

Kafka Reconfigured: Law, Literature, Politics TRAVEL GUIDE

November 22 2024

Masaryk University Law Faculty

MUNI
LAW

Accommodation

Brno offers a wide range of accommodation options. Individual accommodation can be found for example through the **Booking platform**. If you need any assistance in arranging accommodation or communicating with your accommodation provider, please do not hesitate to contact the organising committee.

Some suggestions

Hotel Avion (4*)

1.7 kilometers from the faculty

Česká 150/20

e-mail: reception@avion-hotel.cz

tel.: +420 515 919 701

Hotel Continental (4*)

1.4 kilometers from the faculty

Kounicova 680/6

e-mail: info@continentalbrno.cz

tel.: +420 541 519 609

Sono Hotel (4*)

450 meters from the faculty

Veveří 3219/113

e-mail: recepce@hotelsono.cz

tel.: +420 511 189 790

„The various forms of despair at the various stations on the road.“

Franz Kafka; The Blue Octavo Notebooks

Transport Information

Brno has a smaller airport of its own, but there are several international airports nearby that offer convenient access to the city. We recommend traveling via Vienna International Airport, as the connections to Brno are the most convenient.

1. Brno–Tuřany Airport (BRQ) – Brno City Center

Bus no. E76 goes every 30 minutes, duration approx. 18 minutes, first bus departs at 5:06, last bus departs at 22:36 p.m., stops at Brno Main Train Station.

2. Vienna International Airport (VIE) – Brno City Center

From Vienna Airport to Brno there are many direct connections, either by train (operated by Gepard Express and RegioJet) or by bus (operated by FlixBus and RegioJet). The journey takes approximately two hours.

It is also possible to transfer at Vienna Central Station, from where trains of the Austrian National Carrier and the Czech National Carrier operate. There are RailJet trains from the Airport to Vienna Central Station every 30 minutes and the journey takes approximately 15 minutes. The train journey between Vienna and Brno takes about 85 minutes.

3. Václav Havel Airport Prague (PRG) – Brno City Center

Direct buses from Prague International Airport are operated by FlixBus, with the journey taking just over three hours. With a transfer at Florenc Bus Station, RegioJet also operates.

Airport Express buses run to Wilson Railway Station, with a journey time of forty minutes. Buses run every quarter of an hour. The price of the airport shuttle in Prague is 100 CZK (approx. 4 EUR). Trains of the Czech National Carrier and Regiojet then run from Wilson Railway Station to Brno. The journey between Prague and Brno should take two and a half hours.

4. M. R. Štefánik Airport Bratislava (BTS) – Brno City Center

There is no direct bus from Bratislava International Airport to Brno. With one transfer at Vienna Central Bus Station (VIB), it is possible to travel by FlixBus. The journey with a transfer (90 minutes) takes between four and five hours.

It is also possible to transfer at Bratislava Central Station, which is served by line 61 from the airport (price €1, journey time approx. 30 minutes and buses run every 8 minutes), from which trains of the Czech National Carrier and RegioJet run to Brno. The train journey from Bratislava Central Station to Brno takes about 90 minutes.

5. Other methods of transport to Brno

For all other modes of transport, the [IDOS web portal](#) is the best option. It allows you to plan your journey across all public transport in the Czech Republic.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your travel plans, please don't hesitate to contact the members of the Organizing Committee.

6. Brno public transport

Tickets for public transport can be purchased directly in any vehicle (tram or bus) by [simply tapping a credit card](#). Alternatively, you can buy paper tickets from vending machines or at newspaper stands. Be sure to mark these immediately after boarding the vehicle.

Regular tickets cost 20 CZK for 15 minutes (including any transfers) and 25 CZK for 60 minutes (including any transfers). These tickets are valid on all forms of transport, including trams, buses, and trolleybuses. From 23:00 to 5:00, public transport operates on a night schedule, with special night bus lines stopping at the Main Train Station every hour.

