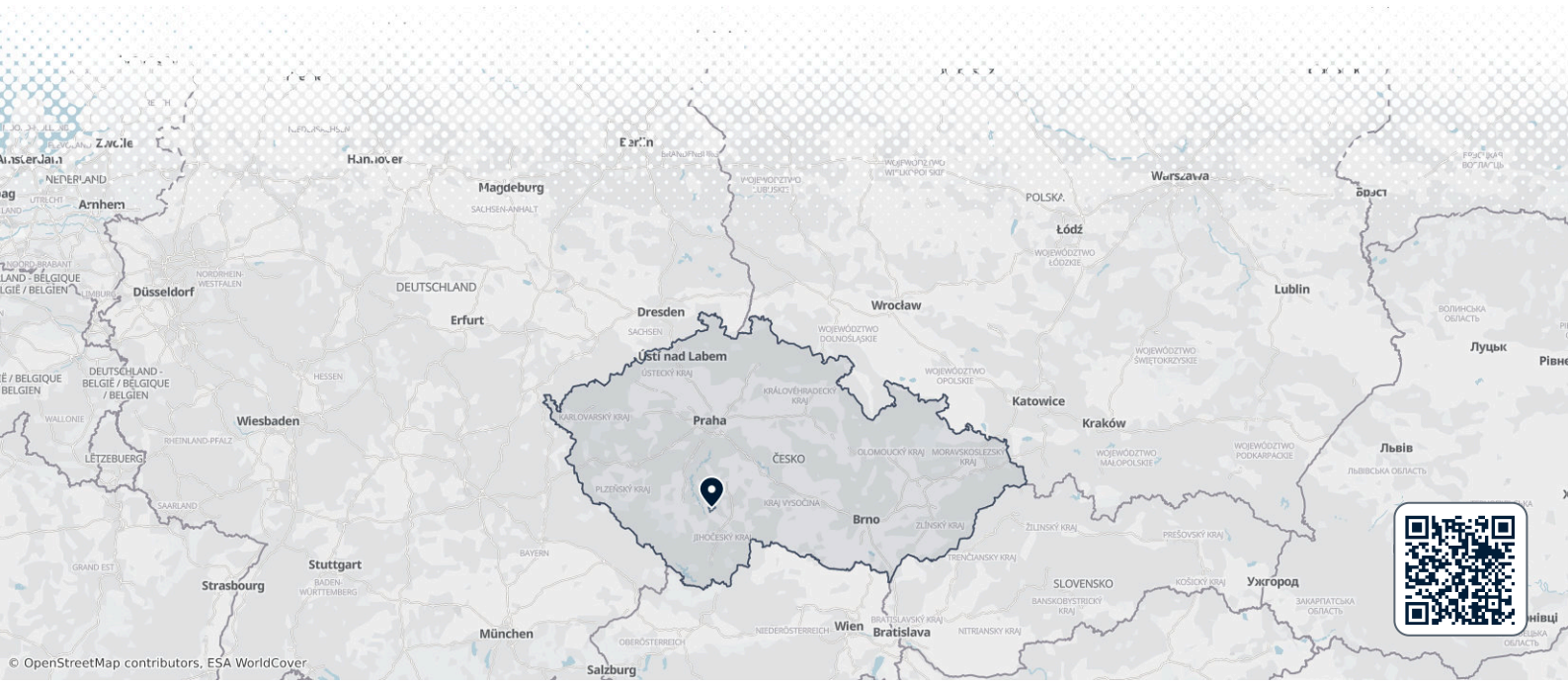


Bechyne

Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bechyně is a small spa town in South Bohemia. It sits on a rocky spur above the Lužnice river, where the smaller Smutná river joins it. The historic centre is compact and protected as an urban heritage zone.

The town is known for three things: its Renaissance castle, its spa, and a long ceramics tradition. A tall concrete arch bridge carries both cars and trains across the valley. Bechyně suits a quiet weekend, a spa stay, or a stop on a South Bohemia road trip. The composer *Václav Pichl* was born here in 1741.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. Summers are warm and pleasant for river walks and canoeing. The castle and several museums keep shorter hours or close outside the main season, so check before a winter trip. Winters are cold, with some snow, but the spa is open all year.

