

adaptations were made according to designs of architect Dušan Jurkovič. Today, it is part of the municipal heritage. From the gallery of the Máselnice tower there is a beautiful view of the Renaissance square as well as of the Orlické Mountains, and the water reservoir – Rozkoš (Delight) with the Krkonoše Mountains in the background. **Dobruška**, a town in the vicinity with a Town Hall tower in the middle of the square (see field glasses), is certainly worth the visit.

Five kilometres travelling south-west, the chateau of Opočno towers over the valley. There is a romantic view of the chateau park, the Orlické range and its foothills from the courtyard.



*Lookout tower Osičina at a telecommunication pylon and a small wooden lookout tower at Velká Deštná.*



*The chateau of Opočno - there is a beautiful view of the chateau park and the Orlické Mountains.*

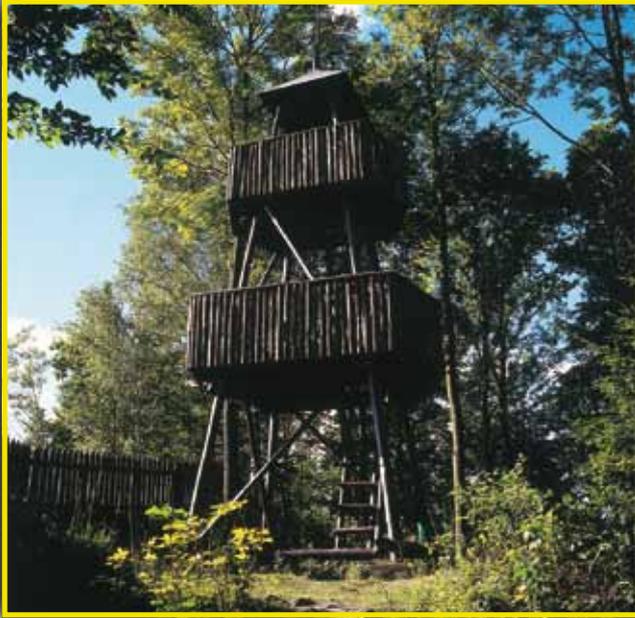


About eight kilometres from the town of **Opočno**, close to the Vojenice – Záhornice road, rises a hill with a flat top. It is called Osičina (416 m). There is a lookout tower on it – a 54-m-tall telecommunication pylon, serving the mobile phone network. Apart from having a beautiful view from there, tourists and cyclists can also get refreshments, especially welcome when the weather is hot or cold. You can see the whole length of the Orlické Mountains, Kralický Sněžník, Železné (Iron) Mountains, the Krkonoše and, when visibility is good, you can see as far as Kunětická hora (mountain). The lookout deck is open in the season and lies 33m above ground level.

The main range of the Orlické Mountains can only boast one little lookout tower. There has never been a lookout tower at the top of **Velká Deštná** (1 115 m). Sometimes the triangulation tower was used for the purpose. However, it went to rack and ruin in the early 1980's. Today, a small wooden tower with a deck at 5 metres above ground, stands in its place. However, it affords a wonderful view all around. It can be reached quite easily along Jirásek's red mountain trail, with a short deviation following the green signs from the log-house of the Alpine Rescue Service.

*A view of the Giant Mountains from the flat top of Velká Deštná.*



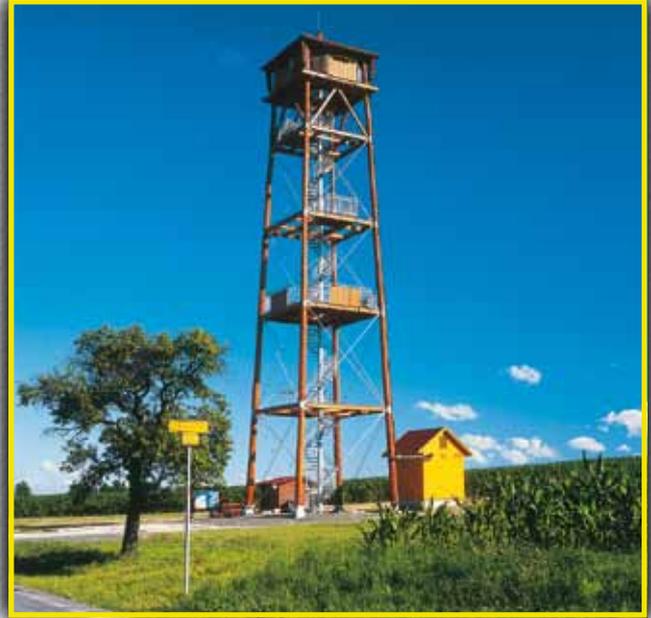


A wooden lookout tower above Skuhrov nad Bělou.

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Just under 10 kilometres from the village of Deštné v Orlických horách is **Skuhrov nad Bělou** where you will find a stylish lookout tower built over the ruins of a 13th-century castle (435 m). When you reach the village from the south, turn in the direction of Hraštica, and after 200 metres turn right to the church. The sight of the romantic valley of the Bělá, and wooden palisades around, all of this gives you a vague feeling of the 15th century when Jiří of Poděbrady conquered the castle to punish a robber knight, Kolda of Žampach. Admission is free. However, beware, there are no tourist signs to lead you to the ruined castle.

