Olomouc

TOURISM MAGAZINE

Tourist Season News
Invitation to Attractive Events
Leisure Time Hints
Try a New Game! Olomouc Labyrinth

We have prepared an excellent opportunity for all fans of games and computer game applications who would like to learn more about Olomouc. Starting from this year, you can download the free ‘Olomouc Labyrinth’ application for Android. Due to this game, you will make a safe journey through a 3D maze that was laid out according to the model of the city located at the Upper Square.

The goal of the game is to collect stars in the labyrinth without detonating bombs that lay in your path. The game has 16 different levels linked in a sequence.

The ‘Olomouc Labyrinth’ is for all ages groups. Interesting photographs of the city are displayed after a successful completion of each level.

The game application for Android was developed with a grant from the Czech Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs as part of the national contest ‘A Family-Friendly Municipality’ in 2014. https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=cz.petrssomek.olomouc

Olomouc’s Churches Are Opening Their Gates

Like in the previous years, Olomouc’s churches and chapels will be opened to visitors during this tourist season. Between 21 April and 30 September 2016, you can take guided tours of the churches of St. Maurice, St. Michael, and Our Lady of the Snows, the Cathedral of St. Wenceslas, the Chapel of St. John Sarkander, the Basilica of Our Lady at Svatý Kopeček and, traditionally, also the Holy Trinity Column at the Upper Square – a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The guided tours are free and may be restricted during a service. Start times can be found on a website or you may inquire at the Tourist Information Centre (City Hall loggia).

As Vice Mayor Pavel Urbášek said: ‘We have had only positive responses from the public. That is why we will support these church activities in this year again.’

A detailed and updated list of accessible church and opening hours can be found on the website: tourism.olomouc.eu.

Organ concerts organized by the Evangelical Academy Conservatoire will take place in selected churches during the summer season. In addition to this, you may also book an unconventional tour of the organ in St. Wenceslas’ Cathedral at the telephone number +420 723 854 256 or at the Email: martin.latal@psmorfeus.com

Take advantage of the tourist discount card Olomouc region Card.

– free admission to 81 most attractive sights

– discounts at 98 other locations in the city and region

– free public transport in Olomouc

Answer the latest question at www.stayovernight.eu and win a unique weekend for two in Olomouc and other interesting prizes.
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Dear guests, welcome to Olomouc!

If you are browsing through this magazine and you have ever been in Olomouc, you will agree that these several pages do not provide enough space to describe all the beauties of the city and all reasons for visiting it again. If you are reading these lines and have never been to Olomouc, then you can be assured that a stay in our city will surpass your expectations.

In Olomouc, every visitor can easily see that this is one of the oldest and most important cities in the Czech Republic. More than a thousand years of political, cultural, scholarly, military and ecclesiastical developments are simply visible at every step, particularly in the city centre, but not only there. You will wish to visit the outskirts of Olomouc to see unique fortress architecture, an ancient monastery and a burial place of the Olomouc Přemyslids, or one of Moravia’s most famous places of pilgrimage and a large zoo.

Of course, Olomouc is not only about historic monuments. During your walks through the city and its parks, you may sit down in some of numerous outside seating areas, sidewalk cafés or cake shops and enjoy cultural and entertainment programmes that enliven the city in the summertime. Those who go in for sports will find here boat and raft trips, bicycle and scooter rentals, rope parks, in-line skating paths, the Aquapark and a swimming pool.

Dear visitors, once more welcome to Olomouc. I wish you a nice stay and good experiences.

Doc. Mgr. Antonín Staněk, Ph.D.
Mayor of the Statutory City of Olomouc

Multimedia guide “OLINA“
- free apps to your phone
- 9 language mutations
- 12 tourist routes around the most beautiful city sites
Since the beginning of this April, Olomouc’s city parks have an old-new attraction – the revamped Rose Garden, the second largest in the Czech Republic. Four hundred varieties of roses, including very unique specimens, and a space for recreation and relaxing – that is the Rose Garden after having undergone a major refurbishment. Like all the beautiful parks of Olomouc and the Flora Exhibition area, it is ready for visitors.

At the entrance, visitors are welcomed by wooden terraces on which they may sit or lie, stylish pavilions that will serve as shelters in sultry days, and great lawns for picnics. New information panels were installed in revamped flower beds with a unique collection of roses. After dark, the panels will work as sources of light, adding on to the unique atmosphere of the place. There are also water ponds and a pétanque terrain.

The new Rose Garden is not only beautiful; it is also important public space with a network of pedestrian trails. Mayor Antonín Staněk emphasized this new role of the entire area during the opening ceremony, saying: ‘We regenerated a very important area and turned it into new public space of our city. That was the major goal of the restoration of the Rose Garden, which was part of a broader project focused on the revamping of the city parks. The Rose Garden has an ambition of becoming, once again, a gem of our parks and it will also serve as a connection between 17 Listopadu Street and the city centre.’

The new function of the Rose Garden and the Botanic Garden is stressed by the fact that entry will be free and both gardens will only be closed for night.

The new layout of the Rose Garden was designed by Zdeněk Sendler, a renowned garden architect. Thanks to appealing architectural features, the Rose Garden will be an attractive place for leisure-time activities. ‘This new role of the garden as a recreation area is very important and perfectly fits in our plans to make the city parts more attractive. Besides, the Rose Garden neighbours on the Fortress of Knowledge and the Crown Fort, which belong to the University,’ added Aleš Jakubec, the Deputy Mayor.

With its 3.5 hectares and ca 400 species of bush roses and climbing roses, the Rose Garden is the second largest establishment of its kind in the Czech Republic. ‘When we were opening [the Rose Garden] in April, we could not enjoy, quite logically, the beauty of the flowers. In summer it will be quite different,’ says Jiří Uhlíř, the manager of the Flora Olomouc Exhibition Area. ‘That is why we are preparing a huge garden party for 24 June, with entertaining, cultural and educational programme, which should present this part of our parks to the public.’

