

BEROUN

THE ROYAL TOWN





BEROUN

THE ROYAL TOWN

The heraldic bear and the tradition of ceramics	2
Monuments	5
Cultural life	8
Městská hora hill and lookout towers	10
The Beroun bear enclosure	12
A stroll around the town	13
Nature at your fingertips	16
Leisure and sports	17
Places to go	18

Dear visitors,

welcome to our royal town, spread along the banks of the Berounka River and surrounded by the beautiful protected nature areas of the Bohemian Karst and Křivoklátsko.

Beroun is a historical town with an important tradition of ceramics, brewing, and trading. Fall in love with the charming town of Beroun and its surroundings. We wish you a wonderful stay in our area!

A free printed map of the town is available from the Beroun Information Centre on Husovo Square. For an electronic version of the map, we recommend downloading the Mapy.cz app (available in English both for iOS and Android) and scanning the QR code.





The heraldic bear and the tradition of ceramics

Brief history of the town



The first written record is from 1265, when the town was mentioned in a decree of King Premysl Otakar II. However, there is evidence of earlier settlements from the 10th century AD.



Beroun became a royal town in 1303 after the citizens obtained from King Wenceslas II the privilege to follow the laws of the Old Town of Prague.



During the medieval era the town thrived and bustled with building activity, enjoying a vantage position near the royal residential castle of Karlštejn.



In the Early Middle Ages, the town burned down many times, but these destructive fires led to Beroun being completely rebuilt during the Baroque era, traces of which are still visible.



During the 16th and 17th centuries, Beroun became an important centre of pottery. Beroun ceramics from the Early Modern Era are some of the finest examples of the craft in Central Europe.



Under the imperial rule of Marie Therese and Joseph II in the 18th century many significant changes and improvements took place, including the arrival of the Piarist order, which revived the schools and general education.



From the 19th century the town thrived as an industrial and cultural centre of the region.



Town hall

Name

The town was named by its earliest inhabitants – German colonists who came in the 13th century. They named it after a bear – Bär in German. The “bear” was not an actual beast, but a man known as Ursus (Latin for bear), the king’s regent, who represented the ruler in the constitution of the town.

There are also many other interpretations of the name Beroun. For instance, Václav Hájek of Libočany, a renowned medieval chronicler and author of the Bohemian Chronicle, refers to Beroun as a place infested with bandits who ambushed passers-by (the Czech word “berou” means to take, but also to steal, depending on the context). There is also a theory that the town was named after the Italian city of Verona or Bern in Switzerland.

Insignia

The emblem of the town has not changed since the 14th century. It comprises two towers with a gate, a bear, and a man in armour. In 2002 the town acquired a new flag symbolising dignity, identity and majesty.

A gold-plated mayor’s Chain of Office from the early 21st century highlights the importance of the town during the welcoming of honourable guests. It consists of 18 links and a pendant made as a copy of the town’s emblem. It is also adorned with two small trilobites referring to the area’s prehistoric natural heritage.

The oldest seal of the town is known from a document dated 5 March 1363. In 1529 the municipality obtained a new silver stamp that today is kept in the State District Archive.

Monuments

Historical architecture

The historical centre of Beroun was declared an Urban Heritage Zone in September 1992. Its core is Husovo Square with a number of historical buildings: the town hall, church, rectory, and burghers' houses with decorated gables. The most valuable of them is Jenštejnský House, where the Museum of the Bohemian Karst is located. There is also a fountain with a statue of St. John of Nepomuk and two other sculptures. The adjacent alleys breathe the atmosphere of its medieval history. The most picturesque one is Zámečnická Street with the Museum of Beroun Ceramics and the museum garden.



Zámečnická Street

Town hall

The landmark and symbol of the town and its authority is located in the eastern part of Husovo Square. Due to several fires that damaged it, the town hall has a complicated architectural history. The former Gothic houses that stood there in the Middle Ages were gradually modified; first in the Renaissance and later the Baroque style. The current Neo-Gothic look of the building is a result of an extensive reconstruction carried out in 1903 (by architect František Coufal and sculptor Vilém Amort).