Other useful information

Security and emergency

Brno is in general a safe place. It possesses a low crime rate and local people are often willing to assist tourists. That being said, some degree of caution is still necessary. Standard precautions such as avoiding desolate areas late at night and being aware of your belongings to prevent pickpocketing is advised. As long as you practice general safety measures, your trip to Brno should be enjoyable and worry-free.

The universal phone number for any kind of emergency is 112 (operators speak English).

Currency and prices

Local currency is the Czech Crown (CZK). Normally, the rate is in the range of 24-26 CZK / 1 EUR)

Typically, only CZK is accepted in shops, restaurants, and by taxi drivers. However, it is usually possible to pay with most major credit and debit cards, such as Visa and MasterCard. ATMs are relatively common in the city center and operate 24/7. Most major European banks have ATMs available.

Meals and refreshments

Speakers will be served a buffet lunch and there will also be coffee breaks at the Faculty throughout the workshop.

Brno is a prominent European hub for cafés, especially for those who appreciate specialty coffee. If you're a coffee lover, be sure to visit at least two or three of the city's renowned cafés to truly experience its vibrant coffee culture. We can recommend several interesting spots. **The Piknik Box café**, located in the Björnson Gardens area, is very close to the faculty. It's the nearest option, though it's a stand in a park, so we particularly recommend it in good weather. A bit further from



the faculty, about 600 meters away, are **Komár Café** and **Kafec Brno Úvoz**. Closer to the city center, you'll find **Buchta B**, **Punkt**, **Pikola**, **Skog**, and **Monogram Espresso Bar**. However, the options for enjoying a good cup of coffee are nearly endless.

Even if you're not a coffee enthusiast, Brno has plenty of options for refreshment. The city center is filled with countless restaurants offering a variety of cuisines. For a curated list of interesting places to eat, we recommend visiting the **Go to Brno page**. For vegetarian and vegan options, try **Fryends bistro** or **Vegalité**, while **Má Hostina** restaurant offers paleo dining. The **Tři Ocásci** social cooperative, which runs a pastry shop, specializes in fair trade snacks. A large number of restaurants in Brno also offer gluten-free meals.

Since you're visiting the Czech Republic, you're likely expecting a vibrant nightlife centered around bars and pubs. Brno is no exception, offering a wide variety of venues where you can enjoy a beer or a drink in the evening. For beer enthusiasts, we recommend the **Hostinec U Bláhovky**, conveniently located close to the faculty. Closer to the city center, you'll find pubs like **U Tomana**, **Na Stojáka**, **Pivnice U Čápa**, **Stopkova Plzeňská Pivnice**, and **Lokál u Caipla**. If beer isn't your preference and you're looking for other types of evening refreshments, we suggest checking out **Bar, který neexistuje** or **Cubana**—both located in the city center. Please note that in the Czech Republic, bars and pubs do not allow smoking indoors. However, if you like shisha, we can recommend **Queen** or **Slast**.

Internet

Wireless connection – Faculty of Law is covered by *Eduroam* wireless network. Please, note that the network is accessible only for researchers, teachers, students and staff from institutions participating in the *Eduroam* project.

Further, the participants may be provided with uniquely generated login credentials for access to the wireless network on the premises of the Faculty of Law, if necessary.

Power plugs

If you are bringing any electronic devices with you from the UK or overseas, you might need a power adaptor. The standard power plug for the Czech Republic is the French type E (a two-pin plug) or Europlug or CEE 7/17 standard. In most sockets we can use them interchangeably.

Map

An interactive map of Brno can be found at: <https://www.muni.cz/muniverse>

Faculty of Law

The **Faculty of Law**, part of Masaryk University, is housed in a historically significant building that exemplifies early 20th-century architecture. The faculty was established in 1919, just after the university's founding, and its home reflects a blend of classical and modern design elements, highlighting its role as a cornerstone of legal education in the Czech Republic.



