

The Mystery of the Lost Tower Room

A thrilling family treasure hunt at Bischofstein, near Adršpach.



MysteryTrail

The route takes approximately 45–60 minutes

Adventure for families.

Suitable for children aged 6 and up.

What you need:

Pen and paper

Good walking shoes

A bit of courage

A very long time ago, when knights still walked through these forests and noble ladies wore long dresses, a small castle stood here.

This well-guarded castle was the heart of these forests.

Then suddenly, a tower room of the castle disappeared.

But even more importantly: **WHAT was inside the room that vanished?**

To this day, no one knows what happened.

Yet there are clues hidden in this forest that can help solve the mystery.

Do you think you can solve it?

Go to the starting point of the route.

The starting point is on the main road in front of restaurant/hotel **Bischofstein** (see the photos for recognition points).

The adventure begins along the walls of the Bischofstein estate. According to legends, the monks who once lived here had something to do with the disappearance of the tower room. The monks were said to have kept a secret in that room that nobody was allowed to know.

Follow the path along the stone wall of the Bischofstein estate until you see the metal gate on your right. Here you continue the route to the left towards the small lake.

Task

The monks each had their own room at Bischofstein. Can you figure out how many monks had to guard the secret?

Count the windows that you can see from the path.

Answer:

15 windows (K)

25 windows (Q)

35 windows (M)

0 windows (S)

Before reaching the lake, turn left and follow the path along the water. Walk **clockwise around the lake**.

(Climbing on the rocks is fun!)

Task at the bridge

This bridge is the only way across the marshy ground. Many knights in heavy armour searched for this safe route when they had to cross the swamp.

The bridge was guarded by the king's best knights. Since this was the only route, travellers had to pay to cross it.

Legend says that these ancient knights could stand so still and for so long that after many years they grew roots and slowly turned into trees. Many of the trees here might once have been knights...

To be safe, people still pay a price before crossing the bridge.

Stand on **one leg** and throw a pinecone, stone or stick as far as you can into the water.

If you have paid your toll and made it safely to the other side, you earn the letter **(N)**.

After the bridge, continue along the path to the right.

After about **75 metres**, take the large path going uphill to the left. This path leads towards the ruins.

Task

This path used to be part of an important trade route. It was given a nickname because of its shape.

What was the nickname of this path?

Answer:

Donkey Path (IA)

Lion Path (ER)

Snake Path (OW)

Monkey Path (UL)

Continue along this path until you reach the information board further ahead.

Bonus challenge

The floor is lava!!!

Only tree roots and stones are safe!

When you arrive at the information board:

Here you can read information about the castle that was built on top of the rocks.

Nowhere on this board does it mention the missing tower room, and certainly not the secret that was hidden there. The mystery has been kept quiet for a very long time. Even whispering about it can be dangerous.

Task

Can you find out from which year the mystery dates?

It is the **oldest year mentioned on the board**.

Answer:

2018 (P)

1447 (L)

1185 (R)

1969 (Z)

To your left you will see stairs into the rocks. Go up these stairs and hold on to the railing!

Task

These stairs have survived the test of time. You might even be the millionth person to climb them.

Rumour has it that **step number 23** is part of the mystery.

Is this step made of **wood** or **stone**?

Answer:

Wood (E)

Stone (A)

At the top of the stairs you can take a moment to catch your breath and enjoy the view.

Continue your route to the **right** to find the wooden staircase. This staircase leads into the ruins.

Task

You are now standing in a room that used to be an important part of the castle.

How many knights could stand in this room?

You can measure the length and width by counting your steps.

One knight in armour needs about **1 m²** of space to stand without bumping into his neighbour.

Answer:

About 4 knights (S)

About 10 knights (U)

About 19 knights (D)

About 99 knights (B)

Now you are almost at the highest point. Only the lookout tower is higher.

On the **right side**, as you exit the knight's room, you will find a narrow staircase leading upwards.

This staircase leads to the highest viewpoint.

Look carefully to see if anyone is coming down. The staircase is narrow. Always be careful and hold the railing. Do not go up without an adult.

At the top you can see very far. This is how the knights once kept watch over the land.

Task

What can you see from the top?

Answer:

Only trees (P)

Trees and rocks (U)

Trees, rocks, fields, wild animals and much more (G)

A big city (W)

Go down the same staircase again. Be careful!

From the last step of this staircase, take **15 big steps forward**.

Turn around and look at the rock behind you.

There! There is the door in the rock of the missing room!

Only the door remains... The entire room behind it has turned into solid stone.

Task

What happened to this room? What was hidden inside?

This is a task where parents may help.

Find **two sticks of the same length**.

Place the first stick on your nose, pointing straight ahead.

At the end of this stick place the second stick vertically upwards.

This creates an old-fashioned measuring tool.

Walk backwards until the bottom of the door lines up with the tip of the vertical stick.

Now walk back towards the rock using big steps.

How high is the missing room?

Answer:

About 3 metres (M)

About 8 metres (E)

About 12 metres (K)

You have now discovered what was hidden in the room!

You have collected **8 letters** by solving the tasks.

Put the letters together to find out what the monks were protecting.

Final word

- - - - - - - -
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Tip: the word has to do with being clever and thinking wisely.

Well done!!!

The monks did not guard gold, diamonds or treasure.

The greatest treasure they protected was the word you have just discovered.

Because that treasure is far more valuable than gold.

Task

Take a great photo of your winning team! It's fun to share!

Continue the route downwards by standing with your back to the missing room and walking straight ahead.

On the **left side** you will find a staircase going down. This is the correct way.

After a while you will see the information board again where you previously went up the stairs.

Just before you take the final steps down, you can also visit a beautiful viewpoint on the left. Only go there together with an adult and always stay behind the fences.

You can also take some cool photos of your victorious team here.

Return to the route near the information board and continue down the path.

Be careful! Even on the way down the floor is lava!

When you reach the bottom, continue straight ahead to complete the circle.
You will arrive again at the old Bischofstein monastery.

If it is open, you can order something tasty there to celebrate your successful adventure.

You did an amazing job. I think I will call on you again soon for another mission.

See you next time!



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