



**FULL SPEED
TO VODŇANY**



Jihočeský kraj



Městské muzeum
a galerie Vodňany
Česká republika



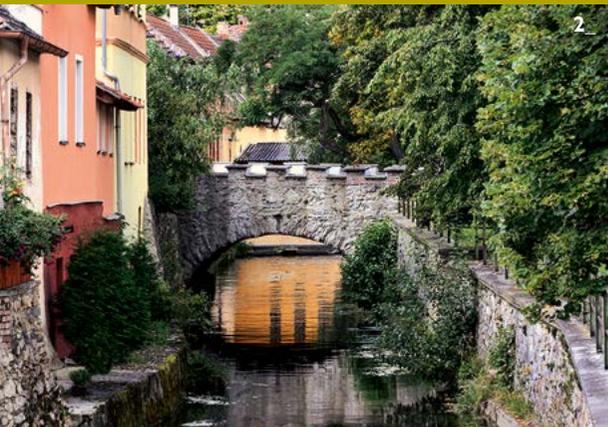
- 1_ The Square of Liberty with the Decanal Church of the Birth of Virgin Mary
- 2_ Synagogue
- 3_ Pharmacy
- 4_ The Savings Bank
- 5_ The Town Hall
- 6_ The Statue of the Republic
- 7_ The plaque of a writer František Herites
- 8_ The plaques of a poet Otakar Mokřý



The Town of Vodňany



The Walls of Vodňany



2



3



1_ The fortification on the southern side

2_ The bridge in Pisecká street

3_ The Statue of St. John of Nepomuk

4_ The south bastion

5_ The southeast bastion

6_ The south moat

7_ The southwest moat with a bailey

8_ The west bastion



The former royal town of Vodňany, surrounded by the silver ponds, lies on the river Blanice, on the north-west edge of the basin area, 30 km far from the town of České Budějovice, in the heart of the South Bohemia. The fish farming tradition and good opportunities for sports fishing in this picturesque countryside with loads of historical sights belong to the main reasons to visit our town and to stay here for some time.

The name of the town and its foundation

The town was built in the area of former large marshland along the lower reaches of the river, near the original settlement called Vodná. Its name was translated as the place where there is water all the year long. The name of Vodňany was derived from the fact that there was formed a new town of the residents of Vodná. It's also possible to call the town Aquileia Bohemorum, which means Czech Venice. Owing to the town planning and archaeological finds the beginnings of the town are matched with the second half of the 13th century. Although the 1st written mention comes from 1318, the circumstances indicate that the town was founded at the age of colonization of the South Bohemian area, during the reign of Přemysl Otakar II. (1253 – 1278). The most important medieval document is the privilege of the king Jan Lucemburský from the year 1335. Although the town of Vodňany ranked among the smallest and the least wealthy royal towns, together with České Budějovice and Písek Vodňany formed, in the South Bohemia, the strategic points of the royal power against the dominant noble dynasty of Rožmberk.

Fish farming and fishing

Both the town of Vodňany and also individual ponds founded about 30 ponds at the area of more than mainly at the turn of the 15th and the 16th century when the fish breeding brought considerable money into the town cash box. This way the unique face of the part of the South Bohemia which has been kept until now. The thick network of the town was finished in 1528 when was created the largest pond of Dřemliny 75 ha near to Čičenice. Because of such special investment it was necessary to make a contract between the town and the subjects of neighbouring estates. These led the sewer from the pond and a pond off their lands were regularly flooded. They were offered fish as a compensation for the town. And the owners of the estates showed their neighbours because in return they brought fishermen to the embankment. This original has been kept until today, founded a unique the Czech fishing and fish farming. The end of fishing season is also connected with the end of new members of the fishing guild of Vodňany.

The Fishing Days

Since 1991, usually in the half of May, the traditional Fishing Days – one-week festival of both professional and sports fishermen – have taken place here under the support and sponsorship of the town of Vodňany, the Secondary Fisheries School of Vodňany and the Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters of University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. There are very popular the Days of Open Doors at both of the above mentioned schools. The visitors can see the classrooms, net working room, fish-keeping hall, school museum and experimental fish breeding research institution and experimentation department, genetics centre – the hatchery, fish-breeding workplace, the labs of the Research Institute of Fish Culture and Hydrobiology, etc. The fish market in the square is accompanied by the traditional cultural programme with the participation of the partner towns ensembles.

