

The National Heritage Institute as the organization that **MANAGES** important heritage sites owned by the Czech Republic

The National Heritage Institute provides the restoration, management, promotion and access to the unique set that includes more than 100 sites – castles, chateaus, monasteries, folk architecture, and industrial heritages. The set, also including 6 sites of the UNESCO World Heritage List, is considered the most important part of the cultural legacy of the Czech Republic. The most popular and attractive sites include the castle and chateau in Český Krumlov, Chateau Hluboká or the cultural landscape with chateaus in Lednice and Valnice. Also included is the Karlštejn Castle, an iconic landmark in the Czech history. The number of visitors is growing every year; in 2017, it exceeded 5 million.

The National Heritage Institute is continuously improving the structural and technical conditions of this extraordinary set of buildings, using funds both from the national budget and European programs. Gradually, the Institute enables access to new attractive routes, improves the background areas necessary for the tourist visits, and expands services and exhibitions.

The heritage facilities, managed by the National Heritage Institute, aren't only worthy for their sheer building value but also for their vast collections of furniture and equipment, consisting of 2 million of various objects and artifacts, often unique, on display on the tours. Their stock record keeping and maintenance requires immense effort. The remarkable items include, for example, the Reliquary of St. Maurus, part of the exhibition at Chateau Bečov nad Teplou.

The heritage management bodies cooperate with experts in heritage care, focusing on architecture, arts and crafts, archaeology or record keeping. The joined efforts gives birth not only to top-notch projects and conservation activities but also to numerous publications on heritage sites, equipment or famous people linked to the history of the Czech Republic.

