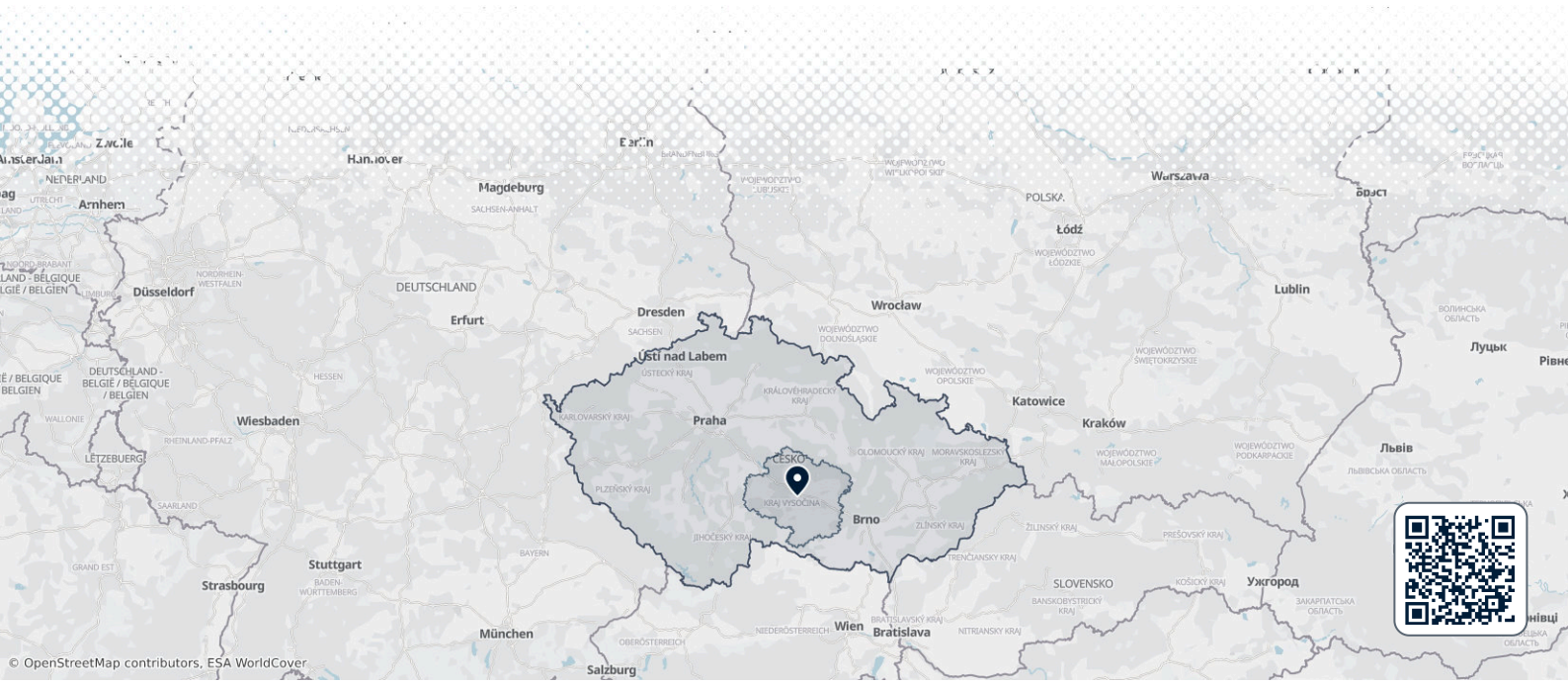


Vysočina Region

Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Vysočina, the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, fills the rolling countryside between Prague and Brno. Rather than one big city, it offers a scattering of small medieval towns, Gothic castles, and Baroque churches, tied together by forests, fish ponds, and granite hills. It's the quietest of the Czech regions and one of the least visited, which is exactly why travelers who like slow, uncrowded trips are drawn here.

The region has two UNESCO World Heritage Sites away from the crowds of Prague: the Jewish Quarter of Třebíč and the pilgrimage church at Zelená Hora near Žďár nad Sázavou. Composer *Gustav Mahler* grew up in the regional capital, Jihlava. Vysočina suits a multi-day countryside loop by car more than a single city stay.

When to visit

Summers are warm with frequent afternoon showers, spring and autumn are mild and good for hiking, and winters are cold and snowy across the highlands.

