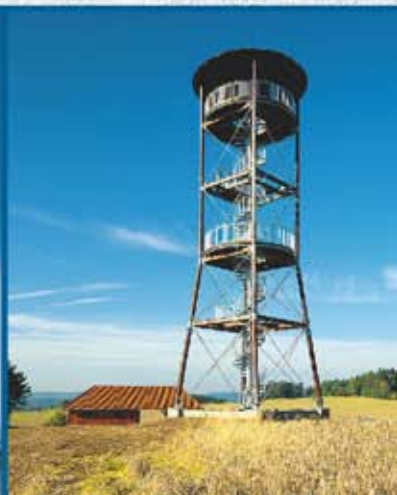
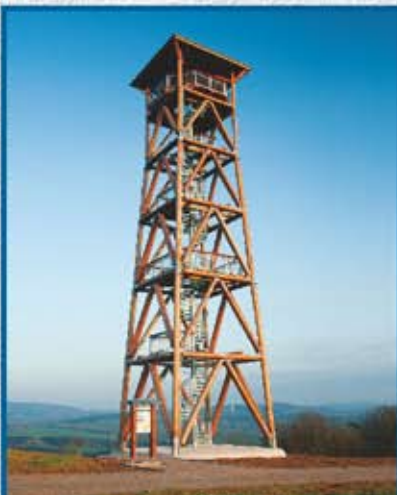




Places with Many Views in the Glacensis Euroregion

GB



Places with Many Views in the Glacensis Euroregion



"Since the very beginnings of mankind, man has envied birds. Their view of the world as well as the possibility of a far-reaching outlook into the landscape. This may be why our forefathers searched for places with a broad view. A good observation post naturally had a great significance. Prehistoric man could watch animal migration from there, which helped him ensure food and survival. The outlook also enabled the tribe an early warning of an approaching enemy. The nearer we draw to the Middle Ages on our journey through time, the more the defensive function of diverse lookout towers becomes apparent. No matter if these are rocky elevations, as part of some castles or fortified settlements, or towers built of stone, forming either the last support point of a castle or an important constituent of municipal fortification. Last but not least, as the population density was growing, another significant factor came into account – an early spotting of fire in a town. The fire of a wooden house or the whole street, literally a lethal enemy of many medieval towns, requires constant service at a place with a perfect view.

Together with the gradual development of civilization and increasing quality of building technology, the guarding importance of towers has retreated to the background. Due to the development of tourism, approximately since the second half of the 19th century, these places have been acquiring an increasingly poetical function. These very towers still constitute a basis for a remarkable network of observation towers with a perfect view of individual towns and their surroundings, including distant outlooks reaching the horizon..."

Dear readers,

with the excerpt of its Introductory part we have wished to remind you of the publication "Lookout Towers and Vantage Points in the Glacensis Euroregion", which was published as early as 2006. At that time it aroused a great interest – not only among lovers of lookout towers, but also among the general public, which is proved by the fact that it was sold out and disappeared from the counters and shelves of information centres within a short time. As numerous new lookout towers have been built during the last years and also to satisfy the interest of tourists, we have attempted an up-dated edition of the original publication, extended with the newly established observation towers.

The entity that also had a large share in the construction of the new lookout towers is the Glacensis Euroregion, which – as a leading partner of the project "Places with Many Views in the Glacensis Euroregion" – has gained financial means for building new observation towers and in cooperation with towns, municipalities and other entities helped towards their erection in the year 2014.





View from the Eliška lookout tower towards the Vraní Mountains (Crow Mts.)

With this publication we would like to pay homage - at least symbolically - to all those who participated in their construction. From project architects, over officials of state institutions who had understanding for this project, to the actual builders and installers. All of them deserve not only our thanks, but without a doubt the thanks of all tourists who shall ever step onto their viewing platforms.

Dear readers, we hope that this interesting publication will be a great contribution to your exploration of the beauties of the entire **Glacensis Euroregion**. We believe the views offered by the mentioned structures shall help you recall the short, but fitting remark of the doctor from the Czech film "Vesničko má středisková" - "It's not a country, it's a garden".

Wishing you far-reaching views and beautiful experiences,

the authors.



Viewing platform of the Mariánka lookout tower in Horní Černá

Pictographs in the brochure showing the basic information about lookout towers and their accessibility

	Altitude		Accessibility - cyclists
	Lookout tower height		Distance from P - car and motorbike
	Viewing platform height		Accessibility - cable car
	Accessibility - hikers		Accessibility - disabled

Signage on the map

- Lookout towers from the GE project
- Other lookout towers and vantage points





The Krkonoše Mountains and their foothills

Sněžka (Snow Mountain) from the Harrachov Stones

The first stopover on our journey is the **Sněžka (Snow Mountain)**, the highest mountain of the Krkonoše (Giant) Mountains and at the same time the highest point of the Czech Republic. The walk on the edge of the peak platform of this "flat hill" of schist gneiss offers an unlimited view in all directions. The lookout platform with a map and a description enables a more accurate designation of individual mountains as well as valleys (pits) in the surroundings. The peak can be accessed from several directions. From Pec pod Sněžkou you can reach it by the newly constructed cable car providing interesting views or you can climb the top following one of the marked hiking paths, either through the Obřít důl (Giant Pit) up the stream of the Úpa river, or past the Výrovka or Luční bouda chalets. If the starting point is the Pomezní boudy chalets, there is a beautiful path with numerous outlooks over the Jelenka chalet and the Svorová Mountain. A nice walk to the summit is also offered by the blue tourist trail from the Polish town of Karpacz, starting at the Wang wooden church.

The new cable car transports even prams, disabled wheelchair users and also dogs (muzzle and leash required).

South-west of Pec pod Sněžkou, at the upper station of the four-seat chairlift to the **Hnědý vrch hill**, an observation tower

of the same name was opened in 2009. Hnědý vrch (Brown Hill, Braun Berg in German) is generally known amongst skiers under the corruption Bramberk. The wooden tower with steel linking elements, a steel inner staircase and three viewing platforms has a triangle cross-section to increase its resistance to wind gusts. The **Hnědý vrch** observation tower is accessible during the operating hours of the cable car from Pec pod Sněžkou up to Hnědý vrch or you can also reach it on foot by turning off the red tourist trail leading up from the Lesní bouda (Forest Chalet) to the Liščí louka (Fox Meadow).

Černá hora (Black Mountain; 1,299 m a.s.l.) has always been a frequent trip destination. Therefore it is not surprising that as early as the turn of the 20th century a wooden lookout tower was built on the Černá louka (Black Meadow), serving tourists until the 1920's. What has been used for the nowadays observation tower is the last but one support structure of the former cable car, which was replaced with a new, modern one in 1981. Today it is possible - thanks to the Panoráma citizens' association - to enjoy the view not only of the Giant Mountains, but also of the Bohemian Basin. And how to get to the Black Mountain? If you



Sněžka - Pec pod Sněžkou
Accessibility by a new cable car since 2014
GPS: 50°44'09.594"N, 15°44'22.729"E

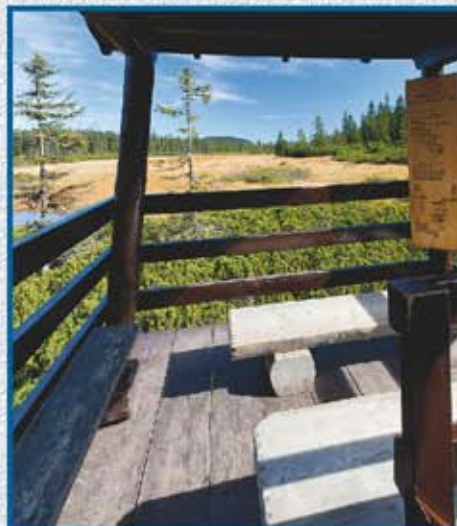


Hnědý vrch - Pec pod Sněžkou
Opening year of the lookout tower: 2009
GPS: 50°41'18.027"N, 15°42'25.562"E



Černá hora - Janské Lázně
Opening year of the lookout tower: 1998
GPS: 50°38'56.114"N, 15°45'07.177"E





Černohorské rašeliniště - J. Lázně

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1998

GPS: 50°39'37.739"N, 15°44'51.148"E



Zlatá vyhlídka - Janské Lázně

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2008

GPS: 50°37'32.038"N, 15°45'34.070"E



Přední Žalý - Herlíkovice

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1892

GPS: 50°39'29.500"N, 15°34'20.610"E



do not feel like hiking, it is worth using the cableway. From its cabin you can admire still new and new outlooks as they gradually open up to you.

In the area around the Black Mountain peak we can find a lot of places with interesting views, one of them certainly being the **Černohorské rašeliniště (Black Mountain Peatbog)** with a lookout tower on the northern slope of the mountain. The lookout tower, which can be reached by walking a wooden pavement, was constructed in 1998. Its platform offers a view especially towards the east – of the main peatbog meadow. The Black Mountain Peatbog is only accessible from June to October.

In the surroundings of Janské Lázně we cannot miss the **Zlatá vyhlídka (Golden Outlook)** observation tower, completed in the year 2008. The metal outlook tower, which replaced a small stone lookout tower from the turn of the 20th century, is part of the Zlatá vyhlídka grounds. The observation tower is freely accessible and despite the fact that the ascent is permitted at one's own risk, it provides a beautiful panoramic view. We can find it approximately 3 km south-west of Janské Lázně.

It is impossible to list all places in the Giant Mountains that provide good views and beautiful sceneries. For all the others

let us mention at least the **Harrachov Stones** (1,421 m a. s. l.) over the Dvoračky chalet where we can see – if the visibility is good – almost the entire Giant Mountains from.

Spectacular sceneries are also provided by the **Ambrožova vyhlídka (Ambrož Outlook)** at the Pančavský Waterfall, offering amazing views not only of the waterfall, but also of the Labský důl (The Elbe Pit). On the slopes of the Pančavské jámy (Pančava Hollows) there is a place with the richest flora of the Czech side of the Giant Mountains, the "Schustler garden".

The only stone lookout tower on the Czech side of the Giant Mountains was built on the peak of **Přední Žalý** (1,019 m a. s. l.), north-west of Vrchlabí, in 1892. The initiator of the construction was the count Jan Harrach, but in fact it was already the third outlook tower built on the same spot. The first one was wooden, the second one built of metal, but technically inconvenient. The observation tower was restored between 2011 and 2012, when – besides other things – the foundations were stabilized. The way to the top has been made easier by the four-seat chairlift from Herlíkovice since 1996, but the view of the Elbe valley and the massif of the Giant Mountains is worth a little effort even for hikers. The observation tower can be reached either along the red-marked Buchar trail from Jilemnice to Horní Mísečky, or following the yellow tourist trail from Vrchlabí for about 5.5 km.

Ambrož Outlook at the Pančava Waterfall



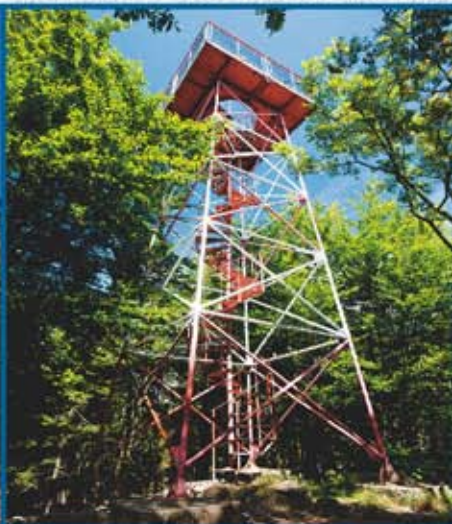




Markoušovický Ridge

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2014

GPS: 50°34'31.213"N, 16°00'43.751"E



Žaltman - Radvanice

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1967

GPS: 50°33'09.257"N, 16°03'07.489"E



Rtyně v Podkrkonoší

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2002

GPS: 50°29'42.684"N, 16°04'20.494"E



A small wooden lookout tower providing a lovely view is situated on the outskirts of **Rtyně v Podkrkonoší**, at the exit towards Červený Kostelec next to a petrol station. The covered viewing gallery, which can be reached by mounting 23 steps, is just about 5 metres above the ground. In spite of this fact, it offers surprisingly far-reaching views – of the Rtyně-Svatoňovice Basin, the panorama of the Giant Mountains, but also the nearby St. John Baptist Church with a wooden belfry from the year 1544 in Rtyně. The lookout tower was renovated in 2012.

A significant lookout tower in the foothills of the Giant Mountains is **Zvičina** (671 m a. s. l.), dominating the whole territory. After numerous disputes between Czech and German tourists, the Rais Chalet was built there and in 1926 a lookout tower with a glass revolving dome was added. However, this observation tower is currently closed to public. Despite this fact, the view from its very top – at good visibility – enables an outlook into an extensive area of Bohemia (local people claim that it encompasses up to one third). The peak is a crossroads of hiking trails, but you can also get there by car, either from Dolní Brusnice or Miletín.

One of the greatest symbols of **Hořice** is the **Masaryk Tower of Independence**. It was built in the years 1925 - 38 according to the project of the architect František Blažek. The foundation stone was laid on 10th July 1926 in the presence of the first Czechoslovak president T. G. Masaryk. The viewing gallery offers lookouts towards the Zvičina hill, Lázně (Spa) Bělohrad, Jičín and into the Polabí Region. At the turn of the century, a group of sculptures entitled "The Legion Abroad" was placed in front of the tower. The tower can be reached by means of the access communication called The Way of the Legions.

Hořice, as one of a few places, can boast two observation towers. The other lookout tower is the telecommunication tower of a mobile phone operator, which was built in the year 1998 on the **Hořický Chlum** hill. The observation platform provides views especially of the Giant Mountains and its foothills (Podkrkonoší), Zvičina, the Jičín region, the Trosky castle ruins, the Zebín hill, southwards views of the flat Polabí, but also the more distant Broumov region and the Orlické Mountains. The lookout tower can be accessed by turning off the road between Hořice and Lázně Bělohrad at the "Lukavecký kříž" (Lukavec Cross). The observation tower also stands on the yellow and red tourist trails leading from Hořice to Lázně Bělohrad.



