



## INFORMATION CENTRES

### **Information Centre Čerčany**

Sokolská 28, 257 22 Čerčany

e-mail: info@cercany.cz

tel.: +420 775 410 550

### **Information Centre Konopiště**

Konopiště 4, 256 01 Benešov

tel.: +420 317 705 681

e-mail: konopiste@kicbenesov.cz

otevřeno: březen–říjen

### **Information Centre Louňovice pod Bláníkem**

Zámek 1, 257 06 Louňovice pod Bláníkem

e-mail: infopodbla@atlas.cz

tel.: +420 732 221 060

open: april–october

### **Information Centre Neveklov**

náměstí Jana Heřmana 333, 257 56 Neveklov

e-mail: infocentrum@neveklov.cz

tel.: +420 605 106 256

### **Information Centre Rataje nad Sázavou**

Zámecká 1, 285 07 Rataje nad Sázavou

e-mail: infocentrumratajenadsazavou@seznam.cz

tel.: +420 725 021 496, +420 733 607 817

open: april–october

### **Information Centre Stříbrná Skalice**

Na Městečku 71, 281 67 Stříbrná Skalice

e-mail: infocentrum@stribrnaskalice.cz

tel.: +420 737 886 294

### **Information Centre Votice**

Komenského náměstí 177, 259 01 Votice

e-mail: infocentrum@votice.cz

tel.: +420 317 812 505

### **Information and Cultural Centre Sázava**

náměstí Voskovce a Wericha 280, 285 06 Sázava

e-mail: infocentrum@mestosazava.cz

tel.: +420 327 320 763

### **Cultural and Information Centre Pyšely**

náměstí T. G. Masaryka 4, 251 67 Pyšely

e-mail: infocentrum@pysely.cz

tel.: +420 725 851 866

### **Podblanické Information Centre Vlašim**

Zámek 4, 258 01 Vlašim

e-mail: info@vlasimskypark.cz

tel.: +420 317 847 207, +420 734 362 091

### **Regional Information Centre KELTSKÉ OPPIDUM ZÁVIST**

Na Panský 11, 252 41 Dolní Břežany

e-mail: ric@dolnibrezany.cz

tel.: +420 241 402 202, +420 734 446 109

### **Tourist Information Centre Benešov**

Masarykovo náměstí 230, 256 01 Benešov

e-mail: infocentrum@kicbenesov.cz

tel.: +420 317 726 004, +420 737 205 535

### **Tourist Information Centre Jílové u Prahy**

Masarykovo náměstí 16, 254 01 Jílové u Prahy

e-mail: info@muzeumjilove.cz

tel.: +420 241 950 791

### **Tourist Information Centre Mnichovice**

Masarykovo náměstí 83, 251 64 Mnichovice

e-mail: infocentrum@mnichovice.info

tel.: +420 323 666 311

### **Tourist Information Centre Říčany**

Masarykovo náměstí 83/1, 251 01 Říčany

e-mail: jarmila.vorackova@ricany.cz

tel.: +420 323 618 169, +420 720 965 170

### **Tourist Information Centre Týnec nad Sázavou**

Klusáčkova 2, 257 41 Týnec nad Sázavou

e-mail: ic@centrumtynec.cz

tel.: +420 317 729 050, +420 775 290 032

### **Tourist Information Centre Zruč nad Sázavou**

Zámek 1, 285 22 Zruč nad Sázavou

e-mail: infocentrum@mesto-zruc.cz

tel.: +420 327 531 329



## MEDICAL EMERGENCY

**Rudolf and Stefanie Hospital in Benešov**  
Máchova 400, 256 01 Benešov  
tel.: +420 317 756 111, [www.hospital-bn.cz](http://www.hospital-bn.cz)

## ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR BICYCLE

### SALE, SERVICE, RENTAL

**Sport Šefčík Prodejna LYŽE – KOLA**, Ke Stadionu 2095, Benešov  
**Tomáš Trojáněk**, Pavlíkova 1528, Benešov

tel.: +420 606 425 200  
tel.: +420 776 098 062

### SALE AND SERVICE

**Cykloservis J. Břečka**, Za Pekárnou 378, Sázava  
**CYKLO SANTÉ**, U Pivovaru 2304, Benešov  
**CYKLO-SPORT**, U Autobusového nádraží 554, Votice  
**CYKLOŠVEC s.r.o.**, Na Potoce 225, Vlašim  
**CykloSPORT NOVOTNÝ**, Jílovská 262, Týnec nad Sázavou  
**BIKE SPORT 007**, Červené Vršky 1594, Benešov  
**Jízdní kola Kučera**, Lidická 1781, Vlašim  
**VELO FOX**, Dr. E. Beneše 159, Bystřice  
**VELO SPORT Krupička**, Na Bezděkově 2005, Benešov  
**Václav Hruška**, Čerčanská 112, Poříčí nad Sázavou

tel.: +420 728 474 008  
tel.: +420 603 834 728  
tel.: +420 739 431 420  
tel.: +420 603 879 634  
tel.: +420 317 701 823  
tel.: +420 603 583 994  
tel.: +420 602 831 037  
tel.: +420 317 793 416  
tel.: +420 317 723 627  
tel.: +420 317 779 934



## RIVERBOAT RENTALS

### Bisport s.r.o.

Ing. Fr. Janečka 511, 257 41 Týnec nad Sázavou  
tel.: +420 777 335 618  
e-mail: [info@bisport.cz](mailto:info@bisport.cz)  
[www.bisport.cz](http://www.bisport.cz)

### Půjčovna lodí Samba s.r.o.

257 27 Český Šternberk 17  
tel.: +420 604 904 737  
e-mail: [info@pujcovna-lodi.cz](mailto:info@pujcovna-lodi.cz)  
[www.pujcovna-lodi.cz](http://www.pujcovna-lodi.cz)

### Dronte s.r.o.

Nad Vodovodem 685/8, 100 00 Praha 10 – Strašnice  
tel.: +420 731 529 466, +420 605 242 544  
e-mail: [sazava@dronte.cz](mailto:sazava@dronte.cz)  
[www.dronte.cz](http://www.dronte.cz)

### Martin Sopr, Sázava-tour

Husova 331, 251 67 Pyšely  
tel.: +420 739 464 480  
e-mail: [info@sazava-tour.cz](mailto:info@sazava-tour.cz)  
[www.sazava-tour.cz](http://www.sazava-tour.cz)

### Půjčovna lodí Sázava – Petr Kovačka

Anenská ulice, 285 06 Sázava-Černé Budy  
tel.: +420 777 261 462  
e-mail: [pkovacka@volny.cz](mailto:pkovacka@volny.cz)  
[www.lode-sazava.cz](http://www.lode-sazava.cz)

## TRANSPORTATION

### Information on coach Schedule

tel.: +420 317 721 395  
[www.idos.cz](http://www.idos.cz)

### Information on train Schedule

tel.: +420 840 112 113  
[www.cd.cz/spojeni](http://www.cd.cz/spojeni)



## TRANSPORT SERVICES

### Posázavský Pacifik

tel.: +420 317 776 518  
[www.posazavsky-pacifik.cz](http://www.posazavsky-pacifik.cz)

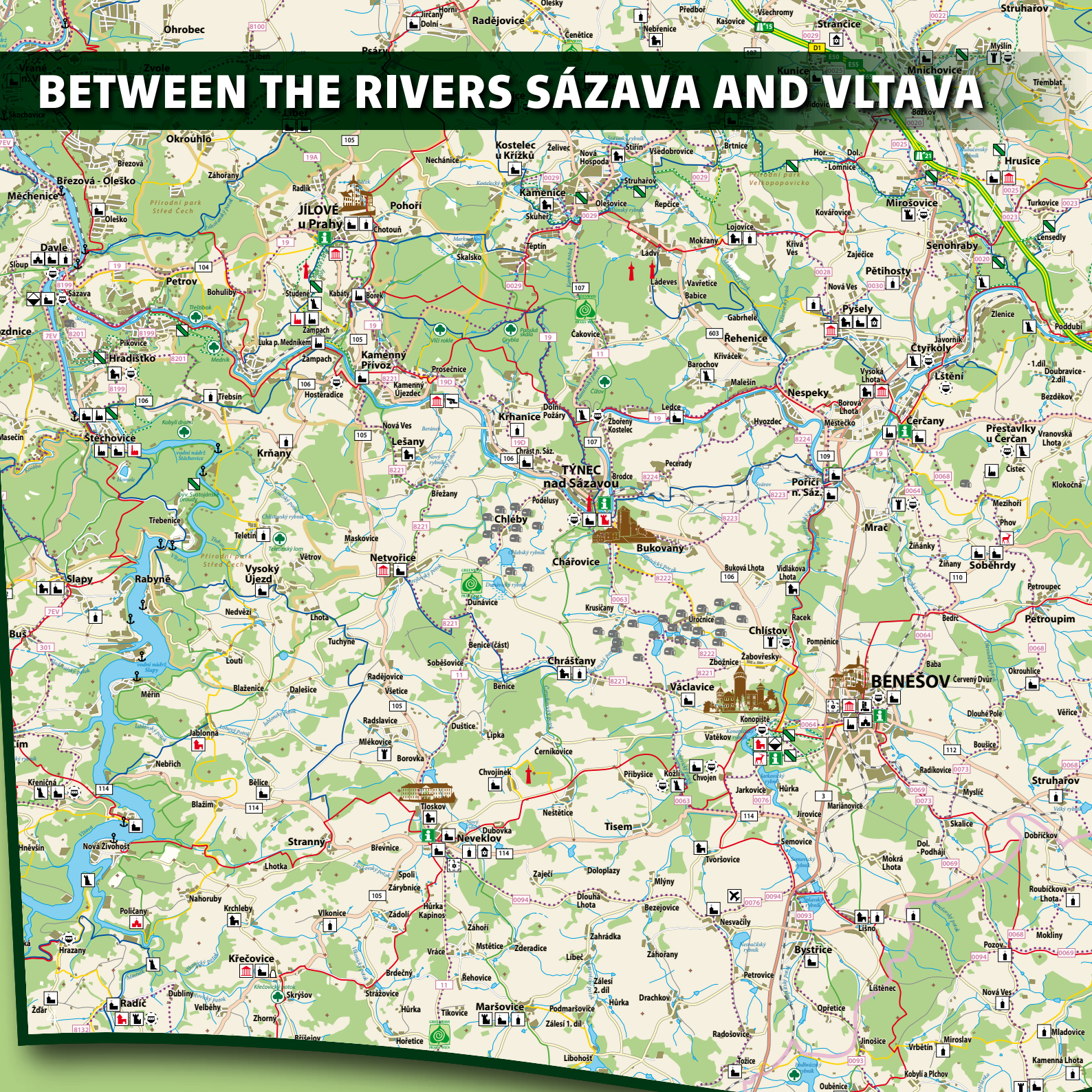
### BALLOON ADVENTURES

tel.: +420 733 595 757  
[www.balloonadventures.cz](http://www.balloonadventures.cz)

### Airport Benešov

tel.: +420 724 001 050  
[www.letistebenesov.cz](http://www.letistebenesov.cz)

# BETWEEN THE RIVERS SÁZAVA AND VLTAVA





*Picturesque nooks, mysterious gorges, dominating natural features... But also moving history, „stolen land“, search for one’s own identity. The life of the country between Vltava and Sázava was fatally touched by the Second World War. The scar in particular was the SS military area covering 44 000 hectares. Around 70 villages and 180 settlements, home to almost 18 000 people, were displaced. Up to 30 000 thousand people were affected in another indirect way. The consequences of the tragic removal could be felt in the region for decades. Despite this, it has a lot to offer to both its inhabitants and tourists - see for yourself.*

## Hradištko, a place to see nature and history



Now, there are three nature trails available for you in Hradištko right at the confluence of the rivers Sázava and Vltava. **The nature trail Medník** is 5km long and it is the oldest Czech nature trail. It runs through the valley of the Sázava River on the hillsides of the Medník hill. The trail is only suitable for hiking. It begins and ends at the train station Petrov u Prahy. It shows the visitors the fauna and flora and natural condition of Medník and its surroundings and it also informs them of the construction of the scenic railway Posázavský Pacifik, river Sázava, watermanship and outdoorsmanship history. A part of the trail leads along the famous Sázava trail.

**Nature tails Sekanka – Ostrov monastery – St. Kilian** is 1.8km long and leads from an abandoned town Sekanka to the confluence of Sázava and Vltava where, providing you can get a ferry across, you can continue to Ostrov with the remnants of Saint Kilian situated on the left bank of Vltava in Davle. It shows the history, development and visual form of these extraordinary sights. The trail is accessible all year round. The ferry to Ostrov operates on occasions only; it is possible to order it for groups calling: +420 241 950 791 or at e-mail: info@muzeumjilove.cz. The integral part of the trail is also the permanent exhibit Ora et labora in the Regional Museum in Jílové u Prahy, which



shows the history and evolution of these significant sights and also the ancient history of the region.

