

Where to find more information:

- zob.cz
- stetl.cz/cs/akce
- palava.cz
- zidovskyrbitovmikulov.cz



Published by the Tourist Authority – South Moravia, z.s.p.o.

The project "Quality Improvement, Offer Expansion and Promotion of the South Moravian Region" was implemented with the financial support from the state budget of the Czech Republic through the Ministry for Regional Development program.



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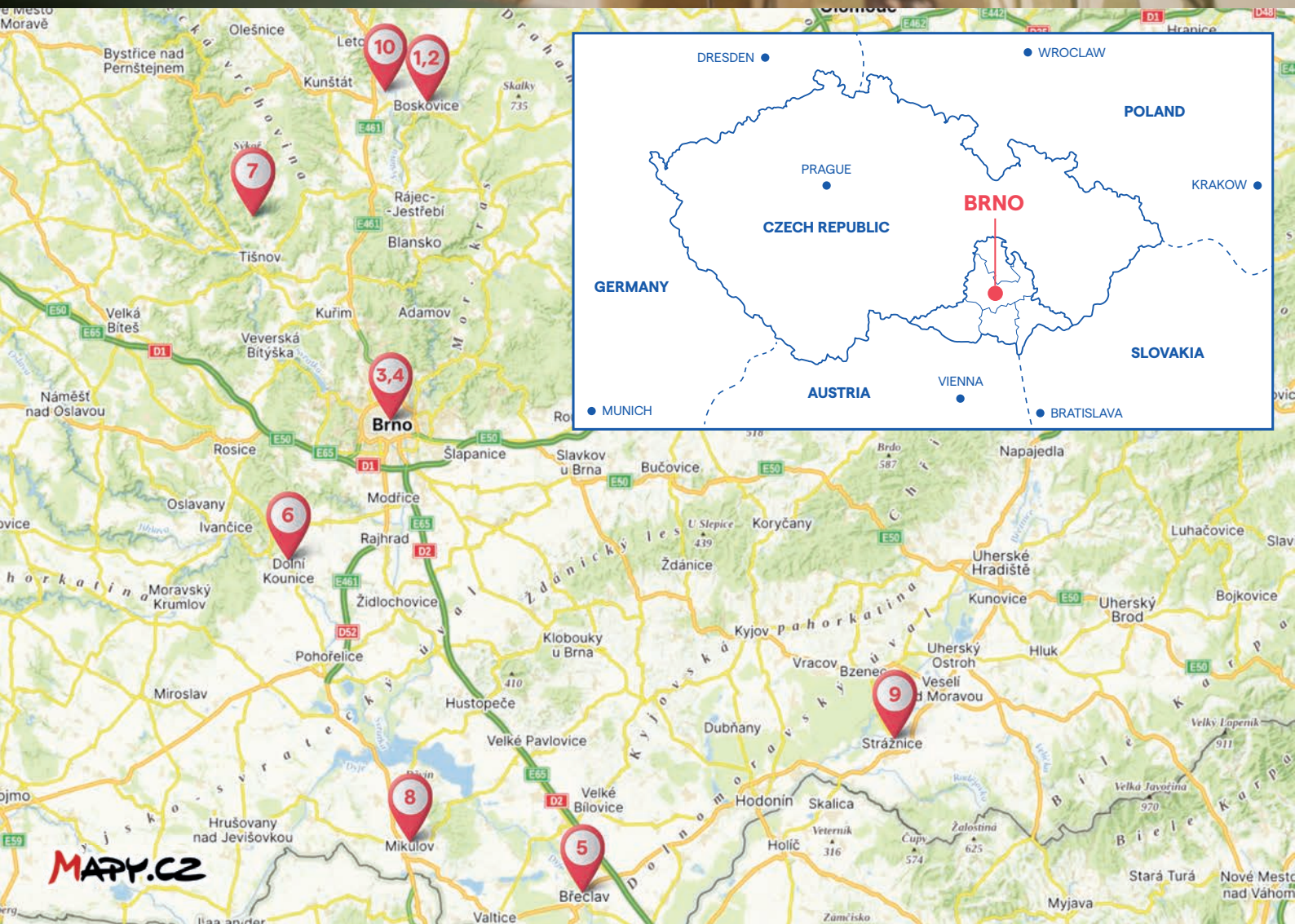
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When exploring South Moravia, leave the worries and your car at home – use idsjmk.cz/en

JEWISH HERITAGE IN SOUTH MORAVIA

*Uncover the Richness
of Shared History*

EN





TRACING SHARED MEMORY

Abandoned synagogues, old cemeteries, and the echoes of vanished Jewish ghettos. South Moravia is a tapestry woven with stories of its Jewish population, both vibrant and tragic. Jewish communities, alongside Czechs and Germans, shaped the region's prosperity until WWII shattered their harmonious coexistence. The war's impact was particularly devastating for the Jewish community. Many significant landmarks

