

A person with blonde hair, wearing a black jacket and blue jeans, is sitting on a rocky outcrop in the foreground, looking out over a vast, forested valley. The valley is filled with dense green trees and rolling hills. In the distance, a small town is visible in a valley. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden light. The overall scene is a beautiful landscape view from a high vantage point.

# **Cycling and Hiking to Discover Common Heritage**

**A Travel Guide through the  
Saxon-Czech Border Region**



"Alte Mangel" Ebersbach-Neugersdorf



# Cycling and Hiking to Discover Common Heritage

## A Travel Guide through the Saxon-Czech Border Region

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Route



Length



Condition



Difficulty



Recommended  
starting point

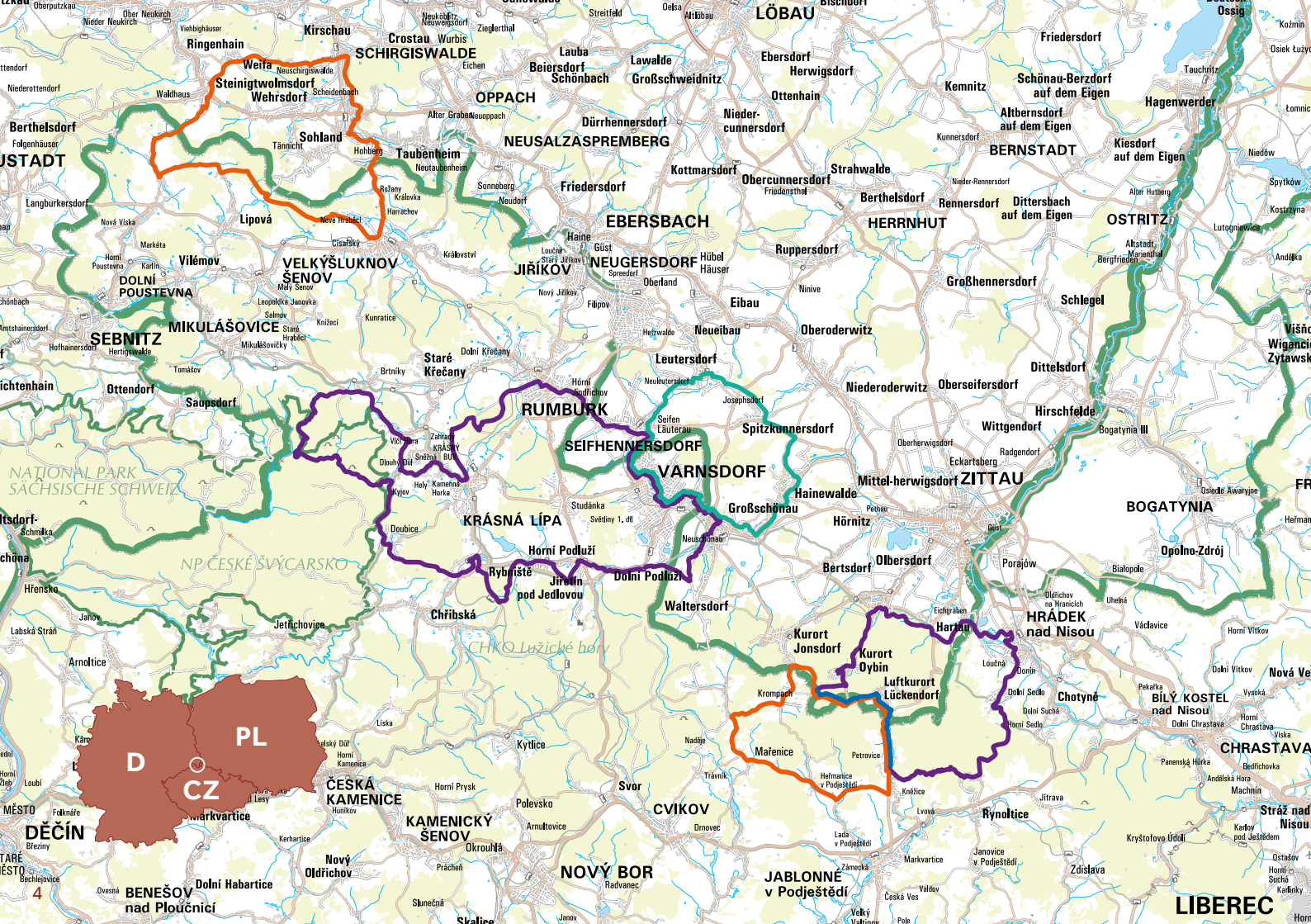


GPX-Track



Za společným dědictvím  
na kole i pěšky

Radeln und Wandern  
zum gemeinsamen Erbe







Stožecké sedlo  
(Schöbersattel)

## Cycling and Hiking to Discover Common Heritage

Would you enjoy going on a cycling tour through a picturesque countryside with many historic treasures? If your answer is yes, then come with us and discover the architectural landscape of Umgebinde houses in Upper Lusatia and the neighbouring Czech Republic on 5 cycle routes. The various routes will take you through the Šluknov Hook, the Lusatian Highlands and the Zittau Mountains Nature Park. You can cross the border between Germany and the Czech Republic at your leisure and experience a wealth of cultural diversity. All routes on the German side are linked to the Mittelgebirgsroute, the Saxon central highlands bike trail.

