



Archdeacon Church of Virgin Mary Nativity

Today it is the oldest preserved building in the town. It was built as soon as in the 13th century and it has been serving as a parish church ever since. Due to adaptations made after 1400, the original shape was entirely replaced by a unique hall sanctuary that was completed after 1550, with an airy nave and late Gothic stellar vaulting. On the main altar, the Klatovy Virgin Mary painting is being exhibited, originally from the small Italian town of Re, which in 1685 shed blood miraculously, attracting thus thousands of pilgrims to Klatovy every year. Nowadays, the event is commemorated during a procession under the Virgin Mary painting, held within the frame of the Klatovy fair every year, at the second weekend of July.

Guided tours: Tel. N°: +420 376 320 160
June, September: SAT–SUN + holidays at 13.00 and 15.00
July–August: daily at 13.00 and 15.00



White Tower

The so-called White Tower built in 1581, a belfry to the adjacent church, is situated next to it in quite an uncommon and solitary way. Following the fire in 1758 it was elongated and refashioned into the current shape. At the time the tower was also a gate to the town cemetery surrounding the church till the 18th century.

The remarkable portal on the western wall of the tower used to be an entrance into the adjacent archdeacon's church still at the beginning of the 20th century.



Former Dominican Cloister and St. Vincent Church

Dominican friars settled near the town walls as soon as in the 13th century. Although they were expelled by the Hussites in 1419, two hundred years later they returned to Klatovy and commissioned the construction of a new cloister and St. Vincent Church, the latter according to a design by A. Gilmetti, local master-builder of Italian origin. In 1785 the emperor Joseph II ordered abolition of the cloister and later on a lyceum was built in that place. The former church is currently used for exhibiting modern art during summer season while the cloister building has served as a day hospital for disabled fellow-citizens since 2007.



Renaissance Burgher Houses

They were silent witnesses of the economic expansion period, the most important one in this royal town's history, brought about in the 16th century by hops cultivation and busy trade traffic along the way to Bavaria. Although most of the houses were altered in the course of the following centuries, we can still admire some Klatovy Renaissance houses displaying their original owners' wealth.

From among them we should remind the so-called Koškovský House, situated at the corner of the main square Míru and Vídeňská Street. Almost five centuries ago its owner, inspired by Italian Tuscany, let build a double arcade in the inner courtyard. This beautiful quiet spot in the very centre of the town was refurbished in 2010 while being opened to the public, offering not only a pleasant place for rest but also uncommon summer concerts of chamber music. Klatovy visitors' attention will be certainly caught also by Renaissance facade of the so-called Vlachův House at the corner of Plánická Street and Krameriova Street, with the best preserved sgraffiti decoration in the town and allegorical statues representing some vices and virtues.



Historic buildings in Klatovy

- 1) Black Tower
- 2) Town-Hall
- 3) Jesuit Church and Catacombs
- 4) Former Jesuit College
- 5) Baroque White Unicorn's Apothecary
- 6) Archdeacon Church of Virgin Mary Nativity and White Tower
- 7) «Koškovský» House
- 8) «Vlachův» House
- 9) Former Dominican Cloister and St. Vincent Church
- 10) Most Preserved Part of Town Walls («Hostaš» Park)
- 11) «Hostaš» Museum of Local History and Art
- 12) White Unicorn's Gallery
- 13) Glass Pavilion



KLATOVY

(23.000 inhabitants)

DISTANCE FROM...

Pilsen/Píseň 42 km

Prague/Praha 135 km

České Budějovice 108 km

the national border crossing-point
Železná Ruda-Bayer. Eisenstein. . 41 km

the national border crossing-point
Furth im Wald-Folmava 46 km



KLATOVY



Vítejte
v
KLATOVECH



Welcome to Klatovy

www.klatovy.cz



Opening hours at Black Tower:
May, June, September:
TUE–SUN 9.00–12.00, 13.00–17.00
July, August:
daily 9.00–12.00, 13.00–17.00
October, April:
SAT–SUN 9.00–12.00, 13.00–16.00
Tel. N°: +420 728 051 882

The town of Klatovy was founded by the Czech king Přemysl Otakar II in about 1260 alongside the important trade way connecting Bohemia with the Danube basin in Bavaria. The new seat was built based on a chess-board construction plan which is still apparent today, with a large quadrate main square and a sophisticated system of town walls.

