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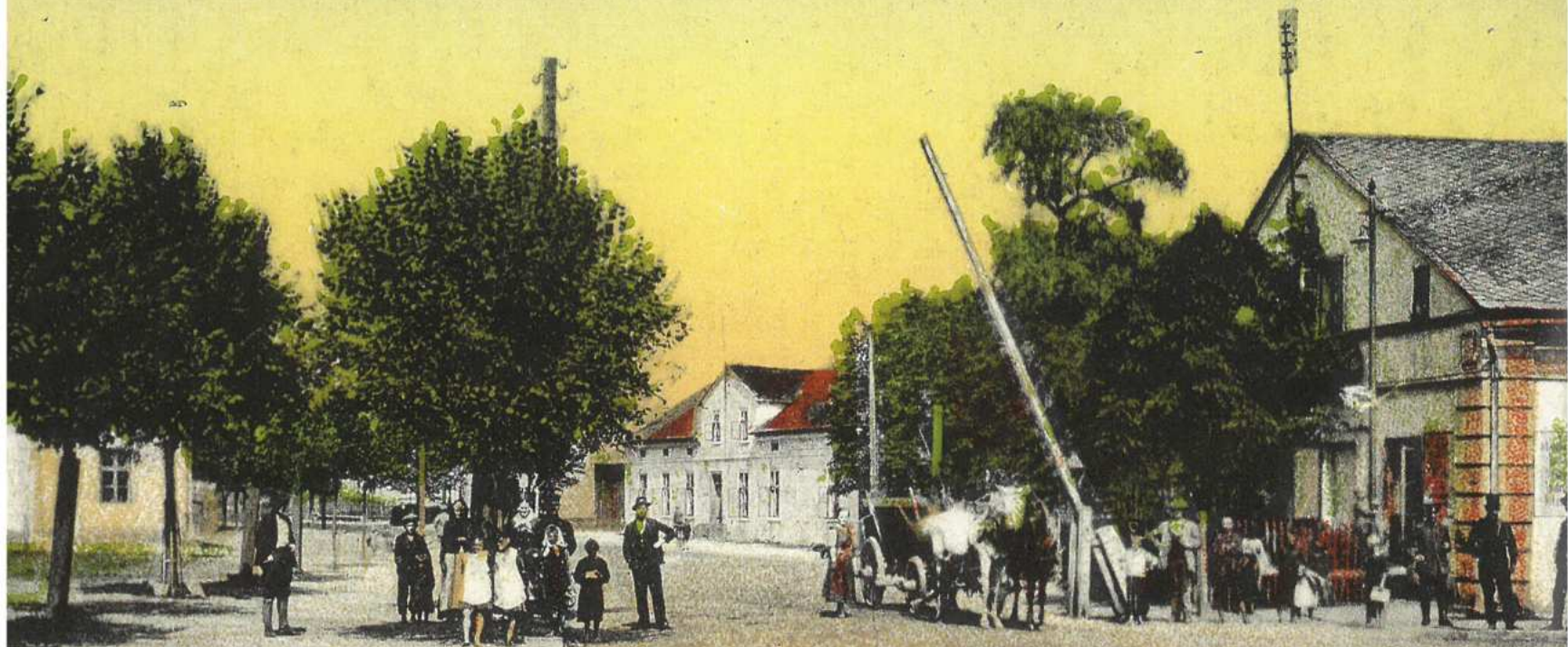
PŘEKRAČUJEME HRANICE  
PRZEKRACZAMY GRANICE  
2014—2020



EVROPSKÁ UNIE / UNIA EUROPEJSKA  
EVROPSKÝ FOND PRO REGIONÁLNÍ ROZVOJ  
EUROPEJSKI FUNDUSZ ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO

WELCOME  
*TO HLUČÍN REGION*

*The original border between Austria-Hungary and Germany was made by rivers Odra (Oder) and Opava, and all life of the people was concentrated in the north. Border crossings were located for example in Hlučín, Malé Hoštice and Petřkovice (pictured).*



# History

*Petershofen,  
Dorfstraße mit Maute*

*Hlučín Region has always been thought of as a "slightly different border area". There are no abandoned houses, destroyed churches or social problems that plague the area of the former Sudetenland. On the contrary, it is a prosperous region, dearly beloved by it's inhabitants.*

Hlučín region is one of many attributes: shaken by fate, often ignored, good-natured, fascinating. There has always been something different. Among these differences from the Czech lands is history, mentality, and a dialect unintelligible to inhabitants

of the interior. Local residents have always been known for their industriousness and positive relationship to Germany. All this inevitably ceases to exist due to modernization and globalization. Links with the region, however, seem to persist.



*The region was created quite artificially, by drawing lines straight lines in a map. Drawing of the famous borderline could have ended up differently, and, by this, the whole of the Hlučín Region could have looked very differently. The symbolic father of the line was French general Henri Le Rond, who, at the time, chaired the people's Commission for the Upper Silesia.*

Hlučín Region is, by chance, a historical twist, as well as a social laboratory. It was founded after the First World War, when the newly independent countries were founded after the collapse of the losing monarchies. Czechoslovakia demanded the area of Upper Silesia, from which it got the southern part of the German district of Racibórz. Local residents did not wish to join the new republic, because they did not have any connection to it. Until then, they lived in Germany and were influenced by growing German nationalism. However, they spoke an archaic dialect of Czech, which according to the contemporary opinion, was a proof that these are members of the Czech nation. By decision of the Versailles Treaty, the territory of the southern Racibórz was incorporated into Czechoslovakia in February

1920, and thus Hlučín Region was formed. The Germans did not accept this unification, and after the events of Munich in 1938, Hlučín was again incorporated into it's original region. The population considered itself German, which meant (among other things) conscription of local male population. After the war, the region became a part of Czechoslovakia again, and the German neighbour in the north was replaced by Poland. If Hlučín Region was not incorporated into Czechoslovakia in 1920, it would have become a natural part of Poland today. It would have been as normal as the present day affiliation to the Czech Republic.

*Between the World Wars there was a shortage of agricultural jobs in the region. As the years gone by a continually larger portion of the population found livelihood in Germany, similarly to these traders.*



# BORDERLINE IN MOVEMENT



*Hlučín Region as a part of the Archdiocese of Olomouc 1063–1945*



*A part of Prussia and the German Empire 1742–1918*



*A part of Czechoslovakia 1920*



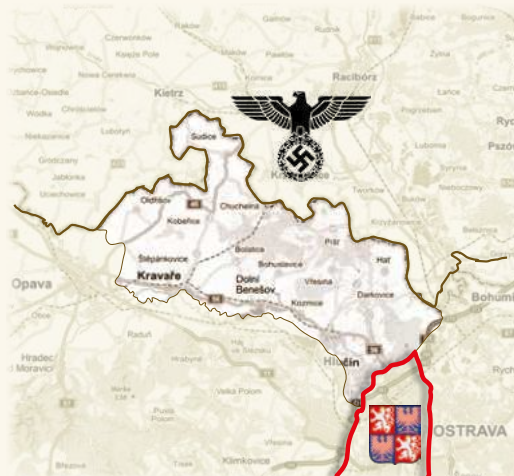
The first to be enlisted to the army were men who served the pre-war service in the Czechoslovak army, but later young boys had to enlist also. From the 12 000 men enlisted 3 000 of them have never returned home.

In the spring of 1945 the front swept through Hlučín, leaving a trail of devastation in the form of ruined villages and loss of life. The speed with which the population managed to rebuild the devastated region is incredible, especially because the male population returned from captivity very slowly.

*In the middle of the Hlučín square stood a baroque chapel. It was demolished by the Nazis in 1940.*



*Incorporation of Pišć and Hač 1923*



*A part of the Third Reich 1938–1945*



*The current border*



# Nature and *landscape*

***The Hlučín Region's landscape may seem featureless when compared to the hilly Nízký Jeseník mountains on the other bank of the Opava river. Even though it doesn't seem so at the first glance, the scenery is quite varied, and offers a variety of sceneries and places of interest.***

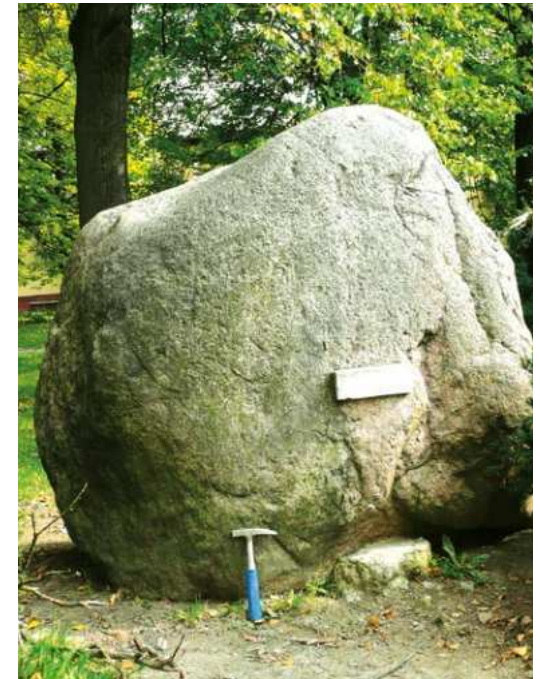


***The floodplain of the Opava River near meadows of Kouty and Zábřeh***

Flatter agricultural fields with extensive farmlands where you can ride through alleys of blooming trees border a curvy, forested landscape in the east. In the valley, through which Opava river meanders from west to east, is full of meadows, fields, ponds and water bodies created by gravel mining. This region owes its current appearance to Quaternary glaciation (500 000-120 000 years b.c.) The glacier moved from Scandinavia southwards and it transported a large amount of material with it. In Hlučín Region it left behind a sculpted landscape with characteristic waves, sands, loesses, several glacial boulders (erratic boulders), smaller rocks, and striations.

The first human settlements occurred already in prehistoric times, usually near important paths. Mankind has constantly affected the landscape of the Hlučín Region since the 13th century, when residences were built. A great influence on the shape of the landscape were noble families which governed local estates and affected the appearance of their residences, meadows, fields, and pastures. At that time, entirely new landscape features were formed – farmsteads, ponds, parks, or alleys.

