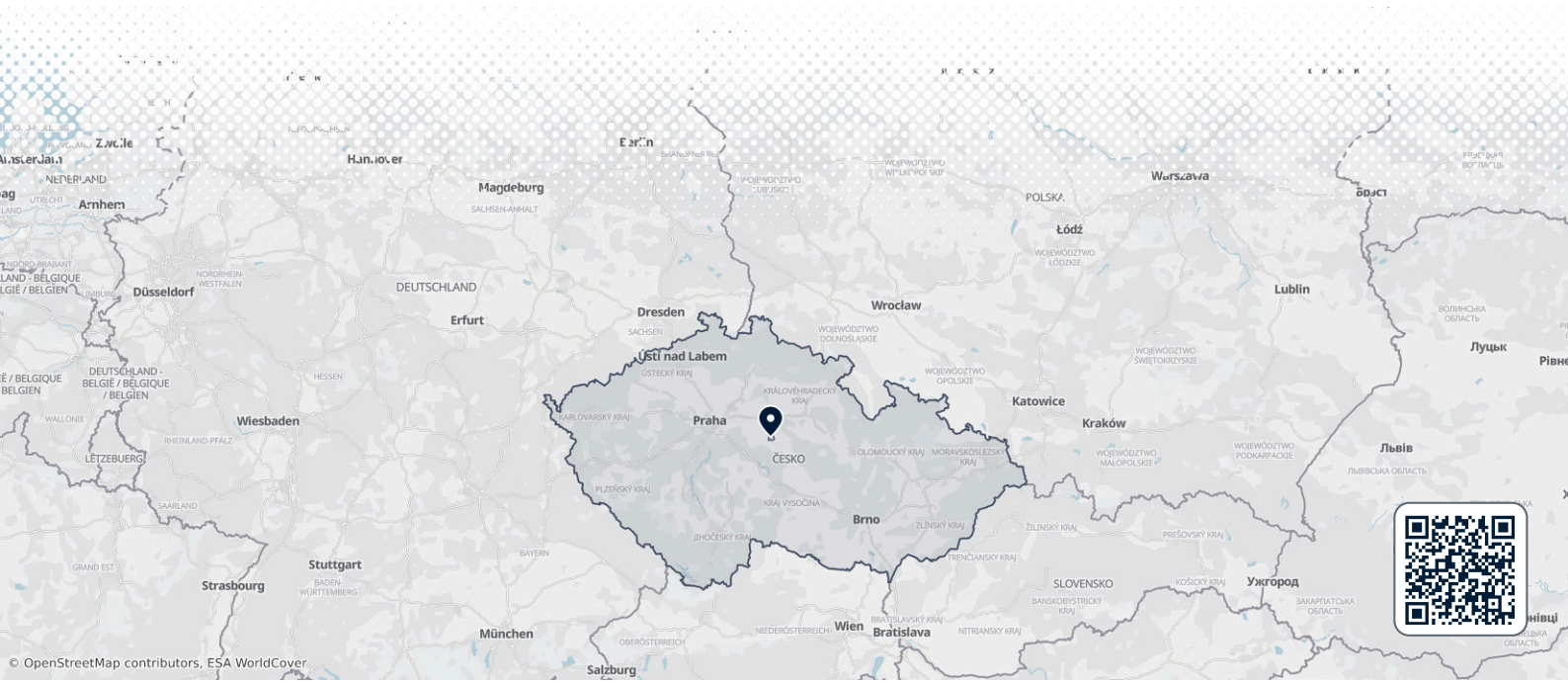


Kutná Hora

Kutná Hora District · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Kutná Hora grew rich on silver starting in the late 13th century. Its mines made the town one of the wealthiest in Central Europe for two centuries, and for a time second only to Prague. That wealth built an extraordinary concentration of Gothic architecture on one small hilltop, and today the whole Historical Town Centre of Kutná Hora, together with the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec in the nearby district of Sedlec, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Kutná Hora is an easy day trip from Prague, about an hour away by train, but it rewards a slower visit too. The old town is compact and walkable, built on a steep ridge above the Vrchlice river. Narrow lanes run past mining-era burgher houses to a cathedral with the scale of a much bigger city. It suits travelers who want serious history and architecture without a big-city pace.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are mild and the best seasons for a full day exploring the old town on foot. Summer is warm and busy with day-trippers, and winter is cold with regular snow but far quieter.