Time a visit for early February, when Nové Město na Moravě hosts a biathlon or cross-country skiing World Cup race at the Vysočina Arena — one of the region's biggest annual events.

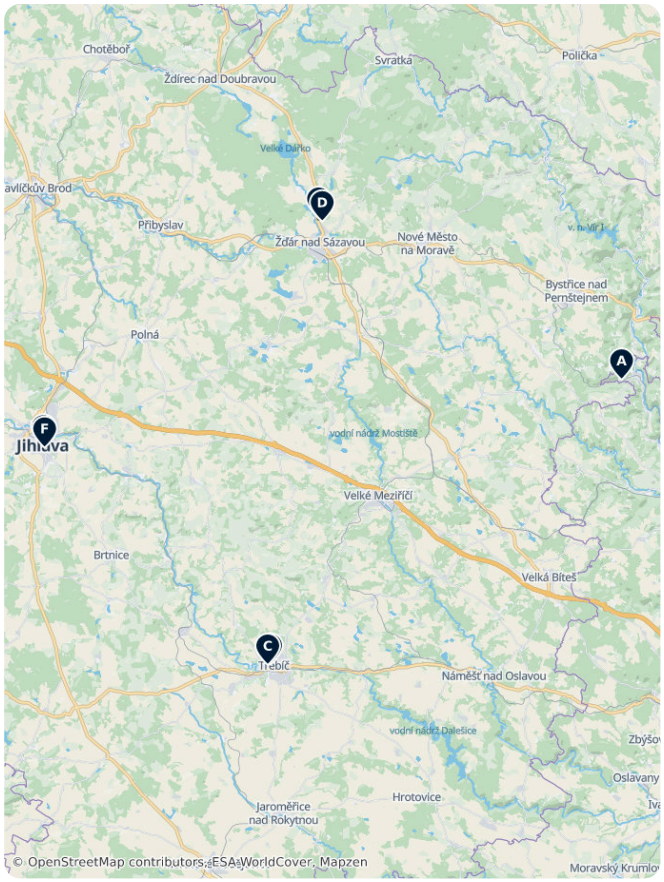
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	0° / 7° Feels like -6°	-6° / -15°	Dry air
February	Great Great for skiing	2° / 10° Feels like -4°	-5° / -14°	Dry air
March	Good Good for skiing	7° / 16° Feels like 2°	-2° / -8°	Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	13° / 21° Feels like 9°	3° / -4°	Dry air
May	Good Good for hiking	18° / 25° Feels like 14°	7° / 2°	15 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 28°	11° / 6°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 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 hiking	19° / 26°	9° / 3°	Dry air
October	Good Good for hiking	13° / 20° Feels like 9°	5° / -2°	Dry air
November	Good Good for skiing	6° / 13° Feels like 1°	0° / -6°	Dry air
December	Great Great for skiing	1° / 7° Feels like -5°	-4° / -13°	Dry air

Best months: June, August

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

Snow can settle on the highland trails from November into March, so pack for it if visiting outside summer.

Top sights



Ⓐ Pernštejn Castle is one of the best-preserved Gothic-Renaissance castles in the country, rising on a rock spur above the river near Bystřice nad Pernštejnem.

In Třebíč, the Ⓑ Jewish Quarter of Třebíč is one of Central Europe's best-preserved former Jewish ghettos, with narrow lanes, a synagogue, and a hillside cemetery.

Next to it, the Ⓒ Basilica of St. Procopius blends Romanesque and Gothic architecture and forms a single UNESCO listing together with the Jewish Quarter.

Near Žďár nad Sázavou, Ⓓ Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora is architect *Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel*'s masterpiece — a star-shaped Baroque Gothic church built around the number five, referencing the legend of St. John of Nepomuk.

The adjoining Ⓔ Žďár nad Sázavou Chateau began as a Cistercian monastery and now houses a regional museum.

In Jihlava, the regional capital, Ⓕ Church of St. James the Greater has a 63-metre tower with views over the town's large medieval square.

Below the same square, the Ⓖ Jihlava Underground is a network of tunnels first dug as cellars in the 14th century, now open for guided tours.

