

Short Guide to the Chateau Park Educational Trail

Zruč nad Sázavou



1. Trail start in the Linden Alley

The first historical record of the castle dates back to 1328 when a medieval stronghold stood on the place of the current chateau. The influential house of Kolowrat substantially improved and fortified the castle. The castle was rebuilt into a chateau under ownership of the house of Kalenic. In their times, the town of Zruč prospered and in 1561 also gained town privileges. We do not know how the original castle or chateau looked at that time as most archival documents were destroyed in the great fire of 1781. We however have more details for the recent reconstruction. This reconstruction was carried out by Adolf Schebek, son of Johan Schebek, an important railroad builder and entrepreneur who acquired the chateau in 1885. Adolf Schebek commissioned architect Jan Vejrych and started an extensive reconstruction of the chateau in 1891. In 2003, the descendants of the Schebek family sold the chateau to the Town of Zruč nad Sázavou. Chateau park visitors can follow an educational trail with 14 stations.



4. Baroness Emma's Pond



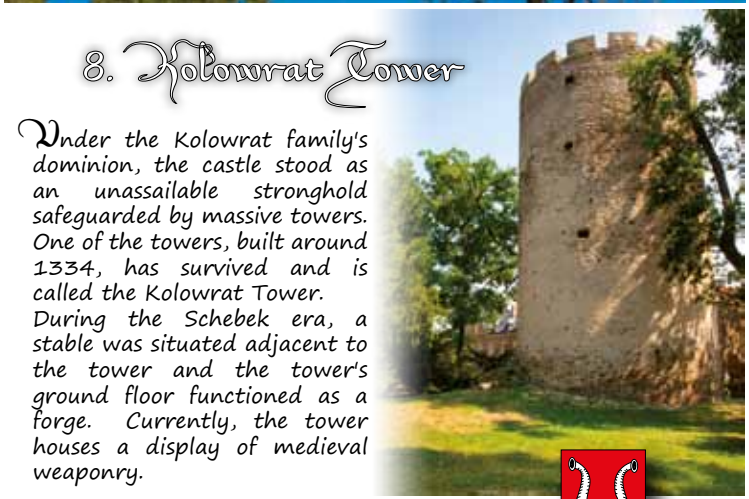
3. Lion Learning its History

Probably the oldest and historically most valuable statue in the chateau park. According to some sources, this statue was found in the chateau cellar and dates back to the Baroque period.



2. Entrance Gate

The original gate was adjacent to the burgrave's house. The Schebek family connected the gate with the original fortifications and decorated the gates with coat of arms of their family. In Schebek's times, the wrought gate and side entrances were kept closed.



8. Kolowrat Tower

Under the Kolowrat family's dominion, the castle stood as an unassailable stronghold safeguarded by massive towers. One of the towers, built around 1334, has survived and is called the Kolowrat Tower. During the Schebek era, a stable was situated adjacent to the tower and the tower's ground floor functioned as a forge. Currently, the tower houses a display of medieval weaponry.



5. Dog Cemetery



Members of the Schebek family enjoyed hunting wild rabbits with dogs helping to drive rabbits out of their holes. The family shared deep emotional bonds with their dogs and, upon their passing, laid them to rest in the chateau's park. Of the eight tombstones bearing the names and dates of the dogs, only two have survived to the present day.

Johan (Jan) Schebek
A statue slightly larger than life size was crafted by Prague sculptor Karl Möldner in 1876. Jan Schebek rose from the humble beginnings of a farmer's son to become a railway magnate, constructing railroads across Austria-Hungary.



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7. Trees of the Park

The park houses over sixty different species of trees and shrubs originating from throughout the Northern Hemisphere. The most ancient are the two commemorative trees – the Kolowrat Oak and the Kalenic Linden – which stood even before the establishment of the park itself. Other notable trees feature a splendid white oak and a Caucasian oak. Next to selected trees, plaques displaying the names of the trees, their countries of origin, and QR codes for accessing further information are installed.



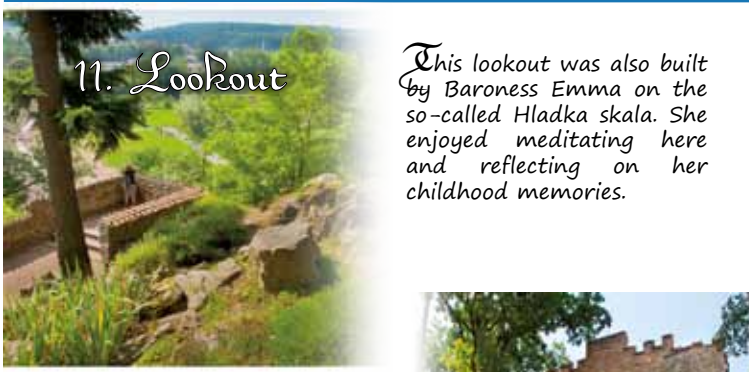
9. Zruč Farmyard

The Zruč farmyard belonged to the castle as the estate owners also farmed extensive fields in its vicinity. The farmyard comprised cattle barns, storage facilities, a forge, and even a small distillery, rendering the chateau self-subsistent. Today, one of the buildings houses a Canoeing Museum.



