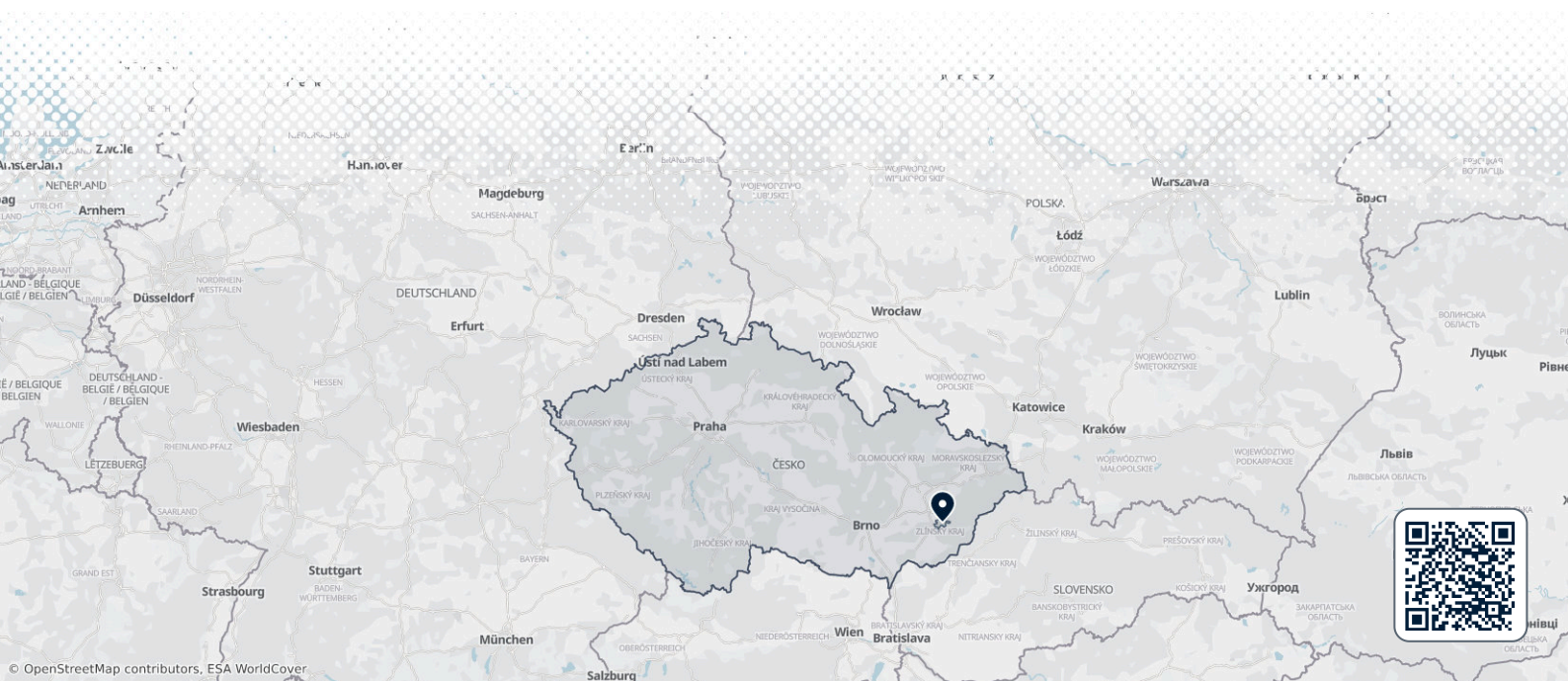




 Zlín District · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE



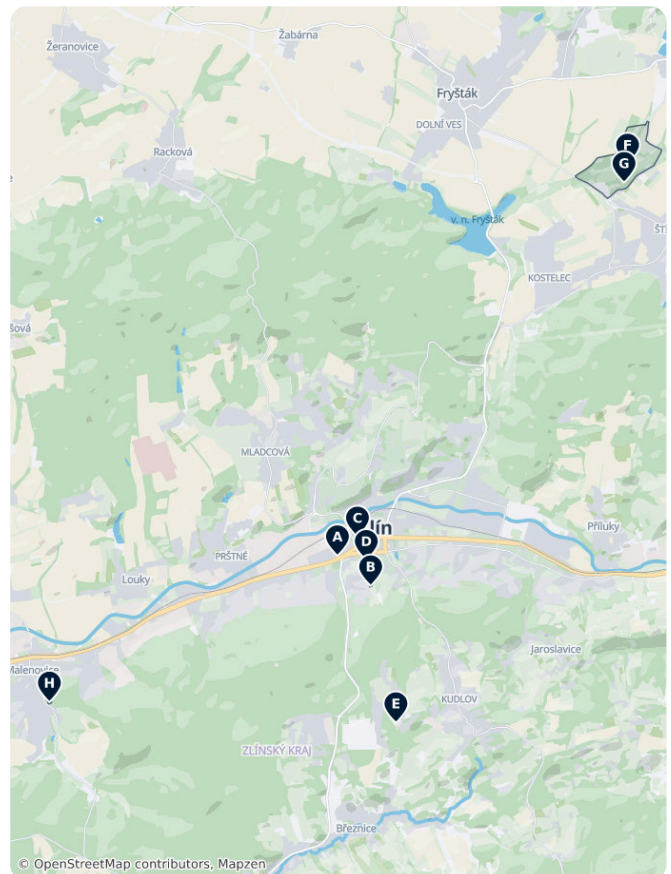
Overview

Zlín grew from a small Moravian market town into one of Europe's most complete examples of early 20th-century industrial planning. Shoe manufacturer *Tomáš Baťa* built his company here starting in 1894, and by the 1920s and 1930s his architects had reshaped the whole town: a grid of factory halls, worker housing, schools and shops, all in a clean, modern style now called Czech functionalism. Baťa's company also ran its own film studios, making Zlín an early center of Czech animation.

Today Zlín is the capital of the Zlínský kraj region, and its unusual architectural heritage is what draws most visitors — red-brick factory blocks turned into galleries and a university, a soaring 1930s skyscraper, and leafy garden suburbs built for factory workers. It suits travelers curious about design, industrial history and film, and makes a relaxed, uncrowded alternative to the Czech Republic's bigger cities. Playwright *Tom Stoppard* was born here in 1937, and the city has hosted an international children's film festival since 1961.

Top sights

- A** **Baťa's Skyscraper - Building No. 21** is Zlín's defining landmark: a 77.5-metre, 16-floor office block built in 1936–1938 as the Baťa company's headquarters. Its lift once doubled as a mobile office, and the top floor now holds a café with views over the whole town.
