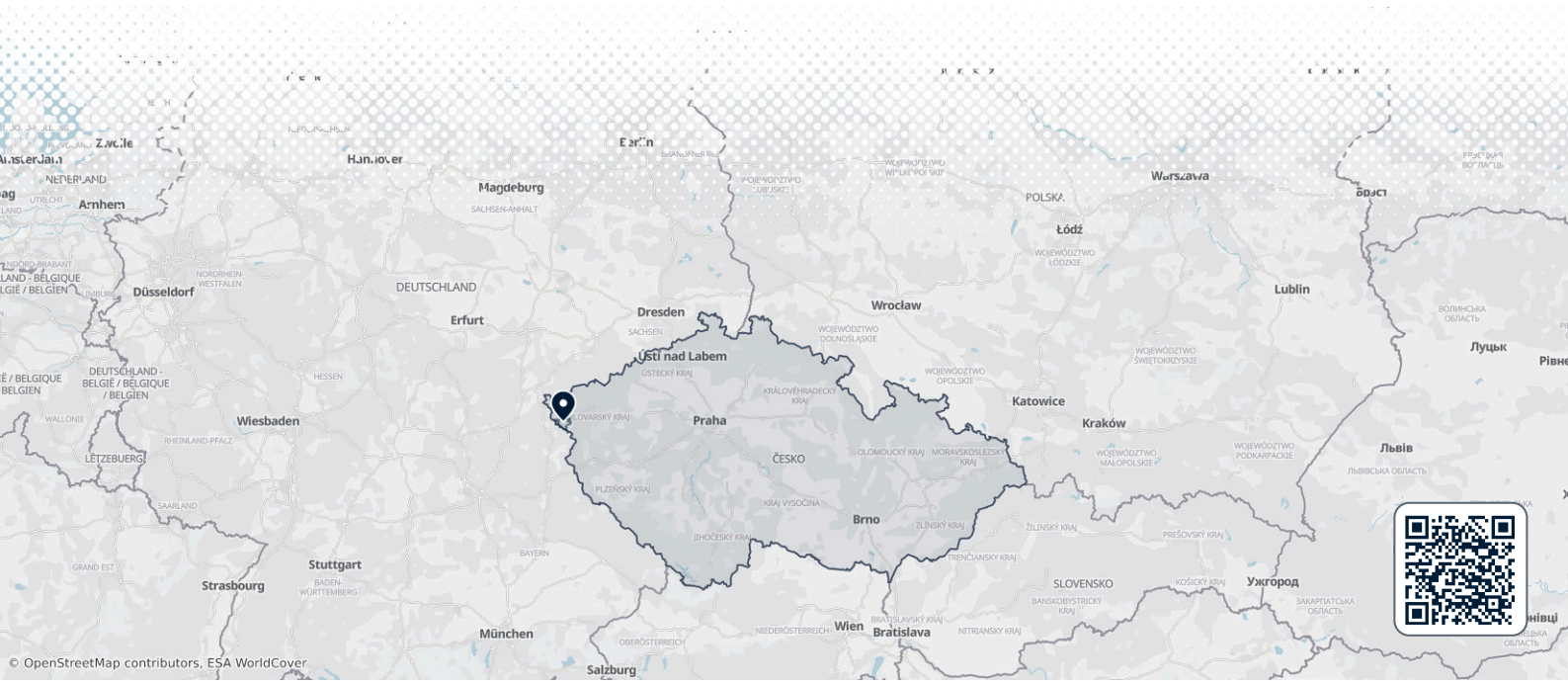


Cheb

Cheb District · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Cheb is a compact border town in the far west of the Czech Republic, just a few kilometres from Bavaria. Its old town grew up around a 12th-century imperial castle. It still has one of the most complete medieval centres in western Bohemia, with a sloping market square lined with colourful half-timbered and gabled houses.

The town suits a relaxed one- or two-night stay. You can combine it with the nearby spa towns, the German border area, and quiet volcanic landscapes. For centuries Cheb was a German-speaking town called Eger, and that mixed history is still visible in its buildings. The Baroque architect *Balthasar Neumann* was born here.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time. Summer days are warm and the old town is lively, while spring and autumn are cooler and quieter. Winters are cold and grey, with some snow.

