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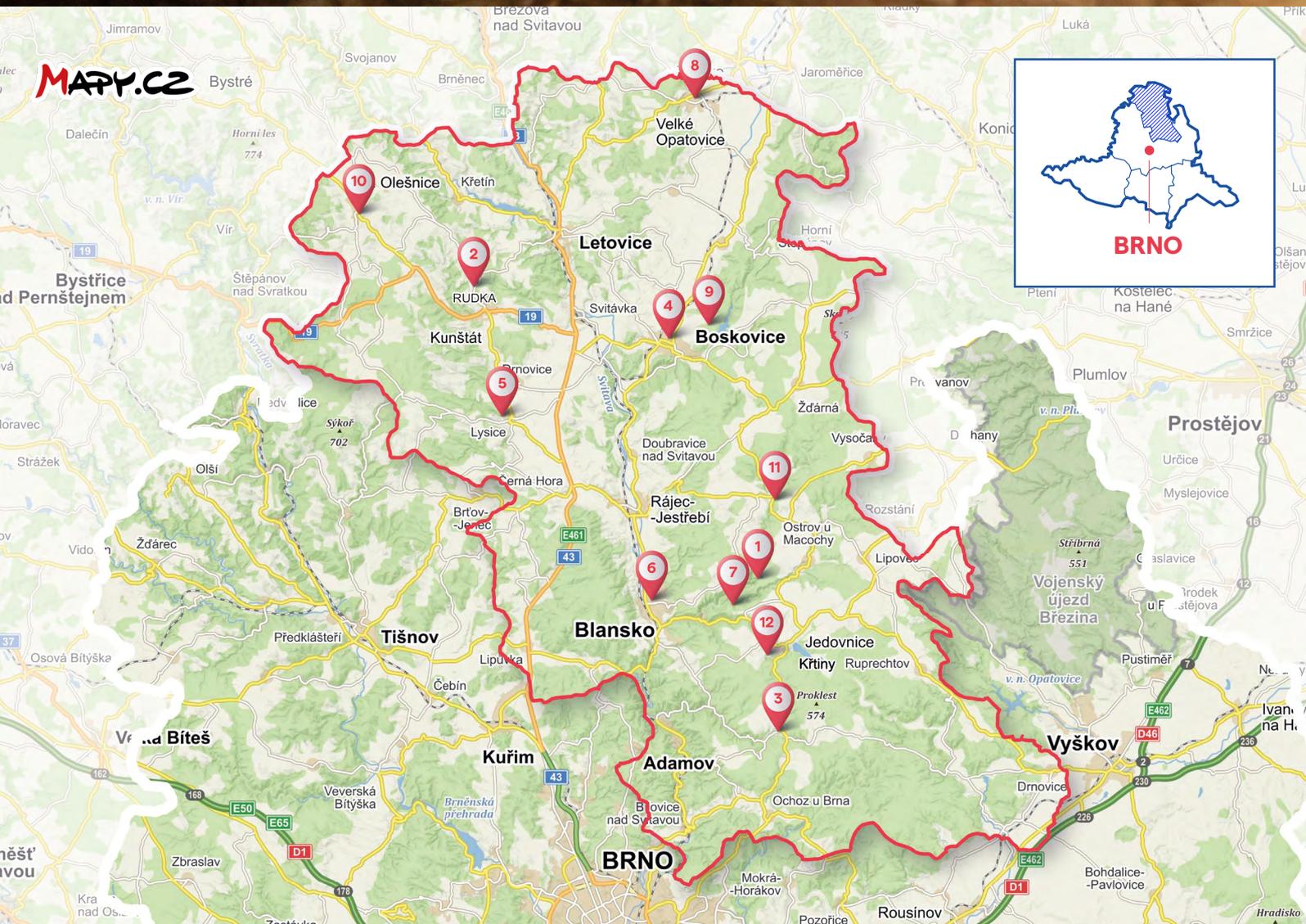
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# The Mysterious Region THE MORAVIAN KARST AND ENVIRONS

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1

## THE LAND OF A THOUSAND CAVES

The Moravian Karst is the most significant karst area in the Czech Republic. The Punkva Caves with **the Macocha Abyss** offer an underground cruise on the Punkva River. The Balcarka Cave is one of the local gems. The Moravian Karst House of Nature near the Skalní Mlýn hotel will show you how caves were formed. A geopark and a water game await you outside.

