

Nature trails in Slavkovský les PLA





Natural Monument of Hořečková louka na Pile



Slavkovský les Protected Landscape Area

Area: 611 km²

Year designated PLA status: 1974

Small-scale specially protected areas in this PLA:

- 2 national nature reserves (NNR)
- 3 national natural monuments (NNM)
- 10 nature reserves (NR)
- 14 natural monuments (NM)

The springs and peat bogs lying in the Slavkovský les region, covering 3,202 hectares, were entered on the List of Wetlands of International Importance in 2012, as they met the criteria of the Ramsar Convention – the first global intergovernmental treaty on the protection and considerate use of natural resources.

The territory is part of the **national geoparks of Egeria and GeoLocí**.



Moorland clouded yellow

Svatošské skály

Trail length: 13 km

Number of rest stops: 12 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 3–4 hour

Setting-off point: A signpost for hikers in Doubí u Karlových Varů (50° 12'31.844"N, 12° 49'35.898"E)

Level of difficulty: Moderately difficult terrain

Route description: The most important stop along this nature trail is one the visitor makes by the rocks of Svatošské skály. The mighty granite towers on the left bank of the River Eger are a well-known attraction, especially to climbers. The trail leads to a large extent through well-preserved forests with stands of deciduous trees, especially beech and oak. This pleasant stroll takes the visitor as far as the little town of Locket with its medieval castle and historic square.



National Natural Monument of Svatošské skály

Šibeniční vrch

Trail length: 1 km

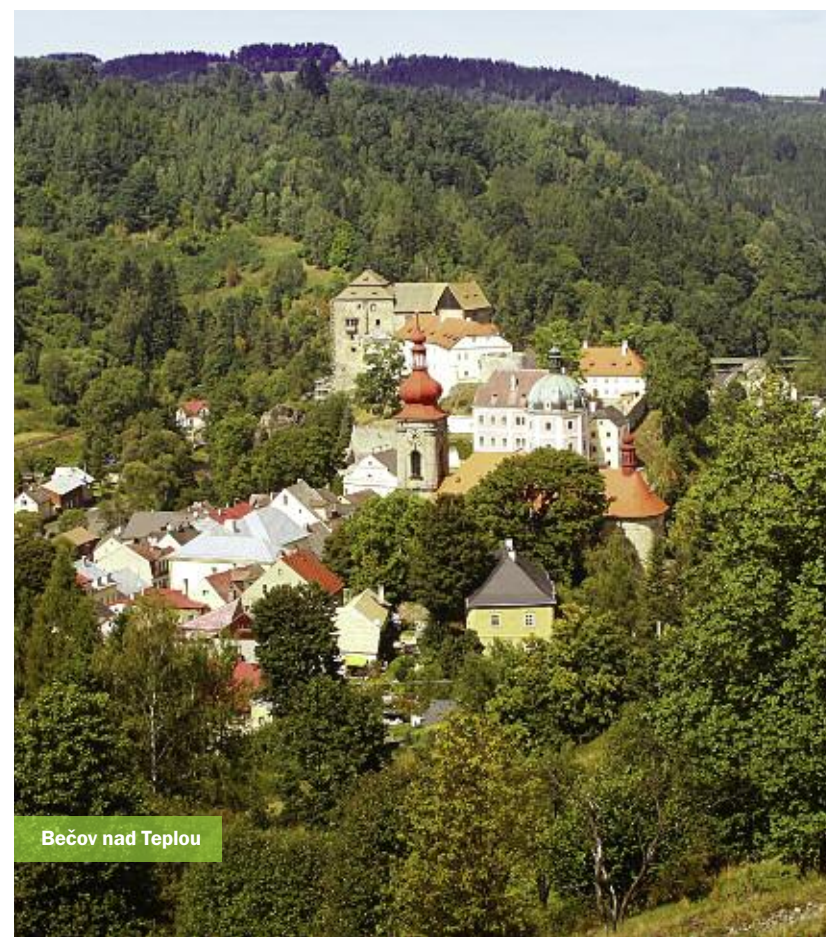
Number of rest stops: 5 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 1 hour

