

# Welcome to Hluboka Castle



**Hluboka Castle** is located in the territory of South Bohemia in the town of Hluboka nad Vltavou, situated about 9 km north of Ceske Budejovice (the metropolitan city of South Bohemia).

South Bohemia is characterized by its picturesque landscape with diverse nature, many lakes (artificial water reservoirs intended for fish breeding) and a number of cultural and historical monuments, some of which were owned by the princely **Schwarzenberg family**, which was connected with this region for many centuries. The Schwarzenbergs bought Hluboka in 1661, owned it for over 280 years and turned it into their representative family residence in the 19th century. Due to the fact that Hluboka is surrounded by deep forests, it served mainly as a hunting castle. Always in autumn, the Schwarzenbergs organized grand hunts here, where they invited their relatives and friends.



# The Schwarzenbergs



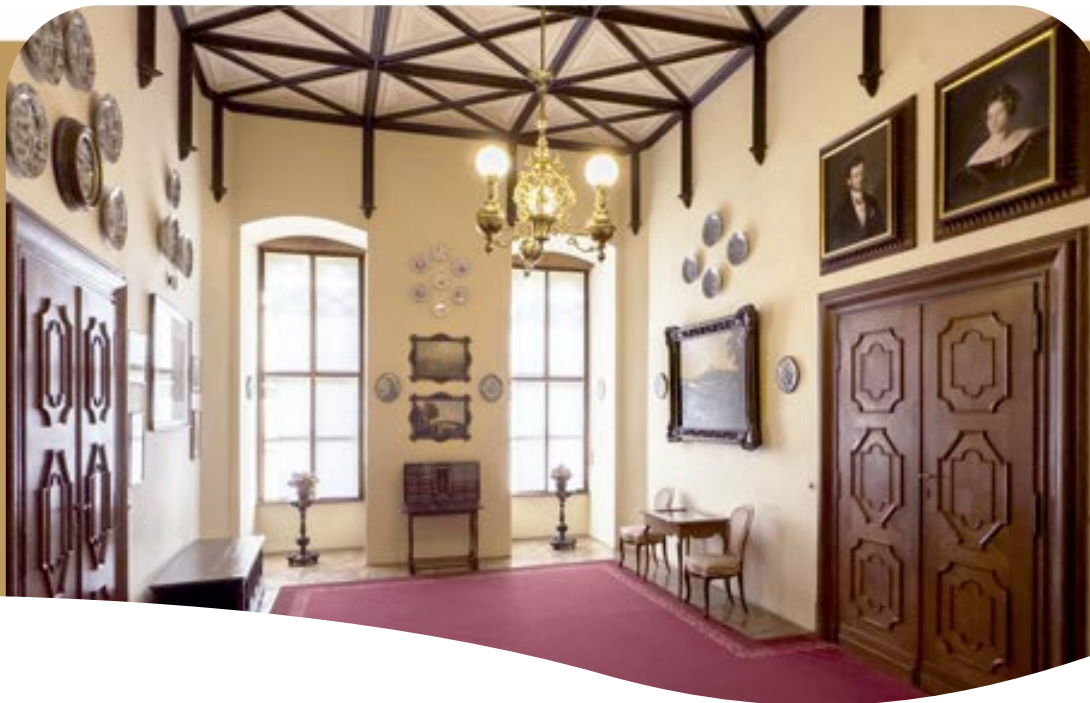
Dear visitors,

You are now in the entrance hall, where the tour of the representative rooms of Hluboka Castle begins. Accompanied by a local guide, you will walk through the rooms, which were built in the 19th century by the princely Schwarzenberg family, who filled Hluboka - as their family residence - with extremely rich collections of wall carpets, furniture, paintings, weapons, silver, glass and pottery.