And what about the other parks? Olomouc is often labelled as a ‘pearl on a green cushion’. The imaginary cushion is a belt of parks that encircle the historical downtown. Smetana Park, Bezruč Park, Čech Park and several others, smaller ones, are accessible at any time. While Smetana Park is the most famous due to its palm greenhouses and Flora international exhibitions, Bezruč Park is probably more romantic, with its alley of trees running along medieval city walls, which was first planted by the famous Marshal Radetzky. You may wish to come over and experience the unique walks through Olomouc’s parks.
Safari and Pilgrimage Basilica: Svatý Kopeček Looms over Olomouc

The history of the basilica dates back to 1629 when Jan Andřýsek, a merchant from Olomouc, built an original chapel in thanks for his salvation. Soon thereafter, numerous miracles associated with the chapel started to attract hosts of pilgrims. The huge church and a shelter for the pilgrims were erected 50 years later. Even today we can admire not only remarkable Baroque paintings and stuccoes, but also picturesque historical shops.

Big sea aquaria, beasts of prey, an open area in which wolves and bears live together, a leopard pavilion, walk-through pens with kangaroos and monkeys – these are the main attractions that draw visitors to the nearby Olomouc zoo.

The popular zoo located in the middle of a charming forest hosts more than 400 animal species. Several safari areas have been opened here in recent years, including the African and Euro-Asian safari.

There is also a rope park at Svatý Kopeček, as well as a lookout tower, several first-rate restaurants, stylish cafés, and famous sweet shops. Hiking trails will lead you to some other landmarks in the neighbourhood, e.g. the Fort Radíkův.

More information can be found on the following websites:
- www.svatykopecek.cz
- www.zoo-olomouc.cz
- www.nordicwalking-olomouc.cz
- tourism.olomouc.eu

Since the 1600s, Svatý Kopeček (i.e. the Holy Hill) has belonged to the loveliest locations in the city and its vicinity. The most popular place of excursions and pilgrimage is located at only several minutes driving distance (8 kilometres) from the city centre, at the foothill of the Lower Jeseník mountain range. The hill is a great place for family trips: it hosts a beautiful zoo, well-marked hiking and cycling trails in surrounding forests, several confectioner’s shops and, above all, a unique pilgrimage basilica.

The Basilica of the Visititation of Our Lady is the most prominent architectural feature of Svatý Kopeček and a gem of the Moravian Baroque style. It was visited by Pope John Paul II, who served the Holy Mass here in 1995.

Calendar of Public Events – Olomouc 2016

APRIL
- Ecological Days | 15 April – 1 May
  The 26th season of the festival: eco-market, cultural events, exhibitions, talks shows, lectures | www.slunakov.cz
- Academia Film Olomouc | 19–24 April
  The 51st international festival of popular-scientific films | www.afo.cz

MAY
- Dvořák’s Olomouc | 2–25 May
  The 15th international music festival | www.mfo.cz
- Garden Food Festival | 14–15 May
- The 2nd gastronomic festival www.gardenfoodfestival.cz
- Long Night of Museums | 20 May
  The 3rd season of the joint event organized by local museums, galleries and other cultural institutions; late night tours & side programmes www.olomouckamuzejnimoc.cz
- Olomouc Wine Feast | 21 May
  The spring season of the wine feast & opening of the tourist season www.olomoucka-vinna.cz; tourism.olomouc.eu

JUNE
- Olomouc City Feast | 3–4 June
  Traditional historical celebration, procession to the honour of St. Pauline, re-enactment of a historical battle, concerts & theatre shows, craft fair, performances www.svatymesta.olomouc.eu
- Night of Churches | 10 June
- The 7th season of night tours of churches and shrines www.nockostelu.cz
- Bounty Rock Cafe Open Air 2016 | 11 June
- The 6th season rock festival; concerts of The Alphaville and other bands | www.brnoopenair.cz
- Olomouc 1/2 Marathon | 25 June
- The 7th season of the largest sports event in the city; sports fair | www.runczech.com
- Olomouc Baroque Festival | 29 June – 22 July
- The 4th season summer festival of Baroque opera and palace feasts | baroko.olomouc.eu
- Night Concerting below a Renaissance Loggia | July – August
  Saturdays, 21:00 hrs
  A traditional cycle of evening chamber concerts at the City Hall www.nocnimuzicirovani.olomouc.eu

Olomouc Cultural Holidays | July – August
- A holidays multi-genre festival; concerts, theatre performances, and exhibitions enlivening the city centre www.brcopenair.cz
- Colores Flamencos | 28 – 31 July
- The 8th international festival of the Flamenco music and Spanish culture www.flamencool.cz

AUGUST
- Czech Cycling Tour
  The 8th international cycling stage races | www.czecyclingtour.cz
- Flora Olomouc – summer part | 18 – 21 August
  A summer part of the international flower and gardening exhibition & fair; the Homage to Roses exhibition www.flora-ol.cz
- Olomouc Theatrical Holidays | August
  The 7th theatre festival | www.moravskiediavol.cz

SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER
- Marshal Radetzky Celebration | 2 – 3 September
  A festival of military brass bands www.radecky.cz
- Beerfest | 22 – 24 September
  The 15th beer festival & musical events www.pivnifestival.cz
- International Organ Festival | 5 – 19 September
  The 48th festival of organ music | www.mfo.cz

European Heritage Days | 7 – 11 September
- Days of open monuments; dance performance by the Bubenčík brothers, concerts & theatre performances, commented guided tours www.setkanihanaku.eu
- Autumn Festival of Spiritual Music | September – October
- The 23rd festival of spiritual music www.podzimni-festival.cz

Reunion of Haná Compatriots | 28 September
- The 7th season of the largest festival of traditions of the Haná region; www.setkanahanaku.eu
- Olomouc’s Martinmas | 11 November
- St. Martin’s feast, tasting and sale of young wines www.vanocnitrhy.eu
- Olomouc Christmas | November – December
  Traditional Christmas market, St. Nicholas’ presents, and side programme www.vanocnitrhy.eu

Please note that the programme may change.
Celebrated El Greco in the Czech Republic for the First Time!

