



THE TOWN OF
UHERSKÉ HRADIŠTĚ

Uherské Hradiště

Sightseeing and relaxation



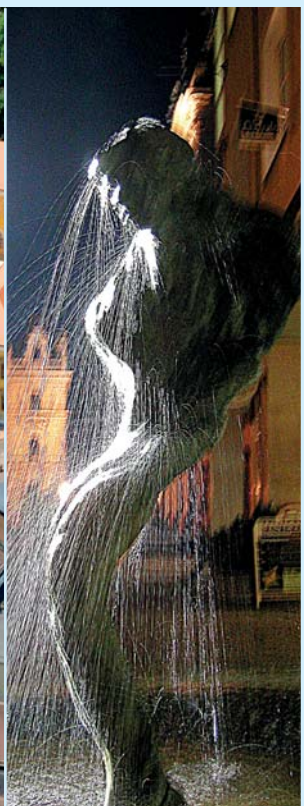
Masaryk Square

It was more than 750 years ago that a new town was founded here by Přemysl Otakar II. The first dwellings were built on what would later become Masaryk Square, which, centuries later, still serves as the focus of the town's most important events and celebrations. Right here, originally on an island formed by the Morava River, Uherské Hradiště was founded.

The Church of St. George once stood right in the middle of the square, but after it was partially destroyed by fire, reconstruction attempts failed and it was eventually demolished. Today, Masaryk Square is dominated by a complex of Jesuit buildings and the landmark Church of St Francis Xavier. Having undergone major refurbishment in recent years, particularly focused on the former Jesuit grammar school and dormitory, the complex once again serves as the spiritual, social and cultural heart of Uherské Hradiště. It also hosts two permanent exhibitions, commemorating the town, its culture and its history – one celebrates the work of Joža Uprka, the most significant painter of Moravian Slovakia, while another offers a unique virtual tour of the town and its storied past.

On the opposite side of the square, you will find the town's only surviving building with original Renaissance elements, now occupied by the Hotel Slunce (the Sun Hotel) and a modern shopping mall. Two more noteworthy buildings can be found near the hotel – the baroque pharmacy U Zlaté koruny (At the Golden Crown), with its Neo-Renaissance sgraffito façade and interior ceiling decoration, and the bakery U Labutě (At the Swan's). The former has been selling drugs and medicines for three centuries, while the latter has been producing bread and other baked goods for over a hundred years.

The square boasts two fountains. The Baroque fountain is decorated with entwined fish bodies and once served as a source of drinking water. The more modern fountain includes a bronze model of the town based on a veduta from 1670.





