



Church Union in 1925. The project was processed by the architect and developer Josef Salek. Building commenced on September 16th, 1929 and was completed in 1932, under the leadership of contractors Jindrich Kylian and Tomas Sipka. The interior décor is dominated by a massive mosaic, entirely in presbytery from the painter, Jano Köhler. The organ with thirty registers was made by the Rieger brothers. In the crypt of the church, there is a tomb of Archbishop Precan, who initiated the building of the church.

**17 EVANGELICAL CHURCH**

The Evangelical Church above the Morava River, on the corner of Husova St. and Blahoslavova St. was built as a result of conflicts between Czechs and Germans regarding the use of the so called Red Church. The building of the Evangelical Church of the Czech Brotherhood started in the first days of the World War I. The church with many halls for Sunday school, youth and bible lessons was built for war troubles until 1920. The interior was renovated from 1987–88 according to the project of architect Bartak.

**18 RED CHURCH**

The Evangelical church with its 55 meter high tower and red brick siding is called "the Red Church". The project for the church was worked out in 1898 by the builder, Franz Böhm, and was consequently simplified and revised by the German architect, Max Löw. The base rock of the church was embedded on May 17th, 1901 and building was completed a year later. From 1919, the church was used by the German Evangelical Church. After WWII, the Church became state property. It was used by the Church of the Czech Brotherhood until 1960, at which time the church added a scientific library for the storage of books.

**19 HUSSITE CHURCH**

The Czech-Slovak Church of Hus Choir is a three nave basilica on the north western border of the historical center. The main prayer area is located on a raised ground. It is accessible by a large staircase with six pillars with heads. The whole church has a dome-shaped roof with a lantern and tower. A tower with a goblet, located asymmetrically to the church is located in the back. A columbarium is located under the church. The church was built from 1924–1926 in neo-classical style.

Christ's Crucifixion. The Crucifixion itself is located directly upon entering the chapel, which was canonized together with the column in 1754 during the reign of Marie Theresa.

**15 PILGRIMAGE CHURCH ON HOLY HILL**

The Baroque basilica, with its double tower façade, significantly dominates the Olomouc countryside. Attics bearing the 12 apostles and two witnesses – St Sebastian and St Roch, are built on the side, a cloister and the Chapel of the Virgin Mary are located behind the church.

A number of Moravian and foreign painters, sculptors and plasterers took part in decorating the interior. Jan Krystof Handke painted the dome with allegories of four continents. In one of the side chapels, the Handke's fresco of St Augustine is located, which is considered to be the painter's masterpiece. The painting on the main altar, by Johan Spillenbergr is also worth mentioning. Sculptors Josef Winterhalder, Jiri Antonin Heinz and Michael Zürn took part in the interior décor of the church. The monumental church was canonized by Pope John Paul II in May 1995.

**16 CHURCH OF ST CYRIL AND METHODIUS**

The Church of St Cyril and Methodius in Olomouc-Hejcin is built in Neoclassical Modernistic style. The architectonic-urban proposal, integrating the church into the then newly-built Olomouc neighbourhood was developed by the architect, Ladislav Skrivanek, who was approached by the



**12 CHURCH OF ST GORAZD**

The Orthodox Church of St Gorazd is a symmetrical segmented building, which at first glance significantly differs from the other Olomouc churches. It culminates with an octagonal tower, topped with a gilded bulbous dome with a cross, which clearly refers to the obvious source of inspiration of the traditional Byzantine-like architecture of the Russian provenience.

The church was built from 1937 to 1939 according to the project of architect Vsevolod Kolmacky and from 1950 became the cathedral church of the Orthodox Olomouc-Brno Eparchy. In the basement, there is a prayer room. Two tin icons are situated above the entrance in a niche – a painting of the Mother of God is placed on the bell tower wall above the church vestibule.

**13 HRADISKO MONASTERY**

Hradisko Monastery was established in 1078 by the Olomouc Prince Ota I with his first wife Euphemia. The first monks to reside in the monastery were Benedictines, who were replaced by the Premonstrates before the middle of the 12th century. Significant damage was also done during the 30 Years' War. Its renovation was started during the middle of the 17th century. With the exception of the convent church, the project was developed by Giovanni Pietro Tencalla, which was most likely developed according to the plans of Domenico Martinelli. The sculptors Baltazar Fontana, Antonin Rika, Jan Hangemiler, Jiri Antonin Heinz, Michael Mandik, Jan Krystof Handke and others, decorated the interior.

In 1748, Hradisko was visited by Empress Marie Theresa and Francis of Lorraine. Following the cancellation of the monastery in 1784, a reverend seminar shortly took place here. From 1802, the object serves as an military hospital.

**14 CHAPEL OF THE HOLY TRINITY COLUMN**

The chapel was built into the body of the Holy Trinity Column, a UNESCO landmark, and was completed before 1733, when its projector Vaclav Render was still alive. The chapel has a vaulted dome with a lantern. Daylight is let in by six windows and decorations are made of six reliefs with motives of old law martyrs before the

damaged during the 30 Years' War by the Swedish Army and following the fire of 1709, the Baroque interior of the church was renovated. A complex building of the former monastery adjoins the church. Today, with the exception of the church, the monastery is privately owned.