A significant mark was left in the southern part of the region by a long fish-farming tradition, dating back to the middle ages. The East of the region was impacted by coal and gravel sand mining since the 18th century.



***Glacial (erratic) boulder on the Květná street in Hlučín is made from Scandinavian granite and was carried here by a glacier from Sweden.***

## Landek u Petřkovic hill

Landek is without a doubt one of the most interesting places in the country.

The southern slope of the hill (280 m) offers a unique opportunity to see uncovered coal-mining seams, which would otherwise be hidden deep underground. We owe this unique feature to the Oder river, which has, through erosion, exposed the 1.5 km long profile of coal layers.

This place also boasts a constant settlement, over 23 000 years old. A mammoth-hunters settlement was here during the stone age, which can be illustrated by the Landek Venus found in 1953. The prehistoric people

used back coal as fuel as the first humans in history. The only older instance is burning lignite by primeval humans in southern France.

A fortified Slavic settlement was located in Landek in the Middle Ages. It then became an important castle used to protect the borders of the Czech state and the trade routes leading along the Oder river.

Landek was also the first site in the Ostrava region, where coal was mined for business purposes since 1782. This coal is of high quality, used in the production of coke.



*In the westernmost part of the entire profile alternating layers of coal seams and siltstone are well-visible.*



## Outcrop *in Kravaře*

National Natural Landmark, located in a former gravel pit northwest of Kravaře and it is closely associated with the geological wealth of the Hlučín Region. It represents the extracted sand pits which were located in nearby villages and their surroundings.

The outcrop is very important because of its location, as it captures the frontal moraine glacial profile.

Sand extraction here revealed glacial deposits from the period of the saale continental glaciation (500 to 120 thousand years b.c.).

*The large sand wall creates a valuable habitat for thermophilic species of plants and animals.*

The layers of sand and loess (clay dust) here are up to 60 meters high. In it, small erratic rocks originating in Scandinavia (quartz, granite, flint) are irregularly scattered together with rocks of domestic origin.





*Illuminated a broadleaved forest in the spring time*

## ***Hněvošice*** grove

Natural mixed forest with elements of Carpathian flora is situated in the Hlučín upland, on the highest point of the Hlučín Region - Almin hill (Almin kopec) (315 m). It keeps valuable communities characteristic for the original forest flora in the Hlučín Region as they were before the arrival of humans. That is why a protected area was declared here in 1969. Today, Hněvošice Grove is one of the most significant European significant locations.

Thanks to the coppicing economy, when the stump grows new trunks very quickly after mining, we successfully keep close to the

nature environment of various age with vegetation shrubs and irregular lightspots.

During early spring the forest brightens up with islands of beautiful wild flowers such as purple anemones and white lilies-of-the-valley. They bloom close to streams together with rare herbs like Hacquetia epipactis, Gageas, Plumonaria, and Margaton Lilies, among many others. This grove also marks a western border of the spread of the Carpathian species of plants.

Great Tits, Blue Tits, and Collared or Spotted Flycatchers, and many others live in tree cavities.



*Hacquetia epipactis*



*Lilium martagon*

## Dařanec Vřesina

In the forests between villages Vřesina and Píšť is a nature reserve, which aims to preserve natural Polish and Carpathian forest environment.

Thanks to previous management the forest has a "park-like" character, with many old and crumbling trunks of Common Oak, which produce numerous cavities, cracks and hiding places for wood-destroying insects, birds, and bats. Close to the crossroads of the nature trails there is a torso of Common Oak, estimated 300 to 400 years old. Next to it lays and erratic boulder with the inscription "Mechtilden Eiche" (Mechtilda's oak), which refers to the Princess Mechtilda of Lichnov, to whom the forest belonged

in the past. A second reminder of this aristocratic family is the oak alley on the edge of the forest, which formed the boundary between mansions.

In the spring it is possible to track the carpets of flowering *Anemone Nemorosa*. There is also *Euphorbia Amygdaloides*, Wood Spurge or Narrow-leaved Helleborine.

On the old trees grows a number of wood-destroying fungi, such as *Grifola Frondosa*, known as hen of the woods. The trees are also covered in various types of mosses, such as *Pohlia Nutans*, or Marchantiophyta (liverworts), *Frullania Dilatata* (dilated scalewort), and *Radula Complinata*.



*Digitalis purpurea* (purple foxglove)



*Anemone nemorosa*



Dařanec nature reserve



Grey-headed Woodpecker

## Black Forest (Černý les)

Two nature reserves between Šilheřovice and Petřkovice present ancient, bright beech woods as a demonstration of the original beech forest, formerly typical of a Silesian plain. The forest's primeval character is very impressive, trees grow naturally and the oldest individuals are up to 250 years old. The natural occurrence of beech forest at such a low altitude of 227 – 250 m is unique. These are, at the same time, the oldest beech forests in Opava and Hlučín Regions.

Here the dead wood becomes a part of an endless cycle of life. Its decomposition energizes young trees in the undergrowth, which enables them to prosper.

The most dominant herbs growing here are *Carex Brizoides*, *Carex Pilosa*, and *Vinca Minor* (periwinkle). Old primeval beech vegetation creates habitats for 400 species of mushrooms.

The Black Forest is also home to many species of insects and birds living in hollow tree trunks. Among these is the black woodpecker (Piciformes), Stock Dove (Columbiformes), Collared flycatcher, Eurasian nuthatch, Eurasian treecreeper (Passeriformes), and more. If you are lucky, you may even come across a Black Stork's nest.

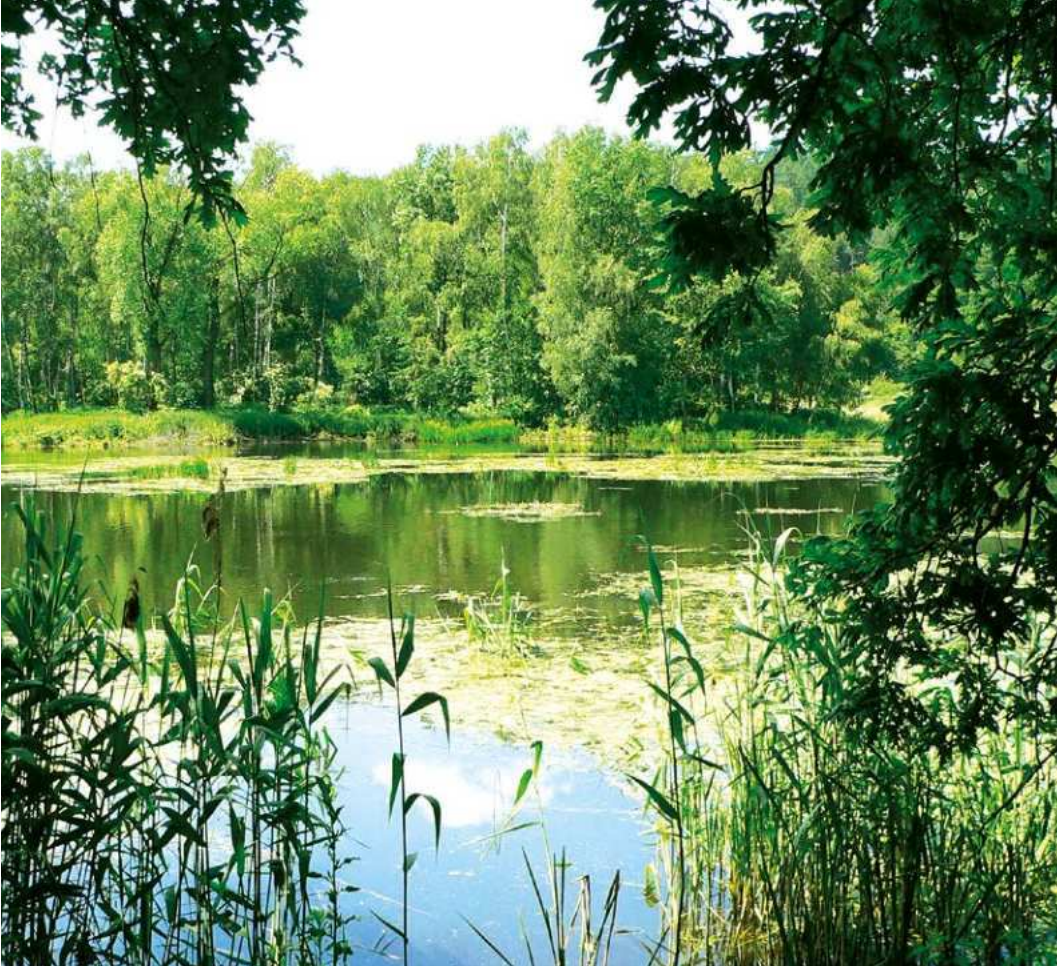
## Poštovní and Štěpán ponds

Ponds Štěpán and Poštovní lay in a wide and flat floodplain of the Opava River, southwards from the town of Hlučín, and are a special area of conservation, category Sites of Community Importance. They represent some of the most valuable natural ponds with an abundance of protected species of flora and fauna.

Štěpán pond presently has a rather wetland-like character. It consists of extensive growths of Reeds combined with tall sedges, which fade into a waterlogged meadows of foxtails and oatgrass. The surface of the pond is abundant with aquatic plants such as water caltrop, yellow water-lily, and floating fern. This is also the only known territory in our region where indigenous *Nymphaea Candida* grows.

Pond Štěpán, especially, due to its wetland character serves as a nesting area and important stop for migrating birds. Reedbeds and overgrown surface houses 160 species of birds, of which almost ninety are also nesting there. Rare species of birds such as the Spotted Crake, Water Wail, Little Bittern, Great Crested Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Northern Shoveler, and more can be found here.

A number of species of fish (European weatherfish), amphibians, reptiles (rarely a terrapin) and insects, a few dozens of species of dragonflies and water beetles also live here. Dusky large blue butterfly lives on the adjacent meadows.



*Poštovní pond with growths of reed beds and wetlands on the edges*



*Bluethroat (Luscinia svecica)*



*Little Bittern (Ixobrychus minutus)*



*Northern lapwing*



*Meadow with blooming daisies*

## Bird meadows *of Kozmice*

South of Kozmice, in the Opava River floodplain is the first private conservation area in the Hlučín Region. This outstanding project was created in order to rescue and aid meadow and wetland species. In previous years, a new, nature-like meandering creek called Přehyně was built, together with dozens of bodies of water of various sizes and periodic pools, some of which naturally dry up. The water bodies are not used for breeding fish; they were built for amphibians and birds. Mowing meadows is, therefore, performed after the birds left their nests.

