

Central Bohemia



PILGRIMAGE SITES



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INTRODUCTION

Revered and admired places of hidden stories. We are talking about pilgrimage sites that for centuries have attracted pilgrims from around the world. Shrouded in mysterious legends, they draw attention and invite contemplation. If you are looking for a “way out of the city”, an escape from everyday life, you will find the ideal retreat in the beautiful countryside, in places that are extremely generous to their visitors.

You don't have to travel to Santiago de Compostela in Spain or Lourdes in France to find the mysterious genius loci of such places. You can also find places that provide peace in Central Bohemia. On rocky promontories, in river valleys or on wooded slopes. Locals and pilgrims from far and wide have been coming to these places for generations. They are rewarded with the rich energy that these places and the surrounding landscape exude.

Embrace new beginnings and treat nature and the people you meet along the way with respect. Whether you believe in miracles or not, let yourself be drawn into the silence and power of temples and monasteries that are said to heal the body and soul. Take your time, close your eyes and let your thoughts roam freely.



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Kladensko Slánsko

1.

BUDEČ NEAR ZÁKOLANY

A fortress of the Přemyslid dynasty that symbolises the origins of the Czech state

If you make the trip to Budeč, you will be rewarded with the sight of the Rotunda of St. Peter and St. Paul, which was built in the 9th century at the order of Spytihněv, Duke of Bohemia. The main nave of the rotunda is entirely preserved in its original form, making it the oldest standing building in the country. Just across the road, the 10th-century foundations of a second Budeč church are still visible today.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pilgrimage celebration of St. Peter and St. Paul in June
- St. Wenceslas fair and festival in September
- Snack Bar Na Budči

OPENING HOURS

June–September

Monday–Sunday: 9.30am–5pm

INTERESTING FACTS

According to legend, St. Wenceslas spent time in his youth at Budeč, where he learned to read, write and sing psalms from priest Učen.

For more information, scan this QR code



Posázaví

2.

ST. KILIAN'S ISLAND IN DAVLE

The second oldest monastery in the Czech Republic

With its location in the centre of the island, the monastery founded by Boleslav II fully met the needs of the Benedictine order, i.e., prayer and meditation. The originally wooden monastery, later transformed into the Romanesque three-nave Basilica of St. John the Baptist, also included a ceramics workshop. Unconfirmed legends say that the monastery was connected to the mainland by a secret passage.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Orlí hnízdo (Eagle's Nest) lookout point
- Sekanka nature trail

INTERESTING FACTS

You cannot reach the ruins of the Monastery of St. John the Baptist by land. To get to the island in the middle of the Vltava River near to its confluence with the Sázava River you will need a boat or dinghy.

For more information, scan this QR code





Kutnohorskó Kolínsko

CÍRKVICE

A church that drew the unusual interest of a king

The Romanesque Church of St. James, featuring a remarkable richly articulated façade and life-size figural reliefs, ranks among the most significant Romanesque sacral buildings in the Czech Republic. Its importance is also evidenced by the fact that King Vladislaus II attended the consecration of the church with Queen Judith.

3.

💡 OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Kačina Château and the Czech Countryside Museum
- Historical centre of Čáslav
- National Museum of Agriculture in Čáslav

🕒 OPENING HOURS

May–September

Tuesday–Sunday:
10am–4pm

April, October

weekends and public
holidays: 10am–4pm

★ INTERESTING FACTS

In the interior of the church you can see a statue believed to be St. Procopius, which was exhibited in the Czechoslovak pavilion at the EXPO '67 international exposition in Montreal. You can also see the original shipping crate.

📍 For more information, scan this QR code



Kutnohorskó Kolínsko

4.

KUTNÁ HORA – SEDLEC

The convent church of the oldest former Cistercian abbey, listed as a UNESCO world heritage site

Just a few seconds inside the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady and St. John the Baptist will leave you in no doubt of its monumentality. The cathedral situated in the quarter of Sedlec in Kutná Hora should be a destination for all pilgrims and admirers of the works of architect Santini. After all, he left his indelible mark here in the form of a self-supporting spiral staircase and a self-supporting vault known by the term Česká placka (sail dome). After the abolition of the monastery in the 18th century, the five-nave church served as a flour store, and would eventually be restored in the early 21st century.



