

INTERESTING FACTS AND HISTORY

MUSEUMS

THE VISITOR'S CENTRE OF THE ŠUMAVA MOUNTAINS, THE ŽELEZNÁ RUDA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE

The centre was created in the newly renovated building of a former primary school in 2016. Its exposition is dedicated to the fauna and flora of the Šumava Mountains, skiing, cross-country skiing and a significant Czech zoologist and a writer Professor Julius Komárek, who was born in the town of Železná Ruda. The exhibition is aimed in detail on the history of skiing and cross-country skiing, the European beaver and deer, a black stork, herbs and mushrooms, the forests of the Šumava Mountains and last but not least geology and geomorphology. The part of the building is also a tourist information

centre, providing promotional material and selling various maps, viewcards, publications and souvenirs. A room with the Internet for the public, a library with a reading room, a lecture theatre or a 3D cinema do not miss there. Parents will be happy for a little children's corner. www.sumavskcentrum.cz, +420 376 397 033



Photo: The Environmental Centre

THE MUSEUM OF THE ŠUMAVA MOUNTAINS - ŽELEZNÁ RUDA

The museum is situated in the original house of the glass-making dynasty Abele of 1877. The exposition foundation comes from a family property and collections. The exposition is also aimed on glass-making and hammering. The exhibited glass was produced mostly in the

Abele glassworks. It is possible to see even corpse boards here, on which the inhabitants of the Šumava Mountains had stored their deceased during severe winters before they could bury them in spring. The custom was distinctive especially for the west part of the Šumava Mountains. www.muzeum.sumava.net, +420 376 397 319

THE MUSEUM OF HISTORICAL MOTORCYCLES IN A STately HOME - ŽELEZNÁ RUDA

In the exposition there is a collection of historical motorcycles, bicycles and several historical vehicles. Some unique objects remained well preserved in the one and only specimen in the world. The exposition is completed and widened every year. At the same time the object of the stately home ranks among the oldest buildings still in existence in Central Šumava Mountains. It comes from 1690 and it was built by Jindřich

from Nothaft. There has been a memorial in commemoration of liberation by the US Army there since 2006. www.historicke-moto.cz, +420 606 737 041



Photo: An exhibit – the Motomuseum

THE CENTRE OF THE NATIONAL PARK FALKENSTEIN LUDWIGSTHAL - ŽELEZNÁ RUDA

The main point of the centre is the House to Wildlife, whose exposition and architectonics of the building catch everybody's attention at

first sight. Animal runs of lynxes, wolves and horses of Prewalski and pre-oxen are part of it. An artificially created cave of the Stone Age is worth of notice. www.nationalpark-bayerischer-wald.de, +49 9922 5002-113

10 km   

THE NATURE PARK WELTEN THE WORLD OF NATURE PARK ALŽBĚTÍN BAYERISCH EISENSTEIN

The railway station building of 1877 is, accurately in its midpoint, divided by state border and it currently serves as the Information Centre of the Nature Park of the Bavarian Forest and the National Park of the Šumava Mountains and the Bavarian Forest. Its part is also a museum with interactive elements of the Nature Park of the Bavarian Forest focused on the topics, such as life of bats, Gr. Arber, the history of skiing and cross-country skiing (with

a skiing simulator), building the railway, on the highest floor a railway model with its surface of 260 m² is being finished. The part of it is also a lecture theatre, a cinema screening room and a historical restaurant. www.naturparkwelten.de, +420 376 387 060, +49 (0)9925 902430

3 km    



Photo: The railway station Alžbětín – Bayerisch Eisenstein

THE LOCAL RAILWAY MUSEUM BAYERISCH EISENSTEIN

The museum of the local railway in a former locomotive shed near the railway station in Bayerisch Eisenstein with 20 historical railway vehicles and an exposition of the history of the Bavarian local railways since 1876 up to the present day. www.localbahnverein.de, +49 992 51376

3 km    

SPACES OF ART WITHOUT BORDERS BAYERISCH EISENSTEIN

The art gallery is located in a building of a formal post office in Bayerisch Eisenstein and on its surface of more than 600 m² it introduces artists of the whole region between the Dunaj and the Vltava Rivers. The part of the building is also a gallery shop with an assortment of regional products. www.kunstraume-grenzenlos.de, +(49)9925/18297-52

3 km    

THE CASTLES OF THE ŠUMAVA MOUNTAINS

In the Šumava Mountains there are several still existing protective medieval castles, small castles and chateaux. The small ruins of the Pajrek Castle near Nýrsko are the nearest ones to Železná Ruda.

