

A new lookout tower on Borůvková hora (Blueberry Mt.)



When visibility is good, you can see Wrocław in Poland or even the highest peaks of the High Tatra Mountains in Slovakia. Biskupská kupa (Bishop's Heap) is used as a tourist border crossing to Poland. You can get there on foot, starting from the square of Svoboda in Zlaté Hory following the green signs, or also following the green signs, starting from the saddle on the road from Zlaté Hory to Petrovice. The lookout tower is open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. In the Žulovská

Hills (Granite Hills), or rather in the area called Bažantnice (Pheasantry), you will find the hill Smolný (404m) and on its top a beautiful rock town, called **Venušiny misky (the Bowls of Venus)**.

Thanks to the peculiar cup-and-ball structure of granite, you will find there wonderful rock forms – bowls, saddles, niches and honeycomb structures. These indentations which gave the site its name, the Bowls of Venus, were believed to be in the past pagan sacrificial tables or to have some relation to super-natural beings. This inspired numerous legends relating to the Bowls. The tops of the rocks offer enchanting views of the Rychlebské Mountains and of Šíravy, which are unique meadows close to the village of Kobylá. You can easily reach Venušiny misky when you take the green hiking trail from nearby Vidnava, over Velká Kraš to Černá Voda. There is also a well-marked, comfortable cycling trail, No. 6047.

The final stop on the Czech side of our tour of the lookout towers in the Glacensis Euroregion will be the highest mountain of Hrubý Jeseník and of Moravia, **Praděd** (Great Grandfather) (1491 m). Back

in 1912, a lookout tower was erected on its top, however, it was removed in 1959. A 145.5-m-tall TV tower was built in its place after 1970; supporting a transmitter and a lookout platform at 40 metres above ground. You can also get refreshment in a restaurant in the same building. The transmitter on the top of the mountain is a distinctive dominant of Moravia. When conditions are good, you can see as far as the Krkonoše, the Polish plains and the High Tatras. The massif of Praděd is a natural preserve with characteristic flora of alpine fields. In the north-west, at Tabulové kameny (Table Stones), many kinds of moss, lichen and other rare plants grow. Because of its rare flora, Praděd can only be accessed along marked tourist trails.



Praděd seen from Petrovy kameny (Peter's Stones).



# The Massif of Sněžník

*A view from Sněžník of the Jeseníky Mountains and the highest peak, Mt. Praděd.*

We completed our tour of lookout towers on the Czech side of the Glacensis Euroregion in the Jeseníky Mountains. But what about Polish lookout towers? We will thus complete the imaginary circle of our tour of lookout towers and special vantage points by visiting the Polish territory.

We will cross the border at the already mentioned **Králický Sněžník**, on the top of which, alongside the Czech chalet, used to stand a Polish lookout tower. Its foundations can still be traced.

*The snow-covered top of Sněžník and a wooden lookout tower on Czarna Góra.*

Polish tourists and local authorities would like to bring the lookout tower back to life.

**Czarna Góra (Black Mountain)**, 1205 m, a popular winter resort with four kilometres of well maintained skiing tracks, is part of the massif. The easiest way to get to the top is by chair-lift (1367m long) from the resort of Sienna not far from Stronia Śląskiego.

Hikers can use the green trail from Międzygórze to Stronia Śląskiego or the red trail, the main Sudeten route (Główny Szlak Sudecki) from Hali under Sněžník to

Łądku Zdroj. A twelve-meter-tall timber lookout tower stands on its top. From its deck you can view the Bystřické Mountains, the Orlické range, Králický Sněžník and also Jeseníky.

South of Kłodzko, close to the road to Bystrzyca, not far from the village of Żelazno, a wooden lookout tower is under construction at the top of **Wapniarka** (518 m). Its completion is expected in 2007.



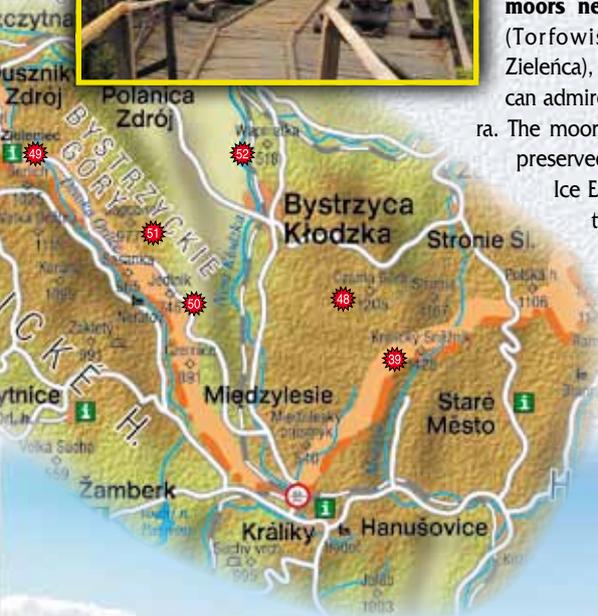
*A view from the lookout tower on Czarna Góra.*

