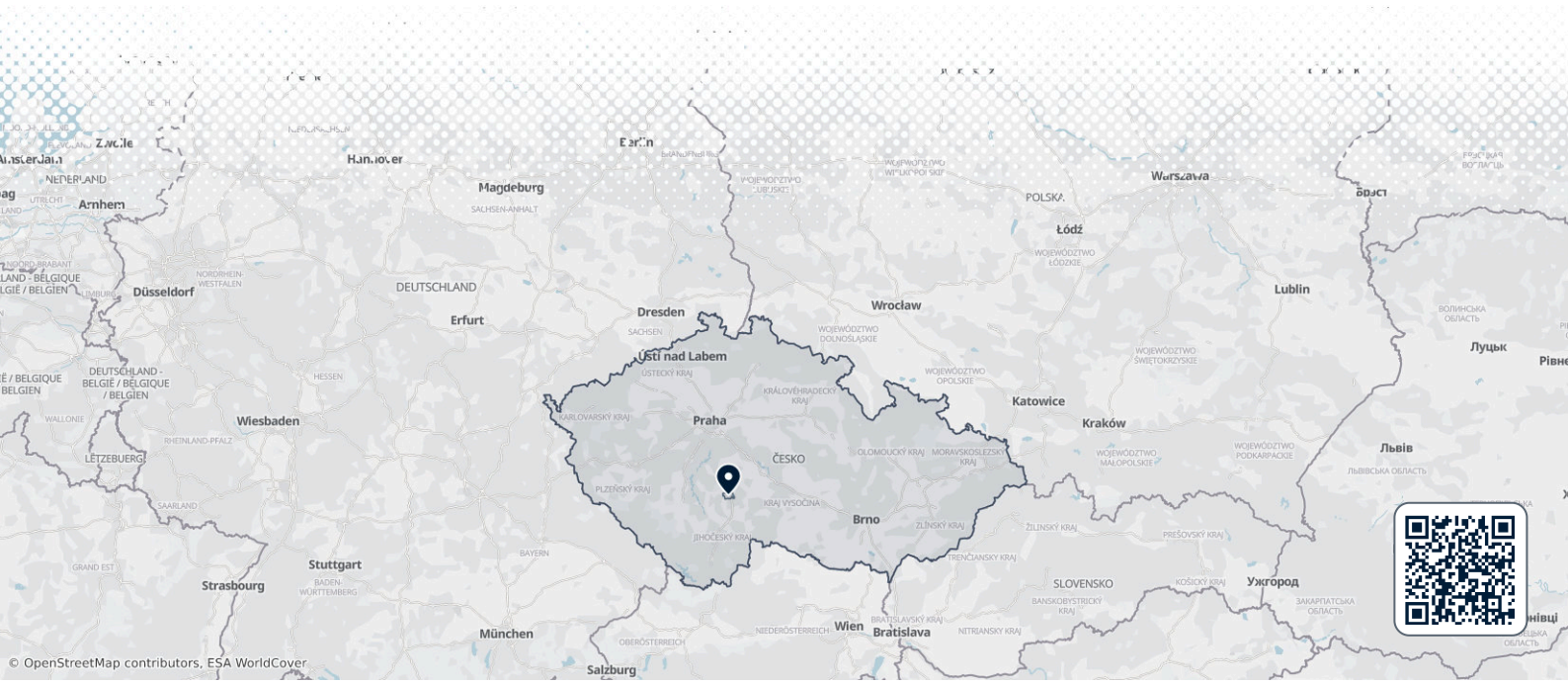


Tábor

Tábor District · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Tábor is a walled medieval town in South Bohemia, built on a rocky spur above the Lužnice river. Hussite reformers founded it in 1420 and named it after the biblical Mount Tabor. Their military leader *Jan Žižka* based his campaigns here. The old town still follows its original defensive layout: narrow, deliberately crooked streets designed to confuse attackers, opening onto one of Bohemia's largest Gothic and Renaissance squares.