**Extra tip:** Try Speleoferata! Wearing a helmet and overalls, you will experience climbing frames, abysses and rope ladders. The route ends deep below the earth's surface. A less difficult version is offered by an Escape Game, suitable even for children. You can also test your physical fitness on a breathtaking cave wall. All equipment will be provided to you on site.

<https://visit.caves.cz/en>



2

## HISTORY FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY

An artificially created **Cave of the Knights of Blanice** near Rudka hides giants. Seventeen larger-than-life statues of knights created by amateur sculptor Stanislav Rolínek. You can see only the huge shoes of his 14-metre-tall statue of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk today. The surroundings of the cave are arranged as an open-air park and gallery.

**Extra tip:** The nearby Kunštát Chateau has beautiful interiors with original furniture, a chateau restaurant and a park. The chateau has prepared a mini-trip called Stops Around the Chateau – you can walk through the surroundings of the chateau for an hour and a half. The whole route is barrier-free.

[www.rudka.cz/jeskyne](http://www.rudka.cz/jeskyne)



3

## ZEN-LIKE CALM IN KŘTINY

Jan Blažej Santini situated **the Church of the Name of the Virgin Mary**, a pearl of the Baroque style, in a beautiful landscape. Here a Gothic statue of the Virgin Mary can be seen on the main altar. It is also worth listening to one of the largest carillons in Central Europe. It plays twice a week or by prior arrangement.

**Extra tip:** Visit an arboretum near Křtiny. Here you can see flora from Japan, lianas or a large collection of willows. Every weekend, you can draw strength from the twenty-three hectares of nature in the arboretum: meadows around the stream, forest slopes and a fairy-tale pond. Visitors can go from there to the truly unique Výpustek Cave.

[www.pmkrtiny.cz](http://www.pmkrtiny.cz)



4

## JEWISH BOSKOVICE

The former Jewish ghetto in Boskovice is one of the best-preserved in the Czech Republic. It boasts an **original synagogue** and the Jewish mikveh ritual bath. After dark, the narrow streets and street lamps resemble the mysterious quarter. Stop at the cemetery and note that there are small stones placed on the tombstones. Jews place these

instead of flowers when they visit a cemetery.

**Extra tip:** Boskovice Chateau is one of the most beautiful buildings in the Empire style in South Moravia. Have you ever seen a copper globe, where the starry sky is represented by heraldic emblems? Go on a night tour, watch a fencing show or fireworks.

[www.regionboskovicko.cz](http://www.regionboskovicko.cz)

5



## CASTLE COMFORTS, LOVELY NATURE

**Lysice Chateau** is situated 35 km north-east of Brno. The interiors boast rich collections of furniture and handicrafts from the Renaissance to the Art Nouveau and historicist styles. Rarities include a collection of Czech glass, weapons and oriental objects. Take a walk through the terraced garden, column colonnade and the chateau garden centre with

an orangery. Smell blooming camellias in February.

**Extra tip:** A café on the premises of the Lysice Chateau serves good coffee and tells of the sea voyages of Erwin Dubský. After dessert climb up the hill: near the village of Kozárov, on the Babylon hill, there is a lookout tower, 42 meters high, modern and beautiful!

[www.zamek-lysice.cz/en](http://www.zamek-lysice.cz/en)

6



## FIND REST AND RELAXATION IN BLANSKO

A Late Renaissance chateau is situated in the centre of Blansko. Besides the several historic salons, you can experience an unconventional castle tour. It is a seat of **the Blansko Museum** which can show you the history of ironworking, the only such museum in the Czech Republic. Other exhibitions display, for example, measuring equipment

and speleology. There are interactive exhibitions and special tours for families with kids.

**Extra tip:** Don't forget to refresh and cool off in the summer heat at in the local aquapark. Lovers of history will appreciate the nearby Classicist chateau Rájec nad Svitavou, built in the French style of Louis XVI.