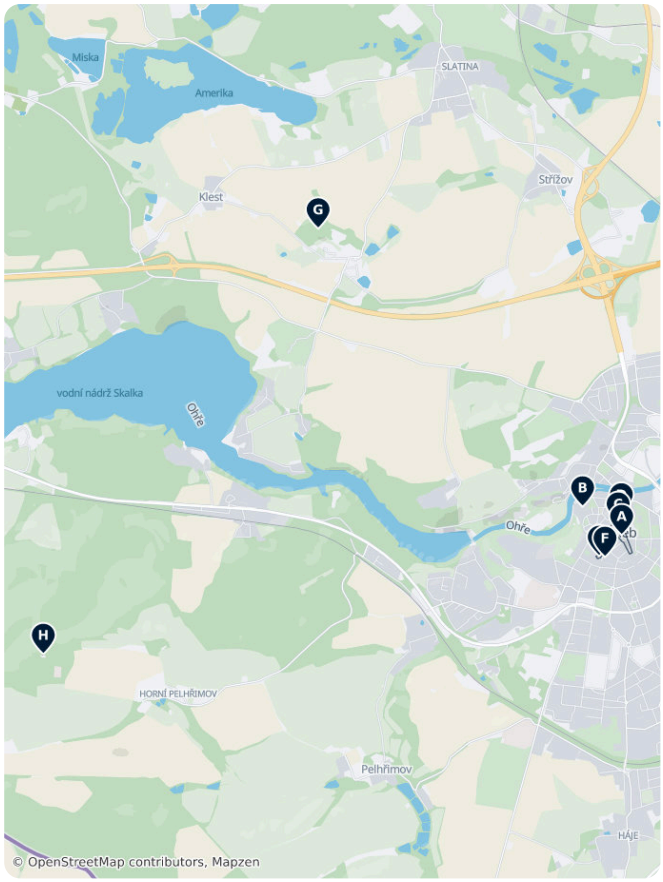
The biggest event is the Wallenstein Festival (Valdštejnské slavnosti). It usually takes place in late summer and fills the square and castle with costumed processions, knights' tournaments and a historical market. It is not held every year, so check the dates before you travel.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 7° Feels like -5°	-5° / -14°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 10° Feels like -2°	-4° / -14°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 16° Feels like 3°	-1° / -8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	13° / 21° Feels like 10°	3° / -3°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25°	7° / 2°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 30°	11° / 6°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 8°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
August	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 32°	13° / 8°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 28°	9° / 4°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for sightseeing	13° / 20° Feels like 10°	5° / -2°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 13° Feels like 2°	1° / -5°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 8° Feels like -3°	-3° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



A King George of Poděbrady Square is the heart of the old town. Near its upper end stands Špalíček, a tight block of eleven medieval half-timbered houses split by a narrow lane. The square also houses the Gallery of Fine Arts, with a strong collection of 20th-century Czech art.

B Cheb Castle was built around 1180 for Emperor *Frederick I Barbarossa*. Climb the Black Tower for views over the roofs, and see the rare two-storey Romanesque chapel.

C Cheb Museum occupies the Pachelbel House, where the general *Albrecht von Wallenstein* was murdered in 1634. The exhibits cover his death, the town's history and regional folk culture.

D Church of St. Nicholas and St. Elizabeth is the town's main church. It combines a Romanesque core with a Gothic hall interior and two tall towers that dominate the skyline.

E Church of the Annunciation was consecrated in 1285 and is one of the oldest Gothic hall churches in Bohemia. Its quiet late-Gothic cloister has remains of old wall paintings.

F Church of St. Clare is a Baroque church by *Christoph Dientzenhofer*. Today it is used for art exhibitions and concerts.

G Komorní hůrka is a small extinct volcano on the edge of town. *Johann Wolfgang von Goethe* came here several times to study its origin.

H Bismarck Tower stands on Zelená hora hill west of the centre. The 1909 stone tower gives wide views over the Cheb basin and the hills along the border; check opening times before you go.

