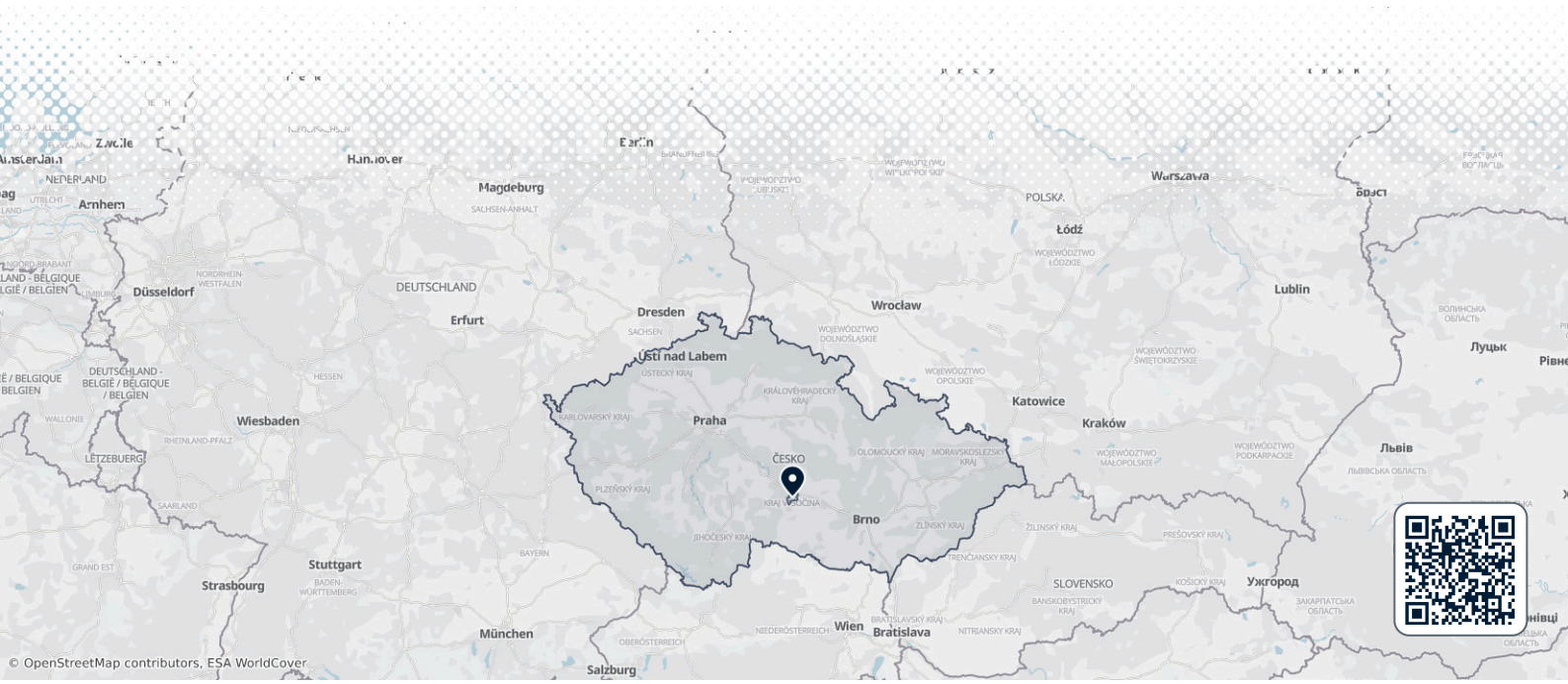


Jihlava

Vysočina Region · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Jihlava is the capital of the Vysočina Region, in the hills of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands between Prague and Brno. It grew rich on silver in the 13th century and was the oldest royal mining town in what is now the Czech Republic.

Today it is a calm regional city with a large historic centre, one of the biggest town squares in the country and a maze of medieval tunnels under the streets. The composer *Gustav Mahler* spent his childhood here, and the city still celebrates him. Jihlava works well for one or two nights, or as a base for the UNESCO towns of the Highlands.

