

A photograph of a fountain in a city square. The fountain features two bronze statues on ornate pedestals. The statue on the left is a figure in a long, draped garment, possibly a personification of a virtue or a historical figure. The statue on the right is a more muscular figure, possibly a personification of a city or a deity, holding a large fish. Water is spraying from the mouths of both statues. In the background, there are historic buildings with red-tiled roofs and a large, ornate church with a tall spire. The scene is captured in a soft, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. A red bench is visible in the foreground, and the overall atmosphere is one of historical charm and urban beauty.

OLOMOUC

Olomouc in a nutshell

WELCOME TO OLOMOUC

Olomouc, the one hundred thousand inhabitant metropolis of the fruitful Haná and the sixth largest city in the Czech Republic lies right in the heart of Moravia and in the past was its capital city. Currently, it is home to the ancient university, the archdiocese, the philharmonic, numerous museums, theatres and clubs, the venue for many interesting events and festivals.

For centuries, Olomouc belonged among the most significant residence of the Czech Monarchy. A world rarity is the original medieval astronomical clock in the façade of the Town Hall, following WWII renovated in the spirit of socialist realism. A thirty-two meter high column of the Holy Trinity – UNESCO monument, a group of six Baroque fountains and a magical new age Arion's Fountain, are other unique monuments in the city's historical centre. Wenceslas' Hill top is dominated by high spires of Saint Wenceslas' Cathedral and an adjacent palace located at the former site of the Olomouc castle. It is definitely worth spending some time in Olomouc! Apart from the countless sights, numerous reminders of a military history of the former Olomouc forts await you here. The entire city is surrounded by a ring of advanced forts, which still exist today in an almost unchanged character. In the gorgeous city orchards, you will also find the remains of the medieval forts of the city as well as the Crown fortress, which is gradually becoming the centre for culture and relaxation.



OLOMOUC INFORMATION CENTRE

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DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- the Holy Trinity Column has been inscribed into the UNESCO Heritage List from 2000?
- Saint Wenceslas' Cathedral can boast about the highest spire on Moravia and the second highest in the Czech Republic?
- Olomouc Town Hall has served its original purpose for more than 600 years now?
- in close proximity of the Astronomical Clock, you can find a scale model in bronze, which offers a bird's eye view of the historical city centre?
- there is an exact replica of the Olomouc ell-stick measure located at the Town Hall?
- according to the Lonely Planet guide, Olomouc is the most beautiful city in the Czech Republic?

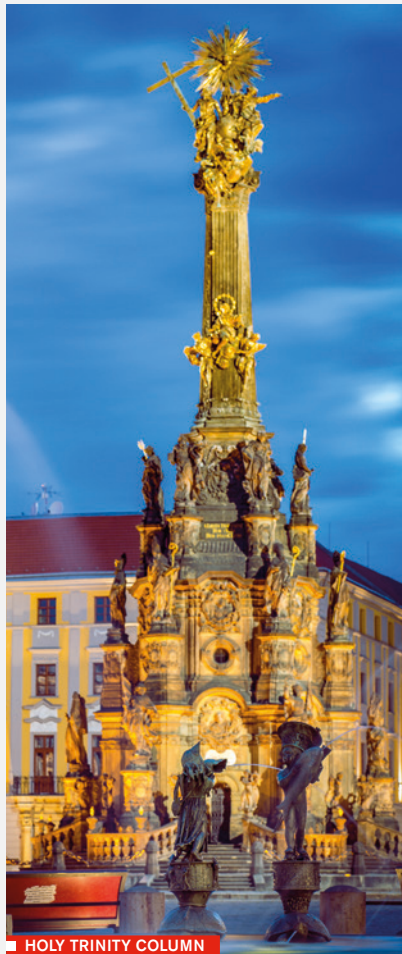
OUR TIP

TIP: *Even prior to establishing description numerals, it was practical to identify concrete buildings. The functionality of the address back then was fulfilled by the house signs and by these signs everyone knew where the houses of "The Golden Deer", "The Black Dog", "The Silver Spade" or "The Golden Ring" were located. Some signs still exist today, others, thanks to enthusiasts, have been returned to their original places.*

The Information Centre also offers other services and tour paths.

