

Czech Republic
Land of Stories

Vysocina Region



World Heritage Sites

UNESCO



The VYSOČINA Region

The well-preserved landscape of Vysočina with its wooded hills and flowering meadows attracts mostly lovers of peaceful family holidays. On the other hand, hiking trails, cycling paths and sports facilities are sought after by advocates of active recreation. Art and history buffs can also satisfy their cravings here. A whole range of museums and galleries are worth a visit. The legacy of bygone centuries includes the region's castles, chateaux, monasteries, as well as buildings of vernacular architecture. Many landmarks form an important part of not only our national, but also world cultural heritage – the historic centre of the town of Telč, together with its Renaissance chateau, the Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora in Žďár nad Sázavou and the uniquely preserved Jewish Quarter, together with the premises of the former Benedictine monastery with the Romanesque-Gothic St Procopius Basilica in Třebíč, are all among the sites inscribed on the UNESCO's World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.

The Vysočina Triangle of UNESCO sites

Fourteen sites in the Czech Republic are currently included on the UNESCO's World Cultural and Natural Heritage List. Three of these are situated in the Vysočina Region. They form an imaginary triangle whose sides are approx. 40 km long, so the sites can be easily visited within one weekend. Not only that – by car it is possible to reach the other eleven gems within 2 hours.





TELČ

THE HISTORIC CENTRE

The centre was inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List in 1992.

This picturesque town in the middle of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, located 30 km from the Austrian border and midway between Prague and Vienna, entices visitors to enter a long-forgotten era. The town offers visitors a living encounter with all the architectural styles of the last millennium. It represents a uniquely conserved architectural complex that is dominated by a Renaissance chateau and square.

The date of incorporation of the town is not known; the oldest surviving reference to Telč is dated between 1333 and 1335. Beginning in 1339, the town belonged to the lords of Hradec, the 16th century's second most powerful noble family on the borderland between Bohemia and Moravia. Thanks to this family, especially Zachariáš of Hradec, the original water fortress with a Gothic castle was converted into an enchanting Renaissance town.

At the beginning of the 17th century Telč came under the ownership of the lords of the House of Slavata, and later belonged to the lords of the House of Lichtenstein-Kastelkorn. From the 1760s until 1945, the chateau and the town was governed by the lords of the House of Podstatzky-Lichtenstein. The character of Telč's square is crowned by the Marian Plague Column, fountains, Baroque sculptures, town gates and arcades with semi-circular arches supported by piers.

Zachariáš of Hradec had the original Gothic castle rebuilt into a Renaissance residence in the second half of the 16th century. The extensive Renaissance chateau complex is a work by architect B. Maggi from Arogno. Inside the chateau, the uniquely decorated, opulent interiors, period furnishings and valuable collections attract a lot of interest. Within the chateau complex there is the Chateau Gallery and Underground, the Chateau gardens and park with a greenhouse.



What else to visit...

The Vysočina Museum Jihlava, Telč branch

Currently, the Museum is temporarily located in the premises of the University Centre of Masaryk University in Telč. The exposition includes objects documenting the history of the town, religious monuments, wedding flags and ethnographic collections. <http://muzeum.ji.cz>

The Telč Underground Tunnel System

Medieval cellars can be found not only beneath the majority of the buildings built on Zachariáš of Hradec Square, but are also beneath parts of the chateau. Single cellar rooms, which in places span across two floors, were connected through an intricate system of corridors - 150 metres of which are open to the public. Educational and fun hands-on exhibits present the town of Telč and its environs, as well as important milestones in the evolution of the town.

Manor House Court Telč

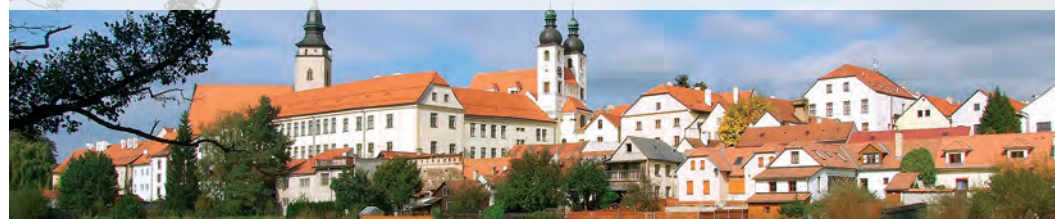
After an extensive renovation, a complex of once dilapidated farm buildings has been turned into an interactive centre for leisure activities and tourism. The site features an exhibition entitled Below the Castle (V podzámčí), the U Zvířátek playground, a rope park and a climbing wall. www.panskydvurtelc.cz