There used to be a lookout tower at a mount called **Kastel** ( 444 m), not far from **Vrbice**, at the time of World War Two. It was erected by the Czechoslovak army sometime around 1937 as a triangulation point. After the war, the army showed no interest in the tower and it was pulled down in 1946. In 2004, the council of Vrbice decided to restore the lookout tower. The new structure is 29m tall and there are lookout decks 11 m and 25m above ground. A red tourist trail from Kostelec nad Orlicí to Potštejn goes past the lookout tower.



A new lookout tower not far from Vrbice.

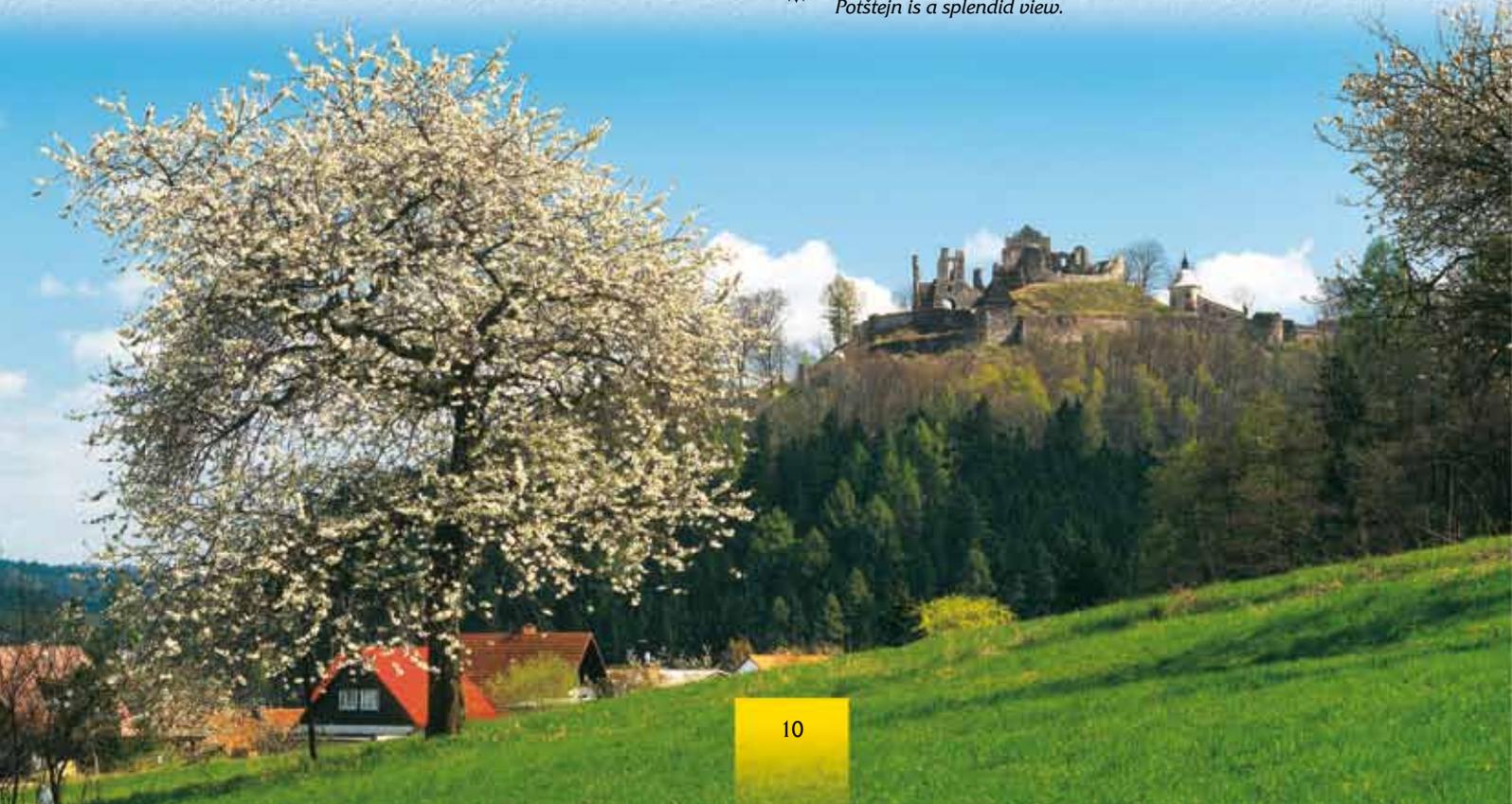
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The castle of **Potštejn** dominates the valley of Divoká Orlice. The climb up to the castle is quite steep, but your reward for the effort is a splendid view of the foothills of the Orlické Mountains. And, in addition, it is also worthwhile to see the remains of a 13th century castle and a preserved chapel.

The first lookout tower at **Andrlův Chlum** (559 m) rising above Ústí nad Orlicí was erected and opened in the summer of 1905. It was a 30-meter-tall timber tower with a sheltered lookout deck. For unknown reasons, the structure burned down on April 17, 1918. This is why members of the Club of Czech Tourists (KČST) started thinking about a new structure. There were several designs for building a chalet and a lookout tower, however, only the chalet was built in 1940. For a short time, it was possible to climb a timber geographic tower, which lasted until 1960. In 1994, the Association of Andrlův Chlum was formed and prepared a design of a 50-m- tall multi-functional telecommunication tower with a lookout deck at 35 metres above ground. The ceremony of opening this third lookout tower took place on May 19, 1996. The tower is well signposted - both on the road from Ústí

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Your reward for the effort of climbing up the steep hill to the castle of Potštejn is a splendid view.



