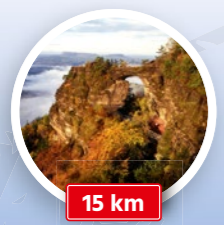


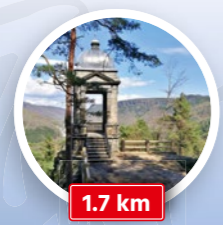
[idecin.cz/en](http://idecin.cz/en)

# EXPLORE DĚČÍN

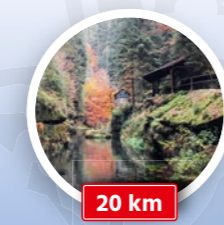
Things to see and do in **Bohemian Switzerland**



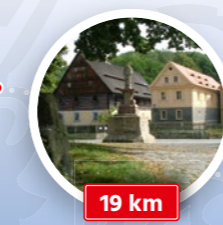
Pravčická brána



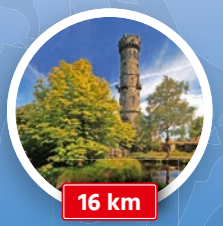
Labská stráž



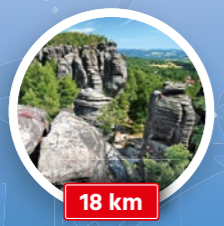
Soutěský river gorges



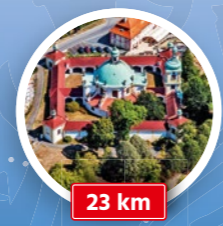
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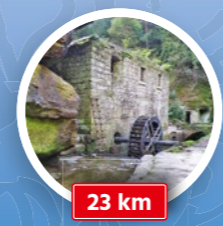
Děčínský Sněžník



Tisá cliffs



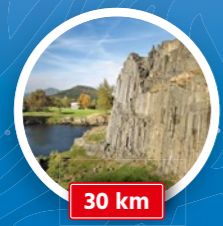
Česká Kamenice



Dolský mlýn



Vrabinec



Panská skála cliff



Pirna



Bastei



/visitnorthbohemia



/idecin.cz



## A perfect place to start

Dear visitor,

Every year we put together a new magazine for you, where we try to show the best Děčín has to offer and, hopefully, entice you to visit. It's no easy task, because of course we think that everything here is just amazing and it's a superhuman task for our graphic designer to cram it all into a single issue. We discuss every photo and vote on which ones are best. We lobby to get our favorite trips included. Basically, we want to share all the things we really love. The places we visit with our families. The places we relax, play sports, have fun or just enjoy.

We hope we've managed to strike a chord and pique your interest with tips for outings or interesting activities. And if you feel like you're still missing something, go ahead and check out our website or follow us on social media.

Whether you're here for your holiday, a school break or even just a short visit... enjoy!

**Markéta Lakomá**

Director, Municipal Tourist Center

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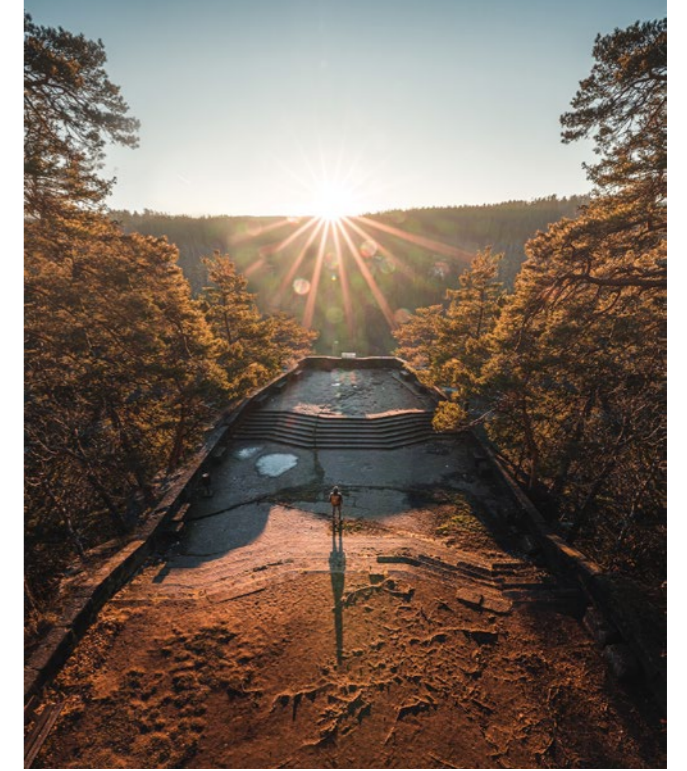
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## VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS


### LIBRARY

Karla Čapka 1441/3 | CZ-40502 Děčín 1 | +420 412 532 227

### MAIN STATION


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 [idecin.cz](https://www.instagram.com/idecin.cz)

 [www.idecin.cz/en](http://www.idecin.cz/en)



An aerial photograph of the city of Děčín in Bohemia, Czech Republic. The city is built on a peninsula surrounded by the Elbe River. In the foreground, a prominent white castle with a green roof sits atop a rocky cliff. The city below is a mix of modern apartment blocks and older buildings with red-tiled roofs. A large rainbow arches across the sky above the city, set against a backdrop of dark, dramatic clouds. The surrounding landscape is lush and green, with rolling hills in the distance.

Děčín, one of Bohemia's greenest cities, presents a heady brew of river, natural beauty, and cultural heritage. Its romantic setting is sure to sweep you off your feet.



## Active relaxation in Děčín



Straddling the border between Bohemian Switzerland and the Central Bohemian Uplands, Děčín has a beautiful natural setting, historical landmarks, and a range of sporting activities to offer. The Elbe River, dividing it in two parts, gives the city and its surroundings a unique character and has had an outsized impact on life here.

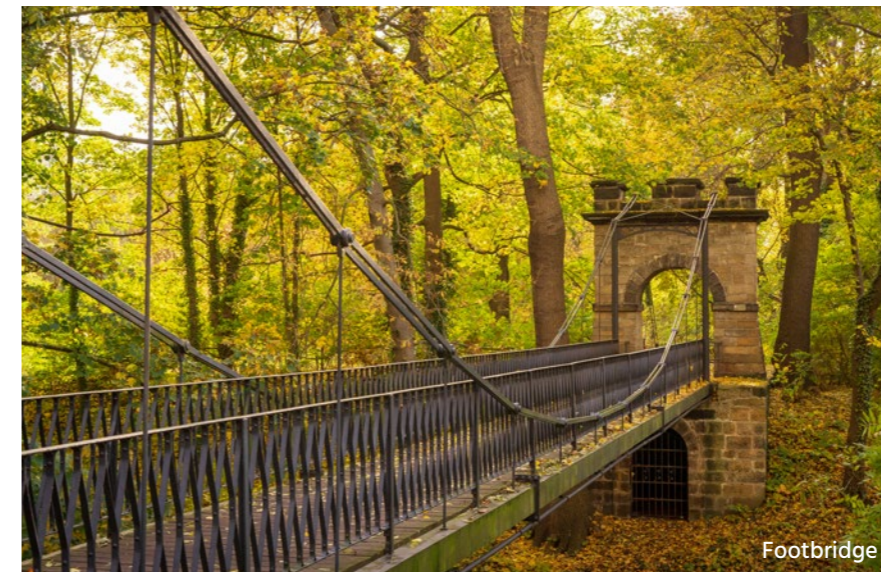
**D**ěčín is one of the Czech Republic's greenest cities. Europe's deepest sandstone canyon stretches from its edge along the Elbe. The city's location makes it a gateway to a rocky landscape of sheer cliffs, wild nature, and hidden pools. History lovers and sports enthusiasts alike will find something to do here.

On a rocky bluff in the very heart of town stands **Děčín's castle and gardens**; its history goes back to the 11th century. Across the river the sheer face of **Pastýřská stěna** (Shepherd's Bluff) rises more than 100 meters over the left bank of the Elbe, home to a municipal forest and sixteen via ferrata routes that ascend from the river to its top.

The wooded slope on Pastýřská stěna is home to a zoo, a playground, and a network of Nordic walking trails.



South garden



Footbridge



Elbe bike trail

“... gateway to a rocky landscape of sheer cliffs, wild nature, and hidden pools.”

cruise, borrow a raft, or head out with a paddleboard.

Enjoy the riverside on a bike or inline skates along the **Elbe Cycle Route**. This popular bike trail is part of the **EuroVelo 7** route. You can take it from the mouth of the Elbe all the way to the North Sea. We like to think that the segment running through town and along the Elbe Canyon is one of its loveliest stretches.

Of course, the Elbe Cycle Route is not the only bike trail going through Děčín. If you're looking for more demanding terrain, head for the hills on the **Ore Mountains route** and climb the country's biggest flat-topped mountain, **Děčínský Sněžník**. For lazy days, the bike trail along the Ploučnice River offers an easy ride in the shade.

There are numerous ways to kick back and relax in town too. Intimate cafés, wine cellars, and restaurants dot the streets below the castle and along the riverside. Děčín lies at the edge of a national park. Enjoy the atmosphere with friends and family.

A railway tunnel runs through the bluff. The fairytale castle at its top is one of many panoramic viewpoints in town. It has stood here since 1905, operating as an inn with a terrace, its romantic appearance a reflection of the tastes of the time. The building is slated for remodeling, so at the moment visitors can only get light refreshments here in summer months.

Returning to the right bank of the Elbe, another large municipal wood spreads out on **Quaderberg**, a flat-topped mountain bluff (289 masl) that is a popular destination for hikes. The obelisk on the clifftop terrace at its head was raised in honor of the silver anniversary of the wedding of Hapsburg Emperor Franz Joseph I and Elisabeth, whom an affectionate public called Sissi. Known as the Imperial Outlook, it was

soon expanded with a promenade, benches, and a little restaurant. Today, little is left of the original complex – the restaurant is long gone, the benches too – but the woodland park continues to charm.

Take advantage of Quaderberg's forest paths and marked running trails. Discover its enchanting spots and breathtaking views of Děčín and the Elbe Canyon. One of the prettiest viewpoints is the **Labská stráž** pavilion on the red trail. Its vantage point overlooking the canyon made it a useful place to stand watch over the riverway.

If you're up for a longer walk, the path eventually leads to the panoramic terrace at **Belvédér**. But forests and parklands are not all Děčín has to offer. There's plenty of fun to be had on the **river** itself, whether you take a riverboat



Labská stráž viewpoint

# Děčín bragging rights

There are lots of things that make this area special. Did you know, for example, that Děčín is the country's greenest city, or that we have the longest castle drive and the northernmost synagogue? Here are ten things we can claim a record for.



## Lowest lying city

Děčín may be surrounded by hills and cliffs, but it is actually the **lowest lying city in the Czech Republic** with an elevation of only **135 meters above sea level**. The country's lowest point lies in the village of Hřensko, located at the German border, where it is only **115 masl**.

## Most popular bike trail

The **Elbe cycling trail** is one of the prettiest and most diverse long-distance cycling routes in Europe, with beautiful views of the Central Bohemian Uplands and Porta Bohemica upstream and the unique sandstone canyon and wild scenery along the river upstream. It is part of the continental **EuroVelo 4** and **EuroVelo 7** routes. This is also the **most traveled route in the Czech Republic**. It runs through Děčín along the river, connecting it with Ústí nad Labem in the south and Dolní Žleb in the north. Across the border in Germany, the trail continues as the Elberadweg.



## Greenest city

Děčín confirmed its status as the **Czech Republic's greenest city in 2015**, when the Czech national radio service undertook a project with the support of the European Environmental Agency to see which cities were greenest. It turns out that **63 percent of Děčín's total area is green**, putting the city in the lead, followed by Jeseník and Vsetín.



## Biggest via ferrata

Scaling a cliff in the very heart of town is the **Czech Republic's biggest via ferrata installation**. Not only does Pastýřská stěna (Shepherds Bluff) offer the **longest single anchored trail in the country**, it also has the **greatest number of routes in one place**. Děčín's via ferrata is notable from a European perspective too as one of the few located in the heart of a town. The first anchored climbing trail opened here in April 2014, followed later by 15 more of varying degrees of difficulty. Climbing sets can be rented at local outlets near the foot of the cliff



## Northernmost synagogue

The **synagogue** in Děčín's Podmokly neighborhood was erected in 1905–1907 in Art Nouveau style with Moorish elements. It is the only Jewish building in the region to have survived the Nazi rampages in 1938 and the socialist era, making it the **northernmost synagogue in the country**. The synagogue stands near the beginning of the road leading to the zoo on Pastýřská stěna.



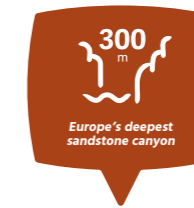
## Europe's largest natural sandstone arch

**Pravčická brána arch** is one of the most stunning natural formations in the Czech Republic. It is the **largest natural sandstone arch in Europe** and is estimated to be tens of thousands of years old (maybe as many as 100,000). The arch spans a distance of **26.5 meters** and is **16 meters high**. Its gigantic proportions have made it a popular tourist destination ever since the late 18th century. Visitors can stop at the foot of the arch at the **restaurant pavilion Sokolí hnízdo (falcon's nest)**, built in the late 19th century by the lord of the estate, Prince Edmund Clary-Aldringen.



## Europe's deepest sandstone canyon

The **Elbe Canyon** is a valuable part of the **Elbe Sandstones Nature Preserve**. Through the power of erosion, the river has cut itself a path **300 meters deep in the local sediment**, creating the deepest sandstone canyon on the continent. The canyon is home to a range of endangered, protected, and rare forms of flora and fauna: the European beaver, the peregrine falcon, plants such as strapwort, and more.



## Longest castle drive

The fittingly-named **Long Drive** leading to Děčín Castle is a Baroque structure you won't see the likes of anywhere else in Bohemia. At **292 meters long and 10 meters wide**, it is the **longest castle approach in the country**. The drive was part of a massive reconstruction of the castle complex in the second half of the 17th century. Renovations on this unique structure are currently underway to restore its historical appearance.



## Oldest steel tied-arch bridge

The country's **oldest functioning tied-arch steel bridge** spans the Elbe River in the heart of Děčín. **Tyršův most (Tyrš bridge)** took the place of an older suspension bridge at the same spot in **1933**. At the time of its construction it was an absolute rarity, the largest bridge of its kind in Czechoslovakia. Its 180-meter length rests on the original pillars of the original Empress Elisabeth bridge.



## Highest mesa

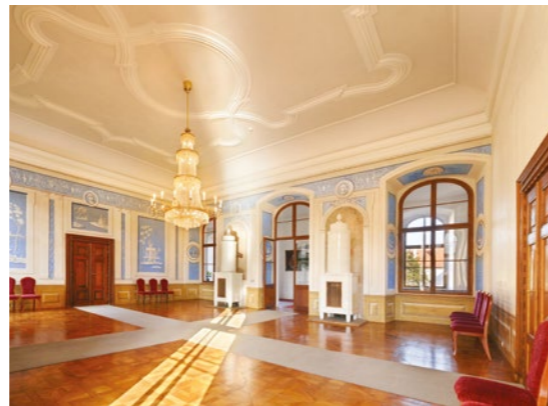
Rising up above the town is **Děčínský Sněžník**, the country's **highest mesa, or flat-topped mountain**. At its top, at a height of **723 meters above sea level**, stands a stone lookout tower of the same name, built in 1864 at the initiative

of the lord of the local estate, **Franz Anton Thun**. Also at the top are a **Swedish graveyard** dating from the time of the Thirty Years' War and at the mesa's eastern edge a rock formation known as the **horse's head**. Sněžník is a popular destination for hikers and cyclists.





# Děčín Castle



The castle received a Crystal Pin award in 2023 from Google Maps as a top rated location.

## A few things you may not know about Děčín Castle

- It is one of the **oldest historic buildings** in the country. The earliest record of it dates from the late tenth century, so its story has been unfolding for over a thousand years.
- The castle often had **prominent guests**. For example, Fryderyk Chopin composed his Děčín Waltz here. Another high point was the visit of Emperor Franz Joseph I and his new bride Sissi; it was Sissi's debut in an official capacity.
- This is the **most visited castle** in northern Bohemia. Around 55,000 people have visited each year for the past several years.
- It has a **unique approach**. The Long Drive, at 292 meters, is an architectural gem of national significance. Two thirds of the drive's length was hewn directly into the rock, a feat completed by miners from nearby Krupka, who toiled at it for six years.
- The castle boasts a wonderful **rose garden** with a gloriette and sala terrena dating to Baroque renovations done in the late 17th century. It became known for its roses, with 80 varieties grown here.
- There were **18 heated greenhouses** in the heyday of its southern gardens (under renovation through 2025) when renowned gardener Franz Josst put Děčín on the map with an excellent collection of orchids, camellias, and other tropical plants. It was here, in 1852, that the *Victoria amazonica* was first coaxed into bloom on the European continent.
- Under the Thuns, it had **one of Bohemia's best libraries**, with more than 70,000 volumes. Among them were volumes that legendary Czech historian František Palacký consulted for his work.
- The castle offered **safe haven to the orphaned children of Franz Ferdinand d'Este**, heir to the throne of Austria Hungary, after their parents' assassination in Sarajevo. Young Sophie, Ernst, and Maximilian became wards of Count Jaroslav Thun, the archduke's brother-in-law.