Rais Chalet on Zvičina

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1926

GPS: 50°27'17.647"N, 15°41'40.487"E



Masaryk Tower of Independence

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1938

GPS: 50°22'39.234"N, 15°38'19.644"E



Hořický Chlum

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1999

GPS: 50°22'48.111"N, 15°37'29.332"E



The Kladsko Borderland

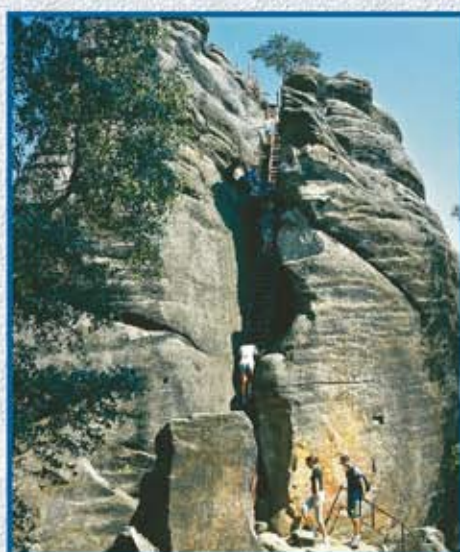
A "city" among sandstone rock towns is called Adršpach-Teplice Rocks. Its bizarre rock formations surely arouse the imagination of each and every visitor. As the name of the place suggests, it consists of two rock areas. The northern part, Adršpach Rocks, is separated by the far stretching Vlčí rokle (Wolf's Gorge) from the southern Teplice Rocks. The whole territory offers a number of splendid viewing sites, particularly if the visitors are rock climbers. However, there are attractions for common hikers, too. They can even choose from several spectacular viewing points.


Starozámecký Hill – the Adršpach Castle Ruin. We can find it south-west of Dolní (Lower) Adršpach, starting at the entrance to the rocks and following the red signs and later the yellow ones for about 2 km. The castle was founded in the 13th century. Till the present day the rests of rock cellars have been preserved there as well as small parts of masonry. The way to the castle is lined with impressive rock towers called Království (Kingdom).

Střmen Rock Castle. It is situated in the area of Teplice Rocks, about less than a kilometre from the entrance to the rock town. Its ruins can be accessed by climbing steep stairs and ladders. Its founder is unknown. Later it belonged – as well as the Adršpach castle – to the Lords of Dubá. Both castles are likely to have been demolished by Silesians.

Skály Castle (Jirásek Rocks Castle). An impressive lookout is provided by Jirásek Rocks. In fact, they are a castle ruin near the village called Skály in the southern part of the rock area also called Bischofstein, or Bishop's Stone. The castle might have been founded in the late 14th century. The remnants of the walls and vaults that can be found there today come from a later stronghold built around the year 1546. The Skály little chateau in the village of the same name was built in 1666 and rebuilt in the Empire style in 1825.

View of the rock town from the Adršpach Castle

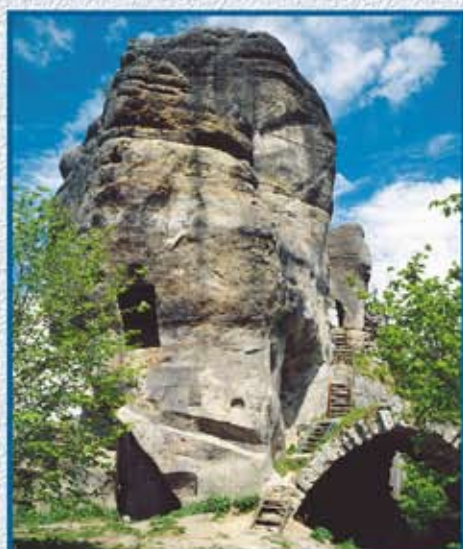


Střmen Rock Castle - Teplice n. Metují 
GPS: 50°35'39.411"N, 16°08'18.256"E





View from the Čáp lookout tower - Bor and Hejšovina on the horizon

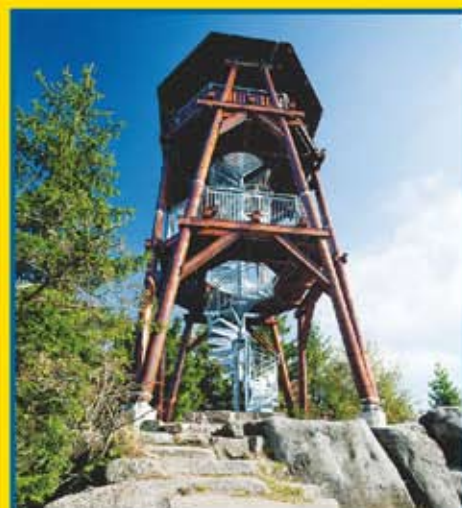
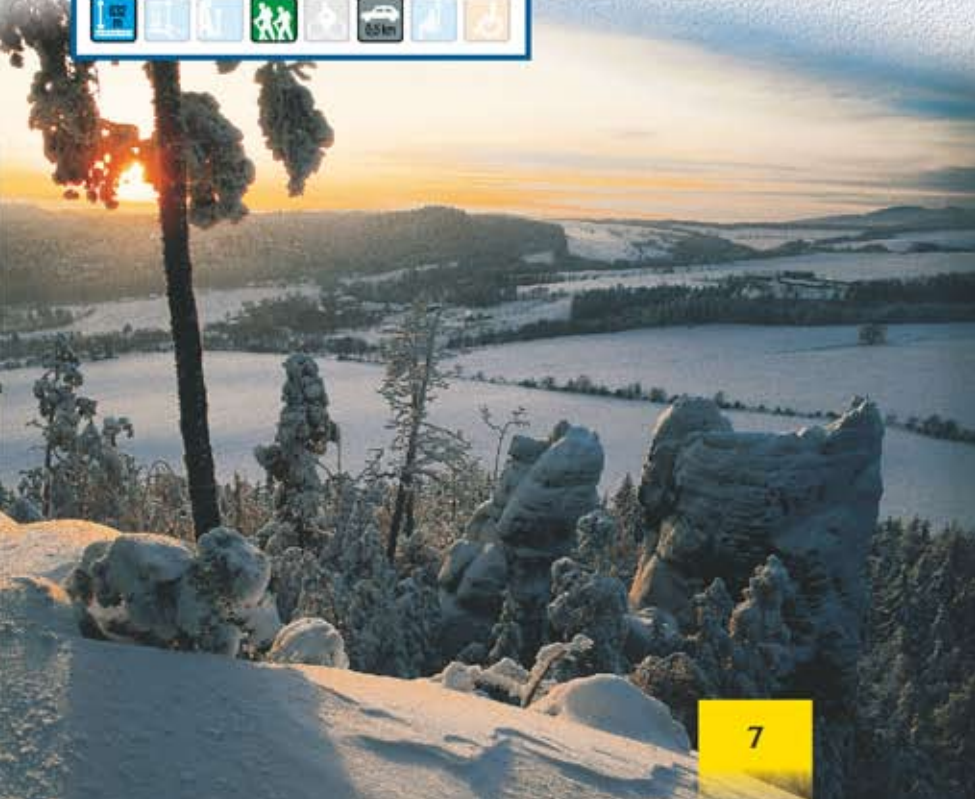


Skály Rock Castle
GPS: 50°34'18.120"N, 16°08'26.088"E



While the Adršpach Rocks are flooded during the season with up to ten thousands of visitors, the opposite **Křížový vrch (Cross Hill)** stands aside of their interest. This area is mainly visited by rock climbers and lovers of peaceful nature. The hill derives its name from a cross way. It is comprised of a complex of cast-iron reliefs and it ends on a peak platform with an iron cross. And it is from the edge of the plateau that you can see the beautiful scenery of the Adršpach Rocks and the surrounding landscape. At the far end, you will see the Giant Mountains range with its peak, Sněžka.

Winter view from the Křížový Hill



Čáp - Teplice nad Metují

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2014

GPS: 50°34'28.617"N, 16°07'26.870"E



An interesting view has always been offered by the **Čáp** (Stork) hill (786 m a. s. l.) located west of the Skály village (about 2 km from the village along the green trail). Therefore this bare rock hill was also chosen - within the project mentioned in the Introduction - for the construction of a new wooden lookout tower with two viewing platforms.

The observation tower was built with the contribution of European funding in cooperation of the town of Teplice nad Metují, the Branka Tourist Industry Union and the Glacensis Euroregion. The Čáp peak has always enabled nice views, which are now going to be even extended.

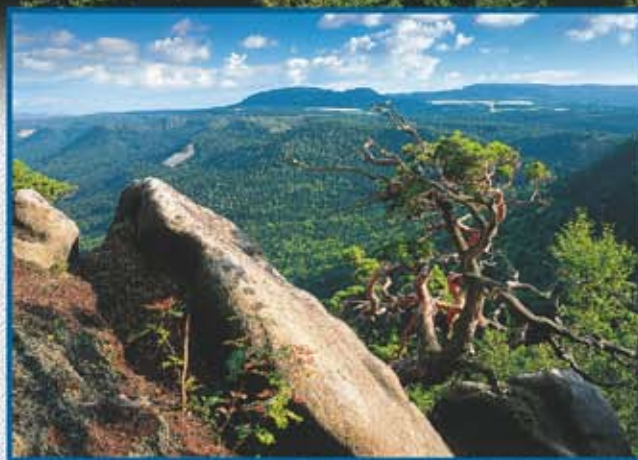
Outlook possibilities at good visibility:
North: Teplice Rocks, Starozámecký Hill, Mírošov Walls
Northwest: Giant Mountains, Zvičina,
Northeast: Mírošov Walls, Javoří Mountains, Broumov Region, Owl Mountains
Southeast: Ostaš, Hejšovina, Bor, Broumov Walls
South: Vysoký Kámen (High Stone) Dobrošov, Orlické Mountains, Švédský vrch (Swedish Hill), surroundings of Starkov
Southwest: Jestřebí Mountains





View from Supí hnízdo over the Broumov Basin towards the Javoví Mountains

Between the Broumov region and the surroundings of Police nad Metují, the massif of the **Broumov Walls** rises as a natural rampart protecting the Inland. There are no dominant towers like those in the areas mentioned above, but you can find there a number of gorges, dry valleys and places with a splendid lookout. For all of them let us name at least three: **Hvězda (Star)** – a lookout point at the Chapel of Virgin Mary of the Snow, **Supí hnízdo (Vulture Nest)** – a lookout over the Kovářova rokle (Blacksmith's Gorge) (just a little diversion from Alois Jirásek's Life Path) and **Modrý kámen (Blue Stone; 686 m a. s. l.)** following the red signs for about 3.5 km from Hvězda – a rock lookout with a view of the Broumov region.



View from Koruna to Hejšovina

Under the Broumov Walls, on the very border with the Polish Republic, a village called Božanov is situated. The landmark of this village and surrounding landscape is the steep hill of **Koruna** (769 m a. s. l.) in the Broumov Walls. A protected lookout (access along the yellow tourist mark) provides a view of a part of the Broumov Basin, the Polish Hejšovina hill (Szcellnlec) as well as Bor and – weather permitting – also of the Jeseníky mountains.

Chapel of the Virgin Mary of the Snow at Hvězda

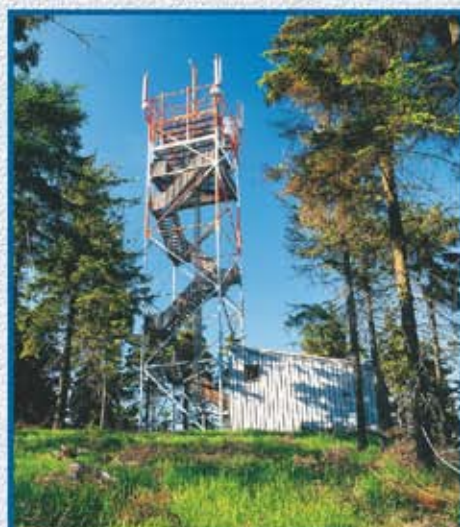




View from the Frýdlant Lookout on the Ostaš hill

When visiting this unique corner of our homeland, it is impossible to miss out **Ostaš** by Police nad Metují – a fabulous hill that many legends narrate about. The table hillock, recognisable from afar due to its distinctive shape, encompasses two rock labyrinths. The blue tourist trail constitutes a circuit through the Upper Labyrinth from the car park up to the highest point (700 m a. s. l.), the "Frýdlant Lookout". The reward for the effort of walking through the maze of the Labyrinth is a beautiful view of the Broumov Walls.

To make the list from this area complete, we cannot leave out the lookout tower that the highest peak of the Javořícké Mountains rising not far from the Czech-Polish border – **Ruprechtický Špičák** (880 m a. s. l.) – has boasted since 2002. The telecommunication tower open to the public offers a view of the Broumov Region, the Giant Mountains, the Javoří Mountains, the Polish Owl Mountains (Góry Sowie) and towards the south of the Orlické Mountains. Ruprechtický Špičák can be reached along the blue tourist trail from Meziměstí (9 km) or the yellow trail from Ruprechtice (6 km), both routes end with steep ascents. For less physically fit there is a possibility of driving to the upper part of the Ruprechtice village from which the distance to Špičák is only 3 km. The admission to the lookout tower is free.



Ruprechtický Špičák - Meziměstí

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2002

GPS: 50°39'39.802"N, 16°16'53.072"E



On Signál - Horní Radechová

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2014

GPS: 50°27'39.685"N, 16°09'59.430"E



Within the afore mentioned "Places with Many Views" project, thanks to the cooperation of the Branka Tourist Industry Union and the Glacensis Euroregion, a new lookout tower was built in 2014 on the **Signál** peak (496 m a. s. l.), not far from the Horní Radechová municipality in the local area called Slavíkov. The wooden lookout tower with a steel staircase and the viewing platform height of 25 m above the natural terrain enables a very good outlook into the surroundings.

