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the best of ...

# BRNO

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|  |    |
|--|----|
| CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER AND PAUL .....      | 16 |
| THE SECOND LARGEST OSSUARY IN EUROPE ..... | 25 |
| PRISON OF NATIONS – CASTLE ŠPILBERK .....  | 29 |
| VILLA TUGENDHAT (UNESCO) .....             | 47 |
| EXHIBITION CENTER .....                    | 52 |
| AZ TOWER .....                             | 55 |
| BRNO DAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA .....    | 62 |
| MASARYK CIRCUIT .....                      | 67 |
| ZOO BRNO .....                             | 68 |
| OBSERVATORY AND PLANETARIUM .....          | 69 |



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*Spring stroll in the park under Špilberk*

## BRNO



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## CONTENTS

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| BRNO .....                               | 5     |
| BRIEF HISTORY .....                      | 6–7   |
| TOUR OF THE HISTORICAL CITY CENTRE ..... | 8–35  |
| WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK .....             | 36–43 |
| MODERN ARCHITECTURE .....                | 44–55 |
| BRNO – UNIVERSITY CITY .....             | 56–61 |
| BRNO DAM AND THE SURROUNDING AREA .....  | 62–67 |
| LEISURE TIME .....                       | 68–73 |
| INFO SERVICE .....                       | 74–75 |



*Brno is a city of students, so every weekend the center of town turns into one big party.*





## BRNO

Its population (about 400,000) and size make it the second largest city in the Czech Republic, located at the confluence of the Svitava and Svratka rivers. Brno is the natural center of southern Moravia and the capital of the South Moravia Region. It is the center of commerce and industry on a European scale as well and also serves as the seat of the supreme authorities of the Czech justice system – the Constitutional and Supreme Court of the Czech Republic are both located here. It's connected with the world via the Brno International Airport. The city boasts 26 faculties in 11 universities and colleges.

So much for the data. We, however, are interested in how life is here, and whether Brno is worth visiting. When we take a closer look, we see that the city has a very advantageous location – it's surrounded and protected on three sides by hills, while only the sunny southern side opens up towards the fertile lowlands of South Moravia. This must have already been well known by people in prehistoric times, since evidence of the first settlement of this location goes back 700,000 years (shown by the discovery of a hand-hewn stone on Red Hill). Today's Brno, however, is not merely a city of monuments and reminders of the (mostly) Gothic and Baroque, nor of simply historical and modern architectural treasures (one of



*The coat of arms of Brno is a Gothic shield with **silver-red stripes**; its number of stripes used to fluctuate until it stabilized at a total of four. Unfortunately, there is no rumor or legend that would clarify the origin of the coat of arms in an interesting way. It is said, however, that the silver streaks might symbolize the rivers Svratka (broad band) and the Svitava, while the red streaks then symbolize the city divided by these rivers.*

the three most famous functionalist villas in the world is located here), but most of all, it's a great place to live. The proof of this is the local inhabitants themselves – warm people with a specific and unmistakable sense of humor. They even have their own specific slang. In short, people who are able to make fun of themselves.

And even though (as you'll soon discover in this guide) there's a lot to see in Brno, each sight more interesting than the next, you can still pass through the historic center in a few hours. So you'll be left with plenty of time to be simply enjoy yourself. And you can be sure that there are plenty of ways how.

### Did you know that...

*The Web version of the **New York Times** ranked Brno at no. 27 (!) on its prestigious list of fifty-two locations around the world (including such destinations such as Abu Dhabi) that its readers should visit in 2016. Brno is presented here with the caption "Unexpected cuisine and nightlife in an architectural mecca".*





## A BRIEF HISTORY

As the largest city in Moravia, Brno is spread out over areas where archaeological findings have proven settlements since the **Stone Age**. Later, numerous fortified settlements formed here, as well as a **fortified castle**, in the center of which first stood a Romanesque rotunda and later a basilica. Around the castle, a settlement evidently developed around the early 11th century which later became the foundation for the medieval walled city. Its importance gradually increased until by the 14th century it was the center of virtually all important events in Moravia – the **Moravian Margraves** resided here, as did the councils of the Moravian nobles and the **provincial court**. Markets were held there, monasteries and churches were founded, hospitals formed, and the royal chapel of St. Wenceslas (Václav) was also established here.

This castle was soon destroyed, but in the 13th century **Přemysl Otakar II** was responsible for the construction of a new castle on the hill named Špilberk, where the Moravian Margraves lived for several decades – Jan Jindřich and Jošt Moravský (see the chapter on Špilberk). Given its dominant position in the city, Špilberk served as a prison from the 18th century until the 2nd World War, when Czech patriots were imprisoned there.



... and his opponent, the supreme commander of the Swedish army Lennart Torstensson



The commander of the city during the siege of Brno during the Thirty Years War, Jean Louis Raduit...

The fortress is also due credit for the fact that during the **Thirty Years' War**, Brno was never conquered, even though it was severely damaged. Over the course of the following 18th century, Brno witnessed the development of many factories, especially textile, and the city flourished with culture and theater. All this, however, lasted only until the Napoleonic Wars. In 1777, Brno became the seat of a **bishopric** and the church of St. Peter and Paul on Petrov Hill became a **cathedral**.

During the 19th and 20th centuries, Brno essentially turned into an **industrial city**, later into a city of **trade fairs** and exhibitions. It grew significantly and swallowed up the original surrounding suburbs.

Even today, Brno has preserved many of its old and architecturally valuable buildings – churches, monasteries and palaces. Modern architecture here is represented by the unique functionalist Villa Tugendhat, the work of architect L. Mies van der Rohe (1930–1931), and other modern buildings including the Janáček Theater, open since 1965.



|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| around 1000           | formation of a settlement at the ford across the Svatava River            |
| between 1021 and 1034 | castle and church of St. Michael were founded                             |
| 1091                  | the city was first mentioned in writing (Cosmas Chronicle)                |
| 1234                  | Brno acquires privileges from King Wenceslas I                            |
| 1277                  | first mention of Špilberk Castle  |
| 1349                  | Moravian Margraves choose Brno as their seat                              |
| end of 14th century   | Brno has about 1,000 homes and around 11,000 inhabitants                  |
| 1428 and 1430         | city (unsuccessfully) besieged by Hussites                                |
| 1454                  | expulsion of Jews from the city   |
| 1619                  | after the uprising, Brno sides with the estates                           |
| 1641                  | Brno becomes the capital of Moravia                                       |
| 1643 and 1645         | unsuccessful siege by the Swedish army                                    |
| 1777                  | bishopric established in Brno   |
| 18th century          | development of industry and trade   |
| 1839                  | the first train arrives in Brno (railway connection to Vienna)            |
| 1850                  | thanks to the newly integrated villages, Brno has 46,000 inhabitants      |
| 1882                  | theater Na Hradbách (today Mahen Theater) equipped with electric lighting |
| 1919                  | Masaryk University founded  |
| 1924                  | regular air transport is launched   |
| 1937                  | Brno is the second largest city in Czechoslovakia (300,000 inhabitants)   |
| 1939 to 1945          | part of the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia                           |
| 1959                  | International Engineering Fair takes place in Brno for the first time     |
| 1992                  | the city becomes the seat of the Constitutional Court                     |
| 2001                  | Villa Tugendhat registered on the UNESCO List                             |
| 2009                  | visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Brno  |
| 2013                  | AZ Tower skyscraper built   |



View from the tower of the Old Town Hall on Špilberk Castle and the Church of St. Michael

## INTRODUCTORY TOUR CIRCLE

There are countless sights to see in the center of Brno, and this guidebook isn't vast enough to cover even a brief mention of each. The most interesting sights, of course, are all covered here.

A tour of the historic center of the city might symbolically begin at the **Old Town Hall**, the oldest secular building in Brno (and you can't miss the Brno dragon and the wheel), from where you can go to the **Vegetable Market** (Zelný trh), without a doubt the most famous square in Brno. We'll certainly linger here a moment, since the famous **Parnas Fountain** awaits us, and we can also visit the underground labyrinth beneath the square. From the Vegetable Market it's not far to the **Capuchin Monastery** with its mysterious tomb (open to the public) with the mummies of its monks.

From here, our steps head to **Petrov** with its monumental Cathedral of

St. Peter and Paul. After looking around through the cathedral, known from the Czech ten-crown coin, we can take a rest on some of the benches in the Denis Gardens. We'll head back to the Vegetable Market, visit the **Dietrichstein Palace**, and take Orlí Street, turning left onto Minoristká Street, reaching the **Church of the Saint Johns**. From here we head to **Freedom Square** (náměstí Svoboda), an imaginary city center with many sights and attractions. From Freedom Square it's a short walk down Zámečnická Street to the **Dominican Square** with its church of St. Michael and New Town Hall. If we wish, we can go "northwards" and pass over Jakubské náměstí (James Square, with its Church of St. James and the "indecent little man") to find ourselves on the **Moravian Square** (náměstí Moravské – Governor's Palace, Church of St. Thomas). And since we're here, it would be a pity to not check out the two largest **theaters** in Brno – the Mahen Theater on Malinovského Square



Did you know that...

The central pinnacle created by the stonemason **Pilgram** was intentionally designed as twisted and with a 45° angle (not even the other pinnacles are perfectly straight). According to legend, this is a distinct revenge from Mr. Pilgram for not having received his agreed payment. In reality, however, Pilgram did get paid; the twisted pinnacle is only a sign of the late Gothic, which often "plays" with gothic elements, thus relativizing itself – this way, it was already manifesting the age's intellectual shift toward the Renaissance.

(incidentally, the first theater in Europe with electric lighting) and the Janáček Theater on Roosevelt Street. We can finish our tour of the historic center of Brno at **Špilberk**, albeit a bit of a walk from here. Obviously there's no need to stick to this "prescribed" route – on the contrary, you can start your journey through Brno from Špilberk.

## OLD TOWN HALL

The oldest surviving secular building in the city is the Town Hall building, located on Radnická Street which connects the Vegetable Market and Freedom Square. It served for the management of municipal affairs **from 1373 to 1935** (!). The councilors then moved to the nearby Provincial House, which has since come to be known as the New Town Hall (Nová radnice) while the former administrative building became the Old Town Hall.

The oldest part of the Town Hall, a single-story house with a tower, dates back to **1240**. In the early 15th century, the Town Hall was expanded with another building

with a chapel. Other buildings (e.g. the prison) were gradually added over the 15th and 16th centuries. In 1577, the tower was raised and fitted with an observation. One of the most remarkable parts of the Town Hall is the stone portal, created in 1510-1511 by architect Anton Pilgram (1460-1516). It consists of five pinnacles, slender pyramids whose edges are set with "crabs", and its finial is fitted with a crossed flower; this was a popular element of Gothic architecture which was supposed to emphasize the vertical dimension of the building.





Did you know that...

### THE BRNO DRAGON

In the passage of the Old Town Hall (no. 8) there is a stuffed **Nile crocodile** (*Crocodylus niloticus*) suspended from the ceiling and bearing a remarkable age. It is believed that he was in Brno even before the end of the 16th century, since the city archives have records of his "restoration" (deworming, fumigation, drying) in the years 1578, 1579 and 1585. This contradicts the widely prevalent version that the crocodile was donated to the city later in 1608 by Emperor Mathias. In any case, however, this is still most likely the oldest stuffed specimen in Europe. It is cared for by the zoological department of the Moravian Museum.

### BRNO WHEEL

One of the better-known symbols of Brno is a wooden wheel (diameter 144 cm) hung in the **passage of the Old Town Hall**. The wheel bears a legend about a master wheelwright Georg Birk of Lednice who casually bet (about 12 tolar), that during a single day, he would cut down a tree, make a wheel from its wood, and even roll it to Brno (54 km). Unfortunately, expert examination revealed that the wheel was not made from fresh wood, not even the wood of a single tree. This presented a fundamental challenge to the truthfulness of the legend. Nonetheless, the annual event of rolling a wooden wagon wheel **from Lednice to Brno** provides evidence that at least the final part of Birk's bet was possible.

### VEGETABLE MARKET (ZELNÝ TRH)

Originally a marketplace known as the Upper Market, this already served as a market in the **13th century**, when poultry markets, pottery and second-hand markets, and others were active here. From the 15th century it has been called the Vegetable Market, or "Zelný trh". Locally known as "Zelňák", the sloping square has a rectangular shape and lies just below the hill Petrov. The name of the square is relevant today, since a large part of it is used as a market for vegetables, fruits, and flowers. The upper part of the square is dominated by the Holy Trinity Column from 1729, while the square's most dominant feature is the Baroque Parnas fountain from the late 17th century.



### PARNAS FOUNTAIN

At the Vegetable Market, our attention is immediately attracted by a massive fountain with gargoyles and a number of Baroque sculptures. It was built between 1693 and 1695 by the architect **Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach**. The basin of the fountain bears a sixpointed layout which serves as a base for imitation rocks with caves. There are many mythical and allegorical figures to be seen, including Heracles leading the three-headed dog Cerberus on a chain. The work is considered to be **the most valuable monument of Baroque sculpture in Brno**.

as a shelter for the townspeople in times of danger to the city and to preserve food (in place of nonexistent refrigerators) and for the maturation of beer and wine. The cellars were not interconnected in the past; this occurred in 2009 when completing their reconstruction. This created a unique complex accessible as part of a tour route leading 6-8 meters below the surface of the square. The **entrance to the labyrinth** is located on the Green Market at No. 21.

Reservation: +420 542 212 892

[labyrinth@ticbrno.cz](mailto:labyrinth@ticbrno.cz)

### W. A. MOZART SCULPTURE

Since 2008, the Vegetable Market has been adorned with another sculpture: on a pillar measuring several meters in front of the Reduta theater (where Mozart performed as a child) there stands a bronze clavichord (a kind of forerunner of the piano) upon which teeters a childish figure with the male head of the brilliant composer. The figure has one wing on his back, symbolizing the composer's sad fate. The statue is the creation of sculptor Kurt Gebauer.

### LABYRINTH BENEATH THE VEGETABLE MARKET

Beneath the Vegetable Market winds a secret system of **underground tunnels**, the remains of cellars beneath houses built in the Middle Ages. The tunnels served both



Statue of W. A. Mozart (Kurt Gebauer)





Vegetable Market (Zelný trh), Dietrichstein Palace



Theater Husa na provázku,  
or "Goose on a String"



Reduta Theater

[www.mzm.cz](http://www.mzm.cz)

## THE GOOSE ON A STRING AND REDUTA THEATERS

The Vegetable Market is also home to two very famous theaters. At the top of the square, in the palace of the Hauspers of Farnal, is the popular theater company "Husa

na provázku", or Goose on a String. Since its inception in 1967, the theater has been one of the leading experimental scenes. The bottom of the square holds one of three National Theaters of Brno, the Reduta.



Baroque fountain Parnas (1691-1695), one of the most valuable monuments in Brno





The strikingly austere facade of the Church of the Finding of the Holy Cross.



"What you are now, we once were. What we are now, you will be too."  
The mummy of a monk in the Capuchin tomb reminds us of the transience of life.