The **Schwarzenbergs** originated from the territory of today's Bavaria. The first written records of the family date back to the 12th century. Their first estate in South Bohemia was Trebon, which was acquired by Johann Adolf I of Schwarzenberg in 1660, and a year later he bought the Hluboka estate. Johann Adolf I was a friend of the Habsburg Archduke Leopold Wilhelm, who inspired him to collect art items. In 1719 the Schwarzenberg family became one of the richest families in the monarchy thanks to the huge inheritance of Maria Ernestine of Eggenberg, née Schwarzenberg. The Schwarzenbergs were excellent landowners. They owned extensive forests, fields, fishponds, breweries and sugar mills. They were particularly successful in forestry and fish farming, where they applied new techniques and methods. In spite of their extensive economic activities in agriculture and industry, they did not disturb the harmonious relationship with the surrounding environment.

The **representative entrance hall** reminds us of the fame and importance of the Schwarzenberg family. The furnishings of the hall are from the 19th century, with very valuable wall carpets from the 17th century. Above the staircase is an Eggenberg carpet from 1638. Above this on the right is a portrait of Spanish General Marradas, who owned Hluboka before the Schwarzenbergs. On the left is a portrait of Count Adolf I of Schwarzenberg. Adolf I was an important general who fought in the Turkish wars. Under the Eggenberg carpet, you can peer through the glass into the castle tea room, which was used for relaxation and for playing board games.

***Please follow the local guide up the stairs to the first room.***



## Chambermaid's room

Above the door of this room, you will find two portraits. They are the couple **Johann Adolf II of Schwarzenberg** and **Eleonore née Liechtenstein**. Thanks to them, Hluboka was rebuilt in its present **Victorian Gothic** style.

In the room originally intended for the chambermaid of Princess Eleonore of Schwarzenberg, the exhibits now show the building development of the castle. The original **Gothic castle**, which was built in the **13th century** on the site of today's castle, was rebuilt in the **16th century** as a **Renaissance castle**. It is depicted in the oil painting placed on the right-hand side of the window.

The model in the corner by the entrance door shows the **Baroque appearance of the 18th century** Hluboka Castle with the outbuildings in the forecourt, which were demolished during the last modifications of the castle.

Two large watercolours on the left-hand wall show the current appearance of the castle after the last **Victorian Gothic** reconstruction in the **mid-19th century**.

*It is forbidden to read the text loudly and to disturb the commentary of the local guide by loud speech.*

*Please do not let your children disturb other visitors by their behaviour.*

*In the case of disturbance and failure to comply with the Hluboka Castle Visitor Regulations, the visitor will be asked by the local guide to leave the tour.*

### **Victorian Gothic reconstruction in 1840-1871**

The couple, Johann Adolf II and Eleonore, decided to rebuild Hluboka in the Victorian Gothic style after their return from England in 1838, where they were inspired by the castles and architecture. The reconstruction took place over thirty years under the leadership of the Viennese architect Franz Beer. During the reconstruction, the riding hall in front of the castle, the today's Hotel Stekl, where the offices and apartments of the estate officials were located, and the Church of St John of Nepomuk, including other buildings located in the town, were also built.

*Please enter the first room of Princess Eleanor's suite.*



## Princess Eleonore's Bedroom

The charming Princess Eleonore, née Princess of Liechtenstein, was a very elegant and charismatic lady. For more than twenty years, she set the tone for the society at the Viennese court. While her husband was in charge of the financial and organisational matters related to the reconstruction of Hluboka Castle, Princess Eleonore decided on the interior decoration. She was the mother of three children and died in 1873 at the age of less than 61 years.

The dominant feature of the bedroom is certainly the richly decorated canopy bed, which may seem short at first glance, but its size is 2 by 2 meters.

To the left of the bed is a green tiled stove, which was fed from the servants' hallways.

Above the door, through which we entered, is a replica of the Madonna and St George. The original painting was made by Bernardino Luini, who learned his craft at Leonardo da Vinci. On the opposite side is a very valuable copy of Raphael's 17th century Seated Madonna. The original painting is housed in Florence in the Palazzo Pitti gallery.

The richly carved coffered ceiling is decorated with gilded leather, where there are hand-painted floral motifs made by the Viennese painter Gläser during the last reconstruction of the castle in the 19th century.

