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The oldest written record regarding the town dates back to 1260. Slavonice reached its maximal bloom and prosperity in the renaissance period. The town started its decline after the thirty-year-war and further development appeared as late as in the end of the 19th century. 19. After WW II the German majority was displaced and Slavonice became a part of the border zone. After appeasement of the political situation in 1958-59, Slavonice was detached from the zone and it was declared the listed town in 1961. Thanks to its unique character, the town aspires to registration in the lists of world cultural heritage UNESCO.



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WALKING TOUR

1

Walking tour begins in the “náměstí Míru” square outside the Tourist Information Centre. Just go through the alley between the Information Centre and the Town Hall. The first stop on your tour is a **synagogue**. This Jewish house of worship was opened on 25 June 1895. The original structure is today only commemorated by the renovated façade. You should also pay attention to the statue standing at the entrance, whose author is the sculptor and wood-carver Jiří Netík.



2

The passageway in house number 492 will take you to the remains of the fortification wall. **Fragments** of similar size can be found in a few more places around the city. The construction of the fortification system was introduced in the 13th century when walls and moats were built. **The city walls** helped Slavonice withstand the onslaught of the Hussite army in the summer of 1423. The once destroyed system was rebuilt after 1550.



3

Keep walking through the alley, walk up the steps leading to the bus station and follow the pavement along the park. This will bring you to a cross-roads where you can meet the **modern part of Slavonice**. On your left, where the road leaves for Jemnice, you will see a housing estate that was built in stages between 1963 and 1993. The area on your right comprises mostly of buildings constructed in the late 20th century: healthcare centre, function house and kindergarten. The latest addition is the nursing home for the elderly (see the photo), finished in 2004.



4

The tour continues along the sandy path on your right and soon you will arrive at the **best preserved of the four original bastions**.

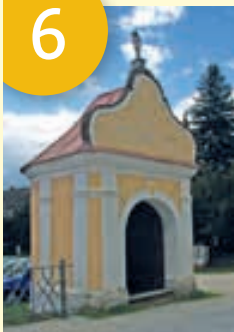


5

Then go past a restaurant and you will reach the baker's shop. Enter the mysterious alley left of the bakery and **along the bulky walls** you will come to **another bastion**.



6



The next leg of the tour follows the creek named “Slavonický potok”. The bridge in Nádražní street marks the location of the **chapel of St John of Nepomuk**. It is a Baroque structure dating back to the early 18th century. Inside the chapel, you can see a contemporary sculpture of St John of Nepomuk.

7

If you look to your left, away from the direction of the route, you can see the Baroque **cemetery chapel of St Cross** with Renaissance stone portal dating back to 1586, built by Leopold Österreicher. This portal used to serve as an entrance to the local graveyard. The chapel alone was only erected in 1702. The interiors have been newly restored and won the Landmark of the Year Award in 2014.



8

The tour continues along the creek. Directly opposite you stands a **pottery workshop**. It is one of the Slavonice studios you are welcome to enter and visit.



9

If you look across the creek to your right, you will not miss the newly reconstructed house of **Spolkový dům** (community house or, originally, Deutsches Haus).



10

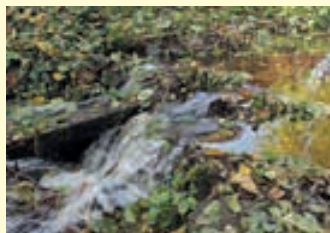
Three features of the creek.

You have so far been going along the creek that was tamed to flow through the city after 1850. The natural bed of the stream was turned into an artificial one in the early 1970s. It follows a park on the right bank and a charming birch alley on the left.



11

The concrete bridge marks the frontier beyond which you will only find free countryside. The creek meanders naturally creating its own rules. It is only this part of the creek that is the home of the strictly protected crayfish. Lush vegetation hosts the dead-nettle leaf beetle (*Chrysolina fastuosa*), one of the Czech most beautiful beetles, and swarms of fireflies at night. You can also spot a kingfisher here and there.



12

Next stop is at a **stone railway bridge**, an exceptional technical landmark. The train service to Slavonice started to operate more than a hundred years ago in 1902. In 1903, the railway was extended into Austria. However, the Communist government discontinued the Austrian stretch by removing 10 metres of the rails in April 1951. There is one little, interesting detail to notice. During the one hundred years of the bridge's existence, tiny stalactites have formed in its vault.



13

You have two options in the area beyond the bridge. The road on the left will take you to the “Journey through a Fairy Forest” (Cesta pohádkovým lesem), but you can leave this one for the next time. Today, you will continue to the right under the next bridge and back to Slavonice. One of the **Calvary chapels** suggests another possible trip to the church of Corpus Cristi. The trip may be extended to the museum of driftwood (not washed ashore but found in the forest) and a private ZOO at the “Bejčkův mlýn” resort.



14

A few more steps will give you a chance to see the **church of St John the Baptist**, which was founded at the end of the 13th century as a part of the town hospital. The church was severely damaged by fires in 1620 and 1845 only to be fully restored in 1847. The church is equipped in Rococo and Classicist styles. There are no services these days since only concerts take place in it.



15

Now walk along the street named “Jana Žižky” (formerly known as Špitálská), which shows the best examples of once the **wealthiest farmhouses**. Some of the buildings still offer classical layout: farmhouse – rooms for farmer's parents - barns.



16

The street of farmhouses is sealed with a massive **Baroque granary** dating back to the late 16th century. If you walk on the pavement on the left, you will go past a crossroads.



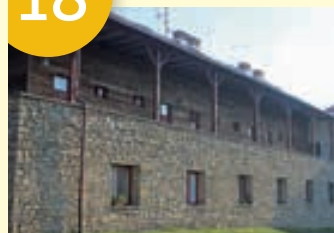
17

On your left, you will see an elementary school. Carefully cross the street where you can see the **third bastion**. You already know there used to be four of them to guard the town. Unfortunately, the fourth one has not been preserved until today. Walking past the bastion will lead you to the last stop of the tour.



18

It is the final fragment of the fortification wall that you will see today. This place interestingly **connects history with the present**. This means, in this case, medieval walls with modern flats. All you need to do now is walk past the old school building (today the seat of Institut Slavonice) and you are back in the square.



If you have found the tour inspiring and have questions to ask, you are more than welcome to do so when you come back to the **Tourist Information Centre**. Its staff are also ready to help you if you call: **+420 728 280 183**.



And on tomorrow's trip you may reach one of many destinations in nearby Austria. The border is a mere 2 km away.

FRATRES (2 km from Slavonice): • Museum Humanum

DOBERSBERG (12 km from Slavonice): • Chateau (Information Centre) • Firefighters' museum • Church of St Lambert • Natural History Museum • Natural Park Thayatal (educational trail along the river Dyje) • Cycling trail “Die Thayarunde” • Indoor swimming pool • Pond Dobersberg (children's playground, tennis courts)

OTHER: • Ruins of the castle Kollmitz • Castle of Raabs • Castle of Karlstein • River swimming pool Thaya • Grasel hiking-and-cycling trail

Please, ask the staff of the Tourist Information Centre for all the details of these and others trips.