



Country hikes II

or

a guide to adventurous hikes around Pelhřimovsko

Part 2 of the guide for walkers and cyclists around the
Křemešnická highlands, rightly known as the Gateway to Vysočina

Dear lovers of the countryside

You have in your hands the second part of this guide, which this time follows more or less unmarked routes through the Pelhřimovsko region of the Bohemian and Moravian Highlands. This guide gives you another helping of beautiful sights, views, history and picturesque spots.

Before beginning your trip, I would like to give you some practical advice and recommendations:

- 1. Look around you! Pelhřimovsko is like a little safari park. You can see dozens of deer, rabbits, pheasants, birds of prey circling the sky and all kinds of birds singing and pecking. In terms of views, this guide will only tell you about the most important viewpoints. You must find yourself the many other wonderful views. There are hundreds of picturesque little corners of Vysočina everywhere you go. Each season and the changing position of the sun make their own mark on the landscape.*
- 2. If you reach a crossing of paths which isn't mentioned here, use your intuition. Either follow the path which is of the same character as the one you've been travelling on, or choose the more direct route.*
- 3. People in the countryside work hard. You may find the path you are using has been ploughed up, or there may be felled trees blocking your way. If you find yourself off your planned route, you can always find people who will be happy to show you the right way to go to get back onto it.*
- 4. Vysočina is a mushroom picker's paradise and you will often come across raspberries, blueberries and wild strawberries. Feel free to stop a while and tickle your taste buds. Depending on the season, of course. Don't be looking for blueberries in the winter.*
- 5. If I mention the availability of refreshments in a shop or bar, do be aware that they follow opening hours and so they may be closed.*
- 6. This guide is intended for fit walkers and cyclists who like to occasionally stop and admire the landscape and for those who enjoy unspoilt nature and like to follow country tracks through fields and forests or quiet roads (busier roads will only be used for short crossings). The title mentions adventure, so you shouldn't care too much if you have to cross a ford or two.*

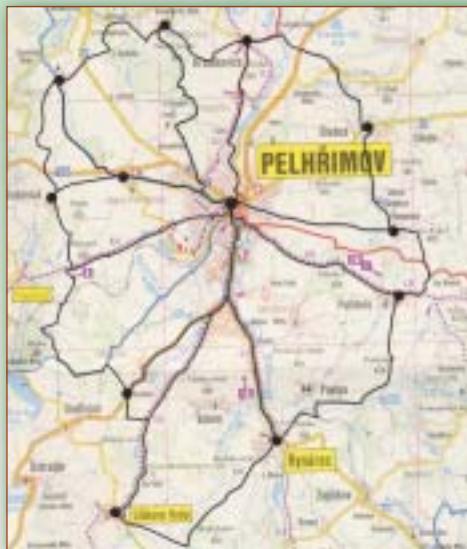
Wishing you great trips and a safe return home.

Martin Ecler

1. Pelhřimov Ring II

Length of route 47.5 km – because this is a circular route around Pelhřimov, it can be divided into any number of smaller sections

Pelhřimov – Dubovice – Holákov – Libkova Voda – Rynárec – Putimov – Na Nivách – Řemenov – Olešná – Služátky – Poříčský Dvůr – Krasíkovice – Hodějovice – Čakovice – Dubovice – Pelhřimov



m n. m. **Profil cesty**



In the first part of Country Hikes, you were able to follow a circular trail through the countryside around Pelhřimov at a radius of about 4 km. This circle has a radius of around 1–2 km larger and, as for the previous walk, you can stop the walk at a number of places and continue another time. The walk mostly goes through countryside and there is only one point where glimpses of the town of Pelhřimov can be seen.

At the signpost on Masarykovo Square in Pelhřimov, take the blue hiking trail towards Starý Pelhřimov. Follow these markings up a gentle hill leading to **Starý Pelhřimov** (Old Pelhřimov). From the centre of the town you go through a residential estate and then along a country path through fields to get to the village and to the trail signpost (3 km from Pe). If you decide not to have a refreshment stop at the nearby motel, continue along the blue route after the signpost but only for a short dis-

tance. Once the buildings of the village end on your left and you see the horse stables, turn left onto the dirt road. Here you leave the blue markings and continue along the dirt road and up a gentle hill to the village of **Dubovice**, where the second Pelhřimov Ring begins. Before reaching Dubovice, you can enjoy wonderful views over the countryside, from the Hajlovka valley to the peaks of Stražiště (744 m above sea-level) and Svidník (740 m).