The region's typical Umgebinde and half-timbered houses dot the landscape as you cycle. These peculiar Upper Lusatian houses have been built since the 13th century and bear witness to the

high craftsmanship of the time. You will recognise it by the unusual construction of wooden pillars that enclose the ground floor and support the upper floor. Many of them have been carefully restored and decorated with ornate details such as sundials, carvings or door frames made of granite and sandstone. Some are even open to the public for tours and accommodation.

There are also many other sights to see: castles, palaces, churches and museums await you on your cycle tour. Be enchanted by the diversity of flora and fauna and enjoy the unique natural environment. Whether you want to cycle flat or hilly, short or long, solo or grouped, there is something to suit everyone.

Have fun exploring!



# Through the Lusatian Highlands and the Bohemian Netherlands

This circular route with a length of 34.3 km or 21.3 mi respectively through the Lusatian Highlands and the Bohemian Netherlands leads you through the Šluknov Hook and the Czech-German border region.

The people of the Lusatian Highlands like to call the Šluknov Hook the Bohemian Netherlands, this is how this route got its name. The tour takes you through a historically interesting area, where tourism was already developing in the 18th and 19th centuries due to the attractiveness of the landscape. The first tourist associations were formed here in the 1870s, and shortly afterwards the first lookout towers, inns and tourist shelters were built. Being a part of Bohemian Switzerland, however, the Šluknov Hook now more of an insider tip.

On the German side, the route runs through the heart of the Lusatian Highlands. The southern part of Upper Lusatia with its gently rolling hills is a genuine experience for both sporty and leisurely cyclists. Part of the route runs directly along the Spree river. You will cycle through pretty villages and small towns, past unique Lusatian houses and other places of interest.



Šluknov – Rožany – Sohländ an der Spree –  
Schirgiswalde – Weifa – Steinigtwolmsdorf –  
Severní – Liščí – Šluknov



34,3 km | 21,3 mi



mostly tarmac paths



easy to medium



Šluknov







Lipová Nr. S. 424



Reservoir Sohland an der Spree



Museum of local history in Weifa

## Museum of Local History “Altes Weberhaus”

### Sohland an der Spree

In Sohland's southern part, surrounded by a rural farmer's garden you'll find a museum of local history called “Altes Weberhaus”, or The Weaver's old house. It is the oldest known Umgebinde house in the village, built around 1684 and extended after 1780. The weaver's workshop with its original furnishings and a working loom takes you back in time. The museum opened its doors in 1957 to showcase ancient agricultural and horticultural tools and the way in which man and animals share the same roof. One of the rarest things to see are the wooden gutters made from a single tree trunk. The gable also features what is known as a “lightning serpent”, an old Lusatian banishing sign attributed to a deity that would protect the house from lightning. The detached timber beams that support the roof clearly reveal the constructional idea of the Umgebinde architecture.



## The Karasek House

### Taubenheim

The idyllic summer resort of Taubenheim is well worth a detour. It stretches along the left and right banks of the Spree river at the foot of Taubenberg hill. You should, however, bring some time along as there are 46 different sundials waiting to be found by you on the houses. Many historic sundials have been lovingly restored, and a number of new ones are also on display. One of them tells of “Karasek, the brigand chief”. An inscription, depicted with a heart, reads: “It was here that the notorious brigand chief Karasek, known as the Bohemian Hansel, found love and a safe haven for his raids into Saxony.” This sundial sits just above a corner of the Blockstube, the living area of the house.



## Heaven's Bridge

### Sohland an der Spree

The landmark of the municipality of Sohland an der Spree is the Himmelsbrücke, the "Heaven's Bridge" which also displays the commune's coat of arms. It now spans a ditch that flows into the River Spree. It used to bridge the Spree directly before the river's regulation at the beginning of the 20th century. Already in 1709 there was a timber bridge connecting the two parts of the village. This was replaced in 1796 by a granite arch bridge, which was given the name Heaven's Bridge due to the steepness of its form. If you read carefully, you will notice on the keystone that the inscription "Soli DEO Gloria" has been separated in the wrong way. Due to lack of space, it reads "Soli DE O Gloria". But this does not change the meaning of "Glory to God alone!"



## Reservoir and Woodland Stage

### Sohland an der Spree

The 800-metre-long Sohland Reservoir was built in the 1930s and quickly became a popular destination for day-trippers. It is well worth stopping here to enjoy the scenery. You can walk around the lake or take a gondola ride to relax. Swimming is allowed at your own risk. From the reservoir you can reach the woodland stage at the foot of Kälbersteine Hill. This is a venue for amateur theatre performances from May to September. Around 4,000 people come to see the plays each year. Small plays were first performed on this stage in 1921.



## The Bruno-H.-Bürgel Observatory

### Sohland an der Spree

Astronomy enthusiasts from Sohland an der Spree began building this public and school observatory in the 1960s, and it has been steadily expanded ever since. Among other things, a building with a 3-metre-high dome was built on the 335-metre-high hill. Today it is considered a landmark of the municipality on the river Spree. The name of the observatory commemorates Bruno-H. Bürgel, a master of the popular presentation of astronomical knowledge. The aim of the establishment is to show the starry sky to visitors from near and far, to citizens of all ages and from all walks of life. Locals and visitors alike enjoy a wide range of talks, guided tours and regular sky observations. At the observatory, the start of the 4.2 kilometre Planet Trail is marked by an interesting sculpture depicting the solar system.