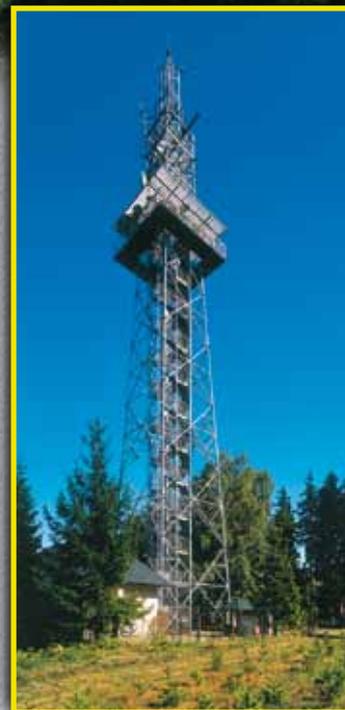


A view from the lookout tower at Andrlův Chlum of Ústí nad Orlicí, Orlické Mountains, Suchý vrch and Králický Sněžník.

and by green hiking signs. The deck can be reached all year round by climbing 183 steps.

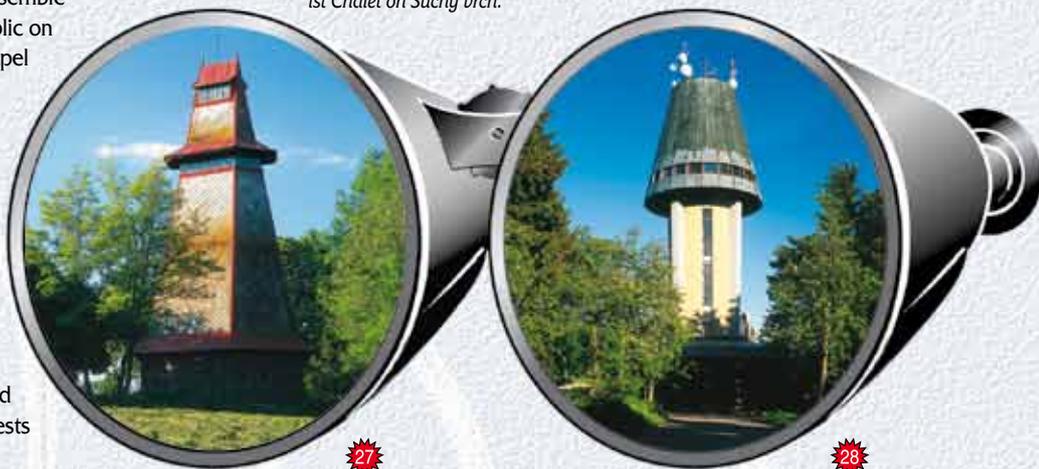
The road from Ústí nad Orlicí, passing Hejnice and on to Žamberk, will bring you straight to the timber **Tyrš's Look out Tower (Rozálka)**, close to the western boundary of Žamberk, at an elevation of 470 metres above sea level. It is very similar to Hýlačka near Tábor as identical plans of professor Theodor Petřík were used to build it. After he gave his consent, a 20-m-tall tower was built to resemble a Hussite watchtower. It was open to the public on October 28, 1932. As it stands close to a chapel of St. Rozálie (Rosalie), people started to call it Rozálka. It is open in the tourist season. If closed, you will find a notice hanging on the door telling you where to get the keys (usually at the information centre). It is just "a stone's throw" from Žamberk to **Suchý vrch** (995 m), the highest point of an independent section of the Orlické Mountains, separated from the main ridge by the Tichá Orlice valley. A hotel used to stand on top, formerly a KČST shelter hut, opened in 1925. A new chalet received its first guests

in 1928. It was known as Kramářova turistická chata (Kramář's Tourist Chalet). The lookout next to the chalet was originally built as a water tower (1931-32). You can get a lovely view from there of the Orlické and Bystřické Mountains, Králický Sněžník, the basin around Králíky, Hrubý Jeseník, and, last but not least, of the Žamberk region. In the 1960's, TV aerials were placed on the tower and the top terrace was glassed in. The entire top section of the tower disappeared in the 1980's under a metal conical structure and only the lower glassed-in gallery remained open to the public. Due to a not very successful attempt at privatisation, the chalet had been closed for a long time in the 1990's (and was absolutely empty inside) and only the lookout tower was accessible in the season. On the night of July 16, 2003 a fire broke out in the derelict chalet. Luckily, the lookout tower is still there and is open daily from June to August, and at weekends and during holidays in the remaining part of the year.



**26** The lookout tower at Andrlův Chlum.

The Rozálka lookout tower in Žamberk and the lookout tower near Kramář's Tourist Chalet on Suchý vrch.