Already in the 14th century the royal town of Klatovy experienced its first expansion period, with Czech monarchs granting it a whole number of privileges – more than to the nearby town of Pilsen. Also during the Hussite period Klatovy counted among the important towns supporting J. Žižka's Taborite Union. However, a genuine heyday period started only in the 16th century. At that time Klatovy ranked among the richest Czech towns due to hops cultivation. The period has been reminded to this day by the imposing Black Tower, 81 metres high. The following Thirty Years War deprived the town of all its glamour; a tiny gleam of hope that it could regain importance was relit by Jesuits in the 17th century who built a Latin lyceum there and other high Baroque monuments namely their order church, raising admiration even today. After 1685, when thousands of pilgrims were coming to visit Klatovy in order to pay homage to the miraculous painting of the Klatovy Madonna, the town got a stamp of uniqueness. In the 19th century, the royal town transformed into an industrial one and at the same time the tradition of local small-flowered carnations' growing was laid down; the flowers have been repeatedly awarded many prizes at international flower shows.

Specific historical periods succeeded one another and today the town enjoys both its historical tradition and modern culture present, offering to the visitor of the 21st century a lot of things to see and visit.



Black Tower and Town-Hall

During the years 1547–1559, a new town-hall was built up at the top of the main square, with a high, slim tower made of dark, non-plastered hewn stones that was to symbolize the town's wealth. The tower allowed surveillance over the entire town and protected it against frequent fires and enemies. Today the Black Tower with its 81 metres serves the visitors as a lookout tower that compensates the demanding climb on its top by a breath taking view of both the town and the distant Šumava mountains tops. The town-hall building, reconstructed in neo-Renaissance style in the years 1923–1925, is presently accommodating the municipal office.



Jesuit Church of Virgin Mary's Immaculate Conception and of St. Ignatius,

often labelled as the Baroque art gem of southwest Bohemia, originated in the second half of the 17th and in the 18th centuries as part of the Klatovy Jesuit college. The most prominent architects of that time participated in its construction, e.g. C. Luragho, D. Orsi or K. I. Dientzenhofer. The church interior was decorated by J. Hiebl who created remarkable illusive fresco paintings on the main altar and on the cupola. Thanks to a little gallery overcrossing Balbínova Street the church is now reconnected with the former Jesuit college building that was later on – after the Jesuit Order abolition in 1773 – used as a dragoons' garrison house. Today the building accommodates the municipal office and the local library.

Guided tours: **Tel. N°: +420 376 320 160**
June, September: SAT–SUN + holidays at 12.00 and 14.00
July–August: daily at 12.00 and 14.00

Catacombs under Jesuit Church

They were created as a result of conversion work performed in the basements of original burghers' houses that had stood there before the construction of the church. Those crypts, used till 1783 for purposes of burial of both members of the Order and their benefactors, were equipped with a complex system of air ducts enabling fresh air supply and naturally mummifying the deceased bodies. When Jesuits left Klatovy, the ventilation system was not maintained anymore and because of inappropriate building adaptations executed in the 20th century it got almost destroyed. In 2011 the ventilation system was completely restored, with a modern exhibition installed in the crypt that describes the history and influence of the Jesuit Order.

Opening hours: May–September: 9.00–18.00
October–April: MON–FRI 11.00–16.30
Tel. N°: +420 376 320 160 SAT–SUN + holidays 9.00–17.00



Baroque White Unicorn's Apothecary

It has been one of the most preserved apothecaries with a Baroque interior in the whole Europe. After the Jesuit Order abolition, the apothecary equipment, originally manufactured for the Jesuit College apothecary in the 18th century, was bought by the town apothecarian who then carried it out to a house on the main square and opened his business there. It continued to be used in this way until 1966 when apothecary operations were ended and the equipment became a museum exhibition.

