... stay overnight
Olomouc, the pulsating metropolis of the fertile Haná region, the fifth largest city in the Czech Republic with a population of one hundred thousand, lies right at the heart of Moravia, of which it was formerly the capital. Its advantageous location between important European cities such as Vienna, Prague, Krakow and Bratislava predetermines the significance of the city to this day.

Today Olomouc is the seat of a medieval university, the archbishopric, the philharmonic, several museums, theatres and clubs, and also hosts several interesting events and festivals. For relaxation the city offers expansive parks, a popular zoo, a modern aqua park, a swimming arena or outdoor bathing at a lake, as well as a network of cycle paths.

For centuries Olomouc ranked amongst the most significant seats of the Czech kingdom, and as the natural and powerful centre of Moravia attracted leading artists, scholars, merchants and craftsmen. Its distinguished and diverse past has left the city with a superb collection of historical treasures, making Olomouc the second largest monument reservation in the country after Prague.
... stay overnight

A CITY OF MONUMENTS, PARKS AND ENTERTAINMENT, A SUPERB BLEND OF BEAUTY AND FUN

The astronomical clock on the front of the Olomouc town hall is a rarity in worldwide terms, reconstructed after World War II in socialist realist style with a procession of figures of workers, sportsmen and rural folk. The imposing beauty of the Holy Trinity Column – a UNESCO monument, the group of six baroque fountains and the modern Arion's fountain are further unique features concentrated in the historical town centre.

The cathedral and palaces on the Wenceslas mound impress visitors with one thousand years of history. It was at this historical site, known as the Olomouc castle, that the last ruler of the Přemyslid dynasty died at the sword, and the young W. A. Mozart composed his sixth symphony here. Part of the former fortification from the era of Empress Marie Theresa, previously used as a barracks, is now a busy entertainment centre containing dozens of pubs and clubs. Meanwhile an oasis of calm is provided by the Olomouc parks or the outdoor bathing area at Poděbrady on the edge of town, with a terrace restaurant, clean water and grassy banks for sunbathing.

Olomouc is well worth a longer stay! A trip to the monumental pilgrimage church at Svatý Kopeček offers a superb view of the town and the fertile Haná plain, walks in the forest and a large zoo containing hundreds of species of animals and entertainment for all the family. The aqua park with several attractions, the vintage car museum, paths for roller skating, galleries, theatres, festivals, municipal parks and military forts and bastions, walks through picturesque countryside or tours of grandiose castles in the region provide for several days of entertainment and relaxation.
Olomouc is exceptional in its concentration of churches, chapels, palaces and monasteries within a single location. As the spiritual metropolis of Moravia for one thousand years, the town offers a uniquely magical atmosphere.

The stateliness of the neo-gothic St Wenceslas’ Cathedral, with the tallest church spire in Moravia and the second tallest in the Czech Republic, is heightened further by the important historical events which took place on this site. The almost one thousand year old bishop’s palace blends into the unique complex of the Archdiocesan museum, the interiors of which are decorated by treasures and works of art from the collections of the Olomouc bishops and archbishops.

The church of St Maurice contains the second largest organ in Central Europe, and its monumental medieval tower provides a superb view of the city. Undoubtedly a huge tourist attraction is the Archbishop’s palace, the site of the coronation of the Austrian Emperor Franz Josef I. The preserved rack in the chapel of St John Sarkander is a reminder of the torture of the priest, who was canonised here by Pope John Paul II in 1995.

The town is dominated by the unique Olomouc baroque style. The superb St Michael’s church, the Holy Trinity Column and the complex of the Jesuit school and church are amongst the most striking features. Due to its size and grandeur the Hradisko monastery is known as the "Moravian Escorial". The basilica at Svay Kopeček is a magical location at the foot of the Jeseníky mountains, with a view of the fertile Haná plain, which was visited by Pope John Paul II in 1995.

THE SPIRITUAL CENTRE OF MORAVIA, FILLED WITH SUPERB CHURCHES AND MASTERWORKS
Olomouc provides plenty of attractions, comfortable locations and sports grounds for all the family. The zoo has several features of interest. Set in beautiful forest land, the zoo has bat pavilions or sea aquaria containing sharks and coral fish, ape enclosures, a viewing tower and a rope obstacle course in the forest with many more attractions for small children.

The modern aqua park is ideal for relaxation and entertainment, with indoor and outdoor attractions. Close to the town centre a large swimming arena is available, whilst Arion’s fountain on the main square serves as a paddling pool. Out of town are several natural bathing locations.

Olomouc’s parks, with children's playgrounds, are ideal for sport, walks or family picnics. The town has kilometres of skating paths, you can use bicycle hire services or order a raft trip along the river Morava. In children's play areas parents can enjoy a quiet coffee while their children play. Family entertainment includes bowling, mini-golf, badminton and other popular team activities. For a full dose of adrenalin visit the local rope centre.

