

On the Track of Horse Hooves of East Bohemia



ON THE TRACK
OF HORSE HOOVES

CzechRepublic

www.horses.eastbohemia.info



EAST BOHEMIA



**MINISTRY
OF REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT CZ**

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DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY
EAST BOHEMIA

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East Bohemia





*“Hurray! After an absolutely exhausting duel between horses and riders on the racecourse, the winner is ...” Similar sentences have been heard throughout East Bohemia for decades. This region, which is known as a paradise for horses and those who love them, is full of features which cannot be found anywhere else in the Czech Republic. You can cheer, rejoice and even have a flutter at the Pardubice Racecourse. The facility is home to the **Velká Pardubická Steeplechase**. Its fame and demanding character have made it one of the most prestigious steeplechases in Europe. If you are not a fan of the hustle and bustle of horse racing, you should definitely visit the **National Stud at Kladruby nad Labem**. Its baroque stables are home to an original Czech breed of horse: the Kladruber. The purpose of these noble creatures is purely ceremonial and even today they still serve at some European royal courts. You can relax and learn to ride at the **Vasury Kolesa** stables. The sports facility offers not only active activities, but also accommodation and catering facilities. Your travels on the track of the horses’ hooves should definitely also include Slatiňany. Horses are closer to the heart of this small town than you might think. It is home to a stud which breeds black Kladruber horses. The **Slatiňany Chateau**, with its unique world-class horse museum is but a stone’s throw away. **The Švýcárna – Museum of the Kladruber Horse** is tailor-made for younger and older visitors alike. Its facilities are interspersed with interactive exhibitions, including the option of saddling up the largest plush horse in the Czech Republic. And, if you are overcome with the desire to wander through the countryside and enjoy direct contact with horses, be sure to make use of the horse-riding trails and ranch visits. So pluck up your courage, pack your bags and set off for East Bohemia!*



The National Stud at Kladruby nad Labem

The National Stud at Kladruby nad Labem is one of the oldest studs in the world and home to the oldest original Czech horse breed: the Kladruber horse. In 2002 the white breed gained the Czech national cultural heritage status.

The tradition of horse breeding in Kladruby nad Labem stretches back to at least the late 14th century. For over three hundred years (1579–1918) it was an Imperial Court Stud providing horses for the royal and imperial court in Prague and Vienna. Nowadays the National Stud keeps around five hundred horses in two colours: grey and black. The 250 grey horses are stabled in Kladruby nad Labem proper, whereas the black horses, which also number 250, are bred in Slatiňany near Chrudim, in the former stables of the noble family of Auersperg.

In the times of the monarchy, the grey horses were used for ceremonial service at the imperial court. In fact, they are probably the only breed in the world which was bred specifically to pull coaches of the sovereigns. The black Kladruber horses were used mainly at funerals and during mourning periods at the royal court, but they were also used for representative service by high clergy.

The grey Kladrubers still serve at royal courts even today. In the Czech Republic the horses can often be seen at various celebrations at Prague Castle, mainly at special ceremonies of the Castle Guard, but they are also used by the mounted police in Pardubice, Ostrava and Prague.

› www.nhkladruby.cz

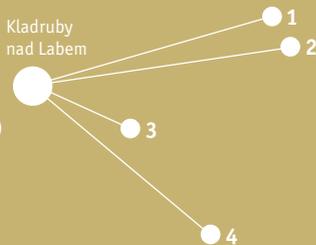




TIPS FOR TRIPS

1. Bohdanečské rybníky, ponds (17,5 km)
2. Lázně Bohdaneč, spa town (15 km)
3. Outdoor center in Přelouč (12 km)
4. Choltice Chateau (19,5 km)

