In the learned Benedictine’s land
You can explore not only famous architecture, but also significant landmarks, for example pools in Opatovice and a dam on the Svratka river in Popovice.

Interesting cultural events like concerts and exhibitions are held regularly in the Rajhrad Abbey as well as in other institutions on its premises, for instance in the Museum of Literature in Moravia, Rajhrad parish centre and in the District Archive of Brno-venkov District. Many cultural and sports events are held in other villages as well. Let us name for instance tennis tournaments, fishing competitions, football matches, children events, motorcycle rallies, balls and masquarades. There are sports grounds, football pitches and tennis courts (turning in ice-skating rinks for winter) in the villages.

The most significant cycling trail, intersecting the microregion from north to south, is the Greenway trail No. 4 Brno–Vienna (via Rajhradice and Opatovice) which is connected to “wine-lover trails” of Moravia. Amongst others are trail No. 404 Slavkov–Moravsky Krumlov (via Rajhradice and Rajhrad) and No. 5172 Zidlochovice–Moravsky Krumlov (via Holasice).

Dear friends, do not hesitate and come!

“The Rajhrad Region – the essence of South Moravia”

Dear visitors! We are very pleased to welcome you to the culturally, historically and naturally unique locality. Before presenting you the magic and mystery of it, we will give you some basic information.

The alliance of municipalities called “Rajhrad microregion” spreads twelve kilometres south of Brno, in the floodplain of the Svratka river. It is a compact group of villages officially created on December 16, 2003 first as a union of Rajhrad, Opatovice and Popovice villages which were joined by Holasice and Rajhradice in 2007. Now the microregion has approximately 6,200 inhabitants living in the area of 27 square kilometres. With 225 people per square kilometre the population density is high above the country’s average.

The Rajhrad microregion lies on the border of Bohrava highlands and the lowland of Dyjskosvratecky uval. Most of the area is covered with fertile land, in the northern part there is a large pheasantry. Streams of the whole area are flanked with groves.

The microregion is interweaved with a dense network of cycling trails (both sign-posted and not) which are very suitable also for small children and elderly people.
The Rajhrad Region in the haze of past

In the seemingly dull and flat landscape around Brno you will hardly find a more mysterious and spiritual place. The Brno–Pohorelice highway takes you from the hustle and bustle of the Moravia’s capital to the vast and peaceful lowland of The Svratka river plain. Soon your eyes will fall upon a remote blue silhouette of Palava ahead of you, while on the left emerges the fascinating open country which has been home to people for ages.

The fertile basin fed by the Svratka river and its many branches and feeders since time immemorial, the vital plain bathing in warm sunshine, is bordered with Syrovická pa-horkatina to the southwest, Měnínská vydulina to the east and a highly visible cone of the Vyhon hill. The lace of Ždánický les visible on the horizon in the distance connects the earthly world with heavens. Right at your hand lies a country resembling the fabulous Eden, a garden scattered with groves, game reserves, woods, colourful fields, orchards and vineyards. The Svratka river with its slow flow and silver branches measures the infinite and irreversible time. It bears messages of the generations that used to live and die here for five thousand years. Its water used to water the fields and soil which was then transformed into pottery.

Even in their wildest dreams the Slavs could not imagine that their future land would look like this when, in the second century, they moved from their old and much rougher homeland westwards. In the fifth century they set foot here for the first time and they decided to stay. They gradually built their settlements and created a powerful state whose centre lied in this very area. It was called Great Moravia. To defend themselves against their invasive enemies they built massive fortified settlements. One of the twelve most important of them grew here. Carefully hidden among the forests and swamps it was accessible only to locals and those who knew the path. The settlement was obviously called Rajhrad, which is a blend of Czech words for “heavenly” and “castle”. Nameless villages started to grow around which undoubtedly maintained very lively economic and social contacts with Rajhrad.

Once upon this golden age two brethren found themselves walking through this heavenly country. Coming from Salonica – Constantine and Methodius – as they were called, brought with them a language and scripture that would edify the people for ages. Sadly, cruel turns of events swept the empire into the past, yet it arose from its ruins to flourish again. Bretislav I, who took Moravia away from the Poles and Hungarians, gave the old and abandoned castle to the Benedictines in the mid-eleventh century. He also gave them surrounding villages, amongst which there were Rajhrad, Rajhradice, Opatovice, Popovice and later also Holasice. The Rajhrad castle then declined and a Benedictine monastery was built on its ruins that would take over both its name and role. The monastery has become the centrepiece of the country which it inherited from the people of Great Moravia and has been its gem, both spiritual and architectonic, for centuries.
Discover the town of Rajhrad

History

Although with its three thousand inhabitants Rajhrad belongs to smaller towns, its long history can beat many towns much bigger than this. Archaeological findings prove that Rajhrad was permanently inhabited as early as five thousand years ago. However, the important role of the settlement was yet to come. It finally came after the arrival of the Slavs, which started around 500 AD. In the 8th or 9th century one of the most important fortified settlements in Great Moravia was built here but the castle declined with the fall of the empire, too weak to resist regular Hungarian invasions, in the early 10th century. In 1045, after the expulsion of the Poles and Hungarians, duke Bretislav I gave the Benedictine monastery in Brevnov the cella of Peter and Paul which was a part of the Rajhrad castle. Three years later a Benedictine monastery was born here which would alter become a spiritual, cultural and economic centre for long centuries.

