



# JEWISH HERITAGE SITES

in South Bohemia



South Bohemia  
true love

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## in South Bohemia

There used to be several hundred Jewish communities in Bohemia, each of which had a synagogue or at least a prayer house or room, and a Jewish cemetery. Several dozen such communities existed in South Bohemia as well, but today not a single one remains. Most of their members died during World War II in concentration and extermination camps, whereas many of those who survived emigrated after 1948 or 1968. The South Bohemian Region also falls under the jurisdiction of the Jewish community in Prague, which also manages all Jewish cemeteries and several other preserved South Bohemian Jewish heritage sites. Another problem was that in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many Jews migrated from the villages to the cities. Many rural Jewish communities became extinct and many synagogues were abandoned, some were sold to private individuals and modified for other purposes, and others were purchased by Christian church organizations. Since the Velvet Revolution, some of these have been reconstructed and now serve as museums; in South Bohemia, for example, these are the synagogues in Bechyně, Český Krumlov, and Čkyně. Of the fifty South Bohemian Jewish cemeteries, the rarely preserved Jewish cemetery in Jindřichův Hradec deserves particular attention; it is one of the oldest preserved Jewish cemeteries in the Czech Republic.



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## 1 Babčice

According to written sources, Jews lived in Babčice from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century at the latest. In the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, they apparently lived in two houses: the Josephinian Cadaster indicates municipal building No. 2 and a winery at No. 3. In the registry of Jews from 1783, it is written that two Jewish families lived here, while the registry from 1793 shows four families registered. In 1880 there were twenty Jews, in 1890 eight Jews, in 1910 four Jews, and later none. The Jewish community in Babčice was abolished on the basis of the Jewish Communities Act of 1890 and subsequently existed only as a religious association that was part of the Jewish community in Mladá Vožice.

✧ **The synagogue** No. 14 in the eastern part of the town was probably built at the turn of the 1850's and 1860's (we do know that its predecessor was a prayer house documented in Babčice already at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century). It emerged as a replacement for the older burnt-out synagogue or prayer house. This new synagogue was already conceived as a multipurpose building. There were 76 seats in the prayer hall, but the building also (most likely) contained school classrooms, a teacher's flat, a mikveh (ritual bath), and possibly a heated winter prayer room. It served for religious purposes until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. After the First World War, it was rebuilt into a residential home. The exterior of the synagogue has largely been preserved in its original form (both the mass of the building and the shape of some of the original windows have been preserved), but the interior has unfortunately been completely destroyed.

📄 **The cemetery** is located 1 km north of the town at the edge of the forest. It was established in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the latest, presumed around 1840. On an area of 731 m<sup>2</sup> there are about 130 tombstones, while the oldest comes from 1841 and the youngest are from the 1920-30's. In 1862, Rabbi Markus Blann from Košetice was buried here. He was a student of the provincial Rabbi Nehemias Trebitsch (1779-1842) in Mikulov. His tombstone bears the inscription: "... he was one of the great singers of the synagogue." The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

The tombstone of Zalman Schick from 1845 is notable. It is decorated with the motif of the Cave of the Patriarchs near Hebron, which Abraham bought in order to bury Sarah. He himself was later buried in this cave as were his descendants, Isaac and Jacob, with their wives Rebeca and Leah.

## 2 Bechyně

Written sources show that Jews were in Bechyně from the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century there was a Jewish community founded that lasted until the Nazi occupation. In 1880, there were 91 Jews living in Bechyně, then from 1890 to 1898 the Jewish population (maximum 4.6% of the population) declined gradually. By 1900, there were 87 Jews living here, and in 1930 there were only 32 Jews (1.4%).

✧ **The synagogue and Jewish houses in Bechyně.** There was evidently a prayer house in the town from the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The current synagogue, whose northern side is adjacent to the city walls, was built in 1872-1873 in simple Classicist style with a neo-Romanesque façade on the site of an older Baroque synagogue built after 1784. The synagogue was used for religious purposes until the Second World War; during and after the war, it was used as a warehouse. In 1973, the synagogue was repaired and adapted for the needs of the Fire Museum, which remained in the synagogue until 2001. From 2004 to 2008, the synagogue was reconstructed for the needs of the Czech Hiking Club. The women's gallery features a small exposition on the history of Jews in Bechyně and its surroundings. The interior furnishings have not been preserved.

Near the synagogue there stand six Jewish houses that were owned by Jews before the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. This former "Jewish Street" was not a closed ghetto, however, and Christian houses also stood here. All Jewish houses have been reconstructed but are still preserved.

📄 **The Jewish cemetery** was founded before 1636 northwest of the square on Michalska Street in the area outside the city wall. The cemetery was repaired in 1697 and expanded in 1834. On a cemetery area of 1,369 m<sup>2</sup> there are about 180 tombstones preserved from 1687 until the early 1940's. The decorations on the tombstones include the blessing hands of the Kohens, a Levite set, a crown as a symbol of wisdom or the sign of a person with a deep knowledge of the Tora, the Star of David, and the symbol of the mourning tree. The cemetery is closed.



### Interesting:

Part of a former Jewish community house, adjacent to the synagogue, still holds the preserved ritual mikveh.

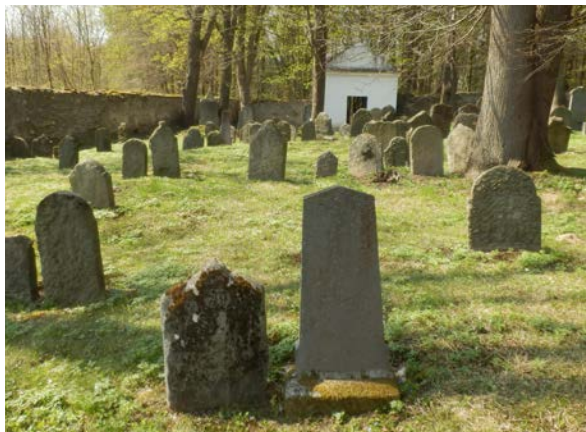


### 3 Běleč and Mladá Vožice

Written sources have documented Jews in Běleč in small numbers since the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were about three to five Jewish families living here, with the last Jew mentioned here in 1921.

📌 **The cemetery** was founded before 1723 on the edge of the forest between the village of Vilice and Elbančice, then was extended in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. An area of 2,805 m<sup>2</sup> holds around 180 preserved tombstones or their torsos, with the oldest columns dating back to the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to the Jewish inhabitants of Mladá Vožice and its surroundings, there were also several Galician refugees buried here during the First World War. The youngest part of the cemetery was devastated in the post-war period, with part of the more modern tombstones being sold. The damaged wall and the small ceremonial hall were repaired between 1996 and 2002. The cemetery is freely accessible.

In Mladá Vožice, where most of the buried people were from, the last monument remaining to the Jewish population is a group of four former Jewish houses. There were originally six houses which stood on Židovská Street behind the northwest side of the square in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The neo-Gothic Mladá Vožice Synagogue, built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century on the same street, was partially demolished after 1949. The remaining masonry shared with the adjoining house now makes up a residential house that bears a commemorative plaque honoring victims of the Holocaust.



#### Interesting:

In 1855, the couple Moshe and Chayil Lifschitz had a beautiful brocade and velvet curtain made for the tabernacle in Mladá Vožice Synagogue. In 1943, as part of the compulsory collection of the property of Jewish communities in the Protectorate, this curtain came to the Jewish Museum in Prague, from where it mysteriously disappeared in the mid-1950's. In April of 2013, it appeared in the offer of a New York branch of the Sotheby's auction house. After identification, it was from withdrawn from the auction and, after agreement with the person who placed it in the auction, transferred to the Prague Jewish Museum.

### 4 České Budějovice

Jews settled here from the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. By the 15<sup>th</sup> century there was a relatively large Jewish community here with a synagogue and a cemetery in front of the town walls. In December 1505, pogroms broke out and the Jews were expelled from the city. The later Jewish religious community was founded in 1859 and gradually increased until World War 2. In 1890, there were 969 Jews (3% of the population) living in the city, and 1138 Jews (2% of the population) in 1930.

✧ **The neo-Gothic synagogue** built in 1887-1888 was destroyed by the Nazis in 1942; a memorial was unveiled in its place in 1992.

📌 **The most valuable Jewish monument is the cemetery**, located on Pekárenská Street 2 kilometers northeast of the main square. It was founded in 1866 (until that time, Jews had been buried in Hluboká nad Vltavou) and used for burials until the end of the 1970's. Today, there are around 400 tombstones preserved in the cemetery from the time of its foundation. The oldest tombstone is from 1868 and is inscribed to Leopold Fürth. One of the last people buried in this cemetery is the former Theresienstadt prisoner Hugo Hirsch (died in 1962). Some interesting personalities are buried in the cemetery, such as the regional Rabbi Adam Wunder (1817-1905), Rabbi Karel Thieberger (1869-1938), composer Rudolf Kende, high school professor Lev Herz (1893-1976), the mother of writer Norbert Frýd, Klára Friedová (died in 1935), and the parents of the doctor, writer, and artist Karl Fleischmann. The cemetery cottage now houses a permanent exhibition to the history of the Jews in the city. In the southern part of the cemetery there is a memorial to the victims of Nazi persecution from 1950 in the form of a sandstone tumba. The cemetery is not accessible.



#### Interesting:

The medieval synagogue decorated with wall paintings was transformed into a Catholic chapel at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century; in 1566-1568 it no longer served for Christian worship and was subsequently rebuilt into an ordinary burgher house with a pub whose remains were demolished in 1908.

## 5 Český Krumlov

Written sources document a small number of Jews in Český Krumlov from the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century until the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when they were forbidden to remain in town. Jews were permitted to settle in Český Krumlov again only after the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1855, a religious association was founded here which later changed into an independent Jewish community. In 1880, there were 103 Jews living in the city, in 1900 there were 165 (which was the highest number of Jews ever in the history of the town), and in 1930 there were 111 Jews.

✧ **The synagogue** with its impressive tower was built on Švermova Street on the southern outskirts of the town in 1909-1910 based on the plans of architect Viktor Kafka and with the financial support of Ignatz Spiro. It served religious purposes until the autumn of 1938, when Nazi fanatics invaded the synagogue and destroyed the interior furnishings, including the Torah scrolls and the prayer books. Almost throughout the entire war, the building was used as a workshop that produced aircraft models for the needs of the German Luftwaffe. After the departure of the US Army, the synagogue served as a prayer hall for the Czechoslovak Hussite Church for 23 years, then from 1968 it was used as a storehouse for theater props. After 2010, the synagogue was reconstructed and has been used for cultural purposes since 2013. A small exhibition about the history of the Jews in Český Krumlov is in the winter prayer room.

📖 **The Jewish cemetery** was founded in 1891 with the generous support of Ignatz Spiro in the vicinity of the town cemetery. The eclectic ceremonial hall built in the 1890's houses a commemorative plaque commemorating his merits. There are about 115 tombstones preserved in the cemetery from the foundation of the cemetery until World War 2. The iron entrance gates decorated with the Star of David are locked.