Plan around the **Královské stříbření Kutné Hory** (Royal Silvering of Kutná Hora), a weekend festival held every June with costumed processions, jousting and market stalls that reenact the town's medieval mining heyday.

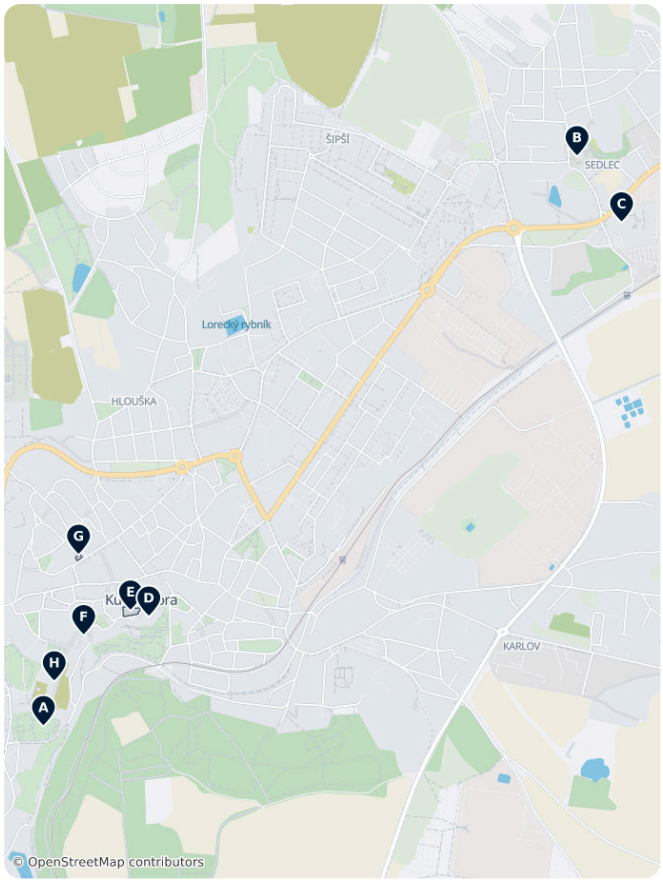
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 9° Feels like -4°	-5° / -14°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 11° Feels like -1°	-3° / -13°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for hiking	9° / 17° Feels like 4°	-1° / -7°	Dry air
April	Good Good for hiking	15° / 23° Feels like 11°	4° / -3°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 27°	8° / 3°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 7°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	26° / 33°	15° / 10°	16 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	26° / 33°	14° / 10°	12 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 29°	10° / 5°	Dry air
October	Good Good for hiking	15° / 23° Feels like 11°	5° / -1°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 15° Feels like 3°	1° / -5°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 9° Feels like -3°	-3° / -12°	Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

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

July and August afternoons can bring short thunderstorms, and the main square gets a small Christmas market in December.

Top sights



A St. Barbara's Church is Kutná Hora's defining landmark, a soaring Gothic cathedral begun in 1388 and funded by the town's silver miners' guild. Its ribbed vaults, flying buttresses and stained glass are worth a full hour inside.

North of the centre in Sedlec, B Sedlec Ossuary (Kostnice) is a small chapel decorated with the bones of tens of thousands of people. The woodcarver *František Rint* arranged them into chandeliers, garlands and a coat of arms in 1870. It is one of the most visited sights in the country, so arrive early or book a timed slot to skip the queue.

Nearby, C Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec is a Gothic and early Baroque church built for the Cistercian monastery at Sedlec, and one of the most influential buildings of its kind in Bohemia.

On the main square, D Italian Court was once the royal mint where the Prague groschen was struck. It later served as a part-time royal residence, and its chapel and old mint workshops are open to visitors.

Next to it, the roughly 80-metre Gothic tower of E Saint James Church, built between the 1330s and 1420, has dominated the skyline for centuries.

The F Czech Museum of Silver tells the story of the silver rush across several historic buildings. Its underground circuit lets you walk a real medieval mine shaft wearing a miner's coat.

Part of the same museum, G Stone House is a late Gothic burgher house with an elaborately sculpted facade, one of the finest in town.

