

Legend: ● objects with metal tables
 route - basic (3 km)
 extension of the basic route
 ★ scenic overlook

1 Town Hall

Tábor Town Hall represents one of the most important late Gothic monuments in Czech towns. The architect Wendel Roskopf designed the building around 1521. It was erected in the place of three former burgher houses. In the Baroque period the building was rebuilt according to a design by Antonio D'Alferi. In 1878 architect Josef Niklas reconstructed the Town Hall to its present late Gothic appearance. Nowadays, the Hussite Museum and Gallery Stará radnice are located there. From the ground floor visitors can also enter the underground tunnels, which served as cellars in the 16th century. Since 1947, 650 metres of the tunnels have been opened to the public.



2 Škoch House

This house is one of the best examples of the Gothic-Renaissance burgher architecture in Bohemia. The forefront of the house is decorated with a Gothic gable bordered with arches called "donkey's back" which dates back to the period after 1532.



3 Underground Tunnels - mosaic

The mosaic located in front of the Škoch House shows the ground-plan of Žižka Square and the surrounding buildings. The red paving-stones mark the route through the underground tunnels. The 650 m long route was opened to the public in 1947 and it is only a small section of an ingenious system of underground tunnels built in the 15th century. The system resulted from the interconnection of multi-storey cellars located under the houses in the Old Town; these cellars were primarily used for storing food and beer. When the town was in danger or when fire broke out, they provided good shelter for local citizens. The entrance to the tunnels is in the Hussite Museum.

4 House No. 19

The rich sgraffito decoration on the facade is a typical feature of the Renaissance architecture. Most noticeable is the interesting pillar on the right of the arcade. The Renaissance vault gable resembles the one that decorated one of the municipal town gates known as the "Prague Gate".



5 House No. 18

The last reconstruction, which gave the house its current appearance, took place at the turn of the 19th century. The front is decorated with stucco in the style of Louis XVI and it is a nice example of the Rococo burgher architecture.



6 House No. 17

The richly decorated late Renaissance gable and the protruding arcade date to the turn of the 17th century, when the house was rebuilt. These features, along with corrugated hood mouldings, show the architectural taste of the prominent burghers of that time.



7 House No. 16

Historically, this is one of the most important municipal buildings. Its construction started in 1430-40; the earliest extant record related to the house dates to 1521. After 1610 a pub was established here and at the same time the whole house was rebuilt. It is apparent from historical records that in about 1680 there was a pub known as "The Red Lion". Copies of the original late Gothic paintings with Hussite motifs, which commemorate the unique history of the town, were painted on the facade during the last renovation in 2004.



8 House No. 12

Originally a medieval house was refitted in 1801 with a folk Baroque front which mimics the unique style of the folk "rural" Baroque.



9 Konstanz House

This Renaissance house with Gothic foundations is an example of an unusual use of space – the first floor, which is larger than the ground floor, is supported by ancones. The original owner of the house was girdler Prokop and the house was named after him. In 1994 the house was renamed after the German town Konstanz "Kostnický dům" as a symbol of the partnership between this city and the town of Tábor.



10 Stárek House

In 1526 the house was owned by a rich burgher Mikuláš Slanař. Around 1570 the new owners, the Hrošeks of Trkov (Hroškové z Trkova), had the facade decorated with sgraffito ornaments and figures and brought an extraordinary example of the Renaissance burgher architecture to Tábor. The sgraffito is inspired by motifs of nature and topics from ancient mythology.



11 House No. 223

This house was built after the big town fire of 1559. The vaulted gable is an example of the new tendencies in burgher architecture of that time. The immured cannonball between the windows of the first floor commemorates the Swedish siege of Tábor in 1648.



12 House No. 210

An example of unique Flemish Renaissance. The house was probably built in 1603. The pilaster gable with three levels of corniches separated by band courses is another unique example of Renaissance architecture in the town. The gable is decorated with floral and figure sgraffito.



