Trips from Prague
Introduction

A blend of influences from Czech, German and Jewish cultures in the Czech lands has always created an ideal environment for the development of the arts, science and architecture – especially in Prague, the nucleus of Czech history. How could one day ever be enough to absorb a thousand years’ worth of history?

Prague is not the only treasury of cultural and natural wealth in the Czech Republic. But it is an ideal base for trips to places that are living chronicles of European history and culture as well as to places where you can enjoy adrenaline-fueled experiences and explore unique natural land formations.

You won’t regret it! If you are charmed at first sight by Prague, then you will fall in love with the Czech Republic for the rest of your life.

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Český Krumlov

Český Krumlov is one of the most beautiful Renaissance cities in Europe and, after Prague Castle, it is the second most visited place in the country. Just a stroll through the historic city centre with its unparalleled medieval atmosphere will leave no doubt why Český Krumlov is one of the pearls on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The dominant feature of the city is a chateau with a six-storey tower which is richly decorated with sgraffiti. From here, you will have one of the most beautiful views of the picturesque old town. Among the most noteworthy sights at the chateau are the St. George Chapel, the Masquerade Hall and the bridge connecting the Upper Castle with the gardens and chateau theatre. After visiting the best-preserved Baroque theatre in Europe, be sure not to miss the chateau garden with its cascading fountain. The garden is dominated by the fresco-decorated Bellarie Summer Palace, which along with the park becomes a backdrop for a revolving outdoor amphitheatre.

On the other bank of the river Vltava, which is connected with the chateau by a small bridge, is the old town, where you will find the splendid architecture of original town houses, the soaring Church of St. Vitus with the tomb of the Rožmberk (Rosenberg) family, and rustic medieval taverns and pubs.

Reason to visit

During the Celebrations of the Five-Petalled Rose, the city comes alive with jousting tournaments, craft markets, music and a historical procession. You will encounter characters in the role of Rožmberk family members and be entertained by jugglers and comedians. The tradition of the celebrations in Český Krumlov has gone unbroken since the days of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The festival is held at the beginning of summer.

The Seidel Photo Studio Museum is an exceptional cultural landmark with a unique archive of photographs of the local population from the turn of the 20th century. The historically preserved interiors and furnishings from 1905 will acquaint visitors with the daily lives of the studio’s last owners.

The Egon Schiele Art Centre presents changing exhibitions with the main attraction being a permanent exhibition of works by the Austrian Expressionist Egon Schiele. Let yourself be inspired by Český Krumlov, just like Schiele, who relocated here from Vienna in 1910. His lifestyle and his nudes of underage girls provoked so much animosity that he soon had to leave the city.

GPS: 48°48’51.510”N, 14°19’4.419”E

173 km; 2 hours 25 minutes.

Connections from the Main Railway Station leave every two hours, with a change in České Budějovice; journey time 3 hours 40 minutes.

Direct connections from the Florenc Bus Station and the Na Knížecí bus depot (adjacent to the Anděl metro station) leave several times a day; journey time around 3 hours.

IV – X (daily except Monday) 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

www.ckrumlov.cz

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www.ckrumlov.cz
Mariánské Lázně

From the discovery of a healing spring in the woods by Premonstratensian monks in 1197, six centuries passed before the location was granted the status of a spa and received its name, derived from Mary’s Spring. In the 19th century, spa buildings sprang up around here faster than mushrooms in the surrounding forests. By the time the poet Goethe fell passionately in love with the young Ulrike here in the summer of 1823, a stay in Mariánské Lázně had already become a must on the European social calendar. Other famous guests have included Ema Destinnová, Richard Wagner, Frédéric Chopin, Franz Kafka, Thomas Edison and hundreds of others.

The importance of this spa town is confirmed by the fact that it is one of the European spa towns applying for inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Come here to relax in the care of the professionals at the spa and to taste the delicious spa wafers.

Reason to visit
The greatest wealth of Karlovy Vary is the 12 hot mineral springs used for treating problems of the digestive tract, metabolic disorders as well as oncological and musculoskeletal diseases. You can stay at one of the dozens of beautiful spa buildings, villas or resort complexes. Among the most important hotels are the Grandhotel Pupp, the Imperial Hotel and the Thermal Hotel.

