

LEGEND: A – Mourning hall B – TIC JCB C – Morgue

Burials at the Jewish Cemetery of Brno

The morgue (on the front page) is the most recent structure built at the Jewish Cemetery of Brno according to a project by the architect Josef Nebehosteny. The new morgue was put into operation in 1911. The structure was built with imposing style and has been conforming to the applicable hygienic standards ever since. It has a separate room where the dead body is washed and ritually purified.

Taking care of the deceased is considered an honor, it's a selfless and noble deed from which no person may benefit. The deceased is treated with the same respect and dignity as the living. Throughout the ceremony the dignity of the deceased must be maintained, no more than absolutely necessary may be revealed of the body.

After the body is ritually washed, it is dressed in white burial shrouds. The set of garments is of a unified type and has no pockets. Male deceased is also wrapped in his prayer shawl.

The deceased is then laid into a simple coffin made of pine wood and bearing no ornaments. Then a little bag with soil brought from Israel is placed under the head of the deceased and the body is dusted with the soil. Finally, the coffin is lowered into the grave, and – usually before the one-year anniversary – a tombstone, called maceva in Hebrew, is erected. The purpose of the tombstone is to protect and mark the grave, so that the deceased is not forgotten.

Jewish tombstones bear inscriptions – aside from names there are also inscriptions praising the life and the deeds of the buried. Some tombstones bear artistically expressed Jewish symbols.

The symbols on the tombstones at the Jewish Cemetery in Brno do not occur in such a wide variety as in the ancient Jewish cemeteries. Still, the symbols here are relatively numerous, e.g. the blessing hands, the Levites pitcher set, the Star of David and others.

Sand-glass with Wings

The sand-glass symbolizes the definite period of time, the ending of life by death, sometimes sudden.

Section 10, Row No. 5, Grave No. 17



Section 1C, Row No. 3, Grave No. 7



■ A guide to the Jewish Cemetery in Brno ■ Symbols on Tombstones ■

Blessing Hands

Indicates a descendant of the priests (Kohanim) from the tribe of the Levites in the line of Aaron and his sons. Usually carries the surname Kohn, Katz, Cohen, Cowan, Kagan, as well as other surnames.

Section 1D, Row No. 1, Grave No. 14



Section 10, Row No. 1, Grave No. 6



The Levites Set

Indicates a descendant of the tribe of the Levites, but not in the line of Aaron. Usually carries the surname Löwy, Löw, Levy, Siegel, Lewis, or others.

Section 28E, Row No. 1, Grave No. 2



Section 26A, Row No. 3, Grave No. 4



Leviathan

It represents the biblical beast, from whose flesh a feast for the righteous will be prepared after the arrival of the Messiah. Sometimes it is depicted as Ouroboros, coiled in a circle.

Section 7



Section 7

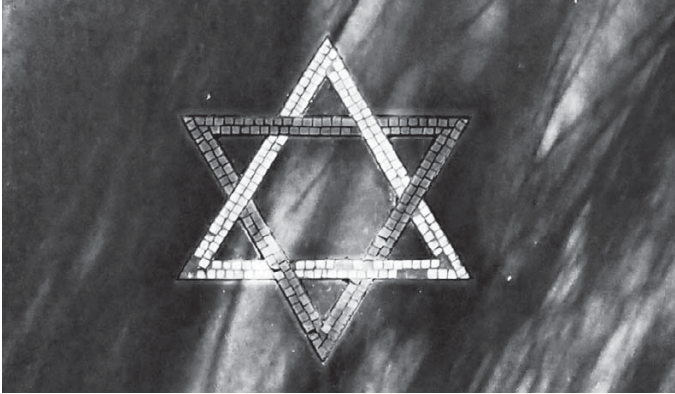


Symbols on Tombstones

Six-pointed Star (Hexagram, Shield of David)

Symbol of Judaism; it can also symbolize the personal name of the deceased – David or Menachem.

