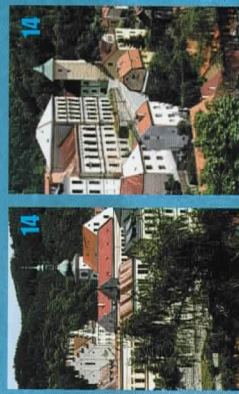


LOKET'S LOOKOUTS

And now we will set off to the gem among the attractive tourist destinations of not only our region but of the whole of Bohemia – to Loket castle (12). The builders of the castle chose its location to be on the rocky summit protected by a meander in the Ohře. A strong castle was built that was virtually impenetrable until the late middle ages. When you ascend to the top floor you will be rewarded with a breathtaking view. The twenty six meters high, square ground-plan Romanesque tower (13) offers a beautiful view of the town of Loket and its surroundings. Under the staircase of the tower, the dragon Sařkan dwells. Its appearance is a cross between a snake and a lizard but he is good-natured dragon. Loket's housekeepers allegedly used to go to him to ignite fire. If we, on the contrary, would like to see Loket castle there are several lookouts from various places in the surroundings (14). We will find a well-arranged map of the lookouts on the information board at Goethe's monument in Loket.



12

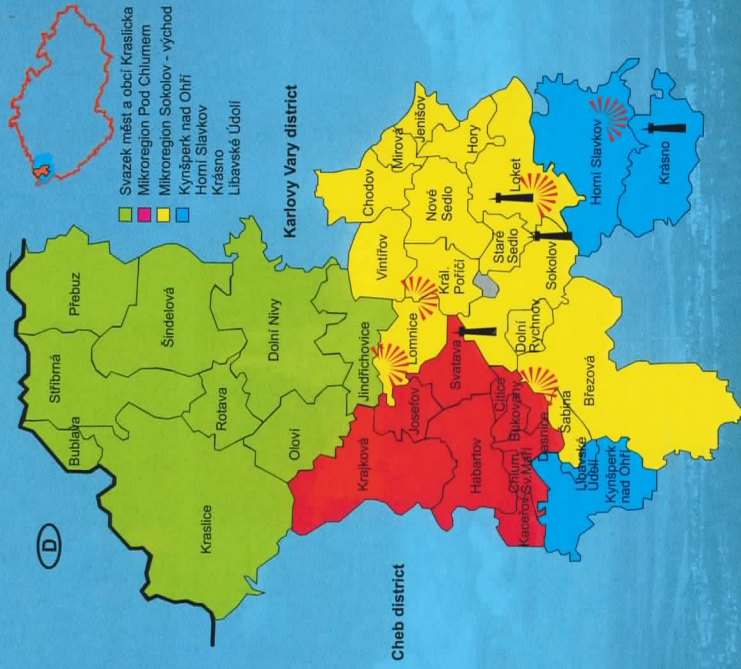


13



14

MAS SOKOLOVSKO

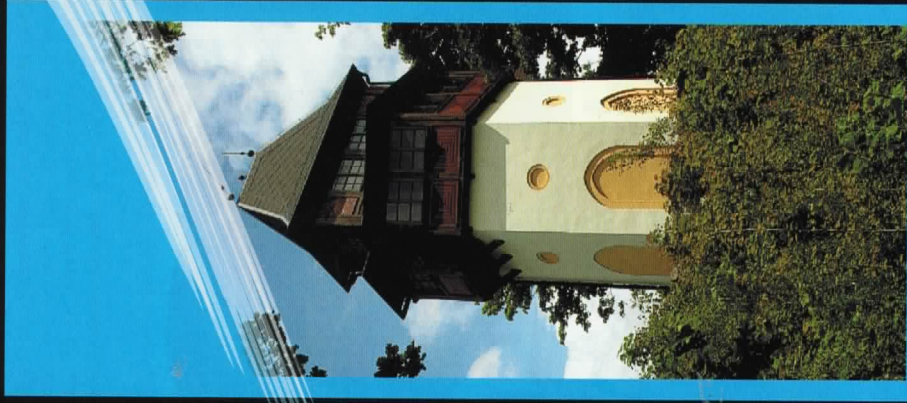


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IC: Statek Bernard Královské Pouti Šachetní 135, 357 41 Královské Pouti	www.statek-bernard.cz info.bernard@seznam.cz	420 352 629 722

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

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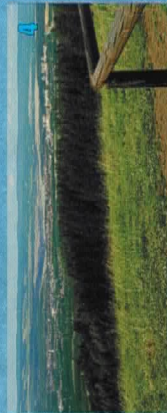
NOT FOR SALE



There are many places with unique views in the Sokolov region, such as views of Krušné hory peaks, rock lookouts equipped with handrails and steps, wooden or bricked alcoves on the hillsides and church or town hall towers open to the public.