Tábor suits travelers who want genuine medieval history without the summer crowds of nearby Český Krumlov. A single day covers the walled core and its underground passages. A second, more relaxed day adds the Jordán reservoir and the walking paths below the town walls.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are mild and the best time to see the old town without crowds. Summers are warm and busy around the Jordán reservoir, and winters are cold with occasional snow.

Plan around **Táborská setkání**, a Hussite-themed historical festival held every September, with costumed processions, a medieval market, and battle re-enactments filling the old town — worth timing a visit around if you enjoy living history.

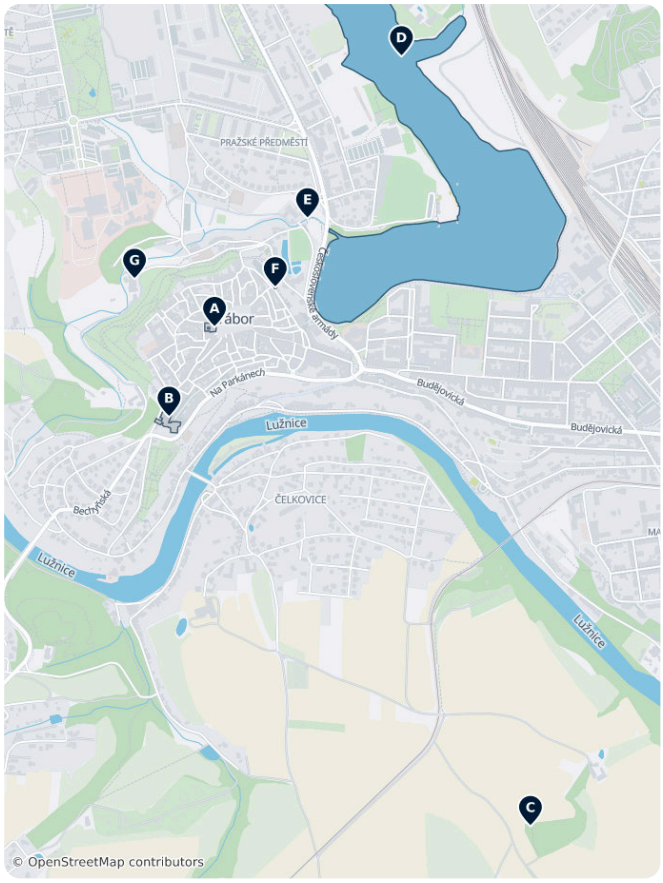
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 8° Feels like -5°	-5° / -15°	Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	3° / 11° Feels like -2°	-4° / -14°	Dry air
March	Fair Fair for cycling	8° / 16° Feels like 3°	-1° / -7°	Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	14° / 22° Feels like 10°	3° / -3°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25° Feels like 15°	8° / 2°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	23° / 30°	12° / 7°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 32°	14° / 9°	16 rainy days · Dry air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	25° / 32°	13° / 9°	12 rainy days · Dry air
September	Great Great for sightseeing	20° / 28°	9° / 4°	Dry air
October	Good Good for hiking	14° / 22° Feels like 10°	5° / -2°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 15° Feels like 2°	0° / -5°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 8° Feels like -3°	-3° / -12°	Dry air

Best months: June, August, September

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

Top sights

Tábor's old town is compact enough to see on foot in a few hours, but its underground history takes another. Start at the arcaded main square, Žižkovo náměstí, ringed with Gothic and Renaissance townhouses. It's named after the Hussite general who defended the town.



A Husitské muzeum occupies the old town hall on the square and tells the story of the radical Hussite movement that founded Tábor. Its ticket also covers around 500 meters of **medieval underground passages** carved beneath the streets, originally dug as cellars and later linked into a hiding network.

B Kotnov is the only surviving tower of the town's original 13th-century fortress, later converted into a brewery. Climb it for a view over the old town and the Lužnice valley.

For a wider panorama, climb C Babina, a wooden lookout tower north of the center with views toward the surrounding hills.