### CAPUCHIN MONASTERY

The first Capuchins in Brno appeared only a few years after the arrival of the order in Bohemia, and they started to build their monastery as early as 1604. The monks had to leave it in 1645, however, when the Swedes seized Brno and all the buildings outside the town walls were torn down. From 1648, however, they gradually bought ten houses on the former Coal Market (now the Vegetable Market) to obtain a large enough land tract upon which in 1651 they completed the construction of a three-wing complex of monastic buildings (designed by Ondřej Erna). Later the monastery church of the Finding of the Holy Cross was completed. The monastery and church were built in the spirit of the principles of the Capuchin Order – a return to the poverty and simplicity of the primary apostolic church.



#### Did you know that...

The sculpture ensemble from the **Mercury Fountain** (J. J. Bendl, 1699) at the Bishop's Courtyard depicts the ancient gods of the four basic elements: Mercury (air), Neptune (water), Vulcan (fire) and Ceres (earth).

### THE CAPUCHIN CRYPT

For an eerie experience, take a tour of the Capuchin monastery crypt, which was used as a tomb for members of the Franciscan order from the mid-17th century. It consists of six rooms which were created by modifying the cellars of the original houses on the site of today's monastery.

The sophisticated system of vents in the walls of the tomb allowed the deceased bodies to be dried naturally and gradually, thus mummified without any embalming.

Today, 41 of the original 205 people who were buried in the crypt have been preserved. It was used as a tomb until 1784, when Emperor Joseph II banned this method of burials.

[www.kapucini.cz](http://www.kapucini.cz)

### CHURCH OF THE FINDING OF THE HOLY CROSS

This is part of the Capuchin monastery, a simple early Baroque building, consecrated in 1656. Although it seems quite plain from the outside (true to the spirit of the Capuchin), the artistic and historical furnishings of the church are very valuable. This is especially true of the main altar painting by Dutch painter Joachim Sandrart (1606-1688), as well as paintings on the side altars and polychrome wood carving of the Madonna from the early 15th century.





The Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul crowns the peak of Petrov Hill

## CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER AND PAUL

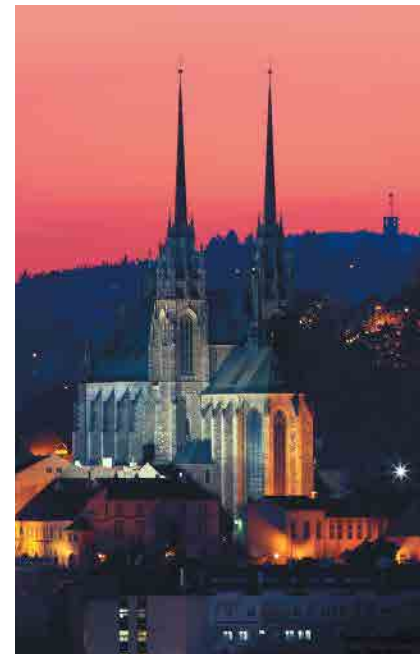
At the top of Petrov Hill, on a site where a Romanesque rotunda stood from the 12th century, gradual reconstructions (Romanesque basilica, later early Gothic church) have resulted in a Gothic cathedral which today represents one of the city's most prominent landmarks. Today's cathedral, with its two **84 m high towers**, is from a neo-Gothic reconstruction that

### Did you know that...

The bells of the church on Petrov sound **noon at 11 o'clock!** This local rarity, according to legend, originated in 1645, when Brno had been under siege by the Swedish army for 112 days. The Swedish commander, General Torstenson, issued an order one day to make one last attempt to conquer the city; if the attempt would remain unsuccessful by the time the bells chimed noon, the siege was to end. This news, however, was discovered by the defending commander Radout Louis de Souches who devised a ruse that was ingenious in its simplicity: have the bells ring before noon. So it came to pass that the Swedish army ended their siege at 11 am, thinking that their time was up. Apparently none of the Swedes were wearing an accurate watch.

took place in 1904-1909 by the architect A. Kirstein. The church's interior furnishings are Baroque, from the 18th century. It became a cathedral, i.e. the main church of a bishop, in 1777, when the Diocese of Brno was established.

The remains of the original Romanesque-Gothic building from the 12th century and other later reconstructions are visible today in the church crypt. The crypt also serves as an occasional venue for chamber concerts, exhibitions, and lectures. In contrast, the **cathedral treasury** holds a permanently installed exhibition displaying valuable items that were previously hidden in the depositories – monstrance, liturgical textiles, and more.



The southern and northern tower of the cathedral provides visitors with an amazing **view of Brno** and its surroundings (in good weather, to the Pálava biosphere reserve) after ascending the 130 steps. The Brno Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul (locally known as Petrov) is indeed a national monument, but most Czechs see it every day on the Czech ten-crown coin.

### Opening hours:

Monday – Saturday:

8.15 am – 18.30 pm

Sunday:

7.00 am – 18.30 pm



### Did you know that...

The **Měnin Gate** is the last of five medieval town gates. Today the building is used by the Brno City Museum for a permanent exhibition of historical toys.





*Franciscan Minorite monastery*

### MINORITE MONASTERY AND CHURCH OF ST. JOHNS

At the intersection of Jánská and Minorit-ská Streets there stands a church dedicated to two Saint Johns – **St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist**. The church belongs to the Minorite monastery, founded around 1230 and active at this site continuously for nearly 800 years – not even the Josephine reforms dissolved it. The monastic church of St. John the Baptist was consecrated in 1257, the monastery and church were rebuilt in Baroque style in the first third of the 18th century, the work being led by the Brno architect Moritz Grimm. Besides the church and monastic buildings, the entire complex also consists of the Loreto with its **Holy House** and **Holy Stairs** (an imitation of the Holy Stairs which, according to legend, were tread by Jesus Christ in Jerusalem in the palace of Pontius Pilate. The originals are located in Rome).



*The Holy Stairs in the Minorite Monastery*

### THE BRNO ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

On the east side of Freedom Square, since 2010, stands a giant (5.8 m high and 1.7 m wide) **stone sculpture** designed to remind citizens of the unsuccessful siege of Brno by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War. The sculpture is black, a work of art of the sculptors Oldřich Rujbr and Petr Kameník. This remarkable structure conceals a **clock** associated with a complex mechanism that, each day at 11 am (Brno's noon) plays a melody, while one of the four holes in the sculpture opens and reveals a glass ball which you can catch and keep.

The work is officially entitled the Brno astronomical clock, but a more accurate name should simply be a clock. The device actually shows the time (albeit in a rather complicated manner) whose accuracy is guaranteed by a remote transmission from a clock in Frankfurt. Its shape, however, has given rise to all sorts of ideas, and the sculpture soon gained a number of colorful nicknames by the Brno townsfolk...



*The unusual shape of the Astronomical Clock*

### STATUE OF THE KNIGHT ON MORAVIAN SQUARE

In 2015, an equestrian statue was placed on Moravian Square in front of the Moravian Gallery of a knight in armor with a shield and spear, its tip reaching a height of **eight meters**. The statue is remarkable not so much for its overall "giraffe" height, but for the disproportionately long legs of the horse which emerge directly from the ground (the statue has no pedestal), so people can walk freely among the legs.

The sculpture, designed by the renowned contemporary Czech sculptor **Jaroslav Róna** (\*1957), depicts the Moravian Margrave Jošt (1351-1411) and at the same time (or rather) represents an allegory of courage. After the work was installed, it caused a considerable stir, evoking a myriad of contradictory reactions, but over time it has increasingly grown into the hearts of the people of Brno, and it's not impossible to imagine that over the coming years the



*Knight sculptor by Jaroslav Róna*

statue might become one of the city's symbols. The knight has a downcast expression and his face is concealed, giving the statue a slightly eerie expression; the horse, on the contrary, is baring his teeth and could even, with a little imagination, be laughing – but each visitor to Brno will judge this for himself.





Statue of Justice (Marius Kotrba)

## THE STATUE OF JUSTICE ON MORAVIAN SQUARE

Another interesting statue in Brno stands in front of the Supreme Administrative Court – a stylized sculpture of a man with a heavy block, symbolizing justice (= justice is a heavy load). The author is sculptor **Marius Kotrba**. Naturally, the man struggling with the heavy block soon received a number of nicknames, including "debt collector with washing machine" or "Chief" after the character from the movie *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* – water actually sprays up beneath the cube.

### Did you know that...

The early **Baroque Plague Column** from 1679 was built on the site of the old Marian Column. It's the work of several Brno authors, and it was designed by John Křtitel Erna. It depicts figures of the saints, the protectors against the plague (St. Roch, St. Rosalie, St. Sebastian) as well as the figure of St. Mary.



Freedom Square

## FREEDOM SQUARE

This is probably the most important square in Brno and is the imaginary center of the city. In the past, it was known as Lower Market or the Great Square. It has a roughly triangular layout and was first mentioned in the **13th century**. Even in the Middle Ages, this was considered "uptown", where rich burghers and noblemen built their stately homes.

The last major reconstruction of the entire area took place in 2006.

## PALACE OF THE NOBLE LADIES

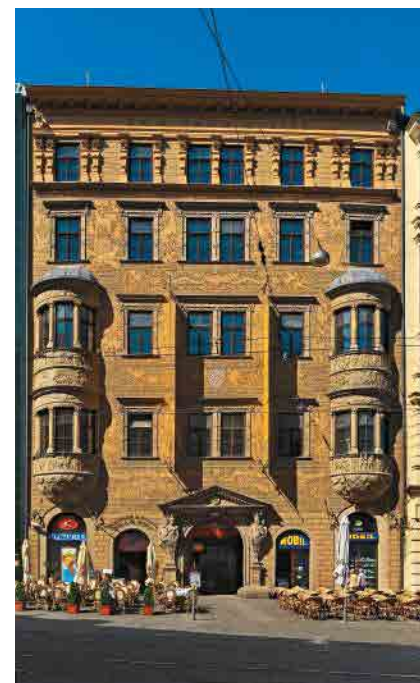
From 1682 to 1690, the northeastern corner of the square was embellished by architect **Jan Křtitel Erna** by a single-storey Baroque palace which was expanded and increased by an additional storey in 1791. The name of the building gained its name from its purpose, specifically raising abandoned aristocratic and burgher maidens. During World War II, the neighboring Althann Palace was severely damaged by bombing and had to be torn down, putting

the Palace of the Noble Ladies at the same risk, but it was ultimately repaired. Its interiors are now home to one of the five exhibitions of the **Brno Moravian Museum**. The interior of the palace boasts a beautiful chapel with late Baroque frescoes.

## HOUSE OF THE LORDS OF LIPÉ

This Renaissance four-storey palace stands on Liberty Square. As one of the most beautiful (and oldest) buildings in Brno from the late 16th century, it stands on the site of an older Gothic building from the 13th century. It was originally known as **Schwanz Palace**, as one of its previous owners was the wealthy Brno burgher Christoph Schwanz († 1601), a **wine merchant**. This can be seen from the motif of ornaments with vines and (among other things) wine-gathering scenes that adorn the facade of the house. Currently, the palace is used commercially, but there is also a cultural and information center, and on the top floor you can visit the **observation deck**.

[www.dpl.cz](http://www.dpl.cz)



House of the Lords of Lipé



Office of the Mayor – New Town Hall on Dominican Square

### KLEIN PALACE

This neo-Renaissance burgher palace was built in 1847-1848 on a design by Viennese architect Ludwig von Förster. It was built for the **Klein family who traded in iron**. This was also reflected onto the house, respectively into its facade, which was fitted with distinctive architectural elements of cast iron.

In 1946, the palace was confiscated and began to deteriorate, mainly due to insufficient maintenance and the confused and inadequate use of its premises for various purposes. The years 1995-1997 saw a costly reconstruction (to the tune of about 70 million CZK) and the house was brought back to life.

### CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL

This is located on the **Dominican Square** near the New Town Hall. Its history is closely connected with the Dominican monastery – the Dominicans received the small church of St. Michael, then later enlarged it, and even later rebuilt it in Gothic style. In the Middle Ages, the church fulfilled an important function – the provincial estates launched their **councils** here, and the Moravian Margraves received their official positions here. The church was destroyed during the siege of Brno by the Swedish army in 1645, then it underwent a Baroque reconstruction under Jan Křtitel Erna from 1658 to 1679. The church has been



The Parliamentary Hall of the New Town Hall was where the Moravian provincial administration gathered seven hundred years ago.

preserved in this form to the present day. The church is accessible to the public only during the holy mass.

### NEW TOWN HALL

A complex of Baroque buildings on **Dominican Square**, originally a Dominican monastery (hence the name of the square). It has served as the seat of municipal administration since 1935 (until then, the Old Town Hall was used for this purpose). The preserved parts of the monastery, cloister, and convent courtyard are now used for exhibitions. From the second half of the 13th century, the building was also used for **court hearings** and meetings of the Moravian estates. In 1582-1585 it was extended to include a Renaissance part (Assembly Hall, Knight's Hall, and others). The Provincial House, as the building was called at the time, was largely expanded at the end of the 17th century and early 18th century. The last major modification was the construction of a new wing in 1772 and 1776, which resulted in the second courtyard.

Visitors may freely visit both courtyards, on the larger of which there stands an interesting fountain from 1928 with allegories of the twelve months, as well as a Renaissance staircase and Renaissance clock.

[www.brno.cz](http://www.brno.cz)



### CHURCH OF J. A. COMENIUS

The church is better known as the **Red Church** because of its walls made of unplastered bricks. It stands on Comenius Square and was built in 1863-1867, designed by the Austrian architect Heinrich Ferstel and named the Church of Christ. The competition for the project was announced by the Brno Lutherans, who utilized the February Constitution (1861) of the guaranteed right of Protestants to build their own churches in the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The building tied into the legacy of the North German Protestant Gothic and immediately after its completion became the dominant feature of the circular boulevard and indeed the entire inner city. The interior furnishings of the church are, in the spirit of the Protestant tradition, simple and even austere.

The Red Church's excellent acoustics make it a favorite venue for concerts, especially sacred music.

[www.cervenykostel.cz](http://www.cervenykostel.cz)



## GOVERNOR'S PALACE

This beautiful Baroque Palace on Moravian Square emerged from a previous Augustinian monastery from the 14th century, founded by the Margrave Jan Jindřich. It was mostly the work of architect **Mauric Grimm** in 1732 to 1741, who headed its Baroque reconstruction. The monastery was later elevated to an abbey. In 1783, however, the Augustinian order was dissolved by the reforms of Emperor Joseph II, the monks left, and authorities were moved into the vacated palace. After World War II it housed (until 1989) the Museum of the Brno Labor Movement, and now it serves as the **Moravian Gallery** (permanent exhibition of Gothic art, drawings, graphics, etc.).

[www.moravska-galerie.cz](http://www.moravska-galerie.cz)

## CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS

This church is also known as the Church of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary and St. Thomas. It stands on **Moravian Square** and its history is associated with the Augustinian monastery, founded precisely in the middle of the 14th century. This was already the second founding of the same monastery, since the first Augustinian monastery in Brno burnt down in 1346. The Prague workshop of Petr Parler also contributed to the construction. The church (probably still unfinished) was consecrated in 1356 with the attendance of Emperor Charles IV. During the Hussite wars, in 1428, the church and the monastery were severely damaged, then another disaster hit in 1500 when



*The tall tower of the Church of St. James*

a major fire struck the monastery. At the beginning of the 17th century the church was again damaged repeatedly, until a reconstruction began in 1661, based on the design of architect Jan Křtitel Erna, which gave the church the Baroque form that we know see today.