THE PAJREK RUINS

The Pajrek Castle located near Nýrsko was founded in 1356 by Lords of Janovice. Its position was important in the times of wars against Bavaria, but in 1472 it was conquered and burnt and in 1512 Jindřich Kostomlatský of Vřesovice bought it, already dilapidated. At that time it began to perish.

25 km  



Photo: The Velhartice Castle and Chateau

THE VELHARTICE CASTLE AND CHATEAU

A Gothic castle founded at the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries as a family residence of Lords of Velhartice. In the period of Renaissance a late Renaissance palace with arcades was added. Under the reign of George of Poděbrady the crown jewels were placed there temporarily. The bridge, connecting a tower donjon and the Paradise House, ranks among unique medieval defensive elements and has no parallel in Europe. www.hrad-velhartice.cz, +420 376 583 315

29 km 

THE RABÍ CASTLE

The largest castle ruins in Bohemia, originally a Romanesque castle dated back to the middle of the 13th century. A unique sight of the Gothic

architecture upon the Otava River. www.hrad-rabi.eu, +420 376 596 717

41 km 



Photo: The Rabí Castle

THE KLENOVÁ CASTLE AND CHATEAU

The ruins of a Gothic castle of the middle of the 13th century. In the 19th century a chateau, in the spirit of romanticism, decorated in the New Gothic style, was added in the part of the south

bailey. Since 1963 an art gallery, the Gallery Klatovy/Klenová, has been established here. www.gkk.cz, +420 376 392 208

37 km 



Photo: The Klenová Castle and Chateau

THE KAŠPERK CASTLE

The highest placed royal castle in Bohemia, founded in 1356 by Charles IV. In 1616, already desolate glassworks and dilapidated, sold to Kašperské Hory, whose property it has been to this day. It is a castle and a palace surrounded

by two towers. From the towers the visitors can enjoy a magnificent view of the distant surroundings. www.kasperk.cz, +420 376 582 324

25 km  +1 km 



Photo: The Kašperk Castle

THE ANIMAL MUSEUM REGENHÜTTE

The biggest museum of stuffed animals in Europe with its 5,000 exhibits from all over the world on 1,500 m². www.tiermuseum.net, +49 9925 1273

9 km   



Photo: The Spaces of Art without Borders, Bayerisch Eisenstein

THE FOREST MUSEUM ZWIESEL

The museum offers an exposition about its past, about the history of the town of Zwiesel and glass making. Furthermore, there is an exhibition of plastic models depicting a primeval forest, an exposition describing forest associations and their differences within single ecosystems of the forest, meadow and bushes, the exhibition concerning a human influence on the development of the forest and other matters of interest. www.waldmuseum.zwiesel.de, +49 9922 50706



Photo: The Forest Museum

15 km  

THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF ŽELEZNÁ RUDA

The original settlement came into existence in the first half of the 16th century along the Řežná River on an important trade path for the import of salt, later the export of lead and silver, between the bishopric in Regensburg and Prague. Diggings of iron ore (limonite) that had been found there by prospectors instead of gold, were the reason for that. That is where the name of the town comes from and some other local names (Hamry, Hojsova Stráž, etc.). The iron processing were connected with some other crafts (lumberjacks, smelters and coalmen and the others). As a result at least 500 people took part in the whole process. The diggings were depleted within 150 years. Only a hammer house as a blacksmith's workshop left as a remnant in Železná Ruda. Glass making began to develop instead of ore mining. It had excellent conditions here. Thanks to that 11 glassworks came into existence in this area (Debrník, Ferdinand's Valley, Hofmanky, etc.). The glass factory in Alžbětín was one of the largest ones in the Šumava Mountains and its unique mirrors were exported all around the world. But thanks to growing prices of wood the costs of glass making grew up in the middle of the 19th century. That caused a gradual downfall of all the local glass factories. In commemoration of it there is a 36 km long Glass Track leading through the area of Železná Ruda. The border between Bohemia and Bavaria was not determined for a long time. No wonder there were disputes over this area from the half of the 13th century to 1756. Mary Theresa marked it with an accurate line that has been respected to this day. Taking such a step ended those disputes. That is why a unique railway building