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Night-time tour of the cathedral
- Church of All Saints and the ossuary
- Dačický House
- Centre of Kutná Hora and the Church of St. Barbara
- Czech Museum of Silver



OPENING HOURS

March and October

Sunday: 11am–4pm

Monday–Saturday: 9am–17pm

April–September

Sunday: 11am–17pm

Monday–Sunday: 9am–6pm

November–February

Sunday: 11am–6pm

Monday–Sunday: 9am–4pm



INTERESTING FACTS

The sole tobacco factory in Bohemia has been situated on the premises of the monastery since 1812. After prior reservation, the museum allows visitors to tour the refectory.



For more information, scan this
QR code



Kladensko Slánsko

5.

LEVÝ HRADEC

The cradle of Christianity in Bohemia and the first seat of the Přemyslid state

High above the left-hand bank of the Vltava River, the Church of St. Clement is a remnant of an ancient hillfort called Levý Hradec. The building stands on the foundations of an 11th-century rotunda, built on the site of the first church in Bohemia. In 982, the hillfort witnessed the election of Vojtěch Slavníkovec as the first bishop of Czech origin. Neglected for many years, the church was brought to life again in the national revival era with the commencement of regular masses and pilgrimages, which are still held to this day.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Levý Hradec nature trail
- Rozhlédni se člověče (Look Around You) nature trail
- Central Bohemian Museum in Roztoky near Prague
- Klecany Grove and Pravý Hradec Hillfort
- Únětice brewery


OPENING HOURS

May–September

Saturday and Sunday: 10am–6pm

INTERESTING FACTS

According to ancient legend, St. Ludmila, the first Bohemian priestess and saint, was baptised here, making her the first baptised Bohemian woman.

 For more information, scan this QR code



Region of the Knights of Blaník

6.

HRÁDEK NEAR VLAŠIM

The main Marian pilgrimage site in the Podblanicko region

The Church of St. Matthew in Hrádek is associated with the worship of the pardoned Gothic statue of Our Lady of Hrádek. On the first three Sundays of July, the traditional Hrádek pilgrimages celebrating the Feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary take place here.

💡 OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Vlašim Park and Château
- Loreto Chapel near Vlašim

★ INTERESTING FACTS

In the forest about 300 metres south of the church you will find the well of Our Lady of Hrádek with a miraculous spring, which served as a pilgrimage site in times when worshipping the statue was forbidden.

i For more information, scan this QR code



Pojizeří and Polabí

7.

LORETA IN KOSMONOSY

A place of worship consecrated to the Virgin Mary inspired by the Basilica della Santa Casa in the Italian town of Loreto

The 18th-century pilgrimage site is considered to be one of the most beautiful Loreto-type buildings north of the Alps. The central point called the Santa Casa or Holy House is surrounded by cloisters and the Church of St. Martin. The Holy House itself is externally decorated with reliefs and statues of prophets, and conceals imitations of original frescoes from the Italian shrine on the inside. North of the chapel stands a four-story bell tower, or Campanilla.

💡 OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Kosmonosy Château
- ŠKODA Museum
- Museum of the Mladá Boleslav Region

🕒 OPENING HOURS

April–October

Thursday–Saturday: 12am–5pm

Sunday: 10am–5pm

★ INTERESTING FACTS

The word Loreto originates from the Italian town of the same name. Legend has it that angels moved the house of the Virgin Mary there from Nazareth after it was threatened by Muslims in the 13th century.

i For more information, scan this QR code



Posázaví

8.

SÁZAVA MONASTERY

A monastery consecrated to St. Procopius, patron saint of miners, wine growers and the Posázaví region

You will find numerous places associated with St. Procopius in the Posázaví region. They are dominated by the Sázava Monastery, where St. Procopius became the first abbot. The rarest features of the country's third oldest monastery are its Gothic frescoes and the Sázava Madonna. The freely accessible northern monastery garden conceals the foundations of a Romanesque church. To this day, you can see brown Gothic pillars, remnants of the unfinished Church of Our Lady and St. John the Baptist.