Setting-off point: The square opposite the chateau gates in Bečov nad Teplou (50° 5'4.993"N, 12° 50'22.000"E)

Level of difficulty: Moderately difficult terrain with a steep rise only towards the end of the trail

Route description: Starting at the square in the town of Bečov nad Teplou, this trail leads to the hill of Šibeniční vrch. Lying 1 km far away, its name translates as "gallows hill", and the place enables views of the medieval town below with its castle and a chateau. The idea behind this trail is to learn more about the rituals associated with the exercise of capital punishment in the early modern period (the 16th to 18th centuries) by making use, in addition to the former gallows path, of the remnants of a historic gallows. The extent to which this structure, examined by archaeologists, has been preserved, is rarely seen. Such relics that survive to this day in this country are but a few.



Bečov nad Teplou

Kladská

Trail length: 2 km

Number of rest stops: 14 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 1 hour

Setting-off point: A car park located in the settlement of Kladská, 9.5 km north of Marienbad (50° 1'36.877"N, 12° 40'5.217"E)

Level of difficulty: Not challenging and flat terrain; this is a barrier-free path

Route description: Located in one of the most beautiful sites in Slavkovský les, this nature trail was opened to the public back in 1977. Easy to use and convenient due to the boarded walkway, it takes visitors from the starting point beside the former hunting lodge via the peat bog forest – without getting their feet wet! It follows the boundary of the Kladské rašeliny National Nature Reserve and the banks of the lakes of Kladský rybník and Kyselá jezero, meaning nature lovers can admire the golden variety of Norway spruce at the beginning of the route. This is a dominant tree with branches that reach as far as the ground. The species to observe include the moorland clouded yellow. The channel of Dlouhá stoka, a unique technical achievement of the 16th century, which brought water to mines and served for floating wood, is another site of interest. The trail eventually leads back to Slavkovský les House of Nature, a new visitor centre with an exhibition dedicated to the history and natural world of the landscape.



Dams to retain water at the national nature reserve of Kladské rašeliny



An open, raised bog in the Kladské rašeliny National Nature Reserve



A boarded walkway along the Kladská nature trail

Smradůch

Trail length: 67 m

Number of rest stops: 2 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 30 minutes

Setting-off point: A car park located by the road between Prameny and Marienbad, 6 km north of Marienbad (50° 0'48.888"N, 12° 42'51.267"E)

Level of difficulty: Not challenging and flat terrain; this is a barrier-free path

Route description: Located in a nature reserve of the same name which translates as "smelly", this trail offers a wealth of experience despite its diminutive length (a few dozens of metres). Using two local platforms, visitors can view an area with "mud volcanoes" and vents of carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulphide, and understand, through the bad smell resembling rotten eggs and typical of sulphur, how this unique place acquired its name. The surrounding vegetation consists of valuable peat bog and waterlogged spruce forests. Combining a visit to this place with a walk to the nearby acidulous spring of Farská kyselka using a marked hiking trail is recommended.



A small lake with mofette in the Smradůch Nature Reserve



Smradůch Nature Reserve

Siardova kaple – Mnichov

Trail length: 4,5 km

Number of rest stops: 4 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 1–2 hour

Setting-off point: The municipality of Mnichov, by the road above the church (50° 2'13.465"N, 12° 47'7.991"E)

Level of difficulty: Unchallenging terrain with a modest incline

Route description: Starting in Mnichov by the Church of St. Peter and Paul, this trail actually forms a circle. It leads to the remnants of Siard Chapel, a place with a long history. The chapel was built in the 12th century by Siardus (Sieghardt), a Saxon knight, in gratitude for his survival. Just ruins now remain, overgrown with vegetation, with a stone cross standing above. Beneath is the Siard's spring. Also called "Holy Well", it has been a place of pilgrimage for its healing waters since the 17th century. The last stop on the trail features the old mill of Schöpplův mlýn and a facility for treating serpentinite rock.