- B** **Tomas Bata Memorial** was built in 1933 to honor company founder *Tomáš Baťa* after his death in a plane crash. Its crystal-like glass form was designed by architect *František Lydie Gahura*, and it now houses a museum and concert hall.
- C** **Zlín Castle** is a former Renaissance-era chateau, older than the Baťa era, now home to changing art exhibitions.
- D** **Tomas Bata University in Zlín's** modern campus, with its striking congress centre and library, shows that Zlín's appetite for ambitious architecture didn't end with Baťa.
- E** **Film Knot Zlín** occupies part of the city's historic film studio complex, where animation pioneers *Hermína Týrlová* and *Karel Zeman* once worked; it now runs exhibits and workshops on Zlín's film history.
- F** **Zlín - Lešná Zoo** is one of the country's most visited zoos, laid out by continent so animals share space the way they would in the wild.



Next to the zoo, **G Lešná Chateau** is a 19th-century pleasant contrast to the town's functionalist core.

H Malenovice Castle, dating to the 14th century, is life long before the Baťa company arrived.

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What to experience

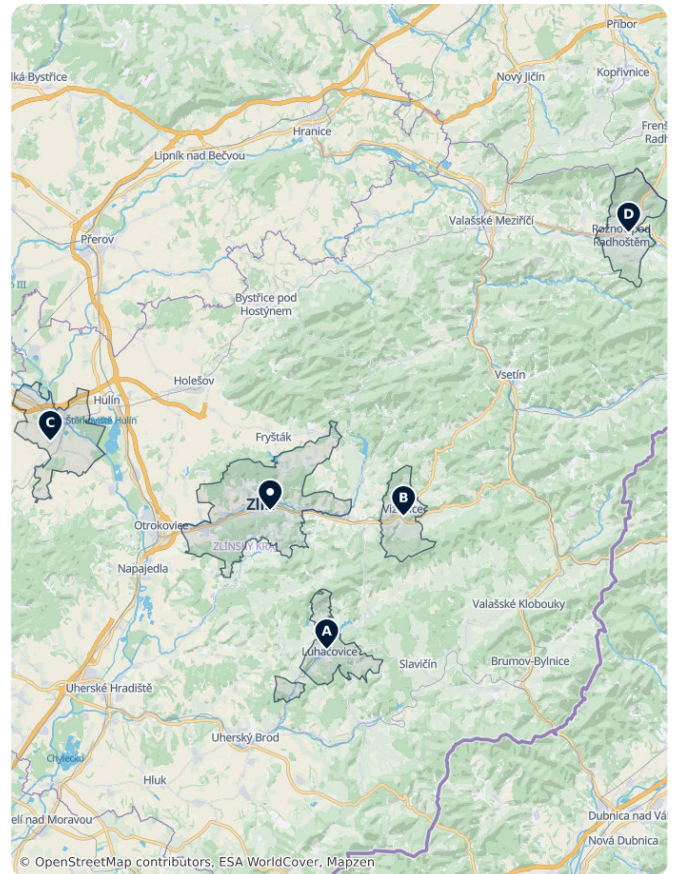
Zlín's most distinctive experiences come from its design heritage and its film history, not from typical sightseeing.