SACRAL SIGHTS

THE CHURCH OF VIRGIN MARY HELPFUL FROM THE STAR IN ŽELEZNÁ RUDA

The church was built in a baroque style from 1729 to 1732 (in the place of a former chapel of 1694) on request and costs of Earl Johann Heinrich Nothaft of Wernberg, a settlement founder's grandson. Among its unusualnesses,



Foto: Border stone

came into existence in Alžbětín. The border between the Czech Republic and Germany goes through it, dividing the building in two halves accurately. In 1849 the settlement obtained a status of a market town. At the end of the 19th century the town became more important when building a railway line from Pilsen to Bavaria with the longest tunnel of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. People could travel between Prague and Munich by train comfortably and at that time quickly. Thanks to easier travelling and making the area of Železná Ruda more accessible, visitors began to search for this region. The incommutable character of landscape attracted them. There has been a permanent development of incoming tourism and the area of Železná Ruda has become an important centre of winter and summer tourism, despite a hard period of displacing during the Second World War and the border zone extension in the period of communism that significantly influenced the number of population in this region.

a ground plan of a six-pointed star and two cupolas ended by a six-pointed star that is a symbol of Virgin Mary (the height of the church 26 m, the averagess of the bigger cupola 14.50 m). The church is dedicated to Virgin Mary Helpful from the Star. The whole roof is covered with shingles and its difficult rafters were made by Matyáš Lehner, who had lived in Železná Ruda since 1703. The inner furniture was given by Johann Georg Hafenbrädl. The dominant feature of the

church is a Marian altar painting – one of two copies of the painting of Madonna with a Child by Lucas Cranach. In the church there are five side altars, a baptismal font made of granite from the Šumava Mountains, a chandelier from the glass factories in Jablonec and the grave ledgers with the coat of arms of the family members of the Hafenbrädls. Between 1995 and 1998 an expensive reconstruction was accomplished and a new clock machine including a striking mechanism and a new bell were also bought by the authorities of the town of Železná Ruda. Commentated tours for individual visitors and groups take place in the

THE CHURCH OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF VIRGIN MARY IN HOJSOVA STRÁŽ

The church came into existence thanks to a conversion of the Chapel Virgin Mary Rosery between years 1824 and 1826. It is a simple building without style, with a tower in the facade. The nave of the church is 19 metres long, 12 metres wide and it is flatly arched down. The chancel is 7.5 metres long and 10 metres wide. The main altar comes from the original chapel and it was created in 1762 by Jakob Brandt, a master of Dešenice. Light penetrates into the church through big semi-circular windows. The church has got a roof and a part of its outdoor wall covered with shingles. The organ was bought in April 1834 and it comes from a workshop of a famous Prague organ builder and a court organist Josef Gartner. It started to sound again in its complete beauty and functionality in 2012, above all thanks to the Citizens Association Society Hojsova

THE MOUNTAIN SYNAGOGUE HARTMANIC

The highest placed synagogue in the Czech Republic of 1883. Audiovisual elements, through the coexistence of the Czechs, Germans and Jews in the Šumava Mountains, the extinct villages of the Šumava Mountains, liquidated after 1948, typically connected, represent a part of the exposition. An exposition about the Iron Curtain is being prepared. www.hartmanice.cz, +420 376 383 107

20 km  

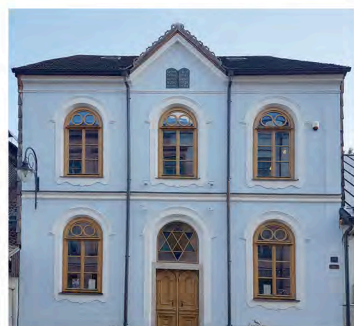


Photo: The Mountain Synagogue in Hartmanice

church – visitors can get the information in the Information and Environmental Centre in the town of Železná Ruda.



Photo: The Church of Virgin Mary Helpful from the Star



Photo: The Church of Immaculate Conception of Virgin Mary in Hojsova Stráž

Stráž. The association organizes a huge amount of cultural events, such as regular summer concerts and singing carols on Christmas Eve. In the church comentated tours for individual visitors and groups take place – visitors can get the information in the Information and Environmental Centre in the town of Železná Ruda.