A painting by El Greco, the celebrated master of Spanish Mannerism, will be the highlight of the season at the Olomouc Archdiocesan Museum. The Adoration of the Shepherds will be exhibited in this unique museum in June, in celebration of its 10th anniversary, for the first time not only in Olomouc but also in the Czech Republic.

The painting by the famous artist (1541–1614) will be borrowed from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York in exchange for The Flaying of Marsyas by Titian, which is in the ownership of the Archdiocese of Olomouc. The Adoration of the Shepherds [...] has never been exhibited in the Czech Republic,’ Jan Graubner, the Archbishop of Olomouc, confirms. ‘For us, it is a great honour and privilege. It means that one of the world’s most important museums considers us a reliable and valuable partner,’ added Michal Soukop, the manager of the Museum of Art, which operates also the Archdiocesan Museum. The Adoration shall remain in Olomouc until 4 September.

The Museum of Arts is an umbrella institution for the Archdiocesan Museum and the Museum of Modern Art. These two museums, which are definitely worth seeing, were merged into what is today the Czech Republic’s 3rd biggest gallery.

The Olomouc Archdiocesan Museum is located in the reconstructed Přemyslid Castle, a national cultural monument and one of the oldest permanent settlements in Central Europe. Its collection include such gems like the Madonna of Šternberk (14th century), the fascinating Baroque coach of Archbishop Troyer, which once carried the Empress Maria Theresa, and the Sun of Moravia, a famous monstrance decorated with 1400 diamonds and emeralds.

The Museum of Modern Art is focused on the art of the 20th and 21st centuries. Here we can see paintings by Bohumil Kubišta, Emil Filla, Gustav Klimt, Antonín Hudeček, Jan Preisler, Alfons Mucha, Otto Gutfreund and also the famous Victor Vassarelly, all under one roof.

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Photo: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

15 Centuries of the City, the Largest Collection of Classic Cars, and Other Gems

The Museum of Arts, Archdiocesan Museum, Museum of Local History, Museum of the Olomouc Fortress, Veteran Arena... It is understandable that a city that drips with history has many first-rate museums whose state-of-the-art exhibitions will attract everyone.

The oldest of them is the Olomouc Museum of Local History, located in a former monastery and church of the Poor Clares. Its history dates back to 1883, when the founding fathers of Moravian museums and archaeology founded the first Czech-language museum in Moravia.

Today, it is a completely modern museum that boasts with very attractive and recently installed exhibitions and with collections that consist of more than one million artefacts.

The exhibitions portray 1500 years of history of the city and the oldest university in Moravia, but attracts also those who are fascinated by nature. The exhibition dedicated to nature of the Olomouc Region is the Czech Republic’s most sophisticated natural scientific exhibition. Here, the visitors may touch, see and learn everything that concerns nature, both living and non-living.

Not far from the museum’s main building, cellars of the Baroque-style Jesuit university host another exhibition titled The Story of a Stone. Beside splendid stonemasonry, portals, sculptures and tombstones we can also see something really unique – a wooden boat made by our Celtic ancestors more than 2000 years ago.

A museum that smells of oil and petrol? Yes, this is the Veteran Arena, the largest privately owned museum of classic cars in the Czech Republic. Its collection consists of ca. 160 cars, motorcycles but also petrol stations. All exhibits are in a perfect conditions. No replicas, only originals!

What is even more important, the Arena intentionally highlights Czech skills and technology. Its patriotic owner had gathered the largest collection of Czech cars, but also old radios, gramophones, and over 400 historical telephones.

The core of the collection consists of cars manufactured in Czechoslovakia before WWII, in particular the brands Tatra, Wikov, Zetka, Praga, Aero, and Skoda. The Arena is the world’s only museum where you can see a complete series of 17 unique and luxurious Wikov cars that were manufactured in nearby Prostějov.

The Museum of the Olomouc Fortress reminds us of the fact that, starting from the 17th century, Olomouc used to be one of the largest fortresses in the Habsburg monarchy and, later, its main border fortress. The museum is located in the so-called Crown Fort, within a walking distance from the city centre, in the neighbourhood of a huge park, botanic garden, and rose garden. The former gunpowder magazine houses a collection of photographs, military maps, and archaeological finding, as well as a unique huge model of the city as it looked in 1768 when it withstood a siege by the Prussian army.

Several other fortress objects are accessible as well, namely outer forts No. XVII in Křelov, No. II in Radíkov, No. XXII in Černovír, and No. XIII in Nová Ulice. Lately, the forts have been repaired, new exhibitions have been moved in, and various events take place there throughout the season, like theatre performances, re-enactments of battles, or a 19-century cinema. The Fort in Nová Ulice houses a collection of weapons from the second half of the 20th century.

www.pevnostolomouc.cz
Fortress of Knowledge: Attractive Science for Everyone

The Olomouc fortress does not attract only fans of militaria. The Fortress of Knowledge (a.k.a. the Fort Science) – an interactive museum of science – is an attraction for the whole family. It was opened in the Crown Fort more than a year ago and has since been frequented by those who are interested in mysteries and secrets of science and wish to discover them while walking through state-of-the-art interactive exhibits.