When the dirt road to Dubovice (5 km) joins a tarmac road, turn left onto the tarmac road, then left again at the next tarmac crossroads and up the hill. Immediately on entering the first tarmac road a horse stables can be seen on your left. At the top of the hill, the tarmac road becomes once again a dirt road and a charming little valley comes into view, which lies at a height of almost 600 metres above sea-level. After crossing the little stream below the dam turn right onto the dirt road from where you will be able to admire more ponds and animal refuges. Continue until you see a group of cottages (at the other end of the cottages, there is a refreshment stop open in summer). Leaving the cottages on your right hand side, continue to the Pelhřimov – Vlášence road. This is the first point where the tired or those who haven't enough time (from here on referred to as t.o.n.t) can finish the trip and turn left along the road to Pelhřimov (*here you have travelled 6.5 km – including the walk to Pelhřimov 9.5 km in total*).

The rest of you should turn right onto the road, and then take an immediate left as you reach the group of trees. You soon exit the trees and arrive on a little hill (on the left you can see the St Nicolas chapel) and you will see the railway line in front of you. Turn right, following the railway line along the path. After a while you will see a crossing over the railway on your left. Take this crossing and continue in this direction with the railway track behind you. Take the opportunity to admire the view of the Hejlovka valley and its village of Vlášence on your right. Take the dirt road up a slight hill, and the view you see opening out in front of you will be worth the energy used to get up the hill. For in front of you lies the famous 'Pelhřimov Horská Kvilda' – an enchanting highland plateau of meadows and ponds, the occasional tree and even wild animals, all surrounded by forest. Wonderful. Those who know about this place travel here in summer by bike and in winter on cross-country skis. When you reach the

grassy area, turn right onto the path running along the fields. After some time, the path leads straight into the wood, and shortly before its edge, turn onto the path going left, then after a while left again onto another path. This forest path will once again lead you onto the grassy 'Kvílda'. After roughly 200 metres, turn right onto the path



which leads you into the wood. The path leads you through the wood. When you leave the wood and you get a view over the countryside, turn left onto the blue walking route you cross. Follow this route about 1.2 km uphill until you leave the bushes between the fields and meadows and the path flattens out. Here you will see a turning right to the little wood nearby. Take this turning. The (t.o.n.t.) can continue along the blue route to Pelhřimov (*10 km – 13 km in total*).

Following the path away from the blue route, you arrive at lonely **Holákov** and at the main Pelhřimov – Jindřichův Hradec road. Here, the brave (t.o.n.t.) can finish their hike and return left along this road to Pelhřimov, avoiding lorries all the way (*11 km – 16 km in total*), you however should go the other way – turn right. Luckily, you only need to follow the road for a short time – as soon as you enter a wood, you will see a path at the edge of the wood on your left down to a dirt road, which you should turn onto. Go to the end of the woods, where you turn left onto a path. This will lead you to the quiet Pelhřimov – Libkova Voda road. Here (t.o.n.t.)s can turn left to get to Pelhřimov (*12 km – 18 km in total*), and for the rest of you, you, as usual, will go in the other direction – turn right along the road. You will need to follow the road for a longer time here, but you will be rewarded for this with wonderful views over Křemešník hill and the local countryside. The hill at the graveyard before reaching Libkova Voda is a particularly good resting point for admiring the views. As soon as you enter **Libkova Voda**, take the first road on your left past the newly built houses. This will lead you to the middle of the village. (*15 km*) Here you can take a refreshment break in the pub or shop and you should take a look at the protected lime tree, whose trunk is almost 6

