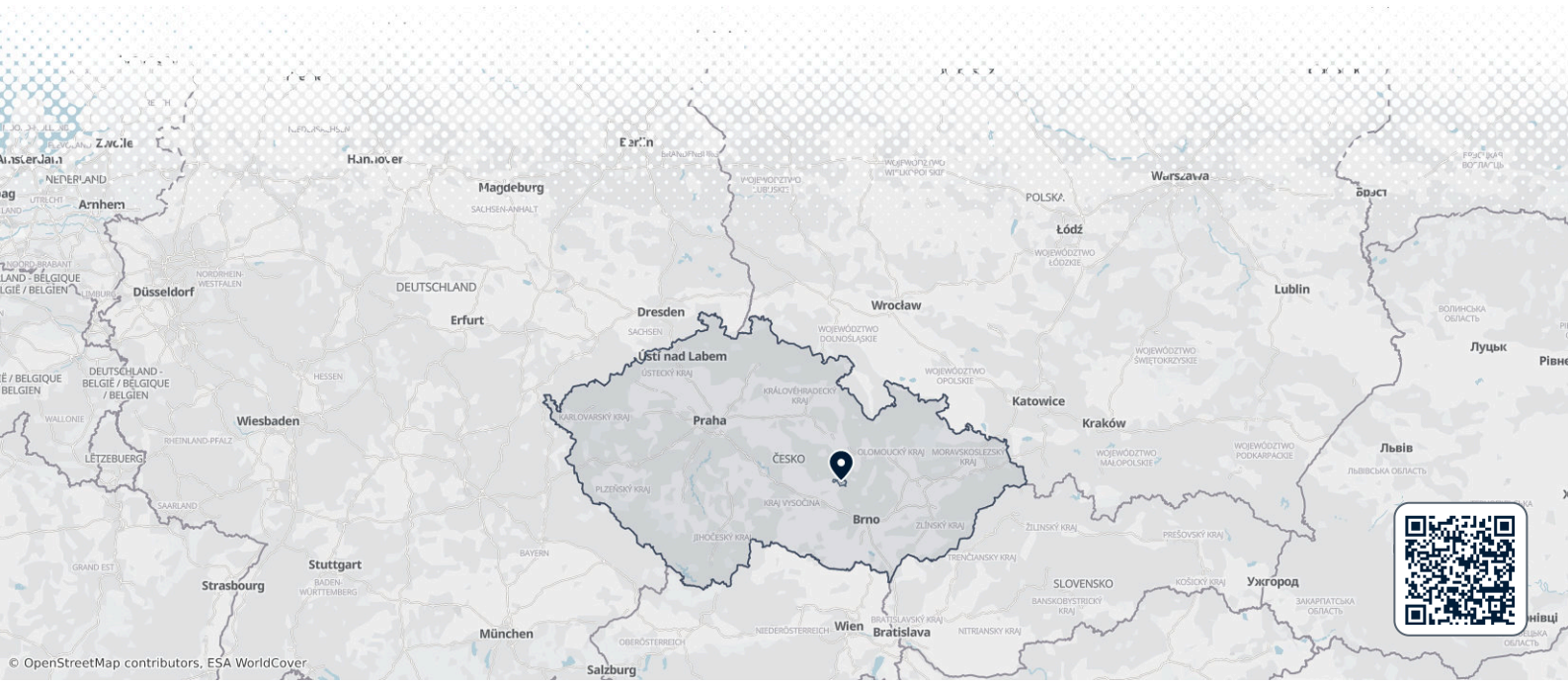


Bystrice nad Pernstejnem

Vysočina Region · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Bystřice nad Pernštejnem is a small, quiet town on the eastern edge of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. It sits in the Vysočina Region, close to the deep Svratka valley and the Vír reservoir. The town itself is compact: a long sloping main square, a Gothic church and a small museum. Most visitors use it as a calm base for castles, forests and lookout towers nearby.

