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The Pearl of Moravia

KROMĚŘÍŽ

A town of captivating beauty



 THE TOWN OF
KROMĚŘÍŽ



An exceptional experience!

KROMĚŘÍŽ was first mentioned in 1107. The development of the town was significantly influenced by the Olomouc bishops and archbishops. The Kroměříž Château was their summer residence, and the construction activities of the bishops, especially after the Thirty Years' War in the 17th century, brought about a major restoration. Thanks to this Kroměříž ranks among today's prominent historic cities in the Czech Republic. The centre of Kroměříž was declared an Urban Monuments Preservation Area in 1978. The complex formed by the Archbishop's Château, the Flower Garden and the Château Garden was declared a National Cultural Monument in 1995 and a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1998.

Yes, this is Kroměříž, a town saturated with culture, learning and art. It is no wonder that it has earned the nickname of the Athens of Hana and is one of the most visited cities in the Czech Republic.



KROMĚŘÍŽ has always been associated with the fertile Hana landscape and the power of the Olomouc bishops. Whenever you come there, you will be surrounded by a unique atmosphere. Before your eyes, there are treasures of world art and architecture, cultural and natural monuments and unique collections. The historical legacy is combined with a range of picturesque hotels and guest houses, and cultural, sporting and tourist activities. **See it with your own eyes.**

The biggest attractions in Kroměříž



Flower Garden



Archbishop's Château



Technical monuments



Archbishop's Cellars



Religious monuments



Château Garden



Cuisine



Bike trails

KROMĚŘIŽ

A TOWN OF CAPTIVATING BEAUTY



Kroměříž is a town which combines beauty, learning and art. The foundations of the captivating charm that attracts tourists from all the corners of the world were laid by the Olomouc bishops, who had their summer residence in Kroměříž for centuries. As a result, today Kroměříž boasts a number of unique monuments.

Bishop Charles II

of Liechtenstein-Castelcorno

Bishop Charles II of Liechtenstein-Castelcorno contributed significantly to the development of the town and the chateau and its gardens. He began with the spectacular restoration of the town, ruined during the Thirty Years' War, in the second half of the 17th century. He invited to Kroměříž a number of leading architects and artists from all over Europe, including the builders of the Imperial Court in Vienna, the Italians Filiberto Lucchese and Giovanni Pietro Tencalla.

Atmosphere

full of adventure and romance

Visitors will be enchanted by the town centre, which offers a unique combination of adventure and relaxation in a relatively small area. The town is dominated by the Archbishop's Chateau, surrounded on one side by the dozens of hectares of the lush Chateau Garden and the popular Bajda Holiday Resort. On the other side, there is the vibrant part of the town with mysterious alleyways, squares and churches and inviting pubs. A perfect atmosphere for adventure and romance.



Meeting places

Kroměříž invites you to stop and relax at many places. These include the various squares. Each of them documents the rich history associated with the stories of bishops, archbishops and the inhabitants. The Great Square hosts the most important festivals and events. It is dominated by the Town Hall, dating from the 16th century, a fountain and a Baroque Marian column. The square is surrounded by town and

chapter houses, and its arcades hide art galleries, shops, pubs and gourmet restaurants. There is the Museum of the Kroměříž Area, which offers an exhibition entitled Nature and Man, and an underground exhibition entitled History Hidden Under the Town's Paving Stones. In the same building, you can find the Arcade Gallery and the Max Švabinský Memorial. There are almost 130 original works of art, a legacy of the famous Czech graphic artist and painter, in six halls. The works include the Pink Portrait, the Yellow Parasol, the Studio, a range of wood engravings, and drafts of bank notes and stamps. Kroměříž is also the home town of the singer Karel Kryl, actor Bořivoj Navrátil and screenwriter Miloš Macourek.

Guided tours of churches



If you are attracted by religious monuments and their history, Kroměříž

offers a free tour of churches with a trained guide as part of the Open Gates Project of the Zlín Area. You can visit the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, which dates back to the early Middle Ages, the Church of St. Maurice, which was founded around 1260, or the peak of Baroque architecture in Moravia, the Church of St. John the Baptist in Masaryk Square. Check the opening times – it is not necessary to book the tours in advance.



Lunettes by Max Švabinský

In the former Franciscan monastery, now the Octárna Hotel, there are four mosaic lunettes by Max Švabinský that were originally intended for the National Theatre. They are thematically related to significant events in Czech history: Libuše foretells the glory of Prague, Charles IV establishes the university, Jan Žižka goes to battle and Comenius says goodbye to his homeland.





