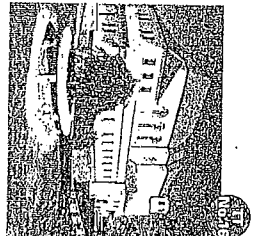


Historical sites |

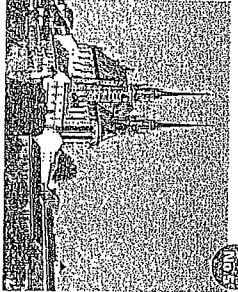
Spilberk Castle

Spilberk Castle | www.spilberk.cz
 Royal castle built in the 13th century that was converted during the 17th and 18th century to a Baroque fortress is known as the "jail of nations" for its reputation of the most feared prison in Habsburg monarchy. It is a seat of the Brno Museum, which offers permanent exhibitions concerned with the history of the castle and the city. The visitors are also allowed to take a walk through the casemates - dark grim rooms in the fortifications that used to serve as a recess for the soldiers and later as prison cells for criminals guilty of felony. The castle is surrounded by a spacious park with a number of memorials where the visitors can enjoy a magnificent view of the city.



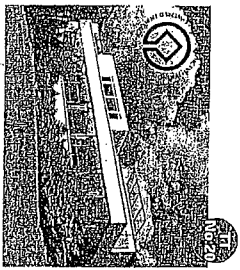
Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul

Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul | www.biskupstvi.cz
 Originally a Romanesque basilica built on the top of a hill known as Petrov, later rebuilt in the Gothic style. Its current neo-Gothic form dates back to the turn of the 19th and 20th century. Besides the Baroque interior the public is allowed access to both cathedral towers as well as the crypt. The characteristic shape of the cathedral and the typical silhouette of the Spilberk Castle form the famous Brno skyline. Petrov is a good starting point for a walk leading to the Capuchin Gardens and Denis Park.



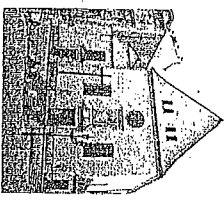
Tugendhat Villa

Tugendhat Villa | www.tugendhat-villa.cz
 The Tugendhat Villa, built between 1929 - 1930, is a gem of Brno's architectural modernism and world's functionalism. It is the first prominent building designed by the architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe in Europe. Its importance was recognised in 2001 by its inclusion in the UNESCO's World Heritage Cultural List. The family villa of the Tugendhats is mainly famous for its original space design, unique technological equipment and elegant interiors with reverse defined function for every single piece of its furniture.



Capuchin crypt

Capuchin crypt | www.vohy.cz/kapucini/brno/
 The Baroque crypt is situated under the church of the Capuchin monastery and is open to the public. Since the second half of the 17th century it has been the last resting place for monks of the Capuchin order, its patrons and other important personalities including the famous colonel of "Pandurs" - Anton Trenck. The mummification of the loosely buried bodies is enabled by a unique system of air circulation.



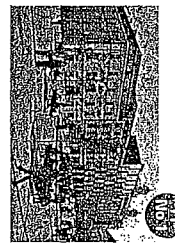
Měnin Gate | Měniňská 7, www.spilberk.cz

The only preserved old town gate of the medieval fortification. The first documentary evidence of its existence dates back to 1293. Originally, the tower was one storey higher. The gate building dating from the second half of the 16th century hosts exhibitions organised by the Brno Museum.



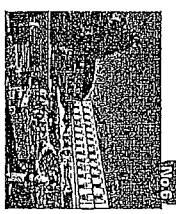
Freedom Square | náměstí Svobody

The central Brno's square used to be called the Down Market (Dolní rynek). In the Middle Ages it was lined with houses of the town's most distinguished burghers and Moravian noblemen. The dominant feature of the whole square is the Baroque Flagpole Column dating back to 1679, which is lavishly decorated with the statues of saints. Equally spectacular is the Renaissance palace with a gallery courtyard - The House of the Lords of Lipá, and the neo-Renaissance Klein's Palace.