Meadows of Kozmice are one of the last locations in the Czech Republic, where Northern lapwings can successfully nest. Other species to see here include wader birds - Common redshank, Common snipe,

Little ringed plover, Common sandpiper, a rare Black-tailed godwit, or Anseriformes – Greylag goose, Mallard, Common goldeneye, Tufted duck, and others. The meadows serve as a feeding ground to the Black and White Stork, Grey Heron, Great White Egret or a rare common crane. You can also see the Sea Eagle, many species of amphibians, protected species of butterflies like Dusky large blue and Common copper.

In the pools grows protected featherfoil; meadows are blooming with Ragged-Robins, Meadow Geranium, Yellow pimpernel, Knotweeds, and other.

For visitors there is a year-round observatory, where they can watch the animals without disturbing them. Entry to the Meadows is prohibited.

*A system of ponds and wetland meadows in the floodplain of the Opava River, South of Kozmice*



## Butterfly hillside *of Koberřice*

The only and the last known surviving thermophilous lawns with a variety of protected and endangered species of flora and fauna around the Hlučín Region are located on the hillside of a gypsum quarry near Koberřice. Rare species of plants present here are broomrape, mullein, restharrow, Large self-heal, *Potentilla alba*, *Inula salicina*, Star Gentian, European Michaelmas-daisy, Spiked Speedwell, and yellow chamomile; more common species are Common Sainfoin, Oregano, meadow sage, fern-leaf dropwort, and more. In addition to the common shrubs, there are also roses *Rosa Sherardii* and *Rosa Gallica*.

Mosaic-style mowing and mixed grazing by sheep and goats, help to sustain biodiversity, reduce shrubs, maintain the flowery

areas, and to create bared heating spots for insects and birds. Thanks to this, the Hlučín Region houses the richest population of daytime butterflies of up to 32 species, such as the rare Mallow Skipper, Common Copper, Queen of Spain fritillary, Clouded Yellow, Short-tailed Blue, and more. The bugs you can meet here are *Trichius fasciatus*, Rose Chafer or the parasitic Meloe. Reptiles that can be found here is Sand Lizard.

The local vivid mosaic is great for birds too. Here we can meet for example, Corn bunting, Red-backed shrike, European stonechat, Grey partridge and others.

When visiting the site, it is necessary to respect the way of farming and to not walk into the pens when the sheep are grazing.



*Clouded yellow butterfly*



*European Michaelmas-daisy*

*Flowery meadows grew up on the hillside created by gypsum mining, which is still in progress.*



## *Meadows in Kouty and Zábřeh* (Koutské a Zábřežské louky)

For the Valley, through which river Opava flows, has in the past been characterized by waterlogged meadows that transition into floodplain forests. Intensive farming, gravel quarrying and buildings especially during the last hundred years had a very negative effect.

The original habitats can currently be admired in the protected area of the nature reserve of Zábřeh and Kouty meadows are with their 200 hectares the largest in the Opava Region.

Opava River floodplains is very flat with many channels, river arms, mosaic of detached trees and hedgerows. A creek called Štěpánka flows through here and flows into a pond called Nezmar. In muddy pools grows Yellow iris, Yellow water-lily or rare Featherfoil.

On Sedges meadows grows Meadow fox-tail, Ragged-Robin, Meadow bistort or meadowsweet, occasionally you can catch a glimpse of a rare Western marsh orchid and Adder's-tongue, a small willow *Salix rosmarinifolia*, and other plants.

Important species of butterfly is Dusky large blue, who is dependent on having available large amount of the Great burnet and numerous colonies of meadow ants.

In waterlogged forests that during spring-time cannot be crossed with dry feet are dominated by Brittle willow, Grey willow, Eared willow, Common alder, or Common dogwood. The herbs that can be seen in the forests during the spring are Windflower and Oxlip.



*The Kouty and the Zábřeh meadows house waterlogged flowery meadows, solitary trees, floodplain forests, ponds and streams, all together.*



*Dusky large blue butterfly*



*Western marsh orchid*

## Legacy trees

On the edge of the forest, in parks, next to paths or in gardens, it is easy to find protected trees registered in Nature Conservation Agency.

The villages and cities in the Hlučín Region have thirteen different species of trees registered there. Most of them can be found in and around Hlučín – beech in the municipal park, maple in the Children and Youth centre in Hlučín, beech in the small park next to the health centre, and lime next to Krömer's mill in Jasénky.

The majestic Struhal's oak grows on the south-eastern edge of the Cikánský důl forest near the old mine, near the old trade routes north of Bohuslavice. It is 27 m tall

and its circumference is 660 cm. Its age is estimated to be over 400 years, and it was named after the owner of the adjacent fields. A picture of Virgin Mary is on its trunk.

Lime and oak trees make up the largest part of the legacy trees, as evidenced by the lime at parish in Kravaře, Jan's lime in Ludgeřovice, largeleaf lime in Dobroslavice, Dominik's oak in Bohuslavice, or oak in the forest of Sedliska u Závady.

Next to a gamekeeper's cabin in Šilheřovice there is a little-known bald cypress from the south of North America. Another exotic tree is the dawn redwood in a garden in Oldřišov.

*Struhal's oak on the southeast edge of the forest Cikánský důl*





Brick  
*architecture*

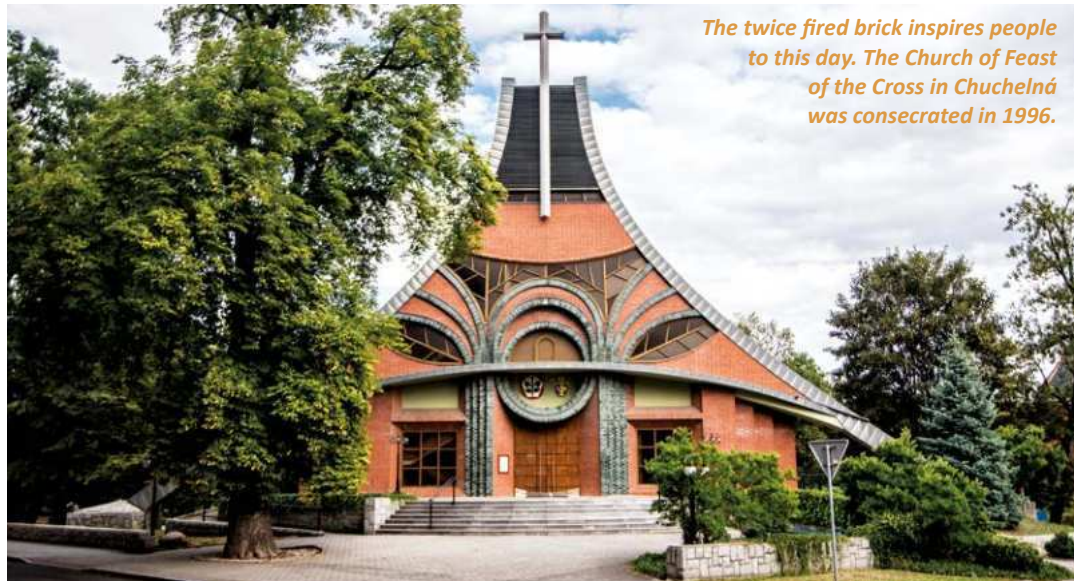


*It is easy to notice that using bared, twice fired bricks for building is very popular here. From this simple, yet impressive material were built churches, parishes, and schools, but also agricultural buildings, pubs, rustic houses, housing areas for miners, wall fences or column shrines.*

The popularity of this material has a historically conditioned reason – the affiliation of the Hlučín Region to Prussia. It was here, in the mid-19th century, during the time of odes to the glorious past and a revival of historical styles, where the twice fired bricks were used. It was particularly popular in northern Germany in the middle ages. The local temples and civil building were made of twice fired brick, which determined the shape of Prussian Neo Gothic style. After the unification of Germany in the second half of the 19th century this became almost a national style and it spread to all German provinces, Prussian Upper Silesia included. Schools, churches, town halls, barracks, train stations, hospitals, post offices and other public buildings were built in strict, homogenous Neo Gothic style using bricks. This trend dominated German architecture until the outbreak of World War I.



*The Evangelical Church in Hlučín was the first sacral building made of brick in the region. It was built in 1862 and more "red churches" followed after more than 30 years.*



*The twice fired brick inspires people to this day. The Church of Feast of the Cross in Chuchelná was consecrated in 1996.*

*The tower of the Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary in Koberžice*

The men of the Hlučín Region who were seasonally building large construction sites and industrial cities in the heart of Prussia were well familiar with the twice fired brick and could apply their knowledge in their home country. There was a number of brick factories in the Ratiboř Region that specialized on production of twice fired bricks (locally also known as “klinkerky”). Besides Josef Holuscha's brick factory in Hlučín, it was primarily a business of the Duke of Lichnov in Krzyżanowice, who also specialized on manufacturing decorative or glazed bricks, wall tiles, and roof tiles.

