

9

the best of



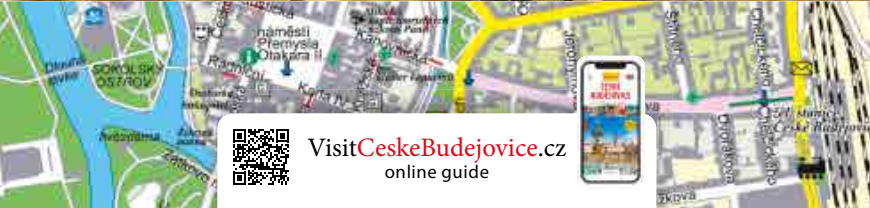
ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

HLUBOKÁ NAD VLTAVOU, HOLAŠOVICE



MCU

NEW
EDITION



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online guide





The Hluboká Zoo, Hluboká nad Vltavou

The Hluboká Zoo is situated on the banks of the Munický Pond, close to the town of Hluboká nad Vltavou. It was first opened to the public on May 1, 1939. Since then it has undergone many changes, and today it can boast of attractive grounds and a pleasant environment not only for animals, but also for visitors. The largest South Bohemian zoo specializes in breeding animals from European natural habitats and the temperate zone of Asia. Visitors can of course also admire representatives of South American flora and fauna in the Matamata tropical pavilion, or smaller species of the African continent in the Small Africa expositions. There is even a playground for children, a restaurant with a view of the nooks of Munický Pond and also fast food and souvenir shop.

**The Hluboká ZOO is open
365/366 days of the year.**

FOUNDER

South Bohemia 

www.zoohluboka.cz



Canadian ice hockey has been played in České Budějovice since the 1926–1927

the best of...

ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

HLUBOKÁ NAD VLTAVOU, HOLAŠOVICE

the best of ...

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On-line tourist guide



The Tuscan columns on the Black Tower gallery remind us of the homeland of the builder Vincenc Vogareli

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ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

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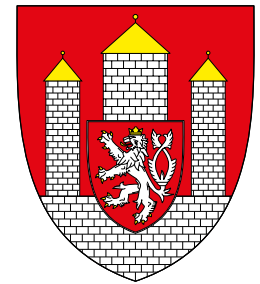


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ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

In 1265 **Přemysl Otakar II** established a royal town at the confluence of the Vltava and Malše rivers. Over the next centuries, the town gradually turned into the largest and most densely populated settlement in South Bohemia. The **capital of South Bohemia** is the region's administrative, cultural and transportation hub. It is home to a number of important institutions, such as the **University of South Bohemia**, research institutes of the **Czech Academy of Sciences**, a branch of the National Scientific Library, and the South Bohemian Museum. Local **industrial tradition** is also renowned. **Brewing** in particular has achieved worldwide renown; thanks to its beer industry České



České Budějovice has been using the coat of arms probably since it was established. It first appeared on a seal dating back to the 1320s. The coat of arms was later improved by King Vladislav II in 1479 and was revised in 1648. There were further changes in the 20th century, but in 1965 it was decided that the coat of arms would return to its oldest known appearance.



Did you know that...

*There is a **legend** that clarifies in a very interesting way how the town got its name. When **King Přemysl Otakar II** discovered that his son was born, he is said to have exclaimed: “**Bude jich více!**” (There will be more of them.) It is said that he received this news right at the place where he later founded a town that was named according to these three prophetic words. A similar story says that Otakar's exclamation concerned new houses and buildings in the town that had just been founded. (A picture showing the Czech lands in the reign of the last Přemysl-dynasty kings, 1253–1306).*

Budějovice is sometimes called the town of beer. Another symbol of České Budějovice is the **Black Tower** that rises on one corner of the **Čtvercové square**. At 133 × 137 metres, this is the largest square in the Czech Republic. The magnificent **Samson's Fountain** is situated in the centre of it. The surroundings of České Budějovice are interesting and attractive too: architectural and natural jewels such as **Holašovice** (UNESCO), the New-Gothic **chateau of Hluboká**, and the Vrbenksý rybníky Natural Reserve are all nearby České Budějovice. The town's position in the flat landscape of the **Basin of České Budějovice** makes it a perfect starting place for **cycling tours**. In case of bad weather you can visit a range of **sights, museums, galleries**, and of course numerous **stylish pubs and restaurants**, where you can find out (especially over a glass of the famous local lager) that you can have a great time in České Budějovice ...

*The unmistakable symbols of České Budějovice
– Black Tower and Samson's Fountain*

BRIEF HISTORY

Slavonic tribes probably inhabited this area as early as the 6th century. There is evidence of a **minor settlement** on the right bank of the river, approximately 1 km north of the confluence, dating to the **beginning of the 13th century**. The settlement was called **Budivojovice** after its owners, who were an important noble family called Budivoj.

In 1265 **King Přemysl Otakar II.** (probably 1233–1278) established a new royal town here as part of his efforts to strengthen his power in the southern part of Bohemia. As this happened almost “on the green meadow”, the architects could design the town centre and adjacent streets in a very magnanimous way. The large **Čtvercové square** and the right-angled **network of wide streets** are still a perfect example of a modern medieval town of the north-Italian type. A strategically convenient place, protected from two sides by the **Vltava** and **Malše** rivers, was chosen. A water channel called **Mlýnská stoka (the Mill Channel)**, which was partly manmade, protected the



A section of Willenberg's veduta of České Budějovice with the Church of St. Nicholas (appearance before the great fire), 1602

Did you know that...

The history of relations between royal *České Budějovice* and the powerful family of **Rožmberk** includes numerous examples of how both parties caused harm to each other. It was the last ruler of **Rožmberk, Petr Vok** (†1611), who became an exception. In spite of his own financial troubles he had the legendary silver treasure of the family of Rožmberk turned into coins, making it possible to pay and **disband the army of Passau**. This army looted South Bohemia after they failed to conquer Prague. Thus, Generous Petr Vok thus rid *Česke Budějovice* of ruthless soldiers of fortune who were garrisoned in the town, and he did not hesitate to make the Black Tower a target of their artillery training.

town in the north and east. Construction of the town **fortification** was underway at the same time. A **Dominican convent with the Church of the Sacrifice of Our Lady** was founded along with the town. It is the oldest structure in *České Budějovice*.

České Budějovice was established in order to **support the royal power in South Bohemia**, especially against the family of **Vítek** (and later **Rožmberk**), who controlled a major part of South Bohemia in the 13th century. In later years the town had to face repeated attacks by the family of Vítek. The town was damaged several times due to the attempts to conquer it.

In the 14th century **direct royal influence** on the town's affairs began to **weaken** and power gradually went into the hands of **burghers**. In about the middle of the 14th century, King Charles IV granted several important **privileges** to *České Budějovice*. It was forbidden to brew beer in a circumference of one mile around the town and no craftsmen could settle there. All merchants were obliged to stop in *České Budějovice* on their way from Austria and to offer their goods for sale there. It was also thanks to these privileges that the town began to flourish.



Square of Přemysl Otakar II, one of the largest squares in the Czech Republic

During the **Hussite storms** *České Budějovice* stood on the side of the Hussite's enemies, but **Jan Žižka** did not attack the town with his army. The massive belt of town walls with bastions completed at the beginning of the 14th century was probably the reason why this feared commander respected the town.

The town prospered in the 15th and 16th centuries due to profitable **trade with salt, brewing, trading in pond management and fishing**, and thanks to **silver mines** in the surroundings of today's **Rudolfov** (a mint operated in *České Budějovice* from 1569 to 1611). This prosperity was reflected especially in **building development** of the town – the burghers rebuilt their dwellings into grand Renaissance houses and the Black Tower, which is 72 m high, was built.

The economic boom of *České Budějovice* was slowed by dramatic events in the first half of the 17th century: **the invasion of the armies of Passau in 1611** and the **Thirty Years' War** from 1618 to 1648. The war had a major economic impact on *České Budějovice*, but the real wound was caused by a **huge fire in 1641** that destroyed more than half of the houses in the town. However, this disaster initiated

new construction, among others the first purely Baroque structure in *České Budějovice*, **the Capuchin convent with the Church of St. Anne**.

České Budějovice continued to prosper as late as the 18th century. An ostentatious Baroque town hall was built at that time (1727–1730) as well as Samson's Fountain and the water tower, and a statue was erected in front of each of the town gates. An important moment, which improved the education of the town's inhabitants, was the arrival of the **Piarists**, who founded a Latin **grammar school** and a Piarist college. Another significant year in the town's history is 1751, when *České Budějovice* first became **the administrative centre** of the newly-established **Region of České Budějovice**. Emperor Joseph II closed two convents in the town as part of his church reforms, but in 1785 he made *České Budějovice* a **bishopric**.

Did you know that...

Česke Budějovice twice became a hiding place of the Czech **crown jewels** during the Thirty Years' War. The jewels were stored and carefully guarded in the Church of St. Nicholas. The first time was in 1633 to 1634, when Prague was not „safe“, and the second time was between 1634 and 1635.



The Black Tower with the Church of St. Nicholas

The **industrial revolution of the 19th century** brought about major changes to the town. A horse-drawn tramway linking České Budějovice to the Austrian towns of **Linz** (in 1832) and Gmunden (1836) was built in the period from 1827 to 1836. It was the first railway in continental Europe. It was especially used for transportation of goods, particularly **salt** (to Bohemia). The **Vltava River**, which was made navigable, was another cause of the town's economic boom. Along with the horse-drawn tramway, they created an easier route for the transportation of goods to Prague and further north. This was one of the conditions for development of business in the town. An example of this is the establishment



The oldest "railway building" in Continental Europe – the original station of the horse-drawn tramway

of the **Koh-i-noor Hardtmuth** factory producing pencil leads from a mixture of graphite and fine clay. The horse-drawn tramway of České Budějovice ran for 40 years. A modern **railway connection from Prague, Vienna and Pilsen** was built in 1868–1874.

National friction between Czechs and Germans, which sometimes turned into conflicts, was part of the atmosphere of České Budějovice at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. A typical phenomenon of that time was establishing Czech and German unions with the same focus, which competed with each other as a result. The same applied to industry. National disputes eased temporarily with the end of **World War I** in connection with the establishment of an independent Czechoslovakia.

On **15 March 1939** the town was occupied by Nazis and Czech officials were immediately replaced with the German **occupation administration**. A German became the town mayor and a Gestapo office was founded. The occupiers blew up the local **synagogue** in 1942. At the end of the war, on 23 and 24 March 1945, České Budějovice endured two **air raids by American bombers**, during which many houses were destroyed and about 200 people lost their lives. The end of the war for the inhabitants of České Budějovice came on 9 May 1945. It was the day when the **Soviet army** entered the



Premises of the Koh-i-noor plant

Did you know that...

*Everybody was worried about the national rivalry between Czechs and Germans except for the local **veteran society** Militär Veteranen Verein. It has been said that at one of their festive events in the countryside they placed a sign saying: We are not Czech / we are not German / we are veterans of the monarchy / Austrian patriots!*



The court building after an American air-raid in 1945 (source VLHS Č. Budějovice)

town. The Americans had to stop on the demarcation line at the southwest edge of the town (they did not get over the Long Bridge). The subsequent **post-war expulsion of German inhabitants** affected approximately 7,500 people, about 16 % of inhabitants.

In **1949** České Budějovice became a **regional town** and in 1952 its historic centre was declared a **Town Conservation Area**. In the following decades several new residential quarters were established as well as the House of Culture, a town swimming pool and a number of public facilities. The period **after 1989** was a time of major changes – culture and sport developed, tourism increased, mod-

ern industry flourished (**Bosch, Madeta, Budvar**, etc.). The **University of South Bohemia** was founded in 1991. A significant project was the transformation of the former military **airport in Planá u Českých Budějovic** into a civil transportation airport.

Campus of the University of South Bohemia



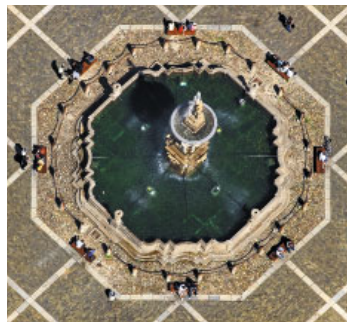


The Square of Přemysl Otakar II viewed from the Black Tower

SQUARE

The natural starting point of our sightseeing tour of České Budějovice is the **Square of Přemysl Otakar II**. It is said to have the shape of a perfect square, but it is not really true – one side is 132 metres and the other one approximately 137 metres. The square was marked out soon after the town was established and it served especially as a place for holding **markets**, various **fairs** and of course executions. We are reminded of the execution ground by the so-called **erratic boulder** situated near the centre of the square. It is all that's left of the original stone paving, cobbles. In 1939 the cobbles were replaced with **ceramic paving** that has covered the square to today.