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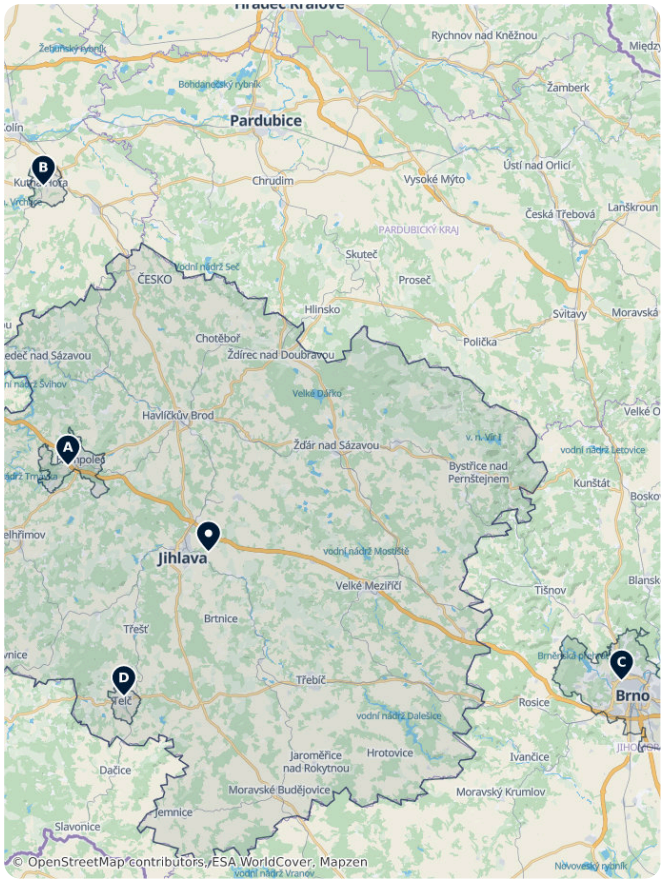
What to experience

Winter turns the region into the Czech Republic's cross-country skiing hub.

- The Vysočina Arena in Nové Město na Moravě hosts World Cup and championship biathlon and cross-country races most years, and its trails are open to the public between events.
- Hike the granite boulder fields of Žďárské vrchy Protected Landscape Area, including the region's highest point, Devět skal.
- Cycle the quiet lanes between Vysočina's hundreds of fish ponds, a landscape first shaped by medieval monks and still used for carp farming today.

Day trips

Vysočina sits between Prague and Brno, so it's easy to combine with a stop in either city, and the region has its own worthwhile day trips too.



- A Humpolec — about 30 minutes from Jihlava by car. Home to the independent Bernard brewery, which runs tours and tastings.
- B Kutná Hora — around 1 hour from Havlíčkův Brod or Jihlava by car or train. A UNESCO-listed former silver-mining town, famous for the Gothic St. Barbara's Cathedral and the bone-decorated Sedlec Ossuary.
- C Brno — about 1 hour from Třebíč or Jihlava by car or train. The Czech Republic's second-largest city offers major museums, nightlife, and Špilberk Castle above the old town.

D Telč, with its UNESCO-listed Renaissance square, sits inside Vysočina itself and is worth a full stop rather than a rushed detour — see its own guide for a visit plan.

Where to explore

Vysočina's own towns are worth exploring beyond the countryside:

- Jihlava is the regional capital, with a large medieval square, Gothic churches, and the underground tunnel network described above.
- Telč has one of the best-preserved Renaissance town squares in the country, lined with pastel arcaded houses; its historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See its own dedicated guide for a full visit plan.
- Třebíč pairs its UNESCO-listed Jewish Quarter with a lively riverside old town.
- Žďár nad Sázavou is the gateway to the Zelená Hora pilgrimage church and to hiking in the Žďárské vrchy highlands.
- Pelhřimov calls itself the "Town of Records," home to a quirky Museum of Records and Curiosities.
- Nové Město na Moravě is the region's winter-sports hub, built around the Vysočina Arena.
- Havlíčkův Brod is a quieter market town on the Prague-Brno railway, named after 19th-century journalist *Karel Havlíček Borovský*.

Getting there

- By air: Vysočina has no commercial airport of its own. Most travelers fly into Prague (PRG) and drive or take the train south-east, around 1.5-2 hours to Jihlava. Brno (BRQ) is closer to the region's eastern towns, such as Třebíč, but has limited scheduled service.
- By train: Fast trains on the Prague-Brno line stop at Havlíčkův Brod and Žďár nad Sázavou. Reaching Jihlava or Třebíč usually means changing to a slower regional line.
- By bus: Long-distance coaches on the Prague-Brno route stop at towns along the D1 motorway, including Jihlava and Humpolec, and can be faster door-to-door than the train for those two towns.