Siard's Chapel ruins



Siard's Spring



A resting place by Siard's Spring along the nature trail

Mnichovské hadce

Trail length: 12 km

Number of rest stops: 8 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 3–4 hour

Setting-off point: By the road between Prameny and Nová Ves, 3 km north of Prameny (50° 3'58.396"N, 12° 44'50.647"E)

Level of difficulty: Easy-going terrain, partially along a tarmac surface, it is recommended for cyclists as well.

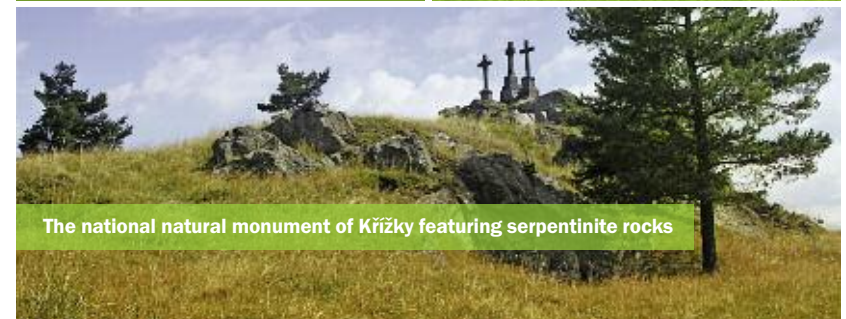
Route description: Interconnecting the most notable serpentinite areas in Slavkovský les – the Křížky, Dominova skalka and Pluhův bor reserves – since 2008, the information boards along this trail are dedicated to the unique serpentinite-bound flora, serpentinite influence on vegetation and mineral waters, the history of utilising the mineral and the medieval structure of Dlouhá stoka. Visitors can take in the unique phenomenon of serpentinite rocks while tasting mineral water at the site of Grůnská kyselka spring, which is rich in magnesium as provided by the rocks. The trail can be walked even in sections, for example, walking only around the Pluhův bor and Dominova skalka sites (7 km) is possible, or following it from Křížky to Dlouhá stoka (0.5 km). The acidulous water spring of **Novoveská kyselka** is one of the rest stops on this trail (No. 12 on the map). A granite fountain once stood at this site, containing a 17 m deep shaft. Built in 1893, a large gazebo was built above it, where the acidulous water was hand-bottled by workers. Immediately next to the pavilion was a home for the manager, as well as a shop and horse stalls. Ruins are all that now remain. During World War I, the owner leased the bottling site to the Moser Company based in Carlsbad. The water was bottled until the end of World War II. In 2001, a new mineral water bottling station was completed. Located by Mnichov, it receives water from all the wells throughout the network of source sites. In 2010, the area around the springs was improved as part of the "Land of Living Water" project, with a gazebo erected to provide a resting place.



Cerastium alsinifolium
a serpentinite-bound endemic plant



The acidulous water of Novoveská kyselka – former bottling premises



The national natural monument of Křížky featuring serpentinite rocks

SLAVKOVSKÝ LES PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AREA

 NATURE TRAILS

1. Svatošské skály
2. Šibeniční vrch
3. Kladská
4. Smradoch
5. Siardova kaple – Mnichov
6. Mnichovské hadce
7. Kynžvartské kyselky
8. Geologický park Mariánské Lázně
9. Lázeňskými lesy okolo Mariánských Lázní
10. Otročínské cesty
11. Botanická zahrada Bečov
12. Krajem živých vod – Novoveská kyselka
13. Dolování v okolí Michalových Hor
14. Zaniklé obce na Březovsku

