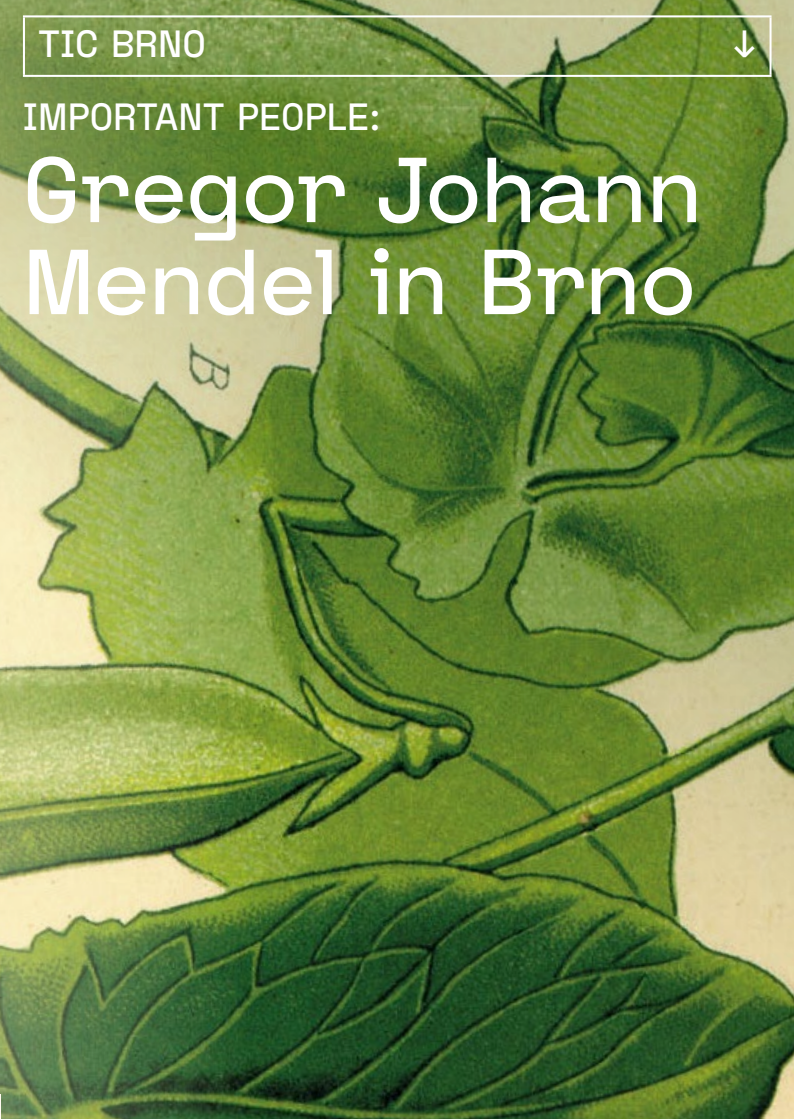
TIC BRNO

IMPORTANT PEOPLE:

Gregor Johann Mendel in Brno



Gregor Johann Mendel

The "Father of Genetics" and an icon of modern biology is one of the most important personalities of the history of Brno.

Mendel was born on July 20, 1822, on the Moravian-Silesian border, in the small village of Hynčice (Heinzendorf in German), close to the town of Nový Jičín. He attended and finished grammar school (Gymnasium) in Opava and then he studied at the Philosophical Faculty of the University of Olomouc. In 1843 he became a friar and joined the Augustinian Abbey of St. Thomas in Old Brno – he was given the monastic name Gregor.

In 1850 (at the age of 28), when working as a substitute teacher in Znojmo, he tried to pass exams at the University of Vienna to become a certified school teacher, but he failed. In 1851–53 he studied in Vienna: mathematics, physics, chemistry, botanics, zoology and palaeontology. After his return to Brno (in 1853) he started in 1856 with his experiments concerning crossbreeding of different varieties of pea plants and according to these experiments he formulated the three basic rules, which later came to be known as "Mendel's Laws of Inheritance". In 1866 he wrote his famous publication "Experiments on Plant Hybridization", which laid the foundation of modern genetics. In 1867 he was elected as abbot of the Augustinian Monastery, and besides this role he had some other functions, which was the reason for reducing his scientific work. Last ten years of life he spent in exhausting disputes with the Austrian-Hungarian government concerning special taxes on religious property. Mendel died in January 1884, at the age of 61, in Brno. Gregor Johann Mendel for sure belonged to the important personalities of the city even during his life, but only after his death the great worldwide contribution of his work for biology was recognized and appreciated.

