks around the fishponds and a bike ride along the river. The trip suits families, castle lovers and anyone who wants a quiet base in the South Bohemian countryside.

## When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time to visit. Summer days are warm but rarely very hot, and the ponds and parks are at their best. Winters are cold and frosty, with occasional snow, and some castle tours run only in the main season.

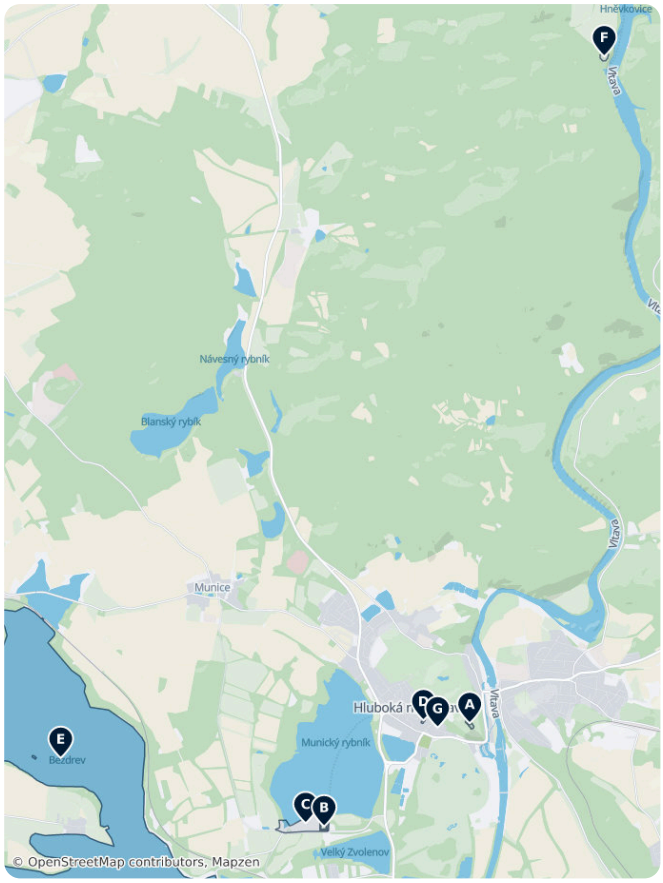
The main annual event is **Hluboká Music Summer** (Hudební léto Hluboká), a long-running series of concerts held from summer into early autumn. Many concerts take place in the castle's former riding hall and other historic rooms.

| MONTH | CONDITIONS | DAY °C avg / max | NIGHT °C avg / min | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 2° / 9°<br>Feels like -4° | -5° / -14° | Dry air |
| February | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 4° / 12°<br>Feels like -1° | -4° / -13° | Dry air |
| March | Fair<br>Fair for cycling | 9° / 17°<br>Feels like 4° | -1° / -7° | Dry air |
| April | Good<br>Good for cycling | 14° / 22°<br>Feels like 11° | 3° / -3° | Dry air |
| May | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 19° / 26° | 8° / 3° | 14 rainy days · Dry air |
| June | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 23° / 30° | 12° / 7° | 15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds |
| July | Good<br>Good for sightseeing | 25° / 32° | 14° / 9° | 16 rainy days |
| August | Great<br>Great for sightseeing | 25° / 33° | 14° / 9° | 13 rainy days · Calm winds |
| September | Great<br>Great for sightseeing | 20° / 28° | 9° / 4° | Dry air |
| October | Great<br>Great for cycling | 15° / 22°<br>Feels like 12° | 5° / -2° | Dry air |
| November | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 8° / 16°<br>Feels like 4° | 1° / -5° | Dry air |
| December | Poor<br>Poor for sightseeing | 3° / 9°<br>Feels like -2° | -3° / -11° | Dry air |

Best months: August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

## Top sights




**A** Hluboká Castle is the reason most people come. The romantic Neo-Gothic building has richly furnished rooms, a large English-style park and views over the Vltava valley. Guided tours cover different parts of the interior, so check which tour you want before you go.

Next to the castle, the former riding hall houses the **Aleš South Bohemian Gallery**. It hosts changing exhibitions, mostly of modern and contemporary art.

