

Points of interest in close surrounding:

- the youngest inactive volcano Komorní hůrka – in 3 km walking distance from Apartment. Despite its history this isn't a particularly prominent landmark, just a low, partly wooded hill between Cheb and Františkové Lázně. The striking crater-like formation found there isn't actually a crater but an old quarry. Records suggest its last activity was no more than a small amount of ash being blown out here and there and one small gush of lava, which is not surprising given that the volcano was born in the final closing phase of volcanic activity in the Czech Republic. It also has a sister, practically a twin, in the nearby Železná Hůrka. The name Železná meaning 'iron' probably comes from the fact that both of these small volcanoes were later found to be sites that contained mineral rarities – sheets of pure natural iron.



- Chateau and castle Starý Rybník - 5 km, Gothic castle standing between two was built in the mid 14th century. A part of the castle tumbled down in the 18th century. Nonetheless, the entrance building had remained in use up to the early 20th century when it was finally abandoned. Apart from cellarage, a major part of the western wall has been preserved while the eastern wall and the inner curtain are hardly noticeable. Two half-cylindrical towers supported the palace from the south of which only the western section remains standing. Renaissance and Baroque elements along with half-timbered structures have also been preserved. The castle ruins are freely accessible.



- Egerwarte / Cheb guard - observation gazebo over the Skalka dam on a rocky promontory, can be connected with hiking / cycling tour from Františkovy Lázně through volcano Komorní hůrka, restaurant Stein with meadows full of various animals all around Stein, and prolonging walk from Egerwarte view till reaching Cheb city, nice quiet walk through forest with natural labyrinth and many other attractions at Krajinka of Cheb, starting around water reservoir Skalka and ending under Castle Cheb on both sides of the Ohře river.



- Cheb city in 6 km away, with recreational and sport area Krajinka around, with its various playgrounds, including athletics oval open to the public, outdoor tables for table tennis, skittles, minigolf, rope center, shooting range, outdoor fitness machines, climbing frames for children of all ages, leisure playgrounds also for teens), Cheb castle,



Krajinka, Chebský hrad, Špalíček - complex of 11 grocers' and butchers' houses at historical square from 13th century, number of impressive churches, museums, fountains, natural parks, river Ohře with biking route around till Karlovy Vary and then prolonging further, or making boat trips on the river (plenty of renting boats places around). In close surrounding of Cheb city wonderful Bismarck lookout tower at Zelena Hora (Green Hill) reachable by nice trail through forest with a stop for St. Anna church ruin passing around.



More about Cheb here:

The castle complex with the town fortification

Cheb castle is unique among Czech castles. It is an unrivalled example of an imperial "Pfalz", the only one of this type of castle architecture in our country.

The Romanesque Pfalz was erected in the late 12th century on the site of a former stone castle built on a Slavonic burial place. Roman Emperor Friedrich I Barbarossa started the construction in 1179.



Cheb Castle is the only Stauf imperial Pfalz in our country today and boasts a perfectly preserved two-storey St. Erhard and Ursula Chapel built in the early 13th century during the reign of Friedrich II, which is considered to be a treasure of Stauf Gothic. Besides the chapel, the remains of a once luxurious palace with five unique casement windows and the mighty defensive Black Tower built from volcanic basalt can also be admired. The angular tower is situated on a square base of 9 x 9 metres, it is 18.5 metres high and the walls on its ground floor are 3 metres thick. Archaeologists spent many years examining the historical and construction changes in the whole castle area. Many legends, stories and significant historical events are connected with the castle. In the communist period the castle court was used as an amphitheatre and summer cinema until 1991. Since 1992 Cheb Castle has been in the ownership of Cheb municipality, which also took over its administration in 2012.

Church of St. Nicholas

St. Nicholas and Elisabeth Church is a Catholic parish church and the oldest existing one in Cheb.

It can be found in Church Square, near the north-eastern corner of King George Square. It was originally built as a three-nave Romanesque basilica, burnt down several times over the centuries and was restored extensively. The last restoration including Neo Gothic roofing was carried out in 1864. This roof construction was destroyed in the last year of World War II, on 20 April 1945, as Cheb was bombed by Allied forces. The bombings mainly targeted the suburbs, and both the railway station and viaduct were destroyed. But one of the attacks in the centre damaged the church towers as well. Provisional 7 metre-high tower coverings were installed after the war, remaining in place for the next 63 years until 2008. Thanks to a three-year campaign by the Historical Cheb Town Fund, which managed to collect the necessary 9 million Czech crowns with contributions from numerous sponsors, the new church towers were consecrated on 29 June 2008. The return of the 26 metre-high pyramidal towers finally removed the scar on the town's face that had been there since 1945. The Classicist building of the parish office and a school on the site of the oldest Latin grammar school can be seen from the eastern side of the church. The oval staircase decorated with Baroque statues is from 1697.



