

MĚLNICKO KOKOŘINSKO

The Mělník and Kokořín regions are lands of opposites – on one side, there are long valleys stretched along the two largest Czech rivers, on the other side, hills and sandstone rocks rise up. You can view dense forests from the fertile hillsides covered with grapevine. You can visit a spectacular chateau after seeing a stark medieval castle.





1. MĚLNÍK

The **Mělník Château** above the confluence of the Elbe and Vltava is the dominant feature of the royal town. After touring the **château chambers**, taste the Mělník wine in the **wine cellar** of Prince Lobkowitz. See the confluence from the tower of the **Church of St Peter and St Paul**. The crypt below the church contains the third largest **ossuary** in the Czech Republic. Visit the **Regional Museum** at the square, with an exposition on the history and winemaking in the town. Explore the **historical underground**, accessible from the Tourist Information Centre, with the widest well in the country. The Gothic **Prague Gate** offers a view of the historical centre from above, a gallery and a pleasant café.



3. VRÁTENSKÁ HORA LOOKOUT TOWER

Explore the rocky area from a bird's eye view. You can do that from the **lookout tower at Vrátenská Mountain**, the highest peak of the central Bohemian part of the Kokořín region. Follow the blue hiking trail that will take you to the mysterious **Houska Castle**. A legend says that this Gothic castle conceals a gate to hell. You can bring your dog on the tour of the castle. Enjoy more beautiful views from the **Petrified Château** with still visible rooms. Discover some romantic rock nooks along the way through the **Valley of White Rocks** or **Planý Valley** with a cave called the Stone Beehive.



5. HOŘÍN

The inaccessible **château** of Hořín stands opposite the royal town. A walk through the **château park** will take you to the **Art Nouveau flood gate** on the Vraňany-Hořín navigable canal. Take your children to **Zoopark Zelčín**. Those of a more curious nature can go to the archaeological **HistoryPark** in Ledčice. Take your bike to one of the long-distance cycling trails from Mělník such as the **Vltava and Elbe Trail**. Visit the **Bedřich Smetana Memorial** in nearby Obráštvi, which is situated inside the country home that inspired the Czech composer to write the Bartered Bride. In the small village, you can admire the wooden bell tower near the Classicist **château**, or the remains of an old Elbe weir.



7. KOKOŘÍN CASTLE

The fairy-tale **Kokořín Castle** is the heart of the rock city. Take a look at the surrounding countryside from the round tower. You can also walk through the castle and see how people lived in the Middle Ages. Explore the rocky surroundings along the **Podhradská Trail** or the long-distance **Máchova Hiking Trail**. Check out the ruins of the nearby **Nedamý Rock Castle** where local inhabitants hid from soldiers. Discover the rock dwellings in **Šemanovický Valley** on foot or by bike. Refresh yourself in the **Harasov outdoor pool** with some rock reliefs. Walk through Kokořín Valley to the ruins of the **Štampach rock mill**, or the unique **rock dwelling** in Lhotka.



9. LIBĚCHOV

The countryside around Liběchov is literally riddled with unique **reliefs carved into rocks**. They were created by artist Václav Levý. You will not miss any of them if you follow the **V. Levý loop trail**. You will see a carved snake, the Harfenice grotto, the popular Devil's Heads as well as the Klácelka grotto with Czech commanders. Visit the **artistic mill** in Liběchov or climb to the **Chapel of the Holy Spirit** along the stations of the cross to get a view of the Elbe River. Although the Baroque **château** is not accessible, the **château park** entices visitors to take a stroll.



2. VRCHBĚLÁ

Reward the children for hiking to the royal **castle of Bezděz** by taking them to the **sports-leisure Vrchbělá facility**. Let children go wild in the large playground, take them to see the animals at the petting zoo, ride a bike or scooter with them along a 7.5 km cycling trail or hike to the top of the lookout tower. Continue to the **Bělá pod Bezdězem Château** with an interesting arcade courtyard and a bathroom tower. The **Podbezdězí Museum** can be found in the **château**. From Bělá, walk to the former hunting preserve of **Valdštejnsko**. You can admire the rural timbered cottages in the nearby village of **Březinka**. Railway fans will appreciate the **Railway Museum** in Sudoměř.



