

OLOMOUC

A photograph of a fountain in Olomouc, Czech Republic. The fountain features two bronze statues on ornate pedestals. The statue on the left is a woman in a long dress, and the one on the right is a woman holding a large fish. Water is spraying from the statues and the pedestals. In the background, the Olomouc Cathedral is visible, along with other buildings and a red bench. The scene is set during the day with a clear sky.

Olomouc in a nutshell

WELCOME TO OLOMOUC

Olomouc, a metropolis of one hundred thousand inhabitants in the fertile Haná region and the sixth largest city in the Czech Republic, lies in the heart of Moravia and was once its capital city. Currently, it is home to an ancient university, an archdiocese, a philharmonic orchestra, numerous museums, theatres and clubs, and hosts many interesting events and festivals.

For centuries, Olomouc ranked among the most significant residences of the Czech Monarchy. A world rarity is the original medieval astronomical clock in the façade of the Town Hall, which was renovated after World War II in the spirit of socialist realism. A thirty-two meter high column of the Holy Trinity – UNESCO World Heritage Site, a group of six Baroque fountains and a magical contemporary Arion's Fountain, are among other unique monuments in the city's historical centre. The top of Wenceslas' Hill is dominated by high spires of Saint Wenceslas' Cathedral and an adjacent palace located on the former site of the Olomouc castle. It is definitely worth spending some time in Olomouc! Apart from the countless sights, numerous reminders of the military history of the former Olomouc fortress await you here. The entire city is surrounded by a ring of advanced forts, which still exist today in an almost unchanged state. In the gorgeous city parks, you will also find the remains of the city's medieval fortifications 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 on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 2000?
- Saint Wenceslas' Cathedral boasts the highest spire in Moravia and the second highest in the Czech Republic?
- Olomouc Town Hall has served its original purpose for more than 600 years?
- in close proximity to the Astronomical Clock, you can find a bronze scale model, 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

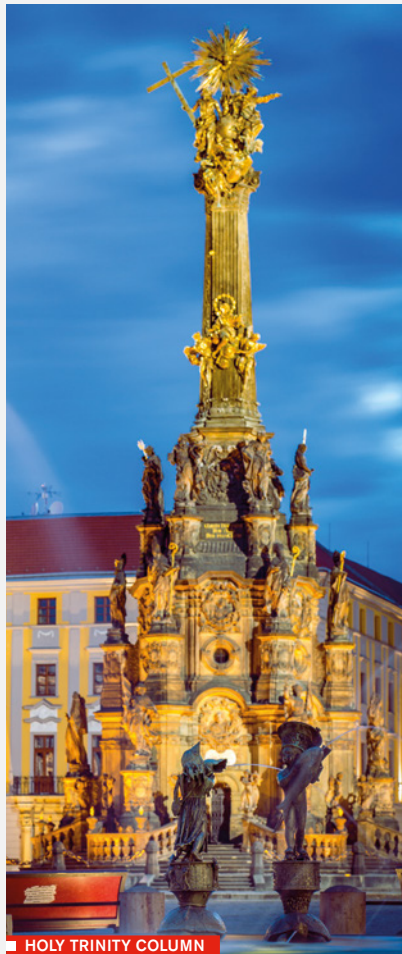
TIP: *Even before the introduction of house numbers, it was practical to identify concrete buildings. At that time, the role of an address was fulfilled by house signs and thanks to these signs everyone knew where the houses of "The Golden Deer", "The Black Dog", "The Silver Spade" or "The Golden Ring" were located. Some signs still exist today, others, thanks to enthusiasts, have been returned to their original places.*

The Information Centre offers a range of guided tours. One of the most popular is "Olomouc in a Nutshell", which, during the main season, takes visitors several times a day to the sights of the Upper Square and up the Town Hall tower, from where the city centre can be seen at a glance.

! Our tip

📄 Discount with Olomouc region Card.

For more information, visit www.olomoucregioncard.cz



HOLY TRINITY COLUMN

TOUR ALONG UPPER SQUARE

1 !

HOLY TRINITY COLUMN

UNESCO Monument

The Trinity Column has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 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 shaft and at the top, the sculptural group of the Holy Trinity shines. The Column became the source of pride for the inhabitants because everyone who participated in its construction – including its main creator, Václav Render was a citizen of Olomouc. The Empress Maria Theresa with her husband, Francis of Lorraine, personally took part in the consecration of the Column in 1754.