## CHURCH OF ST. JAMES

This late Gothic Church on the St. James Square was first cited in 1228 in a document of Přemysl Otakar II, still as a Romanesque building. It was replaced by a High Gothic construction in the late 13th and early 14th centuries. In 1515, the church burned down, and its renovation took nearly all the rest of the 16th century. In 1592 the **tower** was completed, reaching an impressive **height of 92 m**.

The church's altar gallery holds the mausoleum of General Jean-Louis Raduit de Souches (1608-1682), the chief commander



*The "indecent little man" at the Church of St. James*



**Our TIP**

## BONE OSSUARY AT ST. JAMES CHURCH

*Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 9:30 am – 6:00 pm, Closed on Mondays*

*Tickets and reservations: Tel.: +420 515 919 793*

[www.ticbrno.cz](http://www.ticbrno.cz)

[www.brnenske-podzemi.cz/kostnice-u-sv-jakuba](http://www.brnenske-podzemi.cz/kostnice-u-sv-jakuba)



of the city's defenders during the siege of Brno by the Swedes in the Thirty Years' War.

## BONE OSSUARY IN THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES

Brno holds probably the second largest ossuary in Europe (after the catacombs in Paris). Under the church of St. James there were stored the remains of more than fifty thousand skeletons which originated from

the church in Petrov, dissolved in 1784. This cemetery was used for burials from the 13th century and many deaths from plague and cholera epidemics were buried here. After transferring the skeletal remains to the church crypt, the ossuary was closed and virtually forgotten over the years. It was accidentally rediscovered in 2001 during a survey of Brno's underground. The ossuary was opened to the public in 2012.



©Moravská galerie

Our TIP

# MORAVSKÁ GALERIE

## MORAVIAN GALLERY IN BRNO

The second largest art museum in the Czech Republic, focusing on comprehensive visual culture. It features free art such as painting, drawing, graphics, and sculpture from the earliest period to the present, as well as photography, applied arts, graphic design, and architecture. The Moravian Gallery comprises five buildings – Pražák Palace, Museum of Decorative Arts, Governor's Palace and the private villa of Dušan S. Jurkovič. Together with the Viennese Museum of Applied Arts (MAK), it manages the Josef Hoffmann Birthplace in Brtnice near Jihlava. On a global level, the most important activity of the Moravian Gallery in Brno is the International Biennial of Graphic Design, held since 1963. The exhibitions and expositions are enriched by accompanying programs: lectures, guided tours of exhibitions, creative workshops, concerts, and performances designed for all visitor groups. Special emphasis is placed on children's audiences, for whom the gallery organizes children's openings, art camps, art programs, and more.



©Moravská galerie



©BoysPlayNice



Husova 18, 662 26 Brno



/moravskagaleriebrno



/moravskagalerie



Did you know that...

The **Mahen Theater** was the first theater in Europe lit by electric bulbs instead of gas lamps. It is curious to note that electricity had not yet been installed in Brno, so the theater had to have its own small power plant. The electrical installation project was developed by the famous inventor Thomas Edison himself, who allegedly used 1,996 light bulbs to illuminate it. He witnessed the results of his work during a visit to Brno a full 25 years later.

## MAHEN THEATER

Malinovsky Square is dominated by the neo-Renaissance (and partly neo-Classical and neo-Baroque) building of the Mahen Theater, built in 1881-1882. The impetus for its construction was the fire that destroyed the Brno City Theater in 1870. The architectural design of the theater is the work of Viennese architects with notable names, Hermann Helmer and Ferdinand Fellner, specializing in theater buildings. The theater has 569 seats and was ceremonially opened on **14 November 1882** with the performance *Egmont* by J. W. Goethe, set to music by Ludwig van Beethoven. The theater is named after the Brno playwright Jiří Mahen, who from 1918 to 1920 was its first dramaturge after the formation of independent Czechoslovakia. It is the home stage of the National Theater in Brno. The building, occupying an area of 2,700 square meters, cost 500,000 gold pieces at the time. The interior is neo-Baroque and richly decorated – above the auditorium we can see ceiling allegorical lunettes and an impressive crystal chandelier. The curtain was designed by Austrian painter Franz Lefler (1831-1898).



## JANÁČEK THEATER

The nearby Janáček Theater, part of the National Theater in Brno and almost a hundred years younger than the Mahen Theater, is located on Rooseveltova Street. The history of this theater's construction is surprisingly long and laced with a myriad of ups and downs and twists and turns: the first designs appeared at the beginning of the 20th century, and seven (!) competitions for the project construction took place during the years 1910-1958. The competitions were attended by renowned architects, including Jan Kotěra, Josef Gočár, Pavel Janák, and others. In 1958, the winner was finally the Brno architect **Jan Víšek** (1890-1966), whose design was used for the building. The theater was opened on 2 October 1965 with the opera "The Cunning Little Vixen" by the composer whose name the theater bears.



The composer's statue at the Janáček Theater





### ŠPILBERK – CASTLE, FORTRESS AND PRISON

Without a doubt, this is the biggest and most famous landmark of the city. The castle on a rocky hill of the same name above the city was founded in around 1250 by the later king **Přemysl Otakar II**, at the time still a Moravian margrave. Over the centuries, the castle changed both function and form. Přemysl Otakar founded it as a dignified seat of the Moravia rulers and in support of the royal power of the Czech kings, who visited it only sporadically. Even the Moravian margraves used it only briefly, with **Jan Jindřich** (reigning from 1350 to 1375) and then **Jošt of Moravia** (1375–1411) living here. And because Jošt was elected Roman king in 1410, Špilberk became the seat of the ruler of the Roman German Empire. This only lasted three months, unfortunately, because Jošt soon died. This also ended the era of Špilberk castle as a residence, and it became a military fortress. From the late 15th century, the castle often changed owners and generally deteriorated. Repairs finally came during the Thirty Years' War,



*The chimes of the Špilberk courtyard consist of 15 bells. One of 32 different melodies is played every hour between 9am and 6pm*



while it also withstood several months of siege by the Swedes. With further enhancements of its defensive system that continued into the mid-18th century, Špilberk gradually became the mightiest fortress in Moravia. From the beginning of the 17th century, Špilberk was also used as a prison; in 1783 Emperor Joseph II had it turned into a **civil prison** for felons. At that time, Špilberk was considered the toughest prison in Europe and was known as the "**prison of nations**". It lost its statute as prison in 1855, but still during the 1st World War politically persecuted opponents of the Austrian monarchy were involuntarily placed there, as well as people persecuted by the German Nazis during WWII. Probably the most attractive thing that visitors can see at Špilberk are the **casemates**. Originally they served as a refuge for soldiers from an artillery attack, but gradually these two-storey arched windowless hallways began to be used as a prison for the toughest criminals. The casemates have been open to the public since 1880, and today you can visit them as part of guided tours. When visiting Špilberk, you shouldn't miss the **observatory** on the top of the corner tower. After climbing 103 steps, in nice weather you can even see the



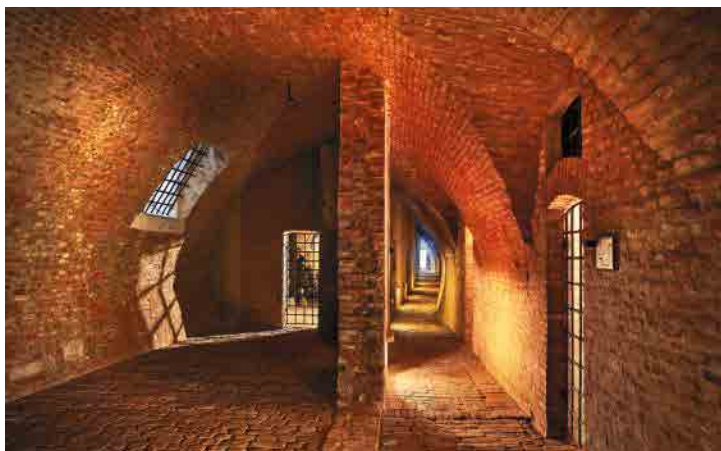
Did you know that...

*Babinský, the Robber is well-known in Czech folk songs like "Mexican Villain" and is a real historical figure. He sat out part of his twenty-year sentence in Špilberk (1841-1855, serving the rest in Kartouzy). Václav Babinský was born in 1796 and died in 1879 in Řepý near Prague.*

peaks of the Pálava. The large courtyard of the castle holds a well 119 meters deep, reaching down even lower than the level of the Svatka River.

Phone: +420 542 123 614

[www.spilberk.cz](http://www.spilberk.cz)



The renowned casemates – originally an artillery corridor, later prison cells



The Cistercian monastery was founded in 1323 by the Czech and Polish Queen Elisabeth Richeza. Twelve years later, she was buried in the same church, beneath the altar of the Holy Cross.

### MITROVSKÝ SUMMER HOUSE

Near the fairgrounds there stands an elegant mansion built in 1779 by Count Antonín Mitrovský (1735-1813). The chateau in late Baroque and Classicist style of Louis XVI was known as a **garden casino** – a relaxing summer palace. The author of this outstanding architecture is not known. Presently the building is used for exhibitions, cultural events, concerts, and the like.

[www.letohradekbrno.cz](http://www.letohradekbrno.cz)

### OLD BRNO (AUGUSTINIAN) MONASTERY

Another of Brno's important monasteries is the Augustinian monastery dedicated to the Annunciation and St. Thomas. It was founded in 1356 and soon became a center of culture and science. In 1752 the monastery was elevated to an abbey, but in 1783 by decree of Emperor Joseph II the monastery residents had to move to the Cistercian monastery in Old Brno, which is the present seat of the abbey.

The monastery also includes the Gothic **Basilica of the Assumption**. It was built in the 14th century on the site where originally (probably from the 10th century) a Roman church stood. The building was made of bricks with minimum use of stone. It stands on a cross-shaped layout – two perpendicularly intersecting naves. Even this church underwent Baroque alterations, but these are reflected mainly in the interior. It includes, among other things, a **silver altar** from 1736 which is considered the most valuable silversmith work in Moravia.



Did you know that...

The picture of the **Black Madonna** was donated to the Augustinians in 1356 by Emperor Charles IV. The Black Madonna is worshiped as a **palladium**, i.e. the protector of the city.





The father of genetics,  
Gregor Johann Mendel (1822 – 884)



Monument to Gregor Johann Mendel  
in front of the Mendel Museum on the grounds  
of the Augustinian Monastery in Old Brno

## G. J. MENDEL AND GENETICS

The monk and later abbot of the Augustinian monastery in Old Brno Gregor Johann Mendel was born in 1822. In 1853 he graduated in mathematics, physics, botany (and other branches) at the University of Vienna. Even then, he knew how important **math** (especially statistics) was in describing and explaining certain phenomena in biology. He applied this knowledge during his experiments **crossing pea plants**, which he carried out upon his return to Brno in 1856 and 1863. Based on monitoring the offspring of crossed plants, he then formulated three basic rules which ultimately became the famous fundamental laws of inheritance. He published the results of his research in 1866 in a study called **Experiments on Plant Hybridization**.

Through the eyes of modern science, we now see that Mendel, when interpreting his attempts, did not proceed completely scientifically; from the number of experiments carried out, he published only those that best fit his theory. The paradox is that

Mendel himself eventually stopped believing his own discoveries; after his pea plants, he verified the results of his work on hawkweed (flowers with mostly yellow blossoms) and was disappointed in the results. He could not have known that hawkweed reproduction is somewhat more complicated.

Mendel's work was not fully appreciated (typically) until after his death. By the early 20th century, it was no longer disputed that Gregor Mendel had laid the foundations of a **field, genetics**, by formulating the principles of heredity, today recognized as **Mendel's Laws of Inheritance**.

He was also a pioneer of a new scientific method – biostatistics.



**Our TIP**

@ Martin Indruch

## MENDEL MUSEUM EXHIBITION “G. J. Mendel: The Story of a Modest Genius”

opened in July 2016, placing modern technology in historical spaces. The museum highlights the genius of one man who was ahead of his time. Despite the demands placed on him as a member and abbot of the Augustinian Order, he was able to utilize every spare moment to help society through his research. His experiments on peas are well-known, but he was also active in meteorology and beekeeping.

The exhibition features original items that belonged to the “Father of Genetics”, his study reports, books, and orchard aids. The tour culminates in the manuscript of Mendel's essay *Versuche über Pflanzenhybriden* (Experiments on Plant Hybridization).

The Mendel Museum also includes an accompanying exhibition which playfully presents cells, DNA, and Mendel's laws of inheritance. Finally, you can visit the modern laboratory and research scientist worksite that now stands in contrast to the conditions under which G. J. Mendel researched.



@ KIVA



**Mendel Museum of Masaryk University**

Mendlovo nám. 1a, 603 00 Brno

Tel. +420 549 496 669

info@mendelmuseum.muni.cz

[www.mendelmuseum.muni.cz](http://www.mendelmuseum.muni.cz)



The first T3 type tram cars with resistive regulation were delivered to Brno in 1963. This legendary type of tram car was supplied until 1997, when Brno received the last T3R cars from the former CKD. In 2002, production of T3 cars was expanded to include a set of trams as T3RF, originally produced for the Russian city of Samara. Since 2002, tram cars have also been delivered with a new casing VarCB3 (LF), which is based on the concept of the T3. A total of 200 type T3 tram cars of all modifications have been delivered to Brno.

## TRAMS IN BRNO

Brno holds first place in the Czech Republic in at least one thing: the tram network here is the oldest in the country. Electric trams began to run here in **1900**. And because at that time the city of Brno was essentially German, tram lines were officially called *elektrische linie*.

Combining and shortening these two words resulted in the typical Brno word for streetcar: **šalina**.

A simple diagram of the tram network in Brno can be found on the inner flap of this guide's cover page.



Did you know that...

Trams are ridden around the world; the "šalina" is ridden only in Brno



Our TIP

**TECHNICKÉ  
MUZEUM  
V BRNĚ**

in the museum's main building in Brno, its sights hold many events that bring the field or life of our ancestors closer.

### TECHNICAL MUSEUM IN BRNO

*The present is leaving, history is coming...*

The museum primarily focuses on the history of technology in Moravia, but its collection expands well beyond this. The exhibitions offer a choice of many areas, ranging from clock components to steam engines and aircraft. Short-term exhibitions feature other technical discoveries, inventors, and anniversaries. During the year, the museum organizes events such as the Day of Automotive Technology entitled "What a Ride", when the museum opens the depository housing transport vehicles and military equipment to the public.

