



# Erasmus guide

Veterinary and Pharmaceutical University Brno

Made by IVSA Brno

## 1. Czech Republic

Czech Republic isn't just Prague City... Of course, it's not a large country but it has a rich and eventful history. From time immemorial Czechs, Germans, Jews and Slovaks, as well as Italian stonemasons and stucco workers, French tradesmen and deserters from Napoleon's army have all lived and worked here, all influencing one another. For centuries, they jointly cultivated their land, creating works that still command our respect and admiration today. It is thanks to their inventiveness and skill that this small country is graced with hundreds of ancient castles, monasteries and stately mansions, and even entire towns that give the impression of being comprehensive artefacts. The Czech Republic contains a vast of amount of architectural treasure and has beautiful forests and mountains to match.

### 1.1. Two largest cities

The two largest and the most interesting cities are: Prague — the capital and largest city of the Czech Republic with a large and beautiful historic center Brno — the largest city in Moravia and its former capital, it offers several excellent museums, annual Moto GP Grand Prix, annual international fireworks festival Ignis Brunensis, the second-largest historical center in the Czech Republic (after Prague,) the second-largest ossuary in Europe (after the Catacombs of Paris), one of the biggest exhibition centers in the Europe, the oldest theatre building in Central Europe, and many other things.

### 1.2. Other destinations in the Czech Republic

They're a lot other destinations, where you can go. For example:

- **Bohemian Paradise** — (Český Ráj) A region of towering rock formations and isolated castles located north-east of Prague. The gateway city of Jičín is an interesting destination in its own right, but Turnov is closer to most of the castles and rock formations. The twin towers of the ruined castle Trosky are a symbol of the area and can be climbed for the views
- **Karlštejn** Castle and the holy cave monastery — Hiking trip to the famous castle as well as an off the beaten track monastery
- **Krkonoše** — (Giant Mountains) The highest mountains in the Czech Republic along the Polish border. Most popular Czech skiing resorts are situated here, such as Špindlerův Mlýn, however considered overpriced by locals...
- **Litomyšl** — A beautiful small town in East Bohemia. The renaissance Main Square and chateau are among the Czech Republic's prettiest and the town has been home to many important and influential artists, including composer Bedřich Smetana, sculptor Olbram Zoubek and painter Josef Váchal. There are two international opera festivals at the chateau each year.
- **Mariánské Lázně** — A spa town in Western Bohemia.

- **Moravský Kras** — Extensive karst area between Brno and Olomouc with the deepest abyss in the country and, in the Punkevní Caves, the opportunity to take a boat ride along an underground river.
- **Mikulov Wine Region** — Some of the best vineyards in the Czech Republic and totally off the well beaten tourist path.
- **Nové Město na Moravě** — Cross country skiing resort. The race of Tour de Ski takes place here.
- **Terezín** — A red-brick baroque fortress 70km north of Prague beside the Ohře river. It was used during WWII as a Jewish ghetto and concentration camp.

... and many and many other destinations...

## 2. Brno

Brno, the Czech Republic's second largest city, has a population of nearly 370,000 people. It lies in the central part of Europe and within its two hundred-kilometer radius there are other important European capitals: Prague, Vienna and Bratislava. Brno is the metropolis of Moravia and an important tourist center for all who want to explore the natural and cultural beauties of the South-Moravian region. These days, Brno is becoming future technological superpower, "Silicon valley" and also we can say that is multinational city. And this is because, Brno has been a center of new motivated working label (students, coming foreign employees) and also conditions for international companies are very pleasant.



Veveří Castle

To the north of Brno there is the protected area of the Moravian Karst (Moravský kras) and to the south stretch the Moravian vineyards with their typical wine cellars. The city is surrounded by beautiful



Vila Tugendhat

mixed forests, which offer many opportunities for tourism and cycling. Brno prides itself on many notable historic sites that show evidence of its rich cultural history. Once established as a settlement of merchants eight centuries ago on the junctions of the rivers Svratka and Svitava, it withstood the pressure of both the Hussite and Swedish besiegement, witnessed Napoleon's military expedition to Slavkov, bore the cruel consequences of the Austrian defeat at the Battle of the Three Emperors, became an industrial center of the Habsburg monarchy called "the Austrian Manchester" and, in the twentieth century, gained a character of a modern city thanks to the construction of new buildings in the functionalist style. The most important example of modern architecture in Brno is The Tugendhat Villa - a historic site inscribed on the UNESCO's World Cultural Heritage List. Today Brno is a seat of universities and important judiciary institutions.