**In the niche of the bedroom, peek into the private prayer room.  
Its windows are decorated with numerous glass paintings, the so-called STAINED GLASS.**

To protect the old and valuable exhibits from the harmful effects of light, most of the castle windows are shaded with a special fabric that is able to absorb the ultraviolet component of the sun's radiation.

The wooden blinds visible from the outside are originals from the 19th century.





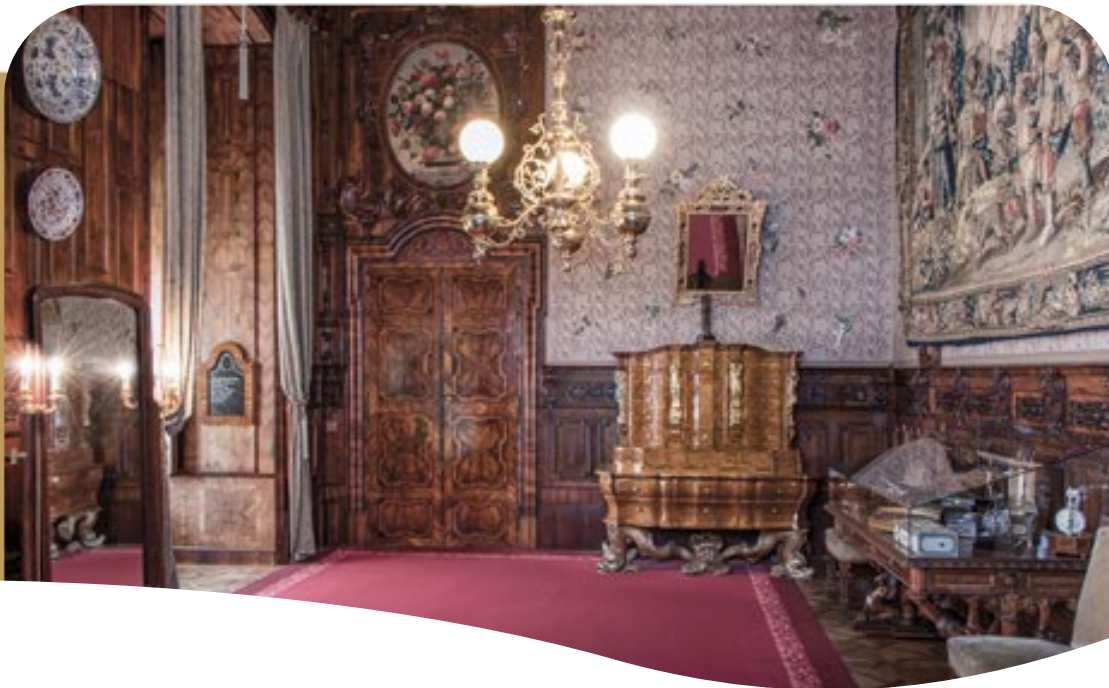
## STAINED GLASS

**Stained glass** is a coloured, glass and translucent window filling, which is created by joining small pieces of glass using malleable and easily fusible lead. In architecture, it has often acted as an important artistic element.

The collection of stained glass windows at Hluboka Castle is unique in Czech aristocratic residences. Johann Adolf II and Eleonore gathered this collection of **164 pieces** during the Victorian Gothic reconstruction of the castle, during which individual stained glass was installed in the windows of important rooms.

The stained glass in the picture above comes from western Switzerland from 1692 and depicts a scene from the biblical story "Jacob's Dream".

*Please enter the second room of Princess Eleanor's suite.*



## Princess Eleonore's Dressing Room

On the wall in front of you is a very valuable 17th century Flemish **tapestry** from the Aeneas and Dido cycle. The theme of the setting is based on an ancient fable, adapted by the Roman poet Vergilius. It tells the story of the love between the Trojan hero Aeneas and the Queen of Cartago, Dido. The main motif here is the escape of Aeneas with his father and son from burning Troy.

There are **two hidden doors** under the tapestry in the wood panelling. The one on the right leads to the bathroom, the second one on the left was used by a maid.

