



### 17 The Capitular Hall

A former commendams of Johannites, the Maltese Knights Order, arose in the oldest part of the Strakonice castle in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was built on a rock bill above the junction of the Otava and Volyňka rivers on the east-west axis. Its western part dividing the domain of Johannites from Bavors' estate is constituted by the late Romanesque Capitular Hall. It also used to be called a chapel of St Jiří (George). Its building is set into the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A precious porch on the eastern wall from the 30's in 13<sup>th</sup> century and a round window with a profiled reveal and a bud decoration above the entrance from the court are original architectural features preserved in the Capitular Hall. The mural paintings from years 1320 to 1480 are also remarkable. The Capitular Hall is in administration of the Museum of Central Otava Basin this day. It serves for various cultural actions, concerts, exhibitions and lectures.



### 14 The church of St Prokop

Adorners of the church architecture can see a former romanese church of St Prokop with a baroque reconstruction and rococo features right in the area of the castle. Its baroque interior originated mostly in the years 1720–1730. The church was primarily sacrificed to the St Vojtěch. In the course of building renovations mural paintings from 1340 were discovered. Services of the Roman Catholic church take place here on Sundays. It is possible to peek in the church during the tour of the Capitular Hall and Cloister that you can enter from the second castle court.

### 19 The chateau

The baroque chateau from 1715 was built during the priority of Ferdinand Leopold Dubský of Třebomyslice as a grand priory mansion. It used to have two symmetrically situated entrances on the sides. But those were soon bricked up, and a middle entrance gateway we use for entering the first court of the Strakonice castle was built in 1745.



### 16 Rumpál

The gothic cylindrical tower with an edge called Rumpál was built in 70's and 80's of the 13<sup>th</sup> century in the time of Bavor II as a dojon. It is 35 m high and there are 99 steps to the top. A long time ago it was used as a torture chamber and a prison where the prisoners were lowered by a machine called rumpál (winch). It was a symbol of a fort and medieval law as well. Nowadays, the tower is a look-out one; its ambulatory offers you a magnificent view on the whole area of the castle, town and the river basin of the Otava and the foothills of Šumava. Climb on Rumpál is included in the tour in the Museum of Central Otava Basin.

### 18 Cloisters

Members of the Maltese Knights Order had cloisters with early gothic brick fan-vaulting built in 80's and 90's of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It represents a precious display of the early gothic stadium of the architectural development of the Strakonice castle. It evokes the time of its formation thanks to its typical atmosphere. Cloisters are decorated by mural paintings that compose one of the most extensive mural cycles of this era in Bohemia. The cloisters are accessible from the Capitular Hall and are a part of its sight-seeing tour in the course of the museum season.



### 15 Jelenka

Jan of the powerful line of the lords of Rožmberk (1484–1532) was an important person of the Maltese Knights Order. The time of his reign (1511–1532) pressed a tinge to the castle and the town and the marks of his architectural modifications have still been visible. He over-built the southern part of the castle and had the tower Jelenka built. It should have served for feasts, entertainment and amusement for knights after deer hunts in the Strakonice grounds. The hall in the tower with its historically valuable panelled ceiling and dormer windows overlooking the moat was a place of rest and entertainment for the grand prior and his company. Mural painting of the Rožmberk crest rose often looked down to the feasts and heard lark and hoarse tales of knights. While the lords were having a good time in Jelenka, mischievous young squires were sitting in the antechamber trying to imitate manners of the aristocracy. Today the hall is a place for exhibitions and chamber cultural actions.



### 1 The Strakonice castle

The Strakonice castle is an exceptional historical monument, both historically and architectonically. There is not much information about its foundation. From the available sources we know only that on the junction of the Otava and the Volyňka rivers there was a palace occupied by secular lords Bavors of the Dart crest, and by Johannites, the members of a chivalric Church order, in about 1243 already. Until this time the castle had been a mansion of the Bavor aristocrats only. The order of St John of Jerusalem, Johannites or the Maltese Knights Order, gained the whole castle in the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The oldest parts of the castle bear marks of the gothic architecture (The Saint Prokop's church, the Rumpál tower), the Renaissance influenced the building of the Jelenka tower and the front side of the east part of the castle was rearranged in the classicist style. But these gradual reconstructions haven't dramatically changed the medieval-like appearance of the castle with the closed second court and the castle ditch near the river. The area of the castle has now been a place for various cultural actions. It is a residence of the Museum of Central Otava Basin with its exhibitions dedicated to Strakonice, pipers' tradition or the production of fezes and motorbikes ČZ. In the western part of the castle there is a safari in a former moat where dwarf goats, sheep and ponies gambol.

## Other sights in the town



### 10 Siebert's hospital, no. 189

Colonel of artillery and engineer Viktorín Siebert from Strakonice dedicated 10 000 golden coins to the building of a house for 10 poor citizens of Strakonice in his testament in 1685. A former building with a gateway in the middle was rebuilt and widened. It is an old people's house nowadays.