Getting around

- Public transit: Regional buses and trains connect the region's towns but run infrequently outside commuting hours — check timetables rather than assuming a frequent service. Tickets are usually bought from the driver on buses; book train tickets at Czech Railways.
- Taxi: Available in the larger towns; ride-hailing apps have limited coverage outside Jihlava.
- On foot / cycling: Town centres are small enough to explore on foot, but distances between them call for a car or bike. The region has a growing network of marked cycling routes through the highlands.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Low

Individual town centres are compact and walkable, but distances between them call for a car or bike since this guide covers a whole region rather than one city.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Rolling highland terrain and a growing network of marked cycling routes make touring by bike rewarding, though hills and distances take some fitness.

Driving

- Is a car worth it? Yes — Vysočina's castles, churches, and small towns are spread across the countryside, and rural bus service is thin. Rent one if you plan to see more than a town or two.
- Parking: Historic squares in Jihlava and Telč have paid parking zones, usually pay-by-phone or a machine at the edge of the square; the centre itself is for pedestrians.
- Winter driving: Winter tyres are legally required from November to March whenever roads are snow-, ice-, or frost-covered — common in the highlands' higher villages.

Food & drink

Vysočina's countryside produces the raw ingredients of Czech home cooking: potatoes, trout and carp from its fish ponds, and game from its forests. Bramboráky (potato pancakes) and dumplings show up on most menus, alongside hearty pork dishes.

For something distinctive, look for the independent Humpolec brewery, whose Bernard beer has been made there since 1991, or smoked trout sold at ponds along the road. In Jihlava, cafés around the main square are a reliable spot for a casual meal.

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

Vysočina is one of the safest regions in the country; petty crime is rare even in busy town squares. The usual precautions apply — keep an eye on belongings at markets and festivals.

Mobile signal can be patchy on remote hiking trails and forest roads, so download offline maps before setting out into the Žďárské vrchy highlands.

History

Vysočina's medieval wealth came from silver. Jihlava was founded in the mid-13th century around one of Europe's richest silver deposits, and its miners dug a warren of cellars and tunnels beneath the town — you can still walk part of it at Jihlava Underground.

The region's Jewish community, documented in Třebíč since at least the 16th century, left one of Central Europe's best-preserved historic quarters. Its residents were deported and murdered in the Holocaust.

In the 18th century, architect *Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel* built Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora in a highly unusual style blending Gothic and Baroque forms, designed around the number five in reference to the legend of St. John of Nepomuk.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for the Czech Republic at a glance:

CURRENCY
CZK Kč

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

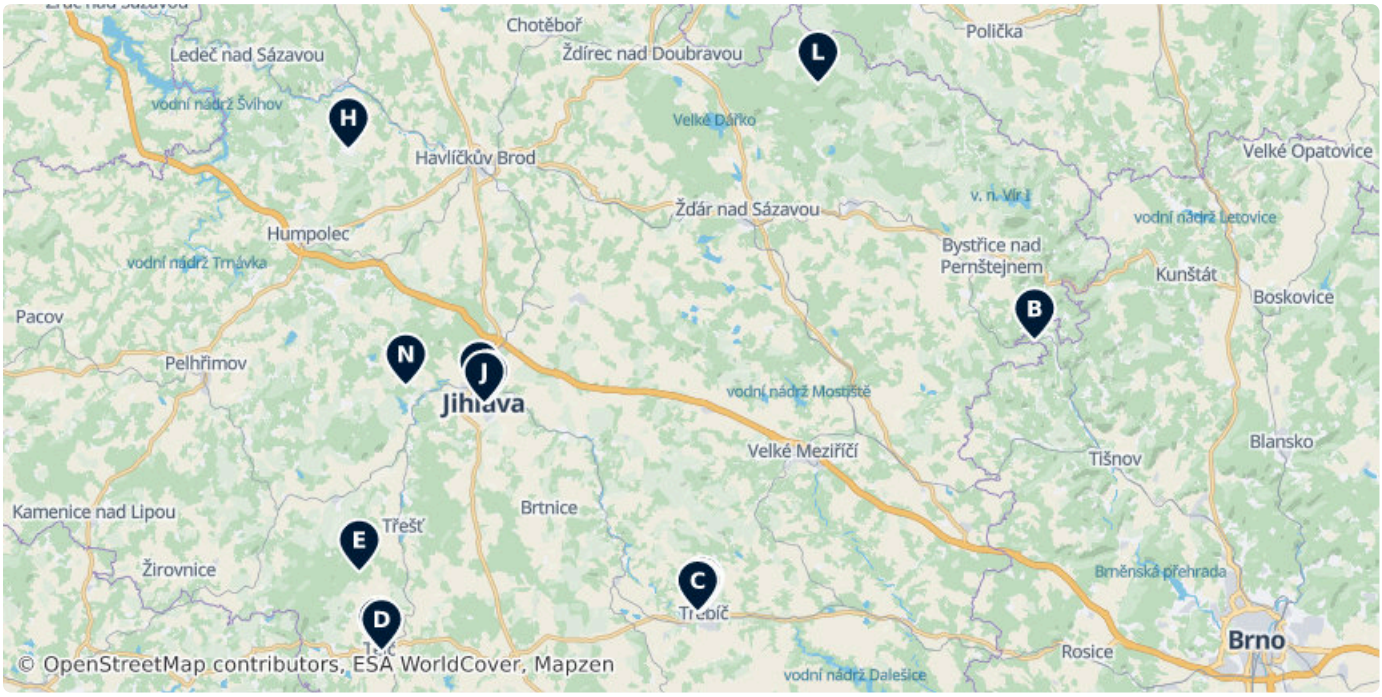
Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Czech