In the very centre of the square you can find another important symbol of České Budějovice – Samson's Fountain. This magnificent Baroque work was built in the period from 1721 to 1727. It is formed by a stone basin that is one of the largest fountains in the Czech Republic with a **diameter of 17 metres**. The fountain is



Samson's Fountain is connected to the art of sculptor **Josef Dietrich** (1677–1753) and to the stonemason master **Zachariáš Horn**. The man behind it must also be mentioned: **Franz Baugut**. He employed his urban designs regarding the position, dimensions and probably also the topic of the fountain. And it was Baugut who initiated construction of the town waterworks from which the fountain was fed. Today the social position of this well-educated man is surprising. Baugut was a Jesuit of Jindřichův Hradec.

Did you know that...

There is a legend about the **erratic boulder** saying that a person who steps over the boulder after ten at night will never again be able to find their way home. You can find the erratic boulder easily. It is inserted in the pavement near Samson's Fountain, so you can try yourself whether or not the legend is true. But it's not so simple. The legend includes the crafty condition that you have to step over the boulder unconsciously.

Did you know that...

In the town hall arcade you can see a strip of iron embedded in the wall. It is a standard of a historical unit of measurement – the so-called **Vienna cubit** (77.8 cm). You should not miss a **memorial plaque** in the facade of the town hall, commemorating **President T. G. Masaryk's** stop here during his return to the Czech lands by train in 1918.

decorated with four gargoyles and with four statues of atlantes holding a large stone shell. A pedestal rises out of the shell with a sculpture of Samson fighting a lion. During restoration works in 1999 the fountain was equipped with colour lighting and all the statues were replaced with copies. The originals are kept inside the town hall.

The square is lined with 48 houses, all of which have an **arbour**. Let's take a closer look at some of them: The first building to draw our attention is the gorgeous **Baroque town hall** with its three spires situated in the south-west corner of the square. It was originally a Renaissance house built in the period from 1555 to 1558 and it was reconstructed in Baroque style from 1727 to 1730. The attic is decorated with **sculptures of four virtues** by sculptor Josef Dietrich from České

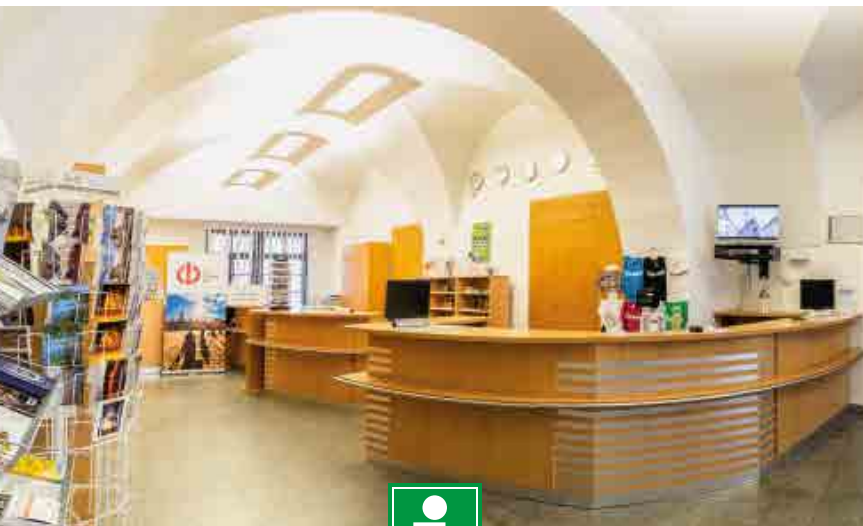


Our TIP

We recommend that you also look at the **interior of the town hall**. What you will see is not only a fortuitous combination of the town hall's modern reconstruction with the original architecture, but also for instance the **original statue of Samson** from the fountain in the square, the original statues of virtues from the town hall attic, a large tapestry by painter Cyril Bouda, etc. A view of the town from the observation terrace, which is situated on the roof of the building, is also very nice.



Baroque Town Hall – detail of allegorical symbols



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE IN ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

nám. Přemysla Otakara II., No. 1/1 (middle entrance into the town hall)
370 92 České Budějovice
Tel.: +420 386 801 413
info@cb-budejovice.cz, www.budejce.cz
GPS: 48°58'26.445"N, 14°28'27.773"E

We offer:

- Free information services
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 - Stamps for tourist diaries
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CBsystem.cz

České Budějovice



Opening time info center:

High season (1st June – 30th September):

Mon – Fri: 8:30 am – 6 pm, Sat: 8:30 am – 5 pm, Sun: 8:30 am – 5 pm

Out of season (1st October – 31st May):

Mon, Wed: 9 am – 5 pm, Tue, Thur, Fri: 9 am – 4 pm,

Sat: 9 am – 1 pm, Sun: Closed



Zvon Hotel (built in 1533)

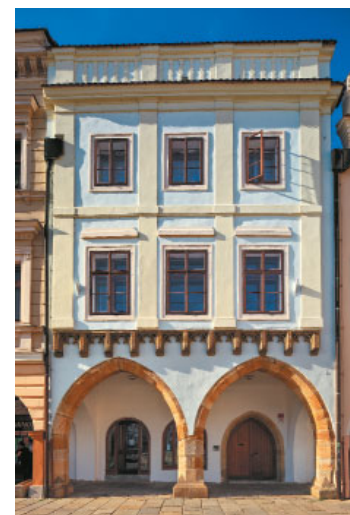
Budějovice – Wisdom, Courage, Caution and Fairness. **Chimes** placed in the middle town hall spire have been contributing to the pleasant atmosphere of the town centre since 1995. The chimes consist of **16 bells** weighing from 8 to 60 kg and controlled by a computer. They can play up to 80 musical motifs according to the time of day or the season. The chimes were created by the Perner company from Passau. This company has its roots in České Budějovice because it operated here as a bell-making company from 1772 to 1945.

Apart from the town hall all other houses in the square were in the past owned by wealthy **burghers** or even **noblemen**. Some noblemen needed grand housing, so they reconstructed (especially in the 16th century) the original Gothic houses that were built back when the town was founded. Therefore we can still find a Gothic core and the original layout in most of them.

The **Zvon Hotel** consisting of three buildings is a dominant feature of the square opposite the town hall. The largest of these three buildings used to be an inn where Emperor Joseph II spent a night. However, the current appearance of the

hotel dates to the very beginning of the 20th century, when the building was reconstructed after a great fire.

On the right, the three houses of the Zvon Hotel are followed by the tall **Včela Palace**, which encloses this side of the square. The palace is different from the other buildings in the square in terms of age, because it was built in 1896.



Traces of the Gothic style on the Classicist house no. 17 in the north part of the square



stands out thanks to its stone tracery dating to the 14th and 15th centuries. **House No. 55/15** dating to 1493 with a separate chapel, which is situated on the north side of the square, is a jewel of the late Gothic style.

The modern architecture of pre-war Czechoslovakia is represented by the attractive **functionalist** building of **Česká spořitelna** dating to the 1930s in the very centre of the town. Experts consider it the best functionalist building in South Bohemia.

AROUND THE SQUARE

Heading around the corner formed by the Česká spořitelna building, we find ourselves near the most dominant feature and the symbol of České Budějovice, the Black Tower. But let's first take a look at the cathedral **Church of St. Nicholas**. It stands at the place where a late 13th century Gothic temple once stood, which was reconstructed in the 16th century, but destroyed by the great fire of 1641. A new Baroque cathedral was completed in 1649; however, the construction was accompanied by many difficulties. Later it even had to be repaired due to unsatis-

Interior of the Church of St. Nicholas

Of course, in the square we can find a number of houses that are very valuable in terms of architecture and history. However, this guide cannot include a description of all of them. Therefore let's take a look at the corner **Prindl's House** located at the mouth of Krajinská Street. It

The functionalist building of Česká spořitelna was finished in 1936



factory structural parameters. The church has three naves; the side naves include **Baroque chapels**. The main altar was created in 1791 and most of the interior equipment dates to the 18th century. Near the church there used to be a town **cemetery**, where people were buried since the 13th century. It was shut down in 1784 by Joseph II.

Just a few steps from the Church of St. Nicholas is the Gothic-Renaissance **Black Tower**. It was built in the near vicinity of the church because it served as its **bell tower**. Three Italian builders supervised the construction, which was finished in 1577. The tower is 72.3 metres tall and has nine floors. The gallery offers a beautiful view of the historic part of the town as well as its surroundings, including the chateau of Hluboká and the Klet Mountain on the opposite side.



After climbing 225 steps you will be rewarded with a beautiful view and the friendly smiles of the operators, who have been looking after tourists on the Black Tower for several years in order to make them feel at home. (Tel.: +420 386 352 508)

Bumerin, the largest bell of the Black Tower and one of the largest bells in the Czech Republic. It is almost 3.5 tons



BLACK TOWER

The tower was built in order to **protect the town against enemies and fires**. It was originally called the New Tower, the Big Tower, the Parish Tower, or the Town Tower. It was given its new name in the 18th century when there was no major reconstruction and the building was decaying, so people started to call it Black. A town tower that stands separately is not very common in the Czech Republic. Such a building element is much more common in Italy. Not even Prague has such a tower, despite being called the “city of a hundred spires”. It can only be found in Klatovy, Kolín and Hradec Králové.

Did you know that...

The tower served as the **home to the guard and his family** until as late as 1956. One of the guard's responsibilities was to raise a flag facing the place where he noticed a fire having burst out, and to swing the bell. It was certainly not easy to provide food for the guard's household, which was seated above the gallery. The only commodity they probably never ran out of was milk. **A goat lived together with the guard's family upstairs.**

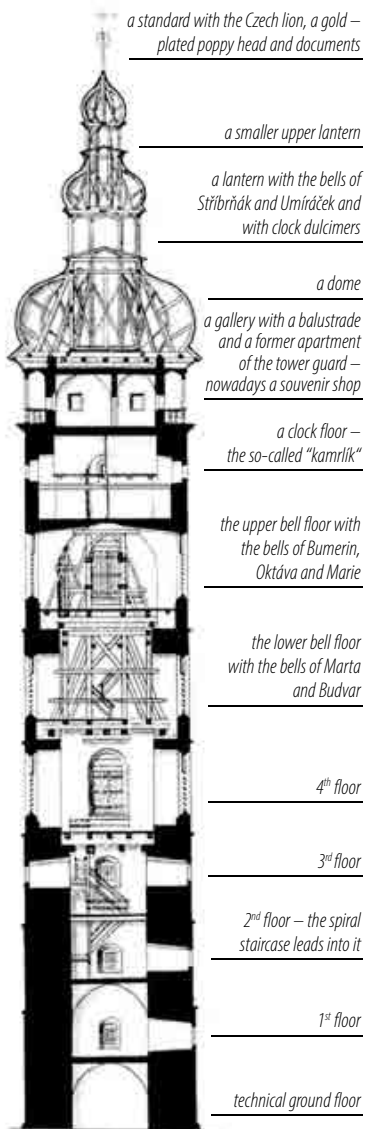
You can see the following bells on the tower

bell	weight	date of casting	tone
Bumerin	3,429 kg	1723	A
Budvar	1,100 kg	1995	F
Marta	1,742 kg	1723	Cis
Oktáva	434 kg	1723	A
María	163 kg	1684	E

Interesting technical data

total height	72.3 m
height up to the gallery	45.7 m
ground plan – a square with	a side of 11.1 m (at foundations)
thickest part of the wall	3.1 m
number of stairs	225
construction	1549–1577
architects (chronological order)	Hans Spatz, Lorenz, Vincent Vogarell
the clock machine	installed in 1892, fa Ludwig Hainz, Prague

Opening hours: April–June, September–October 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (closed Mondays), July–August 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (daily) Tel.: +420 386 352 508





*The origin of this motif goes back to 14th century Milan. Duke Visconti's wife donated a dress embroidered with spikes to the statue of the local Madonna as a means of thanking her for the birth of her son. While walking through České Budějovice, can you find a house with this depiction of **Our Lady of Spikes**?*



The Wortner's House serves as exhibition spaces for the Aleš South Bohemian Gallery

Now we can walk along **U Černé věže Street** until we reach the northern edge of the old town.

On the left there is an interesting combination of large glass surfaces and elements in the Art Nouveau Style on the front of the **Leopold Hajíček Department Store**. It was built in 1909–1910 and was the first department store in South Bohemia with such a modern concept.

Close to the department store, on the right, we will pass by another ostentatious burgher house. This is the **Wortner's House**, named after its 19th century owner, but its Renaissance origins date back to the 16th century. The house attics are finished with a battlement with spires in the corners.

U Černé věže Street gradually leads us to **the Mill Channel**, which is (probably) a manmade moat built to protect the town from the east and north. Crossing the bridge will take us to the **town park**. But now we will return and walk along narrow Hradební Street to the right. **Hradební Street** will lead us to Krajinská Street.

At the very beginning of **Krajinská Street** we can't miss the ostentatious **Zátka's House**, which contains a **hotel** of the same name – Zátkův dům. The house was created by means of a Renaissance

reconstruction of several originally Gothic houses, which used to form an important part of the town walls. In the interior we can find a **Gothic wall painting** dating to the early 16th century, which is one of the most preserved wall paintings in the town. A significant businessman and politician of České Budějovice called **JUDr. August Zátka** was born in this house in 1847.