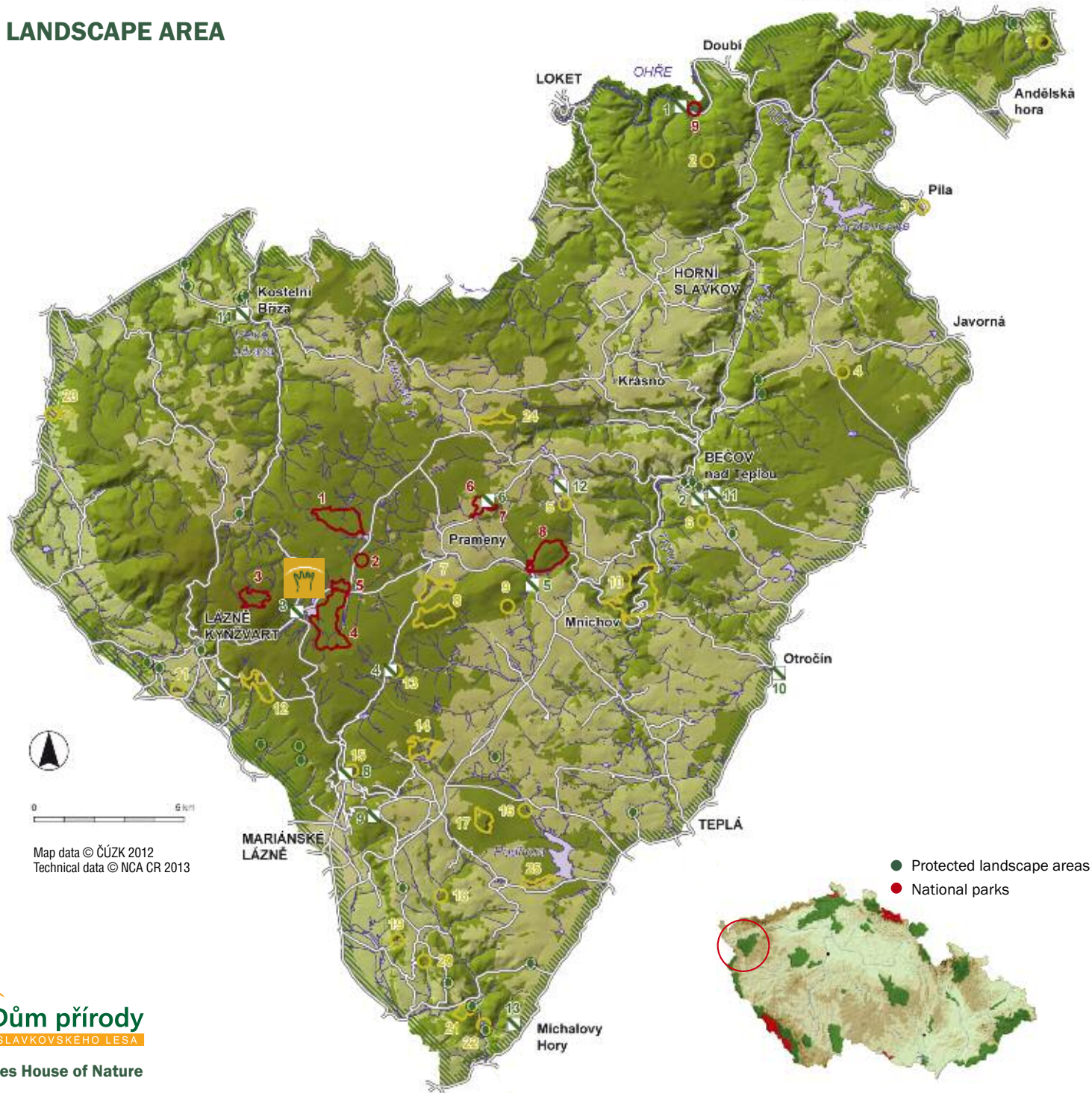
 NATIONAL NATURAL RESERVES (NNR)
 NATIONAL NATURAL MONUMENTS (NNM)