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Kraj Vysočina's Crown Jewels

Kraj Vysočina is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites, showcasing the diverse architectural history of the Czech Republic. This collection features the well-preserved Renaissance town of Telč, the Romanesque-Gothic Basilica of St. Procopius, and the unique Jewish Quarter in Třebíč. Beyond these landmarks, the region offers the formidable Gothic fortifications of Pernštejn and Lipnice castles, the natural granite rock formations of Devět skal, and the family-oriented Zoo Jihlava. These sites highlight the transition from medieval strongholds to elegant chateaus and historic urban centers.





A Jewish Quarter in Třebíč

The Jewish Quarter of Třebíč is a neighborhood and former ghetto in the town of Třebíč, located in western Moravia, Czech Republic.

4 Tiché náměstí, Třebíč 67401, Czech Republic (49.21726, 15.87689)

whc.unesco.org/en/list/1078



B Pernštejn Castle

Historic Gothic-Renaissance castle known for its medieval architecture and extensive fortifications dating back to the 13th century.

Hrad Pernštejn, 592 62 Nedvědice, Czech Republic (49.45086, 16.31837)

Apr Sa–Su	09:00–15:00
May-Jun Tu–Su	09:00–16:00
Jul-Aug Tu–Su	09:00–17:00
Sep Tu–Su	09:00–16:00
Oct Sa–Su	09:00–15:00

hrad-pernstejn.eu, +420566566101



C Basilica St. Procopus

St. Procopius Basilica is a Romanesque-Gothic Christian church in Třebíč, Czech Republic.

1 Zámek, Třebíč 67401, Czech Republic (49.21691, 15.87344)

Mo–We	18:00–19:00
Th	08:00–09:00
Fr	16:30–17:30
Sa	08:00–09:00
Su	07:00–08:00, 10:00–11:00

zamek-trebic.cz/about-the-basilica-of-st-procopius/



D Historic Centre of Telč

Telč is a town in the Jihlava District in the Vysočina Region of the Czech Republic. It has about 5,200 inhabitants.

123 Na Parkaně, Telč 58856, Czech Republic (49.18350, 15.45588)



E Roštejn

Late Gothic hunting castle rebuilt in Renaissance style during the 16th century. Features a 45-meter high seven-sided tower and interiors housing museum exhibits on nature and hunting.

1, 58856, Czech Republic (49.25191, 15.42622)

hrad-rostejn.cz, +420 739 382 901



F Jewish Cemetery

One of the largest and best-preserved Jewish cemeteries in the Czech Republic, containing approximately 3,000 gravestones. Part of the UNESCO World Heritage site in Třebíč.

1058 Hrádek, Třebíč 67401, Czech Republic (49.22015, 15.87994)

trebic.cz/trebic-mesto-pamatek-unesco/ms-30090/p1=30...



G Bývalá židovská čtvrť

Historical district in Třebíč recognized by UNESCO for its exceptionally well-preserved urban layout, featuring two synagogues and over 120 residential buildings.

70/6 Stinná, Třebíč 67401, Czech Republic (49.21748, 15.87825)



H Lipnice nad Sázavou Castle

Massive 14th-century Gothic fortress built on a rocky ridge. Known for its monumental architecture, deep wells, and association with writer Jaroslav Hašek.