### Interesting:

After the liberation of the town from May until the autumn of 1945, the synagogue was used as an interconfessional church for the soldiers of the US Army, with American field ministers alternating with spiritual leaders of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. Today, inscriptions in English from this period are still preserved inside the synagogue.

## 6 Čichtice

A Jewish settlement in Čichtice is documented from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century until the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Jewish community that was founded in the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was abolished at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

🏠 **Jewish houses** were likely concentrated in two separate groups from the 18<sup>th</sup> century: three houses stood on the street on the eastern edge of the village with another eleven houses on a street on the western outskirts of the village. The house that served as ✧ **the synagogue** and school stands on a Jewish street on the western edge of the village. There are eight original Jewish houses today under heritage protection: on "Horní Židovna" houses No. 71 and 75, and on "Dolní Židovna" No. 80, 81, 85, 86, 88, and 92.

📖 **The Jewish cemetery** was founded only after the establishment of the Jewish community, and in 1724 the Jews were still being buried in the Jewish cemetery in Dub near Prachatic. The Jewish cemetery near Čichtice was probably founded around the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is located 800 meters southeast of the village, on a hillside amidst meadows. The oldest readable tombstone comes from 1798 – the tomb of Abraham, son of Leb. The cemetery covers 1,439 m<sup>2</sup> and holds about 230 preserved tombstones from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the Second World War, including several dozen tombstones with typical South Bohemian ornamentation. The mortuary of unknown age was reconstructed at the end of the 1990's. The cemetery is freely accessible.




### Interesting:


Tombstones from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century frequently bear the motif of wine grapes. Wine grapes symbolize the kingdom of God, Israel, and the twelve tribes, especially the tribes of Judah and Joseph, which represent two forms of the Jewish government: in exile "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall" and in the land of Israel "(Judah) binding his foal unto the vine, and his ass' colt unto the choice vine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes". The wine motif may also be a symbolic expression of the name Weiner or Weinberger.

## 7 Čkyně

Written sources document a Jewish settlement in Čkyně since the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. The largest number of Jews in the town was recorded at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: in 1825 there were 151 Jews living here. Their number later declined: in 1880, there were 80 Jews living in Čkyně, and in 1930 only 11. Due to the decreasing number of Jews, the seat of the Jewish community moved from Čkyně to Vimperk in 1899-1900.

There was never a Ghetto in Čkyně, since  **the Jewish houses** were scattered all over the town among the Christian houses. Before the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were 8 Jewish houses located around the synagogue from a total of 23. Some of them have been preserved, albeit reconstructed.

 **The synagogue** No. 105, located at the mill run in the southern part of the town, was built in 1828 in simple Classicist style as a replacement for the older synagogue which was demolished in the 1960-70's. On the ground floor of the new synagogue there was a prayer hall as well as a classroom, a matzo bakery, and a flat. Regular worship services took place in the synagogue until 1895, then occasionally until the First World War. In 1922, the synagogue was sold and adapted for use as a carpenter's workshop and flat. In 2014, the synagogue was renovated and used for cultural purposes and as a regional Jewish museum. In the courtyard adjacent to the synagogue there stands the former barn that held the funeral car.

 **The Jewish cemetery** is located 700 meters southeast of the town center, on a hillside above the railway line from Strakonice to Vimperk. It was founded in the last quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, then enlarged in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Nearly 400 tombstones are preserved and cover an area of 1,853 m<sup>2</sup> from the time the cemetery was founded (the oldest readable stones are from 1688 and 1700) until the early 1940's. The repaired mortuary from the 19<sup>th</sup>-century bears a commemorative plaque honoring the victims of the Holocaust. The cemetery is freely accessible.






### Interesting:

In the synagogue's prayer hall there is a uniquely preserved wall painting around the 19<sup>th</sup>-century tabernacle, and a winter chapel has been preserved on the upper floor with a restored tabernacle for the Torah scrolls.

## 8 Dolní Bolíkov

The first Jews most likely came to Dolní Bolíkov after 1670, then in the 1830's and 1940's there were more than 160 Jews living here. The Jewish community was founded at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and was abolished in 1891.

 **Ghetto**. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there were more than 20 Jewish houses apparently concentrated northeastern part of the village. About half of them have survived.  **The synagogue** built in the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was mostly demolished in 1899-1900.

 **The Jewish cemetery** was most likely founded at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is located 500 meters southwest of the village at the edge of the forest. The oldest surviving tombstone dates from 1701 and is inscribed to Aaron, son of Jakob Austerlitz, while the youngest tombstone from 1932 is inscribed to Regina Kollmann. Altogether, there are about 130 tombstones preserved on an area of 732 m<sup>2</sup>, and the simple mortuary has been repaired. The cemetery is freely accessible.





### Interesting:


The publicist Heinrich Mayer (1835 Dolní Bolíkov - 1905) is buried here. He spent most of his life in Vienna, where he founded the famous Neues Wiener Tagblatt newspaper, on which he later collaborated.

## 9 Dub

A Jewish settlement in the town is documented from the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, while the Jewish community existed here from the 18<sup>th</sup> century until 1906.

 **Jewish houses** were concentrated on a street leading from the square to Javornice on the northwestern outskirts of the town, evidently from the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Most of the original 16 houses are still preserved, albeit reconstructed. An interesting architectural element of the Jewish street is the arch connecting houses No. 65 and 66.

 **The synagogue** was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but in 1906 was adapted into the inhabited residential house No. 10.

 **The cemetery** is located 1 km south of the village, on a hill in forest. It was founded at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century at the latest. There are about 200 tombstones over a cemetery area of 1,320 m<sup>2</sup> dating from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to 1940, including many valuable baroque columns. The cemetery has recently been completely repaired and is freely accessible.



## 10 Hluboká nad Vltavou

A local Jewish settlement is documented from the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, while a Jewish community with a prayer house was here from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century until the Nazi occupation.

🏠 **The Jewish quarter** is located on Tyršova Street between the square and the Jewish Pond, south of the square. All five houses have been reconstructed but are preserved, including the former Jewish school.

The first ⚡ **synagogue** was mentioned in 1680. In 1907, a new synagogue was built, near the old one on the edge of the former Jewish quarter of today's Tyršova Street. Worship was held in the synagogue until the Nazi occupation, then during the war it served as a workshop. The synagogue has been used by the Czechoslovak Hussite Church since the 1940's.

📄 **The cemetery** is located 500 meters southwest of the center, on the main road leading to České Budějovice, between the petrol station and the shore of Munický Pond. It was founded in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and extended in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Over an area of 1,275 m<sup>2</sup> there 190 tombstones preserved around from 1752-1941.



## 11 Hoštice

The Jewish settlement in Hoštice is documented from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, with a Jewish community already existing at the time.

⚡ **The synagogue** is of unknown age and stands north of the village square near a former Jewish house. It is presently dilapidated and abandoned.

📄 **The Jewish cemetery** is located one kilometer northwest of the village, on a hillside at the edge of the forest. It was founded in the second quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century at the latest and was used for burials by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It covers an area of 543 m<sup>2</sup> and holds about 50 preserved tombstones from 1735 until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The cemetery is freely accessible.

## 12 Jindřichův Hradec

The oldest preserved written source documenting the presence of Jews in the city is from 1294, when there could have been eight Jewish families here. The original eight Jewish families gradually evolved into a Jewish community. The highest number of Jews, 301, lived here in 1880 (about 3% of all inhabitants of the city), in 1900 it was 253 (2.7%), and in 1930 there were only 234 Jews here (2.2%).

**A Jewish street** is mentioned in written sources for the first time in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Jewish settlement consisted of four houses in Jewish ownership that stood at the western side of today's Kostelní Street. After a fire in 1801, the houses were rebuilt as they look today. The corner house No. 188/I served as a municipal house with a school and the seat of the Rabbi.

⚡ **The synagogue.** Until the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Jews had only a prayer room. In 1770 a new synagogue was evidently built here which was rebuilt after a devastating fire in 1801. In 1867, the synagogue was enlarged and annexed in neo-Gothic style. The synagogue was used for regular worship service until the Nazi occupation. In 1951, the synagogue was purchased by the Czechoslovak Hussite Church, which repaired it and uses it for worship even today.

📄 **The Jewish cemetery** is one of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in Bohemia. It was founded in around 1400 and was expanded several times over the following centuries. The gravedigger's house with the taharah and shelter for the funeral carriage was built in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Between 1936 and 1937, a modern ceremonial hall was built, including the taharah, or room where the deceased was washed and dressed before being put in the coffin, and the shelter for the funeral carriage. Over an area of 3,314 m<sup>2</sup>, around 400 tombstones have been preserved since 1598 (the tombstone of Asher, the son of Jaak of Ivančice), including many valuable Baroque and Classicist tombstones.



### Interesting:

The ceremonial hall of the Jewish cemetery features the funeral carriage of the funeral brotherhood from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and which was completely restored in 2015-2018. It is one of three Jewish burial wagons preserved in Bohemia; the others are in Brandýs nad Labem and Heřmanův Městec.

### 13 Jistebnice

Jews in Jistebnice are mentioned in written sources from the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Jewish community was established in the first quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century at the latest. After 1930, due to its low number of members, it was annexed to the Jewish community in Tábor. In 1887, an association for the beautification of the town of Jistebnice and its environs was founded in Jistebnice at the instigation of Aug. Mark and postmaster Adolf Katz. Katz's merits for these efforts were honored by a memorial which was unveiled in 1915 in the municipal orchards, situated in a charming location on Stará hora by the pond. In 1880, there were 127 Jews (7.4% of all inhabitants), in 1900 there were 66 Jews, and in 1930 there were 19 Jews.

A **prayer room** is mentioned in writing for the first time in the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is not known when the **synagogue** was built. It stood in the courtyard of the Wallachian House behind the south side of the square. It was evidently destroyed in the first third of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**The cemetery** is 2.5 km southwest from the town, near the village of Pohoří. It was probably founded at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. An area of 2,188 m<sup>2</sup> holds 202 preserved tombstones from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest preserved tombstone still readable today comes from 1692. It is the tomb of Bendet, son of Jakov, and is located in the corner opposite the cemetery entrance. The second tombstone of Jaak, son of Benjamin, dates back to 1694. The gravestones are decorated with pilasters as well as epitaphs, including symbols of the blessing hands of the Kohens. In the corner near the entrance to the cemetery there stands a morgue of unknown age that houses a stone table for the ritual washing of the dead. The cemetery is freely accessible.



#### Interesting:

In the northern part of the perimeter graveyard wall above the morgue is a walled Kohen Gate. The Kohens were the most respected Jewish family, their members having formerly served as priests in the Jerusalem Temple. The entrance of the Kohens into the cemetery is restricted by their specific religious duties and limited only to the funerals of their closest relatives.

