

The earliest history of Sušice is closely connected with panning for gold. The first gold panners settled here at the end of the 8th century. Two settlements were set up along the Otava banks – Nuželice (the present day Horní Předměstí on the right bank of the river) and a settlement in the foothills of Svatobor (the present day PAP factory). It is also noteworthy that at some point in the past Sušice belonged to Bavaria as it was held by the Bavarian House of Bogen. The first written mention of Sušice dates back to 1233.



The prominent location of the town on the trading route to Bavaria was finally fully appreciated by King Přemysl Otakar II who permanently regained the region of Sušice for the Czech Kingdom. His son, Wenceslas II, started to build a Royal town here – the town of Sušice. In 1322 King John of Luxembourg allowed town walls to be built and in 1325 the King confirmed the town privilege of gold panning. Over time Sušice gained more rights and privileges. In the 16th century Sušice defended its right to free salt storage before Emperor Maximilian II. The import of salt is connected with the

development of the Sušice malt industry as salt was bought in exchange for wheat and malt. During the Thirty Years' War the armies on both sides of the conflict devastated the local area, and as if that was not enough, the region was badly hit by the plague in 1698–80. However, the biggest tragedy of all was the fire that broke out on 20. 7. 1707. Nearly the whole town and its suburbs were burnt down. The fire spread rapidly, it took only half an hour for the town to be engulfed in flames and for 31 people to die. It took nearly the whole of the 18th century for the town to recover.

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The appearance of the town started to change at the end of the 18th century – a ban on allowing cattle to run in the streets was issued and the first public oil lighting was installed. In the 1830^s the square and Pražská St were paved. The smelly slaughter house and the meat stalls behind the Town Hall were demolished, and slowly the gatehouses were also pulled down (the Imperial Gatehouse was pulled down in 1842, the Prague Gatehouse in 1836 and the Cloister Gatehouse in 1856); the walls and moats were sold off for house construction.



The greatest boom came in the 19th century when in 1839 the production of matches was introduced to the town by a citizen of the town, Vojtěch Scheinost. The end of the 19th century, saw the beginnings of the tannery industry (the Schwarzkopf Company, as the only one in the country, was

able to compete with Baťa's mass production). In 1868 there were twenty breweries and five mills in the region of Sušice. There were also approximately seven glassmaking workshops and several paper mills. In 1871 salmon breeding started in Sušice, in 1888 the town was connected with the outside world by the railway and in 1898 a hospital was established. In 1933 the PAP factory started to make cups of impregnated paper (currently mostly plastic cup production).

The town was always predominantly Czech, and therefore it was not annexed to the German Reich in 1938. On 6. 5. 1945 it was liberated by the American Army of General Patton under the leadership of Major General William A. Hoge.



Length of the route:
2 km (slow walk about 1 hour)

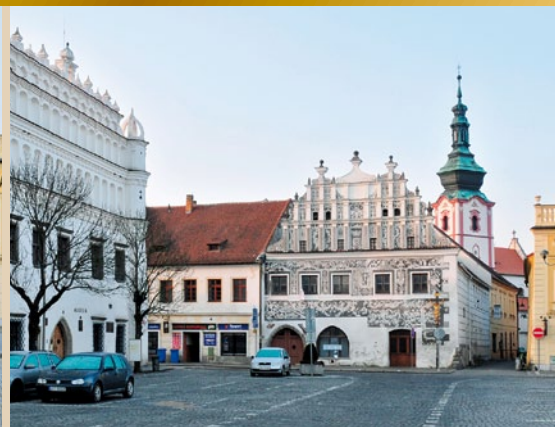
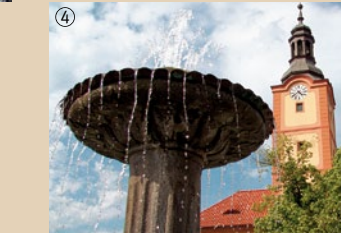
Level of difficulty:
easy, suitable for smaller children and families with prams

Marked:
GOLD

Route description:
Svobody Square – Church of St Wenceslas – Jewish Cemetery – Synagogue and Brewery – Town Walls – Meat stalls – Signalling device for log drivers – St Felix Church – Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary – Na Vršku – the Cemetery – St Roch Chapel – Nuželická St – Šumava Museum



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Town Hall (1) – a two-storey Renaissance building with a 31 m tall tower. The current look of the Town Hall dates back to 1850–51 when radical reconstruction works took place. Many valuable features were preserved in the Town Hall (Renaissance vaults, Classicist truss, period painted decorations etc) that make the Town Hall one of the most prominent in the country. There is a stone plaque with a Latin inscription in the vestibule. This is one of the oldest historic objects in the town and it commemorates the construction of the town walls in 1322. In the left corner of the building you will find a bell called „Planýř“ that was used for warning of fires.

The Freedom Lime Tree (2) was planted by TJ Sokol (PE organisation) in 1919.

Stone of Unhappiness (3) – why unhappiness? All is revealed by the folk tale to be read on the memorial plaque.

Empire Fountain (4) from the 18th century.

