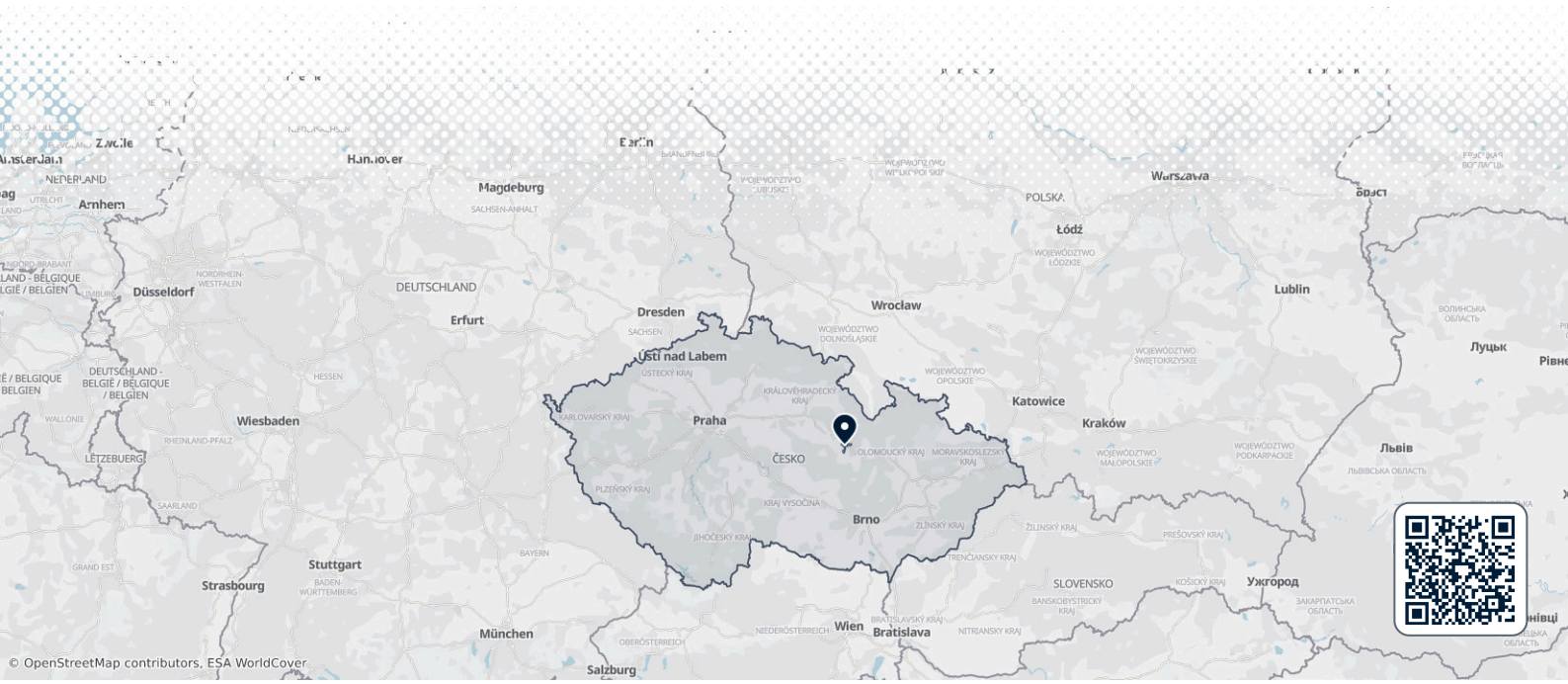


Litomyšl

Svitavy District · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Litomyšl is a small town in eastern Bohemia built around one of the finest Renaissance chateaus in the Czech Republic. Its arcaded main square and pastel townhouses have changed little in two centuries, giving the historic centre an unusually complete, lived-in feel rather than a museum-piece one.

