

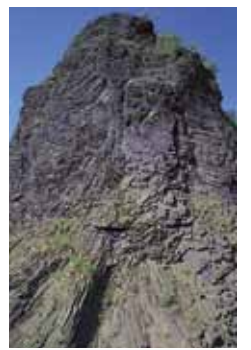
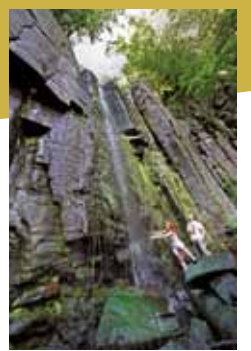


Route description

Depart from the City Information Centre (stop 1), continue across Mírové Square (stop 2), then on the left side of the square turn right at the end into Klášterní Street (stop 3). Here you can visit the newly reconstructed brewery, Pivovar Hotel Na Rychtě, and see the neighbouring Czech National Bank with the Church of St. Adalbert. Then go right to the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady (stop 4). The next stop will be Větruše. You can choose one of these options: a cable car (5) from the Forum shopping mall or you can walk along Malá Hradební Street under the railway viaduct, which features a gauge showing high water levels in the past. The left side of the roundabout will take you to the traffic lights/zebra crossing, follow the yellow tourist signs up the hill towards the Větruše centre (stop 6). The red tourist signs will take you to the medieval gallows situated at a distance of about 400 m. Go back to the tourist signpost and follow the green signs, passing the Karel Eichler memorial, the founder of the Větruše chateaux, up to the first information panel. Turn left to the Humboldt viewing point (stop 7) offering views of the River Elbe valley. Return to the green sign and turn left, continue following the green over Judgment Hill (Soudný vrch) to the Vaňov Waterfall and the viewing point on Vrkoč (stop 8). Go down from the waterfall along the brook to Čajkovského Street. Turn left onto the road, join the yellow signs after 350 m, which will take you across the Masaryk Lock (stop 9) to Castle Střekov (stop 10). Having explored the castle, follow the red signs about 300 m down towards the Střekov neighbourhood and turn right at the first bend onto Partyzánská Path. Follow the local red signs (red and white square) which will take you through the forest and then along Novoveská Street down the hill to Novosedlické Square. Turn right into Kojetická Street and follow the local green signs (green and white square). Turn right to the stairs between the detached residential houses on the left after about 150 m and climb the maintained forest path to the Střekovská vyhlídka viewing tower (stop 11). To return to the city, you can take the city bus from the other side of Kojetická Street (Poslední cesta bus stop) or continue through the Kamenný vrch neighbourhood to Nová Street as far as the Mariánský Bridge (stop 12) and then on the left on the cycle path along the River Elbe to the Edvard Beneš Bridge. Past the bridge use the subway crossing under the railway line to get to Predmostí Street and get back to the City Information Centre along Hrnčířská Street on the left on Mírové Square.

The length of the whole route is approximately 14 km, while the option using the city bus from Střekov to the centre is 3 km shorter. The diversified route has a few ascents, descents as well as straight sections. The part marked in green is relatively easy in good weather and quite safe with necessary care. It is a maintained forest path with several information panels and it offers some remarkable views of the River Elbe flowing through the rugged Bohemian Uplands (České středohoří). The less famous Partyzánská Path, also marked in red, is on a compacted path leading through a dense forest offering pleasant shade in hot weather.

The path is of medium difficulty, not suitable for the wheelchair bound or cyclists.