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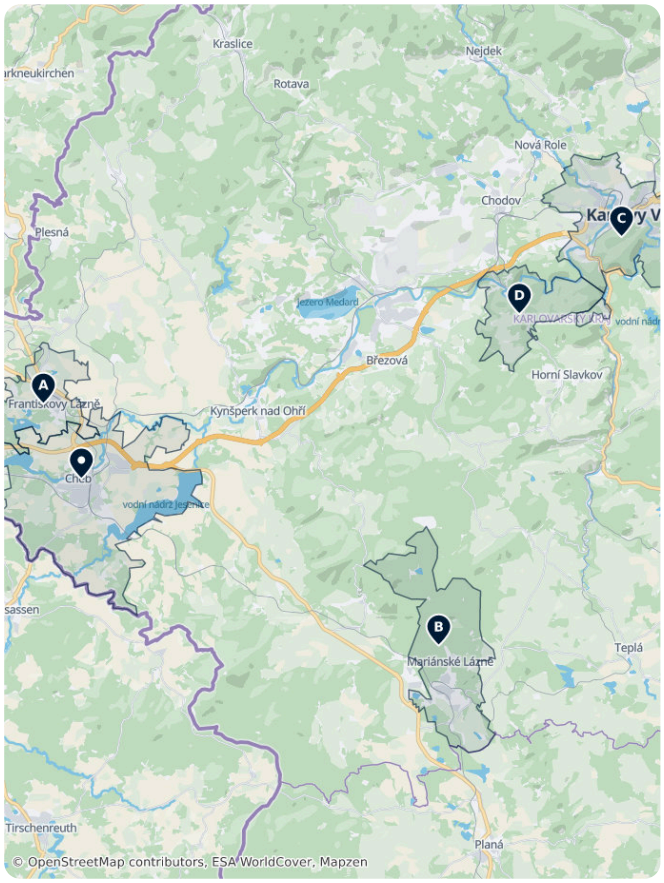
What to experience

A few things worth doing beyond sightseeing:

- **Hear a concert in a historic church**: Church of St. Clare and Church of the Annunciation are both used as concert venues, especially in summer.
- **Cycle along the Ohře**: Follow the river route to the nearby reservoirs and villages, or ride over the border into Bavaria.
- **Follow Wallenstein's last days**: Start at the museum, then trace the places linked to the 1634 murders in the old town and at the castle.

Day trips

Cheb is a good base for the West Bohemian spa towns and the nearby German border area. Trips are listed from closest to farthest.



- A Františkovy Lázně: ≈10 min by train or bus. A small, elegant spa town with classical yellow buildings and a large park.
- Soos National Nature Reserve: ≈15 min by car. A nature reserve with peat bogs and bubbling carbon dioxide springs, explored on a wooden boardwalk.
- Waldsassen (Germany): ≈20 min by car. The Baroque basilica and the carved library hall of the abbey are worth the short trip across the border.
- B Mariánské Lázně: ≈30 min by train. A grand spa town with a cast-iron colonnade and a singing fountain.
- C Karlovy Vary: ≈1 hour by train or car. The largest and best-known Czech spa town, with hot springs and ornate colonnades.
- D Loket: ≈1 hour by train or car. A castle town on a tight bend of the Ohře river.

Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně and Františkovy Lázně together form part of the UNESCO-listed

Great Spa Towns of Europe.

Where to explore

Cheb sits at the centre of the West Bohemian spa triangle.

- **Spa towns**: Františkovy Lázně is right next door, and Mariánské Lázně is a short train ride to the south-east.
- **Border area**: Aš lies in the far north-western tip of the country, surrounded by Germany on three sides.

