



RIDGE TRAIL
Bohemian Switzerland



Saxon-Bohemian
SWITZERLAND



**Experience
1,000 sceneries
in 100 kilometers**

The Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail

EN

GUIDEPOST

*The wonderful things in life are the things
you do, not the things you have.
Reinhold Messner*

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SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

The Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail is like a tasty box of chocolates. You can finish it all at once and enjoy all the tastes and smells, or you can choose chocolates of your own liking... It might be enjoyed in solitude or shared with others. Eventually, you finish the box of chocolates and that's it. Whereas, the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail is for you to always enjoy, to return to it, to change direction, to experience what is within reach, to rest and to make sense of places' souls, to run or lay, to eat or dream.

The array of experiences, environments, feelings and impressions is so wide, it does not matter if you're a kilometer chaser, a romantic, a record breaker, a wanderer with a dog, a family type, a dreamer, a pragmatist, a lover of nature, landmarks or folk architecture; a believer in

sustainability, whether you're laid-back or a streamliner, a seasoned hiker or a hiker-beginner. A generous portion of beauty for your satisfaction, wishes and dreams is to be found here. But seriously, the trail is really that magical.

And it really doesn't matter if the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail is only a mere stage in achieving hiking the complete Ridge Trail, or if you wander onto it from the Ore Mountains or the Lusatian Mountains, or if it has been your final destination all along. It always has a way of inhabiting your memory for the rest of your life. Trust us, we know it, we love it, we share it, and we recommend it.

*Everyone at Bohemian Switzerland,
The Public Benefit Society*

Do you know that you are hiking one of the most beautiful treks in Europe?

Really! We even have a certificate for it. It is issued by ERA – European Hiking Federation, which connects tourist organizations across Europe, creates long-distance routes (you may know the famous E3, which meets with the Ridge Trail in several spots) and awards prestigious prizes to the best trails. The rules are strict. Evaluated are, for example, the percentage of asphalt on the route, road quality, signage and information panels to ensure that no one gets lost. So as you walk along the Ridge Trail, try to stop for a moment, look around, and realize that you are standing on a path that has proven itself against European competition.

Now all that remains is to put on the backpack, breathe in and let yourself be led.

Petrovice Connector Trail and Stage #1 Left Elbe Bank



Stage #2 Right Elbe Bank



Stage #3 Around Hřensko



Stage #4 Jetřichovice



Stage #5 Hind Bohemian Switzerland



Stage #6 Krásná Lípa Surroundings and Stožec Connector Trail



Mehr unter hribenovka.com



Adam Kubiček – Falcon Tower

SECRET TIP



About 50 meters behind the Lesní Zátíší Pension is an unseem-
ing and unmarked path mostly only known to climbers. It will
lead you past the breathtaking sandstone rock formations
Ostříží stěny, and just 1.5 kilometers further, merge back into
the Rájec road.

PETROVICE CONNECTOR TRAIL

The Ridge Trail slithers to Bohemian Switzerland from the Ore Mountains. But to begin the 100-kilometer Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail, firstly the starting point in Tisá must be reached. The 6 kilometers leading to it are not to be overlooked.

The connector trail begins in Petrovice. Lovers of historical buildings and modern architecture combined will gladly make a 2.5 km long excursion to the **Church of Saint Nicholas**. The Baroque building has a glass roof, a rarity in Czechia only seen in Neratov in the Orlické Mountains and here. Entering the interior is only possible with prior agreement with local municipality.

The Petrovice Connector Trail first follows the educational trail “Forgotten Frontier” through meadows and a forest, then cuts through the “Niva Olšovského potoka” nature reserve, passes by the Rájec Pond (it’s not much of a swimming spot, but an elegant way of dipping your tired feet), and finally in Rájec by the Lesní Zátíší pension, the trail leaves the educational path and follows the rarely frequented road to Tisá.

STAGE #1

LEFT ELBE BANK

*From the town of rock
giants to the Elbe bank*

A longer route with mostly downhill
profile. You will ascend 437 meters
and descend 850 meters.



Adam Kubíček – Tisa Walls

THROUGH THE TISA WALLS

Kilometer zero of the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail is situated in front of the late Baroque Church of St. Anne in Tisá. Observing from above are the Tisa Walls, just where our first steps lead. Before reaching the rock town square, we will literally climb through the history of the village Tisá. First, thanks to the six information panels and then the memorial to those who fell in World War I.

Tisa Walls belong to one of the most beautiful rock towns in Czechia. If you're a fan of the movie *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, your heart will flutter here. It was at Medvědí doupě rock (Bear's Den) where Mr. Tumnus met little Lucy and brought her to his rocky dwelling. The massive

rock walls hide two tour loops between their fantastic rock formations. Even though the Ridge Trail only passes through the **Great Tisa Walls**, it would be a foolish mistake to miss the **Small Tisa Walls**. These have the appearance of a shallow rock labyrinth and are especially popular among children. Their most visited point is the spectacular viewing point over the tops of the rock towers. The more monumental Great Tisa Walls conceal two different routes. Our recommendation is to walk along the edge of the rock walls, offering never-ending views far into the landscape. The two different routes merge by the most famous formations: Hřib (Mushroom) and Želva (Turtle), and past the Turistická chata, the Ridge Trail goes on.



Adam Kubiček – Tisa Walls

THROUGH VOLSKE ROCKS TO BEDROCK AND TO ROCK TOWER

The Ridge Trail gently descends through the little-known and therefore less frequented smaller rock town of **Volske Rocks**, through vast birch groves, to the bottom of the rock basin that is adorned with sparkling cascades of little lakes. That is Ostrov. Formerly a hammer mill on the river Bělá, then glassworks, and these days a recreational settlement with excellent swimming options. All around, the vertical rock walls of Volske Rocks and **Ostrov Cliffs** loom up to forty meters high.

WITHIN REACH



A kilometer and a half from the crossing Nad Ostrovem, a bit behind the borders with Saxony, just on the edge of the rocks, you'll find the spectacular lookout Grenzplatte, the solitary rock tower Grenz-turm, the table mountain Děčínský Sněžník (Decin Snowy Peak), the valley of the river Bílá, which in these parts is also known as Bie-la... What an experience.

STORIES



HISTORY OF SANDSTONE CLIMBING

Bohemian Switzerland is the birthplace of sandstone climbing. It was here that, in 1888, the first-ever breakthrough climb at the rock tower Beckstein (now Pevnost) above the Gabriela's trail near the Pravcicka Gate took place. Three Saxon climbers laid the foundation for the climbing discipline still popular around the world. The rocks near Ostrov were one of the first sandstone climbing terrains; the first climbers came in 1906, and even now it is still teeming with many colorful climbing anchors. If we also count the rocks in neighboring Saxon Switzerland, then the area belongs to one of the vastest rock regions in the world, with almost 40,000 routes of all difficulties.



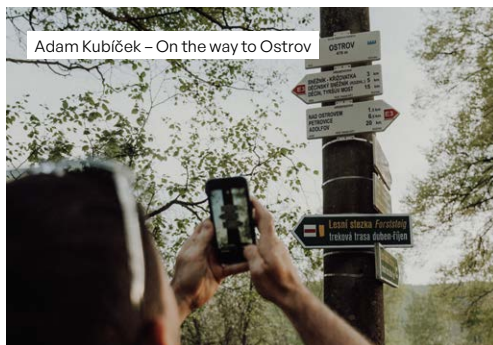
Adam Kubiček – On the way to Ostrov

From Ostrov, the Ridge Trail rises along the picturesque Mlýnská cesta (Mill Trail), through the dense forest, across the comfortably flat terrain past the Tabulky shelter, and along the road to the crossroads at the Hřebenová bouda Hotel near the village Sněžník on the plateau. Now, the second oldest stone lookout tower in Czechia is almost 2 kilometers far away, a little up the hill of the highest Czech table mountain, Děčínský Sněžník (Decin Snowy Peak).

WITHIN REACH



Before reaching the lookout tower, make a short excursion to the Dresden viewpoint. The view from the edge of the sandstone cliffs delivers an exclusive look at the table mountains of Saxon Switzerland and possibly even Dresden, which is 50 km away as the crow flies.



Adam Kubiček – On the way to Ostrov

WHERE TO STAY



- Hotel Ostrov (Ostrov u Tisé)
- Park Ostrov (Ostrov u Tisé)
- Hotel Česká koruna (Děčín)
- Camp Děčín (Active Point)
- Kocanda (Děčín)

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK



- Hotel Ostrov (Ostrov u Tisé)
- Hotel Česká koruna (Děčín)
- Kocanda (Děčín)

LUGGAGE TRANSPORT



- Bag & bike (Děčín)

WHERE TO LOOK FOR EXPERIENCES



- Active Point (Děčín)
- Northern Hikes (Děčín)
- Bohemia Adventures (Děčín)
- Saxon Tours (Praha)
- Aquapark Děčín

FROM THE TABLE MOUNTAIN TO TYRŠ BRIDGE

From the Sněžník lookout tower, we gently descend along the edge of the sandstone table mountain toward the striking rock formation Koňská hlava (Horse's Head), following the steep forest paths to Bělá, a part of Děčín.

Adam Kubíček – Shepherd's Wall

WITHIN REACH



From the Pod Koňskou hlavou shelter, the green-marked trail branches off to the left. This way lays Vlíčí Jezero (Wolf's Lake), an idyllic body of water hugged by a birch grove, making it a lovely stop to swim in and then continue your hike.

WITHIN REACH



Before descending the Pastýřská stěna (Shepherd's Wall), enjoy its rich offerings. You are steps away from the zoo hidden in the forest park. This facility holds about 450 animals of over 150 species, with the main goal being the breeding of rare and obscure animal species that are not found anywhere else in our country.

Only a few hundred meters away, on top of the rock wall looming above the Elbe bank, are two attractive lookouts at Děčín. And from the Tyrš Bridge, it's only a short while to the starting point of the unique via ferrata. Unique because it's the only via ferrata in Czechia found in a city center. 16 routes offer it all—for children and complete beginners. If you're too tired, swim it out or relax in the Aquapark. Also worthy, the Děčín Regional Museum entices with interactive expositions for young and old.

In Bělá, just past the Škrabky water tank from 1909, we turn uphill to the ridge of **Pastýřská stěna** (Shepherd's Wall), where many beautiful vantage points are located. At the end, we make a steep descent to the Elbe Bank, to the steel **Tyrš Bridge**, replacing the former chain bridge in 1933.

STAGE #2

RIGHT ELBE BANK

Above the Elbe Canyon

A longer route with an inclined start and descending finish, mainly along the ridges. You will ascend 456 and descend 463 meters.



Adam Kubiček – Labská stráž

FROM DECIN CASTLE TO LABSKÁ STRÁŽ

It is easily said to cross the Tyrš Bridge from the right bank onto the left, but Děčín is more exciting than that... There is previously Thun-owned **Decin Castle**, the most visited landmark in the Ústí region, with three tour routes, including a Baroque tour taking you to the stables, the Rose Garden, and the adjacent church, as well as the castle gardens; interesting cafés and restaurants; a very good campsite under a bridge; the possibility to rent a bike and explore at least a part of the **Elbe Trail** or the Ploučnice Cycling Trail; or to go down a good part of the river on a rented raft in the backdrop of the **Elbe Canyon**...

Shepherd's Wall - Decin Castle



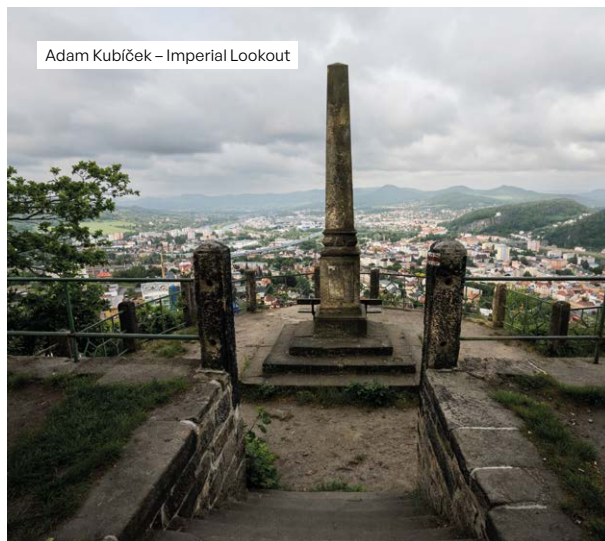
STORIES



THE STORY OF MIROSLAV TYRŠ

Miroslav Tyrš, a Czech revivalist, co-founder of Sokol, and author of Czech gymnastics terminology, is historically the most famous native of Děčín. He was born in a castle where his father, a doctor, worked in the service of the Thun family—he was, for example, the chief physician of the now defunct St. Joseph's Spa in Děčín. When he was three years old, still named Friedrich Emanuel Tirsch, he could hear the captivating piano compositions flowing from the south wing of the castle through the open window. At the time, Fryderyk Chopin was visiting. At the age of four, Tirsch left Děčín and owed his new name and revivalist thinking to the patriotic family who raised him after his parents' death.

Adam Kubiček - Imperial Lookout



The Ridge Trail eagerly winds its way up through the beautiful forest park, and we follow it to the top of **Kvádrberk**. Here, the **Císařská vyhlídka** (Imperial Lookout) awaits us. Built in 1879 in honor of the 25th wedding anniversary of Emperor Franz Joseph I and his wife Elisabeth of Bavaria, it rivals the views from Shepherd's Wall for the most beautiful glimpse of Děčín. We can also enjoy the view of the northern part of the Central Bohemian Uplands.

At the top of Kvádrberk, we come across a few other viewpoints. First, we arrive at the **Sněžnická viewpoint**. It juts out from the slope at a point, offering a good look upstream along the Elbe to Horní Žleb and at the horizon closed off by Děčínský Sněžník, and downstream to the majestic Růžové stěny (Rose Walls). The lookout point is equipped with a railing, a massive table, and a bench.



Adam Kubiček – Sněžnická viewpoint

Adam Kubiček – Labská stráž



STORIES



THE STORY OF LABSKÁ STRÁŽ

At the end of the 19th century, building a lookout tower on Kvádrberk was considered. However, the Děčín Planting and Beautification Association was unable to obtain the necessary funds and therefore decided to build a viewing pavilion on the rock above Loubí. The funds were raised through a long series of charity events, including concerts, lectures, and theater performances. In 1887, the Děčín builder Carl Hönig was able to begin construction, and in October 1890, people could gaze into the depths of the Elbe Canyon for the first time.

The view is magnificent—below flows the Loubí river transshipment point, and behind it, probably the most beautiful panorama of the southern part of the Elbe Canyon.