# The Orlické Mountains and Bystrzycké Mountains



**49** A wooden lookout tower in the moors near Zieleńca

The biggest natural rarity and protected natural preserve are the **moors near Zieleńca** (Torfowisko pod Zieleńca), where you can admire unique flora. The moors have been preserved from the Ice Era. Although there is an educational trail passing through the site,



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A panoramic view the top of Jedlnik in Bystrzycké Mountains

to enable an overall impression, a wooden lookout tower was built in the **Topieliska preserve**, at 755 m above sea level. Currently, however, overgrown trees obstruct the view. The preserve can be reached easily from a car park next to the road from Zieleńca to Dusznik Zdroju (a bus stop), then on foot following the green signs.

Another vantage point, which is easy to get to, is **Jedlnik** (746 m) close to the so-called Sudeten road in Bystrzycké Mountains, not far from Gniewoszow. You can enjoy a beautiful view of the Eastern Sudeten and the massif of Sněžník. A memorial on Jedlnik reminds visitors of the passage of the armies of King John III Sobieski of Poland in 1683. The highest peak of the Bystrzycké Mountains is **Jagodna** (977 m) and, thanks to its height, it has become the natural vantage point from which you can have a perfect view of the Czech and Polish parts of the Euroregion. The shortest way to get there is to take the border crossing in Orlické Záhoří – Mostowice, and then to go along a mountain road to the mountain pass of Spalony, and then, from the chalet “Jagodna”, following the blue signs for about 5.5 km.

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Jagodna is a natural peak towering above the crest of the Bystrzycké Mountains

# Góry Stołowe (Table Mountains)



*A view from Szczeliniec Wielki of the village of Pasterka and, at the time of meteorological inversion, of the Broumov Walls and Javoří Mountains.*

Not far from Karłowa, on the way from Szczeliniec to Błędne Skały, is a group of rocks called **Narożnik**. From its vantage point at 851 m, you can get a graceful view of the Orlické Mountains and Lewinski Highlands, as our Polish neighbours like to say. The best way to get there is from the mountain passage in Lisiej, where you can leave your car and walk for about 300 meters along the blue hiking trail.

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*A chalet at Szczeliniec Wielki and a vantage point at the Naróżnik plateau.*

One of the Table Mountains, the highest one, lies almost on the Czech-Polish border. **Szczeliniec Wielki (Velká Hejšovina)** (919 m) is one of the most attractive points in the range. It has a plateau, 600 x 300 m, featuring a beautiful rock town, encircled from almost all sides by rock walls, 60m high. You will get the nicest view from the terraces of the chalet or from south-east terraces. There is a path with 665 steps leading to the top. It was built by F. Pabel, a bartender from Karłowa, and Major B. von Rauch. It was F. Pabel who had the scenic trail built and gave names to most of the rocks. You have to pay a fee to get to Hejšovina, and you can only move along signposted trails, as the mountain is a natural preserve. In order to protect nature, Little Szczeliniec (895 m) is closed to tourists.



*Błędne Skały (Wandering Rocks).*

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*A view from the Broumov Walls in the direction of k Szczeliniac and the crest of the Wandering Rocks .*

**The Błędne Skały** (Rocks) are, without any doubt, the largest natural attraction in the area. The Wandering Rocks are a labyrinth of crevices among massive blocks of rock through which you can take a scenic route. From a vantage point at 852m above sea level, you can look especially to Bohemia at the Broumov Walls and the Krkonoše. There is a car park in Błędne Skały (however, beware, each hour the direction changes – once going up, then down).

*Looking from Narożnik in the direction of the Orlické Mountains.*



# Kotlina Kłodzka (Kladsko Basin)



You can see the whole of Kłodzko from the top of the fortress. 

You will admire the town of **Kłodzko** (Kłodzko) for its architecture dictated by its military character. Without any doubt, the most unique feature is the fortress Kłodzko (**Twierdza Kłodzka**), a giant – almost twenty-hectare – defence system from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, perhaps the most valuable one in Poland. It displays examples from various European schools of the art of military engineering. Tourists can enjoy sightseeing tours along the many-kilometre labyrinth of underground corridors. When you walk onto the bulwark, you will get an enchanting view of the town and the Bystřické and Rychlebské Mountains. Besides the architecture of the military fortress, you will be attracted by the Gothic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, with its Baroque adaptations, in which you can see the tombstone of Arnošt of Pardubice, and a Gothic stone bridge over the Kłodzka Nisa.



