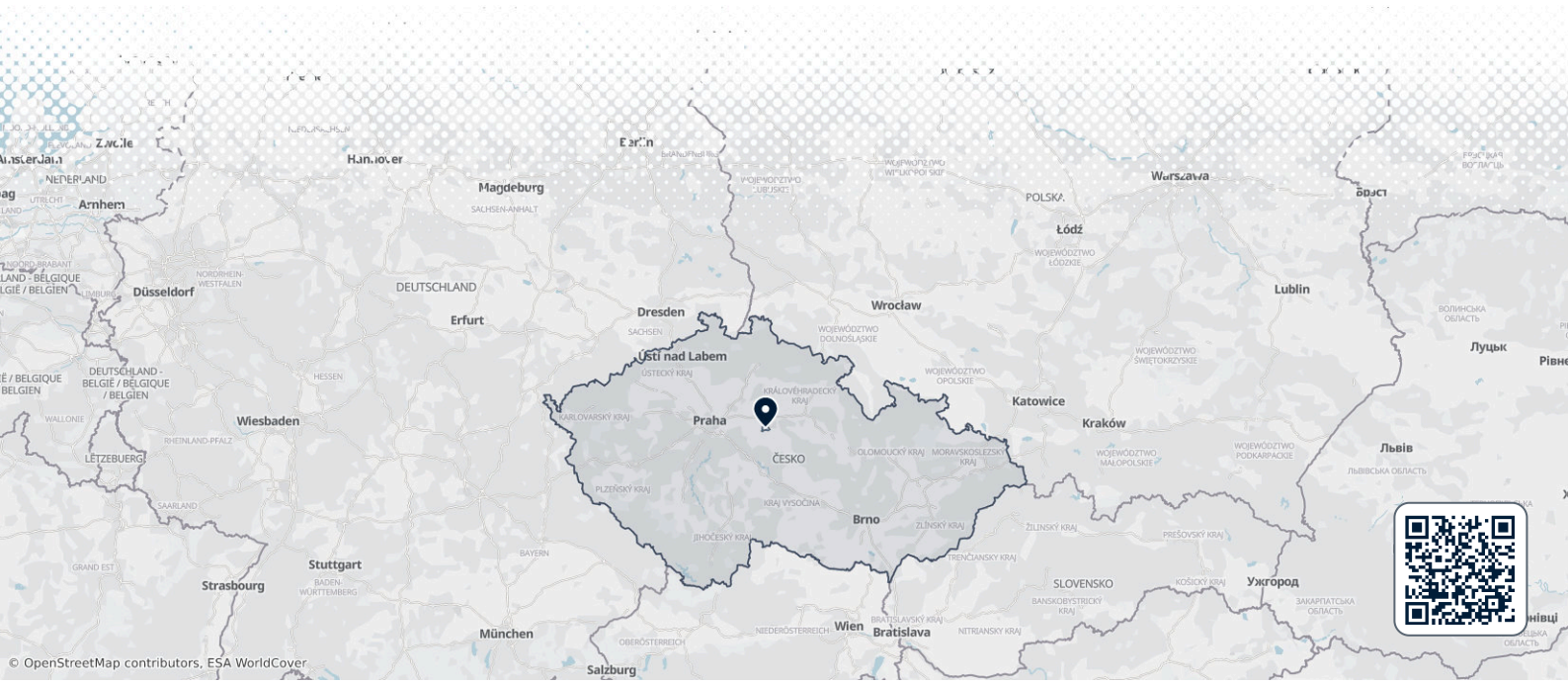


Kolín

Kolín District · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Kolín is a mid-sized town on the Elbe river, about 55 km east of Prague. Its compact old town sits on a low hill above the river. The skyline is dominated by the tall Gothic church of St Bartholomew. Around the main square you find arcaded houses, a well-kept former Jewish quarter and one of the oldest and largest Jewish cemeteries in Bohemia.

Kolín suits a quiet one- or two-night stay. It is also a practical base for the UNESCO town of Kutná Hora and the spa town of Poděbrady. The town is closely linked with the brass-band composer *František Kmoch*, who worked and died here. The famous mime *Jean-Gaspard Deburau* was born in Kolín.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time to visit. Summers are warm and good for walks along the river. Winters are cold and grey, and some museums open on fewer days.