Municipal coat of arms and the flag

The still used coat of arms shows the miner in the golden field wearing a green hooded coat, holding the shield with the Czech royal lion and being surrounded by the miner's tools. These tools kept on the seal from 1562 may have been derived from the medieval mining in the nearby area of Svobodné hory and from the panning for gold in the river Blanice and in the Radomilice brook. The coat of arms can be seen on the building of the town hall, on the fountain in the middle of the Square of Liberty and on the east side of the tower of the Decanal Church of the Birth of Our Lady. The historical coat of arms was the inspiration for the modern town flag with green and gold colours which was created in 1996. The flag is used during the festive occasions in the town.

The ragments from the history and the present days of the town of Vodňany

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Carp prepared in a special Vodňany way

The historical sources mentioned that the fish of Vodňany were always of a high quality and good reputation. They were sold not only in the town and its surroundings but they were also taken to the markets in Passau, Linz and Salzburg. Also the members of Pope's court enjoyed the fish. Don't hesitate and visit some of the local restaurants which offer delicious meals made of different kinds of fish (not only from Vodňany) and tempting fish delicacies. Or you can buy alive fresh fish at the town fish tanks and remember: "The best prepared carp is just in a very plain way, only on bacon and onion. Adding green pepper and tomatoes it's really worth trying. Enjoy your meal!"

The personalities of Vodňany

The history of the town is connected with the names of many famous personalities. It's the native town of a humanist poet Jan Kampanus Vodňanský, of famous violin players Marie Heritesová – Kohnová and Váňa Příhoda and also of a painter Antonín Waldhauser. In 1856 there was the last stage performance of a playwright Josef Kajetán Tyl before his death. Between 1894 – 1897 Micoláš Aleš prepared and drew the designs and sketches for the decoration of the Decanal Church in Vodňany. Vodňany also became the temporary home for a writer Julius Zeyer who created so called "Vodňany trefoil" with his friends František Herites and Otakar Mokrý. In honour of this writer annually the local library awards the South Bohemian writers the award called "Zeyer's cup". In the 20th century there lived painters Jan Zrzavý and Václav Štětka for long time.

Water mills

The miller's trade belonged to the traditional craft since the Middle Ages. Its end came in the 40s of the 20th century along with the social and economic changes and mainly with the mass production of milling products. Some of those mills were used only as agricultural buildings, some of them have run turbines to produce electricity for more than 70 years until now. New future was waiting for Loucký mill at the end of the 20th century. It was rebuilt to the health centre. In the Mostecký mill there were preserved its original wooden doors by its owner, so he could open the Museum of miller's trade and the water power station at the beginning of the 21st century. Contemporarily, in the area of Vodňany, there can be found 11 mills that are usually called after their last owners – millers.



Churches and prayer rooms

- 1_ The former Synagogue
- 2_ The Church of St. John the Baptist
- 3_ The Decanal Church of the Birth of Virgin Mary
- 4_ John Huss' Community Centre
- 5_ The Chapel of St. Adalbert (Vojtěch)

Small religious sights



- 6_ The missionary cross at the Decanal Church of the Birth of Virgin Mary (*Husova Street*)
- 7_ The Dean's tomb (*the Park of John Paul II*)
- 8_ The Chapel (*the Park of John Paul II*)
- 9_ The Chapel of 14 Saint Helpers (*Za kapličkou Street*)
- 10_ The Chapel of Virgin Mary (*Zátiší, at the Secondary Fisheries School*)
- 11_ The Chapel of St. John of Nepomuk (*Rechle*)

Bastions



- 12_ The north moat wall (*Barviřská Street*)
- 13_ The north-east bastion (*Mokrého Street*)
- 14_ The south-east bastion (*Zeyerovy sady*)
- 15_ The south bastion (*Zeyerovy sady*)
- 16_ The west bastion (*5. května Square*)

