



BRNO AND ITS

# churches

GUIDED TOURS FOR FREE



When walking round Brno, it may come as a surprise just how many religious buildings and monuments are hidden in the city. The project **BRNO AND ITS CHURCHES** seeks to draw attention to these overlooked treasures. These sacred sites – in the city centre and beyond – specially open their doors during the period **from 15 June to 15 September**, giving you an extraordinary opportunity to look inside!

This brochure describes a selection of Brno churches that are worth visiting. Some of them are open as part of the Brno and Its Churches project, while others are open year-round. Some churches are open only during services and on special occasions; however, visitors can always take a look at their interiors from the entrance hall of the church. Don't miss the Brno and Its Churches project, leave the hustle and bustle of the city behind and relax in the holy silence of these special places. Explore the open churches on your own or with experienced guides.

The guided tours are not available during services or other exceptional events, such as wedding ceremonies.

The services and other events are listed on the websites of the individual parishes and at [www.vkhbrno.cz/duchovno/mse-v-brne](http://www.vkhbrno.cz/duchovno/mse-v-brne).

We wish you heaps of enjoyable (even holy) experiences!  
TIC BRNO



Thanks:



The project BRNO AND ITS CHURCHES runs under the auspices of the mayor of the statutory city of Brno JUDr. Markéta Vaňková and the Bishop of Brno Mons. Ing. Mgr. Pavel Konzbul, Dr.

# BASILICA OF THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY

1

[www.opatstvbrno.cz](http://www.opatstvbrno.cz)

MENDLOVO NÁMĚSTÍ

The construction works on the Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady, which dominates Mendel Square, was commenced in 1323 by Eliška Rejčka, who also founded a Cistercian convent right next to it. When she died in 1335, she found her resting place there at the spot now marked on the basilica paving by an "E" with a small crown above it.

In 1783, Emperor Joseph II ordered the Augustinians to move to Old Brno

## ↓ TIPS FOR VISITS

15/8 Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, the painting from the Church of St. Thomas

## ↓ OPEN (15/6–15/9)

TUE–SAT 2:00–5:00 pm

## OUTSIDE PROJECT TIMES

TUE 5:00–6:00 pm

WED–FRI 3:00–5:30 pm

## ↓ GUIDED TOURS IN CZECH

TUE–SAT 2:30, 3:30, 4:30 pm

## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

Two museums in the monastery building: MENDEL MUSEUM

[www.mendelmuseum.muni.cz](http://www.mendelmuseum.muni.cz)

and OLD BRNO ABBEY MUSEUM

[www.pokladyklastera.cz](http://www.pokladyklastera.cz)

from their original Saint Thomas monastery at what is now Moravian Square. They brought their silver altar with the famous painting of Madonna to the church as well. This Gothic church built mainly from fired bricks has changed only slightly since then. Despite having its interior remodelled in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in the Baroque style, the basilica is still considered a true jewel of Gothic architecture in Moravia. And when Pope John Paul II granted it the Basilica Minor title in 1987, it became even more significant.





The origins of this dominant feature of Brno date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. At the time, there was a Romanesque basilica at Petrov whose remnants can be seen in the church crypt. The church has changed from Gothic to Baroque and then to neo-Gothic. Its distinctive towers that form the cityscape of Brno, and are also depicted on the Czech 10-crown coin, were built only in 1906. Its interior looks

mostly Baroque. One feature definitely worth a visit is its adoration chapel, decorated by sculptor Otmar Oliva in 2005.

In 1296, a collegiate chapter was established there, and in 1777 – when the Brno diocese was established – the church was promoted to a cathedral, and became the main church of the Brno diocese.