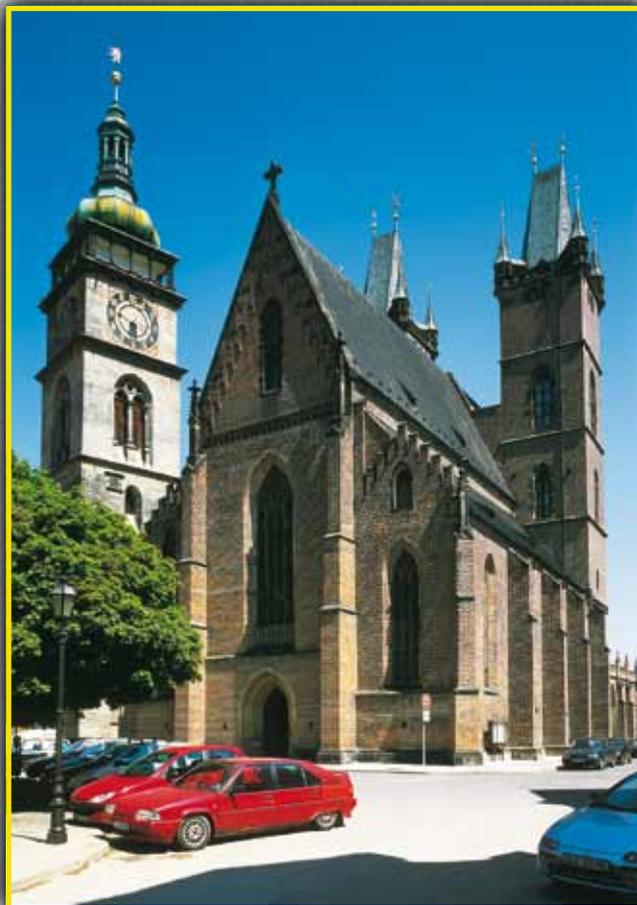
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# Polabí (the Labe Basin)



A characteristic dominant of the Polabí area is the Kunětická hora.



The White Tower and the Holy Ghost church at Hradec Králové square.



The biggest city in the region is **Hradec Králové** and the most important and dominant feature of this regional city is **Bílá věž (White Tower)** at Velké Square. The name of the tower is derived from the really white stone when it was first built. The stone used for its construction was white Hořice sandstone. It is not a church tower, and used to be a watch and fire lookout tower, the ground plan is 10 x 10 meters. The tower is 71.5 meters tall. On the ground level, the walls are four metres thick, and the tower narrows upwards. The original foundations were laid as early as 1509. The construction of the true tower, however, did not take place until 1574 – 80. In 1581, a bell was placed under a provisional roof. It was not until 1596 that the cupola, covered with metal plates, was completed. There is a viewing gallery on the fifth floor and on a clear day you can see not only the city centre but especially the Krkonoše with its highest mountain, Sněžka, the battle field of 1866 at Chlum and the lookout tower there, Dobrošov, the Orlické Mountains with Velká Deštná and the conspicuous Kunětická hora near Pardubice. To the south lies the undulating Českomoravská vrchovina (Czech-Moravian Highlands).

A specific feature of the tower is the bell, Augustin. It is the second biggest in Bohemia and is 169 cm tall. Its bottom diameter is 206 centimetres and it weighs 9.8 tons. It was cast by the bell-founder Ondřej Žáček as early as in 1509, which makes it 65 years older than the structure of the tower itself. Its passage up to its destination was remarkable. The scaffolding was built from as far as the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin. On May 22, 1581 it was raised to its current position. Then in 1606, lightning struck the tower and traces of it can still be discerned on the bell's surface. The inscription on the bell begins with the words: "In praise and honour of Almighty God ..." There is also a clock – its present mechanism dates from 1992, while the earlier one from 1829 can be seen in the Museum of East Bohemia in Hradec Králové. It might be interesting



The lookout tower and memorial at Chlum and the metal lookout tower in Libníkovice.

to note that the tower leans southwards, 36 centimetres from the main axis. The tower is open every day on payment of an admission fee.

An event is related to Hradec Králové that had a significant impact on Czech history. One of the biggest battles of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was waged at **Chlum near Hradec Králové**. On July 3, 1866, over 436 000 soldiers fought on the site. In all, 44 300 Austrian and Czech men and 9 200 Prussian men were killed. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, monuments as well as a number of utility structures were erected on the battlefield. In 1894, a farmer from Dobřenice, K. Weinrich, had a little house built on the Chlum plain, for a monument warden (today, it stands between the museum and the lookout tower). Five years later, in 1899, a lookout tower was built. The 25-metre tall structure was opened to the public in 1899. A tavern was built the same year not far from the tower.

The original lookout tower served people visiting the battlefield for 100 years. It was dismantled in the spring of 1999 and a new 56-m steel tubular truss structure was erected in its place. Its weight is over 63 tons. At a level 35 meters above ground, which is 11 meters higher than the gallery of the former lookout used to be, a 6.9 m x 6.9 m lookout deck has been placed. It is 1.3 metres wide. There is a pair of independent octagonal stairs with broken centre, 0.7 m wide, to take you up to and down from the gallery. The tower is open daily from April to the end of October except for Mondays, on other days an appointment has to be made at the Museum of East Bohemia in Hradec Králové. You can contact tel. No. 495 447 058 for more information.

A lookout tower with a very interesting history has been standing not far from Třebechovice p. Orebem, 5 km north, in the small village of **Libníkovice** since 1930. Formerly, a massive linden tree stood on the spot. There was a comfortable seat in its crown with steps leading up. The tree was uprooted by a windstorm in 1929. To replace it, local people had a 15-m metal tower built at their own expense.