Visit the Moser Museum, where you will discover the magical world of the luxurious crystal glass with a tradition dating back more than 150 years and learn why it is called “the glass of kings”.

The alchemy of producing Becherovka liqueur has been a closely guarded secret for more than 200 years, and it will not be divulged even at the Jan Becher Museum. Enjoy a visit to the newly reconstructed cellars where Becherovka was made for 143 years, and taste the herbal liqueur at the bar.

GPS for the information centre: 49°58'31.091"N, 12°42'10.767"E

130 km; 1 hour 40 minutes.

Direct connections from the Main Railway Station every two hours; journey time 3 hours 20 minutes.

Direct connections from the Florenc Bus Station almost every hour; journey time approximately 2 hours 15 minutes.

In 1905, the first golf course in the Czech lands was opened here by King Edward VII of England. The highlight of the club’s history is obtaining the right to use the title “Royal Golf Club” through a generous decision by Queen Elizabeth II in 2003. It’s another reason why Mariánské Lázně wears the royal crown of Czech spas.

Karlovy Vary

When King Charles IV sampled the mineral water from a spring in the forests surrounding Loket Castle in 1350, he decided to establish a spa here. About 200 years later, Karlovy Vary was attracting famous guests from all over the world and was the pearl of the West Bohemian spa triangle, which is a favourite to earn a place on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

What to do first? Take a promenade along the colonnade and taste the waters from the 12 springs? Visit beautiful church buildings? Sample a Becherovka and spa wafers at the Grandhotel Pupp? Spot the stars at the international film festival? Soak up the high-society atmosphere on the golf course or at the racetrack? With so much to choose from in Karlovy Vary, you are spoilt for choice!

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GPS for the information centre: 50°13'47.864"N, 12°51'51.866"E

130 km; 1 hour 40 minutes.

Direct connections from the Main Railway Station every two hours; journey time 3 hours 20 minutes.

Direct connections from the Florenc Bus Station almost every hour; journey time approximately 2 hours 15 minutes.

www.karlovyvary.cz

www.marianskelazne.cz
Kutná Hora

Kutná Hora, the city of silver, rightly earned the second nickname “treasury of the country”. The wealth acquired through silver mining helped to bring about an economic boom for the Kingdom of Bohemia.

A unique structure which will ensure that your visit to this royal city is a memorable experience is the Late Gothic Church of St. Barbara, dedicated to the patron saint of miners. This architectural and ecclesiastical jewel was constructed by master builders over a period of more than 500 years and is a symbol of the power and importance of this mining town. Another architectural gem is the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist in Sedlec, known as the “cathedral of light” due to its huge windows. The prominent Czech architect Jan Blažej Santini Aichl took part in its reconstruction in the Baroque-Gothic style.

On a visit to the city, make sure not to miss the magnificent Stone Fountain and the Italian Court, which served as the central mint and a residence of Czech kings. At the Czech Museum of Silver, a lively presentation will acquaint you with the history of silver mining here. As part of the tour, you will descend – equipped only with a portable light, a helmet and a miner’s tunic – through a 250-metre corridor of a medieval mine.

The historical core of the city, together with the Church of St. Barbara and the Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary and St. John the Baptist, is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Reason to visit

Kutná Hora has an ossuary which is unique in the world. Its decoration was created from the bones of nearly 40,000 people from a liquidated cemetery. The ossuary is located in the underground part of the church in the Sedlec district of the city. After the abolition of the local monastery, the church and the ossuary passed into the possession of the Orlik branch of the Schwarzenberg family, who initiated the modification of the underground chapel’s decoration into its present form.

The Royal Silvering is a historical celebration which recreates a visit by the Czech and Roman King Wenceslas IV to Kutná Hora. A procession including members of the court, knights, burghers and miners in historical attire passes through the city several times a day for an entire weekend. The atmosphere is enhanced by jousting tournaments, a historical market, courtly festivities and fireworks. It is held each year in June.

A major attraction in Kutná Hora is the Gallery of the Central Bohemia Region (GASK) in the former Jesuit college. Devoted mainly to the presentation of Czech modern art of the 19th and 20th centuries, GASK also presents exhibitions of contemporary art.