But there are plenty of other interesting houses in Krajinská Street: Modern architecture can be seen in the **functionalist Haišman's House**, **cubism in House No. 37**, and Renaissance in House No. 41.



Komerční banka on the corner of Krajinská and Hraznová Streets



Our TIP



MASNÉ KRÁMY ALEHOUSE

The renowned Masné krámy alehouse is situated directly in a historic building in the centre of České Budějovice. While having a tasty meal and a glass of ringed lager that is **draught directly** from the tank you will understand why there is nothing like Budweiser Budvar.



Restaurace Masné krámy
Krajinská ulice 13, České Budějovice
+420 387 201 301
info@masne-kramy.cz
www.masne-kramy.cz



Krajinská Street, which is lined with houses that mostly have a classicist facade, leads us to another famous sight: the building of the former České Budějovice: the building of the former **meat store**. This house with a **Renaissance rear gable** and a basilica-like layout (it consists of three “naves” out of which the middle one is the tallest and has small windows) was built in the second half of the 16th century and butchers’ shops were moved there. Meat was sold here until the end of the 19th century. There were calls to demolish it after World War II, but in 1953 a **restaurant called Masné krámy** was opened here and soon became one of the

town’s symbols. It is especially popular with lovers of Budvar, the town’s famous beer.

On the opposite side, on the corner of **Krajinská Street** and **Hroznová Street**, there is an impressive building, or rather a palace built from 1912 to 1913 in Art Nouveau Style for the needs of the town building society. Today it is the headquarters of **Komerční banka**. Its lavishly decorated interior is worth a look.



Our TIP



NATIONAL BREWERY BUDĚJOVICKÝ BUDVAR

Budějovický Budvar was founded in **1895** and brewed its first batch of beer on 7 October of the same year.

Today it is the last large brewery to remain entirely in Czech hands. For more than 125 years, its people have been brewing **honest Czech beer** that makes people happy at home in České Budějovice as well as in **more than 70 countries around the world**. And yet every drop comes from here, from a small yet large brewery. The **Budweiser Budvar Original lager** boasts the protected geographical indication “**Českobudějovické pivo**”, which guarantees the quality of raw materials, the original production process, and the traditional place of origin.

Visit the national brewery and take a look under the hood of the production of the original lager from České Budějovice and more. The **new visitor center** is open.



Budějovický Budvar, n.p.
K. Světlé 4, 370 21 České Budějovice
+420 387 705 347, visit@budvar.cz
@BudejovickyBudvar
@budejovickybudvar
www.budejovickybudvar.cz

PIARIST SQUARE

Hroznová Street between the Masné Krámy Restaurant and the Komerční banka will soon lead us to **Piarist Square**. It was named after a grammar school, which was established here by the **Piarist Order** and was seated in the convent buildings. The convent along with the adjacent **Church of the Sacrifice of Our Lady** are the oldest architectural sights in České Budějovice. Another remarkable fact is that the square is situated at the place of a former cemetery, which we are reminded of by a cross in the paving and by symbolic tombstones.

Construction of the **Dominican convent** was started at the moment when the town was founded. However, it was finished as late as in the middle of the 14th century. In the 17th century it was reconstructed in the Baroque Style and in 1728 it had to be repaired at high cost after it was damaged by a fire. A little later the bell tower was made taller.

The area also features the Gothic three-nave basilica of the **Church of the Sacrifice of Our Lady**. **Wall paintings** in the interior are extraordinarily valuable; some of them date back to the 14th and 15th centuries (see page 24).

The church is connected to the convent buildings by a **corridor** that is arched with gorgeous Gothic **cross vaults**. In some vault bolts there are coats of arms of the noblemen who contributed to the oper-



A valuable fresco in the church bears a depiction of **Our Lady of Coat**, who is symbolically protecting Charles IV and his son Wenceslas.

Did you know that...

A Gothic **stone gargoyle** that looks like a monster reminding us of a frog sticks out of the wall of the Church of the Sacrifice of Our Lady. There is a **legend** concerning this strange sculpture which says that a frog crawled into the foundations of the church during its construction and repeatedly caused the church walls to crumble. In the end, the frog was hounded out of the foundations. It is said that its sculpture in the wall used to be placed lower, but the **stone frog** has been crawling upwards step by step until it reaches the roof and then the church will collapse and it will be the end of the world.



Dominican convent with the White Tower and the Church of the Sacrifice of Our Lady

ation of the convent with their gifts. The corridor forms a cloister which closes the **convent garden**, the so-called paradise court, from four sides.

The dominant feature of Piarist Square is **the Salt Warehouse** – a Gothic building with small windows and a strikingly tall and steep gable equipped with a battlement. It was built in 1531 and served as an **armoury** and a gunpowder warehouse. Later it was turned into a granary and subsequently into a **salt warehouse**. This last purpose gave the building its name. The original medieval timbering has been preserved in the interior, most of which is inaccessible. Part of the Salt Warehouse is today the seat of the **Museum of Motorcycles**.

Let's leave the Piarist Square and Hroznová Street and head for the **Zátka Embankment**.



Did you know that...

Can you see **reliefs of three stone faces** in the gable of the Salt Warehouse? Nobody knows exactly what this decoration represents, but legend has it that the faces belonged to thieves who were caught stealing in the Church of the Sacrifice of Our Lady and who were then executed – they literally lost their heads.



Our TIP

ESENCE CAFÉ

a cosy café on Přemysl Otakar II Square

Stop by and discover the essence of freshly brewed coffee, quality wines, homemade drinks, colourful breakfasts and modern desserts from one of our venues

— Cukrárna Magdalene. You can enjoy the cosy atmosphere all year round, including outdoor seating with a stunning view of the Samson Fountain.



Esence Café

Náměstí Přemysla Otakara II. 5
370 01 České Budějovice
+420 720 039 950
rezervace@esencecafe.cz

www.facebook.com/esencecafe/
www.instagram.com/esencecafe/
www.esencecafe.cz

You can also visit our other venues
from the Praži Group: www.prazigroup.cz

Esence
CAFÉ
COFFEE • WINE



ZÁTKA EMBANKMENT

If we leave the centre of town through Hroznová Street, we will get to the very end of the **Malše River Billabong**, where the **Zátka Embankment** begins.

Take a look at the **Front Mill** on the right. The five-storey building was built in the third quarter of the 19th century; however, a mill was in this place as early as the 13th or 14th centuries. In 2009 the house was turned into a four-star **hotel**.

Before we set off along the embankment towards the confluence of the Vltava and the Malše rivers, we can make our outing a little longer in the opposite direction.

Mlýnská Street (along the Front Mill) will take just a while to lead us to **the narrowest house** in the town. In the past the house used to be a pillar of one of the town gates. It stands at the place where Panská Street closely approaches Mlýnská Street from the right. At the place where both streets meet we will find ourselves in a small open space, which is dominated by the massive **Tower of Rabenštejn**. It was built in the 14th century and formed a part of the town fortification in the west.

Zátka Embankment – the Front Mill (Hotel Budweis)



The Tower of Rabenštejn

It also served as the town **jail**, which is why the ground floor did not originally have an entrance. It was entered from the first floor using a ladder.



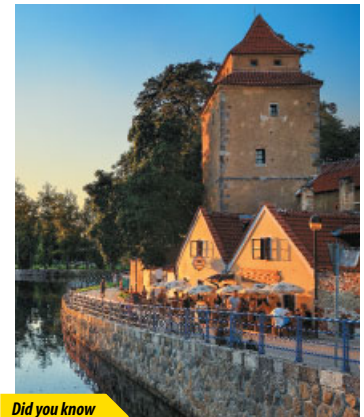
Zátka Embankment – the rear wing of the Dominican convent

We can return either along Mlýnská Street or along **Panská Street**, which are parallel to each other.

A stroll along the **Zátka Embankment**, which is lined with a bailey wall, provides interesting views of the rear part of the Dominican convent.

Along a **wooden footbridge** over the embankment of the Malše River we can get to **Sokolský Island**. But we can visit it another time.

We continue further along the waterfront past the **grammar school** building in **Česká Street** and soon we can see two other significant remnants of the **former town fortification**. The first of them is a semicircular bastion called Otakar's Tower, or the **Otakarka** for short, which is situated in the Episcopal Garden. Another preserved bastion is the massive gothic prismatic tower called the **Iron Maiden**. It was originally called Spilhaybl and was built in the 14th century. The current appearance was achieved following reconstruction in 1612.



Did you know that...

*The name **Iron Maiden** originated according to a **tool used for torture** of the same name and that was allegedly placed in the tower. Today we can find a replica here as well as a copy of a letter written by one of the last executioners of České Budějovice. His name was Hermann and his expertise included the charming ability to cut off, tear off or break off anything from the body of a convict. In the above-mentioned letter, the executioner offers these abilities of his to the „Dear Fathers of the town of Jindřichův Hradec“. This was in 1757...*



And now we are at the **Iron Bridge**. We can cross the bridge to take a short break from the town tour and reach the left bank of the Malše. After crossing the river let's go right. We now find ourselves in a small park, where we can sit down or visit one of the fascinating regular exhibitions in the **observatory and planetarium of České Budějovice**. When the weather is nice, observations of the Sun usually take place here. The observatory stands near where the longest river in the Czech Republic, the **Vitava**, meets the **Malše River**.

Let's return to the Iron Bridge while staying on the left bank of the **Malše River**. Along the building of the **Justice Palace** (the seat of the regional and district court and of the house of detention) dating back to 1902–1904 we will get to the pedestrian only **Golden Bridge**.

We will use this bridge to return to the town centre. In the distance we can see the **South Bohemian Theatre**. It was completed in 1819 at the site of a former beer store for the town brewery and where the first German town theatre had been operating temporarily since 1764. Czech professional theatre and opera ensembles have been performing here since 1919.



The Slavie Cultural House

A little further up the Malše River is the **Slavie House of Culture** dating to 1872. In the past it was called the German House and later the Army House ("Armáďák").

Did you know that...

The contemporary **South Bohemian Theatre** consists of four artistic ensembles: ballet, drama, puppet theatre, and opera. The theatre presents about 350 performances on three stages (the historic building, the Metropol House of Culture, and the Little Theatre) during the theatre season (September – May) every year. During summer the ensembles make use of another stage, the well-known and very popular **Revolving Theatre in Český Krumlov**.

The «Golden Bridge» and the South Bohemian Theatre on the Malše embankment



Our TIP

OBSERVATORY AND PLANETARIUM ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

The mission of the observatory and planetarium are to present astronomy and related natural sciences to the general public, educational programs for schools, and scientific research at the Klet Observatory. **The Digital Planetarium (1)** offers a **night-sky** experience and features the projection of spaceflight and full-dome videos. The facility's **4k full-dome projection** and high-quality sound system have significantly expanded the capabilities of the original planetarium. The planetarium's night sky is never overcast! There is also a modern cinema hall that **features programs and lectures** that appeal to young and older visitors alike including a film club, and other cultural events. If the sky is clear, the dome (2) provides the opportunity to observe the Moon and stars, planets and nebulae, and even galaxies **during the evening**, and the Sun during the day. Exhibitions on astronomical and natural science topics are regularly held in the lobby. The facility's program, opening hours, and on-line booking system are all on the observatory's website.

- * digital planetarium 4k
- * cinema with full HD projection
- * programs and lectures for the public
- * observation through historical telescopes

www.hvezdarnacb.cz



OBSERVATORY AND PLANETARIUM ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

South Bohemia



KLEŤ OBSERVATORY

This is the highest situated observatory in the Czech Republic and is world-famous for its **research on asteroids and comets**, including near-Earth asteroids. It has reached over a thousand confirmed discoveries of asteroids and four comets. Since 2002, the main dome has been equipped with a mirror telescope (reflector) named "KLENOT" with a mirror diameter of 106 cm and an electronic CCD camera. The second dome houses the **largest telescope** in the Czech Republic (lens diameter 30 cm) and a reflector with a 57-centimeter mirror. This dome is seasonally open to the public and features a permanent **exhibition of astronomical** photographs taken from Klet and elsewhere.

- * the highest situated observatory in the Czech Republic
- * a globally leading workplace in comet and asteroid research (KLENOT project)
- * excursions with solar observation, astronomical exhibition

www.klet.org





The generous layout of Senovážné Square
Metropol House of Culture (1), South Bohemian Museum (2), Slavie Cultural House (3).



Functionalist building of the Brouk and Babka
department store dating back to 1935

Dr. Stejskal Street will lead us to the square, but soon we will go right along **Široká Street**. Let's first have a look at the **functionalist** corner building of the **Brouk and Babka department store**. It's a work by local architect Karel Chochoła. When it was opened in 1935 it was the largest department store in South Bohemia.

Široká Street will lead us to the **Episcopal Grammar School** located in several buildings of a former orphanage. The neo-Gothic **Church of St. Family**, which was finished in 1888, is adjacent to the compound of buildings. The Episcopal Grammar School forms a side of the large **Senovážné Square**. Its dominant feature

is the ostentatious **South Bohemian Museum** built in the new-Renaissance style from 1898 to 1901. If you feel like it you can visit one of the **thematic exhibitions** or see the remarkable **permanent exhibition** devoted to the town's history and the natural environment of South Bohemia.