The museum also manages six heritage sites outside Brno, three of which bear the title of National Cultural Heritage Monument: the Water Mill in Slup, the Wind Mill in Kuželov, and the Old Smelter near Adamov. Other sights of the TMB are the Smithy in Těšany, the "šlakhamr" in Hamry nad Sázavou, and the Czechoslovak Fortification Area in Šatov. The sights are open from the spring months until autumn. Just like



**Technické muzeum v Brně**  
Purkyňova 105, Brno - Královo Pole  
[www.tmbрно.cz](http://www.tmbрно.cz)

f /tmbрно  
X TMB (@technickemuzeum)  
@ /technickemuzeum\_brno







## WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK IN BRNO

### CAFÉS

Brno is sometimes referred to as the city of coffee and cafés. And, it must be said, rightly so. Cafés have a long tradition here which fortunately continues to this day. So where to go in Brno for good (or the best) coffee? The following five cafés have frequently appeared in internet discussions and reviews, and we've even personally tried some of them:

**Café Mitte** – a small and cozy café in the center of Brno offering coffee from the Czech roasters Doubleshot, professing a philosophy of "Coffee from the hands of farmers" – this means understanding coffee as the result of the hard and underrated work of ordinary farmers.

**Coffee Fusion** – offers a tasting of coffees from small local roasters as well as the best brands from around the world. Coffee here is prepared personally by the Coffee Master of 2008, Michal Kocman.

**Kafec** – a stylish café where they prepare some of the most interesting currently

offered coffees, with Czech and Slovak roasters preferred. If you're interested in alternative ways of preparing coffee, you'll enjoy it here. **Kavárna Zastávka** – many consider this to be one of the best cafés in Brno. It also includes a small bakery. **Kavárna Monro** – offers 100% Arabica from around the world, roasted in its own roastery. You can even get some freshly ground coffee (or beans) here to prepare at home.

**Did you know that...**

*In Brno, October is the time of the annual **Coffee Week Festival**, which is both a celebration of coffee (October 1) and also a way to bring education to both professionals and the general public to support and cultivate the art of coffee. The festival brings the world of coffee to "normal" people, presenting them "the story of coffee", or the journey a coffee bean takes from cultivation to an aromatic cup on the table.*



*One of the most popular bars in Brno – "The bar that does not exist"*

### RESTAURANTS, WINE BARS, BARS...

There are countless possibilities as to where to eat (and drink) in Brno. However, if you want your lunch or dinner to become an experience that will make your day (half-day, weekend) spent in Brno more pleasant, you naturally long for something exceptional. Do you wish for something exotic, traditionally Czech, or something truly peculiar? You will find everything you're looking for in Brno. You may even find a good tip in the following paragraphs. A modern business, yet with centuries old history, can be found at the **Baroko Restaurant and Wine Bar**, which rightfully ranks highly among Brno's restaurant history. Practically no guest of this

restaurant, located in the centre, knows that they will find themselves in the cellars of the St. John's Minorite Monastery, which was established in the period of the first Minorite Order boom in Bohemia, before 1230. The restaurant **PAVILLON** has been consistently visible in the "who's who" of Brno gastronomy and has recently won several important awards. Pleasant cellar rooms with vaulted ceilings, a perfect club atmosphere, and meals and beers based on our own recipes - all this waiting for you in the **Na Stojáka Pekanda** bar. For craft beers from Czech small and microbreweries, visit the **Na Stojáka Jakubák**. Did you know that there is a bar in Brno that understands wine and can cook perfectly? Retro



**Our TIP**

*Baroko*

**BAROKORESTAURANT AND WINE BAR**

Orlí 17, 602 00 Brno  
Tel.: +420 544 213 845  
info@baroko.org  
[www.baroko.org](http://www.baroko.org)

*A restaurant and wine bar in the centre of Brno with two lounges. It is ideal for business events, parties, banquets, graduations, weddings, etc.*

**Did you know that...**

*This may come in handy: every hour (every 30 minutes during weekends) all public transport links in Brno gather before the main station, where they then take off again around Brno and its surroundings (the **Brno night departures**). Your return home or to your hotel room from Brno's night clubs is always guaranteed.*



Consistorium can boast about its carefully selected wines, excellent food and friendly atmosphere. This is all available in one place, in the historical centre of Brno. Retro Consistorium was created for light business lunches, for coffee after work and for spending long evenings with friends over a glass of wine. If you long for an "American classic", then don't miss out on Butcher's Grill & Pasta, which is part of the Mexican franchising network in the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The key idea of this restaurant is to offer customers an unforgettable gastronomy experience with an emphasis on the freshness of its ingredients, quality of storage and unique technology for preparing the meals. The BORG Agnese Restaurant focuses on Mediterranean cuisine. This restaurant was established in 2008. Here, the greatest emphasis is placed on the freshness of the ingredients, served using seasonal ingredients and products that are often homemade. The brewery restaurant Zelená Kočka awaits you on Kounicova Street, while Brno's first beer tasting pub Zelená Kočka Pivarium is located on Dvořákova Street. Both companies pride themselves on top quality, beer served will, and honest cuisine.

**NIGHTLIFE**

Brno, of course, isn't active only during the daytime, so it would be a pity to leave the city before sunset. You can spend most of your evening and night hours in one of the **music and dance clubs, bars, wine taverns, pubs and beer halls**. A complete night guide to Brno would fill up a separate publication, so here are at least a few tried and tested tips to places where Brno comes to life at night. In contrast to Ostrava, for example, where its famous nightlife is concentrated in one location (the renowned Stodolní Street), the clubs and bars in Brno are scattered throughout the city center. This shouldn't matter, since nothing in Brno is too far from each other, and if you don't like one club, you can quickly find a better alternative. Specific happening places especially include **Freedom Square, James Square, and Veverí Street**.

**Our TIP****Restaurant BORG Agnese**

*Operating in the heart of old Brno since 2008. It combines French, Asian, and mainly Italian cuisine. Come and enjoy dishes prepared with a certain simplicity and sophistication that always highlights their unique flavors. The restaurant's interior was completely reconstructed in 2018.*



*The wine cellar has about 850 types of international and domestic wines, including a diverse selection of Champagne. BORG Agnese also provides top catering and culinary services throughout the Czech Republic. In the summer months the restaurant features a cozy outdoor terrace with a view onto "Petrov, the oasis of peace."*



*If you're looking for a place where you can taste modern dishes in a beautiful atmosphere with first-class service and a staff that speaks English, German, Italian, Dutch, and Russian, then don't hesitate to visit the **BORG Agnese** restaurant in Brno.*

*Convenient parking in the restaurant's **underground garage**.*



**BORG**  
AGNESE

**Restaurant BORG Agnese**

Kopečná 43, Brno 602 00

Tel.: 515 537 500

info@borgoagnese.cz

www.borgoagnese.cz





Our TIP

## NC KRÁLOVO POLE

- The largest shopping centre in the north of Brno
- More than 90 shops, restaurants and services
- Open daily from 9 am to 9 pm
- 900 parking spaces
- 8 fast charging stations for electric vehicles

NAKUPNÍ CENTRUM  
**Královo  
Pole**

**NC Královo Pole**  
Cimburkova 4, Brno  
[www.krpolenc.cz](http://www.krpolenc.cz)

[krpolenc](https://www.facebook.com/krpolenc)  
 [krpolenc](https://www.instagram.com/krpolenc)  
[@CPIPG\\_SA](https://www.instagram.com/CPIPG_SA)



Our TIP

## STAROBRNO BREWERY

The tradition of brewing in Brno goes back nearly eight hundred years. The Starobrno brewery on Hlinky Street has existed since 1872. It was built by the owners of the monastery brewery Josef Mandel and Hermann Hayek. It has been brewing beer in the same spot since then. All the keg and bottled beer of Starobrno are unpasteurized, thanks to the use of a unique membrane microfilter. They don't suffer from thermal shock, giving them a fresh and naturally delicious taste; this also comes from the use of the best Moravian malt and Saaz hops.



### AVAILABILITY

Starobrno beer is served on tap from barrels or tanks in restaurants. In retail stores it is sold in cans and 0,5 l glass bottles.



### TOURS

Excursions always take place on Saturdays at 11:00 and 13:00, and on Sundays at 14:00 and 15:00 (for groups of up to 10 people). Tours can be arranged on request for individual applicants or groups of over 10 persons, 7 days per week by appointment; order at [excursion@starobrno.cz](mailto:excursion@starobrno.cz) or phone +420 737 224 087. Basic admission: CZK 150 (the price includes tasting of two beer samples). Tours are available in Czech, German and English.



### PORTFOLIO

The brewery's portfolio includes unpasteurized extra hopped light lager Starobrno Dragon, the popular Starobrno Medium, and the blonde draft beer Staré Brno. Starobrno Medium is also sold in PET bottles to take home. In selected pubs, the unique Starobrno lager is also served unfiltered, with its typical golden haze caused by the brewer's yeast that is manually tapped from lager tanks in the cellars of the brewery. On Easter Green Thursday, the brewery's most famous special is brewed: Green Beer.

### PIVOVAR STAROBRNO

Hlinky 160/12, 603 00 Brno  
Tel.: +420 725 633 999  
+420 725 063 320  
[starobrno@starobrno.cz](mailto:starobrno@starobrno.cz)  
[www.starobrno.cz](http://www.starobrno.cz)







## THE MORAVIA WINE REGION

The wineries in South Moravia are among the oldest in Europe. Grapes have been cultivated here since the time of the Celts (roughly the 5th to 2nd centuries BC). The region is divided into four sub-regions: Znojmo, Mikulov, Velké Pavlovice and Moravian Slovakia, all comprising a total of 16,536 hectares of vineyards (96% of all the wine area in the country). The vineyards, managed by around 19,000 farmers in 312 villages, stretch between the 48th and 49th parallel north. Even though the growing season here is a bit shorter than in Western Europe, the warmer summer months allow for the cultivation of varieties with late maturation. Since the maturation occurs more gradually, the local grapes have a richer aromatic content ("sweetened by the sun, spiced by the nights").

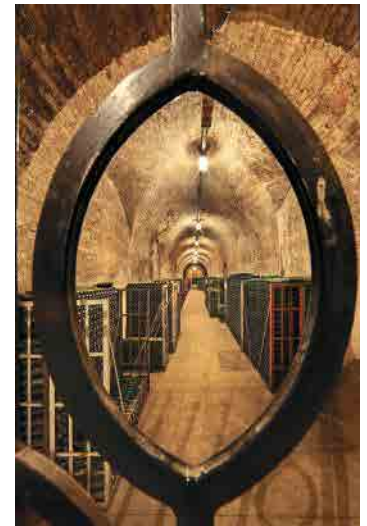
### Varieties of South Moravia

In the vineyards of South Moravia, there are 30 varieties of white wines and 26 red wines. Below is a list of the most commonly grown varieties with their Czech names:

- ✦ **Müller Thurgau**
- ✦ **Welschriesling** (*Ryzlink vlašský*)
- ✦ **Rhine Riesling** (*Ryzlink rýnský*)
- ✦ **Grüner Veltliner** (*Veltlínské zelené*)
- ✦ **Sauvignon**
- ✦ **Pinot Blanc** (*Rulandské bílé*)
- ✦ **St. Laurent** (*Svatovavřínecké*)
- ✦ **Blafränkisch** (*Frankovka*)

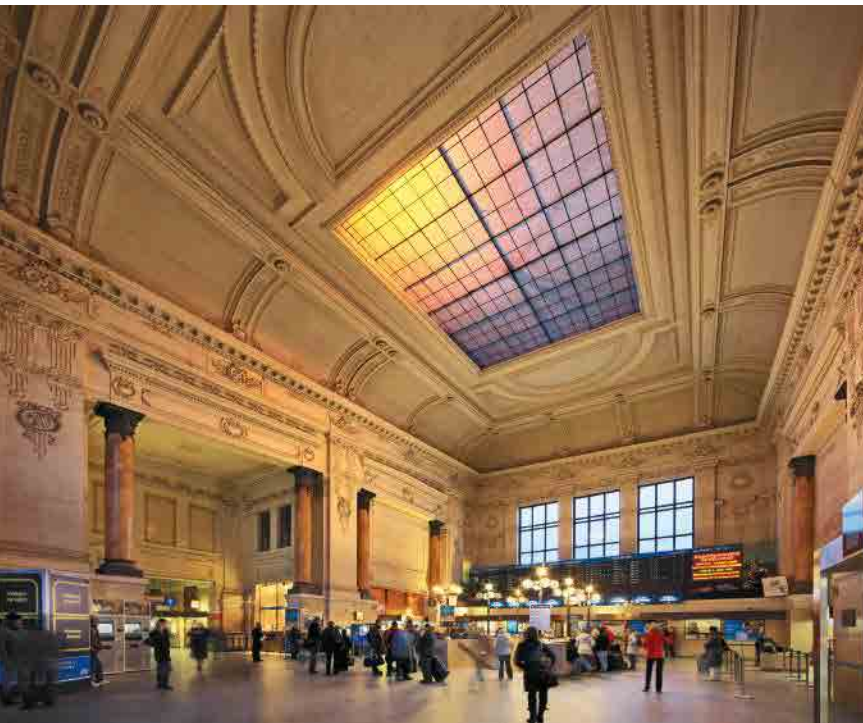
Wine sub-regions:

- ZNOJMO
- MIKULOV
- VELKÉ PAVLOVICE
- MORAVIAN SLOVAKIA



*The monastery in Louka holds a real treasure today. Nearly a million archive bottles of wine from the Znovín Znojmo winery.*





*The Brno railway station has served its purpose for more than 170 years (architect Josef Oehm, builder Josef Nebehosteny)*

## MODERN ARCHITECTURE

The observant visitor to Brno might notice that most of the medieval architectural monuments are churches. This is because it was the churches in particular that, with some exceptions, survived the large redevelopment and **transformation of the city** in the late 19th century. In 1853, the fortification walls around Brno were demolished and the city could now begin its transformation into a modern metropolis. Roughly the last 20 years of the 19th century and early 20th century are referred to as the **Brno redevelopment**, during which old houses were demolished and the narrow streets between them disappeared, replaced by newly built and generously proportioned neighborhoods with wide avenues.

After the establishment of independent Czechoslovakia, Brno integrated the

previously independent townships to create a city with a population approaching a quarter million. It was good fortune that the post of chief municipal engineer was held by the young and forward-thinking architect **Jindřich Kumpošt** who invited other modern-minded colleagues to Brno, among others, **Bohuslav Fuchs** (1895-1972, author of the Avion Hotel and the Zeman Café). Brno **functionalism** (and, naturally, not only Brno's) is a chapter unto itself: this is a style that not only considers the appearance and ostentation of the house, but thinks of how its inhabitants will live and how pleasant it will be to enjoy. The most famous building of this type is the **Tugendhat Villa** by the German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, inscribed on the **UNESCO** List. Other "functionalists" left their indelible mark in the city as well – the architects Josef Kalous and Jaroslav Valenta (authors of the Exhibition Center),



*A jewel of functionalism – the Hotel Avion on Česká Street*



*Palace of Justice (2009)*

Dušan Jurkovič (Jurkovič Villa), Ernst Arnošt Wiesner (city crematorium, **Stiassni Villa**), Josef Polášek (general and burgher school) Jiří Kroha (Patočka Villa, Nový Dům colony), Jan Víšek (Jan Hus Czechoslovak Church), Jindřich Kumpošt (Jan Nekvapil Savoy café), and many others. We'll explore some of these projects in more detail in the next chapter.