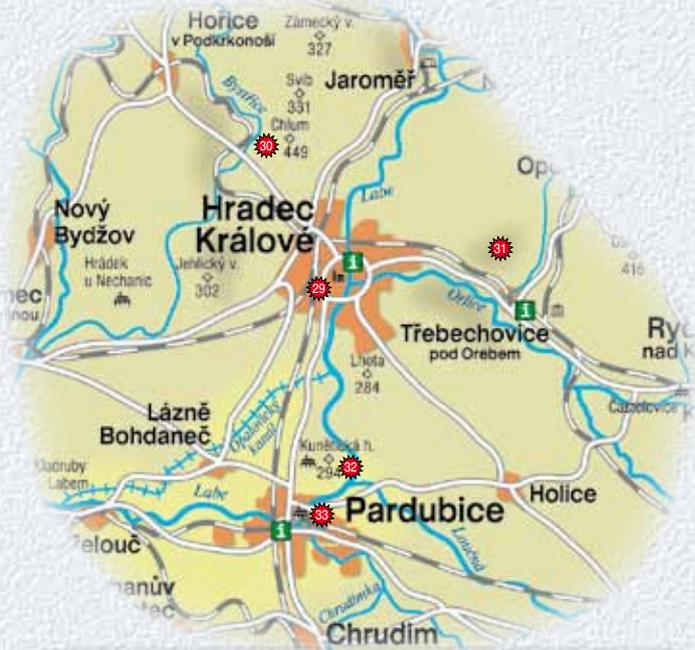
Our touring of Czech lookout towers brings us to the Pardubice region. When travelling from Třebechovice to Pardubice you cannot fail to notice a characteristic dominant of the area – the **Kunětická hora** (294 m). A basaltic hill, projecting in the middle of the lowlands. The castle at the top was probably built at the turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The castle was adapted and extended in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century by Diviš Bořek of Milečín. Then, by the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, the Pernštejns started making extensive adaptations and the castle acquired a representative appearance. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a major reconstruction was undertaken, based on designs by Dušan Jurkovič.

Today, you can see exhibitions of the castle museum, the knights' hall, the cellars displaying an archaeological exhibition, the castle chapel and you may climb up to the tower whose windows of-

fer a nice panoramic view. You can best get there from Sezemice by a road which is well signposted, or on foot, following the red trail.

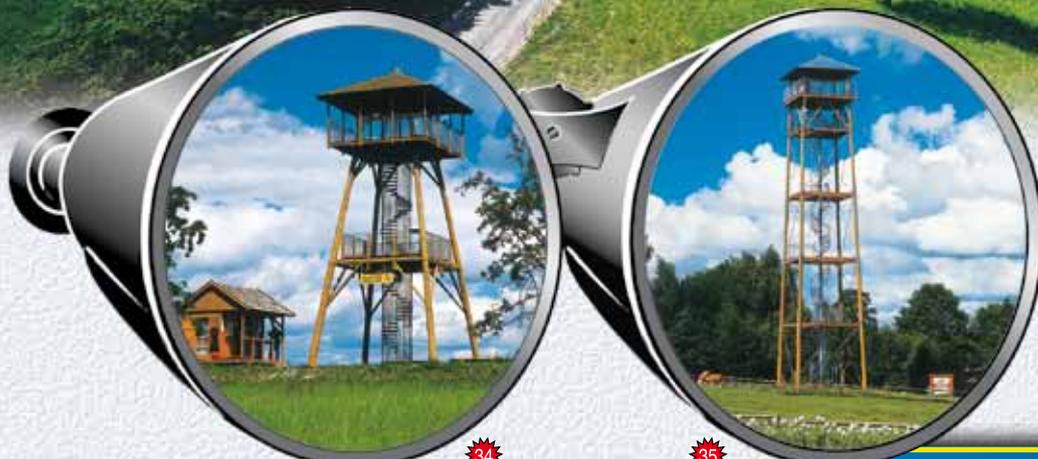
The regional city of **Pardubice**. is another significant place in the Labe (Elbe) basin. The city owes its Renaissance appearance to the Pernštejn family. The dominant feature of the town heritage reserve is the **Zelená brána** (Green Gate), formerly known as Pražská (Prague Gate). It was given its late-Gothic appearance by Master Pavel in 1507. Following a fire in 1538, the Gate was

remodelled in the Renaissance style by Master Jiřík of Olomouc, who also raised the tower and annexed a gallery to it. The builder also added one storey to the fore-gate and fitted it with an arch gable. The green colour of the verd-antique on the roof gave this dominant building its name already in 1547. The over 60-metre-tall tower is open in full season and when you climb the 156 stairs you will be able to see the historic centre and the countryside around the city, including Kunětická Mountain.



The Green Gate at Pernštejn Square in Pardubice.

# Country surrounding Litomyšl, Česká Třebová and Lanškroun



*The Borůvka lookout tower affords a lovely view of the Svitavská pahorkatina (Svitavský Hills).*

ted opening times and admission is charged (you can get more information at [www.mastale.cz](http://www.mastale.cz)).