## Chapel of St. John of Nepomuk in Chrást

The Thun burial chapel was built by Josef Mocker, 1868–1872. An exhibit of statuary from the chapel terrace is on view inside. This striking Neo Gothic structure is open on summer weekends.



Set on a massive bluff over the river, the castle is just about impossible to overlook.

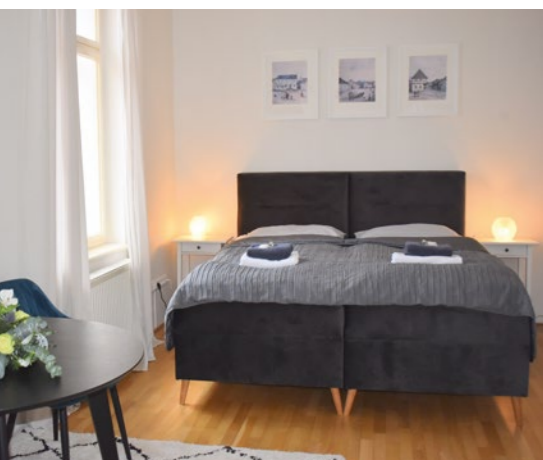
**D**ěčín Castle and its grounds are a green oasis in the heart of town. Not only is this a popular destination for visitors from around the world, it also draws locals with a full cultural program. Every year the castle complex hosts historical fairs, holiday markets, festivals and theater

performances, and summer film screenings under the stars.

There are five castle tours. Two explore the interior – **The Golden Age of Děčín Castle** and **A Visit with Franz Thun**. A new experience is the **Castle Bailey** tour, which also visits the cellars and Baroque stables. And a **new historical tour** looks at the period when, for nearly 60 years, the castle served as a military barracks. Children will love the **outdoor circuit with tasks and riddles** and the special castle kids tour. Swing sets and benches on the grounds offer visitors a chance to stop and relax.

The castle is ideal for **weddings and receptions**; we can make the newlyweds' first steps on their shared journey memorable with special arrangements and custom wedding packages.

Visitors to Děčín can also take advantage of on-site **lodging** in a castle suite.



[www.zamekdecin.cz/en](http://www.zamekdecin.cz/en)



# All ages enjoy the museum

The fine collections housed in the late-eighteenth-century Thun-Hohenstein hunting chateau in the heart of town are curated by the DĚČÍN Regional Museum.

**D**ěčín's museum is the only one in the country to map the development of water traffic on the Elbe. But it also delves into the history of the city itself, going back to ancient times with artifacts from archeological digs.

## Gothic art in DĚČÍN

The Gothic art in DĚČÍN exhibit presents valuable Gothic-era pieces from this region. The collection is part of the museum's permanent collection and



includes 23 medieval sculptures, mostly of wood, from the early fourteenth century to the early Renaissance in the sixteenth century.

Aside from unique sculptural works, there are also interesting archeological finds from digs in the area. Of these, one of the most fascinating may be the Šluknov treasure, a cache of three score Bohemian and Miessen groschen and a unique silver brooch with Bohemian lions in relief.

Also on display are an early sixteenth-century Gothic monstrance and a stone sculpture of the Madonna, the only one of its kind, which was installed for years at the Hotel Praha on DĚČÍN's main square.

## City on the meadow

Early settlement in DĚČÍN was successfully documented by archeologists working on the Marian Meadow in the 1980s. Their findings are on view in **City on the meadow**, an exhibit dedicated to the history of the city. Visitors can see medieval ceramic shards, skeletal remains, small metal items, and many other objects of interest dating from DĚČÍN's earliest history.

## Development of Elbe water traffic

More than 30 model ships present



Take the wheel! Step into a simulator of an authentic riverboat cockpit and let the captain's voice be your guide. Rev the engines, pull away from the bank, and steer your way around buoys and under bridges. Interactive wide-screen projection is just like the real thing.

the evolution of the watercraft that plied the Elbe in the **Development of Elbe water traffic** exhibit. Visitors can explore how waterways have been



used throughout Bohemia's history in an installation that has no equal in the Czech Republic.

The exhibit looks at how river traffic evolved and expanded over the centuries, how rivers were made navigable, and what impact this had on the natural surroundings. Illustrations and photographs are supplemented with models from museum and private collections and explanatory text. The museum has one of the **largest libraries on the topic** as well as a large **watercraft photo archive**.

The history of the waterways is presented from the earliest times to the present day. An inseparable part of the exposition is a **historical diving suit** dating from the early twentieth century.

## Birds of DĚČÍN

Children will enjoy the permanent exhibit **Birds of DĚČÍN**. The area's best known birds are displayed alongside their less common cousins in well lit display cases. The visitor experience is enhanced by recorded birdsongs that conjure up the outdoors.

## Courtyard sculpture garden

Visitors will want to step out to the museum courtyard to see the **sculptural fragments** from DĚČÍN's liquidated landmarks that crowd this small outdoor area. Outstanding pieces include a **sixteenth-century stone seal of the Lords of Bünau**, the **tombstone of Count Lev Thun**, a **conciliation cross dating from the fifteenth century**, and **columns from the Loreto chapel** that once stood on the main square. The courtyard is dominated by Renaissance portals that

once decorated buildings in the town center. The most valuable, dating from 1594, comes from the Werner building, which was later the Prague Hotel. There are also a number of family crests, border markers, and mill wheels. Finally, a **huge, metal statue of Lenin** lurks in the rear section, a reminder of the not-so-distant past.

## Special exhibits

In addition to its permanent installations, the museum organizes several special exhibits over the course of the year featuring items culled from the depths of its vast depository. It also regularly features the work of local contemporary artists and conducts research and publication work on regional historical topics.

## Advent at the museum

Over the winter holiday season, the museum hosts its always popular exhibit of **nativity scenes**, which includes a fun, educational program for elementary-aged children. Visitors turn out in large numbers on the second weekend in Advent for the museum's **Christmas market**, complete with concerts and holiday craft workshops.

## Fun for all ages

Every year as May gives way to June the museum sets aside an extra-fun Saturday just for kids in observation of international Children's Day. Then, for all ages there is **Museum Night** in early June. Other special events and educational programs are scheduled throughout the year to accompany various exhibits.



"To the museum for fun and knowledge!"

## MUSEUM INFO

Keep abreast of current events at [WWW.MUZEUMDC.CZ/EN](http://WWW.MUZEUMDC.CZ/EN)

## HOURS

**JANUARY–MARCH**  
Wed–Sun / 9am–5pm  
(Closed Mon and Tues)

**APRIL–SEPTEMBER**  
Tues–Sun / 10am–6pm  
(Closed Mon)

**OCTOBER–DECEMBER**  
Tues–Sun / 9am–5pm  
(Closed Mon)



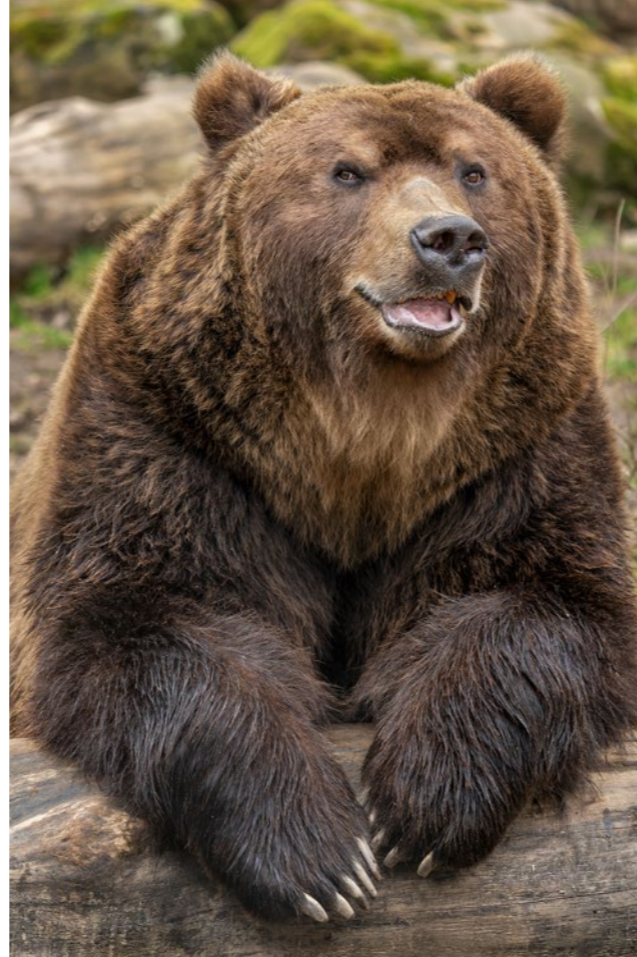
# Děčín Zoo

Although DĚČÍN Zoo is one of the smallest in Bohemia, visitors consistently rate it one of the nicest. It operates on six hectares of woodland above the heart of town on the wooded slope of Pastýřská stěna, a popular spot for family walks in the woods.

**Y**ou'll find almost 400 animals here, representing 150 species. The zoo's main focus is on endangered and lesser-known animal species and indigenous flora. Its main star, since 2019, is Bruno, a Kamchatka brown bear. The zoo has the largest group of crested black macaques in the country, rare vicuñas, loveable capybaras, and remarkable fishing cats as well as the great anteater, the Indian takin, the South American tapir and black-handed spider monkeys.

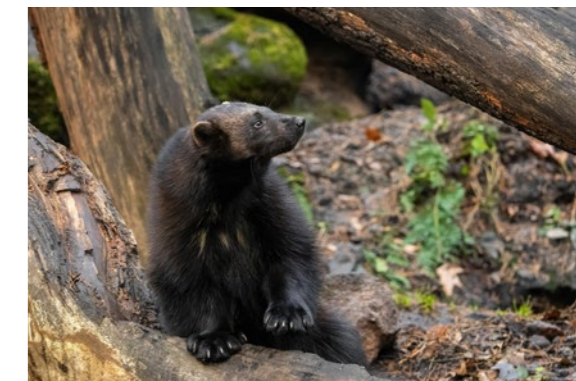
**THE ZOO HAS RECENTLY WELCOMED TWO NEW SPECIES. The first is the ARCTIC FOX, a beautiful fox from the Arctic regions of the northern hemisphere. The second is the CARACAL, a wild cat also known as the desert lynx for which the zoo has built a brand new habitat.**

Bird lovers will enjoy the zoo's **bird house**, an enclosed area where small, brightly colored warblers fly overhead. It's also worth visiting the **Bohemian-Saxon Switzerland exposition** presenting animal species common in our local forests. You'll see the **Eurasian lynx, wildcat, European badger, Eurasian wolves, owls, and birds of prey.** In 2006 the zoo expanded to include a remote pavilion located in the heart of town, **Paradise Islands (Rajské ostrovy).** This unique exhibit presents fauna from **several geographical regions** – a coral reef, a mangrove coast, the desert. One popular inhabitant of the Paradise Islands exhibit is the **clownfish** – just like the little hero of *Finding Nemo*. Your zoo ticket will get you into the exhibit at no extra charge (valid on day of purchase only).



## Visitor services

- Refreshments, souvenir sales, parking, safe boxes, toilets, changing tables, children's wagon rentals, playground, jungle gym
- Free Wi-Fi in refreshments area
- Commented feeding (in season), tour guides, educational program, special events



## DĚČÍN ZOO IS OPEN DAILY YEAR ROUND

<b>MAIN SEASON / MAY–AUG</b>	8am–7pm
<b>OFF SEASON / SEPT–OCT, MAR–APR</b>	8am–6pm
<b>WINTER / NOV–FEB</b>	8am–4pm

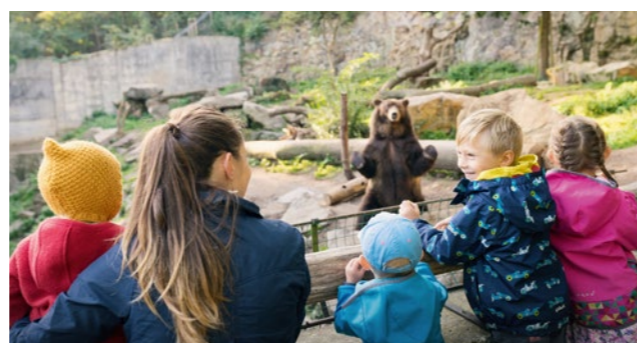
(Last entry half an hour before closing time)

## PARADISE ISLANDS / RAJSKÉ OSTROVY

<b>MAIN SEASON / MAY–AUG</b>	9am–7pm
<b>OFF SEASON / SEPT–APR</b>	9am–6pm
<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	noon–12:30

(Last entry half an hour before closing time)

**NO DOGS AT THE ZOO!**



## CONTACT

ZOOLOGICKÁ ZAHRADA DĚČÍN -  
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EXPOZICE RAJSKÉ OSTROVY  
Teplická 19 | CZ-40502 DĚČÍN IV

+ 412 531 531

tic@zoodecin.cz



# Aqua Hotel

**D**ive into Děčín's aquatic park and take advantage of the great facilities at the on-site Aqua Hotel. Enjoy the great setting, thermal water, fun, sports, and relaxation! The pool is open year round and its thermal springs mean that you can swim outdoors in winter months too.

Aqua Hotel is located near the historical center of Děčín on swimming pool grounds. It is convenient to the Elbe bike trail and the romantic landscapes of Bohemian and Saxon Switzerland. As an added bonus, guests have free entry to the outdoor swimming area throughout their stay.

For relaxing and recharging, guests can take advantage of the wellness center and the indoor pool area.

## CONTACT

AQUA HOTEL  
 Ploučnická 1297/10  
 CZ-40502 Děčín  
 +420 778 427 130  
 hotel@aquaparkdecin.cz  
 www.aquaparkdecin.cz

“Located in a beautiful setting with thermal water, lots of fun, sports, and relaxation.”

# Aquapark Děčín

Děčín's thermal aquatic park is one of the largest modern recreational complexes in the country.

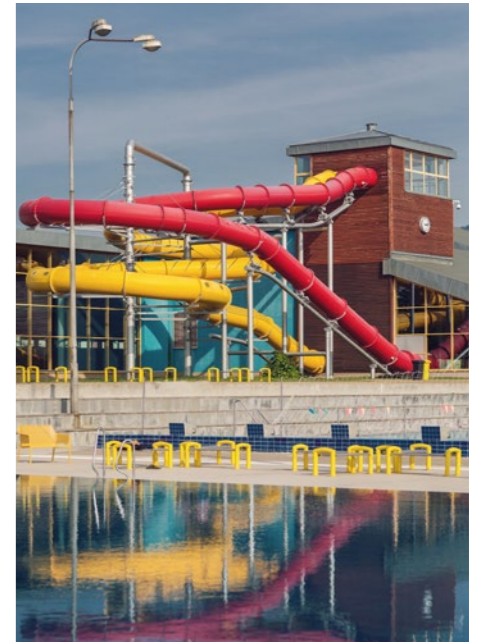
**D**ěčín's aquatic park is just off the Elbe bike trail. It offers visitors a unique combination of indoor and outdoor attractions. Indoors are a 25-meter pool, a learners' pool, three toboggans, a water mushroom, a lazy river, spouts and geysers, massage jets, two whirlpools, a wading area, and a refreshments area. The wellness center upstairs has sauna facilities, a club area with a private sauna and jacuzzi, massage service, a solarium, a gym, and a sun terrace.

The park's outdoor attractions include 50- and 25-meter pools, a recreational pool with water slide, a massage bench, a lazy river, a wading area, and a stainless-steel water polo pool with a six-meter diving well. A natural thermal water source means that the outdoor 25-meter pool is open year-round with water temperatures of around 28°C.

The outdoor area includes a playground and sports facilities with two beach volleyball courts and a football tennis or basketball court that can host two pick-up games at once.

## CONTACT

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# Michal Horáček: Děčín is best on a gravel bike

Elbe Cycle Route coordinator and associate of the Municipal Culture and Tourism Center Michal Horáček can usually be found, where else, on his bike. Whether alone, with colleagues or in the company of his family, he covers bike trails all over the Central Bohemian Uplands, the Ore Mountains and Bohemian Switzerland and the great thing is that's his job. We sat down with him to ask what Děčín has to offer cyclists.

## What's Děčín like from a cycling perspective?

Děčín is great for cyclists :) I think the city is an ideal starting point because it's pretty much the main cycling crossroads in the Ústí region. Three major long-distance bike routes meet here.

## Which ones?

The Elbe cycle route, the Ploučnice bike trail and the Ore Mountains high road [ed. note: Krušnohorská magistrála]. Each route is different and there's something around Děčín for pretty much any cyclist. You'll see families with kids, mountain bikers and road cyclists.