- Join a hands-on animation workshop at **Film Knot Zlín**, making a short stop-motion film in the same studio complex where Czech animation pioneers once worked.
- Walk or cycle the green boulevards linking Baťa's original worker-housing colonies — a rare chance to experience a complete early-20th-century "garden city" still lived in today.
- Climb one of the wooded hills at the edge of town, such as Tlustá hora, for a view over the factory rooftops and functionalist skyline below.

Day trips

The district around Zlín mixes spa towns, chateaux and mountain foothills, so a rental car or the local train line opens up plenty of easy day trips.

- **A Luhačovice** — about 25–30 minutes by train or car. This spa town's Art Nouveau bathhouses, designed by *Dušan Jurkovič*, are on the Czech Republic's UNESCO World Heritage tentative list.
- **B Vizovice** — about 25–30 minutes on the same local rail line. Known for its baroque chateau and the Jelínek family's pear-brandy distillery, open for tastings and tours.
- **C Kroměříž** — around 35–40 minutes by car or bus. Its Archbishop's Palace and Flower Garden form an actual UNESCO World Heritage Site, not just a candidate.
- **D Rožnov pod Radhoštěm** — about 50 minutes by car. Gateway to the Beskydy mountains, with the Wallachian Open-Air Museum, one of Europe's largest collections of historic folk buildings.
- Buchlov Castle and the pilgrimage basilica at Velehrad, in the Slovácko wine country southwest of Zlín — around 1 to 1.5 hours by car.



Where to explore

Zlín sits at the centre of a district known for spa towns and country chateaux. [Luhačovice](#), just southeast of the city, is the area's best-known spa resort. [Vizovice](#), on the same local rail line, is known for its chateau and its fruit-brandy tradition.

Getting there

- **By air:** The nearest airport with scheduled flights is Brno–Tuřany Airport (BRQ), near [Brno](#), about 95 km away — roughly 1.5 hours by bus or car. Prague's Václav Havel Airport (PRG) is the country's main international hub, about 300 km away.
- **By train:** Direct trains connect Zlín with [Brno](#) in around 1.5–2 hours. Reaching [Prague](#) takes about 4 hours, usually with a change at Otrokovice or Přerov. The main station, Zlín střed, is a short walk from the centre.
- **By bus:** Long-distance coaches connect Zlín with [Prague](#) and [Brno](#) several times a day, and are often faster and cheaper than the train.

Getting around

- **Public transit:** Trolleybuses and buses run by DSZO cover the city. Pay by tapping a contactless bank card, phone or smartwatch directly on board — no separate ticket purchase needed. [DSZO journey planner](#)
- **Taxi / ride-hailing:** Standard taxi and ride-hailing apps operate, though distances within the centre rarely justify one.
- **On foot / cycling:** Baťa's planners built the centre as a walkable grid with wide green boulevards between housing blocks, so most sights are an easy walk apart. A riverside path along the Dřevnice is popular for cycling.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High



The Bata-era centre is a compact, walkable grid, with most top sights within a 15-20 minute walk of each other.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate



A riverside path along the Dřevnice is popular for cycling, though some outer neighborhoods sit on hillier ground.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?:** No — the centre is compact and walkable. A car pays off for exploring nearby castles, spa towns and the Beskydy foothills, not for getting around Zlín itself.
- **Parking:** Paid zones cover the centre; pay via the Parkum or EasyPark app, or at a machine. Larger, cheaper car parks are a short walk from náměstí Míru.
- **Restrictions:** None — Zlín has no congestion charge or low-emission zone.