The original building, constructed in the late 1920s, is a notable example of academic architecture from the interwar period. Designed with a grand, neoclassical façade, it features symmetrical lines, decorative columns, and a prominent entrance that underscore the building's importance and the esteem in which legal education is held. The structure was designed to accommodate the growing needs of the university and its expanding student body, integrating spaces for lectures, seminars, and administrative functions.

Throughout its history, the building has undergone several renovations to modernize its facilities while preserving its architectural integrity. The most significant updates have included the addition of state-of-the-art classrooms, modern research labs, and improved library facilities, all aimed at enhancing the learning environment for students and faculty. Despite these updates, the building retains its historical charm and continues to serve as a symbol of the faculty's enduring legacy.



As an institution, the Faculty of Law is distinguished by its commitment to research and scholarly excellence. It hosts several research centers and institutes focused on different areas of legal study, contributing significantly to legal theory, policy-making, and practice. The faculty maintains robust connections with legal professionals and academic institutions

worldwide, fostering a dynamic environment of intellectual exchange and collaboration. This emphasis on research and professional engagement ensures that the faculty remains at the cutting edge of legal education and continues to influence the development of legal practice and jurisprudence.

Other iconic sites in Brno

Tugendhat Villa

Designed by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and completed in 1930, it exemplifies the International Style with its clean lines, open spaces, and use of industrial materials like steel and glass. The villa is renowned for its innovative design, including a large glass wall that opens to connect the interior with the garden. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Villa Tugendhat remains an iconic symbol of 20th-century architecture and a testament to modernist ideals of functionality and minimalism.



Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul

Perched atop Petrov Hill, its twin spires dominate the city's skyline. The cathedral's origins date back to the 12th century, though much of its current design was completed in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Inside, visitors find stunning stained glass windows and intricate altarpieces. The cathedral also holds historical significance, having withstood the siege of Brno in 1645 during the Thirty Years' War. It remains a prominent symbol of Brno's cultural and religious heritage.



Špilberk Castle

Špilberk Castle is a historic fortress with roots dating back to the 13th century. Originally built as a royal castle, it later became a notorious prison during the Habsburg rule, housing political prisoners and revolutionaries. Today, Špilberk serves as a museum and cultural center, showcasing exhibitions on Brno's history and the castle's past. Its imposing walls and scenic views make it a



popular tourist attraction, while its complex history reflects the evolution of Brno from a medieval town to a modern city.

Old Town Hall

The Old Town Hall is the city's oldest secular building, dating back to the 13th century. It is famous for its unique architectural features, including a twisted Gothic tower and the Brno Dragon, a symbol of the city, displayed in its entrance hall. The building once served as the administrative center of Brno but is now a cultural venue hosting exhibitions and events. Visitors can climb the tower for panoramic views of the city. The Old Town Hall is a beloved historical landmark that reflects Brno's medieval heritage and civic pride.



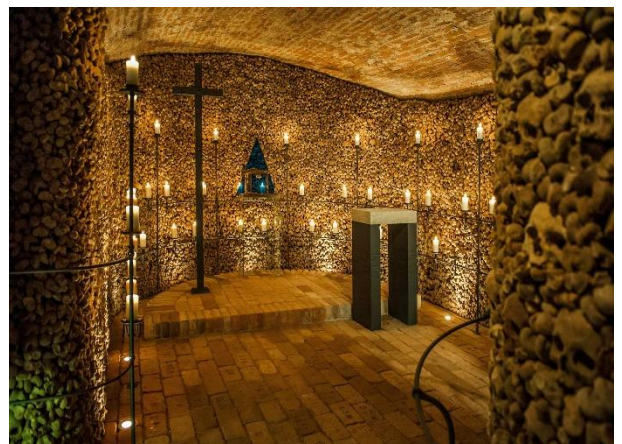
Water Tanks

The Brno underground water reservoirs, located beneath Žlutý kopec, are a unique feat of 19th-century engineering. Built in the 1870s, these massive brick tanks were designed to supply clean water to the growing city. Abandoned for decades, they were rediscovered and opened to the public in recent years. The reservoirs consist of three vast, cathedral-like chambers with high arches, showcasing impressive craftsmanship. Now a popular tourist attraction, they offer guided tours, giving visitors a glimpse into Brno's hidden industrial past and the city's efforts to preserve its historical infrastructure.



