

Olomouc region in stories

*Or known destinations in a way
you haven't heard about before*



www.ok-tourism.cz



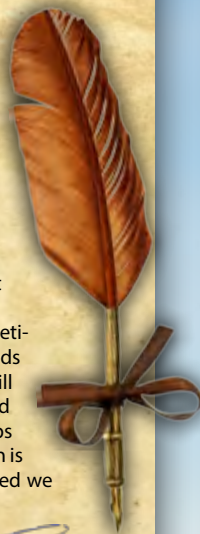
MINISTERSTVO
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ROZVOJ ČR

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Dear Tourists,
You may also have also noticed the big role that stories play in our lives. And not just the stories of people, but also those about things. For example, do you remember how difficult it was to say goodbye to your first car? Sure, it was old, but thanks to you it had a story.
This guide will introduce you to the Olomouc Region through stories. You will find that places that look ordinary at first glance have an interesting history and exciting fates, allowing you to see popular tourist destinations in a different light and helping you realise that many of them have their own life that is no less interesting than what people themselves experience.
I believe that the tourist destinations, which sometimes went through difficult times, at others periods of joy, will inspire or entertain you. Perhaps you will start seeing them as more than just buildings and sites, but also as a living part of our region. Perhaps you'll discover that the story of the Olomouc Region is not somewhere outside, but within us. I'm delighted we can experience it together.

Ladislav Okleštěk
President of the Olomouc Region



The Olomouc Region is among regions, which, thanks to their colourfulness and diversity, can satisfy even the most demanding visitors.

■ It is literally a dream come true for lovers of historical, natural as well as cultural monuments and a place for sports and relaxation.

■ Six spas in the Olomouc Region offer visitors a wide range of health and wellness procedures that offer relaxation and health retention.

■ Adrenaline enthusiasts will certainly appreciate the Rychlebské trails with their 65 km of specially built paths for MTB rides, downhill courses in Bikepark Kouty, and the grounds of Olympic winner Aleš Valenta with the possibility of jumping on skis or snowboarding into the water.

■ The mysterious beauty of the underground world can be admired in five accessible caves open to the public.

■ You certainly should not miss regional delicacies such as Olomouc cheese and delicious drink in the form of the Litovel, Holba and Zubr beers, or products from one of the smaller breweries. Experts will also surely appreciate Absinth from Bělá p. Pradědem.

■ As to historical gems, the region offers more than 10 different fairy-tale castles and chateaux as well as the Baroque column of the Holy Trinity in Olomouc, which is listed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

■ The largest peat bog in Moravia - Rejvíz, the oldest nature reserve in Moravia - Šerák-Keprník, and one of the seven wonders of the Czech Republic - the pumping hydroelectric power station Dlouhé Stráně, are all located in the region.

■ The tour of one of many museums will provide not only knowledge, but entertainment, for example the Regional Museum in Olomouc, Archdiocesan Museum, Comenius Museum, the Witchcraft Exhibition, the Time Exhibition, the Carriage Museum and the Veteran Arena, where you can find historical cars and motorcycles, the Museum of Paper, the Museum of the Spa Founders V. Priessnitz and J. Schroth, the Prison Museum and the Baroque Museum.

■ A cyclist can enjoy the bicycle paths in Central Moravia. In Olomouc, visitors can ride on a family quad bike and the Jeseníky Mountains will enchant you with an up to several-days-long Witch Cycling Trail.

■ Fun activities with children include the zoo, a ride on a boat along the Morava River, visiting the Jeseníky Mountains and gold digging in the Valley of the lost adits in Zlaté Hory.

■ There are hundreds of diverse events in the Olomouc Region, ranging from the spectacular, enticing tens of thousands of people from across the country and from abroad, to the more private ones, designed for just a few enthusiasts.

Welcome!

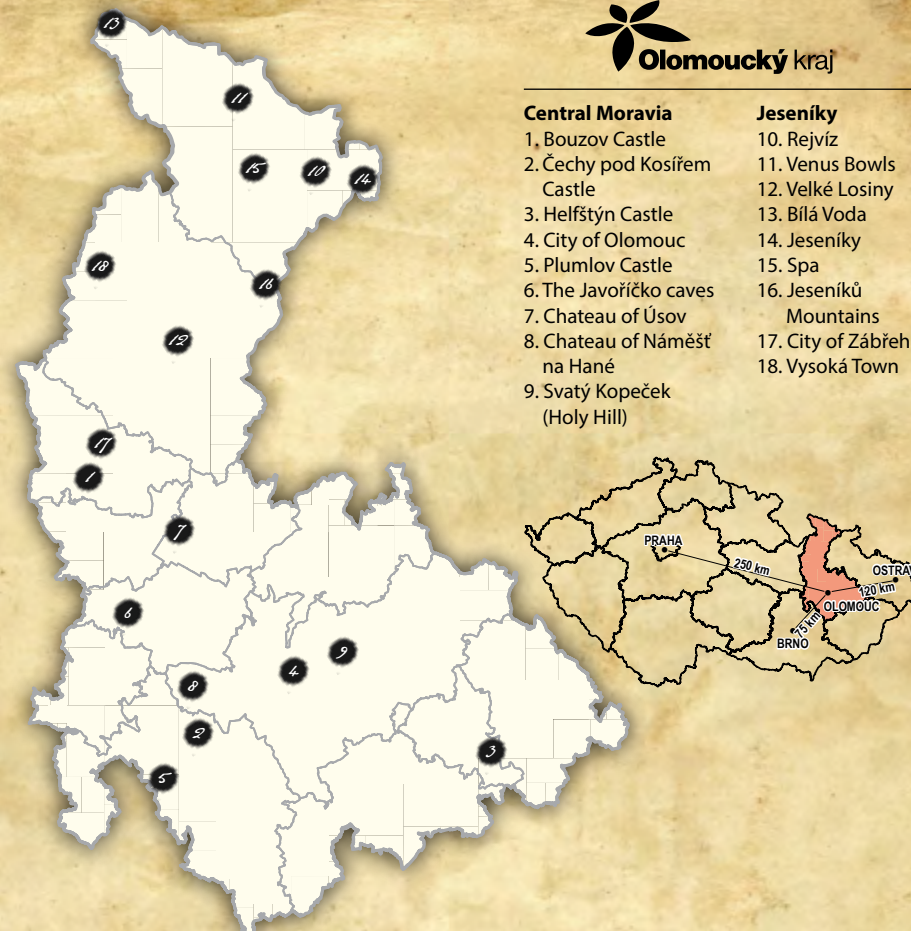


Central Moravia

1. Bouzov Castle
2. Čechy pod Kosířem Castle
3. Helfštýn Castle
4. City of Olomouc
5. Plumlov Castle
6. The Javoříčko caves
7. Chateau of Úsov
8. Chateau of Náměšť na Hané
9. Svatý Kopeček (Holy Hill)

Jeseníky

10. Rejvíz
11. Venus Bowls
12. Velké Losiny
13. Bílá Voda
14. Jeseníky
15. Spa
16. Jeseníků Mountains
17. City of Zábřeh
18. Vysoká Town



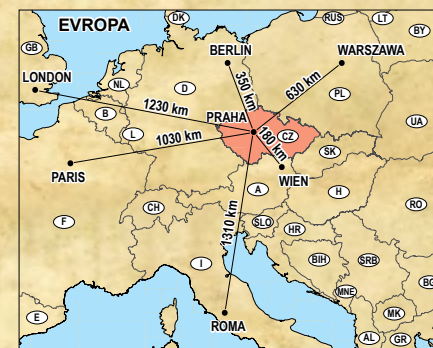
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A magical castle with a white lady, once owned by the king and his knights

The hilly, forested landscape between the cities of Olomouc and Moravská Třebová is dominated by one of the most beautiful castles in Central Europe. Its characteristic eight-storey cylindrical tower with a red roof rises above the treetops like a shining beacon. It looks incredible, perfect, almost plucked from a fairy-tale. Czech movie princesses used to live there as well. After all, Bouzov is an attractive location for movie-makers. Its changing appearance and the fates of the many of its owners would in and of themselves make for an extensive screenplay for a big-budget movie.

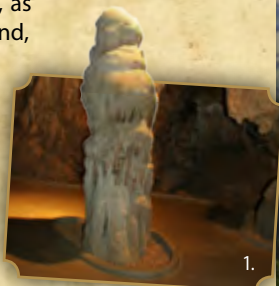
The important trade route connecting Bohemia and Moravia was originally protected by Špránek Castle. However, the castle could not be expanded on the smallish rocky plateau. And thus a certain Budislav founded a new lookout castle at a more suitable place. A nice legend is linked to this occasion. Budislav – Búz for short – was a hunter who lived a lonely life in a modest abode in the local virgin woods. He once saved a traveller from wild animals, fed him, and let him stay overnight. The traveller rewarded Búz by telling him about a chest full of gold coins buried in the ground.

Búz dug the chest out and hid it underneath his bench. When his land was attacked by enemies, he came to the king and offered his help, as well as the gold coins. The king gathered his army and,

along with Búz, who led the soldiers, claimed a great victory. The king knighted Búz and gave him a part of the woods where he used to live. The fortified castle had long had a defensive purpose.

From 1414, it was held by the Lords of Kunštát. Bouzov is mentioned as the likely birthplace of one of them: the Czech king George of Poděbrady. During the Thirty Years' War, the castle functioned as an imperial fort and prison for Swedish captives. It started to gradually fall into disrepair, though some of the future owners began rebuilding it as a place of residence.

In 1696, Bouzov was bought by the Teutonic Order, the erstwhile hospital order shrouded in mystery and legends dating back to the time of the crusades. An important moment in the castle's history occurred in 1894 when Bouzov passed under the ownership of the order's new grand master, Archduke Eugen of Austria, a proponent of the original knightly virtues and ideals. A great art enthusiast and collector, he was also interested in architecture. He became fond of Bouzov and



decided to build a summer residence there, as well as a museum of the order's history. He invested a lot of energy and his own resources into an expensive reconstruction, which took place under his supervision at the turn of the 19th century. He hired an experienced Munich architect who gave the castle the appearance of the romantic medieval residence it has today. Although it was a representative seat, furnished with modern conveniences, valuable equipment, and kept bears, Eugen was rarely there. Among other things, he brought with him a picture depicting a mysterious, beautiful white lady. It is unknown who this person was; what is known, though, is that the creator of the picture was interested in mysticism. Is this somehow related to the spectre of a lady in white who appears in the castle?

Eugen's sister Maria Christina, the wife of the Spanish king, showed a remarkable interest in ballooning, and took part in one such flight herself. No doubt she would have been happy to see the dozens of multi-coloured balloons that ascend above the castle towers each August.



The thematic history park in the settlement surrounding the castle features replicas of old weapons, as well as a Trojan horse – the largest wooden structure of its kind in the world, nowadays doubling as an observation tower.

Nearby places of interest: Javoříčko Caves; Mladeč Caves (1.); arboretum Bílá Lhota (2.); Loštice – Museum of A. W. Olomoucké tvaruzky.