GPS for the information centre: 49°56’59.125”N, 15°16’7.410”E

84 km; 1 hour 30 minutes.

Direct connections from the Main Railway Station leave every even hour; journey time 1 hour. The Kutná Hora railway station is about 3 km from the city centre, which is reachable by public transport or local train.

Kutná Hora

Trips from Prague
Konopiště Chateau

Konopiště Chateau was founded in the late 13th century as a Gothic fortress. Through many modifications over the centuries, it was gradually rebuilt into a romantic chateau, which in 1887 was bought by the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand d’Este. His enthusiasm for technical progress brought the chateau all the modern comforts of the time – running water, electricity, a hydraulic lift and flushing toilets. After his marriage to Countess Sophie Chotek, the couple settled here. Their romantic love story, along with the Belle Époque, ended in the summer of 1914 in Sarajevo with an assassin’s bullet and the start of the First World War.

Tour circuits will take you into the living areas, guest quarters, dining room and armoury, allowing you for a while to imagine life at the chateau before the First World War.

Reason to visit

Franz Ferdinand d’Este was an avid art collector, and with his assembly of woodcarvings, paintings and a variety of other artistic artefacts relating to the cult of St. George, he wanted to outdo King Edward VII himself, who had the same collecting passion. You can see the surviving items from the collection at the Museum of St. George.

Make sure not to miss a tour of the Rose Garden with greenhouses, which invite you to relax. They grow subtropical and tropical plants here and also the yellow rose variety "Marshal", which was a great favourite of Countess Sophie.

GPS: 49°46’58.675”N, 14°39’32.814”E

37 km; 50 minutes.

Direct connections from the Main Railway Station at least every hour; journey time 40 minutes. From there it is a 2-km walk to the castle.

III–X (daily except Monday), around 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., VII and VIII (daily) 9 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

www.zamek-konopiste.cz

Karlštejn Castle

Karlštejn holds an exceptional position among Czech castles. It was founded in 1348 by Bohemian King and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV as a place for safekeeping the royal treasures, collections of holy relics and the Czech Crown Jewels. He had them stored under the gilded dome of the Chapel of the Holy Cross. Charles IV personally oversaw the completion of the imperial residence and the decoration of the interiors, even conferring about it with his stargazers.

The most famous of Czech royal castles, concealed on three sides by high wooded slopes, it has retained its magical atmosphere to the present day. The castle is part of the Burgenstrasse – Castle Trail connecting more than 90 castles between Prague and Mannheim, Germany.

GPS: 49°55’58.711”N, 14°11’5.975”E

37 km; 50 minutes.

Direct connections from the Main Railway Station at least every hour; journey time 40 minutes. From there it is a 2-km walk to the castle.

III–X (daily except Monday), around 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., VII and VIII (daily) 9 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

www.hradkarlstejn.cz

Reason to visit

The Chapel of the Holy Cross – the place where the crown jewels were stored – is located in the soaring Great Tower. The walls are covered with semiprecious stones and 129 rare panel paintings by Master Theodoric. The gilded dome decorated with Venetian glass lentoids creates the perfect illusion of a starry sky and makes a visit to this sacred place a truly ethereal experience.

Visit the castle during the great traditional celebration of the wine harvest festival, which is held on the last weekend of September. The wine festivities are opened each year with the arrival of Charles IV and the empress.

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GPS: 49°46’58.675”N, 14°39’32.814”E

34 km; 30 minutes.

Direct connections from the Main Railway Station at least every hour; journey time 40 minutes. From there, walk (about 2.5 km) or travel by bus to the castle.

III–X (except Monday), around 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., VII and VIII (daily) 9 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

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www.hradkarlstejn.cz
Bohemian Switzerland

Bohemian Switzerland (České Švýcarsko) is one of the four national parks in the Czech Republic. Massive rock towers, gates, walls, gorges, towns and mazes were formed through the erosion of Cretaceous marine sediments. The park is 97 percent covered by forests. Its location at the border with Germany makes the Saxon Switzerland National Park its neighbour.

