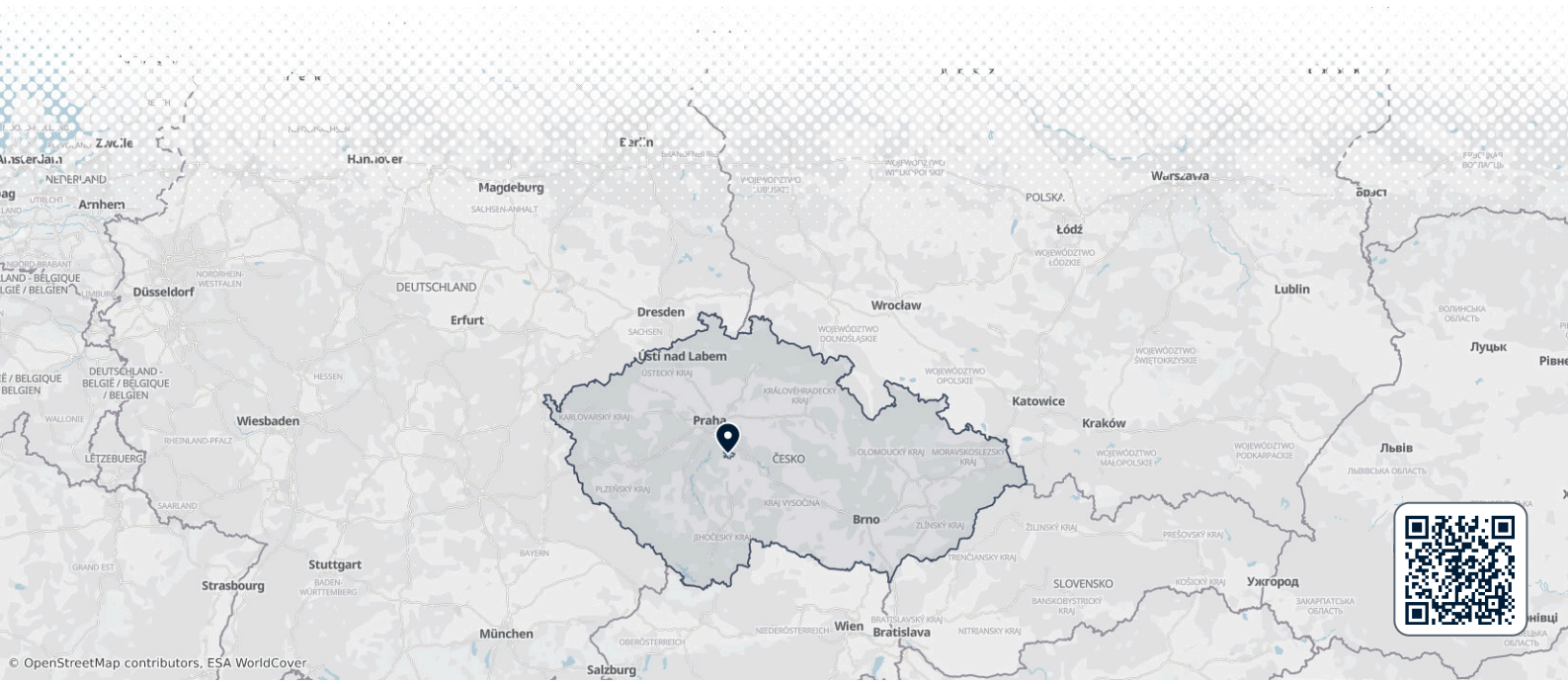


Benesov

Benešov District · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Benešov is a small market town in Central Bohemia, about 40 km south-east of Prague. Most visitors come for one reason: Konopiště Chateau, the last home of *Archduke Franz Ferdinand d'Este*. His assassination in Sarajevo in 1914 led to the start of the First World War. His castle, park and huge hunting collection sit on the western edge of town.