VIA RŮŽOVÁ VANTAGE TO BELVEDERE

The next route leads along the forest around Ludvíkovice. At the village's edge, we come face-to-face with a **memorial to those who fell in both World Wars** that is an extension of the quaint cemetery with many old headstones. Then, the Ridge Trail returns near to the rocks above the Elbe Canyon, first aiming towards **the viewpoint below Spálenisko** with a stunning view at Děčín, even the first hills of the Central Bohemian

Uplands and the depths of the canyon. After the next and last ascent for some time comes a turn leading to the Rose Walls. What awaits there is nothing like what you'd experience anywhere else in Europe because in continental Europe, Elbe Canyon is the largest and the most monumental sandstone valley, with depths reaching 300 meters. But more importantly, it's simply wonderful.

Adam Kubiček – Viewpoint below Spálenisko



The Růžová vantage is a scenic place. The flat rock tower tops, secured by metal railings, ensure uninterrupted views of the massive river bend and other rock massifs rising from the bank. One could say it's like a smaller Colorado.

SECRET TIP



About 1.2 km behind the Růžová vantage, a green-marked path takes you right. Taking this small detour is truly worth it. After not even a kilometer, you'll enter a mostly unknown and by tourists largely ignored small rock town. Its centerpiece is the exceptional sandstone formation Slunečná brána (Sun Gate). The massive rock gate is accompanied by other interesting formations, such as the Myší díra (Mouse Hole) rock crevice, the Lovecká stěna (Hunting Wall), and the Strážce Slunečné brány (Sun Gate Guardian tower). Return to the Ridge Trail via the same route.

The Ridge Trail soon merges with the princely carriage way coming from Bynovec, where the princely family Clary-Aldringen used to have their castle before it was destroyed by fire in 1846. It was this alley that carriages used to take to Belvedere. The Ridge Trail misses the alley and instead follows the carriage way later in the forest. Belvedere and Růžová vantage points are the two highlights of this stage. Though before, on an unassuming and unmarked path left off the Ridge Trail, after 100 meters, you'll come by a remarkable Gaudernack conciliation cross from 1775.



THE STORY OF BELVEDERE

In the 1710s, Prince Franz Karl Clary-Aldringen, owner of the Bynovec estate, had a stone railing installed on the massive rock plateau overlooking the Elbe Canyon. The lookout point construction also included building a sala terrena in the form of an artificial cave. The entire complex was used for celebrations, concerts, theater and opera performances. With the rise of Romanticism and the dawn of tourism, Belvédér (from the Italian belvedere, meaning “beautiful view”) took on a new meaning. As early as 1841, a wooden pub was built here, later replaced by a stone building.

The oldest man-made viewpoint in Bohemian Switzerland presents a truly magical view of the deep Elbe River canyon and the settlement of Dolní Žleb, the sandstone rock wall on the opposite side, and the nearest rock giants: Šírotek (Orphan) juts out above the valley on the left, and Sarajevská stěna (Sarajevo Wall), adorned with a photogenic pine tree, towers on the right.



THROUGH THE WILD RAVINE TO HŘENSKO

STORIES



From the crossroads at Belvedere, the Ridge Trail leads us along the green trail through forests, down an old, romantic staircase beneath the rocks into the depths of the Elbe Canyon. But not all the way to the road and ferry to Dolní Žleb. At the hairpin bend, we change direction, and a beautiful contour path under the rocks' not high above the river, in the direction of its northern flow. Later, a smooth descent takes us down to the road at the mouth of Suchá Kamenice (there is usually very little water in it) to the red trail.

THE STORY OF MILLER GÜNTER

At the end of the 18th century, carpenter Dittrich from Labská Stráň built a mill with a sawmill near the mouth of the Suchá Kamenice River into the Elbe. However, there was little water, and the owners were quickly changing. A certain Josef Günter succeeded, establishing a pub with a bowling lane and a dance hall, also hosting theater performances in the customs house opposite the mill. The mill quickly became a tourist attraction and finally began to prosper, despite it having no ties to grain grinding. In 1882, the mill burned to the ground. The customs house remained standing for a few months after 1945.

WITHIN REACH



Around 600 meters against the Kamenice stream, a ravine branches off from its left bank, hiding the most fantastical and picturesque buildings you'll ever come across in exploring Bohemian Switzerland. Pension Stará Plynárna resembles a hobbit's castle. A touch of Art Nouveau, a touch of romantic historicism. It used to be a gas-works that produced acetylene for public lighting.

Adam Kubíček – Right Elbe bank

WHERE TO LOOK FOR EXPERIENCES



- Active Point (Děčín)
- Northern Hikes (Děčín)
- Bohemia Adventures (Děčín)
- Saxon Tours (Praha)
- Aqupark Děčín

WHERE TO STAY



- Hotel Česká koruna (Děčín)
- Camp Děčín (Active Point)
- Kocanda (Děčín)
- Pension Pod Skalou (Hřensko)
- Pension Aperol (Hřensko)

LUGGAGE TRANSPORT



- Bag & bike (Děčín)

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK



- Hotel Česká koruna (Děčín)
- Kocanda (Děčín)

WHERE TO FIND EQUIPMENT



- Hudy Sport – shop, rental (Hřensko)



AROUND HŘENSKO

*From views of Pravcicka Gate
through the gorge to a forest oasis*

A short route with one steep and one even steeper climb.
You will ascend 373 and descend 224 meters.

WITHIN REACH



Honestly, anything and everything. Just hop on the ferry in Hřensko, cross the Elbe, and board the National Park Railway in Schmilka. It will bring you to all the attractive destinations in Saxon Switzerland, such as the spectacular Schrammsteine, the rugged Affensteine, or the starting points of the popular Malerweg, continuing via Sebnitz to the Šluknov Hook region with its lookout towers, sacred monuments, and beautiful trails.

FROM ELISALEX VIEWPOINT TO BOHEMIAN SWITZERLAND PANORAMA

STORIES



THE STORY OF EDMUND AND ELISALEX

Prince Edmund, owner of the Bynovec estate, which included most of Bohemian Switzerland, married for love, a not-so-common custom among the nobility at the beginning of the 19th century. He wanted to surprise his Elisalex, whose beauty left all of Europe (the Clary-Aldringens resided in Teplice, and in their day, everyone who was anyone on the continent visited their spa) in awe, by building her a castle in Hřensko. Two projects and two locations were considered: the first below Elisalex Rock on the Elbe bank, the second directly on top of it. *"When I win the lottery, I'll start building,"* he wrote in his diary. He didn't win, so he didn't start. However, later he built Sokolí hnízdo (Falcon's Nest), a hotel in Mezní Louka, a lookout tower on Růžák, renovated Gabriela's Trail, and made the gorges accessible. What a guy.

While many tourists rush to the Hřensko gorges, we linger at the village end and climb the steep hill along the Ridge Trail to a rock that bears the name of Elisalex, the wife of the fully in-love Prince Edmund Clary-Aldringen. From the **Elbe viewpoint**, you'll notice the confluence of Kamenice and Elbe, the Elbe Canyon in Saxony, and you can also peek into the gorge where Hřensko is located.

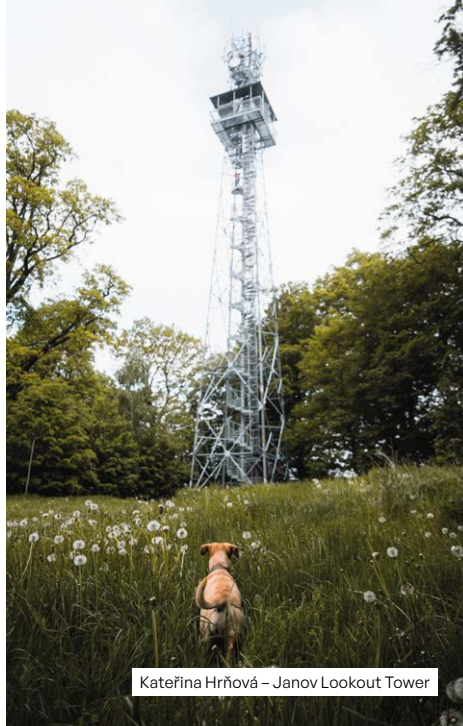
Adam Kubíček – Elbe viewpoint Elisalex



We climb the forest path, now more leisurely, to **Písečný vrch**, from where a large meadow brings us to the first buildings of Janov. The very first is a former **windmill** converted into a holiday cottage. It was built in 1844, and the windmill blades turned for eighty years. Then it became a home and remains so to this day, even though for some time it looked as if it would collapse. (There are two of its brothers in the vicinity—one in Arnoltice and the other near Růžová). The bench by the small pond comes in handy, as we have been walking uphill until now.

Despite being in close vicinity of the top destinations of Bohemian Switzerland, Janov is a lovely and peaceful village. Our steps lead us to Janov Hill; there, just above a 9-hole golf course (the northernmost golf course in Czechia, by the way), stands tall the **Janov Lookout Tower**.

It's the youngest lookout tower along and near the Ridge Trail. It was built in 2013 as a telecommunications tower with a spiral staircase and viewing platform 30 meters above ground. Except when temperatures drop below -10°C , the public can access it year-round. To climb the grated stairs is an adrenaline-filled experience, especially with strong winds. The view—royal. The view—royal. The Saxon table mountains Kaiserkrone, Papststein,



Kateřina Hrnčová – Janov Lookout Tower

Pfaffenstein, Königstein, and Lilienstein; the jagged towers of Schrammstein; the forest-covered Great Winterberg; and then the entire main sandstone massif of Bohemian Switzerland, from the Silver Walls through the Pravcická Gate with the Falcon's Nest to Winged Walls. The 360-degree view also allows you to see the peaks of the Lusatian Mountains and the Děčinský Sněžník (Decin Snowy Peak) table mountain.



Adam Kubiček – Janov Lookout Tower

VIA KAMENICE GORGE TO MEZNÍ LOUKA

The Ridge Trail is in its golf era, for now. First passing the boundary, then even wandering through a course, so beware of flying balls... Behind the course, the **Císařská lavička** (Imperial Bench) awaits, the central point of Jubilee Grove. Its name comes from celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Franz Joseph I's reign. To this day, it remains a nice spot to relax. The Ridge Trail now leads us to the forest, getting deeper and descending steeply.

WITHIN REACH



From the crossroads at the edge of the forest, if we hike during the summer holidays, we can take a short detour to the Indian village of Rosehill, less than 300 meters away. It is a kind of living museum in nature. Here you can see period teepees, Indian clothing, headdresses, toys, and musical instruments. You can even try your hand at archery, spear throwing, and tomahawk throwing.

Adam Kubiček – Mezní můstek

The Ridge Trail now makes a steep drop to the bottom of the Kamenice Gorge. We cross the river in Mezní můstek, and we head steeply uphill past two rock chapels.

STORIES



THE STORY OF KAMENICE GORGES

Prince Edmund Clary-Aldringen had contributed to Bohemian Switzerland by building its first tourist infrastructure and topped his legacy by making the narrow Kamenice Gorge accessible. Previously, it could have been entered only by a popular promenade along the river; however, it wasn't long and ended by the old weir. At the end of the 1880s, Edmund called in 200 Italian workers, including tunnel diggers, and at a cost of 1,700 gold coins, new access roads, a tunnel, and a new weir were built with the help of ships and needed equipment. On May 4, 1890, the new fairway was ceremonially opened, and to this day it bears the name Edmund Gorge. The Wild Gorge was opened four years after the death of Prince Edmund, in 1898.

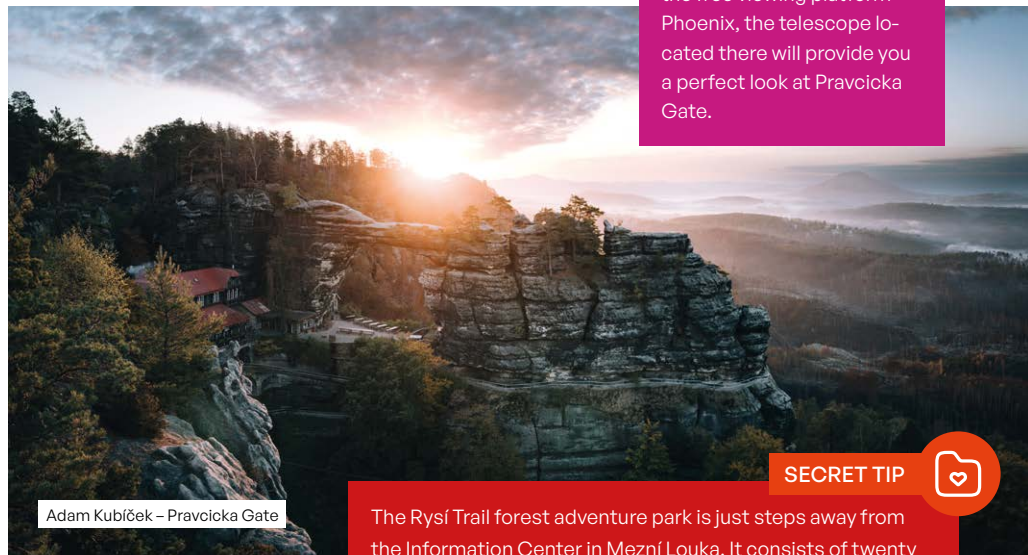
WITHIN REACH



Only half a kilometer from Mezní můstek, we reach a weir, marking the starting point of a boat ride in Wild Gorge. Navigation to the upper weir is a relaxing and majestic experience. The Wild Gorge is even narrower than Edmund Gorge, the strange cliffs seemingly closer to man. And it lives up to its name; the boat floats through wild nature, and it's no surprise that not far away, in an area people are not allowed to enter, animals and birds find refuge during the season.



We are at the top, entering **Mezná**, the only village in the national park. This charming and picturesque village delivers incomparable views of the gorges, the dominant hill Růžák, and the wall of sandstone cliffs out of which the Pravcicka Gate juts. From Mezná, we set off along **the most beautiful alley in Bohemian Switzerland**. If you walk here in fall, you will enjoy a cascade of colors—the crowns of maple trees forming the alley shine like lit torches.



Adam Kubiček – Pravcicka Gate

WITHIN REACH



From Mezná, the loveliest and safest tourist trail leads to Pravcicka Gate. It's marked yellow and copies the old Mlýnská cesta (Mill Road). When you access the free viewing platform Phoenix, the telescope located there will provide you a perfect look at Pravcicka Gate.

SECRET TIP



The Rysí Trail forest adventure park is just steps away from the Information Center in Mezní Louka. It consists of twenty playful, interactive stops that focus on the issue of caring for local forests. A wooden walkway above a pool, a rope bridge in a beech forest, a tactile walkway, a bark beetle climbing activity, a wooden walkway with animal tracks, and much more. Children in particular will love this stop.

The Ridge Trail leads us to **Mezní louka**. At the end of the 18th century, only a lodge stood here. Then a small pension was built, and in 1892 the “Grand Hotel und Pension zur Rainwiese,” sponsored by Edmund Clary-Aldringen, came to be. And you'll still find it there.