STATE CASTLE OF BOUZOV

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For information on current tours visit
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Josef Mánes left a piece of his heart in the Haná region

The Czech painter, graphic artist, and illustrator Josef Mánes was enchanted by the charming classical castle in Čechy pod Kosířem, as well as the Haná region, villagers, and their traditions. His meeting with the old noble family of Silva-Tarouca, the erstwhile owners of the local estate, fatefully influenced his life. Mánes was a welcome guest in their household, and the family provided him with a generous patronage. Mánes visited Čechy sixteen times over the course of his life, and created more than one hundred art pieces there.

In 1846, Mánes visited Čechy for the first time in order to learn how the two portraits he'd painted for the gallery of the ancestors of Silva-Taroucas had been received. It wasn't exactly the happiest time of his life. His sister Amálie drove Fanny, his beloved maid, out of their house. Mánes never got over losing her or their daughter Josefa, and so he left for Čechy to seek peace and a favourable environment that would raise his spirits and invigorate him. He and the owner of the estate, August Alexander, as well as August's wife Gisela were bound by friendship. The countess's diary contains detailed entries about Mánes' stays,

which apparently had a beneficial effect on him and provided him with means of support as well as an inspiration for his work. The noblemen gained an excellent companion and teacher in Mánes, who even perfected their own attempts at painting. He also advised them on adjustments to the castle and park. Count Alexander had a castle chapel built based on his design. Mánes was tall, elegant, with distinct blue eyes and sharp features. As soon as he arrived, many visitors started to drop by the castle – especially ladies enamoured with him. In Čechy, he made paintings for the nobility as well as genre new-rococo pictures. Most of all, however, he was impressed with the Haná countryside and folklore. Here he created some of his best-known works, such as the Honeymoon in Haná lithography, the cycle of aquarelles called Living at a Noble Estate, and the many sketches and portraits of local inhabitants. Mánes respected the beautiful lady Gisela very much and secretly adored her. Her death deeply affected him, plus he was not welcome so much at the castle afterwards.

Apparently, Gisela's death also deepened his worsening psychological issues.

He lost a lot of weight, succumbed to lethargy, had problems with talking and writing, and acted in a strange, confused manner. Mánes used opium to treat his insomnia, and became obsessed with finding a red-yellow wild *Rosa foetida*. He would give wolf claws and teeth to the people depicted in his paintings and would deform their faces. The last time he came to Čechy – in June 1871 – he was in a very decrepit state, but was not let inside the castle. Six months later he died of paralytic dementia.



It is claimed that the ancient European House of Silva-Tarouca derived its origins from Silvanus, the old Latin god of the woods, and from the founders of the city of Alba Longa where princess Rhea Silva used to live – the mother of Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome nursed by a she-wolf. According to legends, princess Rhea was buried alive and cursed by her uncle; this curse supposedly affected the entire House of Silva. From then, the family members allegedly showed signs of lycanthropy – a psychological illness causing the sufferer to perceive themselves as an animal, most commonly a wolf. In the 18th century, the Silvas supposedly brought this ailment into their new home in Čechy pod Kosířem. The legends of werewolves prowling the forests around the nearby hill of Kosíř only served to support this legend. And moreover, Silva-Taroucas had wolves on their coat of arms. The wild imagination of the locals gave rise to the myth that Josef Mánes caught his illness from them.



The interiors of the castle's southern wing were furnished in a style typical for the turn of the 19th century and houses a unique collection of works by Josef Mánes. The Movie Exhibition of Jan and Zdeněk Svěrák and The Exhibition of Historical Bicycles can also be found there. The natural landscape castle park is one of the most important parks in Moravia due to its dendrological value.

When in Čechy pod Kosířem, visit the Museum of Historical Carriages (1.) or the Museum of Firefighting (2.).

Nearby places of interest: Luděrov – baroque granary, the hill of Švédské šance; Slatinice – Museum of Veterans, The Gallery of Zdeněk Burian; Drahanovice – the fort of Černá věž. Nature trail of Velký Kosíř (10 km).

CHATEAU ČECHY POD KOSÍŘEM
Mánesova 1, 798 58 Čechy pod Kosířem,
Information, book a tour:
+420 773 784 110 (Tue – So, 9.00 – 16.30)

Chateau: April, October: 9 – 16 (weekends and state holidays), May – September: 9 – 17 (Tuesday – Sunday, state holidays)
Park: throughout the year, 6:00 – 22:00
www.zamekcechy.cz



How Peter Vok of Rosenberg married into Helfštýn

The vast ruins of Helfštýn, one of the largest castles in Moravia, majestically towers over the valley of Moravian Gate by the city of Týn nad Bečvou. It is one of the largest castle compounds in Europe due to its expanse. Helfštýn has never been captured – it managed to even resist the Swedes. In 1656, it was mostly demolished by Viennese military strategist to make sure it would not be seized by Turks. The castle was built without permission by one Helfrid of Linava. Although he soon lost the stronghold due to the intervention of King John of Luxembourg, it bears his name. In the 15th and 16th century, it was expanded under the rule of the Lords of Pernstein and became an important fortress. Vokohradí, a yearly history-themed event with a ball and masked parade, commemorates the time when the castle was gained through marriage by the bon vivant of the Czech Renaissance: the forty-year old Peter Vok of Rosenberg, who in 1580 married the fourteen-year old Catherine of Ludanice, the heiress to the Lipník estate and thus to Helfštýn Castle as well.

Catherine's birth is tied to a legend. That night, a wandering monk came to Helfštýn, seeking shelter, but the gentlefolk sicced the dogs on him. Upset, he threw his staff against a rock where it got stuck, and cursed the village of Ludanice: "A wild pear tree will grow out of this staff and the House of Ludanice will become extinct." The curse came true, twice: with Catherine's death, her house becoming extinct in the female line, and with the death of her husband Peter Vok, the Rosenbergs became extinct in the male line. The wild pear tree can still be found on the right side of the entrance to the castle.

When Catherine lost both of her parents at the age of five, her vast property was handled by her guardian: the Landeshauptmann Zachariah of Hradec, who took advantage of this opportunity and deprived Catherine of a significant portion of her possessions. Despite this, she was a rich heiress and by marrying her, Peter Vok found a solution to his financial troubles. One of the greatest noblemen in the Bohemian lands, he started visiting Helfštýn Castle regularly. The couple would arrive almost every summer, accompanied by a large entourage, and spend several weeks at the Lipník estate. Their arrival was always viewed as a great occasion to hold lavish feasts. Peter Vok liked to relax in the middle of the surrounding deep woods and, being a known womanizer and gourmand, he knew how to enjoy life to the fullest. However, he did pay attention to matters of administration as well.

Vok would check how well the estate was being managed, and use his visits to make the necessary entries into the land registry in Olomouc.

Even though the House of Rosenberg did not manage the estate for long, Vok did improve it. At Helfštýn Castle,

he had a castle palace built in a noble Italian style. Stables used to be where the castle restaurant can be found today. There used to be a dog kennel in one of the castle passages – allegedly, that is where Peter Vok kept his hunting greyhounds when he first brought them to Helfštýn. Allegedly, he ordered that his favourite compositions be sounded from the Trumpet Tower.

The marriage of Catherine and Peter Vok was not easy. The age difference certainly played a part. Furthermore, Catherine could not come to terms with the licentiousness of her husband. In 1594, she had a strong fit of hysterics after one of his affairs, and ran off to Helfštýn where she started suffering from a serious depression and other fits. It was claimed that she went mad. Catherine died at the age of thirty-five.

Hefaison, a world-renowned international competition of artistic smiths, is held at Helfštýn Castle each year. Some of the pieces are exhibited inside the castle compound.

Nearby places of interest: Týn nad Bečvou – The Museum of Bedřich Smetana; Lipník nad Bečvou – urban conservation area (1.); Hranice – urban conservation area; Přerov – urban conservation area.

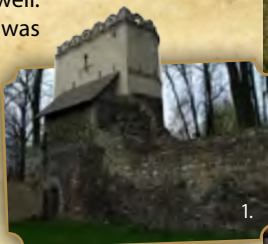
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1.

The consecration of the Holy Trinity Column was honoured by the visit of Maria Theresa

When the Czech and Hungarian queen Maria Theresa, the wife of Emperor Francis I of the House of Lorraine, ascended the throne, the Habsburg Monarchy was clearly backward. It was obvious to Maria Theresa that the outdated, dysfunctional state apparatus needed to be reorganized and modernized. And so she started travelling to meet her people. She visited the Czech lands four times in total. The city of Olomouc considered it a great honour to be the destination of two of those visits, as the names of the Theresian Gate and Theresian Armoury can attest. The queen herself gave the city the privilege of adjusting its crest and put the initials F. M. T. (Franciscus – Maria Theresa) on the breast of the traditional chequered eagle. It was an expression of gratitude for the fact that the Olomouc fortress – which the queen had built – managed to defend itself against a Prussian invasion. Maria Theresa did not let the Olomouc inhabitants out of her sight even after she left: for a long time, her portrait occupied a place of honour on the Olomouc astronomical clock.

Maria Theresa and her husband Francis I stopped by Olomouc for the first time from the 17th to 20th June 1748 as a part of their Joyride (Luistrass) around Moravia. The couple arrived mostly to address military issues, i.e. to check how well their order to rebuild Olomouc as a modern fortress was being fulfilled. They also visited the Austrian encampments by Olšany and Chválkovice, where soldiers were sent to help the threatened empire against the Prussians. The imperial couple lived in the bishop's residence where they granted audiences, and attended a performance of a Hané singspiel in the Hradisko Premonstratensian monastery. Maria Theresa also attended a mass held next to the grave of the priest Jan Sarkander in the former Church of the Virgin Mary in the Přehradí area. The day before their departure, both rulers visited the Pilgrimage Basilica of Our Lady of the Holy Hill, where they met with crowds of believers. For the duration of their visit, they were warmly welcomed not only by the inhabitants of Olomouc, but by people from its vicinity who would accompany them around the city in decorated wagons and sing folk songs.

Their second official visit to Olomouc from 6th to 9th September 1754 was incorporated into a circular tour around the Habsburg lands. The gate used by the queen and her husband to enter the city was renamed the Theresian Gate. And once more, the couple was met with a warm welcome. The war with the Prussian king Friedrich II, who did not acknowledge Maria Theresa's right to the throne, was looming on the horizon, and it was necessary to make sure that Olomouc – already enclosed by fortified lines and bastions – would be prepared for a potential conflict. The honoured guests once again found a temporary home in the bishop's residence. While the emperor focused on inspecting the preparedness of his military, Maria Theresa attended a ceremonial mass at the Saint Wenceslas Cathedral. The students of the Jesuit Gymnasium and University delivered a salutary speech and held a performance for the rulers, who then made a tour of the Jesuit monastery.

A great celebration was held on the 9th September. The people of Olomouc were proud of the newly-finished honorary Holy Trinity Column. Its spiritual father was Václav Rener, an imperial architect and stonemason who overcame great difficulties to push the

construction through and helped finance it. The colossal 35-meter-tall column was built over a period of 37 years as a thanksgiving for the end

of the plague outbreak that affected the city at the beginning of the 18th century. It was a symbol of patriotism since mostly local artists were involved in its construction. The ceremonial procession, consisting of both rulers and the clergy, arrived at the Church of Saint Maurice, where a ceremonial mass was held. Then, Cardinal Troyer consecrated the column before many members of all social classes, accompanied by the sound of sung litanies, drumbeats from the city hall tower, and volleys of gunfire. A tent with kneeling benches had been prepared for Maria Theresa and her husband. This spectacular event is commemorated by the marble memorial plaque above the entrance to the indoor chapel. After attending the afternoon performance of the opera *In laudem Maiestatum* at the Hradisko Monastery and visiting the military camp by Olšany, the royal couple set out for Vienna the next day.