## ↓ TIPS FOR VISITS

CATHEDRAL TOWER – great view of Brno

TREASURY – exhibition of vestments and liturgical objects

CRYPT

CONCERT SERIES – Summer of the Organ at Petrov (June to September), voluntary admission fee

## ↓ OPEN

MON–THU 8:00 am – 6:30 pm

FRI 10:30 am – 6:30 pm

SAT–SUN 8:00 am – 6:30 pm

## ↓ GUIDED TOURS

Must be arranged with attendants or at the Diocesan Museum

## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

DIOCESAN MUSEUM, with an exhibition on the life of Christ, and the possibility of guided tours  
→ Petrov 1

[www.dieceznimuzeum.cz](http://www.dieceznimuzeum.cz)



# CAPUCHIN CHURCH OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE HOLY CROSS

3

[www.kapucini.cz](http://www.kapucini.cz)

KAPUCÍNSKÉ NÁMĚSTÍ

The Church of the Discovery of the Holy Cross is an early Baroque structure built in the spirit of Capuchin simplicity. It was consecrated in 1656 and designed by architect Ondřej Erna.

The church and its monastery underwent extensive reconstruction in the Baroque style in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, conducted by Moritz Grimm and his son – a look which remains preserved to this day. Another extensive renovation took place in 2004. The

interior is dominated by the altar painting of the Discovery of the Holy Cross by Joachim von Sandrart.

The narrow street beside the church takes you to the Capuchin crypt with the centuries-old-mummified bodies of friars and patrons of the order.

The most famous person whose body rests there is Franz Trenck, the well-known commander of the feared pandours and also the most famous Spilberk prisoner.

## ↓ TIPS FOR VISITS

AUGUST: Guided tours to the crypt on Brno Day

NOVEMBER: Evening guided tours to the crypt around the All Souls feast

## ↓ OPEN

MO-FRI 9.00 am – 4.30 pm

Visitors need to remain silent, as the church is open for confessions every working day.

## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

CAPUCHIN CRYPT, located in the Capuchin Monastery, a resting place of both monks and benefactors of the order → Kapucínské nám. 5

[www.hrobka.kapucini.cz](http://www.hrobka.kapucini.cz)





Located on busy Masarykova Street, with statues of Saints Martin and Nicholas watching the passers-by. These statues were brought here from the closed Church of Saint Nicholas, which used to be located on Freedom Square.

The church is built on the former site of a synagogue. The Franciscans were moved to this spot during the Swedish siege of Brno, where they established a church and

a monastery, with a hospital and pharmacy. The new church and monastery were consecrated in 1673. In 1787, during the reforms of Emperor Joseph II, the monastery was shut down and one part of it was used by the army. In 1852, the church was rebuilt into its current form, following a fire. Inside, there are Baroque works of art and an altar painting of Saint Mary Magdalene, a copy of the original painting by Rubens.

↓ OPEN (15/6–15/9)

MON–FRI 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

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↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

VEGETABLE MARKET, an open-air market offering fresh local products





# CHURCH OF SAINT JOHNS AND LORETO CHAPEL

5

[brno.minorite.cz](http://brno.minorite.cz)

MINORITSKÁ 1

Since the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Church of Saints John the Evangelist and John the Baptist has been a dominant building in Brno, even though it has changed, mainly in the Baroque period and after the reconstruction led by architect Moritz Grimm. The church has one nave with a prolonged chancel, typical of mendicant orders, including the Minorites, since the Middle Ages. After all, the Minorites are the oldest order to have been active in Brno at a single place without interruption – a period of almost 800 years.

Apart from this church, major architect Moritz Grimm built the Loreto Chapel – an imitation of the house of the Holy Family. And several years later it was Grimm once again who led the project of a new church to be built over the Loreto Chapel. It contains the Holy Stairs, a copy of the stairs from Jerusalem, which Jesus climbed to reach Pilate.

## ↓ TIPS FOR VISITS

24/6 Nativity of Saint John the Baptist – pilgrimage in the church

10/12 Feast of Our Lady of Loreto – the main pilgrimage in Loreto

## ↓ OPENING HOURS (may vary depending on the season)

MON–SUN 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

## ↓ GUIDED TOURS

Must be arranged with attendants

## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

ALFA PALACE, a Czech cultural monument and a functionalist building designed by Bohuslav Fuchs  
→ Poštovská 6



Since the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the history of the Church of St. Michael has been closely connected to the Dominican monastery, which hosted meetings of the Moravian provincial parliament, along with many other activities. The church was also witness to many important events that determined the course of history in the country. Today, visitors can see the church in its 17<sup>th</sup>-century Baroque form. During this reconstruction,

the orientation of the church was changed, so unlike other churches the altar faces west and the gallery faces east. Among the precious things in the church are its baroque altar and pulpit designed and constructed by sculptor J. Winterhalder Sr. Another unique feature of the church is the entrance terrace lined with a row of Baroque statues of saints.