**B** Ohrada Hunting Lodge is a Baroque hunting lodge on the shore of a fishpond, about 2 km south of the town. Today it is a museum of forestry, hunting and fishing, run by the National Museum of Agriculture.

**C** Zoo Ohrada is right next to the lodge. It focuses on animals from Europe and the Czech Republic and is a good stop with children.

**D** Church of St John of Nepomuk is the town's Neo-Gothic parish church. Its tall tower is visible from much of the town.

**E** Bezdrev is one of the largest fishponds in the country. In summer it is popular for swimming, sailing and windsurfing.

**F** Karlův Hrádek is a small castle ruin in the forest above the Vltava, north of the town. It makes a pleasant goal for a walk or bike ride.

**G** Knížecí dvůr Gallery is a small gallery of contemporary art and graphic design near the castle.

**Hluboká nad Vltavou – Plan Your Trip**
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
**3M+ downloads** · **4.6 stars** · **15 years of trip planning**
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

## What to experience

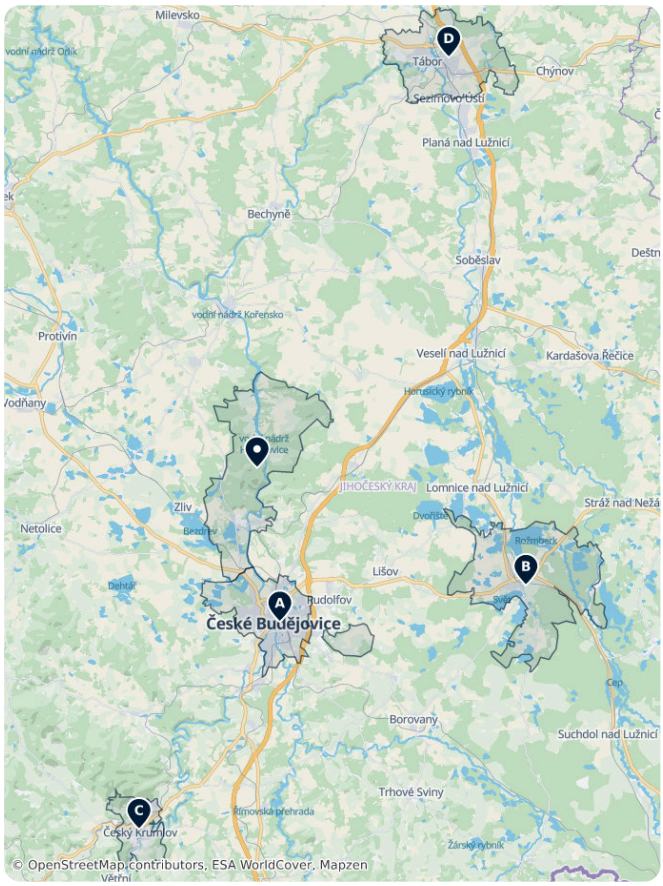
Some of the best moments here are outdoors and depend on the season.

- **Take a boat along the Vltava**: In summer, boats run between České Budějovice and Hluboká. It is a slow, relaxing way to arrive.
- **Cycle the river path**: Ride the flat path along the Vltava from České Budějovice, or continue north through the forest to Karlův Hrádek.
- **Attend a Music Summer concert**: Evening concerts in the castle's historic spaces are a good way to see them in a different light.
- **Watch a pond harvest**: In autumn, local fishponds are drained and the fish are caught by hand with large nets. It is a South Bohemian tradition, often with food stalls. Check local dates.
- **Swim in a fishpond**: On warm summer days, locals swim and sail at Bezdrev.

## Day trips

Hluboká is a good base for exploring South Bohemia. These trips are listed from closest to farthest.

- Ⓐ České Budějovice — about 15 minutes by bus, train or car. The regional capital has one of the largest market squares in Central Europe and the Budweiser Budvar brewery.
- **Holašovice** — about 30 minutes by car. This small village is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its rural Baroque farmhouses around a village green.
- Ⓑ Třeboň — about 35 minutes by car. A quiet spa town surrounded by large fishponds, with a Renaissance chateau and an easy cycling network.
- Ⓒ Český Krumlov — about 40 minutes by car, or about 1 hour 15 minutes by train with a change in České Budějovice. The UNESCO-listed old town and large castle sit in a tight bend of the Vltava.
- Ⓓ Tábor — about 50 minutes by car. The historic Hussite town has a hilltop old town with underground passages.