The composer *Bedřich Smetana* was born here in 1824, and the town still celebrates that link every summer with an international opera festival held in the chateau courtyard. Litomyšl suits travelers who want a quiet, walkable base for a day or two, with easy detours into the rolling countryside of the Pardubice Region.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are mild and pleasant for walking the old town, summer is warm with the best conditions for outdoor sightseeing, and winter turns cold with occasional snow. Plan a visit around **Smetana's Litomyšl**, an international opera festival staged in the chateau courtyard each June — it is the town's biggest annual event, and accommodation books up well in advance.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 8° Feels like -6°	-6° / -15°	12 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 10° Feels like -3°	-4° / -15°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 16° Feels like 3°	-1° / -8°	Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	14° / 21° Feels like 10°	3° / -3°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25° Feels like 15°	8° / 2°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	12° / 7°	13 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 32°	14° / 9°	15 rainy days
August	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	14° / 9°	Dry air
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 27°	9° / 4°	Dry air
October	Good Good for hiking	14° / 21° Feels like 10°	5° / -2°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 14° Feels like 2°	1° / -6°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 8° Feels like -4°	-4° / -13°	Dry air

Best months: June, August

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

Top sights

Litomyšl Castle is the reason most travelers come to Litomyšl. Built between 1568 and 1581 for the Pernštejn family, its exterior is covered in sgraffito decoration in a diamond pattern found on almost no

other Czech castle, and it became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999.

On the arcaded B Smetana Square, Baroque, Classicist and Empire-style houses stand side by side under a continuous covered walkway, a layout that has barely changed since the 18th century.

C True Cross Church is a High-Baroque church built between 1716 and 1726, with a viewing terrace between its two towers and sculptural work by *Matyáš Bernard Braun*.

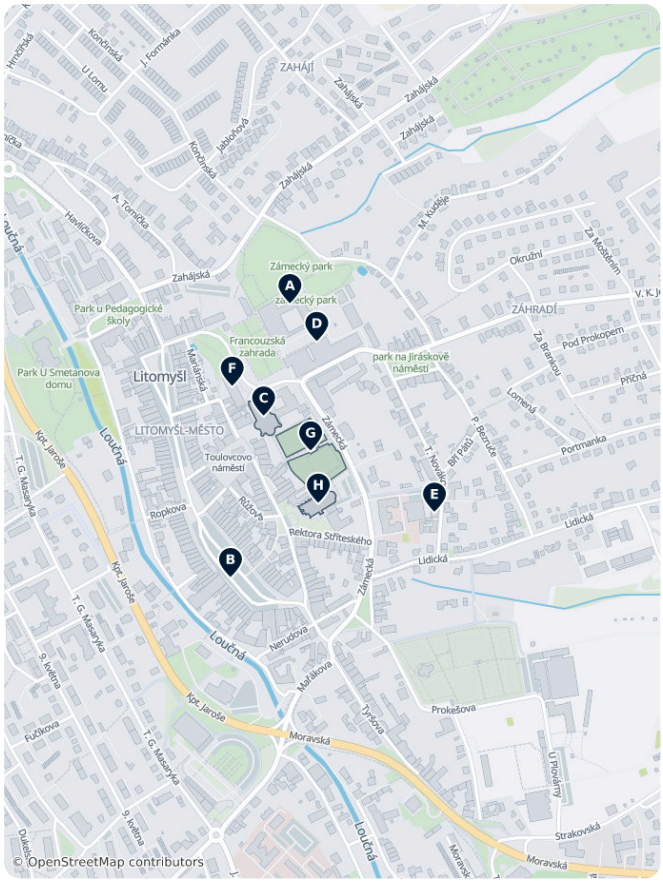
D Smetana Birth House occupies the ground-floor apartment in the former castle brewery where *Bedřich Smetana* was born in 1824, with original furniture and a small multimedia exhibition on his childhood.

E Portmoneum is a single house whose rooms the outsider artist *Josef Váchal* covered floor to ceiling in murals and carved furniture between 1920 and 1924 — one of the more unusual small museums in the country.

F Litomyšl Regional Museum, housed in the former Piarist gymnasium, covers the town's history, natural science and archaeology in one compact building.

G Klášterní zahrady is a quiet formal garden behind the chateau, a good spot to rest between sights.

H Kostel Povýšení sv. Kříže is the town's original Gothic parish church, dating back to around 1400.