Visitors can dive into a riverbed and examine the river system, or walk through a 8-meter model of the most complex human organ – the brain – and see how it works. They will experience various 3D projections and see the magic of light. Do you wish to explore the outer space? A digital planetarium will take you on the tour: just sit (or lay) down and watch the formation of the universe on the shining sky above your heads. And there is still more to see. The good news is that one can not only learn here, but also try and test one's knowledge using the interactive exhibits, which is the best way of understanding physical effects and laws.

The historical environment of the building plays a major role, too. What the Fortress was like at the time when it served as refuge not for science but troops? You will learn about trades, health care, construction, ballistics and cartography. Starring will be the 18th century and the army, which has always had access to the latest scientific and technological know-how. You may even fire a historic cannon at the Olomouc fortress!

The Fortress of Knowledge is located in a unique building of a mid-1800s artillery storage. The big four-storey building is a perfect mix of history and amazing modern technology. The neighbouring gunpowder magazine houses the Museum of the Olomouc Fortress. Both these buildings are situated inside the Crown Fort, which was founded by Maria Theresa in 1754 and which is surrounded with Bezruč Park, a botanic garden, and a rose garden.

www.pevnostpoznani.cz

The artillery magazine now serves science after a century and a half of military service. Photo Jan Andreáš

Beer tradition is strong in Olomouc and the 3-days annual beer festival is a great event. This year, too, thousands of beer lovers will gather at the 15th festival to enjoy the taste variety of ca 100 brands manufactured in 30 breweries. The Czech Republic’s largest beer festival will take place at the Crown Fort and will be accompanied with several concerts on two stages.

The portfolio of 100 beers will comprise a wide range of beverages, from classical low-alcohol ones to special ‘heavy’ beers brewed by more than 30 domestic manufacturers, mostly regional and small breweries. The tasting will be accompanied by live concerts of some of the best bands and musicians from the Czech Republic and from abroad.

Newcomers enjoy the Beerfest and so do frequent guests. Every year brings many new products that satisfy the palates of connoisseurs. Uncharacteristically, the 15th beer festival will take place in autumn, between 22 and 24 September. Do not hesitate: we start at 3:00 pm on the 22nd. First 1500 guests are entitled to a free pint of beer!

www.pivnfestival.cz

Contacts & Opening Hours

Fortress of Knowledge
Tuesday to Friday 9:00–17:00
Closed on Mondays
Saturday and Sunday 9:00–18:00

Entrance fee:
Adults: CZK 95.-
Reduced: CZK 75.- (children 3 to 15 years of age, seniors over 65, students, disabled persons and their carers)
www.pevnostpoznani.cz

Baroque Gunpowder Magazine in the Crown Fort
Apr through Oct: Tuesday to Sunday 9:00–17:00
Closed on Mondays
Sep through Mar: upon telephone appointment
Tel.: 725 250 215; 604 183 977

Entrance fee: Full: CZK 60.-
Reduced: CZK 30.- (children 6–15 let, seniors over 65 let, students, disabled persons and their carers)
Families I: 120.-
(2 adults + 1 child 6 to 15 years of age)
Families II: CZK 150.-
(2 adults + 2 to 3 children 6 to 15 years of age)
Free admission: children to 6 years of age, disabled persons and their carers
www.pevnostolomouc.cz

Fort XIII, Nová ulice
Upon telephone appointment
Tel.: 603 217 611

Fort XXII ‘Lazecký’, Černovír
Tuesday to Sunday 9:00–16:00
Closed on Mondays

Entrance fee: Basic: (adults) CZK 40.-
Families: (2 adults + 2 children) CZK 80.-
Seniors, students, groups: CZK 30.-

Children up to 10 years of age, disabled persons: free
www.fort-olomouc-xxii.cz

Fort XVII, Křelov (ca 5 km from Olomouc)
Apr, May, Jun & Sep: Saturday & Sunday 11:00–17:00
Jul & Aug: Tuesday to Sunday 11:00–17:00

Entrance fee:
Adults CZK 80.-
Seniors, students, disabled persons CZK 60.-
Children to 12 years of age CZK 40.-
Tel.: 603 444 010; Email: muzeum@forty.cz
www.forty.cz

Fort II, Radíkov (ca 13 km from Olomouc)
May, Jun, Sep & Oct: Saturday & Sunday 11:00–17:00
Jul & Aug: Wednesday to Sunday 11:00–17:00

Entrance fee: Basic: (adults) CZK 45.-
Reduced: CZK 30.-
25% discount for Olomouc Region Card holders
www.pevnost-radikov.cz

100 Brands of Beer: The Beerfest in an Autumn Premiere

Beer tradition is strong in Olomouc and the 3-days annual beer festival is a great event. This year, too, thousands of beer lovers will gather at the 15th festival to enjoy the taste variety of ca 100 brands manufactured in 30 breweries. The Czech Republic’s largest beer festival will take place at the Crown Fort and will be accompanied with several concerts on two stages.

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Delicious Meal in a Beautiful Park – This Is the Garden Food Festival!

A gourmet's dream – this is the right sobriquet for the event that is going to take place at Smetana Park this coming May: special brands of coffees, olive oils, cheeses, sushi, goose and duck delicacies, donkey sausages, vegetarian dishes, sweets from the best sweet shops, molecular gastronomy, variety of beers, wines and spirits. This all, and more, will be available at the 2nd Garden Food Festival. The best of regional and world gastronomy can be found in one place – and how beautiful a place! Top chefs will delight your palates.

Likewise a year ago, many celebrities will appear at the main stage: the star chef Zdeněk Pohlreich, Miss 2008 Eliška Bučková, Olomouc Region’s top chefs Jaroslav Klár and Přemysl Forejt, ‘The Truffle Chef’ Radim Svačina, ‘The Chilli Man’ Tomáš Nový with his fabulous pepper show, and last not least, Halina Pawłowská, the popular talk show celebrity and script writer.

