

Imperial fortresses

The imperial fortresses in Bohemia (CZ) are large, fortified towns, some of ideal design, built by the Habsburg emperors in the 17th and 18th centuries. Their purpose was the large-scale defence of the capital Prague, and they were placed at strategically important points in the country, e.g. passes over the border mountains or river mouths.

Their characteristic feature is the so-called bastionary fortification ring - brick walls and earthen ramparts designed to withstand artillery fire.



As partly ideal fortified towns with chessboard-like ground plans, they are among the pearls of military architecture. They still amaze us today with their well-thought-out dimensions and defence mechanisms, e.g. the arrangement, height and thickness of the walls, the complexity of the underground passages or water systems that can be levelled.

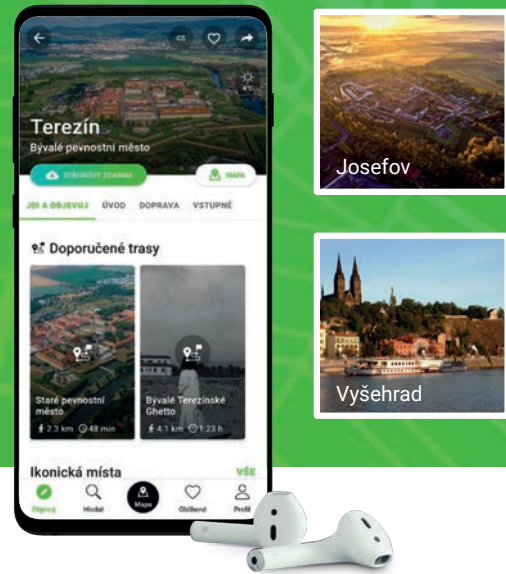
Today, these fortresses are not only unique architectural and technical monuments, they also tell many stories, closely linked to their builders, defenders, attackers or inhabitants.

Once defensive and mysterious, today they invite visitors to explore the fortifications, scurry through underground passages, stroll through streets and parks. Be seduced by the history, stories and nature of the imperial fortresses. Visit festivals, cultural and sporting events throughout the year and discover the forgotten beauty of the bastion fortresses in Bohemia.



Discover the Bohemian fortresses with an audio guide on your mobile phone

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EUROPEAN CULTURAL ROUTE
FORTIFIED MONUMENTS



Imperial Fortresses

Diamonds of Bohemia



Stations of the European Cultural Route of fortified monuments -FORTE CULTURA-

European Cultural Route Fortified Monuments



FORTE CULTURA® is the European cultural route of fortified monuments and represents the cultural heritage of fortifications in Europe. This includes fortresses, fortified towns, citadels, fortified castles and palaces, fortified sacred buildings, major fortification systems, defence lines as well as the bunker constructions of both World Wars and the Cold War.

Fortresses are built history. With extraordinary architecture, they protected people and goods from enemy attacks. Today, fortified monuments are full of life and, as modern cultural and tourist centres, offer attractive backdrops for rich experiences.

Travel with **FORTE CULTURA®** to fascinating fortresses all over Europe. Visit modern museums with interactive exhibitions and multimedia shows or experience history up close with living history offers and staged guided tours. Enjoy great concerts and music festivals, art installations and live performances, children's events or re-enactments.

FORTE CULTURA® takes you along the European cultural route of fortified monuments, whether it's a family outing, excursion, event trip or active tour.

Let yourself be inspired, e.g. with the countless events of our **EUROPEAN FORTRESS SUMMER**.

www.forte-cultura.eu



Fortress Vyšehrad, Prague



Vyšehrad Hill has been repeatedly fortified since the Middle Ages. The present-day citadel was built in the 17th/18th centuries. Once fortified to defend Prague to the south, today the fortress invites you to stroll through picturesque parks, with magnificent views of Prague and the Vltava River. Discover original sculptures of the Charles Bridge in the casemates or the museum in the Gothic Cellar.