Špalíček

One of the main symbols of Cheb architecture, Špalíček, is situated in the historical King George Square.

These interesting, partially half-timbered houses appeared as early as the 13th century to fulfil local merchants' needs, and replaced former grocers' and butchers' stalls. The complex was finished as late as the 15th century. The oldest depiction from 1472 suggests that the ground plan of this unique complex has been preserved unchanged until today. The third block of houses which used to be situated on the western side was demolished probably in the 19th century. King George Square commemorates the visit of this Czech king, George of Poděbrady, who stayed here from 1459-67 in order to settle conflicts between the Czechs and the imperial princes. Narrow façades and high, multi-layered roofs are characteristic of the original Gothic stone houses in the square, which show off the wealth of medieval Cheb. Merchants and businessmen, the former owners of these valuable houses, once used the lofts as stores for their goods. So it was clear at first sight: the higher the roof, the wealthier and more successful the merchant was.



Church of St. Wenceslas

It was built in the Baroque style between 1674 and 1688 in place of a medieval church and convent from the beginning of the 14th century. During the church's reconstruction, the ground plan of the medieval building was changed and the main front with a majestic portal and Habsburg emblem was oriented into Kamenná street.



Franciscan church and monastery

Franciscan monastery with a unique cloister inside is among the most beautiful places in Cheb.

The former Minorites Convent was founded together with the adjacent Virgin Mary Annunciation Church in the 1250s. King Rudolf of Habsburg took part in the consecration of the church, and his daughter, German princess Gutta, even got married to the 14-year-old future Bohemian king Wenceslas II. This Czech-German royal wedding was the most significant event in the almost 800-year existence of the monastery. Soon after its foundation the monastery was damaged by fire in 1270. After this devastation the first structural changes were made in the course of the restoration.



Over the years the monastery was rebuilt several times and its present form dates from the 18th century. In the 15th century the monastery came under administration of the Franciscans by the Pope's order. Franciscans lived here together with Clarisses. The church is an example of pure Gothic - namely the ribs and arches in the famous cloister belong to the most beautiful ones in the Czech Republic. The atypical church tower, over 60 metres high, was built in the Charles IV period and was a landmark pointing travellers to the refuge within the ramparts of the royal town. The Franciscans administered the monastery until 1951 when they were forced to leave by the communist regime. Virgin Mary Annunciation Church, the unique cloister from the early 14th century with preserved remnants of paintings from the 15th century and the beautifully restored Monastery Garden, are open to the public.

Town House



The Town House in the lower part of the square is one of the best preserved burgher houses thanks to its layout, Gothic portal and Renaissance passage. The oldest records of the house come from the end of the 14th century. It underwent a Renaissance reconstruction at the beginning of the 17th century. The building made history on February 25, 1634, as the place where Albrecht of Valdštejn was murdered. Since 1735, the house has been permanently owned by the municipality. The town museum was founded there in 1873.

Church of St. Bartholomew



The former hospital church of the order of Red-Star Crusaders was finished in 1414. The Gothic-style building has an unusual design of a ribbed vault carried by one central pillar. The church was damaged at the end of World War II. During reconstruction between 1962 and 1963, the original wall paintings were restored and the church served up to 1997 as an exhibition hall of the National Gallery of Fine Arts. There was a permanent collection of Gothic sculptures there. Then the church was returned to the order of Red-Star Crusaders.

New town hall



The east side of the square is dominated by the Baroque new town hall, which was built between 1723 and 1728 according to the design of Prague court architect Giovanni Battista Alliprandi. In spite of the fact that the building is only a torso of the original town hall, it is, with its palace layout and sculpted interior decoration, one of the most successful examples of Baroque architecture in the town. The National Gallery of Fine Arts has been based there since 1962.

St Klara exhibition and concert hall



The former church of St. Klara, which was built between 1708 and 1712, is one of the most valuable Baroque church buildings in Cheb. The project was authored by Christopher Dienzenhofer. After the order was abolished in 1782, the church was deconsecrated in the same year. Today, there is a concert and exhibition hall of the National Gallery of Fine Arts there.

Gabler's house



Thanks to its richly articulated and decorated Rococo façade, this house is among the most valuable examples of late-Baroque reconstruction carried out in the 18th century. In the second half of the 17th century, the house was owned by Jesuits who placed a relief with the figure of the Virgin Mary above the portal.

Schirdinger's house



This house is among the most representative buildings of the whole square, documenting different phases of the town's construction. The house with its narrow front and graded, high gable illustrates the appearance of Gothic houses in medieval Cheb. A Renaissance arcaded gallery in the courtyard dates from the time of reconstruction.