*The Toulouvcova and Terezka lookout towers in the natural reservation of Maštale.*

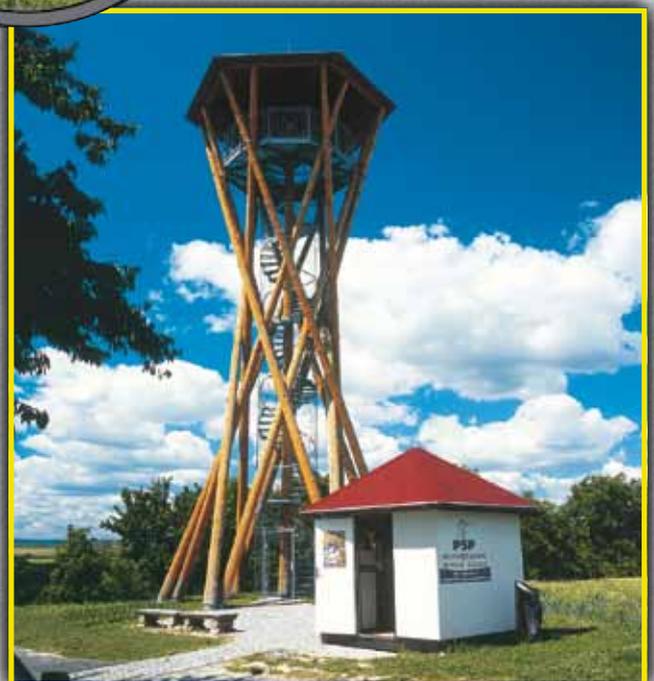
On our travel around lookout towers we will now head east. Before we reach Moravian lookout spots, we should make a stop at some more vistas in Bohemia.

Three lookout towers stand in the natural reservation of **Maštale**, south-west of Litomyšl, covering an area stretching from Budislavské Rocks, which include the popular Toulouvcové Maštale.

At Jarošovský Hill (539 m) a timber 15-metre **Toulouvcova lookout tower**, was built in 2002. You can get there if you follow the red trail from Jarošov.

Another tower, 25-m **Terezka**, was erected close to Paseky nad Prosečí in 2004. A blue cycling trail passes the tower which has a lookout deck and also four inter-floor levels from which less able tourists can also have a very nice view of the countryside.

Red and green cycling trails from Hluboká will take you to the newest lookout tower, called **Borůvka**. Its name has been derived from the site just above, Na Borůvčí or Borek. Its unique and untraditional structure makes it one of the most interesting and most beautiful buildings of the kind, not only within the micro-region of Toulouvcovy maštale. It is 18.5 metres tall (deck at 15 m above ground) and affords a lovely view. All the above lookout towers have limi-



*The lookout tower Borůvka.*

A tourist chalet and a lookout tower used to stand on the 601 m **Kozlovský Hill** near Česká Třebová until 1936. The latter was rather a timber triangulation tower, built in 1929 to enable topographical work. When that was completed, the tower was taken over by a tourist organisation and was used until 1939, when it was destroyed by lightning. When, in the year 2000, a mobile phone operator wanted to build a steel pylon for its aerials, the council of Česká Třebová stated as its term that there would be an open lookout on the structure. On May 19, 2001, the 55-meter lookout tower (platform at 32.8 m) was opened to the public.

The predecessor of today's lookout tower at **Lázek** (714 m) was a simple wooden tower, built before the First World War. However, it was destroyed in 1918. The current, 20-m timber clad structure was built in 1933. It is part of Reichel's Chalet (named after the chief initiator of the project). The deck, which is at 17 metres above ground level, is accessed by 87 steps. The name Lázek comes from the fields – "lázy", resulting from the burning out of forests.

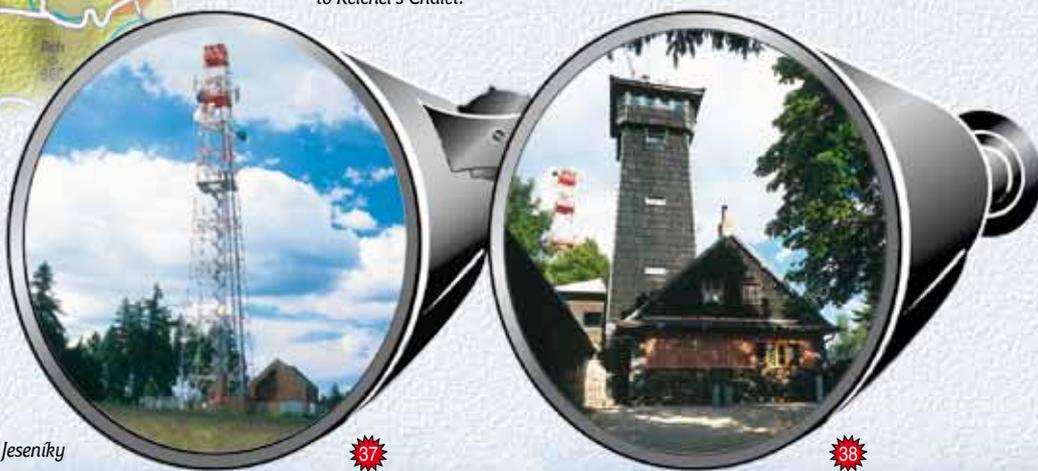
The lookout tower is just above the village of Cotkytle, 7 km east of Lanškroun. There is a tarmac road up to the top. To get to the tower, follow road No. 368 from Štíty to Cotkytle. Two kilometres from the village, turn right onto a narrow tarmac road and after 500 metres you will reach the top. If you prefer hiking, follow the green tourist signs from Cotkytle and then the red signs from Strážné.

The lookout tower is open in July and August from Tuesday to Sunday, from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and from September to November at weekends from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.