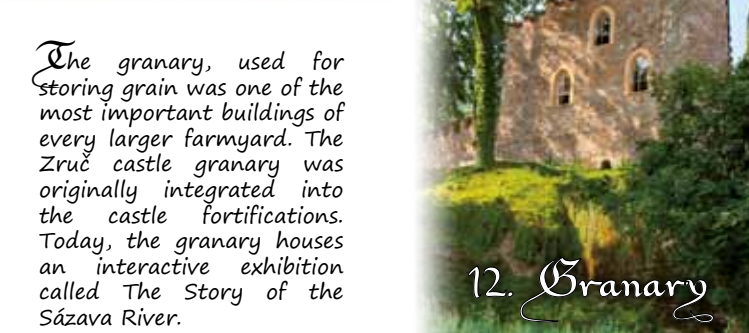
10. Baroness Emma's Trail

Baroness Emma loved walking along the rocks above the river. Consequently, she had walkways and a modest platform constructed, from which she enjoyed a captivating view of the Sázava River and the recently constructed railway.



11. Lookout

This lookout was also built by Baroness Emma on the so-called Hladka skala. She enjoyed meditating here and reflecting on her childhood memories.



12. Granary

The granary, used for storing grain was one of the most important buildings of every larger farmyard. The Zruč castle granary was originally integrated into the castle fortifications. Today, the granary houses an interactive exhibition called The Story of the Sázava River.



13. Ramparts

Within the chateau's architecture, numerous remnants of the original fortifications can be observed.



14. Church and Mortuary

The parish church is also part of the castle, as noted in the earliest written record that documents the existence of Zruč. Some sources claim that an inscription with letters MCL (referring to year 1150 in Latin numerals) was discovered on a piece of wall in the church. The year could indicate the era when Zruč was initially settled, which is not yet clearly confirmed.



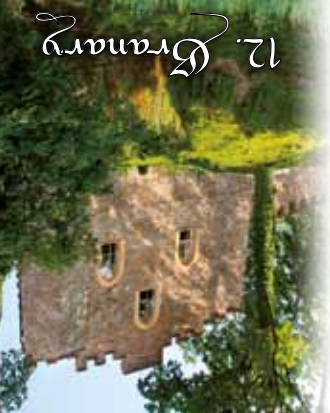
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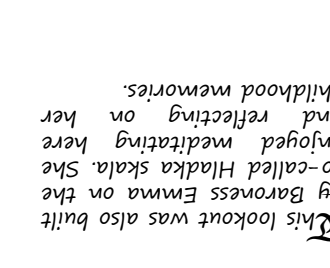
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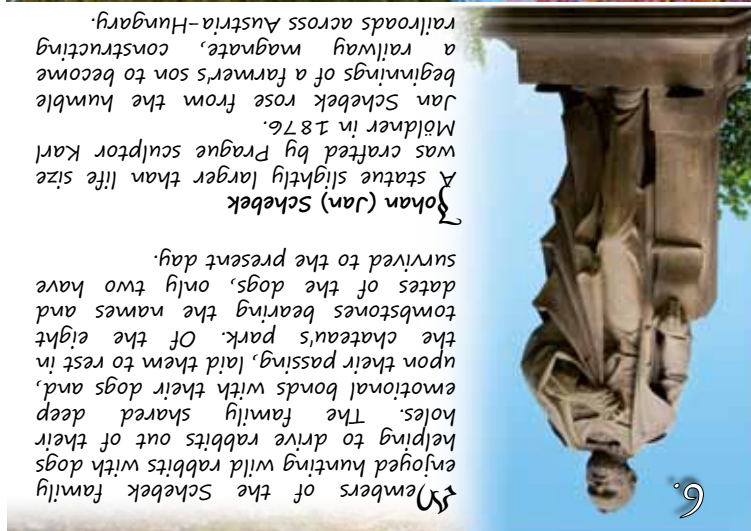
The driveway to the chateau is lined with a linden alley planted after 1891 during the Schebek family era. This is also the start of the two-kilometer long Chateau Park Educational Trail.



7. Trees of the Park

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6. Johan (Jan) Schebek

A statue slightly larger than life size was crafted by Prague sculptor Karl Midlner in 1876. Jan Schebek rose from the humble beginnings of a farmer's son to become a railway magnate, constructing railroads across Austria-Hungary.