### 14 Kardašova Řečice

The first reports on Jews in Kardašova Řečice come from the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century, there were 3 Jewish families living in the town; in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century around 8 Jewish families, then in 1840 there were 23 Jewish families (125 persons). From the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the number of Jews in town gradually declined: in 1880, it was 100 Jews (4% of all the town's inhabitants), and in 1930 only 20 Jews (0.7% of all the town's inhabitants).

**The ghetto** was gradually built from the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century in an area in the eastern half of the town. In 1755, this small quarter consisted of ten ground-floor houses that stretched between today's Hradní Street and the Řečice Creek; to date, four of them have survived, albeit reconstructed.

The first **prayer room** was set up here in some private house apparently before 1650. A separate **synagogue** was built in 1708, but it burned down in 1863, like much of Řečice. The new synagogue, built between 1864 and 1866, was abandoned during and after World War II and was demolished in 1958-1959.

**The Jewish cemetery** was allegedly founded in the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and was enclosed by a wall in 1673. The present appearance of the Jewish cemetery comes from after the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when it was modified according to the plans of Martin Víta as elaborated in 1863. The low perimeter was then replaced by a high wall, and a morgue with a shingle roof was built at the entrance. The unusual design and simple construction of this morgue set it apart from similar buildings in other cemeteries. Two of its walls made up the northwest corner of the cemetery wall with the entrance door, while the other two sides (with no wall or door) remained open to the cemetery. The southeast corner of the building was held up by a massive brick pillar. The cemetery is located a kilometer south of the town on the blue hiking trail and holds around 160 preserved tombstones from the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of World War II.



#### Interesting:

Visitors to the cemetery often seek out the Hungarian-Czech tombstone of Paul Lauer from 1908, the tombstone of the Rabbi and teacher Lazar Beneš, and the tombstone of the physician of Baron Rothschild, Gustav Hoenig.



### 15 Koloděje nad Lužnicí

Written sources document Jews in Koloděje for the first time in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1721, there were 35 Jewish families, at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there lived about 80 Jewish families, then about 600 Jews around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; their numbers then dropped sharply. In 1880, there were 153 Jews living in Koloděje, in 1900 there were 35 Jews, and in 1930 only 9 Jews.

Alfréd Radok (1914-1976), director of the National Theater and Laterna Magika, was born here, as was his brother, the creator of the Laterna Magika scene, Emil Radok (1918-1994). Their villa in Koloděje still stands today.

🏠 **Ghetto** The first section of Jewish houses originated perhaps at the end 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the 1780's, there were 38 Jewish houses in the village, then around 1840, there were 72 homes owned by Jews (approximately one third of all houses in the village). Most of the Jewish houses are still here preserved in reconstructions, including the hospital No. 164 and school No. 114.

✳️ **The synagogue** began to be built in 1695, with the first worship taking place here in early October 1697 and the last probably in the second half of the 1930's. In 1947-1948 the synagogue was demolished and the building material was used to build a theater stage and a cinema.

🏢 **The Jewish cemetery** is located on a hillside north of the village on the road to Bernartice. It was most likely founded at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, with written sources first mentioning it in 1723. There are nearly 500 tombstones covering 2,661 m<sup>2</sup> of the cemetery ranging from 1705 to 1941.



### Interesting:

The most elaborate tombstone is the small stone of the regional Rabbi, Jakob Mahler, decorated with the Hebrew epitaph: "Jakub Mahler, regional Rabbi of the Budějovice and Tábor regions, died 29 Adar 5627 (1867). He was loving and pious, like our ancestors. He worked from 1817 to 1867 in the village of Kaladý and in the districts of Tábor and Budějovice. He was known as a great scholar and with knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, excelled in wisdom over all scholars of this age, and was revered as a son in this community where he worked. Amen. Rest in the womb of the saints in the house of God."

### 16 Kovářov

A Jewish settlement has been documented in the town from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There was a prayer room and a teacher's flat in house No. 39, which now serves as a residence.

🏢 **The cemetery** covers 2,090 m<sup>2</sup> and was established in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is located 700 meters northwest of the center of the village at the southeast part of the Kovářovská hill. Today it is hidden at the edge of the forest. There are around 120 tombstones here from the time of its foundation until 1940. Only about a quarter of the cemetery holds tombstones, while the rest is unused. In the northwest corner of the cemetery the perimeter walls of a building have been preserved where there was originally a small space for washing the deceased.

### 17 Markvarec

The earliest written references to Jews in Markvarec date back to the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A Jewish community was founded most likely in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but it was dissolved in 1888 due to the small number of members.

🏠 **Jewish houses** were centered around the synagogue from the 18<sup>th</sup> century and formed a ghetto in the southeastern part of the village near the creek. Most of the original twelve houses have been reconstructed but still stand.

✳️ **The synagogue** was built in Baroque style in the years 1784-1786 and served for worship until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After the war it collapsed and the remnants of the walls were removed in 1992.

🏢 **The Jewish cemetery** was founded in 1794 and is located one kilometer southeast of the village in the forest. The oldest surviving readable tombstone dates back to 1802 and belongs to a person named Moshe. Although the last Jewish family moved out in 1927, Jews from the surrounding area, especially from Dačice, were buried in the cemetery until 1939. About 240 tombstones have been preserved over 1,223 m<sup>2</sup>. The entrance to the cemetery is by the morgue from 1908, which has been recently repaired.



## 18 Milevsko

A numerous Jewish settlement was documented in the city from the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1694, there were 8 Jewish families living in Milevsko, 90 Jews in 1849, and the highest number, 172 Jews, in 1890. Afterwards, their number decreased; in 1910 there were 133 Jews in Milevsko, and in 1930 only 81 Jews.

🏠 **The Jewish quarter** likely originated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century on the southeast side of Hus Square and in the western part of Sokolovská Street. Six adjacent residential houses have still been preserved, partly as reconstructions.

✳️ **The old synagogue** on Beneš Square is part of house No. 387. It was likely built after 1600. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the front house was enlarged and enlarged, so the synagogue merged with it and today forms the cellar of this house. On the side street, the upper half of the original main entrance is visible above the cobblestones as a plain granite late Gothic portal.

✳️ **The new synagogue** on Sokolovská Street, near the Old Synagogue, was built in 1914-1919 based on plans by the Prague architect Stříleček. Its exterior is characterized by a unique combination of Classicist and Cubist elements designed by the leading Czech Cubist architect, O. Tyl. The synagogue was used by the Jewish community until the Second World War, and since 1950 has been used as a prayer hall for the Czechoslovak Hussite Church.

🏠 **The cemetery** is located 1.7 km northeast of the Milevsko town square near the yellow and green hiking trails. It was founded at the turn of 1713 and 1714, it was expanded several times, and eventually reached its present size of 1,942 m<sup>2</sup>. There are approximately 240 tombstones placed in regular long rows from the time of its foundation until 1938. The front of the cemetery holds a ceremonial hall built in 1928 in eclectic style with Cubist elements. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

Tombstone decorations often contain symbols that relate directly to the person of the deceased, such as his personal name or profession. At the Milevsko cemetery there is a pair of wolves on the tomb of Benjamin Zeev from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century (the wolf symbolizes the name Wolf or Zeev), while the tombstone of Chava Hahn from 1849 is decorated with the motif of its translation, a rooster.

## 19 Mirotice

The Jewish settlement in the town is documented from the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, with a Jewish community being here from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1724, there lived 20 Jewish families here, and in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were 13 Jewish families inhabiting 11 houses. In 1880, there were 81 Jews living in Mirotice, 50 Jews in 1900, and 14 Jews in 1930.

Probably from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century or the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, most Jewish houses were concentrated in 🏠 **two small Jewish settlements**. The southern settlement was severely damaged by an American air raid in 1945 and demolished, then later the northern settlement was completely destroyed. The Baroque ✳️ **synagogue** from 1763 was also destroyed during the American air raid on 29 April 1945.

🏠 **The Jewish cemetery** was probably founded before 1648, four hundred meters north of the square, on the hill over Neradovská Street. The oldest preserved tombstone dates from 1647. It bears the inscription: "Here rests Mrs. Hendl, daughter of Mr. Lämmel of Sedlice, died on 8 Tevet 5407" The original cemetery occupied only about a quarter of the current area (southwest part); it was gradually expanded to its present size in 1740 and 1805. The cemetery covers an area of 3,417 m<sup>2</sup> and holds 400 preserved tombstones from the time of the foundation of the cemetery until 1946, including a number of extremely valuable Baroque pieces. The Jews of Písek were also buried here until the establishment of their own cemetery in 1876. The passage mortuary (where a unique municipal coffin is still preserved) was built at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. On its right side on the slope, you can still see the Kohen Gate. The last funeral took place here in 1946. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

The cemetery is also the burial place of the Rabbi Šimon Kafka of Milčice, the ancestor of the world-famous writer Franz Kafka, as well as the mayor of the town of Písek JUDr. Israel Kohn. The mother and grandmother of Zdenka Fantlová, author of wartime memoirs published under the title "Father Said that Calm is Power".



## 20 Mirovice

The Jewish settlement in Mirovice was documented since the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century until the Nazi occupation. In 1721 there were 12 Jewish families, from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were 5 to 9 families, and the strongest Jewish settlement existed around 1890, when 50 Jews lived in the town. Their numbers later decreased; in 1910 there were 44 Jews, and in 1930 only 34 Jews.

🏠 **Jewish houses** Jews owned or rented homes scattered around the town from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1721, there were 8 Jewish families living in the noble "Gynther" house No. 75 on the southern side of the square, while another 4 families lived in the "Bořitov" house No. 81 in the street leading to the bridge. From the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Jewish houses were concentrated on the eastern side of today's Nádražní Street. In the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were five houses here belonging to Jews. Most of them were demolished or radically rebuilt; the Rabbi's house with classroom was demolished after 1950.

✡️ **The synagogue** No. 141-142 located on Nádražní Street was built at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century as a replacement for the older prayer room from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was a stone building with a shingle roof, segmented windows, and a wooden women's gallery. It served for worship until World War II. After 1972, it was radically reconstructed into a residential family home.

🏞️ **The cemetery** is located 1 km north of the town, on a hillside above the Skalice River. It was founded before 1724, probably at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and was extended in 1731 and again in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today, over 200 tombstones dating from 1764-1965 are preserved over an area of 4,139 m<sup>2</sup>. The 19<sup>th</sup> century mortuary was repaired in the second half of the 1990's. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

One tombstone bears a relief of columns which are marked as Jachin and Boaz (First Book of Kings, 7:21). This motif is a direct reference to the actual bronze pillars supporting the first Jerusalem Temple that were broken during the destruction of the Temple of the Babylonians.

