

Litoměřice



Let's follow the steps of Rizal's legacy and visit memorable places in one of the most beautiful towns of the Czech Republic, Litoměřice.

José Rizal stayed in Litoměřice from May 13–16, 1887. Here, he strengthened his extraordinary friendship with Ferdinand Blumentritt, whose studies and correspondence offered details about Rizal's life. Our journey begins in a bus and train station in Litoměřice.^[1] By the city walls, we head towards the Rizal-Blumentritt-Bastion,^[2] where a permanent exposition recalls the lives of both men as well as Philippine arts and crafts (opening times differ by season, keys may be requested from the Tourist Information Center at Litoměřice, Mírové Square 16, 9:00–18:00).

From there we proceed to the former house of Blumentritt on Dlouhá Street^[3] and, from this place, we head around the Church of All Saints, the Litoměřice Museum and to the Litoměřice Square, where the Salva Guarda Hotel and where a bust of J. Rizal can be found.^[4] Next we take a street around the Litoměřice Theatre to the José Rizal Park with its bust of Rizal^[5] enjoying a great view of the Dome Hill/Cathedral Hill. We proceed to the old train station,^[6] where Rizal and Blumentritt met after Rizal's arrival from Germany. This is visible from the city walls and now houses the Café called Káva s párou. A short distance away is the Labe River Bank,^[7] close to where the rivers Ohře and Labe meet.

We then go up to the Bishop's Palace and walk around the Cathedral.^[8] Walk to Krupka Street where a park dedicated to the late former Czech President Václav Havel is located then walk to the Secondary School where Blumentritt taught.^[9] His bust can be found across the school.

We end our journey at Peace Mírové Square next to the former Hotel Krebs, where Rizal stayed with Maximo Viola.^[10]

More information about the remarkable places of the town and its surroundings, as well as places to eat and stay, can be found at the Tourist Information Center at the Square, under the Look-out Chalice Tower.

1887



After the publication of his novel *Noli Me Tangere*, Rizal planned to visit important places in Europe before returning to his hometown of Calamba, in the province of Laguna. His friend and compatriot Maximo Viola was his traveling companion. Rizal had received his brother Paciano's remittance of 1,000 pesos sent through renowned Filipino painter Juan Luna from Paris. Rizal and Viola visited Potsdam, Berlin, Dresden before proceeding to Litoměřice (Leitmeritz).

Friday, 13 May 1887

Rizal and Viola arrived at Litoměřice at 1:30 in the afternoon. They were met at the station^[6] by Blumentritt and his family: wife Rosa and their children Dora, Konrad, and Fritz. Rizal stayed at Room 12 in Krebs Hotel.^[10] At their home, Rosa prepared Filipino dishes.

Saturday, 14 May 1887

Rizal and Viola attended the session of the Board of Directors of the Tourist Club in Leitmeritz through the invitation of Blumentritt, who was its Club Secretary. They were cordially received by the President of the Club, Josef Krombholz. Rizal delivered an extemporaneous speech in fluent German, which impressed the audience.

Sunday, 15 May 1887

With Blumentritt as their guide, Rizal and Viola visited the churches (possibly to attend mass as Blumentritt was a devout Catholic), the Bishop's Palace^[8] and other important buildings of the town.^[5] Rizal also met with eminent naturalist Robert Klutschak and Karl Czepelak, a Litoměřice lawyer. Both of them were also well recognized painters.

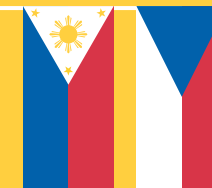
Monday, 16 May 1887

Klutschak invited Rizal, Viola and Blumentritt to dine at his house. In return, Rizal and Viola invited them to Krebs Hotel that night. At 9:45 that same evening, Rizal and Viola, accompanied by the whole Blumentritt family and Klutschak, left Litoměřice for Prague.^[6]



Philippine-Czech Friendship

Steps of José Rizal at the heart of Litoměřice during his visit in 1887.



José Rizal (1861–1896)

He is the national hero of the Philippines and the greatest figure of the Philippine movement for liberation from Spanish colonization. His novels *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* gained great popularity among Filipino students and intellectuals. Although he advocated peaceful reforms over armed revolt, he was executed by the Spanish authorities on December 30, 1896 in Manila – barely 4 months after the Revolution began.



Ferdinand Blumentritt (1853–1913)

He was a lecturer in History, Geography and was Secondary School Principal in Litoměřice. He is well known for his research about the Philippines and he also translated Rizal's novel *Noli Me Tangere* and wrote a preface to Rizal's other novel *El Filibusterismo*. His academic work blended with his deep friendship with Rizal, who visited him in Litoměřice on May 13–16, May 1887. Rizal, in his last letter before his execution, turned to Blumentritt as his closest friend, akin to a brother.



