



Hamry / Trail to the Křížkov Pilgrimage Site

1 The village of Hamry



Length of Path 4,6 km

The village of Hamry

The village was founded on a trading route, connecting Bavaria and Bohemia, called the Iron or the Bavarian Road. Mentions of local settlement date back to 1429.

The village was predominately German. In 1850, when its area was 3 530 hectares, there were 1225 people living here. The number of inhabitants continued to rise, reaching its peak of 1450 just before World War II. Most of them were forcibly displaced after 1945, a lot of settlements became desolate and were torn down. After the establishment of the Iron Curtain, the village was only partially accessible, and all access was monitored by members of the Border Guard. Despite all this, the village continues to exist to this day.

The original German settlers and their descendants did not forget their home and took part in rebuilding the nearby pilgrimage site Křížkov, as well as in the extensive reconstruction of the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows at the beginning of the 1990 s. The church came to exist by expanding of the local chapel in 1773. The patroness of the village is also commemorated by the Road of Our Lady of Sorrows, which leads to the church. It stands in the place of a former Stations of the Cross, it has 85 steps and 8 stops – in the original granite slopes, there are ceramic reliefs by Gustav Fífka depicting the seven sorrows of Virgin Mary. The eighth one depicts the story of Cana of Galilee, where Jesus turned water into wine. Other reliefs can be found in the church.

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2 Church of Our Lady of Sorrows (Koller's church)



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Church of Our Lady of Sorrows (Koller's church)

The dominant feature of Hamry is the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, which was created during the reconstruction of the original chapel in 1773–74. It has one nave, of rectangular ground plan, with a Mountain of Olives chapel and a sacristy on the north side. In the beginning of the 1990 s, donations from the former German settlers and their families allowed for a reconstruction of the church. The second consecration was carried out on 11. 9. 1993. by the České Budějovice bishop Mons. Dr. Anotnín Liška. The first mass carried out a day later by the Pilsen bishop Mons. Ing. František Radkovský.

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3 Chapel of the Holy Trinity



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Chapel of the Holy Trinity

A chapel built on a hill, southwest of Fürsenhof. It was originally a stone chapel, but after 1963 (when it still had a roof), it was taken apart for building material and the place was overgrown with birch trees. In 1992, Mr and Mrs Kropáček, with the financial support of the Linzmaier family, who used to own the land, then used the original groundwork to rebuild it and it was consecrated on 23.5.1993 by father Josef Šimsa. It has a new roof, with a copper ridge turret. The original chapel is depicted on a map of the 1837 cadastre.