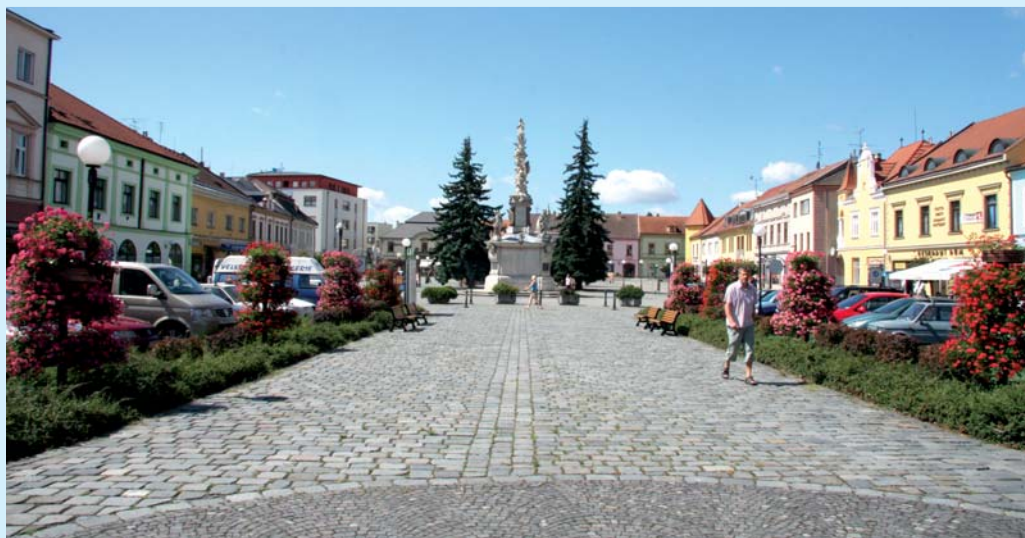
Marian Square

Marian Square is one of Uherské Hradiště's two oldest centres of public life, and is connected to Masaryk Square by Prostřední Street. Marian Square was built in the 13th century for the inhabitants of the monastery village of Veligrad – today's Staré Město. Although you can still recognise its medieval character, many buildings were destroyed by a fire in 1680, and it is mainly dominated by Baroque monuments today. The oldest of these is a late 17th century fountain decorated with mascarons, which at that time served a practical as well as a decorative purpose – water poured out of their open mouths. Gothic houses once stood on the square's narrow plots. One of the most valuable is house No. 61, once a seat of royal bailiffs, which was rebuilt in Baroque style after the fire. It is particularly notable for a portal that tells a story with its Latin inscriptions and chronogram.

The most striking monument is the plague column in the middle of the square. It was created as an expression of gratitude to God for warding off the plague epidemic in 1715. Visible everywhere from the column to Prostřední Street is the impressive tower of the Old Town Hall, which is tilted more than 70 cm off its axis due to unstable subsoil.

Close to Marian Square are two architecturally notable buildings – the Gallery of Moravian Slovakia Museum and the Franciscan Monastery with the adjoining Church of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary. The complex was built in Vladislav Gothic style at the end of the 15th century. Both in terms of its decorativeness and representativeness, we can consider the monastery's library and refectory to be the most valuable. With lavish stucco decoration and wall paintings featuring religious motifs, saints and Biblical scenes are among the most beautiful and significant examples of High Baroque to be found in Moravia.

A former Jewish synagogue stands on ground behind the monastery, now the site of Bedřich Beneš Buchlovian Library. The building was carefully restored, and its interior was adapted for use as an educational institution of regional importance. Marian Square is a place of peace and rest. It comes alive during traditional farmers' weekend markets and various performances related to regular cultural events in the town.





Palacký Square

Found by leaving Masaryk Square along Havlíček Street, the grounds of today's Palacký Square used to be almost undeveloped, as it was, in fact, outside the town walls for many years. Development that saw the town expand beyond its fortified walls began in the last decade of the 19th century. At that time, a large complex of buildings was built in the Neo-Renaissance style – the Palace of Justice, the former seat of the county court, prison and three buildings for lawyers.

Today, the Palace has become the Secondary School of Applied Arts, and a former prison can be found opposite of it. The prison was used by the Nazis during World War II and later by the Communists, and it became infamous for its cruel treatment of political prisoners. Occasional folk trials were held here and executions took place in its courtyard.

The oldest monument in the square is the Chapel of St. Sebastian which was commissioned by a military garrison as an expression of gratitude for warding off the plague epidemic of 1715. In January 1969 the chapel was lifted, shifted a few metres southeast towards more elevated terrain, and, by the end of 1971, completely renovated. In the corner near the Chapel of St. Sebastian you will find two buildings built in the Functionalist style. Both the former spa and savings bank, which still houses a banking institution today, were designed by prominent Czech architect Bohuslav Fuchs.

The square was built after the demolition of the outer fortification belt between the former Kunovice gate. Its northern front consists of three houses with rich façade decoration. In one of them (the seat of the special needs school today) you will also find rich interior decoration.





Mír Square (Peace Square)

Six architectural points of interest in one place – that is Mír Square. Have a walk around and you'll see Smetana's Park, Hvězda cinema, Mír club, Museum of Moravian Slovakia, Sports Hall and Miroslav Valenta Football Stadium.

Smetana's Park is among the oldest and largest parks in Uherské Hradiště. For more than 130 years it has been a popular relaxation area in the centre of the town used for cultural and social events, strolls and relaxation. In the park you will find the Museum of Moravian Slovakia, Slovácká buda, a replica of a folk dwelling, and also a variety of historically valuable sculptural compositions. Currently, the park is being restored in phases. Over-mature trees have been removed, the tree crowns are regularly treated and new trees are planted. A few heritage trees can also be seen.