The gateway to Bohemian Switzerland is the town of Hřensko, which is the lowest-lying municipality in the Czech Republic. The 20-kilometre nature trail Around Hřensko takes you through all of Bohemian Switzerland – leading past steep walls, through tunnels, and in some places just by ferryboat along the river Kamenice. In the past, the Kamenice was both an obstacle and also a source of income, from floating wood down the waterway and fishing trout and salmon. Today, the gorges are a tourist attraction, equipped with floating walkways, tunnels, footbridges and a weir. Silent (Tichá) Gorge, also known as Edmund’s (Edmundova) Gorge, was opened in 1890, and Wild (Divoká) Gorge in 1898.

Enjoy the panoramas from the lookout points at Mary’s Rock, Šaunštejn or Belvedere, which is the oldest observation spot in Czech Switzerland. It offers a beautiful view of the 130-metre canyon of the river Labe (Elbe) and of the Zirkelstein and Kaiserkrone plateaux on the German side.

Reason to visit

The heart of Bohemian Switzerland is Pravčická brána, which is the largest natural rock gate in Europe. This rock formation’s monumental height and mass will completely astonish you – it spans 27 metres and rises to a height of 21 metres. Attesting to the fairytale atmosphere of Pravčická brána is the fact that the famous Danish author Hans Christian Andersen wrote part of his fairy tale “The Snow Queen” here. It has also charmed Hollywood filmmakers, who shot several scenes for The Chronicles of Narnia here.

If you are caught in rainy weather, head to the House of Bohemian Switzerland in Krásná Lípa. In addition to tourist information, you will find an interactive exhibition which will delight anyone who wants to discover the landscape of Bohemian Switzerland with all the senses. The highlight is a twenty-minute projection of the stirring film The Mysterious Landscape.

GPS for Hřensko:
50°52’26.020”N, 14°14’10.390”E

130 km; 1 hour 50 minutes.

Direct connections from the Main Railway Station to Děčín about every two hours; journey time 1 hour 45 minutes. From there, buses go to Hřensko–Mezná several times a day; journey time 40 minutes.

www.ceskesvycarsko.cz
www.pbrana.cz
www.hrensko.cz
Křivoklát Castle

The Protected Landscape Area of Křivoklátsko conceals a castle which, due to its excellent location surrounded by forests full of game, was a favourite of many Czech kings. This royal residence was built in the 13th century as a seat of the ruling Přemyslid dynasty. Vestiges of Czech kings and the splendour of their lifestyle is still evident today at every step. The halls of the castle witnessed many festivities and feasts, but also many consequential political talks and fateful diplomatic negotiations.

During a tour, you’ll be dazzled by the interiors of the Late Gothic chapel and the Royal Hall. You’ll be amazed by the library with 52,000 volumes. Chills will run down your spine on a visit to the torture chamber. And you will be awed by the magnificent view from the Great Tower. Cultural events and traditional markets at the castle will acquaint you with the crafts and goods produced by the inhabitants of the Křivoklátsko region.

Reason to visit

In the summer, don’t miss a falconry demonstration in the castle courtyard. The fascinating tradition of hunting with trained birds of prey dates back more than 4,000 years, and in 2010 it earned a place on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

GPS: 50°2'13.467"N, 13°52'36.814"E

61 km; 60 minutes.

Connections from the Main Railway Station leave at least every two hours, with a transfer in Beroun; journey time about 1 hours 30 minutes. The train makes stops only on request.

IV – X (daily except Monday) around 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

www.krivoklat.cz

Český Šternberk Castle

Český Šternberk Castle, called the “Pearl of Posázaví”, towers above the central part of the river Sázava. The family that founded the castle still owns it today, and the current owner, Zdeněk Sternberg, lives here.

A tour circuit will lead you through fifteen richly furnished rooms, from the representative Knights’ Hall, to parlours and salons with furniture from various historical periods, to the Hunters’ Hall, which is decorated with a variety of hunting trophies. You will learn about the fate and lifestyle of the most recent generations of the oldest still existing Czech family.

Be sure not to miss the former monastery in Sázava, 12 kilometres away. The monastery was the centre of Slavic education from 1032 until its closure in the 18th century. Its greatest treasure is the Sázava Madonna, the only one in the world in which she appears to be disciplining the young Jesus!

