



Travel Guide: **South Moravia, Czech Republic**

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Planning your trip

Use this checklist to plan your trip to South Moravia. Click on the links for helpful information and travel sites.

Pre-trip essential information

- ☐ [General visa information for travel to the Czech Republic](#)
- ☐ [Health information for travelers to the Czech Republic](#)
- ☐ [Get a travel insurance](#)

Getting there and around

- ☐ [Flights to Brno](#); other nearby airports: Vienna and Prague
- ☐ [Student Agency](#) for bus travel
- ☐ [Ceske drahy](#) for train travel
- ☐ [Rentalcars.com](#) – click to check car hire locations in the Czech Republic

Real-time deals on accommodations

- ☐ [Brno](#)
- ☐ [Mikulov](#)
- ☐ [Lednice](#)
- ☐ [Valtice](#)



Brno

A lot of people know about Brno as Czech Republic's second city and many travelers do find their way there as it is a convenient stop to Vienna or Budapest. Brno is the capital of Moravia and home to a lot of universities – which means it houses a lot of cafés and artsy shops to cater to its thousands of students – and a business hub favored by local and traveling entrepreneurs due its far more laidback vibe and [lower cost of living](#) compared to Prague.

Brno is also [a hub for architecture and design](#) and has landed a spot in [NY Times places to go in 2016](#).

Planning your trip

Getting there

- Brno has its own international airport (the [Brno-Tuřany airport](#)) – you can check here for [flights to Brno](#). Other nearby international airports are in Vienna and Prague.

- Brno can be reached by train or bus from Prague (2h 30 min) and Vienna (1h 30 min).
- Here are some transportation companies you can look into as you plan your travels around South Moravia and the rest of Czech Republic: [Student Agency](#) for really comfortable buses and [Ceske drahy](#) for train travel. You can buy tickets online.

Staying

- Highly-rated hotels in Brno include: [Grandezza Hotel Luxury Palace](#) (rooms start at CZK 3,000), [Barcelo Brno Palace](#) (rooms start at CZK 3,000) and the [VV Hotel](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,800).
- For budget hostels in Brno, check out: [Hostel Mitte](#) (beds start at CZK 400) and [Jacob Brno](#) (beds start at CZK 350).

Eat and drink

- Check out our favorite cafés in Brno: [Café Podnebi](#) (their chocolate is absolutely heavenly! It's a bit tucked into a little corner near the entrance to the Spilberk park but absolutely worth it when you find it) and [V Melounovém Cukru](#) (a funky café in a cool spot in the city --- their cakes are yummy and their overall branding and design is refreshing).
- Restaurants we loved: [Restaurace Spalicek](#) and [Soul Bistro](#)
- Bring cash around – most of the restaurants and cafés we went into didn't accept credit cards; the retail shops generally do, though.