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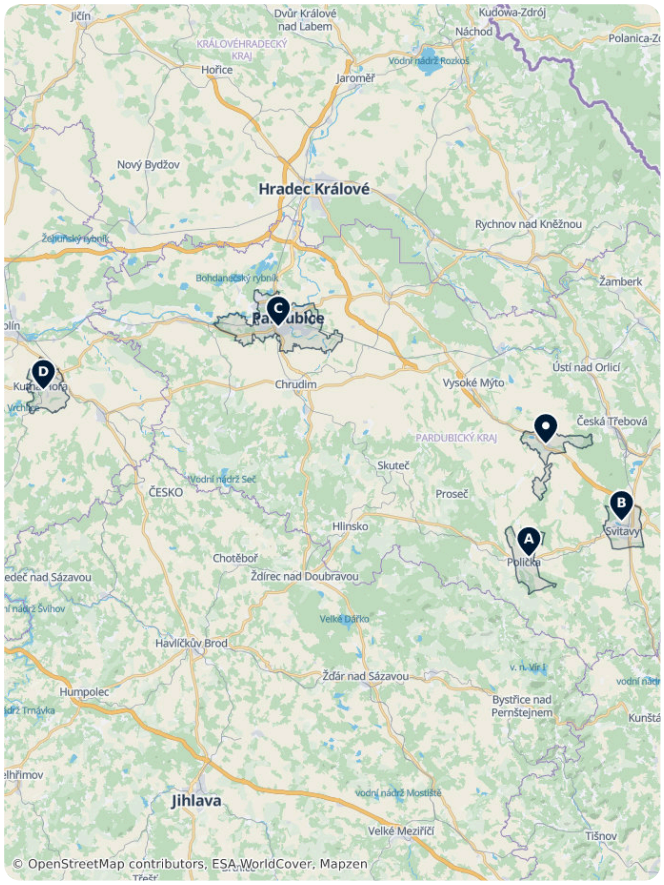
What to experience

- Catch a performance during **Smetana's Litomyšl**, an international opera festival held every June in the courtyard of Litomyšl Castle — a rare chance to hear opera performed outdoors against a Renaissance facade.
- Walk or cycle the **Klácelka**, a wooded path laid along a disused narrow-gauge rail line just outside town, popular with locals for an easy afternoon outing.
- Browse the small Christmas market that fills Smetana Square in December, with the arcades strung with lights.

Day trips

Litomyšl sits in a quiet corner of the Pardubice Region, with several rewarding day trips nearby.

- A Polička (~20 min by car or train): a small walled town with its medieval fortifications almost fully intact, and the birthplace of composer *Bohuslav Martinů*.
- B Svitavy (~15 min by car or train): a quieter neighboring town with a renovated historic square and a museum exhibit on Oskar Schindler, who was born there.
- C Pardubice (~45 min by car or train): the region's capital, with its own Renaissance chateau, a gingerbread museum, and the Velká pardubická steeplechase held every October.
- Kunětická hora (~50 min by car): a Gothic castle on an isolated hill near Pardubice, visible for miles across the surrounding flat countryside.
- D Kutná Hora (~1.5–2 hours by car or train): a UNESCO World Heritage town famous for St. Barbara's Church and the Sedlec Ossuary, worth the longer trip for anyone interested in Czech history.



Where to explore

Litomyšl belongs to the Svitavy district, alongside two other well-preserved historic towns worth combining with a visit.

- Polička: a compact walled town about 20 minutes away, known for its almost complete medieval bastions.
- Svitavy: the district's largest town, a short trip away with a restored historic centre.