Food & drink

Zlín sits in the Wallachian foothills, so regional specialties lean rustic: look for *frgál*, a large sweet flatbread topped with fruit or poppy seed, and plum dumplings in season. Hearty Moravian staples like roast pork with bread dumplings and cabbage are on most menus too.

For casual eating, head to the pedestrian streets around náměstí Míru, the main square, or Baťovo náměstí near the skyscraper, where cafés and restaurants cluster. For something distinctive, the restaurant on the observation floor of [Baťa's Skyscraper - Building No. 21](#) pairs regional cooking with a view over the whole town.

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.

Chlebičky

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

Zlín is a safe, low-crime regional city, and violent crime against tourists is very rare. The usual city-travel precautions apply — keep an eye on bags and phones on buses and trolleybuses, especially around the train station. There are no scams specific to Zlín and no health risks beyond what you'd expect anywhere in the Czech Republic.

History

Long before Baťa, this was a modest market town: [Malenovice Castle](#), begun in the 14th century, is the area's oldest surviving landmark. Everything changed in 1894, when *Tomáš Baťa* and his siblings opened a small shoe workshop here. Within a generation it had grown into one of the world's largest footwear companies, and Baťa's architects rebuilt the town around it: factory halls, schools, a hospital and entire neighborhoods of workers' housing, all in the same restrained modern style.

After Tomáš Baťa died in a plane crash in 1932, his half-brother Jan Antonín Baťa took over and completed the company's most ambitious building, [Baťa's Skyscraper - Building No. 21](#), in 1938. The [Tomas Bata Memorial](#), finished in 1933, had already been built in his honor. The Baťa factories were nationalized by the new communist government in 1945, and from 1949 to 1990 the city itself was renamed Gottwaldov, after Czechoslovakia's first communist president. It reverted to Zlín after the 1989 revolution, and much of its Baťa-era core survives largely intact today.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for the Czech Republic at a glance:

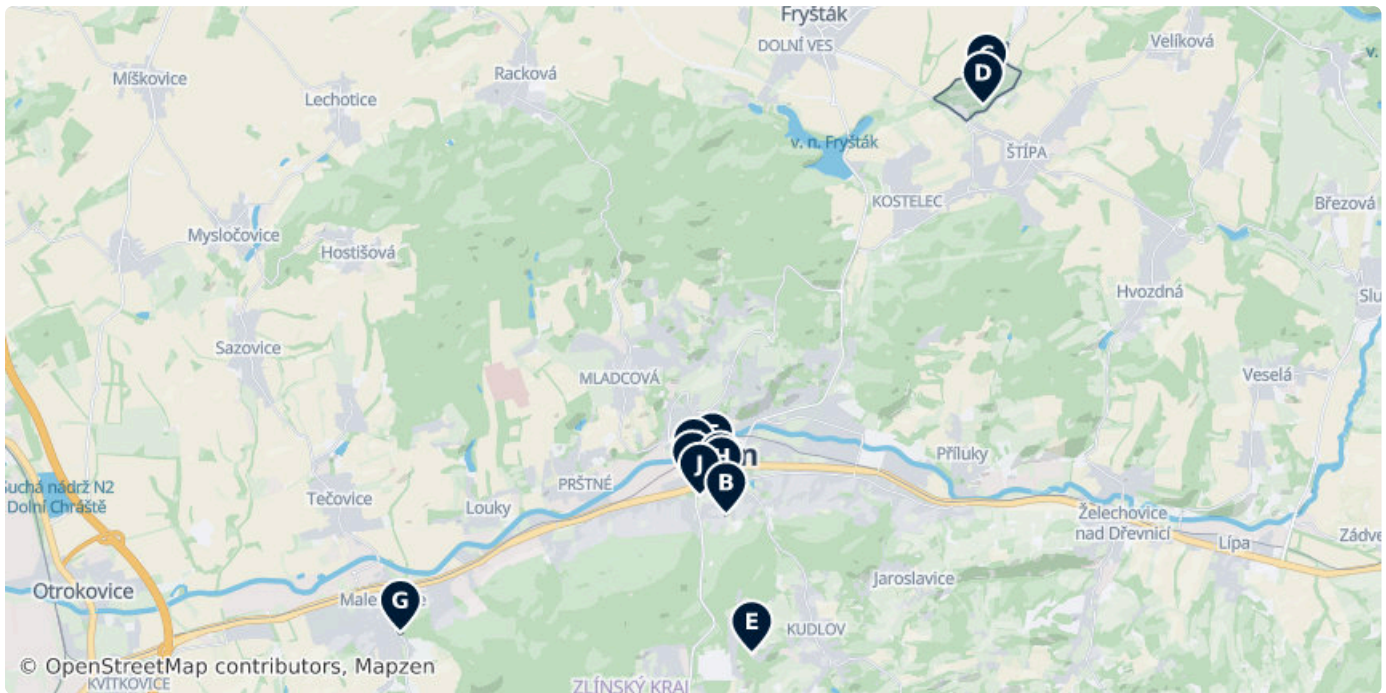
 CURRENCY**CZK Kč** EMERGENCY**112** ELECTRICITYType C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz LANGUAGES