metres in circumference and which stands in front of the chateau where composer Bedřich Smetana stayed in 1941. There is also a signpost for hiking routes here, from which you should follow the yellow route in the direction of Čelistná. Follow the yellow markings only for a short while to the end of the village, from where you should take the dirt road on your left, which will lead you across a picturesque valley. The path leads to a road, onto which we turn left to the nearby village of **Rynárec**. Shortly after entering the village, when the road takes a sharp left turn, leave the road and turn right over the bridge with red railings and then straight on and under the bridge of the main Pelhřimov – Horní Verekev road. (T.o.n.t.) can turn back to Pelhřimov here (*19.5 km – 25 km in total*) and there is a restaurant and shop here. Those who are still fit to carry on should continue in the same direction under the bridge and to the end of the village. Here the road becomes a dirt track which you should follow along fields to the railway track, which you cross a little further on. Cross the track and go down onto the road from Pavlov to Nemojov. Turn right onto this road and you will soon see the markings which tell you that you are following the green hiking route. On the left hand side, you will pass an Jewish graveyard whose graves are more than 200 years old. When the green route turns off the road, you should continue further along the road, turning off onto the dirt road at the cross when the road begins to go downhill into the village of Nemojov. If you do follow the green route, the remains of the legendary fort of Blažkův zámek are to be seen in the woods behind the nearby Nemojovský pond dam. So continue further along the dirt road up a slight hill to the village of Putimov. On the right is Křemešník hill, which can be viewed in all its glory once you reach the village. On your left, Pavlov village lies in the valley and in the distance you should be able to see Pelhřimov, for the first and the last time. Continue to **Putimov** and at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity turn right then immediately left onto the little path between houses which will lead you to the Pelhřimov – Nový Rychnov road. You can take a refreshment break in the village pub or shop or relax at the bathing area and (t.o.n.t.)s can turn left onto the road to Pelhřimov (*24.5 km – 28.5 km in total*).

The rest of you should turn right onto the road and after a couple of hundred metres you turn to the left onto a dirt road leading to the isolat-

ed Na Nivách. Shortly before getting there, you come to a red hiking trail signpost. Follow the red markings left for a while. When the red markings turn off the fields and into the wood towards Pelhřimov, those who want to continue ((t.o.n.t.)s can turn off here to Pelhřimov) should continue on the path through the fields towards the village of **Řemenov**, which you can already begin to see. At the edge of the village you join a road which will lead you through the centre of the village to a crossroads at the other side.

Those (t.o.n.t.)s can turn here to Pelhřimov (27 km – 30.5 km in total), the rest of you should turn right through a long and picturesque valley around the settlement of Chválov to the village of Olešná, which contains a shop for refreshments (29.5 km). In **Olešná**, you cross the main road from Pelhřimov – Jihlava and then begin to go up hill around the pretty nursery-school buildings. After the playground, the road divides to the left and the right, but you should go straight on along the forest path which leads you through a wood and around its edge, then again through a wood and again around its edge and to a stream. Cross the stream and go up along the fields to the village of **Služátky** (31 km). Before reaching the village, you will join the yellow hiking trail which will lead you around a sheep pen to the end of Služátky, the Farma – Poříčí motorest (refreshments available) to the village of Krasíkovice. Before reaching the motorest, you need to cross the Humpolec – Pelhřimov road (32 km) so be careful crossing here.

In **Krasíkovice**, (t.o.n.t.)s can follow the red hiking trail to Pelhřimov (33.5 km – 37.5 km in total), the rest of you should use the yellow hiking route until you almost reach the crossroads to Hodějovice and Svěpravice at the edge of Krasíkovice, where you should turn left onto the dirt road which leads you to a beautiful chapel in the fields. Don't forget to look around, because there is a beautiful view over the countryside here. Turn left at the chapel and sharp right at the next turn-off towards the bushes. This path has views over the Hejlovka valley and



the Těchorázek monument and leads you to the centre of the village of **Hodějovice**. From Hodějovice, the (t.o.n.t.)s can follow the green hiking trail to Pelhřimov (*36 km – 40.5 km in total*).

Those of you who still have strength left in you should turn left in the village along the road and shortly after leaving the village, turn right onto the little road leading downhill. When the tarmac road ends, take the path going left over the picturesque Hejlovka valley to the farmstead of K Prchalovům (*37.5 km*), where you should turn left up the hill towards the pine wood. If you come here in blueberry season, this is a great place for a bit of natural refreshment. The path goes into the wood and then out of the wood again, where you should turn left across the field. Continue in this direction along the road which crosses the main Vlašim – Pelhřimov road until you get to the village of **Čakovice**. Here you can admire the renovated chapel, and (t.o.n.t.)s can then follow the blue hiking trail to Pelhřimov (*39.5 km – 45 km in total*).