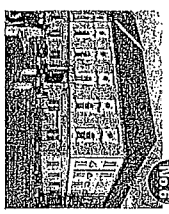
Vegetable Market | Zelný trh

From the time immemorial this place has hosted regular daily fairs where the people come to buy vegetables, fruit, flowers, etc. The hallmark of the place is the Baroque Panas Fountain built between 1690 and 1695. It symbolizes a cave made of natural boulders decorated by allegorical statues that represent three ancient empires - Babilonia, Persia and Greece. The water to this fountain was supplied by the Brno's oldest pipeline from the river Svratka.



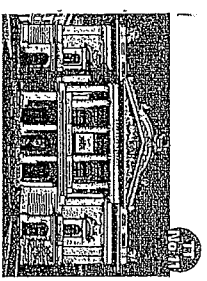
Reduta Theatre | Zelný trh 4

The oldest theatre building in Central Europe. It is a corner house situated on the Vegetable Market (Zelný trh) which was built at the beginning of the 17th century and later converted to a tavern that served as a meeting point for the wandering theatre societies. The City Council used the place as a venue of various social events and theatre performances. The place saw the first staging of a play in the Czech language in 1767 and in the same year it welcomed the eleven-year-old W. A. Mozart who gave his concert there. Today the building is used by the Brno National Theatre.



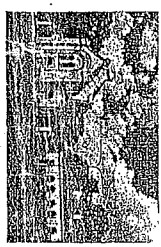
Mahen Theatre | Roasaveltova 17

A neo-Renaissance building designed by the well-known Viennese architects Ferdinand Fellner Jr. and Hermann Hellmer. On 14/11/1882 the theatre made its mark in the history as the first theatre building on the European continent to be illuminated with Edison's electric light bulbs.



Historic Jewish sights

Synagogue | Škotrčpka 13
 Brno's architectural beauty is enhanced by the functionalist synagogue built between 1934 and 1936. Jewish Cemetery, which is one of the biggest in Moravia, is a momentous place of interest. Apart from other, there is a Neo-Romanic ceremonial hall of 1900.



Musikla | Musilova 2a, phone: +420 545 211 991
 Faval | Kržiřovská 22
 Letimovra | Letimovra 2, phone: +420 543 213 693
 Stará pekárna | Šteřánikova 8, phone: +420 541 210 040

Cinemas

Art | Chlářská 19, phone: +420 541 213 542, www.kinoartbrno.cz
 Lucerna | Mlnská 19, phone: +420 549 247 070, www.kinocinema.jitro.cz
 Scala | Moravská nám. 3, phone: +420 542 211 659, www.kultura-brno.cz
 Palace Cinemas | phone: +420 543 580 111, www.palacecinemas.cz
 Olympia (U Dálnice 777, Modřice), Vaky Špařticek (Měřovra 2)

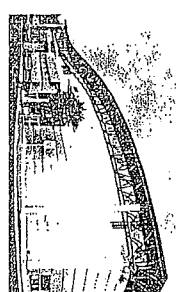
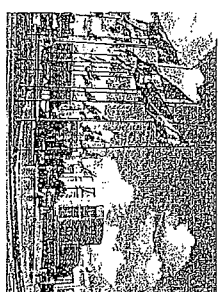
Cultural festivals

Brno International Music Festival | Easter festival of sacred music (March / April), Moravian Autumn (September-October), www.mif-brno.cz
 Brno - City in the Centre of Europe | festival of entertainment under the Spilberk and Veverř Castles, fireworks competition (June), www.brno.cz
 Brno Cultural Summer | collection of programmes, concerts and other cultural and social events held in the city centre (June-September), www.kultura-brno.cz
 Brno Shakespearean Days | theatre festival at the Spilberk Castle (July-August), www.kultura-brno.cz
 International Music Festival Spilberk | symphonic festival (August), www.filharmonie-brno.cz
 International Folklore Festival of Brno | festival of folkloric music and dances held in the city centre (August-September), www.kultura-brno.cz
 Janáček Brno Festival | concerts and opera shows of the works of Leoš Janáček (November), www.ndb.cz