Grüner's house



This house belonged to the prominent Wrendl family, the emblem of which is placed in the round cartouche above the portal. In the first half of the 19th century, a municipal councilman Grüner lived here and the house was a place of numerous meetings with J. W. Goethe.

House of the two archdukes ("U dvou arcivevodu")



This house was the oldest coaching inn in Cheb, originally called "U červeného koníčka" (The Red Horse), and hosted many prominent visitors after 1531. The name "The Two Archdukes" dates from 1806 when two Austrian archdukes Johann and Ludwig lived there.

Fountain of the Knight Roland



The fountain stands in the middle of the market square. In 1591 it was adorned with a statue of the Knight Roland, symbolising the market privileges of imperial towns. The people of Cheb called him "Wastl". The original statue is now kept in the grand hall of the Cheb museum, while the fountain is decorated with a sandstone copy created by academic sculptor Živný in 1985.



Fountain with a sculpture of a Savage Man

The fountain is located in the middle of the square and since 1591, it is decorated by a sculpture of the knight Roland who used to symbolize market privileges of imperial towns. The original copy of the sculpture is kept in the "mazhauze" of the Cheb museum, while the fountain is decorated with a sandstone copy made by academic sculptor Zivny in 198

Sport and leisure time area Krajinka in Cheb:



<https://www.chetes.cz/sportovne-rekreacni-areal-krajinka>

- Soos Nature Reserve in 6 km, there is no other place like this in Central Europe (it is in small size similar like in Island volcano hot springs activities), with **unique relic of a salt lake which turned into peat bogs and mineral salt marshes**. You will find traces of volcanic activity here, illustrated by the mofettes – mud volcanoes emitting pure carbon dioxide, as well as by numerous mineral springs. We find a number of protected animals and wetland plants or halophytes in its many extraordinary biotopes. There is also a geology park, a museum with natural history and **paleontological exhibits, a display of life-sized pre-historical reptiles**, an exhibition called “Avian World of the Cheb Region” and a fallow-deer preserve.

There is also tourist museum railway available from May till September in locality Soos – Kateřina. This little railway should supplement and extend the current nature trail passing through nature preserve Soos.



- Seeberg Castle in 6km, situated on a high rocky spur above a brook, was founded around 1200s, being plundered and set on fire by the Swedish army during the Thirty Years War, it has survived to our time thanks to frequent reconstructions. The castle, which belongs to the oldest landmarks in the region, was often visited by J. W. Goethe or Czech writer Božena Němcová. There are regularly hold open-air folk architecture exhibition, and also stabil exhibitions of old agricultural machinery and equipment. Opened from March till November.



- Vildštejn Castle (German: Wildstein, English: Wildstone) – 6km away from Apartment at Skalná, originally built as a Romanesque castle of ministeriales in the early 13th century, extended during the history, with exposition of fire-fighting machinery, for children small zoo with both domestic and wild animals available. Castle opened from April till November.



In Skalna town also available Museum of Geophysics – Exhibition of seismology including educational center, situated in a 16th century historical farmhouse right in the heart of the most seismically active region in the Czech Republic. The visitors are guided by an interactive exhibit through seismology from plate tectonics to the latest findings about seismic swarms in West Bohemia/Vogtland. The small lecture room (capacity of about 15 people) is used for presentations or watching a documentary about earthquake swarms in this region (only in czech so far). Visitors may also visit a nearby seismic station, Skalná (SKC), installed in a medieval cellar near Vildštejn castle which is one of the oldest geophysical observatories in this region. Museum is opened upon request by prior arrangement with a local guide (Milan Hoferic, tel. +420 732 435 655, email hofericmilan@tiscali.cz) or with experts from the Institute of Geophysics (guided tours or lectures for groups tel. +420 732 982 410, email doubravka@ig.cas.cz) or during open days on various occasions.

- Hazlov - Golf Resort – in 9 km, with 18-hole golf course:



- Chateau Libá (Liebenstein) in 10 km away from Apartment, early Gothic Liebenstein castle was established as the seat of the Liebenstein ministerial family in the mid-13th century on the elevated highlands, was rebuilt over the years, at beginning of the 18th century rebuilt into a comfortable, representative Baroque Chateau, available from May till October.



