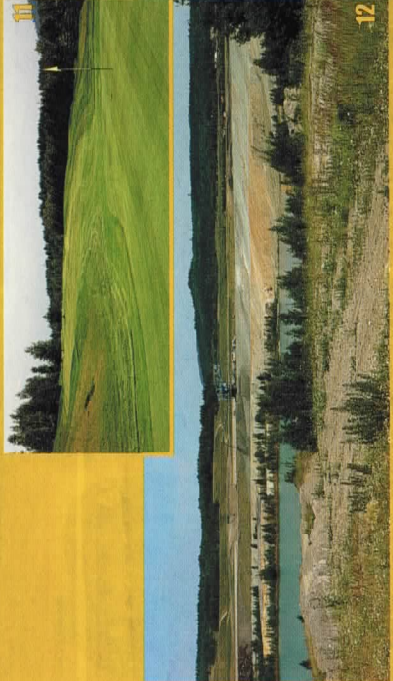
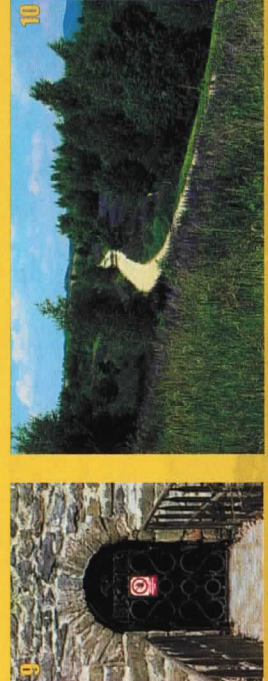


STARÉ SEDLO

The earliest preserved report about the village comes from 1250. However, colonisation took place later. The village was severely damaged during the Thirty Years War. Already in the 17th century, the industrial production mainly of vitriol, alum and sulphur, was developing. Coal mining here was fully developed in the 19th century. Mining continued into the 20th century. Today, mining in the vicinity has ceased. Water from deep mine workings was carried off by the Jan Křtitel adit (9) which can be admired from the village at the foot bridge over the Ohře.

LOMNICE

The first written reference comes from 1339. Also in this municipality, agriculture, particularly growing hops, prevailed until the 19th century. In the second half of the 19th century, coal mining began to thrive and today the large Jiřf mine extends into the municipality's land register.



MINING MONUMENTS AND THE PRESENT

Mining activity lasting for centuries is gradually ceasing and we are witnessing an interesting change. Former mines now enrich the Sokolov region by new unique natural sites. Bike trails (10) and educational trails originate on rehabilitated spoil tips and large water surfaces emerge. Old miners' colonies are being repaired. A lot of formerly rather repulsive pieces of technical equipment are becoming interesting technical monuments. The Sokolov region appreciates its rich history and its landmarks. Presently, it offers many interesting tourist destinations to its visitors. In Sokolov, in the Antonín spoil tip, a unique forestry arboretum with more than two hundred species of woody plants was established, a golf course with 18 holes (11) was built on spoil tips and the former Medard mine (12) is being filled with water. Come see for yourself ...