WHERE TO STAY



- Pension Pod Skalou (Hřensko)
- Pension Aperol (Hřensko)
- Penzion Arosa (Růžová)
- Resort Mezná (Mezná)

LUGGAGE TRANSPORT



- Bag & bike (Děčín)

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK



- Restaurant Na Vyhlídce (Resort Mezná)

WHERE TO LOOK FOR EXPERIENCES



- Active Point (Děčín)
- Northern Hikes (Děčín)
- Bohemia Adventures (Děčín)
- Saxon Tours (Praha)

WHERE TO FIND EQUIPMENT



- Hudy Sport – shop, rental (Hřensko)

STAGE #4

Adam Kubíček – Small Pravcicka Gate



JETŘICHOVICE

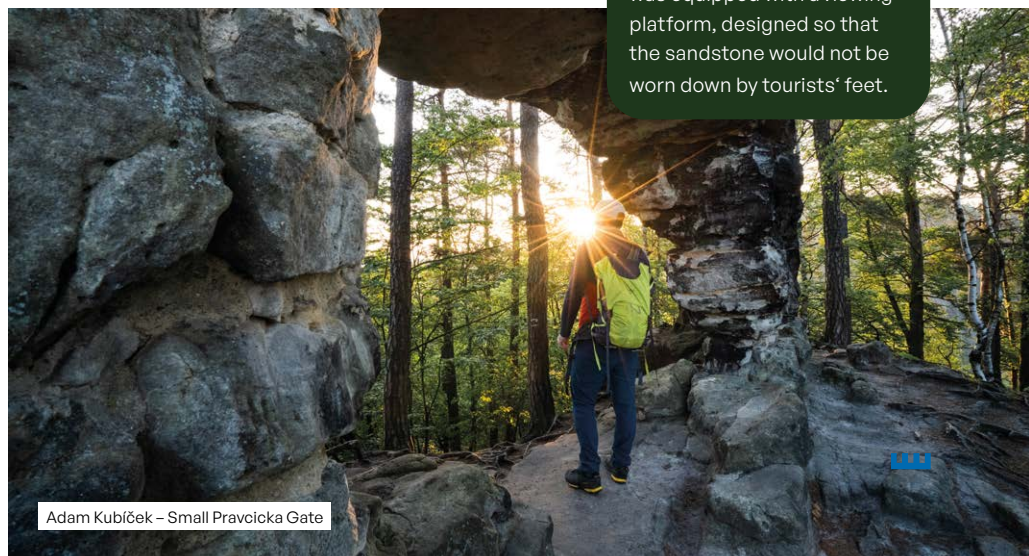
*Through rock gate to castle in the
rocks and Jetřichovice lookouts*

A short route with significant elevation, uphill gradual and long.
You will ascend 619 and descend 655 meters.

FOREST ROADS TO ROCK GATE

We set off from the Information Center in Mezní Louka; immediately behind the playground, we turn from the road and climb a very quiet forest path to a wooded ridge, leading us downhill past low rock walls into the valley below Větrovec and, always near sandstone formations, to the crossroads, from where we walk to the first significant point of this stage.

The **Malá Pravčická brána** (Small Pravcicka Gate) makes a sudden appearance, proving it is very similar to its big sister. The difference being, you can climb a ladder to a viewing platform and observe the distant landscape. The view is not complete, but believe there are still many perfect views to come.



Adam Kubiček – Small Pravcicka Gate

The descent from Small Pravcicka Gate is a romantic trail carved into a steep slope with few stairs. Nearly a hundred meters separate us from a turn to **the lookout by Větrná věž**, the second of six stunning views of this stage. What we saw from the top now opens up wide. The trail winds around striking cliffs, and at Větrná

věž (Windy Tower), it even passes under a huge block adjacent to the rock, so we walk through another gate. However, the most beautiful rock giant is undoubtedly **Strážce údolí** (Guardian of the Valley), a sandstone spire resembling the head of an ancient giant, which we pass at close range.

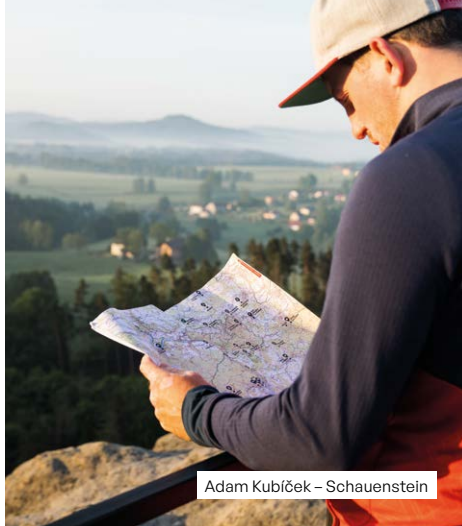
STORIES



THE STORY OF SMALL PRAVCICKA GATE

Over millions of years, the less resistant parts of rock eroded and fell away, and the natural elements completed the sculptural work – a rock gate. In 1994, part of the supporting pillar broke off, threatening to collapse the entire arch. Therefore, the rock pillar was reinforced to save this unique formation. In 2013, access was built, and the upper part of the gate was equipped with a viewing platform, designed so that the sandstone would not be worn down by tourists' feet.

Wooden stairs bring us just below a large rock massif where, in the Middle Ages, a guard castle, **Šaunštejn** (Schauenstein), stood. The top can be reached by ladders and stairs as new as 2022, as well as the viewing platform, assuring tourists' safety and the rocks' sustainability. The climb is worth it, though. The stunning views at the first hills of the Lusatian Mountains, Studenec, Lipnický Hill, majestic Růžák, and the table mountains Děčínský Sněžník (Decin Snowy Peak), both Zschirnstein mountains, and Zirkelstein.



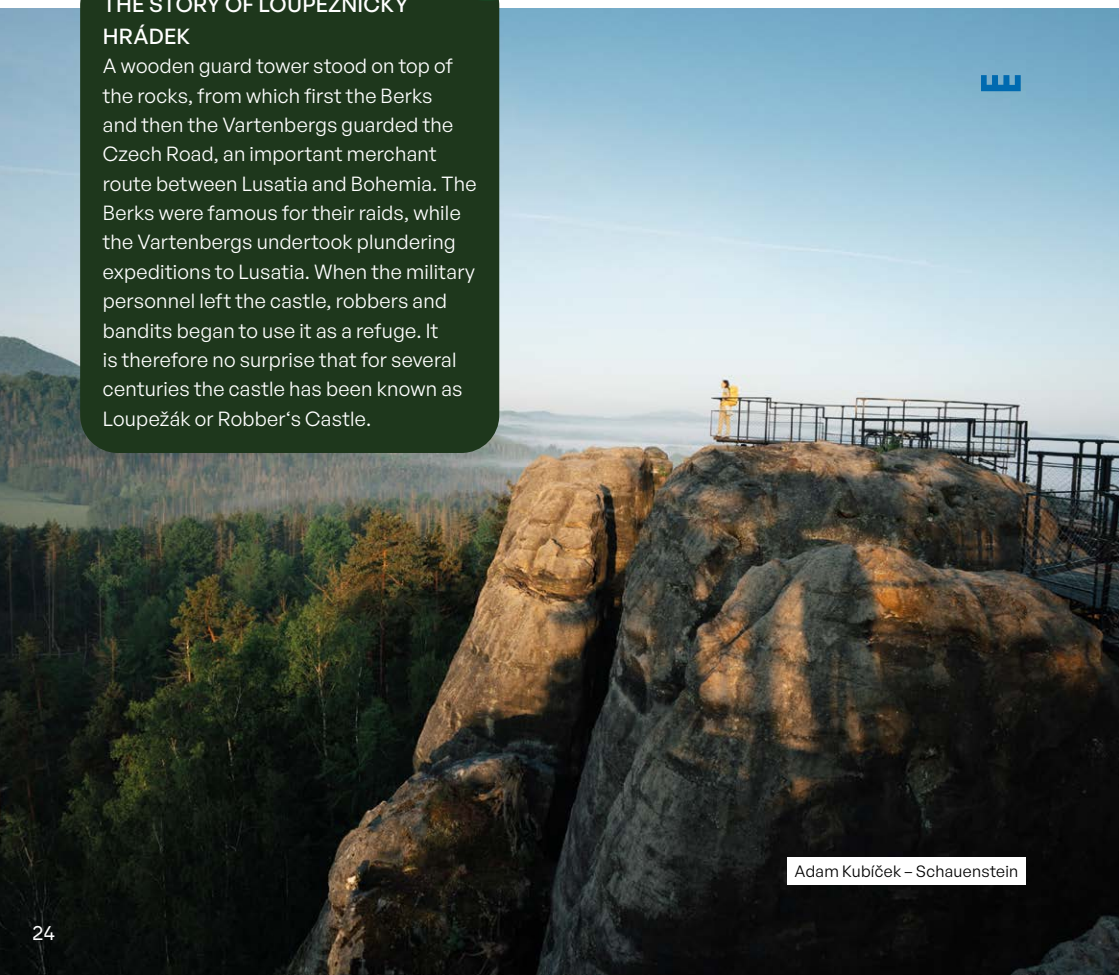
Adam Kubiček – Schauenstein

STORIES



THE STORY OF LOUPEŽNICKÝ HRÁDEK

A wooden guard tower stood on top of the rocks, from which first the Berks and then the Vartenbergs guarded the Czech Road, an important merchant route between Lusatia and Bohemia. The Berks were famous for their raids, while the Vartenbergs undertook plundering expeditions to Lusatia. When the military personnel left the castle, robbers and bandits began to use it as a refuge. It is therefore no surprise that for several centuries the castle has been known as Loupežák or Robber's Castle.



Adam Kubiček – Schauenstein



We descend along a winding path to the Pod Šaunštejnem crossroads with a pleasant resting area. We turn onto a slowly ascending path, the famous Česká silnice (Czech Road). After a while, we pass the tar kiln with a functioning model of a tar production facility, and we realize that **the Czech Road nature trail** will not only show us information panels, several sculptures but also other interesting stops. Soon we will encounter a wooden reindeer and a Stone Age hunter.

At the crossroads, where we make a turn for the Ridge Trail, it's possible to continue in Czech Road's original direction, the path taking us after 400 meters to a peculiar place. Following the boardwalk, we arrive at a replica of Uhlíř's cottage, known from the Czech fairy tale about the Proud Princess. The important thing is that it was not built just anywhere, but precisely where the film set stood in the early 1950s. The educational trail then continues for another 4 km, with other stops, and finally arrives at the abandoned settlement of Zadní Jetřichovice.



Archiv OPS ČS – Uhlíř's cottage

The Ridge Trail now finds itself on a path between rocks, up and down, all the way to a crossroads with a worthy turn to the blue trail,

exploring a little and discovering a beautiful chapel of the Last Judgment known as **the Rock Chapel of Kny**.



Discover the Jetřichovice lookouts with the new mobile app “Objevuj řeské řvřcarsko”. Your walk will turn into an adventurous journey guided by Lupřnek Wolf using augmented reality, quiz questions, and interactive games. For more information, see p. 29.

STORIES



THE STORY OF THE ROCK CHAPEL

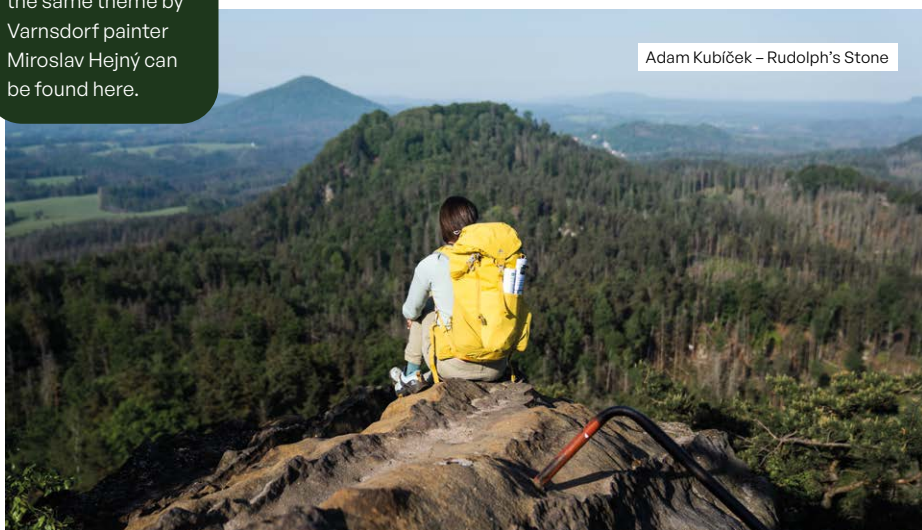
It was 1740 when Marie Anna Kny, the widow of an innkeeper and mayor, had a recess carved into a solitary boulder near the road and placed a painting of the Holy Trinity in it. When her descendant Johan Kny renovated and decorated the chapel a hundred years later, he replaced the almost decayed painting with a scene from the Last Judgment. Nowadays, a painting with the same theme by Varnsdorf painter Miroslav Hejnř can be found here.

Adam Kubiřek – Maria's Rock

We climb, circle the Koliřtř hill, and head towards Jetřichovice Walls. A sharp road bend brings us to **Gřrtner Bloř Slide**, a place where forest workers used sophisticated wooden or paved chutes to haul felled timber out of the woods in the 19th century. Passing a crossroads called Pohovka, we climb up to Ostroh, a sprawling rock formation that can be climbed with a little skill. We are at Jetřichovice Walls edge, at the first lookout point built by the Kinskř family, on **Rudolfřv křmen** (Rudolph's Stone). Its very convenient location offers perfect panoramic views of the entire Bohemian-Saxon Switzerland, the Lusatian Mountains, and the highest peaks of the Central Bohemian Uplands. The wildest lookout in Jetřichovice.



Adam Kubiřek – Rudolph's Stone





THE STORY OF JETŘICHOVICE LOOKOUTS

The young prince Rudolph Kinský was a sportsman. When he was eighteen, in 1820, he went on to conquer Hohnstein, thus becoming Rudolfstein. Five years later, he married Countess Vilemína Colloredo-Mansfeld and had Vilemína's Lookout built in her honor. The final lookout is the work of Rudolph's son, Jan Bonaventura. At the peak of Velký Ostrý, he built Mary's Lookout, also in his wife's honor.