12 km   

ST. ANTONY AND ST. BARBARA'S CHAPEL AND THE DIGGERS' CEMETERY

Under the railway station of the town of Železná Ruda you can find the chapel called Diggers' of 1836-1839 that was a part of Kopperl's farm. Beside other things it was used as a place of funeral ceremonies for the deceased and casualties of accidents during building the Špičák tunnel. Only catholics could be buried at the Železná Ruda cemetery. The municipal authorities were afraid of riots and epidemics. That is why they did not let funeral ceremonies to be performed in the main church. After the renovation of the chapel on 06. 06. 1999 its consecration dedicated to St. Antony and St. Barbara, the miners' patroness saint. Not far from it, direction Špičák, there is a big wooden cross, on the diggers' former burial ground with about 20 graves that served to foreign workers working on building the railway. They came from Dalmatia, Croatia, Serbia, Carinthia and Styria but mostly from Italy. The names of the deceased are not known. In 2002 this revential place was restored thanks to the local initiative and the wooden cross with a stone burial mound was built there.

Chapel: 1 km   
Cemetery: 2 km  

WAY OF CROSS AND ST. ANNE'S CHAPEL UNDER BELVEDER

The first mentions about this sacril sight and its consecration date back to 1815. The way was made thanks to J. W. Kolbeck's initiative that was a pastor in Železná Ruda. In 1992 the whole Way of Cross was in disrepair, just its little columns of granite without the chapel remained. Thanks to Milena Vobrová from the town of Železná Ruda and Helga Huttner – Hasenkopf from Zwiesel in Bavaria and their initiative, a renovation, financed by funds gathered thanks to a collection mainly in Bavaria, came true. When uncovering the original foundations, an undamaged floor tiling of the original chapel was found. It was used over again during building the new chapel. The paintings are copies of the originals painted by Johann George Wittmann. They were painted

ST. KUNHUTA'S CHAPEL ON PRENET

The chapel was built under the peak Small Prenet in 1408. From 1684 to 1687 it was renovated and a new altar was made in it. After the World War II, when the area was depopulated, the chapel and the other buildings began to fall into disrepair. Finally only the altar and St. Kunhuta's altar painting had been preserved and were restored recently. The ruins, after a long renovation, start to appear to their visitors in their complete beauty. The Citizens' Association Society Hojsova Stráž and volunteers with their financial contributions are involved in the reconstruction of the chapel largely.

16 km  22 km 



Photo: The Chapel of St. Kunhuta



Photo: St. Anne's Chapel near the Way of Cross

by Mrs. Helga Huttner – Hasenkopf, a native of Železná Ruda, using oil colours applied to aluminium sheets. She also created windows, and with colourful segments, connected to lead, she created beautiful pieces of stained glass there. The renovated St. Anne's Chapel and the Way of Cross were ceremonially consecrated on Hladový vrch/ Hungry Hill on 30.09. 1995.

1 km 

THE MUSEUM OF DR. ŠIMON ADLER, THE CHURCH OF ST. VINTIŘ - DOBRÁ VODA

An old place of pilgrimage with a natural spring with healing water and some houses that were not destroyed during military trainings in the times of communism. Its part is also the baroque church of St. Vintř, devastated in the past, later also reconstructed. The church has got a glass altar by an artist Vladimíra Tesařová, a way of the cross and a statue of St. Vintř. Next to the church there is a museum, presenting the lives



Photo: The altar of the church in Dobrá Voda

of the Jews in the region in the birthplace of a rabbi Šimon Adler. www.vintir-dum.eu, +420 777 784 347

17 km  

ZHŮŘÍ

The little Chapel of the Most Blessed Trinity with the Cross of Conciliation on the spot of a ruined church of a former village of Zhůří, vanished in 1952. There are also two corpse boards with German notices and a granite memorial to ten American soldiers, fallen here on 05. 05. 1945. A beautiful valley with the meanders of the Křemelná River and mountain hills in the background offers an imposing view of a landscape.