Brno in Mendel's time

The city of Brno saw a lot of changes and it developed rapidly during Mendel's life. New buildings were constructed and some monasteries – after reforms of Joseph II – were more and more active in the field of eduaction and scientific research. The increasing interest in natural sciences in those days was illustrated also by high number of newly founded associations and clubs, of which G. J. Mendel was a member: e.g. Moravian-Silesian Society for Farming, Natural Science and National History, Natural History Club, Beekeepers Club (founded by Mendel), fruit growers', viticulture and gardeners' section of the Agriculture Society, and Zoological--Botanical Society. Mendel was also a member of Austrian Meteorological Society in Vienna, where he was regularly sending the results of his observations. The imprints of Gregor Johann Mendel are still visible in Brno until these days...



TIC BRNO offers unique souvenirs with themes from the G. J. Mendel. You can buy them at the tourist information centre on Zámečnická street or in the e-shop www.giftsfrombrno.cz.

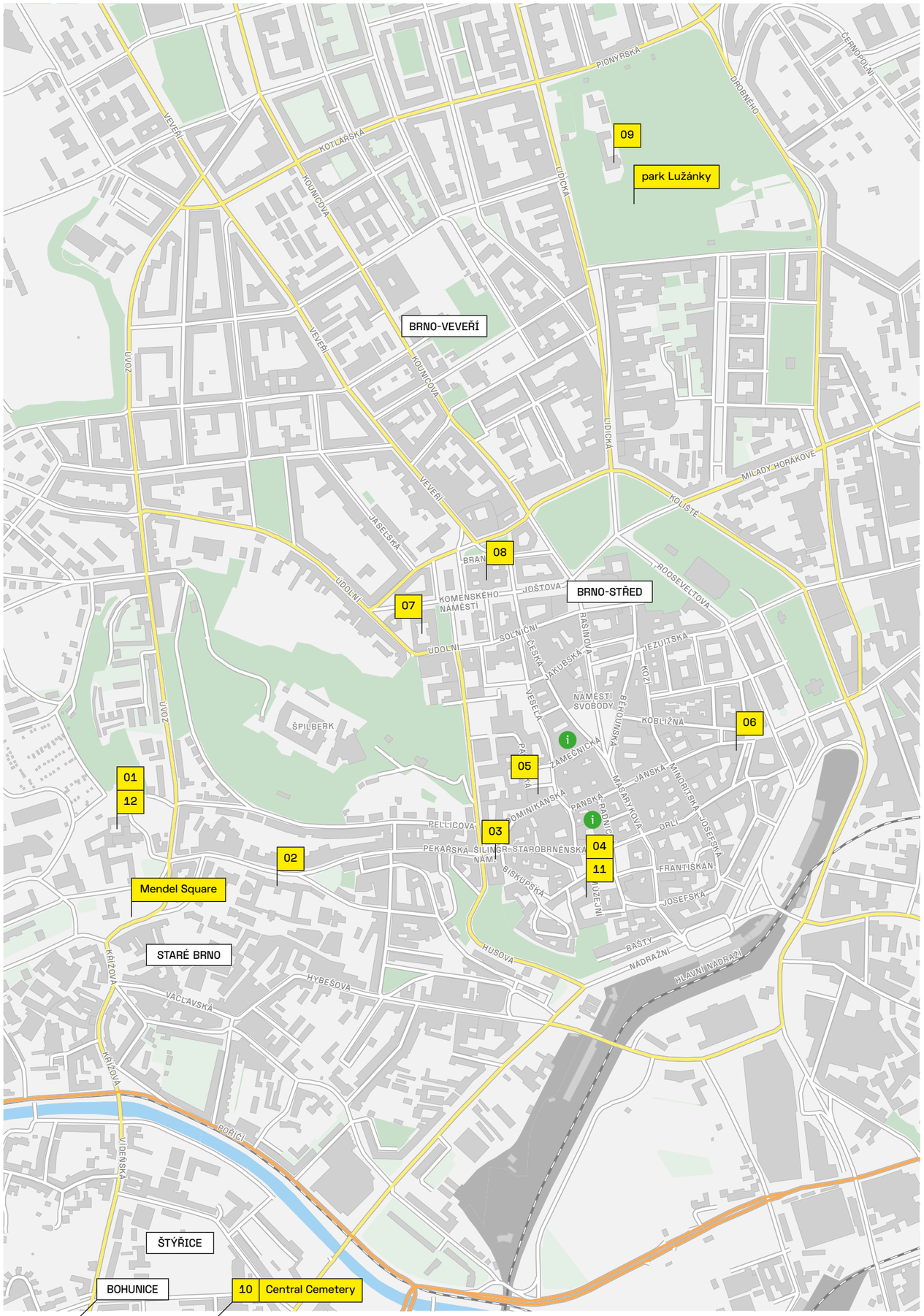
Brno commemorates Mendel's legacy

The father of genetics is commemorated in Brno on Mendel Day, National DNA Day, and during summer's Mendel Festival with its popular-science and music programme.

Mendel's greenhouse has been restored at the Augustinian abbey in Old Brno, and the nearby statue Peas by Jaromír Gargulák catches the imagination in Mendel Square.

Places associated with Gregor Johann Mendel's life are threaded together by the Mendel Trail – follow it and walk in his footsteps. Visit places associated with the life of this Brno giant, either on the trail or online in the game Mr Mendel's Code.

More information: mendel.brno.cz


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DOMINIKÁNSKÁ
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RADNICE
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HUSOVA
HYBEŠOVA
VÁCLAVSKÁ
KŘIŽOVÁ
VÍDEŇSKÁ
POŘÍČÍ
MLÁDY HORÁKOVÉ
KOLIŠTĚ
ROOSEVELTOVA
ŠPILBERK



AUGUSTINIAN ABBEY
MENDLOVO NÁMĚSTÍ