Those who like good food can visit stalls from the Czech Republic’s best restaurants (but also the Olomouc University canteen) and also from guests from abroad – Poland, Chile, and Italy. Delicious regional products will be on sale in the park, to, in particular cheeses, sweets, and beer from local microbreweries. Entertainment for children will be provided by the organizers and a new music stage will be erected in the park.

If you are making plans for this spring, reserve the date of 14 and 15 May in your diary. The Garden Food Festival is looking for you! Stay packages are available.


Large Battle, Festival of Songs, Street Parade… Come and Celebrate with Olomouc!

Each of us celebrate special days in our lives. And so does Olomouc and its citizens. Since the city has a generous soul and beautiful appearance, its Feast Days is definitely worth seeing. Come and check for yourselves between 2 and 5 June.

Theatre performances, concerts, fairs, a night procession of swordsmen and town councillors in historical costumes, but also regional food and beer from microbreweries, a military camp below the city walls, traditional re-enactment of a battle between the Swedes and the Imperial Army on Saturday, 4 June... And also a huge open-air concert Jesus Christ Superstar & Hair played and sung by eminent solo singers, the local Moravian Philharmonic Orchestra, and Lenky Dohnalová–Mlynářová’s chamber choir.

Children will enjoy fairy tale performances, games, jugglery workshops, and an old cinema, the adults can look forward to concerts, farmers’ fair, and a book & antiquarian fair. The celebration once again coincides with the international Festival of Songs. These will be four hectic days, indeed.

Olomouc is beautiful throughout the year, but particularly beautiful during the City Feast Days. Its citizens celebrate their city to commemorate their roots and generations of their predecessors. That is why the Feast Days are connected with the veneration of St. Pauline, the patron saint of Olomouc, who saved the city from the plague in the 17th century. The patron saint plays an important role in the celebration. A procession with her relics will start after the major concert, on 3 June evening. As we now from the previous years, the street parade in historical costumes with torches is an amazing sight!
Thousands of runners will flood the streets of Olomouc in the end of June. The number of the runners in the Czech Republic’s second largest half marathon will be once again greater than in the last year. They can enjoy the beauties of the city while running along the route that will be slightly different than in 2015.

The ‘Mattoni’ Olomouc 1/2 Maraton will take place on 25 June. Who is going to participate? Top African long-distance runners and Czech stars, including Olomouc-born Petra Kamínková. Runners are keen to participate, most places have already been sold out.

With 6,200 runners, the ‘Mattoni’ Olomouc 1/2 Marathon is the second most frequented 21.1 km road running event nationally, next to the ‘Sportisimo’ Prague 1/2 Maratonu. Moreover, the route is very fast and always lined with excited fans who create a great atmosphere. That is why the runners keep coming to Olomouc.

There will be only minor changes to the course. Firstly, it will run in an opposite direction. In the downtown, the route used to run along 1 Máje Street and 8 Května Street, which are currently under reconstruction. In the downtown, the route used to run along 1 Máje Street and 8 Května Street, which are currently under reconstruction.

Reunion of the Natives of the Haná Region
Will Make Olomouc Dance

In September, Olomouc will become the capital of all those who were born in the Region of Haná. Six hundred musicians and dancers in traditional folk costumes will make the downtown dance during the 6th season of the Reunion of the Natives on 27 and 28 September.

The Reunion is a major folklore event. The Upper Square and Smetana Park will echo with folk songs played and sung, among others, by the ‘Rovina’ male choir, ‘Záletníci’ dulcimer band, ‘Ondráš’ folk music band and numerous children’s folk choirs.

A costume parade through the city will form the climax of the feast. It will be surely worth seeing, since the local folk costumes are ornate and beautiful. The parade will remind to the citizens and guests the very roots of our culture and regional awareness.

In addition to this, the runners will make a U-turn at Lazecá Street. Tomáš Mirovský, a coordinator of RunCzech events, says: ‘We believe that the changes will be to the good of the runners. The slight modifications should make the route more permeable and comfortable for all participants. Cobblestones in the city centre will be avoided and, hence, we expect faster times.’

In 2015, the ‘Mattoni’ Olomouc 1/2 Marathon received the IAAF Road Race Gold Label, thus becoming one of the world’s most prestigious city marathons. Antonín Staněk, the Mayor of Olomouc, says: ‘I would like to invite to our city not only runners but also their fans and other visitors, so that they can experience the atmosphere of the half marathon, which is amazing. It’s no wonder that the participants enjoy all that cheering and the generally friendly ambience.’

Those who do not wish run the full length of the marathon can choose from shorter options. Besides the individual race, relay teams of 2 or 4 persons may participate. Families can take part in the 3-kilometer DM family run.

Vegetables, Honey, Cheeses and Regional Dainties – the Haná Farmers’ Markets

In September, Olomouc will become the capital of all those who were born in the Region of Haná. Six hundred musicians and dancers in traditional folk costumes will make the downtown dance during the 6th season of the Reunion of the Natives on 27 and 28 September.

The Reunion will be held under the auspices of the Governor of the Olomouc Region and of the Mayor of Olomouc. ‘I would like to invite as many people as possible,’ Mayor Antonín Staněk says. ‘It will be one of most important and most picturesque folk feasts. The citizens and tourists who come to Olomouc can learn a lot about folk customs and traditions, which is something that they cannot see every day.’

Vegetables, Honey, Cheeses and Regional Dainties – the Haná Farmers’ Markets

From April through October, the Haná Farmers’ Markets offer food produced and harvested in the Haná Region. Many products have local trademarks (Haná, Jeseníky, Moravská brána) and some are labelled as ‘Made in the Olomouc Region’ or as a ‘Regional Foodstuff’. Come and taste – it works better than a lot of reading.

