



# HRONOV





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MĚSTO  
HRONOV



# HRONOV

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The town of Hronov is situated in the picturesque nature of the foothills of the Eagle Mountains, in the region of Eastern Bohemia. With a population of around 6,000, it provides a harmonious environment, rich history and varied cultural events. The history of Hronov includes some prominent figures of Czech culture, such as siblings Čapek and Egon Hostovský. The leading Hronov native is a writer and politician with both artistic and civic authority, Alois Jirásek.

The town's history goes back a long way, with the first written mention dating back to 1359. Among the important architectural monuments of the city are the Church of All Saints with a meditation garden and the birth house of Alois Jirásek, which now serves as a museum and preserves The Jirásek's legacy. The theatre history of the town reminds of the Jirásek Theatre building dominating the Square of the Czechoslovak Army. The childhood of the Čapek siblings reminds a carefully reconstructed Old Paper Mill - Čapek's Mill.

Every year, the unique atmosphere of the theatre world comes to life in Hronov when the town comes alive with Jirásek's Hronov, the oldest amateur theatre festival on the European continent. This prestigious event, which attracts artists and theatre lovers, highlights the cultural significance of Hronov and its involvement in contemporary artistic life.

Hronov is also the starting point for tourists who want to discover the beauty of the Klodzko border, the power of the Table Mountains and the stunning views of the countryside. The city provides comfortable accommodation and welcoming services, making it an ideal destination for both visitors looking for a quiet place to relax and adventurers looking for an active holiday filled with experiences and new discoveries.







# THE CZECHOSLOVAK ARMY SQUARE

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The historic and contemporary town centre is made up of the Square of the Czechoslovak Army. This social and cultural heart of Hronov, with its large variable space, allows many public events, programmes, markets and open-air festivals to take place.

Dominating the square on the west side is the multipurpose building of the Jirásek Theatre with elements of neoclassicism. It is a cultural monument that ranks as one of the most important examples of modern architecture of interwar Czechoslovakia.

Nearby, the theatre opens with a view of the corner Neo-Renaissance elementary school building built at the beginning of the 20th century boasting an elegant facade decorated with rich ornaments or reliefs and a corner clock tower. On the opposite side of the square, the newly reconstructed town hall building houses the town office. Bright and clear interiors with surroundings adapted for parking and wheelchair access provide citizens with welcoming access to the building.

The overall modernization of the Czechoslovak Army Square took place in 2009 and 2010 and included the restoration of sidewalks and staircases using natural materials. The space in front of Josef Čapek's Hall offers an area usable for a summer restaurant as well as music production. The square intended as a meeting place is underlined by the encapsulated benches, which will be transformed in the evening by sublime illumination and subtle colour. Hronov uses gifts from the past to create a modern social environment.

The centre of the square is dominated by a Marian Baroque sculpture with a sandstone balustrade dating back to 1725. Its picture been used on the city seal as an urban emblem in the past. You can have a rest on several benches in the shade of greenery.

# ALOIS JIRÁSEK

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Alois Jirásek, a prominent Czech writer and playwright, has a firm place in the history of Hronov. He was born here in 1851 as a descendant of an old peasant family, and lived here his early childhood and his school years in a wide family with nine children. In Hronov he played amateur theatre for the first time, he lived his first great love and also his civic attitudes took shape. With a perceptive and shrewd writer's soul, he captured the region in many memories, stories, novels and plays e.g. there is a four-part chronicle "U nás" from the time of the National Revival.

Jirásek's relationship with Hronov remained strong throughout his life and he was repeatedly happy to return here. The last one returned on the road, and so Jirásek's grave can be visited in the local cemetery. In the nearby park there is a Jirásek's bronze sculpture in larger-than-life size since 1961. The writer, with his head slightly bowed, his book under his arm, his long coat and a hat, is also on course for contemporary readers and viewers.





## ALOIS JIRÁSEK'S BIRTH HOUSE

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Alois Jirásek's birth house in Hronov is located in Jirásek Street. A timbered cottage with a shingle roof from the 18th century, folk furniture and the atmosphere of a home bakery witnessed not only the writer's childhood but also his first literary achievements.

Jirásek's grandfather, and later on the adjacent orchard Jirásek's father, used the boiling mineral water called "Hronovka" and "Regnerka" to set up a primitive spa. Today, Alois Jirásek's Park with a renewed mineral water spring is situated there. The building is available to the public year-round as a museum exhibition that brings the life of the writer, his family environment, creation and relevance to Czech literature. It is a place where the past meets the present, and where visitors notionally enter into events long gone.

# OLD & PAPER MILL & ČAPEK'S MILL

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The Čapek's Mill, also known as the Old Paper Mill, is a historic building on the banks of the river Metuje, whose origins date back to the early 19th century, when it served as a water-powered paper mill. In the middle of the 19th century, its use changed to a water mill and in the late 19th century it was sold to a new owner - Karl Novotny, grandfather of the famous siblings Helena, Josef and Karel Čapek. It remained in the family's possessions until the early 20th century.