Gates and fortification walls

Beroun has an exceptionally intact system of medieval fortifications from the early 14th century. It is still visible mainly on the southern and eastern edge of the historical centre. Access to the town was through two heavily fortified tower gates and two smaller passages.

The Pilsner Gate protected the entrance from the west. Nowadays it is dominated by Baroque architecture. Its front, with a clock, is decorated with a 19th century mythological scene of Charon, the god of time, and Destiny spinning the thread of time. The interiors contain displays of the Museum of Bohemian Karst dedicated to the gate and to the entire fortification system. The upper walkway offers a breathtaking view of the town and its surroundings.



The Prague Gate opened a way towards Prague and strengthened the fortifications on the eastern edge. A state road ran through it, linking to a bridge across Berounka just outside the walls.

Church of St. James

The three-aisled dean's church of St. James the Greater is a jewel set in the western edge of the square. Originally a Gothic structure from the 13th century, it went through a series of reconstructions, eventually in the Baroque style after a fire in the 18th century. The Baroque appearance has been



Chapel of the Sorrowful Virgin Mary

maintained to this day, largely due to Josef Fanta, a leading Czech architect (co-designer of the main train station in Prague).

Chapel of the Sorrowful Virgin Mary

The Neo-Gothic structure on a hill above Beroun was built at the end of the 19th century following a project by Josef Mocker, a renowned architect, who was also involved in the restoration of nearby Karlštejn Castle. The chapel stands near a spring that has been considered healing since the end of the 18th century.

Villa Dusl

Neo-Renaissance bourgeois villa built in 1891 following a project by leading Prague architect Antonín Wiehl, who designed it for local industrialist and patron Martin Dusl. A part of the villa now hosts the Beroun Municipal Gallery.

Villa Talich

Václav Talich, an important 20th century Czech conductor, lived and worked here. The house stands in the wooded Brdatka valley on the northern outskirts of the town. Since the 1950s, the valley around the villa has been known as Talich Valley.

Jewish cemetery

The Jewish cemetery lies on the western edge of the town. It was founded in 1886 and still features more than 100 tombstones. The cemetery hall still bears a legible inscription on its façade: "What you are now we used to be, what we are now you will be".

Cultural life



Where to go

Beroun is a town rich in museums and galleries. The main museum is the **Museum of the Bohemian Karst** with a permanent display on the history of the region with various temporary shows. The museum also comprises **Geopark Barrandien** – an outdoor geological exhibition. The local tradition of pottery is presented at the **Museum of Beroun Ceramics**, which is located just off the town walls in picturesque Zámečnická Street.

The **Beroun Municipal Gallery** in the Neo-Renaissance Villa Dusl presents sculptures, paintings, and graphic works by artists from the Beroun district and much more. **Gallery Dutch House** is known for its fine photography exhibitions.

Film enthusiasts will enjoy the **Beroun Municipal Cinema** and the outdoor summer cinema, which also serves as a venue for concerts.

The true centre of culture is the **Plzeňka House of Culture** which puts on a varied range of concerts, theatre performances, balls and other social events; in the warmer months they take place also on the summer stage on Joachim Barrande Square, in the **Beroun Municipal Library** located in the former barracks, or at the open-air campsite by the Berounka River.

Regular events

Pottery markets May, June, September

Famous markets offering pottery, ceramics, and other artisanal products.

Beroun Summer of Culture June to August

Summer events for the whole family – children's theatre shows and concerts of various music genres.

Royal Parade June

Historical festival with themed shows. A costumed procession connecting Beroun, Králův Dvůr, Tetín and Srbsko.

Beroun Walls June

Municipal festival presenting local micro-breweries, an atmospheric market, theatre marquee and music stage.

Wine-tasting August

Wine-tasting festival presenting wines from Bohemia and Moravia, including an outdoor food court, musical performances and an animation programme for children.