## When it comes to families, what trails would you recommend?

Definitely the Elbe trail, which is mostly closed to motorized traffic. Besides, you can put together bike trips here with boat rides, which is fun for people with kids. You hop the boat from Děčín to Bad Schandau and ride back to town on the bike trail. For me, the stretch of trail running through the Elbe Canyon here is one of the most beautiful on the whole route and I often ride here with my family.



## What would you recommend for people with mountain bikes who are looking for a challenge?

A more demanding route is the Ore Mountains high road, which starts riverside at the Přípeř crossroads and climbs up to Děčínský Sněžník. The climb is pretty grueling, but it's worth it for the feeling of conquering the highest mesa in the country. The route from Sněžník leads on to Tisá and then along the ridge of the Ore Mountains via Komáří vížka and Cínovec or Klínovec to Cheb. I would definitely recommend a trip from Děčín to Sokolí vrch via Folknáře, if you're a fan of pedaling uphill, and of course there are tons of pretty rides in the area that go through the national park and hit popular spots.

## Do you have any tips for bikers who want to hit the woods on natural surfaces?

First up, it should be said that you can't ride in the national park or protected area off marked routes and cycle paths. But bikers can use the trails at Klobouk, where there are three routes of varying difficulty. A little further from Decin, about 30 km, is the Polevsko bike park. I can also recommend riding Střížovický vrch in Ústí nad Labem.

## How about the Ploučnice trail, what's new there?

In 2023 they blazed the last, missing stretch of the trail in the Česká Lípa area. Right now the route runs about 100 kilometers. You can ride from Děčín

to the source of the Ploučnice River and just a bit farther to the foot of Ještěd, where the trail ends. Unfortunately, the section between Děčín and Liberec has some major shortcomings right now.

## What shortcomings?

One major problem is the unfinished section Děčín – Březiny – Soutěsky. There the route goes along a busy road, highway 262, which is not great and can even be dangerous for families riding with children. The municipal and regional authorities there are looking at the possibility of adding a trail on that stretch.

The other shortcoming of the Ploučnice trail is the surface. When it was completed ten years ago, it was mostly gravel, and after years of use it's in pretty bad shape. But that is being worked on.

## And what about in town, what's in store for bike infrastructure in Děčín?

The most significant development for cyclists in the long term will be the construction of a dedicated bridge over the Elbe River just for pedestrians and cyclists. It will be attached to the railway bridge in the center of town. The new bridge will mean cyclists won't have to cross Tyrš Bridge with car traffic any more. It should be ready by 2026 at the latest. In the short term, some amenities and minor improvements await the Elbe trail and the Ploučnice trail, like ecological toilets, benches, bike racks and rubbish bins at rest areas.

## You mentioned taking bikes on a boat... what other options are there for cyclists?

Some of the bus lines on the regional network carry bikes, either during the tourist season or on certain days. In Děčín, these are bus 433 to Sněžník, the 434 to Vysoká Lípa via Hřensko and Jetřichovice, and the 437 to Benešov and Verneřice. A relative novelty is the cross-border tourist line, bus 217, on the route Tisá–Sněžník–Rosenthal–Königstein.

## What about trains?

There are more options for transporting bikes by rail. The Ústí Region operates special trains in season, for example a bike train along the Elbe River, which follows the route of the Elbe Trail from Ústí to Děčín, or a bike train to Bohemian Switzerland. Personally, I'd recommend the "summer comet," Letní kometa RE20, as the best service from the Ústí region all the way to Dresden. For international connections (either bus or train) you can use the Labe-Elbe pass, which is valid throughout the Ústí Region and on the VVO network in Saxony. You can find more information about



the pass on idecin.cz or ask at the train station.


## What's your favorite ride around here?

I love the trails around Děčínský Sněžník, but I also take my family out for rides along the Elbe, both downstream to Dolní Žleb and upstream towards Ústí.

## Road bike or mountain bike?

Neither. I've been riding a gravel bike for three seasons now. It's kind of the mutant of the bike world – something between a road bike and a mountain bike. Its versatility lets me enjoy both paved and unpaved trails. For the area around Děčín it's the ideal bike :)



A person with long hair, wearing a bright yellow raincoat and blue leggings, stands on the edge of a dark, layered rock formation. They are looking out over a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and valleys. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. In the foreground, there are some green bushes and a pine tree on the right. The overall scene is serene and scenic.

Děčín straddles the Elbe where Bohemian Switzerland and the Central Bohemian Uplands meet. Explore the area's diversity and get to know the surroundings. These geologically divergent, yet lovely terrains offer a range of interesting destinations.

# Nordic walking for Děčín views

Nordic walking has grown in popularity as a sport that not only strengthens the body, but offers opportunities for exploration. Děčín is home to several Nordic walking routes. This one leads to some wonderful scenic views of the city and the river canyon.



Length: 4.5 km (basic route)  
Climb: 240 m  
Difficulty: Medium  
Trail marker: Red Nording walking

Now it's time to make your way back to the main viewpoint on Červený vrch and then follow the marked trail to the viewpoint above the flag painted on the cliff face. From here there's a nice view of Děčín Castle. Continue along the same trail until you get back to the Červený vrch road, which leads back down to the river and, ultimately, to the parking lot where this trek began.

**„If you're lucky, you may even catch a glimpse of the paragliders that use the slope to launch for flights over the valley.“**



**S**tarting at the parking lot near the roundabout on ulice Práce, head through the railway viaduct and then make a sharp right past the apartment buildings to the trail head. The path winds its way up to its first outlook point, known as the Jahn terrace, from which there is a nice view of both banks of the river as well as a railway tunnel dating from the mid 19th century. There's a bench in the shade here, so on a hot day, this is a great place for a rest.

From the terrace, continue along the red trail up to the top of Pastýřská stěna (Shepherds Bluff), where the city lays at your feet. From here a number of other local viewpoints are visible, such as Quaderberg and Sokoli vrch. There's also a nice view of the sandstone cliffs lining the Elbe River.

From the clifftop, head away from the river along the ridge for 350 meters, then turn off for a descent to Bělská ulice. Turn right and follow the road to the intersection with Červený vrch, where you will make a left. Soon you will leave the paved road and follow the red Nordic walking trail markings to the right, towards a viewpoint marked Červený vrch. From this flat ledge, there is a wonderful view of the ridge and a good part of the Děčín valley.

After that it's up to you whether to start heading back or continue further on the wooded path to another viewpoint. There are several of these along the trail, each with a bench for enjoying the view. If you're lucky, you may even catch a glimpse of the paragliders that use the slope to launch for flights over the valley.

## Exquisite views of the Elbe Canyon

On foot from Děčín to Hřensko

Děčín (hospital bus stop) ▶ Quaderberg 1 km ▶ Elbe viewpoint 2 km ▶ Nad Loubím signpost 4 km  
▶ Spálenisko viewpoint 5 km ▶ Růžový hřeben viewpoint 6 km ▶ Belvedér 11.5 km ▶ Labská Stráž 12 km  
▶ Suchá Kamenice valley 14.5 km ▶ Suchá Kamenice 17 km ▶ Hřensko riverside 18 km

**T**his scenic walk starts at the bus stop for the 201 bus on Lužická ulice and follows the red trail into the park. A paved path leads up to the panoramic terrace and sandstone obelisk at the top of the Quaderberg bluff. The spot offers a great view of the city and the Elbe Canyon. From here the red trail sets off along the ridge. A quick detour leads to the views at Sněžnická vyhlídka.

Our path continues along a broad, easy path to the stone pavilion Labská stráž. The red trail continues along the ridge over the Loubí valley with its sandstone cliffs and rock formations. The path descends and heads to the village of Ludvíkovice. There it skirts the village cemetery and meets the green trail at a signpost marked Nad Loubím.

The trail continues and then climbs a wooded slope to a sandstone shelf over the river. Then a spot called Spálenisko affords a nice view of Prostřední Žleb. The trail continues to the Růžový hřeben crossroads. From

here a short detour of 300 m leads to a gorgeous panoramic viewpoint overlooking wonderful sandstone formations.

The viewing area, Růžová vyhlídka, has a railing and a bench.

Around the bend, the red trail traces a level course through the forest. After 1,100 m a side path leads off to the signpost Pod Kamenským vrchem. At this point, hikers can take the green trail to Bynovec or stay on the red.

The path takes hikers along the plateau above the village of Labská Stráž. Our route doesn't head straight for the village, but continues straight past a string of gardens to Belvedér, the oldest man-made viewing terrace in Bohemian Switzerland.

From Belvedér, the green trail heads down to the Elbe. There you can either hop on the ferry at Dolní Žleb and get the train back to Děčín or continue on the green trail to the signpost marked Ústí Suché Kamenice then follow the road a short way to the bus stop in Hřensko.

Riverboats: [www.labskaplavebni.cz](http://www.labskaplavebni.cz)

Bus timetable: [jr.kr-ustecky.cz](http://jr.kr-ustecky.cz) / bus 434

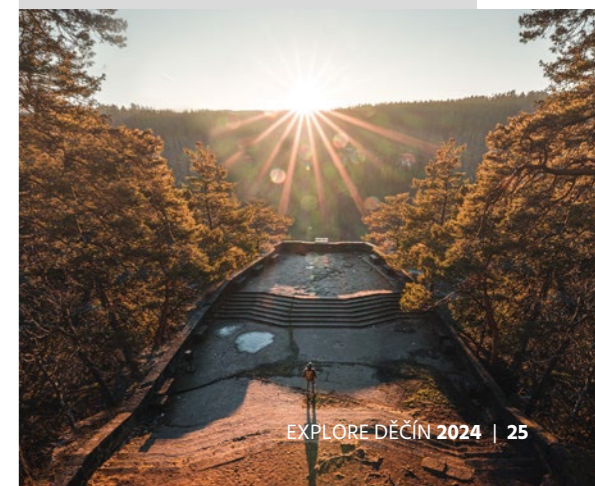
Hřensko-Schöna ferry (passengers and bikes): Schöna-Děčín train

### BELVEDÉR TERRACE

The oldest outlook in Bohemian Switzerland, Belvedér has a stepped terrace with a sala terrena made to look like a cave with a high arch and the Clary-Aldringen coat of arms. It lies on a sandstone bluff 160 meters above the Elbe River.

The clifftop terrace offers a spectacular view of the Elbe Canyon, Dolní Žleb, northern Germany, the tabletop mountains Zirkelstein and Kaiserkrone, Schrammsteine, and Großer Winterberg. Summer sunsets are lovely here.

Belvedér is accessible from Labská Stráž on the red trail. The hiking trail along the old carriageway from Děčín is also nice. Hotel Belvedér offers lodging, and in the summer there's a refreshment stand on the terrace.



# Discover adventure in Wild Gorge

Among the greatest treasures Bohemian Switzerland National Park has to offer are Wild and Edmund gorges. Here the Kamenice River winds among rocky cliffs with sandstone formations at every turn. These figures frozen in stone include a dragon, a monster, a watchman, and more.

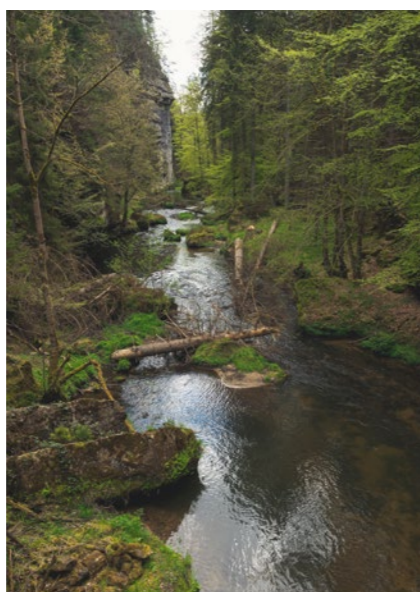
**D**o you know that Hřensko has the lowest elevation in the country? The deep gully cut by the Kamenice River offers ideal climatic conditions for a variety of cold-loving plants that are only otherwise found in alpine and sub-alpine areas. A flat-bottomed boat ride reveals glimpses of the alpine yellow violet, northern firmoss, and claspleaf twistedstalk. If a blue streak whizzes past, it's probably the common kingfisher. Other creatures spotted here are the white-throated dipper, grey wagtail, black stork, and, on occasion, the Eurasian otter.

The area around the river has always been shrouded in mystery. In the past it was all but inaccessible. Even today, a certain otherworldliness hangs over the place as the cool rock walls crowd in above the water and the sun is relegated to a narrow space far overhead.

Because **Edmund Gorge** remains closed to the public due to a devastating forest fire in 2022, visitors will be turning their steps to its sister, **Wild Gorge**. It is one of the best-preserved areas of the



national park. It first opened to boaters in 1898 and continues to awe tourists with its wild beauty to the present day. How to visit? It's best to start in **Mezná**, where there's car parking as well as bus service. From there the green trail heads down into the valley along a seemingly endless set of stairs. Visitors can also get to the gorge from **Janov**, starting at the Rosehill Indian camp, a hike of two kilometers.



## CONTACT

HŘENSKO VISITOR CENTER

+420 412 528 344

ihrensko.cz (Czech only)

## TAKE THE BUS

**Bus 438:**

Děčín main station – Mezná

**Bus 432:**

Děčín main station – Janov (Na Hájenkách)

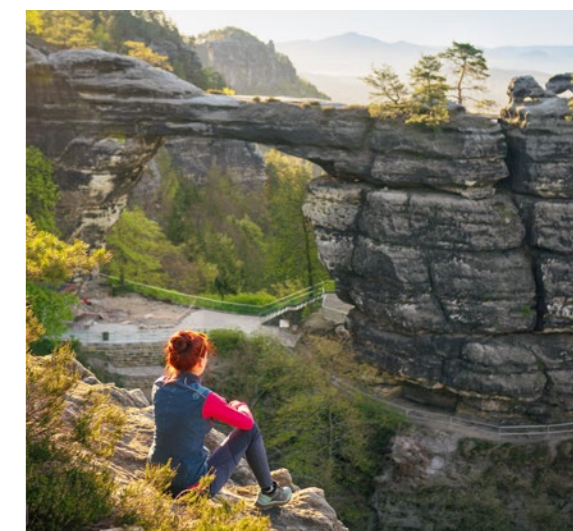
# Pravčická brána arch

This magnificent rock formation is a must-see for any nature lover. It's the largest natural sandstone arch on the European continent.

**N**ature formed it over millions of years and nature will take it back someday. This natural wonder is really something to see.

Located near the village of **Hřensko** near the Czech Republic's border with Germany, **Pravčická brána** is accessible only by foot. There are two marked trails that lead there. The shorter, more

demanding approach starts in **Hřensko** and follows the red trail markings along the road until the path turns into the woods to continue for two kilometers to the arch. Another option is to take the **yellow trail** (Mlýnská cesta) from **Mezná**. This route has fantastic views of the arch – there's even a panoramic stop with a telescope. It meets up with

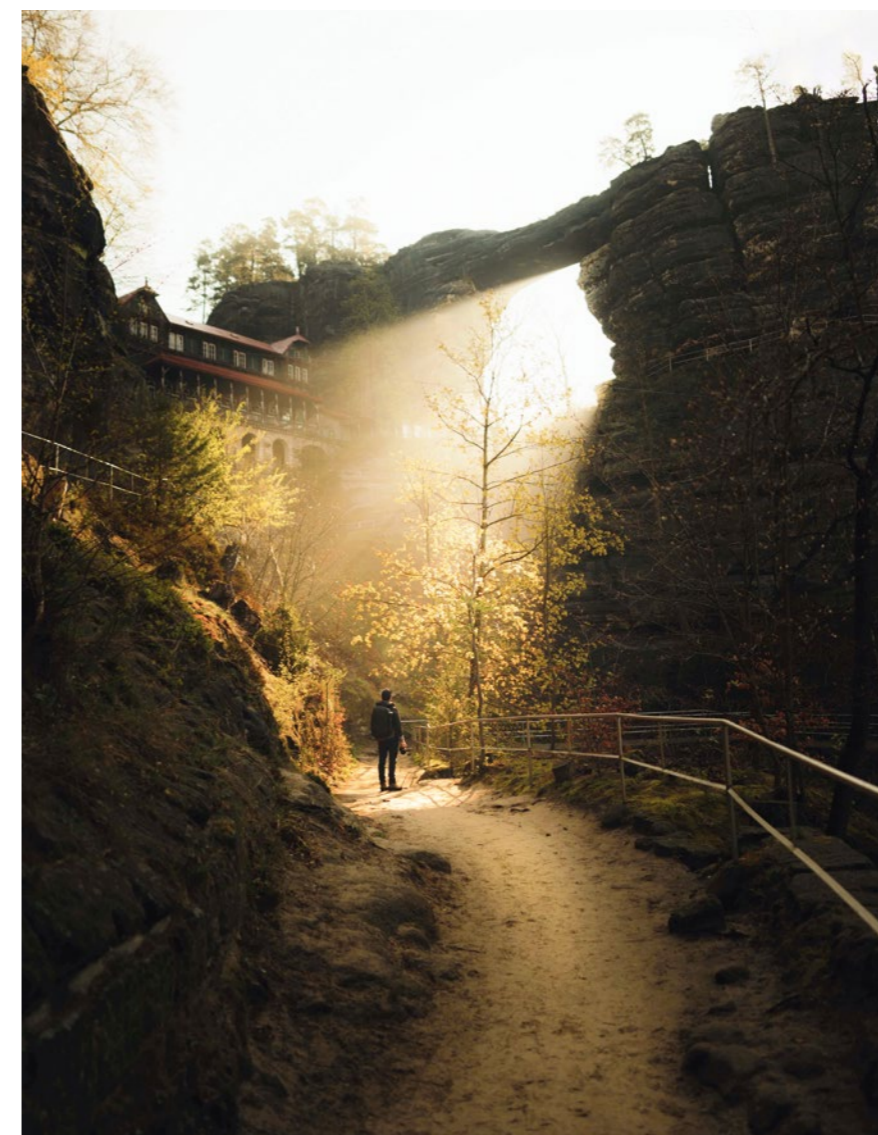


the red trail for **Pravčická brána** at the **Tři prameny** signpost.