### 11 Renner's orchards

The town orchards were founded on the site of the towns fortifications by filling up the ditch. They bear the name of Antonín Renner, a native of Strakonice, who bequeathed his estates to three public institutions in Strakonice after his death. In 1837 a late Empire gloriolite was built on a prepared hillock. They became today's appearance in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Do not miss the monument of Master Jan Hus, the fountain of Antonín Renner and the chapel of St Jan of Nepomuk.

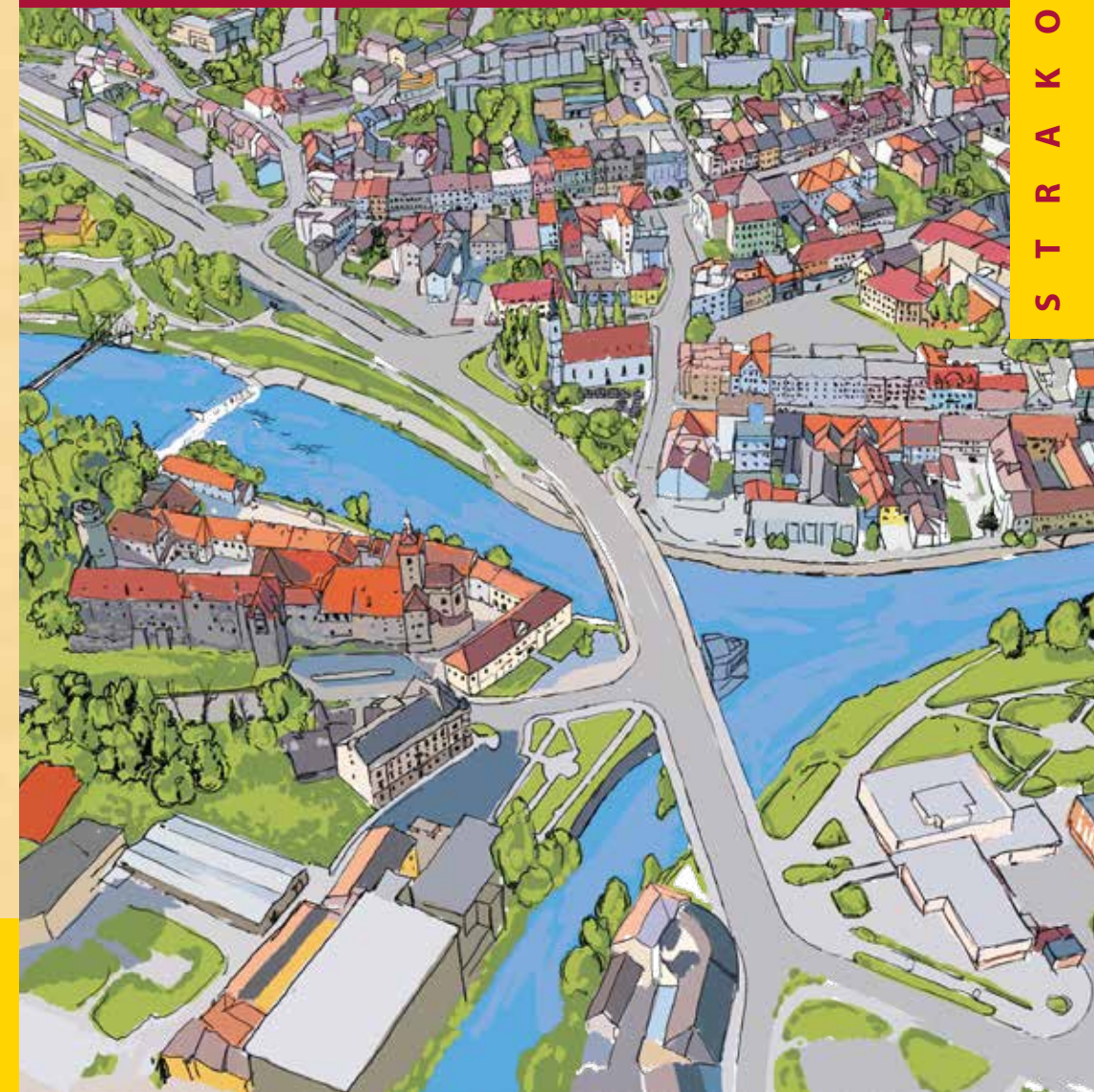


### 13 F. L. Čelakovský

A bust of F. L. Čelakovský, a national revivalist, writer and collector of folk literature, scientist and native of Strakonice is placed on the Zellerin slope above the Otava river. The site is connected with his first literature trials. A carver Vojtěch Šíp made his bust and it was ceremoniously revealed on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1924 at the occasion of 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of F. L. Čelakovský (7. 3. 1799–5. 8. 1852). There used to be a ferry on the other side Podskali under this monument. Today is this look-out place one stop on the natural trail that goes through Strakonice Podskali across the Kalvárie hill to the Strakonice castle.