Ossuary of St. James

The Ossuary of St. James in Brno is the second largest in Europe, holding the remains of over 50,000 people. Discovered beneath St. James' Church in 2001, the ossuary dates back to the 17th century and was used to accommodate the dead when local cemeteries became overcrowded. Inside, neatly arranged stacks of human bones and skulls create a haunting yet solemn atmosphere. Today, the ossuary is open to the public, offering a



poignant reminder of the city's history, the effects of plagues and wars, and the reverence for the deceased in past centuries.

Czech Constitutional Court

The building of the Czech Constitutional Court, is an elegant example of neo-Renaissance architecture. Originally constructed in the late 19th century, it was initially used as the Provincial Chamber of Moravia. The structure features a grand façade, with intricate detailing and a stately presence befitting its current role as the seat of the country's highest judicial body. Since 1991, it has housed the Constitutional Court, which ensures the protection of constitutional principles and human rights in the Czech Republic. The building symbolizes the rule of law and the nation's commitment to justice.



Faculty of Informatics

The current Faculty of Informatics building at Masaryk University in Brno was originally known as the Research Institutes Building. Constructed in the late 1970s, the building was initially designed to house various scientific and research institutes, reflecting the rapid expansion of technical and scientific fields in Czechoslovakia during that period. Its functionalist design emphasized practicality, with large, adaptable spaces suited for laboratories, offices, and collaborative research work.



Zeman Café

Zeman Café is a historically significant café known for its striking functionalist design. Designed by the renowned architect Bohuslav Fuchs and completed in 1926, it became an iconic symbol of modernist architecture in the city. The building features clean lines, open spaces, and large glass windows, typical of the functionalist style. Once a popular meeting place for intellectuals and artists, Zeman Café played a key role in Brno's cultural life during the interwar period. Although it closed for some time, the café has been restored and reopened, continuing its legacy as a cultural and architectural landmark.



Moravian Gallery

The Moravian Gallery in Brno is the second-largest art museum in the Czech Republic, offering a diverse collection of fine arts, applied arts, and design. Established in 1961, the gallery spans multiple historic buildings, including the Pražák Palace, the Governor's Palace, and the Museum of Applied Arts. Its extensive collection ranges from medieval art to contemporary works, showcasing both Czech and international artists. The Moravian Gallery also hosts the prestigious Brno Biennial, focusing on graphic design and visual communication. As a key cultural institution, it plays a vital role in promoting art and design in the region. Among the most famous works in the collection of the Moravian Gallery we can undoubtedly mention the painting *Medusa* by the Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens.



Zoo Brno

Zoo Brno, located on the outskirts of the city near the Brno Reservoir, was established in 1953 and has since become a popular family destination. Covering over 65 hectares, it is home to more than 1,800 animals from 400 species, including lions, giraffes, polar bears, and various endangered species. The zoo focuses on conservation, education, and breeding programs, with particular attention to protecting rare species like snow leopards and Amur tigers. Zoo Brno offers visitors interactive exhibits, a petting zoo, and beautiful natural surroundings, making it a key attraction for both locals and tourists.



Arnold Villa

Arnold Villa, located in Brno, is a notable example of early 19th-century architecture, designed by the prominent architect Josef Arnold. Completed in 1862, the villa is celebrated for its elegant Art Nouveau style, characterized by intricate ornamental details, curved lines, and a harmonious integration with its surroundings. The building originally served as a private residence and has since been recognized for its architectural significance. Its design reflects the artistic and cultural trends of the



time, making it an important landmark in Brno's architectural heritage.

