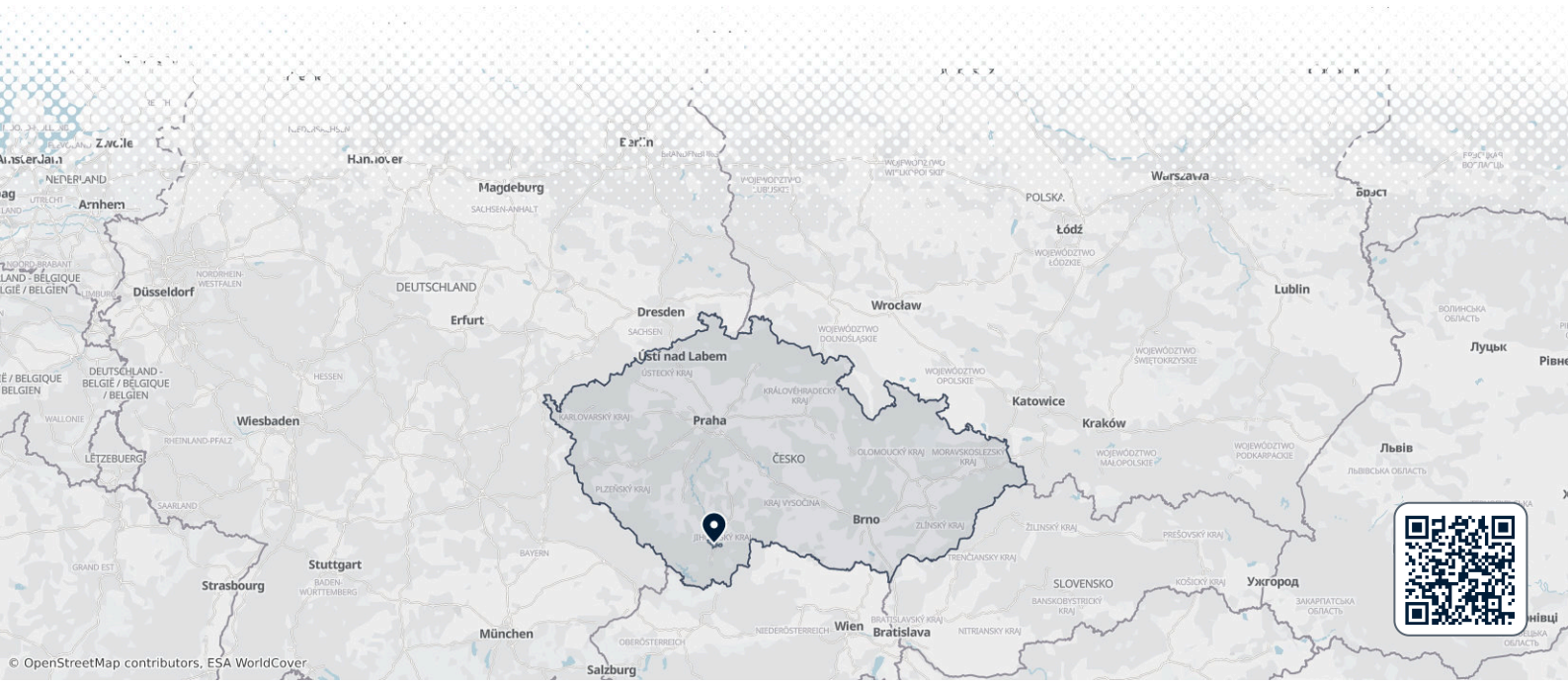


České Budějovice

Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

České Budějovice is the largest city in South Bohemia and the region's main hub. King *Přemysl Otakar II* founded it in 1265 as a royal town, and its street grid still centers on a huge arcaded square. The city is best known worldwide as the home of Budweiser Budvar beer.

For visitors it works well as a calm, low-key base. The old town is small, flat, and easy to walk. From here you can reach a famous château, a UNESCO village, and the town of Český Krumlov on easy day trips.

When to visit

The best window is late spring to early autumn, roughly May through September. Summer days are warm but rarely uncomfortable, and evenings on the square are pleasant. Winter is cold with frequent frost, though the Advent market on the main square brings it to life.