It suits a slow trip of two or three nights. Families come for the farm museum at the edge of town, hikers and cyclists for the marked trails, and castle fans for Pernštejn Castle, about 20 minutes away by car. The writer *Gustav Pfleger Moravský* was born here.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. Summers are mild and pleasant, which suits hiking and cycling. Winters are cold and snowy, with a small ski slope and ice climbing nearby. Many castles and museums in the area close or cut their hours from November to March.

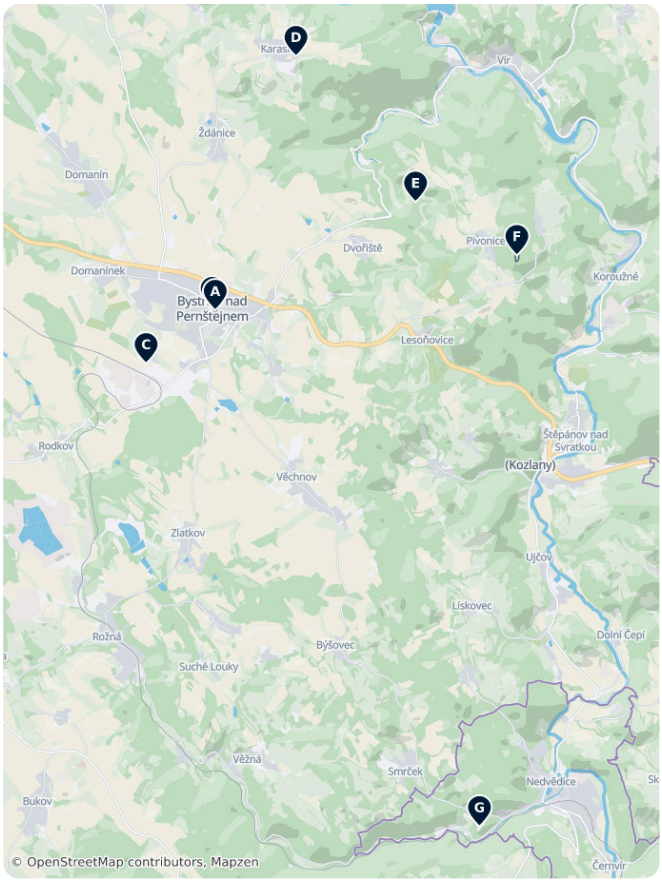
The biggest local event is the St Lawrence fair (Vavřinecká pouť) in August. It honours the patron saint of the parish church and fills the square with a market, music and a weekend of events.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-1° / 7° Feels like -7°	-6° / -15°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 10° Feels like -4°	-5° / -15°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 15° Feels like 1°	-2° / -9°	Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	13° / 20° Feels like 8°	2° / -4°	Dry air
May	Good Good for hiking	17° / 24° Feels like 14°	7° / 2°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 28°	11° / 6°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 30°	13° / 8°	16 rainy days · Dry air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
September	Great Great for hiking	19° / 26° Feels like 16°	8° / 3°	Dry air
October	Good Good for hiking	13° / 20° Feels like 8°	4° / -3°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 13° Feels like 1°	0° / -6°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 6° Feels like -6°	-5° / -14°	Dry air

Best months: June, August

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

Top sights



- A Church of Saint Lawrence dominates the main square. It was first recorded in 1238 and later rebuilt in Gothic and Baroque style.
- On the same square, the Marian plague column from 1727 and the fountain with Saints Cyril and Methodius stand in front of the church.
- B Bystřice Municipal Museum is housed in the former town hall. It covers uranium mining, local crafts, minerals and a historic classroom, and the tourist information centre is on the ground floor.
- C Centrum Eden is a large family attraction on the edge of town. It has a replica highland village, farm animals, a small brewery and an interactive museum about soil.
- D Karasín Lookout Tower stands on Přední skála, the highest hill above the town. On clear days the view reaches far across the highlands.
- E Aueršperk Castle Ruins and F Zubštejn Castle Ruins are two medieval castle ruins in the woods east of town. Both make easy half-day walks.
- G Pernštejn Castle is the most famous sight in the area. This large Gothic castle rises on a rock above the Svratka valley near Nedvědice, about 20 minutes by car.