The trail ends at the foot of the immense natural arch. **Pravčická brána** measures **26.5 meters wide** at the bottom with the arch **16 meters high** (the bridge overhead is **seven to eight meters wide**). There are plenty of vantage points for getting a good look. The top, however, is no longer accessible. It was closed in 1980 to preserve the arch for future generations – the footfalls of visitors over the decades had worn away 60 to 80 centimeters from the surface. The arch has been reinforced using a special resin compound.

The **Sokolí hnízdo** restaurant at the foot of the arch has been serving visitors since 1881. It was built by **Edmund Clary-Aldringen**, then lord of the estate – his Italian work crew took only a year to complete the structure, despite the difficult terrain. It made the trip more attractive for tourists, who had, of course, discovered the arch years before. As early as the 1870s a paved access road led from **Hřensko** and a promenade led from **Mezná Louka**. The first tourists were wealthy townspeople and members of the nobility. At the time it was customary to rent horses or a group of porters for the trip, with obligatory litters for the ladies of course.

Bohemian Switzerland National Park is now a popular hiking destination, but its sandstone towers attract rock climbers too. Rock climbing has a tradition going back to the first half of the nineteenth century here, but these days there are rules that must be observed and some of the formations may only be mounted at certain times of year.



# Jetřichovice

This pretty village in the heart of the national park has long been popular with hikers and day-trippers, a fact borne out by the multitude of pubs, restaurants, and panoramic viewpoints that still draw park visitors today. It was once part of the domain of the Kinský family, who blazed hiking trails through the woods and established clifftop viewpoints.

**T**he main draw in Jetřichovice, hands down, is the Mariina vyhlídka viewpoint. A wooden pavilion at its top, named for Countess Marie Anna Kinský, was first built in 1856.

Count Ferdinand Kinský, then lord of the estate financed the installation of a stairway with 240 steps and had the clifftop prepared and a pavilion erected there (designed by master carpenter Franz Fescher of Česká Kamenice). That first pavilion was designed to look, at least a bit, like a Greek temple. In the years that followed, a series of structures occupied the spot. After a devastating fire in 2005, a new pavilion was built, but it stood here only until 2019 when it was so run down that it had to be closed. Today, however, visitors can enjoy the view of the national parklands from a new pavilion, one based on the original 1856 design with a few

changes made in line with current park regulations. Whereas the original structure was enclosed, this one is open, with circular seating in the middle so that the view can be fully enjoyed. It was placed on the clifftop with the help of a helicopter in 2021.

The walk to Mariina vyhlídka isn't a long one. From the parking lot it's only about a kilometer. It's the climb that's the tough part, nearly 200 meters straight up.

Mariina vyhlídka is not the only panoramic spot in Jetřichovice. Just 800 meters on and a few meters up again is Vilemínina vyhlídka. This is the northernmost face of the Jetřichovice cliffs. It also gets its name from a member of the Kinský clan, Wilhelmine Kinský. The pavilion that was built there, however, has fallen into disrepair. There are more panoramic spots in the area,

however. Another viewpoint, Rudolfův kámen, lies only 1.4 km away. It is named for Rudolf Kinský.

The green trail leads back to Jetřichovice for those who do not wish to continue on for a visit to Šaunštejn and Mezní Louka. A visit to the three Kinský viewpoints, starting and ending in Jetřichovice, covers about ten kilometers.

Jetřichovice does have something to offer those with no intention of climbing to the heights. The area's folk architecture is stunning, with timbered cottages set against a stunning backdrop. You'll even find fairytale creatures hiding in the woods here. Don't believe it? Take the trail to Rynartice. Along the way you'll come to a sandstone cliff where folk artist Eduard Vater carved a stairway and a relief of Snow White and the seven dwarves. Today it is a national protected landmark.



NEARBY

## Where fairies and imps come out to play

No visit to Bohemian Switzerland should fail to include the spooky old mill Dolský mlýn, a fairytale spot if ever there was one.

**S**et in a deep gorge where the Kamenice and Jetřichovická Bělá rivers meet, this old mill ruin has charm in every season. But when the days are long and temperatures rise, this cool, shady spot is especially lovely.

Dolský mlýn is a favorite with filmmakers and has served as the backdrop for a number of well-loved children's films. The ruins also figure in a local mystery that volunteers reenact several times a year. The mill dates from 1515. It was named a cultural landmark in 2007.

Originally the mill had three wheels. Two powered grinding stones and the other a saw, all rattling along merrily until 1814. When business was slow, the miller brewed beer and distilled spirits.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the old mill became a favorite destination for outings and travelers could even get a bite to eat there. The site was abandoned after the Second World War and today all that is left are ruins.

The easiest way to the mill goes from Jetřichovice along a well-maintained forest path following the yellow trail markings for three kilometers. This walk can be made with a stroller. Or take the bus to Vysoká Lípa and then walk down to the Kamenice river on the blue trail and two kilometers along the riverside. There is another bus stop in Jetřichovice. From the nearest train station it is a ten kilometer walk on a well-marked trail from Česká Kamenice.



# Watchtowers and scenic spots

If taking in the view is your favorite thing about hiking, you'll love this area.

The area around Děčín is rich in places where a little effort can pay off with a great view. Some of these spots are open 24/7, year round, and free of charge, while others have paid entry and limited hours.

## Velký Chlum

Of all of these viewpoints, Velký Chlum lies nearest Děčín, on the basalt hilltop Chlum. Marked walking trails lead there from various Děčín neighborhoods – Březiny, Staré Město, Boletice – or you can drive up and park nearby. Cyclists can easily get there by bike.

The tower was designed by Děčín architect Jahnel as a 16-meter stone tower. It was opened in 1930 and was an immediate hit with the public. After the war, interest receded and it was used as a broadcast tower. In 1997 the structure was renovated and reopened.

### OUR TIP

At the foot of the tower is seating with wooden sculptures and a campfire pit where you can roast hot dogs (bring your own :)). Remember to respect safety rules and keep the area clean.

## Janov

This 40-meter iron tower sits atop a gentle hill, Janovský vrch, at the edge of the village of Janov near a golf course and also serves as a telecommunications tower. It's easy to get there by bus or car, as well as by bike or on foot on the yellow trail between Hřensko and Růžová.



The tower is fairly new, built in 2013 and opened to fanfare in April the following year. A spiral staircase takes you up to the observation deck 30 meters above the ground. If you have the feeling that the tower is swaying, you may be right; don't make the climb in windy conditions, rain, or frost. Labeled pictures point out what visitors can see in each direction.

### OUR TIP

A vending machine sells commemorative coins not far from the foot of the tower. A short walk away, near the pond in Janov, is an old Dutch windmill (with the sails removed) that has been adapted for use as a private cottage.

## Růženka

A few kilometers from Děčín lies the village of Růžová, where an interesting structure popped up on Pastervní vrch in 2018. This is Růženka. The organic, futuristic design may seem like something the visionary architect Jan Kaplický would have dreamed up, but it is the work of the architectural design studio Mjolk in nearby Liberec. While calling this a tower may be a bit of a stretch – it stands only six and a half meters – what Růženka lacks in height it makes up for in character. Its rounded portals afford a nice view of the countryside.



### OUR TIP

Check out the fragrant soap shop Mýdlárna Rubens in the village below, where you can buy natural, herbal products. Or get the kids out for a walk on Petřinská stezka educational trail.

## Strážný vrch view tower

This wooden tower perches atop Strážný vrch, a phonolite cone (601 masl) near the village of Merboltice. It offers a sweeping view of the countryside encompassing the Central Bohemian Uplands, the Lusatian Mountains, and Česká Lípa. The hilltop stood bare until 2005, when a local construction company agreed to take on the challenge of erecting a tower on this hard-to-reach spot. The viewpoint opened to the public in November 2006. To reach it, park your car in Merboltice and follow the blue trail for about 1.5 km. If traveling by rail, the nearest train station is Starý Šachov.

### ALSO IN THE AREA

Not far from the outlook, an interesting rock formation juts up from a field – Zvonkový kámen (the bell stone).

Local folklore connects the stone with a mythical band of "little men" and the spot is said to have positive energy. Zonkový kámen gets its name from the ringing sound it makes when struck with a hammer or another rock.





## Kohout – “the rooster”

Kohout is one of the older towers in the area. In 1908 it was commissioned by the German hiking association as a grand 16-meter tower with a stone base. Unfortunately, funding ran out and the project was reimagined as a wood-metal structure with a deck at a height of 12 meters. After the Second World War it was left to deteriorate like so many of the other towers in this area. Happily, in 2010, it was refurbished and reopened.

There used to be popular watering hole at the foot of the tower. Traces of its foundations are still visible today. It served thirsty travelers from 1908, when the tower was erected, until shortly after World War II.

### OUR TIP

Returning on the blue trail to Benešov nad Ploučnicí you can take the green trail to another local point of interest, the Ostrý castle ruins at Františkov nad Ploučnicí. Written record of the castle dates back to 1268.

**The following three towers are not freely accessible. Check their websites before you visit see opening hours.**



## Sokolí vrch

This tower located near the village of Dobrná is easy to get to by car, with parking available. But if you prefer a hike, there are a number of routes to try. Take the local road from Dobrná or the green trail from Huntřov or Folknáře.

As is so often the case, this viewpoint owes its existence to a telecommunications company. A reinforced concrete broadcast tower has been wrapped in an elegant spiral staircase with landings to rest on. The climb of 162 steps is rewarded with sweeping views from a crow's nest that extends beyond the support column – the deck is made of steel grating, so you can see the ground far below, giving visitors a little bit of an adrenalin rush. The observation deck is 34 meters up, but the tower rises an additional 17 meters into the sky.

### OUR TIP

Visit the St. John of Nepomuck chapel in Dobrná.



## Jedlová and the railway inn

The viewpoint farthest from Děčín is located on Jedlová, a phonolite mountaintop 774 m above sea level that gets its name from the thick forest of fir trees (jedle) that covered it in the late 19th century. According to historical records, one of its most famous visitors was the Habsburg Emperor Joseph II, who stopped to admire the view on an inspection tour of northern Bohemia in 1779.

Jedlová became a popular tourist destination in the second half of the 19th century when the railway came through. In September 1890, construction was begun on a circular stone tower with a viewing platform at 23 meters, which officially opened to the public a year later. The total cost of construction was 5,200 gulden.

An inn, erected by the owner of the estate, Ferdinand Kinský at his own expense, opened its doors at the same time. It had a dormitory, several private rooms and a large hall fitted with a pipe organ. The spot was a major tourist destination until World War II but after its last inhabitants left in 1943 the property fell into disrepair.

In the 1950s both the tower and restaurant were shuttered. The tower reopened to the public in 1993, followed by the restaurant two years later.

This is an attractive destination for active vacationers year round. In summer there are plenty of hiking trails and destinations to choose from, including the Tolstein castle ruins and the Calvary in Jiřetín pod Jedlovou. In winter there are downhill ski slopes and extensive crosscountry skiing trails to take advantage of.

## Děčínský Sněžník

If you love a great view, you simply have to stop at Sněžník (723 masl). The stone watchtower atop this flat-topped sandstone mountain was built in 1864 by Count Franz Anton Thun as part of a surveying network. The result was rather more imposing than the usual wooden survey tower. Built of sandstone blocks, Děčínský Sněžník is 33 meters high and looks more like a Gothic keep than anything else. Its first users were Austrian, Saxon, and Prussian surveyors, but it soon caught on with the hiking public who, for a small fee, could take in the gorgeous view of the countryside. A small inn at its foot serves thirsty visitors.

There are a number of ways to get to the tower. The simplest, shortest path follows the paved asphalt road from the intersection at the restaurant Hraničář, a half-hour walk to the top. Along the way you can enjoy forests and countryside with a nice view into Saxony from the Dresden viewpoint. There's also a marked trail for cyclists. For a real hike, you can trek all the way from Děčín on the red trail, roughly ten kilometers. The walk from Jílové on the green trail is about half as long. For a little something different, try riding downhill on a rented scooter. Services at the foot of the tower include a restaurant, lodging, and a refreshment stand.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The very first television signal ever picked up in Czechoslovakia was caught in 1936 at the tower. The broadcast? A report from the Olympic games in Berlin.



NEARBY



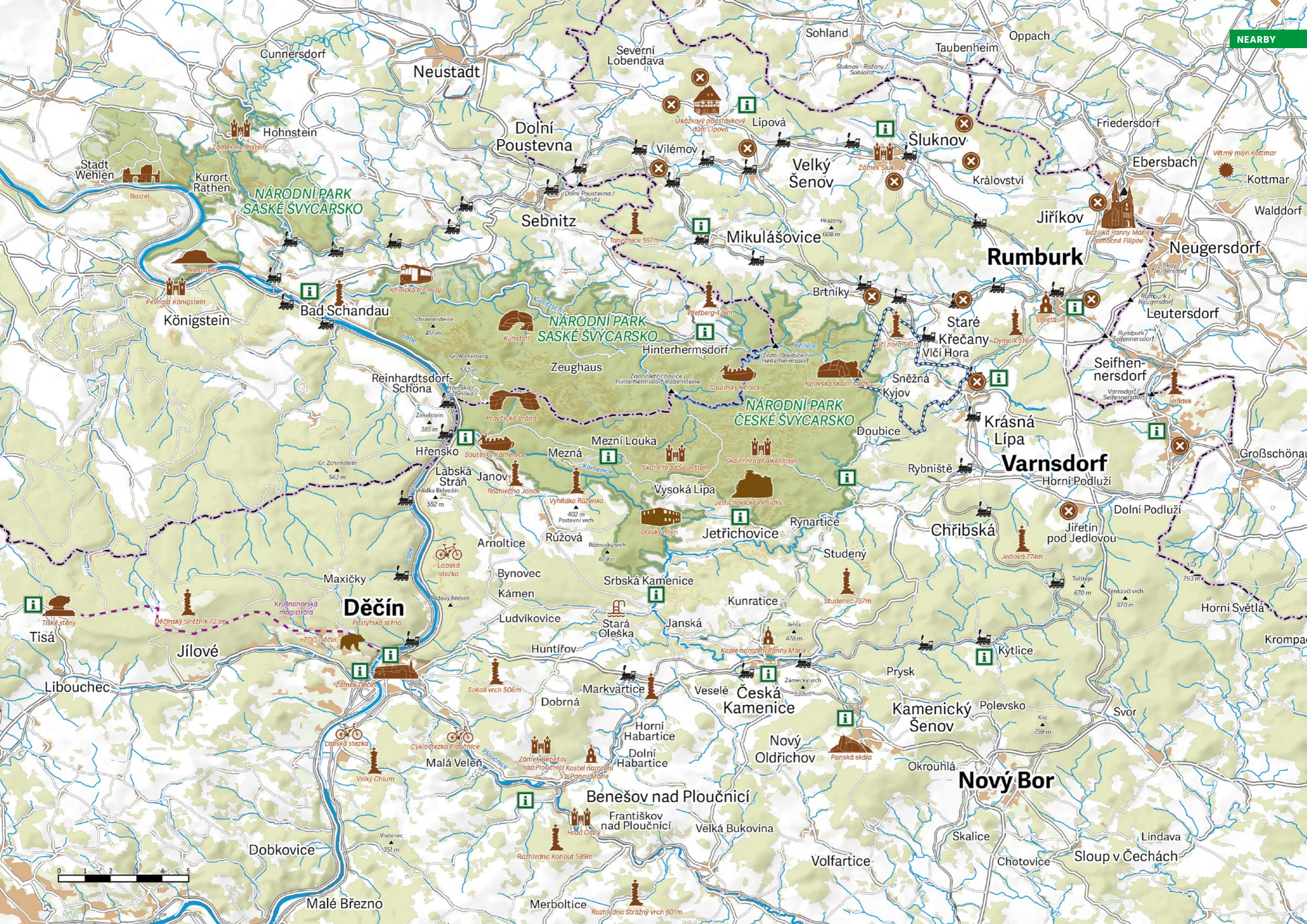
2x photo - Jedlová station apartments (D. Vlček)

### OUR TIP

In addition to the many interesting hiking destinations in the area, Jedlová is home to a true rarity – a remodeled railway building that offers overnight accommodation. There are three comfortable apartments that can each lodge a family of four. There is also a great restaurant in the station building as well as a playground. But for miles around there is not a single village or settlement. It's just you, the deep woods, and the passing trains.