Talichův Beroun

International music festival October to November

Festival of classical music commemorating conductor Václav Talich and presenting large orchestras, small ensembles, and soloists.

Beroun Advent November to December

Lighting of the Christmas tree on Husovo Square traditionally opens Advent. The atmosphere is festive and lively with traditional food stalls, an ice rink, and varied accompanying programmes.



Royal Parade

Městská hora hill and lookout towers

A green oasis

The Městská hora hill is the natural landmark of the centre of Beroun and is a popular destination for leisure, walks and sports. The woodland park comprises several playgrounds for children, a toboggan for all ages, a bear enclosure, a lookout tower and a stall selling refreshments.



View of the Městská hora hill



See everything at once

Městská hora lookout tower

A traditional lookout tower in the middle of the Městská hora woodland park built in 1936. It is 15 metres tall and offers a panoramic view of the Beroun basin. In the season it is open every day.

Děd lookout tower

Děd, the second lookout tower in Beroun, dating from 1893, is 12 metres tall. This lookout tower is currently closed as it is awaiting reconstruction, but due to its romantic appearance styled as a castle tower it is still worth visiting.

TIP: You can catch a really good glimpse of the historical centre from both the tower gates in Beroun. The Pilsner Gate, which is accessible through the Museum of the Bohemian Karst, is open during the museum opening hours. The Prague Gate opens only on special occasions.



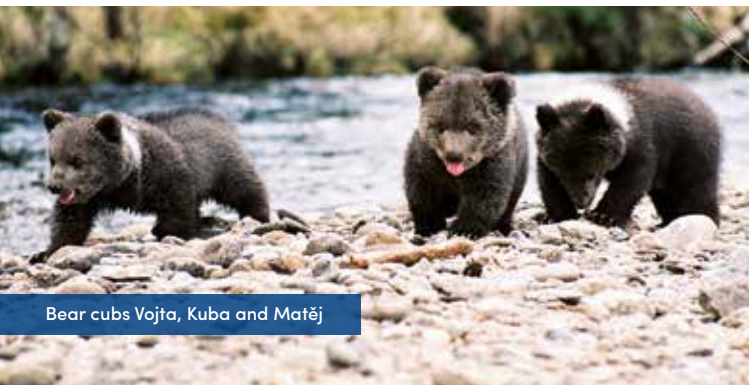
Kuba (left) and Matěj

The Beroun bear enclosure

Home to a famous bears

The bear cubs named Vojta, Kuba and Matěj were born in Český Krumlov on 13 January 2000 to their mother Kateřina, who sadly abandoned them. At first they were nursed by a specialist wildlife carer and later adopted by Václav Chaloupek, a widely renowned Czech film director. He created an immensely popular TV series for children called *Médové* in which the bear brothers show viewers all sorts of their antics. Once grown, the adoptive dad found a new home for the bears in Beroun.

Beroun, a municipality with a bear in its emblem and on its flag, found the idea interesting and developed a spacious bear enclosure in the Městská hora woodland park. There the three bear brothers lived from October 2000. Now only Kuba is left – in 2016 Vojta crossed the rainbow bridge and Matěj followed him in spring 2023.



Bear cubs Vojta, Kuba and Matěj

A stroll around the town

Historical walk

Lovers of culture, history and architecture can take a walk around the centre of Beroun, which is listed as an Urban Heritage Zone. You will see a number of historical buildings: the town hall, church, rectory, burghers' houses with decorated fronts, and picturesque medieval lanes with a nostalgic atmosphere of the old times.