Getting there

- **By air**: Prague Airport (PRG) is the nearest international gateway, about 150 km away. There is no direct train to Litomyšl; take a bus or the metro into central Prague, then a direct long-distance coach or a train connecting via Choceň (roughly 2.5–3 hours total).
- **By train**: Litomyšl's station sits on a regional branch line. Trains run to Choceň in about 30 minutes, connecting there to the Prague–Pardubice–Olomouc mainline.
- **By bus**: Direct long-distance coaches link Litomyšl with Prague (about 2.5 hours), and regional buses connect it with Pardubice and Svitavy for shorter trips.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: The historic centre is small enough that most visitors will not need it; a few local town bus lines connect the train and bus stations to the centre.
- **On foot**: Everything worth seeing sits within a 10–15 minute walk of Smetana Square; the old town has almost no car traffic on its main streets.
- **Cycling**: Regional cycling routes, including the wooded **Klácelka** trail along a former railway line, start just outside town, though a bike is not necessary for sightseeing in the centre itself.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The historic centre is fully walkable, with most sights within 10-15 minutes of the main square.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Regional cycling routes such as the Klácelka trail start just outside town, but the compact centre itself has no dedicated cycling infrastructure.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not necessary for the town itself, but useful for reaching nearby castles and countryside day trips like Kunětická hora at your own pace.
- **Parking**: A few car parks sit just outside the pedestrian-priority old town, including near Smetana Square; expect an hourly fee during the day.
- **Restrictions**: None beyond pedestrian priority on the main square — no congestion charge or low-emission zone applies.

Food & drink

Litomyšl's restaurants and cafés cluster around the arcades of Smetana Square, where you will find straightforward Czech pub food alongside a few more modern cafés. There is nothing here that strays far from the country's usual repertoire of roast pork, dumplings and goulash, so treat a meal in town as a chance to try the classics rather than seek out something Litomyšl-specific.

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

Litomyšl is a small, quiet town with very little crime affecting visitors. The only real friction point is crowds and tight parking during the summer opera festival, when booking both tickets and accommodation early is worth doing.

History

Litomyšl grew up around a Premonstratensian monastery founded in 1145, and by the 14th century it had briefly become the seat of its own bishopric. Its oldest surviving church, Kostel Povýšení sv. Kříže, dates from around this period.

The town's present character comes largely from the Renaissance, when Litomyšl Castle was built for the Pernštejn family in an arcaded style imported from Italy and adapted across Bohemia and Moravia. In 1824, the composer *Bedřich Smetana* was born in an apartment inside the castle's own brewery, now preserved as Smetana Birth House; the town has celebrated that connection ever since, most visibly through its annual opera festival.

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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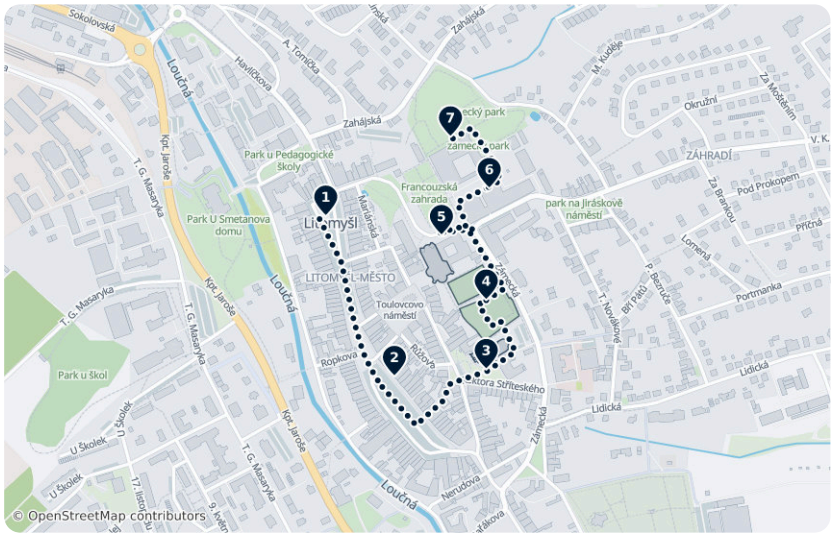
Best of Litomyšl