**Nature trail Displaced Hradištko** is 8.5 km long; it begins at the manor and ends at the bridge in Brunšov. It shows the visitor the forced removal of people from Hradištko during the Second World War and the construction of the Waffen SS military area. It helps to understand the horrors of the life in a concentration camp and commemorates faith of several prisoners. One of the topics is the extraction of K.H. Frank’s archive by the Americans in 1946. The end of the trail is dedicated to the events at the very end of the war and the post-war renewal of the village.

## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Saint John’s Rapids** – it was the name for the part of Vltava between Štěchovice and Slapy where the river formed rapids going through a rocky gorge. The dangerous rocks were feared even by raftsmen drifting timber rafts down the river. Because of that, the part of the rock called Saddle was blasted off in the 17th century. The remnants were topped with the so called Ferdinand’s column commemorating the sovereign who ordered the rock to be blasted off. A statue of John of Nepomuk was erected near the column and the rapids got the saint’s name. Later, the area was flooded by the rising waters of the Štěchovice Reservoir. It was from Štěchovice to Saint John’s Rapids where the Czech Tourist Club marked its first trail in 1889. There is also a nature trail leading on the left bank of Vltava along the Štěchovice Reservoir, which runs through an outdoorsmen settlement Ztracenka and ends under the Slapy Dam at the statue of Saint John of Nepomuk. Due to difficult terrain the trail is for hikers only.

**Teletín Quarry** – natural heritage site because of its geology. The stone from the quarry was used in building the Sapy Dam.

**Smetana's Vista** – the vista near Třebšín offers a beautiful view of a Vltava meander and particularly of the outdoorsmen settlement Ztracená naděje (Lost Hope) opposite. The vista is believed to have been often visited by the composer Bedřich Smetana, who was inspired here to compose his symphonic poem Vltava from the set Má vlast (My homeland).

**Máj Vista** – is located near Teletín and it offers one of the most well known views of the Vltava river meanders.



**Mařenka** – rock formation on the right bank of Vltava near the settlement Proudý is a phenomenon among rock climbers.

**Kobylí dráha** – is a natural preserve on the left bank of Vltava where dwarf and scree oaks, ironwood and rock steppe are to be found.

**Vysoký Újezd** – there are two protected historic landmarks in the village – the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church and a pre-historic section of the trail known as Plavecká (formerly Celtic Trail). The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church was built between 1301 and 1340 in gothic style and was converted several times later on. The remnants of the trail Plavecká are still visible in the landscape going from Vysoký Újezd through Jablonka to Chlum.

**Pikovice** – the village lies near the confluence of Vltava and Sázava and it is considered to be the birthplace of outdoorsmanship in Czechia. The Medník hill, which towers over it at the height of 416 meters (above sea level), is an area of botanical importance. The shadow of oaks, ironwood, and beeches covering its hillsides is the only place in Czechia where you can find a rare plant of the order Liliaceae, dogtooth violet. Pikovice is the start of the popular Sázava trail designed by a Prague teacher and longtime worker of the touristic club Jose Kliment (1858–1938). One of the most attractive parts of the trail is a several kilometer section between Pikovice and Žampach. The path is partly carved in the rock and offers stunning views. There are interesting rock formations such as Pikovice Needle, also known as Pikovice Chimney.



**Krňany** – this municipality, which includes villages Teletín and Třebšín, lies in the natural park The Center of Bohemia, which is a popular area for recreation. A few years ago, remnants of medieval keeps were discovered near Krňany and Teletín. Krňany was also the first place in Czechia where large fruit strawberry plants were grown; an aristocrat by the name of Rudolf Stimp started cultivating and growing them at the local farm Chlistov at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Štěchovice Water Power Plant** – it was built between 1938 and 1947. The concrete dam with granite facing is 22.5 m high and 120 m long. A lock was built as a part of the dam to allow ships to get from the lower to the upper water level and back, traversing height of 19.1 m, which is exceptional in central Europe.

**Slapy Water Power Plant** – it was the first large project of the Vltava cascade after the second world war. The reservoir has a surface area of 14 km<sup>2</sup>, contains 270 million m<sup>3</sup> of water and the dam is 65 m high.

The Water Power Plants Štěchovice and Slapy are accessible all year round for fee. You have to book your tour at least 3 days in advance at: +420 602 107 453.



## Chasing the Gold of Jílové



Royal Gold mining town Jílové u Prahy was founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century as a mining camp and its rich history is connected to the mining of gold. Gold attracted even famous alchemist Edward Kelly who came to Jílové and owned several building in and around the town including the house Mince (Coin). The oldest building in Jílové is Saint Vojtěch (lat: Voitecus) from the 13<sup>th</sup> century which houses one-of-a-kind altarpiece. The interior of the church was a backdrop to the Oscar-winning movie by Miloš Forman, Amadeus. The central square is dominated by the Town Hall with a preserved town jail. There is a cemetery in Jílové with the Church of the Body of Christ from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In a part

of the town called Baths, where a healing spring is said to come to the surface, you can find Saint Wenceslaus Chapel.



### Regional Museum in Jílové u Prahy

It was created at the behest of Leopold Čihák in 1891. It is located in the house called Mince (Coin), which was declared a cultural landmark in 1958. In the middle ages it was the seat of the royal mining office and for a short time, it was owned by alchemist at the court of Rudolfg II. Edward Kelley. Today, there are three exhibits in the museum. The first is named „History of mining and processing of gold” and it presents different perspectives on the significance of gold here and abroad. Historical reports indicate that the clay deposits here used to be the most important gold yielding area in Czechia.

In 2017 the museum opened archeological exhibit Ora et labora (Pray and work), which is dedicated to the monastery of the beheading of John the Baptist on Ostrov near Davle founded in 999. It also shows the oldest known history of Jílovsko region and abandoned medieval settlement at Hradištko near Davle. Visitors may see a 3D visualization of

the possible form and appearance of the monastery and the medieval town above the confluence of Vltava and Sázava at a place called Sekanka. There is also a historical trail from Sekanka to Ostrov and the church of Saint Killian in Davle.

Exhibit named Outdoorsmanship and nature of lower Sázava area is dedicated to the landscape between Kocába, Vltava and Sázava and the history of the outdoorsmanship movement, which originated around 1918 just south of Prague.

The museum also maintains three gold adits; the adits of Saint Anthony of Padua, of Sain Joseph, and Haller's adit. The adits can be reached by nature trail Goldem Mines of Jílové starting in the center of the town.

Masarykovo náměstí 16, 254 01 Jílové u Prahy  
tel.: +420 241 950 791, e-mail: [info@muzeumjilove.cz](mailto:info@muzeumjilove.cz)  
[www.muzeumjilove.cz](http://www.muzeumjilove.cz)

## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Bridge in Žampach** – it is one of the highest and oldest stone railway bridges in Central Europe. It is part of the famous Posázavský Pacifik route, which runs along the river Sázava between the stations Borek-Žampach and Luka pod Medníkem.

**God's Rock** – it is a rock formation on the southeastern outskirts of Jílové u Prahy, which provides a nice view of the surrounding landscape. It lies on a tourist path and it is one of the stops of the circuit Views of Jílové

**Viewing Tower on the hill Pepř (Pepper)** – it is a steel truss tower 30 meters tall. The viewing platform is at the height of 18 meters. It can be reached using a cylindrical staircase.

**Oppidum Závist** – it is the largest Celtic hillfort in Bohemia and it lies in the valley of Břežany roughly 15km of Jílové u Prahy. Its remnants are a cultural landmark of the Czech Republic. There is a historical trail running through the area for 2.3km starting at the fort on the road just of the village of Lhota. The stops are enhanced by virtual tours you can activate on your smartphone using a QR code reader. You can also find remnants of an early medieval hillfort on a promontory above the valley of Břežany in Dolní Břežany where you can get by following a 3km trail through the village.

## DO NOT MISS



**Chotouň** – there is a skiing resort in the village with a slope equipped with snow guns and lighting ideal for beginners and intermediate skiers. It offers three ski lifts, two are ski-tows and one is for children with a low hanging wire. The resort also offers a skiing and snowboarding school and naturally a ski equipment rental and service.

### **Ski areál Chotouň**

tel.: +420 721 115 584, [www.vlekychotoun.cz](http://www.vlekychotoun.cz)

### **Restaurant FLORIAN**

– it is located in an old burgess house which used to belong to famous alchemist Edward Kelly. It serves czech cuisine made of ingredients from domestic suppliers and local farmers.



### **Contact:**

Masarykovo náměstí 25, 254 01 Jílové u Prahy  
tel.: +420 241 950 625, [www.florianjilove.cz](http://www.florianjilove.cz)



### **HOTEL Troníček s.r.o.**

Žampach 2, 254 01 Jílové u Prahy  
tel.: +420 777 186 876, +420 737 777 111



## Around Týnec nad Sázavou



The castle of Týnec was first mentioned in sources in 1318. According to the archeological findings, however, the settlement of the area had started between 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century a wooden castle was built here later to be replaced by a castle from stone with a Romanesque rotunda. The castle of Týnec often changed hands and the buildings were deteriorating. It started developing again only under the count Francis Joseph of Vrtba, who became its owner in 1785. He founded a factory in Týnec producing stoneware goods and he adapted part of the castle premises for the production purposes as well. In 1812 he ordered a new factory building to be built, which was later turned into a hotel by Francis Ferdinand d'Este. The modern industry in the town was founded in the 1930s by entrepreneur from Prague Ing. František Janeček, who built a smelter factory for aluminum, steel and non-ferrous metals called METAZ and began producing motorcycles under brand JAWA and passenger cars under brand MINOR in a former laundry house in Brodce.

Local landmarks include originally gothic church of Saint Simon and Jude, which was converted to its present ba-

roque form in 1755. Another place that catches the eye is the house U Micků, built in Neorenaissance style in 1899 on the site of the former parish school, with facade richly decorated by frescos and sgraffiti by Karel Ludvík Klusáček. There is a 5.5 km long historical trail running through Týnec nad Vltavou, which uses aspects of geocaching. There are nine stops with information on the exceptional places in the landscape and playgrounds for children. A detailed map of the town and its larger surroundings with marked cycling and foot paths and other local points of interest is also to be found at the rest stop for tourists in the center of Týnec.



### Castle of Týnec with Museum and Gallery

The museum displays a rare exhibit of stoneware from Týnec. The rectangular gothic tower, which is a summer nesting ground for the protected mouse-eared bat, also serves as a viewing tower.

### Contact:

Nádvoří Adama Hodějovského 48  
257 41 Týnec nad Sázavou  
tel.: +420 317 701 051, [www.mestotytnec.cz/muzeum](http://www.mestotytnec.cz/muzeum)

**Outdoor center Bisport ltd.** – it is a center for tourists and watermen offering boat and bike rental, hosterl, camping ground, and a rope course. It can arrange canoeing trips on Sázava and guided tours.

Ing. Fr. Janečka 511, 257 41 Týnec nad Sázavou  
tel.: +420 777 335 618, e-mail: info@bisport.cz  
www.bisport.cz



**Bistro&Cafe Příběh** – it is a restaurant with a café serving breakfast, cakes, cakes, soups, and soft drink made on the spot. You can find there exhibits, concerts, Wi-Fi connection, relaxed atmosphere... Its hospitality is used by the locals as well as the clients of Bisport hostel and camp.

Ing. Fr. Janečka 511, 257 41 Týnec nad Sázavou  
tel.: +420 608 335 633, www.facebook.com/bistrocafepribeh/

### **Hotel and Community Center TÝNEC**

It is located in the historical part of the town Týnec nad Sázavou in a listed preservation building. It was built to serve as a stoneware factory in about 1812 by count Francis Joseph of Vrtba. It was converted into a hotel at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Presently, it offers accommodation in double, triple and quad rooms with the possibility of adding extra beds and

with bathroom. There are also a multi-purpose hall, training rooms, and a large garden with an auditorium. Parking lot and a tourist information center are also located on the premises.

Klusáčkova 2, 257 41 Týnec nad Sázavou  
tel.: +420 774 443 854, e-mail: lucie@hoteltynec.cz  
www.hoteltynec.cz





## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Zbořený Kostelec** – the ruin of castle formerly known as Kostelec. It was probably founded during the reign of Wenceslaus II. at the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century to protect a trade route. In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, it was destroyed by the armies of king George of Poděbrady. It can be reached by a wooden bridge for pedestrians and cyclists and a cycling path from Týnec nad Sázavou.