The three children of Antonin Čapek M.D. spent their holidays under the roof of their grandparents of their mom in Hronov, neither of them ever forgot. They couldn't. The grandmother Helena's influence was stirred through a strong pull into children's souls with folk rhymes, fairy tales and songs, as well as a personal role model of her grandmother's life, and marked the creation of siblings in many ways.

After extensive renovation, the building has been opened to the public since 2022 as a museum exhibition bringing the childhood of the Čapek's siblings, their creation for children, as well as the history of paper production. Visitors can see the original water wheel, stationery machines and learn about technologies used to make paper in the past. The programmes include courses, hand-made paper, exhibitions, lectures, literary evenings and theatre workshops.









# THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

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Historically, the oldest monument in Hronov is the Church of All Saints located on an elevated site approximately 250 meters south of the Czechoslovakian Army Square. Written sources record it as early as 1359 as a parish church. During the Thirty Years' War in the 17th century, it was significantly damaged and only the Gothic priesthood was preserved from its original structure. Baroque reconstructions in the 18th century gave a new face to this then central point of the city. A new nave was also built then. At present, the church is regularly used for both worship and concert services. Adjacent to the Church of All Saints is one of the city's dominant, a late Renaissance bell tower from the 17th century with a wooden roof topped by a spike shaped like an octagonal needle.

# MEDITATION GARDEN

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Around the Church of All Saints on the site of the original cemetery, the Meditation Rosary Garden was created, a place for relaxation and stopping. Repaired roads, installed benches, park landscaping make for a pleasant stroll as well as a sit-in. Several restored tombstones remind of figures from the Jirásek's revival chronicle "U nás".

A distinctive natural feature is mature trees, some remembering the 19th century. In addition to known species, these are also less common, such as the Canadian Tsuga, tulip-flowered lily, Chinese meta-sequoia, and giant redwood. The garden features artfully crafted scenes from the life of Jesus Christ in 20 paintings by regional authors - the painter Eva Skořepová and the artistic blacksmith Peter Hartmann.



# THE JIRÁSEK THEATRE

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The Jirásek Theatre in Hronov is an important cultural institution with a rich history and serves as a platform for the presentation of theatrical plays and other cultural programmes.

The theatre was named after the famous writer and Hronov native Alois Jirásek, whose play "The Lantern" has become a cult performance of the local amateur actors. The idea of building a theatre came about on the Master's 70th birthday. Jirásek personally blessed the construction, but unfortunately the opening in 1930 didn't live to see it.



The architecturally imposing building with its four columns and rich decor, offers an intimate atmosphere and has become an important centre of regional culture. During the year there are professional and amateur performances, concerts, lectures and exhibitions. Therefore, the theatre promotes not only the art, but also the social life of the town. There is a clear and distinctive Czech theatrical footprint in Hronov in which the theatre serves as a meeting place and inspiration for artists and visitors.



# FESTIVAL JIRÁSKŮV HRONOV

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Jirásek's Hronov, a prestigious national amateur theatre festival with international participation, is an annual celebration of the performing arts. This festival was named after the famous native Alois Jirásek. It is among the oldest of its kind in Europe, as its history dates back to 1931 and has not been interrupted until now. At the beginning of August, the scene comes alive here with colourful productions of dramatic, movement and experimental theatre.

The rich programme of the festival brings carefully selected performances from national shows and inspiration from professional performances and foreign productions. Spectators can enjoy diverse theatrical experiences, which also include educational seminars, workshops, discussion clubs and exhibitions. This event has become an important meeting place for amateur and professional actors who share their experience and enthusiasm for the arts.

Jirásek's Hronov is not only a festival of theatrical talent, but also a cultural forum where theatre enthusiasts and experts can inspire and enrich each other. More than 1,000 participants come to Hronov every year to experience the unique event, a holiday for theatre lovers.





## SPORT IN HRONOV

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The pride of the town Hronov is a renovated multipurpose sports stadium including a football pitch, an artificial turf field, volleyball courts, a multipurpose artificial surface field, an athletic oval, a 150-seat grandstand, changing rooms and a children's playground. The area offers a second modern space to host large-scale sports, cultural and entertainment events.

A smaller playground near a primary school so-called "Dolíček", provides sports facilities not only for school children but also for the general public free. On an artificial surface, you can play small football, basketball, volleyball or jog shorter distances.





There is an indoor sports arena Wikow arena with a grandstand for 500 spectators and a total capacity of up to 900 people. All sports venues are widely used by sports clubs and other clubs. Hronov offers rich facilities for tourists. There is a comfortably equipped campsite in Velký Dřevíč.

There are many hiking trails like "The Way of the Dog Voříšek", "Man, look around you" or Czechoslovak fortification 1935-1938 close to Hronov.





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