Housed in the former Jesuit college above the river, H Gallery of Central Bohemian Region (GASK) shows modern and contemporary Czech art inside a Baroque building with peaceful garden grounds.

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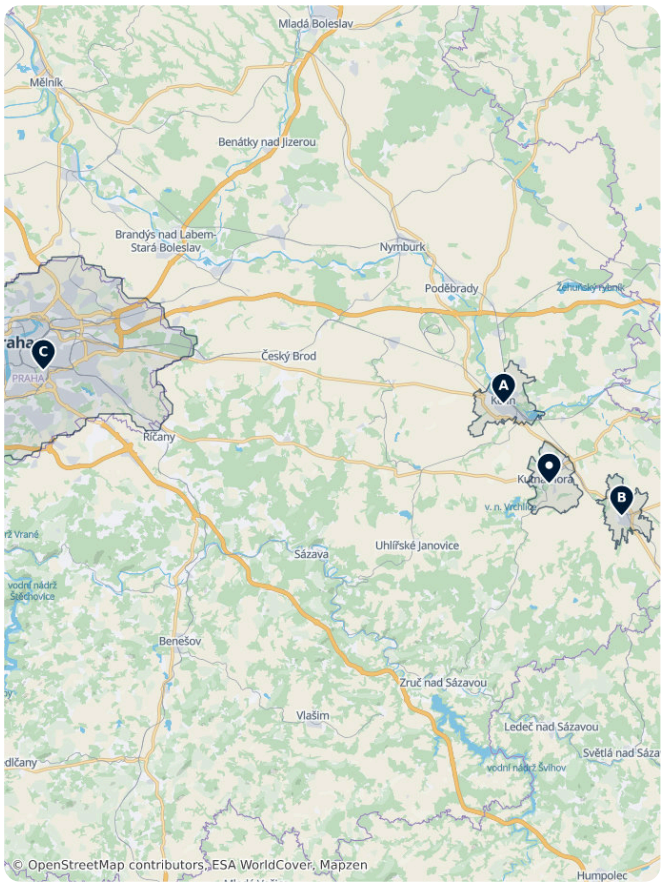
What to experience

- Put on a miner's coat and helmet for the underground circuit at the Czech Museum of Silver, walking real medieval mining passages beneath the town.
- Time a visit for the **Královské stříbření Kutné Hory** festival in June, when the old town fills with medieval costumes, a market and mock jousting.
- Walk or cycle the wooded Vrchlice valley just below the old town, past a small waterfall, for a break from cobbled streets.

Day trips

Kutná Hora sits close to a few worthwhile towns and castles of its own, and it also works well as a day out from the capital in the other direction.

- **A Kolín** — a historic river town about 15 minutes away by train, with its own Gothic church and a walkable old town.
- **B Čáslav** — a small town roughly 20 minutes away by train or car, with a Gothic church where the Hussite general Jan Žižka was buried (his tomb was later destroyed, but the church still marks the spot).
- **Žleby Chateau** — an English neo-Gothic castle about 20 minutes by car, with period interiors and landscaped gardens; bus connections are less frequent.
- **C Prague** — the Czech capital is about an hour away by train. Most Kutná Hora day-trippers come from there, but the trip works just as well in reverse.



Getting there

- **By air**: the nearest airport is Václav Havel Airport Prague, about 90 minutes by car; nearly all visitors arrive via Prague.
- **By train**: direct trains from Prague's main station (Praha hlavní nádraží) take as little as 51 minutes, typically just over an hour. They stop at Kutná Hora hlavní nádraží, about 2 km from the old town. A short connecting train continues to Kutná Hora město station, right by St. Barbara's Church.
- **By bus**: regional coaches run from Prague several times a day and take a bit longer than the train, with a stop closer to the town centre than the main train station.