**Advice:** Your cycling tour will take you through Weifa, the highest locality in the Lusatian Highlands. Incidentally, the place name goes back to the term Weife, which translates to reel, an accessory of hand weaving. In Weifa, you will cycle past well-preserved typical Umgebände and half-timbered houses, most of which are listed as historical monuments. You should make a stop at the village's small local history museum.



## The Northernmost Point of the Czech Republic

### Severní

The northernmost point of the Czech Republic, nicknamed the "North Cape" in Bohemia and neighbouring Saxony, lies on the Czech-German border near boundary stone No. 2/41, in the village of Severní. It is not only the northernmost point of today's Czech Republic, but was also the northernmost point of the entire Austro-Hungarian Empire, which ceased to exist in 1918. The easiest way to get there is from Lobendava-Severní. Follow the green tourist trail that is marked in yellow at the state border.





## St. Anne Hill

### Lobendava

The chapel of St. Anne on Anenský vrch (418 m above sea level) near the village of Lobendava is an important pilgrimage site with an adjacent Way of the Cross. The Way of the Cross was built between 1829 and 1834. It consists of thirteen niche chapels and a separate chapel of the Holy Sepulchre. These Stations of the Cross were built outdoors in the Šluknov region as the seventh of a total of fourteen and complements the St. Anne's Pilgrimage Chapel, built between 1775 and 1776. In 1840, the pilgrimage area was extended to include the Garden of Gethsemane with the statues of the sleeping Apostles, the Angel and Christ.



## Šluknov Castle

### Šluknov

The most picturesque sight in Šluknov, the Czech Republic's northernmost town, is Šluknov Castle. Built by the Šlejnic family on the site of a late Gothic fortress, it is a valuable Renaissance building from the second half of the 16th century. The building was the entire region's economic centre until 1945. Later it housed a museum, library and various offices. A major fire in 1986 left the building in ruins. It was thanks to the city of Šluknov that this historic building was restored. The castle now hosts weddings, concerts and other events in addition to an exhibition.



## Lipová Nr. S. 424

### Lipova

In the Czech Village of the Year 2019, in Lipova, there is the house no. S. 424, a completely reconstructed Lusatian Umgebinde house. It is a one-storey wooden and partly brick dwelling house with a rectangular tripartite floor plan under a gabled roof. It was built in 1727. The façade and floor of the house are decorated with slate. A ground floor extension is added to the rear gable end of the house. This accommodates the information centre, a small museum and a gallery.



## Pascherroute – Karasek's Smuggling Route

Varnsdorf in the Czech Republic is an ideal starting point for Karasek's Smuggling Route, 26,1 km / 16,2 mi long. But you can start at any point along the way. The tour will take you past many unique Upper Lusatian Umgebände houses. You will find a particularly large number of these typical half-timbered houses of the German-Czech border region in the town of Großschönau. Along the Mandau River in particular, you can take in the many lovingly restored Upper Lusatian houses with their small gardens. From Großschönau, follow the river Mandau to Hainewalde. The Kanitz-Kyaw Palace in Hainewalde will surprise you with its strong resemblance to Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam. Not far from the palace you will find the baroque Kanitz-Kyaw Crypt with its unique sculptural decoration. Pass through Spitzkunnersdorf to reach Leutersdorf. Here the route crosses the border of this former Bohemian enclave. The area was under Bohemian rule until the 19th century and was thus a refuge for the famous brigand Jan "Hansel" Karásek. Look out for the roof of the Catholic church as you cycle through Leutersdorf. The decorative pattern on the roof is the only one of its kind in Germany. The route then takes you to Seifhennersdorf. At the village's Karásek Museum you can learn all about the infamous brigand chief. Once in Varnsdorf, you can use the time to visit St Peter and Paul's Church or the town square dating from 1774.



Varnsdorf – Großschönau – Hainewalde –  
Spitzkunnersdorf – Leutersdorf –  
Seifhennersdorf – Varnsdorf



26,1 km | 16,2 mi



mostly tarmac



easy to medium



Varnsdorf









## Burgsberg Lookout Varnsdorf

Burgsberg (Hrádek) lookout is the landmark of the town of Varnsdorf and is located on the top of a phonolite hill on the border between Varnsdorf and Seifhennersdorf. It was built in 1904 to a design by the architect Anton Möller. Thanks to the fund of the Hrádek-Burgsberg Foundation, it was finally saved in the year 2000. The restored lookout was officially opened to the public in 2003, and the entire main building was renovated over the next two years. The observation tower is 29 metres tall. After climbing the 92 steps you can enjoy a magnificent view on Varnsdorf and its surroundings: the Lusatian Highlands, the Zittau Mountains and, on a clear day, the Jizera and Giant Mountains.

## Umgebinde House No. 488 Varnsdorf

The Umgebinde house with the number 488 is located in Národní Street, Varnsdorf. It's a two-storey Umgebindehaus, timbered and partly masoned, with a mansard roof, and dates back to the year 1780. The gable is covered with fibre cement and the upper floor is panelled with planks. Next to the house is a sculpture of St Anthony, a work of Anton Fröhlich. It stood there before the house itself was built. The house is a prime example of Bohemian folk architecture.