Kladruby
nad Labem



The Slatiňany State Chateau

The members of the House of Auersperg, which was once one of the noblest and richest aristocratic houses in the Hapsburg monarchy, also played a significant role in laying the foundations of modern horse breeding. The Slatiňany Chateau was popular with the family and a site of frequent visits. They also established a stud farm, which was used to stable carriage, hunt and race horses, nearby. Franz Joseph Auersperg, who owned the chateau until 1938, was distinguished by a substantial entrepreneurial spirit and an interest in new things. He was not only instrumental in modernising the Slatiňany rural residence (the sewers, the central heating and so on), but also in the innovative construction of new horse stables, which were considered to be among the most modern in Austro-Hungary at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. After the Second World War, the Slatiňany Chateau and the stud farm were confiscated and their very existence was in jeopardy. Thanks to the renowned Professor of Zoology, František Bílek, however, the facilities became a hippology centre. The black Kladruber breed was placed in the stables to allow the breed to regenerate, while an exhibition entitled the Horse in Art was installed in the chateau. The exhibition was subsequently expanded to include a scientific section dedicated to the development and anatomy of the horse. The uniqueness of the museum lies in its large collection of pictorial material which has come from castles and chateaux across the entire republic. More than seventy years since it was established (1947), there are now plans to modernise the hippology exhibition and it is expected to open in 2020.

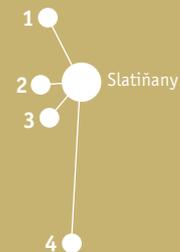
› www.zamek-slatinany.cz





TIPS FOR TRIPS

1. Chrudim – The Town of 3 Museums (5 km)
2. Podhůra Recreational Forests (1,5 km)
3. Lookout Tower on Chlum (3 km)
4. Celtic Archeoskanzen Nasavrky (11,5 km)



Švýčárna Slatiňany – The Museum of the Kladruber Horse

The Kladruber Horse Museum was established in a former chalet, which once belonged to the aristocratic House of Auersperg, in 2012. Its exhibitions acquaint visitors with the history of Kladruber horse breeding, the town of Slatiňany and of the Švýčárna chalet itself. Not only children can enjoy saddling and putting a bridle on a plush horse which has been entered in the Czech Book of Records as being the country's largest. It is also possible to try sitting in a carriage or to view a unique collection of whip stocks, whips, saddles and collars. The museum also has something for very small visitors in the form of a drawing corner and a selection of rocking and plush horses. There is also something for documentary horse lovers, as the projection hall shows films on shoeing horses, horse reproduction and the life of horses. The museum's location has a great advantage for families with small children. It is located near the well-known miniature of the castle (Kočíčův Hrádek) and it is surrounded by beautiful countryside which is excellent for walks.

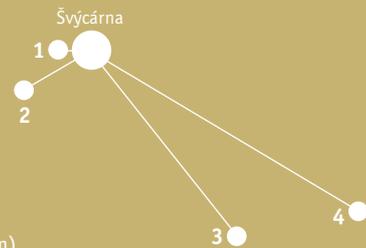
› www.svycarna-slatinany.eu





TIPS FOR TRIPS

1. Miniature of the castle „Kočičí hrádek“ (300 m)
2. Rabštejn Castle Ruins (5,5 km)
3. The Ležáky Memorial (18 km)
4. The Town Museum of Stone and Footwear in Skuteč (18 km)



The Pardubice Racecourse The Origins of the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase

Par force hunting became popular with the British aristocracy as a hobby in the 19th century. This involved hunting game animals with a pack of dogs while riding on horseback and wearing colourful apparel. The animals and people were faced with various obstacles during the hunt which they had to overcome. This English phenomenon soon spread to other European countries. Within the framework in the Czech lands, this hobby experienced its greatest growth in Pardubice. The local countryside, which has the character of an English park, proved suitable for par force hunting or eventually for steeplechase races in the English style. This led to a racecourse being built in 1856, which became the impetus for holding a large steeplechase race, so-called the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase, which was first held on 5th November 1874.

The Velká Pardubická Steeplechase currently ranks as the oldest and most demanding cross-country race in continental Europe. The Pardubice Racecourse hosts up to one hundred races ever year, of which competitions and carriage driving races also have a long tradition in addition to that of the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase. The facility is the venue for a number of exhibitions, the biggest of which is the Horses in Action exhibition (Koně v akci). Polo tournaments are a new feature. The facility is also now used by the wider public as a venue for the extreme Taxis Gladiator Race, extreme golf, dog races, festivals and other events.