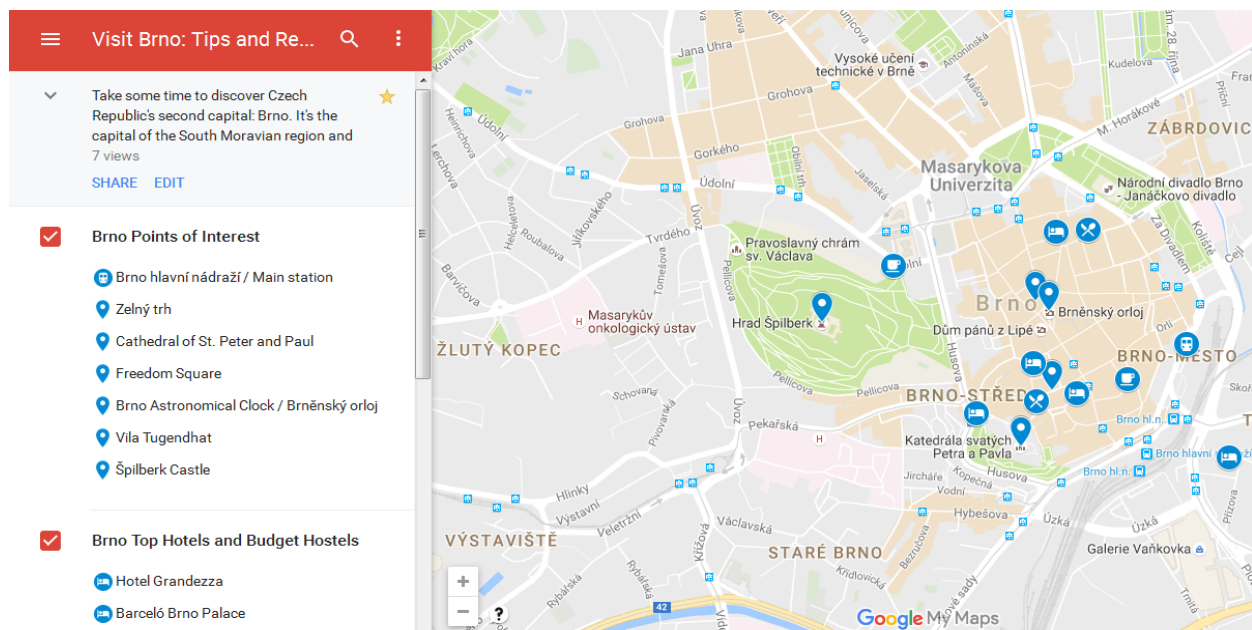
Brno in one day

- Leave your luggage in a locker at the **main station / hlavní nadrazi**
- Walk to the **Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul** and walk around the **Petrov park**
- Walk to the **Zelny trh** to get a quick feel of the daily Brno life – sample goods at the market and admire the historical buildings and monuments
- Have a bite at **Restaurace Spalicek**

- Walk to the **Namesti svobody / Freedom Square** and get snaps of the Brno city center and try to figure out how to read the **Brno astronomical clock** or *Brněnský orloj*
- Make your way to the **Hrad Špilberk** and enjoy views of the city
- Relax at **Café Podnebi** before heading back to the main station --- perhaps reconsider if you should stay for a day more or two?
- Otherwise, make sure to get a **trdljogurt** (yes, that's yogurt in trdelník and it is as awesome as it sounds!) at Platform 1 before boarding your train out of Brno.

If your first day in Brno leaves you thirsting for more, check out [Michal Kašpárek's guide to Brno](#).

Click the map to open it on Google Maps





Lednice-Valtice

This area is perfect for nature lovers, adventure travelers, and wine enthusiasts. It's 283 square kilometers of fields, vineyards, biking trails, gardens, and cultural monuments listed as World Heritage Sites by the UNESCO. It houses beautiful chateaus, biking and hiking trails, and hosts cultural events.

Planning your trip

Getting there

- As Lednice-Valtice is quite a huge place to cover and trains come by hourly, it's best to explore it by car.
- If you prefer to go by public transportation, the closest major transportation hubs are Vienna, Austria and Brno, Czech Republic. From these stations, ride a train to Breclav, then transfer to Valtice.

Staying

- Highly-rated hotels in Lednice and Valtice include: [Hotel Mario](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,800), [Hotel Princess](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,500), [Hardy Cognac and Pension](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,600), [Penzion Valtice](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,600) and [Penzion Moravsky sommelier](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,500).
- For budget hostels in Lednice-Valtice, check out: [Ubytovna Coolej](#) (rooms start at CZK 700) and [Penzion Cech](#) (rooms start at CZK 800).

Eat and drink

- When you're in the area, don't forget to try the region's wines! South Moravia is known primarily for its wine culture. My personal favorite is the **Pálava**, a grape crossed from the Müller Thurgau and Gewürtztraminer which thrives in the Moravian terroir. Its name is inspired by the Palava hills, another UNESCO site. Being a wine newbie, I loved Pálava for its sweetness and lightness. But even born and bred Czech wine connoisseurs love it, so be sure to pick up a bottle or two!
- Also try the **burčák** – definitely a regional specialty. Basically this amazing drink is “young wine” – vintners make it just after the grapes have been crushed and let it ferment a bit. It's not exactly wine (yet) but it's not just grape juice either, so you get to enjoy a sweet, refreshing juicy beverage, with the spirited qualities of wine. *Na zdraví* to that!
- Here's where you can get your South Moravian wine fix: The [National Wine Center](#) (Narodni vinarske centrum) in the Valtice chateau where you can also go for wine-tasting, [Vinne sklepy Valtice](#), and [Vinarstvi Chateau Lednice](#). A bottle of wine will cost about CZK 300-500.
- Restaurant we loved: [Restaurant U Tlustych](#) – we celebrated our anniversary here and it was quite a fancy place! Go for the beef cheeks stew and leave room for dessert!

