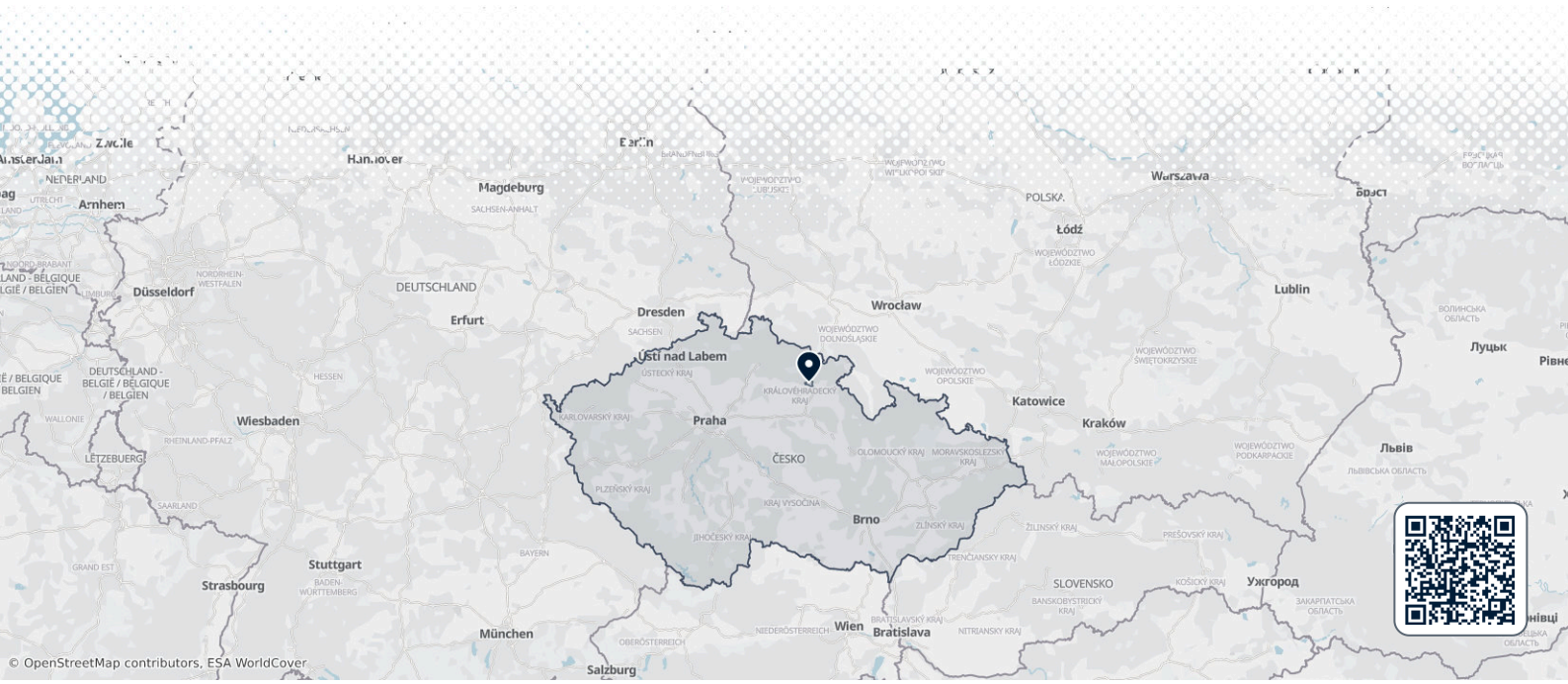


Dvůr Králové nad Labem

Hradec Králové Region · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Dvůr Králové nad Labem is a small town on the Elbe River in north-east Bohemia, between the lowlands and the Krkonoše Mountains. Most visitors come for one reason: the Safari Park, the largest collection of African animals in Europe. It is a popular trip for families.

The town itself is quiet and easy to explore in a few hours. It has a compact historic square, a tall Gothic church and a story about a famous forged manuscript. It also makes a practical base for the Baroque sights of Kuks and for trips into the mountains. Plan one full day for the Safari Park and one or two days for the surroundings.