## 21 Myslkovice

The first Jewish family settled in Myslkovice before 1650, but it is not known exactly when. In 1706, there were 3 Jewish families living here, 7 Jewish families in 1723, and 65 Jewish families (474 people, or 55% of the population) in 1850, the largest Jewish settlement in the history of the village. In 1890, there were 71 Jews (11%) and in 1930 only 2 people of Jewish faith.

🏠 **The Jewish quarter** is located in the western part of Myslkovice. Like in neighboring Tučapy, it consisted of two units separated by a pond. North of the pond stood a synagogue, south of the pond there was a hospital. Altogether, there were about 40 houses in both Jewish quarters, most of which are still preserved as reconstructions. House No. 90 with its old grating is interesting.

✡️ **The synagogue** was probably built around 1770 and was connected with a Rabbi's house. It was abandoned after 1930 and demolished around 1965.

🏞️ **The cemetery** is 750 meters from the castle, at the edge of the forest along the marked hiking trail. It was founded in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the time when the oldest gravestones come from. It was used for burials until World War II. The cemetery contains many valuable Baroque and Classicist tombstones. All that remains of the mortuary are the perimeter walls.



### Interesting:

The tombstones of Esterl, wife of Wolf Schönbaum, 1857, and Markus Schönbaum from 1872 are decorated with the motif of a mourning tree. This depiction is based on Jewish biblical tradition. The Bible contains the text "Deborah, the one who had nursed and raised Rebekah, died and was buried under the oak south of Bethel. So Jacob named it Allon-bacuth" (Gen 35:8). For the Myslkovice tombstones, the tree motif is also the symbol of the deceased's name.

The tombstone of Šmuel, the representative of the Myslkovice Jewish community who died in the 1760's, is decorated with a pomegranate motif whose seeds inform us of the date and the month of his death. The seeds of a sliced pomegranate symbolize the good deeds of the dead, as confirmed by part of the epitaph: he was "full of mitzvah like a pomegranate".



## 22 Neznašov

The earliest written reports of Jews in Neznašov are from the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1618, 15 Jewish families (51 persons) lived in the Neznašov estate, then in 1721 there were 10 Jewish families living here; the registry of Jews from 1793 indicates 28 families. In 1880 there were 37 Jews living here, 22 Jews in 1900, and only 5 Jews in 1930.

✪ **The ghetto** was probably founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in the northeast part of the village. Jewish houses made up two settlements and were separated by the castle and park. In the larger Jewish neighborhood, 22 houses were owned by Jews in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the smaller neighborhood consisted of 8 houses in Jewish ownership. Most of them are still preserved as reconstructions. In the larger neighborhood of Jewish houses there still stands the former Jewish schoolhouse; in the jamb of the entrance door, there are still traces of the mezuzah, a small ornate wooden box in which a parchment scroll with selected biblical verses was preserved.

✪ **The synagogue** is first mentioned in written sources in 1678. In 1709, a new synagogue was built in a different place and in 1770 it was probably rebuilt. Worship was held in the synagogue until around 1918. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the synagogue was heavily damaged by strong winds, and in 1927 its roof collapsed. The perimeter walls of the synagogue were demolished in 1973.

🗿 **The Jewish cemetery** is located 600 m southeast of the village on the edge of a forest on a hillside above the stream, in the village of Všemyslice. It was founded in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and was expanded in 1858. There are over 300 tombstones ranging from 1749 to the 1930's, including an interesting Cubist tombstone of Alois Bondy from 1926. The cemetery is locked.



### Interesting:

The repaired mortuary, built in 1858 (this year is carved on the stone entrance portal), houses a stone table. It was used after death in a ceremony called the taharah, which was the ritual cleaning of the deceased's body.

## 23 Nositín and Květuš

Jewish settlements have been documented in Nositín from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but only a few Jewish families lived there. More Jews lived in nearby Květuš: in the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there was a wine distiller, a tanner, a leather merchant, a furrier, and two street merchants, and there were probably six Jewish families living in the village. In 1783 there were 6 Jewish families living here. The last four Jews are indicated in the census of 1900.

✪ **The synagogue** in Květuš was built sometime during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but the exact date is not known. Worship took place here until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, then later an apartment was established in the synagogue. Before the Second World War, the Lewerstein family lived here but moved to England in the 1930's. The apartment was then a residence for several other non-Jewish families. Around 1972, the former synagogue was demolished, and the remnants of its perimeter masonry were incorporated into the walls of the adjacent garage.

🗿 **The Jewish cemetery** is located on the road leading from Květuš to Nositín, technically within Nositín, about one kilometer southeast of the village. It was founded in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, around 1722. Up until then, local Jews were buried in the Jewish cemetery in Jistebnice. Burials took place here during the interwar period as well, with the last alleged funeral in 1929. The cemetery covers an area of 1453 m<sup>2</sup> and holds 45 preserved tombstones dated from 1722. All that remains of the mortuary are the perimeter walls. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

One tombstone preserved in the cemetery bears the symbol of an angel. Tombstones decorated with carved angels are not too frequent; they can be seen, for example, at the new Jewish cemetery in Hostouň near Kladno, in the Jewish cemetery in Veselice near Mladá Boleslav, and in south Bohemia in Písečné near Slavonice. Angels, or messengers, are understood as part of traditional Judaism.

## 24 Nová Bystřice

It is not known exactly when Jews began to settle in Nová Bystřice. An unspecified number of Jewish settlements have been documented in the town since the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but it rose sharply after the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. At the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there was only one Jewish family living in town. In 1849, there were 3 Jewish families (together 20 people), a total of 98 Jews (3.4% of all inhabitants) in 1880, 122 Jews (4.8% of the population, which was the maximum) in 1900, and in 1930 there were only 42 Jews (2.0%). Originally, the Nová Bystřice Jews had only a simple **prayer room** that was located in the "Jewish house".

✧ **The synagogue** was located on the upper floor of the Jewish community house No. 372 on T.G. Masaryk Street, east of the square. It was built in 1875-1878 just south of the castle-church grounds. It was used for worship until 1938, after which it was converted into an apartment. From 1949, it was used for worship services of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren. From 1976, the former synagogue was town property and was used as a youth club. After 1990, the building's new owner radically modernized it for commercial use and had the semi-circular vaulted synagogue windows and other such elements removed. It is presently abandoned.

🗿 **The Jewish cemetery** was founded in 1878 near the village of Ovčárna, a kilometer north of the town. The cemetery was used for burials until the late 1930's. During the Second World War, the cemetery was destroyed by the Nazis. The devastation continued even after the Second World War; the ceremonial hall with the gravedigger's dwelling was demolished, all the tombstones were knocked over, and the cemetery became grown over with impenetrable undergrowth. After 1990, it was repaired at the expense of the owner, the Jewish community in Prague. All the tombstones were re-erected, the perimeter wall was repaired, and the vegetation in the cemetery is now regularly maintained. A total of 85 tombstones have survived here, the oldest from 1879 and the youngest from 1934. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

In addition to the Jews from Nová Bystřice and the surroundings, there are also Jews from the Lower Austrian villages of Litschau, Heidenreichstein, and Schrems buried here; they did not have their own Jewish cemeteries.

## 25 Nová Včelnice

Jews in Nová Včelnice are documented in written sources from the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Jewish community was established in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and discontinued in 1893.

The simple Classicist ✧ **synagogue** was built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, 350 meters northwest of the castle on the newly established Vrchlického Street. The synagogue was used for religious services until the 1920's, then in 1941 its interior was destroyed. After 1945 it was rebuilt into family house No. 141, which still serves as a residence.

🗿 **The Jewish cemetery** was founded in 1800 on Šibeniční hill, a kilometer east of the castle on the road leading to Štítné. The cemetery currently covers 865 m<sup>2</sup> and contains around 120 tombstones from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (allegedly from 1830) until the beginning of World War II. The cemetery is accessible across a low wall.



## 26 Olšany

Jews apparently settled in Olšany immediately after their expulsion from Vienna and lower Austria in 1670. A Jewish community was founded during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, but it was discontinued in 1890 due to its low number of members.

The quarter with 🏠 **Jewish houses** is located in the northeastern part of the town and consisted of only eight houses, including the former wine distillery No. 20. All houses are preserved as reconstructions. ✧ **The synagogue** was built as a in the 18<sup>th</sup> century but burned down in 1928.

🗿 **The Jewish cemetery** was founded at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century on a hill between two fields 500 meters east of the village along the road to Heřmaněč. The last burials took place at the end of the 1930's. There are about 150 tombstones preserved from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century until 1938 on an area covering 849 m<sup>2</sup>. The entrance used to be a smaller passage leading through a stone morgue, of which only traces of the perimeter walls remain today. The cemetery is freely accessible.



## 27 Osek u Radomyšle

The oldest surviving written mention of Jews in Osek dates back to the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A noble wine distillery was documented in Osek in the 1780's, as was a noble potash refinery and a Jewish house. In 1793, there were three Jewish families living in the Osek estate. During the 1880's (possibly already in 1884), the Jewish community ceased to exist due to the decline in its members. The 1910 census registered no one from the Jewish population.

🏠 **Jewish houses** were concentrated in the northern part of the village north of the pond from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were not closed ghettos, however, as Christian houses were among them. This Jewish settlement area consisted of twelve houses in Jewish ownership; in other homes the Jews were permitted to live as tenants. Most of them have been preserved as reconstructions.

⚡ **The synagogue** was built after 1811 at the Koupavý pond. We know that it was a tall building with a saddle roof and a circular window in the middle of the eastern gable. Worship services were probably held in the synagogue until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, after which it served as an ice warehouse, then after the First World War as a barn and warehouse. In the 1970's, the main synagogue building was demolished.

When the 🏡 **Jewish cemetery** in Osek was precisely established is not known, but it happened sometime between 1838-1853. The cemetery is located 800 meters southwest of the village in the forest on the way to the pilgrimage church in Radomyšl and previously served Osek as well as for the surrounding communities. The cemetery has recently been repaired; the quarry stone wall was completely reconstructed in 2010, and all tombstones were restored in 2011. A total of around 50 tombstones have survived from since the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century over an area of 250 m<sup>2</sup>. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

Osek was the birthplace of Hermann Kafka, the father of Franz Kafka. The cemetery is also the burial site of the writer's grandparents Jakub Kafka (his tombstone has survived) and Františka Kafková née Platowska.

## 28 Písečné

Written sources show that Jews were in Písečné from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1759 there were 24 Jewish families in Písečné and by 1848 their number had increased to 52. In 1848 there were 333 Jews (38% of the total population), in 1880 there were 106 Jews (13.3% of the population), in 1900 there were 71 Jews (8% of the population), and 1930 there were 34 Jews (2.1%).

🏠 **Ghetto.** In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Jewish houses were most likely concentrated in three separate areas. The largest was the western area, in the center of the village along both banks of the creek; originally there were 24-25 houses, with around 10 having survived to date. The central and most interesting area is located northeast of the castle on the northern side of the creek; there are 11 two-story burgher houses still standing. The smallest area is situated on the eastern edge of the town behind the Thaya (Dyje) River and looks like a street with houses on one side. Of the original 7 neighboring houses, 5 small ground-floor houses have been preserved which now form a single unit as the Classicist house No. 135.