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What to experience

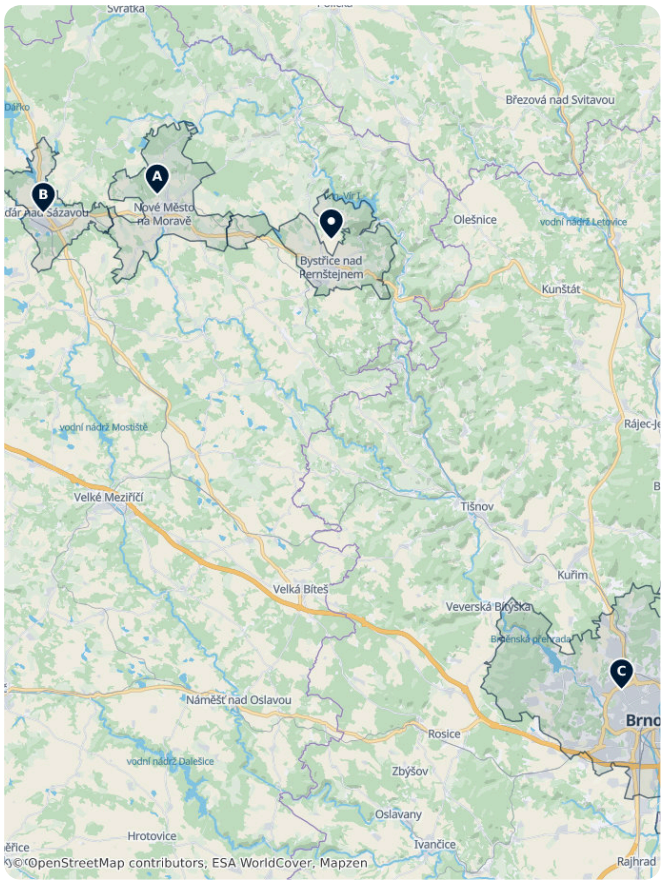
Most things to do here are outdoors and depend on the season.

- **Climb a via ferrata above Vír**: two short, family-level routes on the rocks near the Vír dam give views over the reservoir. Rental gear is available on site.
- **Try ice climbing in winter**: a rock face near Vír is iced over every cold winter and used as an ice climbing training ground.
- **Ski or sledge at Karasín**: in snowy winters, the small slope next to the lookout tower is popular with local families.
- **Cycle along the Vír reservoir**: a path on the shore of the lake runs towards Dalečín through the forested Svratka valley.
- **Join the St Lawrence fair**: in August the square fills with market stalls, music and a local celebration.

Day trips

Nearby towns, castles and river valleys are all within an hour.

- **Vír reservoir and the Svratka valley** (≈15 min by car or bus): a large dam lake in a forested valley. Swimming is not allowed because it supplies drinking water, but a cycling path follows the shore.
- Svojanov Castle (≈25 min by car): a royal castle founded in the 13th century, with Gothic and Empire rooms.
- A Nové Město na Moravě (≈20 min by car): a small town known for cross-country skiing and biathlon, with forests and rock outcrops of the Žďár Hills nearby.
- B Žďár nad Sázavou (≈35 min by car or train): home to the Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- C Brno (≈1 h by car, ≈1.5 h by train): Moravia's largest city, with museums, cafés and the functionalist Villa Tugendhat.



Where to explore

Bystřice nad Pernštejnem belongs to Vysočina Region, a green upland region of forests, ponds and small historic towns.

For nearby bases in the same hills, look at Nové Město na Moravě to the west and Žďár nad Sázavou further west. Brno is the nearest large city.