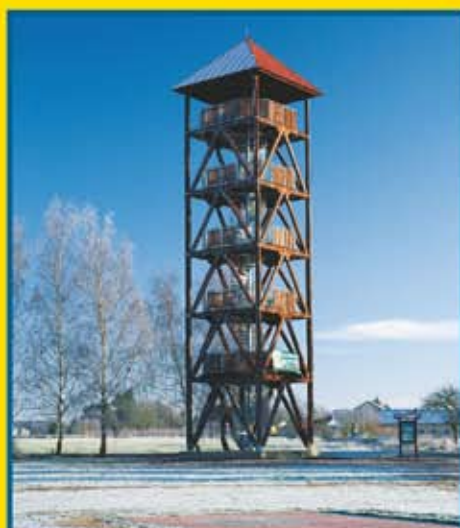
View from the lookout tower:

North: Maternice, Ostaš, Broumov Walls, partly Javoří Mountains
Northwest: Červený Kostelec Region, Jestřebí Mountains, Zvičína, Giant Mountains
Northeast: Hronov Region, Broumov Walls, Table Mountains
Southeast: Náchod Region, Dobrošov, Orlické Mountains, at good visibility Králícký Sněžník
South: Pavlišov, Česká Skalice Region
Southwest: Zvičína





View of the Hejšovina and Bor table mountains from Slavíkov



Žernov

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2014

GPS: 50°25'48.431"N, 16°03'07.393"E



On the territory of the Babičino údolí (Grandmother's Valley) National Nature Reserve, the best-known viewing place has so far been the Rýzmburk summer house. Its "windows" offer a beautiful view of the little valley. Since the year 2014, new outlooks, this time from another angle and height have also been provided by a new lookout tower built within the project "Places with Many Views", thanks to the cooperation between the Branka Tourist Industry Union and the Glacensis Euroregion. As the spot for this lookout tower the village of Žernov has been chosen, more precisely the end of this village at the cycle route No. 4057. The timber lookout tower combined with steel support elements is located in the altitude of 308 m a. s. l. and the last fifth viewing platform is 18.4 m above ground.

The location on the periphery of the Grandmother's Valley enables the following outlook:

North: Červená hora (Red Mountain), the Grandmother's Valley of the Úpa river, Jestřebí Mountains, Giant Mountains

Northwest: Podzvičinsko Region, Zvičína, Giant Mountains

Northeast: Červený Kostelec Region, Table Mountains

Southeast: Dobrošov, Orlické Mountains

South: Česká Skalice Region, Rozkoš dam, Kunětice Mountain, Hradec Králové Region

Southwest: Grandmother's Valley, Jaroměř Region



View from the Žernov lookout tower towards the foothills of the Giant Mountains



The Orlické Mountains and their foothills

View of Náchod and the Krkonoše (Giant) Mountains from the Jirásek Chalet on Dobrošov

The originally Gothic castle of **Náchod** was founded in the mid-13th century as a fortress to guard the mountain pass from Bohemia to Polish Kłodzko. It was reconstructed many times until the 18th century, particularly in the Renaissance and Baroque styles. In the course of time, the castle has belonged to numerous prominent dynasties, even to some Bohemian kings. Visitors can view the town of Náchod and its surroundings not only from the castle tower, but also from its terraces.

On the opposite side of the valley we can well see the **Jirásek tourist chalet on Dobrošov** with a lookout tower. The first chalet on Dobrošov was built as early as 1895. The new chalet was constructed by the Czech Tourist Club in the years 1921 - 23 according to the design of the architect Dušan Jurkovič. It reopened after a costly reconstruction in 2002.

Nové Město nad Metují was established in the year 1501. In the late-Gothic town there was a castle, which was turned into a Renaissance chateau in the years 1558 - 68. After various historical renovations, the entire chateau premises were restored and adapted according to the project of the architect Dušan Jurkovič. Today it is part of the town memorial zone. The gallery of the Měselnice tower offers a spectacular view of the Renaissance square and the ridge of the Orlické Mountains as well as of the Rozkoš dam with the Giant Mountains on the horizon.

North-east of Nové Město nad Metují, not far from the Sendraž village, the **Varta** hill is dominated by a metal construction of a telecommunication tower with a viewing platform in the height of 23.8 m.

Worth a visit is surely also the nearby town of **Dobruška** with a townhall tower in the middle of the square.



Jirásek tourist chalet on Dobrošov

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1923

GPS: 50°24'02.839"N, 16°11'27.946"E

**Varta by Sendraž**

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2009

GPS: 50°22'20.998"N, 16°12'13.972"E



Town Hall Tower in Dobruška

GPS: 50°17'31.370"N, 16°09'36.130"E





Osičina - Vojenice

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2004

GPS: 50°13'27.150"N, 16°07'38.406"E



Approximately 8 km far from the town of Opočno, close to the Vojenice – Záhornice road, there is a flat-topped hill called **Osičina**. There is a lookout tower on it, which is actually a mobile phone telecommunication mast open to the public. It provides not only beautiful views, but also refreshment for hikers and cyclists – chilled as well as hot drinks. The lookout tower offers a splendid view of the whole Orlické Mountains, Králický Sněžník, Železné (Iron) Mountains, Giant Mountains and – if the visibility is good – the Kunětická Mountain Castle, too. The observation platform, seasonally open to the public, is in the height of 33 m.

When reaching the main range of the Orlické Mountains, we should not miss the **Masaryk Chalet on Šerlich**. Although there is no adjacent lookout tower, it belongs to the places with far-reaching outlooks into the Polish as well as Czech side.

View from the Orlické Mountains range towards the Masaryk Chalet

View of the Orlické Mountains Range from the Osičina lookout tower

The main ridge of the Orlické Mountains has just one observation tower. However, it used to have another one, but very small. On the peak of **Velká Deštná** (1,115 m a. s. l.), there had never been a lookout tower in the past. Its function was partially fulfilled by a triangulation tower, which was destroyed in the early 1980's. Later there was a small timber observation point with a platform in the height of 5 m, which enabled a panoramic view. With regard to its technical condition it was removed for safety reasons. Today, due to vegetation, an outlook is offered only by the hillside above Luisino údolí (Luisa Valley). It can be reached quite easily following the red-marked Jirásek Mountain Trail, with a short deviation following the green signs from the log-house of the Mountain Rescue Service.

Today a new lookout tower on the **Anenský Hill** constitutes the landmark of the south-eastern part of the Orlické Mountains ridge. The red-marked Jirásek Mountain Trail just passes





Anna on the Annenský Hill

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2010

GPS: 50°12'58.235"N, 16°30'45.612"E



around it. The proposal to build the lookout tower was forwarded by the Association of the union of the Rokytnice and Bartošovice municipalities. At the same time, the intention became part of the joint Czech-Polish project of the Glacensis Euroregion, the investor being the Lesy ČR company (Forests of the Czech Republic, PLC), and the entire action was supported by an EU subsidy. To build the 17m-tall lookout tower, larch wood was used (support pillars), especially selected from the cover administered by the Lesy ČR company in the area of Rychnov nad Kněžnou. The flooring of the individual resting platforms on the lookout tower



Skuhrov nad Bělou

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2011

GPS: 50°13'38.199"N, 16°17'19.202"E



is made of oak wood, whereas the wooden railing panels of pinewood. The central column, the staircase and the railings are made of steel.

Almost 10 km from the village of Deštné v Orlických horách, we can find a stylish lookout tower built within the ruins of a castle from the 13th century in the village of **Skuhrov nad Bělou**. On the southern edge of the municipality, at the junction take the direction of Hraštica, after about 200 m turn right towards the church. The outlook into the romantic valley of the Bělá river and the surrounding wooden palisades remind us a little of the 15th century when the castle was conquered by George of Poděbrady to punish the robber knight Kolda of Žampach. The admission is free. However, be careful since there are no tourist marks leading towards the castle ruin.

On the elevation called **Kastel** not far from the village of **Vrbice** there used to stand a lookout tower in the period of World War II. It was built by the Czechoslovak army around 1937 and it fulfilled the role of a triangulation point. After the war, the army was no longer interested in the observation tower, so it was demolished in 1946. However, in the year 2004, the municipal authority decided to restore it. The height of the new lookout tower is 29 m, the viewing platforms are in the height of 11 and 25.5 m. Past the lookout tower leads the red-marked tourist trail from Kostelec nad Orlicí to Potštejn.

The **Potštejn** castle dominates the whole valley of the Divoká Orlice (Wild Eagle) river. The way to the castle hill is somewhat steep, but the reward for the effort is an amazing sight of the Orlické Mountains foothills. And the 13th century castle ruins, including the well-preserved castle chapel, are also worth seeing.



Kastel - Vrbice

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2006

GPS: 50°05'32.195"N, 16°14'48.889"E



28 View from the Potštejn Castle





View of the town of Ústí nad Orlicí and the panorama of the Orlické Mountains, the Suchý Hill and the massif of Krállický Sněžník from the lookout tower on Andrlův Chlum

The first lookout tower on **Andrlův Chlum** (559 m a. s. l.) above the town of Ústí nad Orlicí was built and opened in the summer of 1905. However, it burnt down for unknown reasons on 17th April 1918. Therefore the members of the Czechoslovak Tourist Club (KČST) were thinking of a new construction. Nevertheless, the new lookout tower was not built until 1996. The access to the tower is well marked along the road from Ústí as well as along the green hiking trail.

The road from Ústí nad Orlicí through Hejnice to Žamberk leads us directly to the timber **Tyrš Observation Tower Rozálka**, standing on the western edge of Žamberk in the altitude of 470 m. It is very similar to the Hýlačka lookout tower, which used to stand near Tábor (destroyed by fire on 1st January 2012) as identical plans of Professor Theodor Petřík were used for its construction. Upon his consent, the 20m-tall lookout tower was built in the shape of a Hussite watchtower and opened to the public on 28th October 1932. Since there is the St. Rosalia Chapel in its neighbourhood, people started calling it Rozálka too. The access is seasonal. After the reconstruction it was reopened in 2005.

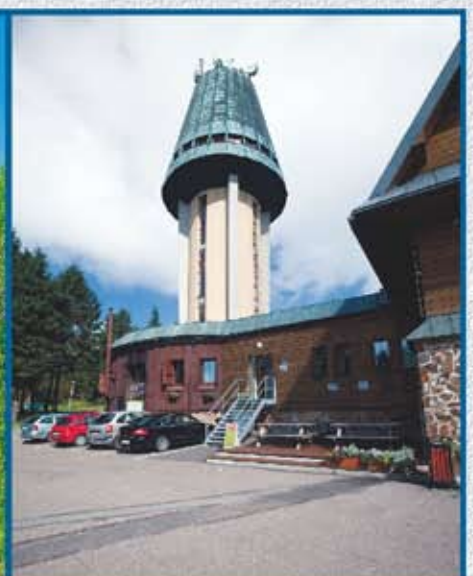
From Žamberk it is just a "stone's throw" to **Suchý vrch** (Dry Hill; 995 m a. s. l.), the highest spot height of an independent section of the Orlické Mountains, which is separated from the actual ridge by the Tichá (Quiet) Orlice valley. On the top there used to be a hotel, formerly a KČST shelter hut, opened to the public in 1925. The new chalet, known as Kramář Chalet, received its first guests in 1928. The lookout tower next to the chalet, providing a view of the Orlické and Bystřické Mountains, Krállický Sněžník, the basin at Králíky, Hrubý Jeseník, the Žamberk region etc., was built as a water tower in the years 1931 - 32. In the 1960's, TV aerials were installed on the tower and the upper terrace was glassed in. In the 1980's, the entire top part of the tower disappeared under a metal cone-shaped structure and as a viewing point remained only the lower glassed-in gallery. Due to the failed privatisation in the 1990's, the chalet was closed for a long time (and absolutely empty inside), only the lookout tower was accessible in the season. On the night of 16th July 2003, the abandoned chalet was seized by fire. Luckily, the lookout tower was spared and remained open to the public. After a total reconstruction, the chalet reopened in 2012.



Andrlův Chlum - Ústí nad Orlicí
Opening year of the lookout tower: 1996
GPS: 49°57'36.681"N, 16°22'26.056"E



Rozálka - Žamberk
Opening year of the lookout tower: 1932
GPS: 50°05'05.914"N, 16°27'25.462"E



Suchý vrch
Opening year of the lookout tower: 1932, 2012
GPS: 50°03'07.953"N, 16°41'22.619"E





Lookout tower and the Kramář Chalet on the Suchý Hill

Following the cycle trail from Ústí nad Orlicí to Letohrad, we cannot miss the ruins of the **Lanšperk** castle founded in the mid-13th century by the lords of Drnholec. Inside the ruins, there is a metal lookout tower. Although it slightly resembles a scaffolding, it provides a very good panoramic view.

Křížová hora (Cross Mountain) by the village of Červená Voda (Red Water). A reinforced concrete lookout tower is located not far from the centre of the Červená Voda municipality in the altitude of 735 m. The lookout tower is 25 m tall, the viewing platform is situated in the height of 22 m and it can be reached by climbing 130 stairs. The outer housing consists of nailed tie beams and boards.

View from the Adam Hill towards the Suchý Hill



The ruins of the Lanšperk Castle

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2007

GPS: 49°59'41.797"N, 16°27'14.736"E



Křížová hora u Červené Vody

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2007

GPS: 50°02'16.626"N, 16°45'26.408"E



Polabí (The Elbe Basin)



View from the Milf lookout tower towards the Kunětická Mountain and Opatovice

The biggest city of the region is **Hradec Králové**. The most significant and dominant lookout tower of this regional city is **Bílá věž (White Tower)** in Velké náměstí (Big Square). Its name is derived from the fact that it was completely white when being built, because blocks of white sandstone of Hořice were used for its construction. Originally, it was not a church tower, but a watchtower and a fire lookout tower. Its ground plan is 10 x 10 m and it is 71.5 tall. The original foundations were laid as early as 1509, but it was not a real tower yet. The foundation stone of the real tower was laid on 7th June 1574 and the construction took place in the years 1574 - 80. In 1581, a bell was installed under a provisional roof. It was not until 1596 that the metal-covered cupola was completed.

An event is related to Hradec Králové that had a significant impact on Czech history. One of the greatest battles of

the 19th century took place exactly at **Chlum near Hradec Králové**. On 3rd July 1866, 436,000 soldiers fought on the site. 44,300 Austrian and Czech men as well as 9,200 Prussians were killed. In the late 19th century, a lot of memorials as well as purpose-built facilities were established on the battlefield. A new steel lookout tower was also erected there in 1999, replacing the original wooden structure.

