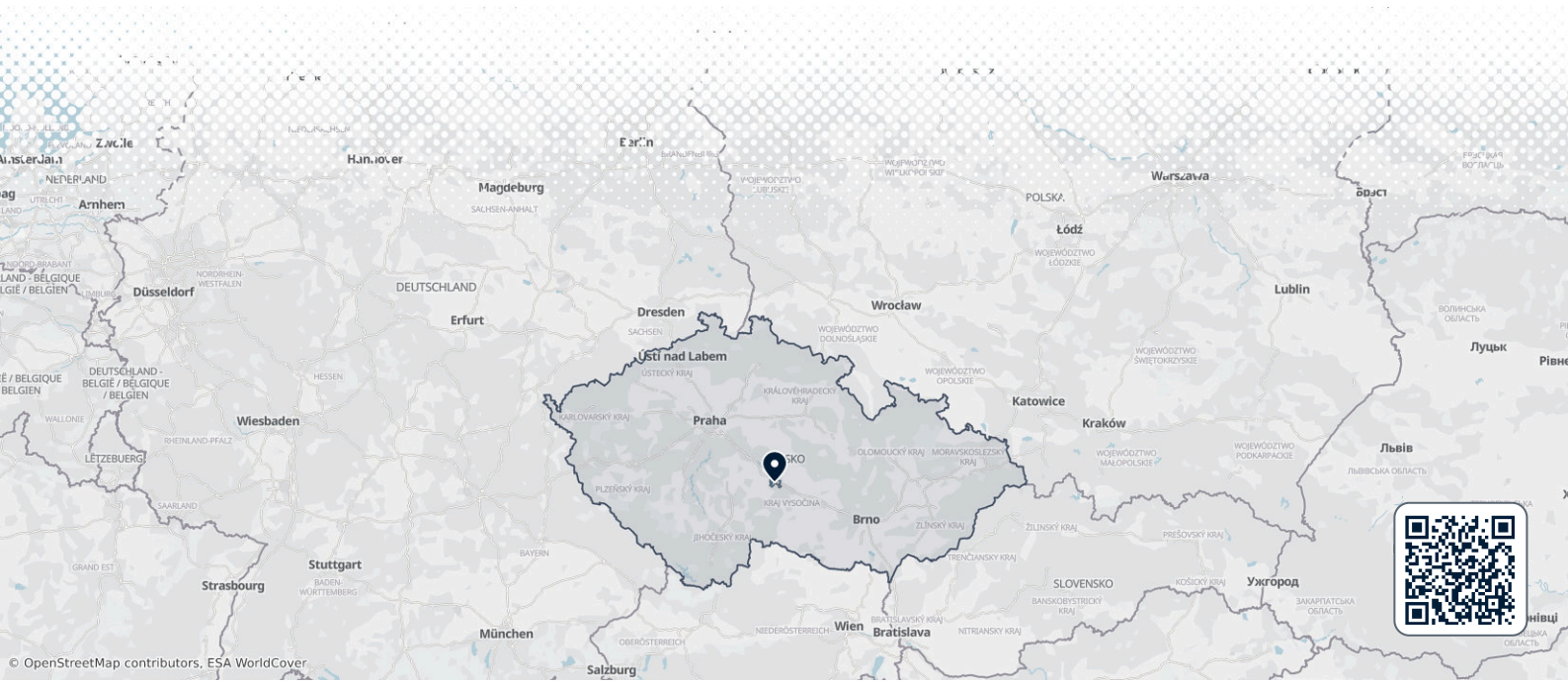


Humpolec

Vysočina Region · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Humpolec is a small town in the hills of the Vysočina Region, halfway between Prague and Brno. Many Czechs know it as a stop on the D1 motorway. Fewer know that it has a pleasant historic centre, a Gothic castle ruin on a hill, and one of the best-known family breweries in the country.

The town suits a relaxed weekend, a break on a road trip, or a base for exploring the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands. It also has a sense of humour: a fictional character from a classic Czech film "moved" here, and the town now has a museum about him. The anthropologist *Aleš Hrdlička* was born in Humpolec, and the composer *Gustav Mahler* was born in the nearby village of Kaliště.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. Summers are mild and good for walks in the surrounding hills. Winters are cold and snowy, and several sights open only in the main season, so check before a winter trip.

