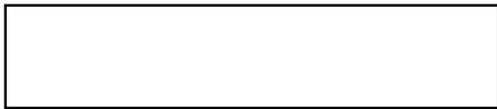




*Historical festival  
**BARCHAN**  
is taking place from*



*A topical programme and further information are  
available at [www.barchan.jemnice.cz](http://www.barchan.jemnice.cz)*



## **Tourist Inquiry Office Jemnice**

Husova 2, 675 31 Jemnice  
Phone: +420721508737  
Web: [www.tic.jemnice.cz](http://www.tic.jemnice.cz)  
E-mail: [tic@mesto-jemnice.cz](mailto:tic@mesto-jemnice.cz)

### Provided Services:

- Information for tourists about Jemnice and its surrounding
- Sale of souvenirs, maps, postcards and guides
- Survey of cultural and sport events
- Left-luggage and bicycles-office



## **Town Jemnice**

Husova 103, 675 31 Jemnice  
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E-mail: [info@mesto-jemnice.cz](mailto:info@mesto-jemnice.cz)

### Official hours:

Mon 7.00 - 11.30 and 12.15 - 17.00  
Wen 7.00 - 11.30 and 12.15 - 17.00

# JEMNICE

king's town



## **BARCHAN**

*one of the oldest historical festivals  
in Central Europe*



## Historical festival BARCHAN



Barchan, a festival with a bit of odd name, takes place in June after the Saint Vitus Day. Barchan is said to be one of the oldest festivals in Bohemia and Moravia. But reliable is just the fact that the festival took place in the year 1713. In that time an argument about

a thing necessary for the festival between two burgesses Seidl and Pišl was described in the town chronicle. This book titled "Protocollum Miesti Swobodnego Jemnicze w Markrabstwij Moravskem" can't tell us more about the age of the festival. Under this title there is this sentence written:

"Zalozenij Letha Panie Sedumnactiego Trzinacte." (Based in 1713). In the text we can find that in 1713 the festival was already known for burgesses. Even in that period the festival became a well-established tradition.



The course of the festival was changing according to the taste of the burgesses. But the main point of the festival has never been changed. It is the run of four messengers who bring the news to their Queen Elizabeth the Premyslid. As the legend says her husband John of Luxemburg had left her behind the fortified walls of the town Jemnice and set on the army campaign to punish home enemies. The King didn't forget about his young wife and sent four messengers to her, one by one, with the news about the course of his fight. The Queen gave them some presents. The



first messenger got a fustian digitalis (in Czech 'Barchan' is derived from this word), the second messenger got a scarf, the third stockings and the fourth messenger got a wreath as a consolation prize. Whether the festival Barchan is based on a real event has been a bone of

contention for many years. For three days the town is living with the fair and its attractions. The cultural and historical programmes take place in the area of the chateau and the Sokol Hall.

On Friday the historical festival is started with the parade of



costume figures, with flying the flag of Barchan and the town flag on the Town Hall. The opening of mazhauses follows. In the evening the programme goes on with dance hops at the chateau and the Sokol Hall.

On Saturday morning the citizens of Jemnice are

woken up with a special "reveille", when the parade of drummers and buglers walks through the streets of the town. In the morning the run of the historical messengers, who bring the news to the Queen Elizabeth the Premyslid from her husband John of Luxemburg, takes place.

In the afternoon the King John and his attendance train arrives at the fortified town Jemnice. Following with his wife and the parade of about 200 costume people, the King arrives at the area of the Sokol Hall, where the royal couple takes its leave with Jemnice accompanying with knightly duels, ancient songs and dances. After this scene the performance of majorettes from Jemnice occupies the time before the main cultural programme at the Sokol Hall.



From the morning handicrafts, theatricals, dances, songs of the period etc. are performed in the area of the chateau.

In the evening hours the parade of historical costume figures with torches leads the visitors to the area of the chateau. The day finishes with the great fireworks. Dance hops proceed at the

Sokol Hall and the chateau at the same time.

On Sunday afternoon the other cultural programme (concerts, theatres...) is prepared. The three-day festival ends with the saint's-day at the Saint Vitus Church. In the shadow of the lime grove, under the Lime of St. Vitus worshippers from the whole neighbour meet at the ceremonial mass.