The swaying trail along the ridge of Jetřichovice Walls is among the most impressive experiences in Bohemian Switzerland. It grants many unexpected views; it falls into ravines and then comes back, copies the rocks, and passes sandstone formations. The view from Vilemína's Lookout, not even half a kilometer from Rudolph's Stone, has one interesting thing in particular—it offers the best view of Mary's

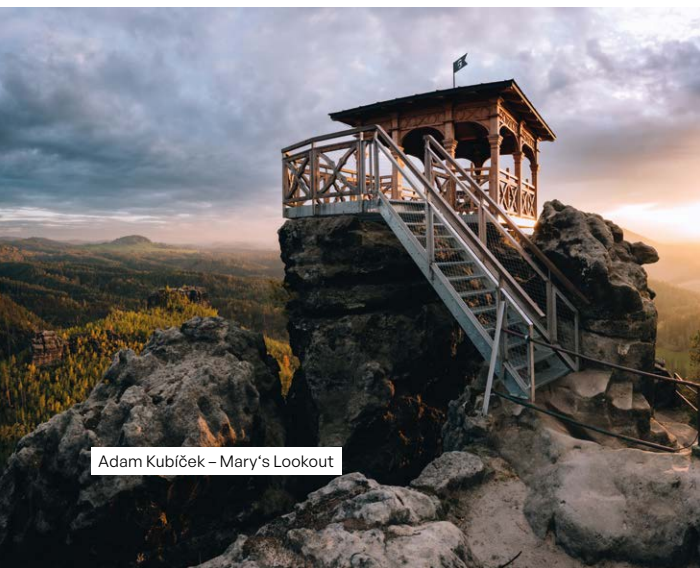
Rock. A replica of the original gazebo was placed there by helicopter.

Before reaching the promised Mary's Rock, the trail takes us to a rock overhang known as Balzerovo ležení or Tetřevna. When a large population of wood grouse used to live here, hunters used it as a base. And earlier than that, during the Thirty Years' War, Jetřichovice locals hid here to save their

lives from the plundering armies.

Olympus. The gods' viewpoint. Angels' gathering place. A spot to relax in heaven. Mary's Lookout—all of this and much more. The new, or rather old, gazebo is beautiful—but the view... Anyone who experiences sunrise or sunset here will never forget it.

The drop to Jetřichovice by the steep rock stairs is adorned by the view at the dominant Havraní skála that shares us a valuable lesson. It's hard to believe that in 2006, a forest fire raged here for a week, and anything alive on the rock was reduced to ashes. In two decades, nature perfectly took the burnt place back. And finally, Jetřichovice, the end of this stage.



Adam Kubiček – Mary's Lookout

WHERE TO LOOK FOR EXPERIENCES



- Rent your e-bike (Vysoká Lípa)
- Active Point (Děčín)
- Northern Hikes (Děčín)
- Bohemia Adventures (Děčín)
- Saxon Tours (Praha)

LUGGAGE TRANSPORT



- Bag & bike (Děčín)

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK



- Hotel Kortus (Vysoká Lípa)
- Bistro Falk (Jetřichovice)
- Hotel Bellevue (Jetřichovice)

WHERE TO STAY



- Hotel Kortus (Vysoká Lípa)
- Hotel Bellevue (Jetřichovice)

REST DAY IN JETŘICHOVICE

Walking a hundred kilometers along the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail takes good logistics—where to sleep, where to eat, and also where to rest. We have completed four stages; two more are ahead of us—it is high time to relax. And since we have arrived in Jetřichovice, let's take advantage of everything this village has to offer. Whoever wants to can go to the **Jetřichovice natural swimming pool**, play ping pong or volleyball there, or lie down by the water for a day if the weather allows. However, it's best not to fall completely out of pace. There are three walks to choose from, each exactly according to your mood and taste. (Distances are measured from the village center.)

First, **ROMANTIC** walk (8 km) Around Jetřichovická Bělá to Dolský Mill



Past the beautifully restored Michel's Cross, we come to the Baroque church of St. John of Nepomuk. You can take a look inside through a grid in the season, and then we continue along the road to Vysoká Lípa to the turn to Starý mlýn. Here begins a beautiful journey through the valley of Jetřichovická Bělá, the most beautiful stream in all of Bohemian Switzerland. Crystal clear water, white sand, and long green hair of water fairies that are actually stems of crowfoots. They will lead us through Hubert's Well to the confluence with the Kamenice River.

We will cross the bridge, and when we look at the massive bunches of crowfoots adorning the river, we recall that it is the oldest surviving reinforced concrete bridge in the country, dating back to 1902. The path leads us past the Royal Spruce, which has been growing here for more than two centuries, and around the rock massif we get to Dolský Mill.

There is no more romantic place in the region than the ruins of the former mill, often used by filmmakers; fairy tales and historical films were shot here. Walk through the carefully restored remains of the mill and return over the wooden bridge along the slightly winding path on the right bank to the meeting of Kamenice and Jetřichovická Bělá and the same path back to Jetřichovice.



Petr Jan Juračka – Dolský Mill

Second, ADVENTURE walk (8 km)

Jetřichovice Lookouts with Lupínek Wolf! Family-friendly tips.

With the *Objevuj České Švýcarsko* mobile app (Discover Bohemian Switzerland), a trip to the famous Jetřichovice Lookouts turns into an adventure for the whole family. Your guide, the lively and curious Lupínek Wolf, will introduce you to stories and attractions of this magical region along the way. The expedition is packed with quiz questions, interactive games, and fun elements with augmented reality, such as animated characters.

From Jetřichovice, go from the bus stop at the local Information Center along the blue trail, leading you around the church of St. John of Nepomuk and another church, this time a rock called the Cat Church. The route continues through Pfeifer Forest, where the beautiful Treppenstein viewpoint is located. Now the walk gets more demanding, with climbs, stairs carved into the rock, and sometimes you will have to lean a little on the stones. Follow the green trail to Pohovka crossroads; from there, set off on the red trail to the Rudolph's Rock viewpoint, where a breathtak-

ing 360-degree view of the surrounding area opens up. From Rudolph's Rock, you will descend via the crossroads of the Purkartický Forest to another dominant rock, Vilemína's Wall. A resting place at the rock overhang of the Balzerovo ležení (Tetřevna) is at your service before we walk a little bit to the last lookout, the famous Maria's Rock. From Maria's Rock, the descent gets steeper on the red trail, returning to Jetřichovice past the former children's sanatorium, now an accommodation facility.

If you complete the trail, you get an electronic certificate, and a reward waits for you at the House of Bohemian Switzerland.

And if you would like to experience another adventure with Lupínek Wolf, Jetřichovice also offers a shorter 3 km long route suitable for small children or strollers.

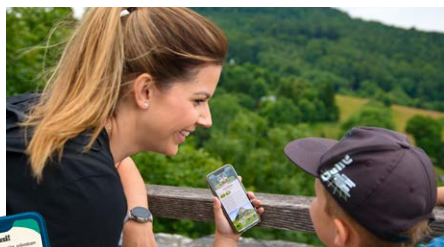
The third trip is to Tolštejn and a climb to the top of Jedlová.

How does it work?

1. Scan the QR code and download the free app.
2. Choose your route and get going.
3. Answer all the questions and get a reward!
4. Share your experiences with friends using the hashtag #objevujceskesvycarsko

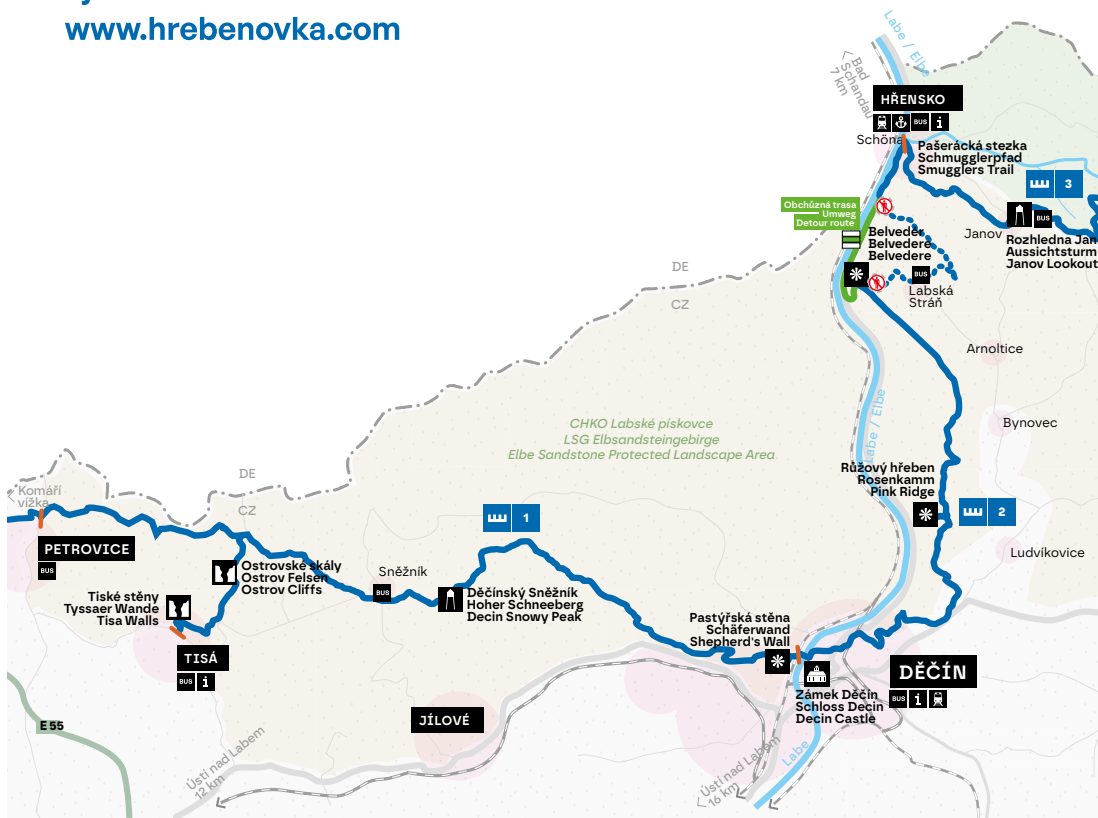
For the app to work properly, location and camera access need to be enabled on your mobile phone.

Get ready for an adventure like never before!

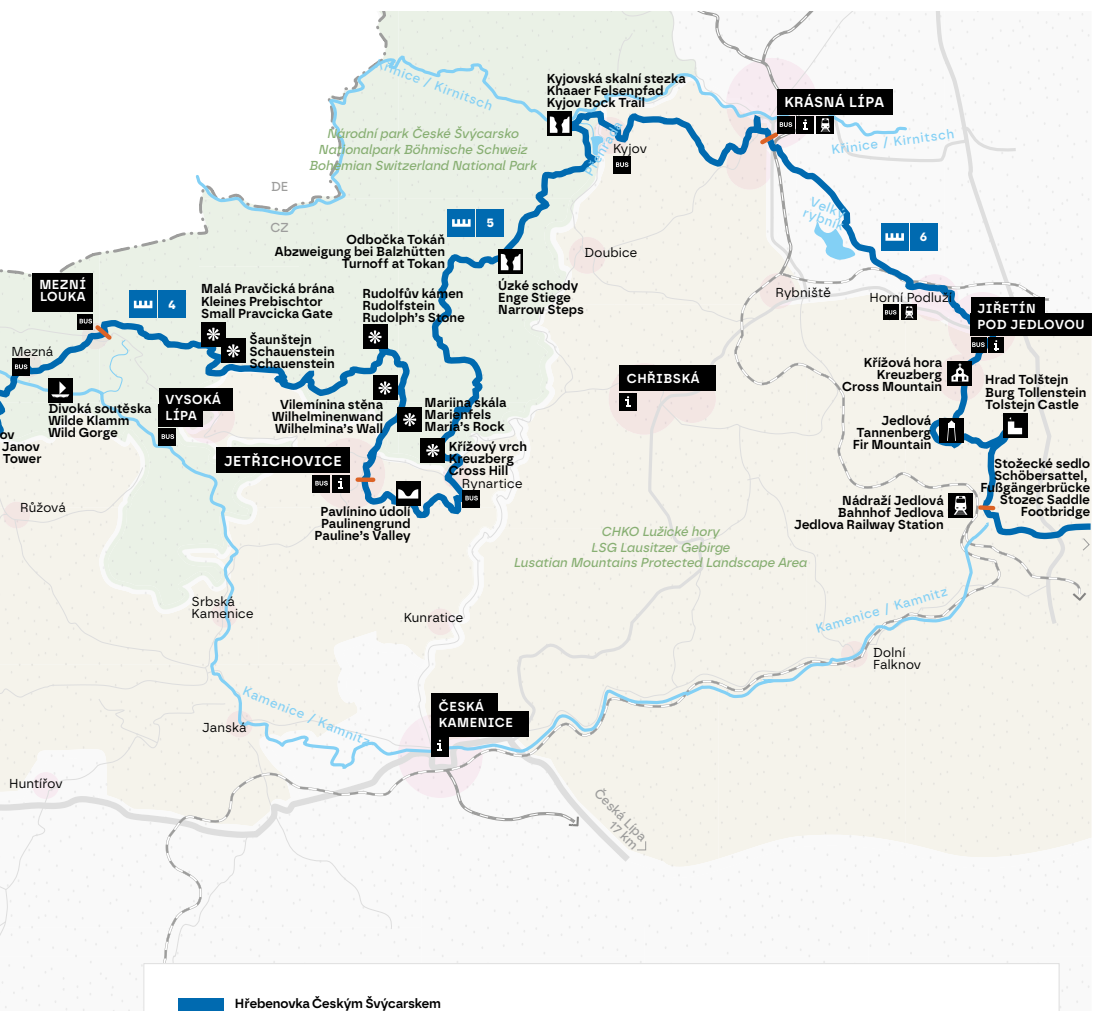




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1	2	3	4	5	6
Levý břeh Labe Linkes Elbufer Left Elbe bank	Pravý břeh Labe Rechtes Elbufer Right Elbe bank	Okolím Hřenska Rund um Hřensko Around Hřensko	Jetřichovickem Gegend von Jetřichovice Through Jetřichovice area	Zadní České Švýcarsko Hintere Böhmisches Schweiz Hind Bohemian Switzerland	Krásnolipskem na Jedlovou Durch die Umgebung von Krásna Lipa zum Tannenberg Through the surroundings of Krásna Lipa to Fir Mountain
20,3 km 17,9 km 542 m 437 m 849 m 850 m	20,5 km 456 m 463 m	11 km 373 m 224 m	13 km 619 m 655 m	23 km 791 m 590 m	13,5 km 2,3 km 382 m 123 m 286 m 51 m



 Hřebenovka Českým Švýcarskem
Kammweg durch die Böhmisches Schweiz
Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail

 Zámek
Schloss
Castle

 Autobusová zastávka
Bushaltestelle
Bus stop

 Plavba na lodičkách
Bootsfahrt
Boat ride

 Informace
Information
Information

 Rozhledna
Aussichtsturm
Lookout tower

 Vyhlička
Aussichtspunkt
Viewpoint

 Přívoz
Fähre
Ferry

 Žel. stanice
Bahnhof
Railway station

 Křížová cesta
Kreuzweg
Way of the Cross

 Skalní stezka
Felsenpfad
Rocky trail

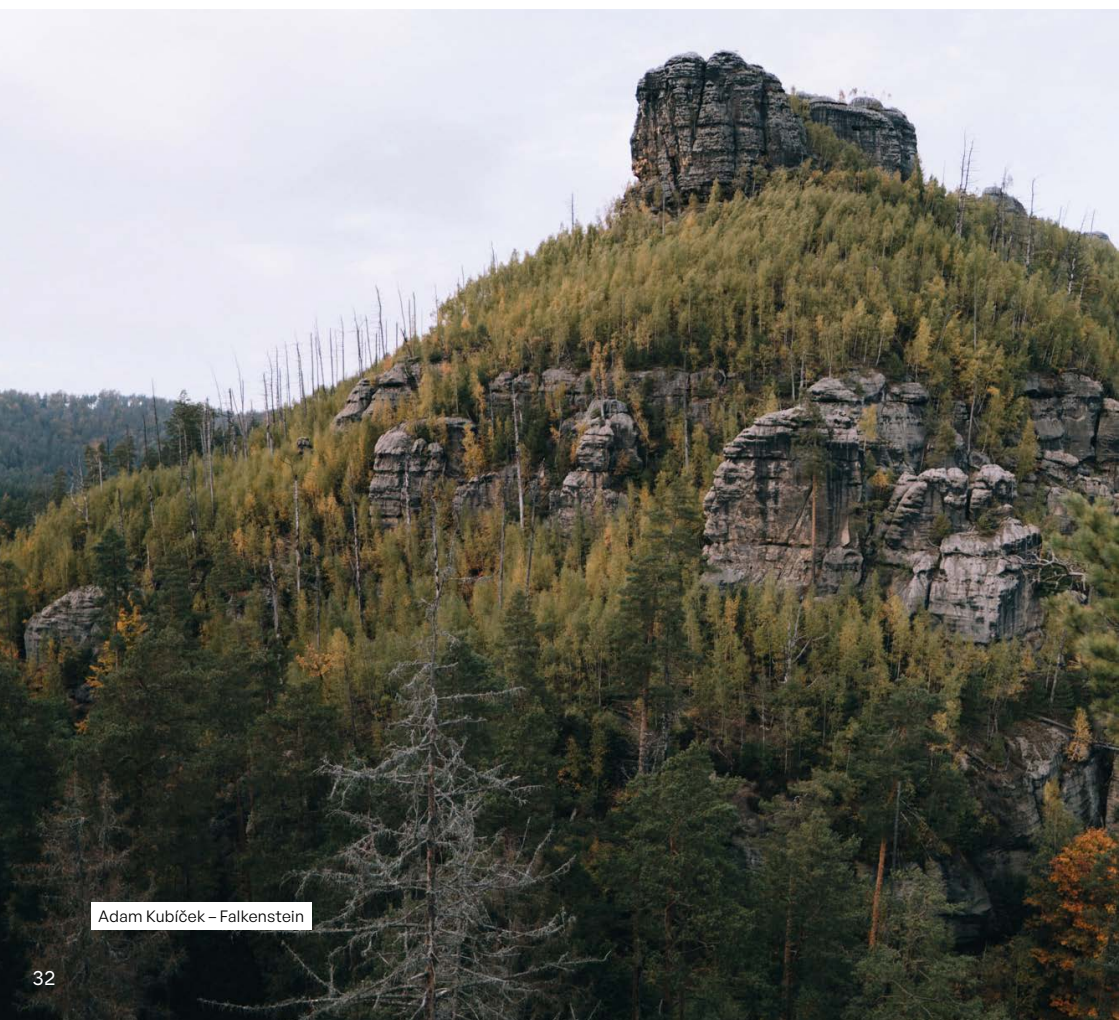
 Hrad
Burg
Castle

 Údolí
Tal
Valley

Third, FAIRY TALE walk (6 km)

To Falkenstein and via a church trail to dwarves

The trip starts leisurely at an easily accessible rock, for a few years now, where the old wooden castle Falkenstein used to stand. The view towards Havraní skála is priceless. We return to a tiny road leading uphill to Rynartice, but soon we make a turn to a church trail at an attention-grabbing cross historically called Frahlochkreuz, but the metal Christ silhouette is the artwork of a contemporary artist, Iva Švejnoha from Kytlice—you'll see his painted signs all over the region. We climb the old church trail, past St. Prokop's Chapel to Rynartice.



Adam Kubiček – Falkenstein



Adam Kubiček – Falkenstein

We follow the main road for now, heading downhill as if returning to Jetřichovice, but only around 200 m past the Ecce Homo Chapel to Trpasličí skála (Dwarves' Rock). As we climb stone steps between bas-reliefs of little men figures, we discover more and more of them. The rock was bought at the turn of the 19th century by a Vater father-son duo, who purposefully made it a tourist attraction. Although the plan to build a pub for thirsty hikers on top of the rock failed at the time, people still flock here today. Contrary to what many guidebooks say, the story is not about dwarves or Snow White. The Vater family reinvented a legend about a homeless woman

who got stuck in a rock crevice in the forest and was saved by forest men.

We return to the edge of Rynartice, about 30 m from the sign marking the beginning of the village; we turn right past a log cabin, and an unmarked path leads us to a wonderful place—a sunken lane carved into sandstone, whose origin is still unknown. Perhaps timber was transported along this route, or perhaps it was a merchant trail... The lane ends at a rock chapel with a painting of St. John of Nepomuk. We follow the beautiful ridge path downhill to Jetřichovice.

STAGE #5

Adam Kubiček – Pauline's Valley



HIND BOHEMIAN SWITZERLAND

*From river to river, through rock
crevices and through a vanished village*

Difficult and the longest route in rugged terrain.

You will ascend 791 meters and descend 590 meters.

THROUGH PAULINE'S VALLEY TO CROSS HILL

STORIES

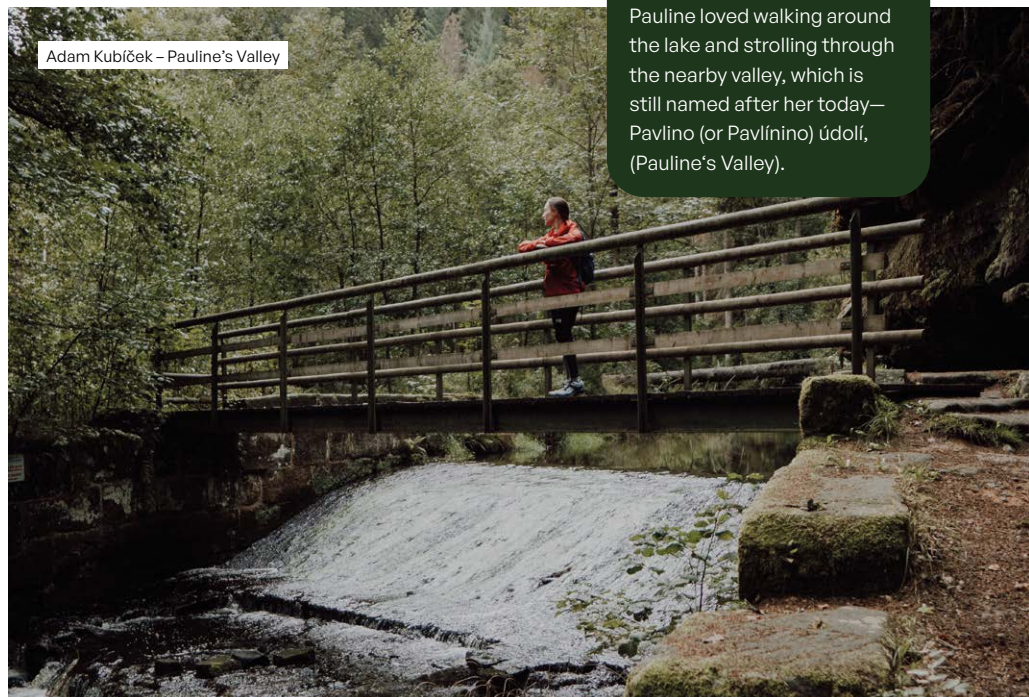


THE STORY OF THE SPINNER AND HIS WIFE

In 1831, Farmer Ignaz Griesel built a mill at the lake Lindicht Teich powered by Chřibská Kamenice. However, he wasn't all that successful because of the number of millers in the area. The building was taken over by Josef Müller, a businessman from Krásná Lípa, converting it into a spinning mill and polished yarn production facility. His wife Pauline loved walking around the lake and strolling through the nearby valley, which is still named after her today—Pavolino (or Pavlínino) údolí, (Pauline's Valley).

We pass through Jetřichovice on an uphill forest path near a road to Griesl Cross, and near an outdoor swimming pool, we drop to the valley of a little river, Chřibská Kamenice. The stage opens with a picturesque turn, inviting us to the village trail **Pavlinka**. An unusual start—through a rock tunnel, which was a former millrace carved into the rock, the mill waiting for us on the other side. Once there was about half a meter of water here, but today we can cross it dry-footed. The next path leads around the lake. At its end, we cross a simple footbridge and notice Rusalka's cave, a small rock crevice flooded with water, and return to the river through a decorated gate.

Adam Kubiček – Pauline's Valley



To go up the river in Pavlínino údolí (Pauline's Valley), to cross the bridges from one bank to another, to breathe in the calmness, to sense the rocks nearing and narrowing—a stunner in

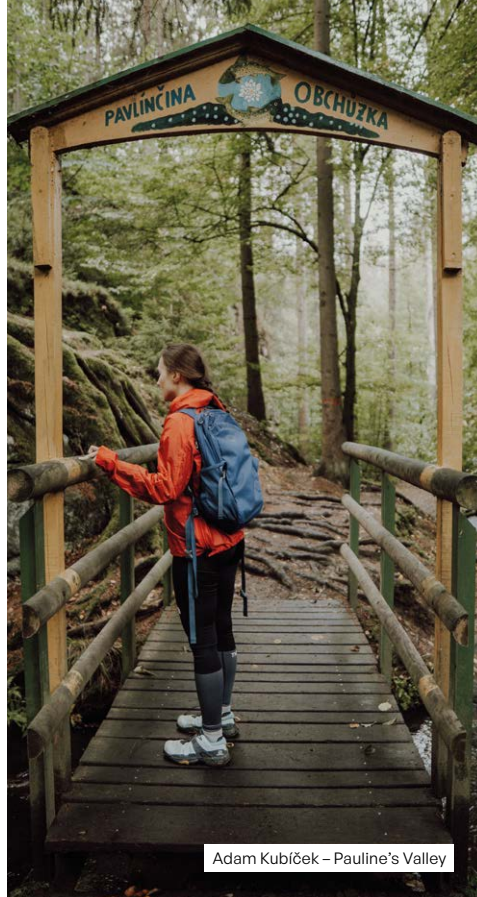
any season. As Studený brook flows into Chřibská Kamenice, the Ridge Trail crosses the river for the last time and begins the climb towards Rynartice.

Rynartice, the best-situated settlement in Bohemian Switzerland, with many old Upper Lusatian houses and wonderful panoramas of the landscape. That's where the Ridge Trail guides us to Wellness Hotel Zámeček (it used to be a hunting lodge built sometime in the mid-18th century by Filip Josef Kinský), and before running off to the deep forests, we enjoy another breathtaking view of the nature enveloping the impressive Růžák hill.

SECRET TIP



Go up!!!! The hill that the Ridge Trail encircles is Křížový vrch (Cross Hill). It is adored by photographers, forming a crowd in the morning. Despite not being very high, its location offers gorgeous views into the depth of Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland, and mornings prepare a magical show, fog majestically rising from the icy ravines as the sun rises. You'll have a detailed view of Mary's Rock, the panorama with the dominant Růžák opens up, the huge Studenec is nearby, and there's a view of Jedlová... Simply said—one of the most magnificent sceneries in all of Bohemian Switzerland.



Adam Kubíček – Pauline's Valley



Michal Guzi – Cross Hill near the Wellness Hotel Zámeček

THROUGH WILDERNESS AND ROCK CREVICES TO SÝROVÝ BROOK

Now we walk across the meadow around Suchý vrch, then along a pleasant forest path above sandstone ravines, a total of about 3.5 kilometers through pure wilderness in the woods. Then we walk around the protected memorial tree, Jiří Marek's oak, to Louka Na **Tokáni**, an important tourist crossroads in the heart of Hind Bohemian Switzerland.

The next Ridge Trail section is very attractive. The forest path guides us to a rock town hidden in the trees. We meet **Cipísek**. Always and anytime. It's quite a short, remarkably eroded rock by a path, and it can be climbed. If you're hiking with children, good luck getting them off. After a while, a wider valley unfolds. Attention is drawn to a rock with the Princess's plaque and a relief crown, a carved reminder of the presence of Princess Vilemína Kinská in 1849.

Now the **Úzké schody** (Narrow Steps) await us, a tourist magnet since Romanticism. The narrow gorges, initially equipped with ladders and now with steep metal stairs, have had many names, such as Angel Stairs or Dwarf Gorge. Ladies in crinolines and gentlemen in tailcoats struggled to squeeze through. Unforgettable.

WITHIN REACH



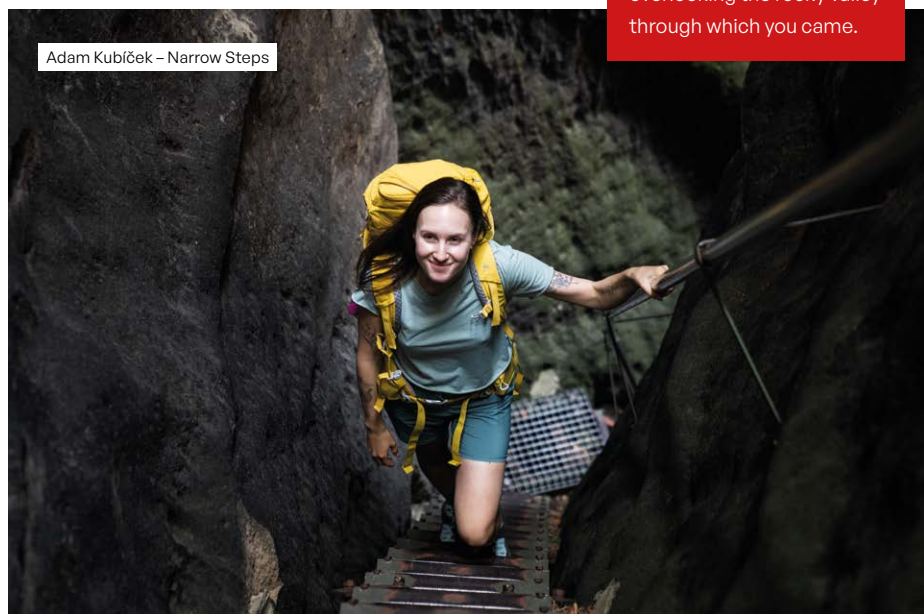
The Kinský family continually built a colony of spacious Alpine-style log cabins in this area. Unfortunately, two of the five burned down in 2020, yet the atmosphere remains powerful, thanks to its location in a rocky basin beneath the High Walls. The Kinský Trail once passed through here.