The markets take place at the Upper Square, in front of the City Hall, from 8–13, on the following days:

- Fridays: 13 May, 3 & 24 June, 9 September;
- Saturdays: 2, 9, 23, and 30 April, 7, 21, and 28 May, 11 & 18 June, 2, 9, 16, & 23 July, 6, 13, 20, & 27 August, 17 & 24 September, 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 October.
The House of Nature – A Gem of Nature and Art

The ‘Sluňákov’ Environmental Education Centre is located in the heart of unspoilt nature, close to the city of 100,000, in the Litovel Morava River Basin Protected Landscape Area. Here, in the House of Nature, visitors can learn a lot about this unique landscape area between Olomouc and Litovel, with its meandering arms of the Morava River and riparian forests.

The House of Nature is a matchless piece of landscaping that resembles the Lednice-Valtice World Heritage Site. Here, among ponds and marshlands, we can find a number of pieces of art and landscaping by renowned artists: The Garden of Paradise by František Skála, The Sunny Mountain by Miloš Sejnt, The Forest Shrine and The Magic Forest by Milošlav Fečkar, and The Golden Spiral Fire Ring by Marcel Hubáček.

The riparian landscape of the House of Nature is hiding numerous pieces of landscaping. Photo: O. Šembera

Special events
‘How a hungry guy from Haná filled his belly, or the Harvest Feast in Sluňákov’
In the House of Nature, Litovel Morava River Basin | 17 September 2016
A summer day full of activities for children and parents. This time primarily about vast and fertile fields, growing grain, harvesting, making flour, and baking bread. Playful stops focused on nature gor children. Sales of regional products. Optional excursion to the Hunting Lodge.

Tours of the House of Nature.

The riparian landscape of the House of Nature is hiding numerous pieces of landscaping. Photo: O. Šembera

Olomouc’s Summer Season Starts in April

The tourist season in Olomouc starts in April. Tourists and visitors can choose from an array of activities organized by the City Tourist Information Centre or by other partners. To make the process easier, the city operates the free-of-charge Wi-Fi Olomouc-Free zone at the Upper Square.

This year, in addition to usual programmes, families with children over 4 years old can take the City tour with Ola, the little cat. The tour is suitable also for summer children’s camps. Between mid-May and September, participants may pop up at the Information Centre for their free map, with which they will be able to find, without a guide, attractive spots in the city labelled with a poster with the cat. After they collect all 10 symbols from the posters and copy them into the map, they will show them to the staff of the Information Centre and get a little reward. The map is printed also in an English version.

Following house signs is another chance for a nice trip through the city centre. Moreover, tourists can learn more about the purpose and meaning of the signs. The guided tours are available on appointment from May to September, every first Saturday in the month at 10:00 am. Those who would like to see the major sights at the Upper Square and climb the City Hall tower within 60 minutes will wish to choose the Olo-Boat tour. And Jitka Lučanová, the head of the Information Centre, says: ‘We have also something for those visitors who prefer self-guided tours: audio guides of the Upper Square or the City Hall.’

Other partners and operators have also prepared many events, like the Morava River cruises on board the ‘Olo-Boat’ with many other attractions. Viewed from the river, Olomouc is really beautiful! The cruises are available on appointment between 15 April and 31 December; adult fare: CZK 100, children and seniors: CZK 70. If you like it, you can also ride rafts or rent a bicycle or a four-wheeler at CK Peřej Tours. Olomouc’s museums prepared some attractive exhibition for this summer, like Andy Warhol (16 Aug–16 Oct) or Francis Joseph I in Olomouc (25 Nov 2016–19 Feb 2017) in the Museum of Local History.

‘The ‘Durancia’ agency prepared Olomouc’s underground tours for those who love mysteries. Children, but not only them. Will be fond of the Zoo at Olomouc – Svätý Kopeček (The Children’s Weekend, 4–5 June), The Weekend of Records, 20–21 August), or The night of Ghosts, 29 October).

One of the most important cultural events in the region is the reopening of the reconstructed Chateau and Park at Čechy pod Kosiřem. Visitors can see places connected with many of the paintings of Josef Mánes and a standing exhibition of films by Jan and Zdeněk Svěrák.

http://tourism.olomouc.eu;
http://rezervace.plavbyolomouc.cz
www.vmo.cz

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Fascinating Baroque Will Be Revived in July

It feels like submerging into a dream or a historical movie: the Olomouc Baroque Festival will take place in the heart of the city with a Baroque soul in July. Everything will start with costumed youngsters distributing leaflets inviting to evening concerts. And the concerts themselves are really amazing: picturesque costumes, charming tunes, hand painted scenery. Indeed, Baroque operas are very appealing to the ears and eyes of the 21st-century people.

The Baroque epoch had left numerous traces in Olomouc and the Baroque theatre bridges the gap of centuries. The operas are performed by the Ensemble Damian headed by the conductor and composer Tomáš Hanzlík, who not only revives gems of old music hidden in archives, but also composes new music to original Baroque librettos. Either way, the music is so catchy that it will enchant lovers of old art as well as those who prefer modern musicals.

The performances are even more fascinating due to the ambience of the 17th-century Jesuit College and a replica of a Baroque theatre at its courtyard, the only facility of this kind in the Czech Republic. The (neo)Baroque operas have marvellous atmosphere that will impress demanding connoisseurs but also those who come to see such a show for the very first time. The Baroque art is very distinctive, affected, and laden with emotions.

During the Festival, visitors can take a tour of the College, St. Michael's Church, and Chapel of St. John Sarkander, including the original torture chamber in the basement.