Getting around

- **On foot**: the old town is compact but hilly — steep lanes climb between the main square and St. Barbara's Church. Comfortable shoes help.
- **Local train**: a short shuttle service connects Kutná Hora hlavní nádraží, the town centre (Kutná Hora město) and Sedlec, so you don't have to walk between the cathedral, the ossuary and the historic core.
- **Taxi**: useful for the short hop out to Sedlec if you'd rather not wait for the connecting train.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact but built on a steep hillside, so expect uphill walking between the main square and St. Barbara's Church.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The historic centre's steep streets make cycling within it impractical, but the Vrchlice valley below town has pleasant, flatter cycling paths.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: not for the old town itself — everything is walkable and the historic core is largely pedestrianized. A car helps if you're combining Kutná Hora with Žleby Chateau or other countryside stops.
- **Parking**: paid car parks ring the edge of the old town, including near Italian Court and the bus station; street parking in the centre is limited.
- **Motorway**: part of the fastest route from Prague uses a Czech motorway, so check whether you need an e-vignette before you set off.

Food & drink

Restaurants and cafés cluster around Palackého náměstí, the main square, and along Šultysova street leading up toward St. Barbara's Church. It's a good stretch for a sit-down lunch after sightseeing.

Kutná Hora doesn't have a food scene distinct from the rest of Bohemia, so expect the same hearty, meat-and-dumpling classics found across the country.

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

Kutná Hora is very safe for travelers, with petty crime rare even in the busiest months. Keep an eye on belongings in the queues and crowds at Sedlec Ossuary (Kostnice) and St. Barbara's Church during peak season. Pickpocketing is more likely there than anywhere else in town.

The old town's cobbled lanes are steep and uneven in places, so wear sturdy shoes, especially after rain or snow.

History

Silver was discovered here in the late 13th century, and the boomtown that followed briefly rivaled Prague in wealth. King Wenceslas II centralized the kingdom's coinage at the Italian Court. The Prague groschen was struck here for generations, funding much of medieval Bohemia's expansion.

That silver money paid for the town's outsized churches. Construction of St. Barbara's Church began in 1388, financed by the miners' guild. Silver income was unpredictable, though, and building dragged on for more than five centuries — it was only finished in 1905. The mines were exhausted by the 18th century, and the town's fortunes declined with them. That decline left its medieval core largely untouched by later development.

At Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec in Sedlec, the Cistercian abbot *Henry* is said to have scattered soil from Jerusalem's Golgotha over the adjoining cemetery in 1278. That act made it one of Central Europe's most sought-after burial grounds. Centuries later, the bones exhumed to make room for new graves decorated the Sedlec Ossuary (Kostnice). The chapel is now known worldwide as the Bone Church.

Both the town's historic centre and the church at Sedlec were added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1995.

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

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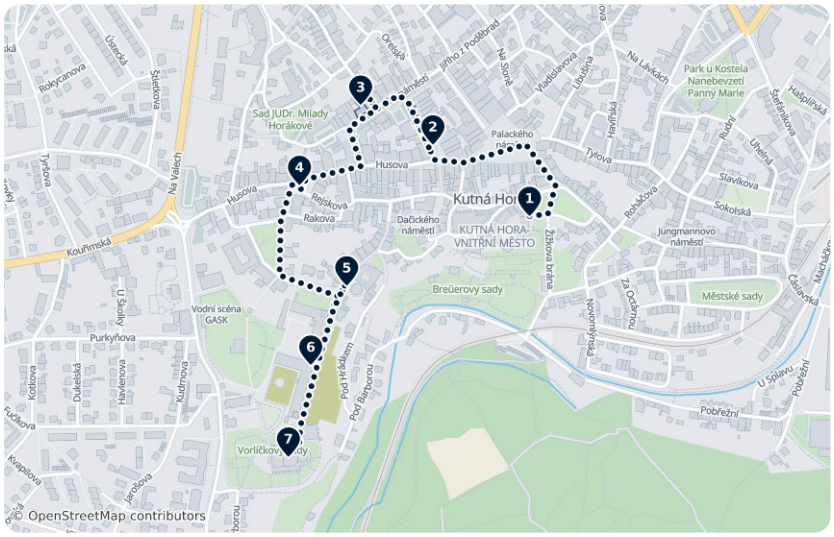
Kutná Hora: The Silver Town