Getting there

- **By air**: The most practical international airports are Prague (about 170 km away) and Nuremberg (about 140 km away). From Prague airport, take a bus or train to the city first and continue by train to Cheb.
- **By train**: Cheb is a major rail junction. Direct trains run to Prague (≈3 h), Plzeň (≈1.5 h), Karlovy Vary and Mariánské Lázně. Direct regional trains run to Nuremberg in Germany in about 1 h 45 min. Book Czech trains on České dráhy.
- **By car**: Cheb is on the main road between Karlovy Vary and the German motorway network. The border crossing to Bavaria is only a few minutes away.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The old town is small, and the station, the square and the castle are all within about 15 minutes' walk of each other.
- **Public transit**: A small network of city buses links the centre with the outer districts. You can buy a single ticket from the driver, and bank cards are accepted on board. Details are on the Dopravní podnik Cheb site.
- **Cycling**: The Ohře (Eger) river cycle route passes through town and is a pleasant way to reach the surrounding villages.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The old town is compact; the station, main square and castle are all within a 15-minute walk.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The Ohře river cycle route passes through town, but streets in the centre are cobbled and traffic on the main roads can be busy.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the town itself, which is compact and walkable. A car is useful for the nature reserves, small border villages and the German side.
- **Parking**: The historic centre has limited, paid street parking. Use the car parks at the edge of the old town and walk in.
- **Border and tolls**: There are no regular border checks. Czech motorways need an electronic vignette, while German motorways are free for cars.

Food & drink

Cheb's food is typical of West Bohemia, with hearty meat dishes, dumplings and good local beer. The long German history also shows in cakes and pastries similar to those in nearby Bavaria.

The easiest place to eat is around the main square and Špalíček, where cafés and restaurants put tables outside in summer. For a wider choice, the spa towns nearby have more restaurants and traditional spa cafés.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Fruit Dumplings · Ovocné knedlíky
Sweet dumplings filled with seasonal fruit (like plums or apricots), topped with cottage cheese and sugar.

DINNER

Svíčková · Svíčková na smetaně
Marinated beef sirloin in a creamy vegetable sauce, served with bread dumplings and cranberries.

Goulash · Guláš
A hearty stew, typically made with beef, onions, and paprika, often served with bread dumplings or potatoes.

Roast Pork with Dumplings and Cabbage · Vepřo knedlo zelo
A traditional Czech dish of roast pork, bread dumplings, and sauerkraut or stewed cabbage.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Fried Cheese · Smažený sýr
A thick slice of cheese, breaded and deep-fried, usually served with fries and tartar sauce.

Potato Pancakes · Bramboráky
Crispy pancakes made from grated potatoes, flour, and spices, often served as a side dish or a snack.

Chlebíčky
Open-faced sandwiches on slices of white bread, elaborately decorated with various toppings.

Fried Cauliflower · Smažený květák
Breaded and deep-fried cauliflower florets, similar to fried cheese but made with cauliflower.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Trdelník
A sweet pastry made from rolled dough, wrapped around a stick, grilled, and topped with sugar and walnut mixture.

DRINKS

Pilsner Urquell · Plzeňský Prazdroj
The world's first pale lager, originating from the city of Pilsen, known for its crisp, refreshing taste.

Becherovka
A traditional Czech herbal liqueur with a distinctive bitter-sweet taste, often enjoyed as a digestif.

Kofola
A popular Czech herbal cola-like soft drink, often described as having a unique, slightly medicinal flavor.

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Safety & health

Cheb is generally safe for visitors. Use normal care with bags in the evening around the railway station.

The markets near the German border, run mostly by Vietnamese traders, sell cheap clothes and goods, including many fakes. **Counterfeit goods can be confiscated at German customs**, so avoid them if you continue to Germany. Tap water is safe to drink.

History

The Holy Roman Emperor *Frederick I Barbarossa* built an imperial palace here in the late 12th century. The Black Tower and the double chapel inside Cheb Castle still show this period. Cheb was an imperial town until 1322, when it was pledged to the King of Bohemia. It has belonged to the Bohemian crown ever since.

In 1459 King *George of Poděbrady* signed the Treaty of Eger with Saxony here. It fixed a border that is still largely in place today, and the main square carries his name. In 1634, the general *Albrecht von Wallenstein* was murdered in the house that is now Cheb Museum.

