



Welcome to the castle in Lednice. Photography is allowed, but please do not touch anything during the tour. Thank you for your understanding.

We have just entered to the area that was built as the ground floor of the castle in the 17th century. After the terrain was raised, during the last reconstruction in the mid-19th century, it became an underground floor. Today's terrain has been raised by about a metre and a half. On the left side, a bricked-up arcade can be seen, which protected passing guests from the vagaries of the weather. On the right side, the windows with bars are still preserved. This suggests that it was originally an open space. After the aforementioned reconstruction, the technology needed to operate the castle gradually found its place here. The wine archive of the owners of the chateau was also created here.



Grotto

The popularity of artificial caves comes from Italy, where they have been known since the late Renaissance and Mannerism. It is Mannerism that has given grottoes an unusually large amount of attention. The walls of grottoes were covered with mosaics and stucco, often imitating marine life. Similarly, shells and various kinds of stones and gems were set into the tufa walls. The main aim was to mix art and nature so that it was as little noticeable as possible what was natural art and what was artificial nature. The Lednice Grotto was created in the last third of the 17th century under Karl Eusebius Liechtenstein and his son Jan Adam. It is therefore one of the oldest parts of the castle. At the same time, it is interesting for its dimensions - the length of about 55 m makes the Lednice Grotto one of the largest in Europe. The artificial stalactites in

these areas are made using a stucco technique applied to skeletons and charcoal cores, oak blocks or reeds. These materials are very light and thus allow the mass of stucco to be carried and fixed to the ceiling.



Cannon stove

The cannon stove came to the Austro-Hungarian lands during the Napoleonic Wars in 1803. The aim of their installation was to save firewood in military buildings. The cannon stove earned its name because of its shape, which resembles a cannon barrel turned towards the ground. The heated air rose through a heating duct into the room, and the cooled air returned to the heating chamber through another duct. Regulation was by brass louvres in the heated room. The cannon stove was installed in the castle around 1850. 25 systems with cannon stoves were installed in the castle.



Calorifer

At the beginning of the 20th century, much more powerful and economical calorifiers were developed. Five of these were supplied and installed by the Nikolladoni Locksmiths of Vienna. These boilers replaced 10 cannon stoves and were heated with coal. Warm air was blown into the interiors of the castle, which resulted in very pleasant temperatures in winter. Despite the state-of-the-art heating system, Lednice Castle was mainly used as a representative summer residence.



Water heating

In the alcove there is a water heating device for the bathroom above. You can see it within the 1st tour circuit (the representative halls). All bathrooms in the castle were equipped with taps for cold and hot water. The heater heated a horseshoe-shaped exchanger, so the heated water circulated between the tank and the exchanger. When the valve above the bath was opened, the water was forced out of the storage tank by the pressure in the pipework and began to flow out of the valve.



Connection to the chateau

The staircase led to a room that used to be one of the chateau's service areas. It was the backdrop for the adjacent dining room as an occasional food and drink preparation room with direct access to the wine archive. The castle has been very cleverly designed for the movement of employees, with several entrances to the underground directly from the central building.



Electrical Distribution

You can also see the original substation and transformer station. Please do not touch anything as the wiring is still working. The original stand houses a replica of the marble distribution board with original components from 1903, when the castle was electrified. The generator was located in the Moorish waterworks and driven by a Girard turbine installed in 1881 for the purpose of pumping water. Electricity was piped to the chateau via an underground cable. After the improvement of incandescent filaments, electric lighting was expanded, replacing lamps and chandeliers with Argand burners burning rapeseed oil and candles (Aimé Argand - French inventor). The power of the water turbine was no longer sufficient, so in 1911 the three-phase electricity system of the Lednice-

Valtice area was built. Francis turbines and generators are installed in the Nejdek mill three kilometres away. An underground cable carries high voltage to substations in Lednice, Nový Dvůr, Valtice and Boří Dvůr. The transformers change the voltage from 5000 volts to 3x 210 and 120 volts. The cable lines covered a distance of 17 kilometres. A disconnecter and part of the high-voltage distribution lines have been preserved from the original substation. The transformer is not preserved. The technology served until the 1950s, when the castle was connected to the Czechoslovak electricity system. The technology was designed, manufactured and installed by Siemens.

Thank you for your visit and have a nice day.



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