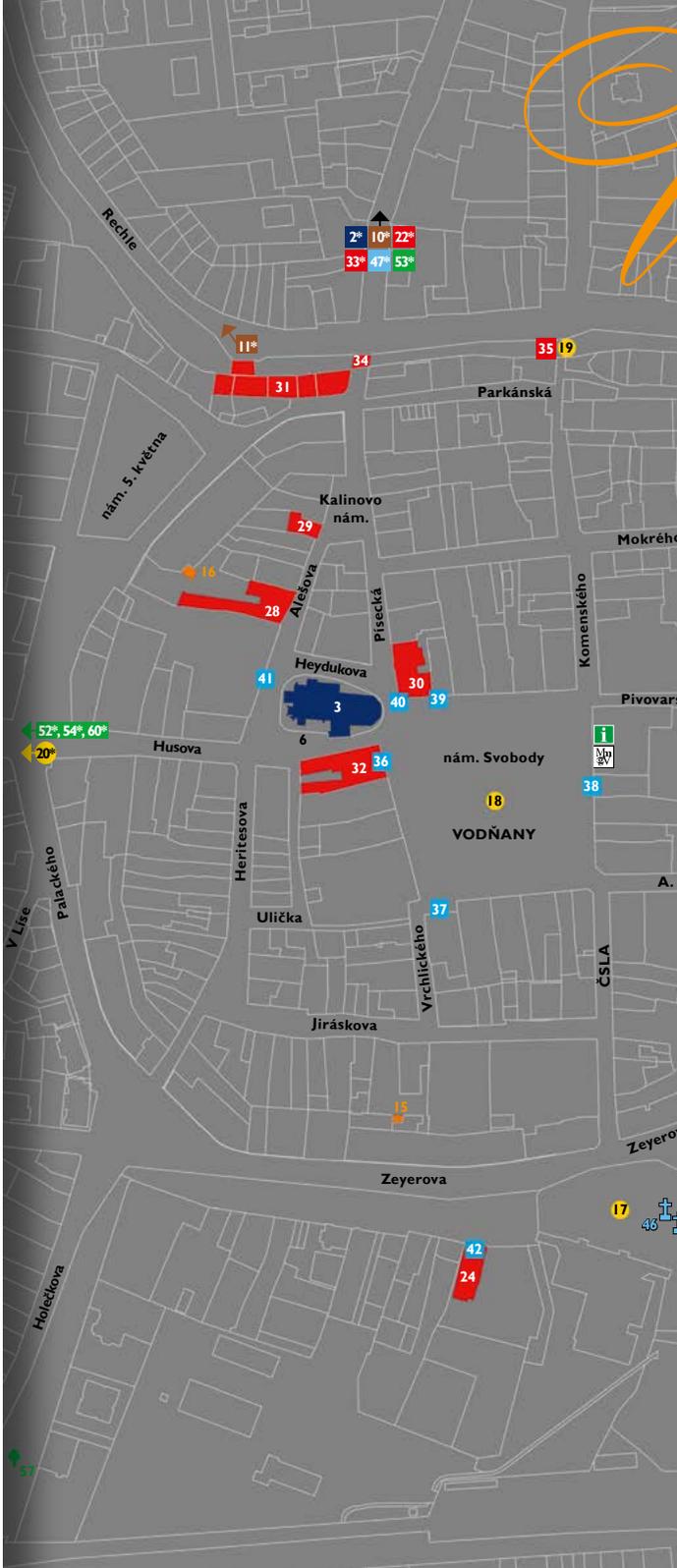
Statues



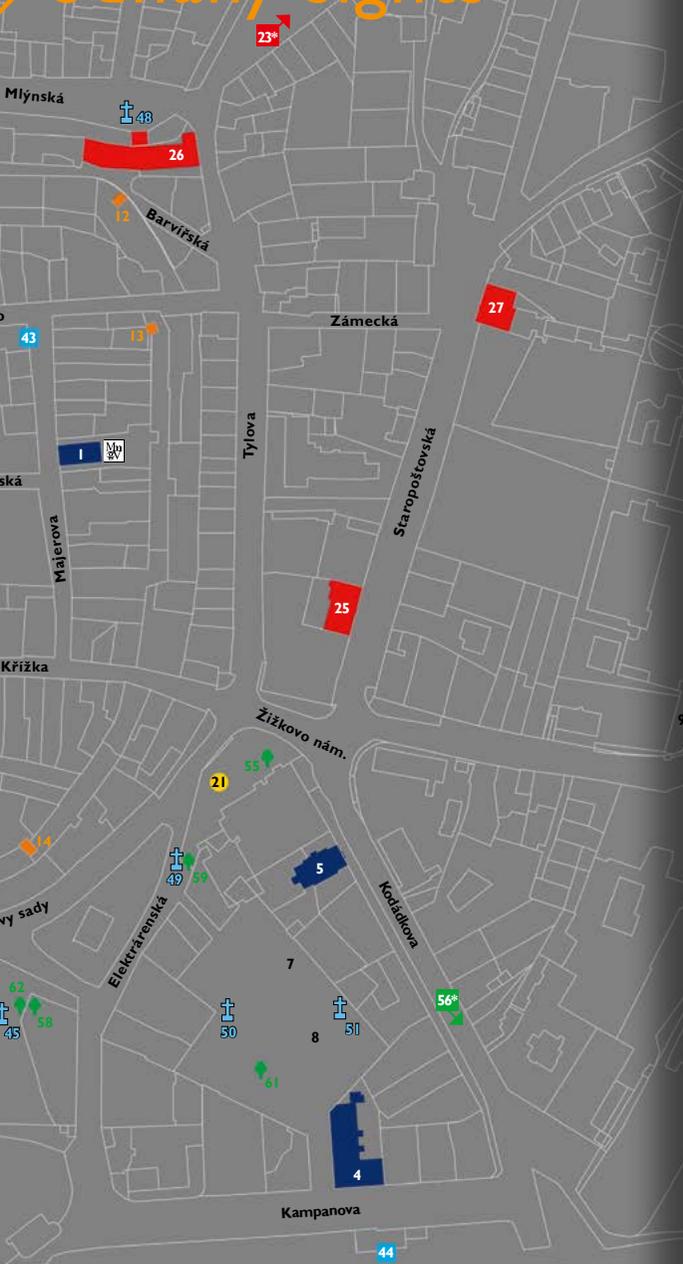
- 17_ Petr Chelčický (*Zeyerovy sady*)
- 18_ The allegorical Statue of Liberty or Republic – the Fountain (*The Square of Liberty*)
- 19_ St. John of Nepomuk – bridge (*Mlýnská Street*)
- 20_ The Butterfly on the Flower – the area of the basic school (*Bavorovská Street*)
- 21_ Jan Žižka of Trocnov (*Žižka Square*)

Important buildings – sights – monuments

- 22_ The bridge over the river Blanice (*Tyršova Street*)
- 23_ The Mostecký mill (*Staromostecká Street No 315*)
- 24_ The house of a writer Julius Zeyer (*Zeyerovy sady No 43*)
- 25_ The first residence of J. Zeyer (*Staropořtovská Street No 162*)
- 26_ The Řepišů – Žahourů mill (*Barviřská Street No 130*)
- 27_ The so-called castle (*Staropořtovská Street No 172*)
- 28_ The deanery (*Alešova Street No 44*)
- 29_ The baroque house (*Alešova Street No 39*)
- 30_ The Savings bank (*The Square of Liberty No 24*)
- 31_ The Mayer's mill (*5. května Square No 118*)
- 32_ The house with the pharmacy (*The Square of Liberty No 1*)
- 33_ The Secondary Fisheries School (*Zátiší No 480*)
- 34_ The old bridge (*Písecká Street*)
- 35_ The bridge of St. John of Nepomuk (*Mlýnská Street*)



odňany sights



The memorial plaques

- 36_ František Herites (1851 – 1929)
(The Square of Liberty No 1)
- 37_ Váša Příhoda (1900 – 1960)
(The Square of Liberty No 8)
- 38_ Otakar Mokrý (1854 – 1899)
(The Square of Liberty No 194)
- 39_ Josef Kajetán Tyl (1808 – 1856)
(The Square of Liberty No 23)
- 40_ The 50th anniversary of the end of WWII
(The Square of Liberty No 24)
- 41_ Master Jan Kampanus (about 1570 – 1622)
(Alešova Street No 50, basic school)
- 42_ Julius Zeyer (1841 – 1901)
(Zeyerovy sady No 43)
- 43_ Dr. Antonín Majer (1826 – 1880)
(Majerova Street No 164)
- 44_ František Žemlička (about 1897 – 1945)
(Kampanova Street No 330, railway station)