Old Brno Monastery was a centre of learning and progress in Mendel's time. G. J. Mendel joined the monastery as a novice in 1843 and lived here for more than 40 years. Besides monastic duties he could dedicate himslef also to scientific work and research here. In the monastery garden he hybridized different varieties of pea plants and by means of mathematic methods (statistics and combinatorics) he formulated rules for transfer of hereditary units. Behind the Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady was also a bee house built for him, where he bred bees. Since 1868 he was officially elevated into the function of abbot of the Old Brno Monastery (i.e. Augustinian Abbey).



ST. ANNE'S HOSPITAL
PEKAŘSKÁ 53

The Augustinian monks were always involved in charity work. Also young Mendel, after finishing his studies of theology in 1848, started to serve as a pastor for ill people in the St. Anne's Hospital. Here he met senior doctor Olexík, who introduced him into another branch of science – meteorology. On the other hand, the care for ill and suffering people was great stress for Mendel; in the end it was a cause of his collapse, so the abbot Napp decided to focus Mendel's attention on pedagogical career. Thus he opened new opportunities for young Mendel – leading later to his discoveries.



MUNICIPAL COURTYARD
ŠILINGROVO NÁMĚSTÍ 2

Since 1870 this building was a place of meetings and lectures of Natural Science Society members. Mendel was a vice-chairman and one of the most active members of this institution. The Municipal Courtyard stands in Šilingrovo náměstí (Šilingrovo Square), which was formerly called "Swine market". According to its name, until the middle of 19th century there was a market with pigs and other cattle here. After demolition of Brno gate and city walls in 1852, the very first condominium house in Brno was constructed here. This neo-Renaissance building, designed by famous Viennese architect Franz Fröhlich, started to be called Municipal Courtyard or Burgher's Palace. Since 2012 the building houses luxury hotel Barceló.