You can't miss the **Metropol House of Culture**, which is **the largest cultural compound in the Region of South Bohemia** and was built from 1967 to 1971. It is separated from Senovážné Square by a busy road called Na Sadech.

Passing by the Episcopal Grammar School we can reach **the post office building**,

In front of the post office there is an interesting element of minor architecture of České Budějovice – a **meteorological column**. It was built at the expense of the local Beauty Society in 1925.

Now let's take **Karla IV Street** and head back to the square, but turning right on **Kněžská Street**. Here on the left we can see the **former brewery** and opposite it on the right there is a house called **U Smetanů** dating back to 1914. Let's continue walking along Kněžská Street and soon we will pass the **Church of St. Anne**. It was built at the beginning of the 17th century as part of the **Capuchin Convent**, which was abolished in 1784 by Joseph II. Thanks to its great acoustics the



1



2



3



4



5

Our TIP

SOUTH BOHEMIAN MUSEUM IN ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

One of the most important cultural institutions in South Bohemia, the museum and its branches offer a wide range of temporary **exhibitions, permanent displays, public events** and rich **educational programmes for schools** throughout the year.

The museum's **historic main building (1)** in the city centre features, for example, a **permanent exhibition on the history of České Budějovice**, as well as **natural history, archaeological and ethnographic displays** – the latter awarded **1st place** and the title "Museum Exhibition of the Year" in the national competition *Gloria musaealis*.

The museum also operates several seasonal sites: The **Horse-Drawn Railway Museum (2)** in Mánesova Street in České Budějovice is a National Cultural Monument. At **Žumberk Fortress** near

Nové Hrady (3) you can explore exhibitions dedicated to the history of the fortress, traditional crafts, glassmaking and notable local figures. A true highlight is the interactive medieval **Archaeological Open-Air Museum Trocnov (4)**, located within the **Jan Žižka of Trocnov Memorial complex (5)**. Here, you can experience what life was like at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries.

**J I H O Č E S K É
M U Z E U M**
V Č E S K Ý C H B U D Ě J O V I C Í C H

**Historic building of the South Bohemian
Museum in České Budějovice**
Dukelská 1, 370 01 České Budějovice

Opening hours: year-round
Tue–Sun & public holidays
9:00–17:30

+420 391 001 531
info@muzeuumbc.cz
www.muzeuumbc.cz



The Church of the Holy Family by the Episcopal Grammar School in Senovážné Square

church has been used as a **concert hall** for more than 200 listeners since 1988. The hall is named after composer **Otakar Jeremiáš** (1892–1962).

After a while Kněžská Street will take us to the crossing with **Kanovnická Street**. And now we are back at a spot that should be familiar: the Baroque **Church of St. Nicholas**. But this time we will also visit the **Chapel of Mortal Agony** standing by the church or rather just behind its presbytery (choir). It was built from 1727 to 1731, but was shut down in 1785. Bishop **Jan Valerián Jirsík** (1798–1883) had it restored.



The Church of St. Anne, where locals go to hear classical music

A bronze statue representing Jirsík by **J. V. Myslbek** (the only work by Myslbek in South Bohemia) stands by the foot of the Black Tower.

Under the chapel there is a charnel-house, which was walled up. In Kanovnická Street we can take a look at the glass front of the **U Sadovských Department Store**: another fine example of functionalism.

From the cathedral of St. Nicholas let's go back to the **Square of Přemysl Otakar II.**, which completes our tour of the most significant sights in the centre of České Budějovice.

But in order to see the historic town centre "from all sides" we can take a walk through the **town park**. It was built along the Mill Channel, which flows around the town centre from the north and east. This manmade water channel fed the moat, which supplemented the protective function of the Vltava and Malše rivers protecting the town in the south and west. From outside, the park is lined by a busy road called Na Sadech; but the park itself offers an opportunity to take a peaceful walk.

To get to the park from the square, we can take **Krajinská Street, U Černé věže Street, Kněžská Street** or **Kanovnická Street**. Kanovnická Street will lead us to the place where the park begins


Our TIP

THE SOUTH CZECH PHILHARMONIC

The South Czech Philharmonic was founded in České Budějovice in 1981 under its original name, the South Czech State Orchestra. It currently has 45 members and has long been one of the most prominent cultural institutions in the region. **It is based in the Church of St Anne in the historic heart of České Budějovice** from where it radiates musical life throughout the region and beyond. During its existence the orchestra has grown from a chamber ensemble into a respected orchestra with a rich dramaturgy and diverse programme.

The orchestra is established by the South Bohemian Region. **From the 2024/2025 season, Chief Conductor Alena Hron – one of the most notable talents of the young Czech conducting generation – guides its artistic direction.** Under her leadership, the orchestra seeks to engage not only classical music enthusiasts, but also new and younger audiences looking for accessible and inspiring musical experiences. The dramaturgy is based on the classical symphonic repertoire and includes crossover projects, concerts for children and youth, open-air events and collaborations across genres.

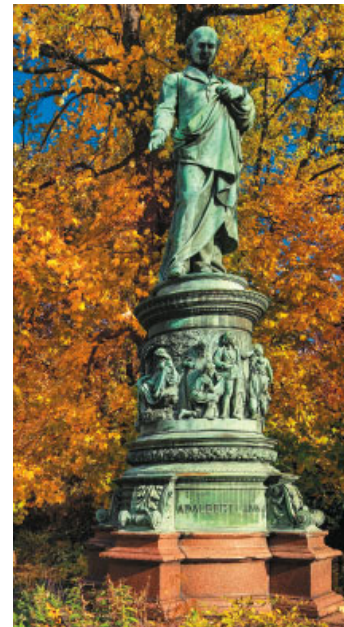
Alongside its subscription series, the orchestra presents special concerts, appears at festivals at home and abroad and plays an active role in the cultural life of entire region.



Its vision is clear: to be the musical heart of the region and an inspiring place for people to come together.



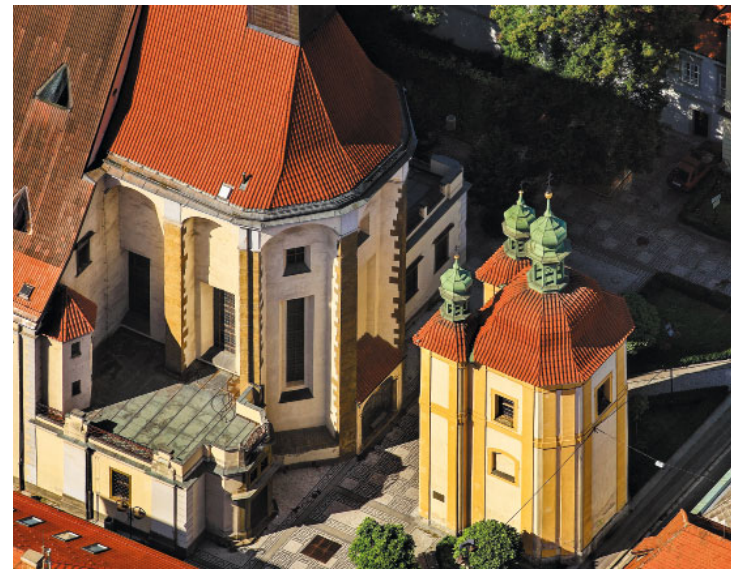
The South Czech Philharmonic
Kněžská 411/6
370 01 České Budějovice
info@jfcb.cz
www.jfcb.cz



Na Sadech – the monument of Vojtěch Lanna
(or ends, if you like).

Crossing busy Na Sadech road would take us to Lanna's Avenue. But let's leave the avenue until later and instead head for

The Chapel of Mortal Agony



the green park. Here we will pause next to the monument of local businessman and industrialist **Vojtěch Lanna** (1805–1866). The monument dates to 1897. The symbolic scenes on reliefs on its pedestal are also worth a look.

The **park** across which we are going to walk now started to be created at the beginning the 19th century at the site of the former town fortification and moat. It was remodelled into its current shape from 1874 to 1879. It is also interesting to point out that 58 kinds of woody plants grow here. After a while we will reach a place where the ground plan of the park widens and where we can sit down and rest on a bench by a stone **fountain**.

A little further we can see the two-storey **Eggert's Villa** of 1859, which is situated on the opposite side of **Na Sadech Street**. It used to be one of the first buildings of this type in České Budějovice and now it is the seat of the **National Scientific Library**. However, it is not the only interesting villa in the town.



Did you know that...

The best known villa in České Budějovice is **Hardtmuth's Villa** near the winter sports stadium. It was built by architect Johann Stepan for one of the owners of the pencil factory Franz Hardtmuth and his wife Anne from 1911 to 1912. The ostentatious building with rich interior decoration looks almost like a noble manor. In U Zimního stadionu Street we can find **Lamezan's Villa** dating back to the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, which was inspired by English architecture. Nobody knows who created the villa. A beautiful example of functionalist architecture (influenced by purism) is the villa of industrialist **Miroslav Zátka** dating to 1932 situated in Hus Street. A significant avant-garde modernist **villa at Dukelská Street** no. 80 was built in 1935. A remarkable feature of this villa is the protruding semi-cylinder of its staircase. The house that belonged to JUDr. František Švec is considered by experts as the most modern pre-war building in České Budějovice.

We are arriving at the open space of the **Mariana Square**, which is actually a crossing of Na Sadech Street, Hus Avenue and Prague Avenue. The square was named after a **sculptural group of Our Lady of Budějovice**, which was built here in 1716.

The corner of Hus Avenue and Prague Avenue is formed by a block of two-storey classicist houses of **Mariana Barracks**, which were finished in 1849. During the times of the Austrian-Hungarian Monarchy the 91st infantry regiment was placed here and writer **Jaroslav Hašek** (1883–1923) spent several months here in 1915 as a one-year volunteer. A few episodes of his novel about the good soldier Švejk were set here, too.

Did you know that...

Jaroslav Hašek was one of several famous writers who was "honoured" to stay in the Mariana Barracks. Poet **Fráňa Šrámek** was a soldier (and probably also a prisoner) here before World War I.



Our TIP

Café LANNA is a favourite spot for breakfast, great coffee and light meals served throughout the day. Its calm, welcoming atmosphere and focus on high-quality ingredients make it the perfect place to relax, meet for business or enjoy time with friends. After a tasty meal and a cup of coffee, a bit of fresh-air fun is just what you need – especially if you're travelling with children.

Right next door, **Bosonoha Playground** invites you to an original educational and activity park for both kids and adults. Enjoy a barefoot sensory trail, water features and interactive play elements. From spring to autumn, the playground comes alive with animation programmes and family-friendly events.

And there's more to explore. See the city from a whole new angle with **České Budějovice Cruises**. Scenic boat trips along the Vltava and Malše rivers offer a unique way to experience the city's history, architecture and atmosphere. Choose from regular, themed or private cruises for special occasions.

After a day full of discoveries, unwind in a pleasant outdoor setting at the



Brewery Garden – Original SAMSON. Set within the grounds of a traditional České Budějovice brewery, it's the perfect place to enjoy local beer, light refreshments and a relaxed atmosphere, especially during the warmer months.

kavarna-lanna.cz
bosonoha.cz
plavbyhluboka.cz
pivovarska-samson.cz

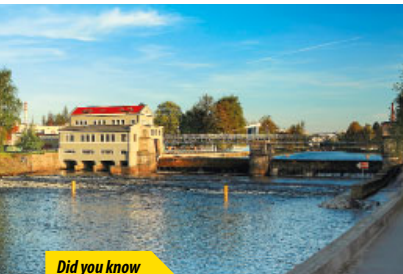


Pivovarská zahrada -
Originál Samson

SIGHTS AND PLACES OF INTEREST OUTSIDE THE HISTORIC CENTRE

The tour of the inner town, the part of České Budějovice that was once hidden behind an impregnable ring of walls, is now over. However, other quarters hide many interesting sights that should not be missed on a visit to the capital of South Bohemia.

Continuing along Hus Avenue, we arrive at the spot where you can cross the Vltava over the **Long Bridge**. The first mention of this bridge dates back to 1369, but its current appearance was created in 1998. The bridge is 94 metres long. Its strain-reducing oval openings in thin steel walls on which the bridge hangs are very impressive.



Did you know that...

Jirásek's Weir is not named after writer Alois Jirásek, as many people erroneously believe. It was named after another personality with the same initials. This was **Ing. Antonín Jirásek**, the Weir's building councillor and architect.

On the right behind the bridge, on the left bank of the river, you can see the former **Lanna's Dock** dating back to the middle of the 16th century. Today this place is being revived thanks to ship transportation in connection with **making the Vltava navigable**.

Gazing from the Long Bridge up the river, we can see the massive **Jirásek's Weir**, which was built in 1932. It raises the surface of the Vltava by nearly 5 metres and involves a hydro electric plant.