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Pilgrimage cycle route from Prague to the Vysočina region
- Čertova brázda (The Devil's Furrow – a mysterious land formation associated with St. Procopius)
- Boating trip on the Sázava River

OPENING HOURS

April–October

weekends and public holidays : 10am–3.30pm

June

Tuesday–Sunday: 10am–5pm

May and September

Tuesday–Sunday: 10am–3.30pm

July and August

Tuesday–Sunday: 10am–6pm

INTERESTING FACTS

From 2022 you can tour the monastery yourself without a guide. Instead of a human tour guide, you can download an application with an audio and video guide for free at the ticket office.

i For more information, scan this QR code



Brdy and Podbrdsko

9.

MAKOVÁ HORA

Sumptuous Baroque surrounded by forests

This high-Baroque church from the 18th century is located just a stone's throw from the Vltava River. And yet wooded slopes hide it from the eyes of observers. The church will catch your attention with its symmetry and unique genius loci.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ďáblovo lože (Devil's Bed) rock
- Orlík water reservoir
- Milada lookout tower

INTERESTING FACTS

Water for the church on Maková Hora (Poppy Mountain) was once carried by a donkey who knew the way by memory. He would bring empty buckets down to the village on his own, wait for the villagers to fill them, and then take them up the mountain again.

 For more information, scan this QR code



Brdy and Podbrdsko

10.

SKALKA PILGRIMAGE SITE

A popular pilgrimage site with a unique genius loci


The atmosphere of this Baroque complex located on the edge of the Brdy Highlands is like a balm for the soul. The picturesque location comprising a church, a monastery and a Way of the Cross leading to the hermitage was designed by Christoph Dientzenhofer in the late 17th century. After 1762, Skalka was administered by the Franciscan order, and the location soon became a popular spiritual stop on pilgrimages from Prague to Svatá Hora in Příbram.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mníšek pod Brdy Château
- Jezírko hiking settlement
- Řevnice Quarries

INTERESTING FACTS

The design of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene was inspired by the chapel in the Sainte-Baume Grotto in the south of France. Its interior was therefore decorated with stalactites, while pebbles from the nearby Berounka River lay on the ground.

 For more information, scan this QR code





Pojizeří and Polabí

11.

STARÁ BOLESLAV

The oldest pilgrimage site in the Czech Republic

In our minds, we associate Stará Boleslav with the tradition of St. Wenceslas and the Marian cult. Three churches, separated chronologically by almost 600 years, are situated in the town. The Church of St. Clement, the Basilica of St. Wenceslas built on the site of the earlier Church of St. Cosmas and St. Damian, and the Baroque Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary with an altar designed by Maxmilián Kaňka and a metal relief of the Madonna and Child known as the Palladium of the Czech lands. A route featuring 44 chapel shrines connects the pilgrimage site with Prague.



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- National St. Wenceslas Day celebrations in September
- Marian pilgrimage in August
- Brandýs nad Labem Château
- Brandýs Executioner's House
- Wake Port, Probošt lakes

OPENING HOURS

year-round

Tuesday–Sunday: 9am–12noon / 1pm–5pm

INTERESTING FACTS

The Church of St. Cosmas and St. Damian, outside whose doors St. Wenceslas was murdered, was incorporated into the new church building. Duke Břetislav I of Bohemia had the church built as a sign of repentance for raiding Poland to recover the relics of St. Adalbert.

 For more information, scan this QR code



Brdy and Podbrdsko

12.

SVATÁ HORA IN PŘÍBRAM

An admired Baroque Marian gem of Central Bohemia as a place of many miracles

The Baroque complex was built in the 17th century at the impulse of the Jesuit order according to a design by Carlo Lurago. Richly decorated cloisters connecting four octagonal chapels only give us an idea of the glory the pilgrimage site enjoyed in its heyday. The whole complex is dominated by the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary on a raised terrace, which hides a silver altar inside. A second gem of Svatá Hora (Holy Mountain) is the Chapel of St. Mary Magdalene, decorated with artificial stalactites to give the impression of a cave.