Visit Olomouc, the second largest conservation zone in the Czech Republic, and take a look at the Holy Trinity Column that was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000.

www.olomouc.eu



About the sorrowful black-clad lady of Plumlov and the Infant Jesus of Prague

Not far from Prostějov, a tall and slender castle building, the dominant feature of the surrounding area is reflected in the water of Podhradský Pond. At first glance, this is not the regular castle we are used to. There is something strange about it. Moreover, its location on a rocky promontory only highlights it. In reality, the castle has never been completed. The reason for that is a family feud that began during the time when the estate was owned by the Liechtenstein family. Prince Karl Eusebius himself enthusiastically designed a magnificent castle for his son, Jan Adam, who did not much care for such an imposing mansion. The structure designed with extraordinary proportions seemed foolish from the beginning. The construction work was expensive and the father and his son could not find common ground and only bickered. After the death of Karl Eusebius, his son completed only one wing from the originally designed four-wing building. The years of arguing disgusted him to such an extent that he did not even want to live in the castle.

An imposing stronghold used to stand next to today's castle, the remains of which are visible on the castle courtyard, with one of its defensive towers still intact. Over the years, the building belonged to several different families; however, one story about the Pernstein family from the 16th century that few people know is of a sorrowful black-clad lady. María Manrique de Lara y Mendoza was a court lady in the Spanish court, where she met a prominent Czech diplomat and politician Vratislav II of Pernstein, called Gorgeous, who was a companion of the future Emperor Maximilian II and who later became the Supreme Chancellor of the Czech Kingdom. And María became his intended. She was brought up in a strict Catholic environment and was supposed to set out to somewhere unknown with her husband.

Before her departure, her mother had given her a small wax statuette of Jesus, which María carried everywhere, as a wedding gift to protect her. Therefore, the statuette was also present in Plumlov several times, as she and her husband oftentimes visited the estate. However, María suffered harshly at our castle; she never got used to the new environment. In addition, she was almost always pregnant or in mourning - ten of her twenty-one children died. The desperate mother never put away her black dress. The statuette was given to her daughter Polyxena, when she married Zdeněk Vojtěch Popel Lobkowitz. Polyxena later donated



the statuette to the Prague Carmelites and today we know it as the Infant Jesus of Prague. María stood by her husband, but she was not happy. Her ghost is said to still wander Plumlov searching for the castle chapel, where she used to pray to the holy statuette for her dead children. Her portrait with her daughter Polyxena and a replica of the Infant Jesus can be seen today in Plumlov castle.

Plumlov castle, built between 1680 and 1688 in the Mannerist style, actually never served as a home of the family. Only four furnished rooms were designed for occasional visits. In later years, the castle served as an office and was even in danger of being demolished. Currently, there is restoration work being done on the castle building by the town of Plumlov. Visitors are able to admire interesting permanent exhibits, castle chambers and cellars. Upon agreement, it is also possible to visit the inaccessible fifth and sixth floors.

Nearby places of interest: Prostějov – town conservation area (1.); Čechy pod Kosířem – Castle, Museum of Historical Carriages, Firefighter Museum; Velký Kosíř (2.); Bělecký mlýn (Bělecký mill).

PLUMLOV CASTLE

Zámecká 99, 798 03 Plumlov, information, tour reservations: Phone No. +420 774 302 165
www.plumlov-zamek.cz

April, October: 1PM - 6PM (weekends and public holidays), May: 10AM - 6PM (weekends and public holidays), June to September: daily except Mondays: 10AM - 6PM



How the forester Vilém Švec discovered the Javoříčko caves

Near the flatland of Hané, the region starts to ripple with the hills of the Zábřeh Highlands where the treetops conceal unexpected natural treasures. The sweeping limestone hill of Špraněk, a national natural monument, is surrounded by an eponymous brook that flows around sharp rocks with mysterious karstic formations. Cave openings, sinkholes and individual rocks rise from the forested hills, suggesting even more dramatic scenery hidden underground.

The sharp rock protrusions and dark openings that lead deep into the ground have attracted romantics and adventurers since time immemorial. Many legends attribute the origins of the karstic phenomena to the workings of supernatural forces. Local folk stories teem with wood goblins, marsh fairies, fire ghosts, and hounds with fiery eyes. In Svěcená díra – the first-discovered cave – messages and dates written on the walls bear witness to the human desire of solving the mysteries suspected of lurking underground.

These beautifully decorated karstic caves, with ornaments dating back to the Palaeozoic period, were discovered by Vilém Švec, a forester. He'd requested to be transferred, along with his entire family, to the land of his childhood where he once used to hear about the mysterious underground and dream that one day he'd find something unprecedented there. After their arrival, Švec's youngest son would go exploring from the Javoříčko gamekeeper's lodge, and in the company of his friend from Bouzov would creep through crevices and inspect the surroundings of the rocks around Špraněk hill. The boy's enthusiasm was one of the things that pushed Švec to fulfil his own dream. Švec started exploring the already known area of the Svěcená díra cave, and would not be deterred even after his employer – the forestry office – refused to finance his exploration. He was convinced that there was another cave to be found, and paid for everything out of his own pocket. His belief only strengthened when he discovered openings in the rocks from which warm air came in the winter.

From the spring of 1937, a group of enthusiasts led by Švec looked for a way of going deeper into Svěcená díra. Švec even received advice from Karel Absolon, the famous explorer of karsts. Ultimately, they managed to find an unblocked chimney; Švec's son was the first one to climb through it. However, the maze of passages and crevices he found below required a proper investigation. It was a difficult process; many times, it left the amateur speleologists on the verge of a physical breakdown. Lacking experience and the appropriate equipment, they tried to find a way inside the caves they had been dreaming of for so long. The men were led by a candle whose flickering suggested airflow. Light was provided by a simple carbide lamp, and regular ropes had to suffice. The blocked passages had to be cleared, and the path was full of narrow steep chimneys. On 14th April 1938, the group reached the bottom of the cave, nowadays known as Dóm gigantů (the Chamber of Giants) – a huge space decorated with numerous dripstones. The discovery far exceeded anyone's expectations.

The news of the discovered caves quickly spread throughout the country. Preparations were immediately set in motion to make the place accessible to the public, and one month later, the first visitors were allowed to admire the beauty of the long-hidden underground treasure.

The Javoříčko caves are one of the most visited caves in the Czech Republic. They form a multi-level system of passages, chambers and chasms. Out of the four-kilometre section that has been discovered so far, only 800 meters are accessible to the public. The underground compound is also a wintering site favoured by bats – the largest ones in the Czech Republic, in fact. The Špraněk nature trail starts behind the entrance to the caves: it runs around the Závovice sinkhole, where the Špraněk brook once used to flow out of the underground. The Zkamenělý zámek rock formation with its rock gate is also a unique place of interest.



Nearby places of interest: the castle of Bouzov; the chateau of Úsov; the Mladeč caves; Loštice – the Museum of A.W. Olomoucké Tvaruzky (1.).

THE JAVOŘÍČKO CAVES

Javoříčko, 783 24 Slavětín u Litovle
Information, book a tour:
Phone No.: +420 585 345 451

Learn about current opening hours at:
www.caves.cz



About a prince who founded a forestry school and an original museum in Úsov

In the slightly hilly landscape at the foothills of the Jeseníky Mountains between the Morava and Oskava rivers, a medieval castle with rounded towers and strong defensive walls in the style of a French castellum was built in the 13th century. After turbulent times of unrest, invasions, looting and a frequent change of owners, the entire estate and castle passed into the possession of the Lichtenstein family. With them came a time of prosperity and economic development. Despite the fact that the Lichtenstein residents did not live there permanently and the castle was more of an administrative centre, they regularly returned to hunt in the local deep forests full of wildlife. At the end of the 17th century, a Baroque castle was built between the four Gothic towers, according to the project of the famous Domenico Martinelli.

Prince Jan II of Liechtenstein made an indelible mark on the history of Úsov. The enlightened nobleman and a generous patron continuously improved his family estate and contributed in many ways to improving the living conditions of the local population. He never married, as if compensating for an unhappy childhood, during which he did not receive enough love and care. He was an excellent, responsible owner who loved nature and had visionary insight into its potential for tourism. In 1903, he even founded the oldest natural reserve in the Jeseníky Mountains between Šerák and Kepník. Thanks to his generous gifts, many public buildings and other beneficial activities could be created. As an educated person, he was aware of the importance of educating children, so many of his contributions directed to building schools. In 1852, he founded one of the oldest secondary forestry schools in Moravia in the Stará škola building in Úsov where a number of leading Austrian specialists taught. A former educational institute, which moved from Úsov to Sovinec Castle and then to Hranice, is now showing the „Úsov-Cradle of Forestry Education“ exhibition, which focuses on periodical teaching models and teaching aids for forestry profession studies.

Upon the recommendation of the Chief Forestry Councilman, Prince Jan II decided to establish a hunting-forestry museum in Úsov, intended to improve the skills of local foresters and hunters as well as an exhibition space for the public. Hunting was not only a traditional noble hobby for the prince, it was also a way of discovering the rules of nature, which he wanted to teach to the next generations as well. The museum, which was opened in 1900, contains not only a number of hunting trophies, but also items of natural origin and documents about the forest management on the prince's estates. The exhibition was gradually replenished, now accompanied by an extraordinary collection of exotic animal trophies from Jindřich of Liechtenstein from his hunting in Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda and Somalia.

The Úsov Forestry and Hunting Museum is unique in Central Europe. Several thousand



hunting and science trophies from the Liechtenstein manors and hunting expeditions are presented in the chateau's interior. Among others, a unique collection of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and insects, a set of abnormalities in birds and mammals, a small collection of osteology and a collection of birds' nests and eggs, valuable for their authenticity and integrity, are displayed. Some of the attractions include poaching weapons, a room with furniture made of tree roots, and a collection of books whose bindings resemble wood. Historical exhibitions with the oldest model of the castle, other historical exhibits and the black castle kitchen are part of the museum.

Do not forget to also visit the Jewish Quarter and the Jewish Cemetery in Úsov.

Nearby places of interest: Bezděkov – lavender farm; Litovel – museum and brewery (1.), Uničov – town conservation zone; Mladečské jeskyně (Mladečské caves); Loštice – Museum of Olomouc Cheese.

LOVECKO-LESNICKÉ MUZEUM V ÚSOVĚ (HUNTING-FORESTRY MUSEUM IN ÚSOV)

Zámecká 1, 789 73 Úsov
Phone No.: +420 583 435 111

April, September, October: 9 AM – 4:30 PM
(except Mondays), May and June: 9 AM – 6 PM
(except Mondays), July to August: 9:30 AM – 7 PM (except Mondays)



Rose and Theresa, two altruistic countesses from Náměšť Castle

At the platform in Náměšť na Hané, in the middle of a uniquely structured round park, there is a slightly four-winged building with a mansard roof. The building is called Horní Castle and can be found close to the ruins of another, medieval castle. The park is encircled by a road with linden avenues leading off in the four cardinal directions. In the second half of the 18th century, the castle became a seat of residence since the original one – Dolní Castle – no longer met the requirements of comfortable life. By then, the estate was owned by the House of Harrach, which held important diplomatic and military offices. Ferdinand Bonaventura, the count of Harrach and the head of the imperial court council, was no spring chicken but grew to like the Haná region. It is thanks to him that we now can admire this splendid building, constructed in the style of early classicism and with French features.