If we stay on the right bank of the Vltava, we can take one of the streets that are perpendicular to Hus Avenue and enter **Sokolský (Falcon) Island**. In the past it was called Schnarcher's or Dominican



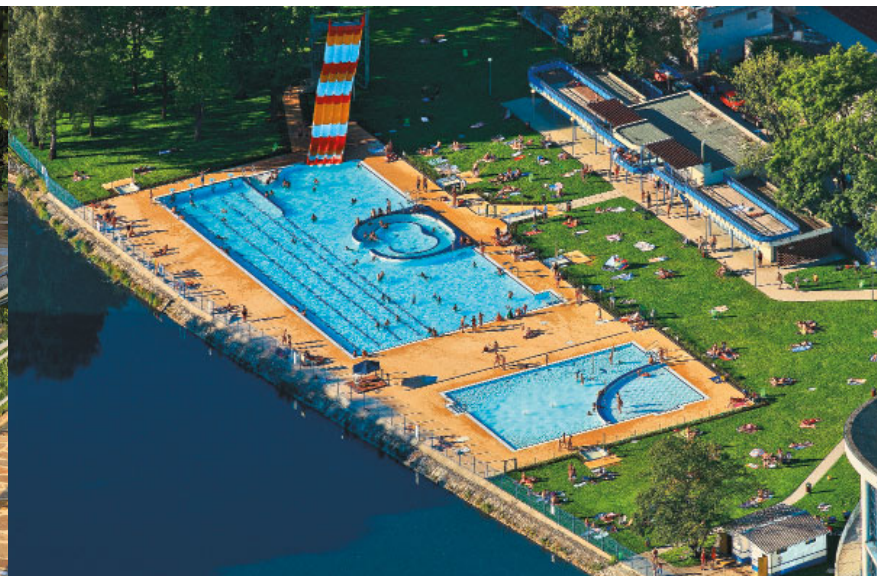
Indoor (above) and outdoor swimming pool (below) on Sokolský Island

(it was gifted the Dominicans in 1265 when České Budějovice was founded). The island achieved its final shape as late as 1928–1931 during regulation of the Vltava. On the island we can find a **swimming** and **athletic stadium, tennis courts**, and a **Sokol Gymnasium**. You should definitely see the **building of the**

indoor pool of 1971, an extraordinarily advanced construction for its time. Sokolský Island is also a great place for **strolls** and **relaxation**, thanks to its location in a pleasant environment outside the busy centre.



Shipping on The Vltava river





Lannova třída



The railway station

LANNA'S AVENUE

Today it is a **pedestrian zone** and one of the town's main **shopping areas**. It has connected the railway station (Nádražní Street) with the centre of České Budějovice since the beginning of the 20th century. It was originally called the Old Road and until 1989 the Street of Marshal Malinovsky. It is lined with houses built in the Art Nouveau style. The building of the **Prior Department Store** dating to 1976–1979 stands out in particular. Many original houses in this street were destroyed during **bombing** at the end of World War II. At the end of the 20th century several **modern constructions** grew here (such as the building of Jihočeská Energetika, and the ČSOB building).



Even when the busy boulevard of Lannova třída is almost empty, the humanoids by sculptor M. Trpák are still in a hurry



ČSOB building

The **railway station** was built along with the construction of the railway connection with Pilsen. The station was opened in 1868, but eventually failed to cope with the increasing volume of transportation, so a **new station for passenger transportation** was built. It was opened in 1908, including a new station building, which was built in the New-Renaissance style with Art Nouveau elements.

A new **water tower** was built from 1721 to 1724 in order to supply Samson's Fountain with water from the Vltava. In 1882 it was extended and reconstructed into its current shape with the top floor being half-timbered. It is situated near the Litvinovice Bridge and on its eastern wall we can find a large sgraffito with the **town coat of arms**. This **technical sight**, which is 44.3 metres tall and which is finished with a helmet in the shape of a truncated pyramid, is a distinctive feature of České Budějovice.

In addition to the Black Tower and the water tower, České Budějovice has another dominant feature. It is the **Clarion Congress Hotel** (called **Gomel** in the past) situated in Prague Avenue. It is 71 metres

tall (including an aerial) and has 16 floors. It was built from 1978 to 1982 and renovations were completed in 2012.

Prague Avenue includes many more examples of modern architecture – such as the **Česká pojišťovna** building and a little further from the town centre the **commercial-economic centre of the Budvar brewery**.



Clarion Congress Hotel



Did you know that...

The purpose of the **Collective House** was to provide its inhabitants with comprehensive services, including shopping facilities, **meals, cultural entertainment and laundry.**

A person could live in such a collective house for their whole life (in theory) without ever having to leave it. However, these plans by the so-called constructivist architects remained only a utopia. Nevertheless, the „Koldům“ of České Budějovice is distinctive in a different way: It is probably the very **first house in South Bohemia made of prefabricated panels.**

In Mariana Square (and in Prague Avenue) not far from the Clarion Hotel, you can't miss the tall **Collective House** dating back to 1964, which stands **on concrete legs.** Besides flats the house includes a restaurant and a café (no longer open) with a view of the town. There used to be a cinema downstairs.

Bank houses are a distinctive architectural feature of České Budějovice. We saw the functionalist **Česká spořitelna building** and the impressive palace of the former **Town Savings Bank** on the corner of Krajinská and Hroznová streets while touring the square. However, we should not omit the seat of the **Československá obchodní banka** subsidiary on Lana's Avenue. The reconstruction of 1994 added an undulate perimeter coat to the original Art Nouveau house. In the interior you will see a two-storey counter hall with a distinctive slanting glass-walled lift.

Art Nouveau architecture in České Budějovice is represented by the former **German lycée for girls** in Dukelská Street. It was built from 1906 to 1911 according to a design by architect Josef Pfeffermann.

It's impossible not to notice the building of the "old" **hospital** in the Linz **Suburb (Božena Němcová Street).** Its decorative spire with a clock is highly visible from a distance. The pavilion with 138 beds dates back to 1912–1913 and was named after Emperor Franz Joseph I. The original building is today part of a modern hospital premises.

CHURCHES

Among other notable buildings in **Žižka Avenue** is the front of the **Church of Rosary Virgin Mary.** The single-nave construction was completed in 1900 and stands out due to its extraordinarily rich decorativeness. The entrance front itself is decorated with a large mosaic with figural motifs.

The **Church of the Divine Heart of Christ** in **Rudolfov Avenue** was built in the New-Baroque style in 1903–1904. It was newly repaired from 1992 to 1993.



Church of St. Jan of Nepomuk in Božena Němcová Street



The oldest part of the České Budějovice hospital complex is the former Jubilee Hospital of Emperor Franz Joseph from 1913, with the interior of the new entrance hall

In the **Prague Suburb** you can find the New-Gothic **Church of St. Wenceslas,** which was built in 1868–1870. The construction of the three-nave church was initiated by local **Bishop J. V. Jirsík.**

At the beginning of the 16th century a **plague hospital** was created off the area of town walls. It also included a single-nave **Church of Holy Trinity.** The

hospital compound including the church was reconstructed and expanded in the third quarter of the 18th century. The hospital was used as a poorhouse in the 19th century and in the first half of the 20th century. The church interior was decorated with **frescoes** by painter **F. J. Prokyš** from Český Krumlov in 1763.

The Plague hospital with the Church of Holy Trinity





Our TIP

OLD WATERWORKS (OLD WATER TREATMENT PLANT)

A place which you should definitely visit and where you will find not only entertainment but also rest, is the complex of the old waterworks (old water treatment plant) on **Mánesova street**. The dominating feature of the complex is the old waterworks tower built in 1724 near old Luční Mlýn (Watermill) along the Vltava River. The water from the river was pumped into a reservoir located at the top of the tower and the gravity pushed the water into the city as well



The East wall of the tower is covered by a large graffiti with the city emblem created by the local painter Richard Kristinus



Did you know that...

Water tower was built between 1721 and 1724. The current appearance dates back to 1882, when it was rebuilt in neo-Gothic style

as into the Samsonova fountain. In 1882, the original baroque tower was rebuilt in neo-Gothic style. Its height was increased to 44 meters and fitted with a new cylindrical reservoir with a diameter of 8 meters capable of holding 250 m³ of water.

The water tower was used as the city water supply until the Římov dam was built in 1978 and the water treatment plant was completed in 1981. Currently, the tower together with the adjacent area owned by ČEVAK, a.s., is used for water recirculation by authorized test water meters. The tower is one of the oldest in the Jihočeský Region and is protected under the **heritage preservation** programme.



Interior of the Water Tower



Did you know that...

Cylindrical reservoir 34 meters high and 8 m in diameter can store up to 250 m³ of water

Because no water treatment complex should be without water, a playful water **fountain ČEVAVA** makes the tour more pleasant, together with other water displays which symbolize circulation of water in nature.

Guided tours:

The tower is **open to visitors** during **guided tours**. Visitors together with the tour guide must overcome **106 steps** and will come directly under the main water reservoir. There are two interactive exhibitions focusing on the construction of the water tower and on the history of the water management industry in České Budějovice. The sightseeing route also includes a water reservoir from the first half of the last century. Visitors here meet another **projection associated with the water cycle**.

The **number of people per tour is limited** but you may reserve your place at: www.vodarenskavezcb.cz.

A freely accessible trail in the outdoor complex continues with the **same theme – water cycle**. Visitors will pass through 10 stations and will learn, for example, about the destroyed Luční watermill and about Eliášova štolá and the role it played in the city water supply. Then, visitors may freshen up using functional drinking fountains and try out the water slide valve.

Old Water Treatment Plant ČEVAK, a.s.

Mánesova 41/6,
České Budějovice 7
48.9678458N, 14.4689625E
www.vodarenskavezcb.cz
www.cevak.cz



The playful **ČEVAVA water fountain** in the park below the tower is a favourite stop for young and old. In the summer, the fountain refreshes visitors with water mist



HLUBOKÁ NAD VLTAVOU (10 km)

A town with 4,000 inhabitants situated approximately 10 km north of České Budějovice. On a hill over the town there is a **New-Gothic chateau**, which is highly visible from far. It is one of the most frequented sights in Bohemia. This strategically significant place was inhabited as early as the 13th century, when an Early-Gothic stronghold was founded here, which was later turned into a castle. In the middle of the 16th century the castle was rebuilt in the Renaissance style and at the beginning of the 18th century in the Baroque style. The castle underwent a significant building change from 1840 to 1871, when the **Schwarzenberg** family reconstructed it in the style of the so-called **Tudor Revival**. They were inspired by the English noble mansion of Windsor.

www.zamek-hluboka.eu

VRBNO PONDS (1 km)

Nature reserves at the north-east edge of the town. **Four ponds** (Domin, Černiš, Starý Vrbenský and Nový Vrbenský) started to be constructed as early as in 1460. It

is a significant ornitologic, entomologic and botanic locality and a **nesting site of many kinds of birds**. You can take a **nature trail** along the pond dam.

OHRADA CHATEAU AND ZOO (9 km)

A Baroque **hunting chateau** not far from Hluboká, built by the Schwarzenberg family from 1708 to 1713. The castle houses expositions of the **Museum of Forestry, Hunting and Fishing**. Nearby on the banks of the Munický Pond there is a small **zoo** focussing especially on breeding European fauna. But it also features many exotic species. The Hluboká Zoo is a perfect **destination for families with children**.



Ohrada Chateau with adjacent zoo
www.nzm.cz



Our TIP

SOUTH BOHEMIAN GALLERY

The South Bohemian Gallery (AJG – Alšova jihočeská galerie) is the **only art museum in the South Bohemian Region** and one of the five largest institutions of its kind in the Czech Republic. Its collection spans from the 13th century to contemporary art, placing it among the country's **most important art institutions**. Founded in 1953, the gallery is named after the renowned South Bohemian painter and illustrator **Mikoláš Aleš** (1852–1913). Since 1956, its main seat has been the Neo-Gothic Riding school of Hluboká Chateau, which today hosts a rich programme of major exhibitions.

Visitors can choose from a **wide range of scholarly and popular exhibitions** showcasing the gallery's own collections as well as projects created in collaboration with external curators, other galleries, and private institutions. In addition to its exhibitions, AJG presents an extensive programme of accompanying events, including guided tours, workshops, lectures, concerts, theatre performances, and film screenings.



AJG – Castle riding school

373 41 Hluboká nad Vltavou 144
+420 387 967 041; office@ajg.cz

AJG – Wortner House

370 01 České Budějovice, U Černé věže 22
+420 383 134 571; wortneruvdum@ajg.cz

AJG – Sparta (Education department)

370 04 Č. Budějovice, Puklicova 1047/41
+420 774 046 008; chrastinova@ajg.cz

AJG – International museum of ceramics

Novodvorská 301, 391 65 Bechyně
+420 381 213 092, +420 704 550 102
bechyne@ajg.cz

**alšova
jihočeská
galerie**





BORŠOV NAD VLTAVOU

(6 km)

A small village approximately 6 km south-west of České Budějovice on the left bank of the Vltava, a frequent destination and final station of **canoeists**. The first mention of the village dates back to 1261. It boasts the **Church of St. Jacob Major**, which was mentioned as early as 1290 and which was reconstructed in the Gothic style at the end of the 15th century. There is also the **pasta factory of the Zátka Brothers**, which has been operating here since 1884 and which used to be the largest factory in all of Austria-Hungary.