In order to be able to earn its living, the monastery received also the village of Rajhrad which had developed thanks to the privilege granted by Premysl in 1234 that turned it into a market village. In 1339 Rajhrad was mentioned as a town for the first time. In 1554 the Brevnov Abbot Jan Chotovsky and the Rajhrad monastery confirmed the status of Rajhrad, permitted it to use a seal and devolved the criminal authority, given to the monastery by Jan Lucembursky in 1327, to the town.

It was after the Czechoslovakia was established that the extraordinary expansion of Rajhrad started. Two new quarters, Matlaska and Ostruvek, rose and between 1924 and 1929 the convent of the Consolatory Sisters of the Jesus’ Divine Heart was built. After the communists took power both monasteries were confiscated by the people’s army. The original owners returned to the respective buildings as late as in 1989, after another turn of events. On October 27, 2000 Rajhrad was promoted a town.

Rajhrad is currently a smaller administrative and cultural centre with several important super-regional institutions among which there is the Benedictine Abbey, the Museum of Literature, the District Archive of the Brno-venkov District, the Congregation of the Consolatory Sisters of the Jesus’ Divine Heart and the St. Joseph’s Hospice. The town grows very fast and over the time has become one of the favourite leisure-time destinations south of Brno.

We recommend the Rajhrad Abbey as the first stop during your exploration of the Rajhrad Region.

Benedictine Abbey

The Baroque complex of the Benedictine Monastery in Rajhrad is the seat of the first monastery in Moravia ad belongs to Moravia’s oldest church institutions. The Olomouc Diocese was restored in 1063, fifteen years after the monastery was established. Visitors are fascinated by the Baroque beauty designed in 1718 by a famous architect Jan Santini Aichel and built between 1722 and 1840. In the 18th and 19th centuries the monastery was famous for its library and the scholarly work of the Benedictines, namely Bonaventura Pitr, Rehor Volny, Beda Dudik and Maurus Kinter.
Museum of Literature in Moravia

In 2005 the Museum of Literature in Moravia was opened in the monastery to offer the visitors a permanent exhibition on the most important personalities of the Moravia’s literary scene between the 8th and 20th century, temporary exhibitions and a restored Benedictine library with eighteen thousand books. In total, there are as many as 65 thousand books. Visitors can use the service of permanent guides and true literary treasures can be studied in the research room. There is also a parish centre on the premises of the monastery where exhibitions and concerts take place.

District Archive of Brno-venkov

The collections stored in modern and air-conditioned depositories of the restored District Archive of Brno-venkov contain more than four thousand metres of archive documents covering the time since the 13th century. Sadly, the research room and entirely romantic courtyard with a fountain, statue of St. Benedictus and stone heraldic decorations are only accessible during workdays. The interior of the archive situated in the former monastery brewery is also remarkable.

Old sawmill

Set in the romantic background of two mill-races and on the path to the pheasantry, an old sawmill has been standing since 1639, as recorded in its inventory list. The sawmill with an overshot water wheel was carefully maintained by the Benedictines. After all, it is situated halfway between the upper and lower monastery wood. Planks and timbers were lumbered here until 1919 when the sawmill was closed down.

“Strumen” watermill

Standing majestically between the monastery and the town, the old watermill was allegedly built as early as in 1092. The first written mention comes from 1340, when the provost Vitek named certain Martin a miller in the Strumen watermill. The mill was gradually expanded and enlarged by the Benedictines and in the nineteenth century it had eight undershot wheels. Since the twentieth century it has served as a small hydro-electric power station.
In the western section of Rajhrad there is an extensive complex of the Convent of the Consolatory Sisters of the Jesus’ Divine Heart which was built between 1924 and 1929. The congregation was established by Marie Rosa Vujtechova in 1915. The dramatic history of the congregation can be read about on the information board at the church entrance. In the convent there is a St. Joseph’s Hospice and Mother Rosa’s Home for the Elderly.

Convent of the Consolatory Sisters of the Jesus’ Divine Heart

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Parish church (Church of the Elevation of the St. Cross)

In 1330 the Chapel of the Elevation of the St. Cross was built so that the believers could participate in services even during floods. In 1683 the provost Arlet had the structure enlarged and in 1766 the building was reconstructed in the Baroque style by the provost Konrad. It was promoted to a parish church in 1767. On the cemetery at the east side of the church there is a memorial of the dead Benedictines. Abbots and outstanding scientists are also buried here, among others for instance Beda Dudík, Rehor Volný, Pavel Vychodił.