1h · 1.2 km · 7 stops



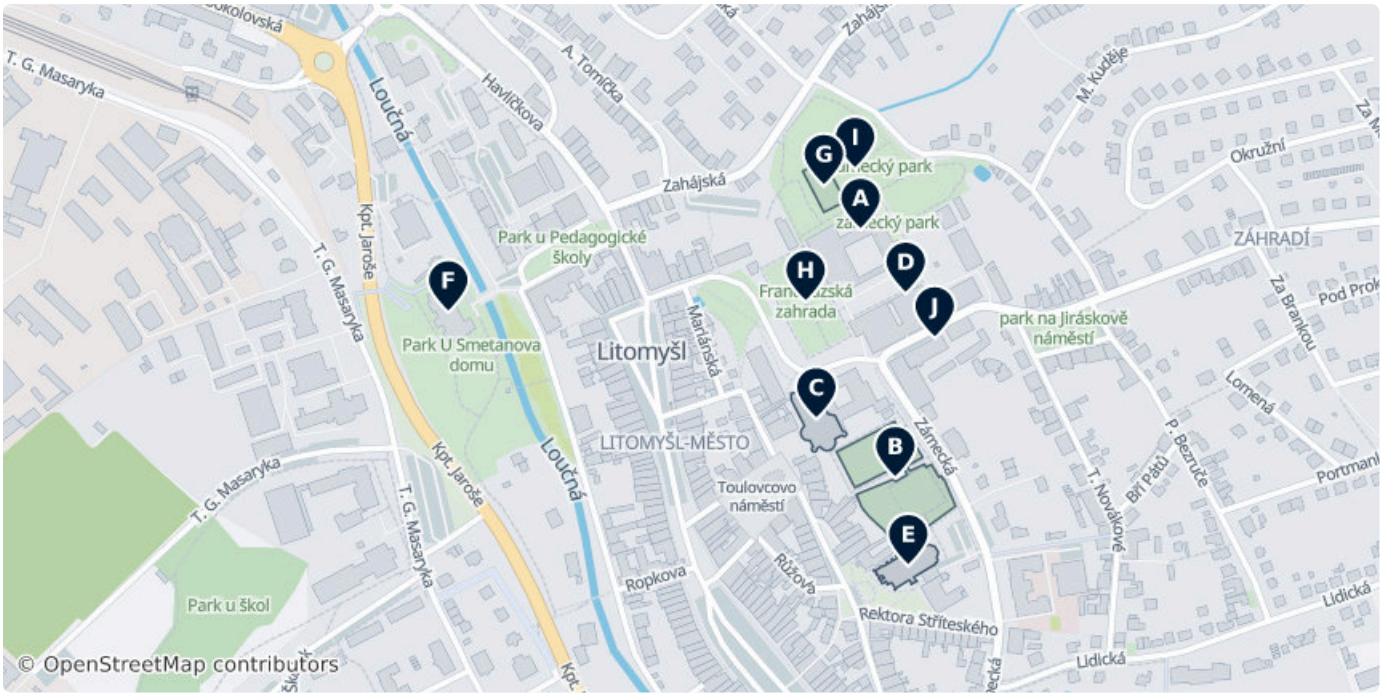
1. Smetana Monument
2. Smetana Square
3. Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
4. Monastery Gardens
5. Piarist Church of the Finding of the Holy Cross
6. Smetana's Birthplace
7. Litomyšl Château

A compact walk through Litomyšl, the East Bohemian town where the composer Bedřich Smetana was born. You start at his monument at the lower end of the long arcaded Smetana Square and walk up through it. Then you climb gently to the castle hill: the Gothic church of the town's first monastery, the terraced Monastery Gardens, the Baroque Piarist church, the brewery flat where Smetana was born, and finally the UNESCO-listed Renaissance château with its sgraffito walls. The start is about ten minutes on foot from the railway station.



Litomyšl Essentials

Litomyšl is defined by its UNESCO-listed Renaissance castle, famous for its sgraffito-decorated walls and rare 18th-century theater. The town's cultural heritage is deeply tied to composer Bedřich Smetana, whose birthplace is preserved within the former castle brewery. This selection highlights the architectural transition from Gothic and Baroque churches to the Neo-Renaissance Smetana House. Visitors can explore the formal French gardens and the Monastery Gardens, which feature contemporary sculptures by Olbram Zoubek and panoramic views of the historic center.





A Litomyšl Castle

Litomyšl Castle is one of the largest Renaissance castles in the Czech Republic. It is owned by the Czech state.

93 Jiráskova, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic (49.87361, 16.31306)

zamek-litomysl.cz, +420 461 615 067



B Monastery Gardens

Restored gardens located between the Piarist and Deanery churches, featuring sculptures by Olbram Zoubek, a central pool, and views of the town.