Reason to visit

In the castle you can see a unique collection of 545 etchings from the time of the Thirty Years’ War.

In the summer, don’t miss a falconry demonstration in the castle courtyard. The fascinating tradition of hunting with trained birds of prey dates back more than 4,000 years, and in 2010 it earned a place on the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

GPS: 49°48’27.703”N, 14°55’26.895”E

50 km; 35 minutes.

Trains leave from the Main Railway Station about every two hours, with a change in Cercány; journey time 2 hours 10 minutes.

Direct connection from the Roztyly stop twice a day; journey time 2 hours. A transfer is possible in Benešov or Vlašim, going several times a day; journey time about 2 hours.

IV and X (weekends, holidays): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., V and IX (daily except Monday): 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., VI–VIII (daily except Monday): 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Last tour begins 45 minutes before closing time.

For pre-booked groups, the castle is open all year round.

www.hradceskysternberk.cz

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Last tour begins 45 minutes before closing time.

For pre-booked groups, the castle is open all year round.

www.hradceskysternberk.cz

You will see dozens of master woodcarvers at work and also a permanent exhibition of their creations.

GPS: 50°2’13.467”N, 13°52’36.814”E

61 km; 60 minutes.

Connections from the Main Railway Station leave at least every two hours, with a transfer in Beroun; journey time about 1 hours 30 minutes. The train makes stops only on request.

IV – X (daily except Monday) around 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

www.krivoklat.cz
Mělník Chateau

Visit the place where 23 Czech queens and princesses have lived. The Renaissance chateau in Mělník, together with the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, rises above the confluence of the rivers Labe (Elbe) and Vltava. A tour of the chateau presents the rich collections of paintings and furniture of the Lobkowicz family, which owns the chateau today.

From the chateau’s terrace and restaurant you will enjoy magnificent views of the confluence of the Labe and Vltava rivers, the majestic Říp Mountain, the volcanic peaks of the České středohoří (Central Bohemian Uplands) and the St. Ludmila Vineyard. The best known wine from Mělník, Ludmila in its distinctive bottle, is named for St. Ludmila. You can taste it in the chateau cellars.

Reason to visit

In the Great Hall of the chateau you can admire part of an outstanding collection of vedutas and maps of European countries and cities from the 17th century, which are a testament to the excellent skill of cartographers, graphic artists and printers of that period. A comparable group of maps can be found only in the collection of King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden.

Near the chateau, in the crypt of the Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, you can visit one of the biggest ossuaries in the Czech Republic, containing the bones of up to 15,000 people.

Nelahozeves Chateau

The Nelahozeves Chateau, with interiors richly decorated with frescoes, is among the most beautiful Renaissance buildings in the Czech Republic. It also includes a museum and gallery with the exhibition “Private Spaces: A Noble Family at Home”, which examines the lifestyle of the noble Lobkowicz family in the 19th century. This family has played a major role in the history of Central Europe for more than 600 years and also boasted the title of prince of the Holy Roman Empire. They were patrons of science and of artists such as Ludwig van Beethoven, among others.

The nearby Veltrusy Chateau is a Baroque building with a beautifully landscaped park, where centuries-old trees tower above sculptures and pavilions – and time seems to have stood still. The Veltrusy Chateau also offers tours and exhibitions.

Reason to visit

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www.lobkowicz-melnik.cz
If you are going to Bohemian Paradise for a ramble through nature, it is best to start in Turnov. From there, you will set off to the southeast on a scenic rocky path through the Hrubá Skála area. The entire trip is within 2 km of a railway, so it’s up to you how far to walk. From Turnov, follow the red hiking trail. First visit the picturesque Valdštejn rock castle, and then continue on an undemanding walk up to the Hrubá Skála Chateau. It is certainly worthwhile to keep following the red trail all the way to the Trosky castle ruin, which is 15 kilometres from Turnov.

If you want to bring back a traditional and valuable piece of jewellery from the Czech Republic, then it should be made of Bohemian garnets. At the Garnet Gallery in Turnov, you can learn all about the history of mining garnets and the production of jewellery in the region. Other high-quality souvenirs from your travels through Bohemian Paradise are jewellery from traditional glass beads and the glass figurines typical of this region.