However, Ferdinand did not stop there. He had a primary school built in Náměšť, and sent the best pupils to study in Olomouc. In Dolní Castle, he founded a textile manufactory, had brick houses built in a semi-circle around Horní Castle, and housed employees there. The locals attended courses where they learned how to correctly spin flax and wool. Count had a bleachery built for these purposes. The weaving industry was in operation in Náměšť for thirteen years, up until the count's death. His only daughter Rose married Count Josef of House of Kinsky, and the estate passed to the possession of another important noble house. Mary Rose was a very educated and generous woman. She spoke several languages, including Czech. The people of Náměšť liked her. Among other things, she parcelled out the plots and cropped lands belonging to the manor, and gave them to landless peasants. That was how the settlement of Nové Dvory was established. Mary Rose also founded an orphanage where she would teach the children herself.

After her death in 1814, Franz Josef, the count of Kinsky, became the owner of the estate. However, he died very young and his wife Theresa had to take care of his vast property and children. The popular countess repaired the castle chapel in Náměšť, a venue of daily masses and the destination of yearly processions from the parish church. Theresa was a known supporter of the poor, but had great troubles with her son, who inherited the estate from his father. Dominik, the count of Kinsky known as Niki, was well-known in the neighbourhood due to his unusual behaviour. Many rumours tried to explain his

eccentricity – one of them claimed unhappy love was the cause. Niki became withdrawn and started wandering around the woods.

He found a kindred spirit in Josef Mánes, a painter who often visited the castle of Čechy pod Kosířem, and would often walk with him. The counts of Kinsky



1.

formed an attachment to Náměšť and in 1871 had a family tomb built there. Seven members of the family lie buried in it.

The last owners of the castle were not noblemen. In 1916, František Ottahal from Olomouc, a wealthy man engaged in wholesale trade with iron, bought it from the Kinskys. Mr. and Mrs. Ottahal modernized the castle and gave the park its current appearance. After World War II, the compound came under the state and today belongs to the town of Náměšť na Hané.

The castle interior, decorated in a rococo style, houses a unique set of Meissen porcelain, a collection of historical prams, or two carriages that once belonged to archbishops of Olomouc.

Nearby places of interest: Slatinice – Museum of Veterans, The Gallery of Zdeněk Burian; Drahanovice – Černá věž; Luděřov – baroque granary, the hill of Švédské šance; Cholina – Haná Museum; Příkazy – the open-air museum of Hanácké skanzen.

CHATEAU OF NÁMĚŠŤ NA HANÉ
Hrad 1, 783 44 Náměšť na Hané
For more information, call the
number: +420 585 952 184

April: 9 – 16 (weekends and national holidays),
May – September: 9 – 17 (except for Monday),
October: 9 – 16 (weekends and national
holidays); November to March: on request
www.zamek.namestnahane.cz



How the merchant Andřýsek heard a voice from Heaven and kept his promise

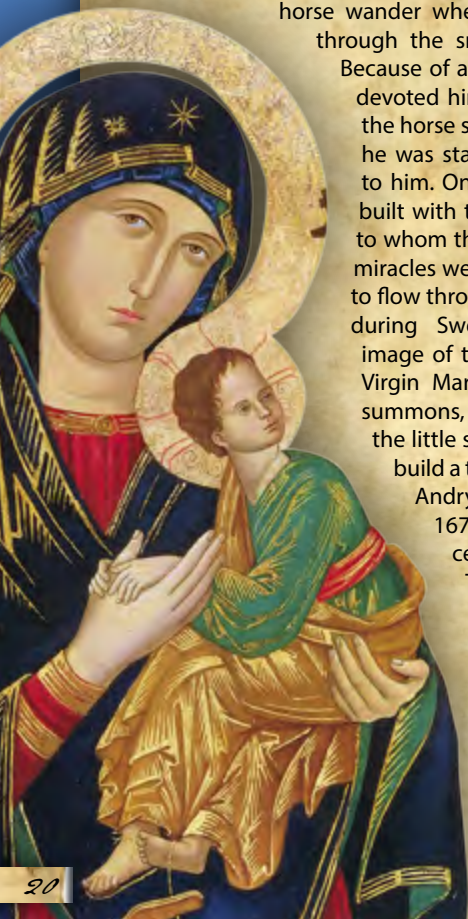
The yellow hundred-meter-tall facade of the baroque temple on Svatý Kopeček (Holy Hill) proudly stands on the top of a hill near Olomouc. The Premonstratensian order had it built in a unique landscape composition, to match the nearby Hradisko. The majestic house of God, connected with a Marian apparition, is one of the most important European pilgrimage sites with a great spiritual tradition and impressive atmosphere.

Jan Andřýsek, a merchant from Olomouc, wanted to do a good deed for a long time. On one of his journeys he made a promise to build a chapel dedicated to the Mother of Jesus. Time passed and his wine store in Olomouc was doing very well, but Andřýsek still had not fulfilled his promise. Thus, in a dream, the Virgin Mary with the Infant Jesus in her arms appeared to him to remind him of his promise.

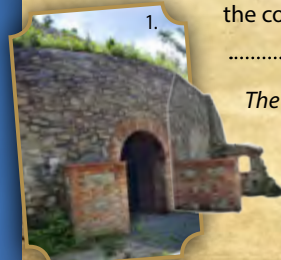
At the end of February 1629, he rode out of the city on horseback and let the horse wander wherever it wished to go. The horse travelled eastward through the snow, then climbed onto a densely forested hillside.

Because of a heavy snowstorm, the merchant covered his face and devoted himself to prayers. Suddenly, the snowstorm ended and the horse stopped. Andřýsek looked up and saw with surprise that he was standing in the place that the Virgin Mary had revealed to him. On this hill called Svatá hora (Holy Hill) he had a chapel built with the permission of the Premonstratensians of Olomouc, to whom the lands belonged. From the time the chapel was built, miracles were said to happen there and hundreds of pilgrims used to flow through its gates. After fifteen years the chapel was burned during Swedish occupation; fortunately, at least the miraculous image of the Virgin Mary was saved. At that time, the sorrowed Virgin Mary appeared to Andřýsek for the third time. On his summons, the Premonstratensians restored the chapel. However, the little sanctuary was no longer sufficient, so it was decided to build a temple dedicated to the Visitation of the Virgin Mary. Jan Andřýsek unfortunately did not live to see its consecration in 1679. The entire building was completed in the mid-18th century.

The grandiose two-day celebration of the centennial anniversary of the foundation of the pilgrimage site in 1732 brought together one hundred thousand people. The entire hill was lit up in the evening, the name of the Virgin Mary was floating on the triumphal gate and pillars were lit up all the way to Samotíšek. On the foot of the hill another triumphal gate was burning. The miraculous image of the Virgin Mary was given golden Roman crowns the next day, an



honour that not many temples of that time received. In 1748, the Czech and Hungarian Queen Maria Theresa accompanied by her husband, the Holy Roman Emperor Francis I of Lorraine, visited Svatý Kopeček. The church leaders made a request to build an escape route from Svatý Kopeček to the Hradisko monastery in case of danger. Maria Theresa supported this proposal. The French builder Pierre Bechade de Rochepine, who was in charge of the construction of the Olomouc fortress, had the plans made, but eventually the construction of the 6.5-kilometre-long passage was dismissed.



The single-aisle temple, whose foundation stone was laid in 1669, is the work of the imperial architect Giovanni Pietro Tencalla. According to Domenico Martinelli's proposal, a building was constructed with representative halls and a back terrace. The chapel of Saint Anna is attributed to Giovanni Santini. Fresco decorations by Jan Kryštof Handke and other artists, as well as a priceless organ, stand out in the Baroque interior. Pope John Paul II granted the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Hill the status of minor basilica in April 1995.

Nearby places of interest: Town conservation area of Olomouc; Šternberk – Castle, Exhibition of Time; Fort Radíkov (1.).

PILGRIMAGE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY HILL
nám. Sadové 1, 779 00 Olomouc
The basilica can be visited daily
from 8:30 AM to 5 PM

Office number: +420 585 385 342,
+420 777 742 176
www.svatykopecek.cz



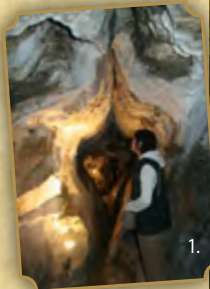
How Gill the shepherd was punished for his anger and the town of Hunohrad for its greed

In the 16th century, only deep forests with rippling meadows surrounding the Černá Opava River could be seen at the site of today's mountain village of Rejvíz. The first inhabitants began to build cottages in Sklářská luka at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. Their lives were hard - they devoted themselves to agriculture and forestry or mined iron ore nearby. When mining declined, life seemed to stop. Rejvíz got its second wind at the beginning of the 20th century thanks to the largest mountain peatbog in Moravia and Silesia, which is located here. This exceptional natural phenomenon lured tourists, reviving the dying village. And with bated breath, they listened to the locals' stories from ancient times.

The mysterious peat bogs with ponds, wetland meadows and lush vegetation led people to spin scary stories, since the wildlife made them afraid and they preferred to avoid it. One of the most famous figures of these folk tales is Gill the Lake Shepherd. This old, slouched man is said to often walk around the Mechové jezírko (Moss Pond) with a bread bag over his shoulder - a reminder of his wrongdoing, for which he has to atone forever.

In a poor region, where people desperately saved up every bread crust, the angry shepherd trampled on an entire bread loaf in anger and a just punishment befell him for this act against God. He has to wander through the forest surrounding the peat bog, alone and hungry. He is said to be a good apparition that always politely answers a greeting. It is not advisable to meet him after dark, however. Gill does not want to be disturbed after sunset, which is why he scares off any intruders on his territory with horrible screaming. This tale was perhaps supposed to have been a warning to dissuade anyone from dangerously exploring the peat bogs after daylight. Even today, for safety reasons, the educational trail of Rejvíz is accessible daily only until 6 PM.

The unfortunate Gill may be looking for the lost town of Hunohrad on his travels, which was supposed to stand where the Mechové jezírko (Moss Pond) glistens today. Greedy people used to live there, who were blinded by their lust for money and possessions that hardened their hearts. When instead of showing mercy the townspeople killed a beggar asking for alms, the entire town sunk to the ground and its inhabitants were dragged under water. Whoever succumbs to the illusion of riches and find themselves nearby



will be drawn into the black depths. These legends taught people modesty and humility. Without those qualities, it was hard to live in the mountains in the past.

Today, Rejvíz is an attraction for many nature lovers, who are able to follow the nature trail through a unique biotope of peat bogs along the wooden path to the Velké mechové jezírko (Great Moss Pond). The uplands are mostly home to peat moss, various lichens and resistant plants. Dragonflies fly wherever the eye can see and spiders seem to thrive in these conditions.