The town itself is quiet and practical, with a long main square, a few old churches and a good art museum. It suits a relaxed day trip from Prague or a calm base for exploring the Sázava river valley and the hills of the Podblanicko region. Fast trains make it easy to reach without a car.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. The castle is open daily except Mondays in the main season, and the park and rose garden look their best from June to September. Winters are cold with some snow, and the castle has limited hours outside the main season, so check before you travel.

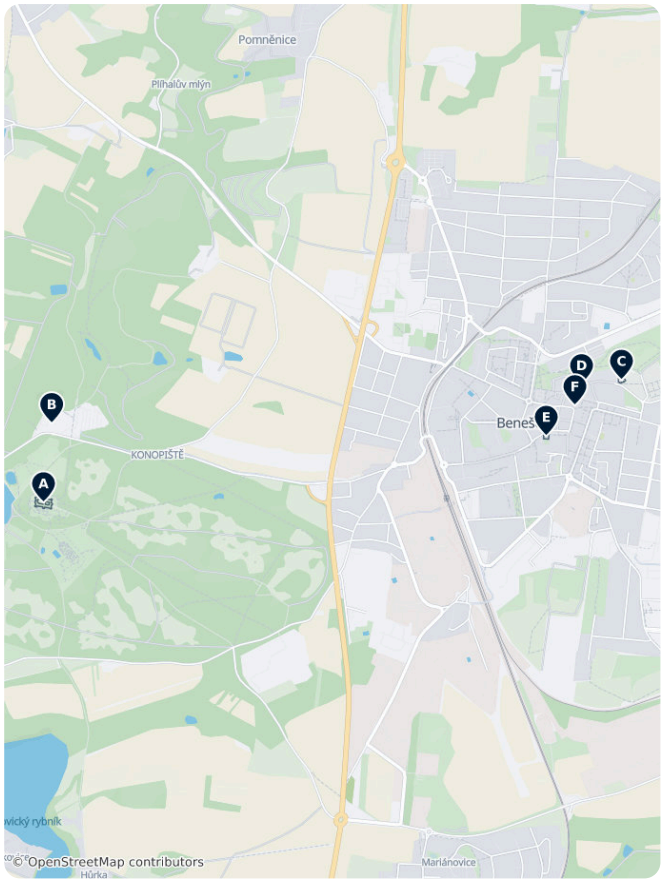
The biggest event is the **steam locomotive festival** at the railway depot next to the station. It takes place in September and brings historic trains from several countries, with special rides on steam trains.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 8° Feels like -5°	-5° / -15°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 11° Feels like -2°	-4° / -14°	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° / 32°	14° / 9°	12 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 28°	9° / 4°	Dry air
October	Good Good for hiking	14° / 22° Feels like 10°	5° / -2°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 14° Feels like 3°	0° / -5°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 8° Feels like -3°	-4° / -12°	Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

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

Top sights



A Konopiště Chateau is the reason most people come. Franz Ferdinand bought it in 1887 and rebuilt it as a comfortable family home. Guided tours show his private rooms, a large collection of historic weapons, and corridors covered with his hunting trophies. Book a tour in advance in summer.

The castle grounds hold more to see. The rose garden, with its old greenhouses, was the archduke's pride. The St George Museum in the former orangery shows his collection of art depicting Saint George. A historic shooting range with moving targets from around 1900 is also open to visitors.

B Konopiště Motorcycle Museum, near the castle car park, shows a large collection of Czech motorcycles, with a focus on the JAWA brand.

Back in town, C Church of Saint Nicholas stands on Karlov hill. It is the oldest surviving building in Benešov, with a Gothic core and a Baroque interior.

Next to it are the D Minorite Monastery Ruins. The tall Gothic presbytery with its pointed windows is all that remains of a 13th-century monastery burned by the Hussites in 1420.

On the main square, the Baroque E Church of Saint Anne is part of a former Piarist college built in the early 18th century.

F Art and Design Museum occupies a restored Art Nouveau building just off the square. It shows Czech art, design and architecture from 1900 to the present, plus changing exhibitions.