## Deanery Church of St. Peter and Paul Varnsdorf

The Church of St. Peter and Paul is the oldest church in Varnsdorf and was built on the site of an even older church from the 13th century. The cornerstone for the new church was laid in 1766. There were delays in the building of the church due to disputes within the community, and the church was not completed until 1774-1776. The late baroque furnishings were added in 1777. The rest of the interior is in the rococo and neoclassicism style. In 1904 a new organ was installed. It was made by the organ builder Eule from Bautzen. A new bell, replacing the one damaged in the summer storm of 1907, was consecrated and hung in 1908. Above the side entrance is a plaque commemorating the first performance of Beethoven's Missa Solemnis in 1830.

## Old Catholic Church Varnsdorf

The Old Catholic Church of the Transfiguration of Christ in Tyršova Street dates back to 1875 and is closely connected with the history of the Old Catholic movement. It is the oldest Old Catholic church in the world to have been built with the parishes own resources. The Old Catholic Church itself was founded in Varnsdorf to protest against the Papal Decree declaring the Church infallible. The large bell was a gift from Raimund Artl. The alabaster statue and the relief of the Biblical Magi are the work of the local artist Vincenz Pilz. In 1995, because of its history it was decided that the Old Catholic Church in Varnsdorf would become a co-cathedral, the second cathedral in the country. At that time, the extensive repairs that were necessary as a result of the communist destruction were also completed.



## Inselhaus Großschönau

The “Inselhaus” is nestled in the magnificent countryside of Großschönau. At over 320 years of age, it is one of the oldest Umgebinde houses in the textile village of Großschönau. Not only has the baroque front door been lavishly restored, but so have the old murals and the historic tile roof with its eyelid dormers. This double parlour house has already received a number of awards for its exemplary conservation and restoration. Brightly coloured, originally painted Upper Lusatian rustic wardrobes, historic floors and doors with old locks are all part of the historic furnishings. The combination of traditional components with modern equipment was particularly successful here.



## Museum of Traditional Costumes Großschönau

This Lusatian house, built in 1788, is situated on the banks of the Mandau river. It has a striking roof that overhangs the eaves, beautiful timberwork and original windows. It has been completely renovated and is now used as a club house with a local history room and exhibition rooms. Since 1995, the house has been owned by the North Bohemia Heimatwerk e. V., a registered folklore association dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage and customs of the Germans in North Bohemia, including unique folk costumes. The permanent exhibition shows exhibits from different regions such as the Sázava region, the Ore Mountains, the Elbe Valley, the Jizera Mountains and the Krkonoše Mountains. The “Kurt Röschl Parlour” can also be visited. Bookings for the tour are by appointment only.

## Showcase House from 1614 Seifhennersdorf

Seifhennersdorf, a district of Zittau since 1584, is home to one of the oldest and most valuable Umgebinde houses in Upper Lusatia. Built in 1614 as a Bohemian house on a central place in the village, it is of particular architectural and historical importance. Originally it had a clipped gable on both ends of the roof. These can sometimes be found in Bohemia, and also in the area to the west of Görlitz. The extensively restored Lusatian house with rare roof construction, and its garden, can be visited as a showcase. The traces of the previous generations of inhabitants are visible in the various rooms, which differ in terms of the period in which they were built. It also showcases various craft technologies and the use of indigenous ecological building materials. Guided tours and visits can be booked through the "Am Weißeweg 23" e.V. registered association.



## German Damask and Terry Cloth Museum Großschönau

The German Damask and Terry Museum preserves the centuries-old textile tradition of Großschönau: damask has been woven here at the foot of the Zittau Mountains for over 350 years and terry for over 160 years. Housed in the former home of a damask manufacturer, the museum looks back on more than 160 years of collecting history. It houses a comprehensive collection of fabrics, textile machines, pattern drawings and books as well as regionally significant works of art. The technical rarities are particularly noteworthy: the permanent exhibition includes a damask loom with a traction device dating from 1835 and what is probably the last working terry loom in Germany. In the museum's "living demonstration workshop", the production of a towel or tea towel can be authentically reproduced step by step using historical textile technology.





## Kanitz-Kyaw Castle

### Hainewalde

The Kanitz-Kyaw castle was built between 1749 and 1755. Today it is often referred to as the "little Sanssouci" of Upper Lusatia, as it bears a striking resemblance to the Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam. Situated on the banks of the Mandau River, the castle is a popular destination for walks, cycle rides and summer picnics. Particularly fascinating are the five terraces in front, between which a sandstone staircase leads to the main doorway decorated with coats of arms and columns. The grounds cover 2.5 hectares (6.2 acres) and include a baroque park, a picturesque old tree population and important architectural details. Tours of the castle are regularly on offer. There is also an annual castle festival.

## Tips

### Heaven's Bridge Hainewalde

The Heaven's Bridge is now regarded as one of Hainewalde's landmarks. In the old days, it was also known as the Ox Bridge and formed an arch reflecting on the water in its original form from 1832.



### Windmill Seifhennersdorf

The original site of the old windmill in Seifhennersdorf is the information centre for the "Upper Lusatian Umgebende Route", which hosts presentations and events. The old miller's house dating from 1824 also stands here. This listed Umgebende house with its historic log cabin is a gem of Upper Lusatia's local history.