In the settlement of Rejvíz, which is situated on the road connecting Jeseník with Zlaté hory, there are several guesthouses. The former Hostinec U jezerního pastýře (Inn of the Lake Shepherd), now Penzion Rejvíz, is a very unique establishment though. One of the previous owners was a skilled carver who embellished his inn with original decorations. He carved the portraits of his regular patrons onto the back of the chairs. To date, about twenty have been preserved, as well as a considerable part of the original interior.

Nearby places of interest: Zlaté Hory, Písečná – Jeskyně
na Špičáku (Caves in Špičák) (1.), Jeseník (2.)

REJVÍZ NATURE TRAIL

Naučná stezka Rejvíz, 79376 Zlaté Hory
Phone No.: +420 584 425 015

Operating hours of the information cabin:

May - November: 8AM - 6PM, the pond is also
accessible outside these times
www.navstivtejeseniky.cz



How the good-humoured nation of Venus has settled in a country of rolling hills and nunataks

The Bowls of Venus have lingered in the imagination of locals since ancient times. Granite rocks with recesses similar to bowls and rock formations with various niches and protrusions were, in the human imagination, the backdrop of some extraterrestrial performance. The beautiful natural scenery with rounded hills and rocks rising above the horizon undoubtedly invites one's mind to wonder.

The Žulovská pahorkatina (Žulovská Hills), with its unique geological formations including the Bowls of Venus on Smolný Hill, has an interesting geological history that sheds light on the local unique landscape. The area in the foothills of the Jeseníky Mountains was very rugged and many tall igneous rocks, from the Palaeozoic era, used to stand there reaching toward the sky. The majesty and dramatic appearance of the mountainous landscape was almost destroyed by a glacier that, with its force, flattened it out into the picturesque, round hills and long valleys of today. Yet occasionally, a rock resisted the ice flow and the glacier had to move around it. Evidence of this erosion is the boulders the glacier brought from the Baltic Sea as well as the individual rock islands: nunataks.

Smolný Hill is a typical nunatak. The granite rock was gradually exposed to the effects of water, wind and time. The weathering and spherical separation of the local granite gave rise to mysterious places that seem to have been made by a human hand. The Bowls of Venus were thus associated with ancient rituals, where pagan priests sat on the stone seats and watched the execution of bloody sacrificial ceremonies in the rock bowls.

The oldest folk tales testify to the desire of people for a world where goodness and kindness rule. Perhaps the locals compensated for the difficult life in the remote corner of the mountains. They invented the good-natured nation of Venus. According to legend, small, unusually pretty women and kind men lived in caves under the Bowls of Venus. At night, they bathed in the bowls, where they also cooked and did their laundry. They wandered out among the local people during the night, clad in invisible cloaks, to help the poor and heal the sick. When a child was lost in the mountains, the little women caught the child and royally hosted him/her. These strange little people often helped the locals, but



liked to tease them.

There have always been magical powers attributed to the Bowls of Venus, which are a sought-after national natural monument. For example, it is said that a woman who sits in one of the recesses is going to get married and pregnant in a year. Today, Smolný Hill with its Bowls of Venus is a famous tourist destination. From the rocky outlook on top of Smolný you can see one of our most famous round hills - Šibeničník, which was created by a continental glacier.

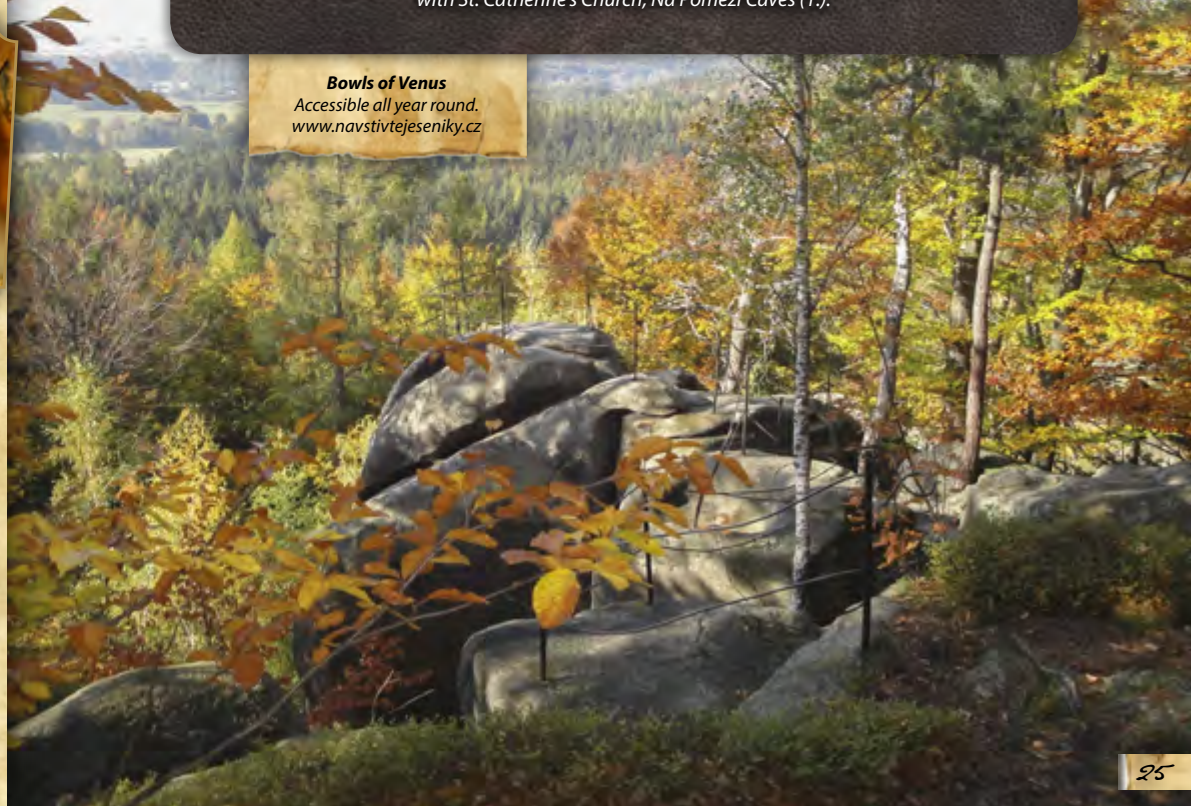
The centre of the Žulovská pahorkatina is the village of Žulová - formerly Frýdberk, belonging to the oldest populated areas of the region. The members of the Wüsthube family, infamous for their cruelty, built a castle in Žulová, from where they used to set out for their robbery expeditions. Yet the castle did not survive and the tower became part of St. Joseph's Church (2.).

From Žulová, there is a beautiful approx. twenty-kilometre walk around the most interesting places of the wild landscape of the Jeseníky foothills - across Boží hora, around Velký rybník to the Bowls of Venus. From there set out to Černá voda and then to the ruins of Kaltenštejn Castle and finally through Černá voda - lomy back to Žulová.



Nearby places of interest: Javorník – Jánký vrch Castle; Vidnava – town conservation site with St. Catherine's Church; Na Pomezí Caves (1.).

Bowls of Venus
Accessible all year round.
www.navstivtejeseniky.cz



How a pious countess and an overzealous inquisitor unleashed terrible hell

Velké Losiny Castle located in a mountain spa town is rightly considered the jewel of the Moravian Renaissance. It is also associated with one of the dark chapters of our history. What was the reason for unleashing witch-hunts in the second half of the 17th century, when dozens of innocent people ended up being burned at the stake? Just a simple superstition or did the stolen heart of the pious Countess Alžběta Juliána, which had happened a few years earlier, play a role?

One Sunday in May 1678, the beggar girl Marina Schuchová went to a Mass at a church in Sobotín, where she stole the sacramental bread. The priest of Sobotín reported it to the lords of Velké Losiny. The terrified beggar confessed that she was supposed to bring the sacramental bread to Dorota Groerová, a midwife whose cow could not have milk. At that time, the governor of the



Velké Losiny estate, Countess Angela Anna Sibylla of Galle, born Žerotínová, decided to investigate this criminal witchery and summoned Jindřich Bobliga from Edelstadt to Losiny. A sixty-six-year-old lawyer who did not finish school, Boblig, had experience as an assistant in Inquisition processes in the Jeseníky Region and established an Inquisition's secular tribunal on the second floor of the castle. He took advantage of the fact that people believed in superstitions and myths and masterfully manipulated them. The number of the accused increased. The poor, the rich and the clergy, under the influence of psychological coercion and harsh torture, admitted to associating with the devil and committing various acts of witchcraft. The fires burned and Boblig was content. Fear spread among the people that the dreaded judge would point at them as well. As the costs of the process climbed, Boblig focused on wealthy citizens from nearby Šumperk. Neither did he hesitate in accusing the Church's representatives. Although he acted with the sanctity of the lords and the Prague Appellate Court, he was spoken of as a devoted devil in human form.

Yet let us recall one more story from this time, about the lost heart of Alžběta Juliána of Oppersdorf, the wife of Přemyslav III of Žerotín, who owned the Losiny estate before the Countess of Galle. In her will, Alžběta Juliána expressed her desire for her heart to be stored in the Dominican church in Šumperk after her death. However, for another four-and-a-half years, the heart remained in the castle in a silver box. In the autumn of 1673, after Přemyslav's death, the Countess of Galle asked an official of the Losiny estate - Kopp - to hand over the heart of her sister-in-law for the designated place. Nevertheless, the heart was mysteriously lost and the prime suspect was

Kopp. The search for him began after the outbreak of the witch-hunts around 1680. Boblig also asked the accused about the heart, as there was suspicion that it had been misused for witchcraft. Kopp was later accused of stealing the heart and practising witchcraft. All the while, he insisted that he took the heart to the Dominicans. After a year, he managed to escape from prison and the investigation ended.

The history of the castle, dominated by a six-story tower with eight sides, is mainly connected with the Žerotín and Liechtenstein families. The three castle wings are lined with arcades in three rows above each other. The Eastern wing is decorated with graffito embellishments. The castle is surrounded by an English-style park. In Velké Losiny, make sure to visit the Handmade Paper Mill, the Spa with Natural Sulphur Thermal Water as well as the Losiny Thermal Resort.

Witch bike trail (138 km). Leads around places in the Jeseníky Mountains and Šumperk that have a connection to the witch trials, which are remembered at the marked stops.

Nearby places of interest: little wooden churches in Žárová (1.), Maršíkov and Klepáčov; Šumperk – the Witch Trials exhibition in Geschader House; Háj Lookout Tower; Víkřovice – Museum of Roads; Rapotín – Veteran Museum Zoo Park.

STATE CASTLE VELKÉ LOSINY

Zámecká 268, 788 15 Velké Losiny
orders over 10 people, Phone No.:
+420 608 176 117 (Mon – Fri: 9 AM – 3 PM)

For the current opening hours, sightseeing
tours and ticket prices please visit:
www.zamek-velkelosiny.cz



In the footsteps of Marianne of the Netherlands, daughter of the Dutch king

The border village of Bílá Voda, surrounded by Polish territory on three sides, is located at the foot of the Golden Mountains, in the northern salient of the Javornicko region. Considering its seclusion, it has a very interesting history that reveals itself to visitors to this very day. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the place was an important education and art centre in the Jesenícko region due to its Piarist College. The school owed its success to the Dutch princess Marianne of the Netherlands, who found shelter there in 1854. Tragic moments in the history of Bílá Voda and the region as a whole include the War of the Austrian Succession, World War II POW camps as well as death marches and the expulsion of the original German inhabitants. In 1950, the communist regime founded an internment camp for nuns from 14 orders and congregations in Bílá Voda.