When to visit

Jihlava sits at about 500 m, so it is cooler than Prague or Brno. Summer is mild and pleasant for walking, spring and autumn are fresh, and winter is cold with regular frost and some snow.

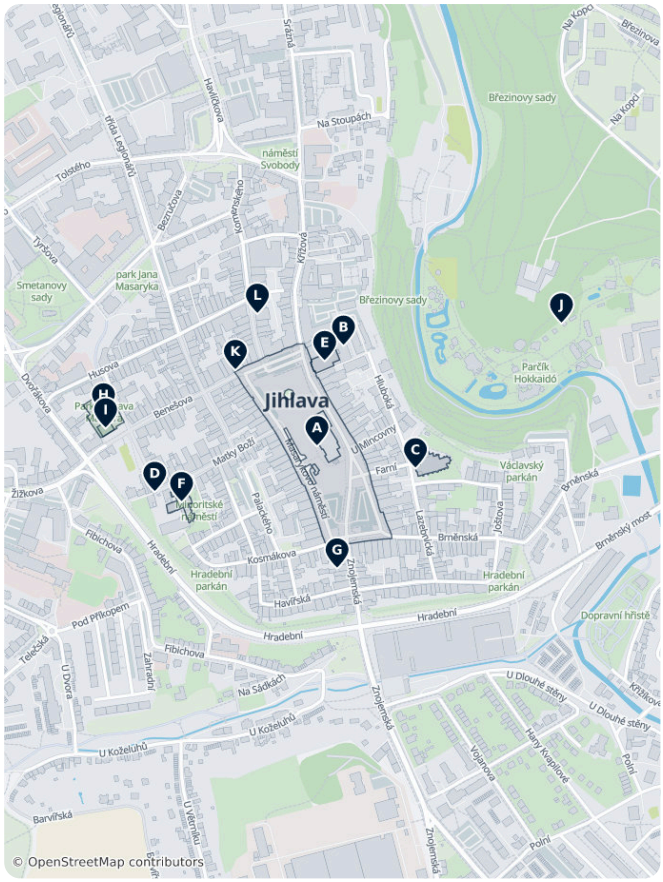
The biggest annual event is the **Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival** in late October. It is the largest festival of documentary film in Central and Eastern Europe, and it fills the city with screenings, talks and visitors, so book a room early for those dates.

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	Poor Poor for sightseeing	13° / 20° Feels like 8°	2° / -4°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	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° / 9°	16 rainy days · Dry air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
September	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26° Feels like 16°	9° / 3°	Dry air
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	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 Masaryk Square is the heart of the city and one of the largest historic squares in the Czech Republic. Look for the Baroque plague column and the two fountains of Neptune and Amphitrite from 1797.

B Jihlava Underground is a network of cellars and passages about 25 km long, dug from the 14th century onward. Guided tours show medieval corridors and the famous "glowing corridor", whose walls give off a faint green light in the dark.

C St. James Church is the city's main Gothic church from the 13th century and a national cultural monument. Climb its 63 m tower for the best view over the old town.

D Gate of the Mother of God is the only one of the five medieval town gates still standing. It is now a lookout tower with a small exhibition on mining and the underground.

E St. Ignatius Church is the early Baroque Jesuit church on the square, built in the 1680s next to the town hall.

F Church of the Assumption is the old Minorite church near the gate, a Gothic building from the 13th century with a later Baroque interior.

G Gustav Mahler House is the house where *Gustav Mahler* grew up. It is now a small museum about his childhood and family.

H Gustav Mahler Park has a statue of the composer and the I Synagogue Foundations, the remains of the synagogue burned by the Nazis in 1939.

J Zoo Jihlava lies in a green valley a short walk from the centre. It keeps about 260 species and is known for its big cats, monkeys and reptiles, which makes it a good stop with children.

On a rainy day, visit K Vysočina Museum Jihlava on the square for regional history and mining, or L Vysočina Regional Gallery for Czech art.