## ↓ OPEN (15/6–15/9)

TUE–SAT 2:00–6:00 pm

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## ↓ GUIDED TOURS IN CZECH

2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00 pm

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## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

OLD TOWN HALL with a late-Gothic portal and a tower with an observation gallery → Radnická 8

[www.gotobrnno.cz](http://www.gotobrnno.cz)

CELLAR UNDER THE NEW TOWN HALL – this cellar, built for the royal mintmasters has been brought to life with a multimedia exhibition → Dominikánské nám. 1

[www.podzemibrno.cz](http://www.podzemibrno.cz)





# CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY

7

[www.jesuit.cz/brno](http://www.jesuit.cz/brno)

JEZUITSKÁ 5

A small Romanesque church was once located here. It was rebuilt in the Gothic style and served as a church of the Augustinian order. The monastery was taken over by Brno in 1524. In 1578, the order was dissolved and its property appropriated by the Jesuits. The original church was demolished and a completely new church was built, with the famous G. Gialdi contributing to its construction. In 1662–1668, the church was again rebuilt according to designs by Jan Křtitel Erna and in 1732–1733 by Moritz Grimm. The church served the Jesuits until 1773, when the order was dissolved by

Pope Clement XIV. The building was also used as a military barracks. The whole complex was then demolished in 1904 and only the church remained. This was then severely damaged during the bombing of Brno in 1944. In 2002, the Jesuits again took the church over. The gate has been preserved and transferred to what is now Mozartova Street, where we can admire it today. In 2009, a new bell was installed in the church tower, dedicated to Martin Středa, one of the defenders of Brno against the Swedish army.

## ↓ OPEN

Only during services and on special occasions

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## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

JANÁČEK THEATRE, park and light fountain → Roosveltova 7

[www.ndbrno.cz](http://www.ndbrno.cz)





The oldest written records of the Church of St. James date from the year 1228. In the Middle Ages it was the main municipal parish church, primarily serving Brno's German-speaking residents, and was surrounded by a cemetery. The Romanesque church with its two towers was later replaced by a Late Gothic triple-nave building on which the master mason Anton Pilgram was also employed. In 1515 the works were interrupted by fire, and the rebuild, culminating in the completion of the single tower, continued until 1592. The Baroque styling of the church interior was largely eradicated in the years 1871–1879 by an

uncompromising programme of Gothic Revivalism. Of particular interest – beside the breathtaking vaults – is, for example, the Přemyslid cross from the end of the 13th century. An important piece of the church's heritage is also the tombstone of Field Marshal Raduit de Souches, legendary commander of the defence of Brno against the Swedish siege.

In recent years (2021–2024) the church has been undergoing comprehensive renovation work, including repairs to the roof trusses, the copper sheathing of the roof, masonry features, and the replacement of 9,000 glass pieces from the Gothic windows.

## ↓ TIPS FOR VISITS

### CHURCH TOWER AND TIMBER ROOF TRUSSES

Entrance tickets are available in advance at [visitjakub.cz](http://visitjakub.cz) or in the church vestibule.

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## ↓ OPEN

The church is undergoing reconstruction. It is open irregularly; see the parish website for details. In 2024 the repaired tower and timber roof trusses will be open to the public.

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## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

OSSUARY AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES, the second largest ossuary in Europe → Jakubské náměstí

[www.podzemibrno.cz](http://www.podzemibrno.cz)



In 1353, John Henry, the younger brother of Emperor Charles IV, ordered the construction of a Gothic church consecrated to the Annunciation of Our Lady and Saint Thomas. At the same time, the construction works on a monastery began in which the Augustinians later settled. However, it was later finished by his son Jobst, whose equestrian statue on Moravian Square is quite hard to miss. There is also a sculpture of Jobst on the front facade of the Governor's Palace. At the consecration, Charles IV donated to the church a painting of the Virgin Mary known as Saint Thomas Madonna, which is still worshipped