177 Boženy Němcové, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic (49.87147, 16.31352)

litomysl.cz/turista, +420461612161



C Finding True Cross Church

A monumental Baroque church built between 1714 and 1722 by Giovanni Battista Alliprandi. It features a modern light installation and an accessible viewing platform.

147 Boženy Němcové, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic (49.87197, 16.31247)

Aug 02-Sep 30 Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Oct 01-Nov 22 Sa–Su	10:00–16:00
Nov 23-Dec 23 Sa–Su	10:00–16:00, 10:00–19:00
Dec 26-Dec 31 Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

zamecke-navrsi.cz/piaristicky_chram, +420739337992



D Smetana Birth House

Located in the former castle brewery, this museum marks the 1824 birthplace of composer Bedřich Smetana and focuses on his childhood and family life.

Jiráskova, 570 14 Litomyšl, Czechia (49.87306, 16.31367)

rml.cz/cs/muzeum/rodny-byt-bedricha-smetany.html



E Holy Cross Exaltation Church

A significant Gothic church dating back to the 14th century, originally part of an Augustinian monastery, featuring medieval architectural details.

182 Šantovo náměstí, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic (49.87071, 16.31370)

litomysl.cz/turista



F Smetanův dům

A Neo-Renaissance cultural center and concert hall built in 1905, serving as the town's primary venue for theatrical performances and musical events.

Bernardka, 570 14 Litomyšl, Czechia (49.87290, 16.30754)

G zámecké divadlo

One of the few preserved 18th-century theaters in Europe, featuring original stage machinery and hand-painted scenery from 1797.

94 Jiráskova, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic (49.87399, 16.31257)

H Francouzská zahrada

A formal garden designed in the French style, characterized by symmetrical boxwood hedges and statues of ancient deities.

(49.87298, 16.31233)

I Zámecký park

An English-style landscape park surrounding the castle complex, offering walking paths and views of the Renaissance architecture.

Matěje Kuděje, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic (49.87413, 16.31299)

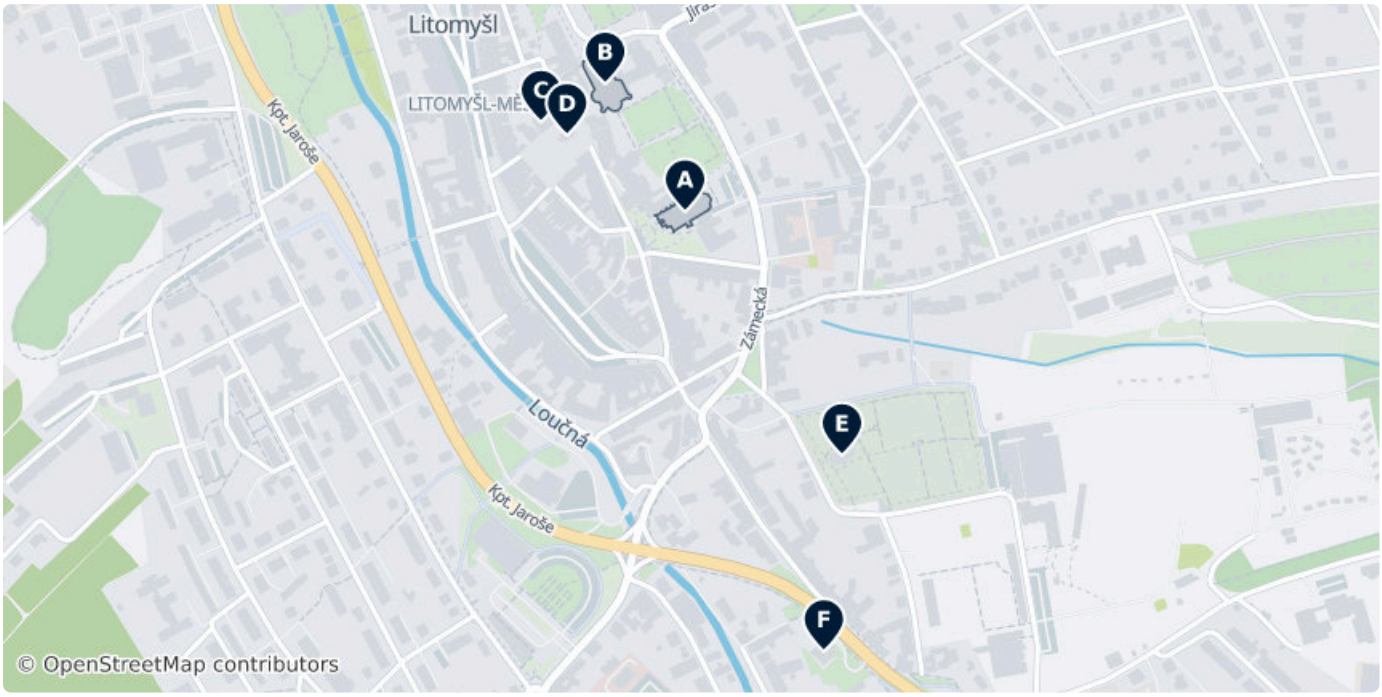
J Muzeum domečků panenek a hraček Litomyšl