The city's biggest annual event is Země živitelka, a large agricultural fair held at the exhibition grounds in late August. For a quieter trip, come in June or September.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor	2° / 9° Feels like -4°	-5° / -13°	Dry air
February	Poor	4° / 12° Feels like -1°	-3° / -13°	Dry air
March	Poor	9° / 17° Feels like 4°	-1° / -7°	Dry air
April	Fair	15° / 23° Feels like 11°	3° / -3°	Dry air
May	Good	19° / 27°	8° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good	24° / 31°	12° / 7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good	25° / 32°	14° / 9°	16 rainy days
August	Great	25° / 33°	14° / 9°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Great	20° / 28°	10° / 4°	Dry air
October	Fair	15° / 23° Feels like 12°	5° / -1°	Dry air
November	Poor	8° / 16° Feels like 4°	1° / -5°	Dry air
December	Poor	3° / 9° Feels like -2°	-3° / -11°	Dry air

Best months: August, September

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

Top sights

Ⓐ Náměstí Přemysla Otakara II is the heart of the city and one of the largest squares in Central Europe, ringed by arcaded townhouses and a Baroque town hall.

At its center stands Ⓑ Samsonova kašna, a large Baroque fountain from the 1720s that once supplied the city's water.

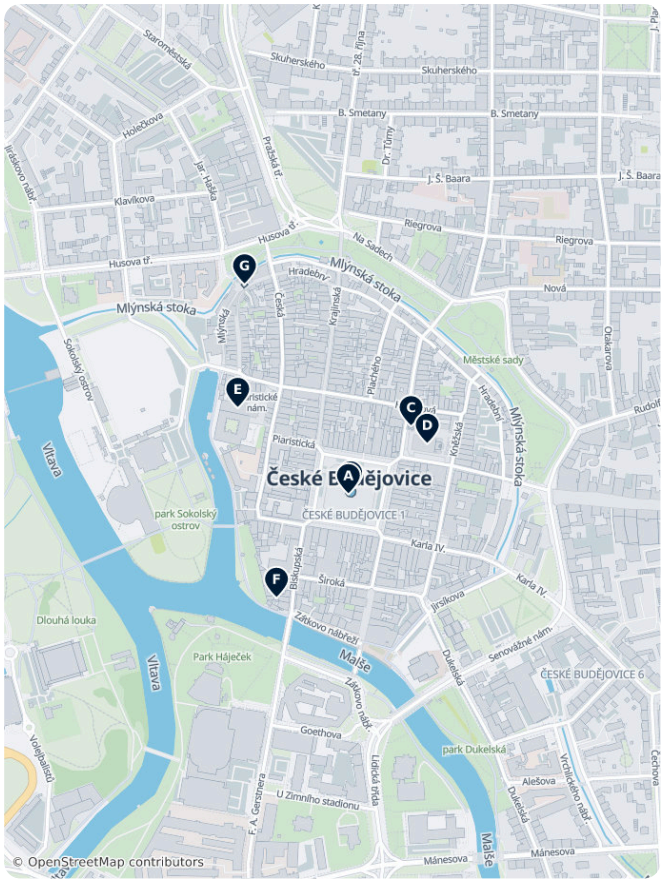
C Černá věž is the tall Renaissance bell tower beside the square; climb its steps for a wide view over the old town.

Next to it, D Katedrála svatého Mikuláše is the city's Baroque cathedral, paired with that free-standing tower.

E Obětování Panny Marie stands on Piarist Square and belongs to the former Dominican monastery, the oldest building complex in the city.

F Železná panna is a stout tower left from the medieval walls that later served as a prison.

G Rabenštejnská věž is another surviving fortification tower, tucked into the streets on the northern edge of the old town.