💡 OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- A night at Svatá Hora with a tour and accommodation
- Svatá Hora Pilgrimage Museum
- Festival of the Coronation of the Virgin in June
- Příbram-Svatá Hora "šalmaj" (shawm) festival in September
- Mining museum Příbram

🕒 OPENING HOURS

year-round

Monday–Sunday: 06.30am–6pm

Sunday: 6.30am–5pm

🌟 INTERESTING FACTS

During a three-day stay at Svatá Hora, blind man Jan Procházka regained his sight. Even the medical community acknowledged this mysterious recovery as a miracle.

📍 For more information, scan this QR code



Berounsko

13.

SVATÝ JAN POD SKALOU

The most beautiful village in Central Bohemia

Climbing the rocky spur with a cross at its summit is a real challenge, but the view of the village surrounded by high hills is the best reward you could ask for. The Pilgrimage Church of St. John is adjoined to a former Benedictine monastery, whose origins date back to the 11th century.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Svatojánské (St. John's) Museum
- Svatojánské (St. John's) nature trails
- Neo-Gothic Chapel of St. Maximilian

OPENING HOURS

April–October

Saturday–Sunday:

10am–1pm / 2pm–5pm

July und August

Tuesday–Sunday:

10am–1pm / 2pm–5pm

INTERESTING FACTS

From the church, you can reach a dripstone cave named after the first Czech hermit, St. Ivan. His name is also borne by a local healing spring, which gave rise to a now defunct hydrotherapy spa in the early 20th century.

For more information, scan this QR code



Kutnohorský Kolínsko

14.

TISMICE

The church with the oldest preserved bell in the Kolín Region

The Romanesque Basilica of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary catches the eye with its unusual form. Unplastered and made of brown sandstone blocks, the church has been preserved almost unchanged to this day. Inside, the side naves are separated from the main nave by Romanesque arcades, which are more typical of the Rhineland region.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Tuchoraz Fortress
- Šemberské stezky Single Track
- Historical centre of Český Brod

INTERESTING FACTS

The roughly 1.5-metre-high Gothic Madonna of Tismice, carved from wood in the late 14th century, was stolen after the Velvet Revolution. And since it has not yet been found, only a plaster replica of it can be seen in the church.

For more information, scan this QR code



Berounsko

15.

TETÍN

A place inseparably linked with the life and death of St. Ludmila

Although the name of Tetín, shrouded in fables, refers to the legend of Duke Krok's daughters, the place is more likely recorded in Czech history for the murder of the first Czech saint, priestess Ludmila. The small village situated on a rock above the Berounka River takes pride in a trio of churches – the Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria, of St. Ludmila and of St. John of Nepomuk. The last mentioned of the three stands on the site of the supposed grave of St. Ludmila.



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Tetín Museum
- Tetín Lookout Point Nature Trail
- Koda Cave
- Royal Town of Beroun
- Koněprusy Caves

OPENING HOURS

year-round

Monday–Sunday: 10am–6pm

INTERESTING FACTS

The Church of St. John of Nepomuk does not currently hold church services, but serves as a small gallery.

 For more information, scan this QR code





💡 OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

- Permanent expositions “In the Name of Happy Tomorrows” and “The Life of the Franciscans”
- Replica of the Aedicule of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem
- Václavka Lookout Point in the tower of the Church of St. Wenceslas
- Butterfly House
- Votice Biotope

🕒 OPENING HOURS

April, October–December

Monday–Friday, public holidays: 10am–12noon / 1pm–4pm

Mai–September

Tuesday–Sunday: 10am–12noon / 1pm–5pm

🌟 INTERESTING FACTS

According to folk legend, the church survived two army raids during the Thirty Years’ War thanks to the “miraculous image of the Madonna of Votice”. Miraculous healings have also been attributed to the image. It apparently even changes colour when in close proximity of a great sinner.

