

Špalíček



One of the main symbols of Cheb architecture, Špalíček, is situated in the historical King George Square.

These interesting, partially half-timbered houses appeared as early as in the 13th century according to the local merchants' demands in the place of former grocers' and butchers' stalls. The complex was finished as late as in the 15th century. According to the oldest depicting from 1472, the ground plan of this unique complex has preserved unchanged until today. The third block of houses which used to be situated on the western side was demolished probably in the 19th century. Because of lack of space and small lots the buildings were angular and built high upwards. Špalíček is divided into two blocks by narrow Kramářská Lane, only 160 cm wide.

King George Square commemorates the visit of this Czech king, George of Poděbrady, who stayed here 1459 – 1467 in order to settle conflicts between the Czechs and the imperial princes. Narrow facades and high, more-storey roofs are characteristic for the original Gothic stone houses in the square, which showed off the wealth of medieval Cheb. Merchants and businessmen, the former owners of these valuable houses, once used the lofts as stores for their goods. So it was noticeable on the first sight: the higher the roof, the more successful and richer the merchant was.

St. Nicholas Church



St. Nicholas and Elisabeth Church is a Catholic parish church and at the same time the oldest existing one in Cheb.

It can be found in Church Square, near the north-eastern corner of King George Square. It was originally built as a three-nave Romanesque basilica, burnt down several times during centuries and was restored extensively. The last restoration including Neo-Gothic roofing was carried out in 1864. This roof construction was destroyed in the last year of the World War II, exactly on 20 April 1945, as Cheb was bombed by the Alliance troops. Mainly the suburb was bombed, the railway station and viaduct were destroyed. One of the attacks in the centre damaged the church towers as well. Provisory low 7 metres high tower helmets were installed after the war for the following 63 years, until 2008. Thank to three years' effort of Historical Cheb Town Fund which managed to collect the necessary 9 million CZK with contribution from numerous sponsors, the new church towers were consecrated on 29 June 2008. The return of the 26 metres high pyramidal towers removed the scar on the town's panorama remembered by contemporary witnesses of the year 1945. Even the Classicist building of the parish office and a school on the place of the oldest Latin grammar school can be seen from the eastern side of the church. The oval staircase decorated with Baroque statues is from 1697.

Cheb Museum



The museum building, formerly known as Pachelbel House, is situated in the lower part of the square, right opposite Špalíček.

This house was mentioned as early as in 1390 for the first time and it belongs to the oldest citizens' houses with a Gothic portal. It was restored in Renaissance style in 1600. The most significant event which went down in history was assassination of commanding general of imperial troops, Albrecht of Valdštejn on 25 February 1634, commemorated on memorial plaque. The Duke of Valdštejn visited Cheb five times. However, it always was suffering, plundering, looting and recruitment to imperial troops. Because the memory of the great general and desire to see the bloody spots on the walls attracted numerous visitors in the following centuries, a small town museum was founded in the scribe's office in 1873. Besides the first exposition and a catalogue, a very modern collection programme was created for this institution, one of the first of its kind in Bohemia. After the Thirty Years' War the house was bought by Jesuits, since 1735 it has been owned by Cheb Town permanently. Even nowadays, besides art-historical collection it is possible to see Valdštejn's Gallery and numerous items belonging to Albrecht of Valdštejn.

Cheb Castle



Cheb Castle is unique among Czech castles. It is an unrivalled example of an imperial "pfalz" the only demonstration of this kind of castle architecture in our country.

The Romanesque pfalz was built in late 12th century in the place of a former stone castle built on a Slavonic burial place. Roman Emperor Friedrich I the Barbarossa started the construction in 1179. Cheb Castle is the only Stauf imperial pfalz in our country today and it can pride on a perfectly preserved two-storey St. Erhard and Ursula Chapel built in early 13th century during the reign of Friedrich II, which is considered to be a treasure of Stauf Gothic. Besides the chapel, a torso of once luxurious palace with unique five casement windows and the mighty defensive Black Tower build from volcanic basalt also can be admired. The angular tower is situated on square base of 9 x 9 metres, it is 18.5 metres high and the walls on its ground floor are 3 metres thick. Historical relations and extensive construction changes of the whole castle area were archeologically explored for many years. Many legends, stories and significant historical events are connected with the castle.