ARCHBISHOP'S CHÂTEAU

A UNESCO monument



The Archbishop's Chateau and Gardens are among the most attractive places in the Czech Republic. This is evidenced by the fact that the Archbishop's Chateau, the Flower Garden and the Chateau Garden were declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 1998.



The Archbishop's Chateau is a vast Early Baroque complex of libraries, a music archive, an art gallery and almost 40 rooms and halls, most of which are associated with the stories of important visitors and events. The Assembly Hall is the largest and one of the most beautiful Rococo halls in the Czech Republic. In the revolutionary year of 1848, the meetings of the Imperial Council of the Habsburg monarchy were transferred there from Vienna, and Kroměříž was thus the centre of European affairs until the spring of 1849.

The Chateau Tower is a popular tourist destination in the town. The observation deck, at a height of over 40 m, can be reached after climbing more than 200 stairs. Spectacular views of the town and the surrounding area are definitely worth the effort. In good weather, you can see the Jeseníky Mountains and the Hostýn Hills.



Priceless collections

The Archbishop's Chateau guards priceless art collections with more than 130 thousand items. Through the paintings in the halls and the Chateau Art Gallery, the second most

valuable in the Czech Republic, you can meet world-renowned masters. Lucas Cranach the Elder, Paolo Veronese, Jan Brueghel the Elder, Luca Giordano, Anthonis van Dyck – these are some of the artists whose works will fill you with admiration. The best-known and most precious work in the collection is the painting of Apollo and Marsyas by the Venetian Master Titian Vecellio. The rare historical library contains 90 thousand volumes of all genres. There is also a unique collection of musical manuscripts, which includes works by Mozart, Vejvanovský, Poglietti, Haydn and Beethoven.



More than 10,000 coins

The Bishop's Mint presents a unique chapter in the history of the Kroměříž bishops, who had the right to mint their own gold and silver coins from the Middle Ages until the mid-18th century. The collection is the most important numismatic collection in the Czech Republic, and in terms of its scope, selection and artistic value it is the world's greatest collection of Church minting after the Vatican collection. The exhibition can be visited separately, together with the Orlovna Gallery.



The chateau and the famous film Amadeus

The historic scenery of the chateau, the gardens and the town centre attracts filmmakers from all around the world. Many scenes in the famous Oscar-winning film Amadeus by Miloš Forman were shot in Kroměříž. The town was also used in the making of the Danish film A Royal Affair, the French TV series Napoleon, with Gérard Depardieu, the remakes of the famous Angélique films, a biographical documentary about the Russian Empress Catherine the Great and the sequel to the popular Czech film The Inheritance with Bolek Polívka. The square and the gardens can also be noticed in the Czech TV series Četnické humoresky (Policeman's Humoresques). Children may recall the beautiful fairy tale Peko s princeznou (Hell with the Princess).





UNIQUE GARDENS

A UNESCO monument



The unparalleled combination of the chateau and the garden architecture of the Chateau and Flower Gardens forms one of the most prominent locations of this kind in Europe. The singularity of the whole complex was the reason why the Kroměříž gardens and chateau were declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Château Garden

It was founded in 1509 and over the centuries has changed from a fruit and vegetable garden to a stylish landscaped park. The garden, with an area of 64 hectares, will captivate you not only with 200 kinds of rare trees from different parts of the world but also with its water features, ponds and small romantic buildings. Throughout the year, visitors can go there for pleasure, relaxation and refreshment.



Tip

UNESCO Tourist Route

The UNESCO Tourist Route connects the most important monuments in Kroměříž by means of tiles embossed with the town's logo, located in the pavements. The arrow always points in the direction of the Flower Garden. The starting point is the main entrance to the Chateau Garden, from where you head to the entrance to the Archbishop's Chateau, past wine cellars and through the only remaining town gate. From there, you walk along Pilařova Street, past the Church of St. Maurice and the Church of St. John the Baptist, towards the Flower Garden.

The Flower garden – the Czech Versailles

It is the crowning work of the European garden art of the 17th century and represents a ground-breaking stage of development between Italian Renaissance gardens and French Baroque and Classicist gardens such as Versailles. Because of its architectural purity and scope, the Flower garden is a gem that is unparalleled in the world.



20,000 summer annuals

The Flower garden has two main parts – the flower bank with shaped walls and broderie beds, and the garden nursery with the Strawberry Hills. Every year, the beds in front of the colonnade in the flower bank are planted with twenty thousand summer annuals, grown in greenhouses and hot-beds directly in the Flower Garden.



Romantic buildings

There are fountains among the colourful flower beds and green labyrinths, and the very centre of the garden is dominated by a rotunda with unique artistic decorations and a unique Foucault pendulum. One of the most attractive parts of the Flower garden is a 244-metre-long colonnade with statues of ancient gods and other historical figures of antiquity. The construction according to the design by Giovanni Pietro Tencalla was completed in 1671.