When to visit

Summer is warm and is the main season. Spring and autumn are mild and quieter. Winter is cold, often with some snow.

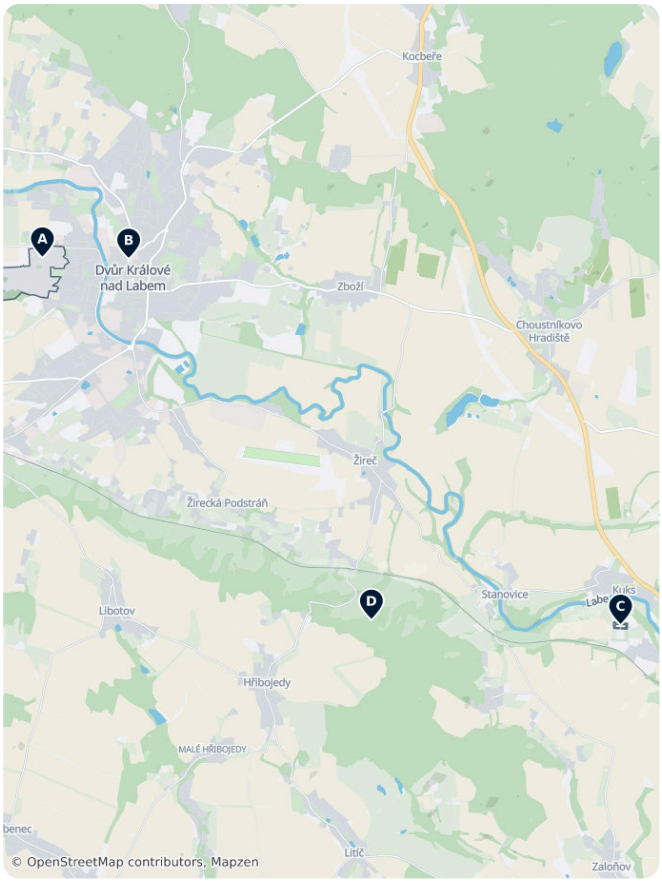
Time your visit for the **safari season from May to the end of September**. Only then do the safari buses and the drive-through safari run. In July and August there are also evening safaris every day, when many animals are more active. The zoo itself is open all year, but in winter you see only the walk-through part.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 7° Feels like -5°	-5° / -15°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 10° Feels like -3°	-4° / -14°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 15° Feels like 3°	-1° / -8°	13 rainy days · Dry air
April	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	13° / 21° Feels like 10°	3° / -3°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25°	8° / 3°	15 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 29°	12° / 7°	15 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	14° / 10°	17 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	14° / 9°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	9° / 4°	Dry air
October	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	14° / 21° Feels like 10°	5° / -1°	12 rainy days · Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 14° Feels like 2°	1° / -5°	12 rainy days · Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 8° Feels like -4°	-3° / -13°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: August

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

Top sights



A Safari Park Dvůr Králové is the reason most people come. It covers about 72 hectares and focuses on African animals such as giraffes, rhinos, lions and antelopes. In summer you can explore the savanna by safari bus or in your own car. It is the only zoo in the world where northern white rhinos have been born.

B Church of St. John the Baptist rises above the old town with its tall tower. The Gothic church is linked to the town's most famous story: in 1817 the so-called Manuscript of Dvůr Králové was "found" here.

The main square, náměstí T. G. Masaryka, has the Old Town Hall and a Baroque Marian column. Nearby stands the Šindelářská Tower, the only surviving gate tower of the old town walls. It is 20 metres tall and leans slightly against the next house.

C Kuks Hospital, about 7 km south-east, is a large Baroque complex and a national cultural monument. Its terrace carries copies of *Matthias Bernard Braun*'s famous statues of the Virtues and Vices. Inside you can visit an old pharmacy and the church.

D Braun's Bethlehem is a set of Baroque sculptures carved straight into rocks in the forest near Kuks. Scenes such as the Nativity and hermits hide among the trees, with a short trail between them.