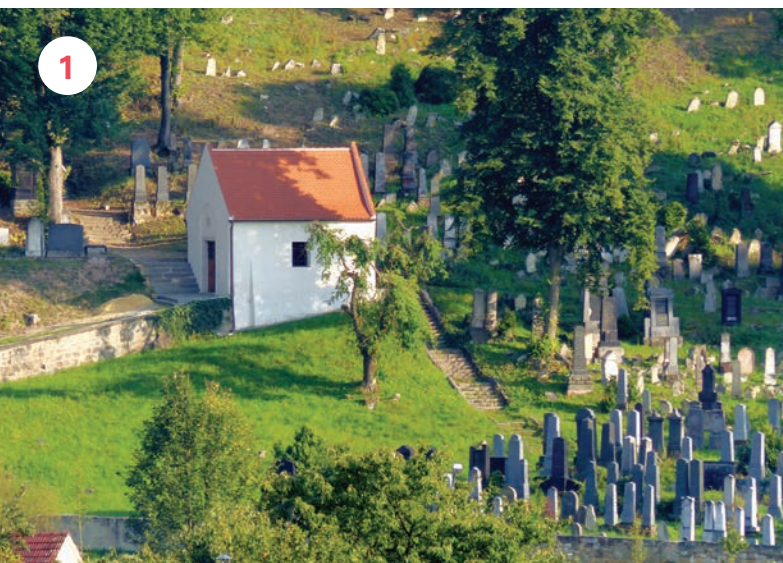
were lost, some during the Nazi occupation and others under communist rule. After November 1989, some were rescued and we have tips for you on where to find them.

"They said: don't live with us, but they didn't tell them where they should live." (Stefan Zweig, *The World of Yesterday: Memories of a European*).

STORIES BOTH EXTRA- AND ORDINARY

Discover monuments recounting tragic pasts and the resilience of our shared heritage. Explore the stories of people who lived in ghettos, dreaming sometimes of exceptional, sometimes of ordinary dreams—perhaps similar to ours today. Their legacy allows us to perceive a significant part of our history. The Jewish Community of Brno and its Cultural and Educational Center of Rabbi Feder, along

with the ŠTETL association invite you to guided tours of landmarks such as the unique functionalist synagogues of Brno, to the international festival of Jewish culture ŠTETL FEST, or the Israeli film festival KOLNOA. Embark on a journey through South Moravia in the footsteps of Jewish residents, their destinies, and heritage, which will speak to us powerfully forever.



BOSKOVICE: HISTORIC STREETS

Walk through the Jewish gate, which in the 18th century divided the Jewish ghetto from the rest of the town. Wander the narrow streets and imagine the vibrant **Jewish quarter** of the past. In the 19th century, it was one of the largest in Moravia. Get a glimpse into daily life through period photographs in the **Zwicker mini-gallery**. Since 1993, the town has hosted

the Festival for the Jewish Quarter each summer. Explore one of the best-preserved and most beautiful Jewish quarters and the country's third-largest Jewish **cemetery**. Discover traditional Jewish life at the Jewish Community Center.

BOSKOVICE: SURVIVING SYNAGOGUE

The Baroque **synagogue** is the sole survivor among three Jewish prayer houses in the town. After 1941, it served as a warehouse, as the local Jewish community vanished. Restored now, it stands as a "house of assembly." Its unassuming exterior belies its ornate interior, adorned with Hebrew and botanical motifs carved into the plaster by Polish Jewish

scholars over nearly a century. At the heart of the synagogue is the ark for storing the Torah, traditionally placed on the eastern wall facing Jerusalem. Opposite the synagogue, in the cellar of the house at U Templu 3/5, you can see the ritual bath, **mikveh**, where worshippers went for purification.

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BRNO: JEWISH TRACES EVERYWHERE

Local info centers equip you with a guide to Jewish heritage sites. You'll easily uncover houses, factories, and the stories of Jewish inhabitants, even in vanished Jewish Brno. Its heart beat on today's Františkanská Street. Explore Moravia's largest Jewish **cemetery** and the architecturally unique functionalist **synagogue**, the

only one in Moravia still in use. Look down to find Stumbling Stones, brass plaques urging remembrance of Nazi victims. The Mehrin Foundation strives to preserve Jewish history. While awaiting the opening of the Jewish museum opposite the Grand Hotel, visit engaging exhibitions at the **Malý Mehrin** on Vídeňská street.

jewishbrno.eu

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BRNO: FAMOUS AND FATEFUL VILLAS

Brno is renowned for its iconic villas, some owned by Jewish textile industrialists, contributing to its nickname, the Moravian Manchester. The most famous, **Villa Tugendhat**, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its functionalist beauty shares a garden with the Secessionist **villa, Löw-Beer**, hosting the "Jews in Moravia" exhibition. It bears witness of the life of the