D Jordán Reservoir, just below the walls, is the oldest dam lake in Central Europe, built in 1492 to secure the town's water supply. Today it's a favorite spot for a swim, with E Jordánský vodopád spilling over the dam below it.

The Renaissance F Vodárenská věž once pumped water up from Jordán to fountains across the old town; today it's a small art gallery.

For something unusual, G Housův mlýn, an old watermill outside the walls, holds a costume and weapons collection used in historical films, plus a sword-fighting school.

Tabor – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

What to experience

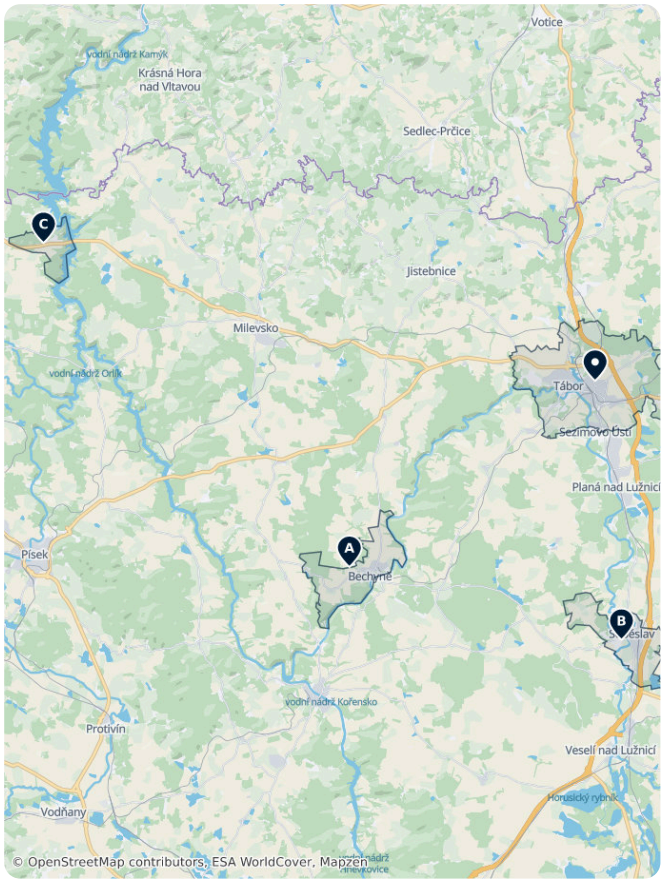
A few things to do here that go beyond sightseeing:

- Join a lantern-lit guided walk through the underground passages beneath Husitské muzeum — reservations are recommended, and the costumed-guide tours run separately from ordinary daytime visits.
- Swim or rent a pedal boat on Jordán Reservoir in summer, then walk the shoreline path back toward the old town walls.
- Take a swordsmanship lesson at the historical fencing school inside Housův mlýn.

Day trips

Tábor sits in the middle of the Hussite heartland, with good day trips close by and a few flagships worth the longer drive. Ordered from closest to farthest:

- Sezimovo Ústí (≈10 min by car or bus): Tábor's riverside neighbor, and the older settlement the Hussites burned in 1420 before founding Tábor itself. Today it's a quiet town known for its 1930s functionalist architecture.
- Kozí hrádek (≈15 min by car): a ruined castle where the reformer Jan Hus lived in hiding through 1413–1414. He wrote several of his major works here before his final journey to the Council of Constance.
- A Bechyně (≈30 min by train or car): a small spa and pottery town with a Renaissance chateau and a striking rainbow-shaped concrete bridge over the Lužnice.
- B Soběslav (≈30 min by train or car): a smaller, quieter historic town with a Gothic church and a well-preserved Renaissance square.
- C Orlík nad Vltavou (≈1.5 hours by car): a Romantic castle above a long reservoir on the Vltava river, with boat trips running in summer.



Where to explore

Tábor is the largest town in its district, but two smaller neighbors reward a closer look. Bechyně, a short trip southwest, pairs a Renaissance chateau with a long spa and pottery tradition. Soběslav, south along the Lužnice, offers a quieter, less-visited version of Tábor's own historic core.