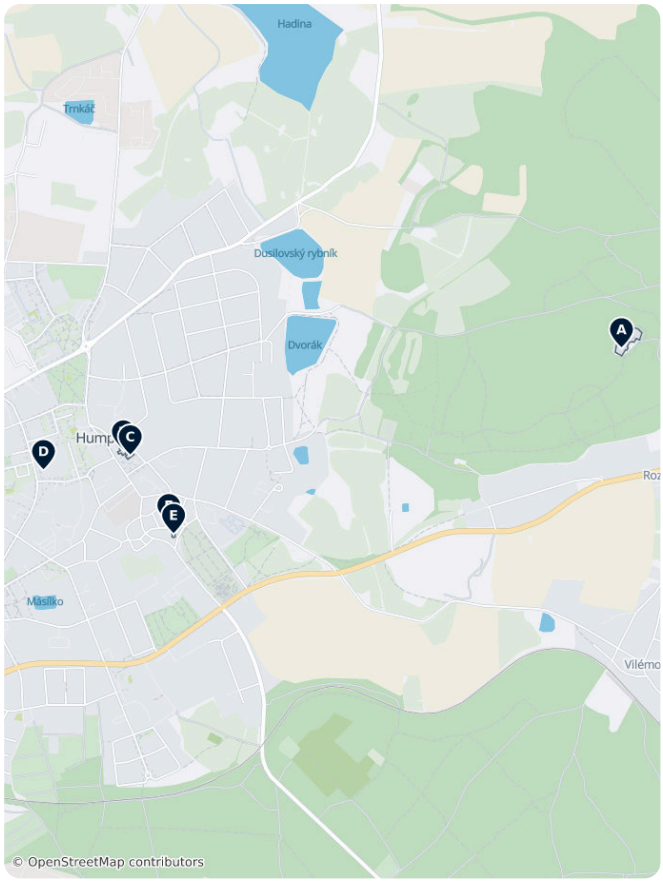
The biggest annual event is the **Medieval Festival** at Orlík u Humpolce, held on a weekend in early July. Sword fighters, musicians, craftspeople and a medieval market fill the castle ruin, with a programme for children too.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 7° Feels like -7°	-6° / -15°	12 rainy days · 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 hiking	13° / 20° Feels like 8°	2° / -4°	Dry air
May	Good Good for hiking	17° / 24° Feels like 14°	7° / 2°	15 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28°	11° / 6°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 30°	13° / 8°	16 rainy days · Dry air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
September	Good Good for hiking	19° / 26° Feels like 16°	9° / 3°	Dry air
October	Good Good for hiking	13° / 20° Feels like 9°	4° / -2°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 13° Feels like 1°	0° / -6°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 7° Feels like -5°	-4° / -13°	Dry air

Best months: June, August

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

Top sights



- A Orlík u Humpolce is a Gothic castle ruin on a wooded hill about 2 km east of the centre. Climb the restored keep for wide views over the highlands. The site also has a small exhibition.
- B Kostel sv. Mikuláše on the main square is the town's main church. In summer you can climb 115 steps to a viewing gallery 30 m up the tower, past the bells and the old clock mechanism.
- C Muzeum Dr. Aleše Hrdličky is one of the oldest museums in the region, founded in 1895. It covers anthropology, local history and folk crafts, and tells the story of *Aleš Hrdlička*, who was born here.
- D HLINÍKárium is a funny little museum about Hliník, a character from the 1976 film comedy *Marečku, podejte mi pero!*. In the film he moves to Humpolec, and fans still send him letters and postcards.
- E Toleranční kostel is a simple Protestant church built soon after the Edict of Toleration of 1781. It is part of the small Zichpil open-air museum, together with the former synagogue.
- F Nápravníkovo stavení is the last original house of the old Zichpil quarter. Inside, you can see how poorer families in the town used to live.