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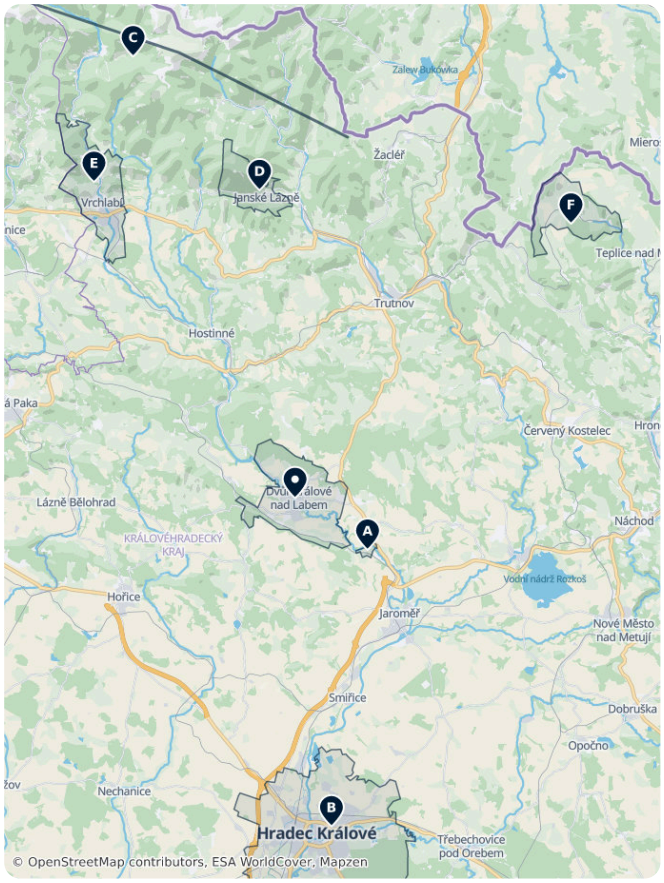
What to experience

Some experiences here are unique to the Safari Park and the Baroque landscape around the town.

- **Evening safari**: In July and August, safari buses also run in the evening. You see the savanna animals at dusk, when many of them are more active.
- **Drive-through safari**: In summer you can drive your own car through the savanna section of Safari Park Dvůr Králové while animals move around you.
- **Forest sculpture walk**: Follow the trail through the woods to Braun's Bethlehem and look for the figures carved into the rocks. The walk is quiet and shaded, and good on a hot summer day.

Day trips

The town sits close to several very different day trips, from Baroque art to mountains and rock towns.



- A Kuks: about 7 km, 10 minutes by car or one stop by train. Visit the Baroque hospital and the forest sculptures nearby.
- Josefov fortress in Jaroměř: about 15 km, 20 minutes by car or train. An 18th-century fortress town with long underground tunnels.
- B Hradec Králové: about 30 km, 30–45 minutes by car or train. The regional capital has a historic centre and notable 20th-century architecture.
- C Krkonoše: about 35–45 km, 45–60 minutes by car to D Janské Lázně or E Vrchlabí. The Czech Republic's highest mountains, good for hiking in summer and skiing in winter.
- F Adršpach: about 45 km, around 1 hour by car. The Adršpach-Teplice Rocks are a labyrinth of tall sandstone towers with marked trails.

Where to explore

For Baroque art, Kuks is only a short trip away. Hradec Králové is the nearest large city and the main transport hub.

Heading north, Trutnov is the gateway to Krkonoše, with mountain resorts such as Janské Lázně and Vrchlabí.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest major airport is Prague Václav Havel Airport (PRG), about 150 km away. From there, travel into Prague and continue by bus or train. Pardubice Airport has only limited seasonal flights.
- **By bus**: Direct buses from Prague (Černý Most) take about 2 hours 20 minutes. The bus station is about 5 minutes on foot from the centre.
- **By train**: From Prague, the trip takes about 2 hours 20 minutes with one change in Pardubice or Jaroměř. The railway station is about 3 km from the centre.
- **By car**: Prague is about 1 hour 45 minutes away, mostly via the D11 motorway. Hradec Králové is about 30 minutes away.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The historic centre is small and walkable. The Safari Park is about 1 km west of the main square, a walk of 15–20 minutes.
- **Public transport**: Local buses link the railway station with the centre. Regional buses and trains reach Kuks, Jaroměř and Hradec Králové. Check times on IDOS journey planner and buy train tickets from České dráhy.
- **Cycling**: Cycling is practical on the quiet roads and paths along the Elbe, and useful for reaching Kuks.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The compact centre and the Safari Park are within walking distance; the railway station is 3 km out.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Quiet roads and riverside paths make cycling practical, including to Kuks.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not needed for the town and the Safari Park. A car is useful for Kuks, the mountains and the rock towns, as buses there are less frequent.
- **Parking**: The Safari Park has its own large car park. In the centre, use the paid parking around the main square and nearby streets.
- **Motorway vignette**: The D11 motorway from Prague requires an electronic vignette.