# The Umgebinde Route

The Umgebinde Route is a 72.3 km / 44.9 mi long German-Czech circular route that takes cyclists through the Šluknov region. Enjoy the natural beauty of the Elbe Sandstone Highlands, Bohemian Switzerland National Park and Zittau Mountains Nature Park. You can also see typical Czech folk architecture and discover the odd Umgebinde house. If you are coming by train, you can start your trip from the railway stations in Chřibská, Rybníště, Krásná Lípa, Rumburk or Großschönau.

You will pass many Umgebinde houses along the way. In Dlouhý Důl, in the Kopec neighbourhood and in Doubice you can find many of these unique houses. You will also pass exceptionally well-preserved Umgebinde houses in Herrenwalde and Großschönau. Some of these houses are open to the public as museums, tourist information centres or restaurants. The Karasek Museum in Seifhennersdorf is one such example. At the freely accessible reservoir in Kyjov you can refresh yourself and enjoy nature. There are also a number of lookout towers along the route. The oldest tower was built on Vlčí hora near Krásná Lípa, but there are also lookout towers on Dymník near Rumburk and on Hrádek hill near Varnsdorf. For a special experience, visit the Loreto Chapel and Ambitus at Rumburk, open all year round. Visitors to the St John the Evangelist mine in Jiřetín pod Jedlovou can have a closer look at the history of silver mining.



Rumburk – Krásná Lípa – Dlouhý Důl – Vlčí Hora – Brtníky – Kopec – Kyjovské údolí, Turistický most – Kyjov – Doubice – Rybníště – Jiřetín pod Jedlovou – Dolní Podluží – Herrenwalde – Großschönau – Varnsdorf – Seifhennersdorf – Rumburk



72,3 km | 44.9 mi



mostly tarmacked,  
solid ground



medium to hard



Chřibská, Rybníště,  
Krásná Lípa, Rumburk,  
Großschönau







Traditional Farm Seifhennersdorf



Dlouhý Důl



Gallery in the Umgebinde house Jiřetín pod Jedlovou



## Gallery in the Umgebindehaus *Jiretín pod Jedlovou*

This Umgebindehaus is privately owned by Mr J. Zoser and is used as a gallery. Visits can be arranged by telephone. On the ground floor, with access from the market square, there is a gallery with a lounge that also includes a cellar vault made of phonolite stone. After standing empty for years, the Zoser family bought the house in 2005. It was built in the middle of the 18th century in a characteristic style and needed extensive reconstruction.

## Loreto Chapel *Rumburk*

This three-hundred-year-old Virgin Mary Sanctuary with Loreto Chapel, Ambitus and St Laurence Church is popular with pilgrims. 17th and 18th century art in particular has left its mark here. The whole of the site is an island of silence, where time passes by according to its own particular rules. Since 2014, Rumburk's Loreto Chapel is one of the stops on the international Via Sacra pilgrimage route. The Via Sacra connects remarkable European churches, monasteries and other places of worship in the German-Polish-Czech triangle.







## Šmilovského Street Rumburk

Šmilovský Street is a collection of one-storey weavers' houses dating from the 18th to 20th centuries, built in the typical Upper Lusatian style. It has been part of the village conservation area since 1995 and consists of half-timbered, brick and wooden buildings. In the western suburb of Rumburk, a part of the then unused cemetery field was parcelled out and a 5-metre wide road, Šmilovského Street, was laid out in its centre. 34 lots were laid out along the road. The majority of their new owners were weavers or linen weavers.

## Dlouhy Důl

The village in the "long dale" was founded at the beginning of the 18th century as an artisans' settlement on the estate of the earls of Kinsky. Almost all of its houses are half-timbered and Umgebinde buildings. The area was declared a conservation area in 2005. It protects vernacular half-timbered houses dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. The houses have remained almost unchanged until today. The village experienced its greatest prosperity in the 18th and 19th centuries. This village on the Křinice River was built on forest land, crossed by a system of canals and water basins for timber rafting.





## Mill Museum Waltersdorf

The folklore and mill museum, in existence since 1956, has an exciting exhibition on the history of Waltersdorf and its milling industry. You can find it in the oldest water mill of the village. In addition to the mill and its adjacent rooms, there are also furnishings that illustrate the way in which hand weavers lived and worked in the 1800s.



## Waltersdorf

A detour to the health resort of Waltersdorf is well worth the effort. Lying on the highest mountain in the Zittau Mountains Nature Park, the village is characterised by more than 230 half-timbered houses, often with ornate sandstone door frames. In the 17th and 18th centuries, looms rattled in the rooms of its Umgebände to produce linen, drill, canvas and damask. Today, many of them offer holiday accommodation for those seeking relaxation.

## Nature Park Centre Waltersdorf

Just across the road from the church in Waltersdorf is the “Niederkretscham”, the historic inn that also used to be home to the village court. Its history can be traced back to the year 1409. The historic Umgebinde house is impressive in size. Since 2011, the ‘Niederkretscham’ has been home to the Zittau Mountains Nature Park Centre. A multifaceted adventure exhibition explores the origins, history and ecosystem of Germany’s 100th nature reserve, inviting children and adults alike to take an active journey of discovery. In addition to the exhibition, the Centre also houses the tourist information office, a coffee roastery with coffee bar and a large event room.