MAS SOKOLOVSKO



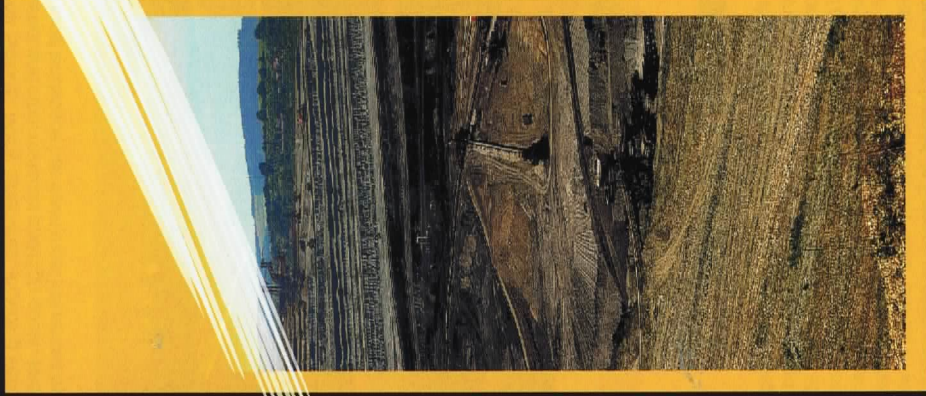
Informační centrum 5. května 655, 356 01 Sokolov	www.sokinfo.cz info@mdksokolov.cz	420 352 324 714
MÚ Brezová - Informační centrum Nám. Míru 230, 357 61 Brezová	www.mu-brezova.cz info@mu-brezova.cz	420 352 633 510
Informační centrum Kynšperk M. Gorkého 17/6, 357 51 Kynšperk	www.kynsperk.cz mkskynsperk.info@volny.cz	420 352 324 271
Informační centrum Chodov Nám. Míru 39, 357 35 Chodov	www.knihomachodov.cz infocentrum@mestochodov.cz	420 352 352 260
Informační centrum Kraslice T. G. Masaryka 1782, 358 01 Kraslice	www.mk-kraslice.cz info.kraslice@volny.cz	420 352 686 328
Informační centrum Loket T. G. Masaryka 12, 357 33 Loket	www.loket.cz info@loket@volny.cz	420 352 684 123
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IC Statek Bernard Kralovské Poříčí Šachetní 135, 357 41 Kralovské Poříčí	www.statek-bernard.cz info.bernard@seznam.cz	420 352 629 722

Project Promotional campaign – Following the beauty of the LAG Sokolov region

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MINING AND THE SOKOLOV REGION



Regional operational program of the North-West Cohesion Region
Supported by the European Regional Development Fund
"The vision stops being a dream"

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FROM THE FAR HISTORY

Since time immemorial, the Sokolovsko region has been affected by the mining activities of its inhabitants. It is said, that due to the local copper and tin fields our region could be a cradle of brass production. Tin was obtained by sieving alluvial sands in the Ohře valley. The first credible testimony of tin mining is the report of an Arabian, Ibrahim ibn Jakub, from 965-966. Prime deposits of tin began to be mined during the first half of the 14th century. The mining was very intense. The towns Krásno and Horní Slavkov developed from two original miners' settlements. The existence of Čistá miners' camp and Prámeny is documented by written testimonials from 1370 and 1380, respectively. Besides local aristocracy, a share in mining business in this region was taken by foreign miners. By the first half of the 16th century, tin from the Slavkov region dominated all main European markets. Besides tin mines and alluvial placers, works on argenteiferous reefs were also successful at the beginning of the 16th century. At the same time, a mint for production of silver thaler coins was established in Horní Slavkov. Many other ores, including iron ore, were mined here, as well as garnet and other minerals and high-quality kaolin and brick clay. Nevertheless, the local landscape has been most influenced by coal mining.



SOKOLOV AND BROWN COAL MINING

Brown coal in the Sokolov basin was firstly mined by deep mine extraction methods. Later, the technology of surface mines prevailed. The amount of extracted coal constantly increased and culminated in 1980s. Since then, mining decreased and stabilised at an optimum rate. Environmental protection considerations came forth. Since the end of the 1950s, almost 3000 ha of former mines and external spoil tip areas were rehabilitated in the Sokolov region. In this way, the Michal lake (1) near Sokolov, which is used for recreational purposes, was formed. In Sokolov (2) itself, only a few reminders of coal mining are preserved. One of them is the adit Jiří – Josef from 1845. Mine remnants in the town's territory have mostly been completely rehabilitated. The miners' house (3) from 1923 - 1924 was built according to the design of architect Rudolf Wels and became an important center of town social life. Currently, it houses the Town Culture House and Sokolov information center.

ČISTÁ

The development of the former royal mining town was associated with the development of mining activities in Jeroným mine (4). In 1551, Ferdinand I granted it the status of a royal mining town. The town owned tin scales, tin smelting works and it was given permission to harvest timber in royal forests. After rapid development, mining activities in Jeroným mine slowly declined and, withstanding attempts to restore mining activities at the break of the 20th century, the mine was abandoned after the First World War. The preserved Jeroným mine was declared a cultural monument in 1990. The central part of the deposit houses beautiful chambers from the 16th century. The old mine workings are dry and are drained off by Jeroným mine's adit. The mine will one day be a part of the Mining Museum in Krásno.