Do not miss:

- Town hall
- Information Centre
- Prague Gate
- Fortification walls
- Bohemian Court (No 86)
- The Black Eagle House (No 79)
- House No 77
- Master John Hus monument
- War memorial
- Fountain
- Museum of the Bohemian Karst – Jenštejnský and Salátovský House (No 87 and 88)
- Frišman House (No 89)
- The Three Crowns House (No 90)
- Pilsner Gate
- Plague memorial (Calvary)
- Church of St. James
- Rectory
- Museum of Beroun Ceramics
- Villa Dusl and Pakosta Orchard
- House No 41
- House No 43

 1.7 km



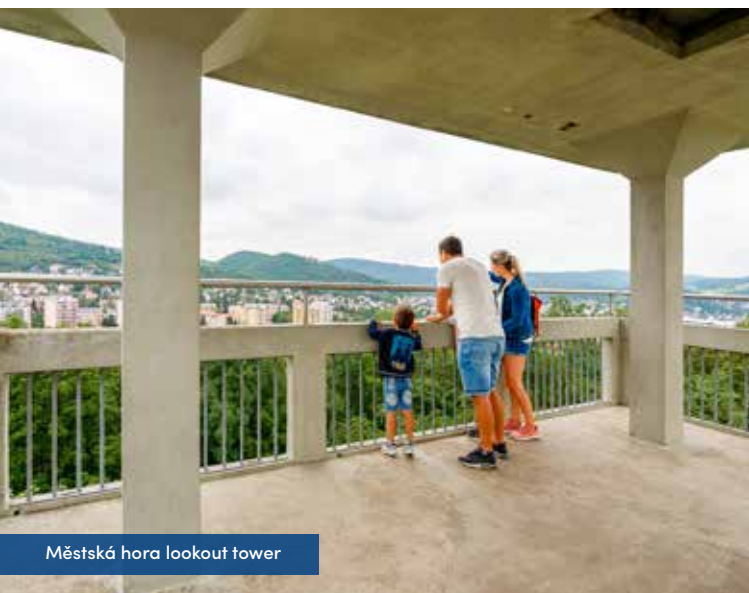
Educational walk

For those who have seen the centre and want to see more, there is a longer walk along the banks of the Berounka River. You cannot miss the hydroelectric station, the trail runs around a campsite and across a footbridge up Ostrý hill to Talich Valley. After reaching the chapel of the Sorrowful Virgin Mary, where you can enjoy a view of the entire Beroun valley, you can head back to the town, around the cemetery to the Městská hora woodland park with the bear enclosure.

Do not miss:

- Information Centre
- River Berounka
- Weir and hydroelectric station
- Campsite
- Talich Valley
- Chapel of the Sorrowful Virgin Mary
- Municipal cemetery with chapel of St. Wenceslas
- Bear enclosure and lookout tower on Městská hora hill
- Church of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary

 7.9 km



Městská hora lookout tower



Family walk

A trail you can do even with the youngest children will take you from the town hall, through the historic centre, around the toboggan, and to the bear enclosure. In the centre you can visit the Museum of Beroun Ceramics where you can try your hand at making pottery, or become geologists at Geopark Barrandien, with a rock pit full of trilobite fossils waiting to be discovered.

Do not miss:

- Town Hall
- Information Centre
- Prague Gate
- Fortification walls
- Museum of the Bohemian Karst
– Jenštejnský and Salátovský House
(No 87 and 88)
- Pilsner Gate
- Church of St. James
- Museum of Beroun Ceramics
- Městská hora lookout tower
- Bear enclosure

 2.4 km





Bohemian Karst



Křivoklátsko

Nature at your fingertips

A gateway to the Bohemian Karst and Křivoklátsko

Beroun lies in a valley on the border of the Křivoklátsko and Bohemian Karst protected nature areas, at the confluence of the Berounka and Litavka rivers. The town acts as an imaginary gateway for all sorts of water adventures, walks through the scenic landscapes or the deep forests of Křivoklátsko. The extensive network of marked footpaths and bike trails includes a popular bike route, In the Footsteps of the Bohemian Kings, that takes you to Karlštejn Castle or to the Nižbor chateau. More adventurous cyclists can also visit Žebrák and Točnick castles.

TIP: If you wish to explore Beroun and its surroundings on a bike, you can use the Nextbike shared bicycles available across the town.