2 🗨️

TOWN HALL

Olomouc Town Hall, which has dominated the Upper Square for six centuries, has been



TOWN HALL

a symbol of the economic and political significance of the then-monarchical capital city. The construction of Town Hall with its merchant house was permitted to Olomouc by a privilege granted in 1378 of the Moravian Margrave Jost of Luxembourg. Today, the building has four wings with an inner courtyard. The oriel of the Gothic Chapel of St Jerome, richly decorated with circular arches and figurine motifs, rises from the south façade. On the eastern side

of the building, there is 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 in the 1420s and it gained the current height of 75m during its renovations between 1601 and 1607.

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

3 !

ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

The unique Olomouc Astronomical Clock is situated on the northern façade of the Town Hall. Its origins date back to the 15th century, although the first unmistakable records of its existence come from 1519. It has undergone many renovations over the centuries – appearing in Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque styles. The current façade of the astronomical clock dates from the 1950s and reflects the then-official style of socialist realism. At the top of the recess, the designer of the project, Karel Svoboda used a folkloric motif of the Ride of the Kings. In the lower part of the mosaic décor, modern figures representing the working class are positioned along the sides.

TIP: *Daily show at 12:00 noon.*



ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

4

CAESAR'S FOUNTAIN

Caesar's Fountain is the most famous and artistically most accomplished of the Olomouc fountains. Its sculptural décor represents the legendary founder of the city – Gaius Julius Caesar. Two male figures lie at his feet – personifications of the Morava and Danube rivers – and a sitting dog serves as an allusion to the town's loyalty to the Emperor. The statue of Caesar faces Michael's Hill, where a camp of Roman soldiers is said to have once been located. The designer of the sculptural group is John George Schauberg, while the basin of the fountain is the work of the Olomouc stonemason Master, Václav Renda.

5

ST MAURICE CHURCH

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

TIP: *Apart from the visiting 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

6

MERCURY'S FOUNTAIN

The fountain from 1727 is considered the most artistically significant 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 his right hand, Mercury is holding one of his attributes – a gilded caduceus.

7

EDELMANN'S PALACE

The Renaissance palace was created in the years 1572–1586 by combining two Gothic houses for a prominent citizen and town councillor, Václav Edelmann. This two-storey building features a richly decorated façade. In addition to the Edelmann coat of arms, the entrance portal also bears the stylized portraits of Václav Edelmann and his son.

8

HERCULES' FOUNTAIN

The fountain from 1687 is decorated with a larger-than-life statue of the legendary classical hero, Hercules, holding a club in his right hand. In his left hand, Hercules is holding a

chequered eagle – the symbol of the city, which he is protecting from the seven-headed hydra. The Hercules Fountain ranks among Michael Mandik's most accomplished works of art.



9 ARION'S FOUNTAIN

The modern Arion's Fountain was created in 2002 and completed the group of Baroque fountains inspired by ancient mythology. Its creator is the famous Olomouc-born sculptor living in France, Ivan Theimer. The sculptural decoration depicts the ancient legend of the Greek poet, singer and kithara player Arion, who was saved from the sea by a dolphin attracted by his singing. The oval pool of the fountain features 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 turtle sculpture, placed next to the basin of the fountain, is intended for the enjoyment of the youngest admirers of the work.

TOUR ALONG LOWER SQUARE

10 NEPTUNE'S FOUNTAIN

Completed in 1683, the fountain depicts Neptune, the Roman god of the seas, standing on a rock with four seahorses, which additionally serve as water spouters. On the Olomouc fountain, Neptune is holding a trident pointed downward to calm the waters and protect the city. The creator of the basin was the Olomouc stonemason Václav Render. The sculptural group is the work of the sculptor Michael Mandik.

11 MARIAN PLAGUE COLUMN

The Marian Column is the dominant feature of the Lower Square. It was erected after the plague that struck Olomouc (1713–1715) thanks to the initiative of the master stonemason Václav Render. The lower section with an



MARIAN PLAGUE COLUMN

oval opening in the centre is decorated with the statues of eight saints, patrons against plague.