⚡ **The synagogue** was built between 1768-1782 in the middle of the western area on the northern bank of the creek, but it was demolished after the Second World War.

🏡 **Jewish cemetery.** It was allegedly founded at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, 500 meters southwest of the castle in the forest above the town. The oldest dated tombstone from 1730 is inscribed to the teacher Bernard Insel. There are about 450 gravestones preserved in the cemetery, many of which are Baroque and Classicist and many of which bear Baroque decorations. At the entrance there is a passage mortuary from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which was reconstructed in 1999. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

Rabbi Michael Lazar Kohn, one of the most respected Moravian Rabbis who died after 52 years in office on 18 March 1893 at the age of 83, is buried in the cemetery. His great-grandson is Jiří Kosta (born in 1921 in Prague), a prominent scientist of the Economic Institute of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, who, in his capacity as secretary to O. Šika, participated in the economic reforms of the 1960's.



## 29 Písek

The Jewish settlement in Písek has been documented in written sources since the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, but the Jews were expelled from the city in 1424. They began to settle here again in small numbers from the first quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century; by the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were six to eleven Jewish families living here. More Jews began moving to Písek in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century: 449 Jews lived here in 1880 (4.2% of all inhabitants), in 1900 there were 395 Jews (2.6% of the population), and in 1930 there were 254 Jews, merely 1.6% of the city's population.

✳️ **The new synagogue** is located on Soukenická Street, 100 meters east of the square. It was built in 1872 in oriental style with neo-Romanesque elements. This was the work of lawyer JUDr. Israel Kohn (1818-1874), who even served as Mayor of Písek in 1871-1872. It served for worship until the Second World War, after which it was used as a warehouse. At that time, the main prayer hall was divided into two stories by a ceiling. It is currently undergoing reconstruction and will be used for cultural purposes.

🏘️ **The new cemetery** is located 1.7 km northwest of the Velké náměstí town square, on the outskirts of the city near the street named U Židovského hřbitova. It was founded in 1876 and was used for burials until 1942, then exceptionally even after the war. The cemetery was filled to about one-third of its area with graves. After the war the cemetery was greatly devastated; in the years 1968-1969 the ground-floor gravedigger's house was destroyed, in 1981 most of the tombstones were taken away and sold, and the cemetery became part of a military training ground. After 1991, the cemetery was reduced to about two-thirds of its original area, and the rest of the cemetery was fenced with a new wall. At present, about 40 tombstones and a number of pedestals and other elements are preserved over an area of 4,461 m<sup>2</sup>. The cemetery is locked.



### Interesting:

Kamila Stösslová (1892-1935), a friend and trustee of Leoš Janáček, is buried in the Písek cemetery. She inspired him, for example, to write the opera "Káťa Kabanová". Her tombstone is no longer identifiable today. The remains of the important poet and novelist Richard Weiner (1884-1937) were exhumed on 6 November 1987 and reburied at the Forest Cemetery in Písek.

## 30 Protivín

A small Jewish settlement in the town was documented from the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. There were 3 Jewish families living in town in 1653, at least 9 Jewish families in 1783, and 12 Jewish families in 1837. More Jews moved to the town after the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, so the Jewish community was the strongest in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: in 1869 there were 95 Jews, in 1880 a total of 87 Jews (3.3% of all inhabitants), in 1910 there were 48 Jews, and in 1930 there were only 12 Jews (0.3% of the city's population).

🏠 **Jewish houses** with a prayer room were centered from the 18<sup>th</sup> century at the latest east of the square on Blanická Street and stood at the end of the church before the bridge over the Blanice River. None of them have been preserved. The last prayer room was set up on the upper floor of a Jewish community house on the southern side of Blanická Street which was purchased by the Jewish community in 1889. The last service was evidently held here in 1923. In 1968 the house was demolished and the Hotel Blanice was built in its place.

🏘️ **The Jewish cemetery** is located 1.3 km northeast of the square, at the foot of Holý vrch Hill near the road leading to the village of Bečelov. It was founded in 1878. A total of around 60 deceased were buried here from the time it was founded until the Second World War. In 1939, the cemetery was devastated, half of the tombstones were taken away, and all that remained of the morgue were the foundations. At present, there are, about 25 tombstones preserved from the time of the cemetery's foundation over a cemetery area of 719 m<sup>2</sup>. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

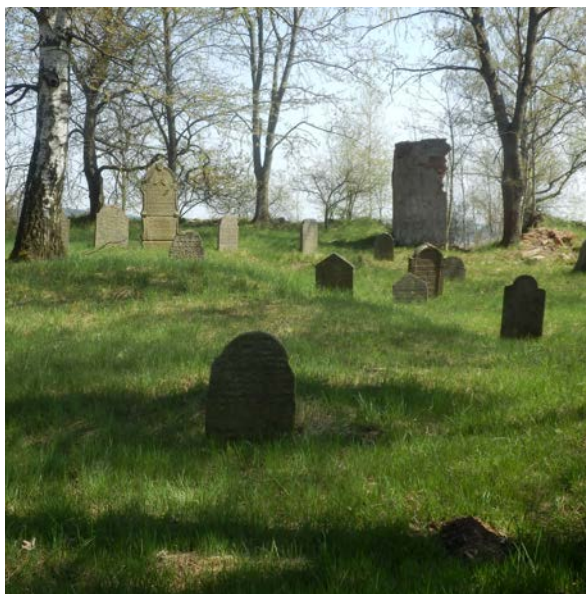
At the end of 1744, Empress Marie Theresa issued a decree which meant the expulsion of Jews from Bohemia. The first Jews to be affected were in Prague's Josefov, who had to leave the Jewish Town by the end of June 1745. Among them was the family of David Kuh, whose wife Taubele died in Protivín. Since there was no Jewish cemetery in Protivín at the time, she was buried at the Jewish cemetery in Dub near Prachatice.

### 31 Prudice

Written sources document a small Jewish population in the town from the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1724 a Jewish family wine distillery was established within the estates, a Jewish family of a distiller was registered in the Jewish registry of 1783, then two families of merchants in the registry of 1793. In 1880 there were 8 Jews living here, then in 1890 there were 3 Jews.

✧ **A prayer room** is documented in the village in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It was probably located in a private home, but we do not know where.

🗿 **The cemetery** is located 500 meters northwest of the Sudoměřice train station on a hill between two fields. It is not known when it was founded, but it is presumed around 1700; it was first documented in the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Over an area of 2,996 m<sup>2</sup> there are 230 tombstones preserved, with the oldest legible tombstone dating back to 1780. The dominant feature is the brick mortuary, of which only the remnants of the perimeter walls remain. In 1916, two refugees from Galicia were buried there, as was the general health minister MUDr. Ignac Herrmann, who died at the age of 82 in Ruzyně, in 1938. This is a valuable cemetery with a number of tombstones decorated with traditional symbols and vegetative motifs. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

In 1821, Isak Stern, who spent most of his life at the Chýnov manor in the village of Pohnání, was buried in the Prudice Jewish cemetery. He was reportedly 101 years old at the time of his death. His relatives include, for example, MUDr. Bedřich Stern (1865 - about 1940), who was a well-known doctor in Planá nad Lužnicí, and MUDr. Otto Natan Stern (1891-1942), who was a sought-after dentist in Tábor as well as a renowned theater actor and owner of a large bibliophilic library.

### 32 Přehořov and Soběslav

A smaller Jewish settlement in Přehořov was documented in writing from the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is unknown when the Jewish community was founded, but it was abolished before 1921, when the Jewish community here became a part of the Jewish community in Soběslav, which at the same time took over the administration of the Přehořov Jewish cemetery. The synagogue, age unknown, was located on the road leading from the village to the north but was demolished in 1960.

The only monument of the local Jewish community is the 🗿 **Jewish cemetery**, located 1.5 km southeast of the village on the edge of the forest, north of the road leading from Lžín. It was founded before 1723. The cemetery covers an area of 863 m<sup>2</sup> and currently holds about 110 preserved tombstones; the oldest is from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the youngest is from before the Second World War. Only slight remnants are left of the mortuary and the quarry stone wall. The cemetery is freely accessible.

There are many Jews from Soběslav buried in the cemetery. A Jewish settlement is documented there from the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but in 1594 the Jews were expelled. The Jews moved to Soběslav again in greater numbers after the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, coming from nearby villages. The modern Jewish community existed in Soběslav from the 1870's until the Nazi occupation. In 1880, there were 210 Jews (7.1% of all inhabitants), 128 Jews (3.3%) in 1900, and only 78 Jews (1.8%) in 1930.

✧ **The synagogue** was allegedly built in 1873 on Jirsikova Street on the site of an older house. It was a hall building decorated with modest neo-Renaissance decor. A two-story town house stood nearby. It served for worship until the Nazi occupation, then after the war it was used as a warehouse, and in 1959 it was reconstructed for the administrative purposes of the Communal Services of the town of Soběslav. It is presently in private ownership and is used as a workshop. Nowadays, this is a single-storey house without a trace of its former sacral use.





### 33 Radenín

A Jewish settlement was documented in Radenín since the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1723 there were 9 Jewish families living in Radenín, in 1853 there lived 51 Jewish families (190 persons, 19% of all inhabitants of the village), in 1880 there were 93 Jews, in 1900 there were 53 Jews, and in 1930 there were only 9 Jews (2% of the town).

🏠 **A small ghetto** existed at the northern edge of the village, 150 meters northeast of the castle. It probably emerged in the first quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and was separated from the Christian part of the village by the castle and manor court. In 1830, the ghetto consisted of a synagogue and ten houses that stood around a small village. Most of them, including the schoolhouse No. 67, have been preserved as reconstructions.

🌟 **The synagogue** at No. 88 was located in the ghetto on the north side of the village. The first synagogue was supposedly built at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but was replaced by a new synagogue in 1804, which was built together with a house and hospital. It served for worship until the 1930's, then 1934 it was rebuilt into a still-occupied residential building.

🏢 **The cemetery** is located on a hill 800 meters northeast of the village square. It was founded in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. After 1830 it was extended; at that time the small wooden mortuary was replaced by a larger mortuary built of quarry stone. Over an area of 1,403 m<sup>2</sup>, there are about 300 tombstones today, and the mortuary has been reconstructed. The oldest surviving tombstones date from the 1930's, some of them decorated with simple plant décor or symbols. The last tombstone was placed here on 3 February 1938 for the poor beggar Johanna Rind, but her monument was not preserved. This is a valuable cemetery with a number of Baroque and Classicist steles and an important landscape-forming element. The cemetery is freely accessible.