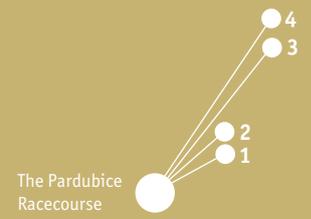
› zavodistepardubice.cz





TIPS FOR TRIPS

1. Historical centre of Pardubice (5 km)
2. Pardubice Castle – The East Bohemia Museum (5 km)
3. Gingerbread Museum near Kunětická hora Castle (10 km)
4. Kunětická hora Castle (10,5 km)



Steeplechasing and Sporting Center Vasury Kolesa

Vasury Kolesa is located near Kladruby nad Labem which is the home for Kladruber white horses. The compound is a modern center with studs, a guest house and a restaurant. The steeplechasing and sporting stud were founded in 1994. The sports ground is used not only for horse races but also for show jumping, training and competitions of versatility. Vasury Kolesa can take pride in the "Koleský dvojskok" which is a unique steeplechase jumps. In the past Vasury Kolesa organized many horse races connected with names such as: Josef Váňa Sr., Josef Váňa Jr., Jaroslav Myška etc. Besides other things the compound offers a lot of services for professional riders and the public as well. It is possible to stable/train a horse or you can pay for horse rehabilitation which uses modern equipment with amazing results. Families with children can take private riding lessons at the Pony School where the youngest visitors will learn about horse care as well. If you want, you can take carriage rides.

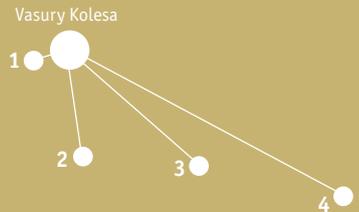
› www.vasury.cz





TIPS FOR TRIPS

1. **Obora Kolesa,**
Deer Nature Reserve (1 km)
2. **Kladruby nad Labem** (3,5 km)
3. **Semín aqueduct** (9 km)
4. **Recreation ponds near Přelouč**
(Buňkov, Lohenice and Mělice)
(12 km)



Tips for Events

APRIL

KLADRUBY NAD LABEM:

THE RUDOLF CUP. Traditional carriage driving races.

VASURY KOLESA:

An afternoon race meeting with eight flat races on the program.

MAY

KLADRUBY NAD LABEM:

KLADRUBER HORSE DAY

A celebration of the establishment of the court stud at Kladruby nad Labem. The main program includes carriages pulled by Kladrubers and saddled horses in a number of performances.

THE PARDUBICE RACECOURSE:

The 1st qualifying round for the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase. The four-part qualification series for the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase starts with the May qualifying round. This is the first opportunity in the season to qualify for a place in the legendary race.

VASURY KOLESA:

International endurance races. Races which test the ability and endurance of rider and horse in terrain.

JUNE

THE PARDUBICE RACECOURSE:

The 2nd qualifying round for the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase. The race meeting culminates in the second of four qualification races for the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase. Further hopefuls for a place in the legendary race line up in the race which bears the name of a former

two-time winner of the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase, Major Miloš Svoboda.

AUGUST

THE PARDUBICE RACECOURSE:

HORSES IN ACTION (KONĚ V AKCI). The international exhibition has a history stretching back more than twenty-five years and is the largest meeting of horses and people in the country. All breeds and sizes of horses are presented at the breeders' shows, while the program also includes presentations of sports and work skills.

The 3rd qualifying round for the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase. The August race meeting culminates in the penultimate qualifying race for the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase. Horses hoping to participate in the October climax of the steeplechase season, the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase, test their form there.

SEPTEMBER

THE PARDUBICE RACECOURSE:

The 4th qualifying round of the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase. The September steeplechase meeting is not only the last part of the qualifying series for the Velká Pardubická Steeplechase, but it is also a celebration of the European Day of the Horse.

HEŘMANŮV MĚSTEC:

THE JIŘÍ ŠKODNÝ MEMORIAL

Carriage driving races with single-horse, two-horse and four-horse teams at the Pheasantry in Heřmanův Městec.

KLADRUBY NAD LABEM:

KLADRUBY INSIDE OUT (KLADRUBY NARUBY)

An entertaining family afternoon, which includes pres-

entations of Kladruber horses, musical and theatrical performances, creative workshops, a fete and a wide range of attractions and competitions for children.

VASURY KOLESA:

An afternoon race meeting with eight flat races on the program.