↓ OPEN (15/6–15/9)

TUE–SAT 1:30–5:30 pm

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↓ GUIDED TOURS IN CZECH

1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30 pm

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↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

PARK on the Moravian square (Moravské náměstí), revitalized in 2022

today. John Henry and his son are buried in this church. In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, a reconstruction led by architect Jan Křtitel Erna began and another reconstruction, which changed its appearance, took place in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and was led by Moritz Grimm. During the reforms of Emperor Joseph II, the monastery was closed down and the Augustinians moved to Old Brno. In the former monastery – today's Governor's Palace – various authorities resided, even later during the Protectorate. In the 1950s, it housed the Museum of the Labour Movement, and today you can visit the Moravian Gallery there.





This evangelical church is better known as the Red Church due to its red brickwork. It was built in 1863–1865 based on a design by H. Ferstel, who also contributed to the construction of Vienna's Ringstrasse, including the Votivkirche. The construction of the church was strongly

influenced by the North German Gothic style, which is characterized by the red brickwork. The church became the first large non-Catholic place of worship in Brno, and its excellent acoustics make it a fine venue for the concerts of sacred music often held there.

## ↓ TIPS FOR VISITS

MUSICAL VESPERS (year-round) – concerts of various genres, from swing to gospel

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## ↓ OPEN (only 15/6–15/9)

TUE–SAT 2:00–6:00 pm

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## ↓ GUIDED TOURS IN CZECH

2:00, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00 pm

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## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

10-Z BUNKER under Spilberk Castle  
→ Husova

[www.10-z.cz](http://www.10-z.cz)





# ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT WENCESLAS

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[www.pravoslavbrno.cz](http://www.pravoslavbrno.cz)

GORAZDOVA 8

As you climb Gorazdova Street to Spilberk Castle, this white building with a geometric portal will certainly catch your eye. The church was built on the proceeds of fundraising conducted in 1928 and designed by Russian architect Petr Levický in 1929. In 1929, the foundation stone of the church was laid with the

participation of Bishop Gorazd. Since the 1990s, a baptistry with a bell tower has been located right next to the church. During the reconstruction in 2003, the cupola in the Byzantine style was gilded and the church was renovated. Today, it is a spiritual centre for all the Orthodox Christians from Brno.

## ↓ OPEN

Only during services and on special occasions

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## ↓ GUIDED TOURS

Must be arranged with the parish

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## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

**SPIILBERK CASTLE**, a castle complex with casemates → Špilberk 1

[www.spilberk.cz](http://www.spilberk.cz)

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**OPEN GARDENS**, a public park and ecology centre → Údolní 33

[www.otevrenazahrada.cz](http://www.otevrenazahrada.cz)







The Agudas Achim Synagogue, built in the Functionalist style based on a design by Otto Eisler, is a unique example of modern Jewish sacred architecture. It is currently the only synagogue in Moravia and Silesia that serves the spiritual purposes of the Jewish community.

The synagogue served its intended purpose only briefly after its

completion in 1935–1936. During World War II, the synagogue was used as a warehouse. Its sacred function was restored and the synagogue was re-consecrated on 6 September 1945. In 2014, renovations were started with the aim of bringing the building as close as possible to its original appearance. In 2016, the synagogue was reopened.

## ↓ TIPS FOR VISITS

ŠTETL FEST – festival of Jewish culture, September

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## ↓ OPEN

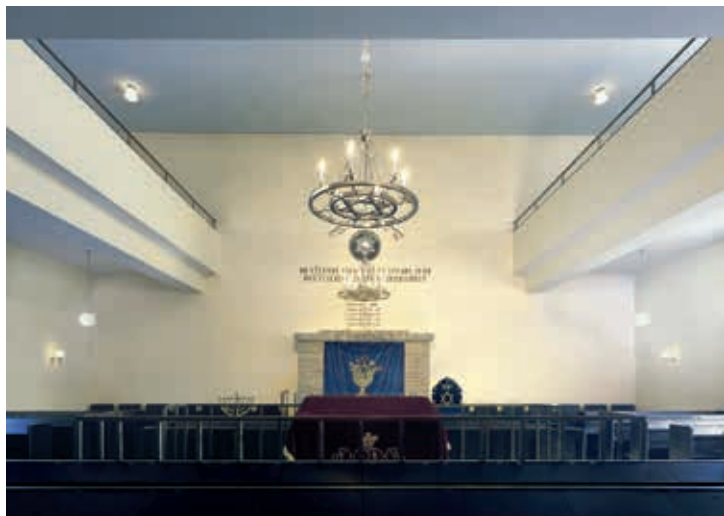
Only for special occasions

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## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