In the communist period the castle court was used as an amphitheatre and summer cinema until 1991. Since 1992 Cheb Castle is in ownership of Cheb Town, which as well took over its administration in 2012.

Franciscan Monastery



Franciscan Monastery with a unique cloister inside belongs to the most beautiful places in Cheb.

The former Minorites Convent was founded together with the adjacent Virgin Mary Annunciation Church in 1250s. King Rudolf the Habsburg took part in the consecration of the church, and his daughter, German princess Gutta even got married to the 14-year-old future Bohemian king Wenceslas II. This Czech-German royal wedding was the most significant event of the almost 800 years' existence of the monastery. Soon after foundation the monastery was damaged by fire in 1270. After this devastation the first structural changes were done in frames of the restoration. In the course of time the monastery was rebuilt several times and its present form comes from the 18th century. In the 15th century the monastery came under administration of the Franciscans by the Pope's order. Franciscans lived here together with Clarisses. The church is an example of pure Gothic – namely the ribs and arches in the famous cloister belong to the most beautiful ones in the Czech Republic. The atypical church tower, over 60 metres high, was built in Charles IV period and was a landmark pointing the travellers the refuge within the ramparts of the royal town. The Franciscans administrated the monastery until 1951 when they were forced to leave by the communist regime. Virgin Mary Annunciation Church, the unique cloister from early 14th century with preserved rests of paintings from the 15th century and the beautifully restored Monastery Garden are open to public.

Monastery Garden in Cheb

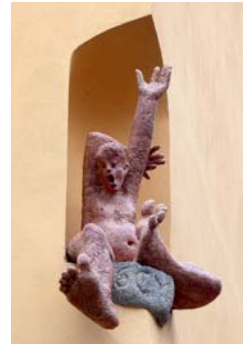


Monastery Garden is a part of Franciscan Monastery complex.

It was used for growing fruit and vegetables by Franciscans until 1930s. The garden was connected to an enclosed yard with a brewery and husbandry premises. Ethnographic museum was opened in the rear part of the convent premises in 1930s and the original orchard was changed into an ornamental garden then. In 1950s, after communists had occupied the monastery and the friars had been interned, the garden was transformed into a school vegetable garden. After 1989 in relation with increasing tourism in Cheb and in relation to the restoration of the castle, the idea to recultivate the garden came into existence. One of the best Czech garden architects, professor Drahošlav Šonský from the Mendel University in Brno, was asked to elaborate the project. The Monastery Garden renovation was finished in 2002 and nowadays it is a beautiful oasis of peace, a place where cultural events take place as well.



Cheb Niches



Cheb Town has many attractive tourist destinations.

The most interesting is the project of Cheb Niches. In frames of this project it was possible to fill in the still empty niches within the last few years in cooperation with G4 Gallery, where there small sculptures or symbols of the houses' owners used to be. The sculptures often indicated which craftsman lived and worked in the house, however, most of them got lost and the niches were empty for many years.

The spiritual father of this project was G4 director, a passionate photographer Zbyněk Illek, who noticed the empty niches when taking photos of the historical town centre. In 2011 the project was finished and 17 works of art by contemporary sculptors decorated houses in the square and adjoining ancient lanes and yards. Seeing those lively niches requires a walk during which it is possible to see a large part of the historical centre which is town conservation area since 1981. The sculptures in the niches are astonishing not by their sizes but by its often very original concept. It is possible to buy a brochure with an original map and including list of all art works with description and accompanying texts by the particular authors in the Tourist Info.

Pedestrian Zone



In 1850s Cheb citizens decided to connect the town centre with the new railway.