133, Lipnice nad Sázavou 58232, Czech Republic (49.61427, 15.41192)

hrad-lipnice.eu, +420 569 486 189



I 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

J Magistrát města Jihlavy

Historical administrative building located on Masaryk Square, serving as the seat of the city government in Jihlava's historic center.

(49.39659, 15.59153)

K Jihlava-Pražský most

Tourist information point and guidepost located near the historic bridge in Jihlava, marking routes for regional walking trails.

14 Pražská, Jihlava 58601, Czech Republic (49.40556, 15.58528)



L Devět skal

The highest peak of the Žďárské vrchy highlands at 836 meters. This natural monument consists of a group of nine distinct granite rock formations offering panoramic views.

59202, Czech Republic (49.67074, 16.03230)



M Telč Chateau

Historic castle featuring Renaissance, Gothic, and Neoclassical architectural styles with richly decorated interiors and extensive parklands. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its cultural and architectural significance.

Náměstí Zachariáše z Hradce 1, 588 56 Telč, Czech Republic (49.18541, 15.45159)

zamek-telc.eu, +420567243943

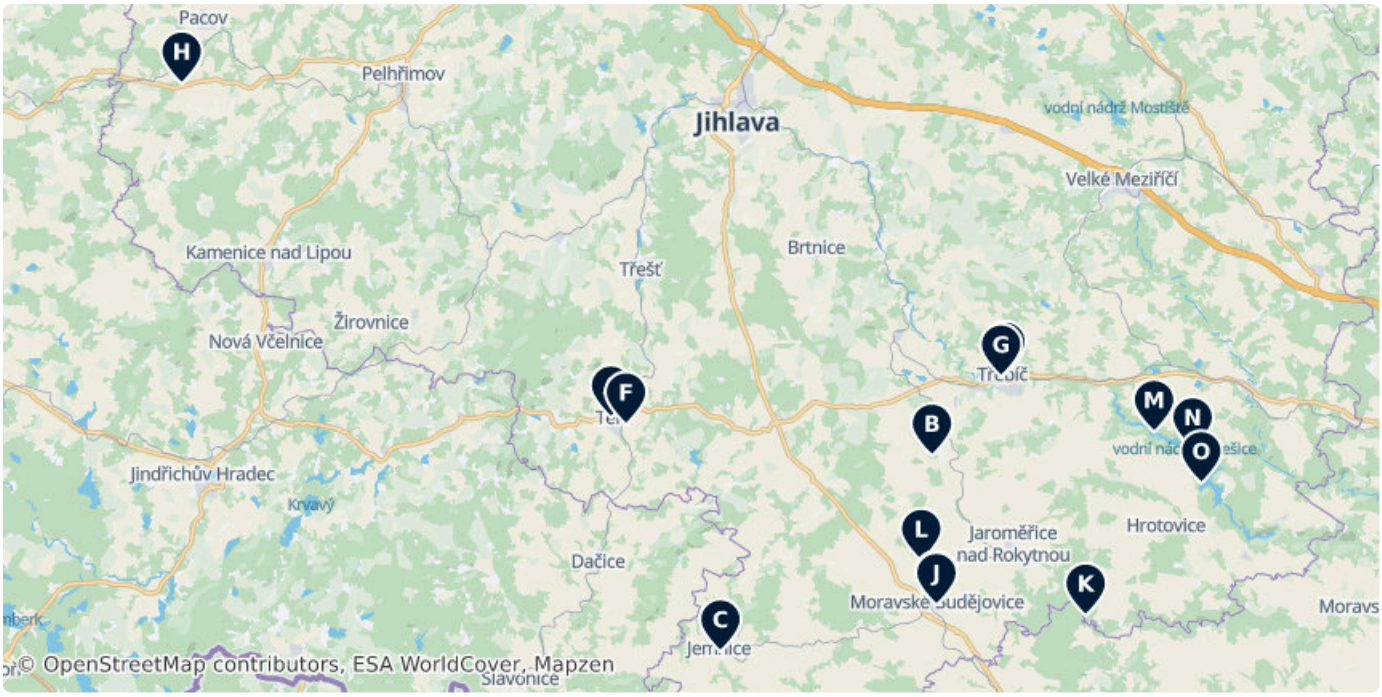
N Kaple svatého Antonína

Local guidepost and landmark situated near a chapel, serving as a navigational point for hikers in the Jihlava region.