The station building in Jedlová was built in 1869 by the North Bohemian Railway. Today it is used by hikers and day trippers for access to the footpaths, bike trails, and cross-country ski routes in the area. Overnighting at the station can be an unforgettable experience and a great opportunity to fully experience the Lusatian Mountains. It's just the thing for railway buffs, experience hounds, cyclists, hikers, and families looking for something a little different.

**Railway info:** [www.spravazeleznic.cz/web/en](http://www.spravazeleznic.cz/web/en)  
**Jedlová station apartments (CZ):** [www.apartmany-jedlova.cz](http://www.apartmany-jedlova.cz)



NEARBY

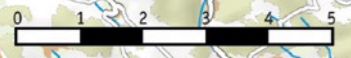
NÁRODNÍ PARK SASKÉ ŠVÝCARSKO

NÁRODNÍ PARK SASKÉ ŠVÝCARSKO

NÁRODNÍ PARK ČESKÉ ŠVÝCARSKO

Děčín

Nový Bor





# Česká Kamenice awaits



**T**ake a bit of history, a pretty landscape, and an authentic atmosphere – what you get is a place that gets under your skin and wins a place in your heart.

The historical heart of Česká Kamenice will take you back in time. The town square, rimmed by beautiful Renaissance homes, combines calm elegance and modern energy.

The town center has been a protected site for over 30 years and municipal authorities have been hard at work fixing it up ever since. The historical area includes the main square as well as Nerudova ulice, which leads to the Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary, a pilgrimage site. At one end of the street stands Česká Kamenice's new astronomical clock, one of the minor landmarks renewed in recent years.

In addition to such renovations, the town has also focused its energies in the direction of the forest park just beyond the swimming pool. Here a group of miniature wooden houses with mill wheels was restored in 2022 and has been recently enhanced with interactive water features. Locks, dams, troughs and water pumps are fun for young and old alike in all kinds of weather. The nearby pond has a manually operated

ferry. Can you get yourself across?

The rock formations on the Brand viewpoints trail are a wonderful spot in hot weather as well as on rainy days. The four-kilometer route offers great cliff top views of the town and the Bohemian Switzerland landscape.

The highest of the viewpoints is Jehla, where a hidden gazebo shelters hikers and you can get a great view of the hilltop ruin on the opposite side of town. There's a campfire at the foot of the castle hill, so don't forget the hotdogs. And you can make your presence known to the whole town by ringing the bell in the tower.

From the observation tower in the castle ruins, you can get a proper look around. Your gaze is sure to settle on the highest hill, Studený vrch. Topped with a metal lookout tower, it's worth a visit if only to get a closer look at the tower. The spot has been marked by several wars over the centuries and in the area around Studenec and nearby Zlatý vrch, there are border fortifications dating from the Second World War.

But Česká Kamenice is about more than just hiking and day trips. The town is alive with cultural events throughout the year. There are lectures and travel logs, blockbuster movies at the cultural

## The town that time forgot?

**Not here! A new astronomical clock keeps time in Česká Kamenice.**

*"If Prague or Olomouc can have an astronomical clock, why not Česká Kamenice?" – Mayor Jan Papajanovský*

This clockwork wonder with statues of the apostles did not just drop from the sky. Historically, a clock once hung in this spot, a promotion for the watch shop on the building's ground floor. Until recently, though, all passersby could see was an unassuming pair of metal doors.

Over the winter of 2023 the building's facade was renovated and the clock returned to its original place of honor. Once the statues are restored, it will once again mark the hours, treating visitors to a wonderful show.



center, and the summer cinema at Franze Preidl park. If you plan a visit in the spring, there's a good chance you'll catch the Easter fair. Early summer means the boisterous KAMEN!CE music festival while the end of summer is celebrated with a Marian fair, and you can enjoy a cup of cocoa come autumn with the pumpkin festival. At Christmastime the town lights up and mulled wine flows freely. Which season will you choose?

## Things to do in Česká Kamenice

### PAINTBALL

Take the family or a group of friends out to enjoy a paintball shootout! The Rabštejn valley holds one of the biggest paintball arenas around. Reservations at [www.check-point.cz](http://www.check-point.cz).

### OLD-TIME RAILWAY RIDE TO KAMENICKÝ ŠENOV

Bored with the bus? How about a ride on a steam engine with the old glassworks railway? It will take you to a café and the glassworks educational trail in Kamenický Šenov.

### BIKES AND SCOOTERS

Hop on and see the area at your own speed. Rent a bike, e-bike, scooter, or ferrata set from the folks at Active Point at the municipal swimming pool.

### VIA FERRATA ON JEHLA

Like climbing? The viewpoint cliff has its own via ferrata, an anchored trail that gives you another way to get to the top.

### KAMEN!CE FESTIVAL

Kamenice is full of music the second weekend of June. Look forward to concerts on two stages, street busking, theater troupes, as well as yoga, and even a beer-drinking contest.

**Save the date: June 6–8.**

## CONTACT

For more information visit the visitor center at náměstí Míru 122, Česká Kamenice

+420 412 582 600 or

+420 608 769 768

info@ceska-kamenice.cz

infocentrumceskakamenice

[www.ceska-kamenice.cz/en](http://www.ceska-kamenice.cz/en)



## Places to visit in Česká Kamenice

### SWIMMING POOL

Just a five-minute walk from the heart of town is a great spot to cool off in summer months. The pool has a graduated depth, so it's perfect for swimmers big and small. There's also a stand that sells cold beer and other refreshments.

### BRAND MILLS

Just beyond the swimming pool, in the cool shade of the forest, lies a miniature settlement of wooden houses. Open year-round.



### PILGRIMAGE CHURCH

Over the summer months, the doors are open to the Baroque interior of the Church of the Birth of the Virgin Mary, a pilgrimage site. A guide will explain the site's history and you can have a picnic at the neighboring park.

### ST. JAMES CHURCH

The high tower of this Česká Kamenice house of worship offers a view of the whole town. Inside the tower there are also two exhibits, one presenting town history and the other providing a glimpse of church life.



## In the bandits' lair

The clifftop ruin Schauenstein (Šaunštejn) is not for the weak of heart. Getting there includes some alarmingly steep stairs and several awfully narrow ladders. The view from the top though is worth it.

**D**eep in the forest of the national park rises a sandstone bluff. At its top once stood the castle Schauenstein. The spot affords a great view of the area around Vysoká Lípa and much of Bohemian Switzerland. The basalt summit, Růžovský vrch, rises in the distance.

The original clifftop castle was most likely built in the latter 14th century to guard the trade route connecting Bohemia and Saxony known as the Bohemian Road. The castle belonged to the Berks of Dubí before it passed into the hands of another of Bohemia's influential families, the Wartenbergs.

In 1444 Schauenstein was captured and was never rebuilt. It became a hideout for highwaymen and outlaws and soon established a place in the local imagination as "the bandits' castle."

Schauenstein lies on the red trail. Hikers can start at Mezní Louka or from the yellow trail at Vysoká Lípa. Climbing up to the ruin itself is a little tricky. To get there, visitors have to overcome ladders and steep stairs set in narrow crevices. Then the multiple clifftops are connected by catwalks. The reward for the tricky climb is an outstanding view of the landscape.

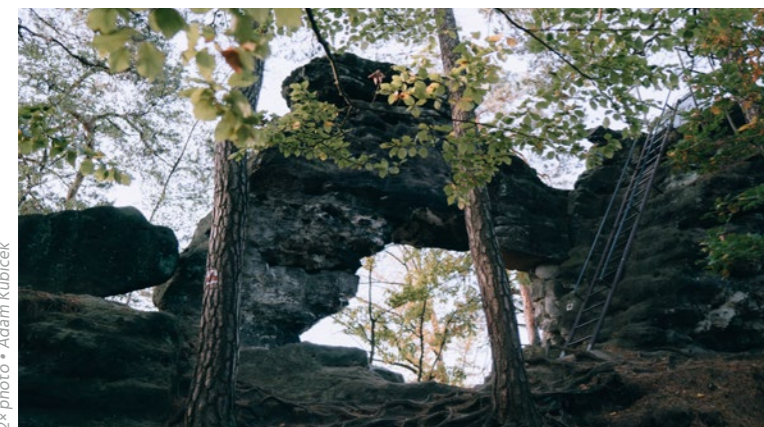
Today all that is left of the castle itself are the scantest remains. In the northern section, an indentation in the rock shows where the main tower once stood. There is a small chamber with a jug-shaped seat that may have served as a cistern or dungeon and perhaps was also used for storage. A cave in the rock below most likely served as a stable or gatehouse.

In 2021, work was completed on Schauenstein to stabilize the cliff above the entry and to fix and reinforce the catwalks on the viewing platform. In spite of these improvements though, a visit to the castle still requires that visitors be especially careful in poor weather.

### PRAVČICKÁ'S LITTLE SISTER

Hikers who head to Schauenstein on the path from Mezní Louka will pass a natural sandstone arch. Known as Malá pravčická brána, it is a miniature version of Bohemian Switzerland's main natural attraction.

Unlike Pravčická brána, it is open to visitors who want to walk on the top and has a metal viewing platform.



2x photo • Adam Kubíček

## Kyjov Valley

Pretty cottages and the beauties of nature await in the Křinice River valley.

**T**he Křinice River valley has been a popular hiking destination since the 19th century and it is really no wonder. It has plenty to offer in the way of romantic gullies, dramatic cliff faces, rock towers, and bizarre sandstone rock formations.

There are a number of viewpoints along the river. The Kyjov Valley mountaineering club began work on them in 1884, making some of the most interesting cliff formations accessible. The area is home to a number of rare animals and plants.

Of course, it was more than just tourism that made Kyjov Valley important. This was once part of a vital route for floating timber into Saxony. In older days there was also a major road here connecting the castles Vlčí, Brtniky, and Kyjov. Records indicate that the route lead all the way to Hohenstein Castle in Germany. Today a series of hiking and cycling trails has taken its place and there are numerous footpaths leading into the cliffs.

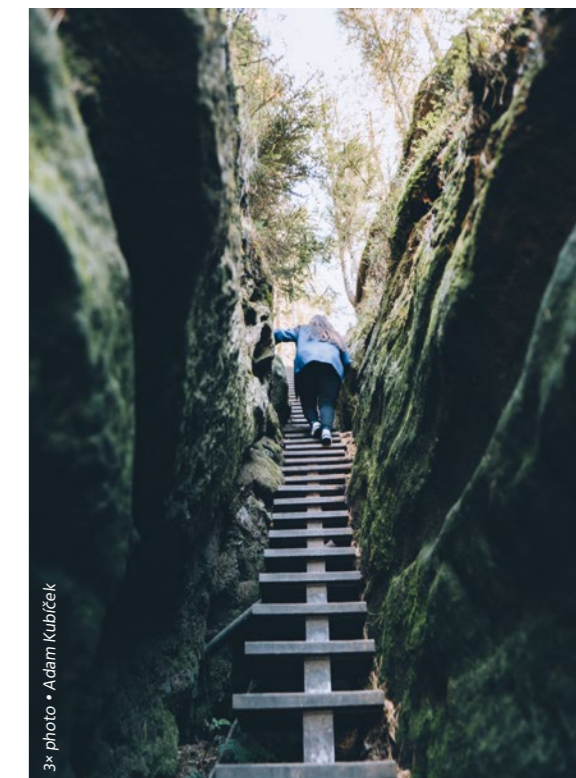
The valley offers views of cliff faces and rock towers that, although they are not especially big, form an enchanting, magical landscape. Unique sandstone formations and pretty forest viewpoints add to the romantic atmosphere. The area's cliff overhangs and caves are a popular attraction. The best known is **Jeskyně víl (fairy cave)**,



bedecked in natural ice formations every winter. Icicles of all sizes grow from the ceiling and floor and ice curtains shimmer enticingly. Other popular destinations include nearby **Lví jeskyně cave**, **Bratrské kameny rocks**, **Vinný sklep cave**, **Kyov castle**, and the cliff amphitheater **Klenotnice**. All of these natural treasures lie within five kilometers of each other.

The valley is also crossed by the **Kögler nature trail**, one of Bohemia's oldest educational nature trails, established by Krásná Lípa native Rudolf Kögler in 1941. Other local personalities have left their mark in the valley. A memorial plaque near the Křinice River honors Dr. Johan Hille, the chairman of the Krásná Lípa branch of the North Bohemian mountaineering club, and brothers Eduard and Franz Bienert, local historians from Šluknov.

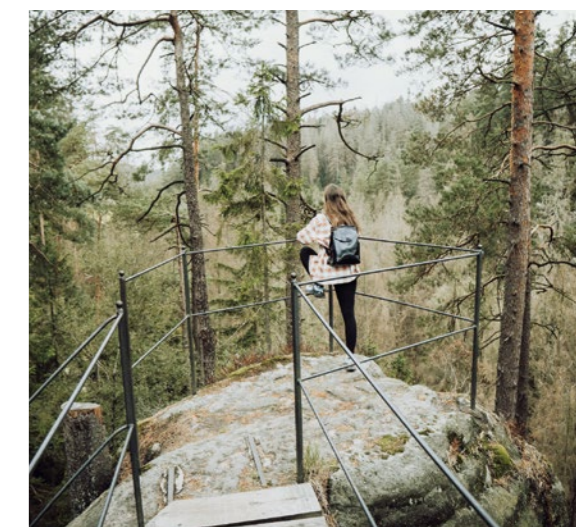
The nearby village of Kyjov is also worth a stop. Visitors can admire local folk architecture or head up to the **Kinsky viewpoint**. And the **Kyjov reservoir** is a popular swimming spot.



3x photo • Adam Kubíček

**"The best known is Jeskyně víl (fairy cave), bedecked in natural ice formations every winter."**

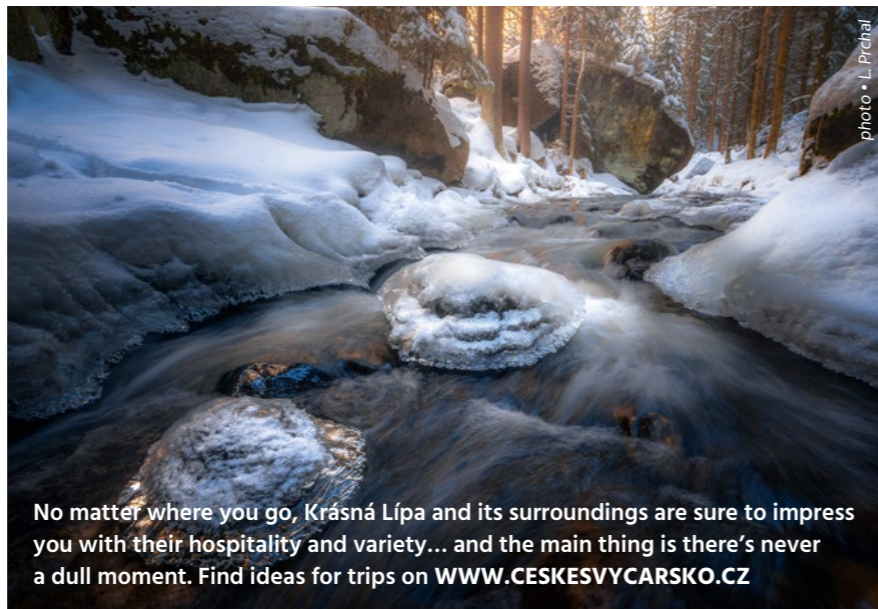
Attractive destinations in the area include the Bohemian Switzerland visitors' center (Dům Českého Švýcarska) in Krásná Lípa, the open-air stage in Kytlice, Tokaň, the pillboxes around Všemily, and the Tanečnice and Vlčí Hora viewpoints. Kyjov Valley is full of wonderful surprises.



# Krásná Lípa, the eastern gate to Bohemian Switzerland



Many places in Bohemian Switzerland can claim to be great starting points for trips to the countryside, but one stands above the rest – Krásná Lípa. It lies in an area thick with hiking trails and places to see... You'll need at least a week.



