



We will set out from Nový Jičín to the destination of our trip, Svinec.

According to a legend, Jakub, an orphan boy, who was disobedient and obstinate, once grazed sheep near Svinec. When his sister brought him lunch, he shouted at her: „I would rather turn into stone and be eaten by sows than eat this lousy meal!“ Suddenly two sows ran out of the wood and killed and ate the boy up. The bread brought by his sister turned into stone and water welled out of the small milk jug. Ever since that time the hill above the spring has been called Svinec (Sow Hill).

From the top of Svinec there is a beautiful view of the Beskydy ridge, the Hostýnské Hills, Moravian Gate, the Odry Hills, Studénka, Ostrava, Hukvaldy, and Štramberk.

Around the top and on the western hillslope a protected area has been declared: it is the nature reserve of Svinec, formed by woods and meadows with interesting plants, among which protected species, especially orchids, can be found.

About 200 m below the top of Svinec a stone cross is situated; it was erected by Johann Stieber, a sexton of the Spanish Chapel in Nový Jičín, in 1882. The sexton made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, Egypt and Rome in 1873 and after his lucky return erected the said cross as an expression of thanks and

put a little stone from Mount of Olives, Karmel and Tábora into its pedestal. This is testified by a Czech and German inscription put in the cross, which was restored in 2001.

In 1981 a ski downhill course with a ski hut were built on Svinec.

The main downhill course is 470 m long and has a camber of 120 m. Its terrain is interesting even for more demanding skiers. The slope is artificially snowed up and modified every evening. Every evening it is possible to go skiing here under artificial lighting. The ski resort has also a children's hill of Včelínek, where you can ski on natural snow.

About 500 m far from the cross on Svinec, the Eye Spring is situated below the slope of Svinec; it is a well-known destination of local people's as well as tourists' walks. You will get to it if you go down along the yellow sign.

Johann Stieber built an artificial Lourdes cave with a statue of the Virgin Mary of Lourdes near the spring. Nearby there is also the little chapel of the Virgin Mary of Holy Hostýn, built by inhabitants of Starý Jičín and its surroundings after World War Two. In the past, annual pilgrimages used to be made to the statue of the Virgin Mary of Lourdes on 6 October. The spring has very good drinking water; many people come for it every day. The considerably calcareous water is of high quality and is said to be miraculous, because it has allegedly healed many ill people's eyes.



The Trip of Nový Jičín Svinec