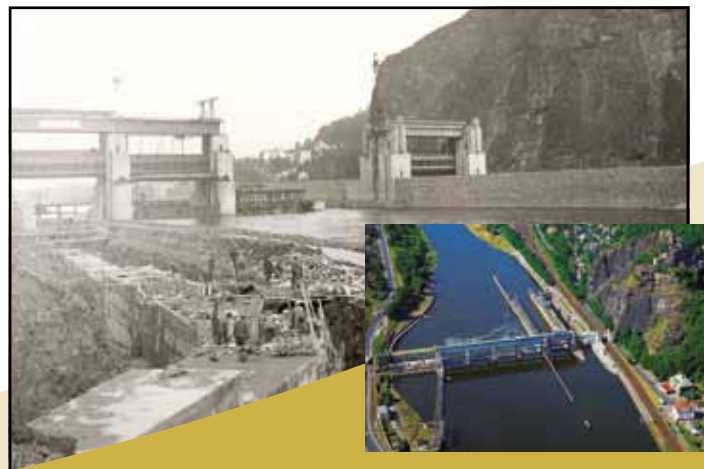


8 Waterfall and Vrkoč

The rock gorge in the valley of Podlešínský Brook, joining the River Elbe in the village of Vaňov, hides one of the most famous and visited waterfalls in the Bohemian Uplands (České středohoří). Water flows over the edge of the twelve-metre high rock amphitheatre. The nearby rock basalt formation – Vrkoč – is really interesting. It offers a view of the River Elbe valley and is a natural geological monument, a unique rock formation displaying column parting of basalt similar to combed female hair (the name Vrkoč – Roll of Hair – was derived from this similarity).

This place was and still is a destination for city residents looking for a romantic place, as well as numerous visitors from all over the world. Among them we would definitely find Karl May, the writer of adventure novels. He knew the Ústí region very well. He worked here for some time as an editor and had friends here. Some became characters in his stories. Actually, one of his novels was written over a few weeks in the nearby Brná neighbourhood.

9 Masaryk Lock



Sailing had always been dangerous in the narrow gorge between the rock, from which Castle Střekov overlooks the valley, and the Vrkoč rock formation. The rock blocks in the confined basin of the strong river regularly led to damaged ships and lost lives. Many boatmen passing the narrow point in heavy fog without incident believed their good luck was due to the Queen of the Elbe. Legend says she was

a daughter of the lord of Castle Střekov who appeared as the ghost of a young girl. Her father disapproved of her affection and had her beloved tortured to death. The sorrowful girl fell upon the rock and since then her soul has haunted the fog above the river surface. She helps good boatmen pass safely following the right direction. This danger was not removed until the Masaryk Lock were built. They were built to form a dam with an artificial lake stretching as far as the town of Litoměřice. The construction work started in 1923, while the whole waterworks beneath the Střekov rock were not completed until 1936. The rise of the Vaňov dam is the whole seven metres since the lock completion. The waterworks have three parts; the weir used to raise the River Elbe water level up to the stream above the lock, two chambers each 170 m long, and a hydro power plant with a power output of nearly 20 MW. The weir also has a fish run located in the separation pier between the lake and the power plant.

www.pla.cz

10 Castle Střekov (Hrad Střekov)



Castle Střekov was established in the second decade of the 14th century by Petr the knight, who had its oldest part built. The castle was supposed to guard the nearby water course and provide toll collection. In 1319, King John of Luxembourg gave the castle to the Wartenberg family from the town of Děčín. The castle bailiffs changed after that. In 1563, the Lobkowitz family, who own it to this day, became heritable bailiffs. The front castle is found past the first gate. It was built in the 14th century and has a Gothic residential palace. A castle chapel presumably stood here as well. The highest point of the castle features a thin circular two-storey tower to watch the river traffic. It was necessary to collect the toll, which was carried out right beneath the castle. The bigger part of the single-storey residential tower-like palace has also been preserved. Of the original upper part of the castle only the remains of the fortified walls have been preserved, especially from the early 16th century.

In the early 19th century, Romanticism poets Karel Hynek Mácha and Theodor Körner, as well as Johann Wolfgang Goethe, visited the castle. It also captured the attention of the Danish fairytale writer Hans Christian Andersen. It was also often portrayed by famous painters. Adrian Ludwig Richter made the castle famous with his painting „the Ferry beneath Castle Střekov“. Bedřich Smetana, who came on honeymoon to the region, was also captivated by the castle. Composer Richard Wagner looked for inspiration here while writing the „Tannhäuser“ opera. He was so excited by the romantic setting of Castle Střekov that he put a bed sheet on and strolled along the fortified walls at full moon. As early as around 1830, the castle owner responded to visitors' interest in the medieval ruins and opened a restaurant here. After many other refurbishments, the castle is still a destination for thousands of visitors from all over the world. It has also become a symbol of the city and the whole River Elbe valley.

www.hradstrekov.cz



11 Střekovská vyhlídka viewing tower

Střekovská vyhlídka was completed in spring 2010. It is located in the park woods on Malé Sedlo Hill. The viewing tower offers unique views of the Bohemian Uplands (České středohoří), Větruše and the city centre with the massive Marian Rock. You can even enjoy views of the distant Ore Mountains (Krušné hory) from here. The viewing tower is situated at an altitude of 284 m and is 8.2 m tall.

