

Exploring the footsteps of František Maloch

An area of particular interest in terms of natural science and history is located north of Pilsen **on the left bank of the Berounka river**. This nature trail was built in memory of Pilsen botanist František Maloch. It is one of the oldest tours round Pilsen and it consists **of eleven information boards**.

The first information board “Bílá Hora” is situated right by the bus stop. The board will tell you about the history of the city of Pilsen and the former Prior brewery, and, of course, about the black coal mining. And now let’s hurry into the forest!

The city frenzy is replaced by singing birds and whispering forests. If we continue **following the yellow trail markers** that lead along the whole nature trail, we will come to an intersection of forest paths, where the next stop is called “Fort Roudná“, which describes the creation of the nature park Horní Berounka. Continue along the forest path leading slightly uphill, across the meadow and to the information board is called “the Devil’s Mill“. But you will have to look a bit to find the place of the legend. If you are standing facing the board, you will find a path diagonally right in front of you (across the meadow, about 100 m back). Go this way and you will reach the ruins of the mill.

The trail markers continue along a country lane in the direction of the grove Háj, where there is another information board **dedicated to the botanist František Maloch** – in memory of him and his lifetime love – botany. A winding road in the hillside will guide you “Through geological history“, as well as “Through the biotope of the Berounka River“. Before you reach the village Druztová, three more stops await you. They show the flora and fauna of the grove Háj as well as the nature park itself.

On a hard-surface forest path you will go all the way to the edge of Druztová, where you can also find an information board introducing visitors to the village’s history and points of interest.

The last stop on this route is the “**Věžka**” **castle ruins**, from where there is a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside and the Berounka River.

For the return trip you can take bus 39 which goes to nearby villages Senec and Zruč, or you can continue following the yellow trail markers to Dolanský most (bridge) and go back across the river to Bukovec or Doubravka following the green tourist markers to the nearest public transportation stop. The trail from Bílá Hora over the Dolanský Bridge to Bukovec is about 16 km long.

We will start our walk to the countryside at the terminal of bus nos. 20 and 39 in Bílá Hora.

How do we get to the terminal in Bílá Hora?

- **From the Central Bus Station**

- Bus 20 – go through the underpass and go across the four-lane road towards Kalikovský mlýn. The bus stop Kalikova is situated there.
 - Bus 39 – go through the underpass to tram 2 and go to the main railway station (hlavní nádraží), where you transfer to bus 39 in the direction of Zruč – Senec.
- **From the Main Railway Station**
 - Bus 20 – go through the underpass to tram No. 2 and go to stop Republic Square, where change for the bus. The bus stop is in front of Felini café.
 - Bus 39 – from the railway station go through the underpass to the stop in front of a Tesco shopping centre. Use the direction Zruč – Senec.

Study question

Younger children:

What is the name of the miller who built a new mill below Senec in the Mže River valley in 1850? What is the name of the place where there is a sign telling the story of this man?

Older children:

Give an example of the kind of green algae living on stones in the Berounka River and the number of the board where you can find this information.