



Other points of interest

Around the water tower there is a so-called **zen garden** creating a stylised landscape through raked gravel. It is a mystic place of meditation and should give the visitor a feeling of tranquility before entering the gallery.

Across the street you can enter „The Garden of Mercy”, a **meditation park** with a statue of the Bodhisattva Kuan-Jin, Goddess of Healing and Mercy, and a memorial to the WWII casualties.

The gallery and meditation garden were built as part of the **Asian Cultural Centre**, organising various cultural, educational, scientific and social events.

THE TOWER IS ALIVE!

Besides **guided tours** the water tower is also enlivened by various cultural, educational and spiritual programmes and by honourable visitors from Mongolia, Tibet and China.



TOURS

Tours are organised and more information on opening times, admission and booking is provided by:

Tourist Information Centre Třeboň
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Třeboň

Buddhist Art Gallery
and Water Tower



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Three exceptional surprises and an unusual connection of two worlds are waiting for you in the water tower in Třeboň Na Kopečku. The tower is at once a technical monument, an art gallery and a look-out tower.

Water tower

This valuable industrial building dates back to the **year 1909**. Its architectural design in the Geometric-Modernism style is the work of the prominent Czech architect **prof. Jan Kotěra**. Originally, the tower pumped water from a 10-metre deep well with a petrol pump. It served the town with drinking water until 1966. The volume of the water reservoir in the upper part of the tower is 300 m³. Since 1988 the tower has been preserved as an **architectural cultural monument**.



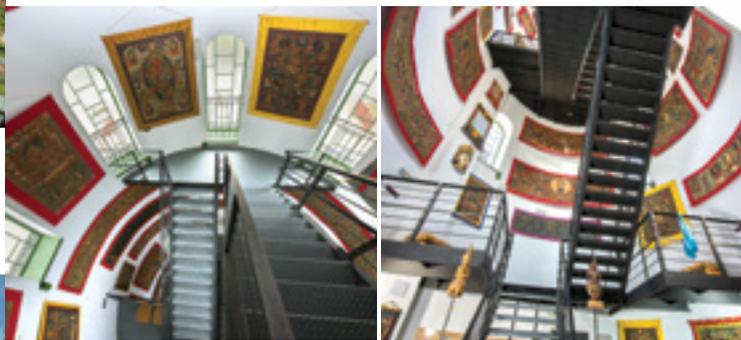
OUR TIP:

The **32-metre high** water tower is one of the town's landmarks and offers distant views of the countryside. There are **145 stairs** to the lantern of the tower.



Buddhist Art Gallery

Since 2012 the renovated building has housed **the Buddhist Art Gallery** with a permanent exhibition of traditional Buddhist-Lama visual arts of **Mongolia, Tibet and China**. The renovation of the water tower and foundation of the unique exposition was enabled thanks to the efforts of Třeboň native **RNDr. Milan Klečka**. His collection has been created with the help of the largest Mongolian monastery Gandanchenling in Ulánbátar and consists of around **140 artefacts**. There are mainly religious paintings and temple textiles, from the 18th to the first half of the 20th century. Part of the collection has become the property of the **National Museum - Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures**.



Did you know that...

- the architectural study and the construction works project were prepared by Ing. arch. Stanislav Toman, Štěpán Klečka and Ing. arch. Zdeněk Urbanec?
- the renovation of the tower lasted 4 years and was fully covered from private sources without any subsidies?
- the grand opening of the Gallery took place on the 19th May 2013 in the presence of Supreme Mongolian Buddhist leader **H. E. Khamba Lama Chojamts**?
- the themes of the Vajrayana art are visualized topics of meditation in the forms of Buddha, bodhisattvas and protective deities in quiet or menacing appearances?
- the paintings, so called **thangkas**, are painted on canvas with mineral or vegetable colours and are then put in silk passe-partouts, which allows them to furl and be transported easily?
- according to official data, in the years 1937-1939, 724 Mongolian monasteries were burnt down and demolished, 20-50,000 people were killed, which was then about 30% of the adult population?
- since 1978 RNDr. Klečka has gained by exchange or purchasing a collection of Buddhist visual art which has been enriched by presents from his Mongolian Lama friends?