Exhibition centre |

Trade Fairs Brno

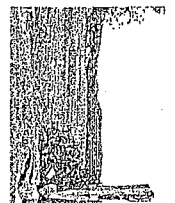
Vystaviště 1, phone: +420 541 151 111 | www.bv.cz
 The Brno Exhibition Centre is one of the most elegant exhibition sites in Europe. Although it stretches across an area of 650 thousand square metres it by no means diminishes the beautiful natural environment of the Pstáry valley. The exhibition site was founded in 1928 following the designs produced by the most reputable Czech and Moravian functionalist architects. The unmistakable atmosphere is mainly created by the first of the sixteen pavilions - the unique pavilion A. The other architectural highlights include the forty-five-metre tall tower of pavilion G, the technically perfect dome of pavilion Z and the modern pavilions V and F. The exhibition area also includes the Congress Centre. The exhibition grounds host annually a range of important international trade fairs such as the International Engineering Fair, GO and REGIONTOUR, STYL and KABO, SALIMA, MOBITEK, International Building Fair and INVEX.



Leisure and sport |

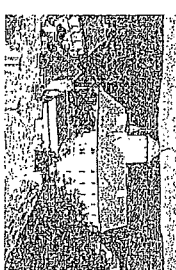
Brno reservoir

A popular recreational resort and an ideal place for all kinds of water sports. The banks are lined with sport facilities, restaurants, pubs and kiosks. The regular water transport line serving the route Brno - Veverřská Býřka is in operation every year from May to September (www.dpmn.cz). The visitors coming from the city centre can get to the reservoir by public transport.



Veverř Castle | www.veverř.cz

The second Brno castle soars above the Brno reservoir surrounded by the beautiful nature of the Podkomorňské woods. It is a gothic royal castle which was also used as a hunting lodge. The castle was held in possession of various noblemen and its history is interwoven with a number of myths and legends. Today it is a venue of various cultural and social events. At the foot of the castle there is one of the steamboat stops.



Prague: city of history and beauty

PRAGUE, THE CAPITAL OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, HAS A POPULATION OF 1.2 MILLION PEOPLE. IT'S NOT ONLY THE GOVERNMENTAL HEART OF THE COUNTRY, BUT IT'S ALSO A CITY FULL OF CULTURAL EVENTS, ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY. JOIN US ON A JOURNEY THROUGH PRAGUE.



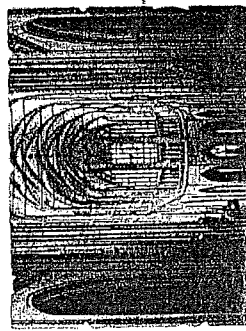
At the beginning of the 19th century, Bernardo Bolzano, a famous mathematician and philosopher, coined 103 towers and spires in Prague and that's how the city got its nickname, 'City of a hundred spires'.

Prague history

The city, established in the 9th century, was the seat of Czech princes and later kings of Bohemia and became the political heart of the Czech State. Charles IV (1316 – 1378), Bohemian King and Holy Roman Emperor, chose the city as the capital of his whole Empire. He founded Charles University, St. Vitus Cathedral, Charles Bridge and the New Town. Many of the most beautiful things we associate with Prague can be traced back to Charles IV.

Many important figures have passed through Prague, and many events have occurred in the city as well. Prague is connected with the Czech religious reformer Jan Hus and the Hussite movement. Prague was also where the Thirty Years' War began with the uprising of the Czech Estates in the early 17th century. The Czech National Revival in the 19th century restored once again Prague's prominence and the National Theatre was built to express this feeling of national pride for Czechs. The building itself was financed from money collected by the Czech people. In 1918, the city became the capital of the independent Czechoslovakia and after the peaceful division of Czechoslovakia in 1993, it became the capital of the Czech Republic.