There is a similar fortress in the nearby **Srebrna Góra**. The system was built in the Owl Mountains in the period 1765-77 and has been preserved without any great changes until the present time. The fortress, called donjon due to the type of its structure, which used to give shelter to almost four thousand soldiers, was defended by 264 guns and there were nine wells to provide the necessary water supply. The deepest one at Fort Ostrog is 84 meters. Srebrna Góra is sometimes also known under the name Silesian Gibraltar. From the bulwarks, you will have a very good view of the Owl Mountains, and if visibility is good, you will even see as far as Wrocław.



A view of the Silver Mountain (Srebrna Góra) and the Owl Mountains.

# Wzgórza Włodzickie (Włodzickie Highlands)



*A view from the brick tower on All Saints' Mountain.*

A brick tower, about 17m high, was built close to Nowa Ruda, on top of a hill, 648 m, called **Góra Wszystkich Świętych** (All Saints' Mountain). There is a nice panoramic view from the tower dating from 1913.

Another lookout tower in the vicinity of Nowa Ruda stands on **Góra Świętej Anny** (St. Anna's Mountain) 647 m. Unfortunately, this beautiful building from 1911 is now used as a TV satellite booster station and is closed to the public. Local people claim, that the tower is waiting for compassion and do all they can to return it to tourists. There is a little church, not far from the tower, built in 1644 and consecrated to St. Anna.



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*The fortress at Srebrna Góra, which houses an exhibition of military weapons, and a brick tower on All Saints' Mountain*

*The currently closed lookout tower on St. Anna's Mountain.*

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# Góry Sowie (Owl Mountains)



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The Grodno castle and a steel lookout tower on the top of Kalenica.

The castle of **Grodno**, built on top of Choina Mt. (450 m), dates from the turn of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A Renaissance palace was annexed to the lower parts of the Gothic castle in 1545–1587. There is a museum in the palace and a tourist shelter. The view from the ramparts of the Owl Mountains, Bystrzyckie basin and Bystrzyckie lake is wonderful. The shortest way to get there is from Zagorze Śląskie.

The highest mountain in the Owl Mountains is **Wielka Sowa** (Big Owl) (1015 m). A lookout tower, 25 metres tall, was built at its top in 1906. From the car park in Przelec Sokola an about 2.5 km-long red trail will take you right there. From the tower you will get a beautiful panoramic view, starting from Králický Sněžník, over Bystrické and Table Mountains, to the Krkonoše range.

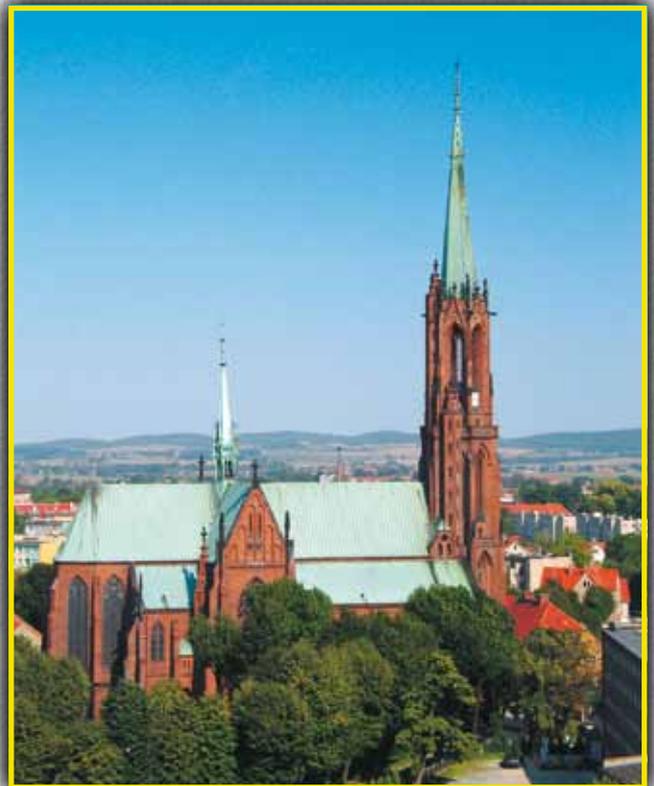


A lookout tower on the highest peak of the Owl Mountains - Wielka Sowa (Big Owl)

The steel lookout tower at the top of Kalenica gives you a view of the Javoří Mountains and the Broumov Walls.

The third highest mountain in the Owl Mountains is **Kalenica** (964 m) and its fifteen metre-tall lookout tower gives you a similar view as from the Big Owl Mt. A red-marked trail will take you there from the Przelec Jugowska mountain pass, between the villages of Sokolec and Kamionki. It is about 3 km long.