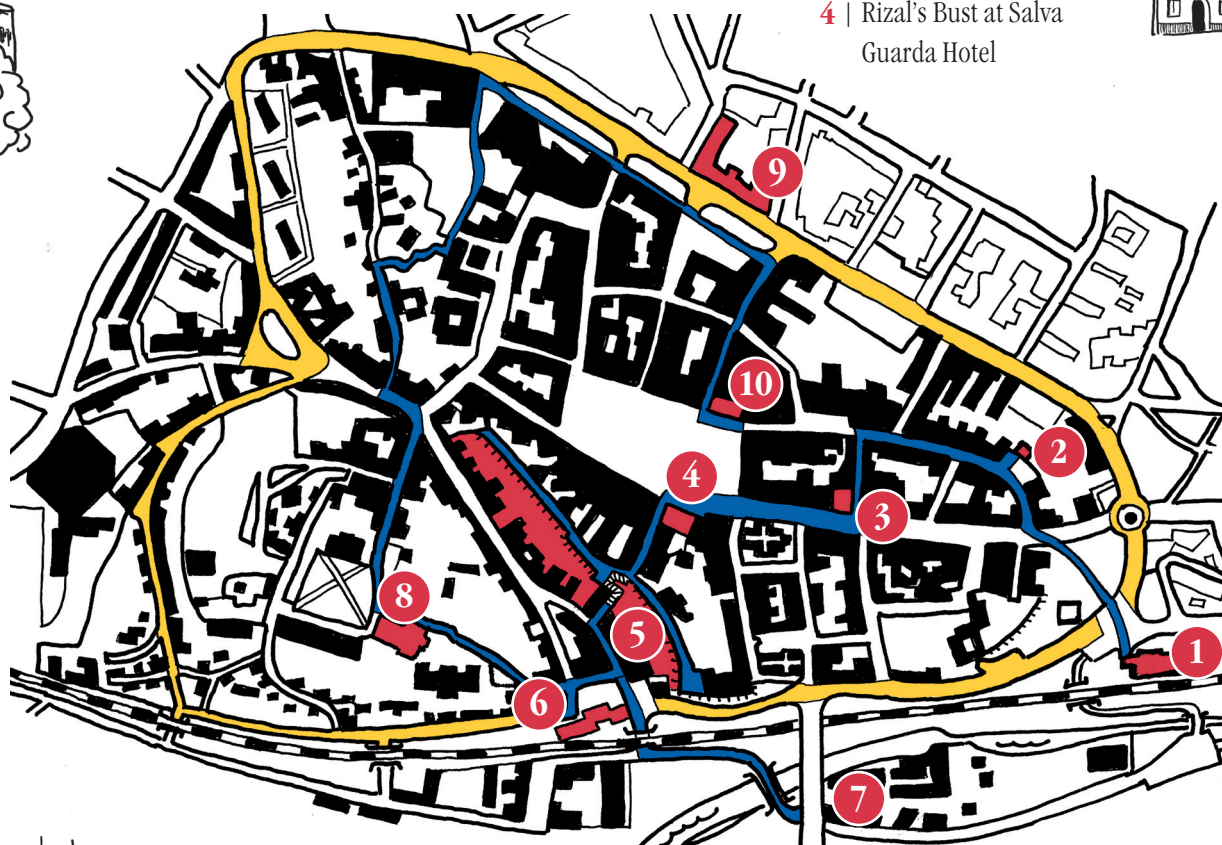
Embassy of the Philippines, Prague, Czech Republic
Partners: Order of the Knights of Rizal, Czech Republic
Embassy of the Czech Republic, Manila
Drawings and design by Karel Macas, Litoměřice
Layout by Pavel Botka, Plzeň

1887 Visit of Dr. Jose Rizal to Litoměřice (Leitmeritz), Bohemia

The 4-km heritage trail has 10 points of interest with magnificent views of the picturesque town of Litomerice which is located 60 km from Prague.



9 | Secondary School



3 | Blumentritt's House on Dlouhá St.



2 | Rizal-Blumentritt Bastion



1 | Bus and Train Station



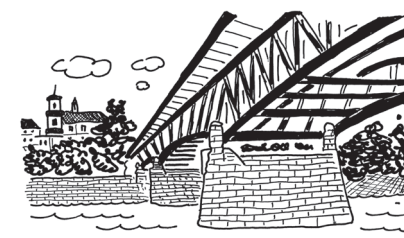
8 | Bishop's Palace and Cathedral



5 | Rizal Park



6 | Old Railway Station



7 | Labe Riverbank