58841, Czech Republic (49.41172, 15.48793)

Historic Castles & Views

This collection features historic castles, ruins, museums, and viewpoints primarily in Telč and its surroundings. Highlights include well-preserved Renaissance and Baroque chateaux, medieval castle ruins accessible to visitors, specialized museums showcasing local crafts and history, and several observation towers offering panoramic views of the Vysočina region.





A Telč Chateau

A Renaissance chateau located in the historic center of Telč, noted for its distinctive arcaded courtyard and well-preserved architecture.

Náměstí Zachariáše z Hradce 1, 588 56 Telč, Czech Republic (49.18541, 15.45159)

zamek-telc.eu, +420567243943



B Sádek Castle

Former medieval castle transformed into a chateau, protected as a cultural monument in the Čáslavice cadastral area.

45, 67524, Czech Republic (49.15810, 15.80382)



C Zámek Jemnice

Castle rebuilt into a residence with French castle-style fortifications, integrated into Jemnice's historic city defenses.

47 Havlíčkovo náměstí, Jemnice 67531, Czech Republic (49.01744, 15.57173)

D Moravské Budějovice

Castle located on Náměstí Míru square, recognized as a cultural monument since 1968.

1 náměstí Míru, Moravské Budějovice 67602, Czech Republic (49.05184, 15.80882)



E Masarykova vyhlídka

Scenic viewpoint offering expansive views over the surrounding Vysočina landscape.

239/7a Soukenická, Třebíč 67401, Czech Republic (49.21683, 15.88460)

F Oslednice

Observation tower providing elevated views, located near Telč.

58856, Czech Republic (49.18042, 15.46807)

telc.eu/tourist_attractions/look_out_tower_oslednice



G Town Tower

Paid access viewpoint tower situated in Telč, offering panoramic vistas.

114/13 Hasskova, Třebíč 67401, Czech Republic (49.21480, 15.87978)

May Sa–Su	10:00–12:00, 12:30–17:00
Jun Mo–Su	10:00–12:00, 12:30–17:00
Jul-Aug Mo–Su	10:00–12:00, 12:30–18:00

visittrebic.eu/sights/town-tower/

H Muzeum izolatoru

Museum dedicated to the history and development of electrical insulators.

(Unnamed Road), 39501, Czech Republic (49.42419, 14.98028)

I Muzeum řemesel

Museum of crafts in Moravské Budějovice, part of the Vysočina Třebíč Museum network.

1 náměstí Míru, Moravské Budějovice 67602, Czech Republic (49.05171, 15.80882)

muzeum.mbudejovice.cz

J Muzeum Masné krámy

Museum located in Moravské Budějovice focusing on local cultural heritage.

67 Pivovarská, Moravské Budějovice 67602, Czech Republic (49.05083, 15.80882)

muzeum.mbudejovice.cz

K Pulkov

Ruins of a medieval castle near Moravské Budějovice.

67557, Czech Republic (49.04321, 15.97255)

hrady.cz/index.php

L letohrádek na sv. Vítu

Ruins of a summer palace dedicated to St. Vitus.

(49.08250, 15.79220)

M Kozlov (hrad, okres Třebíč)

Accessible ruins of a medieval castle located in Třebíč district.

67502, Czech Republic (49.17501, 16.04775)

N Kokštejn

Remains of a castle ruin situated in the Vysočina region.

(49.16253, 16.09010)