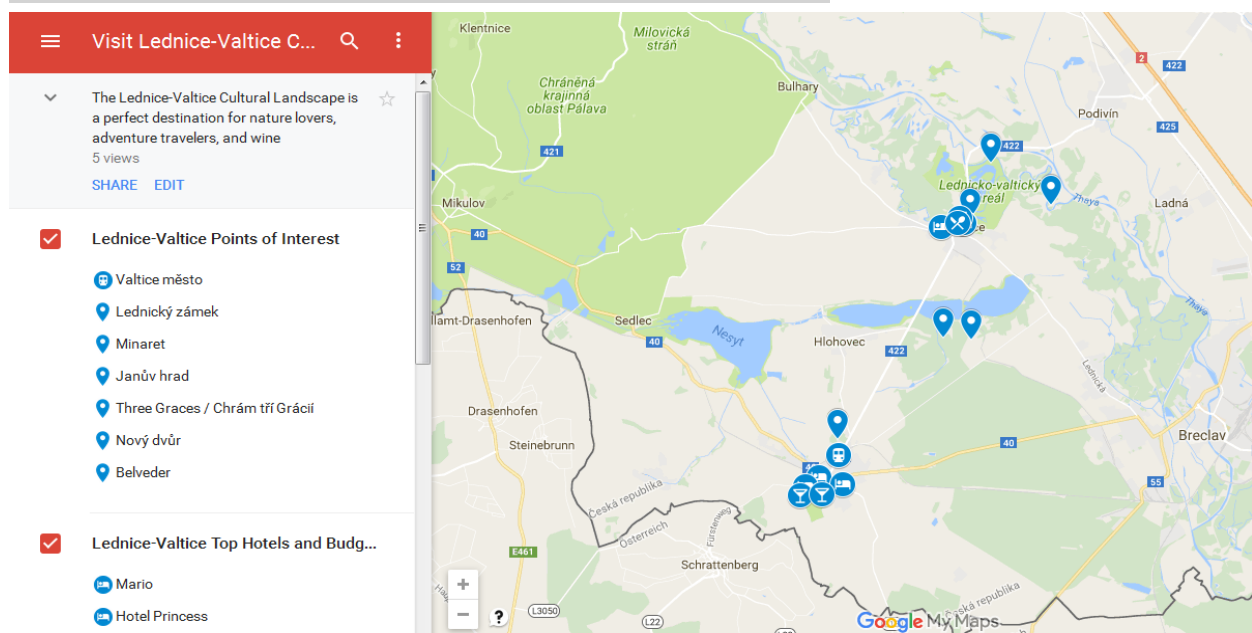
Lednice-Valtice in one day

- Unless you're traveling by car, it'll be quite difficult to see the Lednice-Valtice area in one day as the sites are spread over a huge area. But, if

you're physically fit, touring the area on foot or by bike through its many trails is really rewarding.

- Start with a tour of Lednice: walk around the **chateau garden**, take a stroll to the **Minaret**, tour the castle.
- Then make your way to Valtice via the red routes, with stops at the **Januv hrad**, **Three Graces**, **Novy dvur**, and finally **Belvedere**.
- End the day with a glass of wine near the chateau Valtice.

Click the map to open it on Google Maps





Mikulov

With its red rooftops, historic castle, and twisted cobblestone streets, Mikulov easily qualifies as a storybook town in the middle of the countryside.

It's slightly more commercialized than its neighboring villages and towns, so as a tourist, you'd find most city comforts here.

Mikulov is also the center of the South Moravian wine industry and is passed by most viticulture trails ([check out the wine trails here](#)). A much-awaited event is the Palavske vinobrani, a wine harvest festival held during September to celebrate everything wine culture. If you're planning a trip and would want to take part in these fascinating wine festivals, check out these calendars for [wine events in Mikulov](#) and other [cultural events in the whole of Moravia](#).

Planning your trip

Getting there

- You can get to Mikulov from Prague (4 hours), Brno (1 hour), and Vienna (2 hours 30 minutes) via the hub Breclav.

Staying

- Highly-rated hotels in Mikulov include: [Hotel Golf Garni](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,500), [Penzion Baltazar Mikulov](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,200), and [Pension Sebastian](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,100).
- For budget hostels in Mikulov, check out: [Mikulovsky Senk](#) (rooms start at CZK 405) and [Ubytovani Merlot](#) (rooms start at CZK 790).

