

Tourist Information Centre

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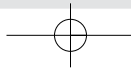
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ŽATEC

Walking routes

THE LONG TOWN WALK



Walking routes - The long town walk

(app. 100 min.)

27. The Chelčického náměstí

This square with a medieval fountain in the middle can be found on the site of the former settlement of Žitník. Archaeologists uncovered an unknown single nave church dating from the beginning of the 12th century. It had a huge tower and a semicircular apse. 258 graves, some with preserved tombs were found around this church. The cemetery ceased to exist after the town of Žatec expanded.



28. The half timber house

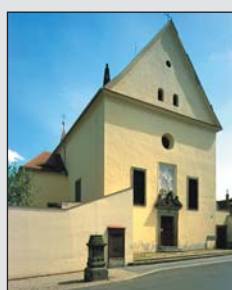
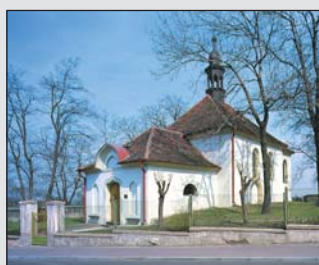
It is the only preserved timber house in Žatec and also one of the oldest buildings of its kind in the Czech republic. The study of the timber used to build this house dates it back to circa 1673. It was built in the Mlynář suburbs and the architecture is largely influenced by German Renaissance. The outstanding quality of the carpentry can be seen especially in the northern facade.

29. Ludwig Engl

The teacher, local chronicler and conservator Ludwig Engl (27.12.1872-09.07 1936) lived in this house. He also wrote a few articles about the history of the town. His archaeological collection is on display in the Museum of Science in Vienna and his outstanding collection of the graphic arts of Žatec dating back to the time around the World War I proves his quality as a graphic artist.

30. The Kostel sv. Jakuba Většího

It was built on the site of an older church at the end of the 15th century. It was originally a main town cemetery church. In 1765 a tower with two bells was added. Inside, there is the remarkable tombstone of Maxmilián Hošťálek's first wife Kateřina and her six children. Also, an iconostasis from the 17th century and the original altarpiece can be found here. Since the World War II it has served the Orthodox Church.

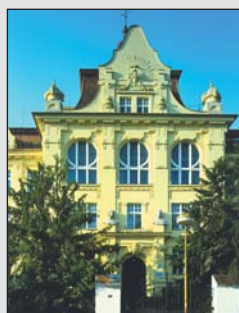


31. The Kapucínský klášter

The Franciscan Monastery with the Church of the Coronation of Our Lady was built near the former Red Gate between 1676 and 1684. The quadrate-shaped monastery has a large garden with arcades and a cloister garth. There is an early Baroque altar there and the inner decorations date back from 1705 to 1710. In front of it there were originally the sculptures of St. John Nepomuk, St. Barbora and the Holy Family.

32. The primary school

Žatec was the metropolis of the world hop-growing trade in the 19th century. Because of the high increase in the number of inhabitants it was decided that a new school would be built near the Franciscan Monastery in 1876. The architect Karel Schlimp designed the 97 metres long building - the biggest basic school in the region at that time. It was ceremonially opened on 2nd September 1880.



33. The Grammar School

A unique example of Art-Nouveau architecture in the town. The building, which replaced the old grammar school in the Floriánské square, was designed by the architect Ernest Schafer of Liberec. Josef Zíték, the author of the National Theatre in Prague, sat on committee of the architectural competition. It was ceremonially opened in 1903 and called the Grammar School of František Josef I.

34. The Hop Institute Ltd.

The Research Hop Institute was founded in 1952. The present Hop Institute Ltd. has been placed in this building since 1974. The breeding hop gardens are part of its premises. The main aim of the research establishment is to study genetics of the hop, its cultivation, it is engaged in the research of hop pests and it also devices the hop plants protection systems. The Institute is the only producer of new hop species in the Czech republic. There is also an experimental brewery where there is a beer kettle with a capacity of 60 litres.

35. The Kostel sv. Václava

The first report of the church dates back to 1357 but it is probable that it had already been founded in the 12th century. The way it looks now is the result of Baroque adaptation from the 17th century. The church bells were cast by Zachariáš Ditrich in Prague in 1757. The cemetery round the church was surrounded by a wall, the stones of which were taken from the Red Gate after it had been pulled down in 1836 and the wall needed to be repaired.



36. The iron cantilever bridge

Originally, a chain bridge used to stand here, which was the first of its kind in Bohemia. The chambers that were used to attach the bridge structure to them are still well-preserved. At that time, it was the only access road linking the town and

the quarter situated behind the river called Dvorník. It was designed by the leading pioneer in the building of chain bridges Bedřich Schnirch. In 1895 the construction of the present cantilever bridge started, and it was opened on 13th June 1896.

37. The former Dreher Brewery (see the photo on the front page)

A new brewery with a malthouse was founded in 1898 by a group of Žatec businessmen. Shortly after that, 85,000 hectolitres of the Urstoff beer and a special brand of beer called Svatý Hubert were brewed here. The aim was to publicise the unique quality of the Žatec hops and brewing barley all over the world. The local products were also exported - mainly to Germany and America. At the time it served as an example of the most up-to-date brewery for other beer-makers in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Later, it was called the Dreher's Export brewery. Unfortunately, it was closed down after the World War II.