Railway station and the first train ride in 1838

A bronze plaque at the railway station reminds of the fact that in 1838 the first regular train service in the Czech Republic was established. The line from Brno to Rajhrad goes through the town centre. The first trial ride from Rajhrad to Brno was taken by the “Moravia” engine on November 11, 1838 and on December 15 the regular service was introduced. The whole branch from Vienna to Brno was opened on July 7, 1839.

General Kozyr monument

At the south end of Rajhrad there is a memorial of a tragic war event. On April 23, 1945 the Red army’s major general Maxim Yevseyevich Kozyr was shot to death in front of the building which now seats a secondary school. His vehicle was accidentally led into an area still occupied by German troops for which the whole crew of the vehicle paid with their lives. In 2008, the Russian Federation’s embassy declared this monument to the most important WWII memorials in the Czech Republic.

Take a leisurely walk around other interesting places in Rajhrad, get some refreshment in one of the restaurants and then continue back past the monastery to Rajhradice.

Pitr’s bridge

Probably until the mid-eleventh century Rajhrad and the Benedictine monastery were connected by a wooden bridge where a toll was collected. In 1760 a new stone bridge was built that has served since. The three-pillar structure with ice guards, designed by Josef Aneis, used to be decorated with five statues of saints and a stone cross by a sculptor named Nösmann. The statues and the cross now flank the path in the entrance courtyard of the monastery.

“Mestecko” and statues of T. G. Masaryk

The 18th century stone fountain was bought from Brno after its fire in 1868. Originally, the spot of the fountain was occupied by a pillory and in 1975 first fountain was built with a wooden duct which was between 1892 and 1896 replaced by a metal one. There used to be an entrance to a huge municipal cellar where there is a statue of St. Florian. The upper part of the square used to be dominated by a statue of T. G. Masaryk which sadly enough hasn’t survived the turns of events. Another statue of the same man by sculptor Horava standing in front of the primary school in Matlaska, miraculously survived.
Rajhrad’s remarkable personalities

Matous Ferdinand Sobek of Bilenberk

Matous Ferdinand Sobek of Bilenberk (1618–1675), one of the most important personalities of the town, became the abbot of St. Nicholas’ monastery in Prague in 1648, then in 1665 he became the first bishop of Hradec Králové and from 1668 he was the fifteenth archbishop of Prague.

Antonín Pirmus

The provost Antonín Pirmus (1676–1744) is considered the second founder of the monastery as he resolved to rebuild it completely in a very generous manner. In 1718 he commissioned the planning work very cleverly to an outstanding architect called Jan Santini Aichel (1677–1723).

Josef Zelený

The painter Josef Zelený (1824–1886) was the first drawing teacher of a very famous Czech painter, Alfons Mucha. His extensive canvases grace the Benedictine monastery in Rajhrad and many churches throughout Moravia. You can find them also in the gallery of the Brno City Museum at the Spilberk castle.

Beda Dudík

A Benedictine monk and well-known historian Beda Dudík (1815–1890) is the author of many studies and articles. He also wrote an extensive works called Hitory of Moravia and History of the Benedictine Monastery in Rajhrad. During his voyages to Sweden he managed to negotiate the return of some of the important archive documents and literary works taken by the Swedes during the Thirty Years’ War.

Antonín Halouzka

Antonín Halouzka (1860–1901), a blacksmith and gunsmith, accompanied Doctor Emil Holub on his second expedition to Africa between 1883 and 1887. After more than five years spent in a complete wilderness the exhausted party returned home. Only five of its eight members survived the cruel conditions. The remaining members died later of various tropical diseases, except for Emil Holub’s wife who lived a long life.

Marie Rosa Vujtechova

Marie Rosa Vujtechova (1876–1945), a member of the order of the Merciful Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo, supported by the bishop Hyun, established a new congregation in 1915. Marie Rosa became the first mother superior and bore the burden of the quickly developing congregation herself. She died shortly after the war not knowing that her successor, Marie Marta Vintrova, would be sentenced to seventeen years of imprisonment by the communists without a single reason.

How Rajhrad lives today

After forty years of an unwanted intermission the Benedictine monastery in Rajhrad has become again a propagator of high culture and scholarship. Concerts are held in the St. Peter and St. Paul’s cathedral, the Museum of Literature in Moravia hosts conferences and both temporary and permanent exhibitions and offers a chance to study artefacts and old books that could teach us about the mistakes and virtues of our ancestors. The Rajhrad parish centre is the venue of remarkable exhibitions of contemporary arts and créches. The Rajhrad parish which comprises all the villages of the microregion has its own choir whose performance is of an outstanding quality.