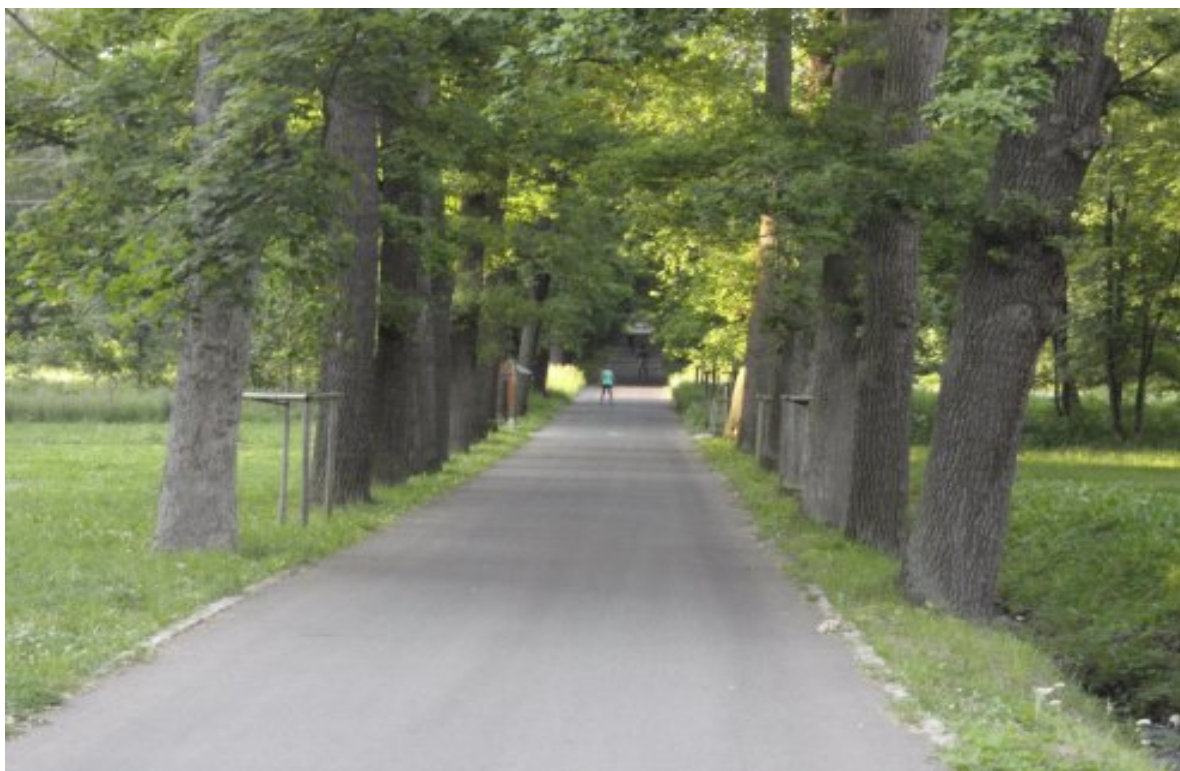
- Chateau Mostov in 12 km, built on the site of a former stronghold in the 17th century and it was reconstructed in Pseudo-Gothic style in the 19th century.



- previous border village - defunct village (Beautiful linden tree) Krásná Lípa in 12 km, along the biking/in-line skating route, close to village Šlapany. The first written evidence of the village Krásná Lípa is from 1312, was situated on the left bank of Odrava on the Bavarian border six km from Cheb. In 1395 sixteen farmers lived here and in 1424 nine large farmsteads is mentioned, five smaller ones and one mill. The village lay in the area called Freisch, with the manorial nobility rights alternating every year between the monastery in Waldsassen and the town of Cheb until the regulation of the border. Also the basalt quarry near the village belonged to Cheb town. In 1850 Krásná Lípa with fourteen farmsteads and sixty two inhabitants became a part of Háje municipality. In 1865 the construction of the Cheb – Waldsassen railway meant a great change for the agricultural borderland village, since it divided the plots of the village into two halves. The new, better connection with the surrounding world could not be used until 1893 when a railway stop, common with the neighbouring Šlapany village, was put into operation. In that period the mill on the border river was enlarged by a saw mill and two turbines so that from 1907 it supplied electricity to nine villages on both sides of the border. In 1930 one hundred forty eight inhabitants lived in Krásná Lípa in twenty two homesteads. After 1945 the convenient position of the village on the border became difficult. Although after the forced expulsion of the German inhabitants in 1946 almost all farmsteads have been relatively quickly resettled by new Czech inhabitants including a family from Paraguay Krásná Lípa has not escaped the destiny of villages in the frontier zone. After the coup in 1948 eighteen new settlers successfully escaped over the border. Since 1949 the remaining forty two inhabitants were successively displaced and after 1951, when the newly organised Border Guard settled in the neighbouring Šlapany, Krásná Lípa ended up in the forbidden zone behind wire barriers. Before 1957 the village was levelled with the ground. Only the cemetery from 1902 remained destined to be forgotten.



