



The rather easy contour path takes you as far as the Vaňovský waterfall, part of the Podlešínský brook. With its 12 metres, the waterfall is one of the highest of its kind in the Central Bohemian Highlands. Taking another path that branches off the trail near this waterfall you can reach the nearby rock massif Vrkoč. The well-dressed platform found at the peak offers exciting views of Mt. Vysoký Ostrý and the city of Ústí nad Labem. Once you are done, turn back to the nature trail and descend to the Čajkovského street (the Vaňov district), where the trail ends. There are two options to get back to the city centre - either via a city bus line or by foot. If the latter is preferred, go to the Masaryk Lock to cross the river and follow the other river bank. You can also see the starting point of the trail - Větruše - from the other side.

Fact to remember How Vrkoč Rock got its name?
A place hard to find in Europe, the rock formation is now protected as a national natural monument and is renowned mainly for the column type of basalt disintegration. The very detailed morphology of the rock resembles a brushed-up hair of a woman - hence the Czech name (vrkoč).



VĚTRUŠE GALLOWS – ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM UNDERGROUND NATURE TRAIL (400 m)

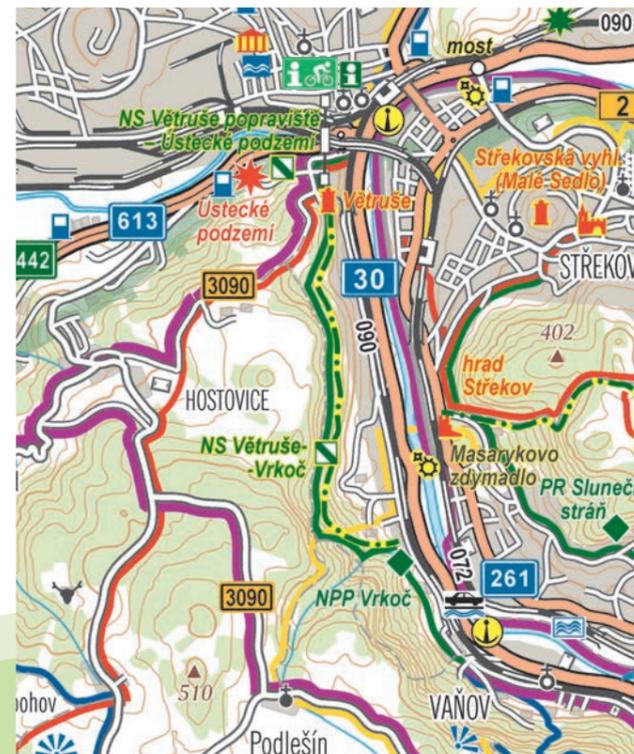
Do not be confused with the scary name of the starting point! This new nature trail follows a former traditional hiker route that was once amongst the favourite sites of Sunday trips.

The nature trail can be reached by walking from Větruše and following the red-marked trail leading along the Fibichova street as far as the medieval place of execution which is one of the best-preserved in Czechia; it served until the 18th century. It is no coincidence that the hill on which the site is found is named the Judgement Hill (Soudný vrch).

Once you have got to this place, it just takes to follow the trail signs and absorb every information the trail provides, ranging from the history of the gallows through dramatic stories of the city as far as the specifics of this natural site - particularly the geology and the faunal life. When walking down, you can learn interesting facts such as discover exciting traces of the bombing of between 17 and 19 April 1945, the literally swept-off district of Ostrov and the cause of the tilt of the tower of the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary.



Fact to remember:
Can you believe that the tower of the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary tilts around 2 metres off its vertical axis?