1h 15min · 1.3 km · 7 stops



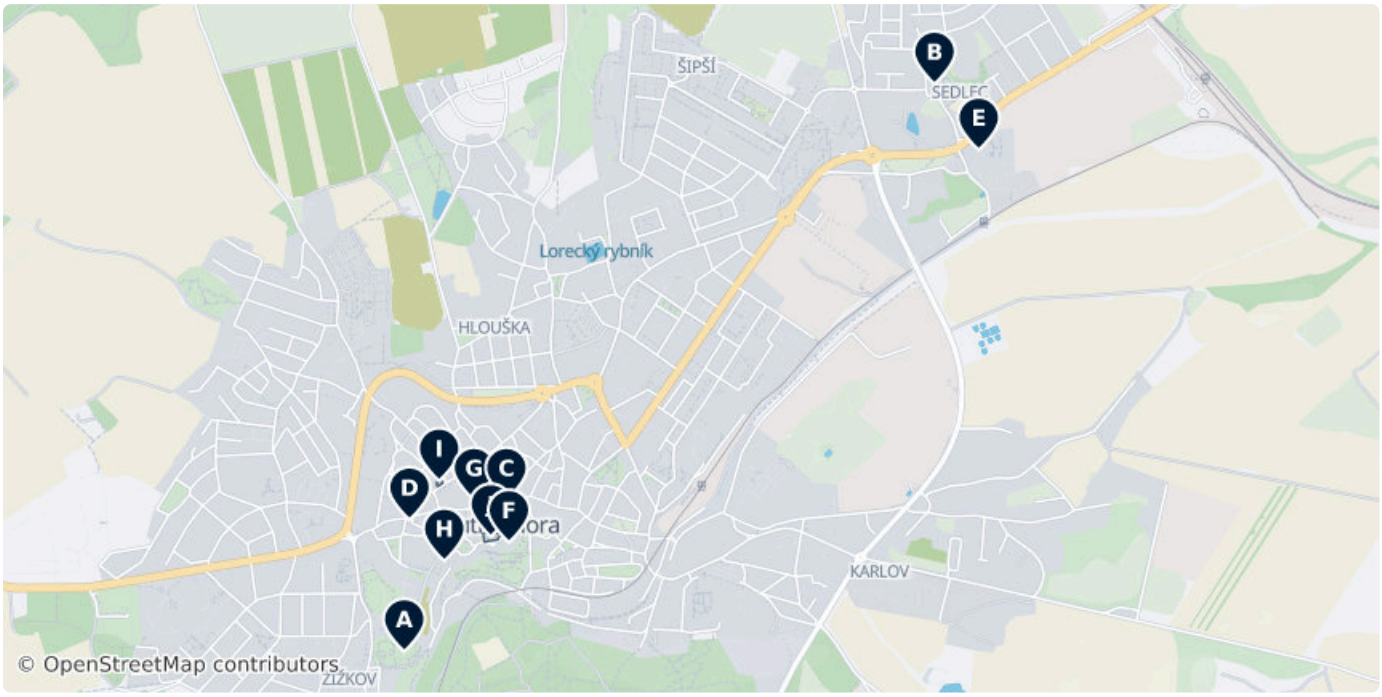
1. The Royal Mint
2. After the Silver
3. A Burgher's Gable
4. A Town Without Water
5. Hrádek and the Mine Below
6. The Jesuits Arrive
7. The Miners' Cathedral

Kutná Hora grew rich on silver. From the late thirteenth century its mines fed the Bohemian treasury, and from 1300 the Prague groschen was struck here. This walk follows the silver through the UNESCO-listed old town: the royal mint at the Italian Court, the burgher houses its money built, a Gothic fountain, the Hrádek mining museum, the Jesuit College terrace and the Cathedral of Saint Barbara. Seven stops, about an hour and a quarter on foot. The walk starts at the Italian Court on Havlíčkovo náměstí, a few minutes' walk from Palackého náměstí, the main square.



Kutná Hora Essentials

Once a medieval silver-mining powerhouse, Kutná Hora features a high concentration of Gothic and Baroque architecture. The UNESCO-listed center is dominated by the five-nave St. Barbara's Church and the royal Italian Court, which once served as the central mint. Nearby Sedlec hosts the world-famous ossuary decorated with the remains of 40,000 people and the Cathedral of Our Lady, a pioneering example of the Baroque Gothic style. The town's narrow streets also house the 15th-century Stone Fountain and the Bohemian Museum of Silver, offering access to original medieval mine shafts.