1. Kladské rašeliny NNR – Paterák
2. Kladské rašeliny NNR – Malé rašeliniště
3. Kladské rašeliny NNR – Lysina
4. Kladské rašeliny NNR – Tajga
5. Kladské rašeliny NNR – Husí les
6. Upolínová louka pod Křížky NNM
7. Křížky NNM
8. Pluhův bor NNM
9. Svatošské skály NNM

 HERITAGE TREES

 NATURE RESERVES (NR)
 NATURAL MONUMENTS (NM)

1. Šemnická skála NM
2. Moučné pytle NM
3. Hořečková louka na Pile NM
4. Čedičové varhany u Hlinek NM
5. Dominova skalka NM
6. Homolka NM
7. Mokřady pod Vlčkem NR
8. Vlček NR
9. Planý vrch NR
10. Údolí Teplé NR
11. Kynžvartský kámen NM
12. Holina NR
13. Smradoch NR
14. Prameniště Teplé NR
15. Žižkův vrch NR
16. Sirňák NM
17. Podhorní vrch NR
18. Milhostovské mofety NM
19. Koňský pramen NM
20. Pístovská louka NM
21. Lazurový vrch NR
22. Čiperka NM
23. Těšovské pastviny NM
24. Rašeliniště u myslivny NR
25. Podhorní slatě NM



Kynžvartské kyselky

Trail length: 2,2 km

Number of rest stops: 1 information board

Estimated duration of walk: 1 hour

Setting-off point: By the road between Lázně Kynžvart and the settlement of Valy, 3 km north-west of Valy (49° 59'54.351"N, 12° 38'38.646"E)

Level of difficulty: Terrain of little difficulty with stretches of moderate incline and descent

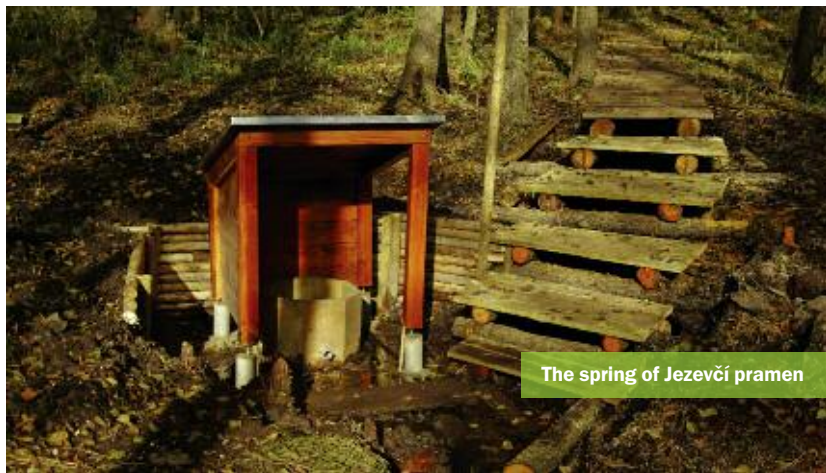
Route description: Four sites of mineral springs can be encountered using this trail that interconnects them. Named after the badger, wild boar and red fox (Jezevčí kyselka, Kančí kyselka, and Liščí kyselka – two springs marked like this), these acidulous water springs are now accessible to visitors via several wooden footbridges, this reinstating them after being overlooked and difficult to reach. In addition, it is a signposted route. The information board at the trailhead introduces visitors to the rediscovery of these sources and points to two more mineral waters in the vicinity – the spring of Zaječí pramen – named after the hare – and the acidulous spring of Devátá kyselka.