HARD

In Sokolov, you will find a beautiful lookout (1) on a hill called Hard. There used to be a town cemetery, then a shooting-range and later a stone lookout gloriette. In 1907, the local club had the gloriette rebuilt into a proper observation tower. In the 1930s, the tower was turned into a monument to the victims of the First World War and after some more *peripetia* the tower was completely destroyed. At the turn of the millennium, Sokolov council came up with the idea to renew the observation tower on Hard. A new eighteen-meter high dominant feature of the town was built according to the plans of the original tower. It was opened to the public in 2001. The current observation tower is 4 meters shorter than the original one and there are 55 stairs leading up to glassed-in lookout. The lookout offers a beautiful view of Sokolov as well as of the peaks of Krušné hory.



KAMENICE

The restoration of Kamenice's chapel, which used to be a pilgrim destination and of which only the last remains of walling were preserved, was being prepared for several years. Only in 2008 did the municipality receive a grant for the restoration and so the renewed chapel could become a one of the tourist destinations of Slavkovy les again. St. Mary Magdalene's Chapel (2) lies in a beautiful place with a lookout (3) from which, provided good weather, you can overlook wide surroundings. The former mine Medard, the town Chlum sv. Marii Magdaleny and also the whole mountain range of Krušné hory are in clear view from there (4).

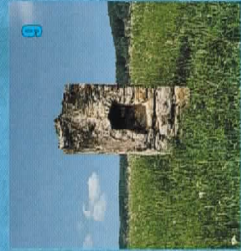


KRUDUM

8 km west from Horní Slavkov and approximately 4 km southeast from Sokolov you will find the mystical hill Krudum (835 m). There are a lot of legends and myths told about the hill. In 1932, Kempf's stone observation tower was built on the top of the hill. It was named after Dr. Andreas Kempf, who was born in a hamlet near Krásno. After the Second World War the place served as a military area and the observation tower fell into oblivion and was razed in the 1970s by its owner of that time. A telecommunication tower (5) was built on the top in 2008. Due to financial contributions of surrounding towns, the tower's top was adapted to serve as a lookout (6). From it, you can see the foundations of St. Nicholas' Church (7) which was mentioned in ancient legends but for which there was no evidence. After the blowdown in 2002 enthusiastic archaeology students discovered remains of a late Romanesque building which proved to be the church. Legends about treasure hidden there motivated many treasure hunters to dig up the surroundings inside out.

SLAVKOV'S GALLOWES

Slavkov's Gallows (8) which was built around 1500 near Horní Slavkov is also worth mentioning. It ceased to serve its purpose after 1765 when many towns lost the privilege to perform capital punishment. The execution place could be locked up to prevent theft of magical items such as rope form the hanged, or disappearance of the body which had to stay on the gallows until it decomposed completely and was then buried at the execution place or in its vicinity. You can overlook the surroundings of Horní Slavkov from the stone column (9), probably a former wayside shrine, above the execution place.



KRÁSNO

If you set off from Loket through Horní Slavkov towards Bečov, or from Sokolov following the yellow tourist sign, you cannot miss one of our most beautiful observation towers (10). Its base is 11 m wide, the lookout platform is 25 m high and its diameter is only 3m. An external staircase with 120 stairs winds around the perimeter of the tower like a spiral. This uncommon observation tower originated according to the design of local sculptor and ceramist W. Russ who was allegedly inspired by the legendary tower of Babel. The building project was drawn by architect F. Hoffmann. The observation tower became the dominant feature of Krásno and should encourage foreign tourism in the vicinity of neighbouring spa towns. However, in the post-war years, the tower was deteriorating and the adjacent restaurant was demolished. Even though the observation tower was enlisted into the monuments fund of the State Institute of Monument Protection the observation tower waited for its reconstruction till the last decade of the 20th century.



11



11



LOMNICE

A visit of Velká krušnohorská spoil tip offers an absolutely unique change to see how a completely new landscape rises where surface mining of brown coal once occurred. The spoil tip started to be generated more than 40 years ago and now its total area is almost 2 000 ha and is still expanding while at the same time it is being rehabilitated. Table land above Lomnice (11) provides a view into wide surroundings with Sokolov in the foreground.