**Ledce** – this settlement is where the Church of Saint Bartholomeus from the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century is located.

**Poříčí nad Sázavou** – the village was established in the 15<sup>th</sup> century by merging three original settlements – Poříčí, Kouty, and Balkovice. The local landmarks include Romanesque church of Saint Peter and Paul from the turn of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The local church of Saint Havel from the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century is the site of one of only four crypts of the same age and type to have survived in their original form in Bohemia. The village also played a part in the Hussite Wars – it was the site of Jan Žižka's victorious battle against the armies of lords of Šternberk, Dubá and other Bohemian Towns backing Emperor Zikmund (Sigismund), which took place on May 20, 1420 and is commemorated by a granite memorial built in 1924.

**Prosečnice** – it is a former lung sanatorium which was the largest of its kind in Bohemia. It was built between 1916 and 1922 by charity organization Humanita. By 1937, 20,000 patients had received treatment at this facility. During the Second World War, the sanatorium was converted to a Panzer Grenadier School, which was part of the SS troops training area.

**Krhanice** – the first written record of Krhanice is from the year 1228 when half of the village was owned by the Ostrov monastery and half probably belonged to the neighboring manor of Kostelev. Krhanice is the birthplace of actor Otakar Brousek; the important native of Krhanice is commemorated by a plaque on the building of the local municipality.

**Hornopožárský les** – it is a natural park covering the area of roughly 25 square kilometers on the right bank of Sázava between the villages Kamenice, Krhanice, Jílové u Prahy and Týnec nad Sázavou. The highest peak is Grybla and its slope is cut through by a deep gorge topped with Panská Rock with a small viewing platform. West of the peak the landscape rises to form Kněží (Priest) Hill. There is also a protected landmark of Vlčí (Wolg) Gorge; a deep ravine covered with beech trees up to 200 years old is paved with a sea of granite rocks several meters thick at places and a small stream flowing underneath. There are marked tourist and cycling paths going through the wood.

**Kamenný Přívoz** – it is a birthplace of writer Jan Morávek (1888-1958), who revealed the region along Sázava and its distinctive inhabitants to the broader public in his books, the style of which is the characteristic blend of pastoral novel and genre art.

**Netvořice** – the first written record is from the year 1205, but the archeological findings prove the area had been settled as early as the stone and bronze ages. Local landmarks include the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church mentioned as early as 1350. In 1859 writer Ludmila Grossmannová Brodská was born in Netvořice, who went on to publish 30 volumes of prose and poetry mostly for children and youth. She is commemorated by a memorial standing where her birthplace was. The history of the township is presented by historic trail „Poznáváme Netvořicko od A do Z“ (Discovering Netvořice from A to Z).

Mírové náměstí 19, 257 44 Netvořice, tel.: +420 601 386 314, e-mail: [info@netvorice.cz](mailto:info@netvorice.cz), [www.netvorice.cz](http://www.netvorice.cz)



**Town Museum Netvořice** – at the moment, it is undergoing a complex reconstruction and conversion and it is likely to open in 2019. The museum's repository houses a rare collection of the products of abandoned stoneware factory in nearby Týnec nad Sázavou and it also commemorates the legacy of the first strawberry grower in Bohemia, Rudolf Strimpl.

## DO NOT MISS



**Museum of Military Vehicles in Lešany** – it was created in the former artillery barracks between the villages Lešany and Krhanice. It houses large exhibits with more than 700 historic tanks, cannons, motorcycles, armored vehicles, trucks and passenger cars, rocket launchers, combat engineer vehicles and supplies from the era since 1890. The wonders of not only



**Úročnice and Chleby** – it is in the vicinity of these two villages where you can find a line of military bunkers which were built there during the Second World War as a part of the SS military area.

**Lešany** – the picturesque village was the childhood home of poet František Hrubín. He is commemorated by a plaque on the building of the local municipality.

Czechoslovak historic military vehicles can also be witnessed at traditional displays organized several times a year, Tank Day and Children's Day among others. The entrance to the museum is free.

Lešany, 257 42 Krhanice, tel.: +420 973 296 161, [www.vhu.cz](http://www.vhu.cz)

**Family Minimuseum of Enamel** – it presents products of Czech and Slovak enamel factories from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; pots, mugs, casseroles, jugs, churns and pans, small shovels and other tools our ancestor used daily in their households. You can also find there a simple lodge, shop

U Kočky za komínem (Cat behind a chimney) which sells original gifts and handmade products, and a stylish haberdashery.

Pražská 13, 257 44 Netvořice, tel.: +420 776 151 343  
e-mail: [jindrasmidova@centrum.cz](mailto:jindrasmidova@centrum.cz), [www.muzeumsmltu.cz](http://www.muzeumsmltu.cz)



**Chateau Lešany** – it was built in place of the original keep by the Canonry of Sain Vitus, which owned Lešany up until 1683. The chateau, chapel, and the rooms with restored

frescos created by Jan Václav Spitzer in 1758 are accesible all year round. There is also a B&B and a restaurant.

Ladislav Truhlář, tel.: +420 603 440 573  
e-mail: [zameklesany@seznam.cz](mailto:zameklesany@seznam.cz), [www.zameklesany.cz](http://www.zameklesany.cz)



## Wandering through the region of musicians Jan Kubelík and Josef Suk



**Neveklov** – the town lies on the wedge squeezed between the rivers Vltava and Sázava and it belonged to the lords of the Rose from the time immemorial. This noble family was mentioned in the oldest known record of the town from 1285. Since 1550 manor Tloskov has been added to Neveklov. This merger is symbolically depicted on the town's coat of arms showing two connected towers. One of the owners of Tloskov manor was important Czech industrialist Čeněk Vincenc Daněk (1826-1893), co-founder of Breitfeld and Daněk company, which later became a part of the largest machine works in former Czechoslovakia, ČKD - Czech-Moravian Kolben and Daněk.

During the Second World War the area around Neveklov between Vltava and Sázava became the site of SS troops military area covering 44,000 hectares of land. Around 70 villages and 180 settlements, home to almost 18 000 people, were displaced. Up to 30 000 thousand people were affected in another indirect way. The forced removal affected the lives of the inhabitants deeply. The tragic event, the consequences of which were visible in the region for decades, is commemorated by the memorial on the square of Jan Heřman in Neveklov. Other landmarks include the former town-hall; originally a Renaissance building from 1598, which now houses a cinema. In 1773 a Plague Column was built in the image of Calvary with the depiction of St. Florian and a sundial. There are more landmarks including St. Havel's Church, which was probably built as early as in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and though it was converted to Baroque style, the walls are mostly Gothic. The year 1657 marked the construction of the Neveklov Synagogue; originally

probably a wooden construction had burned down by 1658. It was probably on the very site of the fire where in 1658 a masonry construction synagogue was built and later converted to Baroque style. There is a Jewish cemetery next to the road to Zárbynice, which may have existed as early as in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest decipherable tombstone is from 1754.

Tloskov, originally a Renaissance style chateau from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, was created by expanding a keep and it was converted to Baroque style after 1670. The final touch was added by the Neobaroque conversion done in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building is a home to Social Service Center of Tloskov ([www.tloskov.eu](http://www.tloskov.eu)).

There is a memorial to Jan Kubelík near the local Sokolovna (a gym and a cultural center founded by the Athletic Club Sokol). That is because Neveklov was home to the ancestors of the famous Kubelík family, whose well-known members – apart from world class violinist Jan – include legendary conductor Rafael and outstanding violinist René.

### POINTS OF INTEREST



#### Viewing Tower on the Neštětice Mountain

– it is built at 536 meters above sea level about 5 kilometers of Neveklov. It is 16 meters tall and the viewing platform is at the height of 12 meters. It takes 48 stairs

to get to the top. The viewing tower was built in 1927 to commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the suppression of a peasant revolt. Despite having been neglected it is a popular tourist destination. It is accessible without limitations and for free. suppression.



**Chvojínek** – there is early Gothic church of St. Wenceslaus, which was one of the locations where movie Kytice was filmed.

**Kožlí** – the ruins of the castle first recorded in 1318 are located on wooded promontory overlooking the confluence of Tisemský and Janovický streams west of Konopiště. It was probably destroyed at the time of the Podiebrady wars.



**Tvoršovice** – local Baroque chateau with a hotel and a restaurant is in the center of Konpoiště Golf Resort, which is the largest golf resort in the Czech Republic. You can play a round on two 18 hole courses and one 9 hole course. The resort also includes Spa & Wellness Konopiště. Tvoršovice is the birthplace of actor Zdeněk Štěpánek, who is commemorated by a statue in the chateau park.

#### **Golf Konopiště a.s.**

Tvoršovice 27, 256 01 Benešov

tel.: +420 317 784 057, +420 317 784 044

e-mail: gcko@gcko.cz, www.golf-konopiste.cz

**Bystřice** – first record of Bystřice settlement is from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. In 1471, it was granted the township status by king Jiří z Poděbrad (George of Podiebrady). During the Second World War a large part of the town became a part of the SS military area and its inhabitants had to move out. Bystřice also became the site of a concentration camp for persons from so called mixed marriages which was an unwanted home for many important Czech personalities, for example actor Oldřich Nový, writer Ondřej Sekora, actor Miloš Kopecký, director Ladislav Rychman, or painter Alfred Fuchs. The camp's existence is commemorated by a memorial with a plaque near viaduct.



**Benešov Airport** – the operator of the public domestic and non-public international airport near the village of Nevačily is the subsidies organization of the town of Bystřice. The airport offers

scenic flights and hangar and flight tower tours. There is also a RC model aircraft field where the show of Nevačily is held, which is a meet-up of the model builders and their fans. The airport is frequently visited by families. Therefore, the town has built an information corner with seating arrangements. The area is also open to the public during an Air show.

Nesvačily 145, 257 51 Bystřice

tel.: +420 317 793 330, +420 603 594 623

e-mail: info@lkbe.eu, www.lkbe.eu



**Křečovice** – the village is a birthplace of composer Josef Suk. You can visit the room he was born in and the museum dedicated to his life and work. Sain Lucas's Church is also worth visiting. The village is popular with filmmakers; among other movies Vesničko má středisková, Farářův konec or Není sirotek jako sirotek were shot here. Not far from Křečovice, there is a recreational resort Nová Živohošť. Interesting

tourist destination in the area include Psané skály (Written Rocks), which got its name from religious texts carved into the stone, or a Celtic hillfort Hrazany.

#### **Josef Suk Memorial**

257 56 Křečovice 3

tel.: +420 317 741 308, e-mail: c\_muzeum\_hudby@nm.cz

**Viewing Tower Drahoušek** – it is located near the village of Osečany and it is 47 meters tall. It takes 167 stairs to reach the viewing platform built at the height of 32 meters. The opening hours are limited.



**Maršovice** – the township's dominant feature is the Baroque Annunciation of Blessed Virgin Mary Churn built between 1774 and 1775, which is nicknamed Hradčany after the Prague Castle. It

houses the remains of martyr St. Constantine. Other interesting landmarks include a Romanesque ossuary and a statue of St. Voitecus. We should also mention the Calvary near Záhoří or Baroque chapels in the area around Maršovice. Popular tourist spots in the area include the ruins of Castle Stajice, which was built on Stejc heights likely as early as at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century; only mounds grown over by vegetation in the middle of a wood remain visible today. The oldest part of Maršovice is the village of Zaječí, the first record of which is from 999.



**Jablonná nad Vltavou** – the chateau, which is listed among cultural landmarks of the Czech Republic, offers a rare exhibition of classical furniture and interior furnishings by renowned companies. It is located near the Slapy Reservoir on the site where a water fort used to stand, in a park with two ponds.

tel.: +420 724 211 158, e-mail: [info@zamekjablonna.cz](mailto:info@zamekjablonna.cz)  
[www.zamekjablonna.cz](http://www.zamekjablonna.cz)

**Aqua center and wellness center Měřín** – it lies on the right bank of the Slapy Reservoir and it provides a range of facilities for sport and relaxation. There is a swimming pool with current generator and a waterslide, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, modern gym and a bowling alley.

tel.: +420 973 222 112, +420 602 238 617  
[www.merin.volareza.cz](http://www.merin.volareza.cz)

## DO NOT MISS



**RETROAUTOMUZEUM Strnadice** – with its almost one hundred and fifty exhibits from 1948 to 1989, it is one of the largest privately owned automobile museums in our country.

It presents a unified collection of vehicles from the countries of the so called Eastern Bloc, which were a common sight on our roads in the second half of the last century. The collection includes vehicles of brands Aero, Dacia, Moskvíč, Škoda, Tatra, Trabant, VAZ, Volha, Zaporozhec, Wartburg...