13 Theatre

A Neo-Renaissance building from 1887 resembles the concept of the National Theatre in Prague. In 1965 another auditorium was built, and since then the theatre has been a Central European rarity because it has only one stage but two auditoriums – one used for smaller and one for bigger theatre performances. There is a memorial tablet commemorating the composer Oskar Nedbal placed on the house opposite the theatre. There is also a tablet dedicated to the "Constructors of new gates", which means to those who had built the historic town gate that stood on this site even in the 19th century.

14 Prague Gate

The outline in the paving shows the ground-plan of the former Prague Gate. This gate was built in the 15th century as a part of the complex of so called New Gates along with a barbican – the most solid fortification structure in Tábor which protected the town on its most vulnerable side – the east. Most of the Tábor fortification system was destroyed during the first half of the 19th century. In 1884, in spite of historians' vigorous protests, the well preserved Prague Gate was pulled down. The local theatre was built on its site in 1887.



15 Gaus Houses

In the Renaissance period the so called Prague Gate was erected in the neighbourhood of houses No. 235 and 236. The gate was pulled down in May 1884. The remaining buildings which adjoined the gate are known as Gaus Houses; they both underwent a radical reconstruction in 1939 which gave them their current appearance. The architects succeeded in incorporating a bastion into the block of buildings; the bastion is one of the few preserved ones in the town.



16 Jordan Lake

It is the oldest reservoir in Central Europe. In 1492 the citizens of Tábor dammed the Tisemenický stream to provide a sufficient supply of drinking water for the town. The lake occupies an area of 50 hectares and is 18 metres deep. Since 1830 Jordan was not emptied until 2011, when the dredging and construction of new bottom outlet was performed. Since the works were finished Jordan has again served as a recreation area and water reservoir.

At the end of the Thirty Years' War the commander of the town had the destroyed section of the town walls reconstructed with a purely Baroque fortification element – a bulwark. This so called Grand Bulwark, which protected the town from the north-east, was finished in 1646–1647. The mighty bulwark was made of clay and the debris from damaged houses and town walls. To support its mass, it was enclosed with a new stone wall incorporated into the original fortification system. The system of Tabor fortifications was, unlike the old types of such systems, enhanced with protruding fortified positions that allowed the artillery to fire to all sides. Artillery bastions protruded from the town wall with a spacing of 250–300 metres. Soukenická and Žizka's Bastions were preserved; archaeologists also discovered remains of Kožešnická Bastion. Another important point of the fortification system was the bailey – a 6 to 10 metres wide space in front of the main rampart protected by a wall with a covered, half-timbered gallery intended for rifle shooting. The area around the bailey was occupied by gardens and craftsmen's workshops.



20 The Grand Bulwark & Bailey

It is a unique Renaissance technical structure decorated with vaulted gables. An unusual pumping system brought water up to 32 metres and then distributed it through wooden pipelines into the fountains all over the town. Water was taken from the reservoir – the main source of drinking water – which was built in 1492 and named after the biblical river Jordan. There is an 18 m high waterfall where the Tismenický stream flows out of the reservoir.

The fortification system was strengthened with artillery bastions in several strategic places. This section of the town walls was dominated by the Grand Bastion, which was probably originally called Kožešnická. Its size and elongated, narrow shape could remind us of Soukenická and Žizka's Bastions, however, its semicircular front side made it different. The other surviving bastions had sharp ends on the outside, which was a new element in the construction of fortification systems and artillery bastions with a polygonal ground plan inspired builders in other European towns for a whole century. When Tabor was besieged by the Emperor's army in 1621 the bastion and the surrounding parts of the town walls were destroyed by the cannonade of the besiegers.

18 Grand Bastion – Kožešnická Bastion

This Neo-Renaissance building was constructed in 1894–95 replacing the former shooting range built in 1811. From the very beginning of its existence, Střelnice played an important role in the social life of the town. It was very well equipped for these purposes – there was a restaurant as well as a large hall used for various social events and concerts. At the end of the 1980s Střelnice was closed and its reconstruction began. However, it was interrupted due to lengthy restitution disputes. In 2003 the building was declared a cultural monument. Its reconstruction was not completed until 2006.