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It offers many possibilities of cultural enjoyment in its numerous theatres, museums, cinemas and clubs. Even more, Brno is considered as a student friendly city. The Brno Exhibition Centre with its eighty year tradition is a venue of many international trade fairs, exhibitions and congresses, and as such plays a significant role in the social and economic life of the whole city. The City of Brno regularly holds various cultural events, festivals (e.g. "Brno - City in the Centre of Europe" associated with a fireworks competition "Ignis Brunensis") as well as some notable sporting events (Brno Grand Prix of road motorcycles). Brno is also a city of modern shopping and entertainment centers.



Petrov Cathedral

If you want to know more visit <http://www.brno.cz/uvodni-strana/>

### 3. How to get TO Brno

If you are travelling from Prague/Bratislava or Vienna, the easiest way is to take the yellow Student Agency bus to Brno, Grand Hotel stop. You will easily recognize the yellow buses. They are used to take foreign people so they speak English, on the board you have free WiFi in Czech Republic, free hot drinks (coffee, tea), and every seat has a small screen so you can watch movies, TV shows or listen to a radio. You can easily buy the tickets online - <https://jizdenky.regiojet.cz/?2>

- **Schwechat Airport, Vienna** – there is a direct student agency bus from the airport to Brno. There is no ticket office at the airport so you need to buy it online. For further information go to: [www.viennaairport.com/en/passengers/arrival\\_parking](http://www.viennaairport.com/en/passengers/arrival_parking)
- **Vaclav Havel Airport, Prague** – from Prague airport you have to change the bus in the main bus station Florenc. The steward will guide you to the other bus. One ticket is valid for the whole journey by both buses. There is a ticket office Student Agency at Terminal 1. For further information go to: [www.prg.aero/en/parking-transport/transport/public-transit/](http://www.prg.aero/en/parking-transport/transport/public-transit/)
- **Letisko M.R.Štefanika Airport, Bratislava** – unfortunately, Student agency bus does not have a stop at the airport. You need to get by public bus number 61 (from airport to Žimní stadion) change to bus 78 (from Žimní stadion to Mlynske Nivy) to the main bus station AS Mlynské Nivy, Bratislava. Or you can take bus number 61 that will take you to the train station in Bratislava. For further information go to: <https://www.bts.aero/en/parking-and-transport/transport/from-the-airport/>
- **Letiste Turany, Brno Airport** – there is only one bus no. 76 going directly to the main station Hlavni nadrazi. For further information go to: [www.brno-airport.cz/en/parking-and-transport/public-transport](http://www.brno-airport.cz/en/parking-and-transport/public-transport)

You can also find some another possibility how to get from Prague or Vienna Airport to Brno.

#### **4. Public transport in Brno**

Integrated public transport system in Brno is one of the best in Europe, maybe in the entire world. :) There is a connection throughout Brno every hour, serviced area is divided into tariff zones (the mains are 100 and 101 – center and periphery). All buses, trams, trolleybuses are always ON time (only bus 84 is usually late :D). During the day the interval could be 5–10 min., during the night at weekdays every hour and Friday, Saturday even every half an hour – night buses has got in front of the number "N" (for example: N91). Before each journey, you must purchase a ticket. For all students is recommended to buy a season ticket, that cost only 275 CZK (a month) and 685 CZK (3 months). You can buy also one-way tickets – more information here: <https://www.idsjmk.cz/EN/default.aspx>. There is also an app IDOS for mobile phone with all departures in Brno at any time. You can also use the www sites: <http://www.idos.cz> - you can find here all timetables for the Czech Republic.