**Monastery of Our Lady above Vltava** – it was built in Poličany by the trappist nuns (the Order of the Cistercians of the Strict Observance). You can take part in a liturgy with the nuns in the monastery church, use the services of the guest house, or buy products from monasteries in Cezchia, Italy, and France in the local shop.

Poličany – Křečovice 10, 257 56 Neveklov  
tel.: +420 731 604 168, +420 312 312 004  
e-mail: [sestrytrap@gmail.com](mailto:sestrytrap@gmail.com), [coenobium.trap@volny.cz](mailto:coenobium.trap@volny.cz)

**Rope Course Slapy, Nebřich** – it was built in 2009 in a canyon above a stream flowing into the bay of the Slapy Reservoir at the bottom of the bridge in Živohošť. It offers three routes of different difficulties and also a zip line with 11 consecutive slides.

tel.: +420 736 676 565, [www.lanovyparkslapy.cz](http://www.lanovyparkslapy.cz)

The museum, which also has a playground for children, is wheelchair accesible. It is opened at weekends in the last two weeks of April, in May and October, and from Tuesday to Sunday 10 am to 5 pm in June, July, August, and September.

Strnadice 27, 257 53 Vrchotovy Janovice  
tel.: +420 602 735 076  
e-mail: [retroautomuzeum@gmail.com](mailto:retroautomuzeum@gmail.com)  
[www.retroautomuzeum.com](http://www.retroautomuzeum.com)





**Heroutice Farm** – it specializes in breeding horses and agrotourism. It lies near the Slapy Reservoir. It offers stables, an equestrian yard, indoor and outdoor riding school, accommodation and a stylish restaurant. The renowned riding school which is at home there specializes in training children. The people from Heroutice were present at the birth of pony sport in the Czech Republic. The races from the series are



held throughout the country. The farm also offers facilities suitable for corporate events and weddings.

Heroutice 1, 257 56 Neveklov  
tel.: +420 604 232 834, e-mail: [heroutice@heroutice.cz](mailto:heroutice@heroutice.cz)  
[www.heroutice.cz](http://www.heroutice.cz)



**Hotel Všetice** – it is a part of the Všetice Farmstead. Apart from 97 beds in two buildings separated by a park and ponds, there is also a stylish restaurant, wine cellar, and an outdoor swimming pool. The second part of the Farmstead consists of an equestrian area with an outdoor equestrian yard and indoor hall. The clients can try a range of other activities in the park; among other things aquazorbing, rope net, archery,

fishing, or bungee running. You can pass the time building a timber raft. The hotel offers wellness such as massages, wraps, and peeling.

Všetice 6, 257 44 Netvořice  
tel.: +420 724 522 758, e-mail: [hotel@vsetice.cz](mailto:hotel@vsetice.cz)  
[www.vsetice.cz](http://www.vsetice.cz)

**Baroque Farmstead Benice** – a one-of-a-kind building with the ground plan in the shape of an equilateral triangle, the symbol of St. Ann. It is listed as a cultural landmark of the Czech Republic. The local stud farm Favory specializes in breeding the Old Kladruber horses, the only living animals

on the UNESCO list. There is also a hotel, restaurant and a miniature zoo.

Benice 1, 257 44 Netvořice, tel.: +420 601 324 166  
e-mail: [hrecin@favory.cz](mailto:hrecin@favory.cz), [www.favory.cz](http://www.favory.cz)



## Through the country of Jan Herben and Sidonie Nádherná



The metaphorical gate into the region, which was called the Czech Siberia by writer Jan Herben because of its colder climate, is the town of Votice. It was founded on an important trade route heading to Southern Bohemia and Austria. According to the archeological research, a settlement was erected on the same place as early as in the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. First written record, however, is from 1318 and it is connected with squire Diviš from Otice – the town itself had been called Otice up until the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



Local landmarks include the sculpture of the Blessed Virgin Mary including the statues of St. Barbara, Rosalia, Roch, and Sebastian built in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. There is also the Church of St. Wenceslaus with the viewing tower Václavka, which is a part of the so called Vrtbov circuit, a trail leading to the most important sacral landmarks in the town connected to the Vrtba family. The place where a Franciscan cemetery used to be is now a site of the copy of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem from 1685.

**Franciscus of Assisi Monastery** – it's construction was ordered in 1627 by Sezima of Vrtba. There are exhibits dedicated to the town's history, famous personalities of the region, Franciscan order and the battle of Jankov of 1645.

tel.: +420 775 683 394, e-mail: klaster@votice.cz  
www.mesto-votice.cz



### POINTS OF INTEREST



**Natural Park Džbány-Žebrák** – the area between Votice, Líšno, Jankov and Tomice was declared a natural park in 1996. It covers 53 km<sup>2</sup> and its dominant features are peaks Džbány (688m a.s.l.) and Žebrák (585m a.s.l.).

**Chateau Vrchotovy Janovice** – the chateau and the surrounding park are a part of the National Museum in Prague's exhibit. The originally Gothic keep of the lords of Janovice protected by a moat was converted into a stately home of the Votice branch of the Vrtba family. It's cultural value was greatly increased by its last aristocratic owner Sidonie Nádherná (Beautiful) of Borutín (1885-1950), whose friends included important cultural celebrities; she was a muse to painter Max Švabinský, poet Rainer Maria Rilke, or journalist



Karel Kraus. The landscape garden surrounding the chateau is one of the most admired in Bohemia thanks to the stories it contains.

The chateau houses a unique collection of more than 150 bells. If you go to see it, you may listen to their ringing, glockenspiels playing and period music.

tel.: +420 317 835 181, +420 724 412 256  
e-mail: vrchotovy\_janovice@nm.cz, www.nm.cz

**Granary Vojkov** – the massive Baroque building from the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century was a part of the chateau created by conversion of a keep with an inner yard. The first record of the keep is from 1357. On one side of the granary, there is a well preserved brewery cellar, which according to the sources was used as early as in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The granary houses exhibition of ceramics, fine porcelain, tiles and tile furnaces. You can also buy wines from renowned Romanian produced Murfatlar Romanu. The granary also comes alive during exhibitions, lectures, theater plays, and concerts.

tel.: +420 603 837 146, +420 604 250 944  
e-mail: krampera@raz-dva.cz, www.kinston.cz



**Chateau Ratměřice** – it offers luxurious accommodation in 16 double rooms and 3 suites. The complex also includes a modern wellness center, multi-purpose playing field and restaurant Sequoia, which serves Czech and world cuisine made from ingredients from local suppliers. The chateau par with two giant redwood trees, the tallest trees in Czechia

**Cottage Blaník** – it is located in the center of the village of Libouň in a pleasant landscape of the country around Blaník and in the landscape park Blaník. It has two quad bedrooms, a garden with grass playing fields, a table tennis room, a relaxation room, a gazebo, a fireplace, a sandpit for children and a covered swimming pool.

Zdeněk Otradovec  
tel.: +420 724 443 784, e-mail: zdenek.otradovec@seznam.cz  
www.chalupablanik.cz

**Romanesque Rotunda Libouň** – it is a part of the St. Wenceslaus Church. It is believed to have been built during the reign of the Premyslid dynasty and consecrated by St. Voitecus himself. Its walls are decorated by partly uncovered original frescos.

**Bed and Breakfast BEAKO** – it is a B&B in old Bohemian style located in Votice. It offers four rooms, a heated outdoor swimming pool, and a sports equipment and bicycle rental.

Pražská 253, 259 01 Votice  
tel.: +420 602 461 728, +420 724 050 652  
e-mail: info@penzion-beako.cz, www.penzion-beako.cz



thanks to their height of more than 42 meters, is opened to the public on holidays and at weekends from 10 am to 5 pm.

275 03 Ratměřice 1  
tel.: +420 312 600 100, e-mail: recepce@zamek-ratmerice.cz  
www.zamek-ratmerice.cz





### Motylárium ("Butterflarium") Votice

The refitted greenhouses of closed horticulture house a unique "butterflarium" opened by Ochrana fauny ČR (Community Interest Company) to show the "winged" inhabitants of Czech meadows and gardens. There are about 3,500 species living in the Czech Republic. You can see some of them in this natural oasis in Votice. There is a pond with a bridge, roofed classroom, storage, and butterfly nurseries. Flowers

and turfs attracting the butterflies grow all over the area. The complex also includes aviaries for permanently disabled birds and other interactive features for children. The adjacent two-hectare orchard with a stream and a wetland meadow was also planted with variety of wild meadow flowers and grasses.

Zámecká 810, 259 01 Votice  
tel.: +420 603 549 125, e-mail: [info@ochranafauny.cz](mailto:info@ochranafauny.cz)  
[www.motylarium.cz](http://www.motylarium.cz)



### Ochrana fauny ČR (Czech Fauna Protection)

The civic association Czech Fauna Protection was founded in 1998. It focuses on treating injured wild animals, environmental education of children and the public, leisure activities, and active safeguarding of animals, especially protected species, and valuable natural environments.

It operates the Center for Environmental Education in Votice and a modern wild animal rescue station for injured and disabled wild animals in Hrachov u Sedlčan. The complex in Hrachov includes a vet hospital, lodging for students, a training center, an exhibit of permanently disabled

animals, fresh water fish, a natural amphitheater, and a reception with a shop.

Apart from operating the station and the environmental center, Czech Fauna Protection also works on many programs of specific species protection, takes care of preserved natural habitats in the region, organizes nationwide environmental campaigns and provides expert counsel.

Hrachov 13, 262 56 Svatý Jan  
tel.: +420 603 549 125, e-mail: [info@ochranafauny.cz](mailto:info@ochranafauny.cz)  
[www.ochranafauny.cz](http://www.ochranafauny.cz)



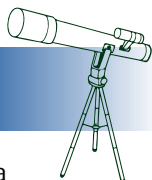


# IN THE LAND OF FAIRY TALES AND LEGENDS





Castles, chateaus, natural landmarks, adrenaline adventures, but also fairy tales and mysterious legends are all to be found in the central part of the Lower Sázava region. You can „meet“ the real owners of castle Český Šternberk and chateau Jemniště as well as fictional characters of myths and legends, such as the Tomcat Mikeš, or the Knights of Blaník. Just set off on a figurative trip to the past, go down the nature and historic trails, see the region from above... Your will certainly not be bored here!



## In the tracks of Tomcat Mikeš

Just southeast of Prague, there is a tourist area called Lada's Region, which is named after one of the most influential personalities of Czech culture, painter, illustrator, and writer Josef Lada (1887-1957), who used to come here for inspiration. He even set some of his stories here; among others they were of the Tomcat Mikeš and of bugbears and waterweedmen (a male counterpart of water sprites).

**Hrusice** – the birthplace of Josef Lada. The first written record of the village is from 1205. Its most significant landmarks is the originally Romanesque St. Wenceslaus Church with rare nested arches portal made of red sandstone. You can also visit Memorial to Josef Lada or exhibition of Antonín Jedlička's models at the local municipality office.

**Šibeniční vrch (The Gallows Hill)** – it is a sports complex near Mnichovice with a hotel, camping ground, a tennis hall, squash courts, a bowling alley, beach volleyball courts, a ski slope and ski school, a lodge restaurant with a terrace, goat farm, and children's playground with a cable car.  
Šibeničky 808, 251 64 Mnichovice, tel.: +420 323 640 975  
e-mail: info@sibenivrch.cz, www.sibenivrch.cz

**Ondřejov** – the first written record of the village is from 1352. In 1898 Josef Frič founded an observatory in Ondřejov, which is now a detached workplace of the Astronomical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences. It boasts one of the longest telescopes in Europe. The observatory is open to public from May to September.

**Lensedly** – village listed zone with original log cabins and a belfry and protected linden trees on the village square.



**Tomcat Mikeš's Trail** – the natural trail starts in Hrusice and ends in Říčany and there are 12 stops with boards showing the clippings from the book about Mikeš and Lada's paintings. It is suitable for both hiking and cycling.

**Marching in the Tracks of Tomcat Mikeš** – it is held every year in September and there are routes of 9, 18, 25, and 32 km.

**Waterweedmen's Walks** – it is a natural trail with 13 stops connecting Sázava Region with the tourist region Lada's Country. The guide is waterweedman Brčál from Lada's book Bugbears and Waterweedmen. The trail can be divided into three parts and each can be walked separately; the first is 3.5 km long and leads from Ondřejov to the village of Kaliště, the second is 2.5 km long and runs through the village of Lensedly with the listed zone, the third one goes around Senohraby and it is 4.5 km long.