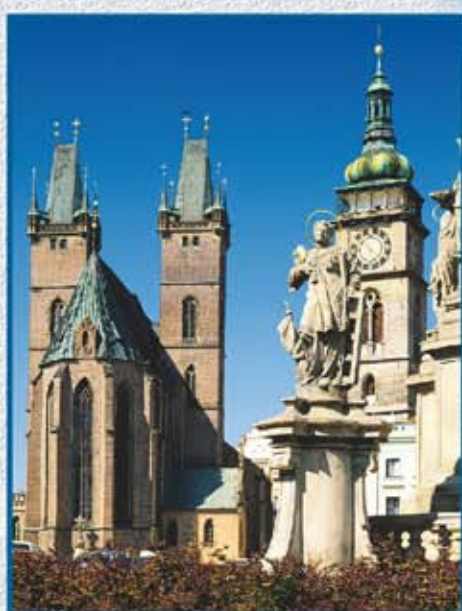
Chlum u Hradce Králové

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1999

GPS: 50°16'42.866"N, 15°44'24.175"E

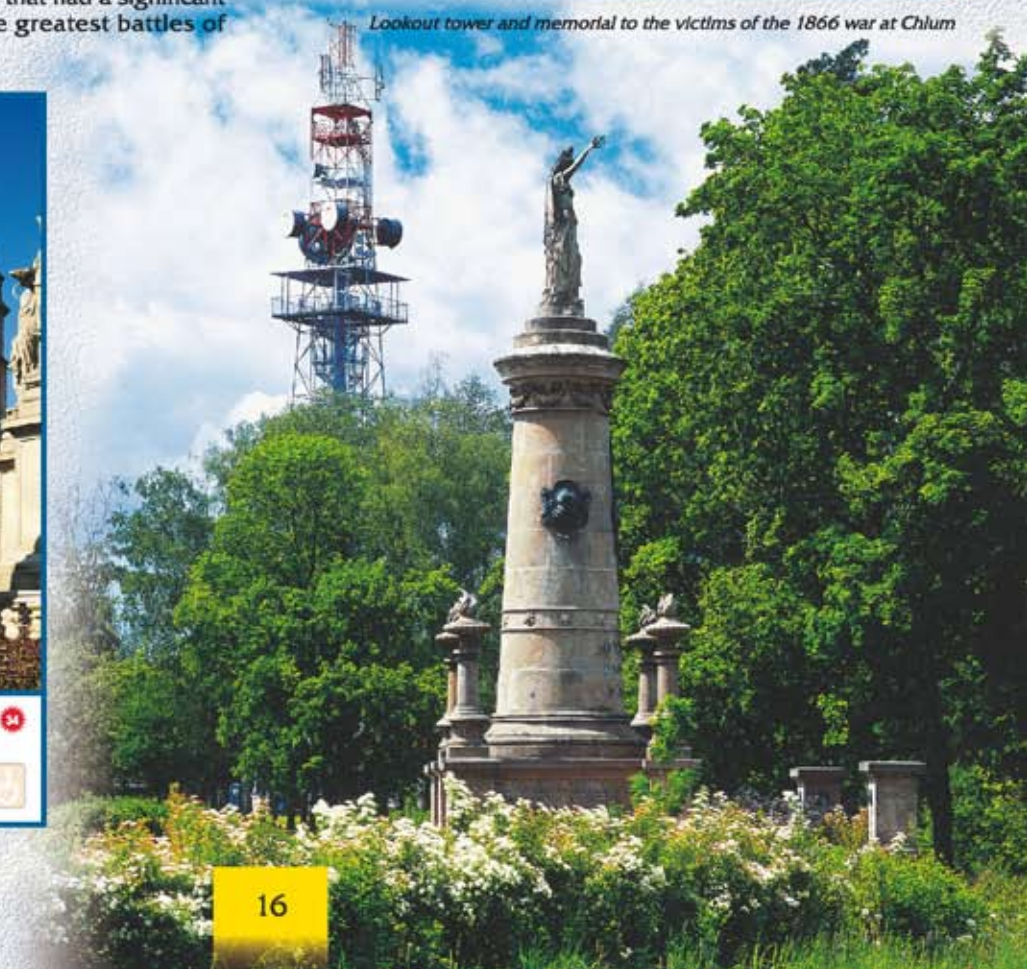


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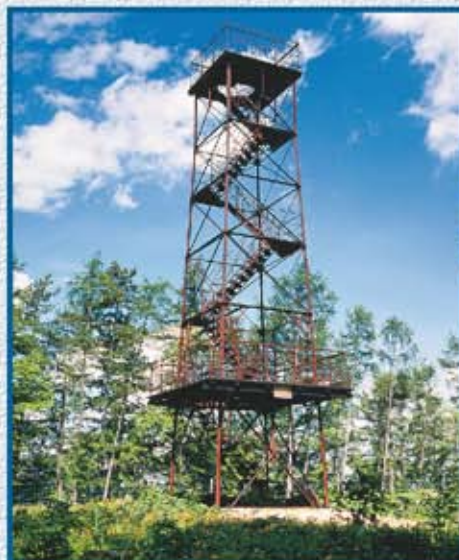


White Tower - Hradec Králové

GPS: 50°12'32.832"N, 15°49'51.203"E



Lookout tower and memorial to the victims of the 1866 war at Chlum



Libníkovice

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1930

GPS: 50°14'55.801"N, 15°59'37.797"E



Milíř - Vysoká nad Labem

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2013

GPS: 50°09'15.461"N, 15°50'01.079"E



The lookout tower has uniquely just three pillars

Not far from Třebechovice pod Orebem, 5 km to the north, in the small village of **Libníkovice**, a lookout tower with a very interesting history has stood since 1930. Originally, a mighty linden tree used to stand in its place. Its crown was adjusted so it could provide comfortable seating facility, with steps leading up. Yet this linden tree was uprooted by a whirlwind in 1929. As a compensation, the locals had a 15m-tall metal lookout tower built at their own expense. Unfortunately, the high surrounding vegetation obstructs the outlook.

When heading for Pardubice from Hradec Králové through the municipality of Vysoká nad Labem, we cannot miss the new lookout tower called **Milíř**. A unique three-sided structure is the only one of its kind in the Czech Republic. Three glued-wooden support columns are comprised of 6-metre units to constitute the total length of 30 m, whereas the steel staircase consists of three 8-metre units. The hexagonal viewing platform is situated in the height of 27 m. The lookout tower belongs to the cycle trail being built between the cities of Hradec Králové and Pardubice.

Our tour in search of lookout towers further takes us to the Pardubice Region:

In the surroundings of Pardubice we cannot fail to notice a remarkable landmark of the region – the **Kunětické Mountain** (294 m a. s. l.). The basaltic hill towers amidst lowlands. The castle on its top was probably established at the turn of the 14th century. The castle was adapted and extended in the early 15th century by Diviš Bořek of Miletín. Later on, extensive renovation was started in the late 15th century by the lords of Pernštejn, who gave the castle its representative appearance. In the early 20th century, a major reconstruction was undertaken, based on designs by Dušan Jurkovič.

Today's visitors can view the expositions of the castle museum, the knight hall, the vault with an archaeological exposition, the castle chapel as well as mount the tower from the windows of which there is a lovely view in all directions. It is easily accessible from the village of Ráby, either by car – there is a well-marked turn-off on the road – or on foot, along the red tourist trail.

38 A landmark of the whole Elbe Region impossible to miss is the Kunětické Mountain.



The Surroundings of Lanškroun, Česká Třebová and Litomyšl



Mariánka - Horní Čermná

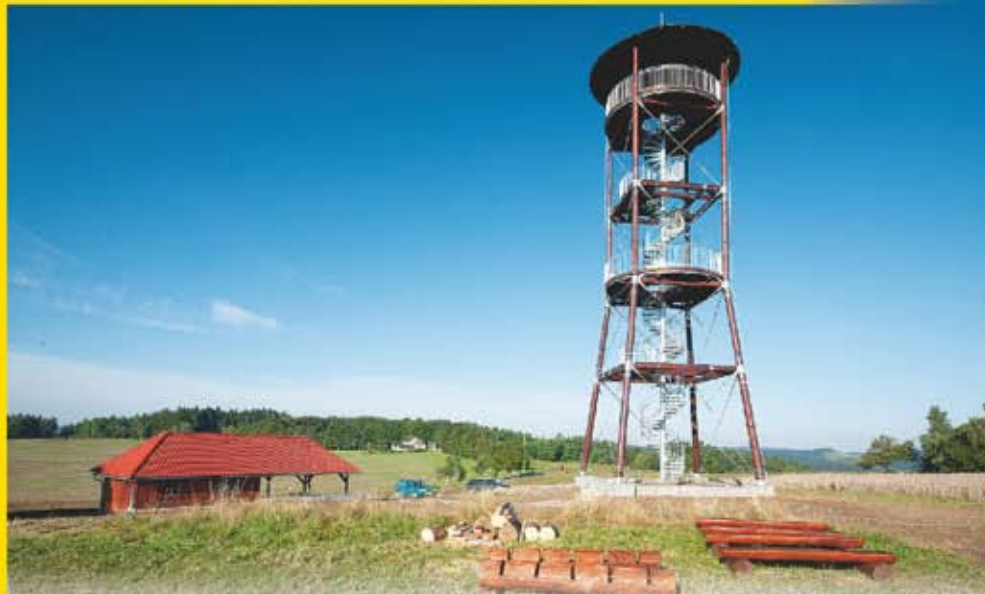
Opening year of the lookout tower: 2014

GPS: 49°57'43.255"N, 16°35'45.213"E



North of Lanškroun in the Horní Čermná village on Mariánská hora (Marian Mountain; 503 m a. s. l.) there stands a completely new lookout tower called **Mariánka**. Its construction was initiated by the municipality within the "Places with Many Views" project of the Glacensis Euro-region using the EU funds. It is located near the pilgrimage church on Mariánská hora, which stands on the line of the European divide. Apart from its historical value, it is interesting due to the fact that the water from the left side flows into the Čerménka, Tichá (Quiet) Orlice and Elbe rivers, which empty into the North Sea, whereas the water from the right side flows through various streams into the Moravian Sázava and Morava rivers as well as the Danube, which empties into the Black Sea.

The wooden lookout tower with a steel spiral staircase offers its visitors a view in all directions. We can see the Orlické Mountains, the Suchý Vrch hill or the town of Lanškroun and its surroundings.



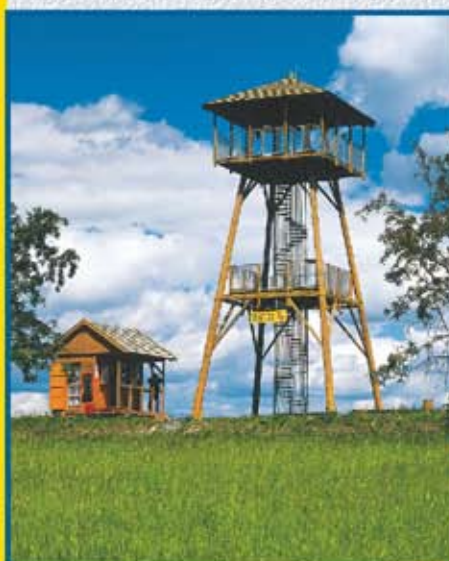
Conveniences for tourists have been built at the Mariánka lookout tower.

On our search for lookout towers we are further heading east. However, before reaching the Moravian lookout towers, it is good to stop at a few vantage points in Bohemia.

The **Maštale** (Stables) Nature Reserve, south-west of Litomyšl, which comprises the entire area of the Budislav Rocks, including the well-known Toulouvcovy Maštale (Toulovec Stables), even offers three lookout towers.

On Jarošovský vrch (Jarošovský Hill; 539 m a. s. l.), a wooden 15m-tall **Toulovcova Lookout Tower** has stood since 2002. It is accessible along the red tourist trail from Jarošov.

Not far from Paseky nad Prosečí, on the blue-marked cycle trail, the 28m-tall **Terezka** lookout tower was built in 2004. It has not only a viewing platform, but also four mezzanines providing lovely views of the surrounding landscape also to less physically fit tourists.



Toulovcova Lookout Tower - Jarošov

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2002

GPS: 49°48'52.222"N, 16°09'48.459"E

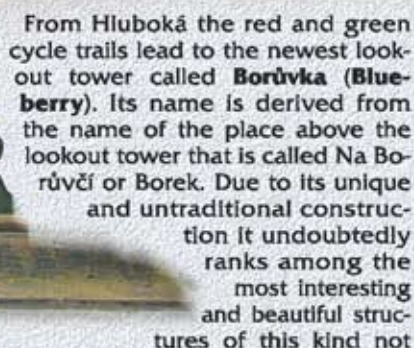


Terezka - Paseky nad Prosečí

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2004

GPS: 49°47'09.754"N, 16°07'21.424"E





On the 601m-high **Kozlovský kopec (Kozlov Hill)** by Česká Třebová there used to stand a tourist chalet and lookout tower, actually a wooden triangulation tower, from 1936. It was built in 1929 for land-surveying works. After their completion it was taken over by tourists and

used by them till 1939 when it was destroyed by lightning. When one of the mobile network operators showed interest to build an Iron mast for their aerials in 2000, the town of Česká Třebová imposed the condition that they must make the tower accessible as a vantage point. On 19th May 2001 the 55m-tall lookout tower (platform in the height of 32.8 m) was opened to the public.

Not far from **Moravská Třebová** we can even find two lookout towers. The first one is called **Pastýřka** and it is located 2 km to the south on the Pastvisko hill. Its steel construction with wooden support elements rises 27 metres high on the spot where another outlook tower used to stand in the past (1906-16).





Strážný vrch - Moravská Třebová

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2010

GPS: 49°47'10.090"N, 16°34'58.222"E



The highest viewing platform of the lookout tower on the Strážný Hill

The other, somewhat atypical lookout tower is situated on the **Strážný vrch (Guard Hill)** in the area of the Hřebeč Ridge between the towns of Svitavy and Moravská Třebová.

The lookout tower was built in 2010 and its shape was designed to remind of a poppet head. From here you can see – provided the visibility is good – the Orlické Mountains and Králický Sněžník, the entire Podorlicko (the foothills of the Orlické Mountains) and the northern section of the Boskovice Furrow.

The observation tower is composed of a wooden structure supplemented with steel elements symbolizing timbering support. The festive opening took place on 4th July 2010 together with the opening of mining paths and of a geological exposition at the Moravská Třebová Chateau to the public.

The predecessor of today's lookout tower on **Lázek hill** (714 m a. s. l.) was a simple wooden tower, built before WWI. However, it was destroyed in the year 1918. The current 20m-tall timber clad structure was built in 1933. It is part of Reichl Lodge and bears the name of the main initiator of the project. The platform in the height of 17 m is accessible by ascending 87 steps. The name Lázek was derived from the fields called "lazy", resulting from forest burning.