#### Interesting:

One outstanding tombstone stele is that of Samuel Sonn from 1852, decorated with a relief of the sun. The tomb of Rabbi Frank bears a sculpted relief of a lying lion, which is either a symbol of ruling power or commemorates the blessing of the Patriarch Jacob to his son Judah, Judah being likened to a lion.

### 34 Rožmberk nad Vltavou

The oldest written record of Jews in the town dates back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1724 and 1783 there were 14 Jewish families in Rožmberk, in 1849 there were 23 families (130 persons, evidently the most in the town's history), in 1880 there were 53 Jews (3.6% of all inhabitants), 1900 there were 47 Jews (4.0%), and in 1930 there were only 12 Jews (1.2%).

🏠 **Jewish houses** were concentrated near the Vltava River at the foot of the castle hill from an unknown time. To date, only the two houses No. 102 and 104 are preserved from the original four Jewish houses. The last 🌟 **synagogue**, probably built at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, served for worship until 1938; it was adapted for residential purposes during the Second World War, then abandoned and demolished after 1966.

Information about the establishment of an **old Jewish cemetery** 🏢 differs. Some historians claim that it was founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, others that it already took place in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. This Jewish cemetery is located on the southern edge of the left river bank of the town and is adjacent to the inner side of the town walls. Some historic tombstones were already destroyed under Nazi occupation, then after 1945 about half of them were stolen. The remaining tombstones, 45 of them, are now unsuitably located in a garden that belongs to house No. 103 and is enclosed within a gated wall. The oldest of them date from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The cemetery is locked.

🏢 **The new Jewish cemetery** of the Rožmberk Jewish community was founded in 1883 beside the road running along the left bank of the Vltava River from Rožmberk nad Vltavou to Český Krumlov. The last burial here was a for member of the Holzbauer family in 1950. After 1945, the cemetery area was reduced and the ceremonial hall was demolished. A total of one hundred tombstones has been preserved over an area of 2,290 m<sup>2</sup>, the oldest one dating back to 1883. The cemetery is freely accessible.



#### Interesting:

By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was very active contact between the Jews of Rožmberk and Linz; Jews from Linz in Upper Austria were allegedly buried in the old Jewish cemetery in Rožmberk.



### 35 Slavonice

Individual Jewish families settled sporadically in the town from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Jews moved to Slavonice in larger numbers only after 1848, when they were granted partial equality. Censuses show that there were 27 Jews (1.1% of all inhabitants) living in Slavonice in 1848, and 63 Jews (2.5% of all inhabitants) in 1869. The highest population was at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: in 1880, there were 75 Jews (2.9% of all inhabitants), in 1910 there were 85 Jews (3.1% of the total population), and in 1930 there were 50 Jews (2.3% of all inhabitants).

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Jews had set up a **synagogue** on Dlouhá Street, although the prayer room was undoubtedly here earlier – it was probably located in a private house already before 1880. In 1895, it was replaced by a larger hall in the new Jewish community house No. 494 on Dlouhá Street, located in the northeast part of the town center by the walls. The Jewish community house with prayer hall was built in 1895 by the local factory owner and merchant Lazar Stukhart, who donated five thousand crowns towards his construction. The prayer hall was opened on 25 June 1895 by a ceremonial worship service led by the Rabbi Dr. Nathan Frankl of Písečné and Dr. A. Morgenstern of Jemnice.

We know very little about the prayer hall, save that it contained a beautiful tabernacle and a female gallery. The ground floor of the house contained the common room for the religious community as well as a room for the Slavonice association for the poor and sick. The upper floor held a teacher's apartment.

Services were held in the synagogue until 1938. After the Second World War, the building served as a church house for the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, then after 1967 it was adapted into apartments. At that time, the prayer hall on the upper floor was divided into two stories by a ceiling.



#### Interesting:

There was never a Jewish Cemetery in Slavonice – the Jews were buried in Dolní Bolíkov, Staré Město pod Landštejnem, or in Písečné.

### 36 Stádlec

Jews most likely lived in Stádlec as early as the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1724, there were three documented Jewish families in Stádlec, then in 1747 there were 6 Jewish families; in the registry of Jews from 1783, there are 10 Jewish families registered. In 1880 there were 77 Jews, in 1890 there were 63 Jews (9% of all inhabitants), in 1900 there were 26 Jews (3.9% of all inhabitants), and in 1930 there were only 6 Jews (1.1% of all inhabitants).

**Jewish houses** were most likely concentrated on Židovská Street in the western part of the village and south of the parallel road to Staré Sedlo, from the eighteenth century. Before the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were 9 Jewish houses here, some of which are still preserved in reconstructions.

The prayer room was first documented in written sources in 1723.

**The synagogue** at No. 109 was built in the emerging “Jewish alley” at the western edge of the village, allegedly in the years 1730-1740, then was rebuilt during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Worship was held regularly in the synagogue until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, then occasionally until the 1930's. After the war, a cinema was set up in the prayer hall and the women's gallery was used as a balcony for viewers. At present, the synagogue has been converted into an apartment, while the main prayer hall will soon serve for cultural purposes.

A small **Jewish cemetery** was founded between 1812-1814 in the fields a kilometer south of the village, southwest of the Podhrázký mill. Until then, burials took place at the Jewish cemetery in Zběšičky. There are about 100 tombstones preserved from 1821 to the 1930's over a cemetery area of 539 m<sup>2</sup>. There are only a few remnants of the quarry stone masonry wall and the mortuary. In 2009 and 2012, all fallen tombstones were erected at a cost of about CZK 200,000, and in 2015-2016, all the historic tombstones were restored. The cemetery is freely accessible.



#### Interesting:

The prose writer and Jewish textbook author Josef Žalud (1850-1923, Prague) was born in Stádlec.

### 37 Staré Město pod Landštejnem

It is not known exactly when Jews came to Staré Město pod Landštejnem. The oldest tombstone in the Jewish cemetery here dated back to 1610 (it has not been preserved), so we can presume that the history of the Jewish population in this town began by this time at the latest. A separate Jewish community might have been established with a wooden synagogue as early as in the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the Jewish cemetery would have been founded earlier. In 1723, there were 11 Jewish families living in the town, then 18 Jewish families living here in 1783. In 1880 there were 79 Jews (8.4% of the population), in 1900 there were 32 Jews (3.8% of the population), and in 1930 only 12 Jews (2.0% of the population).

🏠 **Jewish houses** were probably concentrated in one area in the northern part of the town from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Before the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Jews lived in about fifteen houses between today's municipal office building and the creek. About eight ground-floor and multi-storey houses have still been preserved as partial reconstructions, including the former ritual bath building No. 171 near the creek.

The first ⚡ **synagogue** was built as a wooden building in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a new brick Classical synagogue was built, which apparently served for worship until the First World War. It was demolished without building documentation in 1959.

The valuable 🏡 **Jewish cemetery** is located about 600 meters north of the square on a rocky elevation between meadows. It was founded before 1610 and was last expanded in 1863. Even though the cemetery itself is documented from the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the oldest tombstone from 1727 is likely that of Mendel, son of Jicchak. The cemetery was used for burials until the 1930's, and several tombstones have survived from this period. During the war, the cemetery was badly damaged by the Nazis and gradually dilapidated after the war. At present, there are about 170 tombstones preserved over an area of 1,295 m<sup>2</sup>; only a small remnant of the masonry is left of the mortuary. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### 38 Strakonice

The Jewish settlement in Strakonice is documented in written sources from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. In 1724, there were 12 Jewish families living in Bezděkov (part of today's Strakonice), then before the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were 25 Jewish families here. In 1880, 379 Jews lived in Strakonice, in 1900 there were 281 Jews, and in 1930 there were 169 Jews in the whole city.

🏠 **Jewish houses** were concentrated in the southern part of Bezděkov from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century at the latest. They were built on the eastern bank of the Volyňka as well as at the mouth of the Otava River. In 1837, there were 14 Jewish houses located in the Jewish quarter, divided by the Volyňka River and the mill run; eight houses and the synagogue were on the right bank, and six houses on the left bank forming a single street. Both parts of the Jewish quarter were joined by a wooden bridge. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, all the Jewish houses on the west bank of the river were demolished as part of construction of the Fezko company, while the houses on the east bank, including the synagogue and the Jewish community house, were demolished in the 1970's for the construction of a department store.

The oldest documented **prayer house** was wooden and burned down in 1741. The old ⚡ **synagogue** which replaced it collapsed in 1858 with a new neo-Romanesque synagogue built on the same site in 1860. Service took place in the synagogue until the Nazi occupation. The Czechoslovak Hussite Church used it as a prayer hall from 1951, and it was demolished in 1976.

🏡 **Jewish cemetery** – it is not known when the Jewish cemetery was founded, but it probably existed around 1700. After 1860, the cemetery was significantly expanded. The most readable tombstone dates back to 1736, with a total of 480 tombstones covering the 2,827 m<sup>2</sup> of the cemetery. It was used for burials until even after the Second World War. This is a well-preserved cemetery with many Baroque and Classicist tombstones. The cemetery is located about 2 km west of the castle, on the street named U Židovského hřbitova.




#### Interesting:


The tombs of Fürth family members are preserved in the cemetery; they were part of the initial renowned Strakonice production of fez caps.




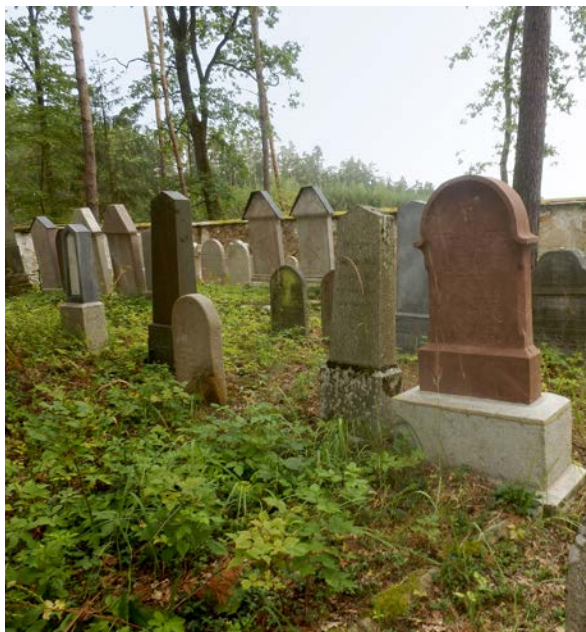
### 39 Stráž nad Nežárkou

A small Jewish settlement is documented in the town from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1747, there were 2 Jewish families living here, in 1783 there were 6 Jewish families, and in 1793 there were 43 Jews here. In 1880, there were 89 Jews (5.6% of all inhabitants) living in the town, 37 Jews (2.4% of all inhabitants) in 1900, and in 1930 only 8 Jews (0.8% of all inhabitants).

There was never a closed ghetto in Stráž, since  **Jewish houses** were scattered around the town and formed several separate clusters in the western half and the northern outskirts of the town.