**Zlenice-Hláška near Senohraby** – it is the ruins of a castle wrecked at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Its fate was sealed during the Podebrady Wars between 1463-1465, when it was destroyed and burned by the troops of Zdeňěk Konopišťský from Šternberk. Only the walls of the great tower and the residential part, the gates, the outer walls with rounded corners and trenches survive. The remnants of the castle and the hill are called Hláška after the small settlement



**Public River Bath** – it is one of the Public Baths of the style of the First Republic. It lies at the confluence of Sázava River and the stream Mnichovka below the ruins of castle Zlenice. It is connected to the opposing bank by a ferry. The visitors may use stylish changing booths, outdoor and indoor showers, a lawn with a children playground and a sand pit, and a table tennis table. The complex of the baths, which also doubles as a camping ground for watermen, also has a fire pit with roofed seating. Refreshments are available at the neighboring stand Baštírna, which is open from May to the middle of September.

**Stará Dubá and the castle town of Odranec** – these rare remnants of a castle and a castle town are located near the village of Přestavlky. The first written record of the castle is from 1282. It was destroyed in 1466 by the troops of King George of Podebrady. The castle town seems to have met the same faith.

**Senohraby** – the first written record of the village is from the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It was apparently named after the work the locals were doing; they were serfs raking hay for the landlords.

which used to be a part of the castle and seems to have been destroyed along with it. This cultural landmarks was saved thanks to the Association Zlenice, which organizes cultural and educational events for the public in order to support it.

Sdružení pro ochranu kulturního dědictví – Zlenice  
Příčná 61, 251 66 Senohraby  
tel.: +420 797 996 862, [www.zlenice.cz](http://www.zlenice.cz)



**Čerčany** – one of its dominant features is the old water tower U Sekalů standing next to the deviation of the train station. If you want to stay longer, you can use the services of the Camping Ground Paluba. It offers accommodation in wooden base tents. The complex includes a playing field with artificial turf, tennis courts, refreshments kiosk, and baths.

**Lštění** – the foundation of the village on the left bank of Sázava dates back to the erection of the nearby Slavic hillfort mentioned already in Kosmas Chronicles. The dominant feature is the St. Clement's Church from the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. There is also an interesting technical landmark; the original portable British Military Engineers bridge, the Bailey Bridge, from 1949 connecting Lštění to the village of Čtyřkoly.

**Chateau Vysoká Lhota near Čerčany** – it stand on the site of a keep which, legends say, had existed there since the 11<sup>th</sup> century. There is a museum of horse drawn carriages, carts, saddles, and harnesses. Lot of those items were used in shooting popular movies, the legendary fairy tale Three Nuts for Cinderella for example. With a tour guide, you can also visit the cellars from the 11<sup>th</sup> century with period torture chamber and a part of the chateau.



## From Sázava to Stříbrná Skalice



**Sázava** – it is one of the most beautiful resorts on its namesake river. There are three hillforts on the town's lands, a Slavic one from the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> century and two Neolithic ones plus a Neolithic limestone quarry. Its golden age is connected to the arrival of the Christian hermit Prokop. At the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, he founded a Benedictine monastery on a hill towering over the rich bank, which was a center of education and literature in the early medieval period. The complex is a national cultural landmark and a place of pilgrimage connected to St. Prokop.

The modern history of the town is linked mostly to the tradition of Czech glassmaking. The local points of interest include

natural trail Votočnice leading through a floodplain meadow with man-made pools where allegedly Sain Prokop turned around when he was plowing the Devil's Furrow using the devil as a plow animal. There is an old chapel with a spring in Lázně, a place of pilgrimage where hermit Prokop was supposed to meet Duke Oldřich according to the legends. The former cemetery that belonged to the now deconsecrated Church of St. Martin was developed into a relaxation zone. The cemetery chapel houses a permanent exhibit from the King Charles Museum. You can also visit the Earthship located in the vicinity of the town of Sázava; it is a building by American architect Michael Reynolds made of scrap and waste materials.

Správa kláštera v Sázavě

Zámecká 72, 258 06 Sázava, tel.: +420 327 321 177

e-mail: sazava@npu.cz, [www.klaster-sazava.cz](http://www.klaster-sazava.cz)



### POINTS OF INTEREST

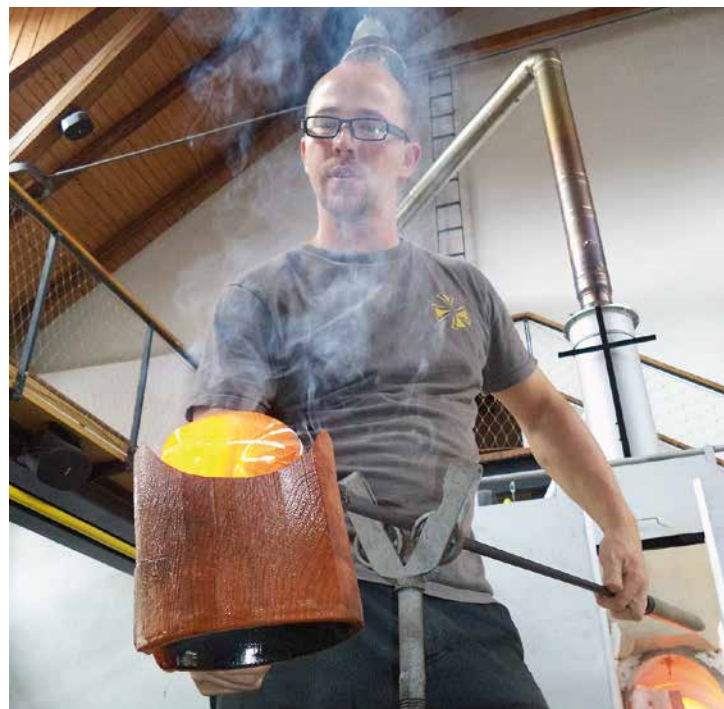


**Church of St. James the Greater in Rovným near Stříbrná Skalice** – it is one of the most treasured Romanesque landmarks in Bohemia. It was built probably in the first half of

the 12<sup>th</sup> century and it was converted to a late Romanesque style around 1240. It is consecrated to the St. James the Greater, the patron of miners. It is decorated by the original frescos from the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries and stone reliefs with animal motives originating in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The Church is a cultural landmark.



**Glassmaking Art Center Glassworks František** – it was created by converting former Glasswork František, the construction of which had been ordered by Josef Kavalír in 1882 on the site of a glassmaking settlement Na Káčku further 2km upstream from the town of Sázava. The building was designed in the style of the original forrest glassworks and named after Mr. Kavalír's father. It and the glassmaking settlement survived in their original form. They have undergone an extensive reconstruction in the recent years. They have become an authentic place illustrating the Czech glassmaking tradition.



The Center presents a rare collection of modern glass products. The unique two storey exhibition hall named the Noah's Arch and other exhibition spaces show around 400 works of art created by glass artists at the International Glass Symposiums (IGS) between 1982 and 2006. With a bit of luck, you may see glass artist working in the local workshops on one of the two guided tour circuits. The Center organizes courses for both professionals and lay persons and offers project based games for elementary and high school students.

Na Káčku 218, 285 06 Sázava  
tel.: +420 327 321 809, e-mail: [info@cestyskla.cz](mailto:info@cestyskla.cz)  
[www.cestyskla.cz](http://www.cestyskla.cz)

**The Island of Sázava** – the complex operates all year round and it offers two stylish restaurants and accommodation on a campsite, in suites, mobile houses, and double, triple, and quad rooms. It provides a range of sporting facilities for both children and adults.

It will satisfy those interested in culture, those enjoying barbecues and campfires, as well as sports enthusiasts.

Poznaňská 297, 285 06 Sázava  
tel.: +420 702 030 263, +420 702 029 934  
e-mail: [ubytovani@kempsazava.cz](mailto:ubytovani@kempsazava.cz), [info@kempsazava.cz](mailto:info@kempsazava.cz)  
[www.kempsazava.cz](http://www.kempsazava.cz)



## Around Český Šternberk



**Český Šternberk** – the first written record of the settlement is from 1242 and it was first called a town in 1654. The driver behind its enlargement was the development of the castle there, but also the commencement of railway operation. It regained the status of township on October 10, 2016.

The dominant feature of the township is **castle Český Šternberk** – a majestic stone building which has stood on a rocky promontory overlooking the Sázava River for more almost 780 years. Its walls have seen around 20 generations of the family Sternberg. The tour focuses on the story of the last owners and their lifestyle. The exhibition includes a rare collection of intaglio engravings from the 30 Year War period, which is one of the largest monothematic collections of art prints in Europe. The premises you can visit also include the southern advanced bastion called the dungeon, which was part of the elaborate fortifications. You can also take topical tours named Everyday Life on the Castle during the First Republic Era and Learn about the Estate of the Sternberg



Family, or the autumn tour Journeys through the Sternberg History. Those interested in guided tours through the castle's surroundings will also be satisfied.

257 27 Český Šternberk 1  
tel.: +420 317 855 101, e-mail: [hrad@zsternberg.cz](mailto:hrad@zsternberg.cz)  
[www.hradceskysternberk.cz](http://www.hradceskysternberk.cz)





## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Café Český Šternberk** – a café located on the castle's courtyard serves homemade desserts and daily menus prepared following popular recipes and mostly from ingredients from local suppliers.



It is possible to pre-order catering for groups as well. You can also rent it for private parties and other events.

The opening hours are the same as those of the castle.

tel.: +420 774 443 854, e-mail: [hotel@phcs.cz](mailto:hotel@phcs.cz), [www.cafecs.cz](http://www.cafecs.cz)

**Parkhotel Český Šternberk** – it lies directly opposite the castle on the opposite bank of the Sázava River. It was built by Filip Sternberg (1852-1924), one of the shareholders of the new local railway, in order to exploit the region's potential in tourism. The B&B has remained the property of the Sternberg family to this day.

In 2014, the hotel was completely refurbished. There are 53 beds in 19 rooms with bathrooms available, a part of

which has a romantic view of the castle. The local restaurant with a terrace serves home-style meals made from ingredients from local suppliers. The French-style park built in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century around the hotel is ideal for walks, sports, and picnics.

257 27 Český Šternberk 46

tel.: +420 774 443 854, e-mail: [hotel@phcs.cz](mailto:hotel@phcs.cz)  
[www.phcs.cz](http://www.phcs.cz)



**Rataje nad Sázavou** – the first written record is from 1289. The landmarks include castle Prikštejn, chateau of Rataje with the museum about the history of Rataje Region, exhibition „Grandma's Prams“, and Lumberjack museum, St.

Matthew's Church, St. Anthony's Chapel, St. Wenceslaus Chapel and the town fortifications.

tel.: +420 725 021 496, e-mail: [ou@obecrataje.cz](mailto:ou@obecrataje.cz)  
[infocentrumratajenadsazavou@seznam.cz](mailto:infocentrumratajenadsazavou@seznam.cz)



**Bed and Breakfast Čtyřlístek** – the family B&B with the occupancy of 15 is located near the castle Český Šternberk. It offers four rooms with bathrooms and a suite with its own entrance. The ground floor houses a bistro with a bakery which makes the famous Šternberk Kolatche with poppy seed, cheese, apple, or jam filling with the designation KRAJ BLANICKÝCH



RYTÍŘŮ regionální produkt® (KNIGHTS OF BLANÍK COUNTRY regional product®). You can enjoy them with tea or coffee.

Pension Čtyřlístek, Šternberské koláče  
257 27 Český Šternberk 45  
tel.: +420 724 359 073, +420 607 177 944



**Restaurant Pod Hradem** – it has gone through an extensive refurbishment in the past year. It serves homemade old Bohemian cuisine. If the weather permits, a garden with seating is open. It welcomes hikers, watermen, and cyclists. Cycling enthusiasts may enjoy a special light menu and a selection of non-alcoholic drinks and home made soft drinks.

In summer, the visitors may also try refreshing ice cream from Opočno, which won the restaurant a Certificate of Good Quality.

257 27 Český Šternberk 13, tel.: +420 608 046 674  
e-mail: mzverinova@seznam.cz, www.rpodhradem.cz



**Campsite U Karla (Carl's)** – the campsite offers places for tents and campers. There are bathroom facilities, three fire pits and newly refurbished railway restaurant car serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Český Šternberk, right bank of Sázava, 75.3 km.  
tel.: +420 774 912 153, e-mail: kroupa.karel@seznam.cz  
www.taboristeukarla.cz

**Farmstead Prak (Catapult)** – it is a remote building 15 minute walk from the parking lot of the castle Český Šternberk. It was from here the troops of King George from Podiebrady bombarded the castle with catapults. The farmstead uses the methods of environmental farming. Among other things, it is a home to the largest herd of Lipizzaner horses in the Czech Republic. The B&B and restaurant may be rented for weddings, parties, and teambuilding of up to 60 people. Cyclists are also welcome there. There is a nature trail approximately 7km long from Prak to Český Šternberk. The information panels at the farmstead show

the visitors a bit more on the history of the building, the origin of its name, and guests who stayed there. One of them was writer and poet Josef Václav Sládek. One of the stops on the trail is at the St. Prokop's Chapel. It tells the life story of hermit and founder of the nearby Monastery of Sázava St. Prokop.