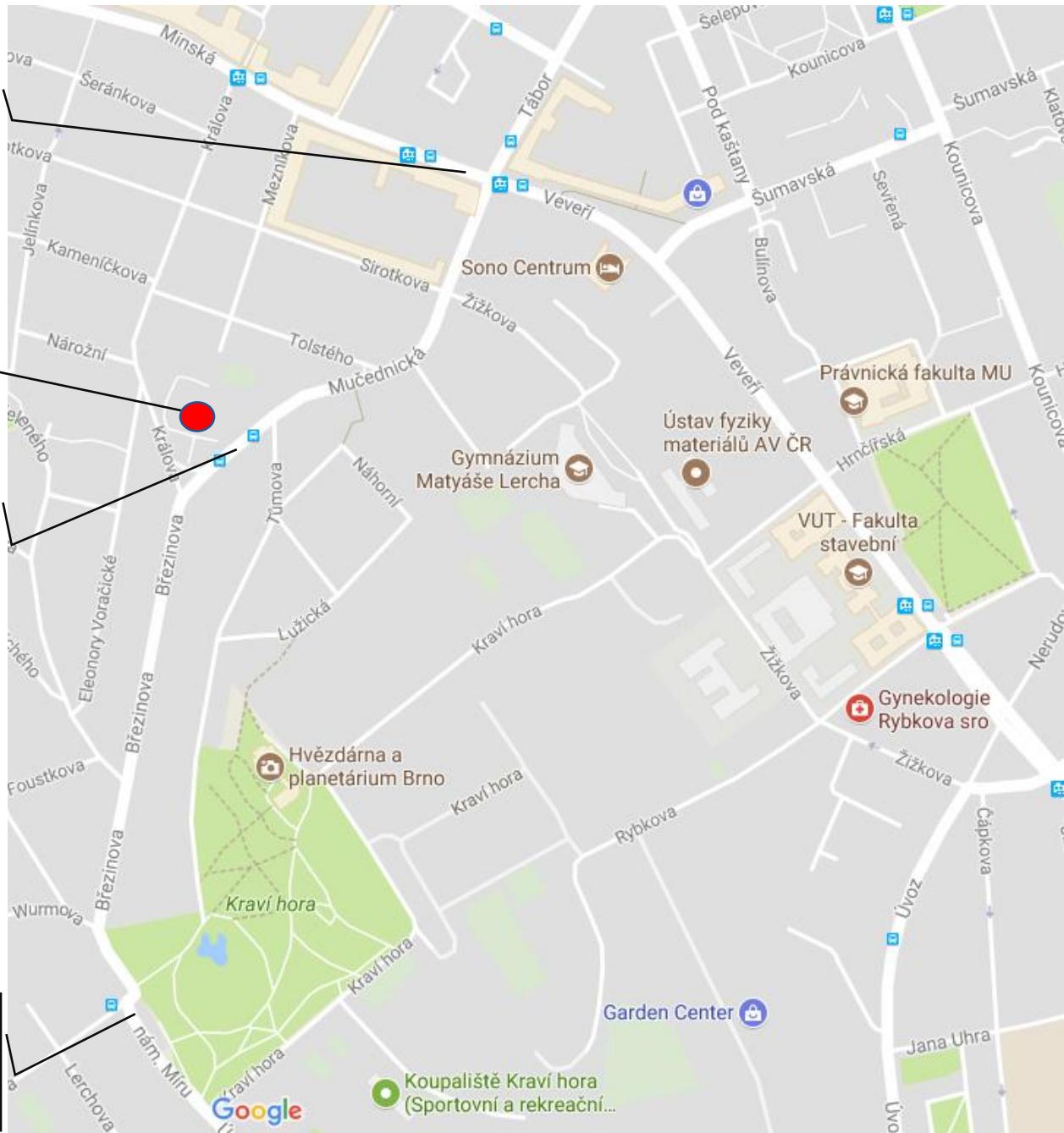
## 5. How to get to dormitory?