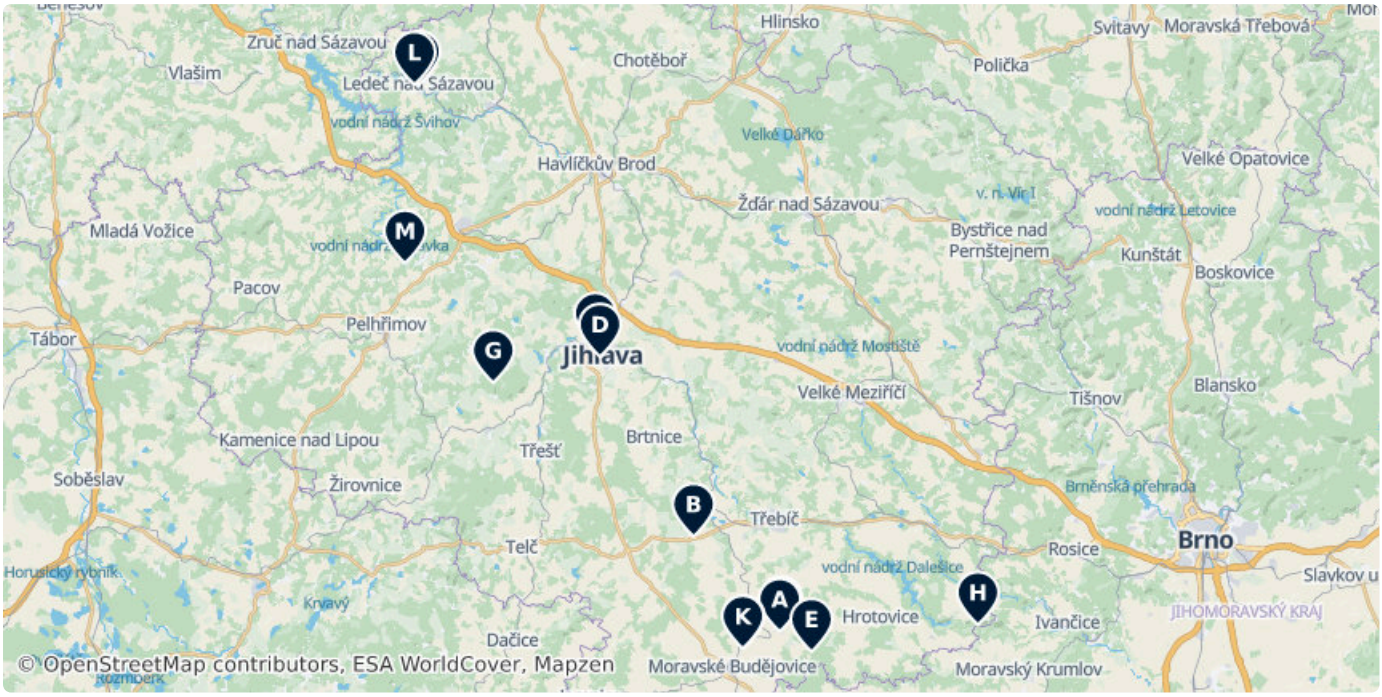
Čalonice

Ruins of a castle located near Čalonice.

(49.13823, 16.09953)

Hidden Natural & Cultural Gems

This collection highlights a variety of sites in the Vysočina region, featuring historic parks like Zámecký park Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou and Park Gustava Mahlera, natural springs such as Pramen řeky Rokytné, distinctive cliffs including Čertův hrádek and Šeptouchovská skála, as well as notable baroque monuments and artworks like sloup Nejsvětější Trojice and the statues of Anděl Strážný and Svatý Jan Nepomucký.





A Zámecký park zámku Jaroměřice nad rokytnou

Baroque landscaped park surrounding Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou Chateau, featuring historic garden design.

Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou 67551, Czech Republic (49.09210, 15.89004)

B Pramen řeky Rokytné

Source of the Rokytná River, located approximately 10 km west of Třebíč.

67525, Czech Republic (49.19736, 15.74410)

C Vodní Ráj

Aquapark offering various water-based recreational facilities in the region.

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



D Gustav Mahler Park

Urban park in Jihlava named after composer Gustav Mahler, situated between Benešova and Věžní streets.

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

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



E Justinka

Rock formation situated in the river valley of Rokytná near Příštpa.

67551, Czech Republic (49.07000, 15.94421)



F sloup Nejsvětější Trojice

Baroque cultural monument located in the eastern part of Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou's náměstí Míru.

26 náměstí Míru, Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou 67551, Czech Republic (49.09434, 15.89252)

G Čertův hrádek

Notable cliff formation known as Čertův hrádek.

58844, Czech Republic (49.36725, 15.40489)

H Malá Baba

Cliff accessible for climbing, located near the town area.

67575, Czech Republic (49.09966, 16.22595)

horosvaz.cz/skaly-sektor-557/

I Park of Josef Toufar

Park dedicated to Father Josef Toufar.

(49.69528, 15.27974)

J Anděl Strážný

Statue representing the guardian angel.

(49.07347, 15.82908)

K Svatý Jan Nepomucký

Statue of Saint John of Nepomuk.

(49.07330, 15.82774)

L Šeptouchovská skála

Cliff formation known as Šeptouchovská skála.

(49.69460, 15.27146)

M Kyselák

Cliff named Kyselák.

(49.49883, 15.25547)

DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

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