For most of its history Cheb was a German-speaking town. After the Second World War, the German population was expelled, and the town was resettled by Czechs. The restored old town around King George of Poděbrady Square is the best place to see that long shared history.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for the Czech Republic at a glance:

CURRENCY
CZK Kč

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

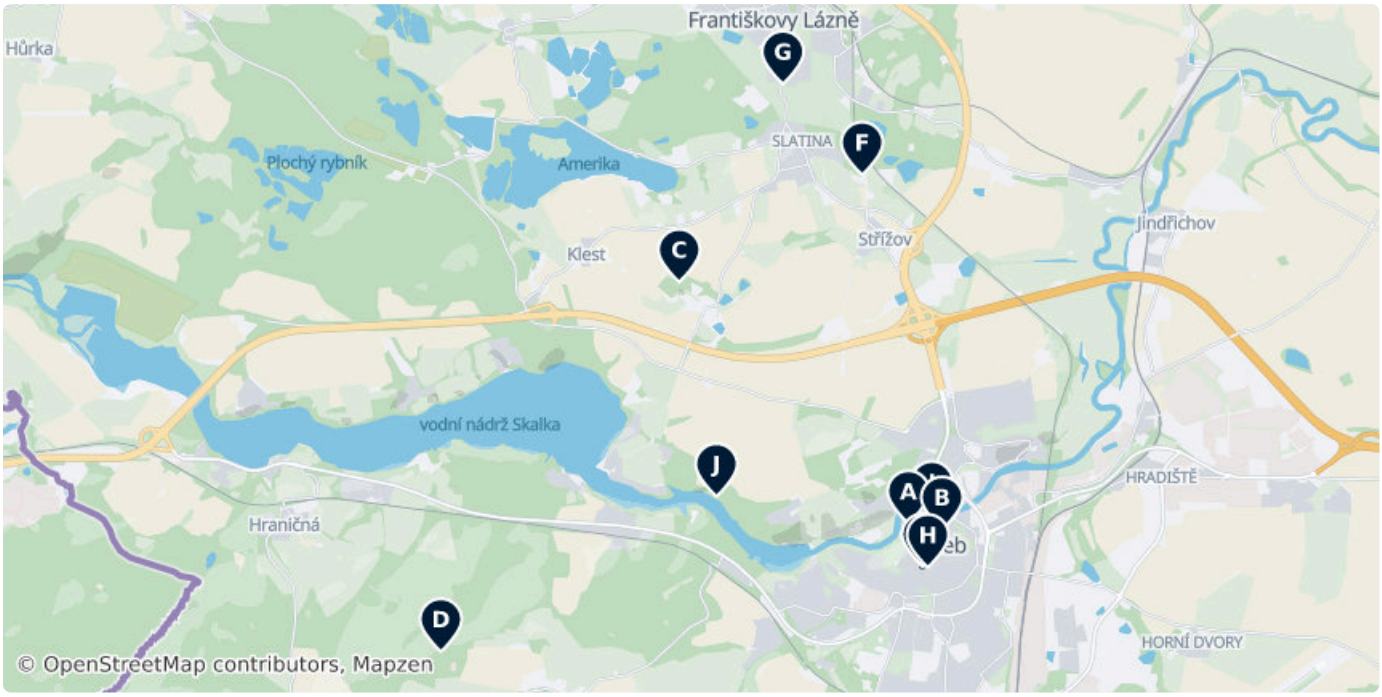
Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Czech

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Cheb Essentials

Cheb features a rare imperial castle with a unique double-storey Romanesque-Gothic chapel and the volcanic landscape of Komorní hůrka, Europe's northernmost extinct volcano. The city's architectural heritage includes the massive twin-towered Basilica of St. Nicholas and the Baroque Church of St. Clare, designed by Christoph Dientzenhofer. Visitors can also explore several historic lookout towers, such as the stone Bismarck Tower on Zelená hora and the mock-medieval Salingburg ruins.





A Cheb Castle

A 12th-century imperial castle featuring the Black Tower and a rare two-story Romanesque-Gothic chapel. It is the only Hohenstaufen kaiserburg in Central Europe.

2062/21 Dobrovského, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.08125, 12.36609)

hrad-cheb.cz/cz/, +420602169298



B Nicholas and Elizabeth Church

Originally a 13th-century Romanesque basilica, this three-aisle church was rebuilt in Gothic style. It features prominent twin towers and a neo-Gothic interior.