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What to experience

A few things make a visit to Jihlava feel different from other Czech towns.

- **See the glowing corridor underground.** On a tour of the tunnels, you reach a short passage whose walls shine faintly green in the dark. Nobody has fully explained why.
- **Watch the sky from the old town gate.** The Jihlava Astronomical Society runs public observations from the gate tower on Monday evenings after dark.
- **Join the documentary film festival.** In late October, cinemas, the theatre and pop-up venues across the centre show documentary films from around the world.
- **Follow Mahler's footsteps.** Walk from his childhood house to the park named after him and the Jewish cemetery, where his parents are buried.
- **Look for the miners' procession.** The traditional miners' procession in historic costume remembers the silver rush that founded the city. Check the city's event calendar for the date.

Day trips

Several of the best towns in the Highlands are less than an hour away, including three UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- **Roštejn Castle** — about 25 minutes by car. A Gothic hunting castle in the forest with a tall tower and a view over the woods.
- **Humpolec** — about 25 minutes by car on the D1 motorway. A small town with a well-known brewery and the ruins of Orlík castle on a hill above it.
- **Telč** — about 35 minutes by car or around an hour by bus. A UNESCO town with a long square of Renaissance houses and a large chateau.
- **Pelhřimov** — about 35 minutes by car. A pretty historic town known for its museum of records and curiosities.
- **Třebíč** — about 40 minutes by car or around an hour by train. Its Jewish Quarter and the St Procopius Basilica are on the UNESCO list.
- **Žďár nad Sázavou** — about 45 minutes by car. The star-shaped Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora is a UNESCO site.

Where to explore

Jihlava is the capital of Vysočina Region, a region of hills, forests and small historic towns.

- For Renaissance architecture, stay a night in Telč.
- For Jewish heritage and a Romanesque basilica, head to Třebíč.
- To the north, Žďár nad Sázavou is the gateway to the Žďár Hills.
- To the west, Humpolec and Pelhřimov are easy stops on the way to or from Prague.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest major airport is Václav Havel Airport Prague (PRG), about 130 km away. From there, travel into Prague and continue by coach. Brno Airport (BRQ) is closer but has only limited seasonal flights, and Vienna Airport (VIE) is about 2.5–3 hours away by road.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches are the fastest public option. They link Jihlava with Prague in about 1.5–2 hours and with Brno in about 1.5 hours.
- **By train**: Jihlava has direct regional lines to Brno, Třebíč, Tábor and Havlíčkův Brod. Trains from Prague usually take longer than the bus and often need a change in Havlíčkův Brod. Check times and tickets at České dráhy or in the national journey planner IDOS.
- **By car**: The D1 motorway between Prague and Brno passes just north of the city (exit 112).

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Buses and trolleybuses are run by the city company DPMJ. You can buy a ticket from the driver and pay by bank card in the vehicle, but it costs a little more than a ticket from a machine. Most yellow ticket machines take only coins.
- **Taxi**: Local taxi companies operate; ask your hotel or call ahead.
- **On foot**: The historic centre is compact and easy to walk. Most sights, the zoo and the Mahler sites are within 15 minutes of the square.
- **Cycling**: Possible, but the city is hilly and traffic outside the centre is busy.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The compact old town is easy to explore on foot, though some streets are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Hilly terrain and busy roads outside the centre make cycling less practical.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the city itself, which is best on foot. A car is useful for exploring the Highlands, where some castles and villages have few buses.
- **Parking**: The old town has paid parking zones, and space around the square is limited. A practical option is to park at the edge of the centre, for example at the park-and-ride on Žižkova street, and walk in.
- **Motorway**: The D1 is often busy and has frequent roadworks, so allow extra time between Prague and Brno.

Food & drink

Jihlava has its own brewery, Pivovar Jihlava, whose **Ježek** beer is named after the hedgehog on the city's coat of arms. Order it in local pubs to taste something you will not find elsewhere. The food of the Highlands is simple and filling, with potatoes, mushrooms, game and fish from the local ponds.