SECRET TIP



Above the Narrow Steps, you'll pass the rock spire Maják (Lighthouse). As you inch past it, you will discover a secret viewpoint overlooking the rocky valley through which you came.

Adam Kubíček – Narrow Steps



We follow a scenic trail along the rock edge and caves that used to be called Theodorova chodba, now Dvorana, and we enter an unassuming sandstone town with not high but eclectic rocks hidden in the forest terrain. We slither through narrow slits to crossroads U Eustacha, where on an oak, a St. Eustace, patron saint of hunters, looms over. It's not the final interesting tree. A mighty Třípac-kový buk (Three-lobed Beech) lies ahead of us. The name sounds mysterious, but it is a "dreilotiges Buche," meaning a tree on the border of three plots of land. We cut through the forest terrain, significantly marked by logging after a bark beetle crisis. Let's head along the ridge Druhá brána, offering spectacular novel views all the way to the crossroads Hřebec.

From the crossroads Hřebec, we descend just next to **Kyjov Dam** on Sýrový Brook with wonderful swimming options. Passing beautiful cottages nestled beneath large rocks, we reach Kyjov Valley, formed by the Křinice River, and the crossroads in the Sýrový Brook valley.



WITHIN REACH



From the Three-lobed Beech, we turn to the yellow path leading you soon to Doubice, a picturesque village saved by cottagers. A living open-air museum of folk architecture. Also Stará hospoda (Old Pub) and its inspiring park of wooden sculptures, coupled with now historic military vehicles.

Adam Kubiček – Kyjov Valley

THROUGH KYJOV VALLEY AND A VANISHED VILLAGE TO A HEATED TOMB



Adam Kubiček – Kyjov Valley

From Sýrový Brook, we climb wooden and stone steps to the **Skalní bratři** rock formation and **Kyjov Castle**, an old settlement and a place where prospectors and miners tried in vain to extract iron ore. A viewpoint within spitting distance overlooks the Kyjov Valley. At the rock tower and **Praporek** viewpoint, we descend through another crevice called Mouse Hole into the **Kyjov Valley**. After a brief detour to the nearby **Klenotnice**, a remarkable group of rock towers leaning towards one another and one of the largest gates in the Elbe Sandstone Mountains, we make our way through the main valley along Křinice, where we see the rock **Wine Cellar** and the **Fairy Cave** (it's a difficult access to a small area where tiny ice stalactites form in the winter). After that, we march past the **Kinský Lookout** to the center of Kyjov.

WITHIN REACH



If we turn left, it is only up to us how long the detour is going to be. We can head via **Dlouhý důl** to the village of Vlčí Hora, climb to the **Vlčí hora lookout tower**, or visit the tearoom **Bylinková čajovna** or **Nobilis Tilia** aromatherapy cosmetics store. Their sprawling Vlčíhorská Garden is also spectacular.

The long hill and its meadows take us to barely evident remains of the village Hely (Nassendorf). It's interesting how a person can sense they are wandering through a place where houses once used to stand and whose remains have almost vanished. We make our way through a settlement, **Kamenná Horka**, a part of Krásná Lípa; we pass the Kögler Cross and slowly descend to the town park in Krásná Lípa. Adjacent to the cemetery is a lofty building, and nearby, we are surprised to find the remains of a boiler room with an 8-meter chimney. We are at **Dittrich's tomb**.



We are at Křínické Square in **Krásná Lípa**, and thankfully, we discover that the end of the stage finishes at craft **Brewery Falkenštejn** and a tasty restaurant.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR EXPERIENCES



- Active Point (Děčín)
- Northern Hikes (Děčín)
- Bohemia Adventures (Děčín)
- Saxon Tours (Praha)

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK



- Bistro Falk (Jetřichovice)
- Hotel Bellevue (Jetřichovice)
- Lípa Resort (Krásná Lípa)
- Brewery Falkenštejn (Krásná Lípa)

STORIES



THE STORY OF DITTRICH'S TOMB

Following the passing of the town's philanthropist, trader, and factory owner Karl August Dittrich, his son of the same name built a magnanimous museum. There's nothing else like it in the world. Not only because the tomb was sophisticatedly heated by a nearby boiler room. It is primarily due to the involvement of the renowned architect Julius Carl Raschdorff (who designed Berlin Cathedral and the mausoleum of Emperor Frederick III) and the interior decorator, local painter August Frind, who also designed the unique mosaics in the crypt. Currently, plans are underway to renovate this recently appreciated monument.



WHERE TO STAY



- Hotel Bellevue (Jetřichovice)
- Penzion Na Bělidle (Krásná Lípa)
- Lípa Resort (Krásná Lípa)
- Brewery Falkenštejn (Krásná Lípa)
- Apartments České Švýcarsko (Krásná Lípa)

LUGGAGE TRANSPORT



- Bag & bike (Děčín)



KRÁSNÁ LÍPA SURROUNDINGS

*Along the avian reserve and the Way
of Cross to Lusatian Mountains*

A short, easy route with one steeper hill.
You will ascend 382 and descend 286 meters.

For two decades, Krásná Lípa has been the eastern gateway to Bohemian Switzerland, but it is also a natural starting point for the Lusatian Mountains and the Šluknov Hook, still mainly undiscovered by tourists. Year by year, the town's condition improves and is definitely worth a calm walk-through, which becomes the last stage's prologue. Don't miss the Information Center in the **House of Bohemian Switzerland** to find out what you don't even know yet, to buy regional products and literature, Ridge Trail merchandise, and tickets to a two-story interactive **exhibition titled Life—Mystery—Inspiration** about the remarkable features of the area you have just walked through. You can also watch a short film here titled *Landscape of Mystery*.

WITHIN REACH



To brighten your day, walk the 10 km loop from Krásná Lípa through the beautiful alley and former settlement Skřivánčů Pole to the peak of Dymník. You'll find yourself there in the middle of a remarkable cluster of modern menhirs called the Tree of Life, and you can preview the last stage of the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail from the brick lookout tower at the top of the hill. Then follow the blue trail through the forest back to Krásná Lípa.



Klára Mrkusová – House of Bohemian Switzerland

Now let's get going!

From the square to the dam of the **pond Cimrák** (a nice dip with a small beach), then past one of the most beautiful buildings of North Bohemia—the **Villa Hiele**, past the building of the **Bohemian Switzerland National Park Administration** (originally a youth residence built by the Dittrich family) to the railway station, where a **wheelchair route** begins, guaranteeing a comfortable and wide path without any elevation.

The Ridge Trail first guides us through pastures, then enters the forest at a beautiful meadow with a small island of trees, and emerges at a clearing called *Táborová louka*.



Stone Tree of Life

The Ridge Trail runs past the **Velký rybník** (formerly Bernsdorfer Teich), which is the largest waterwork in the Děčín region and is also an avian reserve, so swimming is prohibited. However, this is compensated by the fact, if you have

binoculars, you can spot gray cranes, penduline tits, harriers, reed warblers, buntings, grebes, or even sea eagles, and that's just a fraction of the more than 170 species of birds.

We come closer to the houses of the village Ladečka, a part of **Horní Podluží**. We pass the Baroque statue of **St. Joseph** and cross the Lužnička Stream on a bridge with **St. John of Nepomuk** and an interesting forged cross, and a bit further, a wayside shrine. But the most beautiful cross stands behind the last houses in the middle of fields. It's forged, with an impressive pedestal, enclosed by a short fence. A stunning detail completing the landscape.



Pavlaína Vansteenkiste – Světlík Windmill

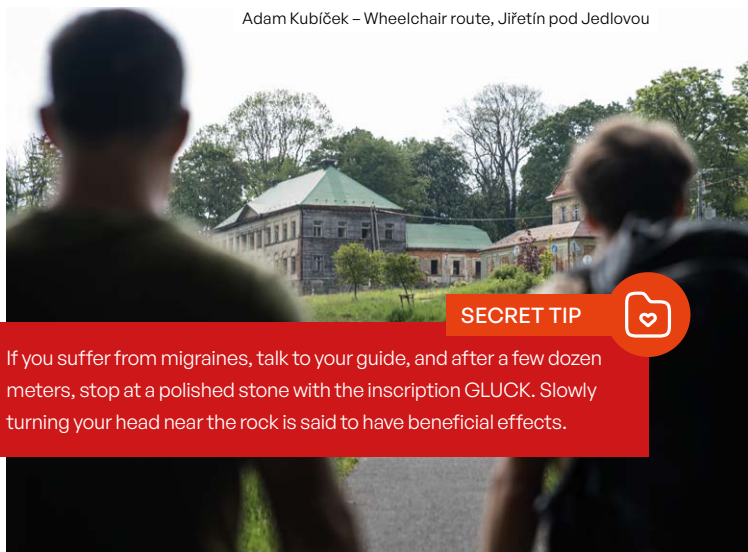
WITHIN REACH



If we make a turn in the center of Horní Podluží to the cycling path marked 3013, after 1.5 km, we reach the **Světlík** lake. Here, our breath is taken away by one of the best-preserved windmills in the country, with complete wings and a technically well-equipped interior. To enter is not allowed, but the quaintness of the Světlík Windmill is exceptional.

We are on the outskirts of Jiřetín pod Jedlovou, but before entering the village that used to be a mining town, we turn right, and behind the former cowshed, we discover the entrance of the **St. John the Evangelist viewing tunnel**. The tunnel takes us 360 meters deep into Cross Hill. The commentary teaches us about medieval and later mining of copper, lead, tin, and silver.

Adam Kubiček – Wheelchair route, Jiřetín pod Jedlovou



SECRET TIP



If you suffer from migraines, talk to your guide, and after a few dozen meters, stop at a polished stone with the inscription **GLUCK**. Slowly turning your head near the rock is said to have beneficial effects.



WITHIN REACH

One and a half kilometers outside Jiřetín, in the direction of Dolní Podluží, begins a 5-kilometer loop of **the Milfka Valley** mining nature trail, taking you to six former tunnels, four shafts, and one quarry.

From the charming square, we now head along the Ridge Trail to **Cross Hill**. We embark on the **Way of Cross**, one of the most beautiful in the country. We climb past individual stations to **the Chapel of the Holy Cross**, to a miraculous spring protected by a statue of the Virgin Mary Immaculata (the water is said to help against eye diseases). Then we continue across a meadow; psychotronics have measured an exceptionally strong emanation of telluric, or earth, energy in the center of it. We are at the **Holy Sepulcher**.

STORIES



THE STORY OF THE LOOKOUT TOWER ON TOP OF JEDLOVÁ

When Emperor Joseph II climbed up Jedlová in 1779, it was clear the hill was quite exceptional. Tourists came 70 years later and began multiplying when the first train took them to a shiny new train station in the forest valley below Jedlová on January 16, 1869. The Mountain Association for Northern Bohemia arranged roads to the top, built a tourist lodge, and in September 1891, the 29 m high rock lookout tower with a battlement was grandly opened. The fame of the lookout tower, and famous it was, lasted until World War II; then the tower and cabin withered away. In the 1980s, a demolition was even planned. Repairs were done by a private tenant in the 1990s, so the tower's rebirth came in July 1993, the cottage only 2 years later.



Adam Kubiček – Way of Cross, Jiřetín pod Jedlovou

The Ridge Trail now takes us along a grassy ridge, offering views of the eastern Lusatian Mountains on the left, while on the right, the mountains and hills of Bohemian-Saxon Switzerland, led by Růžák, parade before us. **Jedlová** rises before us, and we proceed up one of the ski slopes to reach just below the summit. Here, the trail turns right. We climb gracefully up the northern and western slopes of the mountain, looking deeply into the Šluknov Hook and Bohemian Switzerland. This is one of the most striking sections of the Ridge Trail outside the central sandstone area. From the western slope, a turn leads us to a flat summit with a tourist lodge and lookout tower.

The stone lookout tower delivers spectacular views—and unique ones because Jedlová sits right on the divide of Bohemian Switzerland and the Lusatian Mountains (it's its third-highest peak), and we can observe both of these regions. Along the Ridge Trail, it's the second most sweeping view of North Bohemia and even distant Saxony after Děčínský Sněžník (Decin Snowy Peak).

Crossing the beechwood, it feels like being in an ancient cathedral with many a column. We arrive at the scenic meadow below Tolštejn to immediately begin the ascent to the **Tolštejn Castle**. Well, it isn't really a castle nowadays but a popular and well-preserved ruin whose top spots are easily accessible by stairs and viewing platforms.

STORIES



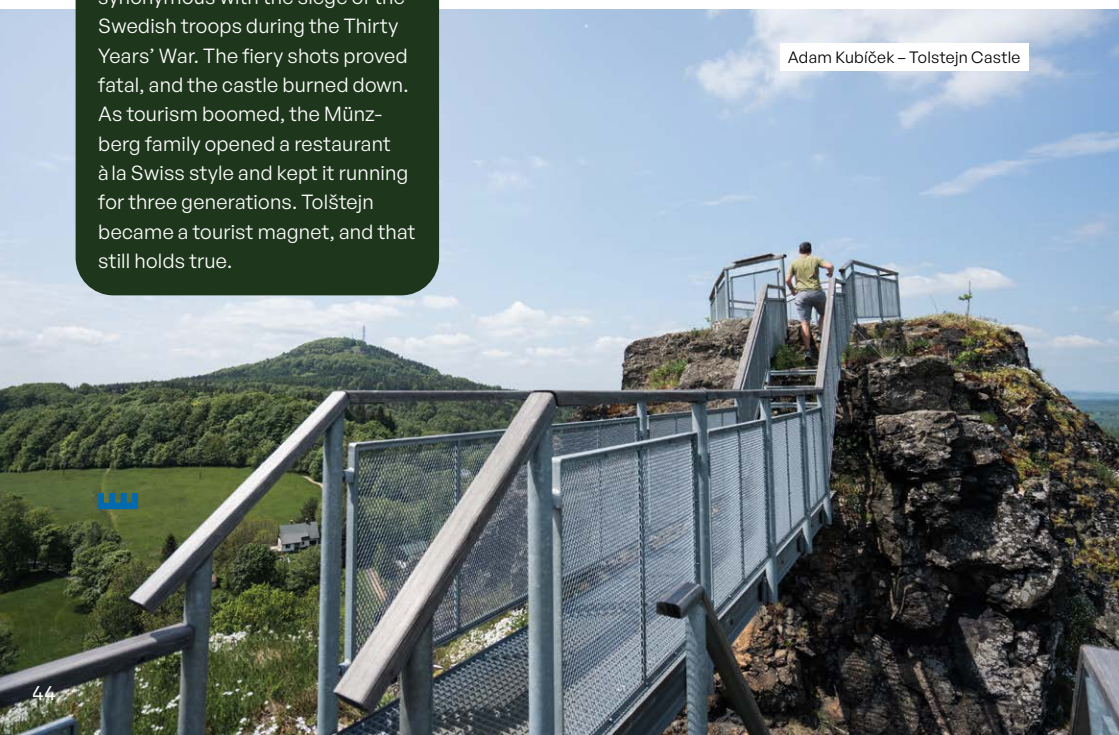
THE STORY OF TOLŠTEJN

Already sometime in the 14th century, a massive castle was built; it guarded the trade road from Bohemia to Lusatia. Its demise is synonymous with the siege of the Swedish troops during the Thirty Years' War. The fiery shots proved fatal, and the castle burned down. As tourism boomed, the Münzberg family opened a restaurant à la Swiss style and kept it running for three generations. Tolštejn became a tourist magnet, and that still holds true.