Jewish community and you will see rare artifacts like a Jewish tombstone from 1411. Nearby, **Villa Stiassni**, once a symbol of luxury, shares a tragic fate with its inhabitants, many of whom perished or fled Nazi persecution.

gotobrna.cz/ni-kam-v-brne/to-je-zidovske-brno

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BŘECLAV: DESTRUCTION AND RENEWAL

The nooks of quiet streets and quaint houses clustered in the Jewish quarter have endured time, floods, war, and modernization. Břeclav's Jewish quarter offers discoveries, thanks to locals restoring Jewish heritage. The Jewish **ceremonial hall**, a local architectural gem, has undergone deserved renovation. Reflect on the

illustrious Kuffner family, renowned for their sugar refinery, once the largest in the Habsburg Monarchy; their tomb can be found in the local cemetery. Visit the reconstructed **synagogue** for the permanent exhibition "Jewish Břeclav." For guidance, visit the former Jewish elementary school (until 1923), now a local information center.

dobreclavi.cz/mista/synagoga

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DOLNÍ KOUNICE: SYNAGOGUE'S TALES

This picturesque wine town harbors the Rosa coeli monastery and valuable Jewish landmarks. Visit one of Moravia's oldest **synagogues!** It often hosts cultural events, reconnecting visitors to the roots. In 2023, a "bat mitzvah" ceremony took place here for a daughter of an American family with Czech ancestry. Another poignant tale is that

of Ruth Kopečková, the sole Jewish survivor in Kounice during World War II. Upon her return, she personally financed a memorial plaque for Kounice's Holocaust victims. The local Jewish **cemetery** sits atop a slight incline, offering not only a mysterious atmosphere but also a beautiful view of the town.

dolnikounice.cz/synagoga/ds-4774



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LOMNICE U TIŠNOVA: GENIUS LOCI

The picturesque Lomnice, a hidden gem of South Moravia boasts a castle, a baroque square, a statue of the beer king Gambrinus, and the Jára Cimrman trail. Jewish residents left their mark here, turning Lomnice into a major textile center. Only two members of the community survived the wartime hardships. Nevertheless, this charming

place is a perfect destination for tracing Jewish heritage. Outside, you can see the former Jewish school, also the rabbi's residence. The local **synagogue** often hosts exhibitions and diverse cultural events. The oldest preserved tombstone in the Lomnice "house of life" (as Hebrew calls the cemetery) dates back to 1716.

lomnice.cz/synagoga/d-38334



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MIKULOV: CENTER OF JEWISH MORAVIA

For centuries, Mikulov was the heart of Jewish life in Moravia, benefiting from its strategic location between Brno and Vienna. Today, traces of its ancient glory come alive. Once boasting 12 synagogues, only the 16th-century Upper **Synagogue** remains. Stroll through centuries in the local **cemetery** with over 4,000 tombstones, the oldest from the

17th century and the youngest from 1948. Visit the ritual bath, **mikveh**, and the original houses in the Jewish quarter. The heritage revives thanks to locals and Jewish culture enthusiasts. Mikulov's information center offers a diverse range of guided tours and special events like the Days of Jewish Culture.

mikulov.cz/turista/sluzby/turisticke-cile/pamatky-zidovske-komunity



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STRÁŽNICE: HEAVEN IN THE SYNAGOGUE

Strážnice offers more than folk traditions, a renowned open-air museum, and delightful Moravian wine—it also boasts a rich Jewish history. Remnants of the former Jewish community include a **synagogue**, a Jewish **cemetery**, and a ritual bath, **mikveh**, uncovered by a local historian. The synagogue now serves as a concert and exhibition hall with Jewish

themes. As you enter, look up to the starry sky. Outside, find sundials on the façade. The exhibition "They Lived Among Us" shares stories of the local Jewish community. What sets Strážnice apart? All three sites—the synagogue, cemetery, and mikveh—are conveniently located together.

straznice-mesto.cz/synagoga/ms-30980



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SVITÁVKA: LÖW-BEER VILLAS

The grand Art Nouveau **Löw-Beer Villa**, resembling a castle, stands as a testament to the family that transformed the village with their entrepreneurial spirit. This villa served as both their business headquarters and home, linking Svitávka to Brno's Tugendhat Villa. The industrious family's woolen goods brought them wealth and employment and social securities to the

village. Admire the elegant marble staircase, brocade walls, fireplace, and billiards room. Today, it hosts exhibitions on the Löw-Beer legacy and a public library. Arrange a tour to explore. Also, stroll through the park with a greenhouse and check the smaller Löw-Beer Villa from the outside.

low-beerovy-vily.webnode.cz