No matter where you go, Krásná Lípa and its surroundings are sure to impress you with their hospitality and variety... and the main thing is there's never a dull moment. Find ideas for trips on [WWW.CESKESVYCARSKO.CZ](http://WWW.CESKESVYCARSKO.CZ)

**Dům Českého Švýcarska**  
Křínické nám. 1161/10, Krásná Lípa

- Interaktivní expozice
- Komfortní ubytování
- Turistické informace
- Regionální produkty
- Konferenční prostory

[www.ceskesvycarsko.cz](http://www.ceskesvycarsko.cz)



## TOP DESTINATIONS

- **Bohemian Switzerland Exhibit, Falkenštejn brewery, Mana chocolate makers.**
- **Kyjov Valley** – With accessible trails for buggies and wheelchairs and for more daring hikers, a clifftop trail that rises, falls and winds through narrow crevices.
- **Vičí Hora** – A pretty village with plenty to see, including an herb garden and visitor center with a teashop at the Nobilis Tilia natural cosmetics workshop.
- **Dymník** – A stone watchtower with a 360-degree view.
- **Vápenka nature preserve** – From there you can visit Široký vrch with its viewpoint Karlova výšina for a spectacular sunset if you're lucky.
- **Křínice River headwater and the fascinating Světlík mill ruins** – Both locations are accessible on gravel trails in easy, level terrain.

**E-shop Českého Švýcarska**

Regionální výrobky • [ESHOP.CESKESVYCARSKO.CZ](http://ESHOP.CESKESVYCARSKO.CZ) • na jednom místě

# Regional products of Bohemian–Saxon Switzerland



The official badge for regional products from Bohemian–Saxon Switzerland was debuted in 2010 as part of the nationwide network of the Association of Regional Brands, which includes 29 regions.

**L**abeling of local products is an initiative that serves to increase visibility for environmentally friendly local products of quality craftsmanship within a particular region.

What standards do the products have to meet? Local origin is not the only condition for granting a badge. A product must contribute to the region's good reputation. That means it must be environmentally friendly, unique in relation to the area – for example made by traditional technology, by hand, ideally from local ingredients – and must be of outstanding quality. More information is available online (in Czech) at [www.regionalni-znacky.cz](http://www.regionalni-znacky.cz) and [www.ceskesvycarsko.cz](http://www.ceskesvycarsko.cz).

**There are 40 certified products and 15 certified experiences in the region, including:**

- “The fish” pocket knife from Mikov, Mikulášovice
- Natural cosmetics from Nobilis Tilia in Vičí Hora
- Breweries Kocour in Varnsdorf, Falkenštejn in Krásná Lípa, and Pivovar Sever in Děčín
- Děčínská Jeřabinka rowanberry brandy and BBCidre, Rumburk
- Dairy products from Růžová and Varnsdorf
- Mydlárna Rubens soap shop
- Dlaskův Větrník cream crullers
- Finger Car educational toy, Děčín
- Schindler stockings, Krásná Lípa
- Tour de Feminin international women's pro cycling race, Tour de Zeleňák, Cross Park Marathon
- Šluknov Castle festival, Tolštejn festival, Mikulášovice Easter ride, Lipovský dřevák woodcutting festival, Děčín Castle children's tours
- Nebočady ceramics, wooden pins, combs, and tableware by Karel Kříž
- And many others





# Tisá, fun for the whole family

Explore this group of wild rock formations.

**T**isá has become a favorite location for filmmakers – one can step into a corner of Narnia or search for the shades of fairytale figures among the rocks. The bizarre rock formations at Tisá have been drawing thrilled crowds since at least the early nineteenth century, when they were first thoroughly mapped and many of the rocks received the names they are known by now. Today the Tisá cliffs are a **protected natural landmark** within the Elbe Sandstones Nature Preserve. Tisá has two main cliff groupings known as the greater and lesser cliffs. There are **marked trails** to help visitors get the most out of this unique destination. The rocks are a natural playground that are sure to tire out children of any age.

There is also a trail that leads **along the top of the greater cliffs** (red trail markings). When the weather is sunny and dry, the cliffs are peppered with rock climbers – there are **113 climbing routes** of various levels of difficulty. Other cliff clusters in the area that are worth visiting are **Bürschlick, Rájec, and Ostrov**. They are just as beautiful and considerably less busy.

Entry to the Tisá cliffs is possible from two directions. One point of entry is from the village, where visitors can also have a look at **St. Anne's Church** – Emperor Joseph II contributed funds for its construction and personally took part in the cornerstone laying. The other entry is on the road to Děčinský Sněžník at the tourist chalet. There are parking lots at both.



## ACCESSING THE ROCKS

The Tisá rocks are open daily year-round. In the summer months, an entry fee of 50 CZK is charged, 25 CZK for children. In the off season, entry is free of charge.

## Getting to Tisá

It's easy to reach Tisá by bus. From the bus stop on ulice Prokopa Holého in Děčín hop on **bus 432** with regular service on the route Janov – Labská Stráň – Děčín – Libouchec and get off at "Libouchec, ObÚ." Or from the same place you can take **bus 471** serving Ústí nad Labem – Libouchec – Jílové Sněžník and get off at the stop marked "Tisá, kulturní dům." From there, just go around St. Anne's Church and take the unpaved path to the Tisá rocks.

If you're driving, there is parking available in two large lots. The first is the paid lot across from St. Anne's Church, just a ten-minute walk to the rocks. Parking will cost you only 50 CZK per day, even in the summer months. Payment is accepted by cash or card. The other parking lot is at the other entrance to the park, **next to Turistická chata** restaurant. The latter lot offers free parking, but it fills up quickly. We recommend setting out early if you want to catch a spot.



## TIP FOR A DAY TRIP


Take advantage of the cross-border bus line 217 on the Pirna – Tisá – Sněžník – Rosenthal – Königstein route and plan a hiking or cycling trip. For example, you can board in Tisá or Sněžník and head to Rosenthal. There's a nice hike past the Hercules columns, Grenzplatte, and Ostrov to Tisá rocks. This pretty hike is 12 to 14 kilometers long depending on which way you go.

## USEFUL RESOURCES

Bus timetables: [jr.kr-ustecky.cz](http://jr.kr-ustecky.cz)

The latest news on Tisá and the area: [www.idecin.cz/en](http://www.idecin.cz/en) / [www.tisa.cz](http://www.tisa.cz)



A person with long red hair, wearing a red t-shirt and blue pants, is climbing a dark, textured rock face. They are equipped with a climbing harness, a yellow helmet, and a red rope. The background shows a vast landscape with a dense forest of green trees, a river with a boat, and distant hills under a blue sky with light clouds. A large tree trunk is visible on the left side of the rock face.

Děčín is a great spot for an active vacation with its via ferrata, bike trails, rafting, and area hikes. Intense ways to spend free time are unlimited. It's just a matter of choosing.



# Three great rides around Děčín

Děčín is not just a great place to visit in its own right, it also makes an ideal starting point for hikes and cycling trips. This article gets you out on your bike for three totally different rides.



## ROUTE 1 Bohemian-Saxon borderland

**T**his ride along the Czech-German border is about 60 km long, making it an ideal all-day trip. You can even take the bike bus.

Start your ride in Děčín, where you can board DÚK bike bus 433 (bus schedule link below). The bus will take you to the village of Sněžník, where you can start your ride up to Bohemia's highest flat-topped mountain, **Děčínský Sněžník**. The ride up is pretty demanding, but the gorgeous view from the observation tower at the top and the panoramic spots along the way make it worth the effort. From the tower, ride back down to the village and continue on **bike trail #23** until the turnoff for Ostrov, where a nice descent will take you to the next village. Stop in **Ostrov**, a pretty spot in a valley walled off by imposing cliffs. There are a couple of places to refuel here; Hotel Ostrov has excellent food and a nice terrace.

From here the ride continues past the cliff formations out of the village of Ostrov to the German border. The landscape is just beautifully rocky here, and the route leads through the woods on gravel and asphalt. Via the villages of Ottomühle and Bielatal you'll arrive at the fortress **Königstein**. Along the way there's a nice panoramic point at **Spanhornaussicht** with a view of the fortress – the viewpoint is about 200 meters off of the trail and up a set of stairs, so lock your bike below. Next is a nice descent to the town of Königstein, where the route joins the German stretch of the riverside cycling route Elberadweg. Between Ostrov and Königstein the trail isn't very well marked, so you might want to check your map occasionally.



From Königstein, follow the Elbe for the 25 km back to the Czech Republic. The ride south winds along the bottom of the Elbe Canyon through Dolní Žleb to Děčín. In hot summer months, you might want to end your trip at the Aquapark, which is near the bike trail.

**Route:** <https://mapy.cz/s/kuzeforuto>

**Distance:** 57 km | **Ascent:** 212 m | **Descent:** 663 m

**Bike bus to Sněžník**

DÚK bus 433 carries passengers with bikes from Děčín to Sněžník as follows:

- July–August, daily, max. 20 bikes
- April–June and Sept.–Oct., weekends and holidays, max. 20 bikes

See details on the DÚK website [www.dopravauk.cz](http://www.dopravauk.cz).

**Reservations recommended!**



## ROUTE 2 Chateau and chapel ride on Ploučnice trail

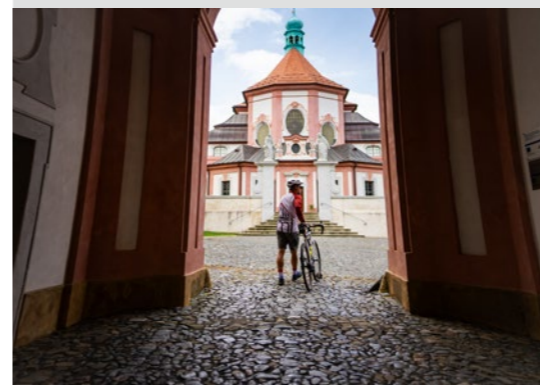
**T**his trip from Děčín upstream along the Ploučnice River is about 45 km round-trip and is manageable for cyclists of average ability. The route offers several pleasant stops.

Start your ride at the **old stone bridge in Děčín** and follow **bike route 15** along the Ploučnice River. The route will take you around the ice rink and is paved all the way to Březiny, where you can stop for a cup of coffee and a snack at **Caffé 08**. From the café, the official bike route follows a fairly busy road for a short segment (not great for children or beginning cyclists). Some people avoid the road by cutting across private property and following the river. Either way, you end up at the village **Soutěsky**, where you stay on bike route 15 through Malá Veleň to **Benešov nad Ploučnicí**, your first destination.

The **chateau complex in Benešov** is a unique example of the transitional architectural style known as Saxon Renaissance, which straddles the rebirth of Late Gothic (or Vladislav Gothic) into Renaissance. The complex includes seven historical buildings in the heart of town – **the upper and lower chateaux, three palaces, a church, and a chapel**. The lower chateau itself is further made up of three separate palaces. The complex as a whole has protected heritage status, with the upper and lower chateaux, buildings 44 and 54, the **Starschedel House**, and the **Konojedy House** all declared national cultural memorials. Benešov nad Ploučnicí Chateau is among the most significant preserved sites in the Czech Republic. The three chateaux that are open to the public host a rich exhibit mapping the life of the aristocracy. From April through October, the site offers three tour routes. There are also costumed, guided tours and other attractive events.

After touring the castle in Benešov, continue along the Ploučnice riverside trail. The route takes you uphill for a while before descending into Františkov nad Ploučnicí. Between Františkov and Starý Šachov, the route follows a dirt path that can be a little uneven. From Šachov, bike trail 15 continues along the road to Dolní Police, where you turn off for **bike route 3098** towards the village of **Horní Police** and the second destination of our journey, the **Pilgrimage Church of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary**.

The current appearance of this pilgrimage site dates from the 18th century, when the church was rebuilt in Baroque style, but the history of the site reaches →





farther back. Legend has it that in 1523 a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary washed up on the bank of the Ploučnice River, where it was found by locals and brought to the original Gothic parish church (probably late 13th century). The statue was set up in the church, where it attracted an increasing number of pilgrims. This put Horní Police on the map of pilgrimage sites. The original church ultimately could no longer handle the traffic, so in 1689 work began on construction of a larger structure,

finished under the patronage of Anna Maria Franziska, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, in 1723. This major architectural and cultural landmark was renovated extensively in 2019–2020.

Trace the same route back to Děčín from Horní Police or take the train. If you want to extend the trip, you can continue on bike route 15 from Žandov through Volfartice, climbing to the bike route Cyklostezka Varhany, which runs along an old railway embankment, taking you to Česká Lípa. The Ploučnice

trail does not end here though. It continues through Mimoň and Stráž pod Ralskem all the way to Osečná and the source of the Ploučnice River.

**Route:**  
<https://mapy.cz/s/cusutadomu>  
**Distance:** 43 km | **Ascent:** 450 m  
**Descent:** 450 m



## ROUTE 3 From Mezná to Tokáň



One of the loveliest hiking and cycling trails in all of Bohemian Switzerland runs below the Jetřichovice viewpoints, around the cabins at Na Tokáni and past the rock formation Malá Pravčická brána. The ride is 30 km with a climb of 536 meters and some possible detours.

Grab your bike and board bus 434 or 438 from Děčín to Mezná. From here you'll continue under your own steam to Mezní Louka on bike route 21 and on towards Vysoká Lípa. After a short climb, take a look around and enjoy the view as you enter town. This is a good place for a lunch break.

From Vysoká Lípa, the route heads to Jetřichovice with an easy descent. You'll pass timbered cottages as you enter the village with the Mariina Vyhlička viewpoint in sight and continue to the Jetřichovice viewpoints and the cliff-top ruins of Falkenštejn, which you can also climb up to see. We recommend leaving your bike at the bottom though; the trail up is quite steep and includes footbridges and stairs.

Bike trail 3076 feeds into the long-distance Hřebenovka trail and takes you straight to the cabins at Na Tokáni. These alpine style structures were built by the Kinskýs in the 19th century for grouse hunting expeditions. One of them was wiped out by a fire in 2020 that left some of the others badly damaged, but other buildings, Princess Wilhelmina's pool and a rope park are still there to be enjoyed.

From Tokáň, return to the loop on bike route 3029, which meets up with the Česká silnice nature trail. The trail leads through a cliff-edged valley past a cottage featured in the Czech movie classic *The Proud Princess*. Then the route winds along the Vysoká Lípa road parallel to the Jetřichovice cliffs nature trail. Along the way, check out the carved wooden reindeer, and of course, the great view of the cliffs.

Continue with an easy ride along 3029 to Vysoká Lípa and back to Mezná or dismount your bike and hit the red hiking trail in the direction of Malá Pravčická brána and past the ruins of Šaunštejn. (Bike riding is prohibited in this section!) Getting to the top of Šaunštejn means a series of dizzyingly steep stairs and ladders, but the view is definitely worth it. If you walk your bike a bit further, you will get to Malá Pravčická brána, a sandstone arch very similar to the largest on the European continent, near-by Pravčická brána. This little lookalike is worth a stop. From here you can remount your bike and take the trail marked Nová cesta to the bike trail and Mezná.

**Route:** <https://mapy.cz/s/bunagosege>  
**Distance:** 29 km | **Ascent:** 520 m | **Descent:** 520 m  
**Bike bus to Mezná:** DÚK bus 434 or 438. Max. 20 bikes. Reservations recommended. Current timetable on the DÚK website [www.dopravauk.cz](http://www.dopravauk.cz).

# Bohemian Uplands hike to Vrabinec



On the right bank of the Elbe between Děčín and Velké Březno lies a section of the Bohemian Uplands that is still unexplored territory for many hikers. Among the many interesting destinations in this area is the peak known as Vrabinec.

This rocky clifftop with an elevation of just over 400 meters above sea level, lies near the village of Těchlovice. In the 15th century a Gothic castle was built here. While little remains of the castle ruins, Vrabinec itself is an interesting spot to visit. The area is a wildlife preserve with thermophilic plant and animal populations, scree and cliff/tales forest. Endangered species that call this area home include the common viper, green lizard and common hen harrier.

The great cormorant nests on the rocks, and nesting sites of the peregrine falcon and the great eagle owl have also been recorded. This means access to the site is closed for part of the year (June and July) to ensure undisturbed nesting for protected bird species.

Apart from the unique natural habitat it provides, Vrabinec is simply a beautiful spot to visit. There's a nice view of the Elbe valley and the nearby peaks of the Central Bohemian Uplands, especially Bukova hora, which you'll know by the broadcasting tower at its top.



### GETTING TO VRABINEC

The red hiking trail leads to the top. It starts in the village of Těchlovice, cuts through Přední Lhota and then up a relatively steep hill with an elevation gain of 200 m over its one kilometer length.

For a farther hike, you can continue from Vrabinec on the red trail for another 6 km to the Velký Chlum lookout tower. The stone tower is freely accessible year round and offers beautiful views of the area. You can also reach Vrabinec from the village of Lesná, which lies on the red trail between Velký Chlum and Vrabinec. Get more great tips for events and trips in the Central Bohemian Uplands at [www.stredohori.cz](http://www.stredohori.cz).



and Zbyňek Homola are better anchored and closer to standard classification. In Dolní Žleb, there's a pub frequented by rock-climbers that really gets going on weekends. A ferry makes it easy to cross the river. The cliffs on the right bank are harder and less "salty," and in the summer they get pretty hot. The long climbs – Villa to XII – are beautiful, with magnificent views of the river and cliffs. When you head out for a climb, be sure to check how long your rope is though – it might easily be shorter than you need.