*Jarušek House (Josef Gočár, 1910)*



*Patočkova Villa (Jiří Kroha, 1936)*

## HOTEL AVION

The Hotel Avion project presented a particular challenge for the architect – all he had to work with was an **extremely narrow lot** of 8 x 34 meters. In 1928 in the center of Brno, then, thus originated one of the narrowest hotels in Europe. It has eight floors and fifty rooms. Architect **Bohuslav Fuchs** dealt with the limited space brilliantly indeed, using a system of vertical diffusion space which is divided into galleries and different levels of floors and ceilings.





*Building of the Year 2008 – the Moravian Provincial Archives shines into the night over the Bohunice district*

### CAFÉ ERA

In 1927, architect **Josef Kranz** designed this functionalist café, built in 1927–1929. The café interior is particularly remarkable, dominated by a suspended helix-shaped staircase. In 2011, the somewhat dilapidated monument was repaired and once again serves its original purpose.

### PAVILLON (ZEMAN CAFÉ)

Another interesting functionalist building is called the Zeman Café on the street



*Replica of the famous Zeman Café*

named Koliště. Note, however, that this is a **replica of the original building** by architect **Bohuslav Fuchs**. It was one of the very first functionalist buildings in former Czechoslovakia (built in 1926) and stood close to where the Janáček Theater stands today; because of the theater's construction, it was demolished in 1964. The replica, which stands about 200 meters from its original location, was opened in 1995.



*Jurkovič's villa (photo: Archive of the Moravian Gallery in Brno)*

### JURKOVIČ VILLA

Like the Tugendhat Villa, this represents functionalist architecture in Brno; this **Art Nouveau** gem is the home of the architect **Dusan Jurkovič** (1868–1947), who designed and built it for himself and his family in 1906. He first bought the land for the building at the edge of the (then autonomous) district of **Žabovřesky** over the river Svratka, then incorporated his villa into this picturesque landscape with extraordinary sensitivity. He lived here until 1919, when he moved to Slovakia. Today, this extraordinary monument of Art Nouveau architecture houses the **Moravian Gallery** in Brno and is open to visitors.

Phone: +420 532 169 501  
[www.moravskagalerie.cz](http://www.moravskagalerie.cz)

### ČEDOK BUILDING

In 1928, a ground-floor **functionalist building** was built before the central train station with a striking rounded corner. The architect was **Oskar Poříška**, and the original building served as the "central office accommodation for the Exhibition of



*Jurkovič's villa (photo: Archive of the Moravian Gallery in Brno)*

Contemporary Culture in Czechoslovakia" (the exhibition that year was held at the Exhibition Center). In 1996 the building was reconstructed.





*The most famous villa in Brno, the Tugendhat Villa designed by architect Mies van der Rohe in 1928*



*The Tugendhat Villa is not only an architectural gem, but is also a unique contemporary technical monument*

## TUGENDHAT VILLA

The only work of Czech modern architecture on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

This functionalist villa was built between 1929-1930 in the Brno area known as Černá Pole. The clients were the the **Tugendhat couple** (Greta née Weiss, 1903-1970 and Fritz Tugendhat, 1895-1958) who wished to live in a "modern spacious house with clear and simple shapes". The result was (and still is) the most important European building by **architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe** (1886-1969). He had to deal with the sloping land facing southwest that the building had available. The terrain, however, turned out to be an advantage, since it "directed" the architect to create a sophisticated layout for the house: The villa has three storeys; the main living space is on the second floor with a kitchen, room for staff, accessories, and a terrace and a winter garden. Below the living area is the basement with the technical equipment, while the third floor holds rooms, bedrooms and accessories. Because the villa is on a slope, the entrance from the street is on the top floor. From the street one can also walk onto the terrace. The house also has an apartment for a driver and a garage.

The stucco of the house conceals a **steel**

**frame** and masonry bricks, while part of the construction is borne by a cross-plan of steel columns which pass (lined with chrome covers) through the main living space.

At the time, the villa cost an "unbelievable" **five million crowns**, a price corresponding to approximately ten "normal" rental houses.

Due to their Jewish origin, the Tugendhats



*L. Miese van der Rohe (1896 – 1969)*

had to emigrate in 1938 to Switzerland, then later to the United States. The abandoned villa was occupied in 1939 by the Gestapo. At the end of the war, the house, especially its interior, was damaged by the Soviet Army. From 1945, the villa served various purposes, including a dance school and a children's rehabilitation center. In the 1960s, construction work finally commenced on the rescue and restoration of the villa, then in 1963 the building was declared a cultural monument. In 1970, work began on restoring the garden. The years 1981-1985 saw a major reconstruction of the monument. In 2001, this famous building by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's became a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site. As of March of 2012, the monument reopened to visitors after a 2-year renovation and restoration process. During an extended sightseeing tour, visitors can explore the remarkable technical floor of the house. The exhibition dedicated to the villa presents the architect Mies van der Rohe and the family life of the Tugendhats.

Phone: +420 515 511 015  
[www.tugendhat.eu](http://www.tugendhat.eu)



### Did you know that...

*At the end of **World War Two**, the Soviet Army's horse regiment stabled their horses in the villa's residential area, so by the time the soldiers left, the interiors of this valuable architectural monument were literally in catastrophic condition. Fortunately, the Villa underwent the **first important repairs** during the following months, and August 1945 saw the first operation of a private dance school.*



*The Villa Löw-Beer is located at Drobného 22.*

### **Villa Löw-Beer in Brno**

The villa is located next to Brno's largest park, Lužánky. In 1903–1904, this representative Art Nouveau family house was built by the factory owner Moriz Fuhrmann. In 1913–1939, the villa belonged to Alfred Löw-Beer, a prominent Jewish entrepreneur. At the end of the 1920's, Alfred donated part of the land to his daughter Greta, who together with her husband Fritz Tugendhat built his family house here, the world-famous Tugendhat Villa. Today, the Villa Löw-Beer

in Brno is a branch of the Museum of the Brno Region and also houses an exhibition entitled "World of the Brno Bourgeoisie between Löw-Beer and Tugendhat".

Tel.: +420 545 211 352  
[www.vilalowbeer.cz](http://www.vilalowbeer.cz)



*The relaxed garden of the villa features a small playground, a café, and the Customs Gallery.*



*Vila Stiassni (photo: Národní památkový ústav)*

### **VILA STIASSNI**

Perhaps a little less known, but according to experts, just as interesting and architecturally valuable as the famous Tugendhat Villa. It was built between 1927 and 1929 by the couple Alfred and Hermine Stiassni; the author of this modernist jewel was the Brno architect **Arnošt Wiesner** (1890 – 1971), while the interiors were designed by Franz Wilfert. The building area is 561 m<sup>2</sup>, and

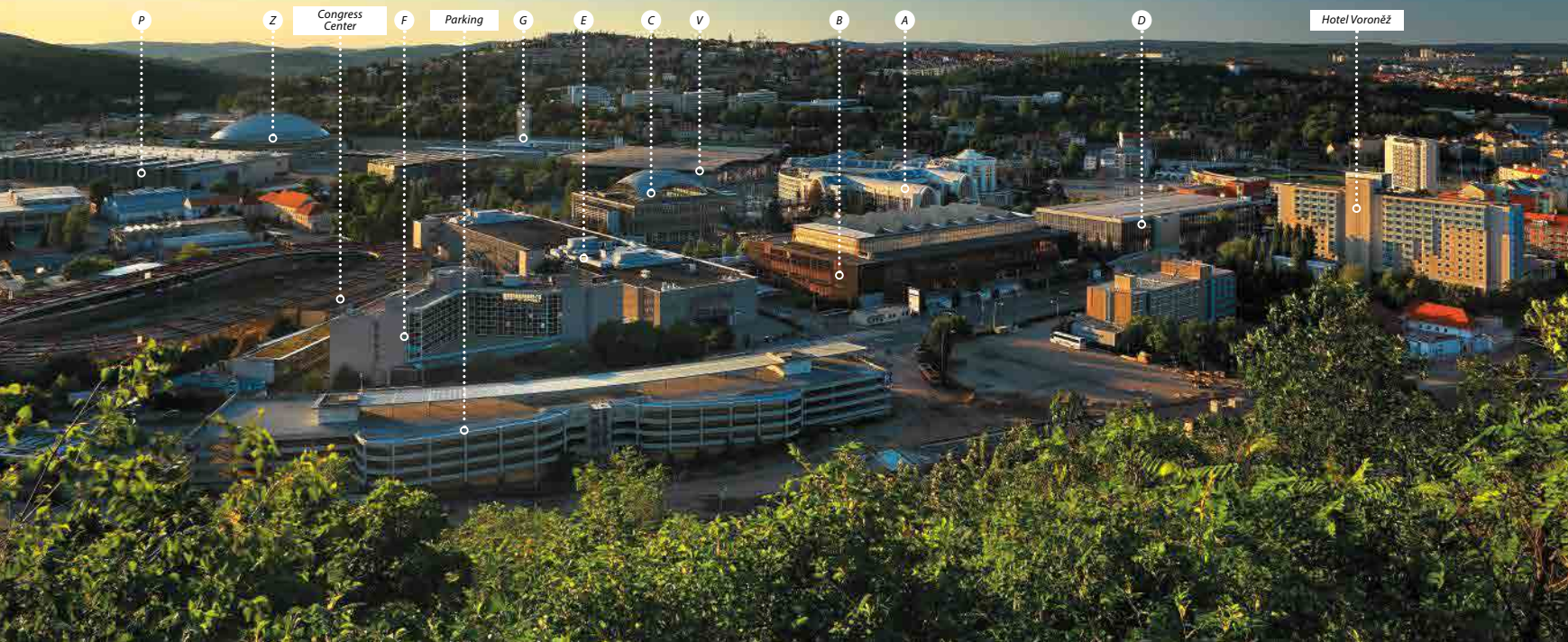
the house was founded together with a generous garden. The villa's owners lived here until 1938, when they had to flee Czechoslovakia from the Germans. After a thorough and meticulous reconstruction lasting from 2012 to 2014, the villa was opened to the public and now houses a methodical center of modern architecture.

Phone: +420 778 545 993  
[www.vilastiassni.cz](http://www.vilastiassni.cz)



*The villa is open to visitors every day except Mondays, from 10 am to 6 pm; from Friday to Sunday the museum features tours of the technical facilities.*





*The Exhibition Center and its individual pavilions*

## EXHIBITION CENTER

The Brno Exhibition Center is a unique combination of original **functionalist architecture** and contemporary exhibitions, trade fairs, and cultural activities. The result is an extraordinary complex with more than **120,000 square meters of exhibition space**, the annual home to around 50 trade fairs, a series of conferences, sports events, concerts (hosting the Rolling Stones in 2007), dance balls, and the like. The greatest tradition here is boasted by the **International Engineering Fair (MVS)**, held here since the 1950's.

The first exhibition to be held here was the Exhibition of Contemporary Culture in Czechoslovakia, organized in 1928 for the 10th anniversary of the Republic. It is interesting that the stands for this exhibition were exhibition pavilions in themselves, created by the prominent Czechoslovak architects of the day.



*Pavilion "Z" has a diameter of over 120 m, the dome is 46 m high*

Thanks to repairs and reconstructions sensitively carried out later, all the buildings have still been preserved and today are some of the country's most valuable monuments of functionalist architecture. Before the Second World War, the

Brno Exhibition Center also held the first Czechoslovak car showrooms.

The year 2014 also saw the opening of the former Pavilion D into an **entertaining science park** for the whole family entitled the **VIDA! Science Center**. An area of almost 5,000 square meters holds 150 interactive exhibits that helps visitors (mostly children, of course) understand how the world around us works. The exhibition is divided into four thematic areas (Man, Microworld, Planet, Civilization).

[www.vida.cz](http://www.vida.cz)  
[www.bvv.cz](http://www.bvv.cz)

### Did you know that...

*At the **Brno Exhibition Center**, a special tour takes place every month for those interested in the history and development of the Center. During the tour, buildings normally closed are made accessible to visitors.*



*Pavilion „A“ (J. Kalous, J. Valenta, 1928)*



*Pavilion „P“ was opened in 2009*





*Building of the Year 2007 – the airport terminal building in Brno-Tuřany*

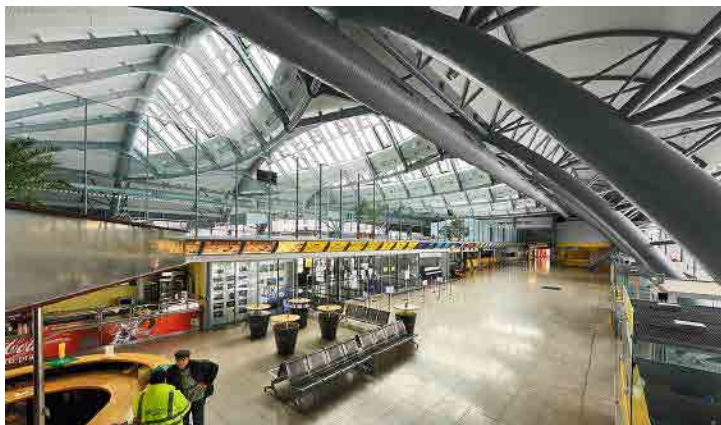
## BRNO AIRPORT

The day when passenger flights to Brno were launched is considered to be **23 May 1926**, when on a grassy airport in Brno-Cernovice, the first aircraft landed with 12 passengers. A year later, regular mail transportation began, and by the late 1920's there were already regular flights for passengers traveling to Prague, Bratislava, Košice, Bucharest, Sarajevo, and other cities. In 1938, air passenger traffic in Brno was interrupted by the war, but operation was restored in the postwar years. The runway's grass surface, however, was no longer sufficient for the new types of aircraft, so

the year 1950 saw the initial construction of a **new airport near the village of Tuřany**. In 1967 the terminal building was built, and in 1972 the airport was further extended. In 1989, Tuřany acquired the status of a public international civil airport. In 2006, the new terminal building was completed which was subsequently awarded Building of the Year in 2007. In 2008, the airport handled more than half a million passengers for the first time.



Phone: +420 545 521 310  
[www.bruno-airport.cz](http://www.bruno-airport.cz)



*The AZ Tower is built in deconstructivist style*



*Did you know that...*

*The record height of the AZ Tower outstripped the previous record holder, the Prague City Tower, by a mere two meters.*

## AZ TOWER

This 111 m tall white-orange building **thirty floors high** standing in the district of the South Center (i.e. Brno's Manhattan) is the tallest building in the Czech Republic. It was built in 2011-2013 in deconstructivist style, designed by architects **Aleš Burian and Gustav Krivinka** at a cost of approximately 800 million crowns.

The building is formed by two side blocks and a completely glassed center part. The eastern block is doubly interrupted, creating the building's unmistakable silhouette and symbolizing the letter "Z", thus giving the skyscraper its distinct name. The cladding of both blocks is made up of glazed ceramic plates whose color changes upward from orange to white.