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4 Pilgrimage site Křížkov



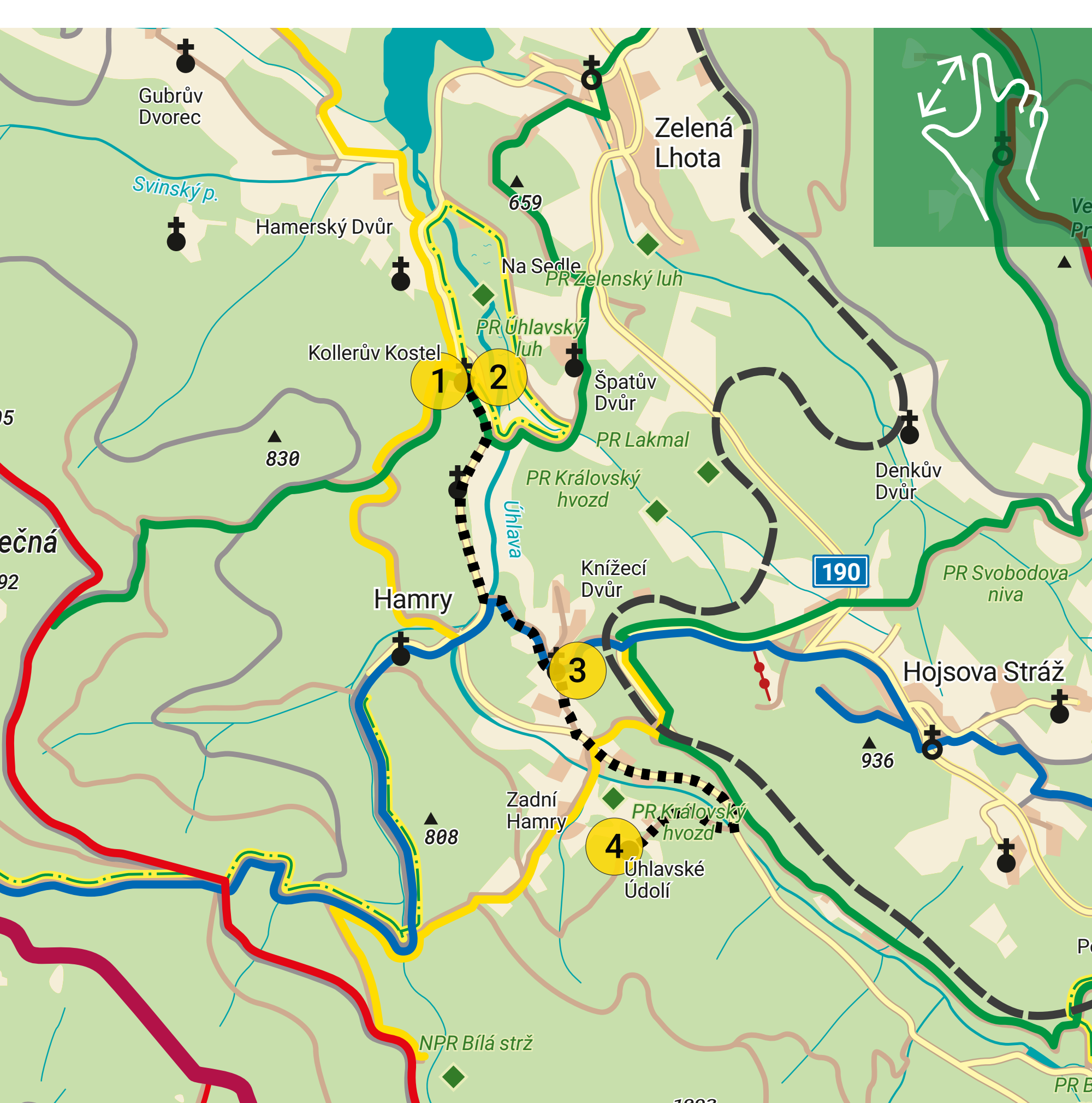
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Pilgrimage site Křížkov

The chapel in this place, called Kreuzwinkel in German, was built by Johann Torner between 1730 and 1731. This is confirmed by a stone board with the year 1731 and the coat of arms of the House of Kolowrat-Krakow from Újezd. In this chapel, sometimes called Heilig-Kreuz-Kirchlein, there were three wooden rococo altars with acanthus leaves. Since 1736, a twenty-centimetre silver pax with remains of the Holy Cross used to stand on one of them. It was a gift from Kateřina Knittel from Prague. There was also a copy of the Infant Jesus of Prague. Older residents say it was given to the chapel by duchess Elisabeth Kolowrat, a great devotee to the statue. The chapel had a cross-shaped ground plan with semi-circular apsidal. From outside, it was plain, without decorations, covered by a shingle roof with an onion dome tower on the western side, with two bells from 1730 and 1839.

It was demolished in 1958. A partial rebuilding happened in 2007 thanks to the cooperation of Hamry and the association of German natives Künische Gemeinde Hammern and the Bavarian village of Lam, with financial support from the European Union (initiative of INTER-REG III.A program). Today, partly preserved walls, a part of stone floor and the abovementioned stone board are all that's left. The pilgrimage site was consecrated by the general vicar of the Pilsen bishopric Mons. Dr. Robert Falkenauer, in the present of Czech and German pastors on July 14, 2007.

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