The biggest annual event is **Kmochův Kolín**, an international brass-band festival held every June since 1961. Bands from across Europe play concerts in the old town and march in a parade to the main square.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 9° Feels like -4°	-4° / -14°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	5° / 12° Feels like -1°	-3° / -13°	Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	9° / 17° Feels like 5°	0° / -6°	Dry air
April	Great Great for cycling	15° / 23° Feels like 11°	4° / -2°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	9° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 8°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 33°	15° / 10°	16 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 34°	15° / 10°	12 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 29°	10° / 5°	Dry air
October	Good Good for cycling	15° / 23° Feels like 12°	6° / -1°	Dry air
November	Fair Fair for cycling	8° / 15° Feels like 4°	2° / -4°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 9° Feels like -2°	-3° / -11°	Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

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

Top sights

A St Bartholomew's Church is the town's landmark and a national cultural monument. Its tall Gothic choir was rebuilt in the 14th century by *Peter Parler*, the architect of St Vitus Cathedral in Prague.

B Bell Tower stands next to the church. The belfry now holds the church treasury exhibition and a collection of bells, run by the regional museum.

Karlovo náměstí, the main square, is lined with arcaded houses. In its centre stands C Plague Column, a Baroque column with a statue of the Virgin Mary.

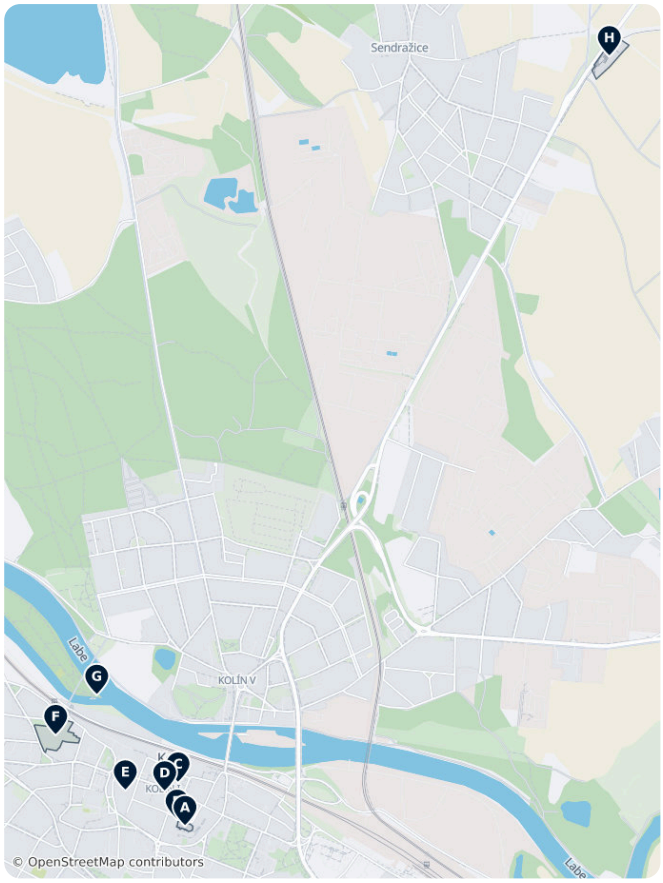
D Regional Museum in Kolín occupies a historic house on the main square. Its exhibitions cover the archaeology, history and nature of the Kolín region.

E Synagogue stands in a quiet courtyard of the former Jewish quarter. The building existed by 1422 and was rebuilt in its present early Baroque form in 1696. Today it is used for exhibitions and concerts.

F Old Jewish Cemetery was founded in the first half of the 15th century and used until 1887. Its crowded, leaning gravestones, the oldest from 1492, make it one of the most atmospheric sights in town. Ask at the town information centre about access.

G Observation Tower is a functionalist water tower from 1928 near the river. In 2015 it was converted into a lookout tower.

H Kolínská řepařská drážka is a historic narrow-gauge railway, first built in the 1890s to carry sugar beet. Today heritage trains run on selected days, so check the timetable before you go.