BERTHA VALLEY NATURE TRAIL (860 m)

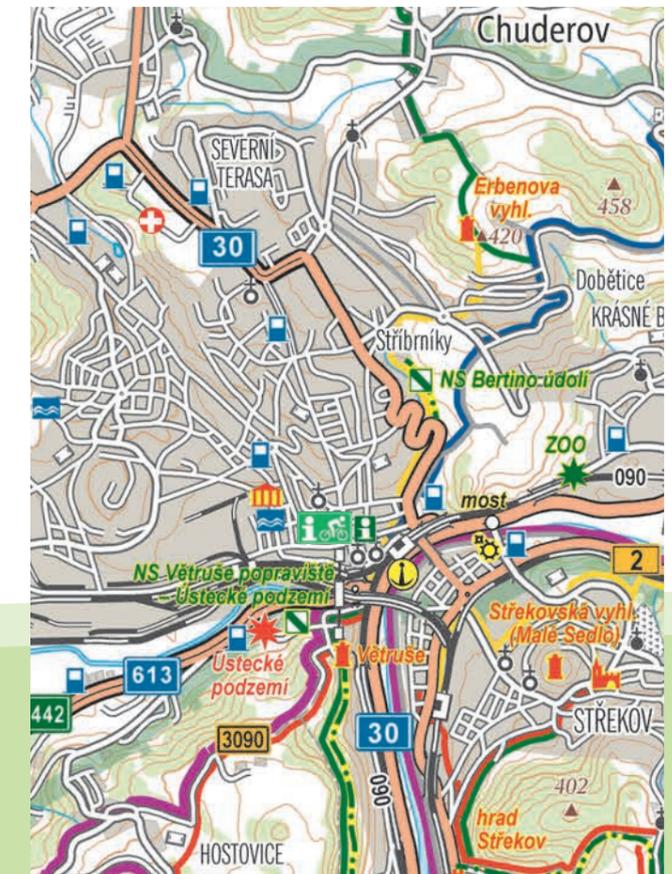
Found almost in the heart of the city, the site provides an exciting area for naturalists as well as romantic souls. Once it was part of a separate village of Stříbrníky (Ziebornik) which was named after the fact that they mined silver there back in the Middle Ages. Actually, the remains of underground galleries can still be located in the deep-cut valley of the Stříbrnický brook.

In the 1880s, the Mrs. Bertha Schaffner fell in love with the site. This wife of the then Director of the local chemical and metallurgical production company Max Schaffner initiated an idea of setting up a natural park, contributing to the same by a financial donation. This turned this charming location into what became a city promenade with benches, pavilions, resting areas, a waterfall and a dense grid of pathways. In 1899, the valley was named Bertha-Tal to honour this lady.

The Bertha Valley can be entered at the first S-turn after you passed the garage area in Důlce. The walk through the valley of the brook under the canopy of tall trees is 860m long. The trail includes 9 stops dedicated to botany, zoology, ecology, geology and history.

The exciting natural landscape induce a sense of romanticism and is a stark contrast knowing that you are still in the city centre, close to a backbone route of traffic.

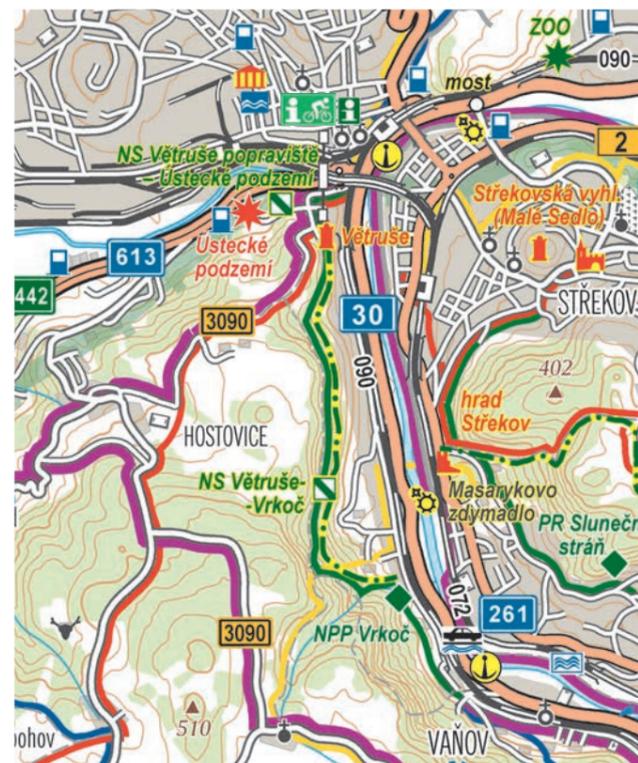
Fact to remember:
This trail is often used when one wishes to extend their walk as far as the Erben Observation Tower. To do so, just follow the yellow-marked hiker route connecting to the end of this nature trail to get to the site.