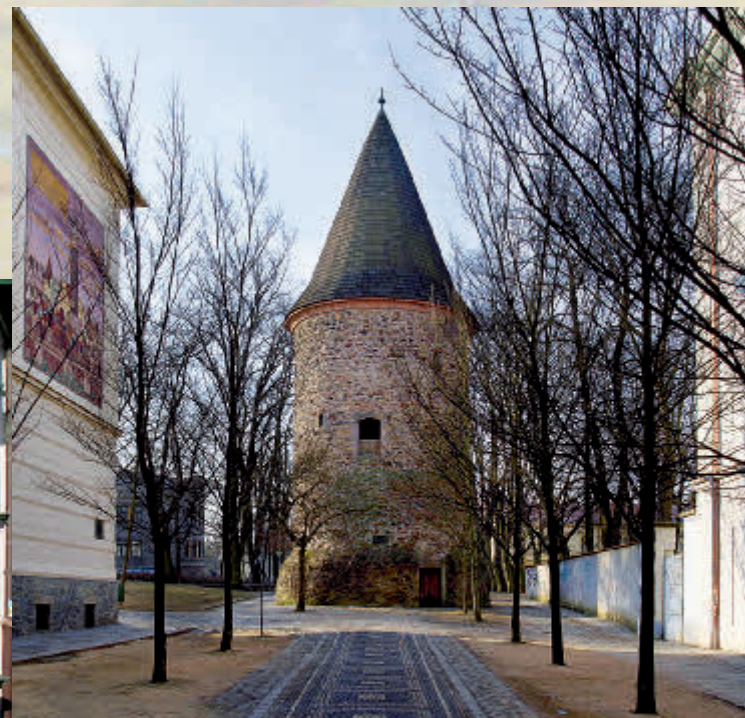
During the visit, visitors get acquainted with original apparatuses and medicines that were in use throughout the previous two centuries. At the same time they can look into recipes executed by the old time apothecarians and lift the veil of secret preparation of their medicines.

Opening hours:
April–October: daily except MONDAYS 9.00–12.00, 13.00–17.00
November–March: Per prior order
Tel. N°: +420 376 316 011, +420 739 235 184



Town Walls

Two belts of town walls made of stones were erected around Klatovy in order to protect the medieval town. The older one, situated internally, towards the town, was about 2 metres thick and up to 7–8 metres high. In the 15th century another town wall belt was pasted down, completed with semi-circular bastions. Despite the fact that the wall-work including all three gates was in its main part demolished in the 19th century, even today we come across its remnants at many places. The most preserved part is situated behind the archdeacon church where we can take a look at both town wall belts and their bastions.



Glass Pavilion Klatovy

Since 2014 a collection of major historical importance, of glass made at the turn of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th century, can be seen in the gardens next to the Ethnography Museum of Dr Hostaš in Klatovy. The glass was made in the Lötz Glass Factory in Klášterský Mlýn, situated in the valley of the River Otava near Kašperské Hory. This company was renowned for its Luxury Art Nouveau glass and art glass and it was at the forefront of modern European glass design. The exhibits represent the very best of world glass production.

The Glass Pavilion in Klatovy, with its more than 500 exhibits, represents the largest European collection of the Lötz Glass Factory production accessible to the public. The collection is remarkable thanks to its extraordinary diversity. The visitors can see the largest array of shapes and designs produced by the Lötz Glass Factory.

This unique collection is in the private ownership of an Austrian collector who decided to open the collection to the public in the Šumava Region where the glass was originally made.

Opening hours: **Tel. N°: +420 376 333 042**
June–September: daily 10.00–17.00
October–May: daily 11.00–16.30 **closed:** 24.–26.12. and 1.1.



Museum

This building in Art Nouveau style was erected in the years 1905–1907 as the municipal saving bank, according to a design by the architect R. Štech from Pilsner. Today it is the seat of Museum of Local History and Art, named «Hostaš» after the first administrator of its collections and the further mayor of Klatovy. Visitors can find a permanent exhibition on history of the Klatovy region there as well as many short-term specific exhibitions.

Opening hours: **Tel. N°: +420 376 326 362**
January–December: TUE–FRI 9.00–12.00, 13.00–17.00
April–October+December: +SAT–SUN and holidays 13.00–17.00

White Unicorn's Gallery

It is located in the same historic house on the Klatovy main square as the Baroque apothecary. It ranks among leading Czech galleries and specializes on exhibiting modern and contemporary art.

Opening hours: TUE–SUN 10.00–12.00, 13.00–17.00
Tel. N°: +420 376 312 049

