

The Sigmond Educational Trail

The Entire route is marked with **yellow signs**.

The first stop along the route is "U Šídlovského vrch". On the northwest slope, irregular terrain appears among bushy forest vegetation. There used to be a **sandstone** quarry with a small lake from the late 19th century. It was filled in after World War II.

At the next stop there is a tiny building that used to be an ice factory. On a small pond, which was filled only in winter, ice was cut and supplied to Pilsen pubs.

While walking on the trail, you will come to the protected **nature reserve** called **Petrovka**. In the elongated, narrow floodplain along the creek the flora include reeds, tall sedge and transition bogs. The predominant species are alder, willow and the herbs include European gypsywort, meadowsweet, marsh marigold, Siberian iris, and many other rare plants. You will also find one of the most precious varieties of pine in Bohemia.

The journey from the Šídlovák pond around the Dostálek gamekeeper's lodge will lead you to the next stop, where you can find the Sigmond information panel. It is a commemorative plaque dedicated to Prof. Dr. Ing. Joseph Sigmond, who specialized in forestry. He also taught at universities and was appointed Forest Administrator. He was succeeded by Dominik Šašek, who developed and enriched his methods. He was particularly interested in forest management.

From the Sigmond info panel, it is just a short distance to **Petrovská díra**, a sinkhole naturally formed by water erosion. This cave was home to artisans, vagabonds, **and supposedly even bandits**.

Beyond the rock Petrovská skala, you pass a spring and climb up to "Okrouhlík". This natural monument was formed by erosion caused by running water over the course of a few thousand to tens of thousands of years. The altitude of the hill is 386 m above sea level.

The seventh stop, "U Četníka", recalls the original route from Ledce to Bolevec. About 200 meters further to the southwest runs the boundary between Chotíkov and Bolevec and is accentuated by an artificial ditch. 500 m further on the left side of the path stands the fir tree called **Troják**. It is a protected memorial tree, which, at 2.5 meters, is divided into three straight trunks. It is about 140 years old.

A stone Cross and Calvary recall a tragic event-the robbery and **murder of a butcher** who went to the market in Pilsen to buy cattle.

The trail leads further to areas where J. Sigmond tried to cultivate rare species of pines. It is one of the many **experimental plots** where you can see, for example American Banks pine, solid pine and many others. The observation of trees will continue. At other stops we see spruce, Mungo pine, gray alder, winter beech, and American red oak.

Towards the end of the route at the bottom of a hill, we come to the remains of a resin

furnace. It is very important and protected technical monument of its kind, the best preserved in the Czech Republic.

The thirteenth and final board is located on the reservation stone pond. Characteristic plants reservations are cotton grass, cranberry, European starflower, common reeds, etc. Kamenný Rybník (Stone Pond) is one of the original Bolevec ponds. On its surface, you can see such species as wild duck, coot, large swan and great crested grebe. From **Kamenný Rybník**, we follow the markers back to the pond Šídlovák and thus the starting place of our pilgrimage.

If the walk seems too long, it is possible to shorten it by taking any of the numerous forest roads, which are interwoven with the forests here.

How do we reach the Sigmund Trail?

The starting and finishing point of the trail is the final tram stop of no. 4 in Košutka. There you can find a map of the entire route.

- From the Central Bus Station (CAN)
 - go through the underpass to tram No. 2, then go two stops to "Sady Pětaticátníků". There, get off, cross the tracks and get on tram no. 4 in the across from direction and it will take you to the final stop "Košutka".

- **From the main train station**
 - go through the underpass to tram No. 1 or 2 to the stop "Solní, pošta" (three stops), then cross the street and board tram 4 in the direction "Košutka". Get off at the final stop.

Study Question

Young children:

What was the name of the person who, along with the remnants of his gang, robbed and damaged many properties in Pilsen at the beginning of the 16th century?

What happened to him?

Older children: What is the name of stop no. 8 and what is carved on the pedestal of the shrine by this stop?