A collection showcasing historical dollhouses, miniature rooms, and antique toys dating from the mid-19th century to the present day.

Jiráskova 4, 57001 (49.87267, 16.31405)

Historic Religious Sites

Litomyšl's religious architecture spans over six centuries, reflecting the town's evolution from a bishopric seat to a center of modern design. This selection includes the monumental Baroque Piarist Church, the Gothic Deanery Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and the medieval Church of the Sending of the Holy Apostles. The list also highlights contemporary spiritual life through the award-winning minimalist architecture of the New Church of the Brethren, illustrating a unique dialogue between historical tradition and modern sacred space.





A Holy Cross Exaltation Church

This Gothic deanery church, founded in the late 14th century, serves as a primary ecclesiastical site near Litomyšl Castle. It features a significant vaulted nave and historical interior furnishings restored after several town fires.

182 Šantovo náměstí, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic (49.87071, 16.31370)

litomysl.cz/turista



B Finding True Cross Church

A Baroque landmark designed by Giovanni Battista Alliprandi between 1714 and 1722. It is renowned for its monumental facade, modern light art installations, and accessible towers offering views of the historic town center.

147 Boženy Němcové, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic (49.87197, 16.31247)

Aug 02-Sep 30 Mo–Su	10:00–18:00
Oct 01-Nov 22 Sa–Su	10:00–16:00
Nov 23-Dec 23 Sa–Su	10:00–16:00, 10:00–19:00
Dec 26-Dec 31 Mo–Su	10:00–18:00

zamecke-navrsi.cz/piaristicky_chram, +420739337992

C modlitebna sboru CČSH



A prayer house serving the Czechoslovak Hussite Church, located in a former residential building adapted for spiritual gatherings in the 20th century.

(49.87159, 16.31148)

nockostelu.cz/index.php

D Kostel Rozeslání apoštolů



Situated on Toulovec Square, this Gothic church was founded in the 14th century as part of a municipal hospital. It remains one of the town's oldest surviving ecclesiastical structures.

151 Toulovcovo náměstí, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic
(49.87146, 16.31188)

E Hřbitovní kostel sv. Anny



A Baroque cemetery church constructed between 1670 and 1672. It features a simple single-nave design and serves as the architectural focal point of the town's historic burial grounds.