Manor House Court Telč www.panskydvurtelc.cz – History of the Railways Exhibition www.pokoleji.cz – Roštejn Castle www.hrad-rostejn.cz – Nová Říše Monastery www.klaster.novarise.cz – Telč House www.telcky-dum.cz – Geopark Vysočina www.geoparkvysocina.cz



INTERESTING FACTS

- The oldest surviving monument in the town is the 49-metre tall, late Romanesque Tower of the Holy Spirit, built in the first half of the 13th century.
- During the season, two lookout towers in Telč are open to the public: St James' Tower and the Holy Spirit Tower, as well as the Oslednice Observation Tower.
- At the end of the Ulický fish pond dam is a granite wayside shrine dating back to 1480; it is one of the oldest in the Vysočina region.
- The Geopark Vysočina covers the area of Javořická vrchovina highlands, which includes the highest mountain in the Vysočina region, Javoříce.



INFORMATION CENTRES, CONTACTS

The Telč Municipal Office Information Centre
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Tel: (+420) 567 112 407, (+420) 567 112 408
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www.telc.eu

The Manor House Court Tourist Information Centre
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www.panskydvurtelc.cz

The Telč State Chateau
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www.zamek-telc.eu

ŽĎÁR NAD SÁZAVOU



THE PILGRIMAGE CHURCH OF ST JOHN OF NEPOMUK AT ZELENÁ HORA
The Church was inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage List in 1994.

The town of Žďár nad Sázavou is situated in the upper reaches of the Sázava River, right in the heart of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, amidst the gorgeous natural scenery of the Žďárské vrchy protected landscape area. The settlement originally emerged on an old medieval road, near the Cistercian monastery that was founded in 1252 by Boček of Zbraslav. However, Žďár nad Sázavou was only granted the status of a town in 1607.



The Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora near the Cistercian monastery was built thanks to a long-term, close and incredibly fruitful collaboration between two exceptional personalities. The idea was initiated by the Žďár Cistercian monastery abbot, Václav Vejmluva, who was quite evidently an admirer of St John of Nepomuk. The task of designing it was entrusted to the famous architect Jan Blažej Santini-Aichel. Due to the importance attached to the church, it was decided that it would be built on the hillock above the monastery. The church was consecrated in September 1722 and became the first large sanctum dedicated to St John of Nepomuk.

The church is considered to be the pinnacle of Santini's work. It is an example of a timeless design that is free from conventional elements of the then-existing architecture. The church is built on a five-pointed star-shaped layout; the symbolism of which comes from a legend which says that a five-starred crown appeared at the site where John of Nepomuk drowned. This magic symbolism of the number five is repeated in other parts of the building, too. There are five chapels with five altars in the church, it is accessible via five entrances, there are five eight-pointed gilt stars in the dome of the church, and there are five total stars in lunettes above the windows. The cloister around the church is shaped like a ten-point star, which incorporates five gates and five chapels.

What else to visit...

The Žďár nad Sázavou Chateau

It is a lively and creative place which offers its visitors a whole-day experience – there is a 'In Santini's footsteps' tour with a commentary, 'The Baroque Art' permanent display of Prague National Gallery collections, nature trails around the chateau ponds, a café, a gift shop and a children's play area. In 2015, the New Generation Museum opened in the Chateau, which houses unique exhibits offering a hands-on experience. Exhibits about the Cistercian Order and the Dark Ages are located on the ground floor, whereas the beautiful and colourful world of the Baroque can be seen on the first floor. www.zamekzdar.cz



The Lower Cemetery and the Baroque Bridge

Close to the Chateau (the former monastery) is other building that have some connection to architect J. B. Santini. In 1709, the Lower Cemetery with four chapels was built using Santini's design of a skull-shaped layout. A guided tour of the Lower Cemetery may be arranged with the management of the Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora. In the 1760s, an unknown sculptor created eight sculptures of saints, copies of which adorn the old three-arched stone bridge.

The Nature Trail around Zelená hora

The nature trail has two routes. The first route is 2.1 km long and goes around Bránský pond. It introduces Santini's lesser known buildings. The second, a 2.6 km long route, is a hike to highly protected nature and landscape areas. It goes around Konvent pond and its surroundings, and it is possible to admire the Žďár Chateau from the pond's observation piers.