Leisure and sports

Sports activities

Beroun offers a wide range of leisure and sports activities. The most popular of them is the local **aqua park** (Municipal swimming pool Tipsport laguna). In the summer, people head to the modern outdoor pools. Small and bigger children can have fun in the numerous **playgrounds** across the town, including the highly popular **traffic playground** near the Beroun campsite.

The Eden sports centre on the outskirts of Beroun offers various sports courts as well as fairy-tale **crazy golf** for children, featuring popular characters from TV shows. For bigger kids there is a quality **skateboarding area** suitable for all levels from beginners to professional skateboarders. In the winter months you can visit the **indoor ice rink** and have fun skating in public.

Beroun is a friendly place for all sorts of **sports events** attracting visitors and participants – for instance, the annual cycling race Kolo pro život (Bike for life), a golf tournament included in the Ladies European Tour, dragon boat races, and a skateboarding Grand Prix.





Karlštejn Castle

Places to go

Beautiful places nearby

Karlštejn Castle

 13.3 km  15.6 km

Monumental landmark and popular tourist destination known literally all over the world. A majestic medieval castle built by the king and emperor Charles IV gained its current iconic appearance during a 19th century reconstruction. A must-see is the unique Chapel of the Holy Cross – a chamber decorated with hundreds of gemstones set in gold, with 130 rare paintings by Master Theodoricus.

Křivoklát Castle

 24.8 km  23.4 km

Hunting lodge of the kings and princes of Bohemia, hidden in dense forests. Křivoklát was founded probably as early as in the 12th century. Nowadays it is one of the most popular Czech castles, with an exceptionally large collection of books – there are over 52 thousand of them.



Křivoklát Castle

Velíz Hill

 17.5 km  17.8 km

At the edge of the dense Křivoklát forests, near Kublov village lies Velíz – a sacred mountain of the shepherds. In the times of the ancient Slavs it was a place of pagan cult worshipping the god Veles, protector of cattle. In the times of the Premyslid dynasty it was a gloomy place and prison for the Premyslid Prince Jaromír, who was held there by his rivals from the Vršovec family. The remnants of an ancient abbey from the 14th century and a wooden statue of the god Veles hidden in the woods will enchant every visitor.

Great America quarry

 15.9 km  15.1 km

The former quarry is known as the Great America or Czech Grand Canyon. It was a backdrop used by many Czech and foreign film crews. The same crystal clear blue water that is home to many protected wildlife species can also be found in the smaller nearby quarries: Small America and Mexico.



Great America quarry

Točník and Žebrák castles

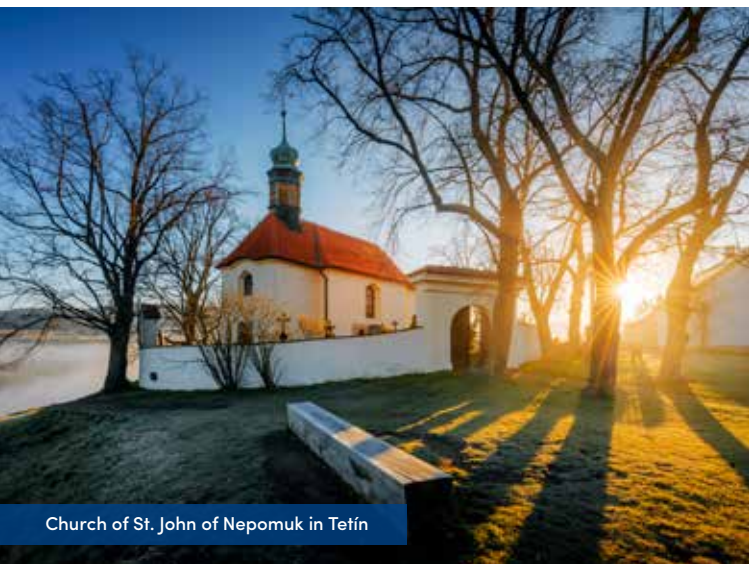
 22.1 km  21 km

The older of the two castles is Žebrák. A landmark with a massive tower that was built in the second half of the 13th century. The better-preserved Točník castle was founded at the end of the 14th century by King Wenceslas IV and is a popular tourist destination, hosting various cultural events.