On the table beneath the tapestry are small articles of daily use for ladies. A table altar of gilded copper, spinning wheels for spinning thread and an 18th century fan, hand painted and made of ivory. Supposedly, it belonged to the executed French Queen Marie Antoinette.

Among the very valuable pieces of furniture is the so-called **dolphin secretary**, which was made in Austria around 1730. The surface of the secretary is richly decorated with **marquetry** and its base is in the form of **Baroque-styled dolphins**. Like the cabinet in the bedroom, this secretary was purchased from the estate of the deceased Austrian writer and antiques collector Adalbert Stifter.

### Marquetry

The term marquetry means a work of art made by stacking and gluing **veneers** (a thin sheet or strip of wood) of different types of wood. The veneers are carved into different shapes and folded into various patterns, shapes, ornaments or figural scenes. Here on the dolphin secretary, you can admire the very detailed marquetry for which woods such as walnut and maple were extensively used.

A Baroque-styled dolphin

*Please walk along the corridor decorated with leather wallpapers to the last room of Princess Eleonore's suite.*





## Princess Eleonore's Study Room

**Eleonore** is depicted in an oval portrait by the painter Schrotzberg at the age of 34.

Between the ribs of the vaulted ceiling is **gilded plaster**, again decorated with floral motifs.



The **chandelier** is made using the technique of **split glass**. These are blown glass ornaments shaped with pliers and scissors. Chandeliers of a similar type were made on the island of Murano near Venice.

**On the fireplace** there are photographs of the last four generations of the Schwarzenbergs. Among them is a photograph of Prince **Adolf of Schwarzenberg**, the last private owner of the Hluboka estate. His wife became Princess Hilda of Luxembourg and Nassau in 1930. At the end of 1939, Prince Adolf and his wife Hilda emigrated to America to escape the Nazis. After the end of World War II, they lived in Austria. Prince Adolf could not return to his estates in the Czech lands. He died without children in 1950 in Italy. Hluboka Castle has belonged to the state since 1947 until the present day.



The **heating of the castle** was provided not only by **fireplaces** and **tiled stoves**, but also by several **boilers** located in the basement. The rooms on the ground floor and the first floor were heated in this modern way. The heating was based on the principle of heating the air, which was distributed through shafts in the walls of the castle. On the sides of the fireplace are **brass doors** through which **warm air** flowed into the room.

The central heating, fireplaces and stoves heated the castle, especially in autumn when the family held **grand hunts** there. Not only were relatives invited to these hunts, but also guests from the high aristocracy. Even members of the imperial family, as can be seen from the **photographs on the tables**. This company was accommodated on the second floor of the castle in luxuriously furnished suites overlooking the surrounding countryside.

*Please enter the next room.*



## Morning Parlour

The Morning Parlour is one of the most beautiful rooms in the entire castle. It is situated towards the **southeast** to be flooded with the light of **the morning sun**.

Women from the last generation of owners used to gather in the Morning Parlour and **made handicrafts** not only for their own use but also to help the poor. Princess **Ida of Schwarzenberg** had the first local kindergarten established at her own expense in 1893, where three nuns cared for 73 enrolled children. It was not only the care but also the education of the children who were entrusted to them.

The room has the character of the Schwarzenberg **family gallery**.

In richly carved frames are **portraits of the ancestors** of the family.



Next to the entrance door on the left is Marshal **Karl Philipp I of Schwarzenberg**, who served in the diplomatic service in St. Petersburg and Paris. He was the commander of the troops that defeated Napoleon in the so-called **Battle of the Nations at Leipzig in 1813**.

Above the fireplace is a portrait of **Johann Adolf II of Schwarzenberg**, husband of Princess Eleonore. Together they decided to build a representative family residence here at Hluboka. The Victorian Gothic reconstruction was officially completed in July 1871 in the presence of Austrian Crown Prince Rudolf.







## WOOD

The Hluboka Castle is characterized by richly **carved** interior **decoration**, which was created during the last reconstruction. Its creators were mainly **carvers from Hluboka** who worked on it for approximately **30 years**.