The building is also extraordinary in its **environmental concept** – part of the electricity needed to run the building is supplied by photovoltaic panels on the south side of the skyscraper, while 30-meter deep heat pumps look after the winter heating and summer cooling of the interior.

Visitors can ride in one of five high-speed elevators to the highest floors at a speed of 4 m per second.

In the first three floors of the building there is a 24-hour reception, a **restaurant, café, and fitness and wellness centers**. The highest floors of the building hold apartments, and a total of 17,000 square meters are occupied by **office space**. Below the tower is a **parking lot** for 72 cars.

[www.aztower.org](http://www.aztower.org)





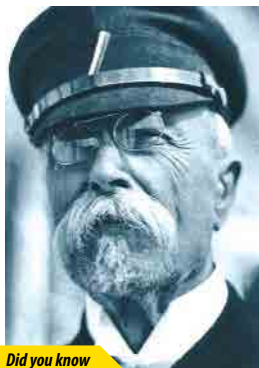


*The new university campus in Bohunice (2010)*

## THE UNIVERSITY CITY OF BRNO

### Brno is the seat of five universities:

- Masaryk University (see below)
- Technical University Brno
- Mendel University in Brno
- University of Veterinary and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Brno
- Janáček Academy of Music and Performing Arts in Brno



**Did you know that...**

*The establishment of the university is mostly due to the efforts of the man whose name the institution bears – Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk.*

### MASARYK UNIVERSITY

Since it was founded in 1919, Masaryk University has gradually become one of the most respected educational institutions in Czechoslovakia and later the Czech Republic. It is the largest university in Moravia. At present, it consists of 9 faculties with more than 200 departments, as well as institutes and clinics. Masaryk University is home to 30,000 students and covers over 400 fields

of study. Seven thousand graduates leave the University every year, 80% of whom find employment in their field. The primary objective of Masaryk University is to provide a high-quality education.

In 2010, the large modern Bohunice University Campus was opened for 5,000 students and 1,500 employees, built at a cost of 5.1 billion crowns. The complex covers



*The European Technology Institute CEITEC*

an area of 42,200 square meters and is still growing. The campus laboratories of the CEITEC European Institute are home to a number of devoted domestic and international research scientists.

The establishment of the university is mostly the work of the man whose name the institution bears – Tomáš G. Masaryk. By the late 19th century, Masaryk was already promoting the idea of creating "healthy competition" to the only Czech University at the time, the Charles University in Prague. The foundation of the university in the early 20th century, however, was prevented by ethnic strife among the



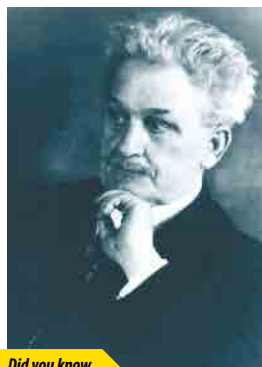
*CEITEC – sleep lab*

Czech population and German majority in Brno, who held the city's administration in their hands, since the foundation of a Czech university would represent a threat to their position. The university was able to form after the first World War – on 28 January 1919, a new law formed the university with four faculties: Law, Medicine, Philosophy and Science.



The university lost its name in the early 1960s, having been renamed the Jan Evangelista Purkyně University. It re-acquired its original name after the first Czechoslovak president in 1990, after the fall of the Communist regime. This also marked a period of new developments, with the formation of the Faculty of Economics and Administration, the Faculty of Informatics, the Faculty of Social Studies, and the Faculty of Sports Studies.

[www.muni.cz](http://www.muni.cz)



**Did you know that...**

The first honorary doctorate from Masaryk University was received by the composer **Leoš Janáček** for, among other things, his generous legacy to the university as well as for his musical compositions that celebrated the university.



**Did you know that...**

In 2006, Masaryk University became the first university in the world to set up its own scientific **polar station in Antarctica**. It bears the name of an important scientist associated with Brno, Gregor Johann Mendel, also because as a scientist Mendel also dabbled in meteorology. Thanks to the station's research work, the Czech Republic is one of the countries with voting rights in the Antarctic contract system.

## **MENDEL MUSEUM OF MASARYK UNIVERSITY**

The Mendel Museum has been the working facility of the Masaryk University in Brno since 2007.

The museum is housed in the building of the former Augustinian Abbey in Old Brno, where the "father of genetics", G. J. Mendel, worked from 1843. The objective of the museum is to spread Mendel's legacy. An additional mission of this institution is to

promote the disciplines that Masaryk University students encounter. In this spirit, the museum also holds lectures, including the appearance and participation of several Nobel laureates. Since 2009, the legacy of G. J. Mendel has been presented by the museum through a permanent exhibition which presents Mendel not only as cultivator but also as a scientist in other fields as well. The exhibition presents visitors with a 19th century abbey and G. J. Mendel as a person. Part of the exhibition is also devoted to Mendel as the discoverer of the principles of heredity and all fundamental theories in the history of genetics.

[www.mendelmuseum.muni.cz](http://www.mendelmuseum.muni.cz)





Mendel Museum

### **BOTANICAL GARDEN OF THE MASARYK UNIVERSITY FACULTY OF SCIENCE**

The garden currently covers 1,100 square meters of tropical and subtropical plant greenhouses while the outside garden occupies an area of 1.5 hectares.

The garden is open all year round; entrance to the greenhouses is provided after ringing the bell at the entrance underneath the spiral staircase (a staff member will come open the door and sell you a ticket), while the outdoor exhibitions are freely accessible. Each of the plants is labeled and each exhibition has its own information board. For two nights in August, the rare Victoria

Amazonica blossoms in the greenhouse. The largest water lily, with leaves up to 3 meters wide, would even hold the weight of a child. For this event, visitors gather in the garden for the evening program as well.

On weekdays, entrance to the garden is through the gatehouse of the Science Faculty at Kotlářská Street 2, then on weekends and during exhibitions through the gate near the tram stop from the street Veveří. Passenger cars and buses are not permitted in the complex, and parking is not available.

[zahrada@sci.muni.cz](mailto:zahrada@sci.muni.cz)  
(tours, queries)

[www.sci.muni.cz/bot\\_zahr](http://www.sci.muni.cz/bot_zahr)

### **Mendel University in Brno**

The leading agronomic science and education institute is focused on plant production, animal breeding, the production and quality of ingredients, agro-ecology, agricultural technology and others.



Mendel Museum



Mendel University in Brno – currently, almost eleven thousand students study at one of its five faculties and one institute.

It is the oldest university of its specialisation in the Czech Republic. It was established in 1919 as the University of Agriculture, consisting of two areas of study: economics and forestry. It ran under its original name until 1994. By separating the horticulture area of study from the Faculty of Agronomics, the Faculty of Horticulture was established in Lednice in Moravia in 1985. In 1995, the University of Horticulture was renamed to the Mendel University of Agriculture and Forestry, thus making reference to Gregor Johann Mendel (1822 – 1884). The process of implementing the European credit system for all programmes of study at the University was launched in 1998. Since 2010, the University has been using its current name, the Mendel University in Brno. In 2011, with the establishment of the independent University CEITEC MENDELU Institute within the scope of the Faculty of Agronomics, the University became a part of the inter-University

Science Centre of Excellence of the Central European Institute of Technology. At the end of 2012, it received the ETCS Label and Diploma Supplement Label prestigious certificates, confirming that the programmes of study and examination system are in compliance with the principles of the Bologna Declaration.

#### **Individual faculties:**

- Faculty of Agri-Sciences
- Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology
- Faculty of Business and Economics
- Faculty of Horticulture (on the Lednice-Valtice premises)
- Faculty of Regional Development and International Studies
- Institute of Lifelong Learning



The surface of the reservoir, surrounded by the Podkomorský forests

## BRNO RESERVOIR

The Brno Reservoir is a favorite place for rest and recreation, and not just for the Brno locals (in Brno Hantec slang, known as Prigl or Prygl). Its easy accessibility (the reservoir is only about a 7 km beeline from the center of Brno), wide beach with easy access to water, and the beautiful surroundings formed by the natural park of the **Podkomorské forests** attracts visitors for swimming and water sports as well as for pleasant walks and bike rides. This corresponds to the wealth of guest houses, hotels and restaurants. At the beginning of the reservoir, moreover, is another popular tourist destination – the castle Veveří (see below). A popular bathing spot on the right bank is **Goat Hill** for its large beach and slow walk out to the depths. You can also rent small boats and pedal boats.

The **Brno-Bystrc district**, Brno's largest, is a favorite location for locals

because of its attractive location near the reservoir as well as for its rich program of recreational activities and its natural location for a peaceful and comfortable life. In Bystrc, near the reservoir (below Mniší mountain) there is a **zoological garden** breeding over 210 animal species over an area of 65 hectares ([www.zoobrn.cz](http://www.zoobrn.cz)). It boasts such breeding successes such as the first reared polar bear cub and chimpanzee.

### Did you know that...

*The Brno Reservoir had a close call in April of 1945. During the **liberation of Brno** by the Red Army, the retreating Germans decided to undermine and blow up the dam at the moment when the Soviet tanks were passing over. The disaster was prevented by the courageous dam worker **František Šíkula**, who warned the Soviet soldiers in time. For his courage and for his guerrilla activities, he was later awarded the *Čs. War Cross*.*



Veveří Castle

The reservoir on the Svatka River was **completed in 1940** and was named Kníničská according to the nearby village of Kníničky. Construction costs amounted to almost 60 million crowns at the time. After World War II, the reservoir began to function as a recreational area, and cruise boats operated from 1946. In the 1950's, cottages, hostels and hotels began springing up on its banks, and the recreation business is still growing. In 1959 the name was changed to the Brno Reservoir.

Every year in late May and June, the reservoir serves as a venue for a spectacular fireworks show accompanied by music – the **Ignis Brunensis**, during which special fireworks are launched from a pontoon floating on the surface of the lake. The best place to watch the fireworks is the beach between the Rakovec and the Bystrc ports.

[www.ignisbrunensis.cz](http://www.ignisbrunensis.cz)



The reservoir is the center of many sports activities



Ignis Brunensis





## BOAT TRANSPORT ON THE BRNO RESERVOIR

Visitors have been able to enjoy cruises on the Brno reservoir **since 1946**, when boat services were commenced, and they have continued without interruption ever since. The exception was 2009, when the reservoir was completely drained for maintenance.

The fleet of vessels on the reservoir consists of **6 boats** – the Leipzig, Utrecht, Dallas, Vienna, and Stuttgart (all with Czech versions of the names), all modern double-deck vessels from 2010-2012, and the **historic boat Brno** from 1949, even though it was rebuilt twice.

There are regular departures on the route Bystrc – Rokle – Castle Veveří – Veverská Bítýška and back.

Tickets can be purchased at the Bystrc port or on board the ship.

“Mobile tickets” are also available, which combine a cruise boat and a visit to, for example, Veveří Castle, the Brno Zoo, Špilberk Castle, the Permonium amusement park, and the VIDA science park. And you don't even have to complete both in one day, since the ticket is valid for the entire boating season.

In addition to the regular schedule, you can also rent one of the boats for private purposes, eg. for celebrations or a business party.

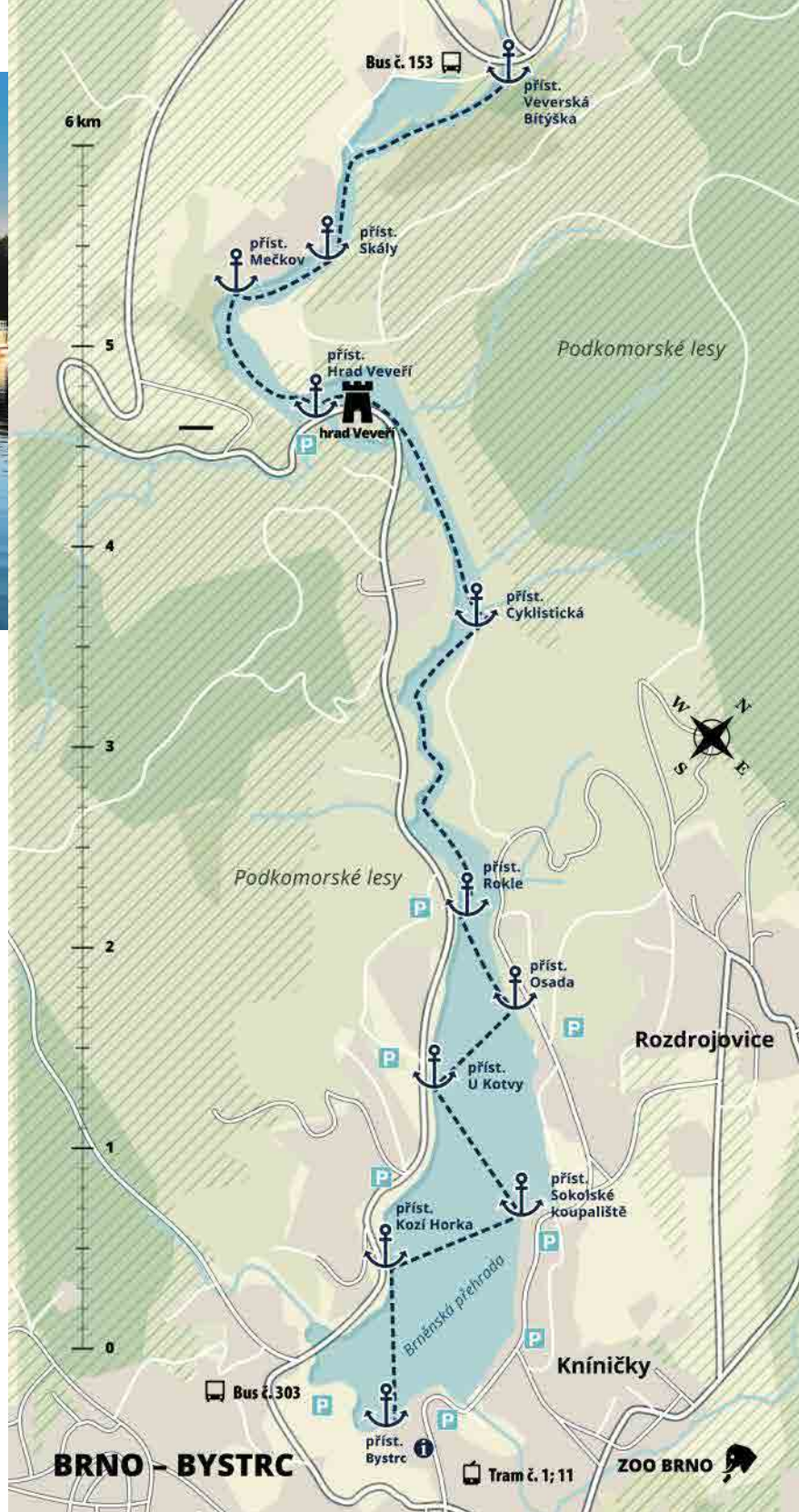
Phone: +420 546 210 080 [www.dpmb.cz](http://www.dpmb.cz)

### The reservoir in numbers:

|                |                                 |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Flooded area   | 259 ha                          |
| Maximum volume | 21 mil. m <sup>3</sup> of water |
| Lake length    | 9.3 km                          |
| Lake width     | 700 m                           |

### Technical parameters of the boats:

|                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Length               | 25 m               |
| Width                | 6.22 m             |
| Max. draft           | 1.15 m             |
| Displacement         | 90 tons            |
| Max. speed           | 8 knots (15 km/hr) |
| Number of passengers | max. 200 people    |
| Drive                | Electric           |







The mighty Veveří Castle has a glorious and eventful history going back eight hundred years

## CASTLE VEVEŘÍ

Above the waters of the Brno Reservoir, 20 km northwest of the city of Brno, stands the Veveří Castle, one of the largest castle complexes in the country. It was built as a fortified residence for the royal burgrave around the originally **Romanesque structure** sometime in the 13th century (it was first noted in 1213). During the reign of the Moravian Margrave Jan Jindřich, the castle was expanded and gained its present appearance. Since the late 15th century it was no longer royal property and the castle changed ownership through several noble families, for example the Lords of Ludanice, of Lipa, and the Černošská family from Boskovice. There is a direct bus line to castle from Bystrc, or you can get there by boat in the summer.