Shortly after the chapel, which you will pass by on your right, the road will split into two, and you should take the right turning and continue on the path to the end of the village. After climbing uphill for a little while, the path goes along the upper edge of the Hejlovka valley, with forest on your right. As soon as the path moves away from the valley and you arrive at a crossroads, turn right to the nearby main Pelhřimov – Tábor road. You will cross this diagonally to the left onto a narrow road which goes straight on to join the road to Dubovice. At the beginning of the village of **Dubovice** (*42.5 km*), turn left onto the road then immediately left again onto the dirt track which you used before to join our Pelhřimov Ring. The ring is now joined and you now travel back along the route you used before to Pelhřimov. If you managed to do the whole ring in one go (*47.5 km in total*) you shouldn't forget to reward yourself with quality unfiltered beer in the restaurant Střepina. If you've had to break the walk up into sections, don't feel you can't do the same! Don't forget to visit the Museum of Records and Curiosities in Pelhřimov, the Ghost Museum, the Lipský Hall, the Dům Dobrých dnů – a matchstick model exhibition, the Vysočiny Museum Pelhřimov, Galerie M, the lookout tower on the Church of St Bartholomew or follow the architecture or Czech book of records trails.

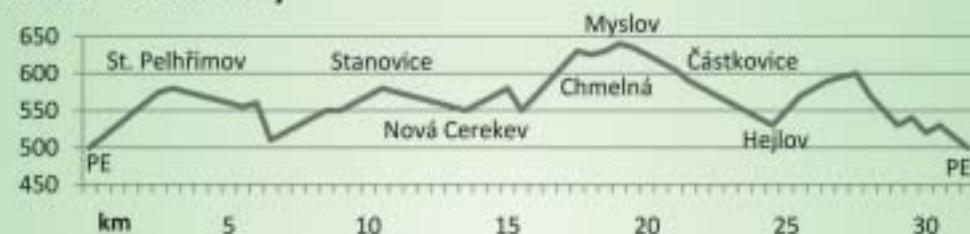
2. Nová Cerekev circle

Length of route 31.5 km

*Pelhřimov – Stanovice – Nová Cerekev
– Hatě – Hanuska – Chmelná – Myslov –
Částkovice – Hejlov – Pelhřimov*



m n. m. **Profil cesty**



Again follow the markings for the blue hiking trail from Masarykovo Square through Starý Pelhřimov across the main Pelhřimov – Tábor road until you find the trees on your right hand side. Here leave the blue trail by taking the path through fields on your left and left again at the next crossroads. Here you will get a view over the Hejlovka valley, whose river, when it joins the Jankovský river a few kilometres downstream, becomes the well-known Želivka river. Because the Želivka becomes a reservoir for drinking water for Prague and other towns a few dozen kilometres further, the local landscape here is subject to strict environmental controls. After a while you will reach once more the main Pelhřimov – Tábor road (a little adrenalin here will help you cross it). Cross the road diagonally to the left onto a little road and after a few metres, turn right onto a tarmac path, now looking very old and unlooked after. It may be hard to believe, but this path was once the main Pelhřimov – Tábor road. Follow the twisting path down to the Hejlovka river, cross over the bridge and you will soon arrive at a signpost for the yellow hiking trail. Follow this trail left towards Vlášence. The markings will take you through woods studded with holiday cottages. Not far from the edge of the wood, you will

see at a crossroads a strange-looking pole, on which you will find a sign stating that you are on the Greenway trail.

This green trail leading through the countryside links interesting places connected with trades and professions. Further information on the trail can be obtained at the Tourist Information Centre in Pelhřimov. It's quite nice to follow the trail for a bit, so follow the sign pointing towards the settlement of Stanovice, to your right. The Greenway is marked by these special signposts, but only at main crossroads. So to get to Stanovice, where the trail is leading, keep walking in this direction. The trail will take you to the centre of the village of **Stanovice** (10.5 km), where you can stop a while and admire the houses at the corner of the square. The architecture here is particularly interesting and it is worth taking a look at. Going down hill, you go from Stanovice to Nová Cerekev. Even from a distance, you will see the prominent feature of this village, the Church of St Thomas of Canterbury.