❖ ***The term “klinkerka” was formed from the German words klingeln (to ring), because these bricks make a ringing sound when tapped on.***

*It was inspired by worker's houses in modern industrial cities and built by the Duke Karl Maria of Lichnov during 1900-1901 for the staff of Střední Dvůr. It is a modern residential block similar to a rental house and offers 24 two-room flats. The flats did not have any sanitary facilities yet, but they certainly signalled a significant progress in housing standards. The Neo Gothic structure was built from bricks made in factories belonging to the Duke of Lichnov in Krzyżanowice and designed by Opava-based mason Julius Lundwall.*

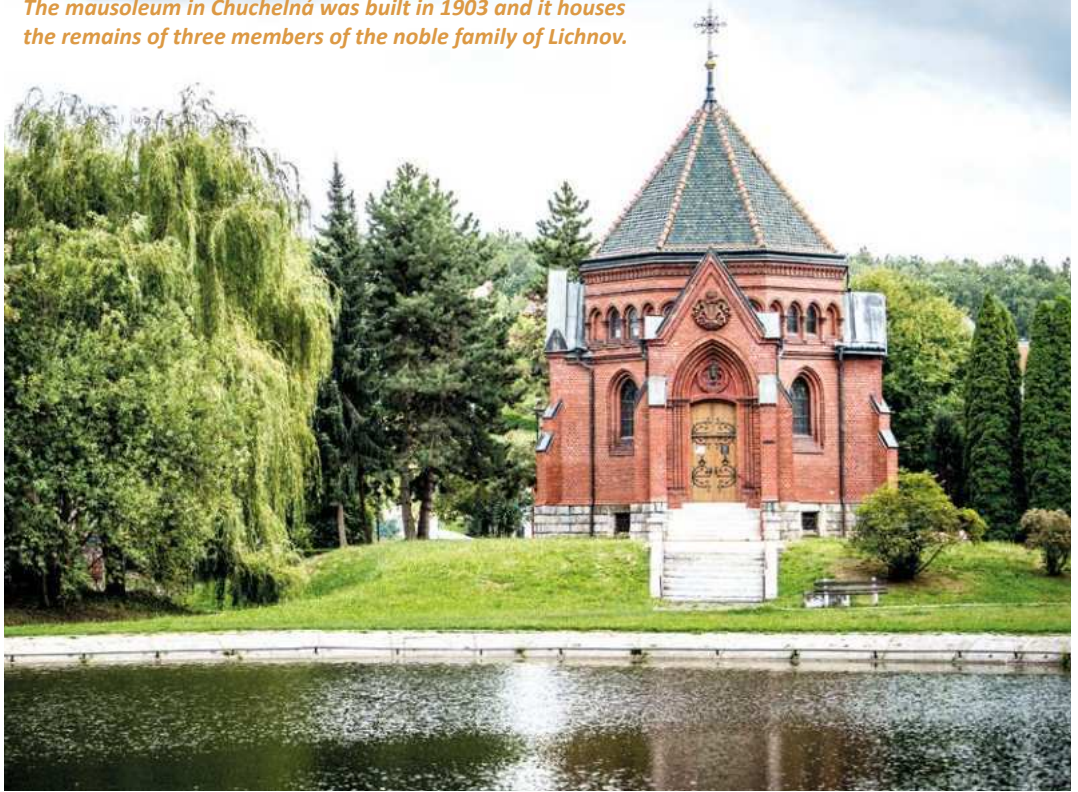


*Rothschild's court in Bělá was rebuilt into a structure of lavishness, and currently it serves as a guest house and a stud farm.*



It were exactly these buildings on the lands belonging to the Duke of Lichnov that were famous for being built with twice fired bricks. From this material were built the dukes' mausoleum in Chuchelná, the local flax-processing factory, and dukes' estates and homesteads (Albertovec, Střední Dvůr, Rohov, Vřesina, and others). This material is also characteristic for some of the buildings belonging to Baron Rothschild (Kozmice, Závada), including gamekeepers' lodge close to the trout hatchery in Bělá.

*The mausoleum in Chuchelná was built in 1903 and it houses the remains of three members of the noble family of Lichnov.*



*The main building of the homestead in Albertovec is an example of brilliant linking of building styles and gentle reconstruction.*

The twice fired brick generally reminds people of industrial buildings. It was widely used for buildings of the coalmine buildings of Anselm and Oskar in Petřkovice and the adjacent worker housing complex called Mexico. The most distinctive landmarks made by local builders and masons are the large temple buildings (Kravaře, Kobeřice, Sudice, Ludgeřovice), but also smaller churches (Hlučín, Dolní Benešov) or chapels (Strahovice, Kobeřice). The tradition of twice fired bricks, was suppressed during the interwar period and under the socialist regime. It was resurrected in the 1990's (the church in Chuchelná) and it is still used as a gesture of respect to local tradition.

# Sacral *monuments*



*The Hlučín Region is an ideal destination for "church tourism". The local temples are brimming with grandeur and they proudly stand among village houses. You can find both famous neo-gothic churches, and small sacral monuments here. Variety of architectural style is typical here. To those who are not satisfied by touches of gothic, neo-gothic or baroque style will be pleased to see interwar modernism, and also contemporary churches.*

One of the symbols of the Hlučín Region is non-plastered churches built using bricks. These churches started to appear during the turn of the 19th and 20th century because the older churches could not accommodate the ever increasing number of people and some of them were falling in to disrepair. During that time the north-German neo-gothic and neo-renaissance style was very popular in Prussian architecture and this trend has fully hit Upper Silesia, Hlučín Region included.

The "red churches", however, are not the dominant type of the sacral architecture

of the region. They can be found in only five villages and in other five stood or still stand brick chapels. The most widespread are churches in baroque style, such as the one in Bolatice, Velké Hoštice, Oldřišov, Třebom, Hať, or Píšť, where a new pilgrimage place was founded church of St. Lawrence in 2002. Nor can we omit the interwar period, when a church was built in seven other villages. The most exquisite building of this era is the Church of St. Florian in Kozmice. Three churches and two chapels were built after the year 1989 in Chuchelná, Hněvošice, Darkovice, Darkovičky, and Služovice.

## The Church *of St. John the Baptist in Sudice*

The masterpiece of Kravaře-native Josef Seyfried was built in the hills overlooking the village and represents an excellent example of architectural historicism. The main nave is much taller than the aisles; it's windows are decorated with tracery and there are a few polygonal chapels. All of this gives the building a character of a cathedral, although of somewhat smaller dimensions. The architect here artfully combined fair-face brickwork with sandstone elements, which cannot be found anywhere else in the region. Inside the church is a marble altar with a pulpit and several pictures by Hlučín-native Johannes Bochenek. The church in Sudice, together with it's tomb, wall, parish and homestead creates a unique sacral complex made using brick masonry.



*The Church of St. John the Baptist in Sudice*



## The Church of *St. Peter and Paul* in Hněvošice

The only surviving wooden church in the Hlučín Region is dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. It was built in 1730 on site of an older church. It is a building made of log, with a hipped roof covered with shingles. Inside there are three baroque altars, pulpit, and richly decorated gallery. The church is recognised as a cultural monument since 1966. Another wooden church is nearby, but on the other side of the state border, in the Polish village of Gródczanki.



## The Church *of St. John the Baptist* in Velké Hoštice

This impressive baroque church is the only temple in the Hlučín Region with a two-tower facade. It was built by count Dominik Ignác Chorinský, and the consecration of the temple took place in 1774. Inside of the church is a rich fresco decoration made by a Moravian painter František Antonín Šebesta- Sebastiani, who made frescoes such as inside the Augustinian Church in Šternberk or the Minorite Church in Krnov. Under the presbytery is a baroque crypt, which, however, is not open to the public. The church was heavily damaged in the later stages of World War II and the ceiling painting had to be completely reconstructed. In spite of all this, it is a prime baroque monument in the Hlučín Region.



## The *Holy Trinity* Church in Bohuslavice

This baroque church stands on the north side of the original village square and includes several non-traditional elements. One of these is the location of the tower, which is behind the presbytery and is capped with an uncharacteristic cupola. The architectonic style was clearly inspired by Italian architecture and experts value it very highly. Single-nave building from 1747 stands out with its monumental size which cannot be found anywhere else in the region and built at a similar time. An imposing illusive painting by Matyáš Lassler can be found and admired inside. The vicinity of the church is also impressive with its original fencing wall, chapels of Corpus Christi, and the parish area.



## The Church *of the Assumption of Virgin Mary in Kobeřice*



The Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary in Kobeřice, designed by architect Ludwig Schneider, was built concurrently with the church in Kravaře. The consecration here took place in 1896, just one day earlier. It's gentle tower is 52 metres tall and it's top is decorated with a crown.

## The Church *of St. John the Baptist in Hlučín*

The oldest church in the region can be found in Hlučín. It is dedicated to John the Baptist and the first written mention of it dates back to 1378. In spite of many later reconstructions, the Gothic nature of the temple is still noticeable. In 1597 the church tower collapsed, and in the following years the church was hit by fire, therefore, in the second half of the 17th century a generous baroque reconstruction took place. The monumental

and characteristic main altar was made by a sculptor Salomon Steinhoffer; a new carved pulpit and organ were also added. For the new tower, however, the church had to wait until the end of the 18th century. After 1901 there was a partial re-gothicization of the church, which is still visible in the form of side altars. The rich decorative painting has not survived.







*Mary untying knots*

## The Church *of St. Bartholomew in Kravaře*

This church is specific because both the building and its interior were designed by one architect. The Church of St. Bartholomew in Kravaře was designed by local native, Joseph Seyfried, who designed the church, its altars, confessionals, and carved benches. Only the reliefs for the pulpit with the stations of the cross were made by a Munich sculptor Georg Busch. An important thing to say is that the architect was at the time of the consecration of the church in 1896 only 31 years old and this was his first ever construction of a sacred building. This neo-