### GUIDED TOURS OF THE CASTLE:

**Free tour of the castle complex** (non-guided tour of the courtyard, entrance to the walking galleries of the “Příhrádek” adjacent castle, the lookout point of the Powder Tower, selected seasonal exhibitions)

**Route I** – guided tour of the interior I (representative rooms, upper floor of the palace with Břítová Tower, observation deck – about 40 minutes, max 30 persons per group)

**Route II** – guided tour of the interior II (selected parts of the exterior, Břítová Tower, attic of the castle, interior of the English tract, and others – for persons older than 15 years; the route is physically demanding and sports shoes are recommended, max. 10 persons per group).

Phone: +420 549 420 164  
[www.veveri.cz](http://www.veveri.cz)



Did you know that...

*In the hall behind the treasury, you can see an exhibition of painted coats of arms of the owners of the Veveří Castle as well as an exhibition of replicas of rod weapons of the Thirty Years' War. The passage of the English Tract holds an exhibition of drawings of castle reconstructions and their ruins in the Svatka river valley entitled “Copuli lapidum”.*



Did you know that...

## MASARYK CIRCUIT

Car races have been held in Brno **since the 1930's**. Historically, the **first race** was held on 28 September 1930 and was won by the German driver Joachim von Morgen in a Bugatti. The year 1965 saw the first **World Championship of Motorcycle Racing – Grand Prix**. The original circuit no longer met the increasing requirements for driver and spectator safety, and it was clear that it could not continue without major reconstruction. From 1985 to 1987, the **modern Masaryk Circuit** was born, which now meets the requirements for hosting the world's highest levels of motor sport; immediately in 1987 the circuit hosted the World Championship of Motorcycle Racing – **the MotoGP**.

The circuit measures 5.4 km, is 15 meters wide, and the official lap record is 1:39.093 (F1 car from 2006), the official lap record on a motorcycle is 1:56.027.

The track is accessible by car (from motorway D1, take exit 178 or 182), and there is a special bus service during races.

The very first victory, then still in the 125cc class, was won here in 1996 by the phenomenal seventeen-year-old Italian **Valentino Rossi** (\*1979).



Automotodrom Brno, a. s.  
Masarykův okruh 201  
664 81 Ostrovačice  
[www.automotodrombrno.cz](http://www.automotodrombrno.cz)





GO TO BRNO.cz ←

**Our TIP**

## ZOO BRNO and the Young Scientists Station

celebrated its ceremonially opening on Mniší hora (Monk Mountain) on 30 August 1953. It currently houses and breeds over 2,200 animals covering 408 species. The first exhibition that awaits zoo visitors upon entry is the Tiger Rocks, a grandiose enclosure inhabited by Sumatran Tigers. The next exhibition is reserved for Kamchatka bears, but the entire exhibition, named Beringia, also houses a range of Arctic wolves, Canadian beavers, and wolverines. One of the most important and valuable parts of the Brno Zoo is the polar bear exhibition, with one of the most popular enclosures. Spice up your visit by passing through the bald eagle aviary on the way there. The African village is built in the highest part of Monk Mountain, in front of the Safari enclosure, and will be part of the upcoming Kalahari complex. The new settlement will consist of replicas of eight African huts, some of which will serve as facilities for animals and the rest for education, refreshment, and visitor relaxation, including a picnic meadow with a public grill. here are several viewing points from



where visitors can enjoy overlooking a lake with flamingos and an island with ring-tailed lemurs, giraffes, and zebras. The Tropical Kingdom pavilion houses the large anaconda, the pig-nosed turtle, the sand cat, and the rare Komodo lizard. The Children's Zoo is very popular; it lets the children make direct contact with animals, and the kids can play on the swings, slides, and climbing frames. The Brno Zoo also organizes educational programs and is involved in projects for the conservation of endangered animal species. The Brno Zoo also has a rescue station for wild animals. Attend the regular commented feeding of the farmed animals for some variety in your visit.

[www.zoobrna.cz](http://www.zoobrna.cz)



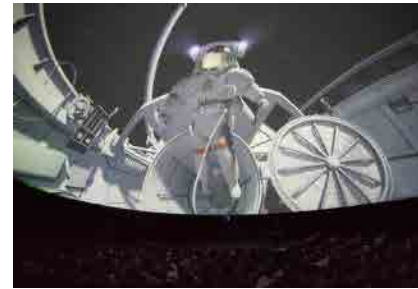
**Our TIP**

## BRNO OBSERVATORY AND PLANETARIUM

This has existed since 1954, when it was a single dome with a small telescope. Today, it is a modern center that in an understandable, entertaining and interactive way popularizes all sorts of science, especially in the field of inanimate nature – primarily **astronomy**, but also geology, physics, chemistry, and more.

During a visit to the Brno Observatory and Planetarium you can take a virtual trip into space, look into a microcosm, or just enjoy a science fiction story.

The facility, of course, includes an astronomical **observatory**, where modern telescopes provide views to craters on the Moon, the rings of Saturn, the moons of Jupiter, sunspots, but also objects in the distant universe.



The **Digitarium** (digital planetarium) will amaze you with its perfect illusion of a starry sky projected onto a screen 17 meters in diameter. The “small planetarium” has a dome with a diameter of 8 m.

For the latest scientific insights into the history of our planetary system, visit the new exhibition at the **Exploratorium**.

[www.hvezdarna.cz](http://www.hvezdarna.cz)



The Antropos Pavilion of the Moravian Muse

## MUZEJA A GALERIE

### Moravian Museum

[www.mzm.cz](http://www.mzm.cz)

Exhibitions:

- Dietrichstein Palace  
Zelný trh 8, Brno
- Bishop's Court & Mendelianum  
Muzejní 1, Brno
- Palace of Noble Ladies  
Kobližná 1, Brno
- Anthropos Pavilion  
Pisárecká 5, Brno
- Leos Janáček Memorial  
Smetanova 14, Brno
- Center for Literary History  
Hudcova 76, Brno

### Brno City Museum

[www.spilberk.cz](http://www.spilberk.cz)  
Špilberk 210/1, Brno

### Mendel Museum

[www.mendelmuseum.muni.cz](http://www.mendelmuseum.muni.cz)  
Mendlovo náměstí 1a, Brno

### Mitrovský Summer House

[www.letohradekbrno.cz](http://www.letohradekbrno.cz)  
Veletřní 19, Brno

### Gallery of Architecture

[www.galeriearchitektury.cz](http://www.galeriearchitektury.cz)  
Starobrněnská 16/18, Brno

### Moravian Gallery in Brno

[www.moravska-galerie.cz](http://www.moravska-galerie.cz)

Exhibitions:

- Pražák Palace  
Husova 18, Brno
- Museum of Applied Arts  
Husova 14, Brno
- Governor's Palace  
Moravské náměstí 1a, Brno
- Josef Hoffmann Family House  
náměstí Svobody 263, Brnice
- Jurkovič Villa  
Jana Nečase 2, Brno – Žabovřesky

### Museum of Technology

[www.technicalmuseum.cz](http://www.technicalmuseum.cz)  
Purkyňova 105, Brno

### Wannieck Gallery („Vaňkovka“)

[www.adamgallery.cz](http://www.adamgallery.cz)  
Ve Vaňkovce 2, Brno

### Model World

[www.modelovysvet.cz](http://www.modelovysvet.cz)  
Josefská 7, Brno (E-pasáž)

### Marionette Museum

[www.divadlo-radost.cz](http://www.divadlo-radost.cz)  
Bratislavská 32, Brno (Radost Theater)

## THEATERS & CINEMAS

### Brno City Theater

[www.mdb.cz](http://www.mdb.cz)  
Lidická 16, Brno

### National Theater Brno

[www.ndbrno.cz](http://www.ndbrno.cz)  
Mahen Theater  
Malinovského náměstí 1, Brno  
Janáček Theater  
Rooseveltova 1–7, Brno  
Reduta  
Zelný trh 4, Brno

### Goose on a String (Husa na provázku)

[www.provazek.cz](http://www.provazek.cz)  
Zelný trh 9, Brno

### HaDivadlo

[www.hadivadlo.cz](http://www.hadivadlo.cz)  
Poštovská 8d, Brno (Alfa pasáž)

### Bolek Polívka Theater

[www.divadlobolkapolivky.cz](http://www.divadlobolkapolivky.cz)  
Dělnický dům, Jamborova 3323/65, Brno

### Radost Marionette Theater

[www.divadlo-radost.cz](http://www.divadlo-radost.cz)  
Bratislavská 216/32, Brno

### Polárka Theater

[www.divadlopolaraka.cz](http://www.divadlopolaraka.cz)  
Tučkova 134, Brno

### Cinema Lucerna

[www.kinolucerna.info](http://www.kinolucerna.info)  
Minská 19, Brno

### Cinema Art

[www.kinoart.cz](http://www.kinoart.cz)  
Cihlářská 19, Brno

### Cinema City Olympia

[www.cinemacity.cz](http://www.cinemacity.cz)  
U Dálnice 777, Brno

### Cinema City Velký Špalíček

[www.cinemacity.cz](http://www.cinemacity.cz)  
Dominikánská 5, Brno



## SWIMMING POOLS

### Aquapark Kohoutovice

[www.aquapark-kohoutovice.cz](http://www.aquapark-kohoutovice.cz)  
Chalabalova 2, Brno

### Swimming pool Brno

[www.koupalistebrno.cz](http://www.koupalistebrno.cz)  
Dobrovského 29, Brno

### Swimming pool Juliánov

[www.koupalistejulianov.cz](http://www.koupalistejulianov.cz)  
Julianovské náměstí 1, Brno

### Swimming pool Královo Pole

[www.koupaliste-krpole.cz](http://www.koupaliste-krpole.cz)  
Křížikova 9d, Brno

### Swimming pool Kraví hora

[www.kravihora-brno.cz](http://www.kravihora-brno.cz)  
Údolní 76, Brno

### Swimming pool Riviéra

[www.rivec.cz](http://www.rivec.cz)  
Bauerova 7, Brno

### Swimming pool Zábřovice

[www.koupaliste-zabrdovice.cz](http://www.koupaliste-zabrdovice.cz)  
Zábřovická 13, Brno

### Swimming pool TJ Tesla

[www.tjtesla.cz](http://www.tjtesla.cz)  
Hallasovo náměstí 7, Brno

### Swimming pool Za Lužánkami

[www.bazenzaluzankami.cz](http://www.bazenzaluzankami.cz)  
Sportovní 4, Brno

### Swimming pool Rašínova

[www.lazne-rasinova.cz](http://www.lazne-rasinova.cz)  
Rašínova 12, Brno

### Swimming pool Ponávka

[www.lazne-brno.cz](http://www.lazne-brno.cz)  
Ponávka 3a, Brno

The programme of Brno cinemas can be found at [zitkino.cz](http://zitkino.cz)

Our TIP





ATTENTION! These dates are only usual and therefore without guarantee.

## JANUARY

**JAZZFESTBRNO** (throughout the year)  
[www.jazzfestbrno.cz](http://www.jazzfestbrno.cz)

Fifteen festival nights with over 20 bands.

## FEBRUARY

**INTERNATIONAL TOURIST GUIDE DAY**  
[www.gotobrnno.cz](http://www.gotobrnno.cz), [www.ticbrno.cz](http://www.ticbrno.cz)

## GROOVE BRNO

[www.groovebrno.cz](http://www.groovebrno.cz)

This international jazz festival introduces Czech as well as global trends in jazz music.

## APRIL

### BONJOUR BRNO

[www.bonjourbrno.cz](http://www.bonjourbrno.cz)

The largest festival of French culture in Brno.

## MAY

### BRNO MAJÁLES

[www.brno.majales.cz](http://www.brno.majales.cz)

### BRNO MUSEUM NIGHT

[www.brnenskamuzejninoc.cz](http://www.brnenskamuzejninoc.cz)

The doors to museums, galleries, and other cultural centres in Brno and its surroundings will open at 6 pm and won't close until midnight.

### BRNO THEATRE WORLD

[www.divadelnisvet.cz](http://www.divadelnisvet.cz)

## JUNE

### IBÉRICA

[www.iberica.cz](http://www.iberica.cz)

Festival of Latin American culture.

### GHETTOFEST

[www.ghettofest.cz](http://www.ghettofest.cz)

A multi-genre street festival.

### IGNIS BRUNENSIS

[www.ignisbrunensis.cz](http://www.ignisbrunensis.cz)

An international fireworks contest.

## JULY

### OPEN-AIR CINEMA IN THE CENTRE OF BRNO

[www.kinobude.cz](http://www.kinobude.cz)

Open-air film screening downtown.

### SUMMER SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

[www.brno.shakespeare.cz](http://www.brno.shakespeare.cz)

Various works by William Shakespeare performed by famous actors with the unforgettable magic of this open-air stage.

### MENDEL FESTIVAL

[www.mendelje.cz](http://www.mendelje.cz)

This festival is dedicated to one of the most famous personalities of Brno – Gregor Johann Mendel.

### AUTHORS' READING MONTH

[www.autorskecteni.cz](http://www.autorskecteni.cz)

## AUGUST

### FESTIVAL ŠPILBERK

[www.filharmonie-brno.cz](http://www.filharmonie-brno.cz)

The traditional festival under the summer sky organized by Brno Philharmonic.

### INTERNATIONAL GUITAR FESTIVAL BRNO

[www.guitarfestival.cz](http://www.guitarfestival.cz)

### BRNO MUSIC MARATHON

[www.maratonhudby.cz](http://www.maratonhudby.cz)

A multi-genre music festival.

### BRNO DAY

[www.gotobrnno.cz](http://www.gotobrnno.cz), [www.ticbrno.cz](http://www.ticbrno.cz)

The city festival.

## SEPTEMBER

### EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS

[www.gotobrnno.cz](http://www.gotobrnno.cz)

The doors and gates to major places of interest, buildings, and premises are open to the general public.

### BABYLONFEST

[www.babylonfest.cz](http://www.babylonfest.cz)

Babylonfest is about the coexistence of minorities.