[www.muzeum-blanska.cz](http://www.muzeum-blanska.cz)

7



## SEE BEARS AND BEES

An 8-metre-high entrance to **the Kateřinská Cave** opens in the valley slope near Skalní Mlýn. The part with the Main Dome is the largest cave space in the Czech Republic accessible to the public. A man lived here in the Palaeolithic Era and his remains have been preserved, as have the bones of Quaternary animals such as bears. You can see dripstones

here with such names as the Bamboo Forest and the Witch.

**Extra tip:** How many eyes do you think a bee has? Do bees sleep at night? How is honey made? You will find out in the Moravian Karst Beekeeping Museum in Veselice. Have something good to eat here! The Podvrší lookout tower lies not far from there.

<https://visit.caves.cz/en/cave/katerinska-jeskyne>

8



## FROM GEODESY TO WATER FUN

What did maps and measuring instruments look like in our ancestors' time? You will find out in Velké Opatovice in **the Moravian Cartographic Centre**. The main exhibit has an area of 100m<sup>2</sup>! The giant plastic map of Moravia and Silesia, created at the beginning of the 20th century, could never be displayed due to its size. Only here was it finally able to stand

out with all its beauty.

**Extra tip:** The Letovice Castle won the competition for the Best Renovated Cultural Monument in South Moravia. Renovated interiors, the English park, a mini zoo. Where else can you spend a night in the dungeon? Go to the Křetínka Reservoir in Letovice as well.

[www.velkeopatovice.cz/moravske-kartograficke-centrum](http://www.velkeopatovice.cz/moravske-kartograficke-centrum)



9

## ACTIVITY-PACKED BOSKOVICE

Do you like riding a bike through the forest? **The single trails in the Doubravy (Oakwood) forest** are waiting for you! Ten kilometres of trails at three difficulty levels, a pump track and facilities with refreshments. You can choose the right bike from the bike rental here.

**Extra tip:** The Wild West town in Boskovice has recreated

the atmosphere of the Wild West. In an abandoned quarry, you can experience a theatre performance, an authentic saloon, western restaurants, and hotels. There is an all-day program for kids and adults. Try your Indian and cowboy skills, and enjoy tomahawk throwing, archery and panning for gold.

[www.boskovickestezky.cz](http://www.boskovickestezky.cz)



10

## UNESCO IN OLEŠNICE

You can go on an excursion and see dyed textile production in the workshop of the Danzinger family in Olešnice. It has been in operation since 1816, but the secret of this family of dyers goes back to the 16th century. They make **blueprint** using the original techniques.

**Extra tip:** Also visit the Museum of Ghosts in the cellar of

the former ice house in Olešnice. You can see the local Leprechaun and Lady Middy. The Museum of Historical Vehicles of Czechoslovak Production of the Hamerský Family is something quite different. Finish your trip with a hike to the viewpoint above the Olešnice Ski Resort. A destination that is worthwhile year-round!

[www.modrotisk-danzinger.cz](http://www.modrotisk-danzinger.cz)



11

## KARST BEAUTY OF ALL KINDS

A parade of karst hits in one place? Go to **the Sloup-Šošůvka Caves**, the longest cave system in the Czech Republic. The system of domes, corridors and underground abysses is open all year round. The jewel of the caves is the Nagel Abyss, about 90 meters deep.

**Extra tip:** The Velká Dohoda Area, a former quarry, in the

heart of the Moravian Karst offers an alluring trio: fun, exercise and adrenalin. Jump into a thirty-metre-deep abyss and you will zoom over the quarry for 190 metres at a speed of almost 50 kph. This place also offers training ferratas. There is also a rope centre for kids, refreshments, equipment, and patient instructors.

<https://visit.caves.cz/en>



12

## BREATHTAKING RUDICE

There is a **windmill and a museum in one** in Rudice. Visitors can learn the history of mineralogy, speleology, iron working, metallurgy and mining. The ten-minute 3D video projection will take you to inaccessible spaces of the caves of the Rudice Sinkhole. People who love minerals will be astonished by the colourful varieties of quartz.

**Extra tip:** Kids can find an office of Krasík Snail in the mill museum. The snail has prepared some great routes with tasks and rewards. Then take a staircase formed by roots straight down to the Rudice Sinkhole, where the waters of the Jedovnický Stream fall underground to a depth of 90 metres.

[www.rudice.cz](http://www.rudice.cz)