### 12 Burgess brewery Strakonice

The smell of beer, malt and hop makes us company on our journey around the brewery. Brewing the beer has an admirable tradition in Strakonice. Bavor IV granted Strakonice the town privileges in 1367; they included the right to brew beer in burgess houses. After the severity of the 30-year-long war the impoverished brewers came to an agreement with the town to found a communal brewery in the house no. 47 on the Large Square in 1649. There were 158 houses with the brew right in Strakonice in this time. The town brewery grew larger and continuously came from simple procedures to industrial ones. A new steam-engine brewery was built on the bank of the Otava in 1873–1874 and the malt-plant remained in the house no. 47 up till the early 60's of the last century.



## Strakonice

### The tour through the town

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Editors: MěÚ, odbor školství a cestovního ruchu. Illustration: Pavel Koubek.  
Published by the town Strakonice in 2015, the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 3000 copies.

[www.hradstrakonice.cz](http://www.hradstrakonice.cz)





### ③ The church of St Margaret

In 1583 the Strakonice citizens had a large church built on a former island on bases of an older gothic church from the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century that enabled a possibility to commune according to utraquistic rules. A Flemish architect V. Vogarelli was deputed with the building of the church. The newly made renaissance building, bearing gothic marks, with halls is arched with a net star vault. The church furnishing is pseudo-gothic. During reconstruction of the roof in 2000 documents dated 1873 were discovered in the copula.



### ⑤ Pope's Houses

The houses belonged to the Strakonice architect Ing. Gustav Papež (Pope). The arrangement of the buildings at right angle to the square was typical for renaissance and gothic build-up area. The decoration of gables with spiral volutes reminds buildings of the south-bohemian folk architecture, the rural baroque. The national artist Břetislav Benda created the architect's tomb bust on the Strakonice cemetery.



### ④ The former town hall

The building of the former town hall replaced an earlier lower building with a torrent that was destroyed in a fire. It was a grammar school and an elementary school afterwards. It is situated on the Large Square close to the town office. The academic painter Josef Bošáček decorated the forefront with colourful graffiti in 1903 in accordance to thematic cards by Mikoláš Aleš. In the first floor there is an abundant ornamental decoration of tendrils, cillery and blooms laced together. Ornaments decorate the second floor too and there is an emblem of the town and the Czech Lion between the windows. There are figures of The Justice and The Autonomy on either side of the window in the arc fields. The last restoration of graffiti was carried out in 1992 by the academic painter Alois Martan, a restorer, at the assistance of the academic painter Jiří Čech, a restorer also.



### ② The Marian column on the Palacký Square

The dominant of the Palacký Square is a baroque Marian column from 1730–1740. It was originally built on the Large Square after the great black death in 1586. Marian columns were erected to express thanks for diversion of a Black Death epidemics and as a pray to the Virgin Mary to save the town from the Black Death attack in the future. After the Second World War it was placed onto the Palacký Square. Initially simple column with a statue of the Virgin Mary was enriched by statues of St Jan of Nepomuk, St Vojtěch, St Josef and St Antonín and four angels in the half of 18<sup>th</sup> century.

**Strakonice is a picturesque town on the junction of the Otava and the Volyňka rivers with a dominant of a mediaeval castle. Join us for a tour through the town and learn about its beauty.**



### ⑥ Old Butcher's shops

Old Butcher's shops are a roofed narrow street bordered by shops on the both sides that has kept medieval ground plan including the architecture. In the baroque era in the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was a gate covering the entrance to the street from the square. A three-dimensional slaughter of an ox in a low embossment is pictured on the baroque gable from 1700. A butchers' lion with an axe stands in the tympanum of the three-side gable. The present colours are based on the results of the restoration search in the beginning of 90's.



### ⑦ The house At the Grape

House no. 54 with a three-dimensional blue grape and the year 1808 on the gable has been one of the oldest houses on the Large Square. Walls testify its origin in the Middle Ages already. It became one of the most luxurious houses on the square in the 16<sup>th</sup> century – the time of renaissance. Symmetrical volute gable, today with classicist features, decorated the house in the era of baroque and its nowadays appearance returned to it after the last reconstruction that saved the house from almost certain demolition.



### ⑥ The former brewery

There used to be a feudal pub called Beseda on the first floor of the former burgess brewery. T. G. Masaryk delivered his election speech on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1891 in its hall – in this time he was a university professor yet. He was standing as a candidate to the Imperial council and was a representative of several south-bohemian towns including Strakonice. In the end of the year he succeeded in the election to the Provincial congress as well and he defended interests of our town till 1893. A memorial plaque reminds the day when the future first president of Czechoslovakia had his speech.



### ⑧ The Czech savings bank

On the site of today's savings bank there used to be rococo Hrbek house, where a clergyman Josef Šmídinger was born, a nationalist and a bookish person who founded a library in Strakonice in 1843. In 1905 the emperor František Josef I was expected to arrive the house had already been doomed to demolition. It had to be therefore covered with bag-cloth and decorated with paper flower garlands. Shortly after emperor had left, the house was pulled down and a new savings bank in secession neo-renaissance was built on its place. It was a town one firstly, and then a national one and now it is The Czech savings bank. There is Šmídinger's memorial plaque at the entrance. The former town savings bank was finished in 1906 according to the drafts by the architect Karel Bubla. The decoration on the forefront was made by Josef Bošáček according to the drafts by Václav Malý.