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What to experience

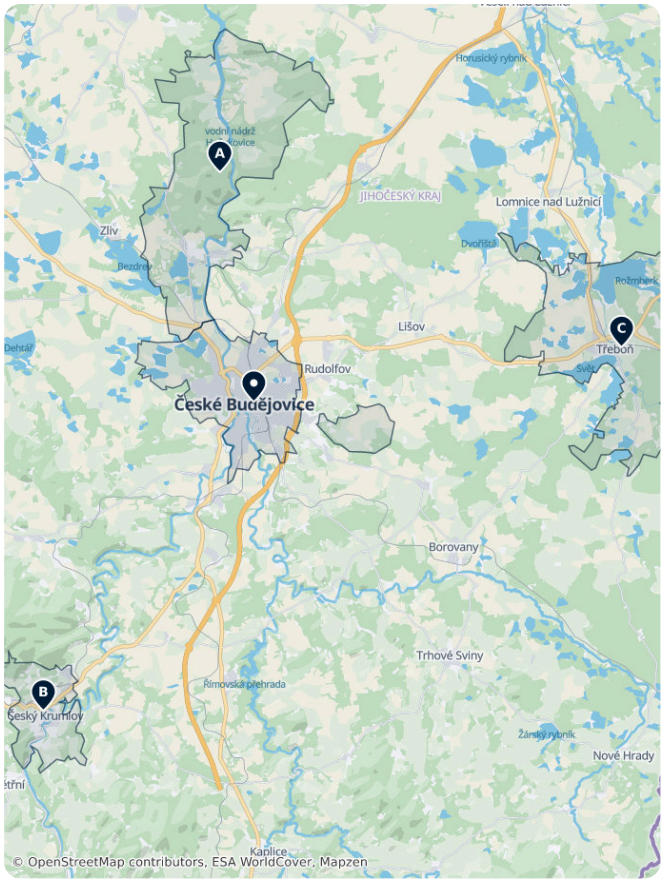
České Budějovice rewards slow, local moments. A few to try:

- Take a paddleboat or small boat onto the Vltava and Malše rivers in summer, right beside the old town.
- Find the bludný kámen, a marked stone set into the main square. Local legend says anyone who steps on it after 10 p.m. will wander the streets lost until dawn.
- Browse the Advent market stalls on the main square through December.
- Walk or cycle the riverside greenery of Stromovka and follow the Vltava path out of town.

Day trips

Most of the region's sights are close, so day trips are easy. A few worth the ride:

- A Hluboká nad Vltavou — about 10 km north, 15–20 min by train or bus. A white neo-Gothic château modeled on England's Windsor Castle, with gardens and a gallery.
- Holašovice — about 15 km west, roughly 25 min by car. A UNESCO-listed village of preserved rural Baroque farmhouses set around a pond.
- B Český Krumlov — about 25 km south, 45 min by bus. A UNESCO old town wrapped in a river bend below a large castle.
- C Třeboň — about 25 km east, roughly 30 min by bus. A Renaissance spa town among historic fishponds, good for walking and cycling.



Getting there

- By air: There is no airport with scheduled service in the city. Most visitors fly into Prague (airport code PRG, about 150 km away) and continue by train or bus in roughly 2 to 2.5 hours. Vienna and Linz airports are alternatives from the south.
- By train: Direct trains run from Prague in about 2 to 2.5 hours. The city also sits on the line to Linz in Austria, with links to Plzeň. Trains are run by Czech Railways.
- By bus: Frequent coaches serve Prague (about 2.5 hours) and there is a quick, popular link to Český Krumlov (about 45 min).

Getting around

- Public transit: City buses and trolleybuses are run by DPMČB. Buy single tickets from the driver, from ticket machines, or through the transit app. For most visitors the center is small enough that you will rarely need them. Official info: DPMČB. National trains: Czech Railways.
- On foot: The historic core is compact and flat, so almost everything is a short walk.
- Cycling: Flat ground and riverside paths make cycling easy, including the route north toward Hluboká.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and flat, so almost everything is within a short walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

Flat ground and riverside paths make the city and nearby villages easy to reach by bike.

Driving

- Is a car worth it? Not for the city itself, which is easily walkable. A car mainly helps for reaching Holašovice and smaller villages; Hluboká, Český Krumlov, and Třeboň are all simple by bus or train.
- Parking: Central streets are paid, zoned, and often full. It is easier to use a car park or park-and-ride at the edge of the center and walk in.
- Restrictions: The historic core has restricted and partly pedestrian access, so do not plan to drive up to the square.

Food & drink

South Bohemia is fish country, so look for carp and other freshwater fish, especially around Christmas. But the city's real specialty is beer. Budvar návštěvnické centrum is the home of Budweiser Budvar, and České Budějovice is the original "Budweiser" — the source of a long trademark dispute with the American brand. An older brewery, Budweiser Bürgerbräu, also brewed here.

Most of the good eating and drinking clusters in the arcades around the main square and the streets just off it. The historic **Masné krámy**, a former medieval meat market turned beer hall, is a local institution for hearty Czech food and Budvar on tap.

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

České Budějovice is a calm, safe city, and crime affecting visitors is rare. Normal care with your belongings in crowds and around the train station is enough. Tap water is safe to drink, and there are no particular tourist scams to watch for.