The Veteran Arena houses a collection of vintage cars, the Aviation museum boasts exceptional aircraft, whilst the Archdiocesan museum impresses visitors with the wealth and diversity of its grandiose collections. Perfect destinations for trips in the surrounding area include Bouzov castle, the superb stalactite caves, the Open air folk museum or the Loštice museum of Olomouc cheese.
The Haná plain around Olomouc, interwoven with flowering gardens and golden fields of corn, is amongst the warmest and most fertile regions in the Czech Republic. It is famed not only for its pleasant climate but also due to its regional delicacies, folk traditions, regional costumes and distinctive dialect.

The most celebrated product of local cuisine is Olomouc "tvarůžky" cheese. This delicious, low-fat cheese with its powerful aroma is on offer in various dishes in local restaurants, and in the arcade of the Olomouc town hall is a unique vending machine offering this healthy delicacy. High quality hops is grown in the area around Olomouc, and you can enjoy excellent beer in the local brewery pubs, which have been praised by experts from the British newspaper The Times. Diehard beer enthusiasts can relax in the town’s beer spa.

A concert of aromas, tastes and colours awaits you every week on the outdoor markets, right in the historical centre, where the best produce from local farmers is on offer. Specialities from local chefs are served at the gourmet festival Gastro.ol, held on the main square during the City Festival in June.

You can encounter typical Haná folklore, the local music and dialect above all in the villages surrounding Olomouc. Many of these villages continue to keep to folk customs and hold regular presentations and folk festivals during the course of the year. In the nearby village of Příkazy an original Haná open air museum is open to the public.

Haná folk songs can be heard at noon each day in the chiming of the Olomouc astronomical clock.
Olomouc has also been called a "pearl in green" thanks to its alluring municipal parks and botanical garden surrounding the old centre. The famous Flora exhibition is held in the town three times a year and attracts tens of thousands of visitors.

The three expansive parks encircling the historical town centre since the 19th century provide an oasis of trees and flowers, interwoven with kilometres of paths for walking, cycling or roller skating. In spring the parks are filled with thousands of tulips and an intoxicating aroma of magnolia and jasmine. All year round romantic locations can be found beneath the city walls, whilst the parks also offer areas for sports or children’s play areas. A popular area for rest is the Rudolf boulevard with a length of over 700 metres.

Visitors can relax by a lake with a fountain, enjoy a coffee on the terrace at the Fontána restaurant, or take a walk amongst huge cacti, exotic palms and orchids in the greenhouses. The botanical garden contains attractive plants and trees, as well as a rosary with hundreds of species of roses.

A portion of greenery is provided by the zoo at Svatý Kopeček, submerged in the forest in the hills above the town. The Poděbrady lake is a gateway to the protected landscape area of Litovelské Pomoravi, which provides an ideal location for walks and cycling trips along the meandering river Morava, with a carpet of flowers and rare types of plants.

JUST A FEW STEPS FROM THE STONE MONUMENTS TO THE SHADE OF TREES AND AROMA OF FLOWERS
In Olomouc all visitors can find several reasons for extending their stay. Many interesting events can be enjoyed outside in the old town centre. The cultural calendar includes traditional music, film and dance festivals, performances by the philharmonic orchestra as well as several theatre stages, exhibitions, concerts of classical and modern music and much more.

During the City Festival in June a procession is held in honour of St Pauline, the patron of Olomouc. The celebrations include reconstructions of battles, music and dance performed by majorettes, whilst in the summer holidays the parks are brought to life by promenade concerts. The summer flamenco festival brings the rhythms of Spain to the town, and early evenings are spiced up with a mixture of music and theatre presentations during the Olomouc Summer of Culture. The town is surrounded in a magical atmosphere during the Christmas markets, renowned for their wide selection of hot punch, a varied entertainment programme and an ice rink on the illuminated town square.

Festivals include Theatre Flora, a festival featuring presentations by Czech and foreign theatre groups. Lovers of classical music will appreciate the International Organ Festival, Autumn Festival of Spiritual Music, Dvořák’s Olomouc or the Baroque Festival.
Olomouc is a lively town full of young people, music clubs, discos, student cafes, cinemas and sports grounds. Thanks to Palacký University, the second oldest university in the Czech Republic, established in 1573, you can meet over 20 thousand students in the city streets.

The area surrounding the barracks, a preserved part of the fortifications from the era of Empress Marie Theresa just a short walk from the main square, is buzzing day and night, offering cafés, bars and wine cellars, as well as a range of Czech and international cuisine in stylish pubs and restaurants, whilst in the clubs you can dance till the morning.