17 Střelnice



It was built on the site of an older wooden church and first mentioned in 1451. Originally, it was a late Gothic structure but further reconstructions left traces of other styles – Renaissance and Baroque. The interior comprises of a nave and two aisles; the treasury vault is supported by octagonal pillars. The ferne vault above the presbytery is very rare.

26 Deanery Church of Lord's Transfiguration

Tabor School had its seat in this building since 1522. It flourished exceptionally at the turn of the 17th century when well-educated graduates from Charles University, Prague, taught here. One of them, Master Jan Chvaltánský, later became the first councillor of Tabor. The school was supported by the university as well as the town of Tabor.

25 Tabor School

It was first mentioned in documents which date back to 1440. After the big fire of 1532 the house was rebuilt in the Renaissance style. There is a coat of arms of the knightly house the Myslíks of Hřívov (Myslíkové z Hřívova) painted on the high white gable. There used to be a guest room downstairs, the Gothic interior of which has been preserved.

24 Lichvice House

This late Gothic building is one of the most interesting ones in the town. It was built after 1532. The gable with tracery decoration is a rare example of valuable late Gothic burgher architecture.

23 Ctibor House

Originally the chapel was dedicated to Saint Elisabeth. Together with the adjoining house No. 285 – the former hospital – it forms a unit which is located on the site of a medieval, pre-Hussite, burial ground. The oldest written record of the hospital dates back to 1443–1444. The Chapel itself was built at the beginning of the 18th century. In 1946 the chapel was reconstructed and handed over to the Orthodox Church.

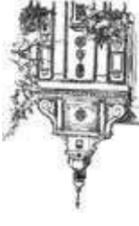
22 Hospital Chapel of the Saint Cross

In the past, all access points to the town were protected by gates. One of these gates – a mighty tower structure called Klokotská or Grand Portal – used to stand on this site. It was first mentioned in documents in 1436. However, archaeological research discovered that it replaced the prior mighty walls of the Přemyslid town Hradčitz. From this spot a path led to Klokoty where farms and fields of Tabor burghers were located in later periods. A watch-house with a turnpike, where a watchman stood guard, was also a part of the Grand Portal. The Portal was destroyed as late as the 19th century. The vacated space became a part of Holeček Park.

21 The Grand Portal - Klokotská

30 Žizka's Bastion

Sometimes, it is also called the Big Bastion. This artillery bastion used to be a part of the fortification system and, together with the towers of Hradčitz Castle, controlled the access from Klokoty. Later it was used for accommodation purposes. According to a Baroque historian a fresco depicting Jan Žizka of Trocnov decorated the wall of the bastion.



29 Soukenická Bastion

This bastion, sometimes also called Pevnostní, is a rare and valuable example of Hussite fortification engineering of the mid-15th century. The pentagonal shape of its basis was typical for the time when the architectural skills of local burghers and the experience of builders from the developed countries of Western Europe were combined.

28 Holeček Park

The park used to be a private garden of the regional governor Lukáš Piller who founded it in 1832 in place of the former ramparts along the municipal fortification walls. The path in the upper part of the park passes an artillery bastion called Žizka's Bastion. Nearby there is a memorial of the writer Josef Holeček who attended the local grammar school in the 1860s. The last reconstruction of Holeček Park, including the connected Tismenické valley, took place in 2015.

27 Monastery Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary

This early Baroque structure was built between the years 1642 and 1666 for the monastic order of Baroque Augustinians – the pillar of the Counter-Reformation. The facade in the style of classical Baroque is decorated with statues of St. Augustin and his mother St. Monica. Most of the valuable baroque interior equipment, which had been manufactured in the local carving workshop, has not survived. At the beginning of the 19th century the monastery gradually ceased to exist and the building was converted into a prison. Today it houses the offices of the local museum.