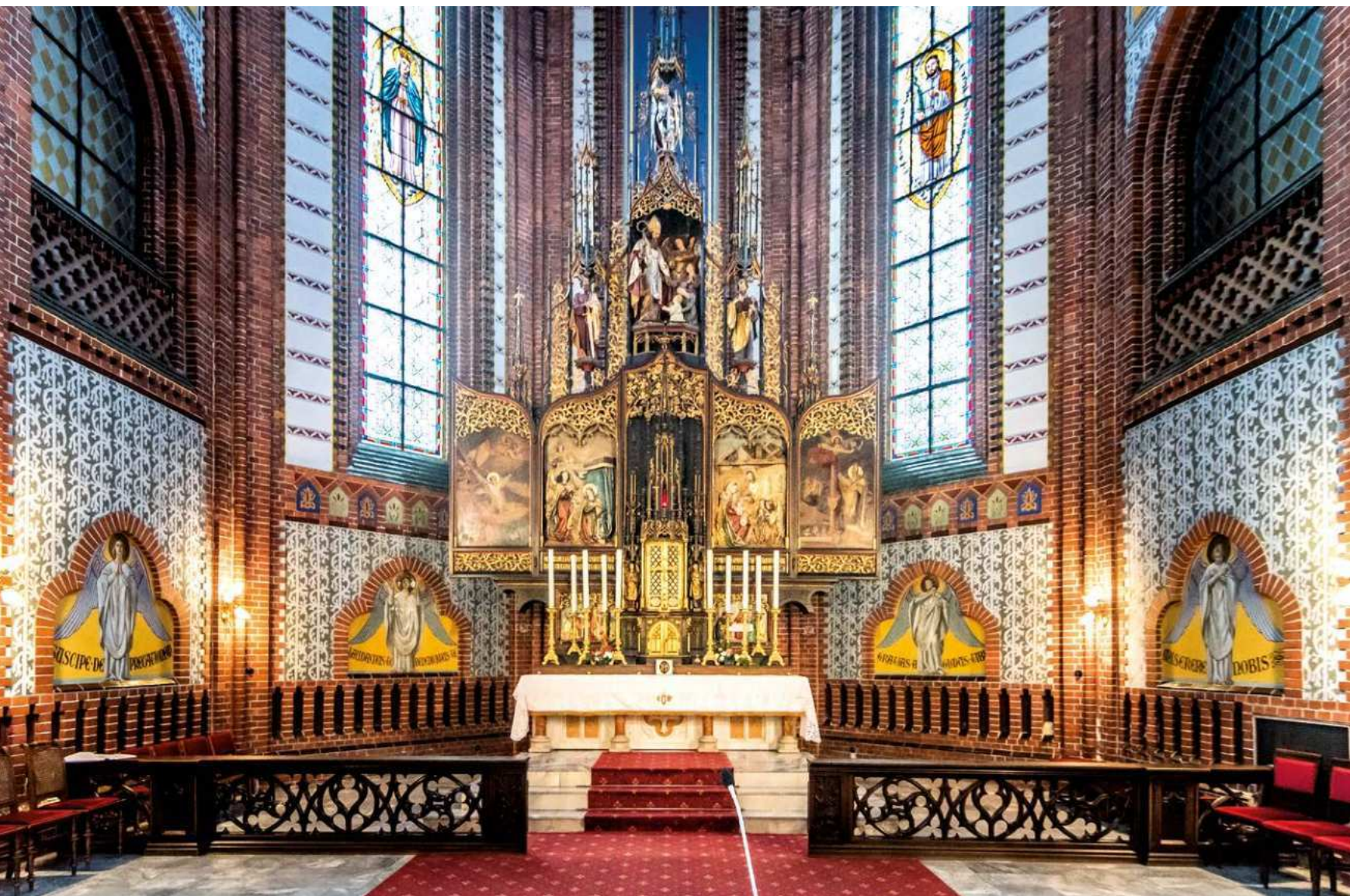
gothic building was constructed as a nave with aisles, which create the largest church area in the Hlučín Region. The church is dominated by a tower of the original shrine, in which there are two bells from the 17th century. A stained glass with a motif of the Virgin Mary untying knots is the only window with this theme in the Czech Republic. The untying of the knots theme symbolizes the problems and difficulties that the faithful are to entrust to God's will. The famous model for this stained glass is located in south German city of Augsburg.

## The Church of *St. Nicholas in Ludgeřovice*

The most notable landmark of Ludgeřovice is the neo-gothic church of St. Nicholas. It is the largest church in the Hlučín Region in terms of size, and the third largest church in the Ostrava-Opava diocese. It is almost unbelievable that it's construction took only one year. The author of the project was the

Dolní Benešov native Josef Holuscha who didn't strive for historical authenticity, but rather wanted to build an original church using historizing forms. This monumental church is enhanced by the decorative interior, and carved altars that are faithful to their gothic models. The interior decoration

was made by Bavarian artist sculptor Georg Schreiner and painter Philipp Schumacher. The cost of the construction of the church was paid by the local parishioners, who have collected over a million marks. In the vicinity of the church is a homestead with a parish, also built in brickwork.



## *The Jewish cemetery* in Hlučín

On the edge of the town of Hlučín are two inconspicuous cemeteries. The first is dedicated to fallen Red Army soldiers. The second is located in the immediate vicinity of the first one and it is fitted with recovered headstones from the original Jewish cemetery which was destroyed by the Nazis during the war. Part of the headstones was buried outside the city, where they waited for more than 60 years to be discovered. Since 2009 the headstones have been found and installed on the site of the former Jewish cemetery.

- ❖ *the Hlučín Region is one of the few regions with a strong religious population in the Czech Republic*
- ❖ *people here are very generous, during the Christmas collection the Charity of Hlučín is donated twice as much as the Archdiocesan charity of Prague*
- ❖ *After 1989 there were built three modern churches and two chapels in the Hlučín Region*



## Small *sacred buildings*

Minor sacral monuments are an inseparable part of the landscape. They often served as a reminder of an important event, often of tragic character, and served as landmarks. Wealthy parishioners usually covered the costs for their construction. Concentration and character of chapels still shows the economic level of individual villages. The phenomenon of building chapels has not stopped, as there are more chapels currently under construction.

*Three-sided chapel between Kobeřice and Rohov*



# Castles



**Castles are a common feature of Czech countryside. This is especially true in the Hlučín region. The number of castles here is unprecedentedly high. There are castles in a quarter of the region's villages, and they are usually accompanied by an English garden park. In addition, history of these castles is associated with famous names like Rothschild, Lichnovský, or Chorinský of Ledske.**

There used to be a fortress or other fortified aristocratic residence in almost every village in the Hlučín Region during middle ages. Many of them ceased to exist before or during the Thirty Years' War. The other were rebuilt into Renaissance and Baroque palaces. While the castle in Bolatice was built by Cistercian monks of Velehrad, other castles were built by various noble families. In many places we come across names of the lords of Kravaře, who were replaced by families Bruntálský of Vrbno, Gašínové, or Mošovští of Moravčín. During the 17th century the region housed the Lichnovský family of Voštica; two centuries later they were replaced by Rothschilds. These two families have built extensive domains consisting of a series of villages, forests and fields. Because some of the castles were owned by one person, in the 19th century they lost their residential function and turned into seats of administration of the manor.

## Hlučín

This castle is a reconstructed medieval castle, which can be dated back to the year 1439. In the course of the 16. century the castle underwent structural modifications, which gave it its current appearance. It's baroque wing was demolished in the 19th century, which gave back the castle's former size and appearance. The castle formerly served as a residence of the nobility, but since the end of the 18th century it took up the role of administrative and economic centre of the Rothschild family estate. Since 1960 until the end of the century, the castle served as a secondary vocational school. Nowadays, the castle serves to the general public. Services provided here are information centre, city library, art school and Museum of the Hlučín Region.

*The castle in Šilheřovice with a Neptune's fountain in the foreground*





*The movie Dark Blue World (Tmavomodrý Svět) was filmed inside and outside of the house.*



*Anselm Salomon Rothschild (1803-1874) continued the work started by his father Salomon Mayer. He completed the construction of the Emperor Ferdinand Northern Railway from Vienna to Bochnia, continued in the mining business in the Ostrava region, but especially, he gave the Šilheřovice castle its present day appearance.*

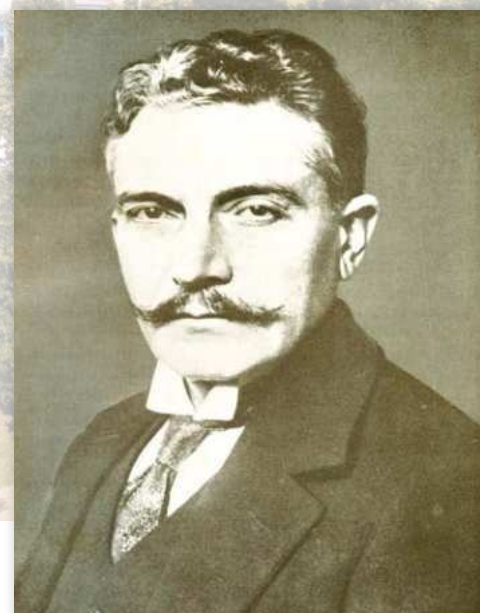
## Šilheřovice

Šilheřovice castle was built at the turn of the 18th and 19th century by baron Johann Friedrich Eichendorff in place of an earlier fortress. In 1844 the ownership of Šilheřovice transferred to a banker Salomon Mayer Rothschild, who owned the Vítkovice ironworks and a few mines in the Ostrava region. A significant trace, however, was left by his son Anselm, who had the castle rebuilt in Neo-Baroque style, but above all, built a magnificent English garden park in record-breaking time. He did not hesitate to involve hundreds of workers and kilograms of explosives when constructing artificial lakes. There are several decorative objects and interesting buildings in the English cottage-style in the gardens. With the imminent threat, the Rothschilds left Šilheřovice in 1937 and their property was confiscated by the Nazis one year later. During the war the castle was used as a warehouse and a makeshift military hospital, and later as a school.

The castle's park covers area of 98 hectares and it is one of the biggest castle parks in the Czech Republic. Originally it was used for hunting, and during absence of the aristocracy it used to be open to the public. Today, the park houses a golf course, which was established in 1968 as the third in the country and the first in Moravia and Silesia. The visitor is meant to be dazzled by the view from the castle terrace for its balanced concept and the unending park which is dominated by the Neptune fountain in the main axis.

In the central part there is a hunting lodge with a pond. At the southern border is a road that leads towards the Black Forest and near it lies the romantic Evelina's Lake. Quite extraordinary are the massive solitary oak trees, beeches, and lindens at various places of the park.

The Šilheřovice park is often used by filmmakers for its unparalleled atmosphere. Thanks to the fact that it successfully resembles English countryside, the movie Dark Blue World (Tmavomodrý Svět) was filmed here.



## Chuchelná

Chuchelná is inherently linked with the family of Lichnovsky, which resided here since 1611 until 1945. The castle changed several forms, through the baroque, neoclassical, and historicist, which came during World War I. The last reconstruction was possible due to massive economic expansion that occurred in connection with textile production factories for the army. The castle consists of two buildings with a large mansard

roof, non-plastered stone tower and farm buildings. In 1945 the whole area was put under state control and the chateaus was then used as a rehabilitation institute. The original character of the castle is today to a large extent covered by modern building modifications. In the adjacent park, whose oldest parts date back to the mid-19th century, is an attention-worthy large European beech tree with a trunk diameter 1.5 m.