Monuments and memorials

- 45_ The memorial to the casualties of the 1st and 2nd WW (Zeyerovy sady, park) 
- 46_ The memorial to the casualties of the communistic despotism (Zeyerovy sady, park)
- 47_ To Dr. Theodor Mokrý (1857 – 1945)
(Zátiší, the Secondary Fisheries School)
- 48_ To the millers in the Blanice valley for the help in need (Mlýnská Street)
- 49_ Memorial stone by the Tree of the Third Millennium (Elektrárenská Street, by the bus station)
- 50_ The tomb of a writer František Herites and his wife Marie *(the Park of John Paul II)*
- 51_ The tomb of the Mokrý family
(the Park of John Paul II)

Significant trees

- 52_ Oak tree – *The Oak of Herites*
(between the railway and the road near the campsite Pražák) 
- 53_ Lime tree
(at the chapel next to the building of the Secondary Fisheries School)
- 54_ Lime of Freedom I
(grounds of the Bavorovská Basic School)
- 55_ Lime of Freedom II *(in the small park by the senior citizens' home)*
- 56_ Lime of Freedom III
(originally in Husova Street, in 2012 moved to Radomilická Street)
- 57_ Tree of Earth Day I *(park in Holečkova Street) – copper beech*
- 58_ Lime of Czech-Austria Partnership
(park by the Culture Centre)
- 59_ Tree of the Third Millennium (Elektrárenská Street) – *the Japanese cherry*
- 60_ Oak for protection against floods
(beneath the dam of Příbramovský pond)
- 61_ Lime of the Czech-Polish Friendship
(John Paul II Park)
- 62_ Lime of Friendship between Slovenia and the Czech Republic *(park by the Culture Centre)*

The century of the plans and the steam

There was a certain hope to revive the trade and economic growth of a region in the 1st half of the 19th century — in the period of the beginnings of industrial revolution — brought by the plans of building the artificial channels between the Vltava and the Danube rivers and the project of steam railway between Linz and České Budějovice. These towns were connected only by the horse way built between 1825 — 1832 and this remained until 1870, but there was no connection to Plzeň. Neither the prepared railway with the steam power from Vienna — Tulln — Třeboň — Č. Budějovice — Hluboká — Netolice — Vodňany — Čičenice — Protivín — Strakonice — Plzeň was realized in 1864. Finally the 1st train went through the South Bohemia from České Budějovice to Plzeň on the 1st September 1868 on the railway No 190 which is known and used until now and which passes Vodňany even if it can be within view.

The construction of the present railway line No 197

There had passed other 30 years of planning before there was issued the concession to build and run the railway No 197 connecting Čičenice — Vodňany — Prachatice. Afterwards there was founded the public limited company (PLC) called “The local railway Vodňany — Prachatice” based in Vienna, that strove to collect enough finance and to realize and open the railway. The construction started in the spring 1893 and it was finished at the end of September of the same year.

The tree – hero

Between the road and the railway from Vodňany to Prachatice (with a stop in Pražák) there has grown the oak tree almost for 300 years. Planning the railway it should have been cut down, fortunately a pharmacist and a writer František Herites fought for this tree to be saved. The railway was shifted a bit and the oak was saved. And since then the tree has been called after its saviour – The Oak of Herites. At the end of the 70s of the 20th century a new road was planned and the history repeated. Then a former director of a museum and gallery Jiří Pazdera succeeded in shifting a road a bit and again the tree was saved. Thanks to its saviours The Oak of Herites was proclaimed to be the memorable tree and in 2008 it was awarded a name “The tree – hero” which was suggested by the pupils of the basic school Alešova in Vodňany.

The ceremonial ride of the first train of Vodňany

The ceremonial opening of the railway should have taken place on 17th October but it was realized earlier, already on Saturday 14th October 1893. The 1st train left Vodňany station to Čičenice at 7 a.m. A lot of famous representatives of the then government and self-government took the first ride. At the station of Vodňany the train was welcomed by the representatives of the town being led by the burgomaster František Herites, by the clubs, school pupils and citizens of the town. The train continued going at 7:32 a.m. The ceremony highlight took place in Prachatice which was left by the train at 10:30 a.m., on the same day at 3 p.m. the train opened another railway in the Šumava mountains – from Strakonice to Vimperk.