4. LIBLICE

Visit the **Liblice Château** for some rest and romantic areas. Even though the **château** is now a luxurious hotel, you can still go on a special tour every Sunday. The maintained **château park** is open to the public every day. See the **Thun-Hohenstein tomb** or walk through the **château game preserve** with the **Peat Meadow**. In Mělnické Vtelno, take a tour of the **Neumann Brewery**. In Kadlín, climb the **Hradišť lookout tower**, or visit the **countryside museum**. Visit the **Old Beautiful Things Museum** in Velký Újezd for some nostalgia.



6. LOBEČ

The tour and gastronomy at the **Lobeč steam-engine brewery** are unforgettable. Explore the **Eduard Štorch Museum** near the brewery. Take a rest in the **Lobeč Château Hotel**. Continue to nearby Mšeno, one of the gateways to the rock city. In summer, visit the **municipal bath**, built in the Art Deco style. A trail through the **Debř forest park** will take you to the rocks again. Wear your children out in the **Romanov rock labyrinth**. Follow the trail across **Průsečná** rock built during the Thirty Years' War to get to **Mšenské pokličky**. From the balancing rocks, continue to the less-known **Jestřebické pokličky**.



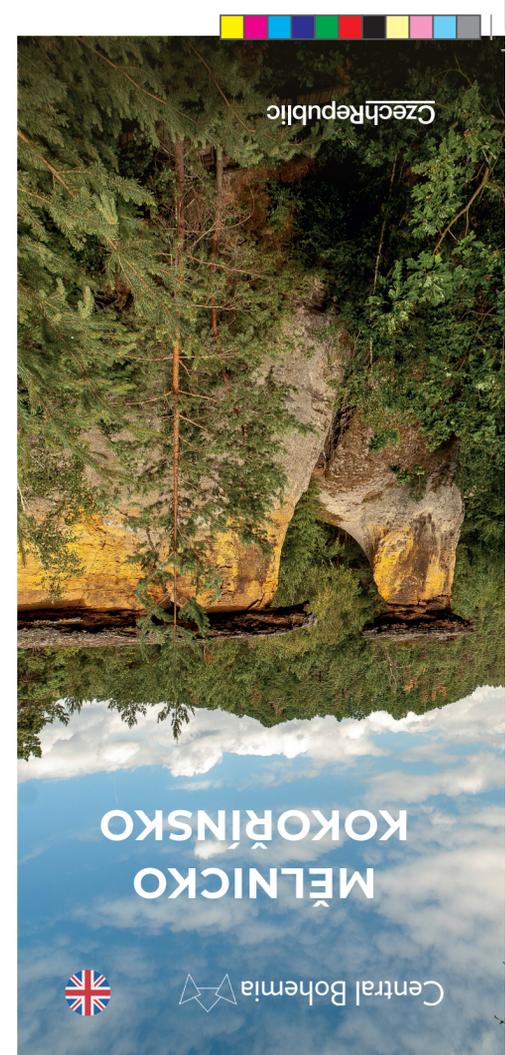
8. SANDSTONE LAKES

You will feel like you're in the Adriatic when visiting the central Bohemian sandstone lakes. The sandstone quarries were flooded when mining ended there and they now attract visitors with sandy beaches and clean water. Dive and watch freshwater jellyfish in the **Konětopy Lake**. Try water skiing at **Křenek Lake**. Rent a popular pedal boat at **Lhota Lake**, from where you can also take a walk to the nearby Baroque **Charles IV Memorial** in Hlavenec. Take a look at the countryside from the **Kostelní Hlavno lookout tower**. Or listen to one of the many concerts on the beach of **Mlékojedy Lake**. Visit the **Jan Palach Monument** in his family home in nearby Všetaty.



10. KOKOŘÍN ARCHITECTURE

Kokořín architecture includes some examples of typical folk architecture in the Czech countryside. The picturesque villages hidden among rocks, full of timbered cottages, wooden bell towers and charming chapels and small churches will leave a mark in everyone's heart. Discover the real Kokořín countryside in the village of **Vidím** with a Pseudo-Baroque **château** and the Starý zámek Castle ruins, or in the villages of **Nové Osinalice**, **Jestřebice**, **Olešno** or **Nosálov**. You might recognise the centre of **Dobřeň** from the popular film, Spiderman: Far from Home.



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The project for the "Development of the Royal Central Bohemia Product" was implemented with the contribution of resources from the national budget of the Czech Republic, from the programme by the Ministry for Regional Development.

Foto: CBTB archive, Petr Luňák, CzechTourism, Jiří Jiroušek, Wikimedia Commons, Václav Zavřel

Publisher:
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Prague 3/2021 | 1st edition | Not for sale

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