*Karl Max, Prince Lichnovsky (1860-1928) was one of the leading politicians of Imperial Germany. Before the outbreak of World War I he served as an Ambassador to London, then he withdrew from the spotlight and devoted himself to the improvement of his manor in Chuchelná. He has left a distinctive imprint in the Hlučín Region: he built a flax processing factory, modernized homesteads, built a modern housing for his employees and had the castle in Chuchelná rebuilt.*

## Kravaře

The Kravaře castle ranks among the most important and most valuable sights in the Moravian-Silesian region. The first mention of the village and the fortress dates back to the 13th century, when it belonged to the Old Czech family Benešovci. One branch of the family then was named after the village Kravaře, and several of its members became an integral part of Czech history. Since 1630 the estate belonged to a Polish nobleman, famous alchemist and doctor Michael Sendivogius. His daughter then left the castle to her husband Jakub from Eichendorff. This family kept Kravaře until 1782 had the castle reconstructed in baroque style. The four-part building with arcade courtyard

is complemented by an oval chapel in the back side of the castle, which today is the only preserved interior after the castle burned down in 1937. The chapel is consecrated to Arch angel Michael, and it is decorated with an illusive painting, and dominated by a baroque altar.

The space in front of the castle consists of geometrically symmetrical French park. Next to it is a English landscape park with an area of 21 hectares with ponds, streams, and romantic vistas of the castle. It was established in place of a former riparian forest during the baroque reconstruction of the castle in the 18th century. Its larger part is currently

used as a golf course with 18 holes. There is almost a hundred forms of trees and shrubs, some of which rare specimens and can reach over 200 years of age.

In the park you can walk through a lime alley, a hundred year old oak alley, see the largest European oak, or a trunk of eastern black walnut tree which used to be the largest one in the Czech Republic

There grow several rare and exotic plants in the Park such as: white fringetree, saucer magnolia, european smoke tree, amur cork tree, Japanese katsura, thorny locust, souther catalpa, and more.





## Velké Hoštice

Until 1945 it was possible to meet count Sprinzenstein who inhabited the local baroque chateau in Velké Hoštice . After the count had to leave the country, the castle' ownership went to the state and served various public purposes. The castle does not offer guided tours because the original furniture did not survive. The castle's current appearance was ensured by count Ignác Dominik Chorynský, who had the whole area rebuilt in late baroque style in the mid-18th century. This period can be considered as the era of the greatest cultural boom of the Hoštice mansion. The count founded a castle's music band, organized concerts and other musical events, that converged the nobility from wide surroundings.

The castle's park was established around the year 1768 and it is dominated by an extraordinary four-row lime alley leading in the axis of the castle into the landscape. Natural landscape concept is enhanced by a mill-drive, a small lake and a transition of the park into a floodplain forest.



## Dobroslavice

Ruin of a bridge, a Marian column, and a decorative vase; they all represent the dominants of the Dobroslavice castle park, which however lacks a castle. It used to stand here since 1577, but at the end of the second world war it completely burned down. In the postwar period it was disassembled for building material. The most obvious reminder of the faded glory of the castle and landscape park is the bridge that remained, however, it is falling into ruin and it's deck collapsed in the year 2000.



## Dolní Benešov

The two-winged castle was founded around the year 1500 in place of an earlier fortress. It's medieval origin is proven by the preserved late gothic saddle portal, which is now located inside the building. It is the only portal of this kind to the Hlučín Region. The castle was rebuilt several times and has seen a wide variety of owners. The most significant trace left here, was by the Mošovští family of Moravičín, and the Rothschilds. During the war the castle served as an internment camp for expelled Poles. Currently the castle houses the town office and after-school centre.



A photograph of a brick wall with several white plaques attached to it. The wall is made of red bricks and is situated on a cobblestone path. In the background, there is a white building with a wooden door and a window. Two stone monuments are visible on the path. The scene is outdoors with trees and a clear sky.

# Museums and *monuments*

*The main motive of museums in the Hlučín Region relates to labour and war. It is these two factors that have significantly affected lives of local people. The traces of war are still present. Interwar fortifications, monuments of the fallen, and free-standing tanks; all of these amplify memories of local men who served in the German army.*

## The Museum *of the Hlučín Region*

The Museum of the Hlučín Region is one of the youngest museum institutions in the Czech Republic. One of the most important exhibitions is the "Who are the people of the Hlučín Region" (Kdo jsou lidé na Hlučínsku). This is not a classically conceived ethnographic exhibition, but rather a modern presentation full of interactive elements, with people and their fates influenced by history in its centre. The exhibition presents not only the history of the Hlučín Region as such, but it also mirrors the peculiarity of

the whole Central European area, which has always been characteristic for its ethnic diversity and frequently changing borderlines. This exposition has also been awarded a special prize in a competition Gloria Musaealis (organized by Czech Association of Museums and Galleries) in the category "Feat of the Year" in 2014. In addition to the permanent exposition, the Museum also presents short-term exhibitions. The Hlučín Museum won in the visitor's poll and became the Museum of the Year in 2016.



*Permanent outdoor exhibition of the Museum of the Hlučín Region*





## Kravaře *Chateau Museum*

The Museum in Kravaře is located in the local baroque castle. Until the year 1989 it was called the Museum of Revolutionary Fights and it was dedicated to the history of Ostrava Operation (operation to liberate the region in 1945). The current exhibition focuses on local ethnography, history of the castle which served as a farming and home-

making school, and also on the primeval settlements that were in the region. The youngest visitors may like the exhibition dedicated to the famous Alchemist Michael Sendivogius who lived in the chateau. According to a legend, he hid nine golden ducks somewhere in the chateau's catacombs.



*Michael Sendivogius (1566–1636) was a Polish nobleman and alchemist. He was a member of Rudolf II.'s court in Prague, he was loyal to the Habsburgs, and in 1627 the Emperor gave him the Kravaře manor.*

## *Folk museums* in Bolatice and Malé Hoštice

The Museum of Folk Traditions and Crafts in Bolatice was built in 2002, in one of the preserved farmhouses at Sněhotův Statek (Sněhota's Homestead) which was built in the 19th century. The visitor can see what people's lives were like in the Hlučín Region countryside more than a hundred years ago. It presents typical houses, farm buildings, as well as any household goods, tools and machines that people needed for their livelihood. It's location on a slope below the local church gives the farm a unique charm.

During the year a number of events and celebrations take place here, and fill the picturesque open-air museum with unforgettable atmosphere. Inside the former stables is located the archaeological exhibition and the largest publicly accessible collection of small erratic boulders - stones that were carried to the area of the Hlučín Region by a glacier. The second folk museum in the Hlučín Region is located in the village square in Malé Hoštice.



*Folk museum in Malé Hoštice*



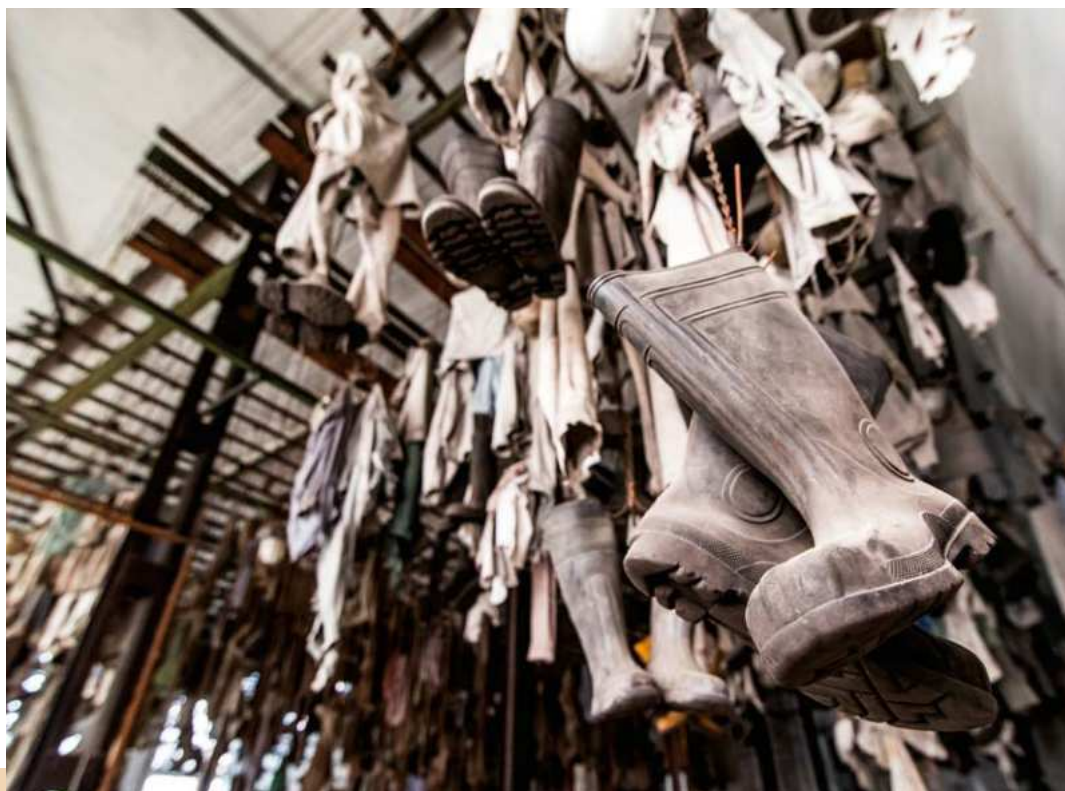
*Folk museum in Bolatice*

## Landek park

It rarely happens that a mining museum is created in the area that was originally used for mining. It is located in the immediate vicinity of the place where the oldest use of black coal as fuel has been archaeologically documented. The coal seam located here rises above the surface and, therefore, mining in this area began in the year 1781. Here are located the remains of the oldest mining pit of the Ostrava Region, and which has been during it's more than 160 years of operation called many different names: Ferdinand, Ferdinand's luck (after 1830), Anselm (after 1843), Masaryk I (after 1920), Petershofen I (after 1938), Masaryk I (after 1946), Eduard Urx (after 1951). Mining operations ended in 1991. At the same time however, the Mining Museum was under construction and it was opened in 1993. Currently it presents five expositions. The favourite one is the outdoor presentation of digging machinery and chain locker room. The greatest attraction, however, is the mining exposition – the visitor can actually visit the mine's shaft and experience the atmosphere of mining. In the area there are a number of sports fields, children's playground and a stylish miner's restaurant "U Barborky".