187/13 Kostelní náměstí, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.08075, 12.37038)

Tu–Su 10:00–17:00



C Komorní hůrka

The youngest extinct volcano in the Czech Republic. It became a significant site for geological research in the 18th and 19th centuries and was famously studied by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

35101, Czech Republic (50.10101, 12.33681)



D Bismarck Observation Tower

An 18-meter stone observation tower on Zelená hora, built in 1909. It is one of only three Bismarck towers located in the Czech Republic.

35002, Czech Republic (50.07076, 12.30640)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

+420777468233



E Church of the Annunciation

A Gothic church of the Annunciation, part of a former Franciscan monastery. The site includes an adjacent cloister with well-preserved 15th-century murals.

160/14 Františkánské náměstí, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.07773, 12.36792)



F Salingburg

A romanticized lookout tower built in 1906 to resemble a medieval castle ruin, located on the southern outskirts of the spa district.

11, 35002, Czech Republic (50.10978, 12.36018)



G Statue of František

A famous bronze statue of a small boy holding a fish, which has become a symbol of the nearby spa town and is associated with local fertility legends.

19 Národní, Františkovy Lázně 35101, Czech Republic (50.11722, 12.35007)

Mo–Su Open 24/7

greatspas.eu/en/statue-little-boy-frantisek-with-fish-frant...



H Church of Saint Clare, Cheb

A Baroque church built between 1708 and 1711 by the renowned architect Christoph Dientzenhofer. It originally served a convent of Poor Clares.

85/5 Františkánské náměstí, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.07766, 12.36857)



I svatý Bartoloměj

A Gothic church originally belonging to the Order of Teutonic Knights. It now houses a gallery of Gothic sculpture and religious art.

22/2 Křižovnická, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.08200, 12.36909)