A variety of architecture can be seen all over the city from the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral to the Art Nouveau Municipal House and even modern designs like the Dancing House.



Before the St. Vitus Cathedral was built, there was a round church founded by Wenceslas I, Duke of Bohemia. Charles IV ordered the building of the gothic cathedral, and it took almost 600 years to complete – it was finished only in the 20th century.

Prague districts

The old centre of Prague consists of five historical districts. Old Town, New Town and Josefov (the former Jewish Town) are situated on the right bank of the Vltava. The Lesser Quarter and Hradčany (the Castle District) are on the left bank.

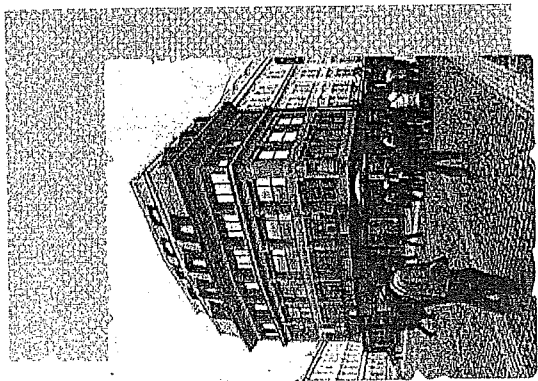
The Old Town

Charles Bridge ranks among the greatest monuments in Prague. Its construction began on 9th July 1357 at 5.31 a.m. According to astrologists at the time, it was the best date and time for laying the foundation stone. While the bridge was being built, the builders added eggs to the mortar to make a strong substance to hold the bridge together. People from all over the country gave eggs to help the cause. Legend has it that one village didn't quite understand the concept and sent the eggs to Prague hard-boiled!

Charles Bridge is 516 meters long and 10 meters wide. It is an open-air gallery of unique Baroque statues. In about the middle of the bridge stands the statue of St. John of Nepomuk. He lived in the 14th century and held the position of General Vicar. He was also a Mozart museum where it is possible to see the composer's personal belongings, letters, music manuscripts and old musical instruments.

The Lesser Quarter

Near Charles bridge lies Kampa Island, separated from the Lesser Quarter by



The house At the Black Madonna in Celená Street in Prague 1, built in 1912 and designed by the architect Josef Gočár, represents a unique example of cubist architecture in Prague.

Cultural life

Prague's cultural events offer something for everyone. The National Gallery houses a collection of modern art, various dance performances can be seen at the National Theatre and classical concerts by Mozart, Dvořák, Smetana and other famous composers can be heard at the Rudolfinum and the Municipal House. Modern dramatic productions include many theatre plays as well as the special black light performances in The Laterna Mágica.

Both Czechs and visitors alike cannot fail to be charmed by the beauty and magic of this old-new city on the Vltava.

Hana Gavranová (CZ),
Jacy Meyer (USA)

Note:
1 She was Žofie Bavorská, the wife of Wenceslas IV.

workshop. The most important house is probably No. 233, also known as At The Two Suns. This is where the well-known Czech writer Jan Neruda used to live. Today the building is a famous pub.

The Castle District

The Cathedral of St. Vitus is the biggest church in Prague and holds the treasury of the Czech coronation jewels. There are many interesting parts to the cathedral: it has the oldest reticulated vault in Europe and the southern Golden Gate has an amazing mosaic decoration. St. Wenceslas Chapel was built to protect the relics of the most important Czech saint and national patron – St. Wenceslas. Its walls are decorated with frescoes and Czech semi-precious stones.

Another well-known place in the Castle District is the Loreta. The most fascinating part is its Treasure Chamber with a diamond monstrance decorated with 6,222 diamonds.

Other places of interest

Vyšehrad

Vyšehrad Castle is situated on a rock overlooking the Vltava River. Legend has it that Czech Princess Libuše prophesied the glory of Prague from here. Vyšehrad has an important place in Czech history and the Czech national cemetery was founded here. Writer Karel Čapek, sculptor J. V. Myslbek, composers A. Dvořák and B. Smetana, poet J. Neruda and artist M. Alš are all buried here.