BISHOP'S COURT
MUZEJNÍ 1

Mendel was also active in Agriculture Society (housed in Bishop's Court – Biskupský dvůr), which was considered as a sort of Moravian Academy of Sciences. According to the pattern of foreign Academies this institution focused especially on introducing science findings into practice. The Academy initiated also the foundation of Francis' Museum (today Moravian Museum – Moravské zemské muzeum) and supported education in Brno. Mendel was a regular contributor to all sections of the Academy: agricultural, forestry, gardening, pomological, viticultural, beekeeping, meteorological, statistical and natural scientific.

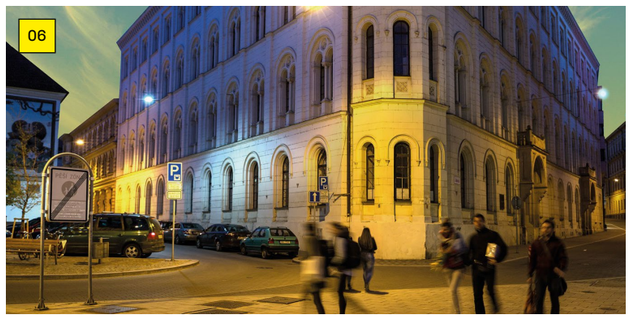


ST. MICHAEL CHURCH
DOMINIKÁNSKÉ NÁMĚSTÍ

The Seminary in Dominikánské náměstí (Dominican Square) was the school, where Mendel studied theology. In St. Michael Church next door he was consecrated priest, and he served his first church service here on 15 August 1847.

From around 1230 the St. Michael Church with surrounding land was property of the Dominican order, who built also monastery here – later used as a seat of Moravian Assembly.

During Thirty Years' War the church was damaged by Swedish army. The current Baroque building is work of architect Jan Křtitel Erna. Especially interesting part of the church is the Holy Sepulchre Chapel on southern side (in Dominikánská Street), built according to the pattern of chapel of the same name in Jerusalem.



GERMAN STATE REAL HIGH SCHOOL
JÁNSKÁ 22

This was the place where genetics was very probably discussed for the first time. Mendel presented his lectures concerning experiments in plant hybrids in this building at the February and March (in 1865) meetings of the Natural Science Society. Three-storeyed neo-Renaissance building with monumental stairs was built according to the plans of Viennese architect Ludwig Förster. Mendel taught at this school for fourteen years (1854–68), before being elected as abbot of Old Brno Monastery. As a substitute teacher he taught physics and natural history, and his students (and also colleagues) liked him. This was new type of modern school at that time – the education was focused on natural and technical sciences. The graduates of this school helped to develop industry not only in Moravia, but in the whole Habsburg Empire.



GERMAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
KOMENSKÉHO NÁMĚSTÍ 2

The capacity of the Municipal Courtyard was rather limited for the needs of the Natural Science Society – that is why Mendel's presentations were held in building of the German Technical University (today building of the Masaryk University). It was established in 1849, after relocation of Estates Academy from Olomouc. The proposals were made that the university would have German and Czech faculties, but this plans were never realized. So in 1899 another technical school was founded in the city of Brno – this time the Czech Technical Univeristy. The seat of the German Technical University was (since 1860) in the neoclassical building designed by Josef Arnold. This building is located in Komenského náměstí (Komenského Square, formerly Elizabeth Square), which was created in the middle of 19th century after demolition of city walls.



MORAVIAN LAND ASSEMBLY
JOŠTOVA 8

The scope of Mendel's activities was really wide, so you may not be surprised that since 1881 he was also the director of Moravian Mortgage Bank – its seat was at that time right in this building. Mendel's post in high financial management of this institution is commemorated by a memorial plaque on the building of Czech National Bank in Rooseveltova Street, where "his" bank was later relocated. The neo-Renaissance building where the Moravian Land Assembly would meet, in what is now Joštova Street, was designed by Anton Hefft and Robert Raschka. The building is monumental and it is the biggest edifice on the ring avenue lining the historical heart of the city. Today it is the seat of the Czech Constitutional Court (Ústavní soud České republiky).



