

Moravia, Czech Republic Tour



VISUAL TRAVEL TOURS

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Tour Summary

The Moravian region in eastern Czech Republic has been described as a unique open-air museum of religious heritage, where generations of monarchs - as well as commoners - built magnificent monuments devoted to their faith. Moravia is surely the most religious part of the country: it is filled with pilgrimage shrines, towering churches, and stately palaces. Many of the locations we'll visit are part of the venerated UNESCO World Heritage list. Let's get off the beaten track in the Czech Republic and see what Moravia has to offer!

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Intro to Moravia





The people of the Czech Republic are a religious enigma. Once a devoutly spiritual nation, today less than one third of the Czech population consider themselves religious. Despite this change in religious

preferences, we'll take a trip beyond the capital of Prague to Moravia, arguably the most religious region of the Czech Republic.



No Catholic masses or other services were allowed under the bonds of communist oppression. It was not until the Velvet Revolution in 1989, when the country once again became independent, that Czechoslovakians could worship freely. Bordering Moravia to the east, Slovakia split peacefully from Czech in 1993 to become an independent nation.

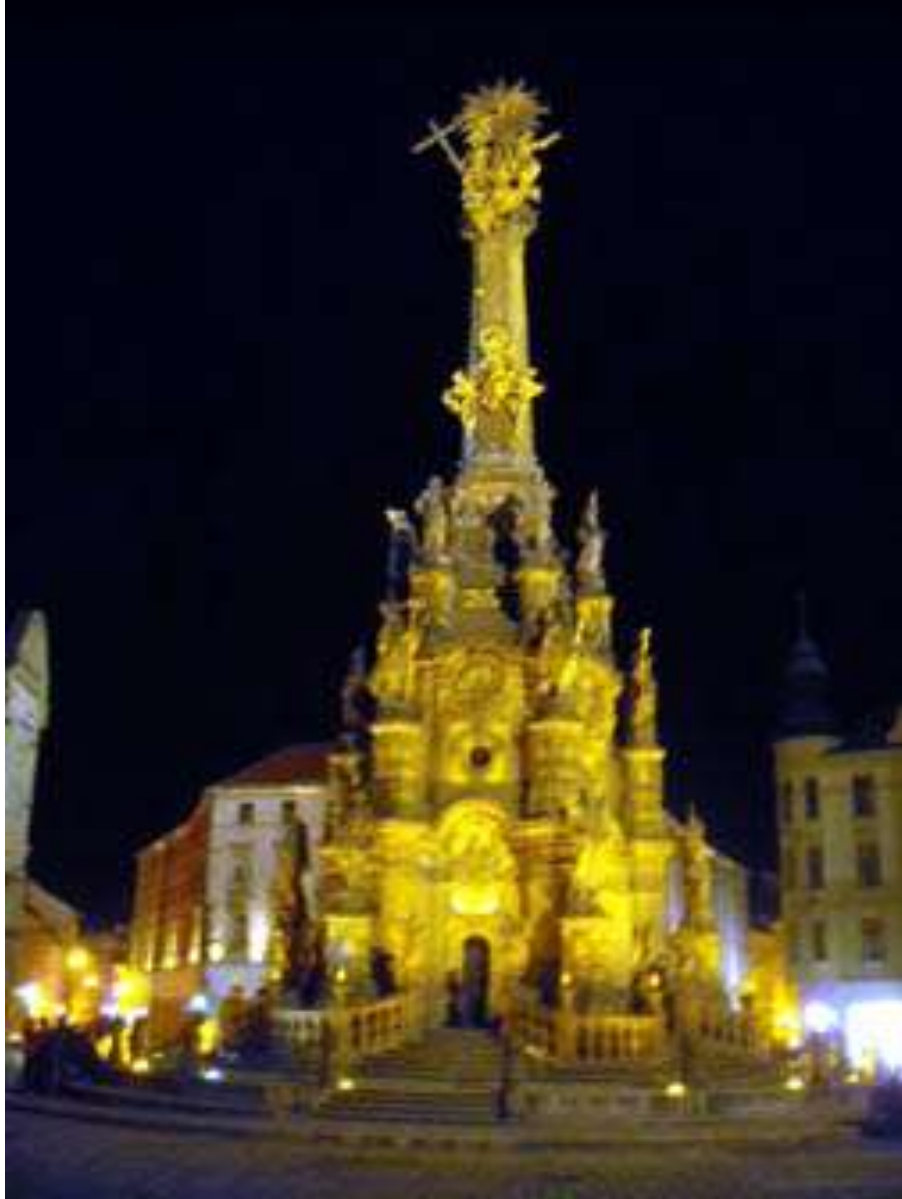


Our first stop on this tour is Olomouc, a former walled city with a statue in the main square that is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Monument. From Prague, a three-hour high speed train is the quickest way to arrive in Olomouc.



This Moravia tour will take a hook-shaped route from north to east to west. Once at the Olomouc train station it is only a five-

minute walk to the waterways and walls that once protected the well-preserved castle and old city.



Once inside the old city, the distances to all Olomouc attractions are short. As we'll see, exploring this beautiful city is a true delight!

The Holy Trinity Column in the center square of Olomouc is the main attraction, day or night.



Some compare Olomouc to Prague, but smaller and without the crush of tourists. Olomouc features a castle and cathedral, that is attached to a beautiful museum within a Romanesque palace.



The museum features a fine collection of religious icons and royal artifacts. After all, Olomouc remains the ecclesiastical metropolis of Moravia.



After Olomouc, we'll continue our tour of Moravia by traveling two hours south to Kroměříž. The main landmark in the town of

Kroměříž is the Baroque Bishop's Palace.
Some scenes from *Amadeus* and *Immortal Beloved* were filmed in this opulent palace.



Just adjacent to the Bishop's Palace is the *Lustgarten*, or Pleasure Park, part of the World Heritage collection of Kroměříž. We'll take a short walk through town from the British Garden within the Kroměříž Palace grounds to another walled garden based on the French design.



Traveling close to the Slovakian border, our next stop is Velehrad located in the “far east.” A beautiful church and monastery dominate the Velehrad skyline, but there is more than meets the eye in this tiny Moravian village. There is a recreated pagan village next to the site where Christianity was first introduced to the Slavic people.



As we travel back towards Prague, we'll make a final stop at Jihlava, the ancient frontier town between Moravia and Bohemia. Jihlava in western Moravia was the oldest mining town in the Czech Republic, 50 years older than Kutná Hora.



The silver wealth that we'll examine in detail during this tour contributed to many fine monuments in Jihlava and elsewhere . Come along with us to discover the most notable locations in the Moravian region of the Czech Republic.

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