! Our tip

📄 Discount with Olomouc region Card
more information on www.olomoucregioncard.cz



HOLY TRINITY COLUMN

TOUR ALONG UPPER SQUARE



HOLY TRINITY COLUMN

UNESCO Monument

The Trinity Column has been inscribed onto UNESCO World Heritage List from 2000. It is the largest group of Baroque statues within a single sculptural monument in Central Europe. The column measures 32 meters and its lower part houses the seasonally accessible chapel. The decoration consists of 18 sculptures of saints, 12 light-bearer figures and 6 relief busts of the apostles. The sculptural group of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary is located in the central part of the shank and at the top the sculptural group of the Holy Trinity shines. The Column became the source of fondness for the inhabitants because everyone who participated in its construction – its main creator Václav Rindler is no exception – were citizens of Olomouc. The Empress Maria Theresa with her husband, Francis of Lorraine, personally took part in the consecration of the Column in 1754.



TOWN HALL

Olomouc Town Hall, which dominates Upper Square for six centuries, has represented the



TOWN HALL

symbol of the economic and political significance of the back then monarchical capital city. The construction of Town Hall with its mercantile house was permitted to Olomouc by a Privilege from 1378 of the Moravian Margrave Jost of Luxembourg. Today, the building has four wings with an inner court yard in the centre. The oriel of the Gothic Chapel of St Jerome, richly decorated with circular arches and figurine motives, ascends from the south façade. At the eastern side of the building, there are a biaxial staircase and a Renaissance loggia. A number of original vaulted rooms, including a ceremonial hall have been preserved to this day. The interior of the Gothic Chapel of St Jerome is decorated with a unique ribbed vault. The Olomouc Town Hall tower was built from the 1420s and it gained the current height of 75m during its renovations between 1601–1607.

TIP: *The Town Hall Tower is open to the public with a guide.*

TIP: *To the history of the Town Hall and the Olomouc astronomical clock are devoted the expositions located on the first and second floor of the Town Hall building. The newest exposition represents Olomouc in the changing centuries. You can view all of them free of charge during the municipality's office hours or within the special tours of Olomouc In a Nutshell.*

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ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

The unique Olomouc Astronomical Clock is situated in the northern façade of the Town Hall. Its beginnings fall into the 15th century, the first unmistakable remarks about its existence however, are recorded from 1519. It has undergone many renovations until today – it had a Gothic appearance as well as a Renaissance and Baroque appearance. The current façade of the astronomical clock is from the 1950s and is a reflection of the back then official representation of socialist realism. At the top of the recess, the designer of the project, Karel Svolinský used a folklore motive of the Ride of the Kings. In the lower part of the mosaic décor, modern figures representing the working class are located along the sides.

TIP: *Daily showing at 12:00 pm noon.*



ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

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CAESAR'S FOUNTAIN

Caesar's Fountain is the most famous and artistically most skilled of the Olomouc fountains. Its sculptural group décor represents the legendary founder of the city – Gaius Julius Caesar. Two male figures lie at his feet – the personifications of the Morava and Danube Rivers – and a sitting dog as an allusion to the town's loyalty to the Emperor. The statue of Caesar is placed facing Michael's Hill, where apparently a camp of Roman soldiers once stayed. The designer of the sculptural group is John George Schauburger, the basin of the fountain is the work of the Olomouc stone mason Master, Václav Render.

5

ST MAURICE CHURCH

The unique late Gothic church from the beginning of the 15th century is typical by its two asymmetric prismatic towers as well as its high three-naved structure. A Renaissance burial chapel of the Edelmann family was added to it by the end of the 16th century, richly decorated with stone reliefs. During its Baroque renovations in 1745, the largest organ in Central Europe was placed there. The famous instrument by the Master Michael Engler is sounded during the annual International Organ Festival, among others.