On arriving at the village, you shouldn't miss one more building, the Jewish synagogue on your left, built in an Oriental Moorish style. Not

far from here is a large Jewish cemetery, in which famed painter Alfréd Justitz is buried. At the village square in **Nová Cerekev** (13.5 km) you have the option of taking advantage of the restaurant, pub or shop and then you should join the green hiking trail towards Moraveč. This will lead you from Nová Cerekev through the settlement of **Hatě** (15 km), where there is a deer enclosure at the crossroads on the other side of the village. Here, the road turns right and the green trail goes straight on along a dirt road. You however should go left along an even smaller dirt road. This will take you downhill to the Novocerekvický stream, and, as we are on



an adventurous hike, you should cross the ford over the stream. Don't worry, you can cross it no problem without getting wet feet – be brave and just go for it! They used to pan for gold in this stream and its worth noting that people used to mine for gold and silver in many places around Pelhřimov. After crossing the ford, follow the path uphill around an incredibly beautiful part of Vysočina, the isolated **Hanuska** (16.5 km), and on to the crossroads where you should turn right up a slight hill. Do have a look around occasionally, because there are some great views over the countryside. After a couple of hundred metres, turn left off the route onto a path which may once have been tarmac. It was definitely worth the climb here, because there is a wonderful view over the countryside from here with the Nová Cerekev church in the foreground and the hills above faraway Humpolec in the distance. This path will lead you to the village of **Chmelná** (18 km), where you should turn right onto the road going to the village of **Myslov**, right next to Chmelná. At the crossroads in Myslov (19 km), turn left towards Božejov. There is an interesting bell-tower on the left of the crossroads. At the first turning shortly after leaving Myslov, you will come to some bushes, where you should turn left. The dirt road leading around some water towers will lead you to a wood, which you should enter. At the edge of the wood, take a left at the first crossing along the forest path. Stay on this path, its surface will soon start to improve and once you have arrived at the forest lake of Orlov, it will have become a pleasant tarmac path. Continue along the path out of the woods and continue in the paths direction diagonally across the Proseč Oboriště – Ústrašín road onto the dirt road to the small village of **Částkovice**. This village is of particular interest if you have come on bicycles, as there is an exceptional bike shop/service here run by former racer Petr Bakus. Here you will join the blue hiking trail which you should follow all the way to Pelhřimov. You will go past the larger **Hajlov** pond (24.5 km) with its island, and after going uphill once you pass this pond, you will be able to take in some incredible



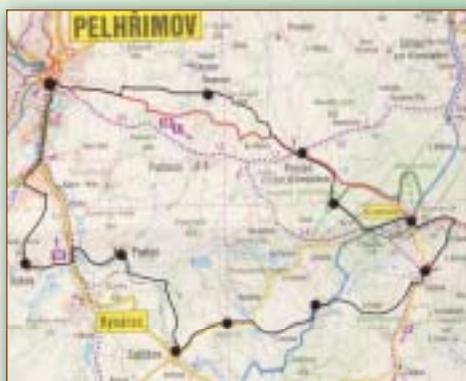
views over the countryside around Křemešník hill. The blue trail will lead you back to Masarykovo Square in Pelhřimov (31.5 km).

You are recommended to reward yourself with a pleasant drink in any of Pelhřimov's restaurants. And in Pelhřimov you can visit the Museum of Records and Curiosities in Pelhřimov, the Ghost Museum, the Lipský Hall, the Dům Dobrých dnů – a matchstick model exhibition, the Vysočiny Museum Pelhřimov, Galerie M, the lookout tower on the Church of St Bartholomew or follow the architecture or Czech book of records trails.

3. Křemešník circle II

Length of route 29 km

Pelhřimov – Řemenov – Proseč pod Křemešníkem – Křemešník – U Puldů – Lešov – Radňov – Zajičkov – Pavlov – Vokov – Pelhřimov



m n. m. **Profil cesty**



In introducing this route, it should be said that, as suggested by its name, the route crosses the peak of the highest hill in the area (Křemešník – 765 m above sea-level). For this reason, the first half in particular will be going uphill.