The fact that viewing points were highly popular in the Ústí region is evidenced by the oldest preserved paintings depicting the view from the Střekov neighbourhood bank of the river valley and the city of Ústí nad Labem. One of them is a votive painting from 1666, and a painting of St. Wenceslas as town patron dating back to approx. 1690. Another is a Baroque painting by Mathias Zelenka from the early 18th century.



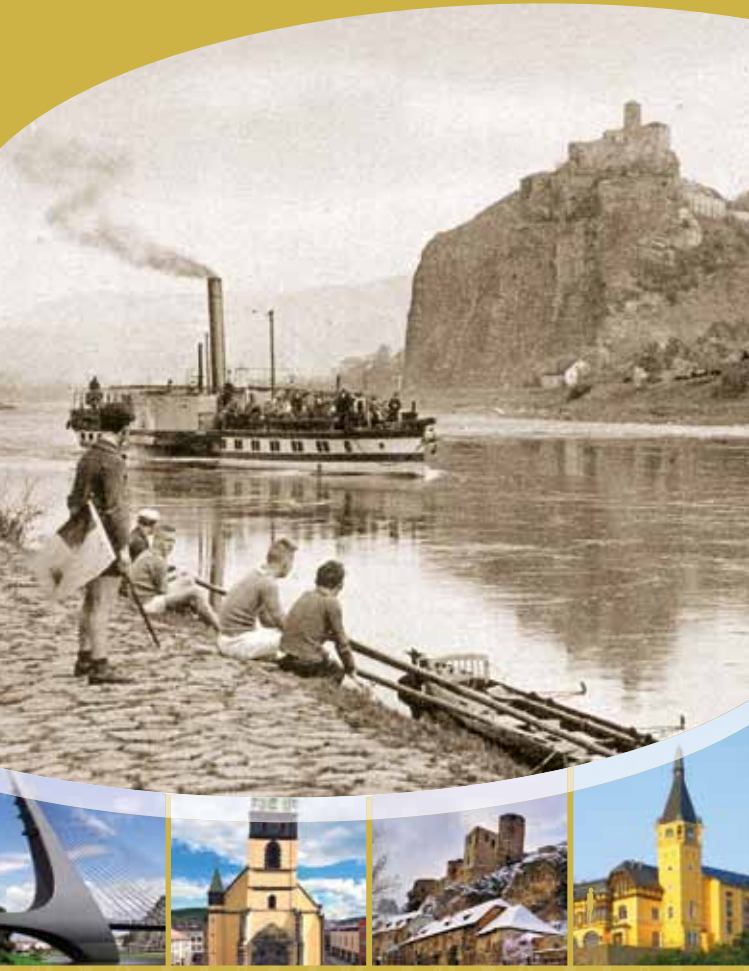
12 Marian bridge (Mariánský most)

The banks of the River Elbe are connected by three bridges in Ústí nad Labem. The railway bridge is situated directly beneath Větruše and was built in the 1950's. It is the eleventh largest structure of this type nationwide. The neighbouring Edvard Beneš arched road bridge from 1936



is still one of the largest arched bridge structures in the Czech Republic. The Marian Bridge is the newest river bridge in Ústí, built in 1998. An international poll by Structural Engineering International, a renowned magazine, ranked the bridge as one of the top ten most beautiful world structures of the last decade of the 20th century in 2001. With a length

of 179 m the cable-stay bridge structure is suspended from two piers and faces the 80 m tall Marian Rock at its foot overlooking the River Elbe. The piers are more than 60 m tall and each is provided with fifteen suspending cables. The unique bridge structure was designed by the architect Roman Koucký, and co-designers Šárka Malá and Milan Komínek.