4 tram stops away is the JEWISH CEMETERY → tram. stop Židovský hřbitov, Nezamyslova 27





In 1930, this church was built by the Augustinians of the Old Brno Abbey to commemorate 1500 years since Saint Augustine, the great Catholic theologian, died. It quickly became a major dominant of the Brno cityscape. This white church was designed by architect Vladimír Fischer and is an example of individualist architectural expression from the

interwar period. Above the entrance is a bronze plate that reads “Domus Dei Porta Coeli” (House of God – Gate to Heaven). Local artists created the paintings and sculptures for its interior. It has three naves, with the side ones opening to chapels; on the left, there is the chapel of the Holy Grave, while on the right is the chapel of the Virgin Mary.

## ↓ TIPS FOR VISITS

28/8 Feast of Saint Augustine, with a parish charity market

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## ↓ OPEN [only 15/6–15/9]

SAT 2:00–5:00 pm

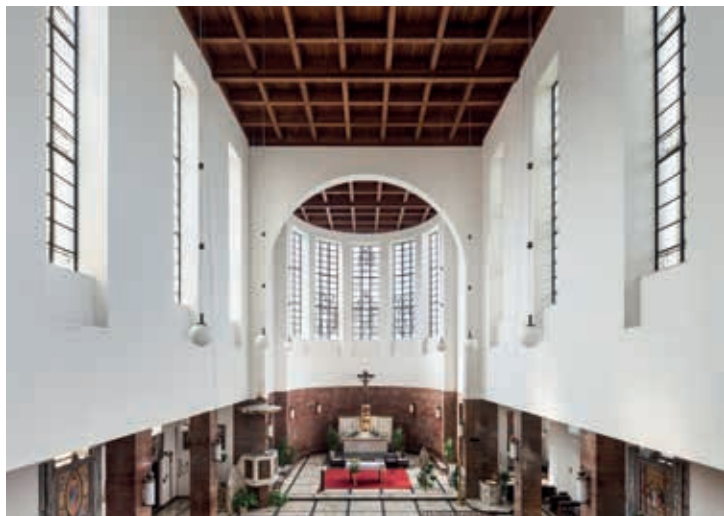
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## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

BRNO OBSERVATORY AND PLANETARIUM, a modern centre popularizing astronomy and other sciences → Kraví hora 2

[www.hvezdarna.cz](http://www.hvezdarna.cz)





# HUSSITE CONGREGATION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK CHURCH

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[www.ccsnbrno.cz/no/botanicka](http://www.ccsnbrno.cz/no/botanicka)

BOTANICKÁ 1

The Czechoslovak Church (later renamed the Czechoslovak Hussite Church) was founded in Brno in 1920. The construction works on the church started in 1927.

A design by renowned architect Jan Višek won the architectural competition. Since 1929, this sacred building

stands out in Botanická Street thanks to its simple, functionalist style. The church is marked only with a chalice, the symbol of the Hussite faith; otherwise the building is clean, simple, and smooth. Originally, the church hall even housed an orchestra pit.

## ↓ TIPS FOR VISITS

CONCERTS year round: vocal ensembles, progressive electronic music, singer-songwriters

Occasionally a sale of used clothes, books and other practical items, lectures, author readings, etc.

## ↓ OPEN

Only during services and on special occasions

## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

TYRŠ PARK, LUŽÁNKY PARK OR BOTANICAL GARDEN OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE, MASARYK UNIVERSITY → Kotlářská 2

[www.sci.muni.cz/bot\\_zahr](http://www.sci.muni.cz/bot_zahr)





# CHURCH OF SAINT MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

15

[www.brno.sdb.cz](http://www.brno.sdb.cz)

FOERSTROVA 2

The Salesians of Don Bosco is a Roman Catholic religious institute which came to Brno in 1939. It built a wooden chapel and a youth centre called an oratory. The chapel was torn down in the 1950s; when the Salesian community was restored in Brno, the foundation stone for

a new church consecrated to Saint Mary Help of Christians was laid right there. The church was designed by Josef Opatřil and consecrated in 1995. In the spirit of the mission of the Salesian order, the new church also contains a youth centre.