The Olomouc Baroque Festival takes place from 29 June to 22 July.

www.baroko.olomouc.eu

Precious Canvas to Be Seen in the Archbishop’s Palace

A lost and recovered painting that captures one of the most important events in the history of this building will be exhibited in the Palace of Olomouc Archbishops until 25 October. It dates from 1876 and its author depicted the abdication of Austrian Emperor Ferdinand I and enthronement of Francis Joseph I in Olomouc, on 2 December 1848.

The scene captures the Throne Hall at the moment when the abdicating Emperor is blessing his successor, saying in a low voice: ‘Just be a nice boy; you’re welcome.’ (Or, alternatively: ‘May the Lord bless you; just be a nice boy. He will protect you.’)

The painting was commissioned by the local historical museum that was opened at St. Hieronymus’ Chapel of the City Hall in 1879. It had hung there until 1947, when it mysteriously disappeared. Currently, the painting is owned by the City of Opava, which bought it some time ago and restored it. The canvas can be seen during a regular tour of the Archbishop Palace.

www.arcibiskupskypalac.cz
Olomouc’s Summer Holidays are Filled with Culture: A single Festival Brings Dozens of Events

Stars from the Czech Republic and from abroad, like Szidi Tobias, will play and sing during the Olomouc Cultural Holidays. Photo Jan Andreáš

The Olomouc Cultural Holidays is a festival that brings culture into the city throughout summer months. About 20 concerts, theatre performances and other events take place at different places throughout the city every year.

The organizers invite the best Czech musicians and bands but also rock and blues stars from abroad. In previous years, we could see the excellent British band The Brew, American songwriters Dana Fuchs and Janet Robin, famous Alex Ligertwood who used to sing with Santana, or enchanting Melanie Scholtz from South Africa. This year’s greatest crowd-puller will be Walter Trout, one of the US best bluesmen, and his only concert in the Czech Republic.

Active since the late 1960s, W. Trout is a blues guitarist, singer and songwriter. He played, among others, with Percym Mayfield. Later he joined John Mayall & the Bluesbreakers and founded his own Walter Trout Band in 1989. Eventually he started to record music albums under his own name. During his Battle Scars tour he will play at Congress Hall, Clarion Hotel, on 15. July at 20:00.

Understandably enough, far more bands, singers and theatre ensembles will appear in July and August on summer stages on the City Hall courtyard, at the Theresian Gate, or in the Crown Fort (e.g. Michal Prokop & Framus Five on 7 July).

Other names and events can be found at the website: www.olomouckekulturniprazdniny.cz

Colores Flamencos: A Colourful Midsummer Festival

The middle of summer holidays is the right time for Colores Flamencos, a multi-genre festival of Spanish culture, which is primarily focused on the flamenco. Spanish culture is typical for its colourfulness, temperament and flamboyance. Dancers, guitar players and other musicians will bring their emotional message from Southern Europe to Olomouc for four days.

The festival is focused on Spain in the broadest sense; thanks to this, citizens and visitors of Olomouc can learn much not only about the flamenco each year, but also about Spanish cuisine or cinema. Some events are open air, like the flamenco fiesta at the Upper Square.

The Flamenco Gala Evening is a real climax and we can look forward to something very special this year: the charismatic and highly regarded dancers, Olga Pericet and Marco Flores will present their common project called Paso a Dos. They will be accompanied by equally eminent artists: Antonia Jiménez and Victor El Tomate (guitars), and Mercedes Cortés, Inma Rivero, Ismael El Bola and Miguel Lavi (vocals). The Gala Evening will take place on 30 July in the pavilion A, Flora Olomouc Exhibition Area.

The 8th season of Colores Flamencos is planned for 28–31 July.

The Largest Baroque Organ Will Play during the Organ Festival

Olomouc has been one of Europe’s organ capitals for decades, primarily due to the Engler organ, a precious Baroque instrument (1745), which is the largest organ in Central Europe, and also thanks to Antonín Šindler, who saved it from destruction and later initiated the Olomouc International Organ Festival.

The enormous Gothic nave of the Church of St. Maurice is filled with magical sounds of the organ played by the best organists annually, in the beginning of September. A concert of spiritual music in such an ambience is always a great event.

This year, we will hear the following musicians: Pavel Svoboda (Czech Republic) – 5 September, Giampaolo di Rosa (Italy) – 8 September, Władysław Szymanski (Poland) – 12 September, Olivier Latry (France) – 15 September, and Sergio Orabona (Germany) – 19 September.

www.mfo.cz/#Ivarhann-festival/c54b
Central Moravia – The Region of Experiences

Since 2006, the Central Moravia Tourist Association, a dynamic destination management organization, has supported tourist activities in the region of Central Moravia and developed cooperation between tour operators, providers of services, etc. At the same time it provides, as a regional congress operator, comprehensive services in the field of congress tourism in the entire region. Every year it comes up with a series of new activities focused on promoting the region of Central Moravia in its entirety with regard to current trends in tourism. One of the major promotional initiatives is organizing visits of people from the media and travel agencies from around the world. Media in abroad publish articles about tourist attractions and gastronomy of the Central Moravia, local tour operators establish relationships with foreign partners. As a result, for instance, owners of the Olomouc Region Card can purchase a discounted ÖBB train ticket from Austria to Olomouc in May. Since 2015, the Association has run a travel agency and, in cooperation with its members, offers discounted tour packages oriented on an active holiday, relaxation and adventure to individuals and organized groups throughout the year. Currently, incoming tourists can book themed holiday packages Spring, Garden Food Festival, Baroque, and Advent. Friends of gastrotourism will surely be pleased by attractive courses of preparation of local food and beer. More information is available at the website www.moraviatourism.cz, including direct bookings. This year, the Association continues its successful project Taste Haná, which promotes local cuisine. Sixteen restaurants are currently involved in the project, which put traditional specialties of Haná on their menus depending on a season. Visitors can taste such specialties also at the first of Olomouc Festival of the Tvaruzek Cheese, during the spring season of the Flora Olomouc exhibition, or in June, at the Olomouc City Feast. A list of participating restaurants, overview of regional manufacturers that produce branded original products, and much more about the regional gastronomy can be found at the website: www.strednimorava-tourism.cz/ochutnejte-hanou.