📍 For more information, scan this QR code



Region of the Knights of Blaník

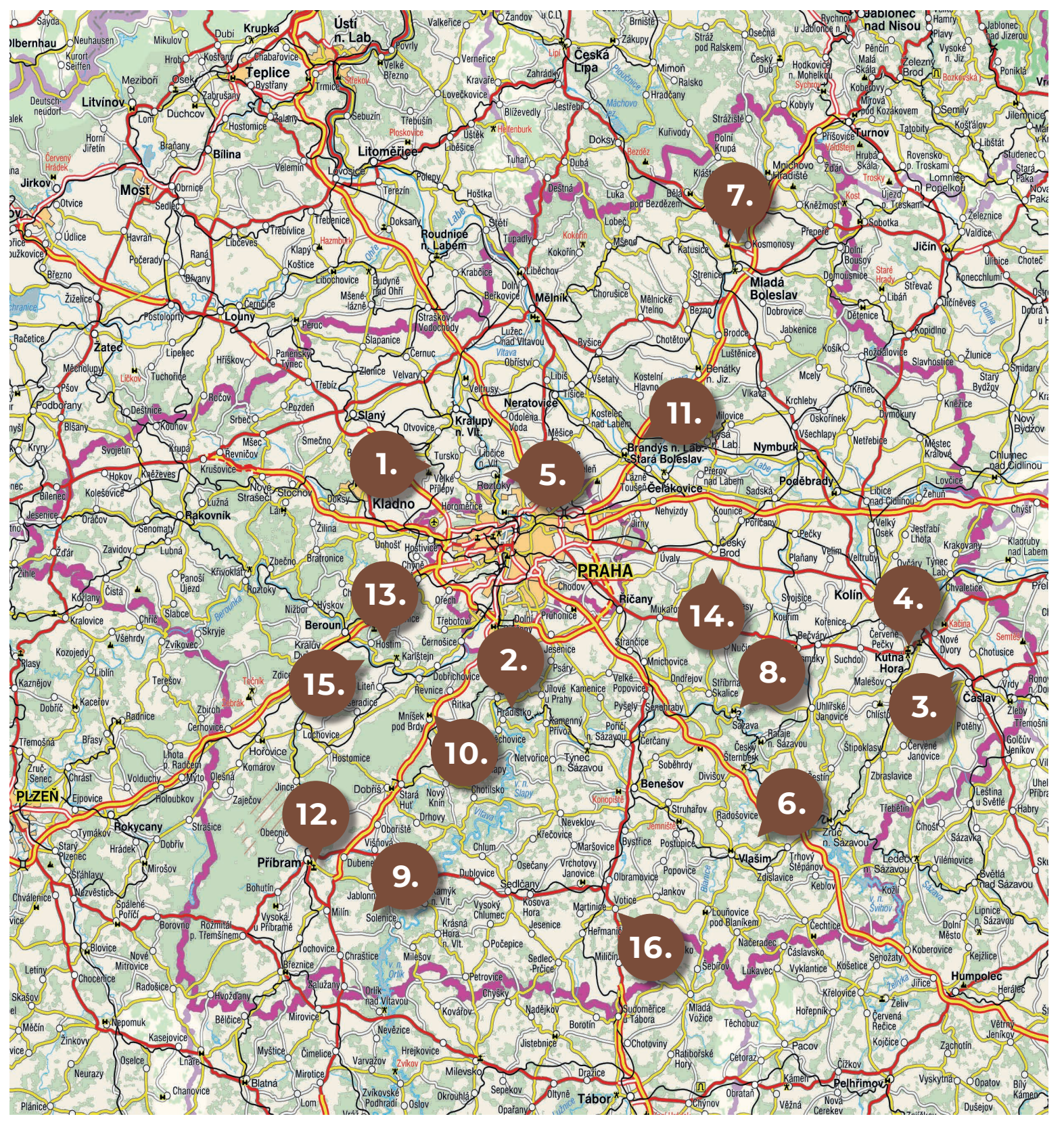
16.