Czech

 TAP WATER**Safe to drink**

Zlín Essentials

Zlín showcases a unique urban experiment shaped by the Baťa shoe company's industrial vision. This selection highlights functionalist landmarks like the iconic red-brick Baťa's Skyscraper and the minimalist glass Tomas Bata Memorial. Beyond the industrial center, the list includes the world-class Lešná Zoo with its 19th-century chateau and the Kudlov film studios. Modern additions like Eva Jiřičná's Congress Center complement historic sites such as Malenovice Castle, illustrating the city's evolution from a medieval settlement to a modernist miracle.



A Baťa's Skyscraper - Building No. 21

Baťa's Skyscraper, also known as Building No. 21, is a skyscraper in Zlín, Czech Republic. It is 77.5 metres high and has sixteen floors.

21. budova - Zlínský mrakodrap, Jana Antonína Bati, Zlín 762 72, Czech Republic (49.22315, 17.65890)

kr-zlinsky.cz/batuv-mrakodrap-sidlo-zli... , +420 577 043 927



B Tomas Bata Memorial

Tomas Bata Memorial is functionalist building in Zlín, Czech Republic built in 1933.

2570 Náměstí Tomáše Garrigue Masaryka, Zlín 76001, Czech Republic (49.21911, 17.66572)

We-Su

10:00-17:00

pamatnikbata.eu





C Zlín - Lešná Zoo

A natural biopark where mammals and birds of different species coexist in open nature. A fascinating sight.

Lukovská, 763 14 Zlín, Czech Republic (49.27576, 17.71853)

zoozlin.eu, +420 577 914 180



D Lešná Chateau

A unique chateau with its fairytale-like spires and decorations is a perfect site for a day trip with the whole family.

112 Lešná, 76314, Czech Republic (49.27329, 17.71781)

zoozlin.eu/zamek-lesna, +420 577 915 476



E Film Knot Zlín

An interactive creative center located in the historic Kudlov film studios, focusing on the history of Zlín's animation tradition and the work of filmmakers Karel Zeman and Hermína Týrlová.

Filmová 689, 76001 Zlín (49.20070, 17.67093)

Tu-Su

10:00-17:00

filmovyuzel.cz, +420702221080



F Zlín Castle

The former castle has been turned into a museum of art.

Soudní 1, 760 01 Zlín, Czech Republic (49.22567, 17.66301)

zlinskyzamek.cz





G Malenovice Castle

Malenovice is a castle located in the Malenovice region of the city of Zlín in the Czech Republic.

92 Švermova, 76302, Czech Republic (49.20349, 17.59970)



H Tomas Bata University in Zlín

Tomas Bata University in Zlín,, is a Czech public university in the Moravian city of Zlín, comprising six faculties offering courses in...

5555 Náměstí Tomáše Garrigue Masaryka, Zlín 76001, Czech Republic (49.22252, 17.66484)

knihovna.utb.cz, +420 576 038 130



I Kongresové centrum

A modern glass and steel landmark designed by Zlín-born architect Eva Jiřičná. The building serves as a cultural venue and is the primary home of the Bohuslav Martinů Philharmonic Orchestra.

nám. T. G. Masaryka 5556, 76001 (49.22310, 17.66454)



J Velké kino

Built in 1932 as the largest cinema in Czechoslovakia, this functionalist building by architect František Lydie Gahura originally seated over 2,000 spectators.

2511 náměstí Práce, Zlín 76001, Czech Republic (49.22156, 17.66038)

velkekino.cz



K Obuvnické muzeum

Located in the renovated Building 14 of the former factory complex, this museum features the permanent exhibition 'The Baťa Principle,' detailing the history of the shoe company and regional shoemaking.

Vavrečkova, 761 50 Zlín, Czechia (49.22491, 17.65917)

Tu-Su

10:00-18:00

muzeum-zlin.cz/cs/, 573 032 326



DATA SOURCES

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