Adam Kubiček – Lookout tower Jedlová

The Old Tolštejn Road drops to a valley, then to a picturesque, hidden-in-trees train station, **Jedlová**. There we conquer the hundredth kilometer, and we are almost finished with the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail.



Adam Kubiček – Tolštejn Castle

STOŽEC CONNECTOR TRAIL

The Ridge Trail, of course, isn't over; it continues to the **Lusatian Mountains**. The symbolic divide between the two regions happens to be in **Stožecké sedlo** (Stozec Saddle Footbridge), actually, locals only call it Šébr, right on the new **footbridge Cózrovka** that overarches the busy road to Cvikov and Nový Bor. From the Jedlová train station, it's nearly 3 km downhill. The trail is exceptional; let's hit the trail.



In one kilometer, we first must defeat 125 vertical meters; only then can we continue via a forest path to Konopáč, also called Jelení skála. Our steps, first lead to a sunken lane of the old Prague road, then we meet a **rock column of St. Jacob**, and only a bit after the replica of the ancient **Three-Estate Column** that divided the estates of Zákupy, Česká Kamenice and Tolštejn, and Rumburk, we turn uphill, and in a while, we observe the tops of Jelení skála.

The trail leads us on top of the ridge to another bald hill—**Jelení kámen**—again displaying magical views, and we can add up to them at the **viewing point Sofia**. The footbridge to Šébr is only mere steps away. Whoever's up for it, has the time and energy, may continue the Ridge Trail and discover the yet uncovered beauties of the Lusatian Mountains.

WHERE TO STAY



- Penzion Na Bělidle (Krásná Lípa)
- Lípa Resort (Krásná Lípa)
- Brewery Falkenštejn (Krásná Lípa)
- Apartmens České Švýcarsko (Krásná Lípa)
- Apartmens Jedlová (train station Jedlová)
- Bohemian Homes (Horní Podluží)

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK



- Brewery Falkenštejn (Krásná Lípa)
- Lípa Resort (Krásná Lípa)
- Restaurant Jedlová (train station Jedlová)

WHERE TO LOOK FOR EXPERIENCES



- Adrenalin park Jedlová (under the lookout tower Jedlová)
- GALLI DISTILLERY (Dolní Podluží)
- Active Point (Děčín)
- Northern Hikes (Děčín)
- Bohemia Adventures (Děčín)
- Saxon Tours (Praha)

LUGGAGE TRANSPORT



- Bag & bike (Děčín)

WHERE TO AND WHERE FROM?



How to get to the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail

Whether you decide to walk the complete Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail or if you choose one of the stages or a combination of them, be sure to experience new things and to hike with your breath held. It's about time to find out how to get to the stages' starting points. A general recommendation: LEAVE YOUR CAR AT HOME. The transportation system of the Ústí region is very elaborate, and the transport accessibility is also excellent.

Archiv OPS ČS

Petrovice

Direct buses from Ústí nad Labem

Buses from Děčín with transfer in Libouchec

Tisá

Direct buses from Ústí nad Labem
Buses from Děčín with transfer in Libouchec

Děčín

Direct trains from Prague and Ústí nad Labem

Direct trains from Liberec and Dresden

Boat line T92 from Ústí nad Labem

Hřensko

Direct buses from Děčín and Krásná Lípa

Trains from Děčín and Dresden to Schöna station
and the Elbe ferry

Boat line T92 from Děčín and Ústí nad Labem

Mezní Louka

Direct buses from Děčín, Hřensko and Krásná Lípa

Jetřichovice

Direct buses from Děčín, Hřensko and Krásná

Lípa, during high season, weekend buses from
Česká Lípa and Nový Bor

Krásná Lípa

Direct buses from Děčín via Hřensko, from

Jetřichovice, Rumburk, Chřibská,
Varnsdorf

Direct trains from Děčín, Rumburk, Česká Lípa,
Mladá Boleslav, Nymburk, Kolín

Jiřetín pod Jedlovou

Buses from Děčín and Varnsdorf

Jedlová

Direct trains from Děčín, Rumburk, Krásná Lípa,
Česká Lípa, Mladá Boleslav, Nymburk, Kolín

Šébr, or Stožecké sedlo

1.5 km on foot on the blue trail to Nová Huť. Tra-
in station Nová Huť in the Lusatian Mountains,
passenger trains on the route Mladá Boleslav
– Česká Lípa – Krásná Lípa – Rumburk

National Park Railway

Exceptional transportation project for the re-
gion of Bohemian Switzerland. The rail system
made of 3 lines ensures access to all main
destinations of the national parks Bohemian
and Saxon Switzerland.

Adam Kubíček – DÚK



U28 line operates throughout the whole year from Děčín along the Elbe through Schöna (ferry to Hřensko), Bad Schandau – Sebnitz – Mikulášovice – Šluknov – to Rumburk.

U8 line also operates the whole year and connects Rumburk – Krásná Lípa – Rybníště – Chřibská – Jedlová – Kytlice – Česká Kamenice – Děčín.

U27 line operates from spring to fall on the weekends. An ideal connection from Mikulášovice, via Brtníky, Panský, to Krásná Lípa (the east gateway to Bohemian Switzerland).

Lusatian Express

It departs from Prague to the Lusatian Mountains and to Šluknov Hook, via Jedlová and Krásná Lípa to Mikulášovice, and then back. It operates every Saturday and Sunday and on national holidays from the last weekend in March to November 1. The train service includes a bar carriage with a dispensing window (draft beer, lemonade, coffee, tea, and snacks).

Bus line 434

Tourist bus line operating the whole year along the national park on route Děčín – Hřensko – Mezní Louka – Vysoká Lípa – Jetřichovice – Rynartice – Chřibská – Rybníště – Doubice – Kyjov – Krásná Lípa. Very convenient for accessing stages' starting points and other spots on the Ridge Trail.

Bus line 441

The tourist shuttle bus runs every 30 minutes between the most famous destinations in Bohemian Switzerland, closely connected with the Ridge Trail. It operates between Mezní Louka – Pravčická brána – Hřensko – Janov – Na Hájenkách (above Wild Gorge). In May, June, September, and October, the bus runs only on Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays. During the summer holidays (July, August), it runs every day.

Bus line 436

The shortest bus connection Děčín – Jetřichovice.



You can always find current timetables at **idos.cz**.



Jízdenky
•
Jízdní řády
•
Aktuality



Bus line 432

It connects many Ridge Trail destinations. It runs from Děčín – Růžová – Labská Stráň – Janov, Na Hájenkách (above Wild Gorge). In Libouchec, there are transfer options to buses 452/471 to Tisá. It operates year-round.

Bus line 438

The main bus route to the Bohemian Switzerland National Park. It runs year-round on the route Děčín – Hřensko – Mezní Louka – Mezná.

Bus line 452

Bus to the starting point of the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail on the route Ústí – Libouchec – Tisá – Petrovice – Bahratal.

Tourist bus 471

Ústí – Libouchec – Tisá – Sněžník.



Luggage transport in Bohemian Switzerland
Enjoy the ridge hike without heavy luggage.

THE STORY OF THE RIDGE TRAIL, OR HOW IT ALL BEGAN?

From four comb teeth to the longest trail in Europe

Ridge Trail

April Sunday

It was Sunday, April 13, 1902. Above Varnsdorf, clouds were gathering over Varnsdorf like a gang of mischievous children. An uplifted mood dominated the conference room. At the invitation of the MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION FOR NORTHERN BOHEMIA, the most important tourist associations from the surrounding regions gathered here. Representatives from the MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION FOR BOHEMIAN SWITZERLAND, the GERMAN MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION FOR THE JEŠTĚD MOUNTAINS AND JIZERA MOUNTAINS, and the ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH LUSATIAN NATURAL SCIENCE AND MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATIONS OF LUSATIA from Zittau.



Historic logo of the Ridge Trail



Why a blue comb?

Otto August, a factory owner from Varnsdorf, spoke solemnly at the podium. He presented his proposal for an unconventional pictogram, which was to be used as a tourist sign for a 60-kilometer hiking trail, the reason why everyone had gathered there. The ridge trail was to lead from Růžovský vrch via Dolský mlýn, Všemily, Česká Kamenice, Líska, Studenec, Jedlová, Tolštejn, Luž, and Hvozď to Ještěd. The pictogram should be supraregional, understandable to both Germans and Czechs. And in the speaker's hands appears a blue comb with four teeth as a reference to the four associations that agreed on laying out the Blue Ridge Trail-Blauer Kammweg. Given that most tourist markings were red at the time, it was actually a small revolution.



Historic Tolstejn Castle

The First Guide

It wasn't really an original idea. The admitted inspiration was the famous Pinzgauer Spaziergang system of Alpine trails near Zell am See and the Rennsteig running trail in Thuringia. The Blue Ridge Trail was marked out and, less than a year later, thoroughly explored by two friends-Anton Amand Paudler, a researcher from Česká Lípa, and August Frind, a native of Krásná Lípa and a renowned painter. Not only did they walk the entire route, but they also wrote and illustrated the first guidebook of the Blue Ridge Trail.



Anton Amand Paudler



August Frind



The Ridge Trail opens up and then disappears

The idea caught on, and the Blue Ridge Trail soon began to expand. In 1903, associations in the Jizera Mountains and Krkonoše Mountains began marking the route to Sněžka. Just one year later, an initiative was launched in Chomutov to extend the Blue Ridge Trail to Aš, and that was not the end. In 1913, the Blue Ridge Trail reached Thuringia, and in the 1920s, its eastern branch was reported to be as far as Praděd. By 1935, it had been marked from Aš through the Upper Palatine Forest and Bohemian Forest. The total length of the Ridge Trail reaches 1,200 km, making it the longest hiking trail in Europe at the time. After the war, however, the blue comb vanished from public memory and from the crossroads. In many sections, however, the Ridge Trail was replaced by the red long-distance border trail, marked by the Czechoslovak Tourist Club, then called the Guard Trail. Was this the end of the legend?

New Ridge Trail

Fortunately, no. The Ústí and Liberec regions, the area of Ridge Trail's origin, prepared a project, and the Ridge Trail began to resurface. The official connection of the routes through both regions was created by a new footbridge, the Cózrovka footbridge. In September 2021, it bridged the very busy road leading over the Stožecké sedlo, which everyone here calls Šébr (after the historical name Schöbersattel).

The Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail

The restoration of the Ridge Trail continued in the Ore Mountains. But the question was, should the original route be preserved or a new one found? Different sections of the Ridge Trail approached this differently. Bohemian Switzerland creatively explored to find the most interesting passage through the beautiful area



Mountain cabin on top of Studenec with a lookout tower in the background



School in Všemily



Dolský Mill from the Neue Kammweg guidebook

of rock towns and castles, misty gorges, river canyons, forests, meadows, and gems of folk architecture, and thus the Ridge Trail through Bohemian Switzerland was created. Different, new, magnificent, enticing. It also unites towns and villages with interesting stories and accommodation options. The story continues.

JOURNEYS THAT CHANGE YOU

What is the magic of long-distance hiking trails? First and foremost, it is the joy of discovery and the opportunity to experience the present moment to the fullest. It is always a kind of initiatory journey, a journey that reveals who we really are and who those who walk with us are.



Pilgrims, alchemists, compatriots...

The popularity of several-day or even weeks-long hikes continues to grow. It is as if we have suddenly awakened a desire that lies deep within. Since prehistoric times, humans have had a need to wander along rivers, mountain ridges, and paths built in valleys and gorges. Who was the first person to set out on a journey not out of necessity to reach a destination, but for the pleasure of the journey itself, poses an interesting question. Who were the predecessors of the first tourist-hikers? Probably those who took part in religious pilgrimages in the Middle Ages. Or perhaps compatriots and journeymen, wandering alchemists and monks... While traveling, they all took in the scenery, but it still wasn't the landscape that was their destination.



Adam Kubiček – Cross Hill

Romanticism, when hiking was born

It was Romanticism that altered the way people thought. Suddenly, it was no longer reason that prevailed, but emotion. Not reality, but fantasy. Not knowledge, but experience. And most of all, nature was suddenly regarded as a temple, something magical, mysterious... beautiful. Mountain and hiking clubs began to pop up; the first infrastructure was built: roads, lookout towers, viewpoints, even educational trails... People

started walking for the sake of walking, traveling for the sake of traveling. It wasn't so much about the destination, but how you got there. Maps took on a new dimension and content; people began to mark their routes, allowing other travelers to share their experiences. Despite its borders, Europe became connected by long trails that often crossed many mountain ranges or followed rivers, valleys, and canyons.



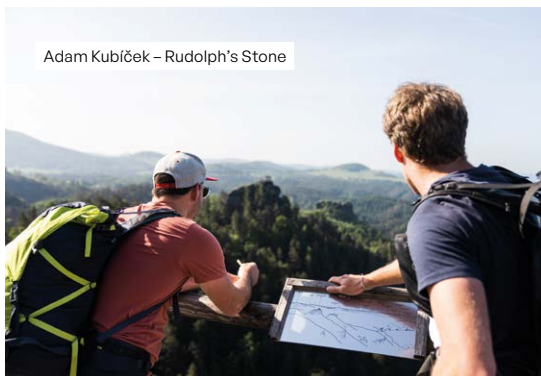
Adam Kubiček – Mezní můstek

Modern humans and long-distance hikes

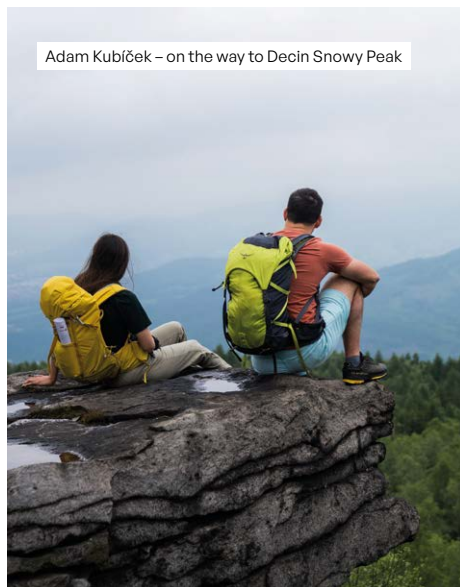
Step out of the mundane into the unknown, find space for dialogue with yourself, with nature, and with the people you walk with and meet along the way. That is the phenomenon of long-distance trails today. And it is growing worldwide. Especially in our country, Czechs are above-average hikers in global context. At least once a year, 8 out of 10 Czechs use their free time to hike.