Section 3B, Row No. 10, Grave No. 3



Section 21B, Row No. 2, Grave No. 15



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Symbols on Tombstones

Tree

Sorrow.

Section 9, Row No. 6, Grave No. 10



Section 15, Row No. 7, Grave No. 6

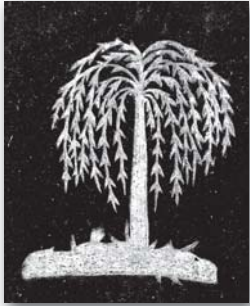


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The Jewish Cemetery of Brno

The Jewish Cemetery of Brno is the best-tended complex green area in the Brno-Židenice district. Although the cemetery is one of the youngest among the Jewish cemeteries, it is the oldest in Brno. It stretches over the area of 3.5 hectares, comprising twelve thousand graves in total and over 650 mature trees. The groups of graves and greenery create wonderfully complex harmony.

All visitors to the cemetery must conform to the rules of Judaism. The burial grounds are shown respect: Inappropriate behaviour, such as eating food or drinking, is forbidden and all animals are completely inadmissible to the cemetery. It is not permitted to enter wearing inappropriate clothing or with head uncovered.

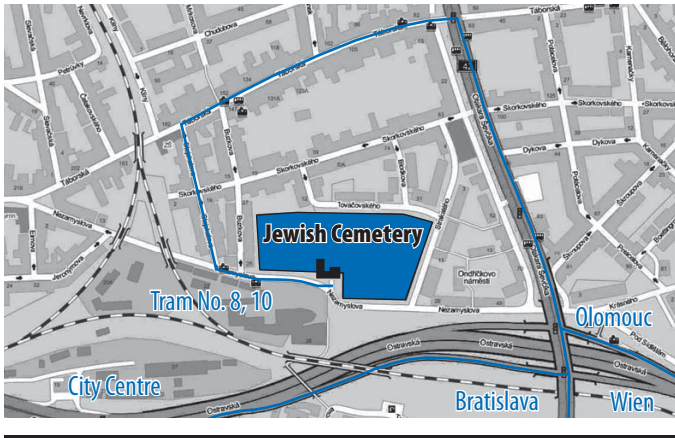


The Jewish Cemetery and the TIC of the Jewish Community of Brno

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Open daily except Saturdays and Jewish holidays.

November–March: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Fridays 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
April–October: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Fridays 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM



Evropská unie
Evropský fond pro regionální rozvoj
Investice do vaší budoucnosti



Jihomoravský kraj

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Symbols on Tombstones

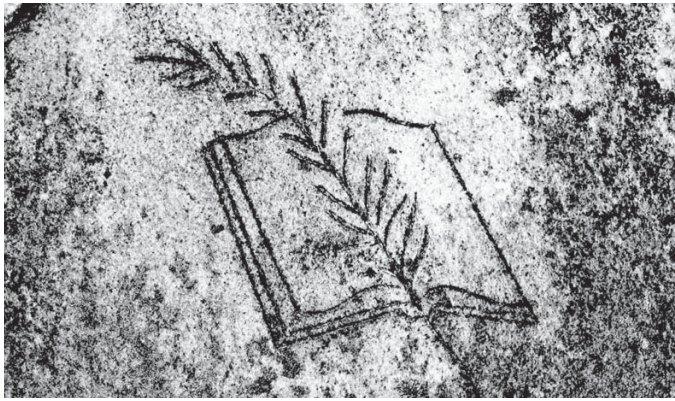
Open book

Represents recording the name of the deceased in the Book of Eternal Life; it can also symbolize the deceased was either a scribe, scholar, cantor, or rabbi.

Section 14, Row No. 1, Grave No. 6



Section 28G, Row No. 8, Grave No. 4



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SYMBOLS ON TOMBSTONES

A Guide to the
Brno
Jewish
Cemetery



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Symbols on Tombstones

Hand in hand

Symbolizes the reunion of close relatives in the future world.

Section 1B, Row No. 3, Grave No. 9



Section 1C, Row No. 4, Grave No. 10



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