The Bernard brewery also has a modern visitor centre with guided tours, and a lookout platform on its tall brick chimney.

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What to experience

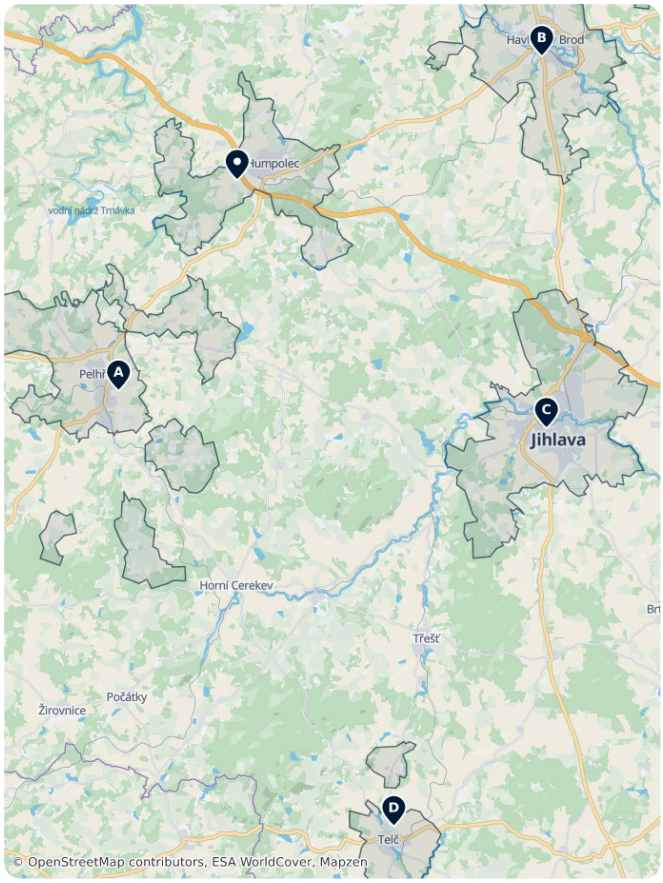
A visit to Humpolec is short and relaxed. These are the things that make it different:

- **Write to Hliník**: Send a postcard to the fictional Hliník. Fans have done this for years, and the mail ends up on display in HLINÍKárium.
- **Climb the brewery chimney**: Walk up 189 steps around the working chimney of the Bernard brewery to a viewing platform above the town.
- **Join the medieval weekend**: In early July, watch sword fights and craft shows at the castle ruin, and try food from the medieval market.

Day trips

Humpolec sits in the middle of the Vysočina Region, so many good trips are close by. A car makes most of them much easier.

- **Lipnice nad Sázavou** — about 15 minutes by car. A large castle above a small village, where the writer *Jaroslav Hašek* spent his last years.
- **Želiv** — about 15 minutes by car. A large Premonstratensian monastery with a Baroque church in a quiet river valley.
- A Pelhřimov — about 25 minutes by car or bus. A pretty town square and a fun museum of records and curiosities.
- B Havlíčkův Brod — about 25 minutes by car or train. A historic town on the Sázava river with a large square.
- C Jihlava — about 25 minutes by car or bus. The regional capital has a big square, underground passages, a zoo, and places linked to *Gustav Mahler*.
- D Telč — about 1 hour by car. Its Renaissance square and castle are a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Where to explore

Humpolec belongs to Vysočina Region, a region of rolling hills, ponds and small historic towns.