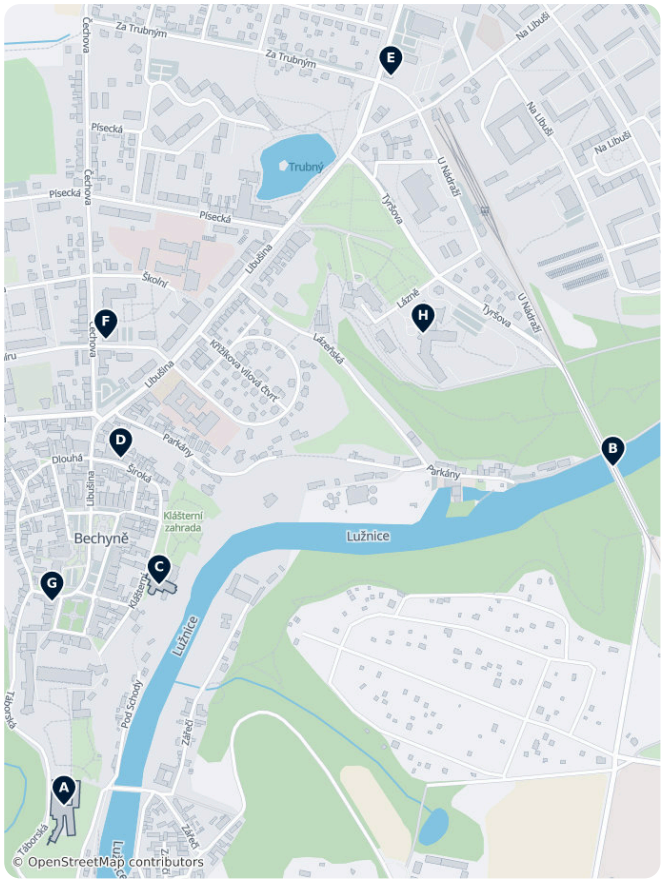
The main annual event is the **Bechyně Ceramics Market** (Keramické trhy), held on a Saturday in late July. Potters from across the country sell their work in the streets, and the town is at its busiest.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 8° Feels like -5°	-5° / -14°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 11° Feels like -2°	-4° / -13°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for hiking	8° / 16° Feels like 3°	-1° / -7°	Dry air
April	Good Good for hiking	14° / 22° Feels like 10°	3° / -3°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26° Feels like 16°	8° / 2°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	12° / 7°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 32°	14° / 9°	16 rainy days · Dry air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 33°	14° / 9°	12 rainy days · Dry air
September	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 28°	9° / 4°	Dry air
October	Good Good for hiking	14° / 22° Feels like 11°	5° / -2°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 15° Feels like 3°	1° / -5°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 9° Feels like -3°	-3° / -12°	Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Bechyně Castle stands on a rock above the river. The royal castle from the 13th century became a Renaissance residence under the Rosenberg family. Guided tours show painted halls and the Gothic parts of the building.
- B Bechyně Bridge, also called the Rainbow, crosses the Lužnice valley with a single 90 m concrete arch. It opened in 1928 and carries a road and a railway side by side. Walk to the viewpoints on the valley edge for the best photo.
- C Nanebevzetí Panny Marie is part of the Franciscan monastery near the square. Look up at the late Gothic diamond vaulting, a rare type of stone ceiling.
- D Muzeum turistiky is in the former synagogue. It is the first museum in the country about hiking and tourism, with old trail signs and an interactive map of lookout towers.
- E Hasičské muzeum Bechyně was founded in 1974 as the first museum of its kind in the country. It displays historic fire engines, pumps and uniforms in a former granary.
- F Mezinárodní muzeum keramiky belongs to the Aleš South Bohemian Gallery. It shows works made during international ceramic symposia, plus changing exhibitions of modern ceramics.
- G Městské muzeum on the main square covers the town's history and its local pottery.
- H Lázně Bechyně is one of the oldest spas in the country. It is known for peat treatments for joints and the spine, and also offers short wellness stays.

The Gothic Church of St Matthew on the main square is also worth a short look.