A St. Barbara's Church

St. Barbara's Church is a majestic jewel of Gothic architecture that will leave you breathless.

Barborská 11, 284 01 Kutná Hora, Czech Republic (49.94494, 15.26362)

khfarnost.cz/en/front-page/



B Kostnice (Bone Church)

This ossuary is made of bones and skulls of 40-70,000 people who died from the plague.

Zámecká 284, 28403 (49.96178, 15.28809)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

sedlec.info/kostnice/https://sedlecossua... , +420326551049



C Historical Town Centre of Kutná Hora

Kutná Hora, founded in the 13th century, is a proud Gothic town owing its beauty and wealth to the silver mining industry, so prominent in...

15 Palackého náměstí, Kutná Hora 28401, Czech Republic (49.94942, 15.26834)



D Gothic Stone Fountain

A massive Gothic fountain that is hard to miss. Used to bring water to the city from a well four miles away.

16 Husova, Kutná Hora 28401, Czech Republic (49.94885, 15.26387)

kutnahora.cz/index.php



E Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec

The Church of the Assumption of Our Lady and Saint John the Baptist is a Gothic and Baroque Gothic church north-east of Kutná Hora in the...

Vítězná 1, 284 03 Kutná Hora, Czech Republic (49.95982, 15.29014)

sedlec.info/en/cathedral/, +420 327 561 143



F Italian Court

The Italian Court is a palace in Kutná Hora in the Czech Republic. Originally, it was the seat of the Central Mint of Prague; it was named...

Havlíčkovo náměstí 552, Kutna Hora, Czech Republic (49.94818, 15.26846)

pskh.cz/en/italian-court/



G Plague Column, Kutná Hora

Plague Column in Kutná Hora, also known as Column of the Virgin Mary Immaculate, is located in Šultysova street in Kutná Hora in the...

10 Šultysova, Kutná Hora 28401, Czech Republic
(49.94943, 15.26685)



H Czech Museum of Silver

Located in the Hrádek fortress, this museum documents the town's silver mining history. It offers guided tours into a 250-meter-long medieval mine shaft and showcases the technology used for ore extraction and coin minting during the 15th century.

28/9 Barborská, Kutná Hora 28401, Czech Republic
(49.94763, 15.26547)

Mar-Apr Tu–Su	09:00–17:00
May-Jun Tu–Su	09:00–18:00
Jul-Aug Tu–Su	10:00–18:00
Sep Tu–Su	09:00–18:00
Oct Tu–Su	09:00–17:00
Nov Tu–Su	09:00–17:00

cms-kh.cz, +420327512159



I Stone House

A late Gothic burgher house from the late 15th century featuring an elaborately carved stone facade. It houses an exhibition on the lifestyle of the wealthy bourgeoisie and urban culture in the 17th to 19th centuries.

183/26 Václavské náměstí, Kutná Hora 28401, Czech Republic (49.95000, 15.26523)

Apr Tu–Su	09:00–12:00, 12:30–17:00
May Tu–Su	09:00–12:00, 12:30–18:00
Jul-Aug Tu–Su	10:00–12:00, 12:30–18:00
Nov Tu–Su	10:00–12:00, 12:30–16:00
Dec-Mar Mo–Su	Closed