The lookout tower is located just above the village of Cotkyně, 7 km east of Lanškroun. There is an asphalt road leading up to the top. To reach the tower, follow the road No. 368 from Štítý to Cotkyně. Two kilometres behind the village, turn right onto a narrow asphalt road and after driving 500 m you will reach the top. If you prefer hiking, follow the green tourist trail from Cotkyně or the red tourist trail from Strážná.



Lázek - Cotkyně

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1933

GPS: 49°55'32.507"N, 16°42'19.379"E



View from the lookout tower on the Strážný Hill towards the town of Lanškroun



The Králíky and Šumperk Regions



Overall view of Králický Sněžník from Červený (Red) Pond


The entire region is dominated by the massif of Králický Sněžník, the rugged highlands on the interface of Bohemia, Moravia and Kłodzko, near the Polish border. It is part of the Jeseník region and at the same time the third highest mountain range in the Czech Republic. Altogether there are 12 thousanders, the highest being Králický Sněžník (1,424 m a. s. l.). The larger part of these distinctive highlands lies in Poland (in Polish called Masyw Śnieżnika), where there is also the protected natural area called Sleznicki Park Krajoobrazowy. The whole mountain range consists of a dominant massif (of the identical name Králický Sněžník) with five ridges. The south-west ridge runs along the border with Poland and together with the southern ridge (first running south-east) forms a sort of "horse-shoe", cut deep by the Morava River valley. The highlands have a great significance as a European water divide – the waters from the Bohemian side are emptied into the Danube and partly also into the Elbe, whereas the Polish rivers flow into the Odra River.

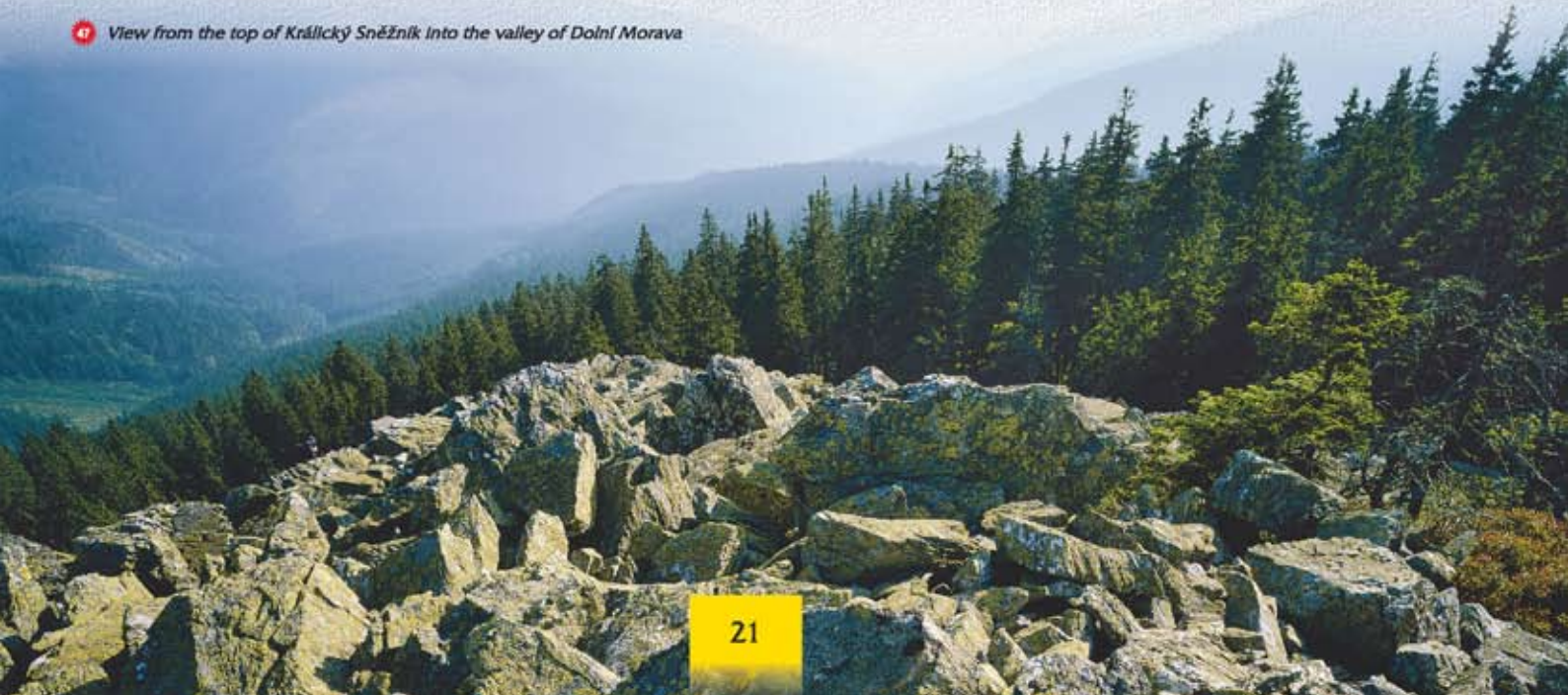
The peak of the **Králický Sněžník** in the altitude of 1,424 m a. s. l. with an extensive peak plateau is an ideal place for building a lookout tower. In the past, there used to be two chalets close to the very top. On the Polish side (German at that time) it was Vilém's Chalet with a lookout tower (1895 – 1973), on the Czech side Liechtenstein's Chalet, later renamed „U pramene Moravy“ (At the spring of the Morava River; 1912 – 1971).



View of the snow-capped peaks of Svinná hora (Swine Mountain), Podbělka and Uhlisko

Nowadays just a sculpture of a baby elephant reminds us of the place where the Czech chalet used to stand. Although the summit still remains without a chalet and without a lookout tower, it offers beautiful views, partly hindered by forests. The access to the top is well-marked with tourist signs from the Czech as well as the Polish sides.

 *View from the top of Králický Sněžník into the valley of Dolní Morava*





Hora Matky Boží (Holy Mother Mountain)

When arriving at Králíky, surely the visitor's attention is attracted by another landmark – **Hora Matky Boží** (the **Holy Mother Mountain**) with a monastery on its top. Approximately 1.5 km east of the town, a Baroque three-nave basilica was built in the years 1696–1700 on the peak of the Lysá hora (Bare Mountain; 770 m a. s. l.). In the early 18th century, arcaded walks and other cloister structures were constructed. When going up the avenue towards the monastery, there gradually open up further views not only of the town, but also of the Králický Sněžník, the Králíky Furrow as well as the Suchý Hill.

What enables an even better outlook is the simple telecommunication tower on the **Val** bare hill, about 1 km from the monastery along the yellow tourist trail. From its lookout platform in the height of 22 m there is a perfect panoramic view of the Králický Sněžník, the Jeseníky Mountains as well as the Orlické Mountains with the distinctive Suchý Hill.



Val - Hedeč by Králíky

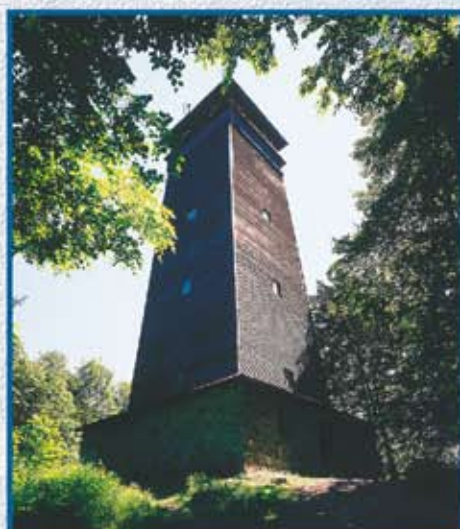
Opening year of the lookout tower: 2003

GPS: 50°04'16.602"N, 16°44'30.042"E



From Králíky you can travel via Bludov to the town of Šumperk. North-east of Bludov and west of Šumperk there rises a striking double-peak of Chocholík (548 m a. s. l.) and **Háj** (632 m a. s. l.) with a lookout tower, the most conspicuous hill of the southern projection of the Hanušovice Highlands. The original lookout tower was built in the years 1933–34. During the war it was severely damaged and its destruction was completed by fire in 1953, when the entire observation tower burnt down after a strike of lightning. In the year 1996 a new lookout tower was constructed to resemble the original Štefáník Tower with a wooden support structure, timber panelling and stone entrance section. The glassed-in viewing platform in the height of 24 m can be reached by climbing 134 steps. The new lookout tower is 7 m taller than the original one and its very top is 29 m high. Providing the sky is clear, you will get a breath-taking view of the whole main ridge of the Hrubý Jeseník mountains from the Skřítek (Elf) Saddle towards the Ztracené kameny (Lost Stones) rock formation, Pec, Praděd (Great Grandfather) – the Moravian highest mountain, as far as the Červenohorské sedlo (Red Mountain Saddle).

View from the Val lookout tower towards the monastery



Háj - Šumperk

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1996

GPS: 49°58'14.374"N, 16°56'01.826"E



The Jeseníky and Rychlebské Mountains



Peak of Praděd from the Peter's Stones

On the **Zlatý Chlum** hill (Golden Chlum; 875 m a. s. l.) directly above the town of Jeseník, on a platform just below the very top, there has been a stone lookout platform since 1899. It is 26 m tall and the circular viewing platform can be reached by mounting 145 steps. The lookout tower offers a panoramic view: the town of Jeseník below, the Keprník mountain, the Krállický Sněžník and the Rychlebské Mountains in the background, the Polish plains with the Otmuchowski and Nyskle lakes in the north, the Zlaté (Golden) Mountains with a lookout tower on the Biskupská kupa hill in the east and Mt. Praděd in the south. It can be reached from Jeseník following the blue and red tourist trails.

A beautiful vantage point is the **Čertovy kameny** (Devil's Stones). The 40m-tall and 100m-long rock formation is located on the northern slope of the Zlatý Chlum hill about 3 km from Jeseník. The name of this rock is linked with an ancient legend explaining the origin of this place. The ascent to the top is secured by chains. The peak platform provides a lovely view of the Bělá river valley, stretching from Jeseník to Míkulovice and further on into Polish plains with a lookout as far as the Otmuchowski lake.

The history of a spa lookout tower on the **Borůvková hora** (Blueberry Mountain; 898 m a. s. l.), not far from the town of Javorník, began in the 1870's. Three times a wooden lookout tower had been built on the spot, yet each time it fell victim of weather and time. The last one collapsed in 1922. After many years of effort, the town of Javorník finally managed to acquire the funding for the construction of a new spa lookout tower on Borůvková hora and thus to continue the tradition. The tower with a circular ground plan is a steel structure with wooden sheathing. It includes a brick shelter for tourists, too. The lookout is about 24 m above ground and the highest point of the tower reaches the height of 26.1 m. The lookout tower enables a view of the Otmuchowski and Nyskle lakes and Ládek Zdrój spa on the Polish side, as well as Mt. Šerák, Mt. Praděd, Mt. Smrk, Mt. Krállický Sněžník on the Czech side. The construction was completed in September 2006.

Another popular tourist spot in the Zlaté Mountains is the lookout tower on **Biskupská kupa** (Bishop's Heap; 891 m a. s. l.), situated on the Czech side of the Czech-Polish border. At the time of its construction, it was the border between Austria-Hungary and Prussia. Formerly, there used to stand a timber observation tower, built in 1889. Then, in the year 1895, permission was given to replace it with a brick one to mark the 50th anniversary of the rule of Franz Josef I. This circular tower was ceremoniously opened on 26th August 1898. After WWII it was closed to public and for many years used for a TV transmitter. After 1989 the transmitter was moved onto a new mast. In 1996 an overall repair of the staircase and plastering started and in summer 1998 the lookout tower was ceremoniously reopened to the public to mark its centenary.

From the tower you can see - at good visibility - as far as Wrocław in Poland or behold the highest peaks of the High Tatras in Slovakia. It can be reached on foot from Náměstí Svobody (Square of Freedom) in the town of Zlaté hory following the green tourist marks or also along the green hiking trail from the saddle of the road from Zlaté Hory to Petrovice.



Zlatý Chlum - Jeseník
Opening year of the lookout tower: 1899
GPS: 50°14'17.032"N, 17°14'14.961"E



Borůvková hora - Javorník
Opening year of the lookout tower: 2006
GPS: 50°23'26.315"N, 16°54'09.658"E





Biskupská kupa - Zlaté Hory

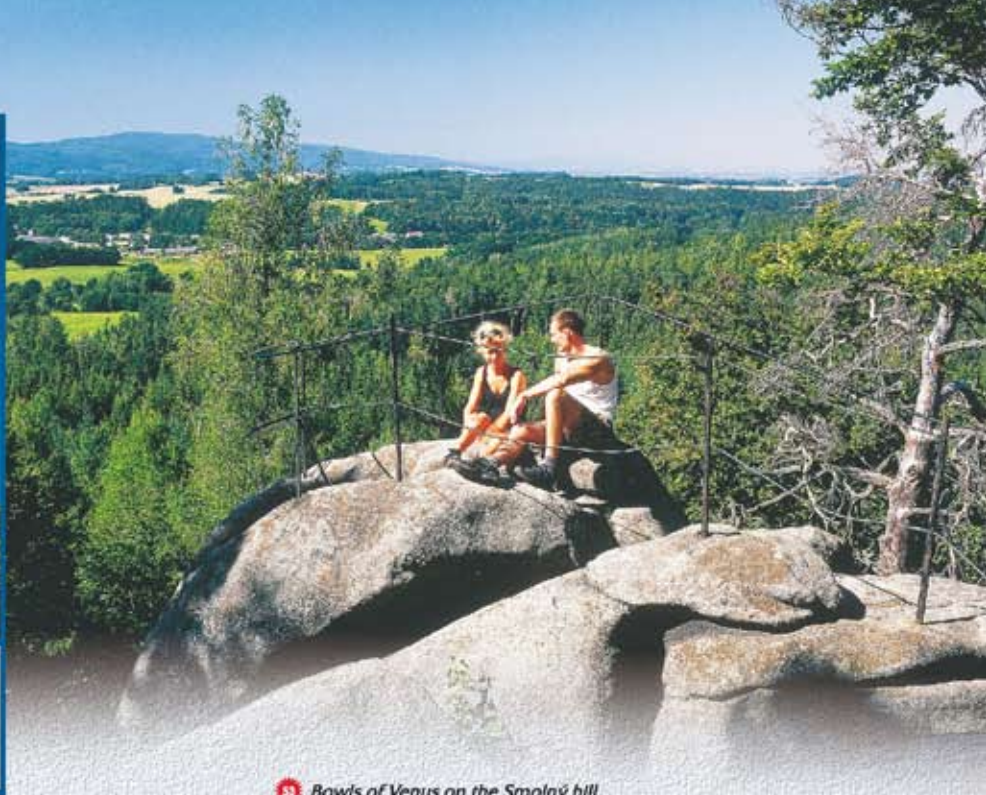
Opening year of the lookout tower: 1898

GPS: 50°15'24.274"N, 17°25'42.943"E



In the Žulovská pahorkatina Highlands, more accurately in its part called Bažantnice (Pheasantry), there is a splendid rock town called **Venušiny mlisky (the Bowls of Venus)** on the Smolný hill (404 m a. s. l.). Due to the peculiar spherical fissility of granite, we can find here beautifully developed rock formations – bowls, saddles, niches as well as honeycomb structures. In the past, these hollows, which gave the Bowls of Venus their name, were believed to be pagan sacrificial bowls or they were associated with supernatural beings. That is why numerous legends relate to them. The peak rock formations provide a wonderful outlook onto the ridges of the Rychlebské Mountains and Šířavy – unique meadows near the Kobylá village. We can easily reach the Bowls of Venus following the green tourist marks leading from the nearby Vidnava over Velká Kraš to Černá Voda (Black Water). Cyclists can use the well-marked comfortable cycling trail No. 6047.