Food & drink

Food here is traditional Czech: roast pork with dumplings and cabbage, goulash, fried cheese and fresh local beer. Portions are large and prices are lower than in Prague.

The easiest place to eat is the main square, náměstí T. G. Masaryka, and the streets around it, where most restaurants and cafés are. On a Safari Park day, plan to eat inside the park, as it is some distance from the centre.

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

Dvůr Králové is a very safe small town with little crime. Normal care with your belongings is enough. Tap water is safe to drink.

In the Safari Park, follow the staff rules in the drive-through safari. Keep windows closed and never leave your car. In the mountains nearby, weather changes quickly, so carry warm layers and rain gear.

History

The town is first mentioned in 1270. In 1392 King *Wenceslas IV* gave it to his wife, Queen *Sophia of Bavaria*. From then on it was a dowry town of the Bohemian queens, which gave the town its name: "Queen's Court on the Elbe". A great fire in 1572 destroyed almost the whole town except the church and a few houses.

The most famous event came in 1817. *Václav Hanka* announced that he had found an old Czech manuscript in Church of St. John the Baptist. The Manuscript of Dvůr Králové was celebrated as proof of early Czech poetry. Later research showed it was almost certainly a forgery, but it still played a big role in the Czech national revival.

In the late 19th century the town became an important textile centre with many factories. In 1946 a small zoo opened on the edge of town. It later grew into Safari Park Dvůr Králové, now the town's best-known landmark.