The former railway track converted into a cycle and in-line skating path leads from the outskirts of Cheb via Slapany all the way to Waldsassen in Germany, it is a part of the Wallenstein Circular Cycle Route from Cheb via Waldsassen to Marktrechwitz. The route starts at the crossroads in the Cheb district of Háje and continues via Slapany across the German border to Waldsassen. Pleasant in every part of the year, with shadow in hot summer, covered from wind as well, due to the trees and forest around bothsides of the route, used for nice walking tours, as touristic trail to Maria Loreto in Starý Hrozňatov, or for biking/in-line skating (no hills on the way, very flat).



- Castle Hohenberg/Germany in 12 km, dates back to the 1200's and is the centerpiece of the village of Burg Hohenberg am Eger. Round towers are connected by high walls to protect a courtyard and keep in the center. A footbridge with an arched gateway limits access into the keep. It was built and first inhabited in the late 1100's and early 1200's to protect a trade route through the Eger River valley. The "Hohenberger knight festival" held in late May (weekend after Pentecost) celebrates the ancient castle history.



- Starý Hrozňatov in 13 km – with saved and repaired Maria Loreto Pilgrimage Site. The architecturally very interesting **Baroque Loreto chapel with ambits and the pilgrimage church of the Holy Spirit**, was erected in 1664 – 1689 by the Cheb Jesuits. After a long period of deterioration during Communism it was reconstructed completely mostly due to the help of the Czech-German Association for support of the pilgrimage site of Maria Loreto. The Maria Loreto complex is now fully functional again. During the season a **Czech mass** is celebrated every 2 weeks and a **German mass** once a month here. **Czech-German pilgrimages** are organized here as well, accessible for general public from April till October.



<http://www.zivykraj.cz/en/discover/maria-loreto-pilgrimage-site-in-stary-hroznavov>

There is also Chateau in Starý Hrozňatov, which was rebuilt from original Romanesque castle Kinsberg (Starý Hrozňatov), set up before the year of 1200. In the 19th century it was first rebuilt into a late baroque chateau and after that adapted into its current shape of a pseudo-gothic chateau. The chateau compound consists of construction completely reconstructed historical buildings – chateau, chateau church of The Holy Trinity and the caretaker's house. Actually with no access to inside buildings for public.



You can also make a short walking tour to see beavers in their natural place of living with their typical constructions of Beaver dikes at the small brook close to village of Starý Hrozňatov.

- very nice unusual church Kappl/Germany in 16 km. The Kappl Sanctuary of the Holy Trinity (also known as Big Kappel), near the abbey town of Waldsassen, is one of the most unusual churches in Germany. Built in 1685 – 1689 by Georg Dientzenhofer of Upper Bavaria on a well-known pilgrimage site dating back to the year 1133, the current Sanctuary is a masterpiece of the representation of the Holy Trinity. The number three is dominant in every part of the building. After a fire in 1880, the current ceiling frescoes were created by the painter Professor Oskar Martin-Amorbach in the years 1934-1940, opened all year-round, for good acoustics also giving some types of concerts there from time to time.



- The observation tower near city Aš in 18 km away from Apartment, situated on Háj hill, the highest point of the Czech part of the Smrčiny Uplands rising to 758 metres above sea level. The surrounding area is created as relaxation and sport park zone. 34-metre high tower was built of granite blocks and, like the observation tower on Zelená hora (Green Mountain), it was named after German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck. You admire a beautiful view of the countryside after climbing 122 stairs to the lookout gallery. Opened from April till October.



- other youngest non-active volcano Železná hůrka in 18 km, reachable by walking/biking on signed touristic trail from Mýtina:



- village Skanzen Doubrava 18 km away from Apartment, picturesque village with remarkably preserved historical buildings, which are an open-air standing example of the west Bohemian half-timbered houses of the Cheb district, the village has been declared a rural monument reservation in 1995. A museum with an exposition of agricultural equipment and tools and furniture from the 18th to the 20th century may be found inside one of the houses built in 1751. You may also visit a permanent exhibition of paintings, pottery and woodcarvings there, as well as occasionally organized concerts or theatre performances there. Museum Skanzen Doubrava has only summer opening hours, historical village houses are available for view during the whole year from outside.



- typical example of local folk architecture in the village of Milíkov is farmstead No. 18, it is 20 km away from Apartment.



- spa town Kynžvart 30 km, with Kynžvart Chateau built in Viennese Classicism style, in Chateau inside there are collections of the famous Austrian Chancellor - Prince Klemens von Metternich, including great library, renowned cabinet of curiosities with Egyptian mummies, the comb of Empress Marie Therese, the writing desk of Alexander Dumas, and many other interesting artefacts. Chateau inside opened for public from February till November for fee.

The chateau is surrounded by public-opened English-style landscaped park spreading over an area of 300 hectares, with 10 ponds in the park, few smaller period-style structures and monuments creating impressive atmosphere. In addition the park is adjoined by an 18-hole golf course.