Český Šternberk 47, 257 26 Divišov  
tel.: +420 702 277 877, +420 603 832 346  
e-mail: ing.jantupy@seznam.cz, pavel.tupy@seznam.cz  
www.dvurprak.cz



**Drahňovice** – the first written record of the village near Český Šternberk is from 1401. It was named after its founder Drahoň. Local landmarks include a chapel with a belfry and an old school. The village square is where you can visit a small

firefighting museum with a historic fire engine, firefighters' tools and uniforms. The part of the surrounding woods called Jedlovka is littered with the last pagan cairns. The part called Hradec was the site of a Slavic and pre-Slavic hillfort.

## From Divišov to the Špulka Viewing Tower



**Divišov** – it used to be a vassal settlement. It had been founded prior to 1130 by Diviš, a member of Břetislav I entourage. In 1545 Divišov gained the status of town with the rights to organize markets, execute people and it got its own seal and coat of arms. In 1870 a silk factory was built in the town. However, Divišov became most famous for race motorcycles production, which was begun by Jaroslav Šimandl in 1948. ESO make, it changed later to JAWA, went on to become the most successful make in the 75 year old history of speedway races. The municipality regained the status of township on October 10, 2016.

Local landmarks include the Church of St. Bartholomew first mentioned in 1350. The crypt of the church is the final resting place of Eliška (Eliza), King George of Podiebrady's sister, the wife of Jiří Holický of Šternberk, who owned the nearby castle Český Šternberk. The church also houses a copy of the painting of Blessed Virgin Mary from the Roman Church Santa Maria in Ara coeli.

Prior to 1685, there had been a large Jewish community in Divišov. Its life is documented by the Museum of the Jewish Community of Divišov, which is located in a synagogue built at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and it is open from May to October. The Jewish Cemetery in the nearby Měchnov in the vicinity of the D1 highway is where you can find about 190 surviving tombstones or their parts in Baroque and Classicist styles.



## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Nature Trail of Knight Jan Kryštof Šic** – it starts in Divišov over Vrchá hill, Měchnov settlement, around Brtničák pond, the castle Český Šternberk and ends on the square of the township of Český Šternberk. It is almost seven kilometers long and there are 10 stops with information on gamekeeping, Jewish religion, nature around Divišov, agriculture or the castle Český Šternberk.

**Church of St. Martin in Měchnov** – it is a single nave church with Gothic features.

**Ostředek** – it is the birthplace of writer Svatopluk Čech, who is commemorated in a restored room of the local chateau where he was born. The Baroque building with a chapel of St. Jan of Nepomk from 1741 was constructed on the site of the original keep from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. There is a statue of Cezchia from 1765 in the chapel, which was presented at the world EXPO in Montreal.

**Chateau Třebešice** – it was founded as a Renaissance style stately home in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The complex also includes stabling in the Classicist style, a Baroque style granary, utility buildings of the defunct distillery and brewery and a park. The chateau is a cultural landmark and it only opens to the public on special occasions, literary evenings, and traditional nativity scene exhibition, also it can be rented for weddings and private parties.

Třebešice 1, 257 26 Divišov  
tel.: +420 602 354 467, [www.zamektrebesice.cz](http://www.zamektrebesice.cz)



## DO NOT MISS



**Viewing Tower Špulka** – it stands on Břežák hill near Lbosín. It takes 151 stairs to reach the viewing platform at the height of 30 meters. It is open all year round and the entrance fee is voluntary. You can reach it by a nature trail from Lbosín created by the children from local schools, and a bird watching trail with ten “observatories” presenting the birds living in the viewing tower’s vicinity.

Ing. Miroslav Kratochvíl  
tel.: +420 777 193 556, e-mail: [kratochvil@chopos.cz](mailto:kratochvil@chopos.cz)  
[www.rozhlednaspulka.cz](http://www.rozhlednaspulka.cz)



## From Benešov to Konopiště and Jemniště



**Benešov** – the oldest part of the town located south of the Sázava River on an important trade route linking Prague and Southern Bohemia is Karlov, where a stronghold was probably founded in the second half of the 11<sup>th</sup> century by certain Benedict (Beneš) who gave it his name. This place continued to be the seat of the lords of Benešov up until 1318 when they got the nearby Konopiště castle and left the stronghold. A settlement grew around it and in 1327 it was first mentioned as a town with a spacious marketplace in its center (today it is the Masaryk's Square). In 1420 the town was sacked by the Hussites, who also burned down the local Minorite monastery. In the era after the wars, Benešov was among the most important Bohemian towns. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, it became a center of culture and education, which was mostly thanks to the newly founded Piarist college. Further development of Benešov from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was facilitated by a postal service link to Prague and most importantly the commencement of railway from Prague to Budweis going through Benešov and the local connection to Vlašim. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the ownership of the manor was passed to the successor to the throne Franz Ferdinand d'Este, who is essentially tied to the Konopiště chateau. During the Nazi occupation in 1942 a part of the town was forcefully vacated because of the creation of the vast SS military area.

The oldest surviving building in Benešov is the church of St. Nikolas erected in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.



The dominant feature of the town is a torso of the Minorite church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, which was burned and partly destroyed by the Hussites in 1420. The town landmarks include the steeple standing at the entrance to the St. Nikolas Church in Karlov, the walls of which incorporate the masonry of one of the original steeples of the temple. The contemporary form is a result of the repairs from 1828. The lower steeple in Karlov, originally made from wood, was first recorded in 1627, and took its current form in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It houses one of the oldest bells in Bohemia named „Ave Maria“, which was cast by master Rudger in 1322.

Another interesting building is the Piarist college with a Baroque church of St. Ann, which was built at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century designed by Giovanni Battista Alliprandi. The New Town Hall (and the current seat of the municipal office), which was restored according to the design of architect Josef Pleskot, won the Grand Prix of the Society of Czech Architects in 1995.

Another tourist attraction is the railway station with the Emperor's Stateroom, a luxurious waiting room used by the successor to the throne, Franz Ferdinand d'Este, when travelling by train. There are also architectural landmarks attesting to the life of the Jewish community in the town, the old Jewish cemetery with the oldest tombstone from 1687, the Jewish memorial, and the new cemetery. The former temple at the new Jewish cemetery has housed a permanent exhibition dedicated to the victims of the Second World War since its opening in 1995.



## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Nature Trail for Children S medem za medvědem (Honey to the Honeybear)** – it starts in Benešov and leads to Konopiště, has 2.5 km and 10 stops. You can walk from the historical center of Benešov to Konopiště, or you can take the tourist road train with stops all over the town.



**Ferdinand Brewery** – the burghers brewery in Benešov was built in 1872. In 1887 it was bought from the Benešov shareholding company by the Archduke Franz Ferdinand d'Este, who went on to rebuild it in the following years. The brewery's building has remained the same ever since and neither has the technology of brewing beer changed in more than 100 years.

Its production range goes from classical light tap beer to the special strong D'Este with 6,5% alcohol volume. It was



**Experimenta** – a unique light and sound "laboratory" in the cellar of the Benešov Town Hall. It is a collection of interactive installation the visitors must make move, spin, and press...

Masarykovo náměstí 100, 256 01 Benešov  
tel.: +420 317 754 161  
e-mail: [experimentabenesov@seznam.cz](mailto:experimentabenesov@seznam.cz)  
[www.benesov-city.cz](http://www.benesov-city.cz)

**Museum of Art and Design** – the Art Nouveau style house on the Small Square in Benešov houses a collection of art and design representing works of local and world-famous artists and designers; among others photographer Ladislav Sitenský, artists Kamil Lhoták, Bohuslav Reynek, Kurt Gebauer, and Olbram Zoubek. A large part of the collection is a set of sculptures, art prints, drawings, paintings and design given to the museum by art historian and collector doc. PhDr. Jiří Šetlík. There is also a branch of Podblanicko Museum in the building.

[www.muzeum-umeni-benesov.cz](http://www.muzeum-umeni-benesov.cz)  
[www.muzeumpodblanicka.cz](http://www.muzeumpodblanicka.cz)

the third producer in the Czech Republic to have started brewing a gluten free beer. This beer together with two other special beers by Ferdinand Brewery won appreciation as Regional Produce of Central Bohemia. The yard is open to public on occasions and you can see a hop garden, or walk the nature trail outside.

Táborská 306, 256 01 Benešov  
tel.: +420 317 722 511, e-mail: [ferdinand@pivovarferdinad.cz](mailto:ferdinand@pivovarferdinad.cz)  
[www.pivovarferdinand.cz](http://www.pivovarferdinand.cz)



**S-center Benešov** – it is a sports and relaxation center with courts for tennis, badminton, and beachvolleyball, a small football field, a gym for aerobic, Finish and steam saunas, a whirlpool, an outside swimming pool, and a bowling alley.

It offer a whole range of sports for all age categories. The

complex includes a restaurant with a terrace and a hotel for up to 63 guests.

U Vodárny 2215, 256 01 Benešov  
tel.: +420 317 750 001, e-mail: [info@scentrum.eu](mailto:info@scentrum.eu)  
[www.scentrum.eu](http://www.scentrum.eu)



**Bellevue hotel Karlov** is located right next to the center of Benešov. Its current form is the design of architect Ladislav Lábus and it won an award in the prestigious The Best of Realty competition in 2008.

The hotel offers 28 rooms in total including two family suits and one luxurious loft suite, the Atelier Suite. The rooms are located in three connected buildings. Most of the rooms have a view of the historical center of the town and some rooms have an entrance leading directly to the hotel garden.

The hotel also has stylish restaurant Na Karlově with seating

for 50 people and additional seating for 20 people on the terrace. The interior design corresponds to the nature and philosophy of the hotel; it is very simple and minimalistic. The restaurant's style reminds one of folksy style of French countryside restaurants. There is a wine bar below the restaurant, which provides even more seating for private parties, conferences and other social functions.

Na Karlově 97, 256 01 Benešov  
tel.: +420 317 700 825, +420 603 905 621  
e-mail: [infokarlov@bellevuehotels.cz](mailto:infokarlov@bellevuehotels.cz)  
[www.bellevuehotelkarlov.cz](http://www.bellevuehotelkarlov.cz), [www.restauracenakarlove.cz](http://www.restauracenakarlove.cz)







**Chateau Konopiště** – it was built likely by Prague Bishop Tobias of Benešov near his family seat in Benešov in 1294 in style of French fortresses. After the Benešovic family died out in 1327 Konopiště became the property of the family Šternberk for the next 275 years. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Konopiště was successively owned by a whole range of influential aristocratic families. In 1887 the manor was bought by Archduke Franz Ferdinand d'Este, who had the chateau converted in a Historicist (Revavilist) style and its surroundings transofmred into a landscape garden. He founded the Rose Garden with greenhouses and moved his vast collections into the chateau. In 1921 Konopiště was taken from the Archduke's heirs by the state of Czechoslovakia and the chateau and the park were partly opened to

the public. During the Second World War, Konpošitě served as SS general staff HQ. After liberation, it was opened to the public once again in the form that Franz Ferdinand d'Este had given to it. The chateau offers four different tours, St. George's Museum, a shooting range, and the tour of the adjacent Rosa Garden with the greenhouses. The moat is home to bear named George.

Konopiště 1, 256 01 Benešov  
tel.: +420 317 721 366, [www.zamek-konopiste.cz](http://www.zamek-konopiste.cz)



**Café bar Konopiště** – it is a family business with a long tradition located on the main parking lot of the Konopiště Chateau. This bistro with great coffee, draught beer, and pleasant atmosphere also offers regional products, souvenirs, and promotional material with tips for trips in the region.

Petr Slabihoudek  
tel.: +420 731 857 029, e-mail: [cafekonopiste@seznam.cz](mailto:cafekonopiste@seznam.cz)



## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Hotel Konopiště Nová Myslivna (New Gamekeeper's House)** – it neighbors the Konopiště B&B\*\*\*\*. It offers accommodation in rooms with bathroom and without a bathroom, total occupancy of 72. There is a restaurant with a garden serves special or daily menus. The complex also includes the Retro Club Hubert sitting 82 guests suitable for private parties, training, or lectures.

Konopiště 22, 256 01 Benešov  
tel.: +420 737 230 294, +420 737 228 555  
[www.hotel-konopiste.cz](http://www.hotel-konopiste.cz)



**Konopiště B&B\*\*\*\* and Motorcycle Museum JAWA** – this B&B with six stylish suites is located near the chateau Konopiště, in the same building as the Motorcycle Museum. The guest can admire the beauty of the largest Czech exhibition of vintage motorcycles through the transparent window in the breakfast room. The guided tour is free of charge for the B&B guests.