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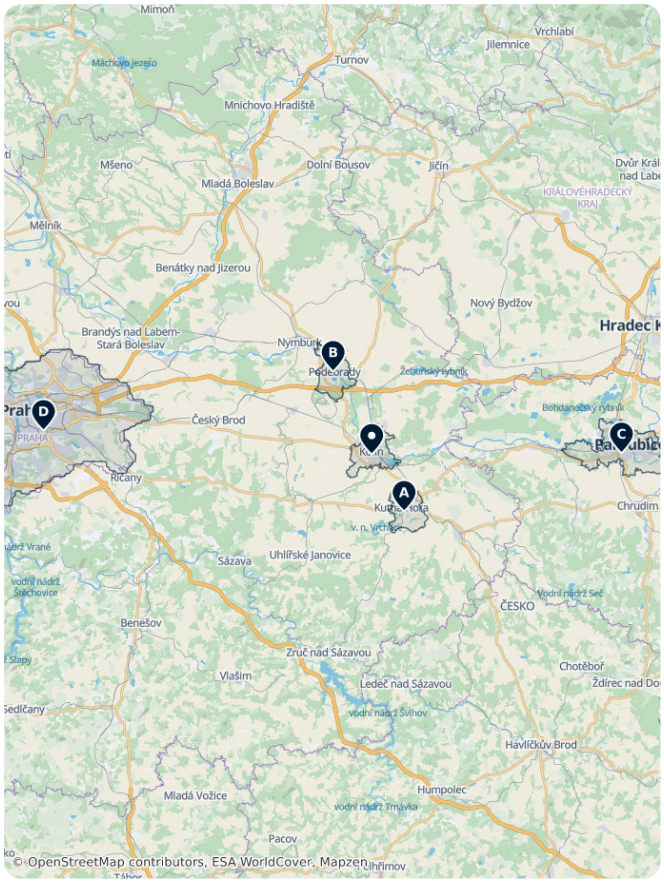
What to experience

A few things to do in Kolín beyond sightseeing:

- **Join the Kmochův Kolín festival**: In June, watch brass bands and majorettes parade through the streets and listen to open-air concerts.
- **Relax on Kmochův ostrov**: This island park in the Elbe is a local favourite for walks and summer events. It has František Kmoch, honouring the composer.
- **Ride a heritage train**: Take a trip on Kolínská řepařská drážka on one of its operating days, when the small locomotives pull historic carriages through the fields.

Day trips

Kolín sits in the middle of central Bohemia, so several good trips are close. They are listed from closest to farthest.



- A Kutná Hora: just south of Kolín, ≈25 min by bus. A UNESCO-listed silver-mining town with the Cathedral of St Barbara and the bone chapel in Sedlec.
- Kačina chateau: ≈20 min by car. A large Empire-style chateau in a landscaped park, today home to the Czech Countryside Museum.
- B Poděbrady: ≈15 min by train. A spa town on the Elbe with a castle, a colonnade and flower gardens.
- Kouřim: ≈20 min by car or ≈40 min by bus. A small walled town with an open-air museum of rural folk buildings.
- C Pardubice: ≈20 min by fast train. A lively city with a Renaissance castle, a pedestrian old town and a gingerbread tradition.
- D Prague: ≈40 min by fast train. Easy to combine with a stay in Kolín if you prefer a quieter base.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest international airport is Prague (PRG), about 70 km away. Take a bus from the airport to Prague's main station, then a train to Kolín.
- **By train**: Kolín is a major rail junction on the main line east of Prague. Trains to Prague run several times an hour, and the fastest take about 40 minutes. Direct trains also run east to Pardubice and on to Moravia. Book on České dráhy.
- **By car**: From Prague, take the D11 motorway east and turn off towards Kolín. The drive takes about an hour.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is small, and all the central sights are within a short walk of the main square.
- **Public transit**: Kolín's city buses are part of the Prague Integrated Transport (PID) system. Buy tickets in the PID Lítačka app or from the driver. Details are on the PID website.
- **Cycling**: The Elbe cycle route passes through town, with flat riding along the river in both directions.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact and every central sight is within a short walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Flat terrain and the Elbe cycle route make cycling easy, though bike lanes in town are limited.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not needed in town, which is compact and walkable. A car helps for Kačina chateau, Kouřim and the villages of the region, though trains and buses cover the main towns well.
- **Parking**: Parking in the historic centre is limited and paid. Use the car parks on the edge of the old town and walk in.

Food & drink

Kolín is not a gourmet destination, but you can eat well on classic Czech dishes such as roast pork with dumplings, goulash and fried cheese. Lunch menus on weekdays are good value.

For the best choice, head to Karlovo náměstí and the streets just off it. Cafés, pubs and restaurants cluster here, several with outdoor seating in summer.

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

Kolín is a safe town for visitors, and violent crime against tourists is rare. Use normal care with bags at the station and on crowded trains. Tap water is safe to drink.

History

Kolín was founded as a royal town in the 13th century under King *Ottokar II*, and its first written mention dates from 1261. In the 14th century, under Emperor *Charles IV*, *Peter Parler* rebuilt the choir of St Bartholomew's Church, giving the town its famous skyline.

Jewish people settled in Kolín from the 14th century. The community grew into an important centre of Jewish life. Synagogue and Old Jewish Cemetery are the main traces of this long history, which ended with the Holocaust.