From Masarykovo Square in Pelhřimov, this time take the red hiking trail in the direction of Křemešník, but shortly after the graveyard, when you pass a little wood on your right, you should turn left onto the dam of the anti-flood reservoir basin. You will then reach the road from Pelhřimov to Řemenov, which you should turn right onto. At the crossroads in front of the village of **Řemenov** (4 km), continue straight on into the village and when the road divides into two in front of the last house in the village, you should take the right turning towards the newly built houses. The road soon becomes a dirt track and you will get a view of Křemešník hill on the horizon. The path leads you to a field in front of a wood, where you should go diagonally and to the right across the field to a narrow space between woods. Immediately behind this 'alley', turn left along the wood and over a difficult to notice bridge across a little stream and you will find yourself in a large field. In front of you you can see the village of **Proseč pod Křemešníkem**. Here you should continue along the edge of the wood, which will be on your right hand side and on to the village. At the end of the wood, you will join the red hiking trail, which you will follow for a while. This trail will lead you to Proseč (6.5 km), where you can take a refreshment stop in the local pub and when you get out of the village, you should certainly take a look at the large horse stables. Křemešník seems here to be within easy reach, and when you look back, you can see far over the countryside. Continue along the narrow road from Proseč pod Křemešníkem following the red markings and continue following the road, which becomes a dirt road, even when the red hiking trail turns off it. Crossing the dam of the Ivaniny fishponds, which are a sanctuary for amphibians, you will get to **Stříbrná studánka** (8 km). Here you can drink the refreshing spring water or fill up your water bottles for the rest of your hiking and the curious among you can read about the history of the spring, which is told for you on the Křemešník nature trail signpost here. The water from the spring has trace amounts of silver and does not go off. In the past it was used for ocean-going liners and today people travel here



from far and wide with huge canisters to fill. Continue straight on from the spring in the direction you have come around the Korce forest lodge until you reach the hiking trail signpost at the Pelhřimov – Nový Rychnov road. Here you should follow the blue trail to the top of Křemešník. You will soon be able to see the Větrný zámek (Windy Castle) and above it the chapel tower through a clearing in the trees.

At the top of **Křemešník** (10 km), you can take a refreshment break in the hotel here, go up the Pípalku look-out tower, from where you can look out over a distance of up to 100 km, or visit some of the other sights



located here. The Church of the Holy Trinity is worth a look, with its cloisters and two corner chapels, or the Stations of the Cross which lead from the chapel, under which you can occasionally find a bubbling spring and the Windy Castle, built by sculptor and medallist J Šejnost. If you decide to follow the nature trail which goes around the peak of Křemešník, you can learn lots more fascinating information

about this extraordinary place. Information is also available in the hotel. Children can have fun on the trampolines here and there is a 'rope course' for the brave. From the top of Křemešník, follow the red hiking trail towards Nový Rychnov, and when, after about a kilometre, the road crosses another slightly smaller road on which vehicles can travel, leave the red trail and turn right onto this road. This will lead you to the village of **Sázava**. Take your time and admire the views – you are still quite high up and there is a lot to see. In Sázava (12.5 km), you can take a break in the pub and continue in the same direction diagonally across the road from Pelhřimov to Nový Rychnov.

At the crossroads, you will join the yellow hiking trail which will lead you out of the village. As soon as you pass the last house in Sázava, the yellow markings turn left, but you should continue straight on and turn left a little further on onto a path parallel with the yellow trail. Before this path begins to go downhill to the lonely U Puldů, you will see on

you left the hill of Čerínek (761 m above sea-level). U Půldu is a magical place in the middle of forests and meadows. When the path leads you around 'Puldů' to the wood, go into the wood and take the path which continues in the same direction. This path, which can be difficult to make out at times, will lead you out of the wood. You will reach a valley, where you will meet the blue hiking trail, which you should turn left onto and which will lead you to the centre of the village of **Lešov** (16.5 km). Here the blue trail leads to a crossroads, where you should turn right onto the 'main' road from the 'side' road you were on, thus leaving the blue trail. Continue along this road until you reach the turning to the village of **Radňov**. Here you will join the yellow hiking trail, which you should follow through Radňov (18 km) to the village of **Zajíčkov**



(19 km). Don't forget to look around you when you get to the hill on the other side of Radňov and say farewell to Křemešník.