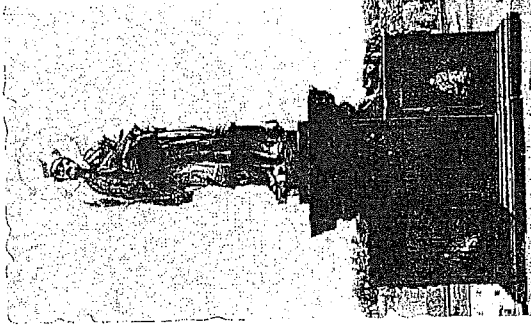
Petřín Hill

Prague's skyline is defined by Petřín Hill. There is a 60-meter tall viewing tower on the hill, which was built in 1891. It was modelled on the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Apart from the tower, there's a mirror labyrinth and the Prague Municipal Observatory.

a small canal called Čertovka. In the past there used to be many mills on Kampa and two big wooden mill wheels are still preserved today.

The Church of St. Nicholas, at the center of the Lesser Quarter, is one of the most outstanding examples of Czech Baroque architecture. The 1,500 square meter fresco on the ceiling is one of the largest in the world.

Another important part of the Lesser Quarter is Nerudova Street with its characteristic house-signs. The three fiddle-like signs have been preserved on one of the houses, signifying the three generations of violin makers who used to live and work there. The famous composer Ludwig van Beethoven is believed to have once played a violin made in this



Legend has it that if you touch the statue of St. John of Nepomuk on Charles Bridge and make a wish, it will come true.

→ Vocabulary

rank among [ræŋk ə'mɒŋ] - patří mezi	to venerate ['vɛnərəret] - uctívat	semi-precious stones [semi'preʃəs] - polodrahokamy
for laying the foundation stone [fɔːr leɪɪŋ fəʊn'deɪʃən] - pro položení základního kamene	Estates Theatre - Stavovské divadlo	monstrance ['mɒnstər(ə)nəs] - monstrance
hard-boiled - uvařená natvrdlo	composer [kəm'pəʊzər] - skladatel	to meander ['mɛɪndər] - šplíhat na
General Vizar [dʒen(ə)r(ə)'vɪzər]	manuscript ['mænʊskrɪpt] - rukopis	sculptor ['skʌlptər] - sochař
confessor [kən'fɛsər] - zpovědník	mill wheel - mlynářské kolo	Prague's skyline is defined by ['skʌlɪəm dɪ'faɪnd] - pro pražské panorama je typický
to give away - prodat, vydat	fresco ['freskəʊ] - freska	mirror labyrinth ['mɪrər'leɪb(ə)rɪn(ə)l] - zrcadlové bludiště
appointment [ə'pɔɪntmənt]	fidle, violin ['fɪd(ə)'vɪəʊ'n] - housle	observatory [əb'sɜːvət(ə)rɪ] - observatoř
abbot [ə'bɒt] - opat	house-sign - domovní znamení	black-light performances - černé divadlo
monastery ['mɒnəst(ə)rɪ] - klášter	workshop ['wɜːkʃɒp] - dílna	cannot fail to be charmed ['ʌntə'fɔɪl tu bi tʃɑːmd]
against the King's will - proti králově vůli	'dʒuː-əʒ] - korunovační klenoty	- se nechávají okouřít
Art Nouveau [ɑːt nuː'vəʊ] - secese, secese	reticulated vault [rɪ'tɪkjʊleɪtəd vɔːlt] - síťová klenba	
Municipal House [mjuː'nɪsɪp(ə)l] - Obecní dům	mosaic [məʊ'zeɪk] - mozaika, mozaikový	
bank [bæŋk] - břeh	chapel ['tʃæp(ə)l] - kaple	
	relics ['relɪks] - ostatky	