You can also get a very nice view of the Owl Mountains from the tower of the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in **Bielawie** at its foots. The building of the Neo-Gothic church was completed in 1876 and stands on the site of an earlier Gothic church. The tower is 101 m tall, which makes it the third tallest tower in Poland. It is generally used as a vantage point and is open to the public.



The tower of the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Bielawie.

# Area around Walbrzych (Ziemia Wałbrzyska)



The Książ castle..  64

North of Walbrzych, not far from the town of Swiebodzice, in the middle of a park, there is a beautiful and large castle, **Książ**, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century within the defence system of the principality of Swidnica. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century the original castle was turned into a massive and spectacular Baroque chateau. One of its remarkable features is a water terrace with 27 fountains. During World War Two, the chateau was used as the seat of the German HQ and the unique Baroque interior suffered great damage. The chateau tower is 47m tall and when you climb up you will get an almost birds-eye view of the Silesian lowlands and the Książanski natural park.



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Lookout towers on Mt. Chelmiec and at Stożek Wielki.



A panoramic view of the Stone Mountains from Stożek Wielki.

Just above the town of Walbrzych, a stone 22-m tall romantic looking lookout tower was built on Mt. **Chelmiec**, at 869m above sea level. The tower, resembling a ruined castle, has been reconstructed and will be re-opened for public use in 2007. There are a number hiking trails.

A timber lookout tower was erected on a basaltic hill at 841m above sea level, at **Stožek Wielki**. It is near Unisław Śląski, the nearest place from which you can get to the tower to get a lovely view of the Walbrzych Mountains.



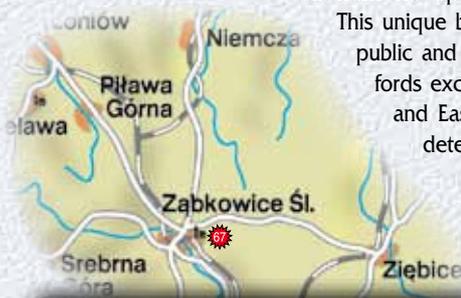
# Sudeten foothills (Przedgórze Sudeckie)



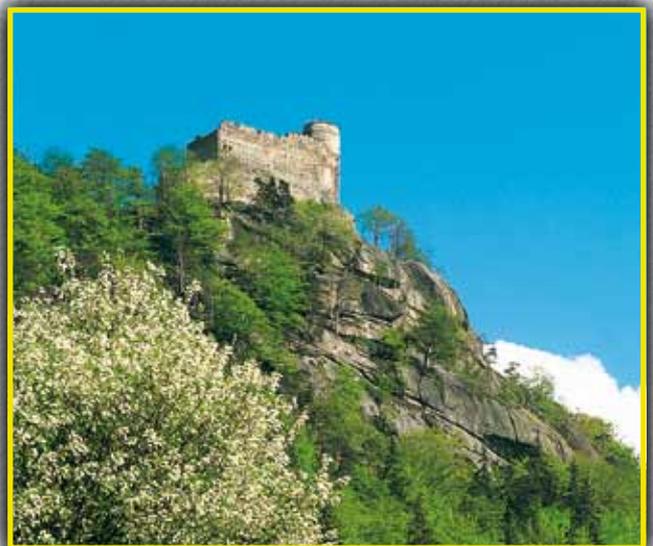
A view of the crest of the Giant Mountains .

**The leaning tower** in Ząbkowice Śląskie. An independent bell tower was erected towards the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century next to St. Anna's church. An earthquake might have brought about some movement in its foundations and caused the tower to lean. It is 38m tall and the tilt from the top to the foot is 150 cm.

This unique building is open to the public and the gallery on top affords excellent views of Central and Eastern Sudeten and Sudeten foothills.



The leaning tower in Ząbkowice Śląskie.



The ruin of the Chojnik castle.



We started our tour of lookout towers and vistas in the Krkonoše. The circle is now coming to a close and brings us back to the Krkonoše foothills, this time on the Polish side of the Nisa Euroregion. North-east of Sněžka, above the little town of Sobieszów, rises a hill (627 m) with a ruined castle on top, **Chojnik**. From the tower you can get a wonderful view of the Jizerské Mountains and the ridge of the Krkonoše. On the other side, there is Jelenia Góra (Deer Mountain). You can walk the 2km from the car park in Sobieszów following the black and red signs.



**And this brings us to the end of our trip. It is far beyond this booklet to describe all the beautiful vantage points in this Euroregion. All the same, we hope that this concise summary will inspire you to pay a visit to some of the places, be it on the Czech or the Polish side. We want to wish you good weather, clear skies and good humour when you make a tour of those enchanting and scenic places.**

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