Marianne of the Netherlands was a very liberal woman considering the times she lived in. Not wanting to be bound by social conventions, she chose independence instead. She married the brother of the Prussian emperor and gave him four children, but then caused quite a scandal when she left her husband for her secretary. After getting a divorce, she was not allowed to see her children anymore or stay in the Prussian territory for longer than a single day, and had to report every time she crossed the borders. That was why she bought a chateau in Bílá Voda, which enabled her to go to her nearby chateau in Kamieniec Ząbkowicki and her other three homesteads in today's

Poland. Marianne had the hunting chateau in Bílá Voda rebuilt as a presentable

residence and would spend almost every summer there for many years. She fell in love with Bílá Voda and its beautiful nature, taking long walks in its vicinity and riding in a carriage around forest paths. She would visit Šafářova skála (Steward's Rock), the valley of Hluboký dol, and Borůvková hora (Blueberry Mountain). The locals called her "the good lady". Marianne

was, no doubt, an exceptional woman. She opened mines and iron-and-steel works in her new dominion,

developed forest management, and had the region connected to Polish territory by a 50-kilometre road. She was also involved in charity, e.g. by supporting the poor or constructing schools and orphanages, as well as granting scholarships to students and artists. She was active far and wide, and contributed to the construction of an evangelical church in Jeseník, among other things.

The life of this unusually progressive woman is mapped by a cross-border nature trail called In the Footsteps of Marianne of the Netherlands (10 km). The trail – done in the colours of the House of Orange-Nassau – starts in Bílá Voda next to the bus stop, runs to the Piarist College and the chateau where the princess used to live



(a medical institution is housed there today). Then the path heads towards the quarry where Marianne had crystalline limestone mined. From there, the road continues over Kukačka hill to the Polish border town of Złoty Stok (known for its underground passages that reach as far as the Czech territory) and then to the renovated lime works with a sightseeing platform that offers a view of Marianne's chateau in Kamieniec. The trail then turns back to Bílá Voda. The second marked trail runs through the places Marianne liked to frequent, up to Borůvková hora and through former settlements back to Bílá voda (25 km).

The unique Museum of Isolation, Internment and Integration was established in Bílá Voda. The exhibition is divided into two parts. The first one deals with the community's history, including the figure of Marianne of the Netherlands, the nearby POW camps, and the expulsion of the original inhabitants after World War II. The second part introduces visitors to the dark forty-year period in the history of the erstwhile Piarist College where nuns were interned after the war. Almost seven hundred of them lie buried at the local cemetery. Next to the baroque college in the centre of the village, a baroque Church of the Visitation can be found. There is also a sacramental bread shop, which can be visited on request. Up by the chateau, the Sudeten Road starts and maps the events that affected the region after the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans. In terms of content, the 14 stops evoke the imagery of the Stations of the Cross and are viewed as a message to the future.

Nearby places of interest: Javorník – the observation tower atop Borůvková hora (1.); the chateau of Jánký vrch; Račí údolí – Tančírna and Čertovy kazatelny; the Rychleby castle ruins; Travná – the chapel of Our Lady of La Salette.

THE MUSEUM OF ISOLATION, INTERNMENT AND INTEGRATION

The Museum of Bílá Voda, Městys Bílá Voda 68, 790 69 Bílá Voda u Javorníka
Phone No.: +420 725 142 241

From 1st June to 31st October
Open daily from 9 to 17

From 1st November to 31st May
Daily, except for Monday, from 10 to 17
www.muzeumbilavoda.cz



Return of the golden days to Zlaté Hory

The Zlaté Hory have always attracted adventurers and eternal dreamers who searched for grains of gold in the streams flowing from the mountains. They rode tirelessly through the surrounding hills and searched for golden nuggets and precious ores. And they prospered; the mountains gave out their treasures freely. For many centuries, Zlaté Hory was glorified and abundant, although there were often disputes and struggles over the gold-bearing territory. The town was swamped by pillaging troops, plague, witchcraft, fires, and eventually even the gold deposits were depleted. Better times occurred in the 19th century with the development of stonework, industrial production and the establishment of a spa sanatorium. Still, the town's history is interwoven with the captivating stories of the daredevils who tried to find happiness in this remote corner of the world. And many others walked in their footsteps, captivated by their fates and lives in Zlaté Hory, who began to revive the age-old past of gold digging.

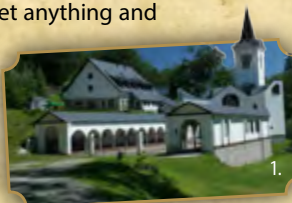
Henry Hořelica became a modern icon of Zlaté Hory. He portrays the image of a gold digger and a tramp as a liberal and proud person who will not let anything and anyone dissuade or discourage him. He had an unbreakable soul, and had been struggling against the totalitarian regime since his childhood. He loved nature and freedom, and found it in the Tramp movement, which was, however the thorn in the eye of many in positions of power. In the sixties and seventies, he repeatedly ended up in Jáchymov camp, and the work in the mines only further deepened his interest in mineralogy. Although he wanted to be a geologist, he eventually studied in a mining industrial school remotely.

The smiling, robust person with an unmistakable beard explored the surroundings of the Zlaté Hory with unbridled enthusiasm. He explored the old mines and searched for gold in the banks of river streams. He was a passionate amateur geologist, mineralogist, historian, and his activities were a great initiative for setting up a mining exhibition in the nineties.

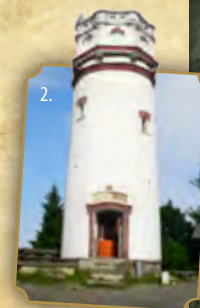
Henry, an enthusiastic guide, explained to visitors everything he learned about geology and mining on his hiking trips around the local hills. He knew literally every stone and always had an interesting story or tale to tell about it. He taught those interested in panning gold, allowing them to experience the feelings of gold diggers

- hope and expectation, joy and awe. He was also the one who established the tradition of panning gold in Zlaté Hory. Henry Hořelica was not afraid of any authority; he only bowed down to the forces of nature, which he honoured. His enthusiasm and visionary resilience have contributed to the revival of the area that lives with gold fever, although gold has not been mined here for a very long time.

Today, the times of gold digging are not only remembered in the Town Museum. In the romantic



1.



2.

Valley of the Lost Adits, leading through the valley of the Olešnice stream, the wooden wheels of the gold digging mills turn just as they did in the past. The wooden mills were built as perfect replicas of the original medieval ones. In the Mining Open-Air Folk Museum, the old technologies of mining gold and other minerals come alive again. The „Valley of the Lost Adits“ educational trail begins near the open-air folk museum, which informs visitors of the „golden times“ of these almost-forgotten lands. There are two other educational trails nearby: the Zlatohorská Mining Trail and the Údolská Mining Trail. The golden mines were once guarded by the mighty castle of Edelštejn, from which only ruins are left.

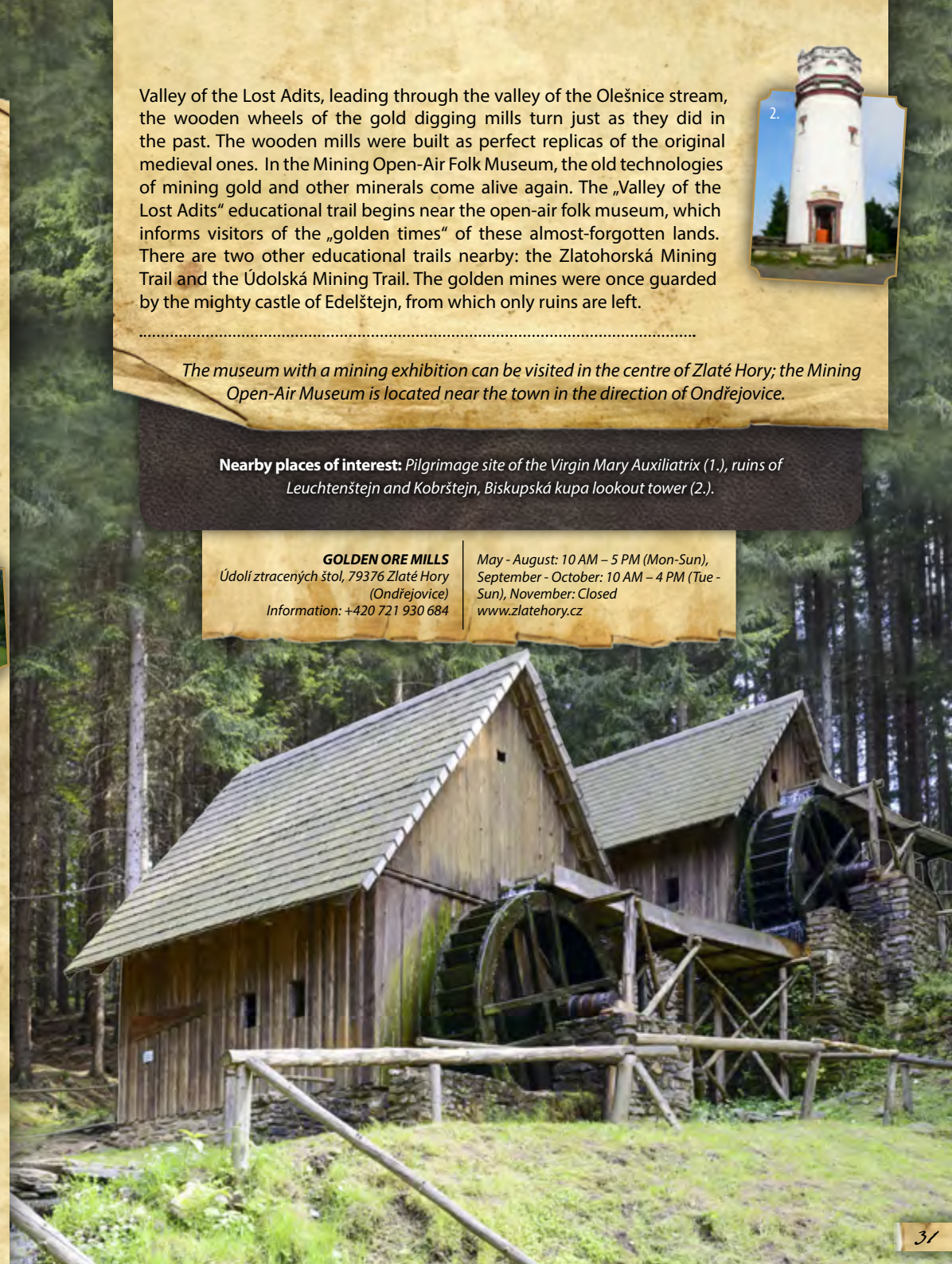
The museum with a mining exhibition can be visited in the centre of Zlaté Hory; the Mining Open-Air Museum is located near the town in the direction of Ondřejovice.

Nearby places of interest: Pilgrimage site of the Virgin Mary Auxiliatrix (1.), ruins of Leuchtenštejn and Kobrštejn, Biskupská kupa lookout tower (2.).