Getting there

- **By air**: the practical gateways are Prague Airport (PRG) and Vienna Airport (VIE). From both, continue by train or car via Brno; allow about 3 to 4 hours by public transport from either. Brno–Tuřany Airport (BRQ) has only a few seasonal flights.
- **By train**: Bystřice lies on the regional line between Žďár nad Sázavou and Tišnov. From Brno, change trains in Tišnov; the trip takes roughly 1.5 hours. Tickets are sold at stations, in the České dráhy app and on board.
- **By bus**: regional buses link the town with Nové Město na Moravě, Žďár nad Sázavou and nearby villages.

Getting around

- **In town**: the centre is compact and easy to explore on foot. There is no city transit network worth using.
- **Regional buses and trains**: buses reach Vír and the Svratka valley; the train stops at Nedvědice for Pernštejn Castle. Check times in advance, as weekend services are sparse. Plan journeys with the IDOS journey planner.
- **Cycling and walking**: marked hiking and cycling routes start right from town. Expect hills in every direction.
- **Local information**: the tourist centre in the museum building has maps and trail tips. See the Bystřice tourist portal.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The compact centre around the main square is easy to walk; nearby sights need a car, bus or bike.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Marked cycling routes start from town, but the terrain is hilly in every direction.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: yes, if you want to see more than the town. Buses and trains to castles and valleys are infrequent, especially at weekends.
- **Parking**: park on or near the main square and at the larger sights. Check signs for time limits in the centre.
- **Roads**: the main road through town is the I/19. Local roads are narrow and winding, and snow is common in winter, so drive carefully from November to March.

Food & drink

Food here is hearty Czech highland cooking: potato dishes, dumplings, roast meats and game. Mushroom dishes are common in late summer and autumn, when locals pick mushrooms in the forests.

For a distinctive meal, go to Centrum Eden, which has a restaurant and its own small brewery. Otherwise, the cafés and restaurants around the main square are the easiest choice.

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

Bystřice nad Pernštejnem is very safe, and petty crime aimed at tourists is rare. The main risks are outdoors: ticks in forests and meadows from spring to autumn, and icy roads and paths in winter. Use tick repellent and check your skin after walks. Tap water is safe to drink.

History

The town grew around Church of Saint Lawrence, first mentioned in 1238. In the 15th century it passed to the powerful Pernštejn family, who owned Pernštejn Castle. The town's name still refers to their castle. Under their rule it gained market and brewing rights. In 1580 Emperor *Rudolf II* raised it to the status of a town.

Fires hit the town several times. The worst, in 1841, destroyed the church and more than a hundred houses. A railway arrived in 1905. From the late 1950s, uranium mining at nearby Dolní Rožínka brought new jobs and housing. The Rožná mine, the last uranium mine in central Europe, stopped mining in 2017; its story is told in Bystřice Municipal Museum. The ruins of Zubštejn Castle Ruins and Aueršperk Castle Ruins recall the older medieval castles that once guarded the area.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for the Czech Republic at a glance:

CURRENCY
CZK Kč

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

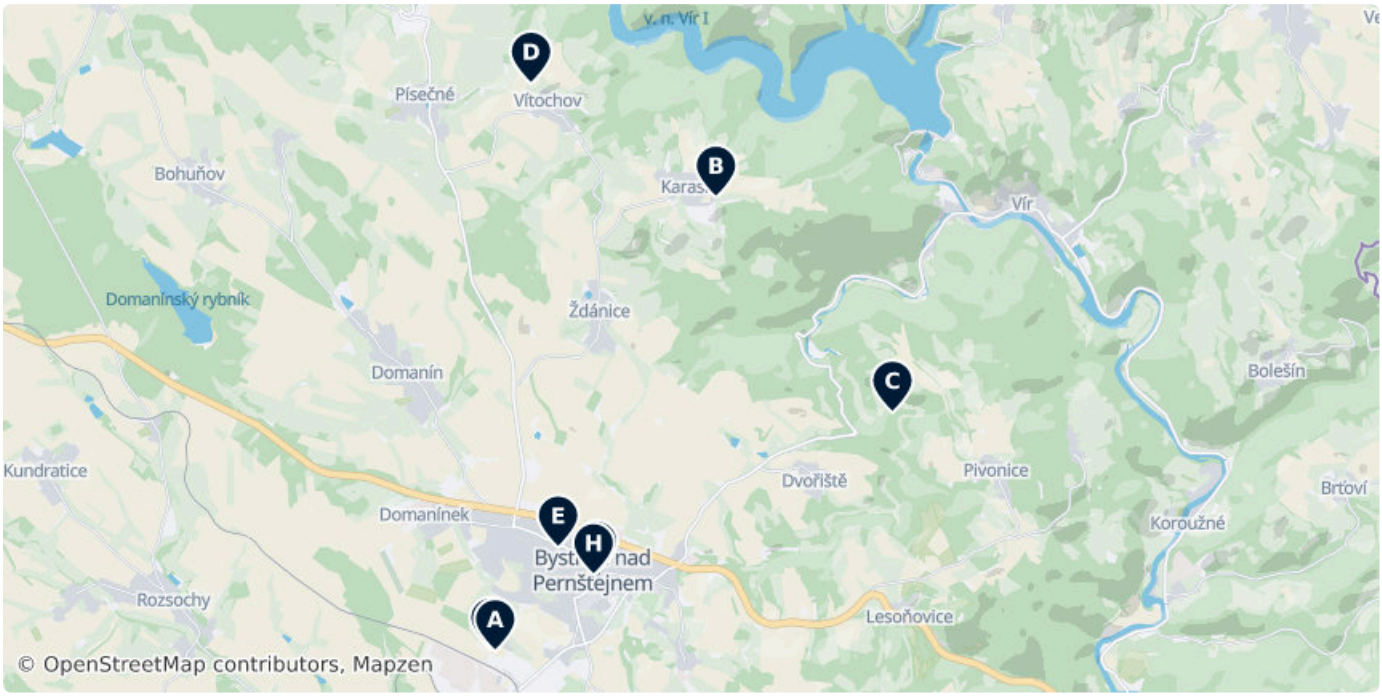
Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Czech

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Bystřice nad Pernštejnem Unmissables

Bystřice nad Pernštejnem offers a mix of historical architecture and recreational sites. The Eden Centre features a reconstructed farm and microbrewery, while the surrounding landscape is marked by the medieval ruins of Aueršperk castle. Religious heritage includes the ancient St. Michael the Archangel church in Vítochov and the centrally located St. Lawrence church. For views, the Karasín observation tower stands at 704 meters on Přední skála. The town also hosts an outdoor amphitheater and a maze.





A brewery Eden Centre

Restored historical farm with many related exhibitions including a replica of a historic village, a cider house and a micro brewery.

Nový dvůr 318, Bystřice nad Pernštejnem, 593 01
(49.51542, 16.24690)

centrumeden.cz



B Karasín Observation Tower

Observation tower situated at 704 meters above sea level on the slope of Přední skála hill.

(Unnamed Road), 59301, Czech Republic
(49.55820, 16.27904)

karasin.cz



C Aueršperk

Ruins of a medieval castle located northwest of Dvořiště in the Žďár nad Sázavou district.

59301, Czech Republic (49.53792, 16.30468)



D svatého Michaela archanděla

One of the oldest Roman Catholic churches in the region, situated on a hill above Vítochov at an altitude of 626 meters.

(Unnamed Road), 59301, Czech Republic (49.56894, 16.25212)

E Nejsvětější Trojice

Roman Catholic cemetery church located on Novoměstská Street.

995 Novoměstská, Bystřice nad Pernštejnem 59301, Czech Republic (49.52521, 16.25606)



F Church of Saint Lawrence

Roman Catholic parish church located in the center of the town.

994 Masarykovo náměstí, Bystřice nad Pernštejnem 59301, Czech Republic (49.52283, 16.26173)

G Bludiště

Outdoor maze.

(49.51558, 16.24625)

H amfiteatr

Outdoor amphitheater used for cultural events and theatrical performances.

(49.52260, 16.26124)

DATA SOURCES

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