The Museum of Moravian Slovakia was the first building to be erected in the park. In the museum, which previously served as a shooting range and an inn, you can now learn about the local way of life and the region's folk traditions. Temporary exhibitions display items from the museum's own collection as well as loan collections. Slovácká buda is a replica of a typical folk dwelling dating back to 1937, when it was built for the "Exhibition of Slovácko". It is decorated with artworks by Breton painter Moarch (Miško) Eveno. Today, it is used by folklore groups for rehearsals, performances and social gatherings.

Hvězda cinema is one of the town's most valuable examples of modern architecture from the second half of the 20th century. It was built according to plans made by architect Zdeněk Michal, and now stands between the district containing many of the town's recreational facilities and its historic centre. Close by the cinema, you'll find the Mír club, home to a vibrant alternative music scene.







STARÉ
MĚSTO

Rybárny

STARÁ TENICE

MOJMÍR I.

MOJMÍR II. - STĚPNICE

MALINOVSKÉHO

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| | built-up area | | town circuit |
| | orchard, garden, industry | | hotel; guest house; hostel; restaurant, pub |
| | park; wood | | train and bus station; bus stop; local bus stop (urban mass transportation) |
| | building; important building | | church; chapel; cross; cemetery; monument |
| | water area, vineyard | | Jewish cemetery; garage; petrol station; port |
| | brook, river | | hospital; healthcare; pharmacy; information |
| | railway | | museum; gallery; theatre; cinema; tourist attraction |
| | field path | | library; kindergarten; school; indoor swimming pool |
| | other communication | | police station; town police; post office; fountain |
| | street | | telephone; cash machine; supermarket; public toilet |
| | thoroughfare | | traffic lights; one-way road; no entry; car park |
| | cycling path | | |



Mařatické turistické okruhy

Town Tourist Circuit



1. Masaryk Square
2. Marian Square
3. Palacky Square
4. Mir Square
5. Forest Park
6. Baťa Canal
7. Town sports facilities
8. Rochus Park

Forest Park

As the name suggests, Forest Park is a place that combines elements of the forest and the urban park, and can be found before the Štěpnice housing estate. Right here, your children and you can relax, play and explore.

The forest park of Kunovský les (Kunovice Wood) is a recreational area with natural playgrounds, a sandpit, wooden play equipment and a soft-surface running track, which is 2.2 km long and has been in use for nearly 30 years. Across the park, a cycle path leads towards the lakes in Ostrožská Nová Ves - it is also suitable for in-line skating. The basic component of the park is the remnant of a floodplain forest which stretches along the left bank of the Morava River between Uherské Hradiště and Kunovice. The forest is a part of a site of European importance called Nedakonický les (Nedakonice Wood) and a number of protected species of animals and plants can be found within it.

You can go bird watching in the park – it contains numerous feeders that are regularly refilled with more than one thousand kilograms of feed during the winter season by volunteers. Also, the larvae of rare stag-beetles (*Lucanus cervus*) evolve here annually. An inseparable part of the forest park is a 5-kilometre-long nature trail with ten information panels presenting the floodplain forest's flora and fauna to visitors.

An innovative new visitor attraction has opened recently - a disc-golf course with six holes. Never tried this fun new sport, derived from classic golf but using a flying disc rather than the traditional ball? Then why not try your hand at it during a visit to Uherské Hradiště's forest park.





Baťa Canal

This unique waterway was formerly used to transport material to the Baťa factories. Now it offers great recreational opportunities, especially for those who want to explore the region surrounding Uherské Hradiště in an unusual way.

Today the canal is 53 kilometres long (from Otrokovice to Skalica). The navigation system passes through the Morava River as well as several artificial canals. From May to September, you can join group recreational cruises or easily hire a boat yourself, no paperwork or official permission required, with rental companies offering a range of motor boats, recreational boats and houseboats. The journey itself will take you through romantic floodplain forests, allow you to visit bird sanctuaries, explore historic towns and unique cultural monuments as well as have a taste of local wine and other regional produce.

For those who prefer travelling on two wheels, a cycle path follows almost the entire length of the Baťa Canal. Keen cyclists can admire the beautiful natural views, stop by one of the chamber locks and see these technical wonders in action or stop off for refreshments at the local dock pubs. And if you get tired of pedaling, you take your bike onto a specially-adapted cycle-friendly cruise ship and continue your adventure by boat instead.