cms-kh.cz, +420327512821



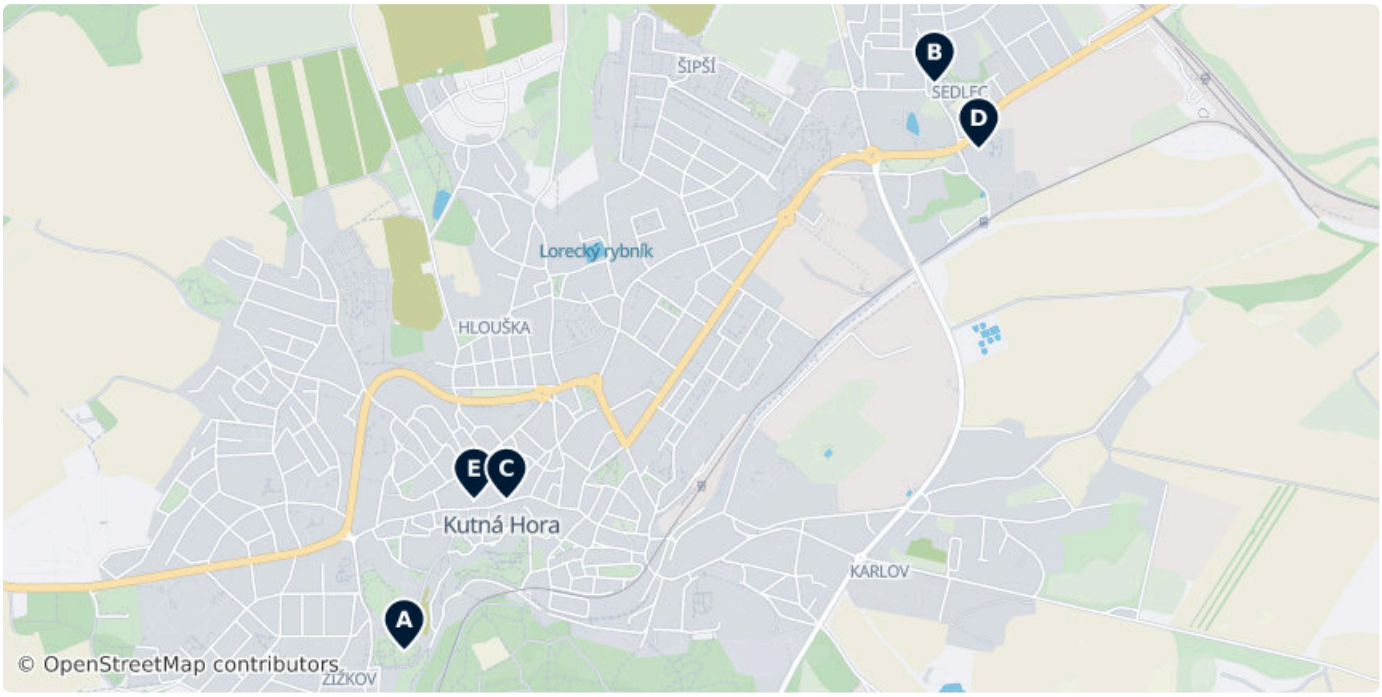
J Saint James Church

A 14th-century Gothic hall church characterized by its single 86-meter-high tower, which serves as a prominent landmark. The interior contains rare Gothic wall paintings and a Baroque main altar.

84/7 Havlíčkovo náměstí, Kutná Hora 28401, Czech Republic (49.94835, 15.26761)

Editor's Choice: Kutná Hora

Kutná Hora is a UNESCO World Heritage site defined by its medieval silver mining prosperity and architectural grandeur. This selection features the iconic St. Barbara's Church, a masterpiece of late Gothic design, and the somber Sedlec Ossuary, decorated with the remains of over 40,000 individuals. The list also includes the 13th-century historical town center, the Baroque-Gothic Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec, and the ornate 18th-century Plague Column. These landmarks showcase the town's evolution from a wealthy mining hub to a significant center of religious and artistic heritage.





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St. Barbara's Church is a majestic jewel of Gothic architecture that will leave you breathless.

Barborská 11, 284 01 Kutná Hora, Czech Republic (49.94494, 15.26362)

khfarnost.cz/en/front-page/



B Kostnice (Bone Church)

This ossuary is made of bones and skulls of 40-70,000 people who died from the plague.

Zámecká 284, 28403 (49.96178, 15.28809)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