Over the spa town and Chateau Kynžvart, there is significant castle ruin located at one of the highest elevations on the territory of the Czech Republic (827 m), its original name was Königswart (Royal Guard) as it was built as a border stronghold of the kingdom in the 13th century. The castle frequently changed its owners and it even served as a hideaway for thieves in the 14th century. The last owners were the Metternichs who did not repair the castle after it had been plundered by the Swedish army. Instead they used the ruins as building material for the construction of Kynžvart Chateau. Today there are freely available remnants of the castle walls, the castle moat and the foundations of outbuildings. Enjoy it as a pleasant countryside walking to the castle ruins up the marked tourist path from Spa town Kynžvart.



- Lesný Hill 30 km - the highest point of the Slavkov Forest 983 m above sea level,
- Kladská in 33 km – wonderful, in green forest located, Kladská Peat Bogs National Nature Reserve, most valuable part of the Slavkov Forest Protected Landscape Area, there are a unique set of mountain raised bogs, located 800 to 930 m above sea level, with a total area of over 300 ha, with typical species of plants and animals living in the peat bogs, adapted to the local acidic environment and soil with few nutrients. Besides the European Spruce there are also dwarfed woody plants as the mountain pine, mugo pine or downy birch. As to shrubs, Bog Bilberry or the cranberry *Oxycoccus quadripetalus* do well here. From the herbaceous plants, let's name the carnivorous plants as the common butterwort and common sundew. The endangered animal species are represented here e.g. by the rare wood grouse or black stork. The European adder and common brown frog are common here as well. You can walk through a part of the reserve for example by the Kladská Nature Trail, leading through the part of the reserve called Taiga on elevated wooden walkways. The nature trail Kladská focuses on the biology, history and geology of this important part of the Slavkov Forest. The

trail starts in front of the hunting lodge in Kladská and then it continues around the Kladský Pond on the edge of the Kladská Peat Bogs nature reserve, the Taiga part, with its Stations:

The nature trail Kladská – Purpose and significance of protection of the Slavkov Forest, symbol of the protected landscape area and the meaning of the wolf's bane plant symbol, geological development of the Slavkov Forest area, woody plants in the former chateau park at Kladská.

Kladská settlement – history of the Kladská settlement, inhabitants of the Kladská pond.

Forest vegetation – the past and present of the forest vegetation in the Slavkov forest.

Fauna of the Kladská peat bogs, formation of raised bogs and peat – salt marshes, transition peat bogs, raised bogs.

Flowering plants of the Kladská peat bogs

Kladská peat bogs national nature reserve – the most valuable parts of the Slavkovský forest, individual parts of the national nature reserve

Dlouhá stoka (Long Ditch) – history of medieval tin mining in the Slavkov Forest and the technical monument of Dlouhá Ditch.

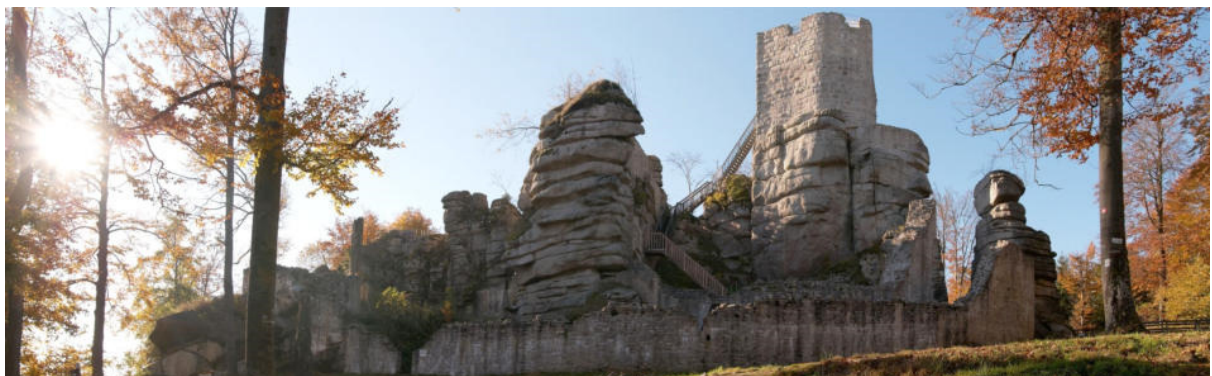
Slavkovský les Protected Landscape Area – Description of the area and the individual locally protected areas in the Slavkov Forest.