History

The city was founded in 1265 by King *Přemysl Otakar II* as a royal town to anchor his power in the south. Its regular grid and the vast central Náměstí Přemysla Otakara II still follow that medieval plan.

Wealth came from the salt trade, silver, and later brewing. Černá věž and surviving gate towers like Železná panna recall the fortified town of that era.

In 1832 the region completed one of continental Europe's first horse-drawn railways, running from here toward Linz. Large-scale brewing followed, and Budweiser Budvar was founded in 1895.

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

Walks

Audio Guides by Tripomatic
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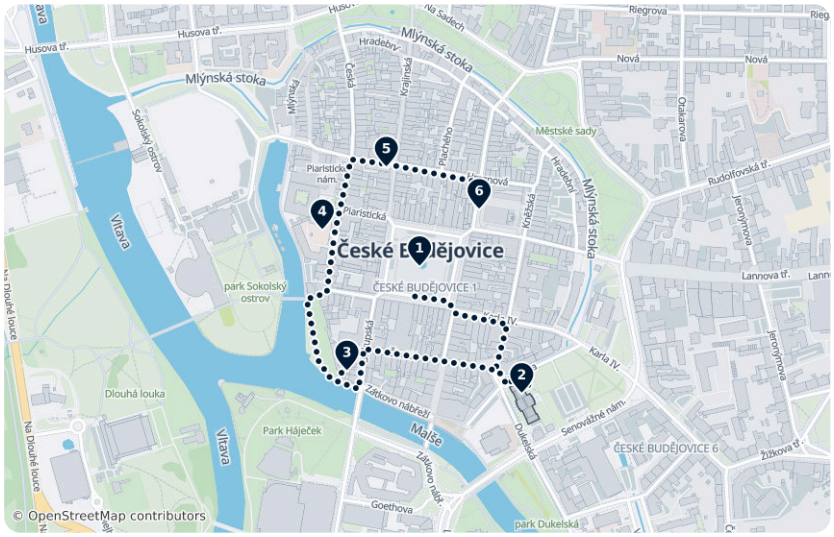
Best of České Budějovice

55min · 1.4 km · 6 stops



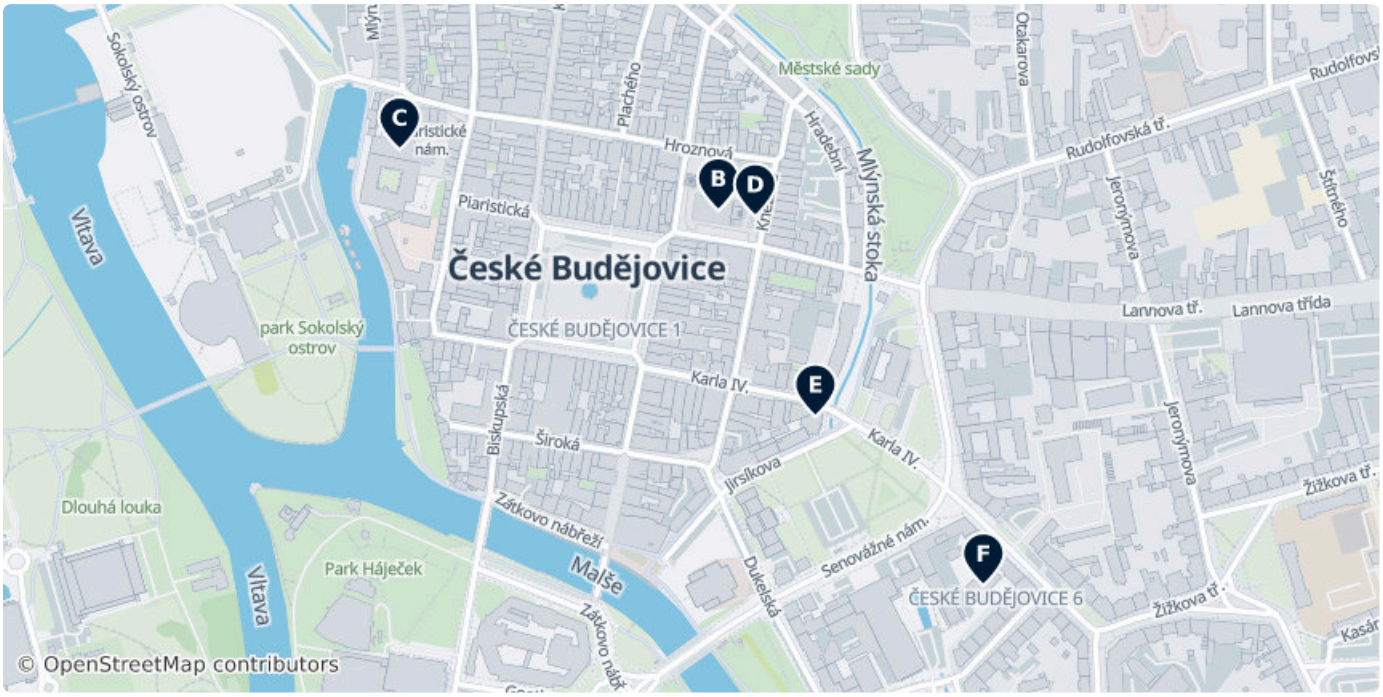
1. Přemysl Otakar II Square
2. South Bohemian Museum
3. Iron Maiden Tower
4. Dominican Monastery and the Salt House
5. Masné krámy, the Old Meat Market
6. The Black Tower and Saint Nicholas Cathedral