**Walnut** and **lime wood** are most often represented here.

The **parquet floors** of the representative rooms date from the mid-19th century. Their surface is decorated with **8 types of wood**, including **oak, walnut, cherry and rosewood**.



*Please follow to the next room.*



## Reading Room

The circular room, lit by large stained-glass windows from the 16th and 17th centuries, is called the reading room. It was used by its owners to rest. Above you can see a photograph taken after the restoration of the parquet floor of this room. Exceptionally, the blinds of all the windows were pulled up when the floor was finished. As long as the Schwarzenbergs occupied the castle, the furniture was scattered around the rooms and the floors were uncovered. Now, due to visitor traffic, the furniture is placed against the walls and the floors are protected by carpets.

The richly carved **mirror frame** above the fireplace is one of the most beautiful carvings in the castle. It was made of **linden wood** and it took **five** local carvers almost **a year and a half** to complete.

On the sides of the **Carrara marble** fireplace there are two genre scenes. The painting on the right is called **The Dancing Company**, the painting on the left is called **The Drunken Company**.

A rich collection of **blue and white plates** from Germany and Holland decorates the walls of the parlour. These are fine ceramics called **faience**. It is of particular interest to see the **set of twelve plates around the display case**, depicting the **different months of the year**.

The **display case** contains a valuable collection of glass from Bohemia, Germany, Italy and Silesia.

There are small objects such as paperweights, perfume bottles or prayer books.

In the lower left corner of the showcase there are **black plates**.

These are the famous Czech **hyalite** - black glass produced in the early 19th century in South Bohemia. The production technology is no longer known today.





## Small Dining Room

The **tinware** on the sideboards is from Bohemia and Germany from the 17th and 18th centuries. Originally, it was commonly used in dining, but from the mid-19th century it was used only as **decoration**.

The **painted wallpapers** on the walls were commissioned by Princess Eleonore in Paris according to the fashion of the time. Their **borders are decorated with motifs of hunting, fishing and domestic animal husbandry**.

The wallpapers also depict the **symbol of a Turk's head** being pecked by a **raven**.

Count **Adolf of Schwarzenberg** defeated the Turks in 1598 at the fortress of Raab, in today's Hungary. To commemorate this victory, the symbol of a Turk's head with a raven pecking it was added to his coat of arms. This motif is often repeated in the castle. The handle on the entrance gate to the castle bears the same image.



Princess **Ida of Schwarzenberg, née Lichtenstein** was the grandmother of the last owner of Hluboka Castle. Her great hobbies were horses and hunting.

Princess Ida was a very progressive lady and on her initiative **the castle was electrified in 1910**. Until then, the rooms of the castle were lit by candles.

The room is illuminated by a 19th century **Bohemian crystal** chandelier.

**Bohemian crystal** is a perfectly clear glass ideal for engraving and cutting, which was invented in the second half of the 17th century in South Bohemia. By the early 18th century, Bohemian crystal was so popular that it began to displace the previously untouchable Venetian glass.





## Smoking Parlour

The smoking parlour was intended for **relaxation** and **games**.

Among the favourite board games of the nobility were not only **chess**, but also a game to the left of the fireplace called **backgammon**.

The walls of the smoking parlour are decorated with **gilded leather wallpapers**.

The room is dominated by a **fireplace**, the lower part of which bears a Latin **inscription**

**„NIL NISI RECTUM“**  
**„NOTHING BUT JUSTICE“**

It is the Schwarzenberg **family motto**.

To the left of the fireplace is a portrait of Count **Adolf of Schwarzenberg**, who defeated the Turks at the fortress of Raab in **1598**.

Highly prized is a set of 17th-century cabinets from Antwerp, decorated with **tortoiseshell, ebony wood and metal**. The most valuable of these is the secretary standing by the door, decorated with **ruin marble**. When you see it from the distance, the marble structure resembles the ruins of cities, but it is actually a work of nature.