The biennial reconstruction of a Thirty Year’s War battle organized by the Moravian Fencing Group Asmodeus held behind the Benedictine monastery is very attractive and many people come here. The night before the battle soldiers dressed in period costumes walk with torches through the town and invite people to come the next day which, apart form the battle itself, offers concerts, crafts show, fair and displays of a Swedish and Austrian army camps. The extraordinary event attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Thousands of people from Rajhradsko and around are also attracted every year by The St. Peter and Paul’s Fair held in the alley between Rajhrad and the monastery. A colourful mixture of merry-go-rounds and other attractions appear here during the week-end closest to the St. Peter and Paul’s Day. It spreads a kilometre between the town’s centre and the Benedictine monastery.

Every year, on the first Saturday after the Children’s Day, the pheasantry turns into a True enchanted forest. Before entering the forest every visitor is greeted by the queen herself. Children then compete and fulfil various tasks, ride horses or a carriage around the forest and then sit with their parents around a campfire. This event is held annually by the Kalamajka non-profit organization together with the primary school’s club.

Rajhrad has been becoming a modern town which, apart from maintaining folklore traditions, develops thanks to the construction of new houses and activities of the young generation.
As well as Rajhrad, Rajhradice was, quite extraordinarily, inhabited already in the pre-history. For instance, findings from the Iron Age are very interesting, being parts of the Horakov culture. The presence of Romans during the restless time of Marcomannic Wars can be proved by finds from around the former granary. The very name of the village is old, too. It means “village of people who came from Rajhrad”. Both Rajhradice and Loucka (the two villages merged in 1951) are mentioned in the chart of Bretislav I from 1048 when they were given to the newly established monastery in Rajhrad and thus became servile villages for centuries. As far as the archive documents go, Rajhradice is first mentioned in 1292, Loucka in 1349. From the early 15th century the monastery had an important farming yard here and since the 17th century the village has had an autonomous town hall. A Czech singer, Vlasta Redl, has made Rajhradice famous when he presented a song called “A te Rehradice” which was based on a traditional song that appeared in 1835 in the first collection by Frantisek Susil, a famous Czech traditional songs collector.

Rajhradice is, after Rajhrad, the second largest village in the microregion, being home to 1200 people. There is a number of active clubs – the Svratka Hunter’s Association, Rajhradice Sports Association, civic association of Rajhradicka pohoda, and the Beekeepers’ Club – and traditions are carefully maintained here – Rajhradice is the best of the villages in this regard. On the Passion Sunday girls “take out” Morana and on Easter Monday the whole village resounds with the sound of rattles announcing that “the bells have flown to Rome” and that the boys have set off for the traditional “pomlazka” during which they visit girls and whip them with plaited sticks so that they stay young and healthy. Stanislav’s, St. Scholastica’s and Babske feasts are held here regularly. Rajhradice is gradually becoming a modern village with a big potential.

The monastery granary was built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and is a very distinct building, very often depicted in paintings. It used to store grain from the whole monastery’s land. The 1788 patent stated that each dependent arable land owner had to contribute to the granary for three years. The granary was built far enough from Rajhrad to be safe from a possible fire.

The chapel dedicated to St. Scholastica was built in 1897. Above the altar there is a painting by Jan Jiri Egens, a gift to the chapel from the Abbot Korcian who consecrated the chapel on July 25, 1898.

Standing at the village square, the quaint bell tower comes from 1848 when it replaced the original wooden and smaller one.

A river dam built in 1848 that regulates the new bed of the Svratka river.

Loucka is home to a woodcarver Jaroslav Buncko (1959) whose work is appraised also beyond the borders of the Czech Republic. You can buy some of his products in the shop in Rajhradice.
Opatovice has a very long history. After all, people lived here as early as in the Late Stone Age which is proved by many archaeological findings. Beginning in the mid-eleventh century, the history of Opatovice was inseparably connected to the one of the nearby monastery for eight hundred years. The church authority had its farming yard here already in 1405. The word Opatovice originates in the way people living here used to be called – Abbot’s (“opatovi”) people. This was a common way of calling villages that belonged to the church authorities and were in the use of an Abbot. The oldest record of the existence of Opatovice comes from 1349.

The village lies in a charming flat landscape southeast from Rajhrad. The views over the fertile fields, orchards and gardens to the monastery are fascinating. Not surprisingly, a cycling trail from Vienna to Brno crosses the village. Visitors can enjoy picnic sites, a nice restaurant and two ponds where fishing competitions are held regularly. A swimming pool is at a stone’s cast from the village, in Blucina.

You can return from your trip along the Blucina trail towards Vojkovice and then along the Svratka river which will lead you back to the bridge between Rajradice and Rajhrad.