Tetín

 3.5 km  5.2 km

Tetín is one of the oldest populated places in Bohemia. It was settled as early as the Stone Age and witnessed an important historical event: in 921 Princess Ludmila was murdered here. She was wife of Prince Bořivoj and grandmother of St. Wenceslas, patron of the Czech lands. The site is a traditional pilgrimage place with three churches.



Church of St. John of Nepomuk in Tetín

Skryje Lakes

 32.4 km  31.6 km

Two small lakes with a waterfall in the valley of the Zbirožský brook in the Skryje Lakes nature reserve. You can reach the lakes following the blue marked trail, either from Skryje, or from the old mill in Podmokly.

Koněpruské caves

 9.1 km  8.1 km

The longest cave system in Bohemia lies just off the village of Koněprusy and has been open to the public for more than 60 years. The caves are spread over three levels, are over 2 kilometres long and are an important paleontological and archaeological site.



Máminka lookout tower

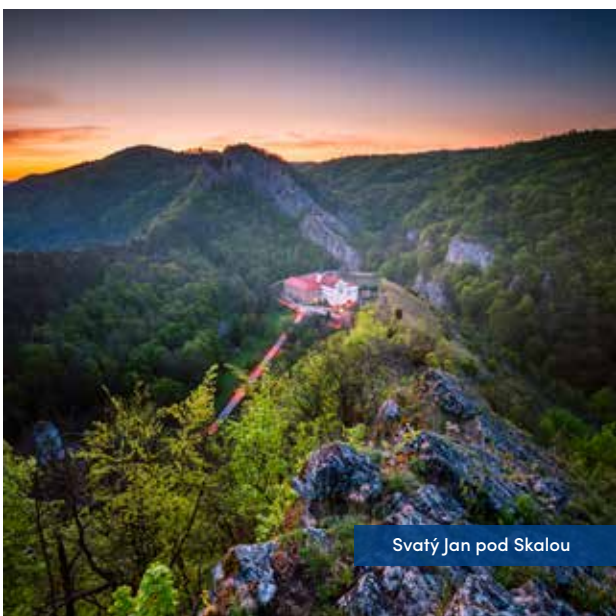
 13.1 km  12.4 km

The modern triangular lookout tower was built on the summit of Krušná hora near Hudlice in 2015. It is open year-round and its shape is reminiscent of the historical timber triangulation tower that used to stand on the site.

Svatý Jan pod Skalou

 5.2 km  8.2 km

Svatý Jan pod Skalou (Saint John under the Cliff) lies in the very heart of the Bohemian Karst and has been visited for centuries as a pilgrimage place and a popular tourist destination. This is due to the stunning nature and the rich history of a Benedictine monastery linked to the first Czech hermit, St. Ivan, who dwelled in the cave in the 9th century AD.





Beroun Information Centre

Husovo nám. 69
266 01 Beroun
+420 311 654 321
mic@mkcberoun.cz

 www.infocentrumberoun.cz/en

 @visitberoun

Tourist season – May to September

Monday to Friday: 8:00–12:30 13:00–16:30

Saturday: 8:00–12:30 13:00–16:30

Sunday and

Public Holidays: 10:00–12:30 13:00–16:00

Off-Season – October to April

Monday to Friday: 8:00–12:30 13:00–16:30

Saturday: 8:00–12:00

Sunday and

Public Holidays: close



 www.visitberounsko.com

 @berounsko

 @berounsko



 www.visticentralbohemia.com

 @visitcentralbohemia

 @visitcentralbohemia

Published by the Beroun Municipality in collaboration with Berounsko Destination Agency in 2023. First edition, 2,000 copies.

Texts: Beroun Municipality and Berounsko Destination Agency.

Photographs: Archive of the Beroun Municipal Authority, Berounsko Destination Agency, and the Central Bohemian Tourist Board.