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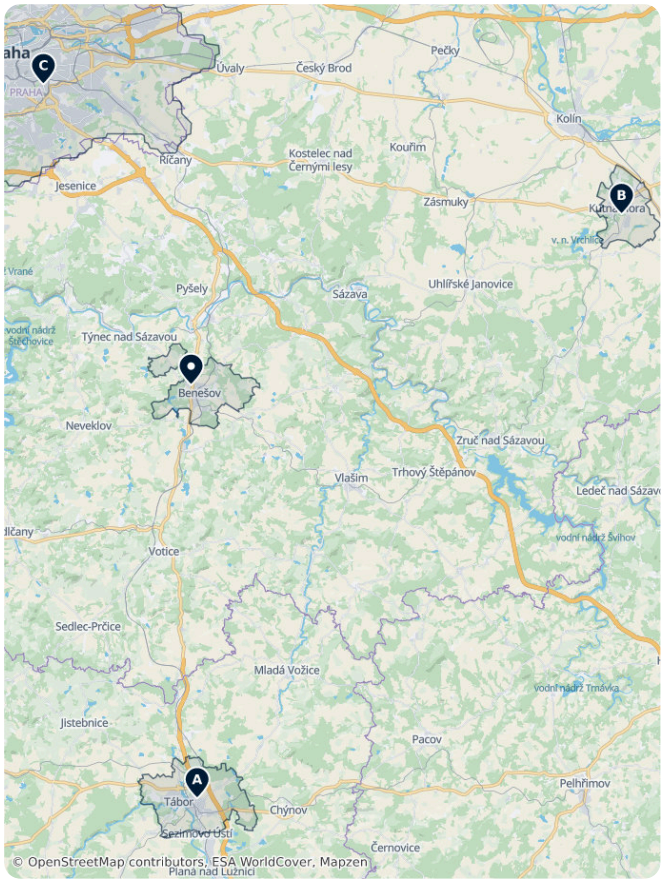
What to experience

A few things worth doing beyond sightseeing:

- **Ride a historic train**: time your visit for the September steam festival, when special steam trains leave from Benešov station.
- **Walk the castle park**: follow the paths around the large pond below the castle and through the woods, where the archduke once hunted.
- **See the rose garden in bloom**: in June the roses are at their peak. In 1914 the German emperor *Wilhelm II* came here to see them, just two weeks before the Sarajevo assassination.

Day trips

Benešov sits on the main railway to southern Bohemia, so many trips work without a car. Closest first:



- **Sázava valley** (≈15 min by car): the river winds through wooded hills north and east of town. Týnec nad Sázavou has a small castle with a round tower above the water.
- **Vlašim** (≈30 min by train or car): a chateau surrounded by a large English-style park with follies and ponds.
- **Český Šternberk** (≈30 min by car): a Gothic castle on a rock high above the Sázava river, still owned by the Sternberg family.
- **Blaník** (≈40 min by car): a wooded hill near Louňovice pod Blaníkem. Czech legend says an army of sleeping knights waits inside it to help the country in its worst hour. A lookout tower stands on the top.
- **A** Tábor (≈1 h by train): the Hussite town has a well-kept old centre and medieval tunnels under the square.
- **B** Kutná Hora (≈1 h by car): a UNESCO World Heritage town with St Barbara's Church and the famous bone chapel in Sedlec.
- **C** Prague (≈45–60 min by train): the capital is close enough for a day in the Old Town and at the castle.