## ↓ OPEN

Only during services and on special occasions

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## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

The church offers a youth centre with programs for parents with preschoolers, interest groups for people of all ages, a club for young people from 6 to 26 years old, various events held year-round as well as summer camps and day camps. Open all week, with current opening hours posted at [www.brno.sdb.cz](http://www.brno.sdb.cz).







# CHURCH OF BLESSED MARIA RESTITUTA

16

[www.farnostlesna.cz](http://www.farnostlesna.cz)

NEZVALOVA 13

Recently, a cylindrical church was built in Lesná that has often been called “futuristic” by the media. The grey concrete structure is lit by a ring of windows in the colours of the rainbow and a tower that looks over the surface of the settlement like a periscope. In addition to the impressive aesthetics, you can appreciate the refined technical facilities and environmental friendliness.

Its bold architecture leaves few cold, even among experts: In 2020, the church won the Grand Prix Architektů in the new building category.

The church was built during 2017–2020, though the idea to build a new church in Lesná first arose in the 1960s. Currently, work on furnishing the interior is continuing.

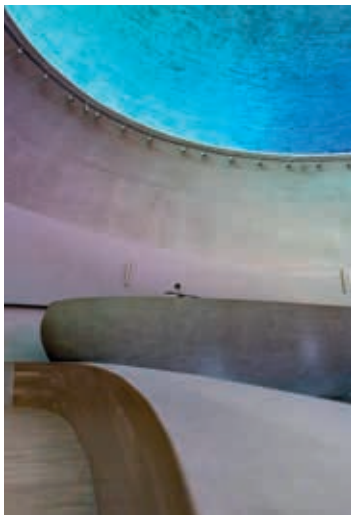
## ↓ OPEN

Only during services and on special occasions

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## ↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

ČERTOVA ROKLE, a forest park that's great for walks





# CHURCH OF SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS

17

[www.farnostzidenice.cz](http://www.farnostzidenice.cz)

GAJDOŠOVA

As a result of Brno's development and the marked increase in its number of inhabitants at the end of the 19th century, in 1910 a society was formed for the construction of a Catholic church in the district of Židenice. In 1914 the architect Vladimír Fischer produced one of the earliest designs for the church, but his proposals were shelved with the outbreak of the Great War. Following the end of hostilities, architectural tastes underwent rapid change, and preparations for what would have been an Art Nouveau structure were permanently dropped.

The lack of space to worship continued, however, and on 28 October 1928 the foundation stone of the future church was ceremoniously consecrated, although an architectural competition was not launched until 1930. Nonetheless,

not one of the submitted designs was approved by the competition jury. Still engaged in the process, Vladimír Fischer recommended fellow architect Klaudius Madlmayr for the commission. Madlmayr's design was unanimously approved, and building work began in 1932. On 27 October 1935 the completed church was consecrated.

Klaudius Madlmayr conceived the structure as a traditional Romanesque basilica, comprising an elevated central nave and two aisles, with an apsidal presbytery and elevated transept, i.e. he laid out a conservative vision much at odds with contemporaneous modernist and functionalist architectural trends.

In the park beside the church, today you will find an in-depth exhibition on the history of the church and the parish.