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

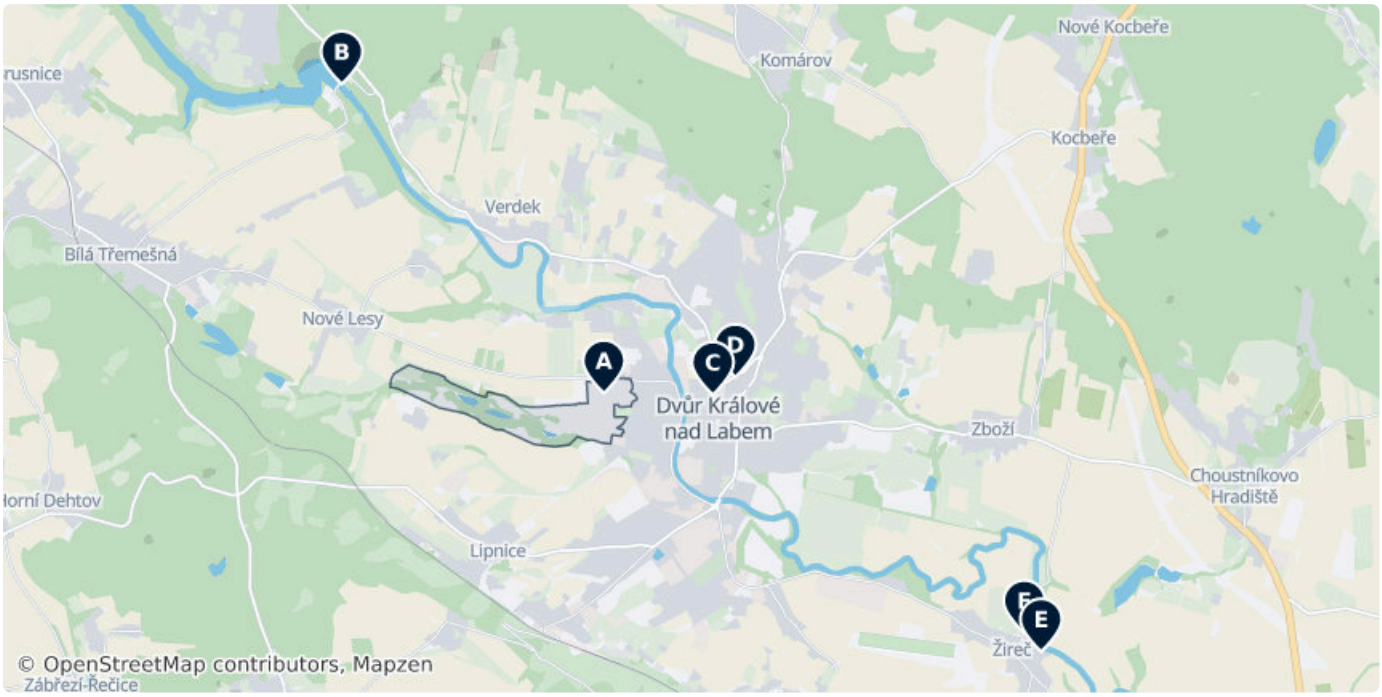
Czech

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Dvůr Králové nad Labem Essentials

Dvůr Králové nad Labem is defined by its Safari Park, a major European zoo specializing in African wildlife and off-road safaris. The town center features the Gothic Church of St. John the Baptist, while the nearby Les Království Dam is a National Cultural Monument known for its romantic pseudo-Gothic architecture. Further highlights include the Baroque complex in Žireč, which houses a unique cycling museum and the Church of St. Anne, famous for its historic carillon and Jesuit history.





A Dvůr Králové Zoo

Safari Park Dvůr Králové, known as Dvůr Králové Zoo until 2018, is a 72-hectare zoo located in Dvůr Králové nad Labem, Czech Republic.

Štefánikova, 54401 Dvůr Králové nad Labem
(50.43395, 15.80006)

May Mo–Su	09:00–21:00
Jun-Aug Mo–Su	09:00–22:00
Jan-Apr Mo–Su	09:00–20:00

zoodvurkralove.cz, +420 499 329 515



B Přehrada Les Království

Built between 1910 and 1920 on the Elbe River, this gravity dam is distinguished by its romantic pseudo-Gothic architecture, featuring gatehouses and turrets that resemble a fairy-tale castle.

(Unnamed Road), 54461, Czech Republic
(50.45798, 15.76804)



C Church of St. John the Baptist

The Church of Saint John the Baptist is a Gothic church in Dvůr Králové nad Labem in the Hradec Králové Region of the Czech Republic It is...

100 náměstí Republiky, Dvůr Králové nad Labem 54401, Czech Republic (50.43383, 15.81338)

D Městské muzeum - hlavní budova

Housed in the Baroque Kohout Mansion, the museum features permanent exhibitions on the town's history, traditional textile printing, and the local craft of hand-blown glass Christmas ornaments.

Sladkovského, 544 15 Dvůr Králové nad Labem, Czechia (50.43520, 15.81614)



E svatá Anna

A Baroque church originally part of a Jesuit residence. It is notable for its rare carillon and its location within the Saint Joseph's Home complex in the Žireč district.

1, 54404, Czech Republic (50.41384, 15.85351)