Live musical experiences are offered in several clubs, where you can sample jazz, blues, pop, rock, hip hop or metal. In the streets of Olomouc you will also find distinctive pubs, as well as original locations for innovative and alternative genres.

There are several opportunities for active leisure in Olomouc, whether you choose dance parties or one of the modern sports grounds, the swimming arena, aqua park or the adrenaline-pumping rope centre.

Bike hire facilities are available in the centre, whilst roller skating enthusiasts can make use of a wide selection of paths. You can also arrange a guided tour of Olomouc by bike or by raft.

The town also offers a wide selection of accommodation. In addition to several guest houses and hotels of various categories, there are also cheap hostels. During the summer cheap accommodation can also be arranged in the university halls of residence.
Olomouc is an excellent location for your business and congresses.

Olomouc can be reached easily by car from several directions, with the closest international airports in Brno and Ostrava only forty minutes away. Olomouc is directly connected to Prague by high speed train, with services every hour during the day. The comfortable SuperCity Pendolino trains cover the distance to the capital in a mere two hours.

Olomouc offers countless opportunities for accommodation – from comfortable guest houses in the historical centre up to four star hotels with hundreds of beds.

Modern facilities and meeting rooms are available for congresses and seminars, as well as private salons ensuring undisturbed business meetings. For relaxation after a demanding day comfortable wellness centres, modern sports grounds, courts and indoor halls for tennis and squash are available. You can also enjoy specialities in local restaurants or active leisure on the nearby eighteen-hole golf course.

Olomouc is at a crossroads between the main cities of Central Europe. It is practically equidistant from Prague, Vienna, Bratislava or Krakow. Excellent transport connections, an ideal location, congress centres, comfortable hotels and a wide range of services and options for relaxation – Olomouc offers all of this for your working and business meetings. Prestigious research centres of Palacký University, the potential of capable and educated people, interesting projects and investments ensure the development of this modern metropolis for a population of over half a million throughout the region.
JANUARY – MAY
OLOMOUC JAZZ DAYS | spring phase of jazz concerts

MARCH
ONE WORLD | international festival of documentary films

APRIL
FLORA OLOMOUC | spring phase of international flower exhibition
ACADEMIA FILM OLOMOUC | festival of scientific – popular films
MUSICA RELIGIOSA | festival of spiritual music

APRIL – MAY
OLOMOUC ECOLOGICAL DAYS

MAY
ECO FESTIVAL | ecological festival with concerts, theatre, exhibitions
THEATRE FLORA | international theatre festival
DVORÁK’S OLOMOUC | festival of classical music

JUNE
FESTIVAL OF SONGS | international festival of choirs
CITY FESTIVAL | historical celebrations of town
OLOMOUC HALF-MARATHON | international sporting event
BEERFEST OLOMOUC | Czech beer festival

JUNE – SEPTEMBER
REVIVAL OF TOWN CENTRE | cycle of promenade concerts
OLOMOUC SUMMER OF CULTURE | presentation of music, theatre and exhibitions

AUGUST
COLORES FLAMENCOS OLOMOUC | festival of Spanish culture
FLORA OLOMOUC | summer phase of international flower exhibition

SEPTEMBER
MARSHAL RADETZKY CELEBRATIONS | celebrations with presentation of military music
INTERNATIONAL ORGAN FESTIVAL | presentation of organ music
EUROPEAN HERITAGE DAYS | open day of monuments, lectures, exhibitions, craft fair and cultural programme on the Upper Square

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER
AUTUMN FESTIVAL OF SPIRITUAL MUSIC | spiritual music in churches

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER
OLOMOUC JAZZ DAYS | autumn phase of jazz concerts

OCTOBER
FLORA OLOMOUC | autumn flower markets

NOVEMBER
BAROQUE | festival of baroque music
VISEGRAD JAZZ FESTIVAL | jazz festival
CROSSROADS | festival of Central European culture

DECEMBER
ANIMATED FILM FESTIVAL
OLOMOUC CHRISTMAS MARKETS | traditional Christmas markets in the historical town centre
Olomouc

Olomouc – one of the most beautiful towns in Central Europe, for centuries the historical centre of Moravia. Baroque churches alternate with secluded corners. Towering above the town square is the spire of the cathedral, whilst the splendour of the superb palaces is heightened by the quiet charm of the cobbled streets and public areas full of flowers and greenery.

After Prague, Olomouc contains the largest concentration of monuments in the Czech Republic. It boasts a number of treasures unique in Europe, including UNESCO monuments.

Today Olomouc is a town full of students and entertainment, with attractive parks, a zoo, a modern aqua park and several cultural events, and is also known for its flower exhibitions.