Walk the royal town that King Přemysl Otakar II founded in 1265 to keep the powerful lords of South Bohemia in check. From one of the largest squares in Central Europe, with its Baroque Samson Fountain and a stone you should not step on, the tour loops through the compact old town: the South Bohemian Museum, a surviving tower of the medieval walls by the river, the Dominican monastery and the Renaissance salt house, the old meat market, and finally the Black Tower beside St Nicholas Cathedral. It starts on the main square, a short walk from the train and bus stations.



Historic Catholic Landmarks

This collection highlights six prominent Roman Catholic sites in České Budějovice, showcasing a range of architectural styles from Gothic to Neo-Gothic. Included are notable cathedrals, churches, and chapels that reflect the city's rich religious history and cultural heritage, such as the Cathedral of St Nicholas and the Church of the Sacrifice of the Virgin Mary.





A Cathedral of St Nicholas, České Budějovice

The Cathedral of St Nicholas is a Roman Catholic cathedral located in the city of České Budějovice in the Czech Republic.

6 Kanovnická, České Budějovice 37001, Czech Republic (48.97526, 14.47606)



B Church of St. Nicholas

The Cathedral of St Nicholas is a Roman Catholic cathedral located in the city of České Budějovice in the Czech Republic.

Kanovnická, Budweis, Jihozápad, CZ (48.97526, 14.47605)



C Virgin Mary Church

Church of the Sacrifice of the Virgin Mary is a church located on Piaristic square in České Budějovice, Czech Republic.

Piaristické nám. 149/1, Budweis, Jihozápad, CZ (48.97579, 14.47178)



D Kaple Smrtelných úzkostí

Small chapel dedicated to mortal anxieties, located in the city center.

16 Kněžská, České Budějovice 37001, Czech Republic (48.97521, 14.47654)



E Kostel Svaté rodiny

Neo-Gothic church built between 1886 and 1888, part of a monastery and orphanage complex.

(48.97345, 14.47735)