DÍVČÍ KÁMEN

(20 km)

Also called Maidstein, Divčí kamen is a romantic **ruin**. It is situated on a high rock over the confluence of the Vltava River and the Křemež Creek. It was founded by the Rožmberk family in 1349, but they abandoned the castle as early as 1506, which gradually led it to fall into ruin. Not far from this popular tourist destination by **Třisov** there is a **Celtic oppidum**, which was probably founded in the 2nd century B.C.



Divčí Kámen

The integrity and stylish purity of this unique set of farmhouses led to its registration on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1998

DOBRÁ VODA U ČESKÝCH BUDĚJOVIC

(5 km)

A village 5 km east of České Budějovice. It is famous for the **Baroque pilgrimage Church of the Virgin of the Sorrows**, which was built according to a design by **Kilián Ignác Dientzenhofer** (1689–1751). Its interior decoration is valuable too. The frescoes were made by painter **Václav Vavřinec Reiner** (1689–1743).

DOLNÍ BUKOVSKO

(25 km)

A market town in the Pšeničné Blata area, located about 25 km north–northeast of České Budějovice. Its centre features a rectangular square dominated by the **Gothic Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary**, known for its frescos on the triumphal arch. Next to the church stands a large Art Nouveau school building, while the original 1827 school now houses the municipal office. The town is also known for the family-run **Bukovar microbrewery**, which uses high-quality water from an artesian well.

HOLAŠOVICE

(15 km)

A village approximately 15 km west of České Budějovice, which was probably established as early as the middle of the 13th century. Its large square (210 × 70 m) is surrounded by houses and homesteads that were built in the style of **South-Bohemian Rural Baroque**. Most of them date back to about the third quarter of the 19th century. Due to its compactness and purity of style, this unique set of homesteads was inscribed in the **UNESCO** World Cultural Heritage List in 1998.

HOSÍN

(9 km)

A village at an elevated site 9 km north of České Budějovice, the first written mention of which dates back to 1262. Its dominant feature is the New-Gothic **Church of St. Peter and Paul**, which is highly visible from far and which was built in 1899–1900. The area has several nice examples of Rural Folk Baroque. Close to Hosín is the **sports airport** of the Aviation Club of České Budějovice.

KARLŮV HRÁDEK

(18 km)

The former **hunting castle of Charles IV** is today a romantic ruin on the left bank of the Vltava, 2 km south of the village of **Purkarec**. **Note** It is accessible by following the red-marked trail from the Hluboká-Záměstí railway stop.

KAMENNÝ ÚJEZD

(10 km)

Kamenný Újezd, colloquially Kameňák, is a village first mentioned in 1263, located about 10 km south of České Budějovice. Notable sights include the parish **Church of All Saints** and remnants of the **historic horse-drawn railway** between České Budějovice and Linz. The local cemetery is the resting place of politician František Havlíček (+1911), younger brother of Karel Havlíček Borovský. Nearby, the popular **Štílec Pond** with its campsites attracts many visitors.

KLEŤ (1,084 metres above sea level) (21 km)

The **highest peak of the Blanský Forest**, a natural dominant feature of the region. Its unmistakable silhouette is graced by a 173-metre high television transmission tower. At the peak there is the oldest stone **watchtower** in Bohemia (1825),

Zlatá Koruna (the Golden Crown), a compound of the former Cistercian convent buildings in the top



a **tourist chalet with a restaurant**, and a little lower down the highest-situated **observatory** in the Czech Republic. When the weather is favourable, you can see the Alps, which are 150 km away.

www.klet.com

PURKAREC

(20 km)

A village north of Hluboká on the banks of the Hněvkovická Dam. While the dam was being filled with water, part of Purkarec got flooded and had to be demolished. There is a new ferry across the Vltava; the **Museum of Rafting – the Hall of Raft Shipping Purkarec** reminds us of the times of raft shipping.

www.vltavan-purkarec.cz

ZLATÁ KORUNA (GOLDEN CROWN)

(20 km)

A village north-east of Český Krumlov and a popular stop for canoeists. Its original name was Svatá Trnová Koruna (Holy Crown of Thorns). It is well-known due to a **Cistercian convent**, which was founded by King Přemysl Otakar II in 1263 (earlier than České Budějovice). Nowadays the convent is among the most **significant Gothic sights in South Bohemia**.

www.klaster-zlatakoruna.eu

**Our TIP****DOBRÁ VODA U ČESKÝCH BUDĚJOVIC**

The village of Dobrá Voda near České Budějovice lies just a short distance from the regional capital, yet offers **plenty of opportunities for leisure and relaxation**. Visitors can enjoy peaceful walks through the surrounding forests or explore places with a rich past that still remind us of local history.

The dominant landmark is the **Baroque Church of Our Lady of Sorrows from the 18th century**, accompanied by a historic Way of the Cross. A **traditional Easter pilgrimage** has been held nearby for many years. Dobrá Voda also hosts several cultural events that are gaining popularity, including the **music festival „Tóny Dobré Vody“**, which takes place in September and October.

The newly built **restaurant Na Stráni** offers excellent food and drinks, as well as space for celebrations and social events. Thanks to convenient public transport, visitors can easily reach this peaceful area and enjoy its pleasant atmosphere.

We look forward to welcoming you!



www.dobravodaucb.cz
www.nastranidobravoda.cz



Our TIP

DOLNÍ BUKOVSKO

Dolní Bukovsko lies in the picturesque Pšeničné Blata region, whose flat landscape is ideal for easy walking tours and cycling trips. The calm mosaic of fields, meadows, forests and fishponds offers an inviting setting for relaxation and slowing down. Numerous small architectural features reflect the characteristic Rural Baroque style of the area and evoke the atmosphere of the past.

The dominant landmark of the town is the early **Gothic Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary**, notable for its unique frescoes. When exploring nearby villages, visitors can admire the award-winning **roadside shrine in Sedlíkovice**, the **Gothic church in Horní Bukovsko**, or the newly built **lookout tower in Radonice**, offering pleasant views of the Veselí region.

Dolní Bukovsko is known for its rich community life. Throughout the year, it hosts traditional pilgrimages, craft markets, fairy-tale trails for children, the colourful Run of Colours, volunteer firefighters' gatherings, and an unconventional St Nicholas celebration near the church. The Advent season is marked by the lighting of the Christmas tree, combined with a charity sale of children's handmade products.

Sport and leisure facilities include a modern sports complex with a football pitch, athletics track with artificial surface, courts for ball

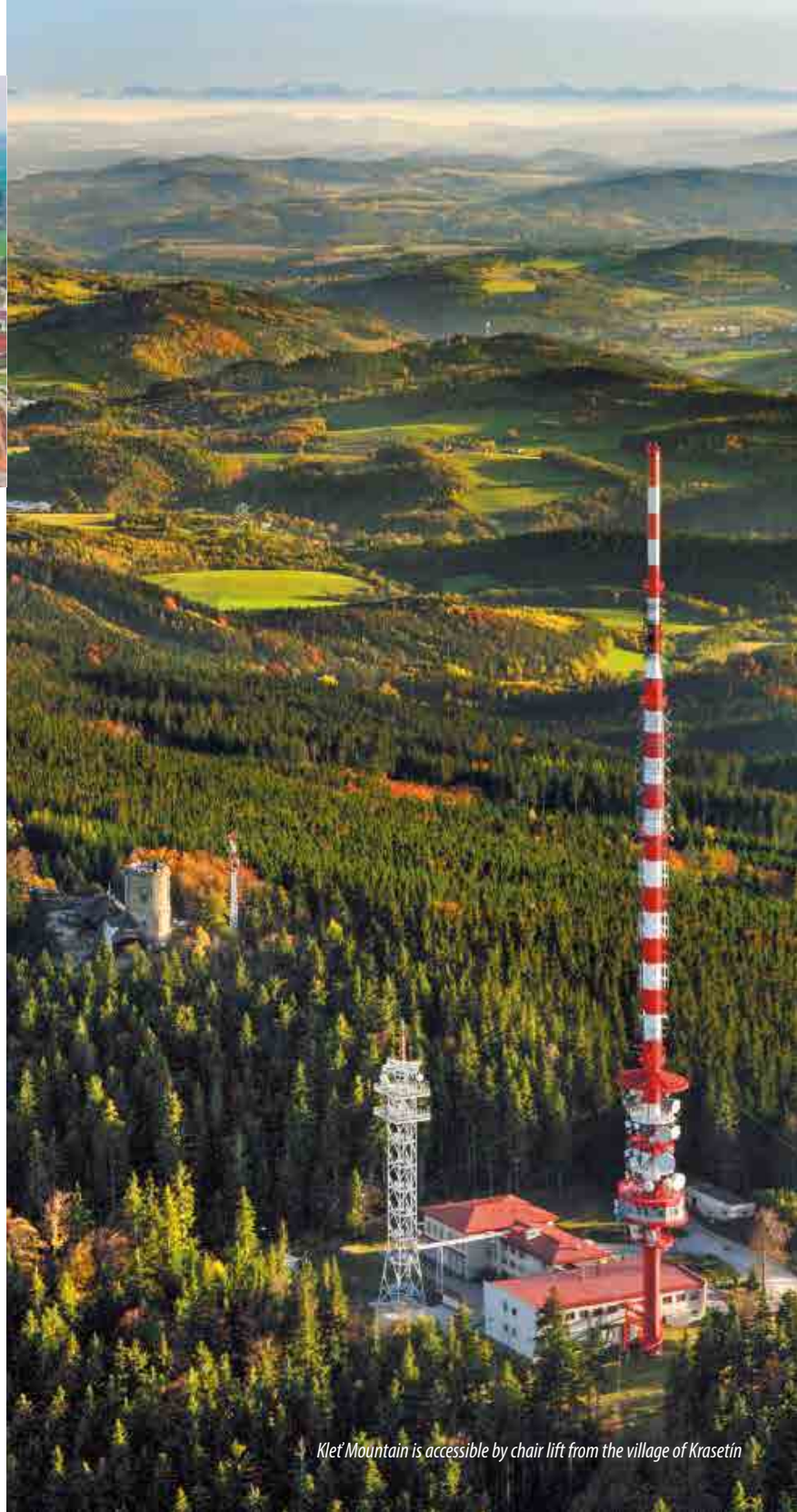


games and tennis, as well as several modern playgrounds spread throughout the town.

A popular nearby excursion is the **Baroque chateau in Bzí**, gradually being restored and especially lively during the traditional **St Catherine's Festival** held at the end of November.



Dolní Bukovsko www.dolnibukovsko.cz



Klet Mountain is accessible by chair lift from the village of Krasetín



Český Krumlov – the local castle and chateau compound is the second largest in the Czech Republic
www.zamek-ceskykrumlov.eu

ČESKÝ KRUMLOV (25 km)

This ancient town lying on the Vltava River is sometimes called the “pearl of centuries”. The local **castle and chateau** with a Renaissance cylindrical tower is **the second largest in the Czech Republic** (the first being the Prague Castle). The historic **town centre**, which is surrounded by the Vltava, has preserved its medieval character to this day. The chateau premises also include an 11-hectare **Baroque-Rococo garden**. Courtyard V contains a world rarity – a perfectly preserved **Baroque chateau theatre**. Especially in summer the town comes alive with a number of festivals and cultural events, the **Český Krumlov International Music Festival** being the most important. In 1992 the town was inscribed in the **UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list**.

TŘEBOŇ (23 km)

A **spa town** situated 23 km east of České Budějovice on the bank of a **pond called Svět**. Its greatest sight is a Renaissance **chateau**, which is among the largest chateau compounds in Bohemia. It was here that **Petr Vok of Rožmberk** died in

1611. The **Golden Channel**, a unique technical work by local fish farmers, flows through the town and feeds a part of the **Pond System of Třeboň** with water from the Lužnice River. Close to Třeboň, in Domanín on the bank of the Svět, we can see the New-Gothic **burial chamber of the Schwarzenberg family**.

LIPNO (48 km)

The largest water surface in the Czech Republic was formed by the construction of a **dam near the village of Lipno nad Vltavou** in 1952–1959. It has an area of 48.7 km² and is 42 km long. This



Lipno Lake, with a range of the Austrian Alps in the background

“sea of South Bohemia” became a popular destination of fishermen, holidaymakers and water sports enthusiasts. Lipno has remained popular, also thanks to the construction of new **holiday facilities**, especially in the village of Lipno nad Vltavou near the dam. The local **modern ski centre** offers year-round active entertainment, and when the weather is favourable, people can use the **skating track** on the frozen surface of the lake. And Lipno is not far from another large **ski centre called Hochficht** (Austria).

ŘÍMOV (19 km)

A significant **pilgrimage site** situated on the **Malše River**, about 15 km south of České Budějovice. In the second half of the 17th century a pilgrimage chapel was built in Římov and **25 small Chapels of the Way of the Cross** were built in its vicinity about 5 km away. Their location within the landscape reminds us of the way of the cross in Jerusalem.