OCTOBER

THE PARDUBICE RACECOURSE:

The Velká Pardubická Steeplechase. The oldest and most demanding steeplechase in continental Europe and the finale of the domestic steeplechase season. The top domestic steeplechasers and horses from abroad line up at the start. This legendary steeplechase is also part of the international Crystal Cup series.

VASURY KOLESA:

International endurance races, where the area champions of Eastern Bohemia compete.

NOVEMBER

VASURY KOLESA:

An afternoon race meeting with eight flat races on the program.

DECEMBER

KLADRUBY NAD LABEM, SLATIŇANY:

THE KLADRUBER WINTER KINGDOM

A popular Christmas event for visitors which includes rare guided tours of the studs in Kladruby nad Labem and Slatiňany. The program at Kladruby nad Labem also includes a creative workshop, where visitors can create Christmas decorations, ice gingerbread figures or draw their own Kladruber horse.



Horse Riding Clubs and Farms

ČESKOMORAVSKÉ POMEZÍ (Bohemia-Moravia Borderlands)

Agropension U háje
Bonanza
Cerhákův statek
Farma U zvědavé kozy
Formanství Borová
Indiánská vesnice Jangelec
Jezdecká škola a stáj Machovi
Jezdecký klub Janov u Litomyšle
Jezdecký klub Markéty Bártové
Jezdecký klub Osada Lípa
Jezdecký klub Polička, stáj Pomezí
Jezdecký klub Útěchov
Jezdecký oddíl stáj Dvořák
Jízdárna Suchá
PadmaFarma
Penzion Toulouvcovy Maštale
Petišův ranč
Ranch Hidalgo
Ranch Stodvojka
Spolek jezdecký klub Kunčina
Sportovní stáj Váňa Morašice
Stáj Květná
Stáj Osík
Stáj Pucher
Stáj Půlpecen
Stáj Radiměř
Stanice pro jezdce na koních – Pastvisko
Statek JO Černík
Statek Morning Glory
Zámecké stáje Nové Hradky

CHRUDIMSKO-HLINECKO (Chrudim-Hlinsko)

Ekofarma a Stáje Oboříce
Farma pod kopcem
Farma Slunečný Dvůr
Jezdecká společnost Kozojedy
Jezdecký klub Pablo Slatiňany
Jezdecký oddíl Albert
Národní hřebčín Kladruby nad Labem - Slatiňany
Saloon Klondike
Sportovní jezdecký klub
Stáj Markovice

ORLICKÉ HORY A PODPORLICKO (Eagle Mountains and Foothills)

Dream Ranch Horní Libchavy
Farma Kněžour
Hřebčín Karlen
Jezdecká stáj Čertova skalka
Jezdecký klub Orličky
Jezdecký klub Polsko
Jezdecký klub Sloupnice
Jezdecký klub Zdeněk Bittl
Jízdy kočárem s koňským spřežením
Penzion Statek u sv. Jána
Ranch Libchavy
Ranč Oklahoma
Ranč U černých koní
Stáj M & M
Statek U dubu
SZeŠ Lanškroun
Vaškovice farma - jezdecký klub Podlesí

PARDUBICKO

Agrofert Park
AndyWest ranch
Apolenka
Drawingranch
Equinní Reprodukční Centrum Mnětice
Hope Ranč
Jezdecká společnost pod Kunětickou horou – Brozany
Jezdecká stáj Dolní Jelení
Jezdecká stáj Marko
Jezdecká stáj Vaculík
Jezdecký klub Staré Ždánice
Jezdecký oddíl SŠCHKJ Kladruby nad Labem
Národní hřebčín Kladruby nad Labem
Ranč Bělečko
Ranch Buena Vista
Sportovní a dostihová stáj Vasury Kolesa
Stáj Nováková–Teuner
Stáj Ráby
Statek Udržal
U tetičky Marušky
WesternFarm Alvero

KRÁLICKÝ SNĚŽNÍK

Jezdecký klub Lipka

What a ride it has been! But do you have the feeling that there are still things which you wish to discover? Would you like to travel to more interesting places and to see even more horses? No problem! Just take a look at the "horse" web. Its web pages will take you wherever your heart desires. So grab your mobile phone or laptop and click on: www.horses.eastbohemia.info



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Photo: J. Kopriva



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Photo archive: Destinační společnost Východní Čechy