GOLDEN ORE MILLS

Údolí ztracených štol, 79376 Zlaté Hory
(Ondřejovice)
Information: +420 721 930 684

May - August: 10 AM – 5 PM (Mon-Sun),
September - October: 10 AM – 4 PM (Tue -
Sun), November: Closed
www.zlatehory.cz



One preached water, the other wine, and the people in the Jesenicko region became healthy

Two contemporaries, classmates, and distant cousins, but also competitors who were sworn enemies at times. Both of them founders of original medical treatments, they based their work on their own personal experience. Both men were instrumental in founding the significant spa tradition of the Jesenicko region. One of them forbade his patients to drink water, the other prescribed it in large quantities. Who were these curious folk healers? In Dolní Lipová, Johann Schroth relied on a harsh dietary treatment, while Vincenz Priessnitz in Jeseník recommended hydrotherapy, physical activity, sun, and a healthy diet. Nowadays, the sought-after medical spas in Dolní Lipová and Jeseník offer their clients first-class facilities for medical treatment and rehabilitation, as well as the option of relaxing in a nice mountain climate with exceptionally pure air.

Johann Schroth's original method for losing weight was shock therapy, and patients would undergo it at their own risk. The cure required a lot of perseverance and self-denial. Originally, Schroth gained a good reputation for treating house pets. In 1837, he officially cured his first patient: one Magdalena Bartsch, who suffered from throat nodes tuberculosis. News of this immediately spread, and Schroth was approached by other patients. In 1842, he had his first medical institution built in Dolní Lipová. There, he would prescribe six to eight week cycles of treatment, essentially a system of long packs and dry fasting alternating with water fasting where alcohol was the only beverage allowed. Patients were wrapped in wet sheets, and fed a limited amount of dry rolls and various porridges. This radical treatment, supposed to treat various ailments, was later tempered. Its shortened version is to this day prescribed as a cleansing cure to healthy people in Germany and Austria.

In his youth, Vincenz Priessnitz was treated for seriously injured ribs after he was run over by a carriage. He started to use cold packs on the injured areas, and it worked. Allegedly, he was inspired by a doe coming to a stream and cooling its hurt side in it. Priessnitz was approached by his first patients. He prescribed cold water packs and alternating between cold and hot baths to start up the immunity system and induce the body into dealing with the illness itself. Patients spent a lot of time getting fresh air, doing manual labour, soaking in the cold baths several times a day, and sweating during the night, but were allowed copious amounts of food and quality mountain water. In 1822 in the village of Gräfenberg – a part of today's Jeseník – Vincenz Priessnitz founded the first hydrotherapeutic spa in the world; the crème de la crème of the Habsburg monarchy used to gather there. The spa was also popular at the imperial court. The new-found fame and money allowed Priessnitz to gradually build

a large spa centre in Jeseník. In his native home in the spa compound, there is a permanent exhibition on Priessnitz's life and the history of the spa industry in the Jesenicko region. Visitors can personally experience the Priessnitz method in the attractive Balneopark, designed as a system of hydrotherapy and relaxation spots. Originally, Schroth and Priessnitz were farmers. They were not very well educated, but became very capable healers anyway. Both men knew each other from youth; Schroth, who was one year older, even wanted to marry Priessnitz's sister Terezie. Their beginnings were not easy: they were accused of quackery and faced many denunciations due to their supposedly unscientific approach. In the end, they received official decrees, which licensed them to perform treatments. However, Schroth was obliged to do so under the surveillance of a physician. The relationship between the two men gradually worsened: Schroth described Priessnitz's cold baths as a product of a sick mind, while Priessnitz denounced the drinking of alcohol and called Schroth an alcoholic.

2.

Visit the Museum of Johann Schroth in Lipová-lázně, and Vodní tvrz in Jeseník.

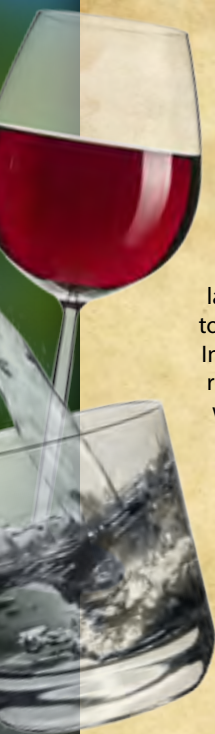
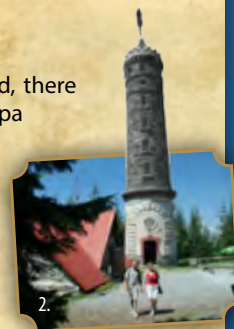
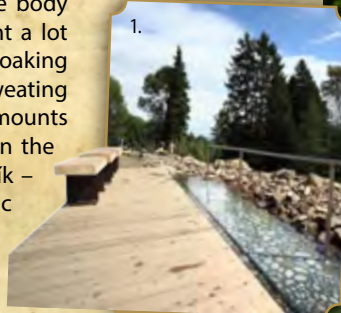
The Schroth-Priessnitz nature trail (ca 4km).

Nearby places of interest: The Na Pomezí caves; Česká Ves – Museum of Veterans; the Balneopark of Vincent Priessnitz (1.), the Zlatý Chlum observation tower (2.)

**PRIESSNITZ SPA
RESORT JESENÍK**
Priessnitzova 299, 790 03 Jeseník
www.priessnitz.cz

**SCHROTH'S
MEDICAL SPA**
Dolní Lipová 382,
79061 Lipová-lázně
www.lazne-lipova.cz

1.



Around the tallest places in the Jeseník Mountains with the ghost of Praděd

The gorgeous panoramas of mountain ranges rising above the clouds, of steep hillsides with picturesque valleys and melancholy wild nature will enthrall anyone who comes here. Praděd, the highest mountain in the Jeseník Mountains and Moravia, welcomes anyone who wishes to experience something extraordinary. Its peak and general surroundings have been declared a national nature reserve due to the large number of various rare plants and animals found there. Since time immemorial, Praděd has been shrouded in mystery, surrounded by stories embodying the reverence people used to feel towards this impressive mountain giant.

The name "Praděd" also belongs to the mythical powerful ruler of the Jeseník Mountains, who protects travellers and punishes the haughty. In the oldest legends, Praděd, the lord of the mountains, was pictured as the master of the Jeseník elves. He is famously depicted wearing a miner's smock and holding a pit lamp. However, the mountain inhabitants did not really like this interpretation – maybe it reminded them too much of the cruel life they led, full of hard mining work. By the end of the 19th century, Praděd started appearing as a kindly old man with a long white beard.

One of the legends he features in concerns a shepherd who did not like his job and was consumed by envy as well as the desire for a wealthy life. When he once drove his sheep high into the mountains, Praděd revealed himself to him, asked for the best sheep from the herd, and in return offered as many ducats as the man could carry.

The shepherd agreed to the exchange, and so Praděd took him underground, to a place overflowing with treasures. He told the shepherd to keep in mind that he was supposed to take only the ducats, and leave the other valuables alone. However, the man did not listen and would not be satisfied with mere coins. All of a sudden, the underground place was gone and the scared shepherd realized that he would be punished for his greed. The last thing he saw before losing consciousness was Praděd, threatening him angrily. In the morning, he woke up at the top of some mountain – without the money, but happy to be alive. He shared his story with the villagers and the unknown mountain was named Praděd.

Today, Praděd is one of the most sought-after mountains in the Czech Republic. You can take a tour along the ridges: The Around the World of Mountain Meadows nature trail. When the weather is nice, the far views of the surrounding landscape – offered from the massive ridge – are a sight for the gods. You will be enchanted by the unusual natural artefacts along



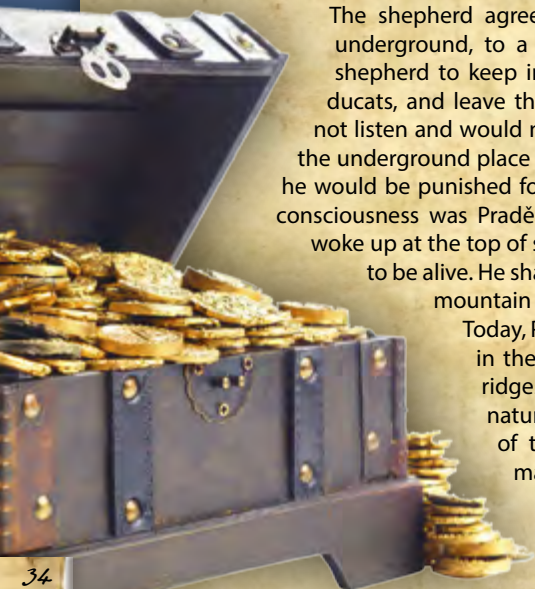
the way. The mountaineers claimed they came into being due to supernatural forces. During the witch hunts of the 17th century, the peak of Petrovy kameny, an unmistakable rock monument, was rumoured to be a place where witches secretly gathered to meet with the devil. In turn, the rock formation of Ztracené kameny was associated with the race between a farmer and the devil, who is said to have spilled the rocks from his shoe. And legends say that the peak of Pecný was formed by petrified loaves of bread an unfortunate coachman tried to put underneath the wheel of his stuck wagon.

The stops along the Around the World of Mountain Meadows nature trail introduce visitors to related natural and historical places of interest. Who wouldn't want to know what plants and animals live around here, resisting the long freezing winters and short cold summers? Or that there was a German airport on the mountain of Vysoká hole, where an airliner had a tragic accident in 1950? The popular trail runs from the Ovčárna centre, around Petrovy kameny, over Vysoká hole, around Velký Máj and Jelení hřbet, over Jelení studánka and around Břidličná Mountain, over Pecný and Ztracené kameny to the Rašeliniště Skřítek nature reserve with its mysterious mossy lake. The trail is accessible from May to September. There are no information panels along the way, only signs with the numbers of individual stops. All information can be found in the leaflet, which can be obtained at the Ovčárna centre or the Skřítek nature reserve.

Nearby places of interest: Klepáčov – the wooden church of St. John of Nepomuk (1.); Sobotín – mausoleum of the Klein family, Peter's stones (2.)

PRADĚD – TRANSMITTER
Hotel Praděd – vysílač
Malá Morávka ev. č. 38 Karlova
Studánka 79324

**Book an accommodation;
information:**
Ivan Kolář, mobile: +420 776 001 492
www.navstivtejeseniky.cz



How an Eskimo from Zábřeh found happiness at the other side of the world

The Fates endowed him with an adventurous spirit and the urge to travel. Jan Eskymo Welzl, born in Zábřeh na Moravě, was a sailor, polar hunter, gold-miner, Eskimo chief, merchant, inventor... Having found his calling in travels, he saw a great deal of the world and fulfilled his dream. This man, a Moravian to the bone, also made his mark in Siberia and Alaska. Photographs show this peculiar narrator and kind man with his famed hat, scratched suitcases, and a cigar in his mouth. Today, this legendary globetrotter welcomes those arriving at Zábřeh from his stone pedestal in front of the railway station. Each year, the town commemorates him at Welzlování, a prankish event; at the April march of Po stopách Eskymo Welzla; and at the summer bicycle races Welzlův cyklomaraton and Welzlovo kolo.