VODŇANY (30 km)

A little further from České Budějovice is Vodňany, a town with a long **tradition of fish farming and fishing**. The **Secondary School of Fishing** was established



Římov

here in 1920. The most significant sight is the decanal **Church of the Birth of Our Lady**, the first mention of which dates back to the early 14th century. Its interior was decorated according to drawings by **Mikoláš Aleš**.

KRATOCHVÍLE (22 km)

A **Renaissance chateau** near Netolice, which is very valuable in terms of architecture. **Vilém of Rožmberk** (1535–1592) had it built in the manner of Italian villas at the end of the 16th century. The hunting chateau is surrounded with a **garden designed in Renaissance style**. There are fascinating alder pillars, whose purpose is to reinforce the foundations of the chateau due to the swampy terrain.



Vodňany – the Church of the Birth of Our Lady



Kratochvíle Chateau
www.zamek-kratochvile.eu


Our TIP
**POVODÍ VLTAVY,
STATE ENTERPRISE**

The Povodí Vltavy (Vltava River Basin) is an organization that manages and maintains the watercourses in the entire basin of the Vltava River. It manages a total of nearly **22,000 kilometers of watercourses in this area**. The Horní Vltava Branch manages the flow from the border with Germany and Austria to the Orlik Dam. It manages the conditions for drawing surface water for industry and as well as potable water treatment. It also manages dams, reservoirs, weirs, flood control dams, watercourse modifications, and other engineering works owned by the state.



The Lipno I dam

In South Bohemia, the Povodí Vltavy state enterprise manages nine reservoirs (VN) built on major rivers (on the Vltava River: VN Lipno I, VN Lipno II, VN Hněvkovice; on the Malše River: VN Římov; on the Blanice River: VN Husinec; on the Stropnice River: VN Humenice; on the Černá River: VN Soběňov; on Studenská Creek: VN Karhov and VN Zhejral), as well as another twenty reservoirs built on smaller rivers. It also **manages 153 weirs** and a series of flood control structures. In addition, it also manages the Vltava waterway with its navigation objects (the locks České Vrbné, Hluboká nad Vltavou, Hněvkovice, Hněvkovický weir, and Kořensko), the České Vrbné protective harbor, and several marinas.

The most prominent water reservoir is the **Lipno I** reservoir, also known as Lake Lipno or the South Bohemian Sea. The reservoir's large retention (protective) space contributes significantly to the influence of flood conditions and enables for the prevention of flood damage. It has also become a characteristic South Bohemian site for relaxation and sports.

Another major reservoir is Římov, which serves as a drinking water reservoir for large parts of southern and parts of central Bohemia. The **Husinec reservoir on the river Blanice** is also worth mention – its dam is interesting as a display of engineering as the last masonry dam in the country. One interesting purpose of the Hněvkovice reservoir is that provides enough cooling water for the **Temelín nuclear power plant**.



The Hněvkovice dam

The weirs feature an interesting design in the technical monument of Loučovice (Huber-Lutz), a hydrostatic weir on the Vltava. The cylindrical weir in Písek on the Otava River is also interesting in its design, in that it forms the substructure of a road bridge whose supports are built on the pillars of the weir.

The Povodí Vltavy state enterprise also reconstructed a covered wooden bridge in the village of Plav, built in **1895–1896** as a technical structure to capture floating wood. After reconstruction in 2007, the structure was declared a cultural monument.

The Povodí Vltavy state enterprise also ties its activities in to the works of our ancient ancestors, to the works of **Jakub Krčín of Jelčany**, who built the Nová Řeka waterway to connect the rivers Lužnice and Nežárka. Part of this project, grandiose for its time, were the **Novořecké levees** and the **Novořecké water diverting structures**. After the floods of 2002, both of these structures were restored, and a trail was built for hikers and bicyclists along the ridge of the Novořecké levee.



POVODÍ VLTAVY



Povodí Vltavy, State Enterprise
Holečkova 3178/8
150 00 Praha 5 – Smíchov
závod Horní Vltava
Litvínovická 709/5, České Budějovice
www.pvl.cz
www.facebook.com/povodivltavy
www.instagram.com/povodivltavy/

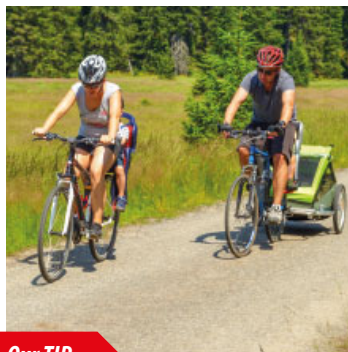


The last masonry dam in Czechoslovakia – the Husinec dam, completed in 1939

CYCLING PATHS

Nine cycling paths in the surroundings of the town allow you to enjoy healthy exercise while discovering the beauties of the České Budějovice region.

- Path No. 12 follows the Vltava north-south direction along the Vltava (it is part of an international cycling path that goes through the Czech Republic from Germany to Austria)
- Path No. 122 in the north part of the town along the right bank of the Vltava towards Borek and then to Třeboň
- Path No. 1018 goes along the right bank of the Malše River towards Římov
- Path No. 1050 direction Dobrá Voda – Nové Hrady
- Path No. 1096 direction Rudolfov
- Path No. 1092 direction Litvinovice, Lipí
- Path No. 1100 direction Dubné and Hološovice
- Path No. 1108 direction Vrbenské rybníky
- Path No. 1120 direction Staré Hodějovice, Ledenice



Our TIP

VLTAVA CYCLING ROUTE

The Vltava cycling route follows the flow of the Vltava River from its spring to the confluence with the Labe River in the total **length of 450 km**. It enters České Budějovice in two lines, one of which follows the Malše on cycling **path no. 1018**, and the second one comes from Boršov nad Vltavou on cycling **path no. 12**. Both lines meet in České Budějovice not far from the confluence of the Vltava and the Malše and together form the southern ring of the Vltava cycling route. The Vltava cycling route continues to the north along the Vltava on cycling path no. 12 towards Hluboká nad Vltavou.

(taken from the official site of the town of České Budějovice)
www.jihoceske-cyklostezky.cz



Our TIP

YEAR-ROUND FAMILY PARK BOBOVKA LIPNO NAD VLTAVOU

*Would you like to bobsleigh in any weather at any time during the year? If so, then let's go to Lipno nad Vltavou! There is a central parking lot, and just a 100-metre-walk away you will see: two bobsleigh tracks, **Alpine Coasters and Sports track**, intertwined. This is the only place in the Czech Republic where you will find both types of bobsleigh tracks together. On the Alpine Coaster you will get a bit of a bird's-eye view, and its highlights are the 2 turns of nearly 360 degrees. The roller coaster has safety belts and automatic brakes, making it suitable for families with children. The second kilometre long slide coaster will be appreciated especially by more sport riders. In both cases, you will control the speed yourself with the help of brakes.*

*Children aged 3 and up must be accompanied by adults, and children aged 8 and up may go on the ride alone. **The complex also boasts a stylish pub with a year-round hot kitchen and a pleasant outdoor seating area in the summer with a barbecue and many attractions for your children.***

THE ENTIRE SITE IS FULLY ACCESSIBLE.

Opening hours:

*July to August: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
September to June: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
May, June and September on Fridays:
until 8.00 p.m., Saturdays 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.,
Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.*



Lipno Bobsleigh Track
Slupečná 301
382 78 Lipno nad Vltavou
+420 602 780 726
info@slideland.cz
www.bobovkalipno.cz





Our TIP

WHITewater CENTER ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

Always on a good wave!

Looking for an adrenaline rush on white water, or do you prefer a calm cruise on the Vltava? Planning a trip by bike, on skates, or by boat? Whether you're travelling solo, as a couple, with family, or organising a company event, we'll find the perfect programme for you.

For lovers of white water and adrenaline, **our artificial whitewater course offers rafting or kayak lessons** with an instructor. If you're feeling confident, you can rent equipment at the Water Sports Centre and take on the waves on your own. And surfers no longer need to wait for the perfect wave at sea – **we offer the only river-surfing wave in South Bohemia.**

If you prefer peace and relaxation, you can rent a **paddleboard, bike, or skates** and enjoy a trip to the centre of České Budějovice or to Hluboká.

The České Budějovice Water Sports Centre also includes a hostel and a modern campsite for motorhomes and tents. Thanks to its location on the cycle path between České Budějovice and Hluboká nad Vltavou, you can enjoy unforgettable experiences from spring to autumn.

Whitewater center České Budějovice
České Vrbné 1995
37011 České Budějovice
info@raftingcb.cz
www.raftingcb.cz



Our TIP

POUZAR MULTI-PURPOSE HOCKEY CENTRE

The sports complex on the northwestern edge of České Budějovice features modern, eco-friendly technologies. The hockey center includes an **ice rink** (58 × 28 m), a **sports hall** (26 × 15 m), a **restaurant** (up to 120 seats) with panoramic views of the ice, a **hotel** (16 rooms), a **shop with hockey and sports equipment**, as well as comfortable facilities for athletes such as locker rooms, bathrooms, and drying rooms, plus **office and commercial spaces.**

The center is home to the youth club **HC MAD BULL**. It is also used by the university team **BLACK DOGS BUDWEIS**, the amateur **AHL** league, and for skating lessons for schools and kindergartens, along with many other activities. The modern, high-standard facilities enable the regular organisation of **hockey camps and sporting events.**

A municipal park is located next to the arena, and nearby lies the **Vrbenské Ponds (Vrbenské rybníky) Nature Reserve**, an ideal area for outdoor sports, leisure activities and relaxing walks.

The center operates 24/7, year-round.



Pouzar Hockey Centre
E. Rošického 1756, 370 05 České Budějovice
www.hc-pouzar.cz
www.instagram.com/hcmadbull/
www.facebook.com/hcmadbull/

**sole
felsen
welt**
badsaunahotel

Our TIP

 1 h from České Budějovice

SOLE FELSEN WELT GMÜND / LOWER AUSTRIA

At the beautiful saltwater spa **Sole Felsen Bad**, you can enjoy a relaxing wellness getaway. Under the impressive wave-shaped roof of the bathing and sauna world, guests unwind in the beneficial "**Bad Ischler**" saltwater while overlooking the idyllic Asangteich pond. It's a place to relax all day, in every season.

Active visitors can join free aqua fitness sessions or swim laps in the 25-metre sports pool. Children will love the slides, paddling pool and the exciting current channel. And when evening falls, everyone marvels at the daily **musical laser show** in the bathing area (winter months only).

Relaxation is also the priority in the **sauna paradise**. Enjoy a wide variety of fragrant infusions and sauna rituals offered every half hour. In addition to a cosy sauna bar, three indoor and three outdoor saunas open onto a magical sauna garden with a lovely sun meadow directly by the Asangteich pond, ideal for relaxing, cooling off or taking a refreshing swim. A visit to the **Felsen-Hamam steam grotto** or the infrared cabin is the perfect way to end your sauna experience.



For those seeking a longer stay, the adjacent **Sole Felsen Hotel****** offers a warm welcome. Your perfect holiday here begins with a generous breakfast buffet and ends wherever you choose — in the beautiful new winter garden or with a delicious cocktail at the hotel bar. In between, it's all about rest, relaxation and recovery.

Sole Felsen Welt
Bad | Sauna | Hotel
Albrechtser Straße 12-14, A-3950 Gmünd
+43(0) 2852/20 203 – 0
bad@solefelsenwelt.at
hotel@solefelsenwelt.at
www.solefelsenwelt.at



Our TIP

IGY
CENTRUM

IGY Centrum
Pražská tř. 1247/24
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www.igycentrum.cz



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CHILDREN'S PLAY AREAS

PARKING FOR 700 CARS



Vojtěch Jírovec (1763–1850)
A composer, director and conductor of the Imperial Opera in Vienna.



Jan Valerián Jirsík (1798–1883)
A catholic priest; from 1851 until his death he was the fourth bishop of České Budějovice.



Adalbert Lanna (1805–1866)
A native of České Budějovice. An entrepreneur, builder, industrialist, ship transportation operator, constructor of railways.



Jaroslav Hašek (1883–1923)
In 1915 he spent a few months of his military service in the Mariana Barracks in České Budějovice and he also set a small part of his novel about the good soldier Švejk there.



Ludmila Polesná (1934–1988)
A national champion in water slalom, a holder of 19 world championship medals including six golds.



Marta Kubišová (born in 1942 in České Budějovice)
A singer, a holder of three Zlatý Slavík (Golden Nightingale) awards. From the beginning of so-called normalization until 1989 her subversive and courageous artistic activities were prohibited.



Vladimír Remek (born in 1948 in České Budějovice)
A former military pilot, the first and only Czechoslovak (and also the first European) astronaut (Sojuz 28, 1978).



Jaroslav Pouzar (born in 1952 in Čakovec u Českých Budějovic)
A hockey player from České Budějovice; winner of three Stanley Cups, he was the first Czech hockey player to win this prize.



Petr Jirmus (born in 1957 in České Budějovice)
Two-time absolute world champion (1984, 1986) and European champion (1983, 1985) in aerobatic flying, he was the champion of the former Czechoslovak Socialist Republic four times.