Turn right onto the dirt track in front of the first house in Zajíčkov, which will lead you to woods. Keep on this road along the edge of the wood and stay on it past the first crossing. The path eventually also leads you into the wood and you will arrive at a crossing next to a stream. Here you should turn left across the stream and after some time you will be walking through meadows along a track leading to the village of **Pavlov**. Turn left onto the road in front of the village which will lead you to Pavlov (22 km) and stay on the road until you reach the main Pelhřimov – Horní Cerekov road. Turn left onto this road, which you should follow for about 200 metres and then take the next right along a small road towards the village of **Vokov**. This will lead you to the chapel in the village (24 km) and here you should turn right in front of the council offices up the hill. Once you reach the top of this hill and take in the view over woods, hills and villages, you will realise it was worth the slog coming up here. This is a great little spot at the end of the hike. Go down following the path and when you see the trees and the first building of Pelhřimov's industrial

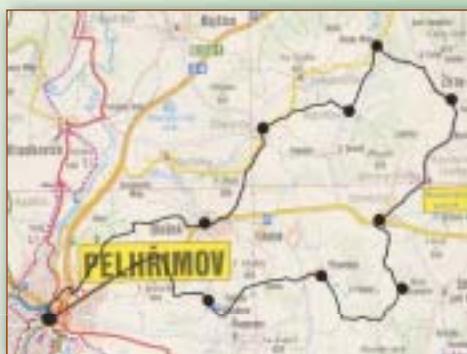
estate, go between these two uncomfortable neighbours until you reach the tarmac. Keep going in roughly the same direction which you've been going since Vokov, although it's not quite so nice going through the industrial part of Pelhřimov. You will end up in the centre of the town. You will soon arrive at the railway track and train station, where you join the green hiking trail which will lead you back to Pelhřimov's Masarykovo Square (29 km).

Don't forget to reward yourself with a refreshing drink in one of Pelhřimov's restaurants and if you haven't done it already, take the opportunity to visit one of the tourist sights in Pelhřimov.

4. Žirov circle

Length of route 27 km

Pelhřimov – Olešná – Chvojnov – Rybníček – Rohův mlýn – Žirov – Strměchy – Horní Strměchy – Plevnice – Chválov Pelhřimov



m n. m. Profil cesty



The last route I'm offering you is the shortest, but it really does go through some beautiful highland destinations. For those of you who can read a map and don't mind a longer hike than this, you can leave this route at Žirov and take a detour through Zachotín – Mysletín – Dudín – Polánky – Vyskytná – Branišov – Kamenicko – Horní Strměchy. You won't be disappointed.

Again, you should start your trip at Pelhřimov's Masarykovo Square, from which you should follow the red hiking route towards Sedlická přehrada (reservoir). After passing the Zlaté české ručičky (Golden Czech Hands) exhibition and still in the town, you will cross the bridge over the stream Bělá. Right after the bridge, follow the red markings left but then immediately after that turn right onto the narrow street. When you arrive at the crossroads with the larger road, turn right and head uphill and after a while you will arrive at the Pelhřimov – Humpolec A-road. Turn left onto this road and after a short distance, the main road will turn left and you should turn right onto the little road along the hospital fence. This will lead you out of the town past garden allotments. Past the first allotments, continue in the same direction towards the next group of allotments, but don't go through them. Just before you reach them, turn left onto the dirt road. Follow this road up the hill and shortly after reaching the top, when you see the dilapidated St Anne's chapel, turn onto the dirt road going right. After a while, this road will begin to head downhill and you will arrive at a stream where you turn right and follow the stream. You will then find yourself in meadows. Get yourself ready and jump over the stream and continuing in the same direction as the dirt road, cross the meadow until you get to a field in front of which you can see a path. Turn left onto this path and when you arrive at the cusp of a wood and the countryside opens out in front of you to give you a view to the faraway peak of Melechov (708 m above sea-level) above Ledeč nad Sázavou, turn right onto the dirt road which will lead you to the village of **Olešná** (shop available for refreshments).