If hard-core rock climbing seems too tough and you're having some trouble getting your nerve up, try the via ferrata. It's a good way to find out how well you handle heights and if climbing is the thing for you. In Děčín, the entrance to the Elbe Canyon, there are sixteen

anchored climbing trails of various difficulties. They were installed by rock-climbing great Karel Bělina. Located at the very heart of town, the via ferrata is something most larger children can manage too. Equipment can be rented at the foot of the wall, where you can also hire an experienced guide. Then nothing stands in the way of discovering the magic of sandstone climbing for yourself.

.....  
**A-E** Easy to extremely difficult, steps used as footholds and handholds  
 .....  
**1-4** Easy to extremely difficult, free climbing

**DIFFICULTY**

- 1. Path to Heaven/Cesta do nebička **C/3+**
- 2. Silent Tolerance/Tichá tolerance **C**
- 3. Confederacy of Dunces/Spolčení hlupců **C**
- 4. Memento/Vzpomínka **B/2+**
- 5. Hungry Wayfarer/Hladový poutník **B/2+**
- 6. Silver Will/Stříbrná vůle **D/3+**
- 7. Delusions of Grandeur/Pošetilost mocných **E**
- 8. Shepherd/Pastýř **D**
- 9. Frona **E**
- 10. Charles Bridge/Karlův most
- 11. Tinker/Dráteník **E**
- 12. Air Ballet/Vzdušný balet **A/B**
- 13. Memento HTW **D**
- 14. Rock Empire **D**
- 15. Brewery/Pivovarská **E**
- 16. Adrenalin Challenge **C**

# The beauty of climbing on sandstone

Always wanted to go rock climbing? Děčín is a great place to give it a try. But the monumental sandstones that line the Elbe Canyon are probably not the place to start. While they may be a tempting, they demand a certain level of experience. Fortunately, the Elbe Sandstones Natural Protected Landscape has plenty more to offer. It's a big area with routes for every climber. If you are a beginner, start in Rájec, Tisá, or Ostrov. The routes there are more accommodating for new climbers and are still lovely.

**S**andstone climbing is like nothing else. Those familiar with climbing walls or limestone may be in for a surprise. You won't find anchors every meter, but as much as every five meters on older routes, with the current standard being every three meters, or every two in tougher spots. Here climbers depend on their own anchoring and a good dose of courage. Tackling the classic routes that date from when anchoring material wasn't what it is today, you're bound to shake your head and say that climbers back then must have been just plain nuts. In Rájec, Tisá, and Ostrov the cliffs reach heights of 7 to 15 meters with classifications from IV to VIII by

sandstone classification. Of course a lot depends on who laid the route. Every climber has a different perspective on how difficult a climb is. So a given route might surprise you. The good thing about this area is that you can get to a lot of these cliffs from the back and throw down a line from the top. That opens up a world of possibilities for beginners. All of the above-mentioned areas are also fairly family friendly. There's usually a sandy area at the foot of the cliff with fairly level terrain and some shade. You might even find a couple of trees to string a hammock from. That means that even a family with smaller children can spend the day out without too many worries

and it's usually only a short walk from the car, so you can bring your plastic pails and spades. If you can manage a Villa climb, you're building endurance, and you've tried sand climbing before or if you've got more experienced climbers along, it may be time to head for the riverside cliffs on the Elbe, known locally as "Labak." If you're lucky, you may meet a local legend like Mára Holeček or Jindra Hudeček out for a climb. Europe's deepest sandstone canyon, with its routes hitting lengths of up to 80 meters is a great training ground for these climbing greats. On the left bank you'll find shorter routes, around 40 meters. The new routes laid by Richard Litochleb

## Via Ferrata

Enjoy an hour-long climb on 150 meters of anchored routes of varying difficulties on this cliff right in the center of town. Note: Climbing is prohibited in wet conditions.



# Sunrise on the via ferrata

Take a sunrise climb with a professional guide.

**“Want a via ferrata climb that’s got it all? There’s one in Děčín... Get all the satisfaction, plus climb with a pro, stop halfway for a canned coffee, and the best comes a minute or two later... an unbelievable sunrise and a stunning view. See what you can do if you set your mind to it.”** Marta Nováková / client

It can get so hot on the via ferrata in the day-time. Here’s a morning climbing workshop that beats the heat and has the added benefit of a great sunrise. Over the past four years sunrise climbs have become very popular.

### How it works

Groups of four or five meet in the early morning about an hour before sunrise. Everyone puts on their ferrata sets and then safety instruction takes place at the foot of the cliff and climbers can practice using the carabiners.

### Why have a guide

Lots of people think that they’ll never climb a wall, much less a cliff face, but with expert instruction and the security of a ferrata set, they can climb up easily. Others, even those used to extreme sports or skydiving, might not manage



**CONTACT** JIŘÍ SKORPION HOVORKA / Licensed mountain guide  
 ☎ +420 602 421 809 🌐 www.ferrata-decin.cz  
 📌 ferratapastyrskastena 📱 @ferratadecin

without the help of the instructor’s rope. Another thing to keep in mind is that the fall brake is designed to work for people from 40 to 120 kg. Outside of those limits, as for children, climbers have to secure themselves, so an instructor is needed. The recommended age for children is 6 and up.  
*Jirka Skorpion Hovorka / mountain guide*

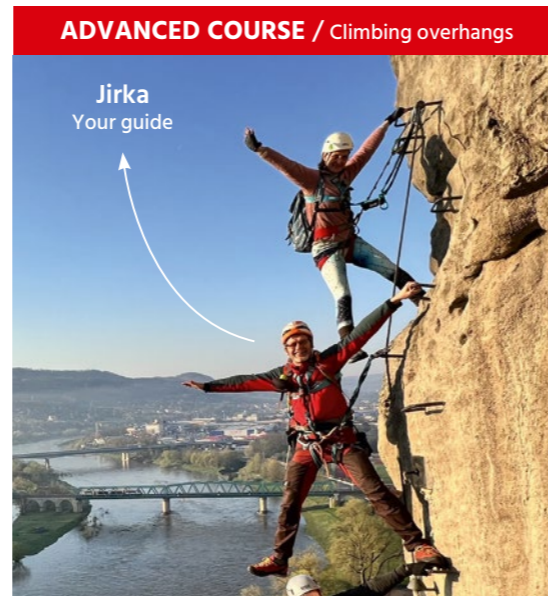
**“Unless you’re just plain lazy, you’ve got to try the sunrise workshop. Not only will you get a beautiful view and learn something new, you’ll also have a great time and maybe find a new hobby. Got the guts to try it?”** Adam Marien Hrdina / client



CLOWNING AROUND



COURSES FOR KIDS



ADVANCED COURSE / Climbing overhangs

Jirka  
Your guide



# Cruises throughout the year



**E**lbe cruise operator **Labská plavební společnost** welcomes passengers for **Elbe River excursions from Mělník, Litoměřice, Ústí nad Labem, and Děčín to Dresden and Meissen.**

The historical paddle steamer Labe returned to the river in 2023, making a splash with wine cruises from Ústí to Roudnice and back. In the coming season, the Labe will continue this successful run. Passengers can also look forward to cross-border service on the route Ústí n.L.–Königstein and Děčín–Meissen, among other attractive cruises. Details online at [www.parniklabe.cz](http://www.parniklabe.cz).

### Passenger favorite – Round-trip cruises from Děčín to Dresden

Admire gorgeous natural scenery from the deck of a riverboat cruise. Passengers will enjoy a two-

course lunch, dinner, a wine tasting, live music, and the services of a tour guide. The boat docks in the heart of Dresden at the Elbe terrace near the Frauenkirche and the world-renowned Zwinger Gallery. A guided walking tour of the historic center follows.

### Advent cruises, Christmas parties, and Saint Martin’s feasts

In winter, the cozy interior of a riverboat decked with all the holiday trimmings whisks off passengers for Advent cruises to the unforgettable Christmas markets at Königstein fortress, historic Pirna, the Christmas light display at Pillnitz Castle gardens, and world-class shopping in Dresden for the whole family. Other holiday cruises depart for **Saint Martin’s Day, Saint Nicholas’ Day**, glittering **Christmas parties, New Year’s Eve**, as well as **weddings, corporate events, and family celebrations.**

**More info:** [labskaplavebni.cz](http://labskaplavebni.cz)  
**Tickets:** [eshoplabskaplavebni.cz](http://eshoplabskaplavebni.cz)



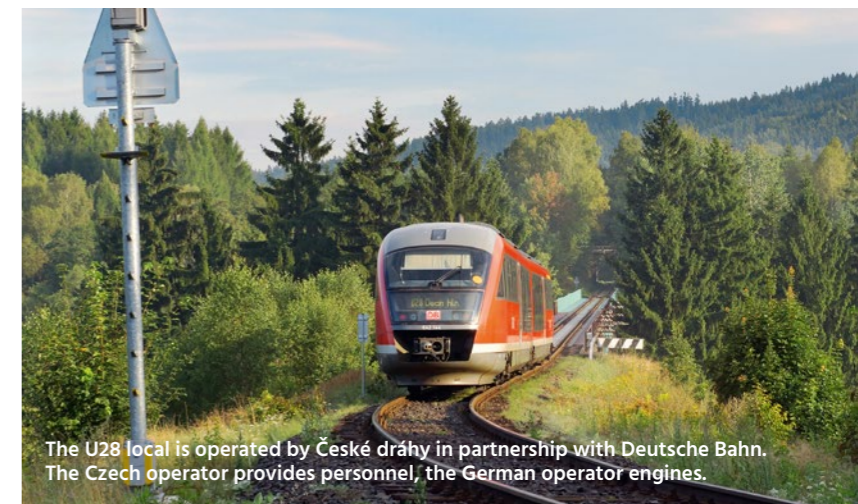
# By rail to the national park

A quick tour of the natural sights of Děčín, the Šluknov spur, and Saxon Switzerland can be enjoyed from the window of a train.

**T**he rail line between Děčín and the Šluknov spur runs through Germany. Bohemia and Saxony were first connected by rail in 1905 but after the Second World War cross-border traffic was limited.

Renewal of operations on the line, which involved laying several-hundred meters of track that had been dismantled, took place in 2014. Now railway enthusiasts can enjoy this fascinating segment in the Sebnitztal valley from **Bad Schandau to Sebnitz**, including tunnels and viaducts.

The **U28** local line takes riders to a range of attractive spots – the rock-climbing mecca **Dolní Žleb**, spa town **Bad Schandau**, romantic **Sebnitztal valley**, and the lovely, but often overlooked, **Šluknov spur**. The train is popular with cyclists, and it’s no wonder; they make the return ride south on the wonderful network of bike trails through Bohemian and Saxon Switzerland.



The U28 local is operated by České dráhy in partnership with Deutsche Bahn. The Czech operator provides personnel, the German operator engines.

### OUR TIP

The daylong Elbe/Labe pass covers the train ride and is also good for public transport in the Ústí region, Dresden, Meissen, and parts of Saxony.



THE BEST EXPERIENCES (are) IN DĚČÍN

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ELBE RIVER BOAT & BIKE TOUR

A unique combination of boating and cycling. Paddle downstream, then cycle back on the Elbe bike route.

- 2-6 hrs
- Groups of 2-100
- START Kemp Děčín campground

GUIDED VIA FERRATA TOUR

A breathtaking via ferrata experience in the center of Děčín. You're guaranteed to take some amazing stories home.

- 2 hrs
- Groups of 1-5
- START Děčín rental shop

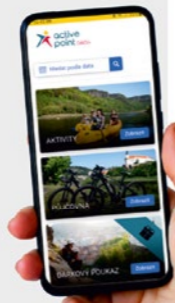
DOWNHILL SCOOTER TOUR

Head out to Tísa rocks and hit the country's highest mesa, Sněžník, on the way back.

- 2-6 hrs
- Groups of 2-50
- START Děčín rental shop



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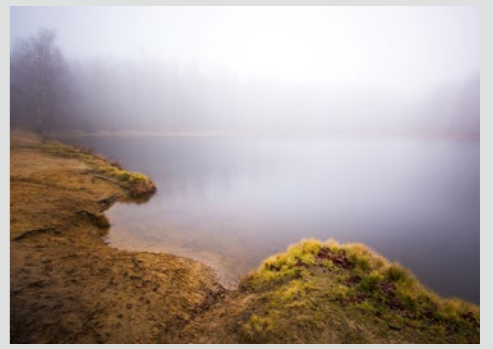
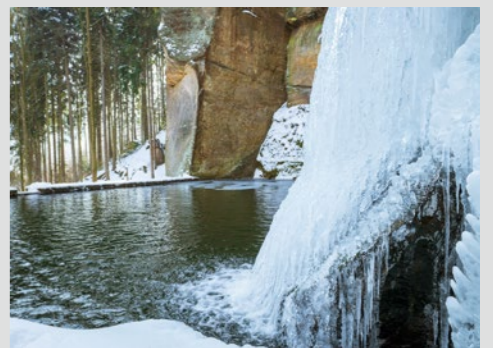
Visit our campground kempdecin.cz

Up for an icy swim?

Flip flops and bathrobes lined up on the shore as their owners enjoy a wintry swim, it's an increasingly common sight in Děčín. Winter swimming has truly taken off in recent years, with more and more people succumbing to its numbing charms. A stalwart group of swimmers calling themselves the "ice breakers" organizes various polar bear events in Děčín. And why not – the area has many beautiful spots for a bracing dip in icy water.



The "ice breakers" use the Elbe River for their regular training sessions and public events. You'll find them in the river on Valentine's Day for a waterway-overland relay with music and refreshments. Another big event is the New Year's Eve swim, where dozens of hardy souls take the plunge. If a quiet pond is more your speed, try heading to Maxičky or Děčínský Sněžník. Vlíčí jezero and Hrádecký rybník are two great ponds for a frosty swim where you are likely to find a beckoning hole chopped in the ice by previous swimmers. Or follow the yellow trail, then the green, from Maxičky down towards the river to Klopotský vodopád, a pretty waterfall with a small pool near the German border that elicits goosebumps even in the summertime, thanks to the shade of the surrounding cliffs. There are countless other spots for a winter swim, but we won't ruin the surprise... go out and find them yourself.





# A hundred kilometers at the top of the world

Our favorite long-distance trail in the world, with a thousand panoramas in the space of 100 kilometers, a path through a land of contrasts, wanderlust, sheer cliff faces, rock formations and cool forests, seas of shifting fog, a kingdom of the elements, inspiration and fantasy – this is Hřebenovka in Bohemian Switzerland. So throw on your pack and get going.

## Begin at the beginning

No newcomer to Bohemian Switzerland, this long-distance trek hits all the high notes. The trail follows the original route of **Modrá Hřebenovka (the blue ridge trail)**. One of the first hiking trails in the country to be mapped and marked, it lead from Praděd, over Kralický Sněžník, through the Eagle Mountains, Broumov, the Giant Mountains, to Ještěd, the Lusatians, Bohemian Switzerland, the Ore Mountains, and deep into Germany. Branches were added later in the Bohemian Forest area giving the trail a respectable 1,200 km in all at its peak.

Then came war. Old hiking trails and markings were abandoned and the great route broke down into short, isolated segments. Years passed. The world changed. Now people are chained to their smartphones and we seem to have lost the wilderness. Nevertheless, in 2021 a group of cock-eyed



optimists joined forces with the Czech hiking club to put the old trail back on the map in all its glory, from the Ore Mountains to the foothills of the Lusatians. The result was Hřebenovka, blazed with a symbol that looks like a blue comb, showing the way for hikers, not just on their mobile phones, but on tree trunks and rock faces every step of the way.

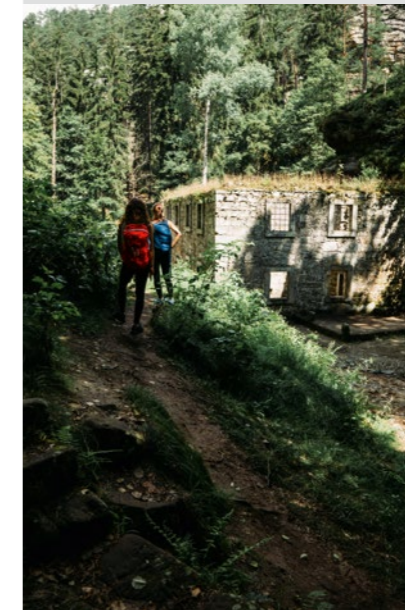
## A trail for every season

Today's Hřebenovka trail does not trace the original route exactly. Instead of joining the various summits by the shortest possible path, the focus is on enjoying the landscape, so the trail wanders more from place to place. There are more opportunities for natural beauty, but also more options for enjoying local food and drink. This time around, the trail blazers also stopped to consider the load on local transport and infrastructure, so that trailheads are convenient to parking and accommodation. Hikers can even send their bags ahead so that they don't have to carry them all the way.