The spring site of Zaječí pramen



Collecting the spring of Kančí pramen using a small barrel



The spring of Jezevčí pramen

Geologický park v Mariánských Lázních

Trail length: 1,5 km

Number of rest stops: 20 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 1 hour

Setting-off point: The forest park above the building of Městské muzeum in Marienbad, the square of Goethovo náměstí 11 (49° 58'37.952"N, 12° 42'31.011"E)

Level of difficulty: Easy going terrain, as used by spa guests for strolls

Route description: This uniquely oriented trail acquaints visitors with all the rather common rocks in Slavkovský les. The area of 10 hectares offers a total of 316 blocks of rock (the largest of which weighs 16 tonnes) placed at twenty sites along well-treated forest paths, each example presented in a natural unworked state, some having cut-treated surfaces showing the structure of the respective rock. This geological park is located to some extent in the nature reserve of Žižkův vrch designated to protect valuable flower-rich beech stands, where visitors can observe the diversity of flora, especially in the spring time.



Granite porphyri – igneous rock formation



Basalt "organ pipes" in the geological park

Lázeňskými lesy okolo Mariánských Lázní

Trail length: 5,2 km

Number of rest stops: 25 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 2 hour

Setting-off point: By the spring of Prelátův pramen on a children's playground, Marienbad (49° 57'32.202"N, 12° 43'1.591"E)

Level of difficulty: Modestly difficult terrain along forest paths with the rise of 175 m

Route description: This nature trail leads visitors along promenade paths, dating from the earliest times of the town, as far as places strolled around by world-renowned personages - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Frédéric Chopin, Richard Wagner, Jan Neruda, the British King Edward VII and Franz Kafka. The route has two sections that can be covered separately or together. Beginning in Marienbad, more specifically in the nature park by the spring of Prelátův pramen inside a children's playground, the trail actually forms a circuit by leading to a view tower called Hamelika, from which it goes back to its starting point via the other half of the route. While progressing along it thirsty guests may refresh themselves by sipping mineral water from the spring of Pirátův pramen, located in the valley of Pottovo údolí. This trail includes a rest stop by a small game preserve, where a view tower looks out over fallow deer as they graze.



The view tower of Hamelika

Otročínské cesty – Horní Otročínský pramen

Trail length: 1,7 km

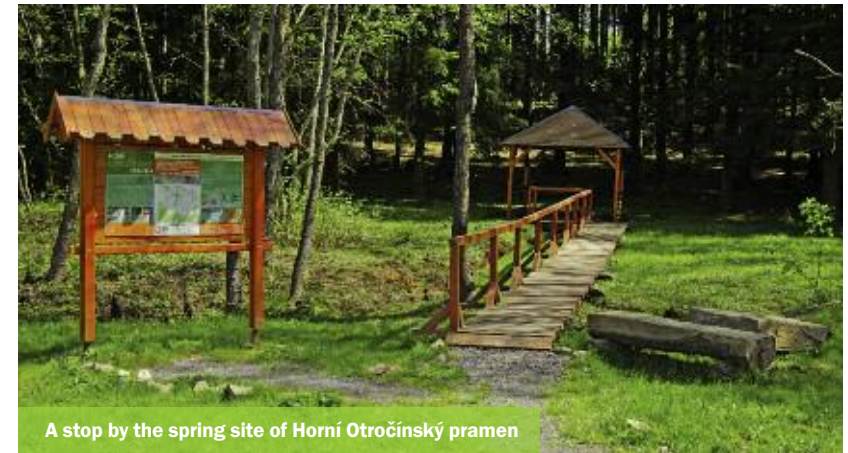
Number of rest stops: 1 information board

Estimated duration of walk: 1 hour

Setting-off point: The settlement of Otročín (50° 1'55.037"N, 12° 53'32.010"E)

Level of difficulty: Not challenging terrain

Route description: The spring called Horní Otročínský pramen has been known about and used from at least the 17th century, when it was referred to by Bohuslav Balbín as a source of "remarkable mineral water". Accessed at a depth of 70 cm through a lovely hollow tree trunk marked with the year 1819, the spring can be reached via a road from the village of Otročín, which features an avenue of tall local varieties of fruit trees. In fact, the territory of Otročín contains several sites of mineral springs, of which the one featured here has been improved for the public, along with three more sites with the springing acidulous water of Posečská kyselka, whilst the site of the Dolní pramen spring still has not been found, and the Mlýnská kyselka spring site is yet to undergo improvement.