*Landek Venus is a torso of a female figure carved out of haematite. It was found under a mammoth's molar tooth during an archaeological excavation, and is estimated to be 23 thousand years old.*



# Fortifications of the Hlučín Region

They proudly stand in the fields, they are covered by moss and ferns in the forest, and in several cases they serve as fortification museums. It is the border fortification system built in the interwar period and it is an integral part of the region. It was here, where the first heavy fortification object was built in 1935, and it was planned to reach gargantuan proportions. A total of 250 heavy objects were built, 29 of which are located in the Hlučín Region. As everywhere in the country, they are supported by the smaller light fortifications called "řopík". Almost all types of heavy fortifications can be found in the Hlučín Region: infantry bunkers, an object for a rotating machine gun turret, objects armed with a mortar and objects similar to their French models.

- ❖ *the first heavy object, a part of an extensive fortification system was built in 1935 near Antošovice*
- ❖ *not many economy measures were done due to the early stage of its construction, therefore, several fortresses should have been armed with mortars and rotating machinegun towers*
- ❖ *the crew of these forts were soldiers of the 4th border guard regiment of Hlučín, which had barracks in Koblov, Hlučín, Hrabyně and Opava*
- ❖ *Corporal Jaroslav Švarc served in the infantry bunker MO-S 18. Later he was a member of a team which aimed to assassinate the collaborator Emanuel Moravec. In June 1942 he was killed together with other paratroopers in the crypt of the Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Prague.*
- ❖ *during the Ostrava Operation in the spring 1945 the German army took some forts as a foothold for their defensive lines*



*Character of the area is enhanced by a belt of anti-infantry obstacles, rebuilt anti-tank ditches, and five freely standing tanks, together with one tank destroyer and a launch area for the famous Russian Katyusha rocket launchers. The area is managed by the Silesian Museum.*



## Czechoslovak fortification object *in Hlučín-Darkovičky*

The fortification object in Darkovičky is a unique, because there are almost all kinds of pre-war fortification present. Three infantry bunkers are built each in a different degree of strength. Few people know that the oldest fortification museum in the Czech Republic is located here. The beginning of

the reconstruction of the fortress MO-S 19 V Aleji dates back to 1984. It was here where the first original fortress cannon was installed and it used to be the only weapon of this kind to be installed in an authentic shooting room.

## Chuchelná Museum

A completely new military museum, located in the village Chuchelná. It was built by the local enthusiasts with the support of local municipal office. It is dedicated to the events of the Second World War and it presents a wide range of military antiquities, such as weapons, uniforms, and medals. Visitors can appreciate the diorama of trenches, military hospital, and demolished house from the end of the war. The museum is open on weekends.





## Sudice

Few villages in the Czech Republic can boast of such a complex past and such high concentration of events of "big history" in their territory, as Sudice. Although it has a Slavik name, it was settled by ethnic Germans. In the early modern period it was granted the status of a town, as evidenced by the existence of a square. In the year 1920 it was given to Czechoslovakia, and in 1945 became the first liberated village during the Ostrava Operation. At the same time it served as a starting point from where the Czechoslovak armoured brigade led the final attack

to Ostrava. After the war, the village went through the expulsion of the indigenous population and the leaving and arriving of the new population. Due to the influence of socialism, Sudice lost even their town-like character. It is therefore possible to see the traces of several layers of the past in one place. Events of the war are reminded of by a number of monuments: a tank looms above the village, and there is a plane close to the village square. There is also an interesting memorial dedicated to the victims of both world wars.



*There is a monument to the fallen in almost every village. They mostly contain names of the victims of the first and second world war. The most emotional memorials are located in Kozmice (in the photo) and Dobroslavice.*



*Sudice belongs to a small number of villages where a plane was installed as a monument. Originally there was the propeller-powered Yakovlev, which referred to the participation of Czechoslovak airmen in the Ostrava Operation. In the 1990s, however, it was replaced by a trainer jet aircraft L-29 Delfin.*

*In addition to the impressive church, Sudice attracts visitors mainly with their freestanding tank T-34. It looms on a large pedestal and its cannon aims towards the area, which in April 1945 indeed was attacked by the commanders of the Czechoslovak tank brigade. Sudice was the first liberated village during the Ostrava Operation and the last attack to liberate the industrial city of Ostrava in 15. April 1945 set off from here. It took sixteen days of bitter fighting, before the tanks arrived at their destination. A large part of these combat operations took place in the Hlučín Region.*



# Local traditions

**Traditional attire**  
of the Hlučín Region



*Regional half-ceremonial  
clothing (from the turn  
of 19th and 20th century)*

*Ceremonial garb for unmarried  
girls from the Hlučín Region*

*Ceremonial garb from  
the Hlučín Region*

*Although the Hlučín Region does not belong to the typical folklore regions, local cultural life is very rich.*

## Hlučín *Region dialect*

The current form of the dialect of the inhabitants of the Hlučín Region is nowadays only a fragment of the original.

This leads us to ask how rich the local dialect must have been a hundred years ago. Experts classify it into the silesian-moravian group of dialects and we can observe noticeable influences of German and Polish languages. No village in the region uses the same dialect. It differs from family to family, but also geographically, depending on the location of villages. The local people call their dialect "po našimu" meaning "our language".

The Hlučín dialect is currently preserved especially in the form of rhymes, poems and songs.

Groups that focus on folklore are for example Vlašanky from Bohuslavice, Srubek from Štěpánkovice, Burianky and Seniorky from Bolatice, or Karmašnice from Kravaře. Their performances can be seen, for example, at the Festival of culture of the Hlučín Region on the Hlučín city square held in early July. Another event held regularly for over 20 years is folk songs and dances parade Kolaja in Hař.



*Feather pulling at the Lamžik family household in 1940*

Feather pulling was typical thing to do during long winter evenings. It served not only as a means for accumulating valuable feathers into the bride's layette, but also

as an important communication platform. Housewives shared with each other all the news, gossips, and also fables and fairy tales.

## Hlučín cakes

Hlučín cakes are a well-known name. Thanks to their tasty ingredients and loving baking process they became famous far beyond the borders of the region. At the first sight they obviously differ from other cakes. They are larger and their surface is decorated with a special streusel, which is made by pinching the dough. Inside the cake hides plum, poppy, or quark stuffing. In the past these cakes were baked only during major

festive occasions like wedding or celebration of foundation of a church-kermesse. No material is spared during making these cakes. Sometimes even goose lard was added to the cakes to keep them smooth for longer time. Even in the present time when food often does not meet the declared values contained, Hlučín cakes have above average amounts of butter, milk, and stuffing used. How long has this tradi-



tional pastry been baked in the Hlučín Region is not known. The recipes to make them are passed down from generation to generation. The original Hlučín cake used to be larger, on average 15 centimetres in diameter. Cakes made nowadays are smaller and the recipe is slightly different in every bakery and family.

### Recipe for Hlučín cake

#### Ingredients for the dough:

600g half-rough flour,  
400g soft flour, 250g sugar  
semolina, 150g butter, 50g lard,  
50g oil, 100g yeast, 20g salt,  
0.5l room temperature milk, 3 egg yolks

#### Ingredients for streusel:

600g soft flour, 300g butter,  
300g powdered sugar, 1 egg yolk

### How to:

Mix all the ingredients for the streusel in a bowl and let them rest.

Melt all the fats on a stove. Mix in salt with warm flour. To prepare the yeast – take 100ml of warm milk, add 1 teaspoon of sugar, yeast and a little flour. Stir the rest of the milk with egg yolks and sugar and together with the prepared yeast mix pour into a bowl with flour and stir. Once all the ingredients are mixed, slowly stir in lukewarm fats.

Work the dough well until it's smooth and let it rise in a warm place. After it has risen stir it and let it rise for 10 more minutes. Repeat this one more time.

To make the cakes nicely round and same size, cut the dough into pieces weighing 40g, form them into balls with your palms, put on a rolling board and let rise. Then roll them until they are flat, to allow pingpong-size balls of quark, poppy seeds, or plum butter be wrapped into the dough.

Close them properly and lay them onto a baking tray laid with baking paper seam side down and let them rise for a few more minutes.

Then carefully flatten them into shape of the cakes and brush them with egg stirred with about 4 spoonfuls of milk. The streusel should be laid into a flower shape. Bake in a preheated oven at 190°C 15 to 25 minutes until they are golden.

## Chasing the King in Lhotka

According to the oral tradition the chasing of the King in Lhotka dates back to the thirty years' war. It is said among the people that the local lads caught the Swedish king in a blind arm of the Odra river. Other sources attribute the origin of the festival to the regular herding of horses from the manor in Zábřeh, during which young men raced each other. A similar ceremony used to take place in almost every village. It is believed that it was held before 1900 in Bolatice and Hošťálkovice. Chasing of the king in Lhotka

ended in 1968, and the tradition was restored in 1993. The festival is preceded by creation of the crown, which should be done only by unmarried girls. The catching itself takes place on an open ground where the young men on horseback have to snatch a scarf representing the king. The rider who seizes it and does not let anyone take it from him then becomes the king. As a reward, the king can then select his queen and have a feast. After that in general merriment the people dance a traditional Silesian dance.



## Štrassenfests

In connection with the change of political tension in the 1990's arose the appropriate conditions for the creation of new traditions. The most widely celebrated is the štrassenfest (from the German Strassenfest), spread across the borders from Germany and was celebrated for the first time in 1993 in Strahovice. Štrassenfest is a festival during which one of the streets or a part of a village prepares a rich entertainment for the other inhabitants and the whole village celebrates together. In some villages the organizers wear specifically printed shirts and the individual streets take turns in organization. The beginning of the štrassenfest is usually associated with the ritual of handing over the keys and unlocking the street where the festivities are held.

## Kravaře *kermesse*

Kermesse is a celebration of the patron saint to whom a church is dedicated. The largest popularity in the Hlučín Region enjoy especially those villages in which the saint's feast day happens during summer. The end of the summer holiday is over a hundred years connected with the Kravaře kermesse during which the patron saint of the parish church St. Bartholomew is celebrated.