Agudas Achim Synagogue

The Agudas Achim Synagogue is the only remaining active synagogue in the city. Built in 1936, it was designed by great architect Otto Eisler in a modernist style, reflecting the architectural trends of the time. The synagogue survived World War II, despite the persecution of the Jewish community, and remains an important place of worship and cultural significance for Brno's Jewish community today. Its simple yet elegant design symbolizes resilience and continuity, making it a key historical and religious site in the city.



Mahen Theatre

Mahen Theatre is one of the oldest theaters in the Czech Republic. Opened in 1882, it was originally named the City Theatre and became the first theater in Europe to be illuminated by electric lighting, thanks to the pioneering work of inventor Thomas Edison. Designed by Viennese architects Fellner and Helmer in a neo-Renaissance style, the building features ornate interiors and a grand façade. Today, Mahen Theatre is part of the National Theatre Brno and hosts drama performances, continuing its legacy as a vital cultural institution in the city.



Museum of Romani Culture

The Museum of Romani Culture in Brno, established in 1991, is the only institution of its kind in the Europe dedicated to preserving and promoting the history, culture, and traditions of the Romani people. The museum houses a diverse collection of artifacts, artworks, photographs, and documents that showcase Romani heritage, from their origins in India to their migration across Europe. Exhibitions cover various aspects of Romani life, including music, crafts, language, and their struggles during the Holocaust. The museum plays an important role in fostering understanding and appreciation of Romani culture and history.



Moravian Library

The Moravian Library, is one of the largest libraries in the Czech Republic. Founded in 1808, it serves as a major research and public library with a collection of over 4 million volumes, including rare manuscripts, historical prints, and modern publications. The library specializes in Moravian history, culture, and literature but also houses a wide range of international works. Its modern building, opened in 2001, offers extensive reading rooms and research facilities.



Brno Observatory

The Brno Observatory and Planetarium, located on Kraví Hora hill, is a major center for science and education in the city. Founded in 1954, it offers interactive exhibits and programs focused on astronomy, astrophysics, and natural sciences. The observatory features state-of-the-art telescopes for stargazing, a modern planetarium with immersive 3D projections, and exhibitions that engage visitors with the wonders of the universe. It is a popular destination for both families and science enthusiasts, promoting public understanding of space and science through lectures, workshops, and special events.



Church of St. James

St. James' Church is a significant Gothic landmark, dating back to the 13th century. Its tall, slender tower, completed in the 16th century, dominates the city's skyline. The church is known for its beautiful Gothic architecture, with intricate stone carvings and stained glass windows. Inside, it houses notable artworks, including a Baroque main altar and medieval sculptures. St. James' Church is not only a place of worship but also a key historical and architectural treasure in Brno.



10-Z Bunker

The 10-Z Bunker is a Cold War-era nuclear fallout shelter, originally constructed during World War II as an air raid shelter by Nazi Germany. Later, it was repurposed during the Cold War by Czechoslovakia to protect key government officials in the event of a nuclear attack. Hidden beneath Špilberk Hill, this underground bunker was classified as "Top Secret" (hence the "10-Z" designation) and remained operational until 1993. Today, it serves as a museum



and interactive exhibition, where visitors can explore the bunker's history, see original equipment, and experience life in a Cold War-era shelter.

Old City Prison

The Old City Prison on Cejl Street is a grim historical site with a dark past. Originally part of a large complex used for various purposes, including as a workhouse and poorhouse, it became notorious as a prison during the 18th century. Under Nazi occupation during World War II and later during the communist regime, it was used as a detention center for political prisoners, where many were



subjected to harsh conditions, torture, and executions. Today, the prison stands as a stark reminder of Brno's troubled history, with efforts underway to preserve it as a memorial and space for reflection on the abuses of totalitarian regimes.

Contact Information

- If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the workshop organizers:
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