VOTICE

A monastery guarded by a “miraculous image”

The origins of the Monastery of St. Francis of Assisi, located almost in the very centre of the town of Votice, date back to the turbulent period of the Thirty Years’ War. Its construction was initiated by Sezima Jan, Earl of Vrtba, to thank God for the birth of the male offspring he had prayed for. The monastery ceased to fulfil its purpose in the 1950s, when the local Franciscans were interned in Osek near Duchcov, and a boarding school and State Security examination room were subsequently set up on the monastery premises.





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PILGRIMAGE ROUTES

WAY OF ST. JAMES

A historical network of pilgrimage routes leading to the tomb of Saint James the Great in the Spanish town of Santiago de Compostela hides under the name of the Way of St. James, which is marked on the ground with a St. James scallop shell. Several branches also cross parts of the Czech Republic, including Central Bohemia.

The **Všeruby** and **Železná** routes start in Prague and lead hand in hand to Zbraslav, where their paths diverge. The former will take you to the Brdy Highlands, the highest peaks in Central Bohemia, while the latter will guide you through the magnificent countryside of the Bohemian karst and Křivoklát region.

The route leading to Bohemia from the north, heading through Prague to the south-east, bears the name of **Zittau**. It traces an old road near the Jizera River valley, along which Bishop Adalbert brought Christianity to Poland.

Although they only lead through a tiny part of Central Bohemia, other branches of the Way of St. James, **East Bohemian** and **South Bohemian**, lead from Vlašim to surrounding regions and states.

- Zittau
- Železná
- East Bohemian
- South Bohemian
- Všerubská
- VIA Ludmila - trasa A
- Blaník - Říp
- Říp - Blaník
- Břežnice - Svatá Hora
- Cyryla i Metoděgo



VIA LUDMILA

The project of a network of pilgrimage routes bearing the name of the first historically documented Czech priestess and saint aims to not only guide travellers in the footsteps of St. Ludmila and her husband Bořivoj, but also in the footsteps of numerous descendants of this noble couple who lived and still live in the Czech Republic and in many other countries.

The starting points of this journey are significant places in Central Bohemia – the supposed birthplace of St. Ludmila in Mělník, the place of her death in Tetín, and the oldest church in our country, which Bořivoj and Ludmila founded. You can continue by visiting numerous Central Bohemian places of worship, castles, towns and villages whose history was written by Ludmila's descendants.

What's more, the routes will gradually expand to other regions of the Czech Republic and abroad. The footsteps of the descendants of St. Ludmila can be traced, for example, on a route from Bohemia across Germany to Brussels, measuring over one-thousand kilometres.

BLANÍK-ŘÍP AND ŘÍP-BLANÍK PILGRIMAGE ROUTES

Seemingly the same routes connect two mythical peaks, Blaník and Říp, on a circular path through Central Bohemia that starts and ends on Blaník. Embark on a 190 kilometre journey from Blaník to Říp through the Posázaví, Kolín and Polabí regions and Mělník. You can break the long journey down into seven stages. Or savour the beauty of Central Bohemia on a 280-kilometre route divided into four stages leading from Říp to Blaník. Along the way, you will pass through parts of the Kladno and Křivoklát regions, the Bohemian karst, the central Povltaví region, and even the legendary village of Sedlec-Prčice.

FROM BŘEZNICE TO SVATÁ HORA IN PŘÍBRAM

Pilgrims followed a route connecting a former Jesuit residence in Břežnice and Svatá Hora, which was administered by the Břežnice Jesuits as long ago as the 14th century. The 16-kilometre long pilgrimage route was previously lined with 16 crosses at 15-minutes' walk apart. These were later replaced by chapel shrines, which have been gradually repaired since 2014.

ROUTES OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS

Although the network of the Routes of Saints Cyril and Methodius is largely spread out in Moravia, one of its branches will lead pilgrims to Central Bohemia, via Český Šternberk, Prague and Levý Hradec. The route therefore connects the first church in Bohemia, founded by Duke Bořivoj and his wife Ludmila, and Velehrad, a pilgrimage site of European significance associated with the spiritual tradition of Cyril and Methodius, which even influenced the Přemyslid dynasty.

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