Major Cultural Events in Central Moravia – 2016

April
- Opening of the castles and chateaux season
- European Jazz Days – Hranice
- May
- Author Šela Marathon –Helfštýn Castle
- Mohelnice Grand Prix – Mohelnice
- Opening of the colonnade – Spa of Teplice nad Bečvou
- Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Visitation of Our Lady – Olomouc – Sv. Kopeček
- Long-distance march “To the Tvaruzek Cheese of Lošte” – Lošte

June
- “Ecce Homo” Šternberk European car race championship
- Žáhorské slavnosti folklore festival – Lipník nad Bečvou
- The Venice of Haná – Litovel
- The Žváček Festival – Konice
- Wolker’s Prostějov poetry festival – Prostějov
- At the Chateau and in the Town – Přerov
- From Fairy tale to Fairy Tale – Chateau of Náměšť na Hané
- Haná – Štěpán of the World – Velká Bystřice
- Folk feast – Náměšť na Hané
- Music and cheese festival – Lošte
- July
- The Ride of the Kings – Doloplazy
- The Celtic Night – Plumlov
- Josefkov international get-together of wheelwrights – Čechy pod Kosířem
- Haná folk feast – Němčice nad Hanou
- Festival of brass bands – Dřevohostice
- Musical summer – Litovel

August
- St. Lawrence feast – Přerov
- Flowers for the Lady of the Chateau – Chateau of Náměšť na Hané
- September
- The Mohelnice Stagecoach music festival – Mohelnice
- ‘Hefaiston’ get-together of blacksmiths – Helfštýn Castle
- The Šternberk Hill – Šternberk Castle
- Bobr Bike – Litovel
- The Litovel Bottle Opener – Litovel
- Rock at the Chateau – Plumlov Chateau
- The Fencers’ Weekend – Plumlov Chateau
- October
- The Folk Year festival – Velká Bystřice
- Ecce Homo Historic – Šternberk
- St. Wenceslas feast – Tovačov
- Fishing out the Hradecký Pond – Tovačov

Please note that the programme may change. For more details see: www.ok-tourism.cz
Three Baroque Gems of Moravia Linked for the First Time

From now on, tourists and visitors can learn about common aspects of their history. The plans include more than joint promotional materials and presentation, though.

As Mr. Pavel Urbášek, the Deputy Mayor for tourism said: 'We would like to present this part of Moravia as the whole. Without knowing historical context, visitors might miss many interesting details, which would be a shame.' At the same time, he emphasised the supra-regional nature of the prepared project: 'Three Moravian regions that really can offer much to their visitors will join and participate. I believe that by joint effort we can attract tourists from South Moravia to Kroměříž and Olomouc, and vice versa.'

All these destinations are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, share the same history, and are easily reachable by car. The distance between Lednice and Olomouc is 126 km (1 h 19 min), between Kroměříž and Lednice 114 km (1 h 11 min), and between Olomouc and Kroměříž only 48 km (45 min).

The Memorandum of Cooperation and Friendship is the first step; other ones will follow. 'By signing the Memorandum, we are showing our willingness to cooperate. The specific forms of cooperation will be identified by tourism experts from our respective cities,' Mr. Urbášek concluded.

Welcome to the 2016 Season
14 May | The 463rd opening of the spa season – An All-Day Cultural event, Martin Chodúr Concert
June – September / Sunday Promenade Concerts - Cultural Matinées at the Spa Collonade
Welcome to the Olomouc Information Centre

We offer you the following services:

**CITY HALL TOWER TOUR**
A guided tour of the observation deck of the 75 meters high City Hall tower. Daily at 11:00 and 15:00 (groups and on appointment). From 15 Jun to 30 Sep daily at 10:00, 11:30, 13:00, 14:30, 16:00 and 17:30, groups of at least 3 paying visitors.

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**PERMANENT EXHIBITIONS AT THE CITY HALL**
An exhibition dedicated to history of the city, the City Hall, and its astronomical clock. Free admission during office hours or as part of the ‘Olomouc in a nutshell’. Audio guides available.

**OLOMOUC IN A NUTSHELL**
A 60 minutes tour of the major sights at the Upper Square and the City Hall tower. From 15 Jun to 30 Sep daily at 9:30, 11:00, 12:30, 14:00, 15:30 and 17:00.

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**CITY AUDIO GUIDES**
Audio guides of major sights. Tourists can plan their own tour using a plan that they get for free along with the audio guide at the Information Centre.

A refundable deposit is required: 300 CZK | Price 100 CZK | GRATIS |

**OLOMOUC GUIDE – OLINA**
The official digital tourist guide of Olomouc's sights and monuments. You can download the OLINA offline guide and a map to your mobile device at home, at your hotel, in a café for free. The application works on Android and iOS.

**CIVIL DEFENCE SHELTER**
Guided tour of an air raid shelter that was built at Bezruč Park in the 1950s as a civil defence staff post. From 15 Jun to 30 Sep, Thursdays & Saturdays at 10:00, 13:00, 16:00.

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**„OLOMOUCKÉ TVARŮŽKY“ CHEESE**
The famous local cheese from a vending machine at the Information Centre.

**OLOMOUC REGION CARD**
A card which allows you to save in Olomouc! Public transport and selected services provided by the Information Centre for free, reduced entry fees to museums. ORC is valid throughout the Olomouc Region.

Info: www.olomoucregioncard.cz

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