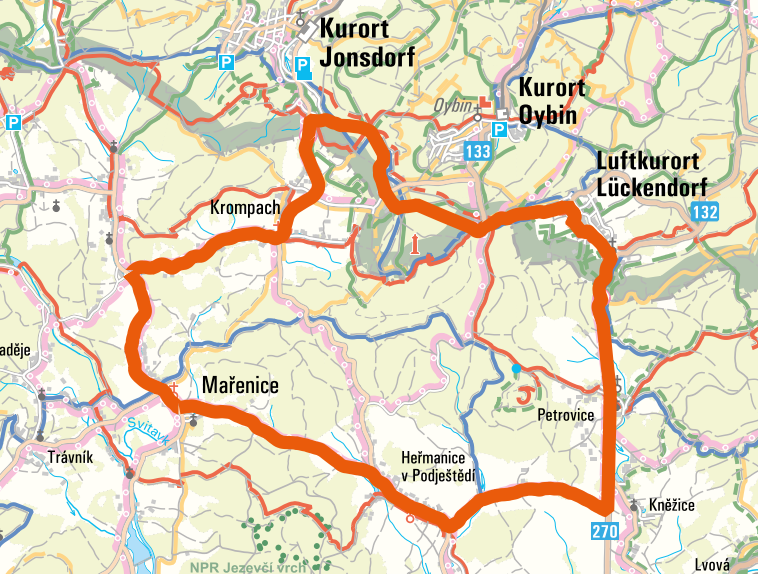
## Advice: Textile Trail Großschönau

The Textile Trail in Großschönau takes interested visitors past manufacturers’ villas, (former) factories and weavers’ houses, as well as to the homes and places of work of famous personalities from Großschönau. There are 30 information points where you can learn about the local textile tradition.

## Karasek Museum Seifhennersdorf

The days of brigands, smugglers and poachers are brought to life in the Karasek Museum. The focus is on the bandit chief Karasek, who wreaked havoc in the area. Visitors to the Karasek Museum can also learn about the former Bohemian enclave of Niederleutersdorf and the hard times of the linen weavers of the time.





# Lusatian Mountains Route

The Lusatian Mountain Route is 23.1 km / 14.4 mi long and takes you around the 749 m high Hochwald hill. The route is particularly suitable for more experienced cyclists and takes you through the heart of the Zittau Mountains and the Lusatian Mountains.

It is best to start the circular tour in the health resort Jonsdorf and cycle from there in the direction of Krompach. Here you will find many well-preserved Umgebende houses. In Mařenice you can make a stop at the reconstructed church and Stations of the Cross before the route continues through the Malevil resort in Heřmanice v Podještědí. Malevil is worth a longer break. Not only does it have a mini zoo, but it also offers a range of outdoor activities. Afterwards, climb up to Petrovice and cross the border to Lückendorf, a climatic health resort in the Zittau Mountains National Park.

In Oybin you can visit the well-preserved ruins of the castle and monastery complex that was founded by Emperor Charles IV. If you have some time on your hands and feel like it, you can also take a trip on the narrow-gauge railway from Oybin. The final stretch takes you back to Jonsdorf. Wrap up the day in comfort with a cup of coffee and a slice of cake or take a closer look at the spa with its spa gardens, butterfly house and woodland stage.



Health Resort Jonsdorf – Krompach –  
Mařenice – Petrovice – Climatic Health  
Resort Lückendorf – Health Resort  
Jonsdorf



23,1 km | 14.4 mi



mostly tarmacked  
cycle paths



medium to hard



Health Resort Jonsdorf







Jablonné v Podještědí Lvová 5



Oybin



Hochwald hill



## Krompach

Krompach lies in the beautiful valley of the Krompašský potok (Krompach Creek) in the south of the Zittau Mountains. The settlement was first mentioned in 1391 and became known as a glassmaking village. In 1687, Julius Franz of Saxe-Lauenburg, then holding the Lordship of Reichstadt, founded a glassworks in Julius-tal. Later, the weaving industry developed here. Due to its attractive location, Krompach developed into a place of recreation in the 19th century. Worth seeing is the church with its rococo pulpit, built in 1782.

## Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalene

Mařenice

Between 1714 and 1716, the parish church of Santa Maria Magdalena and its rectory were built according to plans of Octavio Broggio. A cloister with a chapel surrounds the church. Inside are some interesting baroque tombstones.

**Tip:** On the road bridge over the Svitávka stream there is a group of three statues depicting St. Wenceslas, Jesus on the Cross and St. Nepomuk.







## Butterfly House

### Health Resort Jonsdorf

More than 200 butterflies from 35 different species are on display in the tropical house for the amazement of young and old alike. Other tropical creatures such as reptiles, snakes, spiders and insects can also be seen in the butterfly house. The 3 metre long sea water aquarium is also a highlight, as it is home to a wide variety of fish species.

## Weaving Room

### Health Resort Jonsdorf

In 1539, people began to build small gardens around their Umgebinde houses that helped to feed the family. The settlers acquired the land from the Cistercian monastery at Oybin, but already in 1574 Jonsdorf became a district of the town of Zittau. The first quarries were established when it was discovered that the local sandstone was particularly suitable for making millstones. It was not until 1638 that the people of Jonsdorf were given another source of income in the form of weaving by a decree of the town council of Zittau. In 1989, the Lange family set up a weaving workshop in one of the many one-storey Umgebinde houses, which is now run by the family's second generation. The Weaving Room is a historic showroom where you can learn about linen weaving and Umgebinde construction. The shop has a selection of hand-icrafts in line with the theme of the exhibition.