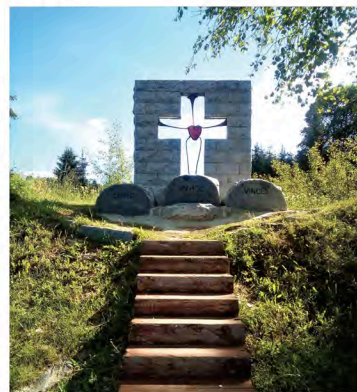


Photo: The Cross of Conciliation in Zhůří

10 km  + 3 km  15 km 

THE OTHER INTERESTING CHAPELS AND PLACES THAT INVITE TO VISITS:

Hojsova Stráž – a new chapel Virgin Mary's Chapel near the former brewery in Hojsova Stráž
The Chapel Valcha

The chapel in Brčálník
The little chapel in the rock garden near Black Lake
The statue of St. John of Nepomuk in the town of Železná Ruda

GLASS FACTORIES

THE GLASS FACTORY ANNÍN

One of the oldest, still functioning glass factory in the Czech Republic, founded in 1796. Nowadays a place of business of a metallurgical production of glass: a sharpening workshop of lead crystal, a sample room, a shop have been here, a possibility of tours, the owner of the glass factory has been building a museum of production of the glass factory. There is a possibility to try blowing glass there. www.annin-glass.cz, +420 731 362 233

26 km 



Photo: The glass factory Annín

FRAUENAU

One of the oldest glassworks in the Bavarian Forest. Since 1568 crystal glass has been handmaking here. It is decorated with engraving, grinding and painting. Historical and modern technologies of production have been used here. There is a possibility to try blowing glass here. www.poschinger.de, +49 9926 94010

24 km 

JOSKA KRISTALL BODENMAIS

The greatest producer of glass trophies. A tour of a glass factory, a sharpening workshop and the other departments. There is a possibility to try blowing glass there. There is a garden compound with a children's corner and a restaurant there. www.joska.com, +49 9924 7790

25 km 

THE GLASS FACTORY ANNÍN LTD.

The original continuation of the glass factory Annín in new spaces. A sharpening workshop of crystal glass and a gallery of sales of ATS and crafts are parts of the complex. Nowadays the sharpening workshop has been busy with 24% leaded crystal refining. www.sklaarnaannin.shop1.cz, +420 773 457 758 +420 721 194 365

26 km 



Photo: The glass factory Annín

PASK – A PAVILION OF GLASS - KLATOVY

A modern, attractive gallery with an extensive collection of products of the glass factory Lötz Klášterský Mlýn that ranked among the absolute world's top at the turn of the century. The glass of Lötz became a famous name and it has been so far. www.pask-klatovy.cz, +420 376 333 042

38 km 



Photo: Joska Kristall Bodenmais

25 km 



Photo: Joska Kristall Bodenmais

THE OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

THE ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK OF THE ŠUMAVA MOUNTAINS

The first astronomical clock of the Šumava Mountains has been situated in the centre of Hojsova Stráž since 2017. Its part is a twenty four hour clock face with revolving circles and hands showing the motions of the Sun and the Moon, time and date, a playing machine and a machine propelling a turning map of starlit skies. Its striking machine plays the first eight tones of the Czech national anthem and after their dying away Grim Reaper sounds the bell twelve times. www.orloj-sumava-hojsovastraz.cz

12 km   



Photo: The astronomical clock of the Šumava Mountains

THE BELVEDER BREWERY

The brewery was ceremonially opened in Železná Ruda in 2007. The beer has been made according to the old recipes and it is impasteurized and unfiltered. It is possible to taste as many as 5 kinds of beer. The beer of Železná Ruda has got several prestigious awards among the small breweries so far.

2 km   



Photo: The Belveder Brewery

GEOLOGICAL PARK

The information panels about the history and geology in the vicinity of Železná Ruda and samples of stones are placed on the lawn in front of the primary school in Železná Ruda.

0,5 km 

GLASS AND IRON FURNACES

On the basis of the project Travelling around without Borders through the Heart of Europe imitations of two furnaces were made in the Železnorudsko area. The first glass one is located on the Glass Educative Path next to the former customs house in Alžbětín. The second iron one is situated right behind the town of Železná Ruda, direction Špičák, on the trail marked green for tourists.

The glass furnace: 3 km  

The iron furnace: 1 km  



Photo: The Kneipp Spa