**10 CHAPEL OF ST JOHN SARKANDER**

On the site of the city prison, where the Catholic priest, John Sarkander was tortured from 1672–1673, a Baroque chapel was opened. The chapel underwent large renovations from 1909–1912, which created a central new Baroque chapel with a rich sculpture décor, which is the same as the architectonic works of the architect and sculptor Eduard Sochor. The original rack, on which John Sarkander was tortured, is preserved in the basement of the chapel.

**11 THE CAPUCHIN CHURCH**

The Church of the Blessed Mary, located in the southeastern corner of Lower Square in Olomouc, is a monastery church of the Capuchin order. The church was built by an unknown master between 1655–1661 as a simple single nave church with two side chapels and a rectangular presbytery. Unfortunately, the architect is also unknown. The simple smooth main façade of the monastery church with a high triangular gable creates a significant urban landmark dominating the southern side of the Lower Square. The entrance portal is decorated with a mosaic depicting the Annunciation.



**7 CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY OF THE SNOW**

This university church, canonized in 1716, was built by Olomouc Jesuits from 1712 to 1719 on the site of the former Minorite monastery church. It is a typical example of a church of the Jesuit order. The direct inspirational source for the architect, Michael Joseph Klein of Nisa, was the Church of St Nicholas on Mala Strana in Prague. The portal was made by the stonemason, Vaclav Render, the sculptors on the face were made by David Zürn.

**8 DOMINICAN CHURCH**

The late gothic church of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary in Sokolska St. was originally built as a monastery church of the Franciscan-Bosaque on Belidla. A monastery with a church was built from the initiative of the Minorite general Vicar John Capistrano from 1454–1468. The three-naved square center layout is arched only by simple cross vaulting. More interesting however, is the pyramidal roof of the church as well as the interior decoration with a few late gothic wall paintings. The church was preserved in its gothic style but the monastery was re-built in Baroque style in 1743. At present, the monastery belongs to a Dominican Convent.

**9 ST CATHERINE'S MONASTERY**

The gothic St Catherine's Monastery was established together with the Dominican Church before 1257. Today's structure, however, comes from the second half of the 14th century. The church and monastery was

**5 CHURCH OF ST MAURICE**

The Olomouc parish church from the beginning of the 15th century is typical for its two asymmetrical prismatic towers as well as its highly arched three-naved structure and therefore, rightfully is part of the unique late Gothic structure of Moravia. At the end of the 16th century, two renaissance burial chapels of the noble Edelmann family were added, richly decorated with rock reliefs. In 1745, during later Baroque renovations, organ was placed into the church, which is the largest organ in Central Europe. This famous musical instrument from Mister Michael Engler's workshop is sounded annually in times of the international organ festival.

Apart from a tour of the church, a visitor can enter into the double spiral staircase onto one of the towers, from which one can see a beautiful look-out of the Olomouc center.

**6 ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

The early-Baroque St Michael's church was built on the site of the original gothic church based on the proposals of Tencalla and Martinelli from 1676–1702. In the 19th century, the Baroque statue of Christ and the Virgin Mary, from the workshop of sculptor Ondrej Zahner, were re-located onto the front face. The impressive Baroque interior of the church, which is one of the most beautiful in Olomouc, was partly renovated in a historical spirit in 1897 and sharply contrasts its austere exterior. The gothic bell tower is also accessible.



## Olomouc – Spiritual Metropolis

Throughout time, Olomouc is a spiritual metropolis. From the 11<sup>th</sup> century, it was the residence of the renewed Bishop of Moravia. Currently, Olomouc is the only location in all of Central Europe, where one can visit the Bishop's office. Ceremonial religious people are associated with the city, such as the Olomouc Bishop, Jindrich Zdik, the Patron of Moravia St John Sarkander, St Pauline, the city Patron, or Pope John Paul II.

It is said that in Olomouc, the number of churches, chapels, and sacred areas in ratio to the population is the highest in all of the Czech Republic. During the WWII, the Olomouc Synagogue was destroyed. In memory of the Synagogue, a plaque was placed on the university building located next to it.

The number of monasteries in the city is also significant. The Benedict Monastery on Hradisko was the first in Olomouc, as well as the second oldest in Moravia. Currently, there are active groups of friars, Capuchins, Jesuits, Carmelites, Premonstratians and a number of female congregations in Olomouc. Mainly Catholic churches dominate in Olomouc when it comes to the quality of artistic décor.



### Did you know that...

- St Pauline is the **Patron of Olomouc**, in whose honor a historical parade is organized annually throughout the city?
- In the gothic Church of St Maurice, you will find the **biggest organ in Central Europe**?
- St Wenceslas' Cathedral has the **second largest church tower bell** in the Czech Republic?
- ruler Franz Joseph I, **the longest reigning leader in Europe**, resided in the Archbishop's Palace?