Getting there

- **By air**: Václav Havel Airport Prague is the nearest airport, about 60 km away. Take the Airport Express bus to Praha hlavní nádraží, then change to the train. Allow about 1.5–2 hours. By car it takes around 50 minutes.
- **By train**: Frequent trains run from Praha hlavní nádraží to Benešov u Prahy station. Fast trains take about 45 minutes, and the S9 suburban line just under an hour. The same line continues south to Tábor and České Budějovice. Plan trips with České dráhy.
- **By bus**: Regional buses link Benešov with Prague and nearby towns, but the train is faster for most trips.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre is compact. Konopiště Chateau is about 2 km west of the main square, a 25–30 minute walk.
- **Town buses**: Benešov's town buses are **free for everyone**. No ticket is needed. Check current routes on the town website.
- **Regional trains and buses**: Services around Benešov are part of the Prague integrated system (PID). Use the PID planner and app for tickets and timetables.
- **Cycling**: Cycling is pleasant on quiet roads and forest paths around the castle park and the Sázava valley, but the hills are steep in places.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The centre is compact and flat enough to walk; Konopiště Castle is a 25–30 minute walk from the square, or a short ride on the free town buses.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Quiet roads and forest paths around the castle park and the Sázava valley suit cycling, but expect some steep hills.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for Benešov and Konopiště alone, which are easy to reach by train and on foot. A car helps for castles and hills in the countryside, where buses are infrequent.
- **Parking**: Konopiště has a large paid car park below the castle. In town there is a parking garage at the railway station and paid spaces around the square.
- **Access**: The fastest road from Prague is the D1 motorway to Mirošovice, then road 3 south. The motorway requires an electronic vignette.

Food & drink

Benešov has its own brewery, Pivovar Ferdinand, named after the archduke. Its beer is served in pubs across town, and the brewery has its own pub. It is the best place to try local lager with classic Czech dishes such as roast pork with dumplings or svíčková.

For a meal, the streets around Masarykovo náměstí, the main square, have the most restaurants and cafés. Konopiště has a restaurant and snack stands near the castle for lunch between tours.

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.

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Safety & health

Benešov is a safe, quiet town. Petty crime is rare, but lock your car at busy parking areas near the castle in summer. The main risk is outdoors: ticks are common in the forests and park, so check your skin after walks and consider repellent.

History

The town takes its name from the powerful Benešovic noble family, who founded a monastery here in the 13th century. The Minorite Monastery Ruins and the older Church of Saint Nicholas on Karlov hill are the oldest parts of town you can still see. Hussite troops burned the monastery in 1420, and it was never fully rebuilt after the Thirty Years' War.

Konopiště began as a Gothic castle in the late 13th century. In 1887 Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, bought it and turned it into a modern family residence with electricity, central heating and a lift. He lived here with his wife *Sophie Chotek* and their children. After both were killed in Sarajevo in June 1914, the new Czechoslovak state took over the estate after the war. During the Second World War, the German SS used Benešov and its surroundings as a training area and moved the local people out of many villages.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for the Czech Republic at a glance:

CURRENCY
CZK Kč

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

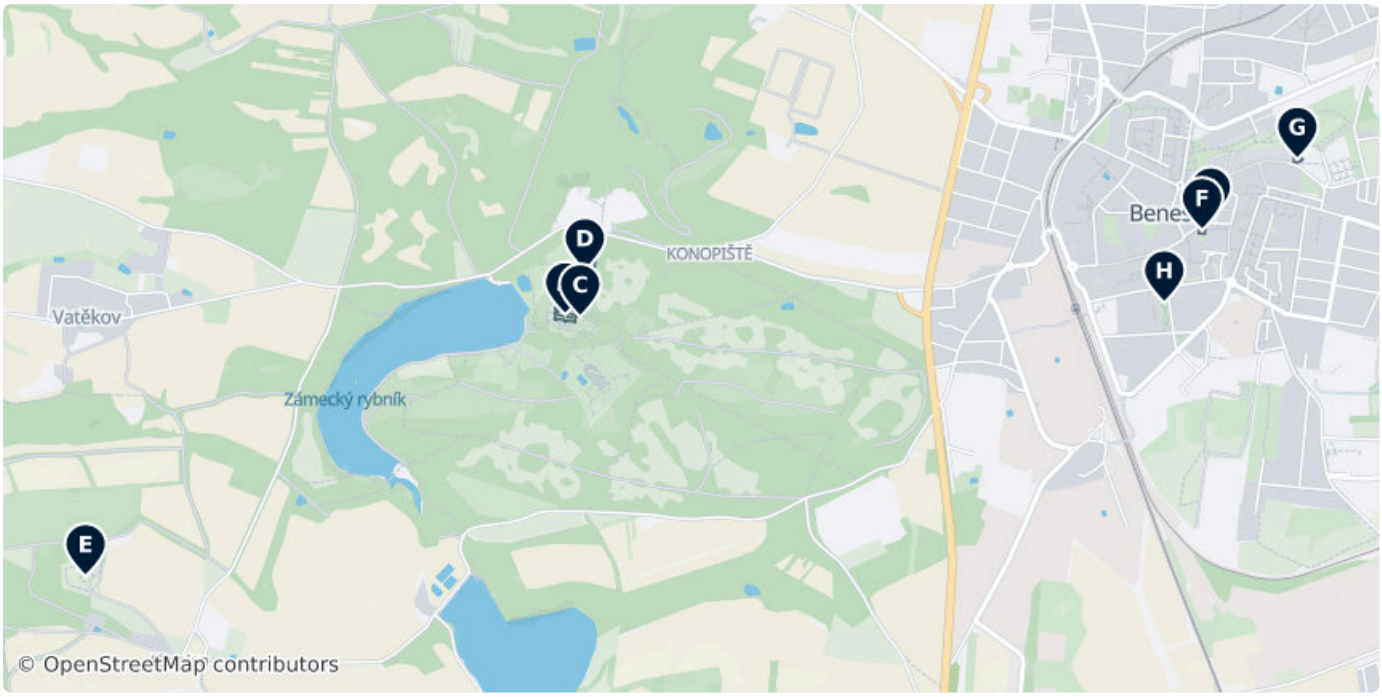
Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Czech

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Benešov Must-Sees

Benešov is centered around the Konopiště Chateau, the former residence of Archduke Franz Ferdinand d'Este, known for its extensive park, bear moat, and fallow deer enclosure. The town's ecclesiastical history is represented by the 13th-century Romanesque-Gothic Church of St. James at Chvojen, the Baroque Church of St. Anne, and the Church of St. Nicholas on Karlov hill. These sites, along with the central square and World War I memorial, illustrate the region's architectural and historical development.





A Konopiště Chateau

Konopiště is a fairytale hunting chateau built in Renaissance-Gothic style with a vast adjacent park.

Konopiště 1, 256 01 Benešov, Czech Republic (49.77958, 14.65653)

zamek-konopiste.cz, +420 317 721 366



B Benešov náměstí

Central tourist information point and guidepost located on the town's main square.

162 Tyršova, Benešov 25601, Czech Republic (49.78271, 14.68954)

C medvědárium

Bear enclosure located in the moat of Konopiště Chateau, traditionally housing Himalayan black bears.

(49.77951, 14.65730)

D obůrka Stará myslivna

Fallow deer park situated within the landscaped grounds of the Konopiště estate.

(49.78104, 14.65753)

Mo–Su Open 24/7



E svatý Jakub

13th-century Romanesque-Gothic church standing on a solitary hill above the Chvojen farmstead.

(Unnamed Road), 25601, Czech Republic
(49.77094, 14.63200)



F Church of Saint Anne

Baroque church in the town center, originally built as part of a Piarist monastery.

2 Masarykovo náměstí, Benešov 25601, Czech Republic
(49.78236, 14.68910)



G Church of Saint Nicholas

Gothic-origin church situated on the prominent Karlov hill overlooking the town.

92 Na Karlově, Benešov 25601, Czech Republic
(49.78471, 14.69397)

farnost-benesov.cz/tag/okrouhlice/

H Padlým v 1. světové válce

Monument dedicated to the local soldiers and victims who fell during World War I.

(49.77997, 14.68716)

DATA SOURCES

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- svatý Jakub — "Chvojen, Czech Republic, District Benešov, Tombstone from 1618 on the outer..." by Gortyna, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Church of Saint Anne — "Benešov" by Draceane, CC BY-SA 4.0
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