Today, there is a museum with an exhibition about Welzl, placed in the house of Pod Podloubím, close to his birthplace. Here, his mother ran a small grocery shop. Welzl went to the primary school in Zábřeh, and was trained as a locksmith in the nearby Zvole. When he was

sixteen, he left home to acquire experience, walking on foot from Austria to Italy and the Balkans with only four kreuzers in his pocket. His military service where he felt "enslaved" strengthened his conviction that he wanted to live freely. After his mother died when he was twenty-five, he went to Genoa, which he already knew. He worked on ships, crossing all the world's seas on them. But he wanted to go further. Having gotten a job as one of the workers building the Trans-Siberian Railway, he heard about a land in the far North where people could be free. He desired a life where time was of no consequence and where one could be his own master. There, his love for Siberia was born, which lasted almost thirty years. Welzl was brave and enjoyed good health, and so he did not linger. Without knowing the local environment or having maps and a compass, he set out across Siberia towards the Arctic Ocean. It was a long dangerous journey, not free of troubles. But Welzl stayed faithful to his motto "if I can pass, then I'll pass; if I can't, then I won't", and had battled the harsh nature for three years, riding a wagon drawn first by a Siberian pony, later by a moose. In the end, he reached one of the New Siberian Islands, where he settled down. Soon, he befriended the local Eskimos, advising them, helping them, and defending their rights. He was good-hearted, hated injustice, and his word was the law.

That was one of the reasons why he was chosen as a magistrate and the chief of the Inuits. He had a glib tongue,



1.

which worked to his advantage when he traded furs, and later food as well as other things needed to survive in the local climate. He travelled throughout the Arctic and Alaska, looking for business opportunities and delivering post. The natives called him Moojok Ojaak (the bear eater), the polar explorers nicknamed him the Arctic Bismark, and to everyone else he was known as Eskymo Welzl. In 1924, he lost all his property in a shipwreck. He managed to survive, and ended up in the US territory, where he was labelled a spy because of his lack of official papers. Having been deported, he ended up in Hamburg, where he struggled to survive. That was when he returned to his native Zábřeh. He would tell his incredible tales about the far North in public, packing halls – also the Zábřeh gymnasium –, enthraling listeners with his unique narrative style. His experience was recorded and published in the papers and as a book. However, Welzl had lost the ability to live in the modern world, not fitting in it because of his jovial nature and free spirit. In the end, he set out for his last journey and stayed in Alaska where he could only reminisce of the New Siberian Islands. He lived off of welfare, in a log cabin in Dawson, but he was not idle. Welzl was viewed as an oddball who would willingly show his inventions to passersby, and even wanted to create a perpetual motion machine. He lived alone, only with his dog. Welzl died at the age of eighty.

Nearby places of interest: Štítý – urban conservation zone; Horní Studénky – Church of St. Linhart pilgrimage; Brničko – castle ruins; Svěbohov – a folk architecture complex (1.).

MUSEUM ZÁBŘEH
Žižkova 1, 789 01 Zábřeh

All year round tuesday-sunday:
9:00 - 12:00, 12:30 - 17:00
www.muzeum-sumperk.cz



The village of Vysoká is the cradle of Franz Schubert's family

The area of Králický Sněžník Mountains, on the border of Bohemia and Moravia, captivates its visitors with picturesque countryside and many preserved military monuments that formed fortifications on the former German border. In these places, the Morava River begins its pilgrimage and offers, like the entire local area, a wide range of recreational activities. Few people suspect that the small village of Vysoká, a local part of Little Moravia, is actually the birthplace of famous composer Franz Schubert's ancestors. Right here, in the middle of romantic forests and steep mountain paths, his ancestors were born and lived.

Franz Schubert, who showed great musical talent from his youth, devoted himself to piano, vocal and chamber music. He also composed several symphonies. His work is said to show a certain melancholy as well as the magical nature of the region around the village of Vysoká he carried in his genes. Franz's father Franz Theodor was born in Vysoká and lived there for some time, before he settled in Vienna. His mother was born in Zlaté hory.

The musician's great-grandfather was a poor house-owner in Vysoká (formerly Neudorf). His son Carl Schubert, Franz's grandfather, had already enjoyed better status and wealth. As the village's mayor, he defended the interests of farmers and participated in a rebellion against the Kolštejn lords. He was a respectable and very religious person who made a deep impression on the region. For a while, the village of Vysoká was called Schubert-Neudorf, Schubert's village, in his honour. In 1782, he gave the initiative to build the baroque Chapel of the Holy Trinity, which he also funded. The dilapidated chapel was restored at the end of the 1990s. Here Franz, as a ten-year-old, supposedly played the organ when he came to visit his grandfather. Today, the small museum honouring Franz Schubert and his family is open to visitors.

Carl Schubert also had a sandstone sculpture of Christ on the Mount of Olives, located on a hill between Vysoká and Vysoké Žibřidovice, built at his own expense.

The impressive Classicist work is unique due to its location and art form as well as the beautiful view it offers of the surrounding countryside. The pedestal is decorated with Bible quotes.

Nearby places of interest:

Vysoký Potok – Chapel of the Holy Trinity; Hanušovice – Brewery Museum; New Castle ruins; Staré město pod Sněžníkem – Museum of Military History and Old Town Museum; infantry log cabins.

Hanušovice – Brewery Museum

Zábřežská 265, 788 33 Hanušovice

May - September:

Tuesday - Saturday: 10 AM - 12:15 PM; 12:45 PM - 4 PM; Sunday - Monday, Holidays: closed

October - April:

Tuesday - Friday: 10 AM - 12:15 PM; 12:45 PM - 4 PM, Saturday - Monday, holidays: closed

E-mail: muzeum@holba.cz

Phone No.: +420 724 776 384

www.pivovarskemuzeum.cz

A list of information centres

City	Address	Mail	Phone	e-mail, www
Bělá pod Pradědem	Adolfovice 41, Bělá pod P.	790 85	584452834	mic@bela.cz, www.bela.cz
Bludov	Tr. A. Kašpara 353	789 61	583238177	kulturni.dum@bludov.cz, www.bludov.cz
Bludov	Tr. Adolfa Kašpara 37	789 61	725508214	ticpdm@seznam.cz
Černá Voda	Rychlebské stezky, o.s. Černá Voda 193	790 54	607 061 445	info@rychlebskestezky.cz, www.rychlebskestezky.cz
Dřevohostice	Zámecká 88	75114	723 910 281	icdrevohostice@seznam.cz
Hanušovice	Hlavní 137	788 33	583 285 615	ic@ichanušovice.cz, www.ichanušovice.cz
Horka nad Moravou	Skrbeňská 669/70	783 35	585 154 711	info@slunakov.cz, www.slunakov.cz
Hranice	Pernštejnské nám. 1	753 01	581 607 479	mic@meu.hranet.cz, www.mic.hranet.cz
Cholina	Cholina 224	783 22	737 473 133	tic@obeccholina.cz
Javorník	Bílý potok 152	790 70	583 035 342	info@ekocentrumrychleby.cz, www.ekocentrumrychleby.cz
Javorník	Nádražní 160	790 70	584 440 688	info@mksjavornik.cz, www.kulturnidumjavornik.cz
Jeseník	Palackého 12	790 01	725 591 621	ic@mujes.cz, www.jesenik.org/ic
Jeseník	Priessnitzova 12/299	790 01	584 491 470	infocentrum@priessnitz.cz, www.priessnitz.cz
Kojetín	Masarykovo nám. 8	752 01	581 202 202	info@meks.kojetin.cz, www.kojetin.cz
Konice	Kostelní 46	798 52	582 334 987	icko.konice@seznam.cz, www.mekskonice.cz
Kouty nad Desnou	Kouty nad Desnou	788 11	585 283 282	info@k3-sport.cz, www.kouty.cz
Lipová - lázně	Lipová - lázně 476	790 61	584 421 209	www.ic-lipova.cz, muzeum@ic-lipova.cz
Lipník nad Bečvou	nám. T. G. Masaryka 13	751 31	581 773 763	tic@mek-lipniknb.cz, www.mesto-lipnik.cz
Litovel	náměstí Přemysla Otakara 762	784 01	585 150 221	tic@litovel.eu, www.tic.litovel.eu
Mohelnice	Lazebnická 2	789 85	583 430 915	karabova@mksdk.cz, www.infomohelnice.cz
Moravský Beroun	náměstí 9. května 4	793 05	554 773 147	info@morberoun.cz, www.morberoun.cz
Náměšť na Hané	Hrad 1	783 44	585 952 184	zamek@namestnahane.cz, www.namestnahane.cz
Němčice nad Hanou	Palackého náměstí 25	798 27	582 386 440	knihovna.nemcice@seznam.cz
Olomouc	Horní náměstí - radnice	779 11	585 513 385	tourism.olomouc.eu, infocentrum@olomouc.eu
Olomouc	Švédská 10	772 00	585 222 138	sekretariat@tourist-centrum.cz, www.tourist-centrum.cz
Plumlov	Zámecká 99	798 03	588882662	zamek.plumlov@seznam.cz, www.plumlovsko.cz/tic.asp
Prostějov	Pernštýnské nám. 176/8	796 01	582 329 723	informace@prostejov.eu, www.prostejov.eu
Přerov	Náměstí T.G.Masaryka 8	750 02	581 587 777	mic@kis-prerov.cz, www.prerov.eu
Rapotín	Šumperská 530	788 14	583 212 211	ic@kkrapotin.cz, www.kkrapotin.cz
Slatinice	Slatinice 29	783 42	581 573 000	info@tc-slatinice.cz
Staré Město pod Sněžníkem	náměstí Osvobození 166	788 32	725 502 753	info@mu-staremesto.cz, www.staremesto.info
Hynčice pod Sušinou	Hynčice pod Sušinou 16	788 32	778 069 319	bikecentrum@kolovna.com
Šternberk	Horní nám. 2	785 01	739 486 060	info@poznej-sterbersko.cz, www.poznej-sterbersko.cz
Štítý	nám. Míru 55	789 91	583440109	info@stity.cz, www.stity.cz
Šumperk	náměstí Míru 4	787 01	731 571 586	info@ic-sumperk.cz
Šumperk	Hlavní třída 14	787 01	583214000	ic@sumperk.cz, www.infosumperk.cz
Uničov	Masarykovo nám. 29	783 91	585 054 880	www.unicov.cz, mic@unicov.cz
Velká Bystřice	Zámecké nám. 775	783 53	734 236 506	www.velkabystrice.cz, kic@muvb.cz
Velké Losiny	Lázeňská ul. 674	788 15	583 248 248	infolosiny@losiny.cz, www.losiny.cz
Vidnava	Radniční ulice 84	790 55	725 636 457	infocentrum@vidnava.cz, www.vidnava.cz
Zábřeh	ČSA 1	789 01	583 411 653	info@ic.zabreh.cz, www.tourism.zabreh.cz
Zlaté Hory	Bezručova 144	793 76	584 425 397	mic@zlatehory.cz, www.zlatehory.cz
Zulová	Josefské náměstí 1	790 65	584 437 151	mkzulova@jes.cz, www.knihovnazulova.webk.cz

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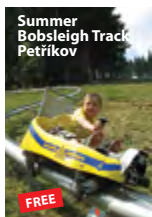


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