Model Kingdom www.mkzdar.cz – Michal Olšiak's statues www.zdarns.cz – PLA Žďárské vrchy <http://zdarskevrchy.ochranaprirody.cz/> – Pilák recreational area www.pilak.cz



INTERESTING FACTS

Santini incorporated the symbolism of the number five based on the legend of St John of Nepomuk into his work. The symbolism is contained in the five holy wounds of Christ, as well as the five letters in the Latin word tacui ('I kept silent'), and above all in the five stars that, according to legend, appeared above the saint's body after he was drowned in the Vltava River. The dome, on the other hand, depicts the saint's tongue to mark his unbreakable seal of the confessional.



INFORMATION CENTRES, CONTACTS

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www.zdarns.cz

The Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora
591 02 Žďár nad Sázavou
Tel: (+420) 724 758 993
Email: info@zelena-hora.cz
www.zelena-hora.eu

The Žďár nad Sázavou Chateau
Zámek 8/8, 591 02 Žďár n. S. 2
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Email: info@zamekzdar.cz
www.zamekzdar.cz

TŘEBÍČ



THE PREMISES OF THE FORMER BENEDICTINE MONASTERY WITH THE BASILICA OF ST PROCOPIUS, JEWISH QUARTER WITH A CEMETERY
They were inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List in 2003.

Over the many centuries of its existence, the town emerged as an important hub in Vysočina. It started out on the foundations of a medieval settlement whose beginnings have a connection to the Benedictine monastery founded here in 1101 by Moravian dukes. The monastery ranked among the richest in the whole kingdom and was an important centre of education. The convenient position of the monastery between the royal towns of Brno, Jihlava and Znojmo led to the foundation of the town on both banks of the Jihlava River. The oldest surviving document dates back to 1277. In 1335, Třebíč was given the status of a town. The large square, with a number of picturesque burgher houses, proves that the town was significant at the time of its foundation.

St Procopius Basilica

The Romanesque-Gothic Basilica is situated on the original site of a wooden monastic church. The building was badly damaged during the siege of Třebíč by Matthias Corvinus' Hungarian army in 1468, and for more than two centuries it was used for secular purposes, such as stables, a granary and a brewery. Following its restoration between 1725 and 1731, the Basilica was dedicated to St Procopius and it began to serve its religious purpose again. The most valuable parts are the Romanesque crypt with its original timber ceiling boards (more than seven hundred years old) placed between the vault's stone ribs, the arching of the chancel with a double eight-part masonry vault, the circular window (rose window) in the eastern side of the apse and the northern entry portal. The Basilica acquired its current appearance after it was restored under the supervision of architect Kamil Hilbert between 1924 and 1935.



The Jewish Quarter

Třebíč was once a significant centre of Jewish culture in Moravia, as is apparent from its uniquely preserved Jewish Quarter. The first written reference to Jews living in Třebíč dates back to 1338. After 1723, Jews were obliged by law to live in ghettos, so Jewish families relocated to the Podklášteří area. The Jewish Quarter is comprised of 123 surviving buildings which complement a set of former Jewish institutions - the town hall, the Rabbi's house, a poorhouse, a hospital and a school. The Front (Old) Synagogue is located at the western side of the former ghetto and is used today by the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. The Rear (New) Synagogue was built in the Renaissance style around 1669. There is a display of exhibits on Jewish traditions and customs in the women's gallery, where visitors can also see a model of the Jewish ghetto as it was in 1850.



Seligmann Bauer House

Seligmann Bauer had a house built shortly before 1798 on 'Španělovský' land. Its significance and value comes predominantly from the fact that it is directly adjoined to the Rear Synagogue. There is a junk shop on the ground floor, reminding visitors of one of the traditional trades carried out by Jewish people in those days. In the rear section, you will find a kitchen with modern equipment where it is occasionally possible to prepare kosher meals. The first floor is a display of the typical living conditions for a not very well off Jewish family during the period between the two wars.

The Jewish Cemetery

The exact location of Třebíč's Jewish cemetery during medieval times is unknown. In the first half of the 17th century, a new burial ground emerged on Hrádek Hill. Its area of 11,772 m² places it among the largest Jewish burial grounds in the country. There are approx. 11,000 graves and almost 3,000 masonry headstones, the oldest of which is from 1631. The cemetery also has a ceremonial hall dating from 1903.



What else to visit...