A stop by the spring site of Horní Otročínský pramen



The recently improved spring structure of Horní Otročínský pramen

Botanická zahrada Bečov

Trail length: 2,5 km

Number of rest stops: 6 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 1 hour

Setting-off point: The street of Tovární ulice in Bečov nad Teplou, behind the v.d. Elektro premises, opposite the railway station (50° 4'56.208"N, 12° 49'57.182"E)

Level of difficulty: Not challenging terrain

Route description: A garden featuring a personal collection was established under the last owner of the estate, Jindřich of Beaufort-Spontin, in the 1920s. Displays were given over to plants of different continents. Examples of garden architecture, such as rest areas, gazebos, viewpoints and a network of paths, were a standard part of the grounds. Following World War II the garden was left untouched and abandoned. In 2005, Berkut (the basic unit of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation) commenced restoration and made it available to the public. The most valuable tree is an eighty-year old Amur cork tree, the seeds of which came to Bohemia from far-away Mongolia. Bečov Botanical Garden is open all year round. Visitors are asked to comply with local visitor regulations. Please note there is an entrance fee.



Bečov Botanical Garden

Dolování v okolí Michalových Hor

Trail length: 2,2 km

Number of rest stops: 6 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 1 hour

Setting-off point: The village square in Michalovy Hory (49° 54'2.421"N, 12° 46'58.363"E)

Level of difficulty: Modestly difficult terrain

Route description: Dedicated to the history of mining in the area, this trail, located in the surroundings of Michalovy Hory, provides wonderful views from terraced viewing platforms and leads to numerous remnants of mining activities, as well as the mining gallery of St Barbora that has been made partially accessible. Michalovy Hory is a place associated with mining silver ore. The spread of the mining business in the territory was supported by the aristocratic Schlik family, the owners of the Planá estate. Mining activities in the territory of Michalovy Hory subsided after World War II, when war prisoners quarried mica and feldspar.



The mining gallery of St Barbora



The mining gallery of St Barbora – the internal section



A resting place by the mining gallery of St Jan Křtitel

Zaniklé obce na Březovsku

Trail length: 63,5 km

Number of rest stops: 18 information boards

Setting-off point: The settlement of Kostelní Bříza
(50° 6'59.042"N, 12° 37'20.200"E)

Level of difficulty: The trail leads along paved roads and is suitable for cyclists; part of it can be explored by car.

Route description: This tour around partially or completely defunct communities in the region of Březová follows two looped sections – the part marked as blue being 29.6 kilometres long, whilst the red section is 33.9 km long. The trail commemorates towns and villages abandoned after World War II in connection with the expulsion of the German population and setting up a military training zone. The places that have disappeared in the territory of Slavkovský les total one town, nearly 30 villages and dozens of hamlets and solitary settlements. The remains of these former municipalities possess a unique atmosphere and give one the opportunity to stop and contemplate.