TIP: *Apart from the tour of the church itself, it is possible to go up one of the towers, from which there is a beautiful view of the centre of Olomouc.*



CAESAR'S FOUNTAIN

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MERCURY'S FOUNTAIN

The fountain from 1727 is considered the best of the collection of the Olomouc Baroque fountains. The statue of the classical patron of merchants and protector of pilgrims, Mercury is the work of sculptor, Phillip Sattler. In its right hand, Mercury is holding one of its attributes – a gold coated broadcasting crutch.

7

EDELMANN'S PALACE

The Renaissance Palace was created in the years 1572–1586 by combining two Gothic houses for a leading citizen and town councilor, Václav Edelmann. This two-storey house has a richly decorated façade. Apart from the Edelmann coat of arms, the entrance portal also bears the symbolic portraits of Václav Edelmann and his son.

8

HERCULES' FOUNTAIN

The fountain from 1687 is decorated by a statue of the legendary classical hero, Hercules in a larger-than-life size with a club in his right hand. In his left hand, Hercules is holding a chequered eagle – the symbol of the city, which

it is protecting from the seven-headed hydra. The Hercules' Fountain ranks among Michael Mandik's most accomplished works of art.



ARION'S FOUNTAIN

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ARION'S FOUNTAIN

The modern Arion's Fountain was created in 2002 and completed the group of Baroque fountains inspired by ancient mythology. Its author is the famous Olomouc born native living in France, sculptor, Ivan Theimer. The subject of the sculptor decoration is an ancient legend of the Greek poet, singer and kithara player Arion, rescued from the sea by a dolphin attracted by the Arion's singing. The oval pool of the fountain carries three bronze sculptural groups: an obelisk on the shell of a monumental turtle, a sculpture of two children, and the

standing figure of Arion with a dolphin. Another sculpture of the turtle is, for the enjoyment of the smallest admirers of the work, placed next to the basin of the fountain.

TOUR ALONG LOWER SQUARE

10

NEPTUNE'S FOUNTAIN

The fountain completed in 1683, depicts the Roman God of the seas situated on a rock with four seahorses additionally serving as water spouters. On the Olomouc fountain, Neptune is holding a trident facing downward to calm the water and protect the city. The author of the basin was the Olomouc stone mason Václav Render. The sculptor, Michael Mandik was the creator of the sculptural group.

11

MARIAN PLAGUE COLUMN

The Marian Colum is the dominant of the Lower Square, which was built after the plague that struck Olomouc (1713–1715) thanks to the initiative of the masters stone mason Václav Render. The lower part with an oval opening in



■ MARIAN PLAGUE COLUMN

the centre is decorated by the statues of eight saints, patrons against plagues.

12

JUPITER'S FOUNTAIN

The Jupiter's Fountain was completed in 1735 as the last of the collection of the Olomouc Baroque fountains. A sculpture of the ancient ruler of gods, Jupiter, with lightning in his right hand and an eagle by his feet was created by the Tyrolean sculptor, Phillip Sattler. It is situated on an older, somewhat non-dimensioned pedestal, on which the sculpture of St Florian by Václav Runder originally stood. However, in accordance with the antique Baroque program, it was replaced by the sculpture of Jupiter, a quality work of art of the highest Moravian Baroque.

TOUR TOWARDS ST WENCESLAS HILL TOP

13

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The Early-Baroque St Michael's Church was built at the place of the original Gothic church according to the proposal of Tencalla and Martinelli in the years 1676–1702. The Baroque sculptures of Christ and the Virgin Mary from the workshop of sculptor, Ondřej Zahner, were relocated on the front façade in the nineteenth century. The imposing Baroque interior of the church, which is one of the most



■ ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

beautiful in Olomouc, was partially renovated in the historical sense in 1897 and sharply contrasts with its dull exterior.