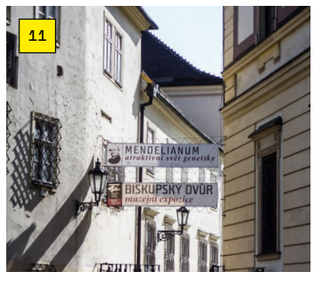
PAVILION IN LUŽÁNKY
LIDICKÁ 50

Mendel also had passion for gardening. As a respected expert he was invited to pomological and gardening exhibitions. The city park Lužánky was established in 1786 as one of the first public parks in Central Europe. To these days stands neo-Renaissance pavilion by Viennese architect Ludwig Förster (built in 1855) in the park centre; besides balls, concerts and festivals also various exhibitions were held here. Mendel often attended them as a judge. Today the pavilion, also known as "Casino", serves as the Centre for Leisure Time Activities for children and youth. In the years 1991–2012 there was an extensive renovation of the park (supervised by architect Ivar Otruba), giving it the present-day look.



CENTRAL CEMETERY,
AUGUSTINIAN TOMB
VÍDEŇSKÁ 94–96

Mendel died, after short but serious illness, in 1884, at the age of 61. The memorial service was held in Old Brno Basilica and was conducted by Leoš Janáček. Mendel was then buried at the Central Cemetery in Brno (Ústřední hřbitov) into the Augustinian tomb. The cemetery was established just two months before Mendel's death and so he was the very first Roman Catholic priest to be buried here. His contribution to science and especially to biology was fully appreciated only at the beginning of 20TH century, after his works were translated into English. The Central Cemetery was established along Vídeňská Street according to the design by professor Alois Prastorfer. It became a public cemetery for all inhabitants regardless of their parish, religion, social status, nationality or race.



MENDELIANUM
MUZEJNÍ 1

Everybody can try to become a scientist here in the Mendelianum! The exhibition presents Mendel as a personality and his works in the context of today's genetics and other branches of science. Thanks to its several-metre model of DNA it is possible to actively enter a cell or to explore gene expression. The museum also introduces Mendel's original laboratory and you can compare it to a present-day modern molecular laboratory with lots of instruments and interactive programmes. The Mendelianum is located on original historical premises of the Agriculture Society, where Mendel was a very active member for over thirty years. Right here he got support and inspiration for his world-famous research. Since 2016 the Mendelianum organizes the event called *Mendel Day*, supported by scientists from all over the world; this event should popularize and promote Mendel's legacy. The Moravian Museum has its seat in the Bishop's Court since 1818. In its permanent exhibitions it is possible to visit the exhibition "Fauna of Moravia" or to see an aquarium with freshwater fish.

WED–FRI	9AM–5PM	
SAT	10AM–5PM	
SUN	1PM–5PM	
Monday and Tuesday closed!		
www.mendelianum.cz		



MENDEL MUSEUM
MENDLOVO NÁMĚSTÍ 1A

The Mendel Museum is located in the complex of the Augustinian Abbey, where Mendel spent most of his life. The visitors can see the exhibitions called *"Gregor Johann Mendel – the story of a humble genius"* and *"Genetics: A Fascinating Journey into the Cell Nucleus"*. These exhibitions try to introduce the founder of genetics by modern way and to accentuate his versatile personality. The science enthusiasts can attend so called "*Mendel Lectures*" dedicated to various genetics and molecular biology experts. Other successful talks encompass sciences of both organic and inorganic matter or the humanities in the so-called *Seminar Series* or in the *Mendel Days*, a newly established annual autumn festival.

The museum's exterior consists of a garden with the preserved foundations of the greenhouse, where Mendel did his experiments with pea plants, as well as garden beds and a beehive. You can peep also into the meteorological station.

IV–X	TUE–SUN	10AM–6PM
XI—III	TUE–SUN	10AM–5PM
Monday closed!		
mendelmuseum.muni.cz		

TIC BRNO ←

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www.ticbrno.cz

www.gotobrno.cz

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