The tradition of the local kermesse is connected to the neo-gothic reconstruction

of the church in 1896. This is confirmed by contemporary press about merchants and street markets which got together in Kravaře from the wide surroundings at the end of August. Kermesse, which always takes place from Friday to Monday closest to the 24th August, has since the beginning had two planes of meaning – spiritual and earthly. Since Friday, the area of local castle park offers many attractions with a rich program, merry-go-rounds, and hundreds of stands. On Sunday is then held a Holy Mass in the

Church of St. Bartholomew. On Monday, the evening ends with a traditional fireworks. The number of visitors each year is estimated at tens of thousands. The people of Kravaře boast that their kermesse is the second largest festive attraction in the Czech Republic, just behind the St. Matthew's fair in Prague.

Important kermesses are held also in Píšť, Kobeřice, Bohuslavice, and Oldřišov.



## Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival or a thanks for the harvest, is a traditional event and it is celebrated in different forms across many villages of the Hlučín Region.

As an unwritten rule, it is celebrated in Hač on the last Sunday in August. The celebration begins with the morning Holy Mass in the decorated Parish Church of St. Matthew. After the noon the festival procession goes from the church and it is led by young boys and girls dressed in regional costumes. They carry the harvest festival wreath made from cereal straw. They are followed by horse riders, dozens of tractors, compact tractors, combine harvesters, but also horses with carriages and barouches. There are also

allegorical vehicles built by the locals specifically for this occasion. After the celebratory parade the bailiff and his wife hand the wreath to the mayor of the village. To treat the participants and visitors the local women prepare festive cakes.

The harvest festival has a long tradition also in Bolatice. The Saturday's celebratory Holy Mass served as a thanks for the harvest is followed by a parade of celebrators in stylized costumes, representatives of local associations and organisations, horse teams, allegorical vehicles and farmers through decorated streets into the area of the local football field, where the cultural program takes place.



*Harvest Festival in Bolatice*



*Harvest Festival parade in Hač*

# *Free time*





*Where should you go during a hot summer day? You can go visit a healing spring, a natural spa, an outdoor swimming pool or a lake. Do you wish to see the Hlučín Region from a bird's perspective, or from the saddle of a horse or a bicycle? One thing is certain, one simply cannot be bored in the Hlučín Region.*

## Biking

Just one look into a map for bikers will tell you that the Hlučín Region is a paradise for cyclists. The local landscape is laced with cycling trails and paths. They lead in places of old field and forest roads. Other new sections were constructed to lead you to some interesting sites. The bicycle route from Opava to Ostrava leads

through Opava river valley and links the entire southern part of the territory. Other cycling routes lead northwards and they link local towns and cities with neighbouring Polish villages. The bike paths are complemented by rest stops and information boards.

## Stud farms *and riding areas*

An old proverb says that the most beautiful view of the world is from horseback. To find out if this is true you can visit the stud farms and riding areas in Albertovec u Štěpánovic, Bělá, Borová, Hať, Hlučín, Markvartovice, Ludgeřovice, and Velké Hoštice. In addi-

tion to horse riding you can also take a ride in a carriage. Activities (not only) for children can be found at the Pony Ranch in Vrablovec, Pony Club Kobeřice, and children's ranch in Hlučín.



*A lookout tower  
in Ostrava Hošťálkovice*



## Fishing

Fish farming has a long tradition in the Hlučín Region. The mention about one of the oldest ponds in the Czech lands dates back to the mid-13th century in Markvartovice. Beneš pond system started to be formed about two centuries later.

Even today the options to go fishing are very wide. You can catch fish in larger or smaller ponds and reservoirs (old gravel mines) in Dolní Benešov, Bohuslavice, Ludgeřovice, Hlučín, and other villages. A traditional event at the end of October alluring visitors from far and wide is the harvesting of the pond Nezmar (pictured). A unique experience for beginners and young fishermen can be found in trout farm in Bělá, where it is possible to taste a trout on butter. Also the rivers Opava and Odra offer a great environment for fishing.



## Natural Priessnitz Spa in Bělá

Near the village of Bělá at the edge of the forest called Pavlačka surfaces a healing spring called Židlo. The medicinal water is used in folk medicine since time immemorial. Even today people can tap this water to drink it, or dip their hands and feet in therapeutic Priesnitz outdoor bath. After the bath you can take a batefoot stroll on a trail of pebbles, or through the Christian labyrinth, which consists of 26 thousand bricks embedded in the ground, according to an ancient pattern. The labyrinth has a diameter of 26 metres long, and the path leading through it is 576 meters long.

## Hlučín *Lake*

An extensive recreational area (140 ha) near the local lake with grassy beaches offers a great opportunity for swimming, boat riding, fishing, water skiing, and windsurfing. On the banks of the lake is a camp and sport centre where you can play beach volleyball, tennis, volleyball, football, and mini golf. In the area many cultural and sports events are regularly organised every year. In July for instance, takes place a popular music festival Štěrkovna Open Music.



## Outdoor swimming-pool

Sports-recreational area in Bolatice offers a swimming pool for both swimmers and non-swimmers, and for children a paddling pool. You can do a wide variety of sports, such as beach volleyball, volleyball, netball, and more. There is also a sauna, fitness centre, restaurant, and accommodation.

In the sports-recreation complex with an outdoor swimming pool in Píšť (pictured) is a large swimming pool 50 metres long to enjoy. Paddling pool next to the swimming pool provides a safe haven to the youngest visitors. In the area is also a restaurant, mini golf, tennis courts, and facilities for other ball sports.

On the outskirts of Darkovičky is a natural outdoor swimming pool with a restaurant and a playground for beach volleyball.

The outdoor swimming pool in Chlebičov was built in place of a former fire-fighter's water reservoir.



## Buly Arena in Kravaře

Buly Arena is an excellent facility for both sports and recreation. The selection of sports and recreational activities here is very wide. In the complex you can visit an aquapark with indoor swimming pools, wild river, waterslide, ice rink, tennis hall, bowling alley, football field, adventure golf, fitness, sauna, children's playground, and a hotel with a restaurant.

## *Sport airport Zábřeh*

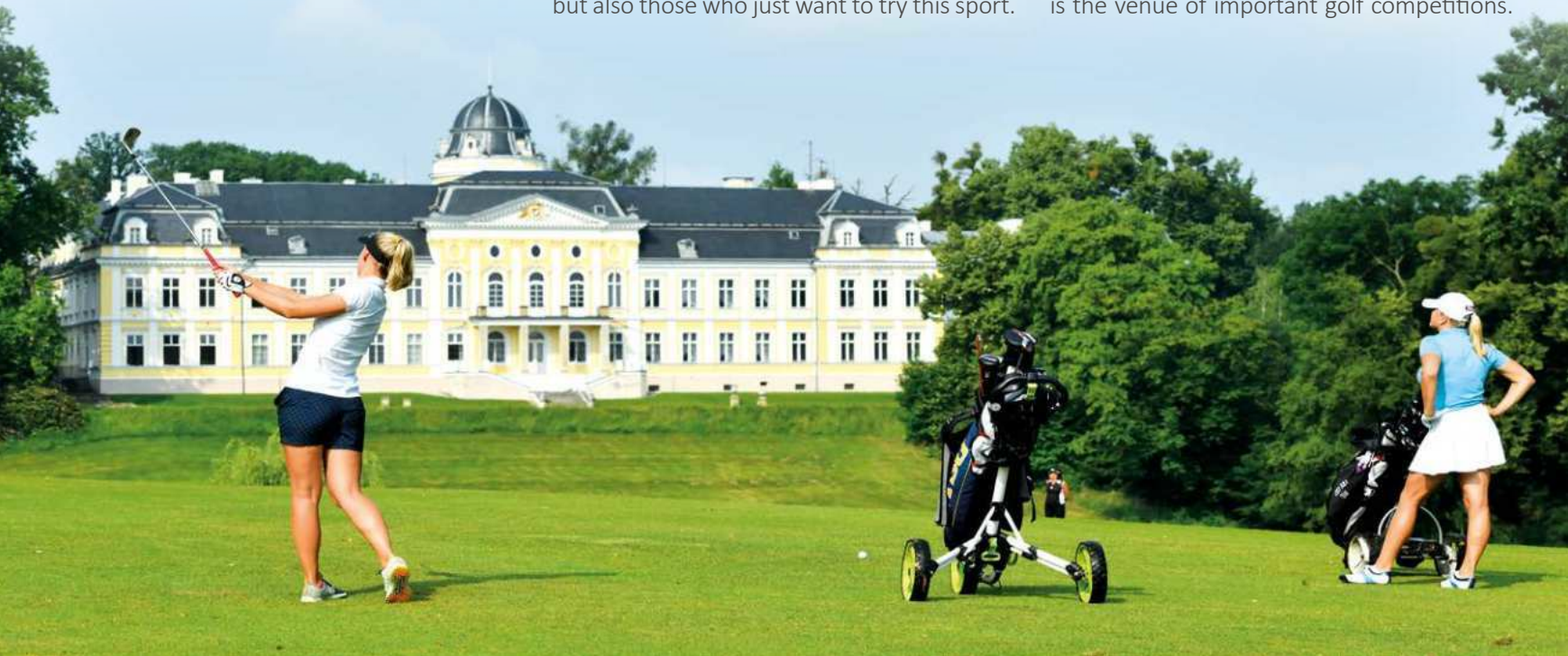
An opportunity to experience a bird's eye view of the Hlučín Region is offered by the sport airport Zábřeh in the form of scenic flights and parachute descends. For these jumps training parachutes are used and they take place at the height of 1100- 1200 meters.



## *Golf courses in Kravaře and Šilheřovice*

Golf course in the castle park in Kravaře is perfectly incorporated between tree alleys and groups of centuries-old trees, streams, and ponds. This allows players to experience beautiful natural sceneries with views of the baroque castle. The large 18-hole course is designed not only for professionals, but also those who just want to try this sport.

The golf course in Šilheřovice (pictured) is located in the beautiful 100 ha English park around the neo-classical chateau. This 18-hole course was founded in 1968 and it is the oldest in Moravia and Silesia. According to experts, it ranks among the most beautiful golf courses in the Czech Republic and it is the venue of important golf competitions.



## ***Welcome to the Hlučín Region***

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