Make a stop in Opatovice

Opatovice was dominated by the church of St. Charles Borromeo which has replaced a chapel built by the provost Celestin Arlet in the late 17th century as an expression of gratitude for the fact that locals were spared during the plague epidemic which raged in Moravia between 1675 and 1676. In 1772, after a great fire, a larger chapel was built and then between 1868 and 1869 it was replaced by the church. The credit for the construction belongs mainly to Vojtech Slouk, a Benedictine monk and the chaplain in Opatovice, who is also the author of Charles Borromeo’s portrait behind the altar. The church has one nave and is 30m long and 11.4m wide. The statue of St. Rosalie comes from the original chapel, the clock were transferred here from the former Dominican convent in Brno.

Subsidiary church of St. Charles Borromeo

You shouldn’t miss a miniature cemetery from 1865 which is extraordinarily cared about by locals. Cemeteries in Rajhrad and Opatovice are the only ones on the microregion.

Propitiatory stones

Propitiatory stones, another interesting place to visit, come from the first half of the 17th century. Legend has it that the stones commemorate a fight of three men who shot one another dead for love. There were originally three large stones, probably marking the position of the men.

“Statule”

“Statule” is another commemoration of a tragic event. A gamekeeper was shot to death by a poacher here in 1830.

Frantisek Horava

It was in Opatovice where a famous sculptor and painter Frantisek Horava (1906–1974) was born. His works can be fond in galleries and private collections both in the Czech Republic and abroad. Horava’s statue of the Czechoslovakia’s first president stands in front of the primary school in Rajhrad.
The area of Holasice was inhabited as early as in the Bronze Age, i.e. 1800–1400 BC, as proved by archaeological findings originating in the *Unetice culture*. “Prague pottery” and Old-Slavic pottery was found here, as well as a later Old-Slavic pottery from the age of fortified settlements.

Holasice is first mentioned in the charter of the provost Mikulas in 1349 as a tithe village. There used to be an autonomous estate which allegedly served as a defence outpost protecting the monastery from the south. There is also an extensive basement („holasicke lochy“) which was built in the 13th century as a shelter and then again used by locals during the Thirty Years’ War and Napoleon’s campaign in Moravia. Some of its parts also served during the WWII, namely in 1945. The Red army met with a strong German resistance here which lasted for several days. The village, completely destroyed by the battle, was dubbed “Little Stalingrad” after the WWII.

Holasice has been developing very swiftly lately. Many new houses grow here and remarkable companies choose the village for their business activities. The cultural and social life of the nine hundred of its inhabitants is very rich thanks to the activities of local clubs. Let us name for instance feasts, celebration of the liberation, theatre performances, masquarades, children’s days and others as well. There is also a renowned airstrip of the Plane Modeller’s Club from Brno and a shooting range belonging to Roman Kostelecky.

**St. Wenceslas Chapel**

Originating in 1840, the St. Wenceslas chapel standing in the village square was enlarged in 1848 and has been since a venue of a traditional mass held on the St. Wenceslas Day.

**Soldiers Monument**

Soldiers Memorial can be found in the centre of the village and commemorates the 62 Soviet soldiers who died here during the battle of 1945. There is a biennial celebration held that attracts members of military clubs in period uniforms coming from Brno and around.

**Stone cross**

Now standing near the bridge over the railway, the Stone cross from 1810 used to stand next to the former cemetery which was established after the cholera epidemic in 1831. The cemetery was removed in 1838 during the railway construction.

**Ludmila pool**

Remains of a swamp in the floodplain of the Svratka river. The locality, rich in flora and fauna, is now being regenerated.

**Kaspar Jan Kupec of Bilenberk**

Kaspar Jan Kupec of Bilenberk (1655–1720) belongs to Holasice’s most important personalities. He accompanied counts of Kolowrat on longer journeys became the Czech secretary of the Court of Appeal in Prague in 1683. In 1698 he was ennobled and in 1708 he translated and published “New Torture and Capital Law for the Czech Kingdom, Moravian Margraviate and Silesian Principality”.

Take a look at Holasice

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Popovice was also given to the Benedictines by Bretislav I in 1048 after the Rajhrad monastery was established. The village is an evidence of the first Slavic settlement in Moravia. The word “pop” (which is a base of the name of the village - „the one belonging to pop”) was adopted by Slavs from Greek. It is like if the haze of history has just revealed the figures of the Greek scholars – Constantin and Metodius... However, the area was inhabited much earlier. Flint tools, stone axes or even skeletal remains with jewels of pearls made of burnt soil with blue painted eyes dating to 4,500–2,000 BC which were found in the areas „Nivky“ and „U Chebzu“ can prove this.

From the early Middle Ages the village belonged to the nearby monastery in Rajhrad. The first written mention on Popovice appears in 1406 when a manor had already been built here. In 1683, the inhabitants of Popovice were constantly scared by rattling of weapons and neighing of ten thousand horses coming from the nearby army camp in which the Poles were resting before leaving to protect Vienna from the Turks. In 1914, a railway stop was established here which has been used mainly by locals and tourists who then continue through Popovice and Rajhrad pheasantry to the Benedictine monastery. You might find it interesting that locals wore their traditional costumes as late as in the 1920s. Now these are used mainly during celebrations and traditional balls.