Among significant vantage points of the Jeseník Mountains undoubtedly rank the peaks of **Keprník** (1,423 m a. s. l.) and **Vozka (Coachman; 1,377 m a. s. l.)** On the forestless peak of Keprník, there rises a gneiss rock outcrop with a panoramic view of the whole Jeseníky Mountains. Vozka is the second highest peak in the Keprník Highlands. The peak sections of the mountains are part of the Šerák-Keprník-Vozka Nature Reserve, which is intersected by an educational path. The 7m-high mica-schist rock on the peak of Vozka is an important landmark.



53 Bowls of Venus on the Smolný hill

The last stop on the Czech side of our tour of lookout towers in the Glacensis Euroregion will be the highest mountain of Hrubý Jeseník and the whole Moravia – **Praděd (Great Grandfather; 1,491 m a. s. l.)**. A lookout tower was built on its peak as early as 1912. However, it was removed in 1959. In the early 1970's it was replaced with a 162m-tall television tower with a transmitter and a lookout in the height of 73 m. After the exchange of the aerial extension in 1993, the height of the transmitter sank to 146.5 m. Inside the tower there is a restaurant offering refreshment. The transmitter on top of the mountain is a dominant landmark of Moravia. Under convenient conditions you can see as far as the Giant Mountains, the Polish plains as well as the High Tatra Mountains. The massif of Praděd is a nature reserve with characteristic flora of alpine fields. In the north-west, there are the Tabulové kameny (Table Rocks) where numerous kinds of moss, lichen and other rare plants grow. Because of its rare flora, Praděd can only be accessed along marked tourist trails.

54 Lookout rock on Keprník

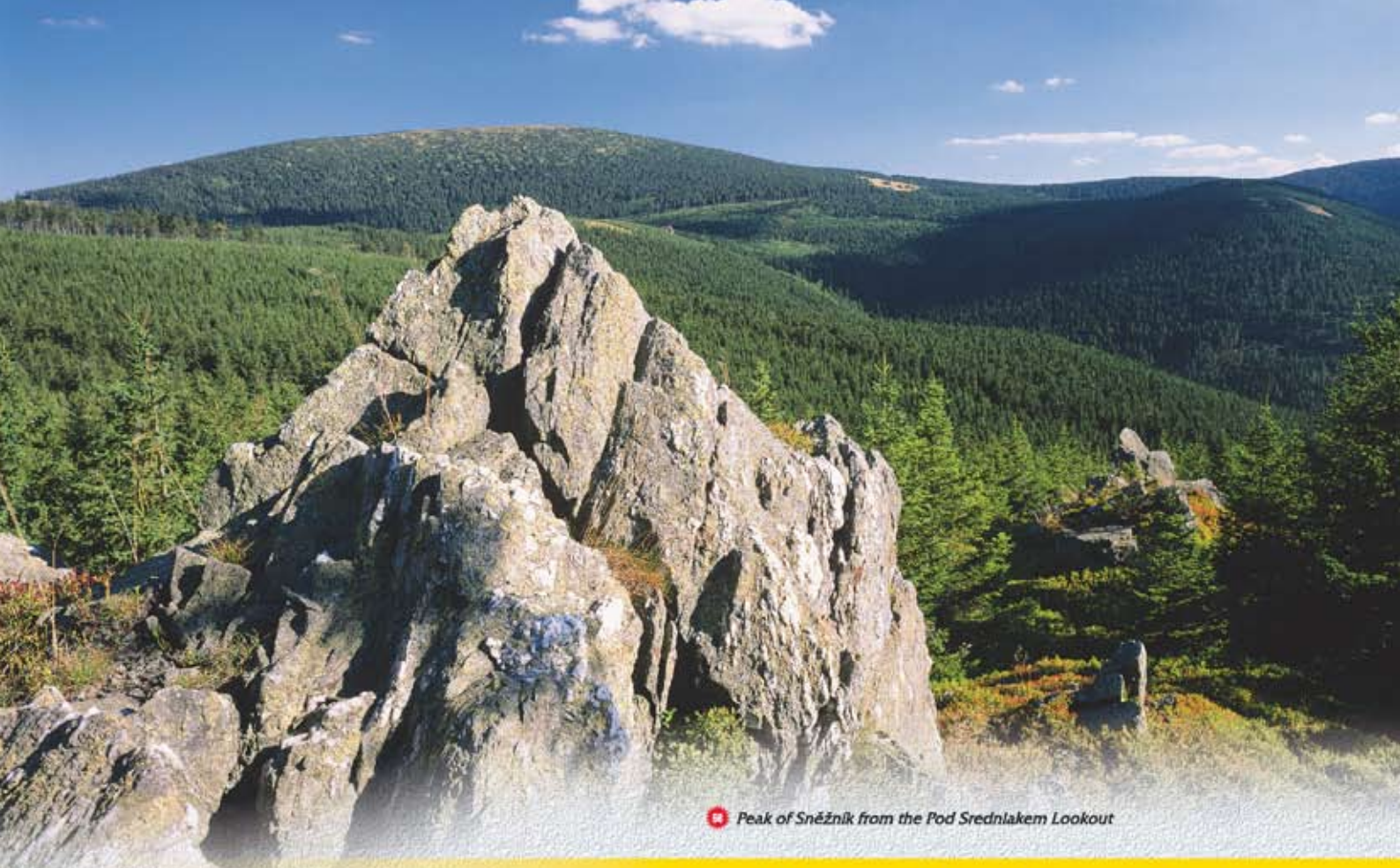



Praděd

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1993 (after reconstruction)

GPS: 50°04'58.998"N, 17°13'51.522"E





 Peak of Sněžník from the Pod Sredniakem Lookout

The Massif of Sněžník

We have completed our journey in search of lookout towers on the Czech side of the Glacensis Euroregion in the Jeseníky Mountains. Now we are going to continue our imaginary tour of lookout towers and significant vantage points on the Polish territory. We will cross the border in the area of the massif of the afore mentioned **Králický Sněžník**. On its top, there used to stand a Polish chalet. Its foundations can still be traced today. The endeavour of Polish tourists as well as local authorities aims at a restoration of both – the chalet as well as the lookout tower.

Czarna Góra (Black Mountain), a popular winter resort with more than 4 km of well-maintained skiing tracks, is part of the massif. The easiest access to the top is by the 1,367m-long chair lift from the Sienna resort not far from Stronie Śląskie. Hikers can get there following the green tourist marks from Miedzogórze to Stronie Śląskie or along the red Main Sudeten Trail (Główny Szlak Sudecki) from Hala pod Śnieżnikiem to Łądek-Zdrój. On the top there is a timber lookout tower with a platform providing a view of the Bystrzyckie Mountains, the ridge of the Orlické Mountains, Králický Sněžník and Jeseníky.

View from the Czarna Góra (Black Mountain) lookout tower towards Hrubý Jeseník



Czarna Góra - Sienna

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2000

GPS: 50°15'06.893"N, 16°48'20.120"E





Outlook from the viewing platform of the lookout tower towards the Klepý hill

On the Polish side of the peak of **Klepý** (in Polish **Trójmorski Wierch**), which is located on the Czech-Polish border in the massif of Krállický Sněžník, stands a distinctive wooden observation tower, which was built within the project of the municipalities of Dolní Morava and Miedzylesie in cooperation with the Glacensis Euroregion. Today it serves not only for tourists, but also as a fire lookout tower. Geographically, Klepý is one of the most interesting sites in our country as it is a watershed of rivers emptying their waters into three European seas. The waters from the south-eastern slopes flow into the Morava river and further on to the Danube and into the Black Sea, from the south-western slopes into the Elbe and the North Sea and the north-western streams empty into the Odra river and the Baltic Sea. The Polish name of the mountain – Trójmorski Wierch (Three Seas Hill) – is truly fitting.

<p>Trójmorski Wierch - Klepý Opening year of the lookout tower: 2010 GPS: 50°09'26.754"N, 16°47'26.774"E</p>	<p>Góra Igliczna - Międzygórze Opening year of the lookout tower: 1782 GPS: 50°14'26.792"N, 15°44'53.619"E</p>

Not far from the village of Międzygórze there is **Góra Igliczna** with the Shrine of Virgin Mary of the Snow, which has been a popular pilgrimage site and trip destination for a long time. Góra Igliczna is an excellent vantage point offering outlooks into the territory of Kłodzko and the surrounding mountain ranges. For hikers it is accessible along the red, yellow and red tourist trails, but you can reach the place by car or bike, too.

Igliczna Mountain and the ridges of the Bystrzyckie Mountains in inversion clouds



The Bialskie, Złote and Bardzkie Mountains



View from the Jawornik Wielki lookout tower in the Złote Mountains

The most massive of the peaks in the Polish Góry Bialskie is **Czernica**. The flat forested summit is visible from a large part of the main ridge of the neighbouring Rychlebské Mountains. You can comfortably reach it from the picturesque Polish village of Bielica. At the fork of the red-marked and the yellow-marked trails, a new timber lookout tower was opened to the public on 26th September 2014.

A distinctive peak of the Polish Góry Złote (on the Czech side called Rychlebské hory) is **Jawornik Wielki**, which is relatively flat, but well visible from a distance. On its top, a wooden observation tower with two platforms in the heights of 3.5 m and 6.4 m was opened in August 2009. Besides, on the deforested summit we can find several rocks providing beautiful views of the most northern section of the Rychlebské Mountains as well as the Polish lowlands.

In the central part of Góry Bardzkie, south of the town of Bardo, not far from the Brona Mountain (402 m a. s. l.), there is a spectacular vantage point called **Obryw Skalny**. Its lookout platform is situated in the altitude of 390 m. The rock block was "bared" in 1598 as a result of floods. Old chronicles say that there was a 200 m-long landslide and the original edge of the slope sank by 90 m. The front of the landslide was gradually carried away by the waters of the Nysa Kłodzka river. The rock plateau offers a view of the town of Bardo, the stream of the Nysa Kłodzka and the western part of Góry Bardzkie.

On the slope of the afore mentioned Brona Mountain, there is a place called **Piękny Widok (Lovely View)**. It was first mentioned as early as 1884, but currently it is fairly overgrown and therefore the view is considerably limited.



Jawornik Wielki - Góry Złote

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2009

GPS: 50°24'24.234"N, 16°51'03.551"E



61 *View of the town of Bardo from Obryw Skalny*





Bystrzyckie Mountains



Torfowisko pod Zieleńcem

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1998

GPS: 50°20'52.815"N, 16°24'38.560"E



Peat bog under Zieleńiec with a view towards the Orlické Mountains range

The greatest natural curiosity and protected nature reserve of the Bystrzyckie Mountains is the peat bogs **near the village of Zieleńiec (Torfowisko pod Zieleńcem)**, where we can admire unique flora. Some species have endured since the glacial epoch. There is an educational path passing through the entire area, but in order to achieve a better view of the whole territory, a timber outlook tower was built in the Topieliska Nature Reserve. You can easily reach the preserve by car driving from the car park at the road leading from the village of Zieleńiec to Duszniki Zdrój (bus stop), or on foot following the green signs.

A lovely vantage point of this area is also **Góra Kamienna** (Stone Mountain) not far from the spa town of Polanica Zdrój. On the mountain, there are ruins of a fortress called Fort Blockhaus or also Fort Frydryka. From the fortress we can continue through a forest with numerous sandstone boulders to the nearby rock lookout. After climbing just a few steps carved into the rock block, we are offered a view of the below-lying town of Polanica Zdrój, the central part of the Kłodzko Basin as well as the surrounding mountains.

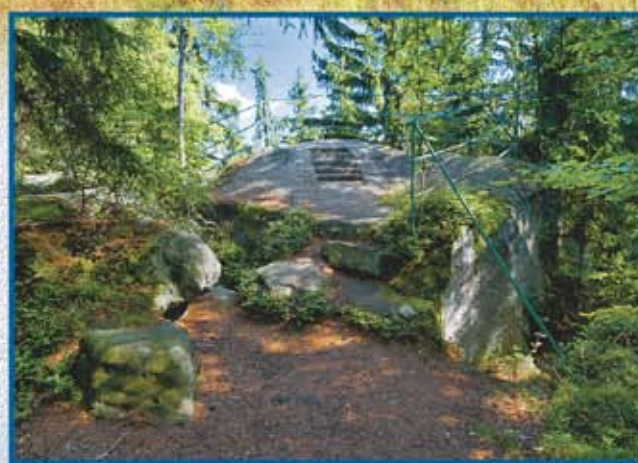
An easily accessible vantage point is **Jedlnik** at the "Sudeten Road" in the Bystrzyckie Mountains close to the village of Gniewoszew. It provides a beautiful outlook into the Eastern Sudetes and the massif of Sněžník. The memorial on Jedlnik reminds visitors of the passage of the armies of King John III. Sobieski in 1683.