studentskykostel.com



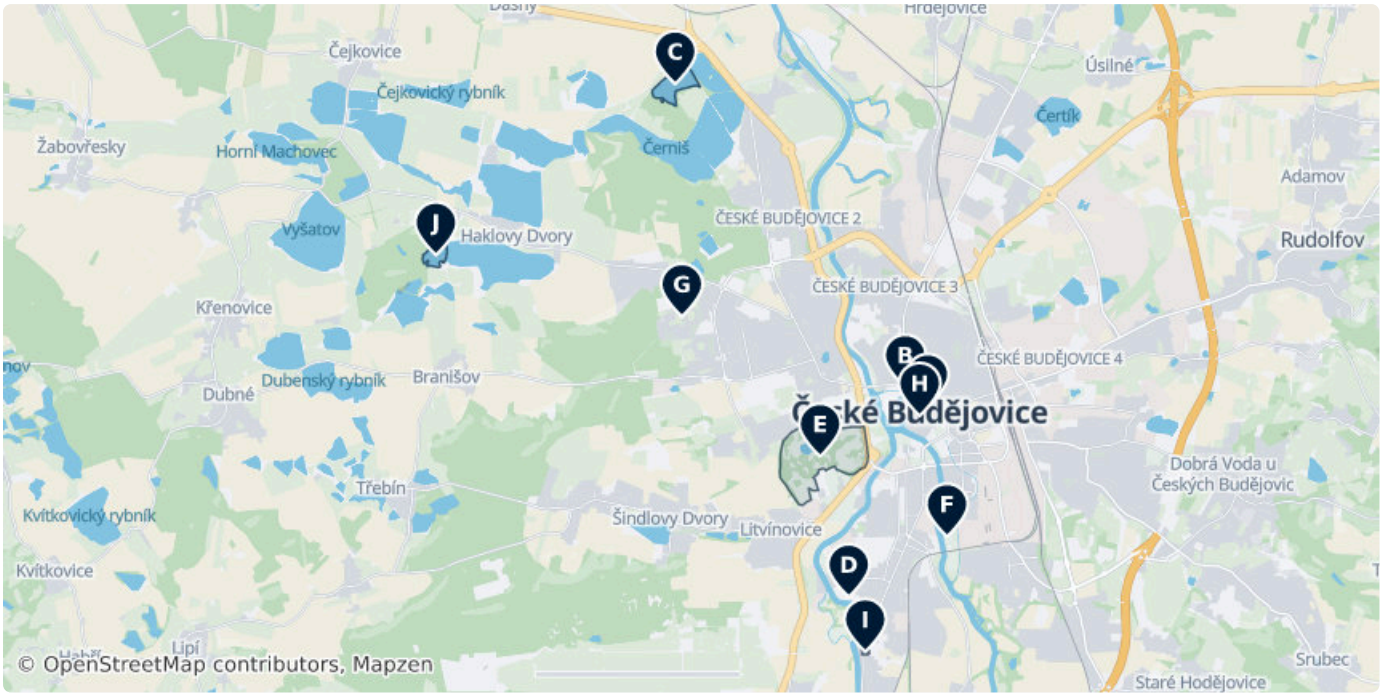
F Panny Marie Růžencové

252/13 U Tří lvů, České Budějovice 37001, Czech Republic (48.97196, 14.47960)

petrini.cz

Hidden Natural & Cultural Gems

Explore a curated selection of lesser-known sites around České Budějovice, including historic towers from the 16th century, tranquil natural ponds, open-access parks, and culturally significant landmarks such as Baroque fountains and accessible playgrounds. These locations offer insights into the region's heritage and natural environment beyond the main tourist routes.





A Black Tower

Black Tower is a well-known 16th century tower in České Budějovice, Czech Republic.

U Černé věže 70/2, Budweis, Jihozápad, CZ (48.97552, 14.47568)

budejce.cz/aktivity/2-cerna-vez



B Rabenštejnská Tower

Historic tower located on Panská street within the protected urban monument zone of České Budějovice.

Na Mlýnské stoce 282/11, Budweis, Jihozápad, CZ (48.97762, 14.47193)

budejce.cz/aktivity/33-rabenstejnska-vez

C Starý vrbenský rybník

Natural pond situated northeast of the city center, part of the local aquatic ecosystem.

37011, Czech Republic (49.01066, 14.43374)

D Meteor

Comprehensive sports complex offering facilities for various athletic activities.

(48.95481, 14.46256)



E Stromovka

Public park open 24/7, featuring green spaces suitable for leisure and outdoor activities.

722/9 Stromovka, České Budějovice 37001, Czech Republic (48.97012, 14.45779)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

budejce.cz/aktivity/46-park-stromovka, +420386801413

F Malý jez

Park area accessible at all hours, providing a quiet natural environment within the city.

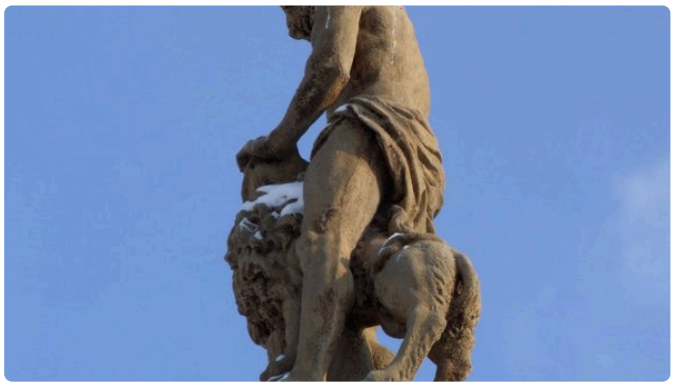
(Unnamed Road), České Budějovice 37001, Czech Republic (48.96138, 14.47886)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

G Hřiště Máj V. Volfa

Accessible playground designed for children's recreation and community use.