12

JUPITER'S FOUNTAIN

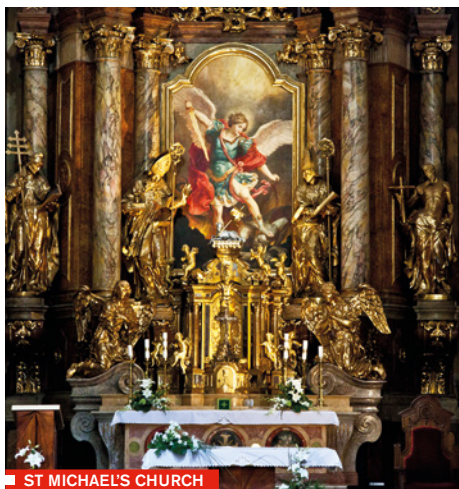
Jupiter's Fountain was completed in 1735 as the last of the collection of the Olomouc Baroque fountains. A sculpture of the ancient ruler of gods, Jupiter, holding a lightning bolt in his right hand and an eagle at his feet, was created by the Tyrolean sculptor Phillip Sattler. It stands on an older,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

TOUR TOWARDS ST WENCESLAS HILL TOP

13

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The Early-Baroque St Michael's Church was built on the site of the original Gothic church according to the design of Tencalla and Martinelli in the years 1676–1702. The Baroque sculptures of Christ and the Virgin Mary from the workshop of the sculptor Ondřej Zahner, were relocated to 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 a historicizing manner in 1897 and sharply contrasts with its plain exterior.

14

CHAPEL OF ST JOHN SARKANDER

Located on the site of the city prison, where the Catholic priest John Sarkander was tortured, the Baroque chapel was opened in 1672–1673. Thanks to a major reconstruction during the years 1909–1912, a central New-Baroque chapel with a rich sculptural decoration was created, designed by architect and sculptor Eduard Sochor. The original rack, on which St John Sarkander was tortured is preserved in the chapel's cellar.

15

VILLA PRIMAVESI

The Art Nouveau villa of Viennese style was built as the home of the banking family of Otto and Eugenie Primavesi. The interior was decorated by leading artists of that time, including, the family friend Anton Hanak, who designed the dining room's paneling and a number of other works of art. The villa's decoration also features contributions by the artist and architect Josef Hoffmann and the painter



VILLA PRIMAVESI

Gustav Klimt. 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 currently used by the Art Centre of Palacký University. The Chapel of Corpus Christi, part of the convent complex, is one of the most valuable Baroque church interiors in Moravia with a rich painting and sculptural decoration. The ceiling fresco was created by the Olomouc Baroque sculptor Jan Kryštof Handke and depicts the legend of Jaroslav of

Šternberk's victory over the Tatars in the battle of Olomouc in 1241. Three monumental allegorical statues – Hope, Love and Faith – were created by sculptor Phillip Sattler.

17

CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY OF THE SNOW

This university church, consecrated in 1716, was built by the Olomouc Jesuits between 1712 and 1719 on the site of the former Minorite monastery church. It is a typical example of a church of the Jesuit order. The direct inspiration for the architect, Michael Joseph Klein of Nisa, was the Church of St Nicholas on Mala Strana in Prague. The portal was created by the stonemason Václav Render, and the sculptures on the façade were executed by David Zürn.

18

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 with two water men and two dolphins supporting an oval shell, from which rises a statue of a boy, a Triton, taming sea

monsters. This composition was inspired by the famous Roman fountain by Gianlorenzo Bernini "Fontana del Tritone" on Piazza Barberini.



ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE

19



ARCHBISHOP'S PALACE

The Olomouc Archbishop's Palace is one of the most important early-Baroque buildings in Moravia. It was built according to the design 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 carried out 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 on weekends. It is also possible to arrange a guided tour for groups for a different date.*



OLOMOUC CASTLE

Today, only a few visible traces remain on Wenceslas Hill of the significance and power of the Přemyslid Castle, which over time was gradually covered by church buildings and a cathedral. Remnants of the castle can still be seen from the northeast side, where on the rocky headland there are stone walls, the 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 stands the Chapel of St Anne, which previously served as an election site of Olomouc bishops and archbishops. The former Cathedral Deanery is now the seat of the Archdiocesan Museum.

21

ST WENCESLAS' CATHEDRAL

The cathedral with its two-tower façade 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, it was consecrated by Jindřich Zdík in 1131. Following fires, the cathedral was rebuilt as a Gothic three-nave structure during the 13th and 14th centuries. A two-storey crypt from the 17th century is located under the presbytery; the upper storey serves as an exhibition area, while the lower one contains the tombs 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