The best area to eat is around the square and in the streets leading down to the town gate, where cafés and restaurants sit side by side.

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

Jihlava is a safe city with low crime. Normal care with bags and wallets is enough in busy places such as the square, the bus station and the festival crowds.

In winter, pavements in the old town can be icy, and the streets on the hill around the square are steep. Wear shoes with a good grip. The tunnels of the underground are cool all year, so bring a light jacket for the tour.

History

Silver made Jihlava. Mining began here around 1234, and a royal mining town grew up quickly. It was the first place in Central Europe where mining law was written down, and its rules were copied across the region. In 1270, King *Ottokar II* gave the town its building plan, with a grid of streets around the huge square you see today. The cellars dug below the houses in the following centuries grew into Jihlava Underground.

On 5 July 1436, a peace agreement with the Hussites was proclaimed on the square, and *Emperor Sigismund* was accepted as King of Bohemia. After a great fire in 1523 and heavy damage by Swedish troops in the Thirty Years' War, the town was rebuilt in Renaissance and Baroque style. It later became one of the largest cloth-making centres of the Austrian Empire.

For centuries, most people in Jihlava spoke German, and the town had a large Jewish community. The synagogue was burned in 1939, and most of the Jewish residents were killed in the Holocaust. The German-speaking population was expelled after 1945. Today Gustav Mahler Park and Jewish Cemetery keep the memory of this mixed past.

