

## Ploskovice state castle



**Intended for :** Family, Group, Small Children with Adult, Senior, Tourist, experienced Hiker, Athlete, School Group, foreign Tourist

**As:** by foot, by bike, by car, by bus, by train

**GPS:** **50°33'33.668"N, 14°12'2.242"E**

**Usual Duration:** 3 hrs

**Distance from the center:** 5.63 km

**Practical information:**

Open V.-IX. daily, except Monday, IV.+X. Sat+Sun

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Anna Maria Franziska of the Palatinate (née Saxe-Lauenburg, 1672–1741) had this Baroque country house built prior to 1720; it was finished in 1725. The architect was Octavio Brogio; the stonework and sculpture were produced by Johann Peter Baumgarten from Prague, Andreas Kühnl from Býčkovice and Johann Pursch. The painter Václav Vavřinec Reiner and stuccodor Tomasso Soldatti were involved with the decoration of the interior. Apart from the main hall, the most significant room is the sala terrena underneath. The grottoes connecting to the garden on the ground floor have fountains with sculptural decoration in the shape of Hercules, water deities, sea monsters and angels which are quite remarkable. The Duchess,

who after the death of her first husband married the Tuscan Grand Duke, Gian Gastone III, the last male descendent of the Medici family, ran a costly court at Ploskovice. In the 1730s the French terrace garden was remodelled. A gloriette, shown in its 19th century incarnation, serves as a belvedere. In 1764 the house was altered in Rococo style (Anselmo Lurago and Prague stonemason František Lauermann) and in 1773 further building alterations were made to the house and greenhouse in the garden, to the designs of Anton Schmidt. The composition of the garden was simplified from 1816. During a Neo-Baroque reconstruction from 1850-3 (Jan Bělský and Josef Pokorný) for the abdicated ruler Emperor Ferdinand V the upper floor was raised, and pavilions appeared at the end of the Baroque arcade corridors, as well as a new northern portico. Alterations to most parts of the interiors date from this period, decorated by sculptors Václav Levý, Josef Effenberger and painter Josef Navrátil. The latter even disfigured Baroque ceiling frescoes by Václav Vavřinec Reiner, with allegories of the four continents, in the main hall, by overpainting other work on top. The garden was changed into a landscape park by gardener František Fritsch (to the designs of Jan Bělský) and servants quarters grew up after 1816 on the site of a destroyed earlier house.