Two houses were demolished in the southern end of the square and a new boulevard led through this gap site toward the railway station. However, a small flaw occurred: the new boulevard was situated on the southern side while the square slants northwards, so the opening was not focused on Špalíček, but on its roofs. This flaw was not acceptable for the architects and so they used an old solution called point de vue - an eye catcher. They installed a statue of Emperor Joseph II into this opening. In frames of the reconstruction of the pedestrian zone by Studio A-69 Architects poster posts and flower pots were removed and the opening was returned with the sunken horizon of the square. A competition was announced in which professor Marian Karel participated with his design called "Gate of Time". His winning artefact became part of the whole project. Gate of Time symbolizes door leading into the house which used to stand here and where medieval Cheb opened itself to the new industrial era and to the future. The artefact turns around its axis unnoticeably, 180° in 24 hours. At midnight it is "closed", at noon, in the position "open" its side gets connected with the time axis of the most significant dates of Cheb history. The axis goes along the whole pedestrian zone until the year 2011, when the town celebrated 950 years from the first written mention. The artefact is 9 metres high, 2 metres wide and it weighs 3.5 tons.

Krajinka



Krajinka is a popular suburban recreation zone.

On both banks of the Ohře River below Cheb Castle the landscape exhibition project was realized in cooperation with German towns Marktredwitz and Tirschenreuth in 2006 and 2013. Terrain and garden adaptations of the waste and abandoned urban localities have long tradition in Germany, but it is a unique project in the Czech Republic. Only few people know that the history of Cheb's large garden exhibitions dates back to the 19th century and it is interesting that all these exhibitions were held in the same place, in the Ohře River valley in the shade of the ancient Romanesque castle. Cheb has followed this tradition twice in its modern history. This very attractive touristic, relaxing and sports area is situated on both riverbanks, offering rich activities for all age categories. Walking boulevard is completed with a playground with swings and slides, a bike trail, cross trail, petanque ground, table tennis, skittles, rope centre, picnic area, view tower on Vávra footbridge and two restaurants with summer terraces.

Bismarck View Tower



Bismarck View Tower on Zelená hora near Cheb is a magnificent romantic view tower.

Bismarck View Tower situated in the middle of woods and offering beautiful lookout on the peaks of Český les, Slavkovský les, Smrčiny/ Fichtelgebirge and Krušné hory/Ore Mountains. It is one of three Czech towers built in honour of the German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. The view tower was built by German patriots from Cheb Decorating Club as their own tribute to the then cult of so called Bismarck view towers and columns. The view tower was originally just a 14 metres high wooden platform which was open to public on 23 August 1891. In 1909 the tower was demolished because of bad condition of the wooden construction. In the same year a committee for tower construction was established and on 22 May 1909 a financial collection was announced in Cheb newspaper. The construction of the new tower after design by architect Rudolf Beier was initiated in summer that year and on 3 October 1909 the 18 metres high stone tower with 71 stairs was ceremonially open to public. After World War II the tower belonged to the secrets of the iron curtain – it stood in the restricted border area. Not long ago people supposed it had been destroyed, and young generation did not know about its existence. In 2005 Cheb Town had the tower restored. The view tower situated 637 metres above the sea level was open to public on 12 June 2005 and it is on the list of objects owned and administrated by Cheb Town.

Interactive Encyclopaedia



On-line interactive encyclopaedia of Cheb Town

- accessible in three languages (Czech, English, German)
- enables the visitors to get acquainted with the places to visit in advance
- introduces the most significant sights, events and personalities of Cheb
- texts, photos, video, audio and even normally inaccessible archives are available for particular sights
- includes important tourist information, opening hours, ticket prices etc.
- enables planning own sightseeing routes - in section "My Encyclopaedia"
- chosen sights can be connected into routes and exported as PDF or sent to e-mail
- prepared thematic routes can be used as well

And all this can be done on-line from the comfort of your home

www.encyklopedie.cheb.cz/en

10 and more reasons



why to visit
the town
Cheb



Tourist informations Cheb

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