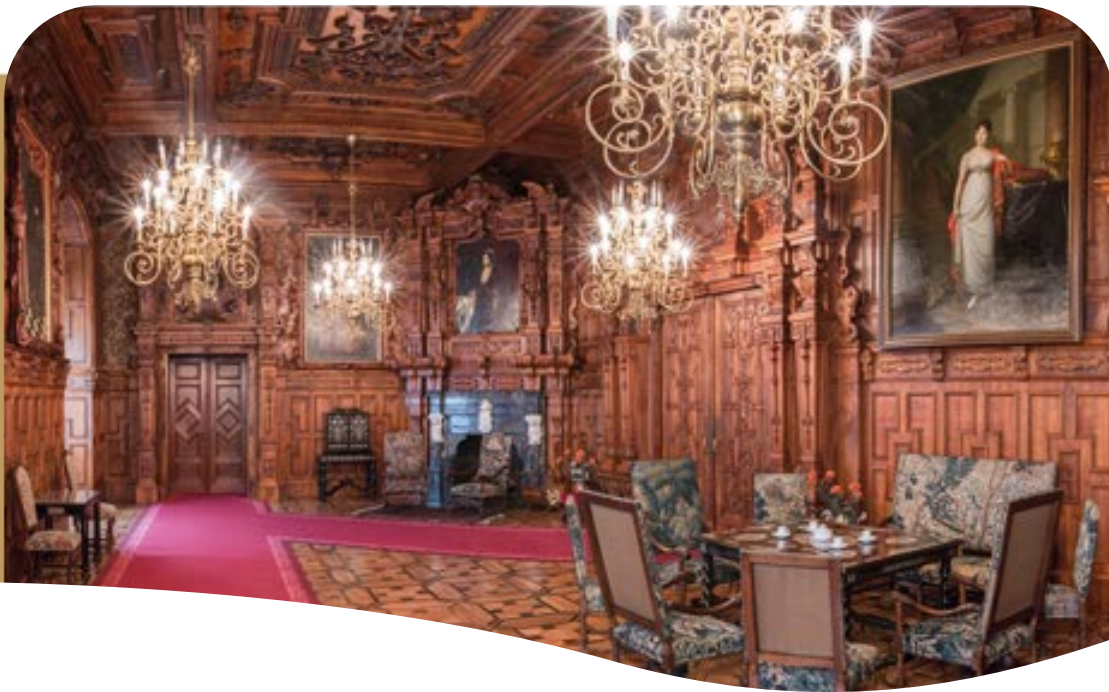


**Johann Adolf I of Schwarzenberg** was the first owner of Hluboka Castle from this family. He bought it from the Spanish Marradas family in **1661**. Johann Adolf I was a collector of art, especially tapestries.

**Tortoise shell**

**Ruin marble**





## Drawing Room

Guests used to enter the drawing room from the entrance hall, where our tour started.

Like most of the rooms, this room is lit by 19th century Dutch-style **brass chandeliers**.

In the richly carved frame above the fireplace is a portrait of Princess **Eleanor**. This is the third time we have seen her on our tour, depicted here at the age of about **50**.



Princess **Paulina, née Princess of Arenberg**, was a beautiful and talented lady. She painted well, played several musical instruments and spoke fluently five European languages. But her life ended tragically.

In 1810, the princess, her husband (who is pictured on the right) and two daughters attended a ball in Paris. It was held in honour of the wedding of Emperor Napoleon and Princess Marie Louise of Habsburg. However, a fire broke out in the hall. Pauline, trying to find her daughters in the ensuing panic, returned to the burning hall where she perished. Only later did it become clear that the daughters had been safe all along. Princess Pauline died at the age of 36 and had 9 children, 3 sons and 6 daughters.





## Large Dining Room

On the walls is a set of **Flemish woven tapestries** from the mid-17th century. The tapestries were woven in **Brussels** from wool and silk, based on cardboards by the Flemish painter Jordaens. They bear the mark '**BB**' in the lower corner, which was a mark of the **highest quality**.

Tapestries were used in mansions not only as decoration but also as **thermal insulation** for the walls.