### Our tip

Olomouc bells are an unforgettable part of the city's cultural heritage. In the past, many bell-founders resided in Bishop's Olomouc. Hanus Herbst, the maker of the bell at St Michael's Church, which actively rang from 1420–1440, was the oldest, most well known bell-founder residing in Olomouc.

Two bells from 1732 from the Church of the Virgin Mary of the Snow were preserved from the Olaus Oberg production. Two of the original four bells by the Viennese bell-founder, Joachim Gross, are located on Holy Hill. The most widespread bell choir on Moravia was located in St Wenceslas' Cathedral. Its biggest bell weighs 8 tones and is therefore the biggest bell in Moravia.

In Olomouc, the Church of St Maurice and the St Michael's Church bell towers are accessible in the summer.

## 1 ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE

The Olomouc Archbishop's Palace is part of the significant Baroque buildings in Moravia. It was built based on the project of the Italian architects, Filibert Luchese and Giovanni Pietro Tencalla on the location of the older renaissance palace. The long corridor siding is rich in segmented façade with three portals. A monumental staircase and ceremonial hall decorate the Palace's interior. The original décor was preserved in the Archbishop's Chapel. The Bishop's residence underwent numerous renovations. The last larger renovation took place following the fire of 1904 during Archbishop, Franz Bauer. In 1848, Franz Joseph I took the throne in this residence, where numerous significant visits by ruler took place. Seven historical representative halls of the Palace as well as areas with short-term exhibitions are open to the public with a tour guide.

## 2 ST WENCESLAS' CATHEDRAL

St Wenceslas' Cathedral, with its two-tower face is an integral part of the city's skyline. The third south tower, 100.65m high, is the highest church tower in Moravia. The main hall of the triple nave church is built in medieval style. The original Roman Basilica, built from the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century by Prince Svatopluk, was ordained in 1131 by Bishop Jindrich Zdik. Following numerous fires,



the three-nave was re-built into gothic style during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. On the south side of the church, the renaissance Chapel of St Stanislav was re-built. A two-storey, Manneristic crypt, known as "the upper crypt", which is accessible to the public, is located under the presbytery. A visitor can find the coffin of the Olomouc Bishops in the lower crypt. A reliquary with St John Sarkander's remains, canonized by Pope John Paul II in Olomouc in 1955, is located on the new gothic style alter by one of the three pillars of the three nave. Between the years of 1883–1891, the Cathedral underwent a new Gothic renovation.

## 3 CHAPEL OF ST ANNE

The one nave Chapel of St Anne is located in close proximity of Wenceslas' Cathedral. The core is built in Gothic style, originally dedicated by St John the Baptist. A chapel with the same name was later built in the area of the Archbishop's Palace. Between the years of 1306–1349, the original chapel was re-built for the honorable reliquary, the forearm of St Anne. From the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it served as a voting area of Olomouc Bishops and Archbishops. In 1617, its overall renovation was completed in the Manneristic spirit. Today, it is no longer possible to see the chapel's entire beauty. During the renovation of the cathedral in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was shortened by the entire southern vault field.

## 4 CHAPEL OF ST BARBARA

The circular tower of the Chapel of St Barbara is strategically located in a former Olomouc Castle. It was built as a Roman residential tower in the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. On the brink of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century, it became part of the so called New Castle residence of margrave. In the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, a spiral staircase was added to the tower and new windows on the north and south sides. After 1535, it became part of the Capitular Deanery. In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, 3 floors were newly built into it. A private, Baroque-style Chapel of St Barbara was located on the top floor. In medieval times, the tower had a cone-shaped roof, which was replaced by a lantern. At the tip of the lantern, a gold-plated tin figure of St Barbara is located. The Roman, circular tower of the chapel has been accessible to the public since 2006 as a part of the Archdiocesan Museum's exhibition.



## OLOMOUC CHURCHES WITH GUIDE

All significant Olomouc churches and cathedrals are open daily from May to September from 9:00am to 5:00pm. A tour guide is present in these churches. Guided tours are not possible during mass, concerts, etc.

## SELECTED PILGRIMAGES ON HOLY HILL

- The Visitation of the Virgin Mary Holiday
- Holy Hill Festival
- Celebrating the Raising of the Virgin Mary
- Forgiveness Celebration
- Holy Hill Foundation Pilgrimage
- Romany Pilgrimage

## TIPS FROM THE CULTURAL CALENDAR

- March – April** Musica Religiosa
- June** Night of Churches
- City Festival – a parade in honor of St Pauline
- Sept. – Oct.** Fall Festival of Sacred Music
- Festival of Baroque Music, Baroque

## INFORMATION CENTRE OLOMOUC

Upper Square – Town Hall arcade  
tel.: +420 585 513 385, +420 585 513 392  
Open daily 9:00–19:00  
e-mail: infocentrum@olomouc.eu  
www.facebook.com/informacni.centrum.olomouc  
**www.tourism.olomouc.eu**

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