- Spa Mariánské lázně – with lighted „singing“ fountain - in 37 km,



- in Germany rock formation Kiebitzstein (Lapwing Stone) in 38 km, further along the touristic path freely accessible large castle ruin Weißenstein (White Stone), which is picturesque castle ruins in the Steinwald nature reserve, lies 846 metres above sea level at the Steinwaldklamm ridge. The striking castle keep rises around 7.5 metres high above the forest and offers impressive views of the surrounding woodland. The ruins were extensively refurbished in recent years. In the middle of the stone forest stands on a rock spur the well-preserved castle ruins Weissenstein. At the end of the 13th century there was already a simple fortified castle, but the expansion to a massive stone castle took place later. The castle changed hands at the beginning of the 14th century. The nobility Notthafft, who were now the lords of the castle, built the castle generously. In the battles for the Bavarian throne, the castle was damaged and repaired again and again makeshift. In the middle of the 16th century, the castle was completely abandoned and fell rapidly. It was only in the 1990s that a club was formed, which made it their goal to preserve the castle. At this time, only the dilapidated keep and some remains of the wall were preserved. With much effort, the castle could be protected from further decay and today you can explore the various levels of the castle via wooden stairs. From the restored keep, you have a phenomenal view over the Steinwald and the Upper Palatinate.



Prolonging on touristic path you will find lookout tower with wide view all around named Platte 946 m (closest town Waldershof),



And also on the way between the ruin and lookout tower there is archaeological site.

- Krásno - very unusual wonderful and surely not typical look-out tower on Krásenský vrch (Krásenský Hill)- in 38 km, with unique **external spiral staircase** with 120 stairs. While the base of the tower is 11 metres wide, the diameter of the lookout platform situated at the height of 25 metres is only 4.2 metres. The thickness of masonry at the foundations is 2.5 metres.

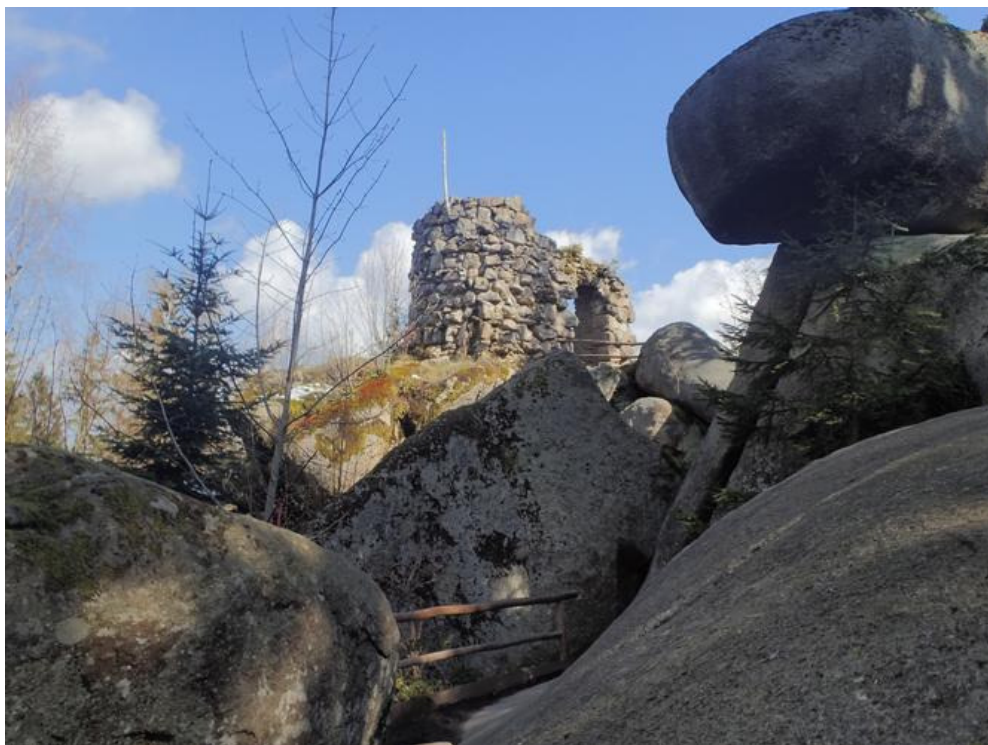


On the way to Krásno, there is historical Jeroným Mine, newly opened for public, in which largely tin ore was extracted, is a significant monument documenting the level of development of mining in the 15th and 16th century. The central part of the deposit houses beautiful chambers, rest areas and ledges from the 16th century. The mine corridors still bear distinct traces of ancient mining practices using mallets and pickers or firing. It was declared a National cultural monument in 1998, accessible to the public from May to mid-October.