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

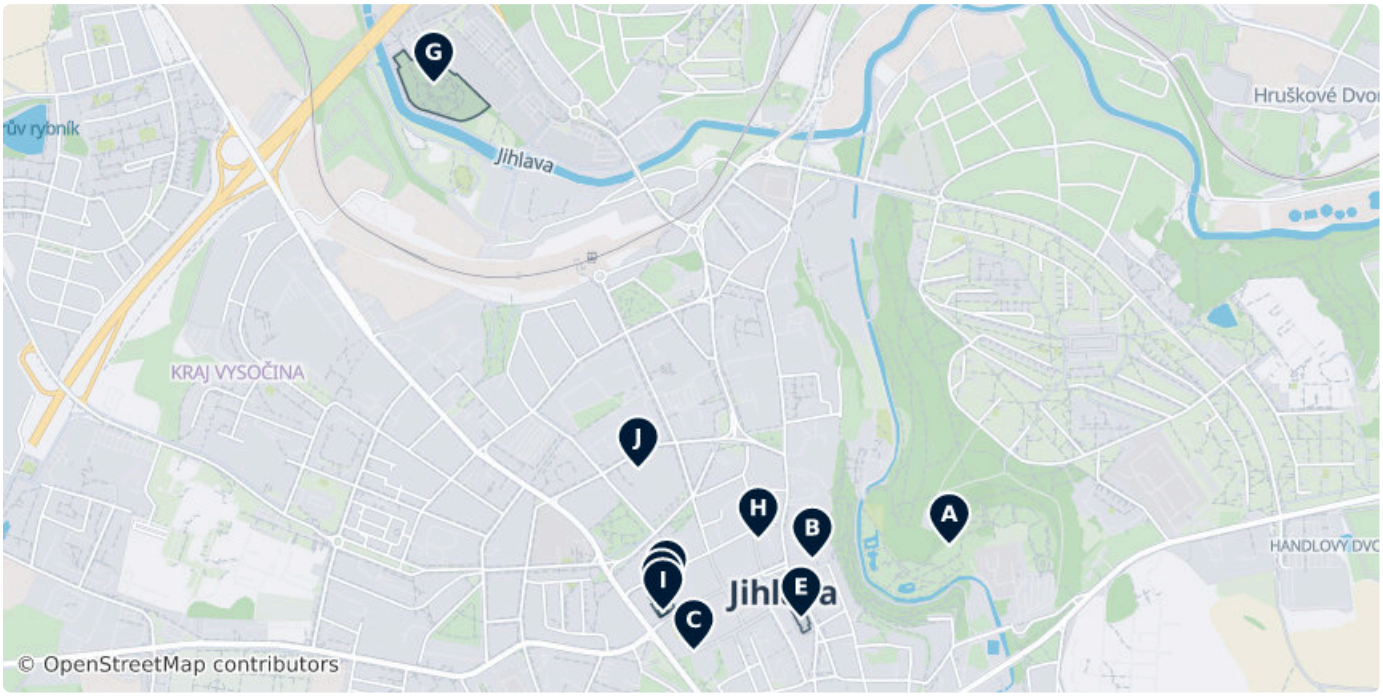
Czech

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Jihlava Essentials

Jihlava, the center of the Vysočina region, features a diverse range of historical and modern landmarks. The city is defined by its extensive medieval underground labyrinth, the 13th-century Gate of the Mother of God, and the architectural contrast of the communist-era Prior department store. Cultural highlights include the legacy of composer Gustav Mahler and the Regional Gallery of the Highlands. Beyond history, the city offers a highly-rated, barrier-free zoo and the Vodní ráj water park, combining heritage with family-oriented recreation.





A Zoo Jihlava

One of the best zoos in the Czech Republic. Easily walkable and packed with expositions with interesting animals.

ev.2260, Jihlava 58601, Czech Republic (49.39721, 15.59627)

zoojihlava.cz



B Jihlava Underground

The second largest underground labyrinth in the Czech Republic, stretching 25 kilometers. It is famous for its "shining corridor" where the walls glow with a mysterious green phosphorescence.

109/1 Hluboká, Jihlava 58601, Czech Republic (49.39688, 15.59136)

jihlava.cz/podzemi/index.asp, +420565597579



C Gate of the Mother of God

A 13th-century Gothic gate that serves as the last remaining entrance of the original city fortifications. It features a Renaissance attic and houses an observation deck with panoramic views.

4 Věžní, Jihlava 58601, Czech Republic (49.39473, 15.58711)

cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Br%C3%A1na_Matky_Bo%C5%BE%...

D Vyhlídková věž Gustava Mahlera

This 63-meter-high lookout tower, originally part of St. James the Greater church, offers views over the Vysočina landscape. It is named after the composer who spent his childhood in the city.

(49.39613, 15.58613)



E Prior Jihlava

A striking memorial of the communist architecture - a hideous building in the centre of a large, picturesque square.

4333/68 Masarykovo náměstí, Jihlava 58601, Czech Republic (49.39550, 15.59096)



F Gustav Mahler Park

A landscaped park situated on the site of a destroyed synagogue. It contains a bronze monument to the composer, fragments of the medieval city walls, and a fountain.

22 Věžní, Jihlava 58601, Czech Republic (49.39589, 15.58595)

historickasidla.cz/dr-cs/164-jihlava.html

G Vodní Ráj

One of the largest water parks in the Vysočina region, featuring indoor and outdoor swimming pools, water slides, a wild river, and a sauna world.

4893/5a Romana Havelky, Jihlava 58601, Czech Republic (49.40798, 15.57778)

Mo	14:00–20:00
Tu–Th	10:00–20:00
Fr–Sa	10:00–21:00
Su	10:00–20:00

vodniraj.cz



H Vysočina Regional Gallery

Housed in two historic townhouses on the main square, this gallery manages extensive collections of Czech art from the 19th century to the present day.

Komenského, 586 01 Jihlava, Czechia (49.39735, 15.58942)

Tu–Su	10:00–18:00

ogv.cz

I Synagogue Foundations

The preserved stone foundations of the Great Synagogue, which was burned down in 1939. The site now serves as a memorial within the Gustav Mahler Park.

1030/29 Benešova, Jihlava 58601, Czech Republic (49.39567, 15.58600)

cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synagoga_v_Jihlav%C4%9B

J Magistrát města Jihlavy

A collection of three historic buildings on Masaryk Square, showing a mix of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque styles. It serves as the administrative seat of the city.

1914/15 Tolstého, Jihlava 58601, Czech Republic (49.39899, 15.58511)

DATA SOURCES

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