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CHAPEL OF ST JOHN SARKANDER

Located at the place of the city prison, where the catholic priest John Sarkander was tortured, the Baroque chapel was opened in the years 1672–1673. Thanks to a great reconstruction during the years 1909–1912, a central new Baroque chapel with a rich sculptural decoration was created, which is also the architectural work of the architect and sculptor Eduard Sochor. The original rack, on which St John Sarkander was tortured is located in the cellar of the chapel.

15

VILLA PRIMAVESI

The Art Nouveau villa of the Viennese style was created as the home of the banking family of Otto and Eugenie Primavesi. The interior decoration was made by the leading artists of that time, for example, the family friend Anton Hanak, who designed the dining room's paneling and a number of other works of art. The artist and architect Josef Hoffman and painter Gustav Klimt also took part in the villa's



VILLA PRIMAVESI

decoration. Today, there is a gallery and a café located in the villa.

16

JESUIT CONVENT

The uniquely renovated area of the Baroque Jesuit Convent is being used today by the Art Centre of Palacký University. The Chapel of Corpus Christi is part of the Convent building, one of the most valuable Church Baroque interior decors in Moravia with a rich painting and sculptural decoration. The ceiling fresco is the work of the Olomouc Baroque sculptor Jan Kryštof Handke and shows the legend of Jaroslav of Šternberk's victory over the Tatars in the battle of Olomouc in 1241. Three

monumental allegoric statues – Hope, Love and Faith – were created by sculptor Phillip Sattler.

17

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, Václav Render, the sculptors on the face were made by David Zürn.

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THE TRITONS' FOUNTAIN

The Tritons' Fountain was created in 1707. It originally stood at the meeting point of Ztracená, Ostružnická and Denisova streets, but it was relocated to the present-day location in 1890. The fountain is decorated by a sculptural group in larger-than-life size: two seamen – Tritons – carrying a shell with a boy and water dogs on their shoulders. Two dolphins along the sides serve the purpose of water spouters.

This composition supports the inspiration of the famous Roman fountain by Gianlorenzo Bernini "del Tritone" on Piazza Barberini.



ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE

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ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE

The Olomouc Archbishop's Palace belongs among the most important early-Baroque buildings in Moravia. It was built under the project of the Italian architect Filiberto Luchese on the site of an earlier Renaissance palace. The layout of the Palace consists of seven two-storey wings, surrounding two inner rectangular courtyards. The bishop's residence has undergone several reconstructions realized by leading European architects and painters.

TIP: *Do not miss out on visiting the renovated Archbishop's Palace with a tour guide! Tours take place from May to September from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, then in April and October only during the weekends. It is also possible to order a tour guide for groups for a different date.*



OLOMOUC CASTLE

Today, there remains only little visible evidence on Wenceslas Hill regarding the significance and power of the Přemyslid Castle, which by the passing of time was gradually covered by Church buildings and a cathedral. Remnants of the castle are still seen from the northeast side, where on the rocky headland there are stone walls, remains of the outer wall of the Romanesque Bishop's Palace with a collection of windows, the Round Tower and other buildings bearing elements of the Castle. Near the cathedral there is the Chapel of St Anne, which previously served as an election place of Olomouc bishops and archbishops. The former Cathedral Deanery is now the seat of the Archdiocesan Museum.

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ST WENCESLAS' CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral with its two-tower face is an integral part of the city's skyline. The third

tower, measuring 100.65 m, is the highest in Moravia. Originally a Romanesque Basilica, the Bishop Jindřich Zdik consecrated it in 1131. Following fires, the Cathedral was re-built as a Gothic three-naved structure during the 13th and 14th centuries. A two-storey crypt is located under the presbytery from the 17th century: the upper storey serves as an exhibition area; in the lower you can see the tomb of the Olomouc bishops. A shrine with the relics of St John Sarkander canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1995 is placed at a Neo-Gothic altar beside one of the pillars.



ST WENCESLAS' CATHEDRAL