- Luisenburg rock labyrinth/Germany in 38 km, with the largest natural amphitheater so far used for theater or open-air concerts. The Luisenburg Rock Labyrinth (in German: Luisenburg-Felsenlabyrinth) is a felsenmeer made of granite blocks several metres across and is part of the Großes Labyrinth Nature Reserve near Wunsiedel in Germany. For a long time its formation was believed to have been caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes. Today it is known that processes such as weathering and erosion over a long period are much more likely to have been responsible for the formation of the rock labyrinth. The enormous size of the granite blocks, piled on one another without rhyme or reason gives an impression the like of which I have never come across on all my walks and no-one can be blamed for explaining this chaotic state of affairs that excites astonishment, fear and dread, by calling on the help of floods and cloudbursts, storms and earthquakes, volcanoes and whatever else nature may violently conjure up. However on closer inspection, and with a detailed knowledge of that which nature, acting quietly and patiently, is able to do in a most extraordinary way, another solution to this puzzle offers itself to us. The well-rounded shapes of the individual blocks were formed by spheroidal weathering (Wollsackverwitterung) in the tropical, humid climate of the Cenozoic era. Over the course of time they were left behind as the ground around was eroded; they became unstable and began to shift. This resulted in the jumble of rocks with wild, romantic paths through the narrow clefts and steep steps. The jumble of rocks (a blockfield) named after Queen Louise was already being exploited for tourism in the 18th century and it is also well-known today as a result of the natural amphitheatre surrounded by rocks as well as the annual Luisenburg Pageant that take place there. The local townsfolk began around 1790 to turn the rocky area into a landscape garden.

The first construction phase lasted until about 1800 and, referring to remnants of an ancient motte nearby, resulted in the name Luxburg, which was changed in 1805 to Luisenburg. Visitors to the site had to stoop or even crawl if they wanted to explore its natural beauty. For the nobility of the time this was a rare posture that for many of them gave it an additional charm. In 1805 the Prussian queen visited the prehistoric, natural wonder with her husband, Frederick William III and, totally spellbound, told her son about the experience. A second construction phase took place between 1811 and 1815. The Luisenburg developed into a jewel of civic culture and landscape architecture. The terrain was used in 1794 for the singspiel *Die kleine Ährenleserin* by Johann Adam Hiller and Christian Felix Weiße. Today the rock labyrinth is a popular destination and can be appreciated by anyone with stout footwear. Children also enjoy climbing and crawling over the rocks. In 2006 the rock labyrinth was awarded the status of a national geotope. Opened from April till middle of November (depending on actual weather).



- Castle Loket 40 km, standing on a marked hill by the Ohře River near Karlovy Vary since the early 13th century, for centuries was this Gothic castle a strategic defence point, nowadays the river bench under the castle is also place for open-air concerts with wonderful atmosphere due to castle behind lighted in the evenings.



- spring of river Ohře (Eger)/Germany in 45 km, Weißenstadter Forst-Süd in provincial district Wunsiedel, mountain Fichtelgebirge. The source of the river Eger is situated in Bavaria at the foot of the Schneeberg in the Fichtel Mountains near the town of Weißenstadt. The river then flows through Lake Weissenstadt and the towns of Roeslau, Marktleuthen and Hohenberg where it leaves Germany. After about 35 km, the Eger (not to be confused with the town in Hungary), as the river is called in German, crosses the border into the Czech Republic to flow through parts of Bohemia which were known until 1945 as Egerland. The river passes the towns of Cheb, (German: Eger, like the river), Karlovy Vary, Klášterec nad Ohří, Kadaň, Žatec, Louny, and Terezín before flowing into the river Elbe at Litoměřice. The river basin of the Ohře is part of formerly German speaking Sudetenland still having many toponyms from German.



And many others, just feel free to ask us about :)

In the case of not nice weather there is wide culture programm in our spa town available, with many concerts, dancing evenings also in working days, interesting lectures and other cultural events, as well as local museums with interesting collections here in the spa or in nearby Cheb city, or you can enjoy relax in the local aquapark-Aquaforum, of course there are multiple sports such as bowling, mini golf, horseback riding, canoeing/boating/rafting on river Ohře, eventually also paintball natural areas available here in the place or very close surroundings.

In season, there are perfect conditions for going for mushrooms to the forest around. Please be sure to pick-up the right eatable ones.

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Interesting videos about local region:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7anftdVBvE&feature=em-upload_owner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkMtvbeEhWA>

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Recommended cycle routes in the region for example here:

http://www.tic.mestocheb.cz/EN/vismo/dokumenty2.asp?id_org=100427&id=120696&p1=26932

Or talk to us, and we will recommend you the best fitting (and personally experienced) route either for mountain biking or road-biking with respect to actual weather, bike and your conditions in Bohemian or/and Bavarian (Germany) surrounding.

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Golf places:

Minigolf Františkovy Lázně

Minigolf Cheb

Hazlov

Luby

Minigolf Aš

Kynžvart

Mariánské Lázně