

BLACK TOWER

In addition to the town walls, the prominent elements of the town's medieval defence system were undoubtedly the towers, the most massive of which is the Black Tower.

Its name, however, dates to our modern times as it is derived from the appearance, which the tower acquired after its reconstruction **in the first half of the 20th century**. The prismatic tower is built from quarry stone with corners reinforced by regular block stones.

A staircase annex built in the Baroque Era serves as the entrance to the tower. Originally, the tower was accessed from the gallery of the adjoining wall. Since the masonry and the composition of the Black Tower manifest a number of characteristics consistent with the large castle tower, we may date it to the **13th century**.

The Black Tower was originally a part of a fortress guarding the entry to the town and known as the **Lower Castle**. Its function was not only defensive, which is evidenced by the loopholes in the body and by the entrance located at half of the height of the tower, but it was also used as a look-out post.

The king's vassals had served at the Black Tower **until 1562** when it was handed to the town of Locket. The vassals were replaced by the town's watchman on the tower.

At the uppermost floor of the tower, a flat was furnished for the watchman whose duty was to watch the entire town from above and to protect it from frequent fires or other dangers.

The watchman often lived with his whole family in the modest flat. The tower inhabitants had to endure heat in hot summers and cold in freezing winters. One of the displeasures of living in the tower was that one had to climb dozens of stairs with firewood or water.



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ČERNÁ VĚŽ / BLACK TOWER

T. G. Masaryka 125, 357 33 Locket

ROBIČSKÁ VĚŽ / ROBIČSKÁ TOWER

Hradní 2, 357 33 Locket

Robičská Tower and freely accessible remains of the town fortifications are owned by the town of Locket.

The Black Tower is in the possession of the town of Locket and its management is entrusted to the HRAD LOKET public benefit corporation.

Translation: YES – překlady a tlumočení, s.r.o.

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LOKET

fortified



TOWN WALLS

The building of the Locket fortification system began in the 13th century whereas the most intensive construction activities were carried out in the 14th century.

In the 17th century, Baroque bastions were added to the fortification. They extend beyond the walls to allow the gunning of the enemy at the foot of the walls without putting at risk own shooters (*walls fragments and 5 bastions with loopholes have been preserved to this day*).

An older picture of the town shows the actual thickness of the town walls and it is estimated that their height was almost **5 metres** in some parts and their width was **1.5 metres**.

In the 19th century, when the town was no longer at risk of being attacked by the enemy, some parts of the town fortification were sold to the owners of the adjoining land and others were demolished. Restoration of the remains of the town fortification began in the 1970s.

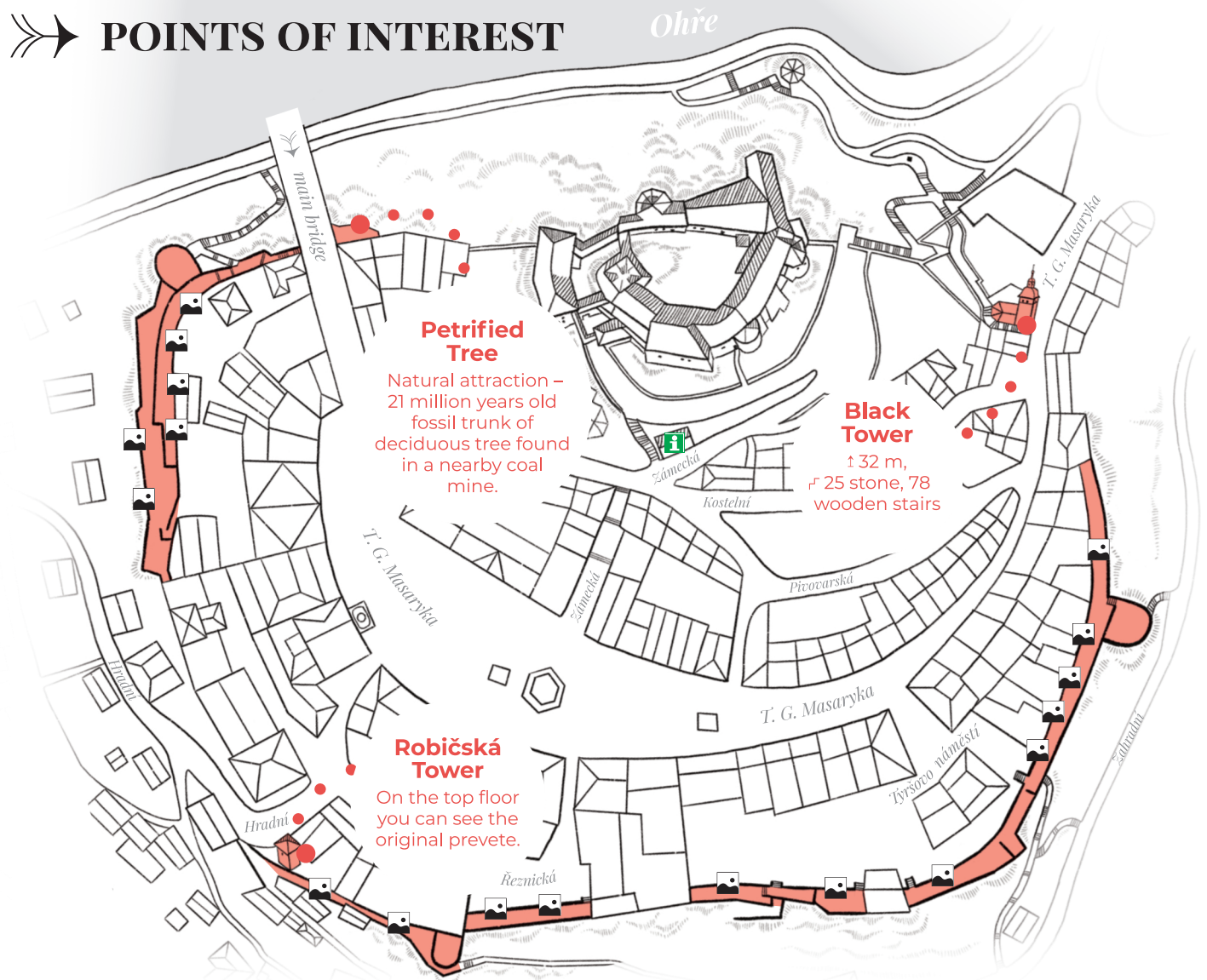
ROBIČSKÁ TOWER

The tower is a remnant of the original southern fortification with a small gate known as “**Robičská branka**”, which served as the only entrance to the town from this side. The gate was demolished in 1859 and only **the watchtower** remains standing. It is built from quarry stone with cut corner blocks in the lower part. In the course of years, the tower was raised. The superstructure provided a room for the watchman who watched the surroundings.

A well-preserved **privete** on the uppermost floor house is certainly worth noticing. The **privete** (*from the Latin locus privatus*) is a medieval toilet built on consoles extending outside the tower body.

At present, the tower is **not open** to the public.

POINTS OF INTEREST



WHAT NOT TO MISS

GALLERY ON THE WALLS

The gallery is freely accessible to visitors who can admire the works of contemporary painters and photographers all year round.

LOCATION OF EXHIBITION PANELS

www.os456.cz/galerie/

CLIMB TO THE BLACK TOWER

On the top floor of the tower there is an exhibition of historical crafts. From the windows of the tower there is a unique view of the city. The dungeon is 6 m deep.

The Black Tower is open only in the summer months, the current opening hours can be found on the castle's website.

www.hradloket.cz