With its 250 inhabitants and 647 acres Popovice is the smallest of the microregion’s villages. However, it beats all the other villages with its picturesqueness. What is even more agreeable, the road ends here so there is very little traffic. The social life is very rich – children’s days, masquarades, fishing competitions and folk costume balls are held here. The Popovice Sports Club organizes tennis, table tennis or darts tournaments. Popovice is a village with a long history and a modern present.

Admire Popovice

Bell tower

The bell tower in the village square comes from 1857 and is one of the most important monuments in Popovice. Inside there is a painting by a Benedictine monk Vojtech Slouk. It was given to the people of Popovice in 1868 as a reward for their help during the construction of the church in Opatovice.

Stone cross

Situated in the western section of the village, the stone cross probably dates back to 1697 as this is the date that is hidden in the Latin inscription. But there is another inscription on the other side of the cross saying that it was erected in 1802.

WWI Monument

This monument, commemorating the people who died during the WWI is the oldest one in the microregion. It was blessed by the Abbot Prokop Sup in October 1920.

Pond

A small pond which was completely restored in 2008. Another water biotope, newly established, can be found in front of the entrance to the Rajhrad pheasantry.
The Rajhrad Region and its natural highlights

The Rajhrad microregion abounds internal natural beauty which can be explored all the time. Rajhrad, for instance, boasts outstandingly important white poplars and pedunculate oaks towering above the pheasantry. The Celadice islet measuring 34 thousand square metres is a very romantic and well hidden corner. Two old branches of the Svratka river flank a charming mosaic of fields, gardens and orchards with the monastery in the background. Fringed by lush bank vegetation, the original bed of the Svratka is a very important element of the landscape and home to characteristic wetland species of plants and many fish, amphibians and birds. We recommend a visit to the upper monastery forest where the pheasantry is situated – an isolated complex of an original flood-plain forest with a typical flora and fauna.

If you step on the left side of the dam from 1848 you can fest your eyes on the view of a straight line of the stream flanked by whirls of flood-plain forests. The monastery is visible from this spot in all its monumentality. The newly established swamp in Blatiny is planted with wetland plants and is home to a diversity of animals – from beetles to small mammals and birds.

Opatovice with their small ponds resemble a typical South-Bohemian village. Surfaces of three water reservoirs reflect romantic silhouette of the village and its church. The ponds are a favourite destination for both locals and tourists. Between the Svratka and Dunavka there is a locality called Predni lichy, a system of four broadleaved forests, and a large flood-plain forest called Zadni lichy.

There are also some important landmarks around Holasice, too. A gorge with loess escarpments is home to xerophilous plants and to a remarkable diversity of insects. Another gorge, partially forested, is situated at the south end of the village. The “Ke stare cihelne” locality is a remnant of the brick clay mining. Spreading in the floodplain of the Svratka river, Ludmila pool is a natural water habitat with wetland plant societies. The pool is home to many rare species of amphibians, too. The most valuable element of the countryside is the Svratka’s old bed measuring almost 3.5 kilometres in length.

Popovice boasts very interesting landmarks, namely the two-hundred-metre dam and the confluence of the Svratka and Bobrava rivers. The Pastvisko reservoir was established in order to serve fishermen but it has become a very interesting biotope. It is fed by groundwater and rainwater and its vegetation includes black poplars, black elders, common reed and comfrey. The steep banks are a natural breeding ground of the common kingfisher. Another place of interest is the pheasantry, very favoured among tourists. It spreads in the area of sixty thousand square metres and comprises an isolated complex of a Riparian forest.
The Rajhrad Region and its traditions

The Rajhrad Region is situated at the north end of a typically South-Moravian folklore region. All the villages in the microregion are regular venues for traditional costume balls. The youth carefully practices folklore dances and everyone participates in the preparations of the traditional feast. The maypoles are erected and then everyone is invited to join the entertainment. These and many other traditions can be explored every year in Rajhrad (Elevation of the Saint Cross Day), Rajhradice (St. Scholastica’s Day) and in Loucka, too. Opatovice holds traditional feast on St. Charles’ Day and Holasice and Popovice have their feasts in October and November, respectively. A traditional fair is also annually held in Rajhrad – colourful costumes, brassy music and cheerful atmosphere bewitch everyone, a local or a stranger, a child or an old man.

Sports and leisure-time clubs

Sports clubs of the villages hold various competitions and tournaments – from football matches to darts competitions. Among the most favourite events are fishing competitions in Opatovice and Popovice. The contest is open to everyone who meets the requirements. Who wouldn’t want to catch a catfish of 195cm in length? Mr. Kolacek managed to do this in Opatovice in 1999. The latest information on these events can be found on the villages’ websites.