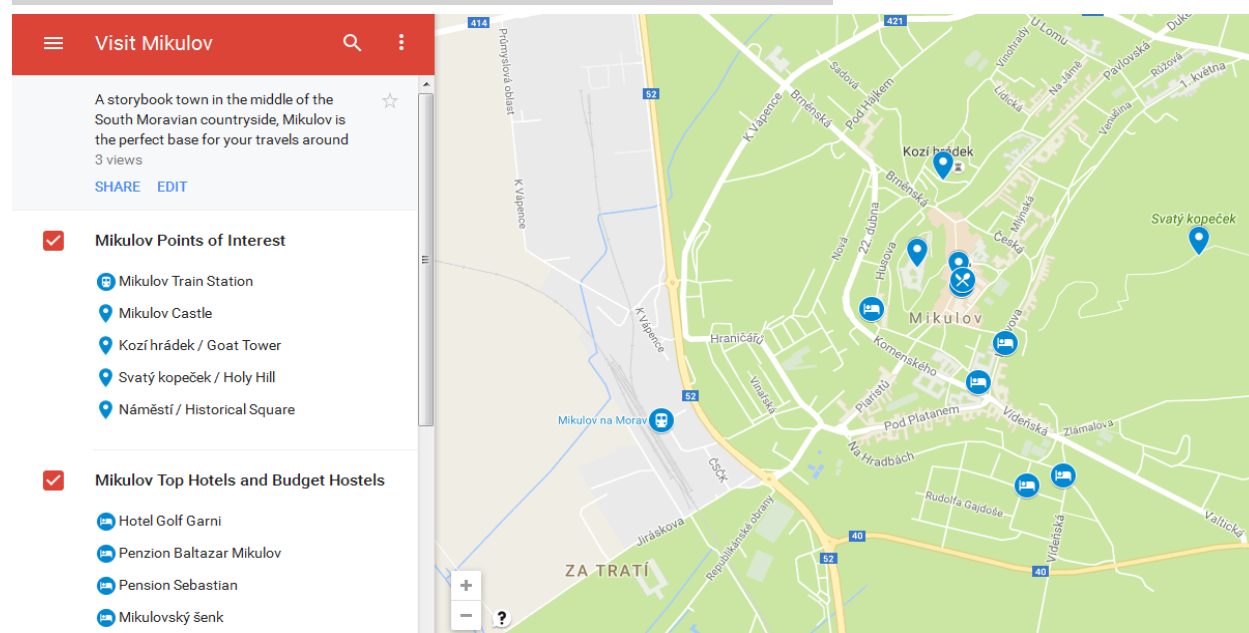
Eat and drink

- Don't forget to try South Moravian wine! You can get a bottle here: [Vinařské centrum](#)
- Restaurant we loved: [Sojka & Spol](#) – Beautiful ambiance and great-tasting food. It gets kind of crowded so call ahead to reserve (+420 518 327 862).

Mikulov in one day

- From the Mikulov station, make your way to the **historical square**.
- If you're hungry or thirsty, grab a bite from one of the many restaurants around the square --- the next activity is a bit physically demanding!
- Follow the trail that leads to the **Svatý kopeček / Holy Hill**. Enjoy views of Mikulov from the top! (If you're staying for longer, you'll find many trails from above leading to different spots around the area. Another option is to bike around these trails.)
- Descend from the Holy Hill and make your way through the town to **Kozí hrádek / Goat Tower**. You can enjoy more views of Mikulov and the surrounding countryside from the top, as well as rest and stroll in the surrounding garden.
- If you'd love to learn more about the history of Mikulov and the wine culture, there are several tours offered in the **Zamek Mikulov / Mikulov Castle** – [read more about the tours here](#).
- Before leaving, drop by **Vinarske Centrum** for some wine.

Click the map to open it on Google Maps



About this guide

Thank you for downloading this guide! I hope you find the information here useful and I wish you happy travels to South Moravia, Czech Republic. Feel free to forward it to your friends!

You (or your friend) originally downloaded this guide from the [little Holidays travel website](http://littleholidays.travel). The information is current as of March 2017 – check the website for updates or visit the relevant links listed in the guide for current information.

If you have more questions about travel in the area, send me an email (hello@littleholidays.net) and I'll be happy to help you!