Golden 4

Route No. III



PATHS OF UNEXPECTED BEAUTY:

- I. Ústí's TOP sights
- II. Villa architecture
- III. Golden 4
- IV. Artist's Route

Golden 4

The royal free town of Ústí nad Labem is situated in the scenic landscape of the River Elbe valley and the Bohemian Uplands (České středohoří) near the romantic Elbe Sandstone Rocks and it is situated beneath the Ore Mountains (Krušné hory) foothills. The site of the city and its surroundings is one of the oldest settled places in Bohemia. 25 000 years ago, mammoth hunters passed through the valley and the Ústí region has actually been permanently settled since then.

The most remarkable landmarks past which the "Golden 4" (Zlatá čtyřka) route will take you, commemorate both the ancient and modern history of Ústí nad Labem. The Church of the Assumption of Our Lady, the Větruše chateaux, Castle Střekov and the Marian Bridge are significant symbols of the city today. They connect early history with contemporary life.

1 Gothic entrance portal

The rescue archaeological survey conducted in 2006 on the site of today's Palác Zdar shopping centre uncovered a number of relics. Among others, it proved that mammoth hunters were present in the area more than twenty thousand years ago. The large circular structure of a prehistoric roundel, erected as early as six thousand years ago, documents how important this place was for the then residents of the Ústí region.

The survey also discovered relics of a medieval house from the 14th century. The largest found part was that of the entrance stairway portal, which connected the above-ground structure with the basement and cellars. It is made of stone from the nearby Marian Rock, the bonding material being a lime mortar. The stairway's pointed entrance arch was removed from its original position and displayed in the interior of today's City Information Centre in the Palác Zdar shopping centre during the construction work.



1708. The column was removed in the early 1960's during the construction work on the Interhotel Bohemia hotel. The statue ruins were deposited in the city museum. The column was renovated in 1997, standing in a new place on the axis of the opposite side of the square. The object has new column capitals and the statue itself, other parts being original.



www.usti-nad-labem.cz



2 Mírové Square

Today's Mírové Square was named Market Square (Tržní náměstí) up to 1938. Weekly or annual fairs regularly took place here; this was the real trading town centre. In one of the main axes of the square, on the eastern side, the column of St. Anthony of Padua used to stand from

Church of St. Adalbert (Kostel svatého Vojtěcha)

Originally a smaller west-east single-nave Gothic church with a spire at the western end. It started losing its importance in the early 16th century, so consequently Johann Ernst Schösser, the town mayor and a dedicated Catholic, invited Dominicans to the church in 1617. However, the Mayor was assassinated by the rebellious towns people in the same year.

The current appearance of the church dates back to the period 1704 – 1734. The new structure was designed on an axis perpendicular to the older one. Construction work was led by Octavian Broggio, a Baroque builder from the town of Litoměřice. He was inspired by the Church of St. Ursula in the New Town of Prague. The present abbey was built simultaneously with the church in the early 18th century by rebuilding the older structures. The first floor of the main portal has two niches



with statues – St. Wenceslas on the left, St. Ludmila on the right, the statue of St. Dominic on the left on the ground floor facade, the statue of St. Thomas Aquinas on the right. The statue of St. Adalbert is at the end of the main portal. The church door was carved by Miroslav Hora in the early 1970's.

4 Church of the Assumption of Our Lady (Kostel Nanebevzetí Panny Marie)

At the very end of WWII, Ústí nad Labem became a target for air raids. The most devastating were on the 17th and 19th April 1945, when Allied air forces hit the important railway junction in the city centre. Most of the historical city centre was destroyed, and more than five hundred people died. Bombs also hit the southern side of the main church's nave, which collapsed. The main tower started leaning and it had to be supported temporarily. It took more than ten years to stabilise it to its current condition. The tower is one of the most leaning church towers in Europe. It is listed right after the well-known leaning tower of Pisa. The displacement is 201 cm from its perpendicular axis at the highest point.