The Třebíč Chateau – The Vysočina Museum Třebíč

The museum is located within the former Wallenstein Chateau, which was re-built from the original Benedictine monastery in the 16th century. The main entrance onto the chateau's premises sits between two Renaissance buildings. The actual three-winged chateau building encloses a square-shaped courtyard with St Procopius Basilica. There is a park to the west of the chateau, and to the east there are remains of the rampart towers of the monastery's fortifications. The space in the chateau is now used for four independent themed exhibitions: 'The World of Inanimate Nature' Mineralogy exhibition, 'The World of Portals and Gates' Monastery exhibition, 'Wallenstein Family in Třebíč' Chateau exhibition, 'People. Places. Destinies.' Museum exhibition. www.muzeumtr.cz

The Town Tower

The tower at the Church of St Martin was originally built as part of the town's fortification system. It was built in the mid-13th century, and is 75 m tall. The viewing gallery at 35 metres offers a view over the whole the town. The tower clock ranks among the largest on the European continent (the diameter of the clock face is 5.5 m, and the height of the numbers is 60 cm). www.visittrebic.eu

In the Footsteps of Abbots and Rabbis

Follow the educational trail, collect stamps and win a prize! All three of the most precious landmarks are interconnected through the 'In the Footsteps of Abbots and Rabbis' educational trail, which reveals facts about the lives of the two religious communities that lived side by side in Třebíč over the centuries. The trail teaches visitors about the most interesting places, the history of Jewish housing, Jewish synagogues, as well as the Christian Basilica. There is a trail brochure in which you can collect stamps given out in information centres and win a prize. www.visittrebic.eu

On the top of the Hell Hill (Na Pekelném kopci) Observation Tower www.visittrebic.eu – Kostelíček Water Tank Observation Tower www.visittrebic.eu – A Journey through Time Hands-on exhibition www.visittrebic.eu – Alternator – Eco Tech Centre in Třebíč www.alternator.cz

INTERESTING FACTS

- Other than Jerusalem, Třebíč's Jewish landmarks are the only ones that have been independently included on the UNESCO protection list.
- Antonín Kalina was a significant personality from Třebíč who saved more than 900 Jewish boys after he became a block elder in the Buchenwald concentration camp.



INFORMATION CENTRES, CONTACTS

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TIC National House
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Regular Events



TELČ

- May** **Folklore in May** – meeting of folklore groups
The Slipper of Fairy-tale Telč Contest – a majorette competition
Classic car revue – historic vehicle exhibition with an accompanying programme
- July** **French-Czech music academy** – master courses in classical music for music students from around Europe
Between two gates – a classic car rally
- August** **Holiday in Telč** – festival – concerts, theatre, exhibitions, nocturnes
Historical celebrations of Zachariáš of Hradec and Catherine of Wallenstein
Steam summer – historical steam train rides
Dragon boats race on Štěpnický pond
Balloons above Telč – hot air balloon flights
- September** **Heritage Open Days** – concerts, exhibitions, video projections
- October** **St Wenceslas Celebration** - craft market, parade of St. Wenceslas
- December** **Štěpnický pond fish harvest**
Christmas holiday in Telč – nativity play, exhibitions, fair



ŽĎÁR NAD SÁZAVOU

- March - April** **The Passion of Christ play 'What happened to Jesus'** – a theatre play about the life, death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- May** **Open gardens** – a tour of the flowering Chateau gardens and a range of cultural events
Pilgrimage of St John of Nepomuk
Žďár Day – celebrations of Žďár's promotion to town status
- June** **The Below Zelená hora Festival** – an alternative culture project
- July** **KoresponDance** – the international festival of contemporary dance, physical theatre and contemporary circus
- August** **Horácký džbáněk** – a folk music festival
Dragon Boats – a dragon boat race in Velké Dářko
- September** **The Rowanberry Festival** – a festival of arts, music and drama
Santini's Baroque Celebrations – tribute to the brilliant builder Santini. Concerts, lectures and spiritual events celebrating his life and work.
Rural day at the castle
- December** **Nativity play**



TŘEBÍČ

- March** **2-3-4 Actor Theatre Festival** – a show of chamber theatre productions
- May** **Days of Music with Václav Hudeček** – classical music festival
- June** **Záměstí** – a rock and multi-arts festival
- July** **The Revived Jewish town Festival** – the Jewish quarter returns to the time of its greatest glory
Films for Charles IV – Popular film show
Shamayim – festival of Jewish culture
The Three Hoods Festival – historical town festivities
- August** **The Potato Harvest Festival** – a folk festival
- September** **St. Martins Celebration** – a celebration of the upcoming winter with traditional Feast of St Martin
- November** **Christmas Square** – Christmas markets with cultural events
- December**

Vysocina





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