If you happen to have your own boat, you can use the dock facilities in Staré Město or the wharf in Uherské Hradiště, located near the town centre on Svatojiřské nábřeží, on the left bank of the Morava River between the footbridge and road bridge. A 60-metre-long pier has a boarding platform which can be comfortably used even for boarding wheelchairs.





Town sports facilities

Are you in town for an extended visit, and want to keep up your home fitness regimen? Or are you the kind of sports fanatic who starts to get cravings if you're off the playing field for too long? Uherské Hradiště has the facilities to satisfy your sporting urges.

Built in 2003, the 8000-seat football stadium is one of the most modern in the Czech Republic, and is home to the 1.FC Slovácko club. An athletics stadium that hosts various championships and matches is also located nearby. The sports centre even includes multipurpose pitches with artificial surface which are used not only by schools but also by the public. Skateboarders can take advantage of a modern skate park too.

In Uherské Hradiště you can play tennis or beach volleyball in three lighted courts. The adjacent sports hall offers a wide range of activities, and outside of it there is publicly accessible outdoor exercise and fitness equipment. The entire sports block is complemented by the winter stadium, which, despite its name, is open all year round and offers public ice-skating sessions, ice-hockey and in-line hockey in summer. Behind the winter stadium, you will find the water park. Among its greatest attractions are two waterslides, its all-year-round outdoor heated pool and wellness centre. Adventure pools with water attractions can be found both indoors and outdoors. Visitors to the water park also have the opportunity to play volleyball or beach volleyball in its courts.





Rochus Park

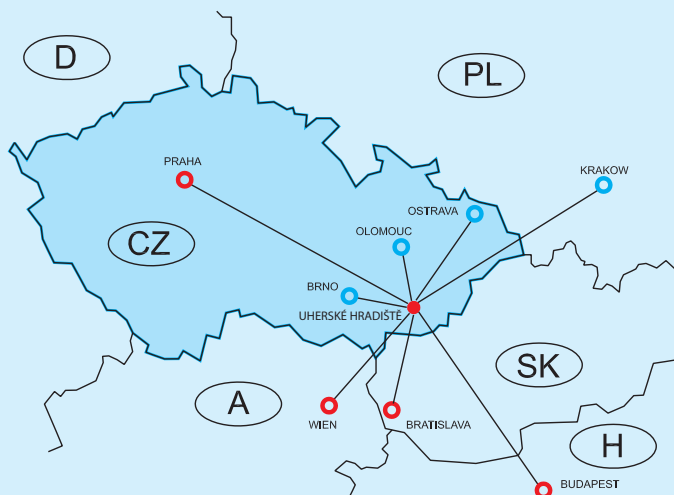
Formerly a military training ground, but now emerging as a natural recreation area, Rochus Park offers its visitors guided relaxation with a mix of leisure, cultural and educational activities.

The area includes meadows, orchards, bushes, trees, but, most importantly, a peaceful atmosphere and a beautiful view of the town. Thanks to a rare moth species – Eastern Eggar butterfly (Latin name: *Eriogaster catax*) - this area has been included among the most important European NATURA 2000 sites. The entire complex is dominated by the Baroque pilgrimage chapel of St Roche.

One ongoing project is the creation of an open-air museum which already includes newly planted orchards of old traditional local varieties. The park not only offers relaxation in nature but also education. Educational tours as well as environmental programmes for schools are held here. You can see not only local flora and fauna but also several original examples of traditional folk architecture and practical demonstration of farming in the country, all incorporated into a nature trail. The area comes alive during the annual environmental and cultural events organized by the Rochus Czech Union for Nature Conservation or the Association of Friends of St. Roche, which administrates and maintains the entire pilgrimage space of the chapel.







THE TOWN OF UHERSKÉ HRADIŠTĚ
THE HISTORIC TOWN OF 2011

Town of Uherské Hradiště

Masarykovo nám. 19, 686 01 Uherské Hradiště

tel.: 572 525 111

e-mail: epodatelna@mesto-uh.cz

www.mesto-uh.cz



Town Information Centre

Masarykovo nám. 21, 686 01 Uherské Hradiště

tel.: 572 525 525

e-mail: mic@uherske-hradiste

www.uherske-hradiste.cz