The Classicist  **synagogue** at No. 24 was built in the first quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century on Třeboňská Street, west of the town square. It was used for worship until the First World War. In 1920, it was sold to ropemaker Adolf Novotný and his wife Maria. After the sale, several Jews from Jindřichův Hradec arrived, dismantled the tabernacle inside the synagogue, loaded it on a vehicle, and took it to Jindřichův Hradec, marking the end of the Stráž synagogue. From 1920, it was used as a warehouse and a garage, then after 1986 as a shop. A square hall with wooden false vaulting decorated with stucco has been preserved, while the vistas onto the western female gallery on the upper floor have been walled up.


The maintained  **forest cemetery** is located 1.5 km west of the castle, north of the road leading to Mláka. It was likely founded in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and is mentioned in written sources for the first time in 1810. Jews from Třeboň, Nové Hradý, České Velenice, Suchdol nad Lužnicí, Chlum nad Lužnicí, and Austrian Schrems were also buried there until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Today, there are 150 tombstones from 1847 to the 1930's on a cemetery area of 816 m<sup>2</sup>. The cemetery house is used for recreational purposes.





### 40 Tábor

Written sources indicate Jews in Tábor from the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1618, there were 2 Jewish families living in the city, in 1653 there were 8 families, which was the highest number until the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1769, there were 18 Jewish families living in Tábor, in 1840 there were 212 Jews, in 1880 there were 495 Jews (6.6% of all the city's inhabitants), 459 Jews in 1900 (4.2%), and in 1930 only 311 Jews (2.1%).

There was never a  **Jewish ghetto** in Tábor. An agreement with the city representatives meant that the Jews could live anywhere in the city except for on the town square and the main (Pražská) street.

 **The synagogue** was built between 1883 and 1885 between today's streets Hradební and Na Parkánech. Services were held there until the Nazi occupation, then during and after the war it was used as a warehouse. In 1977 it was needlessly destroyed, and today there is a parking lot in its place. In 1992 a plaque commemorating the synagogue's existence was unveiled on the neighboring wall.

 **The old Jewish cemetery** was established in 1634 on a hillside between today's Korandová Street and the lower (river bank) part of Bechyňská Street. Its area was later increased several times with the purchase of additional adjacent lands. The last burials took place here around 1893 when the cemetery was completely full. In 1941, this valuable cemetery was devastated by the Nazis, all the gravestones were taken away, and after the war the area was converted into a park. On 23 October 1955, a stone book memorial to the victims of the war was unveiled in the lower part of the cemetery, then in 2002 a monument was installed bearing the names of the victims of the Holocaust.

 **The new Jewish cemetery** was opened in 1894 between today's streets Československé armády, Kapitána Jaroše, and Dukelských bojovníků. It was used for burials until 1941, with about 400 people buried here during its existence. In 1941, the Nazis completely destroyed it, the tombstones were removed, and after the war the ceremonial hall was demolished. The cemetery is now modified into a park, and the existence of a cemetery is marked only by a monument unveiled in 1992 in the middle of a grassy area.





## 41 Třeboň

A minor Jewish settlement is documented in Třeboň from the last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and other families from the surrounding countryside were permitted to settle in the town since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. There was no Jewish community in Třeboň and the Třeboň estates until the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1880, there lived 181 Jews (3.1% of the population), in 1900 there lived 77 Jews (1.4% of the population), in 1910 there were 63 Jews, and in 1930 there were only 43 Jews (0.8% of the population).

✧ **The synagogue** was established by modifying an upper floor of the older burgher house No. 50/I on the dead end of Krčínova street south of the town square in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (perhaps around 1880). It was used for worship until World War II. The building then served as a warehouse, and today it is a residential house. The original ceiling of the prayer hall with stucco decoration and ornamental painting has been preserved in the attic. The neighboring Baroque two-storey house No. 49/I was the residence of the rabbinat and held the school for the Jewish community. The house is currently used for residential purposes.

📄 **Cemetery.** Until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Jews from Třeboň were buried in the cemetery in Stráž nad Nežárkou. The cemetery in Třeboň was founded between 1897–1900. It was approved on 20 June 1900, and a permit was issued for burials on 18 July 1900. The cemetery is located in a forest two kilometers east of the city, covering an area of 2,190 m<sup>2</sup> and holding several dozen preserved tombstones from the foundation of the cemetery until the late 1930's. A cemetery house was built at the same time as the foundation of the cemetery and is now used for recreation.



### Interesting:

One the last to be buried here were the members of the Metzls family, whose descendants now live in Bohemia and America. Three members of the Metzls family, Felix, Viktor, and Karel who died during the Second World War, are commemorated by a Stolpersteine monument. The stones were laid in 2010 in front of house No. 96 on Masaryk Square in Třeboň, where the family lived.

## 42 Tučapy

Jews began settling in the Tučapy during the 17<sup>th</sup> century at the latest. In 1723, there were 12 Jewish families living in Tučapy, by 1793 the number of families had risen to 49. Before the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were 30 families, in 1900 there were 90 Jews (9.0% of the population), in 1900 there were 50 Jews (6.2%), and only 19 Jews (1.6%) in 1930.

📄 **The Jewish quarter** in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries consisted of two parts separated by a creek and the Castle Pond, which is now dry. In the northern district, on the street leading to Dvorce, a synagogue and twelve Jewish houses stood in 1853, also including the school (No. 64) and the Rabbinate (No. 65). In the southern block of Jewish houses (on the street named Na nouzi) there were 15 Jewish houses in 1830 (including the hospital at No. 83 and a wine distillery). After the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, 8 more Jewish houses stood on the street leading from the center of the village to the bridge. This street joined both older settlements. The houses are mostly ground floor structures and have been preserved in both parts of the Jewish quarter as reconstructions.

✧ **The synagogue** was built in 1779 in the northern Jewish quarter and was rebuilt after a fire in 1867. Worship was held there until the First World War. In 1934, the synagogue was sold and subsequently adapted to a Sokol House, then after 1950 it was rebuilt into a modern gymnasium. The northwest facade with its entrance portal, now walled, was preserved.

📄 **The Jewish cemetery** located at the western end of the southern Jewish quarter on the south bank of Černovický creek, was probably founded in 1713. There are still 360 tombstones from 1737 to the Second World War, and the cemetery covers an area of 2,356 m<sup>2</sup>. The most interesting gravestone belongs to that of Sali, the wife of Avigdor Alina, from 1859, decorated with engraved architecture reminiscent of the Torah scrolls in a synagogue, with its sides complemented by carved pilasters symbolizing the two pillars that stood at the entrance to the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem.



### Interesting:

Tučapy was the birthplace of the band director of Prague's Liberated Theater and later conductor of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Karel Ančerl (1908-1973 Toronto, Canada); his memory is honored with a commemorative plaque on the building of the municipal office.

### 43 Velký Pěčín

There was no Jewish community nor Jewish religious community in Velký Pěčín.

The **Jewish cemetery** is located in a forest 1.5 km northwest of the village, on the very border of the South Bohemian and Vysočina Regions, approximately two hundred meters east of the road between Myslůvka and Kostelní Vydří. It was allegedly founded around the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century for the needs of the Jewish community in Telč. The oldest surviving tombstones date from the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century: from 1655 these are the tombs of Brajndl daughter of Zajnvil, and Frajdl daughter of Mordechaj, while the tombstone of Hesdil daughter of Jicchak Tausk is from 1690. The tombstone of the patron of the Telč Jewish community, Jacob Lang, is also preserved from 1829. Burials were held here until the end of the 1870's, when a new Jewish cemetery was founded in Telč (on the southern outskirts of the town) in 1879-1880. Today, the 803 m<sup>2</sup> of the Jewish cemetery hold around 150 tombstones, including many valuable Baroque and Classicist steles. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

In neighboring Kostelní Myslová, the academic painter František Mořic Nágl, author of vistas from the Terezín (Theresienstadt) ghetto, was born on 28 May 1889. František Nágl spent most of his life in his home town; it was not only a place of rest for him, but especially a source of artistic inspiration. He was arrested in 1941 on the Telč town square directly at his painter's easel. He was subsequently imprisoned for six months in the Kounic dormitories in Brno, and in May 1942 he was taken with his family and other Jews to the Terezín ghetto. In Terezín, Nágl painted and documented the realities around him: the interiors of the quarters, the corner areas of the courtyards, and the prisoners. For a long time, nothing was known about his watercolors, drawings, and gouaches, because he walled them up in one of the houses. They were accidentally discovered during the reconstruction of the building in 1950. No one from the painter's family survived the war. A memorial plaque for F. M. Nágl was unveiled at the Zachariáš of Hradec town square in Telč on 22 May 2002.

### 44 Vlachovo Březí

The Jewish settlement in Vlachovo Březí is documented from the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and gradually increased until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1618, there were 8 Jewish families living here (58 persons), in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century there were about 8 to 10 Jewish families, in 1783 there were 17 families, the 1830's saw the maximum number at about 130 Jews, in 1860 there were 112 Jews, in 1880 there were 108 Jews (4.5% of the total population), in 1900 there were only 58 Jews, and in 1930 only 7 Jews.

**The Jewish neighborhood** was located southeast of the church, on the southern edge of town. It apparently formed at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. In 1837 there were 14 Jewish houses in the area, the majority of which have been preserved as reconstructions. In the 1780's, an older wooden cottage was modified to serve as the **synagogue**. The timbered ground-floor synagogue, later marked as No. 6, is located 100 meters southeast of the church, on a small perpendicular street exiting the road to Chlumeč. Architecturally, it was probably never too different from the neighboring houses. We know that the prayer hall was small and low, but it also contained a women's gallery, underneath which was a living room. It served for worship services until the early 1920's. In 1924 it was sold and rebuilt into a ground-floor house which is still occupied today. The **Jewish cemetery** was allegedly founded in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is located on the northeastern outskirts of town, behind the former brewery. It originally occupied a significantly smaller area, but it was expanded several times to its current area of 1,403 m<sup>2</sup>. Probably at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a new vehicle house was built on the southwest side of the cemetery. Altogether, there are about two hundred tombstones in the cemetery ranging from 1729 to the 1930's. In the lower part of the cemetery stands the atypical tombstone of Theresie, the wife of Filip Lederer, shaped like a hexagonal column with a German and Hebrew inscription. The cemetery is freely accessible.



### Interesting:

The rebuilt synagogue is the last surviving timbered synagogue in the Czech lands, although its outer walls are plastered.



**45 Vodňany**

The Jewish settlement in Vodňany is documented from the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. During the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, Jews were either expelled from the city, or their numbers were reduced. In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there were 8 Jewish families documented in the city, in 1831 there were 93 Jews (3.4% of all inhabitants), 237 Jews in 1857 (5.5%), 256 Jews in 1880 (6.4%), 149 Jews in 1900 (3.7%), and only 114 Jews in 1930 (2.6%).