Stop: „Tábor“  
 Tram: 3, 11  
 Bus: 80, 92, N92

Dormitory

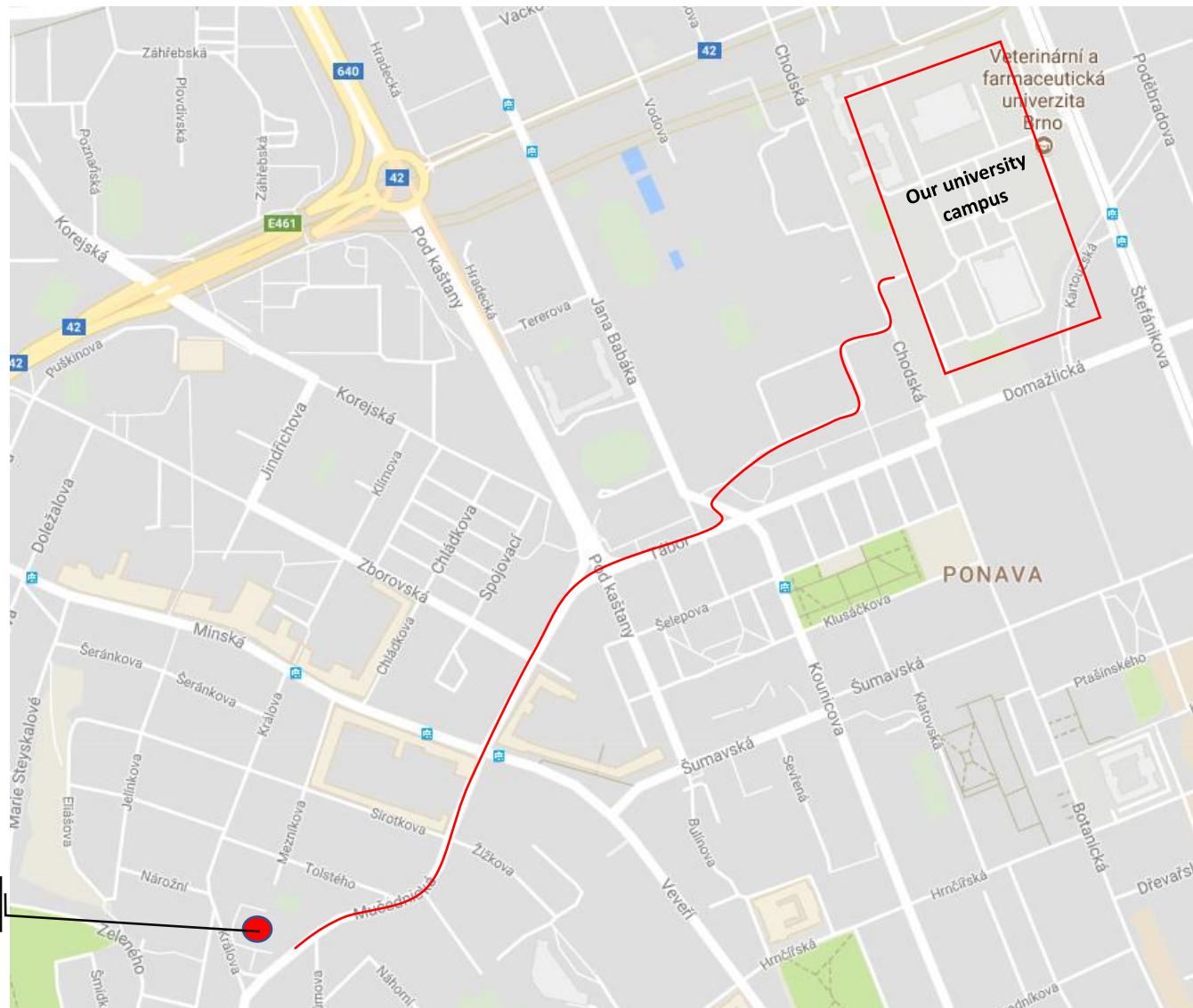
Stop:  
 „Kounicovy  
 koleje“  
 Bus: 80, 89, N89

Stop: „Náměstí  
 Míru“  
 Tram: 4  
 Bus: 89, 80, N89



## 6. How to get from dormitory to the school?

The best option is by foot. ☺ Don't worry it takes about 15 minutes.



## **7. Public holidays**

During public holidays schools and universities are closed, opening time of supermarkets and shops can be changed but usually the supermarkets work as during weekends.

1 st January - New Years Day, Restoration Day of the Independent Czech State

Easter Monday on March – April (movable feast)

1 st May - Labour Day

8 th May - Liberation Day

5 th July - Arrival of Constantine and Methodius

6 th July - Jan Hus Day 28th September - St. Wenceslas Day (Czech Statehood Day)

28th October - Independent Czechoslovak State Day

17th November - Democracy and Freedom Day

24th December - Christmas Eve

25th December - Christmas Day

26th December - „The Second Christmas Day“ (= St. Stephen's Day)

## **8. Weather in the Czech Republic**

Czech Republic lies in the temperate climate zone, which is characterized by mild, humid summers with occasional hot spells, and cold, cloudy and humid winters. The average temperature in spring is every year different but generally we can say that the early spring, March and April, are still quite cold months, the average temperature in the mornings is from 0-6 degrees Celsius, the temperature during the day is better, around 8-15 degrees Celsius.

After these two cold months comes May and June. Both of these months are beautiful for its nature and flowers in every garden and park. The average temperature is 15-25 degrees Celsius, sometimes there are even warmer days in June and the thermometer can go up to 30 degrees Celsius.

## **9. Emergency numbers**

You can call emergency numbers from any phone for free (even without any card). The universal emergency number 112 is functional and you can use it, however you will reach only a telephone operator who will need to contact the real emergency service for you. To save precious time, it is best to call directly the service you need: 150 for fire fighters, 155 for medical emergency, and 158 for state police.

I am happy that you went through this Erasmus guide – hopefully it helped you before your arrival and that the guide will be useful for you to answer many of your questions.

Edit: Zuzana Klímová – Buddy coordinator