GPS: 50°35’20.337”N, 15°9’10.926”E

1 hour.

Direct connections from the Main Railway Station to Turnov leave fairly often; journey time 2 hours.

Direct connections from the Florenc or Černý Most bus station to Turnov leave fairly often; journey time 1 hour 30 minutes.

www.cesky-raj.info
Plzeň is a city that literally lives through beer. It all began in 1842, when the beer with a unique colour and taste, Pilsner Urquell, was tapped for the first time at the Měšťanský brewery (today Plzeňský Prazdroj). You can taste this superb beer at the Na Spilce Restaurant – the largest Czech beerhall – which is located in the former fermentation cellar.

The city is dominated by the St. Bartholomew Cathedral, which has the highest church tower in the Czech Republic. From the tower, there is a beautiful view of the historic city centre and the wooded hills of the Plzeň Basin. A strong Jewish community formed in Plzeň in 1893 around the Great Synagogue, which is the third largest in the world.

Proof of Plzeň’s importance is its victory in the competition for the title of European Capital of Culture for 2015.

**Reason to visit**

If you want to learn about the history of Pilsner Urquell beer, be sure not to miss a trip to the world-famous brewery that gave the world the Pils style of beer. An exhibition will acquaint you with the whole procedure of making the excellent beer. You will become familiar with the ingredients used, the historical and current brewhouses, and the bottling plant. A real treat is a tasting of filtered, unpasteurized Pilsner Urquell beer straight from the barrel. Also visit the Brewery Museum, where you can explore the Gothic malt house with a well, a two-level cellar and the former tavern, along with hundreds of unique exhibits illustrating the history of beer brewing from ancient times to the present.

The Liberation Festival is a unique event, expressing gratitude to the U.S. Army for the liberation of Plzeň. In a 1940s atmosphere with the heart-stirring appearance of American veterans, Jeeps ride down the street carrying soldiers in American uniforms. Everywhere people are dancing and jazz is playing. Fighter planes fly overhead, and leading the Freedom Convoy is the legendary M4 Sherman tank. Where better to be in early May than in Plzeň?

In the urban conservation area you’ll see typical burgher houses and a historical underground network, built beginning in the 14th century. An 800-metre tour circuit leads through a labyrinth of medieval corridors, cellars and wells.

GPS for the information centre: 49°44’53.412”N, 13°22’39.129”E

91 km; 1 hour.

Direct connections from the Main Railway Station every hour; journey time 1 hour 35 minutes.

Direct connections from the Florenc Bus Station or Zličín at least once an hour; journey time 60 minutes.

www.icpilsen.cz
www.pilsen.eu
Olomouc

Since the Middle Ages, Olomouc has been the stage for major events in Czech history and is the traditional spiritual and historical centre of Moravia. After Prague, it is the second most significant urban conservation area in the country. Today, it is also a lively university town with a picturesque historical centre full of pleasant nooks, Baroque fountains and cosy cafés. More than 100,000 visitors come to Olomouc each year, and if you are not yet among them, it’s time to do something about it!

Start your tour with the towers of the St. Wenceslas Cathedral, then visit a treasury of art and ecclesiastical works, explore the nearby underground, or learn about the history of the foundations of the Přemyslid Royal Palace. On the upper square, Horní náměstí, direct your gaze up to the Holy Trinity Column, a UNESCO monument. On the same square stands the Town Hall from 1378 with an astronomical clock designed in the spirit of Socialist Realism, which, after Prague’s Old Town Orloj, is the second largest astronomical clock in the country. Be sure not to miss the symbol of ecclesiastical power, the Archbishop’s Palace, which will dazzle you with the splendour of its halls.

The city of Olomouc was protected by a unique system of fortifications, consisting of twenty forts and other military objects. During the Napoleonic Wars, General Lafayette was imprisoned here and Marshal Suvorov stayed here. Now they are connected by a 30-kilometre educational trail for hikers and cyclists.

Reason to visit

The pride of Olomouc is the Holy Trinity Column, which was consecrated in 1754 in the presence of Empress Maria Theresa. The column represents the largest grouping of Baroque statues in Central Europe. Because of its historical and artistic value, the column was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Its height and monumentality will impress you at first sight. It is so large that it even contains a small chapel.