ADVENTURE IN KROMĚŘÍŽ

Plan a trip to Kroměříž with your children and recall times long past. A unique town tour with guides in period costumes provided by the local historical fencing group called the Bishop's Men will show you things that are not found in the regular promotional materials, and you will witness scenes from the town's history. Another experience that is not only for children is a summer game entitled the Treasure Hunt of Bishop Bruno. You can learn the history of coin minting in Kroměříž in an attractive form, become a coiner for a while and mint your own coin using the original technology.

KROMĚŘÍŽ, A TOWN OF UNIQUE TECHNICAL MONUMENTS

What you probably do not expect to find in Kroměříž is technical monuments. Discover the technical gems of Kroměříž, some of which were made accessible to the public only recently. There are tours of the nuclear shelter, the planetarium, the railway depot and the turntable at the railway station. There is also the Bishop's Mint and Water Station and the Foucault Pendulum in the Flower Garden that demonstrates the rotation of the Earth around its axis.

CUISINE IN KROMĚŘÍŽ

Kroměříž is a synonym for good food and drink. Today there are three small breweries that brew many kinds of crisp beer and offer tours of the production facilities. Six metres under the chateau, there are extensive wine cellars, to which Charles IV granted the privilege of producing sacramental wine in 1345. This tradition has been preserved, and today the wine cellars offer tours and tastings. The local chefs are proud of their art and they are competitive. They organise a prestigious annual cuisine festival that you should definitely visit if you are a gourmet.

RELAXATION IN KROMĚŘÍŽ

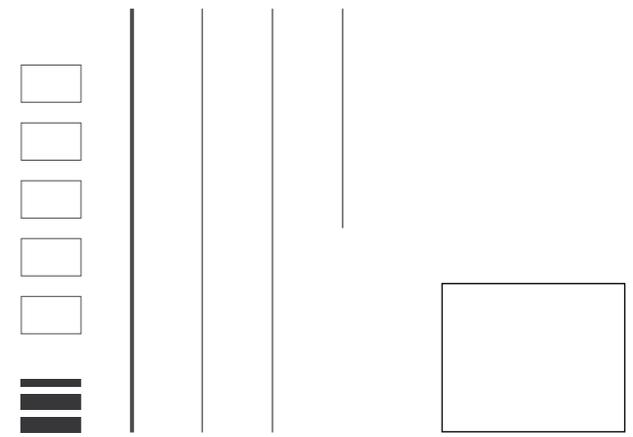
When looking for a quiet oasis for relaxation and escape from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, Kroměříž is the right choice. The shady arcades, picturesque streets and stylish restaurants and cafés in the town centre, as well as the ubiquitous parks and children's playgrounds, are made for relaxation. There are several educational trails leading from Kroměříž, and you can also find peace and tranquillity at the Floria Exhibition Ground. In addition to the popular horticultural exhibitions, the complex offers six exotic ornamental gardens, where visitors can draw inspiration and admire the floral areas, waterfalls and rare trees.



SPORTS IN KROMĚŘÍŽ

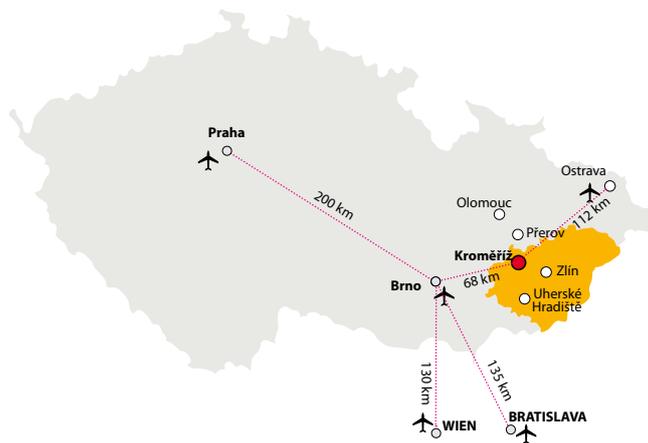
Today, Kroměříž offers not only monuments, architecture and art collections, but also excellent conditions for active tourism and sports. The Hana plain is a paradise for hikers, cyclists and in-line skaters. Moravian Bike Trail No. 47, which connects Kroměříž and Olomouc, to the north, leads through the town. Towards the south, the bike trail leads through undemanding and safe terrain along the River Morava and the Baťa Canal to Hodonín. Among the local attractions are the nearby Chřiby and Hostýn Hills, with their dense network of marked hiking and bike trails. Trips around the town can be complemented with swimming, tennis, volleyball and other sports activities.

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