31 Kotnov Castle and Bechyňská Gate

The oldest historic sight in Tabor dates back to the second half of the 13th century, the time of the reign of the Czech king Přemysl Otakar II. The importance of the castle for fortification purposes was lessened by time and fires to such extent that it was turned into a brewery between 1612 and 1613. We believe the castle to have four towers, but only one – called Kotnov – was preserved. Top of the tower offers a beautiful view of the town and its surroundings. The only surviving town gate – Bechyňská Gate – is adjoined to the remaining tower of the castle. Unlike the castle, the gate has survived in almost the same state it was during the high Gothic period.

32 Cemetery Chapel of St. Filip and Jakub

The first record of the chapel is in 1388 when Ondřej of Ústí had two altars installed here. The current appearance of the chapel dates probably back to the 16th century. There used to be an old town cemetery around the building, where many famous inhabitants of Tabor were buried. Between 1969 and 1973 the cemetery was turned into a park called Pod Kotnovem.

33 Na Parkánech

This area got its name after the fortification feature that was commonly used in the town – the bailey ("parkán" in Czech). Also the steep slope above the river Lužnice provided the natural protection of the town against any conquest attempts.

34 Former Brewery Site

The declining importance of its protective function and the fire in 1532 turned the castle into a place of business. The town jail was also located here. Since 1612 the castle area housed the municipal brewery. The burghers with the right to brew beer enlarged the brewery operation and continued changing the appearance of the surrounding castle buildings. The whole southern part of the castle had to give way to new industrial buildings in 1908. The brewery flourished even at the time of the first Czechoslovak Republic. After 1948 it became a part of South Bohemian Breweries, national enterprise, České Budějovice. It was kept in survival mode as an establishment without a permanent production plan. The beer was produced till 1980 and later it was used for bottling beer of other production plants. After 1989 the entire area deteriorated and became just a warehouse for several private businessmen. Beginning of the 21st century brought light to the place as it was purchased by a construction and commercial company of Karel Dvořák who reconstructed it between years 2002 and 2007 into its present appearance.

Statue of Jan Žizka

The famous Hussite leader was a crucial person of the period in which Hussite Tabor was built and acquired its fame and glory. At the end of 1860's the town council decided to commemorate Jan Žizka by erecting his statue on the square. The original bronze statue, designed by famous sculptor J. V. Myslbek at the beginning of his career, failed to endure and due to a material imperfection had to be replaced shortly after its erection (in 1877) by a sandstone one, a work of Josef Strachovský from 1884. The footstall bears the dates and names of Žizka's victorious battles. The dedication on the footstall was composed by a famous Czech historian and an excellent Hussite period authority František Palacký.

Renaissance Fountain

The fountains gained their importance at the beginning of the 16th century, after Jordan lake was founded and the water system started distributing water along the town using the simple wooden pipeline. At present, there are 7 fountains preserved in the Old Town, the biggest of which stands on Žizka Square. It was constructed in 1567 – 1568 by master builder Ondřej from Sušice. The stone was brought from Dobrá Voda near Pelhřimov. The statue of an armoured knight located on the central pillar represents the market rights of the medieval town.



Two horse-chestnuts and the sculpture of St. Donatus and St. Florian

On Žizka Square just next to the main entrance to the Deanery Church there are copies of two sculptures – St. Donatus (protector against storms) and St. Florian (protector against fires), both sculpted by I. F. Platzer in 1775. Older Baroque Pietà is located between them. All three objects originally served as an altar in the crypt of the Augustinian monastery and were transferred to its present location in 1850. Shortly after, in 1854, two horse-chestnut trees – Aesculushippocastanum – were planted on the occasion of the imperial wedding of Franz Joseph I. and Empress Elisabeth. The trees were named after the bride and the groom.



SIGHTSEEING TOUR

round the historical centre of Tabor