## Where to explore

Hluboká lies in the České Budějovice district of the South Bohemian Region region. The regional capital České Budějovice is the closest city and the main transport hub.

Farther south, near the Austrian border, Nové Hrady is a small town with a castle and quiet countryside. For more of South Bohemia, Český Krumlov and Třeboň are both within an hour's drive.

## Getting there

- **By air**: The closest large international airport is Prague Václav Havel Airport, about 150 km away. From there, take a bus or train to České Budějovice, which takes about 2.5 hours, then continue to Hluboká. Linz Airport in Austria is about 1.5 hours away by car.
- **By train**: Two small stations serve the town, with regional trains from České Budějovice. From Prague, change trains in České Budějovice. Czech Railways
- **By bus**: Frequent regional buses run from České Budějovice. The stop Hluboká nad Vltavou, pod kostelem is about 800 m from the castle. Some direct buses also run from Prague.
- **By boat or bike**: In summer, boats sail on the Vltava between České Budějovice and Hluboká. A popular cycle path follows the river on the same route.

## Getting around

- **On foot**: The town centre is small and easy to walk. The castle is on a hill, so expect a short uphill walk from the square. Ohrada and the zoo are about 2 km south of the centre.
- **Public transport**: Regional buses connect the town centre, Ohrada and České Budějovice. You can usually buy a ticket from the driver. Use the national journey planner to check times. IDOS journey planner
- **Cycling**: The area is flat along the river and has good, signposted cycle routes. Bikes can be rented in the town and in České Budějovice.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are available but not common; book ahead by phone, especially in the evening.

### Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

**High**

The compact centre is easy to walk, with a short uphill climb to the castle; Ohrada and the zoo are about 2 km away.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

**High**

Flat, signposted cycle paths follow the Vltava to České Budějovice and lead through forests and around fishponds.

## Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** You do not need a car for the town itself. A car is useful if you want to visit several South Bohemian towns and villages in a short time.
- **Parking**: Paid car parks are located below the castle and in the town centre. The castle itself is reached on foot.
- **Restrictions**: The castle grounds and park are closed to cars.

# Food & drink

South Bohemia is fish country. Carp and other freshwater fish from the local ponds appear on many menus, especially in autumn and at Christmas. Try fried carp or fish soup, and pair it with beer from the famous breweries in nearby České Budějovice.

Most restaurants and cafés are on the streets below the castle and around the main square. Places near the castle are busier and slightly more expensive in the main season. Tipping follows the Czech custom of rounding up or leaving about 10% for good service.

## What to eat & drink

### LUNCH

**Fruit Dumplings · Ovocné knedlíky**
Sweet dumplings filled with seasonal fruit (like plums or apricots), topped with cottage cheese and sugar.

### DINNER

**Svíčková · Svíčková na smetaně**
Marinated beef sirloin in a creamy vegetable sauce, served with bread dumplings and cranberries.

**Goulash · Guláš**
A hearty stew, typically made with beef, onions, and paprika, often served with bread dumplings or potatoes.

**Roast Pork with Dumplings and Cabbage · Vepřo knedlo zelo**
A traditional Czech dish of roast pork, bread dumplings, and sauerkraut or stewed cabbage.

### SNACKS & STREET FOOD

**Fried Cheese · Smažený sýr**
A thick slice of cheese, breaded and deep-fried, usually served with fries and tartar sauce.

**Potato Pancakes · Bramboráky**
Crispy pancakes made from grated potatoes, flour, and spices, often served as a side dish or a snack.

**Chlebíčky**
Open-faced sandwiches on slices of white bread, elaborately decorated with various toppings.

**Fried Cauliflower · Smažený květák**
Breaded and deep-fried cauliflower florets, similar to fried cheese but made with cauliflower.

### SWEETS & DESSERTS

**Trdelník**
A sweet pastry made from rolled dough, wrapped around a stick, grilled, and topped with sugar and walnut mixture.

DRINKS

Pilsner Urquell · Plzeňský Prazdroj
The world's first pale lager, originating from the city of Pilsen, known for its crisp, refreshing taste.