Getting there

- **By air**: the nearest airport with scheduled passenger service is Václav Havel Airport Prague (PRG), about 100 km north. From the airport, take a bus or the metro into central Prague, then a train to Tábor (around 1 hour).
- **By train**: Tábor sits on the main line between Prague and Vienna. Fast trains from Prague take around 1 hour, and trains from České Budějovice take around 50 minutes.
- **By bus**: long-distance coaches link Tábor to Prague and other South Bohemian towns from the bus terminal next to the train station.

Getting around

- **On foot**: the walled old town is small and easy to walk; a loop of the center takes about 20 minutes. Steep lanes lead down to the river and the reservoir.
- **Public transit**: local buses connect the old town to the train station and outlying neighborhoods; buy tickets from the driver or at machines near the main stops. Most visitors won't need them inside the historic core.
- **Cycling**: marked cycling routes follow the Lužnice river and the Jordán shoreline, a good way to reach the reservoir and the surrounding countryside.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The walled old town is compact and pedestrian-friendly, though some lanes are steep.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Marked routes follow the Lužnice river and the Jordán reservoir shoreline outside the old town.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: not inside the old town — it's compact and best explored on foot. A car helps for day trips to Bechyně, Soběslav, or farther into the South Bohemian countryside.
- **Parking**: leave the car in one of the paid lots or street zones just outside the walls (pay by app or ticket machine); a few free lots sit a short walk further out.
- **Restrictions**: there's no congestion charge, but the medieval core's lanes are narrow and mostly one-way — park outside and walk in rather than trying to drive up to the square.

Food & drink

Restaurants here serve the same hearty South Bohemian classics as the rest of the region: roast pork with bread dumplings and cabbage, goulash, and fish from the region's ponds, especially carp in winter.

For something different, Muzeum čokolády a marcipánu near the main square runs tastings and workshops on the history of chocolate and marzipan — a good stop for something sweet. Otherwise, the lanes around Žižkovo náměstí hold the town's best concentration of cafés and traditional pubs, some in cellars that were once part of the underground passages below the square.

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.

Tabor – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Tábor is a safe, low-crime town; petty theft is rare, though keep an eye on belongings in the crowds during the September festival. Tap water is safe to drink, the same as the rest of the Czech Republic. The lanes and stone steps down to the river and reservoir can be slippery when wet, so wear grippy shoes if you plan to walk down from the walls.

History

Tábor's story starts with fire and religion. Jan Hus, the reformer whose teachings inspired the Hussite movement, was burned at the stake for heresy in 1415. Five years later, his most radical followers abandoned the nearby settlement of Sezimovo Ústí and built a fortified new town on this hilltop, naming it after the biblical Mount Tabor. For a few extraordinary years, the Táborites lived as a religious commune, holding property in common and rejecting noble titles. Their general *Jan Žižka*, blind in one eye and later completely blind, led their army to an unbroken string of victories.

The movement's radical wing was crushed at the Battle of Lipany in 1434, and Tábor gradually rejoined the mainstream Utraquist church. In 1452, the Hussite regent *Jiří z Poděbrad* — later king of Bohemia — brought the town peacefully under his control. What remained was a wealthy, self-governing town. It rebuilt itself in Renaissance style after a fire tore through it in 1532, including Kotnov, which was rebuilt decades later as a brewery rather than restored as a fortress. Today Husitské muzeum, in the old town hall the Táborites once governed from, tells that story in detail. The medieval cellars beneath it are among the few things in town that still look much as they did in the 15th century.