KRÁSNO

Vlém mine in Krásno was in operation, with many interruptions, until the 1990s and now belongs to the exhibition of the Mining Museum in Krásno. A concentrator building, workshops, a hoist tower with a hoist house, a machine-room, a gatehouse and one building of one of the oldest transformer stations has been preserved on the mine premises. The main museum building served as a tin ore preparation plant in the 18th and 19th century. The museum was opened to the public on the 5th September 1998 on the occasion of the second meeting of the mining towns and municipalities of the Czech Republic. The open-air museum spreads over an area of several hectares. The museum itself is completed by a range of mining and ore processing relics in the surroundings which are made accessible by a systems of educational trails and paths. The main attraction is the mining steam machine from Marie mine in Královského Poříčí (5) from 1897. There is an exhibition of mineralogy and geology of Slavkovský les on the first floor of the museum. An exhibition of ore deposits of the Bohemian Massif mined after 1945 is very interesting. The Mining Museum in Krásno is a branch of Sokolov Regional Museum.

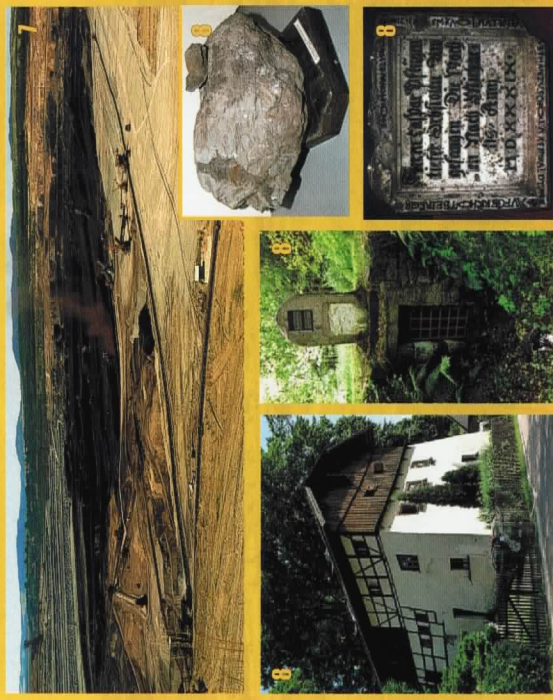


ŠINDELŮVA

The first records of Šindelová village come from 1480 when a watch stronghold known as Hradiště was built in the Krásná Lipa region to guard the tin route from Prebuz to Jindřichovice. In 1836 the construction of the largest ironworks in the region commenced. After it was completed, a blast-furnace, 3 big iron-mills, a tin coating shop, a foundry, a rolling mill and a core-moulding plant were in operation. Three mill-wheels and the second largest steam engine in the Austro-Hungarian Empire powered the ironworks. Two world patents were applied at the ironworks: tin coating technology (later zinc coating) and continual engraving. The ironworks were also the first to process slag into shaped blocks. The blast-furnace (6) from the former ironworks on the south west of the village is a technical cultural monument.

KRÁLOVSKÉ POŘÍČÍ

The name Královské Poříčí was firstly recorded in writing in a document from 1240. Iron ore, which was processed in surrounding iron-mills, was mined here in the 17th century. Agriculture was the only source of living for the villagers for a long time, until the middle of the 19th century. Later it began losing its significance due to rich brown coal beds known as Josef and Antonín – immense natural wealth that had lain untouched under the village. Since then, coal mining activities have been affecting village life (7).



HORNÍ SLAVKOV

Tin, silver, lead and copper had been mined in the surroundings of Horní Slavkov (8) since the beginning of the 13th century. In the 15th and 16th century, Horní Slavkov belonged among the most renowned central European mining towns. It is closely connected not only to tin mining but also kaolin deposits. The first porcelain factory here was established in 1792 on impulse of the mine foreman of imperial mines for tin and silver Johann Georg Paulus. In 1924 – 1929 porcelain production reached up to 200 tonnes per month. Coffee pots, teacups, salt shakers and also pipes were made here. In its two-hundred year anniversary the Slavkov porcelain factory was declared a cultural monument. In a local museum, there is an exhibition devoted to local tin production and mining as well as to porcelain production and the history of the town and surrounding villages.