*The lookout tower on Kozlovský Hill and the wooden lookout tower at Lázek next to Reichel's Chalet.*

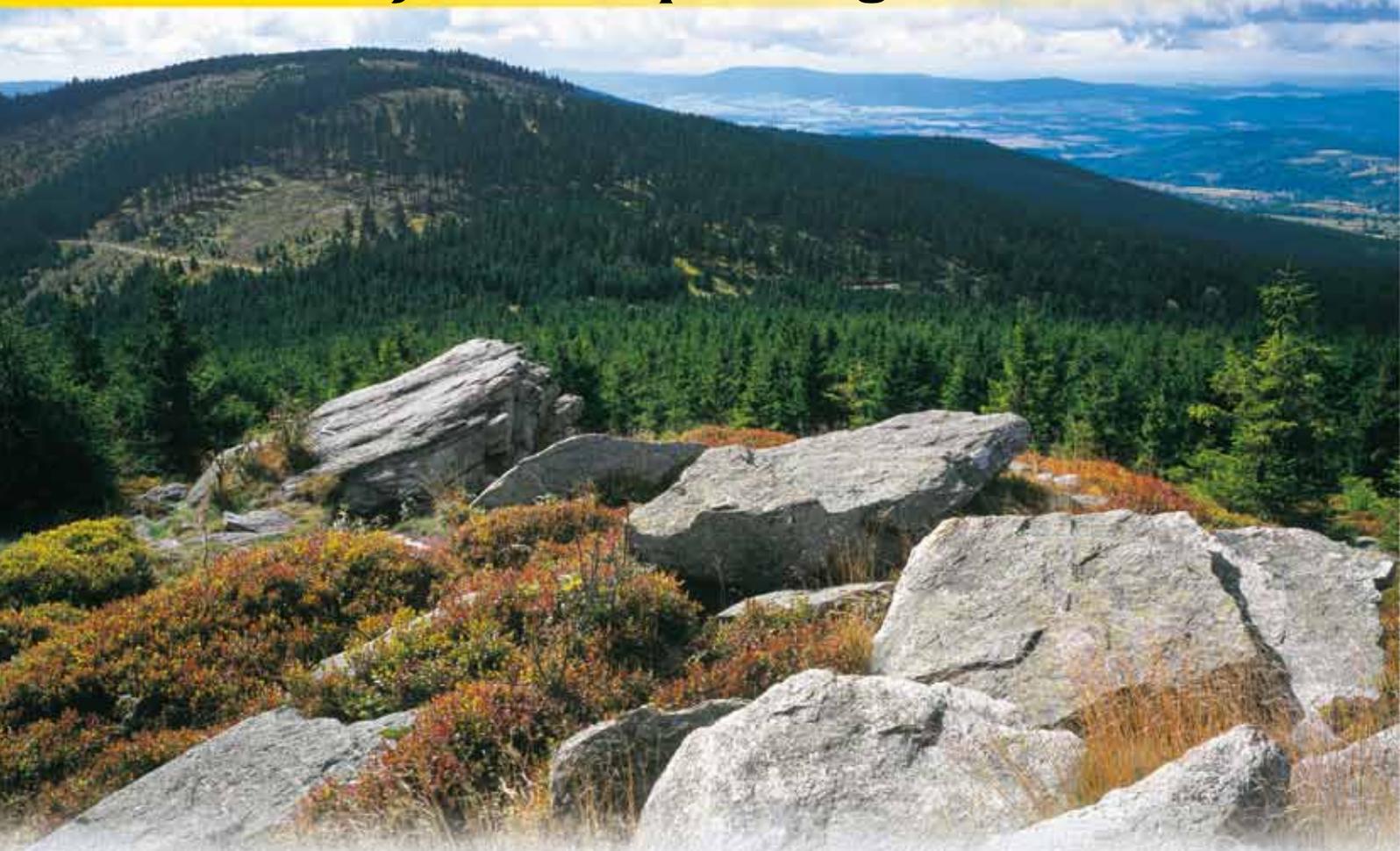
You can get to the lookout tower by a 3-km road called Max Švabinský's Avenue. You can leave your car at Max Švabinský's Chalet and walk for about 100 meters to the tower which is open from May to September at weekends and on holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



*When conditions are good, you can see as far as the Jeseníky from the lookout tower at Kozlovský Hill.*



# The Králiky and Šumperk Region



*A view from Králický Sněžník of the Suchý vrch.*

The region is dominated by **the massif of Králický Sněžník**, rugged highlands on the interface of Bohemia, Moravia and Kladsko, close to the Polish border. It is part of the Jesenice region and the third highest mountain range in the Czech Republic. There are 12 mountains exceeding one thousand meters, the highest being Králický Sněžník (1 425 m). What is so special about this area is the height of the mountains – in other mountain ranges lower peaks are predominant and the higher the elevation the fewer peaks there are. Here, though, there is one mountain in the range between 1000 and 1100 m, and two up to 1200 m. The greater portion of these peculiar highlands lies in Poland (where it is called Masyw Śnieżnika),

*The bare top of Mt. Králický Sněžník and its symbol - a statue of a young elephant.*



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and is also protected as a national park. There is a dominant massif (of identical name, Králický Sněžník), with 5 ridges. The south-west ridge runs along the Polish border and together with the south ridge (which first runs south-east) it forms a sort of “horse-shoe”, cut deep by the Morava River valley. The highlands play a very important role as a European water divide – the waters from the Bohemian side flow into the Danube and partly also into the Labe (Elbe) while Polish rivers empty into the Odra.