Breathe in and go

The possibilities are endless. You can choose any of the three European trails crossing Czechia (E3, E6, E10), you can try Via Czechia or any pilgrimage route, the historical trail 0001 from Beroun to Vysočina, wander through the Land of Castles in Central Bohemian Uplands, or set off on the Lesní stezka/Forststeig on the divide of Bohemia and Saxony... Countless challenges.



Adam Kubiček – Rudolph's Stone



Adam Kubiček – on the way to Decin Snowy Peak

The secret is out

We kept it quiet for a long time, but now it's out... The most beautiful long-distance trail in the world. 1,000 breathtaking wonders in 100 kilometers. A trail through landscape of contrasts that will change you. A journey through the countryside, a trek through rocks, gorges, canyons, and forests, wilderness and rock city temples, a sea of fog and rivers of color, and a kingdom of the elements. A journey of inspiration and imagination. That is the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail. So pack your backpack full of desires-and come...

HOW TO DRESS PROPERLY AND WHAT TO PACK FOR THE RIDGE TRAIL

A little more than a hundred kilometers in the north of the Czech Republic is no small feat. Exposed sections of Elbe sandstone rocks mingle with wide and narrow forest trails along their foothills. The valleys of streams and rivers offer a restful refuge in shade from sunny experiences from rock vistas of historical significance. The Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail clearly showcases various appearances of its biotopes. Our equipment, clothes, and gear for travel should be chosen accordingly.

The thickness and functionality of our clothes largely depend on the season in which we decide to visit the Ridge Trail. However, let's prepare for the fact that we will sweat, whether we start from Petrovice/Tisá or from Stožecké sedlo/Jedlová. Roughly four thousand meters of cumulative climbing lie ahead of us, so even if the trip is spread over four days, it will be about a kilometer per day.

Good foundation, meaningful layering—and watch out for water

A thin sports T-shirt with sweat-wicking and quick-drying properties is an ideal base layer—and probably the only layer for summer. Pieces from running, trekking or speedhiking collections are to be considered. Many have already had a positive experience—perhaps a little surprisingly—with woolen underwear even in the summer heat. Above all, appropriate grammage is key. Quality woolen sportswear provides several significant advantages even at warmer temperatures. Foremost, natural fiber has a bit of magical power to conveniently manage accumulated moisture and act as a small air conditioner. Wool can absorb up to 30% of its weight in moisture. The moisture then releases into the surrounding environment, helping to cool down the body surface in summer.

At lower temperatures, the clever layering of clothes comes to mind—and base wool or a suitable synthetic material will draw moisture into other layers. In such cases, the ability of the wool not to lose its thermal insulation properties even when wet is appreciated. In all cases, its antibacterial properties prove useful: clothes stay fresh longer, unwanted microorganisms do not breed in them, and unpleasant odor is no bother. We can last like this for three or four days and endure and complete the entire Ridge Trail with a minimum of basic clothing.

However, at any time of the year, we should be prepared for the moodiness of the weather on such a long-distance hike.



A lightweight, well-fitting backpack will fit an insulating (second) layer, for example, a light fleece sweatshirt, lightweight sports soft-shell, or a low-weight feather windbreaker.

Similarly, it is highly advisable to be prepared in case of unexpected precipitation. Even a waterproof and breathable (third) layer can take the form of ultralight pants with full-length zip-up legs and a thin jacket with a well-modeled hood. Each item can be roughly the size of a coffee mug when packaged and weigh no more than a bag of candies.

Shoes and socks make the difference

Our many miles long wandering will also require proper footwear. Agile and vigorous individuals may prefer lower footwear for its low weight and better ventilation; someone else prefers shoes in the ankle-high version. Either way, off-road soles are preferred to support us both in the steep forest climbs and on the sandstone rock, as well as on the wet iron ladders along the way to popular views.

Good trekking socks are also closely related to footwear. Even the best shoe, if combined with an unsuitable sock, can cause unpleasant abrasions or blisters when worn for several days. Socks are often an unjustly overlooked item of hiking equipment, but it really pays off to invest in proven brands and models.

Quality hiking or trekking poles can be of great help, especially if you want to ease the force off your knee joints. Your knees will thank you for 30% less load, and in addition, your whole body will be involved in the movement, which is certainly no disadvantage. If you opt for one of the foldable models, they are easily stored/attached to your hiking backpack,

e.g., when climbing along the railing to one of the unique views along the route.

Due to water streams and water surfaces (in some seasons), a suitable insect repellent, headwear with a visor, and sunglasses with a quality UV filter also remain to be considered.

Appropriate attention should be paid to the choice of good equipment. For the most part, it is responsible for the tone of our memories of a trip to the heart of Bohemian Switzerland. Of course, we wish you to make them as positive and high-quality as possible—both memories and individual pieces of equipment!



HUDY



**Gear up at
hudy.cz**

BEYOND RIDGE TRAIL: DISCOVER ITS ORIGINAL MERCH

The collection of clothing and accessories, Ridge Trail MERCH, is specifically designed for trips, mountains, and adventure lovers. Each piece was created in collaboration with Czech companies and local producers.

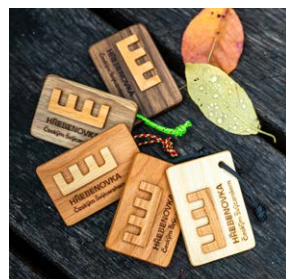


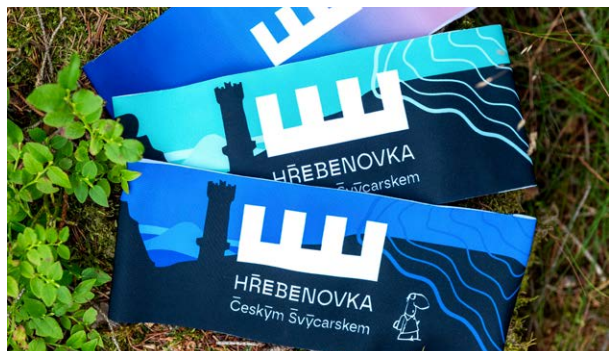
THE COLLECTION INCLUDES:

HŘEBENOVKA SOUR CHERRY GIN LIQUEUR, created in collaboration with the local **GALLI DISTILLERY**. Your sweet companion on the trail, whose unique combination of smooth gin and distinctive fruity taste will power your desire to conquer additional kilometers.



WOODEN KEYCHAINS and COMBS by Karel Kříž stand out for their unique artistic workmanship. Each piece is unique, thanks to the wood's color and pattern. Diligent handicraft guarantees softness and a velvety smooth surface.





BJEŽ HEADBANDS, the designer accessory, will tame your lush mane and adorn it at the same time. Created in collaboration with the Czech brand **BJEŽ**, they can be worn all year; they pleasantly warm you up and protect you from wind. Choose from three color variants, each with an original design.

With **BEWOODEN**, we have created a jewelry collection, namely stylish **EARRINGS, NECKLACES, BRACELETS, and BROOCHES**. This collection will make you instantly recognizable not only on the Ridge Trail.

And to add some final touches to your gear, add the sew-on **HŘEBENOVKA PATCH**. It was created by **STAP**, specialists in ribbon products. Attach it to a backpack, jacket, or hat—and every step you take will carry a piece of honest Czech production and the story of the Ridge Trail.



It was crucial for us that production take place exclusively in Czechia to support both the Czech economy and traditional crafts and local entrepreneurs.

By purchasing, you support more than just style. You support the maintenance and care for the trail so that the Ridge Trail remains as beautiful as you know it (or as you will get to know it).

Pick a piece that will accompany you not only in the mountains but also in your everyday life to show you are part of the story of Bohemian Switzerland. Available at the House of Bohemian Switzerland in Krásná Lípa or at

eshop.ceskesvycarsko.cz

Diary of “The Ridge Trail Hiker”



RIDGE TRAIL
Bohemian Switzerland

WHERE TO GET STAMPS?



From the direction of Tisá – Jedlová

1. stage – Information Center Knihovna Děčín
2. stage – Information Center Hřensko
3. stage – Resort Mezná, Mezná
4. stage – Information Center Jetřichovice
5. stage – House of Bohemian Switzerland, Krásná Lípa
6. stage – Jedlová Restaurant (Jedlová train station)

From the direction of Jedlová – Tisá

6. stage – House of Bohemian Switzerland, Krásná Lípa
5. stage – Information Center Jetřichovice
4. stage – Resort Mezná, Mezná
3. stage – Information Center Hřensko
2. stage – Information Center Knihovna Děčín
1. stage – Information Center Tisá

Ridge Trail Hikers! Looking for a stamp in your diary after completing a stage, you arrive outside the opening hours of the place where the stamp is located. Don't panic! Stop by us-at the **House of Bohemian Switzerland** in Krásná Lípa. We are open **all year round**, and you will find **stamps from all Ridge Trail stages** here.

Stage #1 – LEFT ELBE BANK

My feelings and experiences of this stage... Date:



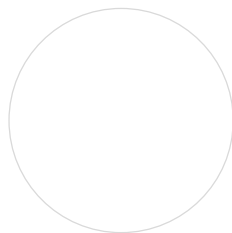
Stage #2 – RIGHT ELBE BANK

My feelings and experiences of this stage... Date:



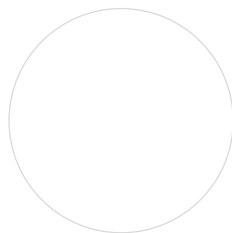
Stage #3 – AROUND HŘENSKO

My feelings and experiences of this stage... Date:



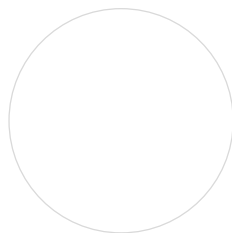
Stage #4 – JETŘICHOVICE

My feelings and experiences of this stage... Date:



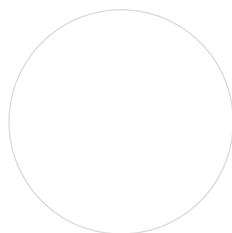
Stage #5 – HIND BOHEMIAN SWITZERLAND

My feelings and experiences of this stage... Date:



Stage #6 – KRÁSNÁ LÍPA SURROUNDINGS

My feelings and experiences of this stage... Date:



Continue to the Ore Mountains

As previously mentioned, the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail is part of the original long-distance Ridge Trail. This means you can hike east from Stožecské sedlo to the Lusatian Mountains or west to the Ore Mountains. There, in 2025, the marking of the Ridge Trail was renewed for the section of the Ore Mountains-East. The total 147 kilometers are divided into 7 comfortably manageable stages.



Libor Sváček – Kadaň



Pavel Bergr – Panenský Týnec

The Ore Mountains: a magnificent mountain range of special, captivating, and raw beauty; a long, wooded ridge from which forests and rocky slopes descend, breathtaking mountain meadows, plains, and marshlands. Full of unexpected surprises and hidden treasures, they possess secrets that are wonderful to discover.

And they're still somewhat undiscovered. Only birds and animals might accompany you here along your hike. The Ridge Trail connects the most beautiful spots in the Ore Mountains. It picks up from the Bohemian Switzerland Ridge Trail in Petrovice and continues via Komáří hůrka, the gateway to the Ore Mountain Mining Region, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, then heads to Cínovec and on through Nové Město, through

endless forests to the deep blue Flájská Dam in the middle of meadows, the Flájská Highlands to Mníšek and Nová Ves v Horách with a fascinating exhibition of typical wooden toys, still produced here today. The trail then continues through Lesná with a very interesting open-air museum of typical Ore Mountain architecture, crafts, and customs, to the Novodomské peat bog and St. Sebastian's Mountain, around the Přisečnice water reservoir to Měděnec with other mining monuments and stone sphinxes, to the very top of Klínovec, the highest peak of the Ore Mountains, and ending (or beginning) at a divine place, Boží Dar.

For more information, visit hребenovka.com and krusnehorc.cz.



THE NINE RULES OF THE RIDGE TRAIL HIKER

9 Practical Tips and Rules for Ridge Trail Visit

1) Stick to marked trails.

In the whole national park area, except for quiet areas, temporarily protected areas, and fenced-off areas, you can go anywhere without limits, even off the marked trails. Nevertheless, we recommend you stick to the marked trails, where the least damage to nature could be done.

2) Only camp and spend the night in designated areas.

Outside the territory of national parks (NP) and national nature reserves (NPR), overnight stays in nature are permitted provided that you do not pitch a tent or other shelter. In national parks, you can use designated areas for overnight stays-campsites:

- ◆ Camping Mezní Louka (on route)
- ◆ Intercamp Mosquito (+ 2 km)
- ◆ Camping and swimming pool Jetřichovice (on route)

In nature, it's prohibited to sleep:

- ◆ in the entire territory of the national park
- ◆ in sections leading through the national nature reserve. The Elbe Canyon, i.e., the area around Spálenisko and the section of the green trail below Belvedér to the mouth of the Suchá Kamenice River

3) Keep your pets under full control.

You can hike the Ridge Trail with a dog (or any other pet). But don't let them run freely so as not to endanger other visitors, wild animals, and even the dog itself.

4) Give people and wildlife some peace and quiet.

Don't disturb those who are here to relax, not only from work but also from the noise of civilization, with unnecessary noise. And above all, remember the forest's inhabitants.

5) Keep nature clean.

You will probably not find trash cans on the route, except in populated areas. Therefore, please take your trash where it belongs-to a recycling bin.

6) Leave drones and model airplanes at home.

Birds and other forest inhabitants are not friends with such flying monsters. Leave your planes and drones at home and instead enjoy the rustling of leaves in the tree branches.

7) Take advantage of the extensive public transport network.

Returning to your car left at the starting point of the stage can be complicated. It is better to take a bus or train and be environmentally friendly by arriving by public transport.

8) Not only calves might be set on fire at the Ridge Trail.

Fire is one of the greatest threats to local environment. Don't risk setting the forest on fire, and avoid lighting fires, cooking on an open fire in the forest, or smoking. These activities are prohibited in the natural areas of the Ridge Trail anyway.

9) Check the latest information.

Join the Facebook community: **Hřebenovka Českým Švýcarskem**, and get the latest information about what's happening on the trail directly from the Ridge Trail hikers. Another great resource is the website **hreibenovka.com**, where you will also find:

- ◆ complete itinerary of the route
- ◆ GPX navigation
- ◆ individual stages
- ◆ top places
- ◆ blog articles
- ◆ great recommendations



More at
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Brána do Čech
Krajské hradisko



OD HUDY



MINISTERSTVO
PRO MÍSTNÍ
ROZVOJ ČR

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