Bechyne – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · **4.6 stars** · **15 years of trip planning**

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

What to experience

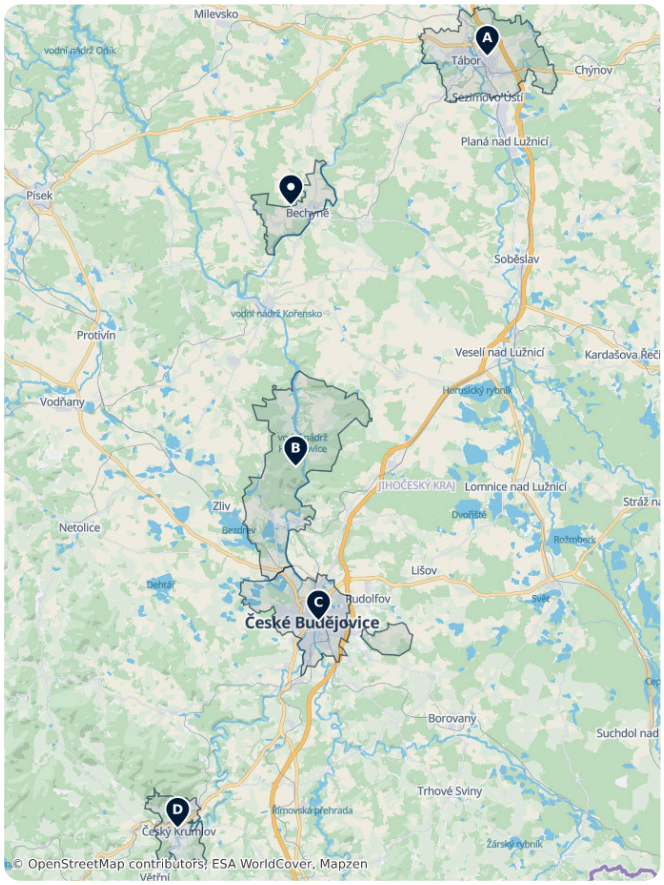
A visit here is quiet and relaxed. These are the things that make it special:

- **Ride the train over the bridge**: The local train to Tábor crosses the Rainbow Bridge next to the road traffic. In summer, a historic electric railcar called Elinka runs on some days.
- **Paddle the Lužnice**: The river is one of the most popular canoe rivers in the country. Canoe rental companies operate along the river in summer.
- **Walk the Židova strouha ravine**: A marked trail south of town follows a wild stream through a nature reserve, past rocks and small waterfalls.
- **Try a peat bath**: Book a single treatment or a short wellness stay at the spa.
- **Shop for ceramics**: Local potters and the ceramics school keep the craft alive. Buy handmade pieces in small galleries, or at the big market in July.

Day trips

Bechyně is a good base for South Bohemia. Most day trips are easiest by car or regional bus.

- **Týn nad Vltavou** — about 10 minutes by car. A small town on the Vltava with a pretty square and river walks.
- A Tábor — about 30 minutes by car, or under an hour on the historic electric railway. It was founded by the Hussites and has a Gothic square and underground passages.
- B Hluboká nad Vltavou — about 40 minutes by car. Its white neo-Gothic chateau is one of the most visited in the country.
- C České Budějovice — about 45 minutes by car or bus. The regional capital has a huge arcaded square and the Budvar brewery.
- D Český Krumlov — about 1 hour 15 minutes by car. A UNESCO-listed town with a castle above the Vltava river bends.



Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest international airport is Prague Václav Havel Airport, about 2 hours away by car. From Prague, continue by train or car.
- **By train**: Take a train from Prague to Tábor (about 1.5 hours), then change to the local line to Bechyně (under an hour). This line was the first electric railway in Austria-Hungary and crosses the Rainbow Bridge. Plan trips on Czech Railways.
- **By bus**: Regional buses link Bechyně with Tábor, České Budějovice and Týn nad Vltavou. Check times on IDOS journey planner.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town, castle, museums and bridge are all within a 15-minute walk. Expect some steep streets and steps down to the river.
- **Local transport**: There is no town transit network. For the train, buy a ticket in the ČD app or from the conductor on board. Pay regional buses to the driver.
- **Cycling**: Marked cycle routes follow the Lužnice valley, but the roads out of the valley are hilly.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town, castle, museums and bridge are all within a short walk, though some streets are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycle routes follow the Lužnice valley, but climbs out of the valley are steep.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Yes, if you want to explore the region. Trains and buses are slow and infrequent outside the main routes.
- **Parking**: Park in the car parks at the edge of the old town and walk in. Spaces are limited on the main square and during the July market.
- **The bridge**: When a train crosses the Rainbow Bridge, a signal stops road traffic heading into town. Wait for the train to pass.

Food & drink

Food in Bechyně is classic South Bohemian: roast pork with dumplings, game, and freshwater fish such as carp and trout from the region's ponds. Most restaurants and cafés sit on and around the main square and near the spa.