The church must have existed in the late 12th century. After the devastating destruction by the Hussites in 1426, the current nave was built at the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries when the city was reconstructed. Architecturally, the church is an important Bohemian-Saxon Late Gothic building, similarly as the churches in Pirna, Most and Louny. The sandstone pulpit and the baptismal font with the two biggest bells also date back to the same period. "Willeborte" is one of the greatest late Gothic bells in Bohemia and was obtained from the Netherlands for the Ústí church

in 1506, while the second bell is famous for its relief of Master John Hus. The current appearance of the church dates back to the end of the 19th century subject to the design sketches by architect Josef Mocker. Apart from others, he is well known for taking part in completing the St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague. The Neo-Gothic portal from 1901 was created by Mocker's successor, architect Anton Weber.

The main Gothic panel altarpiece dates back to 1498, however, it was originally commissioned for Pirna in Saxony, not Ústí. In 1617, the Ústí mayor, Johan Ernst Schösser, obtained it. He lacked the required cash to pay the Pirna aldermen for the altarpiece, so he had four barrels of local wine delivered instead. The wine was supposed to be sold and the money was to be paid to the Pirna municipal treasury. However, the wine from Ústí was too good, so the Pirna aldermen probably drank it, as shown in the then questioning and court documents.

It is also worth noting the painting by the Saxon court painter from Dresden – Ismael Mengs, from the early 18th century, famous as the „Ústí Madonna“. The painter originally donated his painting to Lady Fischerová, the widow of the Ústí royal reeve, in whose house his son, Anton Raphael Mengs, one of the most famous painters of the 18th century was born. She donated the painting to the Ústí Church of the Assumption of Our Lady. The painting is still worshipped by Catholic believers.



5 Větruše cable car

The passenger cable car has connected the Forum shopping mall to Větruše since 2010. With a cable length of 330 metres it is the longest line without suspending piers nationwide. The rise is 50 m (with the bottom station at an altitude of 156 m and the upper one at 206 m). It was designed as a shuttle cable car without suspensions with two fifteen-seat cabins which can also transport a wheelchair or a cyclist with a bicycle. The journey takes two minutes to the Větruše chateaux, a popular point of departure for trips around the Bohemian Uplands (České středohoří). Should the cabins get stuck on the way, an open rescue car is ready for passengers to transfer to safely through an emergency front window of the cabin. The journey in the car also offers views of the place the River Bílina joins the River Elbe, which gave the name to the town of Ústí nad Labem (river mouth upon the Elbe).

www.dpmul.cz



6 Větruše



The tourist chateau of Větruše reflects the culmination of the boom period of the city in the late 19th century. Originally, a simple summerhouse used to stand here with a viewing terrace, later replaced by the current building, completed in 1897. The building has a restaurant with a viewing point from the top of the tower. The historical building was extensively reconstructed in 2009. It comprises a recreational sports centre and a newly established Thuja maze and a mirror labyrinth. Overlooking the scenery from Větruše you will enjoy the landmark of the River Elbe valley – the Marian Rock. Since time immemorial, the local quarry has been providing the city with stone for buildings, roads



and paths. The rock appears in many legends. Allegedly, the hidden treasures of the famous Ústí dwarves are to be found deep in the Marian Rock. About 400 m from Větruše you can explore the city gallows from 1543. In that year, an execution site was built above the royal town. Its base was a cylindrical masonry wall bearing large timber gallows. The gallows were used for executions right up to the end of the 18th century, when the town lost the right to carry out capital punishment. The timber parts then disappeared and the stone base started dilapidating slowly. After 1945, it was surrounded by private garden plots. The stone base was refurbished during the reconstruction of the nearby Větruše as a viewing point with a cross installed.

www.msul.cz; www.vetruse.cz

7 Humboldt viewing point

Alexander von Humboldt, the famous German explorer and naturalist, named the viewing points in the Bohemian Uplands (České středohoří) he visited in 1837. One of them is located on Judgment Hill (Soudný vrch) above Větruše. The Humboldt viewing point offers beautiful views of the River Elbe valley and the neighbouring River Bílina valley. Humboldt's name was also given to one of the side gorges leading to the River Elbe.