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

Walks

Audio Guides by Tripomatic
Walk it with an audio guide
Available in 9 languages · **Plays when you arrive** · **Works offline**
Scan to get the app

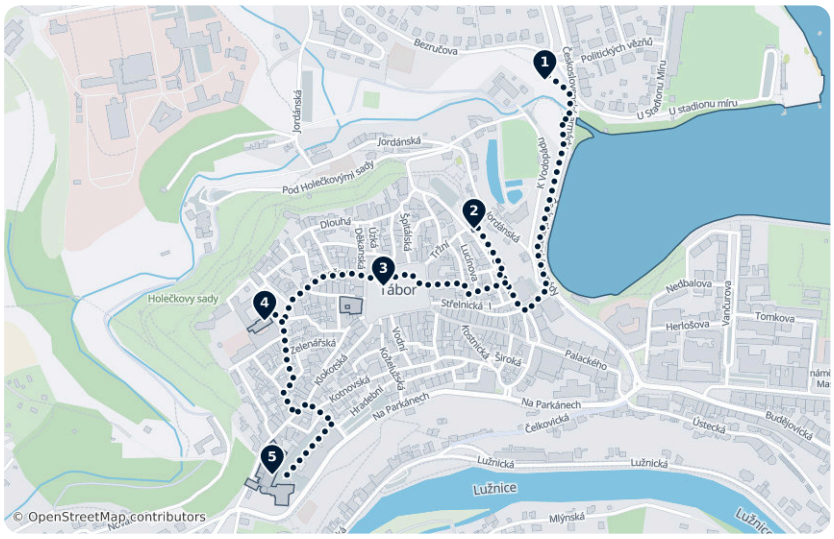
Best of Tábor

1h · 1.6 km · 5 stops



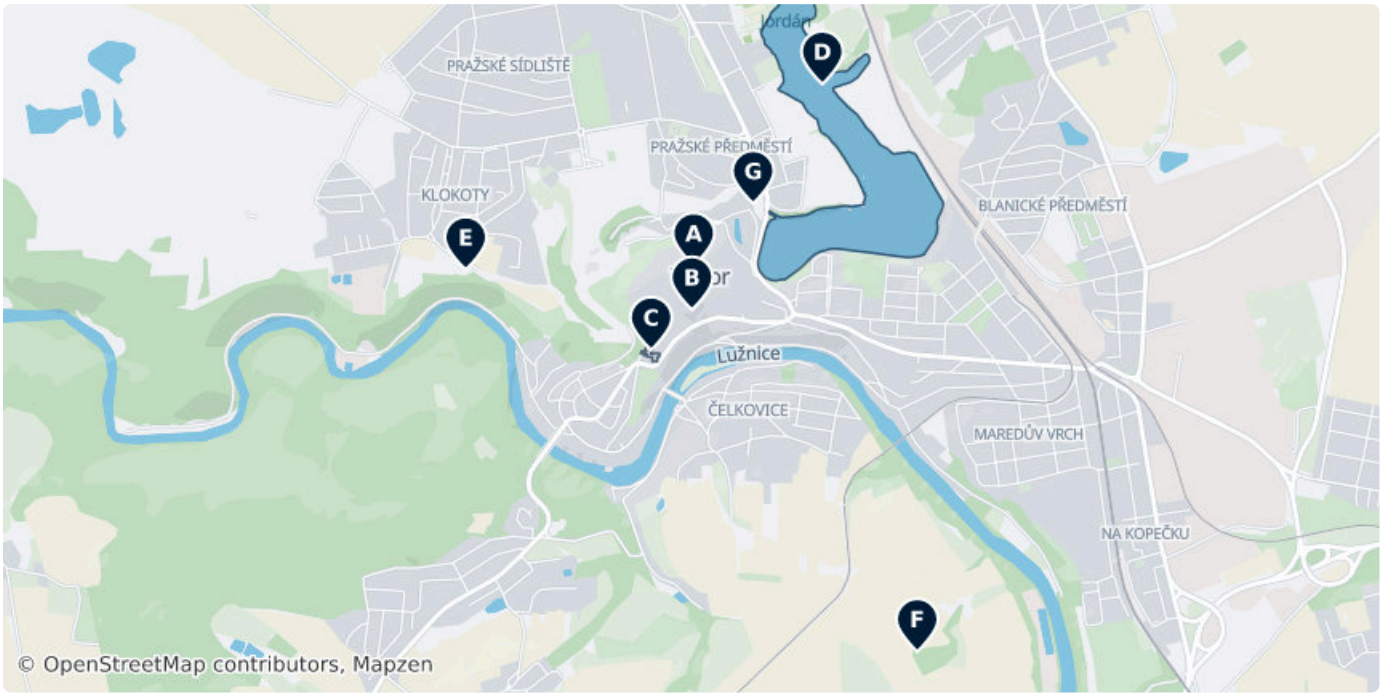
1. Jordán Reservoir
2. Old Water Tower
3. Žižka Square and the Old Town Hall
4. Augustinian Monastery and Holečkovy sady
5. Kotnov Castle and the Bechyně Gate