Meadow landscape of Litrbachy (Čistá), a former village



Crossroads of Litrbachy (Čistá), a former village

Lázeňskými parky Karlovy Vary

Trail length: 4,5 km

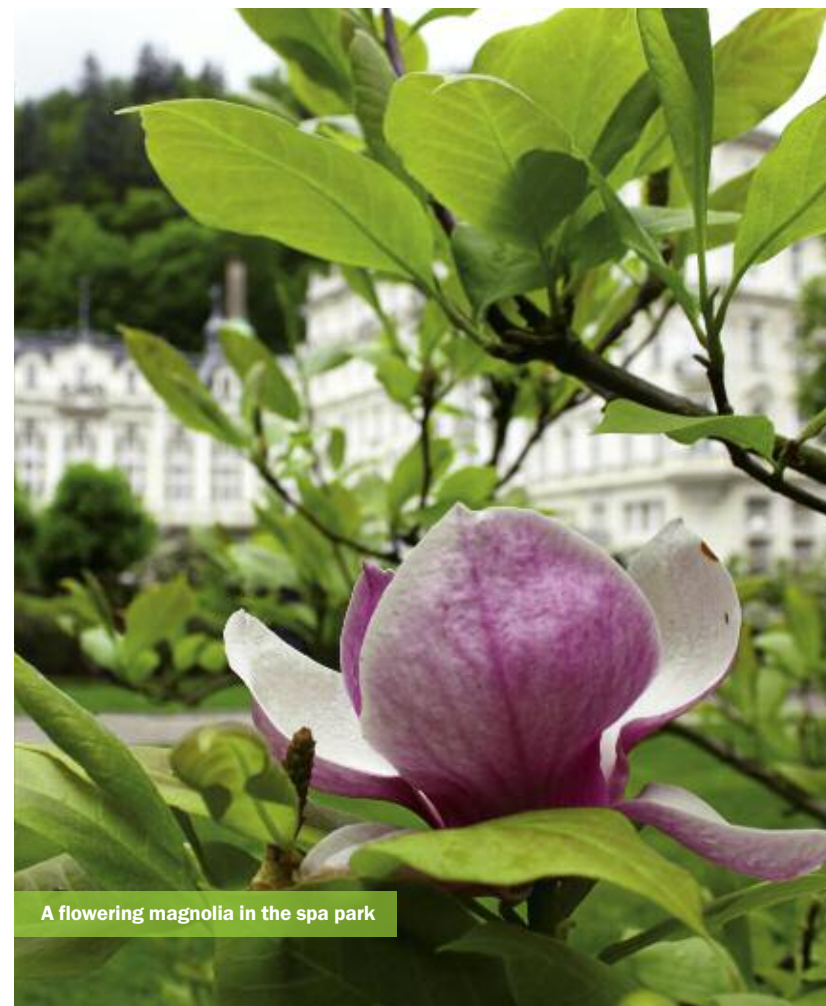
Number of rest stops: 4 information boards

Estimated duration of walk: 2 hour

Setting-off point: In the park of Smetanovy sady, Carlsbad
(50° 13'47,763"N, 12° 52'21,529"E)

Level of difficulty: Not challenging terrain

Route description: Running through the spa zone of Carlsbad and its several historic parks, following park pathways, this nature trail highlights a total of 102 species of trees and shrubs, through 215 individual specimens, both domestic and originating from America and Asia. The woody plants are of different ages, size and shape. The surroundings of the trail feature sites of great urban and architectural value, closely associated with the past development of spa and community buildings designed for the relaxation of guests.



A flowering magnolia in the spa park



A blooming wetland meadow with Siberian iris

Management and care of Slavkovský les PLA is delivered by NCA CR, Administration of Slavkovský les Protected Landscape Area and the Regional Office for Karlovy Vary, Hlavní 504, 353 01 Mariánské Lázně, Czech Republic
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The operator of the visitor centre – Slavkovský les House of Nature – are Lesy ČR, s. p. (National Forest Authority of the Czech Republic) and Lesní závod Kladská (Kladská Forest Enterprise), K pramenům 217, 354 91 Lázně Kynžvart, Czech Republic
Tel.: +420 956 269 111, email: lz9@lesy.cz, www.lesy.cz/lz9

Thank you for your considerate conduct towards the natural world and for ...

- camping and lighting fires only in places so designated;
- entering and parking cars only where permitted;
- moving only along marked pathways while in a national nature reserve;
- taking into account the natural sites surrounding you as well as other visitors when cycling;
- leaving the animals and plants alone in their natural habitats;
- taking your rubbish home as it does not belong in the natural environment.

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Front cover photograph: Serpentine rock outcrops in the Křížky National Natural Monument



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Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic is a state institution that provides professional and practical care of the country's natural systems, which especially involves protected landscape areas, national nature reserves and national natural monuments. Learn more on www.nature.cz.