The Schwarzenberg collection of wall carpets is the fifth largest in Europe. The collection consists of a total of **70** tapestries.

The **piano** is from the 19th century, was made in Vienna by Bösendorfer company and is rarely used in concerts.

The table in the middle of the dining room is **extendable**. When it is fully extended, all **71 chairs** can easily fit around it. Inside the table is a folding frame on which other wooden boards are placed. These are stored in the castle's depository.

One of the world's unique pieces is the carpet to the right of the front door. It comes from Asia Minor, from around **1600**, and is decorated with **Buddhist symbols of wisdom and eternity** called **Chintamani**. There is a carpet of a similar type in the Textile Museum in Washington.

**Now please return through the Reception Parlour and enter the library.**





## Library

The library is the largest hall in the castle, with **12,000 books in five languages**.

The books are placed in Classicist-style cabinets from the end of the 18th century, which have been supplemented with columns inlaid with mother-of-pearl. Above them are **26 coats of arms** of individual owners of the Hluboka estate. Among the coats of arms are the years indicating the period in which the individual owners acquired the castle.

An interesting feature are the large **hunting books** on the reading counters, which contain **records of the Hluboka hunts**. The last record from 1937 is in the book, which is decorated with metal decorations with hunting motifs and the Schwarzenberg coat of arms.

The library contains educational books, fiction, periodicals and encyclopaedias. There are, for example, **first edition of Diderot's Encyclopaedia** from the second half of the 18th century, **Agatha Christie's** detective stories, the adventure novel **Robinson Crusoe**, and the German version of **Maya the Bee** from the first half of the 20th century. You can see it in the display case located next to the hunting books.



At the end of the room above the fireplace is a portrait of Cardinal and Archbishop of Prague **Friedrich of Schwarzenberg**. He was the youngest child of Princess Paulina, who died in the fire in Paris. His eldest brother was the reigning Prince Johann Adolf II. Friedrich took up a career in the Church and became Archbishop of Salzburg in 1835. In 1842 he became a cardinal; at that time, he was only 33 years old. He became Archbishop of Prague in 1850. He played an important role in the completion of St Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle, where he is now buried.

**Please enter the corridor which will lead you to the last part of the tour.**



The corridor is decorated with portraits of members of the Schwarzenberg family and painted windows.

In the room at the end of the corridor, you will see a red hand-operated Czech-made **vacuum cleaner** from the early 20th century. The vacuum cleaner was operated by two people. One was turning the crank and the other one was hoovering.

**Please walk along the corridors, where weapons from the castle collections are displayed, to the castle armoury.**

## Anteroom of the Armoury

The room displays cold weapons and firearms from the late 16th to the 19th century. On the panelling are flintlock rifles from the late 17th and early 18th centuries and percussion rifles from the 19th century.

Two large metal chests were used to carry money for the military.



The ceiling is decorated with decoratively assembled **gun powder flasks** and strange **triangular bayonets**, which were thrown under the hooves of the horses of enemy cavalry.





## Armoury

The castle armoury is one of the largest in the Czech Republic. The walls are decorated with collections of swords, shields and large two-handed swords from the 16th century.

In the centre of the room is a model of a statue representing Count **Adolf of Schwarzenberg, the victor over the Turks at Raab.**

Between the doors in the centre is a **white marshal's baton of Karl Philipp of Schwarzenberg**, victor at Leipzig. It is made from the tooth of the narwhal, a sea cetacean that lives in northern seas.

Interesting is the collection of **small cannons**, whose purpose is not exactly known. Perhaps they are fully functional **models**, representing the production of metalworking workshops.

Near the large door on the right and left are two black so-called **pitch wreaths** from the 15th century. Pitch is a resin produced mainly by coniferous trees, and because it is highly flammable, these pitch wreaths were commonly used to start fires during sieges.

The tour ends here in the armoury. You have seen a part of the castle that distinctively represents its original owners - the **SCHWARZENBERGS** - and shows what excellent craftsmen and artists lived here.

**Na shledanou!**  
**Goodbye!**