sedlec.info/kostnice/https://sedlecossua... , +420326551049



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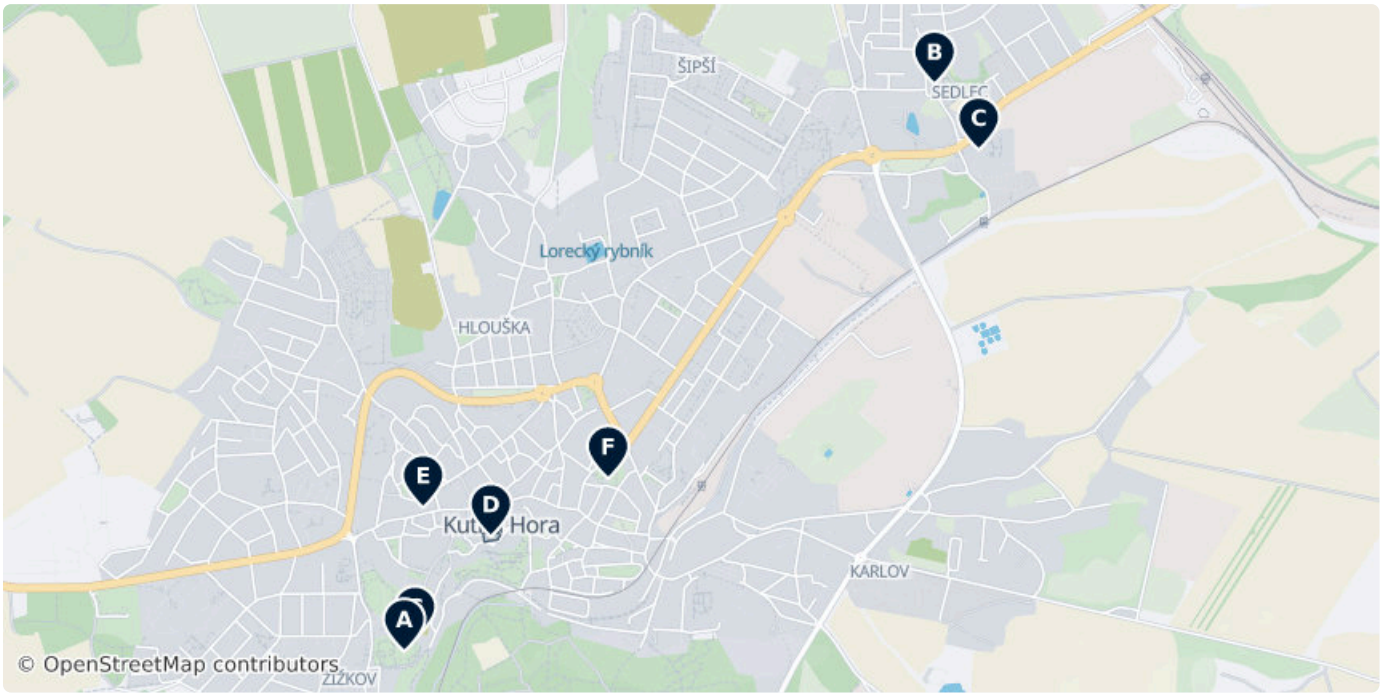
Historic Churches of Kutná Hora

Kutná Hora's religious architecture reflects its medieval wealth as a silver mining center. This collection includes the UNESCO-listed St. Barbara's Church, a masterpiece of late Gothic design, and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec, which blends Gothic and Baroque styles. The world-famous Sedlec Ossuary contains artistic arrangements of bones from over 40,000 people. Smaller sites like the Baroque St. John of Nepomuk and the Gothic St. James offer insights into the town's ecclesiastical history and urban development.





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Vítězná 1, 284 03 Kutná Hora, Czech Republic (49.95982, 15.29014)

sedlec.info/en/cathedral/, +420 327 561 143



D Saint James Church

A 14th-century Gothic city church featuring a prominent tower that defines the town's skyline. It was originally intended to have two towers to reflect the wealth of the local silver mines.

84/7 Havlíčkovo náměstí, Kutná Hora 28401, Czech Republic (49.94835, 15.26761)



E svatý Jan Nepomucký

An 18th-century Baroque church designed by František Maximilián Kaňka. It is a protected cultural monument featuring a distinctive facade and ornate interior decorations.

Husova, 284 01 Kutná Hora, Czechia (49.94921, 15.26449)

destinace.kutnahora.cz/d/kostel-sv-jan... , +420 327 314 958



F svaté Panny Marie Na Náměti

A 14th-century Gothic church, historically known as the 'Lower Church,' built on the site of an ancient marketplace using proceeds from the town's silver production.

423/8 Brandlova, Kutná Hora 28401, Czech Republic (49.95007, 15.27303)



Kaple Božího těla

A late 14th-century Gothic terrace chapel located adjacent to St. Barbara's Church. It was originally designed to serve as an ossuary and provides panoramic views of the town.

679 Barborská, Kutná Hora 28401, Czech Republic
(49.94531, 15.26412)

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