On 18 June 1757, the Battle of Kolín was fought west of town during the Seven Years' War. The Austrian army under *Leopold von Daun* defeated *Frederick the Great* of Prussia. It was Frederick's first defeat in the war and forced him to end the siege of Prague. Memorials stand near the village of Křečhoř.

In the 19th century, the railway made Kolín an important junction and industrial town, a role it still has today.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for the Czech Republic at a glance:

CURRENCY
CZK Kč

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

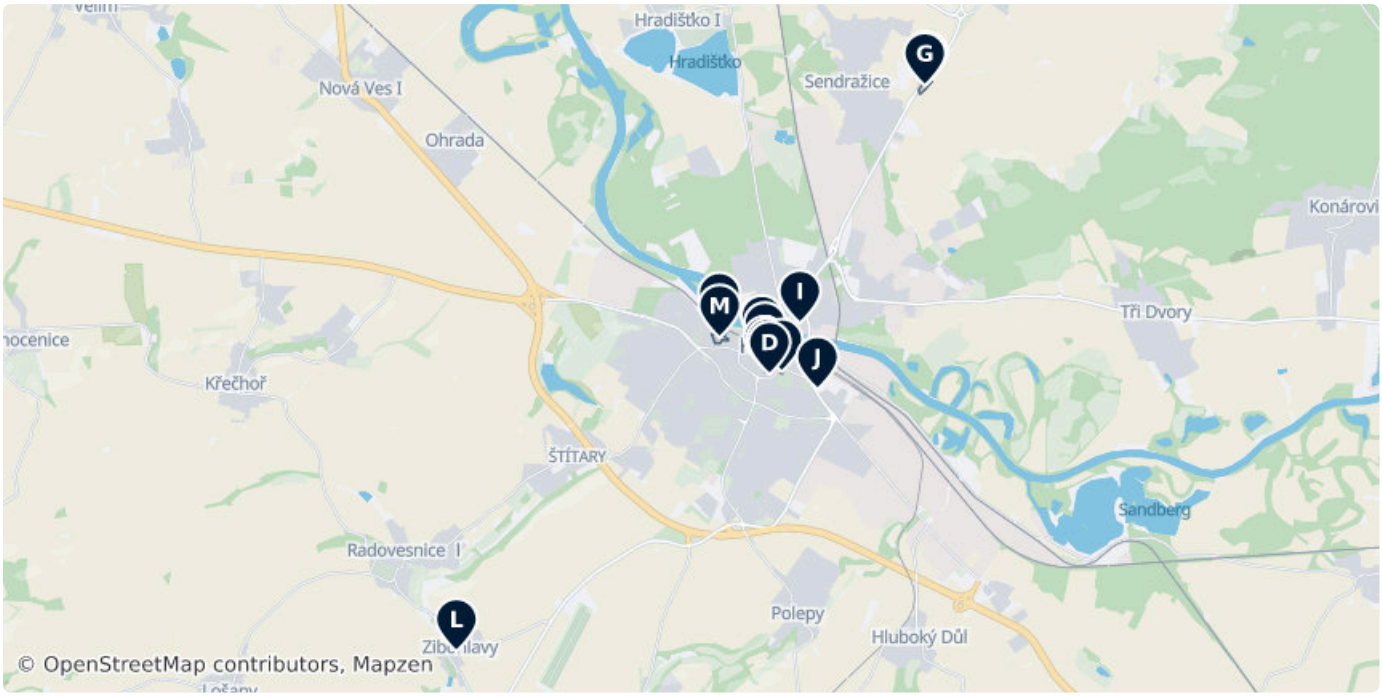
Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Czech

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Kolín's Essential Landmarks

Kolín's historic center showcases architectural evolution from the Gothic mastery of Peter Parler at St. Bartholomew's Church to the Baroque elegance of the town's plague column and ossuary. This selection highlights the city's dual identity: its deep-rooted Jewish history, preserved in the 15th-century cemetery, and its industrial legacy represented by the unique 600mm narrow-gauge beet sugar railway. The list also includes significant ecclesiastical sites across the Elbe river and the Práchovna lookout tower.





A Church of Saint Bartholomew

Significant 14th-century Gothic church designed by Peter Parler, featuring a high choir and an adjacent bell tower.

27 Karlova, Kolín 28002, Czech Republic
(50.02662, 15.20178)



B Kolín zastávka

Local railway stop serving the northern part of the city center near the Elbe river.