- **Nearby towns**: Pelhřimov and Havlíčkův Brod are both close and easy to combine with Humpolec.
- **Regional highlights**: Jihlava is the regional capital, and Telč is the region's best-known UNESCO town.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest international airport is Prague Václav Havel Airport. From Prague, continue by bus or car; the drive takes a little over an hour.
- **By car**: Humpolec has its own exit on the D1 motorway between Prague and Brno. Both cities are a little over an hour away.
- **By bus**: Long-distance buses between Prague, Jihlava and Brno stop in Humpolec. This is usually the easiest way to arrive without a car.
- **By train**: A local branch line links Humpolec with Havlíčkův Brod, where you can change for fast trains. It is slower than the bus from Prague. Plan trips on Czech Railways or IDOS journey planner.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The historic centre, the museums, Zichpil and the brewery are all within a 10-minute walk of the main square. The castle ruin is a pleasant 2 km walk away on marked paths.
- **Local buses**: Few visitors need them. For regional buses, pay the driver or buy a ticket in advance through the journey planner.
- **Cycling**: Quiet country roads and marked cycle routes cross the hills around the town, but expect some climbs.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The compact centre, museums and brewery are all a short walk apart; the castle ruin is a 2 km walk on marked paths.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Quiet country roads and marked routes, but the highland terrain is hilly.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town itself, which is small and walkable. For day trips around the region, a car saves a lot of time.
- **Parking**: There are car parks around the centre and near the brewery. Check the signs for time limits and paid zones on and near the main square.
- **The D1 motorway**: Traffic on the D1 is heavy, especially on Friday and Sunday afternoons. Roadworks and accidents often cause long delays, so allow extra time.

Food & drink

Food here is hearty highland cooking. Look for potato dishes, mushroom and cabbage soups, roast pork with dumplings, and fish from the local ponds.

Beer is the local pride. The Bernard family brewery offers guided tours with a tasting, and Pivnice Na Štokách in the brewery visitor centre serves its beer fresh from the tank. For other restaurants and cafés, look around the main square and the streets just off it.

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

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

The main risk is traffic on the D1 motorway and busy roads nearby, so drive with care. In the woods around the castle ruin, check for ticks after walks in spring and summer. Winter roads in the highlands can be icy.

History

Humpolec was first mentioned in 1178. From the 13th to the 15th century it was a silver-mining town.

At the end of the 14th century, a castle was built on a hill east of the town. Its owners later renamed it Orlík. By the 18th century it was a ruin, and people took its stones for building. Today you can climb its restored keep at Orlík u Humpolce.

From the 17th century, Humpolec became known for making woollen cloth. The trade reached its peak in the 19th century. The town also had a large Protestant community and a Jewish community. Toleranční kostel and the former synagogue in the Zichpil quarter still recall them.

Brewing has a long history here too. It goes back to at least 1597. In 1991 the Bernard family bought the local brewery and made its beer known across the country.