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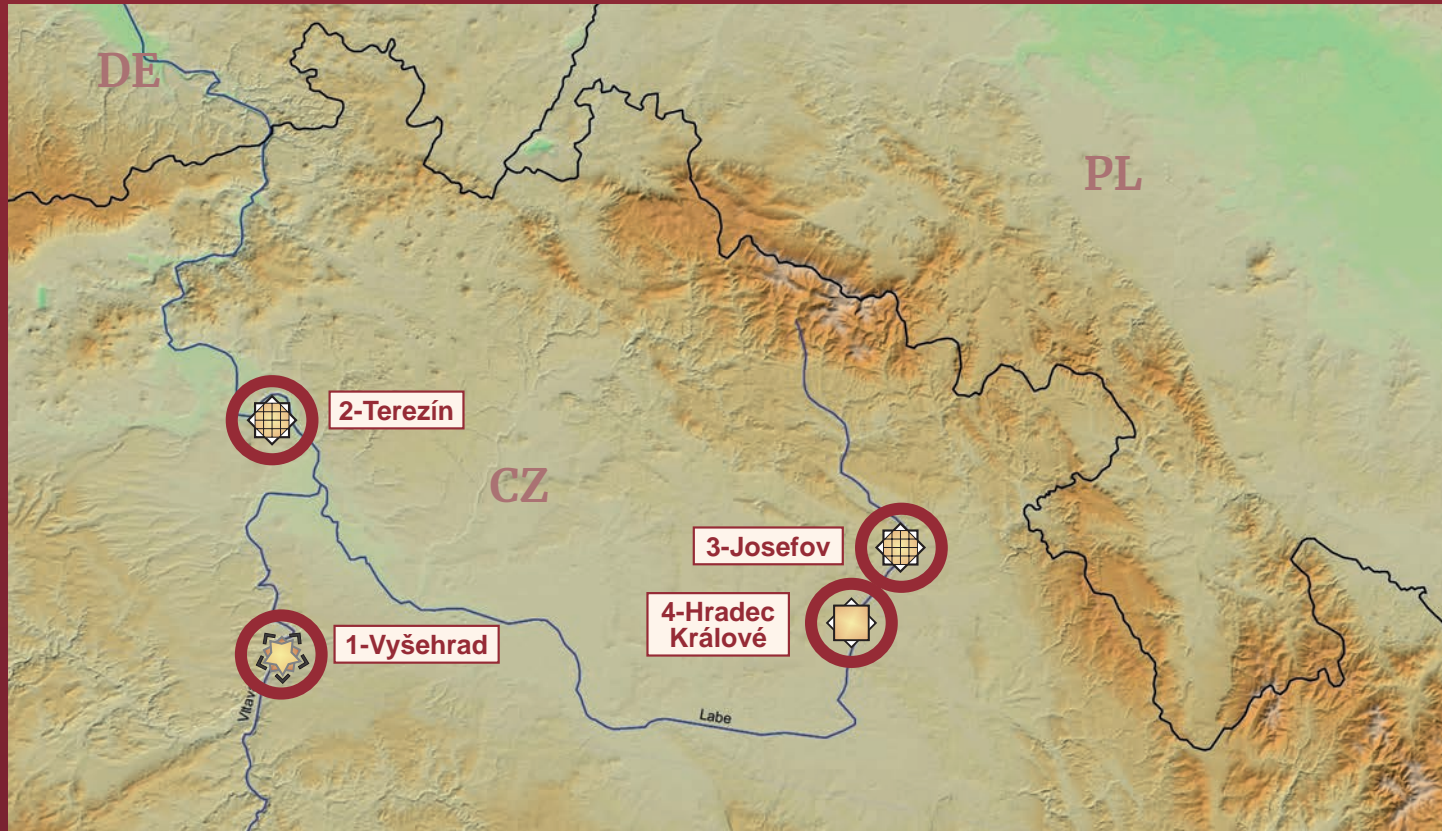
Fortress Terezín (Theresienstadt)



Terezín was built as an ideal fortress town in 1780-90 to protect Prague from Western attacks. It is the largest and best-preserved fortress in Bohemia and a masterpiece of Habsburg engineering that combined knowledge from all over Europe. Discover the geometry of the fortifications, the intact water system or kilometres of underground mine passages. Visit exciting exhibitions, enjoy nature, festivals and culture in Terezín.

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Fortress Josefov (Josefstadt)



At the same time as Theresienstadt, a bastion fortress was built near Jaroměř, unique in Bohemia, designed by the French general Querlonde. It protected the road to Prague from Glatz via Nachod. Today we can visit the labyrinth of underground passages and fascinating museum exhibitions or take a walk around the fortification.

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Fortress Hradec Králové (Königgrätz)



The town of Königgrätz was bastion fortified in 1766-90. It had the reputation of being the most beautiful water fortress in the country. Unfortunately, most of the fortress has been demolished since the end of the 19th century. In the new multimedia exhibition of the Museum of East Bohemia you can discover the history of the town, the fortress and the people who lived here.

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