About five kilometres northeast of Olomouc lies the large pilgrimage site of Holy Hill (Svatý Kopeček), which is a destination of pilgrims and admirers of Baroque beauty alike. You can visit the elegant Basilica of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary, which Pope John Paul II elevated to a basilica minor during his visit in 1995. Also be sure to visit the local zoo with a lookout tower, from which you will have animals, the basilica and Olomouc at your fingertips.

You should also taste the local specialty – the famous Olomouc tvarůžky. It is a ripened cheese which is completely unique in its zingy flavour and characteristic aroma.

The famous composer and conductor Gustav Mahler stayed in Olomouc in 1882. Mahler is also associated with one of the houses on the square, which now houses a café bearing his name.

GPS: 49°35’30.831”N, 17°16’43.764”E

280 km; 2 hours 40 minutes.

Direct connections from the Main Railway Station leave twice an hour; journey time approximately 2 hours 20 minutes.

www.tourism.olomouc.eu
www.central-moravia.cz
Reason to visit
After the Second World War, the Terezín Memorial was established in the Small Fortress to commemorate the victims of racial and political persecution during the Nazi occupation. It is now a National Cultural Monument. Part of it is the Ghetto Museum, which presents an exhibition on the “final solution of the Jewish question” in 1941–1945. The exhibition was created in collaboration with former prisoners in the Terezín Ghetto and with the help of hundreds of documents, drawings, objects, letters and films about life in the prison. Is is also a testament to the human will to survive, even in barbarous conditions, and the creative and artistic acts the people engaged in as a way to help them endure the situation.

The historical city of Litoměřice spreads along the river Labe (Elbe) just a few kilometres from Terezín. Be sure to not to miss the interactive exhibition on Czech winemaking in the newly reconstructed castle in the city centre. You can also sample some of the wine here, of course.

GPS: 50°30'57.412"N, 14°9'34.437"E
64 km; 50 minutes.

Direct connections from the Holešovice Railway Station leave nearly every hour; journey time 1 hour.

www.pamatnik-terezin.cz
www.terezin.cz

Practical information

1/ Driving

Basic traffic regulations:
• the Czech Republic drives on the right,
• there is zero tolerance for any amount of alcohol in the driver’s system,
• the use of a mobile phone or other communication device is forbidden while driving,
• the use of seat belts is compulsory,
• headlights are required at all times,
• pedestrians at a crosswalk always have the right of way,
• children up to 36 kg or 150 cm must be in a child safety seat and may not sit in the front passenger seat,
• maximum speed limit: motorways 130 km/h, outside built-up areas 90 km/h, within towns 50 km/h.

Required documents:
• driver’s license (European or international),
• identity card (EU) or passport,
• vehicle documents (certificate of registration, proof of liability insurance, Green Card).

Motorway tax / toll stickers:
• yearly 1,500 CZK,
• monthly 440 CZK,
• 10-day 310 CZK,
• can be purchased at national border crossings, filling stations and post offices,
• affix to the lower right corner of the windscreen (on the passenger side),
• roads on which the driver is and is not required to display a toll sticker are indicated with applicable traffic signs (motorway, toll-free road).

2/ Buses and trains

The Czech Republic has one of the densest railway networks in Europe and has a well-planned system of bus transportation with an ample number of connections. Bus and train travel is relatively dependable and inexpensive.

Timetables:
Information about travel within the Czech Republic can be found at www.idos.cz. Carriers often show the ticket prices here as well.

Carriers:
Train transport is provided almost exclusively by Czech Railways, while coach service is provided by ČSAD and a number of private bus operators. Train travel is usually slower but more comfortable, while bus travel is generally less expensive and somewhat faster.

Tickets:
For intercity coaches, you buy a ticket from the driver as you board; for trains, you buy a ticket at the railway station or through www.cd.cz.

3/ Accommodations

You can find accommodations and make reservations for a wide range of lodging options at www.czechtourism.com.
If you only knew,
that fairy tales never end here,
you could already be living
one of your own.

stories.czechtourism.com