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

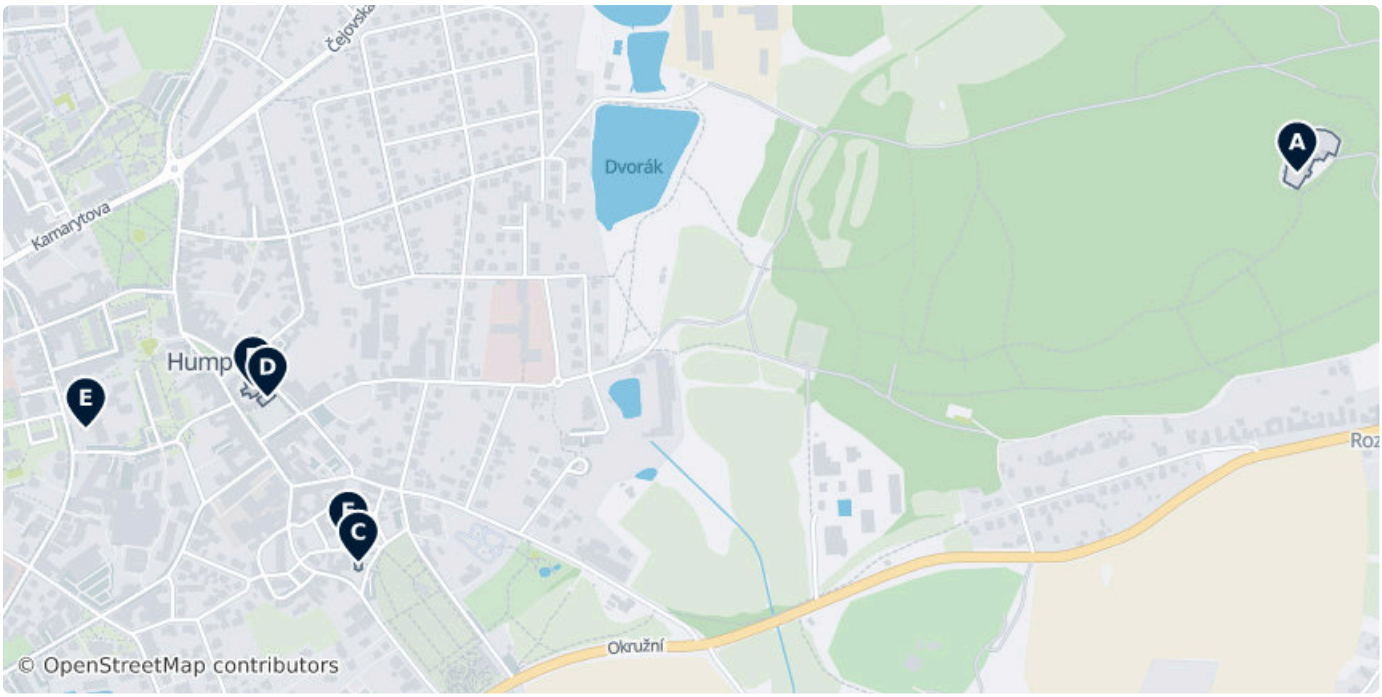
LANGUAGES

Czech

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Top sights





A Orlík Castle

Gothic castle ruins from the late 14th century featuring a restored keep that serves as a lookout tower and a museum. The site hosts cultural events, medieval festivals, and educational programs related to regional history.

39601, Czech Republic (49.54460, 15.38247)

castrum.cz/hrad-orlik



B Saint Nicholas Church

Oldest historical monument dating back to 1233, featuring a blend of Gothic, Baroque Gothic, and Neo-Gothic architecture. A 55-meter-high tower provides a viewpoint over the surrounding area.

273 Horní náměstí, Humpolec 39601, Czech Republic (49.54152, 15.35937)

castrum.cz/pamatky-region/pamatky-v-humpolci/kostel-s...



C Tolerance Church

Historic Protestant church built in 1785 following the Edict of Toleration. It is one of the oldest surviving structures of its kind and currently forms part of an open-air museum.

357 Jihlavská, Humpolec 39601, Czech Republic (49.53900, 15.36170)

humpolec.cz/misto/mestska-naucna-stezka-po-stopach-h...



D Dr. Aleš Hrdlička Museum

Anthropological and ethnographic museum founded in 1895. It features five permanent exhibitions focused on local history, science, puppet theater, and the work of anthropologist Aleš Hrdlička.

Horní náměstí 273, 39601 Humpolec (49.54137, 15.35969)

Jul-Aug Tu–Fr	08:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00
Apr-Oct Sa–Su	10:00–16:00
Apr-Jun Tu	08:00–12:00, 13:00–16:00
Apr-Jun We	08:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00
Apr-Jun Th–Fr	08:00–12:00, 13:00–16:00
Nov-Mar Sa	Closed
Nov-Mar Su	14:00–16:00
Dec 25-Dec 26 Mo–Su	14:00–16:00

humpolec.cz/misto/muzeum-dr-alese-hr... , +420565532115



E Hliníkárium

Humorous museum dedicated to the fictional character Hliník from the classic Czech film Marečku, podejte mi pero!. It features film props, photographs, and a record-breaking collection of postcards sent to the non-existent character.

Havlíčkovo náměstí 91, 39601 Humpolec (49.54093, 15.35567)

Oct-May Mo–Fr	08:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00
Oct-May Sa–Su	Closed
Jun Mo–Fr	08:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00
Jun Sa	09:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00
Jun Su	Closed
Jul-Aug Mo–Fr	08:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00
Jul-Aug Sa	09:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00
Jul-Aug Su	09:00–13:00

hlinik3.webnode.cz/hlinikarium/, +420565532479



F Napravnik House

Original historic house and protected cultural monument that serves as part of an open-air museum. It represents the last preserved building of its kind in the local district.

396 01 Humpolec, Czechia (49.53930, 15.36148)

DATA SOURCES

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