In the centre of the village of Olešná (4.5 km), turn left onto the main road from Pelhřimov to Jihlava and at the edge of the village turn off the road left up the little road going uphill. Don't forget to admire the views as you go up, as the majestic Křemešník peak (765 m above sea-level) looks beautiful from here. After a while the road joins the yellow hiking trail, which you should follow. It will lead you to the village of **Chvojnov** (6.5 km) with its picturesque chapel dating to 1296 and then past the village you will go up through fields to woods at the top of Pavlíčkova hill. On arrival at the wood, the yellow trail you have been following turns left up to the peak, but you should go straight on using the other path. You may however wish to follow the yellow markings up to the water tower at the top

of the hill, as there is a wonderful view over the whole of Pelhřimovsko, ringed by three peaks (Křemešník 765 m, Stražiště 744 m and Svidník 739 m). Once you've taken the view in, go back to the crossing and continue as stated previously. This path leads you around the wood to the settlement of **Rybniček** (8.5 km). When you see the village in front of you, you will join a tarmac road going in the same direction. This takes a sharp right turn in front of the village and although the village is straight in front of you, take a left along the dirt road. On this side of Pavlíčková hill, the countryside



starts to take on a different character – more valleys, meadows, the occasional enchanting village... Go along this dirt road to the wood where you will join up with the yellow hiking trail, which will take you to **Rohův mlýn** (Mill). If you're not sure which path to take in front of the wood, choose the one which goes more left. Rohův Mlýn is a romantic building hidden in the mid-

dle of woodland (10 km). The yellow markings will lead you along a narrow footbridge over the Kopaninský stream and a couple of metres further turn away from the trail in the opposite direction to that the yellow marking points you in. The path will lead you up a gentle hill to the village of Žirov. Before reaching the village (and already on a road) Stružiště and Křemešník peaks become visible in a gap between hills.

Continue on the road through the village of **Žirov** (12 km) and around the small villages of Kocourovy and Jelcovy Lhotky to the village of **Strměchy** (15 km), where you can have a break in the pub which you arrive at if you turn left off your road at the village square. Before reaching Strměchy, you get a great view over the ever-closer Křemešník and the valley on your left with its ponds of Dolní Kladiny and Horní Kladiny. The road will take you through Strměchy and continue straight on after crossing the main Pelhřimov – Jihlava road, following a narrow road which leads uphill to the little settlement of **Horní Strměchy**. On arriving at the edge of this village (16.5 km), the road turns left and you should turn right here onto the dirt road. This will take you to woods, where you should remember to take

a look back, as there is another wonderful view here over the countryside. After a while, the path turns into the wood, then out again and then in once again. When you go into the wood for a second time, turn onto the dirt road going right. This road leads downhill with views over the rolling countryside to the village of **Plevnice** (20 km). Here you should turn left at the village square onto the road which runs between the chapel and the pond, and after you pass the last house in the village, you should turn right onto the dirt track. This path will take you over the hill around Úlehle up to the road from Řemenov to Olešná. Turn right onto this road and after a while turn off into the centre of the adjacent settlement of **Chvállov** (23 km). At the end of the village, the road becomes a dirt track, and when it divides into two paths, take the one going right to the woods. Go through the wood and at the other side you will see the main Jihlava – Pelhřimov road. You have no option here, you have to turn left onto this road and after a while you will drop down into the centre of Pelhřimov. Continue straight on at the first lights, turn right at the second and then the next left which will take you to Masarykovo Square, where you began your journey and where it comes to an end (27 km). In Pelhřimov at the end of your journey, you again have plenty of good refreshment options open to you or you can visit some of the tourist sights here.



If you have enjoyed your wanderings in the countryside around Pelhřimov, visit the town website at www.pelhrimovsko.cz, where under the link 'Turistické programy' (Tourist/Hiking programmes) you can use the 'Plánovač tras' to plan your own hike using any number of marked hiking trails. The resulting itinerary, which includes a map, route description and distances, can be printed out. (in Czech only)

Country hikes II

or a guide to adventurous hikes around Pelhřimovsko

Part 2 of the guide for walkers and cyclists around the Křemešnická highlands, rightly known as the Gateway to Vysočina

Contents:

1. Pelhřimov Ring II 3
2. Nová Cerekev circle 9
3. Křemešník circle II 12
4. Žirov circle 16

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