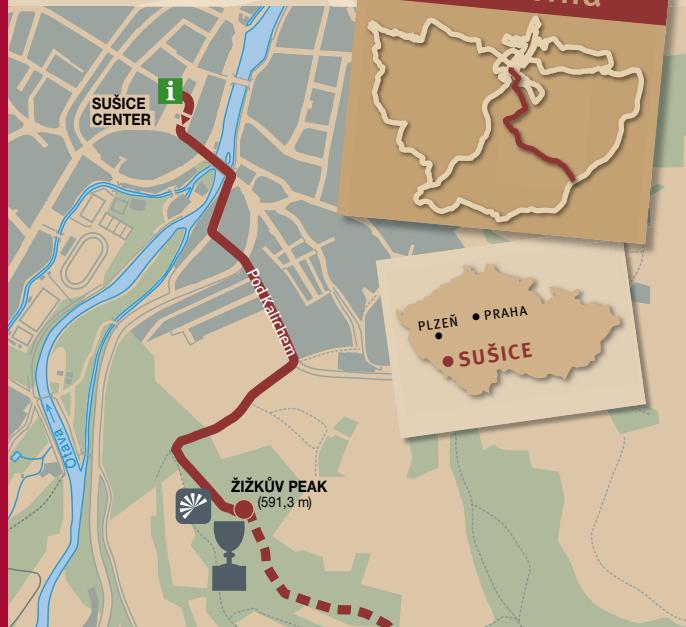


SUŠICE AND THE CHALICE



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Text: Město Sušice, Muzeum Šumavy 2011. Photo: Šumák © 2011, archive.
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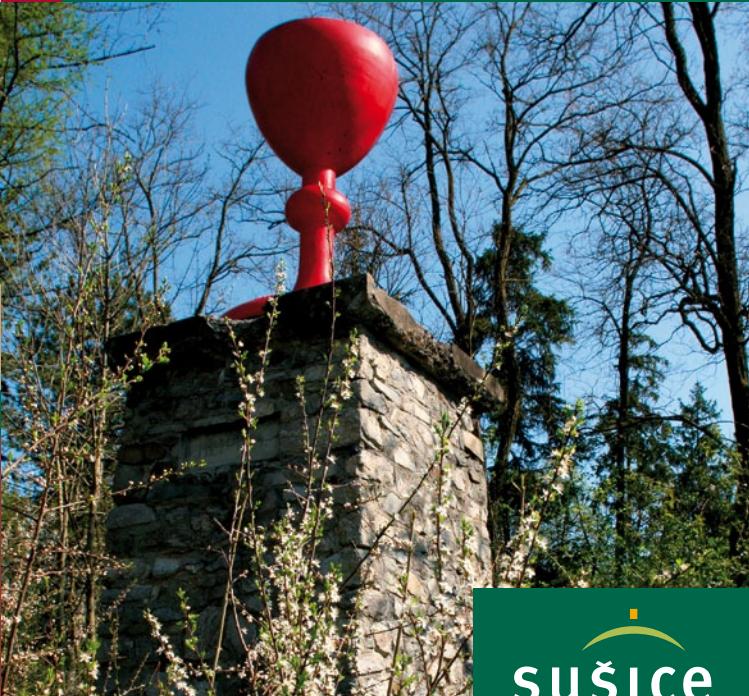
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SUŠICE AND THE CHALICE

BEAUTIFUL RAMBLES AROUND SUŠICE



Jan Žižka of Trocnov (1360 – 1424)

This genius commander and leading representative of the Hussite movement was born in 1360 in Trocnov into the family of a minor squire. At the age of twelve Žižka lost his left eye in a sword fight. In 1400 he joined a band that was destroying and pillaging the property of the Rožmberk's family.

In 1412 he went into Royal service, working for King Wenceslas IV, and he lived in Prague. Under the influence of the preacher Jan Hus, he became an ardent follower of the reformation.

On 30.7.1419 he participated in the defenestration at the New Town Hall (when Prague aldermen were thrown out of the window). He left Prague with other radical Hussites for Pilsen where, already in the position of a leader, he commanded his first battle.

In March 1420 he had to leave Pilsen as the Catholics were growing much stronger in the town, and he settled in the newly established town of Tábor where he was elected one of the four Tábor leaders.

On the way to Tábor he fought a winning battle at Sudoměř (25.3.) against the Catholic army of feudal lords from Strakonice and Písek (there were 2000 Catholics and 500 Hussites). Žižka took up a defensive position on a dam between two ponds, one was filled in and one was empty. The Catholic army wanted to approach the Hussites across the empty pond, which was very muddy and the soldiers, in their heavy armour, started to sink into the mud. The light Hussite army were able to despatch them with ease.

In 1420 Žižka defeated the first Crusaders at Vítov near Prague. In the following year Žižka lost his second eye when besieging the castle of Rabí. Despite the fact that he was blind, he was still a superb commander and in 1422 he managed to defeat the second Crusader army that was sent against him and which fled in horror.

Žižka died on 11 October 1424 after a short illness during an army campaign near Přibyslav.



Sušice during the Hussite revolution

When Tábor became the centre of the Hussite movement (1420), Sušice proclaimed its allegiance to the Hussites. For the entire period of existence of the movement, Sušice was a member of the Tábor association of Hussite towns. The people of Sušice participated in all the major battles – for example during the siege of Švihov in 1425, the siege of Plzeň in 1426 and the siege of Zvíkov in 1429. In 1432 they helped to take the castle of Lopatý. Rabí became the refuge and support place for all enemies of the chalice (symbol of the Hussite movement) in the region. The Hussite armies besieged

Length of the route:

2 km (slow walk about 40 minutes)

Level of difficulty:

medium, suitable for smaller children and families

Marked:

PURPLE

Description of the Route:

Svobody Square – Mostní St – Dlouhoveská St – Pod Kalichem St – red marked route to Žižkův Peak

Elevation difference:

153 m



the castle twice and managed to conquer it, once in 1420 and then a year later in 1421.

After the final defeat of the Hussites in Lipany in 1434, Sušice gave itself up to the provincial army.

Sušice had two representatives at the congress of 1435 in Jihlava, Ondřej, a priest from Sušice and Master Václav of Sušice, where the agreement made between the Basel council and the Czech Hussites, was approved. Sušice was one of the 40 towns that swore obedience and loyalty to King Sigmund.



Žižkův Peak

Originally known as the Gallows Peak, this hill offering superb views of Sušice was renamed Žižkův Peak to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the death of the military commander Jan Žižka.

A 2.46 m tall cast iron chalice was placed at the top of the peak.

The chalice was made by the Leopold Schifauer Company based in Klatovy, a machine manufacturer and iron and metal foundry, for 4,456.- CZK. The chalice was embedded into the top of the 3 m tall pedestal that was built by Ing R Grabinger, a builder from Sušice, for 3,200.- CZK. The stone

that was needed for the construction was quarried in the hill itself and it was paid for by the town. The costs for the monument were paid by the town and from public funds. The chalice was officially unveiled on 28 October 1924.