64 Panorama of the Sněžník massif from the Jedlnik vantage point

In the southwestern part of the Bystrzyckie Mountains, on the mountainside of Ptasia Góra (745 m a. s. l.), you will find a well-known tourist chalet called **Schronisko Pod Muflonem (Under the Mouflon)**. Its name is said to be related to the stuffed head of a mouflon hanging in the dining room. Lookouts in the surroundings offer views of Duszniki-Zdrój, Obniżenie Dusznickie (Duszniki lowlands) and Góry Stołowe (Table Mountains). The chalet can be accessed along several tourist trails.

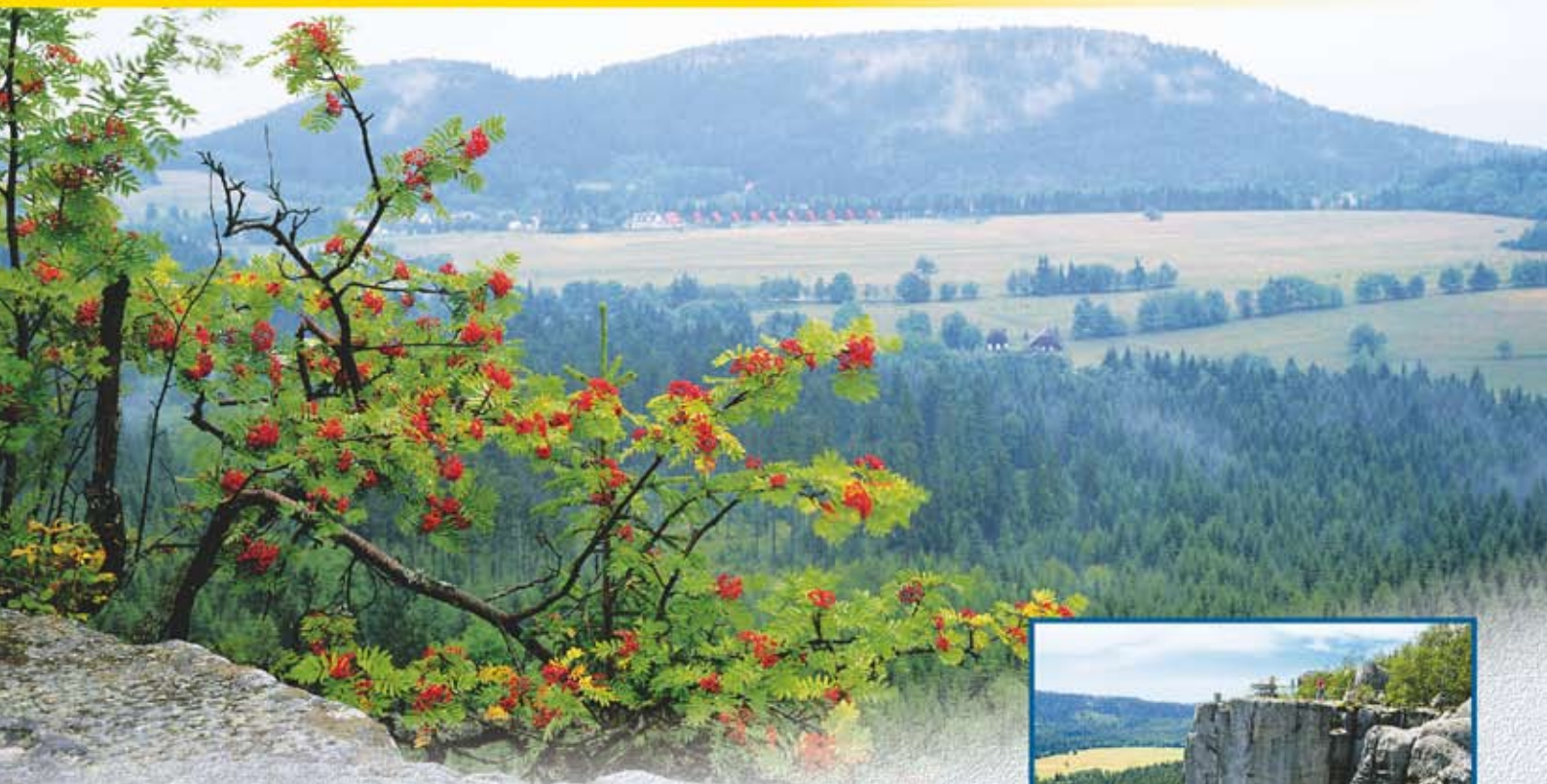


65 Stone Mountain rock lookout

View of the Polanica-Zdrój spa town

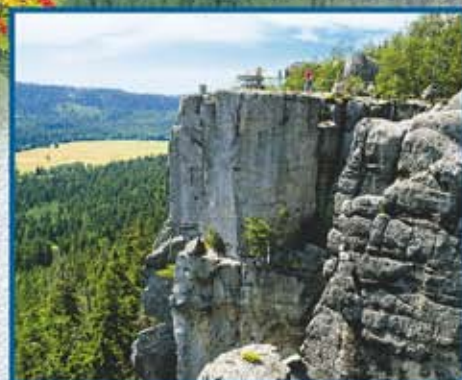


The Stołowe Mountains



View of Great Hejšovina from Fort Karol

Almost at the Czech-Polish border, one of the Table Mountains is situated, namely the highest. **Szczeliniec Wielki (Great Hejšovina)** is one of the most attractive spots of these mountains. It consists of a plateau of 600 x 300 m with a beautiful rock town, surrounded by 60m-high rock walls nearly on all sides. The most breathtaking views are provided by the terraces at the chalet of the Polish Tourist Club (PTTK) or from the terraces in the south-east. There is a path with 665 steps leading up to the top. It was established by František Pábel, a mayor of Karlów, together with soldiers of Major Bonaventura von Rauch. It was František Pábel who had the scenic trail built and gave names to most of the rocks. Tourists can move only along marked paths since the entire summit is a natural preserve. Small Szczeliniec (895 m a. s. l.) is inaccessible for tourists because of nature protection.




Szczeliniec Wielki - Karlów

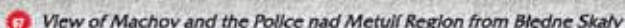
Opening year of the lookout tower: 1813

GPS: 50°29'08.656"N, 16°20'20.691"E

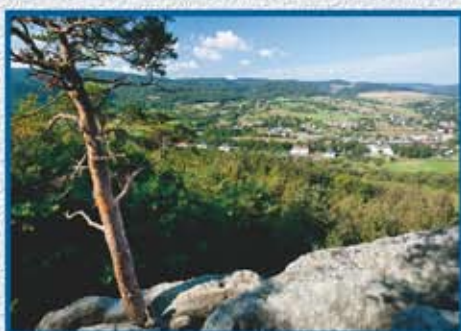



 *View from Narožník towards the Orlické Mountains*





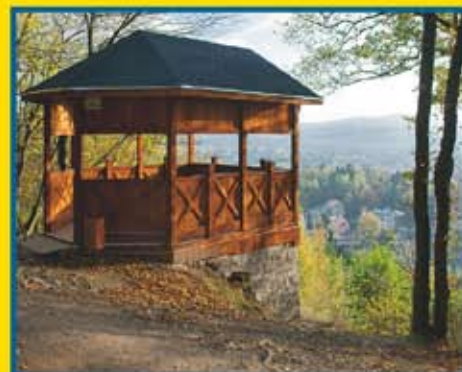
Błędne Skały (Wandering Rocks) are undoubtedly the greatest natural attraction of the area. The Błędne Rocks consist of a labyrinth of crevices among massive blocks of rock through which you can take a scenic route. The vantage point at 852 m above sea level provides a view mainly of Bohemia - the Broumov Walls and the Giant Mountains. Within the area of the Błędne Skały there is a car park (but be cautious, the direction changes every hour, once cars are going up, then down).



 *View of the town of Szczytna from the Orle Skały lookout*

There is a several tens of metres high sandstone rock towering above the town of Szczytna and forming a projection on the southwestern slope of the Szczytnik mountain, which is called **Orle Skały (Eagle Rocks)**. From its plateau we can see the skyline of the town of Szczytna as well as of the Bystrzyckie and Stołowe Mountains.

View of the Kudowa Zdrój spa and the foothills of the Orlické Mountains from Altana Miłości



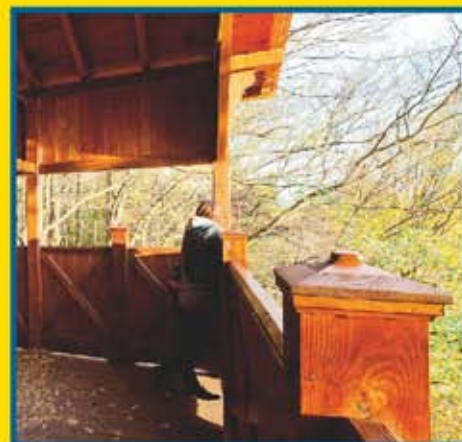
Altana Miłości - Kudowa Zdrój

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2014

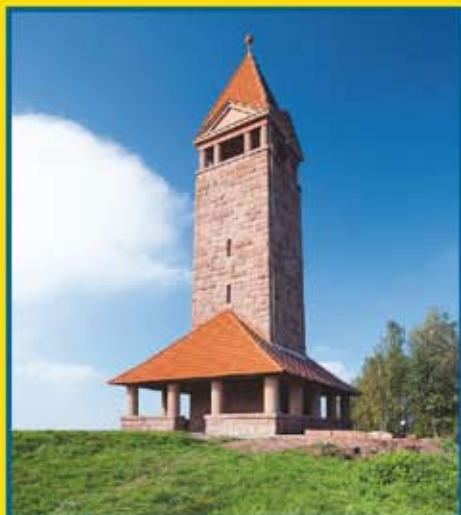
GPS: 50°26'42.630"N, 16°14'47.815"E



Within the afore mentioned "Places with Many Views in the Glacensis Euroregion" project, the vantage point of **Altana Młocid (Summerhouse of Love)** on the Parkowa Mountain was modernized in cooperation with the town of Kudowa Zdrój, including the modernization of staircases and paths leading up to the summerhouse. From the project funding, also the pruning of view-obstructing trees was secured. The timber summerhouse above the town offers a view of the spa park and at good visibility also of the ridge of the Orlické Mountains.



Kotlina Kłodzka (Kłodzko Basin) and Wzgórza Włocławskie



Góra Świętej Anny - Nowa Ruda

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2014

GPS: 50°34'00.200"N, 16°30'06.810"E



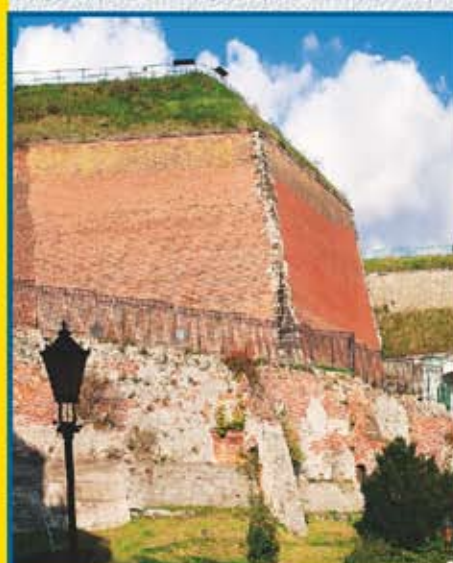
Within sight of the lookout tower on the All Saints Mountain, in close vicinity of Nowa Ruda, there is another outlook tower on **Góra Świętej Anny (Saint Anna Mountain)**. Unfortunately, this beautiful red-sandstone building, built in 1911, was closed to public and used for a television convertor. Local inhabitants claimed that the tower was waiting for mercy and strived to return it to tourists. Eventually, they lived to see that. In the year 2014, the lookout tower was reconstructed, modernized and even elevated in cooperation with Gmina Nowa Ruda and the Glacensis Euroregion. Before the reconstruction it had reached the height of 17.76 m, whereas after the reconstruction it is 22.83 m high. The tower also regained its original historical appearance. Let us just remind you of the fact that in close vicinity of the lookout tower there is a small church from the year 1644, dedicated to St. Anna.



View from the All Saints Mountain towards the Owl Mountains range

The town of **Kłodzko** attracts tourists' attention due to its architecture dictated by its military character. Without any doubt, the most unique feature is the Kłodzko fortress (Twierdza Kłodzka), a giant - almost twenty-hectare - defence system from the 17th and 18th centuries, perhaps the most valuable one in Poland. It displays examples of various European schools of military engineering. An attraction of the fortress is a sightseeing tour for tourists, leading through a many-kilometre-long maze of underground corridors. The lookout on the fortress ramparts offers visitors a view of the town and the Bystrzyckie as well as Rychlebské Mountains.

Not far from **Nowa Ruda**, on top of the hill called Góra Wszystkich Świętych (All Saints Mountain), a brick tower providing lovely views in all directions was built in 1913.



Twierdza Kłodzka - Kłodzko

GPS: 50°26'22.920"N, 16°39'11.876"E



Góra Wszystkich Świętych - N. Ruda

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1913

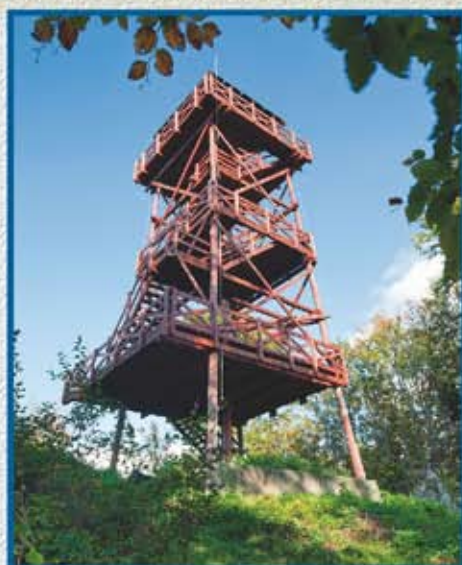
GPS: 50°33'02.670"N, 16°31'15.950"E



Kłodzkie (Włodzickie Highlands)



South of Kłodzko at the road to Bystrzyca, close to the villages of Żelazno and Mielnik, there is a timber lookout tower with three viewing platforms built on top of the **Wapniarka** hill. Its construction was completed in 2007. What was used as its foundation was the reinforced concrete elements of the observation tower that used to stand there in the years 1889-1925. When it was reopened to the public, the view was obstructed by high-grown trees, which are now gradually being logged.