↓ OPEN (15/6–15/9)

SUN 2:00–6:00 pm

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↓ PLACES OF INTEREST NEARBY

BOHUMIL HRABAL PARK – a revitalised park, suitable for walks and offering views over Brno



Other tips for Religious tourism:

[www.nockostelu.cz](http://www.nockostelu.cz)  
[www.cirkevnituristika.cz](http://www.cirkevnituristika.cz)

Cover photo:

SIMONA MODRÁ: Baroque pulpit in St. Michael's Church  
on Dominican Square

Photos:

STUDIO FLUSSER  
JAKUB KALČÍK  
SIMONA MODRÁ  
DOMINIK POLANSKÝ, Člověk a víra  
LIBOR TEPLÝ  
FRANTIŠKA URČIČÁŘOVÁ

This project was financially  
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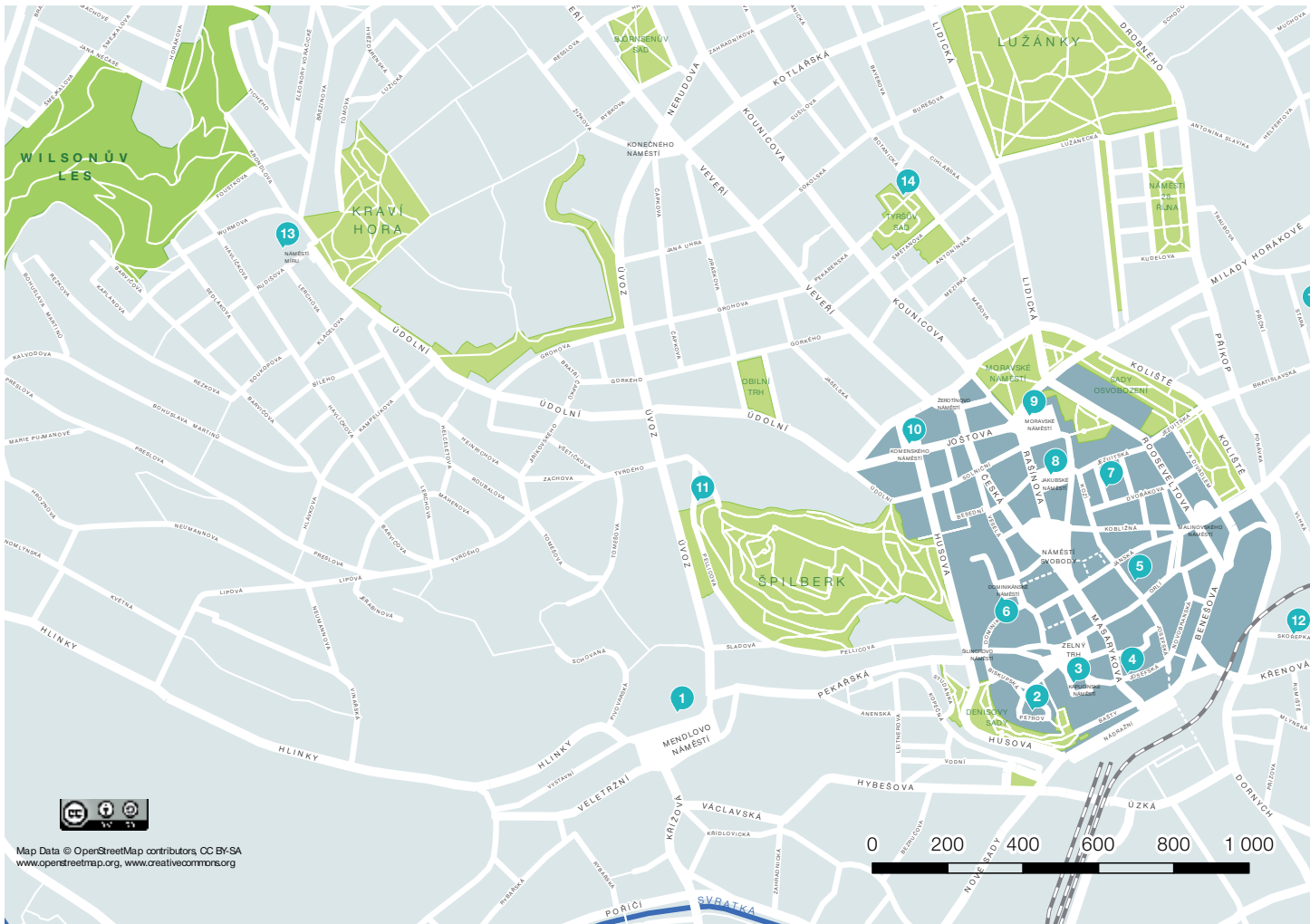
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