The spa area has cafés that are pleasant for cake and coffee after a walk. For a wider choice of restaurants, Tábor and České Budějovice are close by.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Fruit Dumplings · Ovocné knedlíky
Sweet dumplings filled with seasonal fruit (like plums or apricots), topped with cottage cheese and sugar.

DINNER

Svíčková · Svíčková na smetaně
Marinated beef sirloin in a creamy vegetable sauce, served with bread dumplings and cranberries.

Goulash · Guláš
A hearty stew, typically made with beef, onions, and paprika, often served with bread dumplings or potatoes.

Roast Pork with Dumplings and Cabbage · Vepřo knedlo zelo
A traditional Czech dish of roast pork, bread dumplings, and sauerkraut or stewed cabbage.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Fried Cheese · Smažený sýr
A thick slice of cheese, breaded and deep-fried, usually served with fries and tartar sauce.

Potato Pancakes · Bramboráky
Crispy pancakes made from grated potatoes, flour, and spices, often served as a side dish or a snack.

Chlebíčky
Open-faced sandwiches on slices of white bread, elaborately decorated with various toppings.

Fried Cauliflower · Smažený květák
Breaded and deep-fried cauliflower florets, similar to fried cheese but made with cauliflower.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Trdelník
A sweet pastry made from rolled dough, wrapped around a stick, grilled, and topped with sugar and walnut mixture.

DRINKS

Pilsner Urquell · Plzeňský Prazdroj
The world's first pale lager, originating from the city of Pilsen, known for its crisp, refreshing taste.

Becherovka
A traditional Czech herbal liqueur with a distinctive bitter-sweet taste, often enjoyed as a digestif.

Kofola
A popular Czech herbal cola-like soft drink, often described as having a unique, slightly medicinal flavor.

Bechyne – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Bechyně is a very safe small town. Petty crime is rare.

Take care on the steep paths and viewpoints above the river, which have drops and few railings. On the Lužnice, check water levels before canoeing, and wear a life jacket. In summer, check for ticks after hikes in the woods.

History

A fort stood on the rock above the river from the 9th century. King *Přemysl Otakar II* built a stone castle here in the 13th century, on the site of today's Bechyně Castle. Bechyně became a town in 1323. Hussite armies burned the town in the 1420s.

In 1569 the rich nobleman *Petr Vok of Rožmberk* bought the estate. He rebuilt the castle in Renaissance style and held his wedding here in 1580. The *Paar* family owned the estate for more than 200 years, from 1715 until 1948.

Bechyně has a long pottery tradition, and a state ceramics school opened here in 1884. In 1903 *František Křižík* built an electric railway from Tábor, the first in Austria-Hungary. In 1928 the new Bechyně Bridge opened, and the trains began to cross into the town the following year. The synagogue that now houses Muzeum turistiky is a reminder of the town's former Jewish community.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for the Czech Republic at a glance:

CURRENCY

CZK Kč

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

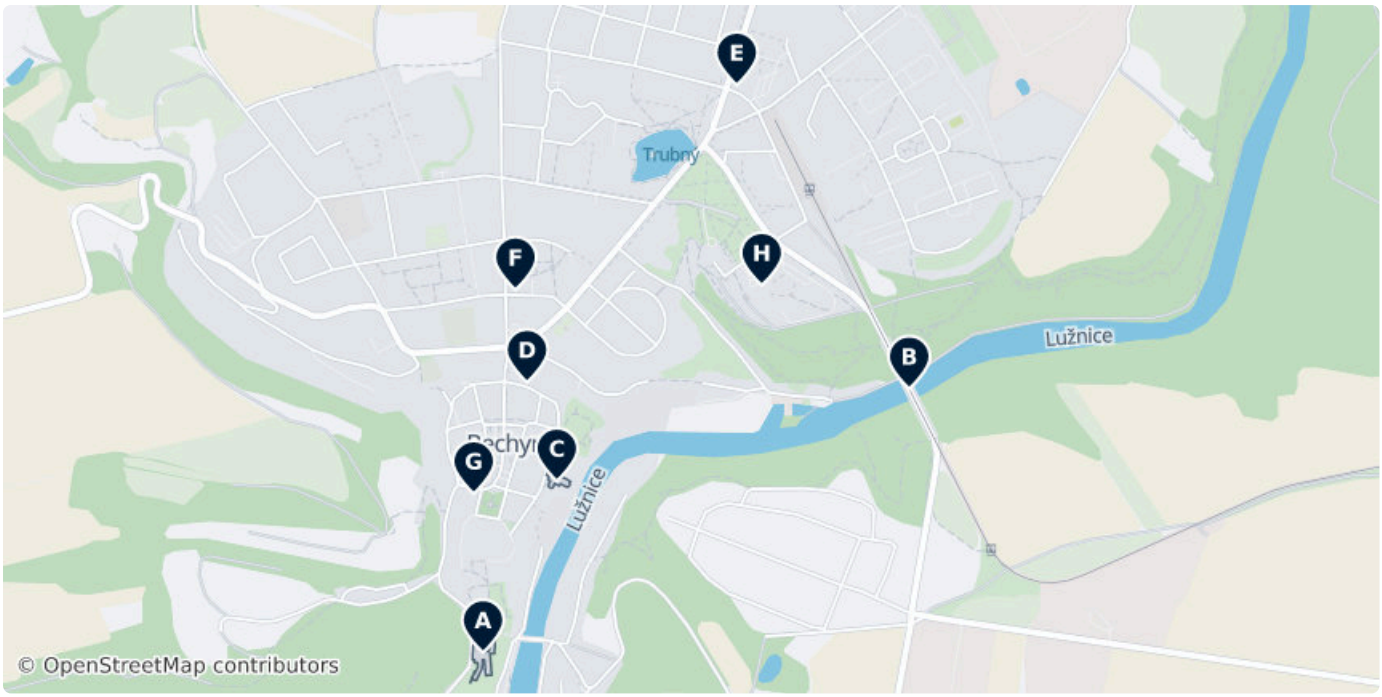
LANGUAGES

Czech

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Top sights





Ⓐ Bechyně Castle

Renaissance chateau featuring a Gothic hall and 16th-century frescoes, originally founded as a royal castle in the 13th century. It currently hosts guided tours and exhibitions within its historic grounds and former granary.

1 Zámek, Bechyně 39165, Czech Republic (49.29145, 14.46800)



Ⓑ Bechyně Bridge

Bechyně Bridge originally called the Jubilee Bridge, is a unique reinforced concrete arch bridge over the Lužnice river on the eastern edge...

122, 39165, Czech Republic (49.29644, 14.48037)

C Assumption of Mary Church

Late Gothic monastery church featuring unique diamond vaulting and rich baroque furnishings. The site dates back to the 13th century and is part of a Franciscan monastery complex.

156 Klášterní, 39165, Czech Republic (49.29470, 14.47015)



D Tourism Museum

Unique museum of tourism history housed in a former synagogue. It documents the development of travel and the activities of the Czech Tourists Club.

48 Široká, Bechyně 39165, Czech Republic (49.29656, 14.46928)

E Firefighter Museum Bechyně

Oldest firefighting museum in Bohemia, housed in a historic former granary. The collection includes exhibits dating back up to 400 years, documenting the history and development of fire protection.

U Nádraží, 391 65 Bechyně, Czechia (49.30219, 14.47537)

May Sa–Su	10:00–16:00
Jun-Aug Tu–Fr	13:00–17:00
Jun-Aug Sa–Su	10:00–16:00

F International Museum of Ceramics

Art museum showcasing a collection of works from international ceramic symposia and contemporary exhibitions. It is housed in a former castle brewery and remains open throughout the year.

Novodvorská, 391 65 Bechyně, Czechia (49.29831, 14.46895)

Tu–Su	09:00–17:00

mestobechyne.cz/cs/pro-navstevniky-2/

G Municipal Museum

Local history museum and cultural center featuring a significant collection of traditional ceramics. The institution preserves the heritage of the town and provides facilities for cultural events.

Táborská, 391 65 Bechyně, Czechia (49.29445, 14.46773)

kulturnidum.cz/muzeum, +420778545509

H Bechyně Spa

Historic spa complex with over 300 years of tradition specializing in therapeutic treatments for musculoskeletal and metabolic conditions. It provides a range of medical and wellness stays from weekend relaxation to multi-week programs.

Lázně, 391 65 Bechyně, Czechia (49.29840, 14.47610)

laznevbechyni.cz, +420381476100

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Bechyně Castle — "Bechyně, zámek" by Palickap, cc-by-3.0
- Bechyně Bridge — "Bechyně železniční a silniční most (5)" by Fojsinek, cc-by-sa-4.0
- Tourism Museum — "Značkařské náčiní, držák s barvami" by ŠJů, cc-by-sa-3.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 6, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.