**Did you know that...**

The Brno International Engineering Fair is truly the **largest event** of its kind in Central Europe. This is because of the strong position of Czech industry on the European and world market. The **Brno fair** is larger than similar fairs in Poznan, Budapest and Vienna, and the only larger trade fair is in Hanover.

### SCIENCE FESTIVAL

[www.festivalvedy.cz](http://www.festivalvedy.cz)

A show of scientific and research as well as popular scientific institutions from Brno.

## OCTOBER

### KOMA

[www.festivalkoma.cz](http://www.festivalkoma.cz)

International Comics Festival

### INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING FAIR

[www.bvv.cz/msv](http://www.bvv.cz/msv)

The most significant industry fair in Central Europe.

### BRNO 16

[www.brno16.cz](http://www.brno16.cz)

The best Czech as well as foreign short films.

## NOVEMBER

### MEZIPATRA – QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

[www.mezipatra.cz](http://www.mezipatra.cz)

### THE WEEK OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

[www.tydenvedy.cz](http://www.tydenvedy.cz)

The largest science festival in the Czech Republic.

### GO AND REGIONTOUR

[www.bvv.cz/go-regiontour](http://www.bvv.cz/go-regiontour)

The largest presentations of tourism in the Czech Republic.

### LIFE!

[www.bvv.cz/life](http://www.bvv.cz/life)

Festival of sports, dance, and fun.

### BASTLFEST

[www.vida.cz](http://www.vida.cz)

Festival kutilství pro celou rodinu.

### BRNO CHRISTMAS

[www.brnenskevanoce.cz](http://www.brnenskevanoce.cz)

Traditional Christmas markets in the centre of Brno.

### ADVENT AT THE VEGETABLE MARKET

[www.adventnazelnaku.cz](http://www.adventnazelnaku.cz)

### ADVENT ON MORAVIAN SQUARE

[www.adventnamoravaku.cz](http://www.adventnamoravaku.cz)

## DECEMBER

### CHRISTMAS TRADE FAIRS

[www.bvv.cz/vanocni-veletrhy/](http://www.bvv.cz/vanocni-veletrhy/)

Gifts, craftsman market, culinary specialties, music and fun all together.



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### 1/ TO JE Brno Information Centre

Panenská 1, 602 00 Brno

**Open:** daily from 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
 +420 513 039 035, +420 602 404 246  
 panenska@ticbrno.cz  
 Wi-Fi connection, baggage storage,  
 design souvenirs, rest zone.

### 2/ Pod krokodýlem Information Centre

Radnická 8, 602 00 Brno

**Open:** Mo–Fr 8:30 am – 6:00 pm  
 Sa, So & Bank Holiday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm  
 +420 542 427 150, +420 542 427 151  
 info@ticbrno.cz

### 3/ Train Station Information Centre

Brno Main Train Station,  
 Nádražní 1, 602 00 Brno

**Open:** daily from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm  
 +420 725 518 113, nadrazi@ticbrno.cz

### 4/ Airport Information Centre

Airport Brno, Tuřany 904/1, 627 00 Brno

**Open:** According to the current  
 charter flight schedule.  
 +420 727 923 523, letiste@ticbrno.cz

### 5/ Dam Information Centre

Brno Dam, Přístavní, 635 00 Brno

**Open:** June–August  
 Mo–Sa 10:00 am – 7:00 pm  
 prehrada@ticbrno.cz



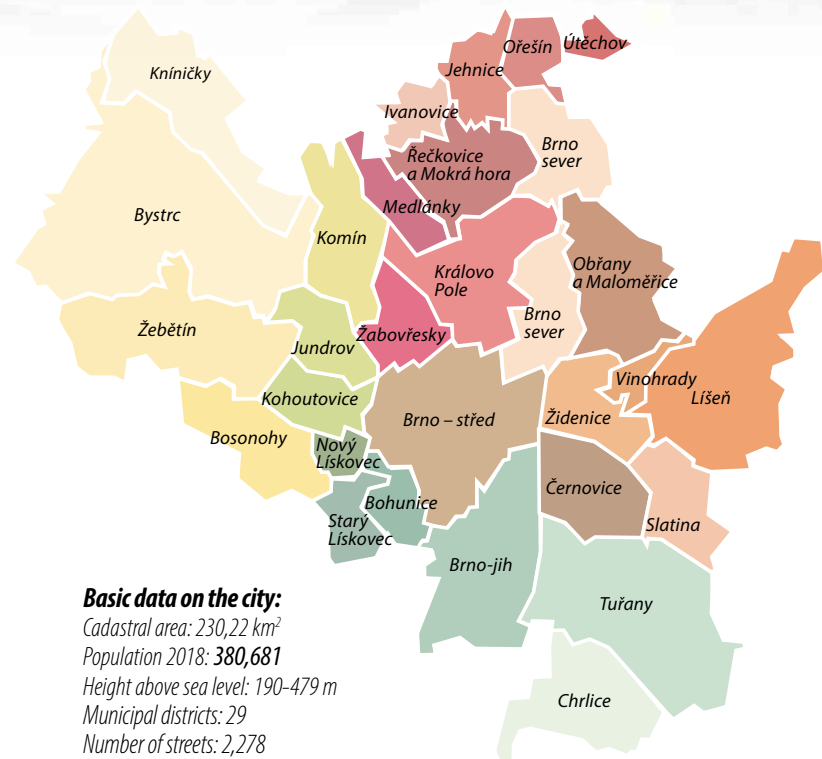
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#### Basic data on the city:

Cadastral area: 230,22 km<sup>2</sup>

Population 2018: 380,681

Height above sea level: 190–479 m

Municipal districts: 29

Number of streets: 2,278



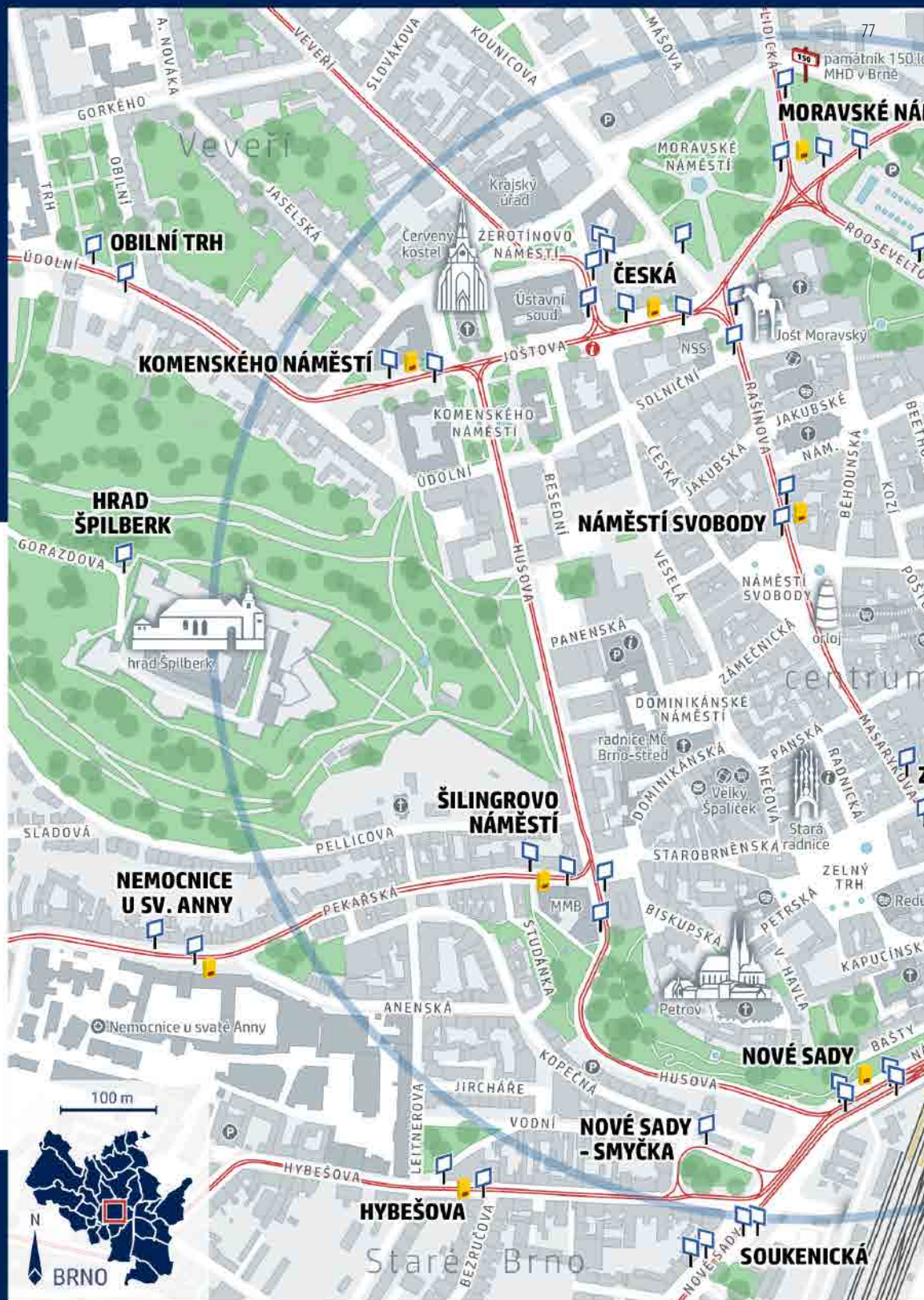
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## Centrum města Brna Brno city centre

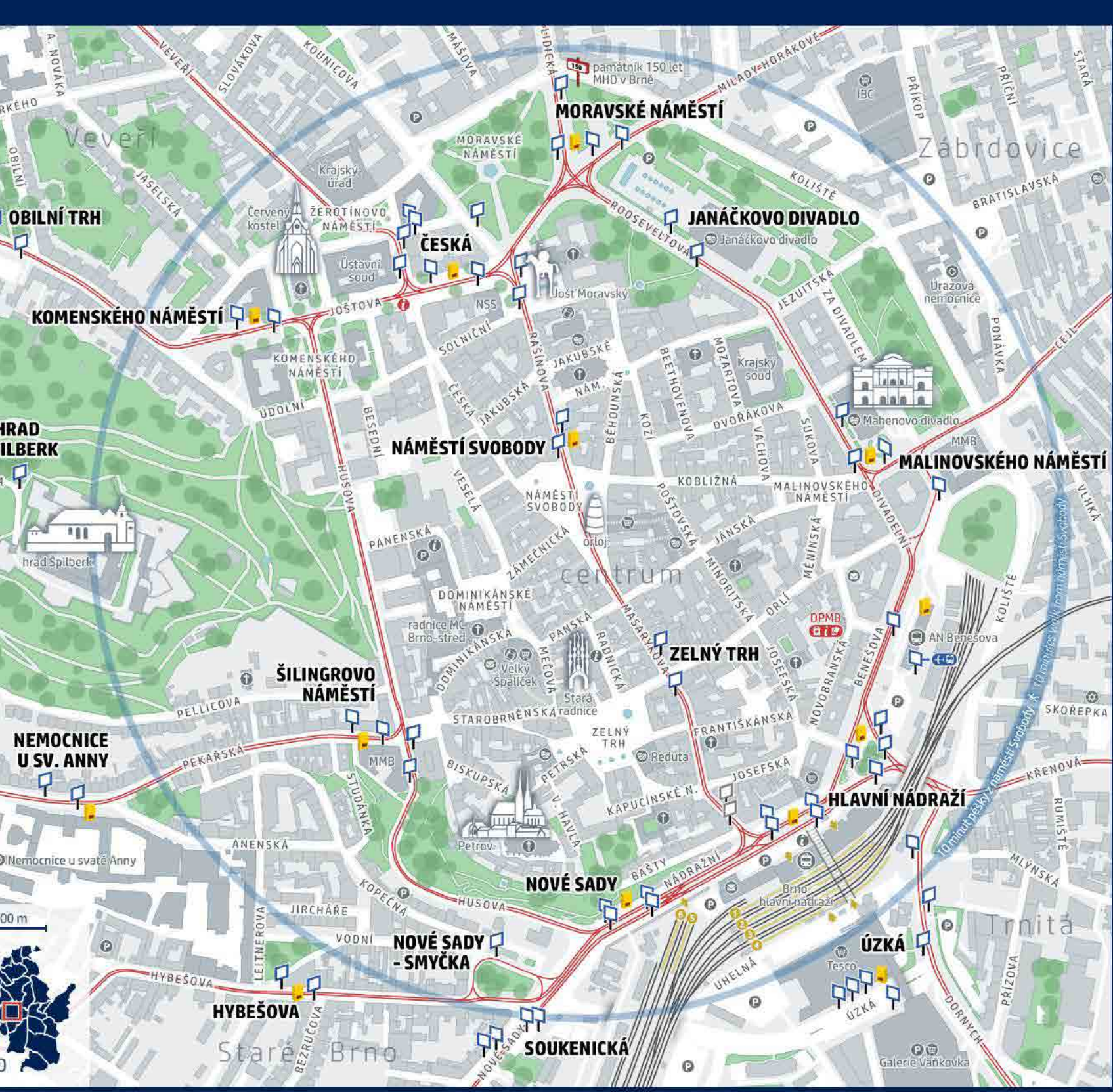
-  Zastávka MHD | Public transport stop
-  Jízdenkový automat | Ticket machine
-  Vlakové nádraží | Train station
-  Vlakové nástupiště | Train platform
-  Autobusové nádraží | Bus station
-  Tramvajová trať | Tram tracks
-  Infocentrum | Infocentre
-  Prodejna jízdních dokladů | Ticket office
-  Prodejna suvenýrů | DPMB fan shop
-  Kostel | Church
-  Synagoga | Synagogue
-  Nemocnice | Hospital
-  Divadlo | Theatre
-  Kino | Cinema
-  Pošta | Post office
-  Nákupní centrum | Shopping centre
-  Parkoviště | Parking



**DPMB**  
Dopravní podnik města Brna a.s.

© DPMB, a. s., IX/2021





**MORAVSKÉ NÁMĚSTÍ**  
památník 150 let MHD v Brně

**JANÁČKOVO DIVADLO**  
Janáčkovovo divadlo

**ČESKÁ**

**KOMENSKÉHO NÁMĚSTÍ**

**NÁMĚSTÍ SVOBODY**

**MALINOVSKÉHO NÁMĚSTÍ**

**ZELNÝ TRH**

**ŠILINGROVO NÁMĚSTÍ**

**NEMOCNICE U SV. ANNY**

**HLAVNÍ NÁDRAŽÍ**

**NOVÉ SADY**

**NOVÉ SADY - SMYČKA**

**ÚZKÁ**

**HYBEŠOVA**

**SOUKENICKÁ**

0 100 m







[www.brno.cz](http://www.brno.cz)  
[www.gotobrna.cz](http://www.gotobrna.cz)  
[www.ticbrno.cz](http://www.ticbrno.cz)  
[www.spilberk.cz](http://www.spilberk.cz)  
[www.bvv.cz](http://www.bvv.cz)  
[www.brno-airport.cz](http://www.brno-airport.cz)  
[www.visitbrno.cz](http://www.visitbrno.cz)

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[www.mcumedia.cz](http://www.mcumedia.cz)



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