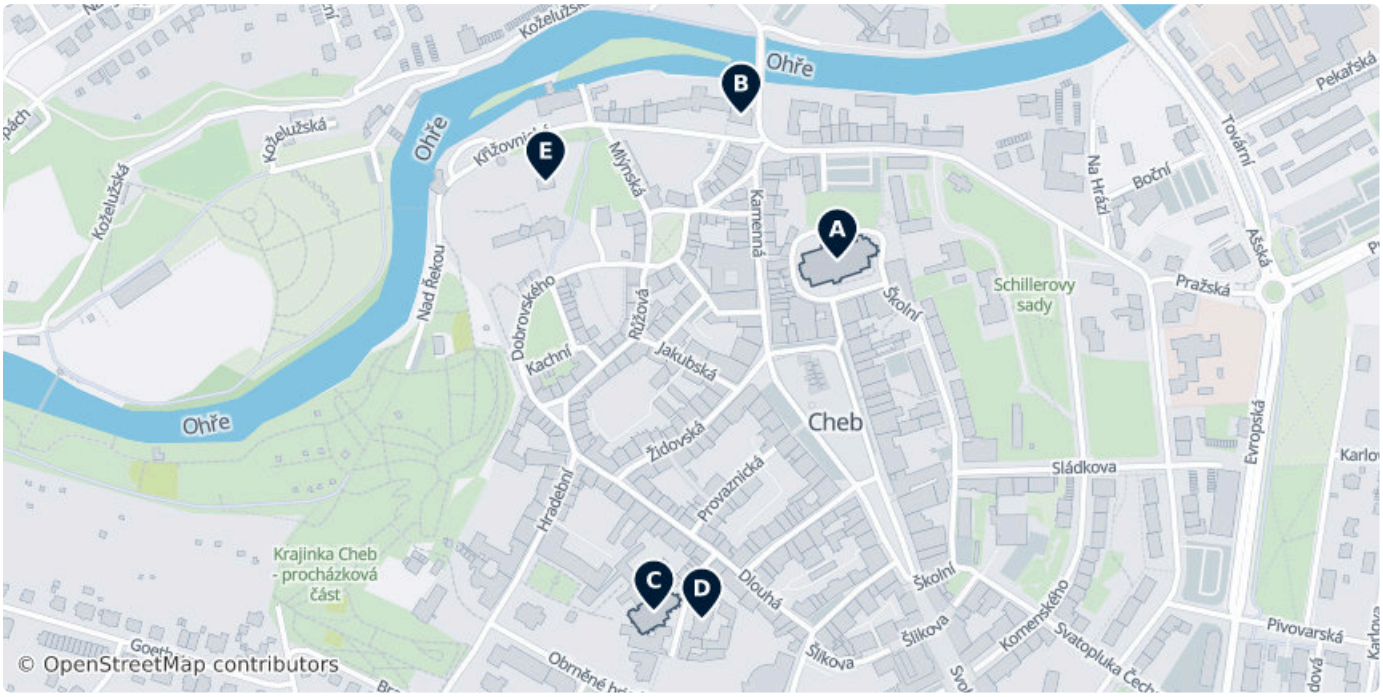
J Chebská stráž

A wooden observation pavilion offering views over the Cheb basin and the nearby Skalka reservoir.

35002, Czech Republic (50.08346, 12.34159)

Historic Churches and Chapels in Cheb

Cheb's religious architecture spans centuries, showcasing the city's transition from Romanesque foundations to Baroque grandeur. This collection features the 13th-century Basilica of St. Nicholas, the Gothic Church of St. Bartholomew, and the former Franciscan monastery complex. Significant highlights include the Baroque Church of St. Clare, designed by architect Christoph Dientzenhofer, and the rare Romanesque double chapel of Saints Martin, Erhard, and Ursula located within the Cheb Castle grounds.





A Nicholas and Elizabeth Church

A 13th-century three-aisled basilica featuring Romanesque foundations and Gothic reconstruction. It is the oldest parish church in Cheb, notable for its prominent twin towers and late-Gothic interior details.

187/13 Kostelní náměstí, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.08075, 12.37038)

Tu–Su 10:00–17:00



B svatý Bartoloměj

A Gothic church located in the historic center. Originally built for the Order of the German Knights, the site now serves as a gallery space for Gothic sculpture and ecclesiastical art.

22/2 Křižovnická, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.08200, 12.36909)



C Church of the Annunciation

This Roman Catholic church was part of a Franciscan monastery established in the 13th century. The complex includes a well-preserved Gothic cloister and significant Baroque interior modifications.

160/14 Františkánské náměstí, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.07773, 12.36792)



D Church of Saint Clare, Cheb

A high Baroque church designed by Christoph Dientzenhofer between 1708 and 1711 for the Order of Poor Clares. It currently serves as a venue for concerts and art exhibitions.

85/5 Františkánské náměstí, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.07766, 12.36857)