Barracks of the Virgin Mary in 1918 (www.fotohistorie.cz)

THE WRITER JAROSLAV HAŠEK IN ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

Jaroslav Hašek set part of his brilliant novel *The Good Soldier Švejk* in České Budějovice. It was not a random choice – he himself did his military service in České Budějovice in 1915 (from mid-February to May). He enlisted in the **Barracks of the Virgin Mary**, in which the 4th battalion of the **91st infantry regiment** was located.

He describes his stay in České Budějovice through the words of the **one-year volunteer Marek**, who is actually the reincarnation of the **author himself** in the novel.

"I enlisted in high boots and had a top hat on my head, and as the tailor did not hand me a uniform in time, I joined the school of one-year volunteers at the parade ground in the high boots and top hat, fell in and marched with them on the left flange ..."



This is where Jaroslav Hašek did his military service



A picture from the prison hospital, Jaroslav Hašek is marked with a cross

"So I eventually had my muscular rheumatism. To hospital right away – and I was sitting pretty. And then fortune smiled on me for the second time. My brother-in-law, Dr Masák of Žižkov, was posted to Budějovice, and it is only thanks to him that I could be in hospital such a long time. He would have made it with me to ward super-rounds, but I spoiled everything with the unfortunate 'krankenbuch'! The idea, however, was good, in fact, it was excellent. I raised a big book and glued a label on it, on which I wrote 'Krankenbuch des 91. Reg.' The boxes in the book and everything was all right. I put down in the book fictitious names, degrees of fever and diseases and every afternoon, after ward rounds, I went to town with the book cheekily under my arm."

EXPOSITIONS

SOUTH BOHEMIAN MUSEUM IN ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

Permanent exhibition – nature, history, thematic exhibitions, lectures, educational programs.
Dukelská 1, České Budějovice
www.muzeumcb.cz

HORSE-DRAWN TRAMWAY MUSEUM

Everything about the history and operation of the first railway in Continental Europe.
Mánesova 10, České Budějovice
www.muzeumcb.cz

SOUTH BOHEMIAN GALLERY

Gothic art from South Bohemia and Šumava, works of European art from the 16th to 19th centuries.
Riding Hall of Hluboká Chateau
Hluboká nad Vltavou No. 144
www.ajg.cz

SOUTH BOHEMIAN GALLERY

Wortner's House
ul. U Černé věže, České Budějovice
www.ajg.cz

ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE EXHIBITION GROUNDS

Husova 523, České Budějovice
www.vcb.cz

HROZEN GALLERY

Hrozenová 22, České Budějovice
Tel.: +420 383 350 696, +420 386 353 711

TOWN HALL EXHIBITION HALL

Town Hall, nám. Přemysla Otakara II.,
České Budějovice
www.c-budejovice.cz

HOUSE OF ARTS

nám. Přemysla Otakara II. č. 38,
České Budějovice, Tel.: +420 386 360 539

U SCHELŮ INTIMATE GALLERY

Panská 7, České Budějovice
www.schel-gallery.cz

THEATRES, CINEMAS

SOUTH BOHEMIAN THEATRE

Dr. Stejskala 19, České Budějovice
www.jihoceskedivadlo.cz

SOUTH BOHEMIAN THEATRE

– Revolving Theatre Český Krumlov
Chateau garden – castle
and chateau of Český Krumlov
www.otacivehlediste.cz

LITTLE THEATRE

Hradební 18, České Budějovice
www.maledivadlo.cz

SOUTH CZECH PHILHARMONIC

Church of St. Anna
Kněžská 6, České Budějovice
www.jcfilharmonie.cz

METROPOL HOUSE OF CULTURE

Social and theatre hall
Senovážné nám. 2, České Budějovice
www.metropol-cb.cz

VLTAVA HOUSE OF CULTURE

Františka Ondříčka 46, České Budějovice
www.kdvltava.cz

BIOGRAF KOTVA (KOTVA CINEMA)

Lidická 2110, České Budějovice
www.biografkotva.cz

HÁJEČEK SUMMER CINEMA

F. A. Gerstnera 8/4, České Budějovice
Tel.: +420 386 358 088

CINESTAR Multicinema Čtyři Dvory

Milady Horákové 1498, České Budějovice
CINESTAR Multicinema IGY Centrum
Pražská tř. 1247/24, České Budějovice
www.cinestar.cz

SPORTS, ACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SWIMMING STADIUM

An indoor 50-metre pool, a diving pool, a children's pool, a 69-metre indoor water slide, a whirlpool bath, steam, summer outdoor swimming pool.
Sokolský Island 4, České Budějovice
www.szcb.cz/plavecky-stadion

SPORTS HALL

A hall for ball games, an athletic corridor, a fitness centre, four ping pong tables, an arena with stands and a restaurant.
Stromovka 695/12, České Budějovice
www.szcb.cz/sportovni-hala

WINTER SPORTS STADIUM

Two separate roofed halls, a restaurant, public skating from March 1. 3. – 31. 3.
F. A. Gerstnera 7/8, České Budějovice
www.szcb.cz/zimni-stadion/

BEZBOT – CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

"Lots of fun in all weather"
Lhenická 611, České Budějovice
www.bezbot.cz

WHITewater CENTER ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE

An artificial slalom track, water sport equipment rental, bicycles and roller-skates.
České Vrbné u Českých Budějovic
www.raftingcb.cz



Štílec
resort & restaurant***

Accommodation and restaurant near the Štílec pond in the picturesque surroundings of South Bohemia, not far from many cultural monuments and natural beauties that will delight every guest.

RESORT - RESTAURACE ŠTÍLEC***

Kamenný Újezd 520
370 07 České Budějovice
+420 770 100 912 (restaurace)
+420 777 042 192 (recepcie)
stilec@stilec.cz
www.stilec.cz



**FUNSPACE ARENA
ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE**
370 01 České Budějovice
náměstí P. O. II. 123/36
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www.funspace.cz

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+420 386 360 186
info@beeranek.cz
www.singer.pub

PENZION BOHEMIA

Plachého 33, 370 01 České Budějovice
+420 380 427 999
info@bohemia.restaurant
www.bohemia.restaurant

**Žlutá ponorka,
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Česká 66
České Budějovice

Tel.: +420 386 352 458
info@barzlutaponorka.cz
www.facebook.com/zlutaponorka

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Restaurace Solnice
Piaristické náměstí 3
České Budějovice

Tel.: +420 777 357 120
info@restauracesolnice.cz
www.restauracece.cz

..SÖLNICE..
RESTAURACE

Restaurace Masné krámy
Krajinská 13
České Budějovice

Tel.: +420 387 201 301
info@masne-kramy.cz
www.masne-kramy.cz

Masné krámy
místo, kde legendy ožívají...

Praži Café
Na Mlýnské stoce 282/11
České Budějovice

Tel.: +420 607 078 485
rezervace@prazicafe.cz
www.prazicafe.cz

praži
café

Bistro Magdalene
Františka Ondříčka 12
České Budějovice

Tel.: +420 607 010 991
rezervace@bistromagdalene.cz
www.bistromagdalene.cz

BISTRO
Magdalene

Esence Café
Náměstí Přemysla Otakara II. 5
České Budějovice

Tel.: +420 720 039 950
rezervace@esencecafe.cz
www.esencecafe.cz

Esence
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Bouda Restaurant
Dr. Stejskala 13
České Budějovice

info@boudaburgers.cz
www.boudaburgers.cz



Kavárna Lanna
Jiráskovo nábřeží 45
České Budějovice

Tel.: +420 607 030 500
info@kavarna-lanna.cz
www.kavarna-lanna.cz



Kavárna Vlnna
Sokolský ostrov 1
České Budějovice

Tel.: +420 608 001 181
info@kavarna-vlnna.cz
www.kavarna-vlnna.cz



Resort - Restaurace Štílec***
Kamenný Újezd 520
České Budějovice

Tel.: +420 770 100 912
stilec@stilec.cz
www.stilec.cz

Štílec
resort & restaurant***

Restaurace Naše farma
U Černé věže 15
České Budějovice

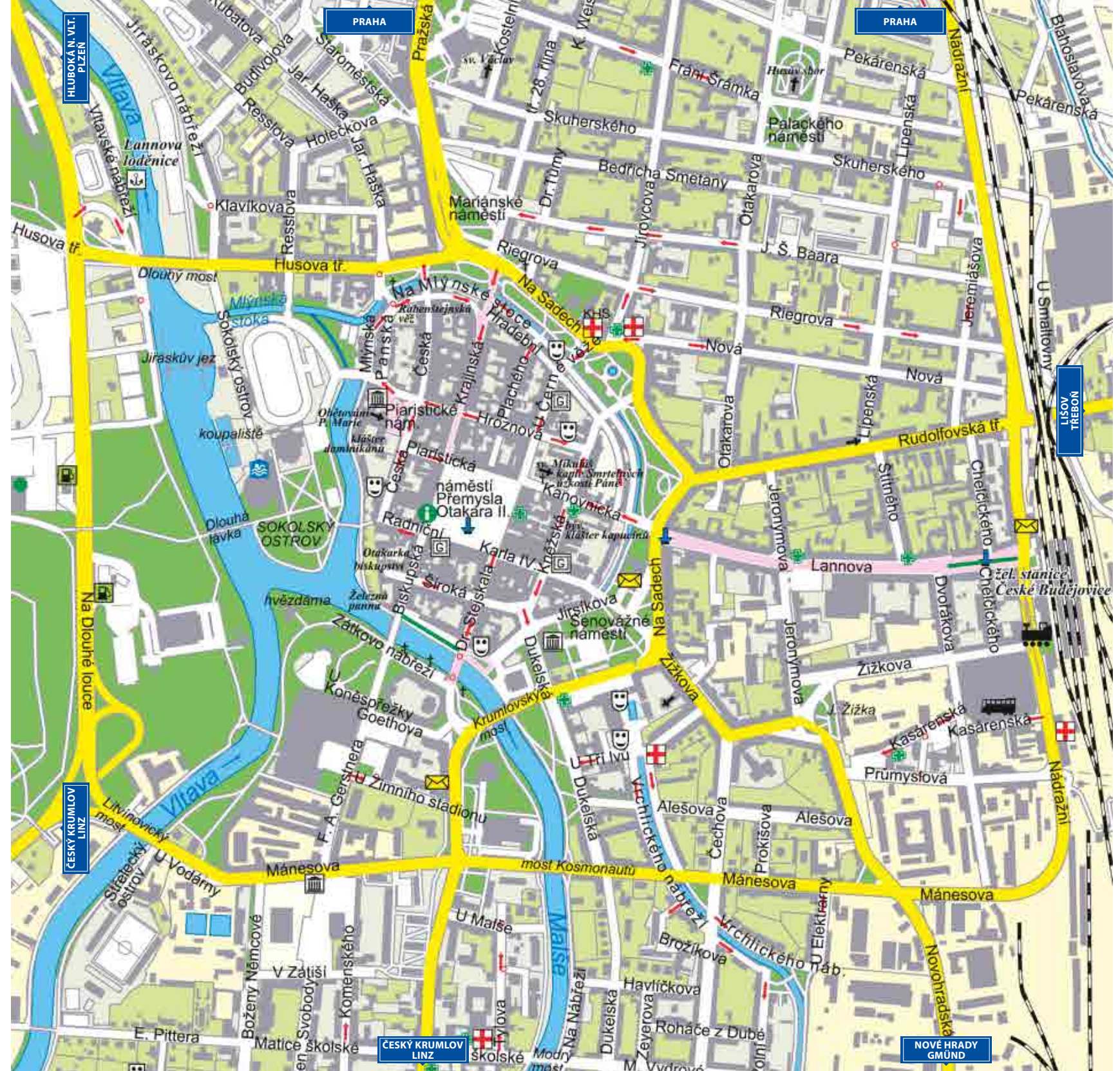
Tel.: +420 605 228 803
rezervace@nasefarma.cz
www.nasefarma.cz

NAŠE FARMA
— a víme, co jíme —



1. Square of Přemysl Otakar II
2. Samson's Fountain
3. Town Hall
4. Black Tower, Church of St. Nicholas
5. Chapel of Mortal Agony
6. Masné krámy alehouse
7. Zvon Hotel
8. Včela Palace
9. Building of Česká spořitelna
10. Dominican convent
11. Church of the Sacrifice of Our Lady
12. Solnice (Salt Warehouse)
13. Front Mill
14. Zátka Embankment

15. Tower of Rabenštejn
16. Town Park
17. Zátka's House
18. Leopold Hájíček Department Store
19. Wortner's House
20. Iron Maiden Tower
21. Senovážné Square
22. South Bohemian Museum
23. Slavie House of Culture
24. South Bohemian Theatre
25. The Church of St. Anne
— The South Czech Philharmonic
26. Courthouse





www.budejce.cz
www.cbsystem.cz
www.c-budejovice.cz
www.cb-hl.cz
www.jiznicechy.cz
www.visitjiznicechy.cz
www.visitceskebudejovice.cz

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