**Jewish houses** were concentrated on what used to be named Jewish Street (now Majerova Street) between the square and the eastern city wall from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This was not a closed ghetto, since most of the street's population was Christian.

**The synagogue** was built between 1837-1852 on Majerova Street in the immediate vicinity of the old synagogue from 1744, which was demolished in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century or merged with house No. 152. This simple late-Classical building with vaulted hall was enlarged in 1877. It served for worship until World War II. In 1956, it was rebuilt for the needs of the city museum, which is still housed in the synagogue. The main prayer hall was divided by the ceiling into two stories. The former schoolhouse, No. 153, is located behind the synagogue.

**The cemetery** is located 700 meters southwest of the village of Pražák, on a hill at the edge of the forest on the red hiking trail. It was founded in 1840 on land purchased from the city in November 1839. The entrance to the cemetery leads through a bricked segmented gate which is closed by an iron grid. All that remains today from the mortuary or the vehicle house are the peripheral walls. To date, 245 tombstones have survived on the cemetery area of 1,608 m<sup>2</sup> since the time of its foundation until the 1930's. The cemetery is freely accessible.



**Interesting:**

There is a tomb decorated with the motif of a broken tree, based on the biblical text "he uproots my hope like a tree". This motif was popular in Central Europe and symbolizes the prematurely terminated life of a child or young person.

**46 Volary**

A minor Jewish settlement was documented in the town from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1880, there lived 2 Jews here, then in 1930 a single Jewish man.

In May 1945, a graveyard for victims of the death march was established on the eastern edge of the town, adjacent to the municipal cemetery. At this time, women prisoners were buried here from the German concentration camp Helmbrechts, from where over 1,300 women were expelled on a death march on 13 April 1945. On 4 May in the afternoon, about 170 exhausted women arrived to Volary on foot, and another 140 women were carried on the back of eight horses because they were no longer able to walk.

On May 5, Volary was liberated by the US Army. Its commander ordered the exhumation of all graves which held the women who died in the last section of the death march from Kvilda to Volary. The graves at the newly designated cemetery were dug by Germans under the supervision of American soldiers.

On May 11, a funeral was held with the mandatory participation of all German inhabitants, including children. The service was held by the chaplain of the American Army, Rabbi Herman Rocker. The coffins were later placed in several common tombs, over which were erected wooden crosses with the names of the buried. The women who died after May 11 were buried in separate graves. A total of 95 women of Jewish origin, born in Hungary, Poland, Bohemia, Germany, and Russia, were buried here. In 1974, a sculpture of a female figure in an elevated position was unveiled in front of the cemetery. The sculpture is the work of academic sculptor Vojtěch Pařík. In 1989-1990, the cemetery area was architecturally newly modified. Designed by architect Vojtěch Štorm from České Budějovice, 95 uniform tombstones in the form of traditional Jewish steles were erected over the graves of the buried victims. Eighty-five of the steles bear the names of the buried, while ten are marked only as "Unknown". In the upper part of the cemetery there is a monument which bears the inscription: "Are you indifferent, all you who pass by? Look and see if anyone has a pain like that which was caused to me".





**47 Volyně**

Jews are believed to have lived in Volyně before 1500. In around 1650, there were 12 Jewish families living in Volyně, least 18 families in 1724, in 1783-1811 an average of 14 families, in 1849 there were 27 families (about 140 people), a total of 142 Jews (5.1% of all inhabitants) in 1880, 135 Jews (4.3%) in 1900, and 51 Jews (1.6%) in 1930.

**Jewish houses.** At the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century at the latest, a small Jewish street (today Žižkova Street) formed with contiguous development on both sides and which consisted of 13 brick houses (including the residential synagogue) and perpendicularly connected to the south side of the lower square. The two-storey houses are still preserved as reconstructions.

The first **synagogue** of unknown age and appearance stood in the middle of the west side of Žižkova Street. A second synagogue was built on the same site in the years 1838-1840 (now No. 250). The two-storey Classical building is decorated with a valuable Empirical facade: the columnar portico and a tympanum with embossed relief showing lions holding a crowned clock shield and a Hebrew inscription is interesting. The synagogue hall filled the northern part of the building, while the southern part held the school and dwellings for the spiritual leaders. Services were held in the synagogue until the Nazi occupation. After the war, the synagogue hall was first adapted into a cinema then into a disco club, and the women's gallery was removed. Other parts of the building are nowadays used as a music school, textile shop, etc.

**The Jewish cemetery** on the northern outskirts of the city on the street U Vodojemu, 350 meters northwest of the upper square, was founded sometime during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but it is not known exactly when. The oldest preserved tombstone is from 1689. The cemetery was enlarged several times in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the last time in 1870. This is a valuable cemetery with many Baroque and Classicist tombstones, and the cemetery cottage from 1912 which was built here when the cemetery was modified.



**48 Zběšičky**

Jews in Zběšičky were documented in written sources from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Theresa Cadaster from this period mentions a single Jewish tanner, so one Jewish family probably lived here, then in 1793 there were 9 Jewish families here. In 1880, there were 25 Jews, 10 Jews in 1890, 6 Jews in 1900, 2 Jews in 1910, and apparently none after that.

**Jewish houses.** In the 1780's, there were 4 Jewish houses in the village; there were about 12 Jewish houses around the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century which created an irregular cluster in the eastern and northeastern part of the village and were mostly built of wood. Part of them are still preserved as reconstructions.

There is very little information about the **synagogue**; not even its date of construction is known. We know only is that it was all wooden and that there was a partition inside which divided the prayer hall into two parts: one for men and the other for women. In 1866 this synagogue burned down and was not rebuilt.

**The Jewish cemetery** is located 500 meters northwest of the village, near a field road leading from the road between Veselíčko and Zběšičky towards the Zavadil pond, on the edge of a forested hillside. It was founded in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and later enlarged. About 150 tombstones have been preserved over an area of 1,029 m<sup>2</sup> since the establishment of the graveyard until 1932. The mortuary at the entrance has been reconstructed. The cemetery is freely accessible.

Neighboring Veselíčko was the seat of an independent Jewish community in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Jewish houses were centered along the eastern shore of the pond, northeast of the castle. Before the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were ten Jewish houses here, some of which are still preserved as reconstructions. The synagogue from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was demolished in 1986.



**Interesting:**

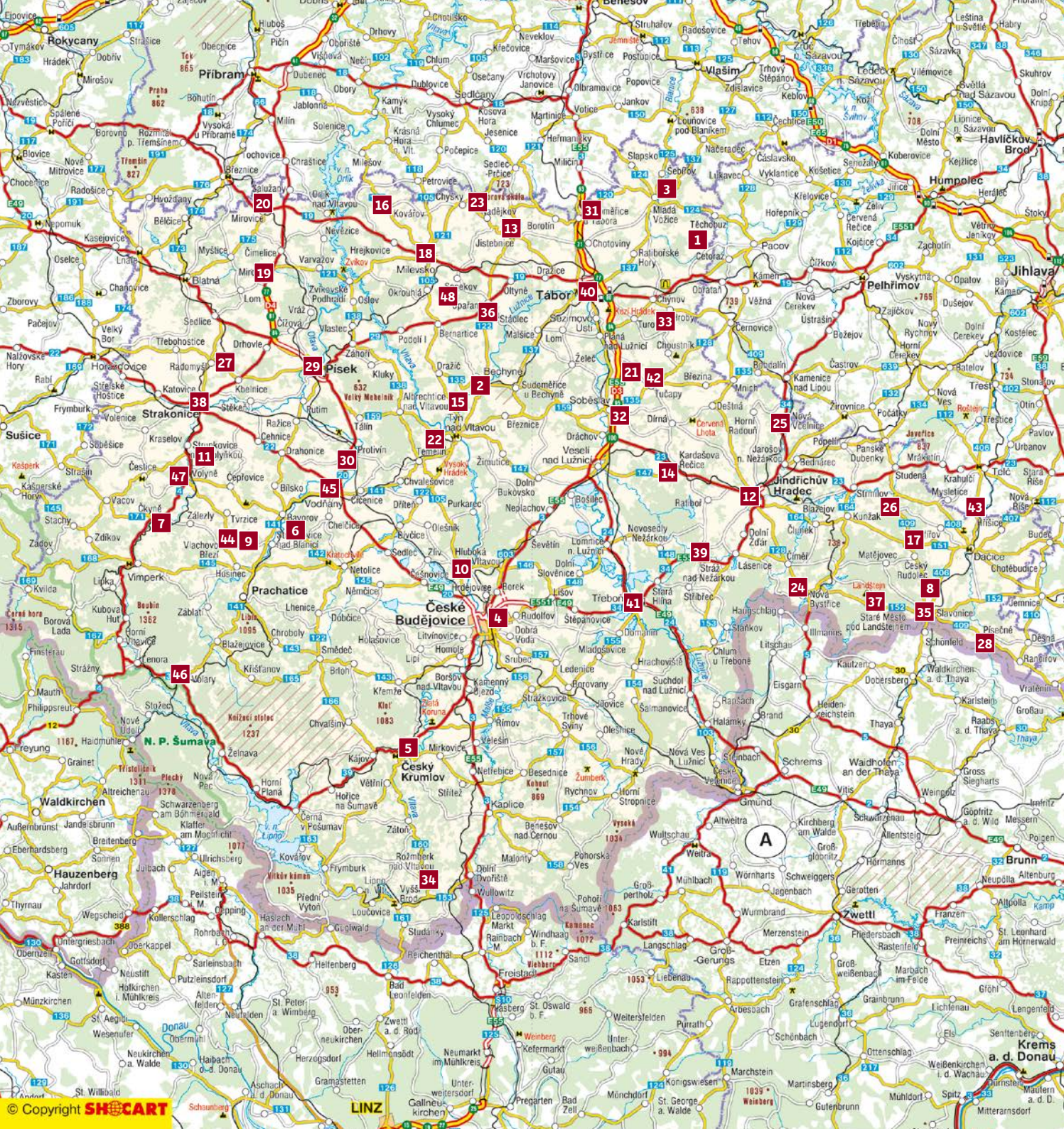
At the Jewish cemetery in Zběšičky, the tomb of the Rosezweig family bears the symbol of a rose. This was a symbol of fragility, or perhaps of the young age and beauty of the deceased.

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Published by the Tourism Authority  
of South Bohemia in 2020

Text: Mgr. Blanka Rozkošná

Photos: Mgr. Blanka Rozkošná,  
Vydavatelství MCU

Graphic design and typesetting: Daniel Dědek

Print: Ivan Nadberežný – INPRESS

Copies: 2 000 pcs; reprint of first edition;  
not for sale

Print errors reserved

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ISBN 978-80-88269-54-0

The project “Promotion of marketing activities of Tourism  
Authority of South Bohemia” was supported from funds  
of the state budget of the Czech Republic within the  
programme of the Ministry of Regional Development.



CzechRepublic



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