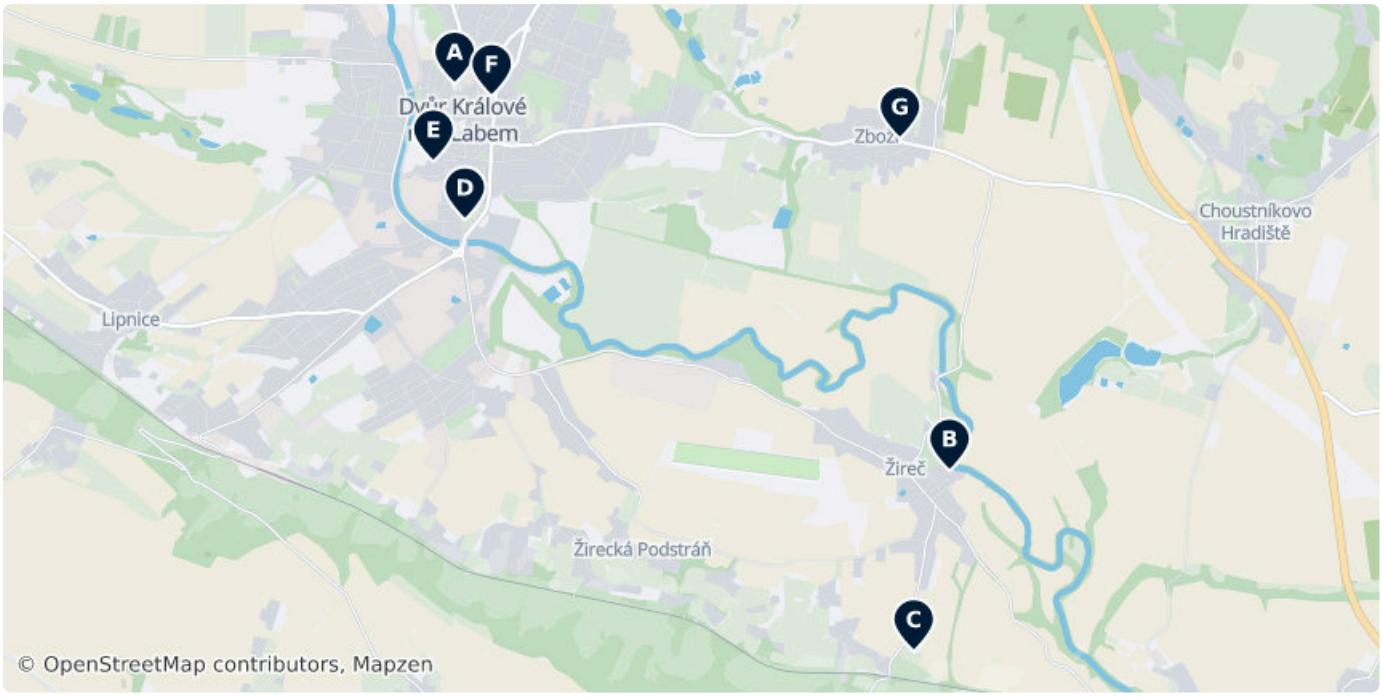
F Cyklomuzeum Žireč

Located in a restored Baroque granary, this museum showcases a collection of historical bicycles ranging from early high-wheelers to mid-20th-century racing models.

29925, 544 04 Dvůr Králové nad Labem, Czechia (50.41528, 15.85147)

Churches and Chapels

This collection explores the religious architecture of Dvůr Králové nad Labem, featuring the landmark Gothic Church of St. John the Baptist. It includes the Baroque Church of St. Anne and the cemetery chapel of St. Odilo in the Žireč district. The list also showcases the diversity of local denominations with the Hussite and Evangelical churches, alongside smaller sacred sites like the Chapel of the Holy Guardian Angels and the locally named 'kostelíček'.





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B svatá Anna

Roman Catholic, oriented former parish church located in the Žireč district.

1, 54404, Czech Republic (50.41384, 15.85351)



C svatý Odil

Roman Catholic cemetery chapel situated in the Žireč district.

54404, Czech Republic (50.40452, 15.85060)

D kostel Povýšení Sv. Kříže

Roman Catholic church locally known as 'kostelíček' (the little church).

350 Náprstkova, Dvůr Králové nad Labem 54401, Czech Republic (50.42682, 15.81421)

E kostel Českobratrské církve evangelické

Place of worship belonging to the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren.

1128 náměstí Odboje, Dvůr Králové nad Labem 54401, Czech Republic (50.42981, 15.81165)

F Husův sbor Církve československé husitské

Meeting house and church of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church.

(50.43318, 15.81638)

G sv. Andělů strážných

Catholic chapel dedicated to the Holy Guardian Angels.

25 299, Zboží 54401, Czech Republic (50.43100, 15.84948)

DATA SOURCES

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