VĚTRUŠE - VRKOČ NATURE TRAIL (4 km)

The starting point of this nature trail involves the Sunday hiker trip destination of Větruše located on a rocky cliff above the River Elbe.

It is exactly this trail that offers what are the most beautiful and most characteristic views in the area between Větruše and the Střekov Castle. In addition to this special experience, there are extensive areas of basalt boulders known as stone fields. When leaving Větruše, the trail follows the green-marked and the red-marked hiker route; after the first kilometre has been completed, the red route disconnects toward Milbohov while the green route continues in parallel with the nature trail. Points along the way that should be mentioned include the Humboldt viewing platform; named after the German natural history scientist and traveller Alexander von Humboldt - to whom the Central Bohemian Highlands was a fascinating location, the place provides views of the medieval Střekov Castle, the Masaryk Lock, as well as the river Elbe, all as if on the palm of your hand.





LAKE MILADA NATURE TRAIL (2,2 km)

This nature trail was opened in the autumn of 2013. It was co-funded by Voluntary Partnership of Municipalities of Lake Milada and Palivový kombinát Ústí, national enterprise. The trail discovers the story of coal mining in the Chabařovice region.

The trail starts in Chabařovice in the Husovo square to lead through an avenue of linden trees that winds along the local cemetery as far as the former mining pit called Černé Máry, which is where a view opens of the lake with the Czech Central Highlands on the background. Afterwards, just choose whether to continue to the other viewing point found on the service road at the northern slope or go to the former steel mill in Chabařovice.

Walking throughout the trail length and coming back to Chabařovice, your legs will have covered about 3,5km. Near the steel mill, it is also possible to connect to the cyclist trail 3009.

For information on the quality of water, please refer to www.pku.cz or www.khsusti.cz.

Fact to remember:
Can you believe that Lake Milada is actually a drop lesser than Máchovo Lake with the total area of water surface being 252,2 hectares?



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UNDER VYSOKÝ OSTRÝ NATURE TRAIL (8,5 km)

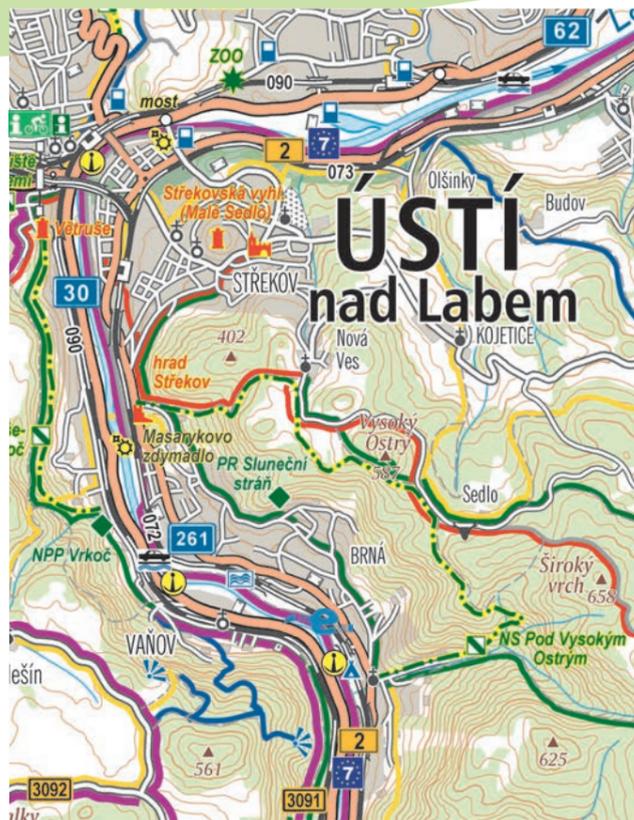
This nature trail starts in the city district of Brná, more specifically, near the Chapel of St. Anne. The 16 information panels make you familiar with the local fauna and flora as well as other attractions.