(48.98535, 14.43484)



H Samson Fountain

Baroque fountain created between 1721 and 1726, located on the main square of Budweis.

24 náměstí Přemysla Otakara II., České Budějovice 37001, Czech Republic (48.97455, 14.47433)

I náměstí Bratří Čapků

Urban square serving as a public gathering space within České Budějovice.

1267/10 náměstí Bratří Čapků, České Budějovice 37007, Czech Republic (48.94884, 14.46528)

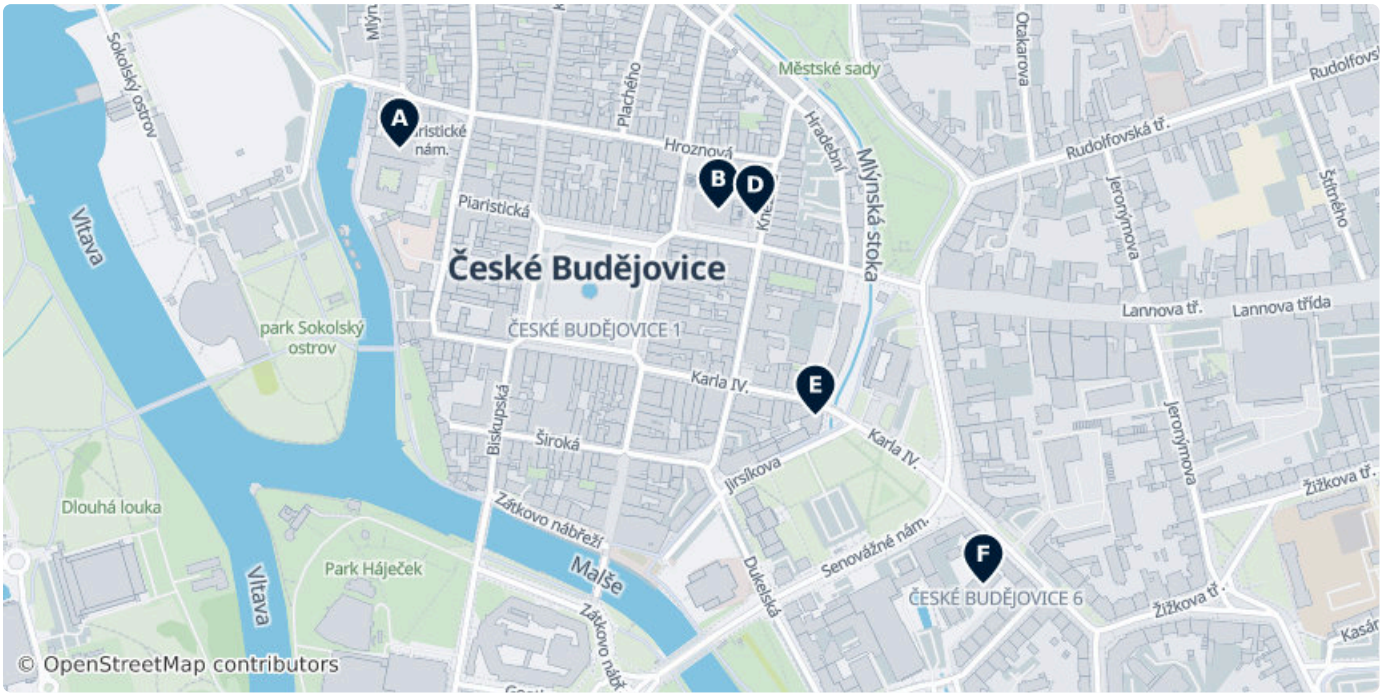
J Dubský rybník

Pond located west of the city, contributing to the region's natural water landscape.

37005, Czech Republic (48.99204, 14.39403)

Historic Churches & Cathedrals

This collection features six prominent Roman Catholic religious sites in České Budějovice, including historic churches and cathedrals with notable Gothic and Neo-Gothic architectural styles. Highlights include the Cathedral of St Nicholas and the neo-Gothic Kostel Svaté rodiny, reflecting the city's rich spiritual and architectural heritage.





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D Kaple Smrtelných úzkostí

A small chapel located in the city center, serving as a place of Christian worship.

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Neo-Gothic church built between 1886 and 1888, part of a monastery and orphanage complex.

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