Hikers who want the trail all to themselves can head out in the off season. The crowds are gone, it's easy to get a spot at the inn, and solitude is guaranteed for long stretches. All the intrepid wanderer has to do is pull on their pack and go. In spring and early summer, the miracles never cease – pink blossoms cover trees on **Děčínský Sněžník**, there's the hush of **the wild river gorge**, the shadow of a falcon circles high above **Pravčická brána arch**, white-flowered water grasses bend like a bride's veil in **the Křinice River deep** in the Kyjov valley, and the lindens near **Křížová hora** perfume the air.

In the summer the deep forest offers a cool oasis from the hot sun and woodland streams and pools entice swimmers. But it's also worth returning in the autumn for the sunset at the **Jetřichovice viewpoints**, the mist rolling through the woods below **Šaunštejn**, and the flood of colors at Jedlové too beautiful to leave behind.

Winter too has its charms on the Hřebenovka trail in Bohemian Switzerland. There are the myriad frozen pools that form in the dimpled rock at the **Dresden outlook**, the crunch of snow echoing through the monumental silence of the **Tisá cliffs**, enchanting little spots around old **Dolský mlýn mill**, and the warm, cozy bustle of the pub at **Tolštejn**. Meet you there.



## WHY A BLUE COMB?

The trail is marked with a symbol that looks like a blue comb with teeth pointed up... why? It's a play on words. The Czech word hřeben means both ridge and comb.

HREBENOVKA.COM – Segment by segment – Top spots – Hikers blog – Recommendations – Complete hike itineraries – GPX navigation



9+ photo • Adam Kubíček

# City events throughout the year

**D**ěčín's busy events calendar offers visitors and locals alike plenty to look forward to throughout the year. There are plenty of sports and cultural activities to choose from, a theater, a cinema, a castle, and music clubs. And various events throughout the year offer opportunities to have fun with family and friends.

.....  
**Every Wednesday from May 15 to September 25** Křížova ulice comes to life with **live music and theatre performances**. And don't forget to stop by any **Sunday afternoon May 26 to September 22** for live music at the **riverside bandstand**.  
 .....



## APRIL

The **2024 tourist season** kicks off on **April 20** with a celebration on the riverside in the heart of Děčín. There will be a selection of local products for sale, interesting cultural and sports activities, and a presentation of the area's points of interest, both in town and in the broader area of the Central Bohemian, Bohemian Switzerland, and neighboring Saxony.

with something for everyone. The weekend of May 18–19 is the **Historical May Market**, which takes place this year in Děčín Castle's southern garden.

On Saturday, **May 18**, there will also be a reenactment on Marian Meadow of the **conquest of the medieval town by Hussite forces**, marking **580 years since the battle**. The event includes craft demonstrations. You can also look forward to the annual floristry competition and a youth activities festival.

The following weekend, **May 25–26**, welcomes the annual **woodcarving festival** to Marian Meadow in the heart of town just below the castle cliff. Artists will create wood sculptures, park benches, and maybe another piece for the city's Nativity scene.

On **Saturday**, young visitors can look forward to organized **fun and games in the park**, while car lovers can check out

the **vintage car parade**. **Sunday** includes a **program dedicated especially to seniors** on the riverbank and a day of **games for kids** in the old town sports center.

On Friday, **31 May**, **fireworks** will light up the sky and the **Labefest music festival** will erupt on the riverbank at the foot of the castle. The festival attracts big names from the Czech music scene and this year is no exception, with Olympic, Mig 21, Yzomandias, and more. The music festival continues on **June 1** along with the extreme sport event **Adrenaline Challenge Kids**.

Other things to look forward to in June include the Elbe **streetball cup** on **Saturday, 8 June**, the **Run Labe Run** footrace starting on the riverside **June 9**, the **Predator obstacle challenge** course on **June 15** and a **rosé wine festival** that same day in nearby Křížova ulice.



## MAY AND JUNE

Every May, the **town festival** erupts in Děčín. The fun starts on **May 17** with a **torchlight parade** and a varied program

## JULY AND AUGUST

The summer months in Děčín mean **movie screenings under the stars** at Děčín Castle courtyard. Every year the local cinema moves its operations here, offering film premieres, classics, and blockbusters. The screenings are a hands-down favorite that we enthusiastically recommend. This year, the summer cinema will operate **July 3 – August 11**.

The summer sports calendar includes a number of great events such as the **Iron Dumpling Triathlon August 3**, **Gaston Memorial Long-Distance Swim August 17**, and the **International Rail Handcart Championships August 24**.



## SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER

September kicks off with a **street theater festival** on **September 6–7**, showcasing performances for kids and adults. Saturday, **September 7** brings a **wine festival** to the grounds of Děčín Castle. From **September 13 to 15** a new event will premier in the city, a **high-line festival**, where tightrope walkers will show their stuff on a rope spanning the distance over the river between the Castle and Shepherds Bluff. **September 15** is the **peace festival**, an event dedicated to spirituality, physical and emotional health, and ecology. On **September 20–21** Husovo namesti welcomes visitors for the **Podmokly Octoberfest**.

The autumn months are the time to look forward to such events as the **Winterman Czech Extreme Triathlon on October 13**, the **Republic Run on October 28**, and **Děčín Zoo's haunted zoo on November 2**.

## DECEMBER

Come and spend **Advent in Děčín**. Welcome the season with the **Christmas food festival November 30**, the **tree lighting on December 1**, concerts and markets in the heart of town (Husove namesti on December 14), at the castle (December 15), and at the museum as well as many other events. Don't miss the **Christmas street** in Křížova ulice, where stands serve refreshments and sell keepsakes throughout the Advent season with **live music every evening**.



## Catch up on the latest

There are so many cultural and sporting events to choose from throughout the year. How can you keep up? Follow us on **Facebook @visit-northbohemia** to see the latest tips for trips and activities. Find useful information on our website at [www.idecin.cz/en](http://www.idecin.cz/en). Or visit us on **Instagram @idecin.cz**.

If you'd rather stop by for a chat, come to one of our two **visitor centers**. One is at the **main railway station**, where our helpful staff can advise you on what to visit, where to stay, and how to get there and you can also pick up maps, souvenirs, and local products. The other is located across the river at the **municipal library**, where in addition to providing information and advice, our staff can fix you a cup of coffee to enjoy on the terrace overlooking the Elbe. It's true... Děčín is divine!



Explore the tastes of Děčín. Discover cafés, bistros, and restaurants where you can wind up a day of fun.

# Víno Hruška vineyards



Our wines are the product of a unique terroir and the artistry of eight generations of winegrowers.

You'll find our exquisite wine shop in the heart of Děčín on Tyršova ulice not far from the riverside, where the castle, the Elbe River, and Pastýřská stěna form an unforgettable backdrop.

We sell our own Moravian wines, bottled and on tap, international wines, and delicacies to enjoy with them, cheeses, homemade pâtés, olives, dried hams, and more. We would also be happy to prepare a charcuterie board for you to enjoy with a glass of wine right here in the shop. Top off a good day with a taste of our excellent Hibernál with some gouda, for example. We are happy to advise you with your wine selection or discuss options for family celebrations, business events, or tastings here on the premises or at your business or home. You can also look forward to wine tastings, events on how to pair wine and food, art openings, live music, readings, roundtables with interesting guests, and more. In the summer you can enjoy our outdoor terrace. Víno Hruška offers a range of premium services including professional wine catering for private affairs, family celebrations, business events, and garden parties.



**CONTACT**  
 VÍNO HRUŠKA VINEYARDS  
 ☎ +420 724 138 230  
 🌐 www.vinohruska.cz  
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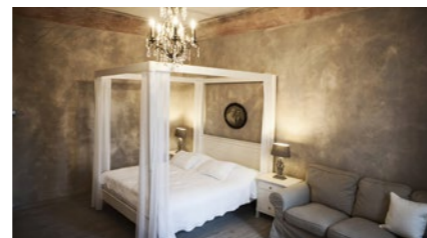
# Rose garden restaurant and apartments U růžové zahrady

**Restaurant**  
Our restaurant is located in a quiet setting at the heart of Děčín.

**Summer terrace**  
Our summer terrace offers a beautiful view of Děčín Castle and the Church of the Holy Cross as well as the Long Drive, the Rose Garden and the Gloriette.

**Apartments**  
Our short-term rentals have a kitchen, closet, bathroom with shower, and toilet. Bedding and Wi-Fi is included.

“Stylish lodging in the tourist center”



**CONTACT**  
 U RŮŽOVÉ ZAHRADY  
 Křížová 17/15 | CZ-40502 Děčín  
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 🌐 www.apartmentsrosegarden.eu  
 📌 Restaurace U Růžové zahrady  
 📌 @restaurace\_u\_ruzove\_zahrady

# Kocanda wellness hotel and restaurant



All bike trails and family outings lead to Kocanda.

Kocanda is a different kind of restaurant where you'll appreciate the combination of good food and terrace seating with a view of the playground and workout areas across the way. You can also indulge in a relaxing soak in the hot tub with a bottle of sparkling wine.

More than just a lunch stop, the Kocanda complex can be a destination in itself. Located right on the Elbe bike trail in the heart of Děčín, the restaurant has ample parking, great Bohemian cuisine, and children's play areas. Treat yourself to the house specialty, grilled smoked pork joint, and wash it down with a pint of Pilsner. The large, enclosed terrace allows year-round seating and a nice view of the riverside bike trail and Děčín Castle.

Diners can keep an eye on their children in the playground U Kocánka, the largest fenced play area in the region. Part of the Kocanda complex is also a miniature military museum with an equipped army pillbox dating from 1938, a sports ground with artificial grass, and an open-air workout area.

The wellness hotel offers guests a full-service experience with modern rooms, a deluxe suite with infrasauna which is popular as a bridal suite, allergen-free rooms, and a conference room. Rest and relaxation are the rule in the private wellness facility equipped with a starry sky, Finnish sauna, hot tub, relaxation zone, and minibar. And because cyclists are always welcome, the hotel offers complete service, including plenty of bike parking with a compressor and bike shower as well as a locked bike room.



**CONTACT**  
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 RESTAURANT | Rytířská 77/2 | CZ-40502 Děčín 3  
 ☎ +420 739 012 280  
 📧 kocanda@kocanda-decin.cz  
 🌐 www.kocanda-decin.cz/en

# Vinotéka Děčín

Tradition and experience come together in this wine shop run by Martina and Jan.



The pedestrian area at the foot of the castle walls is an inviting place to sit, whether inside or on the outdoor terrace.

A large selection of Moravian and Bohemian wines are available for tasting. For a better experience, we keep bottles chilling at the bar, each according to type, so we can guarantee the right conditions. What more could you ask for? Uncork a bottle, sit with friends, have a bite to eat and enjoy the magic of this place.

We run organized tastings with winemakers as well as public wine festivals (the Day in Pink, King of Wines, St. Martin's Wines and the Young Wine Festival). Check our calendar of events at [www.vinotekadecin.cz](http://www.vinotekadecin.cz).

Both of us hail from Děčín and are enthusiastic promoters of regional products. You will find plenty to choose from at the shop.

**CONTACT**  
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CENTRUM  
PIVOVAR



# Shopping at the old brewery

The centuries old brewery building in Děčín's Podmokly neighborhood got a makeover a decade ago. There's still beer brewing on the site, but that's not all. Renovations respected the original genius loci of the building to produce a distinctive center for shopping and social interactions with dozens of shops and services for visitors and a great way to spend free time. There's also an on-site microbrewery and restaurant and a Hopsárium play area.

**T**he Pivovar center is located not far from the city's main railway station on the left bank of the Elbe and the bike trail between Prague and Dresden. The building cuts an especially impressive figure at night, when the brewery chimney lights up the sky. But it's a pity to delay a visit until darkness falls. Shops offer fashion, toys, electronics, sporting goods, and groceries all day. But there's more to do here than shop. Cultural and social events for young and old take place throughout the year and the range of restaurants and refreshments options is also diverse.

But what makes the Pivovar center different from other shopping malls is its architecture. The brewery building is a protected landmark and its renovation was nominated for Building of the Year in 2014. Design and architecture buffs will find plenty of interesting details that marry old and new.



**OUR TIP**

An open exhibit of metal sculptures is on display in public areas of the center and movie fans will recognize figures from *Transformers* and *Alien*.

## Largest indoor playground in northern Bohemia

Located just next door to the brewery so popular with grown-ups is the place that children love best, the **Hopsárium**. Kids can knock themselves out on a fully equipped traffic playground complete with pedal cars, stoplights, and a fueling station. There are also a big climbing tower with slides, a trampoline, and a jumping castle. It's all in a beautiful historical section of the building. Adult chaperones will appreciate that they can enjoy lunch delivered from the brewery restaurant directly to the playground.



„The brewery building is a protected landmark and its renovation was nominated for Building of the Year in 2014.“

**CONTACT**

CENTRUM PIVOVAR  
Sofijská 2/3, Děčín VI-Letná  
[www.centrumpivovar.cz](http://www.centrumpivovar.cz)

## Enjoy a cold one

In the Czech language, pivovar means brewery, and the Pivovar center is true to its name. With the opening of the new shopping center in 2014, brewing was also renewed on the site. And because Děčín is a major river port, the brewery sticks to a nautical theme. The brewery restaurant, **Pivovarská restaurace**, with its distinctive atmosphere, is a favorite with locals and visitors alike and offers excellent Bohemian specialties and a range of its own beers.

Interested in a brewery tour, a beer tasting, or taking a bottle home? No problem. The restaurant also has wonderful historical facilities for events such as dances, company parties, weddings, and more.



# Rainy-day activities

Sure, even when it's coming down, you can pull on your boots and raincoat and head out to brave the elements, and there's something to be said for that. But sometimes getting soaked to the bone is just not what you're up for. When that's the case, here's a short list of places in a radius of 40 km where you can have some good fun indoors.

## Děčín

### CASTLE

- +420 775 862 639
  - +420 412 518 905
  - www.zamekdecin.cz
- Entry fee varies by tour

### MUZEUM

- +420 412 531 549
  - www.muzeumdc.cz
- Entry 100 CZK

### ZOO & PARADISE ISLANDS

- +420 412 531 531
  - www.zoodecin.cz
- Basic entry 100 CZK  
(combined entry to zoo and Paradise Islands exhibit 150 CZK)

### AQUAPARK

- +420 412 704 211- 12
  - www.aquaparkdecin.cz
- Entry fee varies  
(swimming, sauna, yoga, etc.)

### S-CENTRUM

- +420 412 823 105
  - www.hotel-decin.com
- Entry fee varies (bowling, minigolf, squash, badminton, etc.)

### PIVOVAR MALL

- +420 777 623 031
  - www.centrumpivovar.cz
- Free entry, various exhibits

### Restaurant

- +420 777 577 918
- Microbrewery tours available

### Hopsárium play area

- +420 735 036 000
- Entry fee varies

### SEVER BREWERY

- Michael Sychra
- +420 728 845 430
- www.pivovarsever.cz

## Around Děčín

### BENEŠOV NAD PLOUČNICÍ CASTLE

- +420 412 586 575
  - +420 724 663 548
  - www.zamek-benesov.cz
- Entry fee varies

### VELKÉ BŘEZNO CASTLE

- +420 475 228 331
  - www.zamek-velkebrezno.cz
- Entry fee varies

### VELKÉ BŘEZNO BREWERY

- +420 475 309 111
- +420 737 224 087
- www.breznak.cz

Basic entry with tasting 140 CZK  
(tours every Sat. 2:30 pm or by appointment at +420 548 134 134)

### ŠLUKNOV CASTLE

- +420 412 332 711
  - +420 739 593 014
  - www.zamek.mestosluknov.cz
- Entry 120 CZK

### CIVIL DEFENSE MUSEUM – Ústí nad Labem

- www.muzeumcivilniobrany.cz
- Reservations required 48 hours in advance at +420 777 090 099.  
Underground tours for groups of 15 or more only (100 CZK per person).

### ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM MUSEUM

- +420 475 210 937
  - www.muzeumusti.cz
- Entry 100 CZK

### VĚTRUŠE MIRROR LABYRINTH

- 420 725 718 702
- Entry 30 CZK (cable car from Forum shopping mall, one-way 40 CZK, return 60 CZK)

### VĚTRUŠE TOWER

- +420 474 620 330
  - +420 725 793 185
  - www.hotel-vetrusce.cz
- Free of charge

### RABŠTEJN UNDERGROUND FACTORY

- +420 732 850 351
  - +420 775 862 485
  - www.podzemirabstejn.cz
- Entry 250 CZK  
(reserve at least one day ahead)

### GLASS MUSEUM – Kam. Šenov

- +420 487 712 040
  - www.muzeumskla.cz
- Entry 50 CZK

### GLASS MUSEUM – Nový Bor

- +420 601 540 053
  - www.novotnyglas.cz
- Entry 75 CZK

## Germany

### TOSCANA thermal baths Bad Schandau

- www.toskanaworld.net
- Entry starts at 20 EUR



Join us in Děčín  
for a magical Advent