Next to the B&B, there is one of the smallest disc golf courses in the world, where you can try a quick round on 18 holes.

Konopiště 30, 256 01 Benešov  
tel.: +420 737 230 294, +420 317 702 658  
e-mail: [info@pension-konopiste.cz](mailto:info@pension-konopiste.cz), [www.pension-konopiste.cz](http://www.pension-konopiste.cz)



**Stará myslivna (Old Gamekeeper's House) Konopiště** – it is a stylish restaurant not far from the chateau Konopiště and it brings back the atmosphere of Franz Ferdinand d'Este's era. Wide selection of fine food consists mainly of venison specialties. There is a small game preserve in front of the restaurant helping people understand game keeping.

Konopiště 2, 256 01 Benešov  
tel.: +420 317 700 280, e-mail: [myslivna@igcpraha.cz](mailto:myslivna@igcpraha.cz)  
[www.staramyslivna.com](http://www.staramyslivna.com)

**Chlum** – it is a peak near Čerčany reaching 506m. a.s.l. where pyrite, pyrrhotite, and bloodstone were mined. There is well-preserved 47 m long adit Ladislav in the southeastern slope, which served for exploration between 1830–1834.

**Farmapark Soběhrdy** – it is a place of leisure and fun for people of all ages. There are almost 250 animals from around the world there; camels, kangaroos, ostriches, buffaloes, llamas, piglets, or highland cows. The complex covering 250,000 m<sup>2</sup> also provides children playground, trampolines, toboggans, slides, swings, water play features, a rope course and stands and restaurants.

256 01 Soběhrdy  
tel.: +420 777 920 000, e-mail: [obchod@hscz.info](mailto:obchod@hscz.info)

**Chvojen** – the high ground overlooking the Chvojen farmstead is the site of the Church of St. James and St. Phillip from 1217, built in late Romanesque style with Neo-gothic features.





**Chateau Jemniště** – it has been connected to the family Sternberg since 1868. The present owner, Jiri Sternberg lives there with his wife Petra, son Vojtěch, and daughter Izabela. They have reconstructed the landmark, opened it to the public, created exhibitions, built wedding halls. They have also opened Café Custoza and sell unique homemade deserts. The chateau restaurant serves their own venison.

Apart from renewing the chateau, the owners always take good care of the park, which was founded around 1725 by František Adam Trauttmansdorff. The original French garden was then remodeled by Jindřich Rottenhan to a landscape garden at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The present owners have renewed the path network, built an alpine rockery, a rose garden, and a natural pond, repaired the flower garden, ceremonial courtyard, and the linden tree alley on the approach, and planted hundreds of plants and trees. They have also built a small menagerie with parrots, raccoons, water birds, goats, donkeys, lamas, and kangaroos.

The lady of the chateau has started her own brand of elegant clothing called Hunting Dress Code Petra Sternbergová, which is for women loving style appropriate for topical expos and work meetings, walks through nature, official function at hunts and chases, and which goes with jeans as well.

Jemniště 1, 257 01 Postupice  
tel.: +420 731 903 995, e-mail: zamek@jemniste.cz



## In the tracks of the Knights of Blaník



**Vlašim** – this town located in the rolling hills of the foot of the Czechmoravian highlands is said to be the heart of the region of Podblanicko. It is near the Landscape Park Blaník, which is frequented by tourists. The town was founded in the 13<sup>th</sup> century in a basin of the Blanice River. It was probably in



1303 when Hynek of Vlašim built a castle on a promontory overlooking the river, but the first record of the town is from 1318. In 1363 Vlašim was bought by the lords of Jenštejn, the family of Jan Očko of Vlašim, who was the second Archbishop of Prague from 1364. In 1850 Rudolf II granted Vlašim the status of town. Local landmarks include the chateau, which was originally a Gothic style castle built at the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. It was successively owned by 12 different aristocratic families. The last family of Auersperg owned the manor up until 1945. The chateau park in Vlašim was founded in 1775 by Karel Josef Auersperg and his wife Marie Josefa. With the total area of 75 hectares, it is among the largest landscape gardens in Europe. It was built in the style of Romanticism with many nooks and small romantic buildings. Of them, only three pseudo-gothic gates, the Chinese Pavilion, and the Old Castle have survived. There is a nature trail going through the Vlašim Park. The building of the Civic Savings Bank of Vlašim designed by Saturnin Heller, served as the seat of the First Civic Savings Bank from 1872. There is also an observatory in Vlašim, which was built by its citizen between 1958 and 1961. Its operation is run by the Astronomical Society of Vlašim. The garden of the Environmental Center of Podblanicko is home to the paraZOO, a unique display of wild animals admitted to the rescue station, but due to permanent disabilities cannot be let back into the wild.

## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Landscape Park Blaník** – it is the smallest landscape park in the country. The dominant feature is the Blaník Hill., where, the legend has it, the Knights of Blaník sleep. The Great Blaník is the site of a viewing tower and the remnants of a prehistoric hillfort. You can reach them through a nature trail. The neighboring Little Blaník is the site of the ruins of a pilgrim chapel consecrated to St. Mary Magdalene and a protected tree known as the Tall monk. At the foot of the Great Blaník near Kondrace, there is the Nature's House with an exhibit on the Landscape Park Blaník and the geological park Knights of Blaník's Country. There is a nature trail leading to the top of the Great Blaník starting at the Nature's House with 14 information boards and 17 playful stops for children.



**Hrádek near Vlašim** – the pilgrimage site of Virgin Mary connected to the worship of the redeemed Gothic statue of Virgin Mary from Hrádek. The main pilgrimages take place annually every first three Sundays in July and Bishops and other religious dignitaries are regularly invited. A chapel was built above the local spring of allegedly miraculous water in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Loreta near Vlašim** – this pilgrimage chapel was built near Vlašim in 1704 by the owners of the manor at that time, counts of Weissenwolf. There is a pilgrimage every year in September.

**Parish Museum Kondrac** – it is the only museum of its kind in the Czech Republic. It presents the authentic interior of a parish from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The village is also the site of St. Bartholomew's Church from the 12<sup>th</sup> century with a Romanesque nave. The altar and the pulpit are from the flooded church in Dolní Kralovice, which were had to make way for the Švihov Reservoir.



**Gold Mine Roudný** – it used to be one the most high-yielding gold mines in Austria-Hungary. The mining had been going on since the medieval times. When the mining ended

## DO NOT MISS



**Museum of Podblanicko** – it has used the chateau of Vlašim since 1946 and the chateau has been its seat since 1988.

The west wing of the chateau houses the exhibition Chateau Parks the History of the Chateau, which commemorates the movables from the Vlašim Park (statues of Diana, the Chinese, etc.) and the history of the seat from the castle of the lord of Vlašim to the romantic residence of the Auersperger family. The halls with the exhibition Mirror of the Past present Podblanicko as a place of artisans, clergymen, and the successor to the throne. The west wing also showcases staterooms of the Auersperger family, who owned the chateau from 1744 to 1945, with period furnishing. The northern wing of the chateau houses the exhibition named Steady Aim, which shows the history of firearms. It presents products of Central European rifle factories, but also large producers, such as Winchester or Zbrojovka Brno. The second hall introduces the history of the ammunition producer Sellier & Bellot founded in 1825 and operating in Vlašim until 1936. The presented ammunition is one of the most complete collections in the Czech Republic. The chateau chapel of St. Vincence is furnished with a Baroque altarpiece and

in 1930, only exploration was conducted. Several buildings have survived to today (a worker's colony, the director's villa). There is a nature trail going through the area.

Renaissance stuccos. The tower offers a view of the town and the park and the cellars with a small stone collection are a part of the Vault Mysteries exhibition.

Muzeum Podblanicka, Zámek 1, 258 01 Vlašim  
tel.: +420 317 842 927, e-mail: muzeumvlasim@iol.cz  
muzeumvlasim@seznam.cz, www.muzeumpodblanicka.cz



The Museum of Podblanicko has two branches. **The chateau in Růžkovy Lhotice** houses the exhibition Land of Tones, which presents famous musicians born in Podblanicko (J.D. Zelenka, J. Suk, or Z. Fibich) and personalities who used to visit the region (R. Wagner, G. Mahler). The portraits and instruments presented mostly commemorate Bedřich Smetana, who spent the happiest part of his life (1835-1844) in Lhotice.

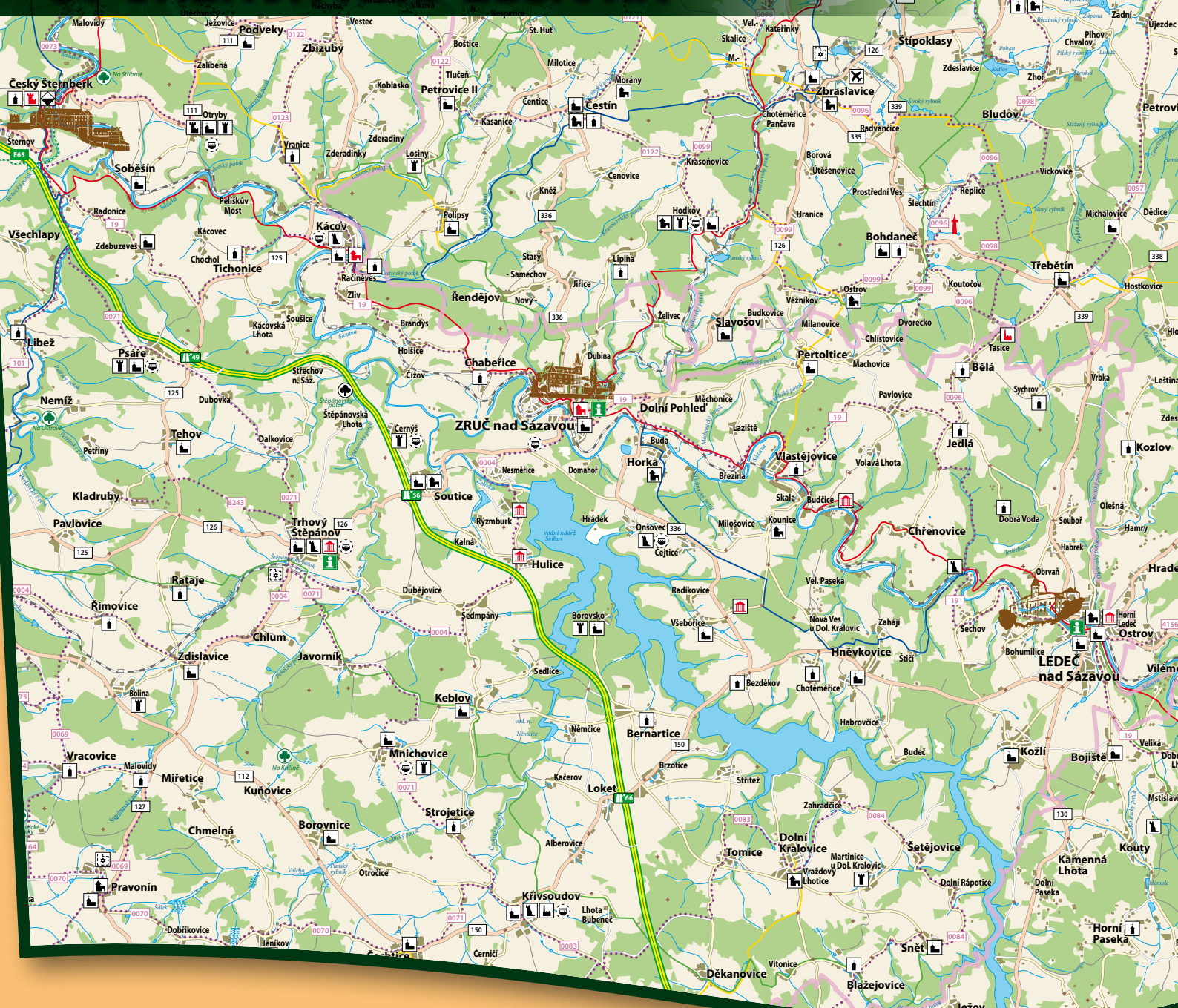
Zámek Růžkovy Lhotice, Zámek 1, 257 65 Čechtice  
tel.: +420 317 842 927, +420 317 853 157

**The branch in Benešov** on the Small Square no. 74 houses the exhibition History of Benešov and its Surroundings. Archaeological finds present the lives of the people and both monasteries. Folk culture of the surrounding villages is also shown. The exhibition Our Regiment presents the garrison of Benešov at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The items and photographs follow the history of the local 102. Regiment and fates of the soldiers on the frontlines of WWI and World War II.