A walk through the hilltop town that the Hussites founded in 1420 and named after the biblical Mount Tabor. It starts at the dam of Jordán, one of the oldest dam reservoirs in Central Europe, right by the Nový ráj bus stop. It climbs past the old water tower to Žižka Square, with its Gothic town hall and the passages cut into the rock beneath it, then winds through lanes laid out to confuse invaders to a monastery garden above the Lužnice valley, and ends at Kotnov Castle and the Bechyně Gate.



Tábor Essentials

Tábor showcases the architectural legacy of the Hussite movement within its labyrinthine medieval streets. This selection includes the 15th-century Kotnov tower, the Gothic Church of the Transfiguration, and the Jordán reservoir, established in 1492 as Central Europe's first dam. The list also features the Baroque pilgrimage complex at Klokoty, the Babina observation tower, and an extensive chocolate and marzipan museum housed in historic townhouses near the central Žižka Square.



A Vyhlídková věž děkanského kostela Proměnění Páně

This 78-meter-high tower of the Gothic-Renaissance Church of the Transfiguration of the Lord provides panoramic views of Tábor's historic center, the Jordán reservoir, and the surrounding South Bohemian landscape.

Děkanská, 390 01 Tábor, Czechia (49.41461, 14.65836)

B Chocolate and Marzipan Museum

Located in historic townhouses, this museum displays chocolate sculptures, a marzipan model of the city, and historical packaging. It includes an interactive workshop for creating custom chocolate treats.

Kotnovská 138 (49.41297, 14.65827)

Mo–Su 09:00–17:00

cokomuzeum.cz, +420381211784



C Kotnov Castle

Originally a 13th-century royal castle, only the cylindrical tower remains today. The site was later integrated into a brewery and now houses Hussite Museum exhibitions focused on medieval history.

3121 Hradební, Tábor 39001, Czech Republic (49.41146, 14.65592)

husitskemuzeum.cz



D Jordán Reservoir

Jordán Reservoir is a reservoir inside the town of Tábor in the South Bohemian Region of the Czech Republic.

39003, Czech Republic (49.42141, 14.66577)



E Nanebevzetí Panny Marie

A Baroque pilgrimage complex in the Klokoty district, built between 1701 and 1730. It features a central church with a silver altar and a cloister with ten chapels topped by onion domes.

1 Staroklokotská, Tábor 39003, Czech Republic (49.41446, 14.64524)



F Babina Observation Tower

A 13-meter-high wooden observation tower with a steel staircase located on Babina hill. It offers views of the Tábor skyline, the Lužnice river valley, and the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands.

(Unnamed Road), 39001, Czech Republic (49.40016, 14.67123)

Jordánský waterfall

An 18-meter-high artificial waterfall created by the overflow of the Jordán reservoir. It is situated near the historic city walls where excess water cascades down a rocky cliff into the Tismenice stream.

K Vodopádu, 390 01 Tábor, Czechia (49.41694, 14.66179)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites
Route	HERE, GraphHopper

IMAGE CREDITS

- Kotnov Castle — "Tábor 24", cc-by-sa-4.0
- Jordán Reservoir — "Přepad z Jordánu - vodopád, Tismenický potok" by Rudolf Kukačka, Public domain
- Nanebevzetí Panny Marie — "Klokoty (Tábor), klášter,poutní místo" by Rudolf Kukačka, Public domain
- Babina Observation Tower — "Babina by", CC BY-SA 4.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 19, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.