5. Dog Cemetery

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3. Lion Tearing its Prey

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4. Baroness Emma's Pond

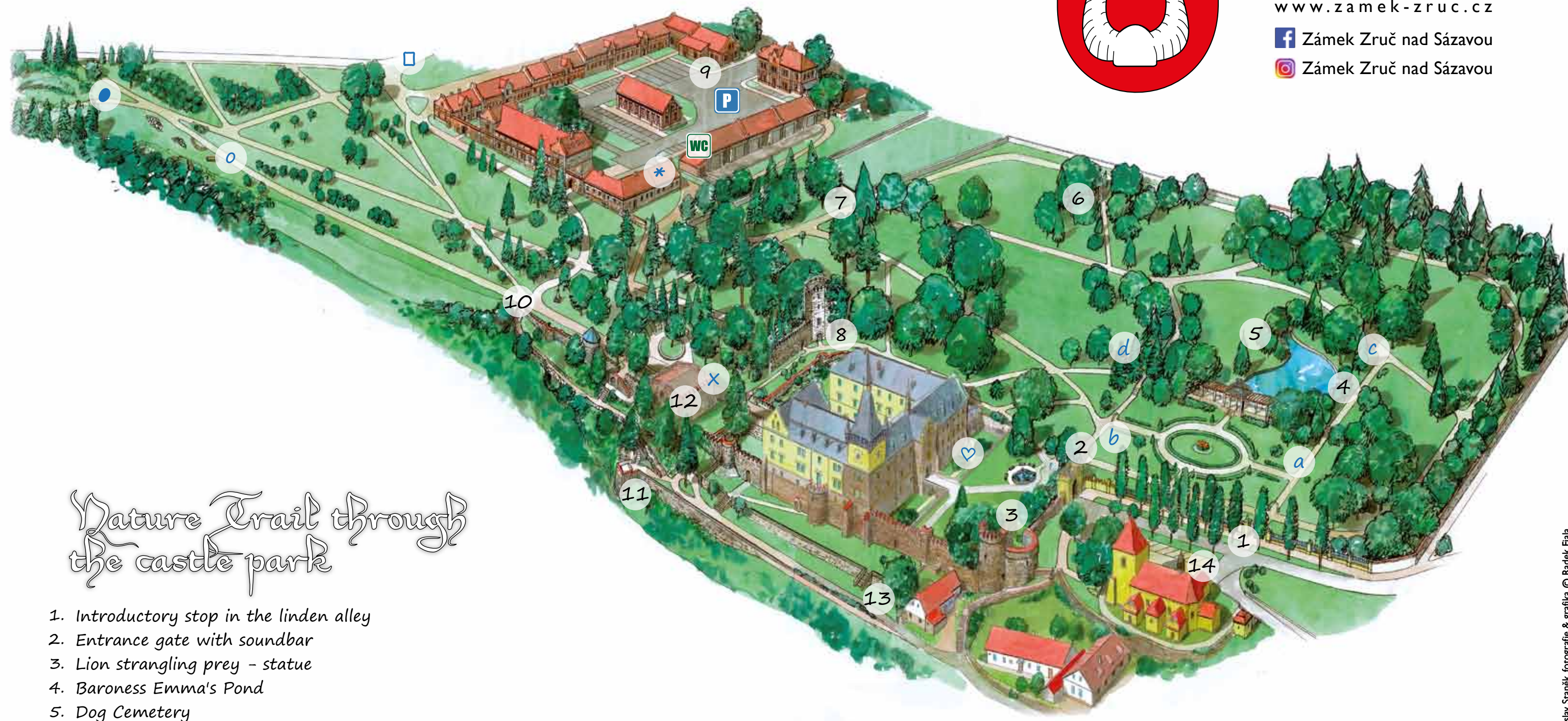
Baroness Emma Schebek initiated the transformation of the old moat into a pond and enjoyed spending her leisure time here. This romantic location remains popular to this day and is often used for wedding ceremonies.

Map of the Park - Chateau Park



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Nature Trail through the castle park

1. Introductory stop in the linden alley
2. Entrance gate with soundbar
3. Lion strangling prey - statue
4. Baroness Emma's Pond
5. Dog Cemetery
6. Statue of Johan Schebek
7. Trees in the park
8. Kolowrat Tower – interactive exhibition of medieval weapons
9. Zručský dvůr – Boating Museum
10. Baroness Emma's Trail
11. Prospect
12. Former granary
13. Ramparts
14. Church of the Exaltation of St. Vitus Crosses and morgues

a, b, c, d – Tables with period views

o – Play corner

• – Place of the oldest settlement in Zruč nad Sázavou

* – Boat Museum

X – The History of the Sázava River – Exhibition

♥ – Path of the knight Milota

□ – Children's playground and ball court