Muzeum Podblanicka – pobočka Benešov  
Malé náměstí 74, 256 01 Benešov, tel.: +420 317 723 419



# EXPLORING THE CONFLUENCE OF SÁZAVA AND ŽELIVKA





*They are like coffee and milk - golden brown Sázava and clear Želivka. That may be the reason why their confluence is among the most beautiful and romantic in Czechia. The area where the two rivers meet, however, is full of places of history or nature which are worth visiting. The Švihov Reservoirs for example, the largest drinking water reservoir in Central Europe, for which Dolní Kralovice, Švihov, or Zahrádka had to make way. Other places have their history to, mostly a more cheerful one, too. Come and „read“ their story!*

## Around Kácov



**Kácov** – the first written record of Kácov is from 1318. In 1412 it was granted the status of town. On December 1, 2006, it regained the status of township. It's history is connected to the local chateau, a converted Baroque style keep, which was built by duchess Anna Maria Franziska from Tuscany between 1726-1733. In 1918, the chateau was taken over by the state. At the moment, it has a private owner. There is a museum with a gallery inside and cultural events are held there.

Local landmarks include Mariana sculpture of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary with statues of 14 holy helpers. It is from red sandstone and it's construction was ordered in 1730 by Anna Maria Franziska from Tuscany. Apart from the sculpture, the square is also home to the Little Museum of Jawa Vehicles from Sázava. The chateau is connected by a hallway with the parish church of the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the remains of St. Liberatus. There is a ruin of a feudal seat called Desolate Castle on a high rising promontory on the left bank of Sázava. Another landmark is the St. Wenceslaus Memorial column, which was built by the order of František Zeman, the forest administrator in Kácov, in 1929. One of the important native to Kácov was the Bishop of Budweis Jan Valerián Jirsík (1798-1883). He is commemorated by a plaque on the house he was born in opposite the church, which now serves as the town hall. On the other side of Sázava, not far from the train station, there is a steel bridge spanning the river, which „played“ in the acclaimed movies Tmavomodrý svět (Dark Blue World) and Habbermanův mlýn (Habberman's Mill), and where parts of the film Špunti



na vodě (River Rascals) were shot. It is a historical military style bridge of the Bailey type, which was one of the facilities Czechoslovakia obtained after World War II as a part of the help by United Nations help to the countries destroyed by the war (UNRRA). The most from the army surplus was erected in Kácov in the 1970s. Not far from Kácov, on the Čestínka stream near the village of Polipsy, there is Koutský mlýn. The first record of this place are from 1390. In 1714, the lumber mill was a part of the manor of Kácov.

## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Around Kácov** – it is a nature trail going from Koutský Mill, through Polipsy and slopes overlooking the Losinský Stream, to the railway station in Kácov. It has ten topical stops informing the visitors of local landmarks, nature and silviculture. There is also the Devil's Vista near the trail.

**Panorama Golf Resort Kácov** – Panorama is a top quality golf course with 27 holes plus a hotel and a restaurant.

Panorama 1, 285 09 Kácov  
tel.: +420 312 292 929, +420 602 203 203  
e-mail: info@panoramagolf.cz, www.panoramagolf.cz

**Hubertus Brewery** – it was founded in 1457 and its modern history saw its first pages written in 2001. With the annual output of 20,000 hl, it ranks as a small brewery. It brews eight kinds of beer including unfiltered and unpasteurized beer. On occasions it also brews wheat beer, semi-dark beer, and oth-

er beer specialties. There is a hotel and a brewery restaurant called Šalanda in the brewery. Tours are possible, but they have to be booked in advance at: +420 327 324 693.

V Podskalí 6, 285 09 Kácov, [www.pivovarkacov.cz](http://www.pivovarkacov.cz)

**Bisport Kácov Ltd.** – this water-sport and tourist center rents canoes, rafts, sit on tops on the length of the river from Stvořidla to Pikovice. It can arrange baggage transport and it also offers accommodation for tourist in comfortable rooms with a large communal room. From May to the end of September a water-sport shop and refreshment stall are

open in the complex. Bisport Kácov is ideal for water-sport beginners, families and school trips and it is also a starting point for hiking, cycling, geocaching, and mountain climbing.

258 09 Kácov 158, tel.: +420 777 335 616

e-mail: [info@bisport-kacov.cz](mailto:info@bisport-kacov.cz), [www.bisport-kacov.cz](http://www.bisport-kacov.cz)



## Around Zruč nad Sázavou



**Zruč nad Sázavou** – the first written record of Zruč is from 1328. The dominant feature of the town is the chateau, which stands on the site a medieval castle had been standing probably since the first third of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Several aristocratic families wrote the pages of the history of Zruč: powerful and expansive Kolowrat family, Kalenic family, whose coat of arms is that of the town, or Shcebek family, important builders of railways. The chateau was reconstructed in three stages at great expense with the help of the European funding and since 2010, tours have been going on focused on the last owners, the Schebek family. The tour of town can also be done by questing, a game similar to treasure hunt.





## POINTS OF INTEREST



**The chateau and the park Zruč nad Sázavou** – the park visitors can change between two tours. The short tour includes the chateau interiors and the long one adds the chateau

chapel and visiting the top of the chateau tower. There is a beautiful park surrounding the chateau. The moat is a route of the fun learning trail of the Knight Milota Kolowrat which is a stylized training of young knights. Children can try archery, axe throwing, or climbing a totem among other things.



**Museum „Od verpánku k Baťovi“** (From a cobbling stool to Baťa) – the regional museum on the ground floor of the Zruč chateau presents the local tradition of the art of cobbling. It shows sewing machines, shoemaking tools, shoe samples and historical photographs.

**Kolowrat Tower** – the tower houses the exhibit of medieval weapons. Each storey of the tower uses an interactive and fun form to teach children about the history of the complex, period tools and weapons showing them the defense of a medieval castle.

**Doll Kingdom** – the permanent exhibition in the chateau's attic presents about 6,000 items from all over the world. There are dolls made of porcelain, paper, cloth, celluloid, and the modern ones.

The top of the 20 meter tower offer a beautiful view of the whole complex of the chateau.

## DO NOT MISS



**Watermen Museum** – this rare exhibition was opened in Zručský dvůr (Yard) near the chateau. It presents historical and the state of the art kayaks, a model of a river with safe and unsafe weirs, laminating workshop with a talking figurine, historic waterman camp. There is a corner with a raft and showing of historical movies on watermanship.



**Children Playground** – it offers 41 children attractions. There is also a marble playground and a traffic playground for children with paddle cars.

town Zruč nad Sázavou. It stands on a hill 451 m. a.s.l. It takes 130 stairs to get to the viewing platform 24m above the ground. The tower is accessible all year round free of charge.

**Viewing Tower Babka** – the wooden viewing tower with steel parts and staircase is located in the place known as „Mezi cestami“ (Between paths), about 2km north of the

**Viewing Tower Bohdanka** – it stands near the village of Bohdaneč. It is 52 meters tall and there are viewing towers at 22.5 and 42 meters.

## Around the Švihov Reservoir

**Švihov Reservoir** – it is located on the Želivka River about 4km from the confluence with Sázava. The dam is almost 60 meters tall, the crown is 860 meters long, the reservoir's capacity is 309 million cubic meters of water, and the perimeter is more than 150km. It is a drinking water source for Prague and parts of Central Southern Bohemian regions. The strict protection and sanitary standard forbids any recreational activities at an around the reservoir. The dam may be visited on a guided tour, which may be booked at the nearby Water House.

### DO NOT MISS



**Natural Landmark Hadce u Želivky** – it is located in Borovsko at the Švihov Reservoir. The area is marked by the bedrock's geology, a serpentine mass supporting a rare set of plants, for example a species of forget me not (*Myosotis stenophylla*), two species of sleepworts (*Asplenium cuneifolium*) and green sleepworts, common polypody, serpentine thrift, or star-tipped reindeer lichen. Hadce u Želivky are one of only two remaining places in the world where the extremely rare minuartie smejaklii.

**Water House** – this modern visitors' center presenting different „faces“ of water is located at the Švihov Reservoir. [www.vodni-dum.cz](http://www.vodni-dum.cz)



**Bee World in Hulice** – it is an interactive exhibition of the life of the swarm. [www.vcelisvet.cz](http://www.vcelisvet.cz)



**Wheelchair friendly cycling path** – this paved 4km cycling path leads from the Rehabilitation Center Kladruby to Trhový Štěpánov. It goes mostly through forests and open country. It is designed for users with disabilities, cyclists, in-line skaters, and scooter riders. There are several rest stops along the way with information boards designed in a way tourists on wheelchairs and handbikes can see them. In Trhový Štěpánov, you can visit the Museum of Štěpánovsko with a communal house, which also doubles as an information center. There is also a Jewish cemetery, founded probably prior to the 17<sup>th</sup> century with around 300 tombstone from the period between 1711 and 1940.



## Posázaví on a boat



**Sázava** – it is one of the most beautiful and popular rivers in the country. It springs from Velké Dářko man-made lake and flows to Vltava after the journey of 218 kilometers. Around 208 kilometers from Žďár nad Sázavou to the confluence at Davle are navigable. The most attractive part include the rapids at Stvořidla and between Khranice and Pikovice. The mid and lower parts of the river are littered with weirs. The whole navigable length is dotted with natural and historical landmarks, but also campsites, equipment rentals, and restaurants and bistros. There is a good train service in and out the – one of the local connections is the iconic Posázavský Pacific.

The upper part of the river going from Žďár nad Sázavou to Přebyslav is formed by a rocky riverbed meandering through mostly wooded valleys. There are a lot of broad crested weirs where ships must be carried over, which is a bit complicated on the weir in Světlá nad Sázavou, but easy elsewhere. The part downstream from the settlement of Smrčná is the most beautiful, but also the most difficult part of Sázava, the Stvořidla Rapids. The river thunders down a river bed littered with granite boulders and rocky plates. The surrounding wooded slopes are a part of a natural preserve. The flow downstream is much more peaceful.

The mid section from Ledeč nad Sázavou to Týnec nad Sázavou

## POINTS OF INTEREST



**Stvořidla** – in 1948 this area was declared a natural preserve. The valley tucked between the granite hills of Melechov and Žebrákov forces the river to go over hundreds of round granite boulders and rocky planes. The landscape inspired number of painters, among others Jan Zrzavý, Otakar Štáfl, and Jaroslav Panuška, or writer Jaroslav Hašek.

**Sluneční zátoka (Sunny Bay)** – it is the nickname given by the Boy Scouts to a meadow near Stvořidla. The memorial there commemorates writer Jaroslav Foglar (1907–1999), author of Rychlé Šípy (Rapid Arrows), who used to come there with his Boy Scout Unit and found inspiration for his book Hoši od Bobří řeky (Boys from the Beaver River) there.

you runs through gentle dales and numerous cabin settlements. The gentle current with long still parts is dotted with weirs, but most of them are navigable. It is generally a good idea to check the terrain and situation before paddling through any weir.

In the lower part from Týnec nad Sázavou to Pikovice, the river cuts deep into a wooded valley with steep rocky slopes, the current gets faster and there are more rocks in the riverbed. From Pikovice to the confluence at Davle, the flow is more peaceful again. The lower part of the Sázava River is often nicknamed the birthplace of Czech outdoorsmanship. It was here where the first tramps and campers came to stay in around 1918. Their heritage is still present there in the form of numerous cottage settlements. Sázava, which is often called „the Golden River“ for its color, offers unique opportunities for one-day trips or longer holidays for both individuals and families.



**Ledeč nad Sázavou** – the first written record is from 1257. The town spans both banks of the Sázava. The dominant feature on the right bank is a castle from the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, which is among the oldest aristocratic castles in Bohemia. In 1879 it was consumed by a fire and it has never been restored to its original form. The historical center of the town with the church of St. Peter and Paul is located on the left bank.

**Forest Park Šeptouchov** – a place for recreation on its namesake hill at the edge of Ledeč nad Sázavou. It consists of limestone rocks overlooking the Sázava, which offer a nice view of the town and its surroundings. In 1940 a karst caves were discovered and they are open to the public.

**Castle Chřenovice** – this ruin of a Gothic style defensive castle is located on a promontory overlooking the route of the Posázavský Pacific where the river Jestřebnice flows into the Sázava.





Published by Posázaví o.p.s., Zámek Jemniště 1, 257 01 Postupice

[www.posazavi.com](http://www.posazavi.com)

Text Jaroslava Tůmová

Photographs archiv Posázaví o.p.s. and Libor Sváček

Design Pavel Fuksa – GraTypoPrint, Production Polygraf s.r.o.

This publication was made possible by the contribution of the Central Bohemian Region.

**Středočeský kraj**

PUBLICATION NOT DESIGNED FOR SALE

ISBN 978-80-87684-37-5