## Miniworld

### Health Resort Oybin

In the Upper Lusatian Mini World you will find more than 50 faithful miniature models of the trinitational triangle and its environs. Almost all of the models are made to a scale of 1:50 and are made of plywood. Anyone wishing to gain an insight into the creation of a new model is welcome to visit the show room and see how a miniature model is created from the planning stage to the finished building.

**Advice:** Night-time tours are also on offer, during which the models are illuminated.



## Mountain Church

### Health Resort Oybin

One of the highlights of Oybin is the Mountain Church, a gem of German rural baroque. It was built in the late baroque style and has been in existence in its present form since the year 1734. The paintings on the galleries and ceiling are the work of local artists. The technique they used is called grisaille. This grey-on-grey style was used to draw patterns for the region's damask weavers. The mountain church is open daily for devotion, peace and prayer almost all year round.



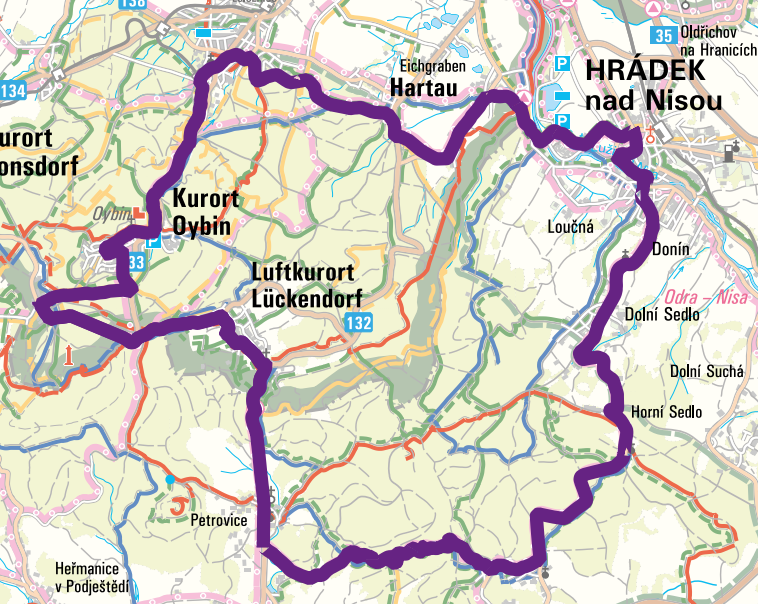


## Detour to the Umgebinde Houses

Jablonné v Podještědí – Lvová district

The listed Umgebinde house No. 12 (left) has a main building from the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries. The ground plan has remained the same since 1843, only the western extension is shorter now. The two-storey house no. 5 with a mansard roof from the same period stands to the south-west of Lemberk Castle. South of the castle is number 7 (below), whose gable atypically faces the road. The core of the building is said to be from the 17th century.





## The King's Route

Cyclists can explore the history of the region and the beautiful mountain scenery of the Zittau and Lusatian Mountains on the King's Route, 35.4 km / 22.0 mi long.

The best place to start the tour is in Hrádek nad Nisou, where you can visit the multi-functional centre called the "Gate of the Three Countries". The cycle tour will take you past Zittau, the former royal town that was founded by King Ottokar II of Bohemia. It is worth making a detour to see Zittau's famous Lenten veils. You can also visit the historic old town. If you need a break along the way, you can relax at Lake Olbersdorf and try out various water sports.

The route takes you to Oybin, where you can visit the impressive 14th-century castle and abbey complex extended by Emperor Charles IV. On the way through the climatic health resort of Lückendorf, for example, you can admire the typical Lusatian houses that characterise the area. In Petrovice it is worth stopping at the Church of St. Nicholas and in Dolní Sedlo you can take a trip to Popová skála, a striking sandstone rock that is a landmark of the Lusatian Mountains. Back in Hrádek nad Nisou, you can relax and enjoy nature at Lake Krstýna.



Hrádek nad Nisou – Zittau – Health Resort Oybin – Climatic Health Resort Lückendorf – Petrovice – Hrádek nad Nisou



35,4 km | 22.0 mi



mostly tarmacked,  
solid ground



medium to hard



Hrádek nad Nisou







Large Lenten veil Zittau



Market square and town hall Zittau



Popová skála (Pfaffenstein) in the Lusatian Mountains



## Castle and Abbey Health Resort Oybin

The ruins of the castle and abbey of Oybin are located on top of the most famous rock massif of the Zittau Mountains in Upper Lusatia. The site was developed into a fortified complex at the beginning of the 14th century and expanded by Emperor Charles IV into an imperial house and a monastery for the Order of the Celestines. Following the Reformation in the 16th century, monastic life ceased and nature began to reclaim Oybin. Romantic painters such as Caspar David Friedrich and Carl Gustav Carus were attracted to this place and made Oybin known through their famous works of art. The castle and abbey complex is open for visits.