The beginnings of everyday operation

The regular passenger transport started just the following day. From the station of Vodňany (today Čičenice) 2 trains left, the 1st at 5:30 a.m. arriving at Prachatice at 7:15 a.m. and the other one left at 2:40 p.m. reaching Prachatice at 4:15 p.m. They returned back to Vodňany at 1 p.m. and at 6:42 p.m. From October to December 1893 there were transported 18 959 people and 5 749 t of ware. Already in that period there was reached the profit return.

Memorial book of the railway station in Vodňany

- 1918** 27th October – there was received the telegraphic message from the minister of the railways Mr. Zahradník about the liberation and declaration of independent Czechoslovakia. The second day the employees were sworn in the new republic.
- 1925** there was installed the phone connection to the station.
- 1926** new train schedule from Čičenice to Haidmühle (Germany) and back came into force, the train followed the fast train to Prague.
- 1929** it is said the temperature dropped to -44°C and that's why the traffic was stopped and in the summer the railway buildings were damaged by heavy hail.
- 1936** 10th November – there was a railway disaster – 3 women were caught by 3 train carriages (through fault of their own), 2 of them died. The train derailed and was damaged. The transport was kept only by changing trains for long 24 hours.
- 1938** owing to change of the state borderline (Munich agreement) the freight and passenger transport led only to the station of Husinec.
- 1944** 16th October – near station Pražák there was the freight train attacked by the low-level pilots, the train carried 3 tanks of oil. The engine driver Josef Kabát and the train guard Vojtěch Mařík were fatally injured. At the place of tragedy there was built the stone memorial.
- 1945** 4th May – there was bombed the station of Čičenice, then all the transport was stopped. On 8th May a partisan František Žemlička was shot at the station. He has got a memorial plaque there. The traffic was renewed there on 12th May.
- 1952** 18th May – there was introduced the direct diesel fast train – “Šumavská střela” (The Shot of Šumava) – on the railway Volary – Prachatice – Čičenice – Písek – Praha (Prague) and back. Its operation was cancelled at the beginning of the 90s of the 20th century.
- 1961** 13th July – the heavy rain caused the flood up to 30 cm at the station.
- 1975** there was established and put into operation the new security mechanism with the automatic gate on the railway crossing. It was already cancelled and replaced by the traffic lights in 1981.
- 1986** 17th December – there arrived a special train at the station on the occasion of opening newly built railway from Čičenice to Temelín. A very important passenger was then a minister of transport Mr. Blažek.
- 1993** 16th October – on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of opening the railway Čičenice – Vodňany – Prachatice there went a steam train through the station.
- 2004** 22nd July – between Bavorov and Strunkovice nad Blanicí there crashed 2 trains for the reason of the driver's failure. He left the station of Bavorov without permission. 2 people died and 33 passengers were injured.
- 2007** 1st September – between Bavorov and Vodňany there was again the crash of 2 passenger trains which was caused by the unallowed departure from Bavorov. 12 passengers and 1 employee were injured.
- 2010** 11th June – there finished the transport service at the station of Vodňany. There was a festive farewell with a train dispatcher and pointsmen. At the “new” station of Vodňany there was kept only the ticket office.
- 2011** 2nd February – a passenger train crashed the freight train between Vodňany and Čičenice. There died 1 passenger and 12 ones were injured. The damage was assessed to more than 5 million.
- 2013** 7th September – through the station there went the historical steam train which commemorated the 120th anniversary of the inauguration of the railway station to both the citizens and the visitors.



odňany and fishermen

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1_ The Secondary Fisheries School (on the right and in the middle)



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- 2_ The Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters of University of South Bohemia
- 3_ The experimental fish breeding research institution
- 4_ The genetics centre

- 5_ /6_ Fishing out the pond
- 7_ The experimental fish breeding research institution
- 8_ The memorial of a forester and a fisherman Theodor Mokry
- 9_ The fishing privilege





odňany – local





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parts



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6_

- 1_ Hvozd'any
- 2_ Újezd
- 3_ Čavyně
- 4_ Pražák
- 5_/6_ Křtětice
- 7_ Radčice
- 8_ Vodňanské Svobodné Hory

The Town Museum and Gallery

- 1_ The Memorial hall of a writer František Herites
- 2 /3_ The Hall of Mikoláš Aleš
- 4_ The workroom and a library of František Herites
- 5_ Pieces of gold found in a village Křepice near Vodňany in 1927
- 6_ The Memorial hall of a writer Julius Zeyer



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