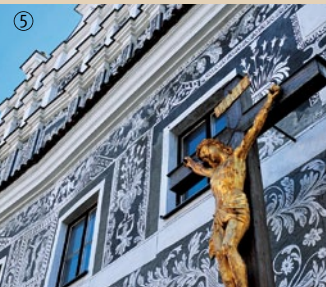
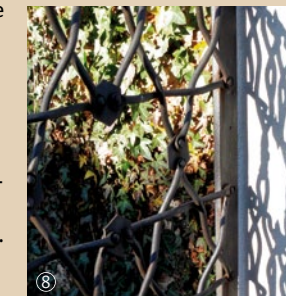
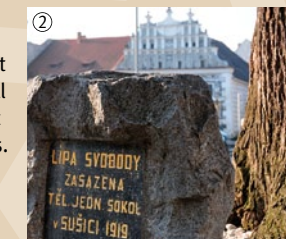
Rozacínovský House no. 48 (with sgraffito) (5) – this Gothic house is decorated with figurative sgraffito dating back to 1600. A fragment of Gothic painting (in red and black) has been preserved above the portal. The house used to be a pharmacy and later the Management Office of the Šumava Protected Landscape Area.

Krocínovský House no. 49 (Fialka Hotel) (6) – originally a Gothic house with Classicist facade and Attic style balustrades. The neighbouring house has two gables and red and ochre sgraffito decorations in the shape of letters (no. 50). The Fialka Hotel boasts a superb café.

The Church of St Wenceslas (7) was built in the middle of the 14th century. The main town wall forms the southern wall of the church. The church originally had two towers but they collapsed in the fire of 1707. The church was reconstructed in 1884–1885 in the Pseudo-Gothic style. The altar painting of the patron of the Czech Lands, St Wenceslas, dates back to 1858. If you look carefully, you will see a cannon ball in one of the church walls (a reminder of the Thirty Years' War).

The old Jewish Cemetery (8) is the oldest Jewish cemetery in Bohemia. It was founded in 1626 and it is wedged into the walls surrounding the old town. The cemetery was later extended and it was used for burials until 1873. The oldest legible tombstone dates back to 1660.

The former synagogue (9) was completed in 1859 and it was surrounded by houses of Sušice Jews who were deported to Terezín in 1942. Nearly all of them died in concentration camps. The synagogue was pulled down in 1964.





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Capuchins were expelled from the cloister and the cloister was used for military purposes. The Capuchins were allowed to return after 1993. The sundial on the southern side of the church dates back to 1731.

Trout hatchery (15) – Sušice trout and graylings became so famous that they were often served at the table of the Emperor Rudolf II. The last Sušice salmon was caught and recorded on 19.6.1941 and it weighed 6 kg.

The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (16) – the current look of the church dates back to 1591. The 15th century chapel, known as Kabátov Chapel and boasting rib

vaulting, is particularly valuable. Nowadays, the Ten Commandments from the demolished synagogue are kept in the chapel. Probably soon after the foundation of the church, a cemetery was established and was used until 1924.

St Roch Chapel (17) – the chapel was used for the burials of those who died of the plague and other infectious diseases, but also of beggars and people who committed suicide. Inside the chapel there is a Renaissance altar depicting saints protecting against the plague, St Roch, St Sebastian and St Rosalie.

The Museum of the Šumava (18) is situated in Voprchovský House no. 40. The foundations of the house date back to the 14th century and it is one of the most precious architectural landmarks in the town. The Renaissance reconstruction of the building preserved the original Gothic arches, the portal and gables in the rear tract. For years the building was used as a Deanery (1775-1936). On the right of the gate you will see a **stone head**. A legend



says that this is the head of a young girl from the town who was raised from the dead, and a stone head was placed here to commemorate the event. The museum also features exhibitions on the match industry, regional history, the pewter treasure and the glass making industry in the Šumava. **The museum boasts a unique exhibit which is the mechanical Christmas crib.**



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The former municipal brewery (10) was founded in 1571 and it became known for its beer called Granát. The brewery was abolished in 1949 and in 1964 – 1965 the brewery buildings were pulled down one by one.

The town walls (11) were constructed in 1322 by a decision of King John of Luxembourg. The town had both inner and outer walls (the average width was 1.2 and 2.1 m, and 5 – 6 m high) and there was a moat between the walls (up to 13 m wide in places and 6 m deep). The inner and outer walls had arrowslits, walkways, bulwarks, gates and three gatehouses: the Prague, Imperial and Cloister gatehouses. The strength of the walls was tested as early as 1395 when Jindřich Rožmberk besieged the town. The walls stood the test.

The log drivers signalling device (12), was used for river navigation when floating wood down the river.

The Chapel of the Guardian Angel (13) is an Early Baroque Chapel from 1682 – 83. According to legend, an angel descended to protect a small child that had a poisonous snake wrapped around its leg. We have a record from 1908 showing that around 10,000 people came to visit this place of pilgrimage in that year.

The Capuchin Cloister and St Felix Church (14) were founded by the Emperor Ferdinand III to support the Catholic faith in the region. The foundation stone was laid in 1651. The church became a place of pilgrimage for the whole of the Šumava region since soon after the construction of the church Jindřich Hýzrlé of Chod presented the church with a picture of the Sorrowing Virgin Mary that was deemed to be miraculous. In 1950 the



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SUŠICE THE ROYAL TOWN

Town TOUR No. 1



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