## Lake Olbersdorf

Lake Olbersdorf is a beautiful destination in the Zittau Mountains Nature Park. It was created on the site of a former open-cast mine and has a water surface area of 60 hectares or 148 acres respectively. Surrounded by woods and meadows, it offers stunning mountain views. There are many ways to relax and have fun at Lake Olbersdorf. You can enjoy the sun and water on the well-kept sandy beach or in the many coves. Other possible activities include surfing, kiting, Nordic walking and hiking.







## Lake Kristýna

Lake Kristýna is a former open-cast lignite mine in the Zittau Basin. Situated close to the German and Polish borders, it has much to offer for those wishing to relax and unwind. At Lake Kristýna you can swim, fish, canoe or sunbathe. There is also a circular walk around the lake with 14 fitness stations and 10 wooden fairy-tale sculptures.

## Tripoint Lusatian River Neisse

The German-Czech-Polish Tripoint is just a few minutes away from Lake Kristýna. This is where the borders of Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland meet. It lies in the middle of the river Neisse and is a popular place for excursions. The Tripoint Point is a symbol of the tolerant coexistence of different peoples in the heart of Europe.





## Hrádek nad Nisou

Hrádek nad Nisou, on the border with Germany and Poland, has a long history and a rich culture. Its churches are in different architectural styles: The Catholic church of St. Bartholomew is baroque and magnificent, the Protestant church is simple and modern. The market square is the heart of the town, surrounded by colourful renaissance, baroque houses. There is a fountain with a statue of St. Florian, the town hall, the museum and a variety of shops.



## Grabštejn Castle

### Grabštejn

Grabštejn is a medieval castle perched on a hill above the town of Hrádek nad Nisou. It was founded in the 13th century and has been rebuilt and extended several times over the years. The castle's historic rooms, chapel, knights' hall and tower are open to visitors and can be toured. It's also a popular venue for cultural events such as concerts, theatre and markets.

## The Koník Umgebinde House

Hrádek nad Nisou

This Lusatian house in Hrádek nad Nisou was built in 1812. In the mid-19th century, it received a new brick facade that replaced the Umgebinde construction and half-timbered walls on the ground floor. The town purchased the building in 2008 and renovated it in 2014. On selected days, visitors can view the house or book a guided tour through the Tourist Information Office.



Market square Hrádek nad Nisou





Hiking in Umgebindeland



# Hiking without Borders

Not in the mood for a bike ride? Then put on your walking boots, grab your rucksack and off you go. The Šluknov Hook, the Lusatian Highlands and the Zittau Mountains Nature Park offer many hiking trails. The Kammweg (Crest Trail) and the Oberlausitzer Bergweg (Upper Lusatian Mountain Trail) are the best-known among them. If you want to discover the region beyond its border, we recommend two very special walks:

## Špičák Hill (Spitzberg)

About 800 metres north-east of the Czech village of Varnsdorf there is a cone-shaped hill called Špičák (Spitzberg). In the mid-19th century several companies from Varnsdorf and neighbouring Seifhennersdorf tried to mine lignite here, but failed. Small lakes can be seen on the way to its top. From the end of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th century, there were several viewpoints with restaurants at the top of the hill, but they have all disappeared. All you can find there today are ruins and a few smaller rock formations. The eastern hilltop, which is part of the larger hill, is called the Kleine Spitzberg. From you can admire the lookout standing on Burgsberg hill, the ridge of the Lusatian Mountains with its prominent mounts such as Lausche (Luž), Pěnkavčí vrch (Finkenkoppe), Jedlová (Tannenberg) and the more distant Studenec (Kaltenberg), behind which the landmark of Bohemian Switzerland – the Růžový vrch (Rosenberg) – stands out.

## Kirchsteig Trail

The Kirchsteig is a historic pilgrim trail that connects the Czech village of Lipová with the German village of Wehrsdorf. The trail leads you through the beautiful landscape of the Šluknov Hook and Upper Lusatia. It is marked green in the Czech Republic and red in Saxony. Its name refers to the sacred buildings you will pass along the route, such as the Church of St. Simon and Judah in Lipová or the Trinity Church in Wehrsdorf. The people of Wehrsdorf used to go to Mass in the Lipová Church on this route. Hikers and pilgrims who want to walk through beautiful countryside and visit historic holy sites will find the Kirchsteig a popular destination.



## For more information ...

... on cycling and hiking in the Šluknov Hook, the Lusatian Highlands and the Zittau Mountains Nature Park, please visit:



**Ústecký kraj**

**Šluknov Hook | Bohemian Switzerland**

[www.branadocech.cz](http://www.branadocech.cz)



**Lusatian Mountains**

[www.liberecky-kraj.cz](http://www.liberecky-kraj.cz)



**Zittau Mountains Nature Park**

[www.zittauer-gebirge.com/de/naturpark](http://www.zittauer-gebirge.com/de/naturpark)



**Lusatian Highlands**

[www.oberlausitzer-bergländ.de](http://www.oberlausitzer-bergländ.de)



**Lusatian Highlands**

[www.oberlausitz.com](http://www.oberlausitz.com)



Hiking in the Cross-Border Region







Dolní Chříbská

# Imprint



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na kole i pěšky  
Radeln und Wandern  
zum gemeinsamen Erbe

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Ahoj sousede. Hallo Nachbar.  
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