The trail goes up via a rocky canyon of Průčelská rokle; after you cover 1,5km, you pass along a Průčelský waterfall. Now the trail takes you on to arrive just below the top of the Malý Ostrý hill; then it continues to a place offering a great view of the River Elbe and, eventually, to the top of Mt. Vysoký Ostrý made of tephrite - a strong magnetic rock. The comfortable viewing platform provides a site to admire the beauty of the surrounding wooded hills. Peaks and mountains on show include Buková hora, Varhošť, Milešovka, Lovoš, Říp, Bezděz, Ještěd, Sněžník and, to some extent, the Ore Mountains. Now the trail offers a walk via Nová Ves as far as the car park near the Střekov Castle.

The trail is 8,5km long and is intended for hikers. If you are not into big climbs, you may prefer to choose the opposite direction, i.e. walking from the Střekov Castle.



Fact to remember:
The dark romanticism of the canyon of Průčelská rokle was probably one of the sources of inspiration for German novelist Karl May, which may sound not very familiar.



TIP: When visiting the areal of the zoo, there are two nature trails available as well.

Tree Nature Trail
A trail to explore various species of trees and shrubs as you take your tour of the zoo.

Heinrich Lumpe Park Nature Trail
The trail brings more details about the history of the bird sanctuary which became the foundation stone for the today's zoo.

NATURE TRAILS IN THE SURROUNDINGS OF ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM



ZUBRNIC AREA NATURE TRAIL (2,5 km)

The trail is 2,5 km long and starts at the Museum of Folk Architecture located in Zubrnice. This youngest open-air museum in the Czech Republic, it is here for you to explore the rural ways of life and housing in the territory of the Central Bohemian Highlands.

The trail as such consists of six stops and leads into Týniště via the surroundings of Zubrnice; in Týniště, you can visit a flour-mill exhibit before you return to the place of departure along the Luční brook.

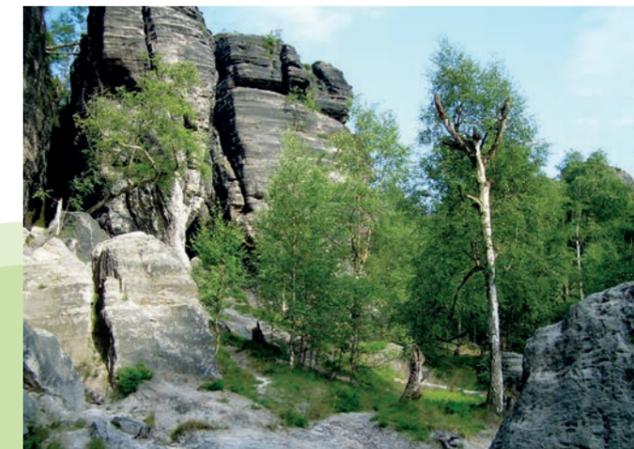


TISKÉ STĚNY NATURE TRAIL (2 km)

This nature trail takes you into a fantastic world of sandstone rock formations with a multitude of bizarre objects. To start absorbing the atmosphere, you need to reach a special site called Tiské stěny - skalní náměstí (translates as "rock square") which also provides a crossroads of several hiker trails. From here, you can take either the circular trail called Malými Tiskými stěnami (a shorter option) or the trail called Velkými Tiskými stěnami (a longer option) to end up at the Tisá Tourist Chalet.

The route provides nine information boards focusing on geology, plant science, birdlife, history and climbing activity.

The local rock formations have made the municipality of Tisá a place favoured by film makers; The Chronicles of Narnia is the best known - but definitely not a single - motion picture shot in the area. Cinema enthusiasts can learn more on www.tisa.cz.



NATURE TRAILS
in Ústí nad Labem