Becherovka
A traditional Czech herbal liqueur with a distinctive bitter-sweet taste, often enjoyed as a digestif.

Kofola
A popular Czech herbal cola-like soft drink, often described as having a unique, slightly medicinal flavor.

**Hluboká nad Vltavou – Plan Your Trip**
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
**3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning**
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

## Safety & health

Hluboká is a very safe, quiet town. Crime against tourists is rare. In the busy summer season, keep an eye on your belongings in crowds near the castle.

Tap water is safe to drink. **Ticks** are common in the forests and meadows of South Bohemia. Use repellent and check your skin after walks. Consider vaccination against tick-borne encephalitis if you plan a lot of hiking.

## History

A Gothic royal castle stood on the hill above the Vltava by the 13th century. In 1290 the powerful noble *Záviš of Falkenštejn* was executed in front of the castle on the orders of King *Wenceslas II*. A small memorial below the castle marks the event.

In 1661 the castle passed to the Schwarzenberg family. They built the Baroque hunting lodge Ohrada Hunting Lodge between 1708 and 1713. In the mid-19th century, Prince *Johann Adolf II* and his wife *Eleonore* rebuilt Hluboká Castle in the romantic Neo-Gothic style, inspired by Windsor Castle. The work was completed in 1871. At the same time the town was reshaped, and Church of St John of Nepomuk was built between 1844 and 1847.

The family lived at the castle until 1939. The Nazis seized it in 1940, and after the war the Czechoslovak state took over the Schwarzenberg property in 1947. Since 1956 the riding hall has housed the South Bohemian gallery.

# Country facts

Quick practical facts for the Czech Republic at a glance:

**CURRENCY**

## CZK Kč

**EMERGENCY**

## 112

**ELECTRICITY**



Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

**LANGUAGES**

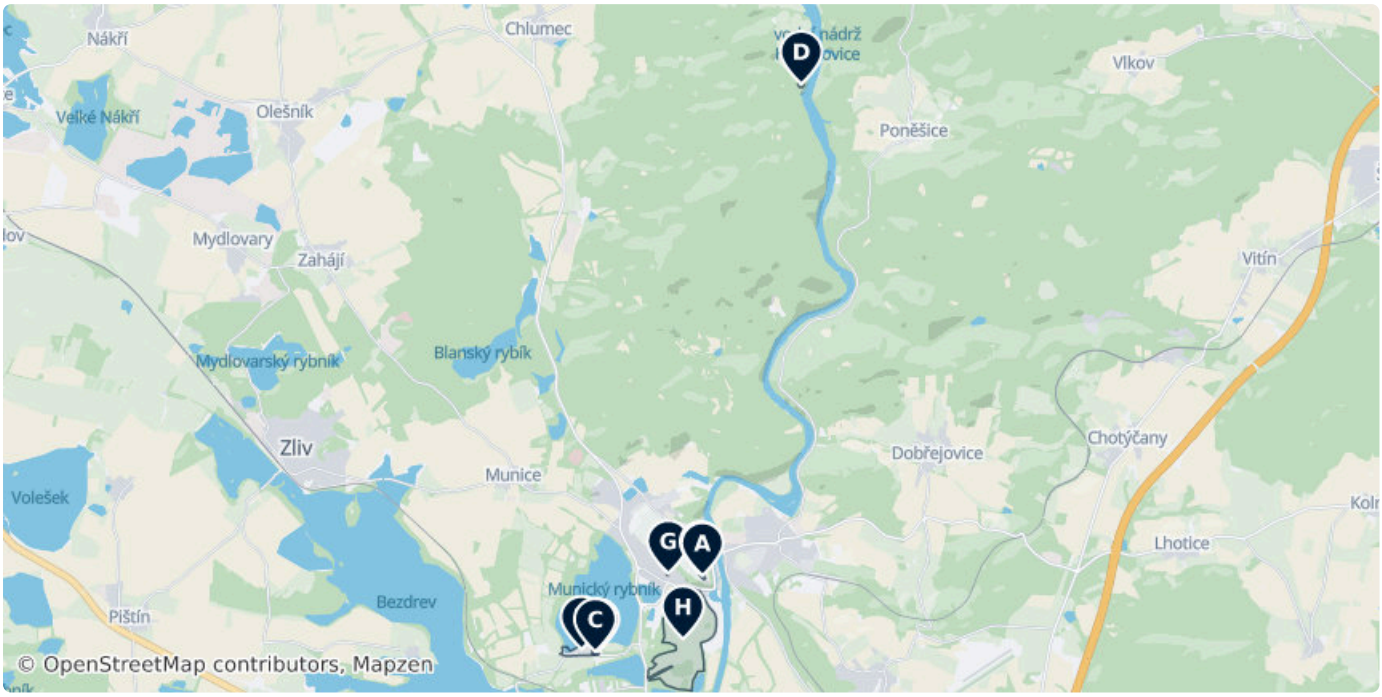
Czech

**TAP WATER**

## Safe to drink

# Hluboká nad Vltavou Essentials

Hluboká nad Vltavou is centered around its 13th-century château, which was rebuilt in the 19th century into a Romantic neo-Gothic residence inspired by England's Windsor Castle. The area features the Baroque Ohrada hunting lodge, home to one of the oldest zoos in the country and the National Museum of Agriculture. Visitors can explore the 14th-century ruins of Karlův Hrádek, the neo-Gothic Church of St. John of Nepomuk, and panoramic views of the South Bohemian landscape from the castle's main tower.






## A Hluboká Castle

Hluboká Castle is a historic château situated in Hluboká nad Vltavou. It is considered one of the most beautiful castles in the Czech...

Bezručova 142, 373 41 Hluboká nad Vltavou, Czech Republic (49.05091, 14.44181)

+420 387 843 911



## B Zoo Hluboká nad Vltavou

This zoo is small by area but features many different animals including kangaroos, bears and a tiger.

Ohrada 373 41 Budweis (49.04192, 14.41931)

Mo–Su 08:30–19:00

zoo-ohrada.cz



## C Ohrada Hunting Castle

Baroque hunting lodge built for the Schwarzenberg family between 1708 and 1713. It houses exhibitions dedicated to forestry, fishing, and hunting.

17 Ohrada, 37341, Czech Republic (49.04163, 14.42184)

nzm.cz/ohrada/, +420607020010



## D Karlův Hrádek

Ruins of a 14th-century hunting castle founded by Emperor Charles IV. It is located on a rocky promontory overlooking the Vltava River.

37343, Czech Republic (49.11086, 14.46025)

karluvhradek.cz



## E Zemědělské muzeum

Branch of the National Museum of Agriculture situated in the Ohrada lodge. Exhibits focus on the historical development of forestry, hunting, and South Bohemian pond management.

Ohrada 17 373 41 Budweis (49.04163, 14.42237)

## F výhled z věže

Panoramic viewpoint from the 52-meter-high main tower of Hluboká Castle, providing sights of the landscaped gardens, the Vltava valley, and the surrounding countryside.

(49.05106, 14.44155)

## G Saint John Nepomuk Church

Neo-Gothic parish church built in the mid-19th century by architect Franz Beer. The structure features architectural details that mirror the design of the nearby castle.

81 Masarykova, Hluboká nad Vltavou 37341, Czech Republic (49.05117, 14.43547)

## H Golf Hluboká nad Vltavou

This beautiful golf course with spectacular views of the nearby chateau provides for a wonderful golfing experience.

37341, Czech Republic (49.04316, 14.43820)

golfhluboka.cz, +420 776 826 376

## DATA SOURCES

| | |
|---|---|
| Map data | © OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen |
| Data | © OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites |

## IMAGE CREDITS

- Hluboká Castle — "Wider detail of Hluboká Castle in Hluboká nad Vltavou, České Budějovice..." by Jiří Sedláček, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Zoo Hluboká nad Vltavou — "Zoo ohrada Hluboká nad Vltavou" by Lukáš Nevosád, CC-BY-SA
- Ohrada Hunting Castle — "Antler furniture detail at Hunting Lodge Ohrada near Hluboká nad Vltavou, Czech..." by cheva, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Karlův Hrádek — "Karlův hrádek zbytky zdí" by Jitka Erbenová (cheva), cc-by-sa-3.0
- Zemědělské muzeum — "Zemědělské muzeum" by Lukáš Nevosád, CC-BY-SA

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 13, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.