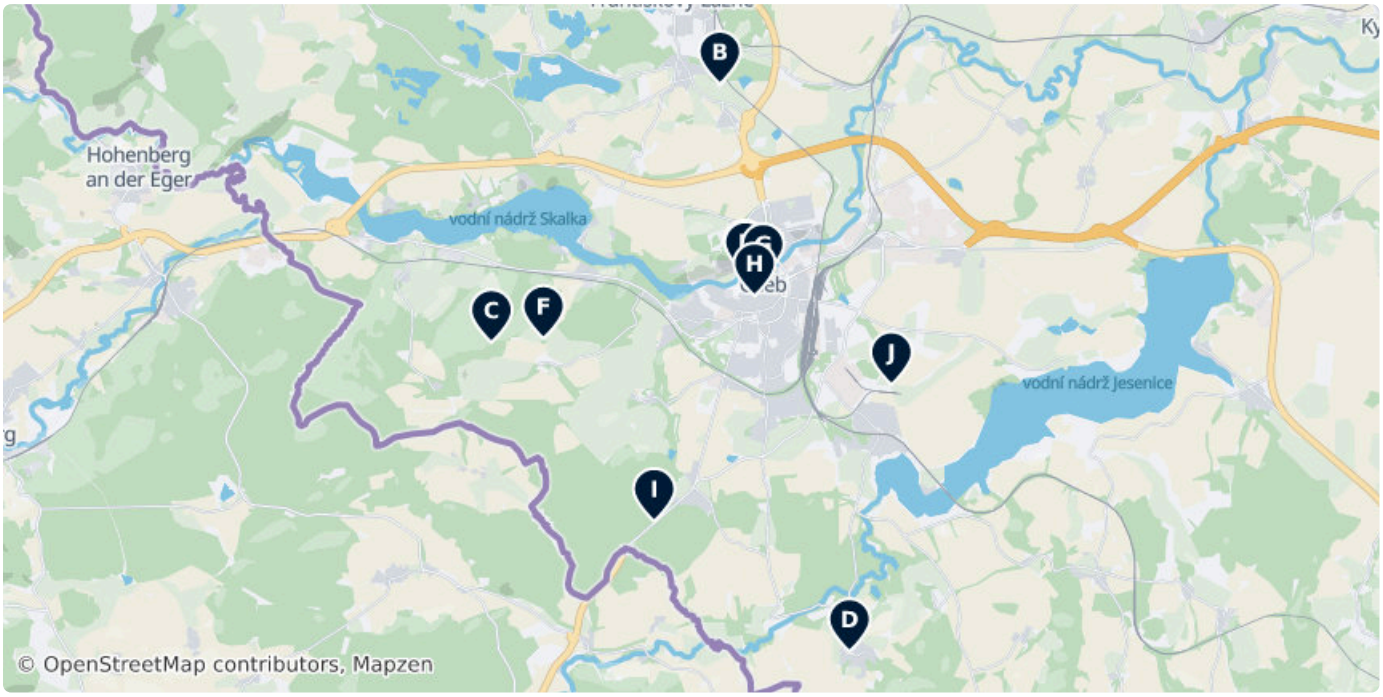
E Kaple sv. Martina, Erharda a Uršuly

A rare Romanesque double chapel situated within Cheb Castle. The unique structure features a heavy Romanesque ground floor for commoners and a more ornate upper level for the nobility.

24 Mlýnská, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.08142, 12.36647)

Historic Sites in Cheb

Cheb's strategic position on the Czech-German border is reflected in its diverse historical landmarks. This selection spans centuries of heritage, from the 12th-century Cheb Castle with its rare Romanesque double chapel to the 20th-century Bismarck observation tower. The list also highlights the region's complex modern history, featuring the Iron Curtain memorial at Svatý Kříž and one of the country's oldest airfields. These sites offer a focused look at the architectural and political shifts that shaped the Cheb region.





A Cheb Castle

A 12th-century Romanesque-Gothic fortress featuring the unique double-storey Chapel of St. Erhard and Ursula, a rare example of Hohenstaufen architecture.

2062/21 Dobrovského, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.08125, 12.36609)

hrad-cheb.cz/cz/, +420602169298



B Salingburg

A romantic lookout tower built in 1906, designed to resemble a medieval castle ruin.

11, 35002, Czech Republic (50.10978, 12.36018)



C Bismarck Observation Tower

An 18-meter stone observation tower built in 1909 on Zelená hora. It is one of only three surviving Bismarck towers in the Czech Republic.

35002, Czech Republic (50.07076, 12.30640)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

+420777468233

D Hrad

A historic castle site in Starý Hrozňatov, originally known as Kinsberg, featuring medieval foundations and later architectural modifications.

2147, 121 92 Cheb, Czechia (50.02404, 12.39070)

E Černá věž

An 18.5-meter defense tower within the Cheb Castle complex, constructed using dark volcanic basalt blocks from the nearby Komorní hůrka.

2062/21 Dobrovského, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.08101, 12.36620)

F Zřícenina kostela svaté Anny

The remains of a pilgrimage church in Horní Pelhřimov, which was largely destroyed during the Cold War due to its proximity to the border.

(50.07135, 12.31867)

G Kostelní náměstí

A historic square dominated by the Gothic Church of St. Nicholas, serving as a central point of the town's medieval layout.

187/13 Kostelní náměstí, Cheb 35002, Czech Republic (50.08071, 12.37039)

H Františkánské náměstí

A quiet square adjacent to the Franciscan Monastery and the Church of the Annunciation, with origins dating back to the 13th century.

(50.07780, 12.36835)

I Památník obětem železné opony

A memorial located at Svatý Kříž dedicated to the individuals who died attempting to cross the Iron Curtain during the Cold War.

(50.04373, 12.34473)

J Airport Cheb

Established in 1917, this is one of the oldest airfields in the Czech Republic and served as a significant military base during World War II.

(50.06439, 12.40061)

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