284 Prokešova, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic
(49.86829, 16.31612)

F Nový kostel Sboru Církve bratrské



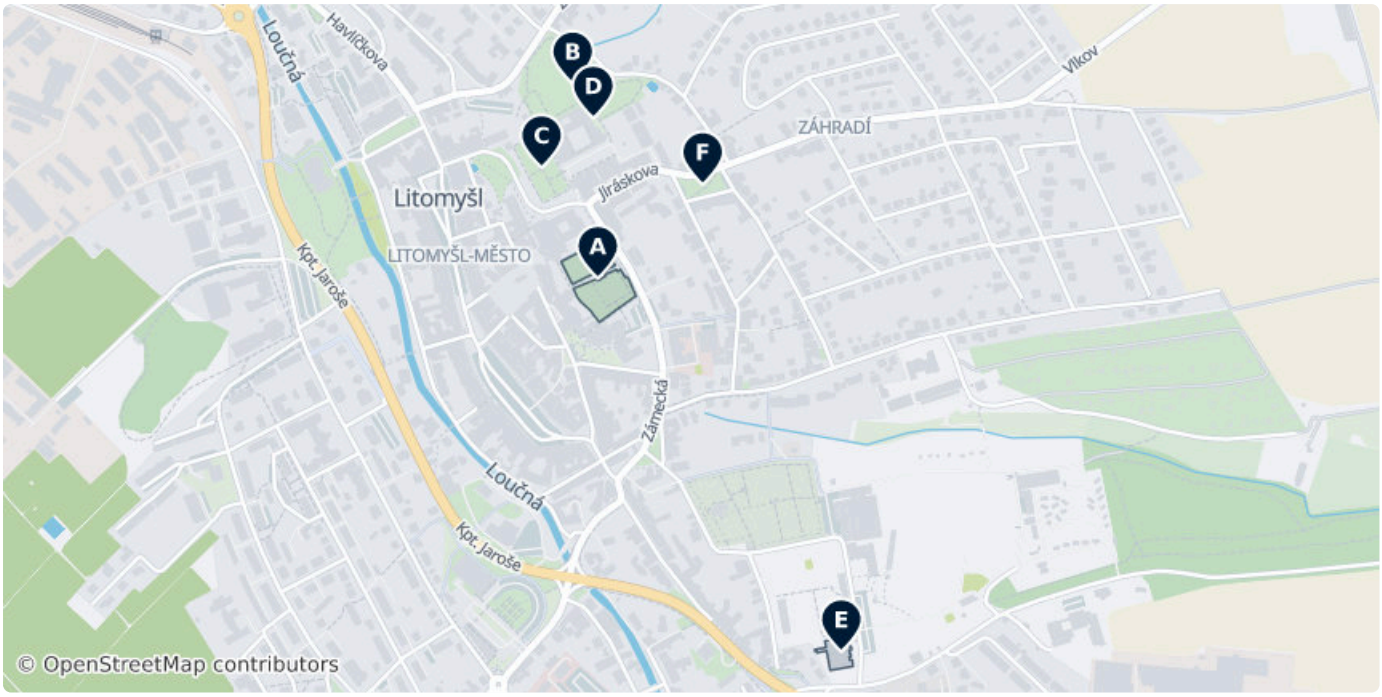
Completed in 2010 by architect Zdeněk Fránek, this minimalist structure is a significant example of modern Czech sacred architecture. The design uses slanted planes and natural light to create a symbolic spiritual environment.

1222 Moravská, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic
(49.86634, 16.31584)

novykostel.cz

Parks and Leisure

Litomyšl features diverse green spaces ranging from the formal French garden and English-style landscape of the UNESCO-listed castle grounds to the contemporary Monastery Gardens. These gardens, situated between the Piarist and Holy Cross churches, house sculptures by Olbram Zoubek and a mist fountain. For recreation, the town offers a modern indoor swimming facility with award-winning architecture, alongside smaller urban parks such as Jiráskovo náměstí located near the historic center.





A Monastery Gardens

Restored gardens located between the Piarist and Holy Cross churches, featuring a central pool with sculptures by Olbram Zoubek and integrated musical accompaniment.

177 Boženy Němcové, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic (49.87147, 16.31352)

litomysl.cz/turista, +420461612161

B Zámecký park

English-style landscape park surrounding the Litomyšl Castle complex, featuring mature trees and walking paths.

Matěje Kuděje, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic (49.87413, 16.31299)

C Francouzská zahrada

Symmetrically designed formal garden adjacent to the castle, featuring manicured hedges and a central fountain.

(49.87298, 16.31233)

D zámecký park

Landscaped grounds of the UNESCO-listed Litomyšl Castle complex.

(49.87366, 16.31343)

E Městský bazén

Modern indoor swimming facility featuring a 25-meter stainless steel pool, whirlpool, and children's pool, housed in an architecturally significant contemporary building.

1221 U Plovárny, Litomyšl 57001, Czech Republic
(49.86634, 16.31871)

bazen-litomysl.cz

F park na Jiráskově náměstí

Small urban park and public square named after writer Alois Jirásek, located within walking distance of the historic center.

(49.87275, 16.31576)

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Route	HERE, GraphHopper

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