Wapniarka - Żelazno
Opening year of the lookout tower: 2007
GPS: 50°21'32.259"N, 16°39'53.707"E



Suszynka - Radków
Opening year of the lookout tower: 2014
GPS: 50°28'31.940"N, 16°30'51.893"E



Within the afore mentioned project, the partner of which is Gmina Radków in this case, a lookout tower with the name **Suszynka** was built in 2014, not far from the villages of Radków and Suszyna. The lookout tower was built of sandstone blocks of different sizes up to the height of 27 m. It offers a view of the Giant Mountains, the Stołowe Mountains, the Broumov Walls, the Orlické Mountains as well as the massif of Králický Sněžník.




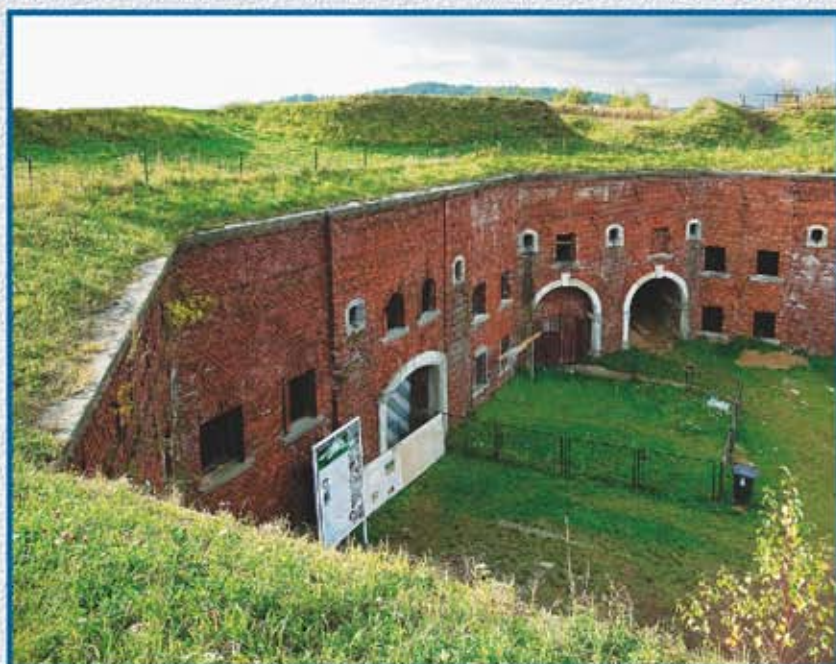
Góry Sowie (Owl Mountains)

The origin of the **Grodno Castle**, built on top of the Choina Mountain, dates back to the turn of the 13th century. In the years 1545–1587 the Gothic upper castle was extended with a Renaissance lower palace. In its interior, there is now a museum and a tourist shelter. The castle walls and the tower provide a beautiful view of the Owl Mountains, the Bystrzyca River valley and a water reservoir. The shortest access is from the village of Zagórze Śląskie.

We can find another fortified structure, similar to the Kłodzko fortress, in **Srebrna Góra** (Silver Mountain), too. The complex of **Twierdza Srebrnogórska** (Silver Mountain Fortress) built in the years 1765–1777 has been preserved without major changes till the present day. The fortress called Donjon due to the type of its structure, which used to give shelter to almost four thousand soldiers, was defended by 264 cannons and there were nine wells to provide the necessary water supply. The deepest one at Fort Ostrog is 84 m deep. The Silver Mountain is also called Silesian Gibraltar. The fortress ramparts offer a beautiful view of the Owl Mountains and at good visibility you can even see as far as Wrocław.



 Grodno Castle



 Srebrna Góra Fortress



Wielka Sowa - Walim

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1906

GPS: 50°40'49.130"N, 16°29'08.530"E



Panorama of the Owl Mountains from the church tower in Bielawa





Panoramic view from the Kalenica lookout tower towards the Table Mountains

The highest mountain of the Owl Mountains is **Wielka Sowa (Big Owl)**. On its top, a stone lookout tower was built in 1906. You can get there along the about 2.5 km-long red tourist trail from the car park in Przelecz Sokola (Falcon Pass). From the tower there is a marvellous panoramic view from the Králický Sněžník, over the Bystrzyckie and Table Mountains as far as the Giant Mountains.

The third highest mountain of the Owl Mountains is **Kalenica** (964 m a. s. l.). There is a steel lookout tower, built already in 1933, with two viewing platforms providing approximately the same outlook as the Big Owl Mt. The tower can be reached following the red signs for about 3 km south-east from the Przelecz Jugowska mountain pass between the villages of Sokolec and Kamionki.

You can have another lovely view of the Owl Mountains from the tower of the Church of the Assumption of the Hollest Virgin Mary in the town of **Bielawa**. The Neo-Gothic church was completed in 1876 on the site of a former Gothic church. Its 101m-tall tower is the third tallest tower in Poland. It is generally used as a vantage point and is open to the public.

A steel lookout tower on the **Park Mountain** was built in the same town as early as 1925. It is not exactly striking, but appealing with an interesting view. You can easily access it along the path from the end of the Westerplatte Defenders Street.



Kalenica - Sokolec

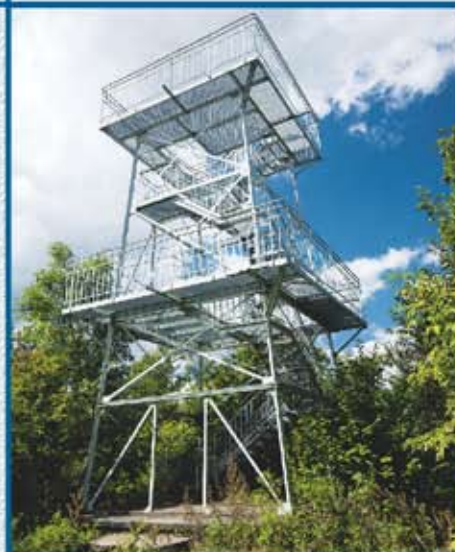
Opening year of the lookout tower: 1933

GPS: 50°38'35.231"N, 16°32'47.735"E



Church Tower - Bielawa

GPS: 50°41'13.414"N, 16°37'00.394"E



Góra Parkowa - Bielawa

Opening year of the lookout tower: 1925

GPS: 50°40'24.980"N, 16°37'07.791"E



The Area around Wałbrzych (Ziemia Wałbrzyska)



11 Książ Castle

North of Wałbrzych, near the town of Swiebodzice, in the middle of a park, there is one of the largest castles in Poland, the magnificent and majestic **Książ Castle**, which was built in the 13th century as part of a defence system of the principality of Swidnica. In the 18th century, the castle was transformed into a monumental and spectacular Baroque chateau. One of its remarkable

features is a water terrace with 27 fountains. During WWII, the chateau was used as a seat of the German military headquarters and the unique Baroque interior was considerably damaged. When you climb up the chateau tower, you will get an almost bird's-eye view of the Silesian Lowlands and the Książ Natural Park.

Right above the town of Wałbrzych, a romantic stone lookout tower was built on **Mt. Chelmiec (Helmet)** as partial imitation of a castle ruin. After being reconstructed in 2007, it is now open to the public. You can get to the peak along several tourist trails and even reach the lookout tower by car.

A timber observation tower was built at 841 m above sea level on the granite **Stożek Wielki** hill above the village of Unisław Śląski. From this village you can take the shortest way to the tower to enjoy a lovely view of the Wałbrzych Mountains.

Another wooden lookout tower was built next to the upper station of the chairlift on the ski slope of **Mt. Dzikowiec**, not far from the village of Boguszów-Gorce. It is significant not only as an attraction for tourists, but it also has a protective function. It serves as a fire observation site to protect the surrounding forests as well as a bird-watching site within the Natura 2000 Programme.



Chelmiec - Wałbrzych

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2007

GPS: 50°46'45.359"N, 16°12'36.502"E



Stożek Wielki - Unisław Śląski

GPS: 50°42'08.720"N, 16°13'38.804"E



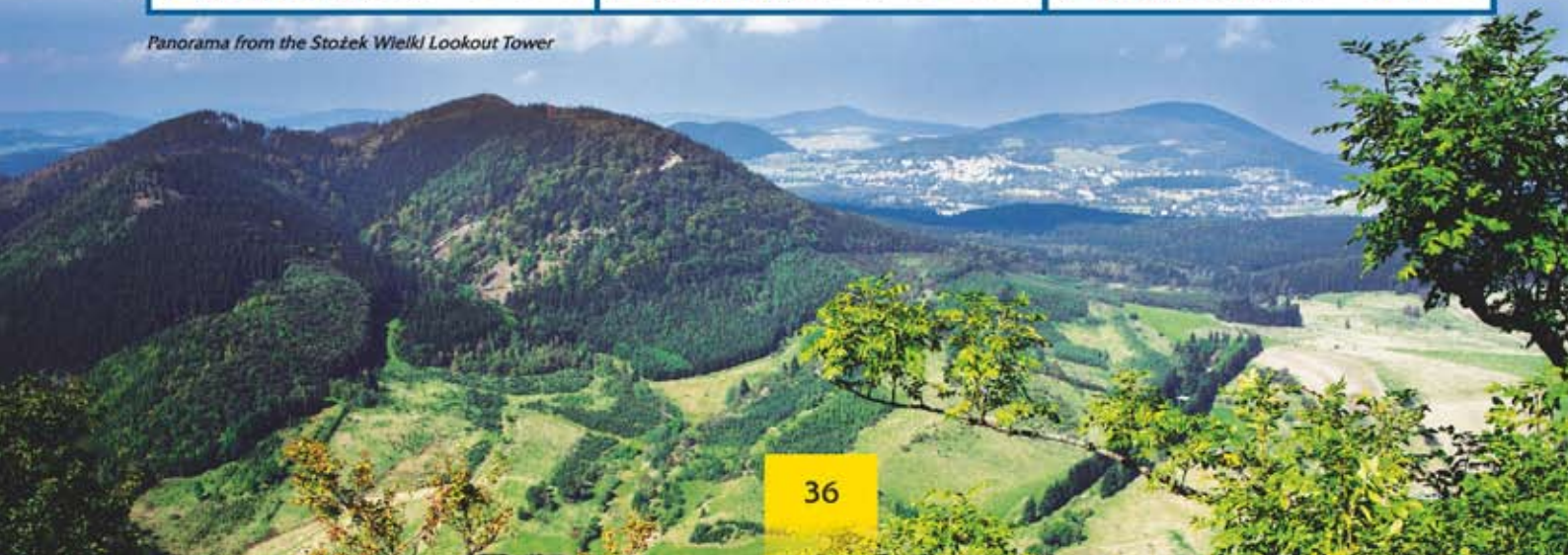
Dzikowiec - Boguszów-Gorce

Opening year of the lookout tower: 2012

GPS: 50°43'13.989"N, 16°12'38.909"E



Panorama from the Stożek Wielki Lookout Tower



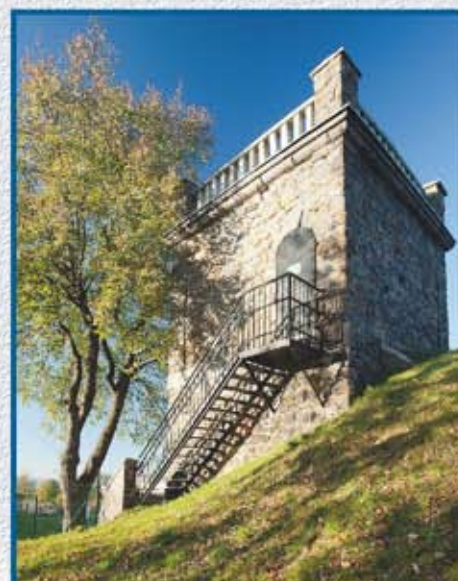
Sudeten Foothills (Przedgórze Sudeckie)

An independent bell tower, known as the **Leaning Tower (Krzywa wieża)**, was built next to the Church of St. Anna in the town of Ząbkowice Śląskie at the end of the 13th century. An earthquake might have brought about a shift in its foundations and as a result the 34m-tall tower turned away from the vertical axis – now it is deflected at its foot by 2.14 m. The unique structure is open to the public and its gallery offers lovely views of the Central and Eastern Sudetes as well as their foothills.

A small timber two-floor lookout tower was built on the inconspicuous **Kawla Góra (Łysica)** mountain, which towers above the terrain west of the municipality of Ciepłowody. Due to its height it rather reminds of a hunting high seat. However, taking the surrounding flat plains into consideration, it offers nice views of the neighbourhoods.

About 1.5 km south of the town of Strzelin in Wzgórze Strzełińskie in the Sudeten Foothills, there is the **Góra Szańcowa** mountain with a former water tower standing on its top. Since 2010, this tower has been used as an untypical observation tower overlooking Strzelin, the surrounding hilly area and sometimes even Wrocław. At its foot, there are conveniences for tourists.

Our imaginary tour in search of lookout towers and vantage points started in the Giant Mountains and it is coming to an end on the Polish side, south of Wrocław. At the beginning of the year 2012, a new lookout tower was built on the **Gromnik** mountain, the highest point of Wzgórze Strzełińskie, northwest of the village of Miłocice, near Przeworno. It resembles a half-timbered building, but its disadvantage is that it is lower than the trees around, so it can only offer a limited view.



Góra Szańcowa - Strzelin
Opening year of the lookout tower: 2010
GPS: 50°46'09.384"N, 17°05'04.451"E



Gromnik - Przeworno
Opening year of the lookout tower: 2012
GPS: 50°42'07.642"N, 17°06'35.504"E



Krzywa wieża - Ząbkowice Śląskie

GPS: 50°35'19.991"N, 16°48'35.665"E



Our journey in search of attractive vantage points is at an end. Unfortunately, our publication cannot describe all beautiful vantage points of the whole euroregion. Nevertheless, we hope this brief overview will tempt you to visit some of them, either on the Czech side or on the Polish side. On your tour in pursuit of beautiful views, we wish you nice weather, clear air and a good mood.



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View from the Anenský Hill towards Krállický Sněžník

Lookout tower on the Čáp hill



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