After the 2008 Beijing Olympics the shooting range belonging to Roman Kostelecky has become the most famous sports ground in the microregion. His brother, the gold medallist David Kostelecky practices here. Trap and skeet range is accessible for public from March to October on Thursdays and Sundays. Rifles can be rented here and visitors are supervised by an experienced coach. For more information, go to http://www.kostelecky.cz.

Surprisingly enough, the Rajhrad Region has its own sports airstrip. The Plane Modelers’ Club from Brno has created an outstanding base in Holasice, where air shows and various competitions take place. The latest information and profiles of the pilots can be found on http://www.volny.cz/klmbrno.
Restaurants, snack bars, coffee shops etc.

RAJHRAD

KLÁSTERNÍ TAVERN Restaurant
Klášter 1, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 603 283 485, +420 603 283 489
E-mail: akroupova@seznam.cz
Opening hours: Mon–Sat 11.00am–10.00pm
Sun 11.00am–8.00pm
A stylish place with a separate room for private events and a summer garden.

U KašNY Restaurant
Městečko 54, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 547 230 076
E-mail: UKasny@email.cz
www.ukasny.cz
Opening hours: Tue–Sun 11.00am–10.00pm
Restaurant with a garden and a smaller room for private events.

NA KINĚ Restaurant
Masarykova 459, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 774 326 107
E-mail: nakine@seznam.cz
www.restaurantenakine.cz
Opening hours: Mon–Sun 11.00am–11.00pm

TERESA Snack Bar
Masarykova 741, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 602 823 354
Opening hours: Mon–Sun 10.00am–10.00pm
Non-smoking restaurant, a garden.

Café BENEDIKTINE
Masarykova 552, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 547 230 079
A coffee shop with a garden offering sweets and ice-cream.

RAJHRADICE

U SUPA Restaurant
Opavická 20, 664 61 Rajhradice
Tel.: +420 603 423 760
Opening hours: Mon–Sun 11.00am–10.00pm
Stylish restaurant with a garden and a pool table.

“NA KONCI SVĚTA” Tavern
Spojovací 198, 664 61 Rajhradice
Tel.: +420 608 539 369
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 15.00–22.00
Sat–Sun 10.00–22.00

POPOVICE

POPOVICE Restaurant
Popovice 12, 664 61
Tel.: +420 728 576 939
Opening hours: Tue–Fri 6.00pm–11.00pm
Sat 4.00pm–12.00pm
Sun 3.00pm–11.00pm
Situated in the village square, with a garden. Seating for a hundred guests.

HOLASICE

U ZLATÉHO SRNCE Restaurant
Brněnská 130, 664 61 Holasice
Tel.: +420 547 230 051
A traditional restaurant, large parking lot, garden, homely cuisine.

NA KUŽELNÉ Restaurant
Holasice 257, 664 61
Tel.: +420 608 442 523
An isolated cavern with a view over the old Svatka. Huge fireplace and skittle ground. Favourite among tourists heading towards the Ludmila pool.

Občerstvení U HALOUZKŮ
Holasice 131, 664 61
Tel.: +420 547 229 433
Snack bar, seating outside.

OPATOVICE

KOBRA Restaurant
Na Hlinkách 328, 664 61 Opatovice
The southernmost “refreshment station” in the microregion with nice tables in a quiet alley.

Where to relax?

RAJHRAD

Studio RELAX
Michaela Langová
Masarykova 42, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 777 852 700
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 8.00am–6.00pm
Sat 8.00am–11.00am
(ondemand)
www.relaxrajhrad.estranky.cz
Solárium, kadeřnictví, masáže, kosmetika, manikúra, pedikúra, občerstvení.

POPOVICE

FAMILY SAUNA
Popovice 2, 664 61
Opening hours: November 1–March 31
Reservations on +420 737 305 423

Museums and galleries

RAJHRADICE

MITTNER’S FORGE
U zvonice 375, 664 64 Rajhradice
Tel.: +420 547 229 829, +420 608 107 107
www.mittner.cz
A forge with a small museum.

FOLKART Gallery
Rajhradice č. 294, 664 64 Rajhradice
Tel. +420 604 354 550 (na objednání)
Works by Jaroslav and Radek Buncko on display.
Where to stay?

RAJHRAD

**GARDEN Guest House**
Josef Staněk
Masarykova 229, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel: +420 547 230 063, +420 602 740 770
Fax: 547 230 063
E-mail: pension.garden@seznam.cz
www.pension-garden.cz
40 beds, garden, suitable for cyclists.

**CASIOPEA Guest House**
Marie Cicálková
Masarykova 149, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 547 230 128
12 beds.

**AJKA Guest House**
Alena Soukopová
Masarykova 468, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 603 376 566
8 beds.