126 Rybářská, Kolín 28002, Czech Republic
(50.03080, 15.19498)



C Kolín Town Hall

Neo-Renaissance administrative building on the main square, featuring a decorated facade and historic interiors.

78 Karlovo náměstí, Kolín 28002, Czech Republic (50.02873, 15.20099)

mukolin.cz, +420321748111



D Charnel House

Baroque ossuary from 1733 located within the St. Bartholomew church precinct, containing decorative bone arrangements.

Politických vězňů, 280 00 Kolín, Czechia (50.02636, 15.20206)



E Marian Plague Column

Baroque Marian column erected in 1682 on Karlovo náměstí to commemorate the end of a plague epidemic.

73 Karlovo náměstí, Kolín 28002, Czech Republic (50.02808, 15.20142)

F Bell Tower

Known as Práchovna, this 15th-century stone tower originally served as a gunpowder store and defense point.

Brandlova, 280 00 Kolín, Czechia (50.02684, 15.20137)

Apr-Oct Tu–Fr	09:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00
Apr-Oct Sa–Su	10:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00
Nov-Mar Fr	09:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00
Nov-Mar Sa–Su	10:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00

bartolomejskenavrsi.cz/pamatky/zvonice



G Kolín Beet Railway

Restored 600mm narrow-gauge railway, originally built in 1894 to transport sugar beets to the local refinery.

544 Ovčárecká, 28002, Czech Republic (50.05247, 15.22393)

reparskadrazka.cz, +420602655268

H Kolínská řepařská drážka

Tourist terminal for the narrow-gauge beet railway, offering seasonal steam and diesel train rides.

544 Ovčárecká, 28002, Czech Republic (50.05261, 15.22417)

I svatý Vít

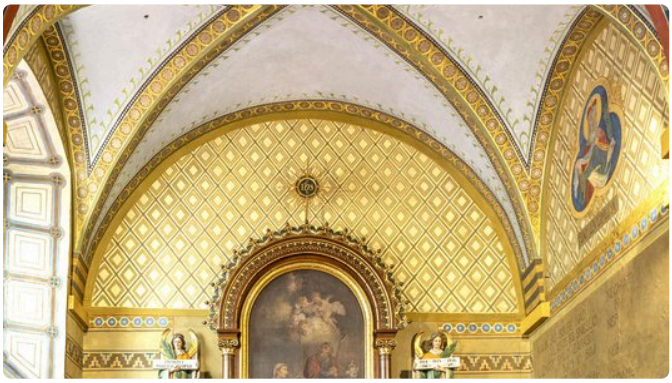
Gothic church from the 14th century located in the Zálabí district on the right bank of the Elbe.

389 U Kostelíčka, Kolín 28002, Czech Republic (50.03099, 15.20634)

J svatý Jan Křtitel

Originally a Gothic church, later rebuilt in Baroque style, situated near the Masaryk Bridge.

11 U Křižovatky, Kolín 28002, Czech Republic (50.02500, 15.20881)



K Church of Holy Trinity

Early Baroque church from the mid-17th century, formerly part of a Capuchin monastery.

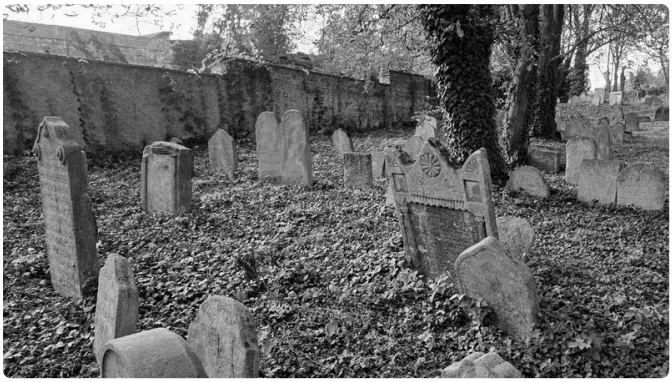
34 Kutnohorská, Kolín 28002, Czech Republic (50.02660, 15.20379)



L sv. Martin

Roman Catholic church located in the center of the village of Zibohlavy.

(50.00129, 15.15795)



Old Jewish Cemetery

Founded in 1418, this is one of Bohemia's oldest Jewish cemeteries, containing over 2,600 tombstones.

Kolín 28002, Czech Republic (50.02968, 15.19504)

youtu.be/uXq5egsQSP8

DATA SOURCES

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- sv. Martin — "Zibohlavy C. Late Baroque Mortuary near Church of St Martin, Kolín District..." by Stribrohorak, CC BY-SA 3.0
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