The top of Mt. Králický Sněžník, 1 424 m, with its large plateau is a perfect place to position a lookout tower. In the past, there used to be two chalets just under the summit. On the Polish side (at that time, German side) it was Vilém’s Chalet with a lookout tower (1895 – 1973), on the Czech side, Liechtenstein Chalet, later renamed “U pramene Moravy“ (At the Spring of the Morava) (1912 – 1971). Today, only the statue of a young elephant reminds us of the place where the Czech chalet used to stand. Although the top has remained without a chalet and without a lookout tower, it offers beautiful views, partially restricted by the woods. The top can be accessed easily from the Czech and the Polish side along well marked trails.

When you come to Králiky, you will certainly be attracted by the second dominant feature – **Hora Matky Boží (the Holy Mother Mountain)** with a cloister standing at the top. About 1.5 km east of Králiky, a baroque three-aisled basilica was built in the years 1696 – 1700 at the top



The telecommunication tower on the top of Val and a wooden lookout tower on the peak of Háj.

of Lysá hora (Bare Mountain, its original name) (770 m). Then, in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, arcaded walks and other cloister structures were erected. Already as you pass up along the avenue you will get wonderful views of the town as well as Králícký Sněžník, Králícká Brázda and Suchý vrch.

You can get an even better view from the simple, 34-m telecommunication tower standing on the bare top of **Val** (789 m), approximately 1 km from the cloister, following the yellow tourist marking. From the lookout deck at 22m above ground you will get a broad panoramic view of Králícký Sněžník, the Jeseníky and Orlické Mountains and the distinct Suchý vrch.

You can leave Králíky for Šumperk, travelling via Bludov. North-west of Bludov and west of Šumperk you will observe the striking double-peak of Chocholík (548 m) and **Háj** (631 m), with a lookout tower, the most distinctive hill in the southern spur of the Hanušovice Highlands. Originally, a lookout tower was built there in 1933-34. Following the Munich Pact of 1938, it fell into German hands and was used as an aircraft observation post towards the end of World War Two.

The lookout tower was damaged during the war and as the lightning conductor had not been repaired in time, it was struck by lightning in 1953 and burned down. In 1996, a new lookout tower was built to resemble the original Štefánik Tower. It is a wooden support structure with timber panelling. The entrance made of stone. The glassed-in lookout deck is 24m above ground. To reach it, you need to climb 134 stairs. The new tower is 7m taller than the original lookout, its very top is 29m high. On a clear day, you will get a breath-taking view of the whole length of the range of Hrubý Jeseník – from the mountain-saddle, Skřítek (Elf), to Ztracené kameny (Lost Stones), Pec (Oven), Praděd (Great Grandfather), the highest mountain in Moravia, and to the Červenohorské sedlo (Red Mountain Saddle). You need to buy a ticket to get to the tower. You can learn its opening time at [www.sweb.cz/klubturistu.sumperk](http://www.sweb.cz/klubturistu.sumperk)

Standing over Šumperk, 5 km north, following the green trail, is the Mountain Ořešník (Nut Tree), from its fore-peak, **Městská skála (Town Rock)** (682 m), is a great view. The rocks are also used by climbers and paragliders.

A view from the lookout tower on Val of the cloister in Hedeč on the Holy Mother Mountain, rising above Králíky.



# The Jeseníky and Rychlebské Mountains



Stone lookout towers on the Zlatý Chlum hill and on Biskupská kupa in the Golden Mountains.

There is a stone lookout tower on the **Zlatý Chlum** hill (875 m) just above the town of Jeseník. The 26m tower was built on a plateau not far from the top in 1899. Its 145 stairs will bring you to a circular platform from which you will have a wonderful panoramic view. Down below you will see Jeseník, and in the background Keprník, Králický Sněžník, Rychlebské Mountains, to the north you will see the Polish plains and the lakes Otmuchowski and Nyski, to the east the Zlaté hory (Golden Mountains) and a lookout tower at Biskupská kupa, and to the south Mt. Praděd. You will get to the tower if you take the blue or red hiking trail from Jeseník.

The history of the lookout tower on the **Borůvková hora** (Blueberry Mountain) (898 m), not far from the town of Javorník, started in the 1870's. Three times a timber lookout tower had been built on the spot, however, each time it became the victim of weather and

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Venušiny misky (the Bowls of Venus) on the top of Smolný.

time. The last one collapsed in 1922. After many years of effort, the Javorník Council managed to get the funds together to build a new lookout tower on Borůvková Mountain and continue the tradition. The tower has a circular form, it is a steel structure with wooden cladding. There is also a brick shelter for tourists. The lookout is

about 24 meters above ground, the highest point of the tower is at 25.4 metres. From the deck you will see the Otmuchow and Nysa lakes, and Łądek Zdrój in Poland, and Šerák, Praděd, Smrk, Kralický Sněžník on the Czech side. The construction was completed in September 2006.

A popular tourist point in Zlaté Hory is the lookout tower on **Biskupská kupa** (891 m). It stands on the Czech side of the Czech-Polish border. At the time, it was the border between Austrian-Hungarian Empire and Prussia. From 1889, there was a timber lookout tower. Then, in 1895, permission was given to replace it with a brick one, to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the rule of Emperor Franz Josef I. The circular, 19.3-m tower, with a deck at 17.8m above ground, was opened to the public on August 26, 1898. It was closed to public after World War Two and for many years was used for a TV transmitter. The transmitter was moved to a new pylon after 1989. Then, in 1996, work started on repairs to the stairs and plaster and in the summer of 1998 it was re-opened in a ceremony to mark its centenary.