RAJHRADICE

**LOUČKA Guest House**
Ing. Pavel Švec
Na Kopečku 214, 664 61 Rajhradice
Tel.: +420 603 465 614, +420 737 585 639
E-mail: pensionloucka@seznam.cz
www.pensionloucka.cz
12 beds, wine cellar, pool table, sauna, jacuzzi, swimming pool, ATV rental.

**UBYTOWNA**
Josef Dvořák
Hlavní 76, 664 61 Rajhradice
Tel: +420 731 216 855
E-mail: dvorak.jme@tiscali.cz
4 beds + 3 beds.

**Listings**

**HEALTH**

**Emergency: 155**
In case of emergency any of the physicians in the Rajhrad clinic will be happy to help you during workdays:

**MUDr. Štork Josef**
tel. +420 547 232 107, +420 547 230 044

**MUDr. Hana Jarošová**
tel. +420 547 229 572

In exceptional cases the doctor in the St. Joseph’s Hospice can help you.

Rajhrad, Jiráskova 47, 664 61
Bear in mind that the doctor must not leave the premises of the hospice
Tel. +420 547 232 225.

**POLICE ČR**

**Emergency: 158**
Police ČR – Rajhrad Department
Štefánikova 109, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel: +420 547 232 193
Fax: +420 974 626 443
E-mail: boopoprajhr@mvcr.cz
www.policie.cz

**HOW TO GET TO US?**

Bus or train
(train stops in Popovice and Rajhrad)
www.idos.cz

**BICYCLE REPAIRS**

**CykloSport – Jiří Minařík**
Masarykova 735, 664 61 RAJHRAD
Tel.: +420 547 230 088, +420 728 582 379
Fax: +420 547 232 521
E-mail: jir.minarik@tiscali.cz
www.jirminarik.cz
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9.00am–6.00pm
Sat 8.00am–11.30am

**CAR REPAIRS**

**PNEUSERVIS – Miloš Dolejš**
+ Also sells spare parts.
Masarykova 101, 664 61 RAJHRAD
Tel.: +420 547 229 523, +420 603 044 205
Opening hours: Mon–Fri 9.00am–6.00pm
During week-ends reachable via cell phone.

**AUTOOPRAVNA – Vojtěch Polák**
Syrvická 619, 664 61 OPATOVICE
In case of emergency call
+420 602 522 431 (except Saturday)

**AUTOOPRAVNA – Petr Havlík**
Popovice 72, 664 61 POPOVICE
Tel.: +420 606 151 479

**FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

**ČESKÁ SPORITELNA a.s., Rajhrad branch**
Masarykova 544, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 547 230 067
www.csas.cz
Opening hours:
Mon 9.00am–0.30pm 1.30pm–5.00pm
Tue 9.00am–0.30pm 1.30pm–5.00pm
Wed 9.00am–0.30pm 1.30pm–5.00pm
Thu 9.00am–0.30pm 1.30pm–4.00pm
Fri 9.00am–0.30pm 1.30pm–3.00pm
+ ATM (Bankomat)

**ČESKÁ POŠTA, s.p., Rajhrad**
Masarykova 88, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 547 230 047
Helpline: +420 800 104 410
www.cpost.cz
Opening hours:
Mon–Fri 8.00am–12.00am 1.00pm–5.00pm

**INSTITUTIONS**

**BENEDICTINE ABBEY in Rajhrad**
Klášter 1, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 547 230 027
E-mail: benediktini@volny.cz
www.rajhrad.cz/benediktini

**MUSEUM OF LITERATURE IN MORAVIA**
Klášter 1, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 547 229 136, +420 547 229 126
E-mail: pamatnik.rajhrad@quick.cz
www.muzeumbrnenska.cz/rajhrad.htm
Opening hours (except Mondays):
May–September 9.00am–5.00pm
October–April 9.00am–4.00pm

**CONVENT of the Consolatory Sisters of the Jesus’ Divine Heart**
Odbojářů 324, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 547 230 075, +420 547 232 535
web.quick.cz/tesitelky

**DISTRICT ARCHIVE of Brno-venkov**
Klášter 81, 664 61 Rajhrad
Tel.: +420 547 425 711
www.mza.cz
Members of the microregion

RAJHRAD town
Masarykova 32, 664 61 Rajhrad, tel.: +420 547 426 811
http://www.rajhrad.cz

RAJHRADICE village
Opatovická 93, 664 61 Rajhradice, pošta Rajhrad, tel.: +420 547 232 319
http://www.rajhradice.cz

OPATOVICE village
Velké dráhy 152, 664 61 Opatovice, pošta Rajhrad, tel.: +420 547 232 433
http://www.opatovice.eu

HOLASICE village
Václavská č.29, 664 61 Holasice, pošta Rajhrad, tel.: +420 547 229 362
http://holasice.cz

POPOVICE village
Popovice 2, 664 61 Popovice, pošta Rajhrad, tel.: +420 547 232 155
http://www.obecpopovice.cz

www.mikroregion-rajhradsko.cz

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