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Museum of Krkonoše Crafts in Poniklá

From Poniklá via Stromkovice and Křižlice to Benecko To the History of Krkonoše Villages

*Museum of Krkonoše Crafts, Poniklá ➔ Chapel of Our Lady, Stromkovice
➔ Evangelical Church, Křižlice ➔ Mikolášek's Mill, Křižlice ➔ Benecko,
Chapel of St. Hubert ➔ Benecko, Skalka (centre)*



Difficulty: Hard



Length of route: 21,5 km

The trip starts at the **Museum of Krkonoše Crafts in Poniklá**. This private collection of nearly 700 exhibits offers visitors a glimpse into earlier life in the Krkonoše foothills. Here you can see an agricultural exhibition, a room

in a rectory, lighting, processing of flax, washing and ironing of linen, production of butter, shoemaking, production of buttons, enamel work, pearl ornaments, carpentry, a pub, fashion of the First Republic, children's corner, Mrs. Jitka



Christmas decorations from Rautis...



...are 100% handmade

Krejčová's collection of prams, gallery of lace and other attractions.

If the skill and creativity of the products of the former Krkonoše inhabitants impressed you, be sure to stay in Poniklá for a while and try your hand at making original ornaments at the traditional producer of Christmas decorations **Rautis**, located across the road from the museum.

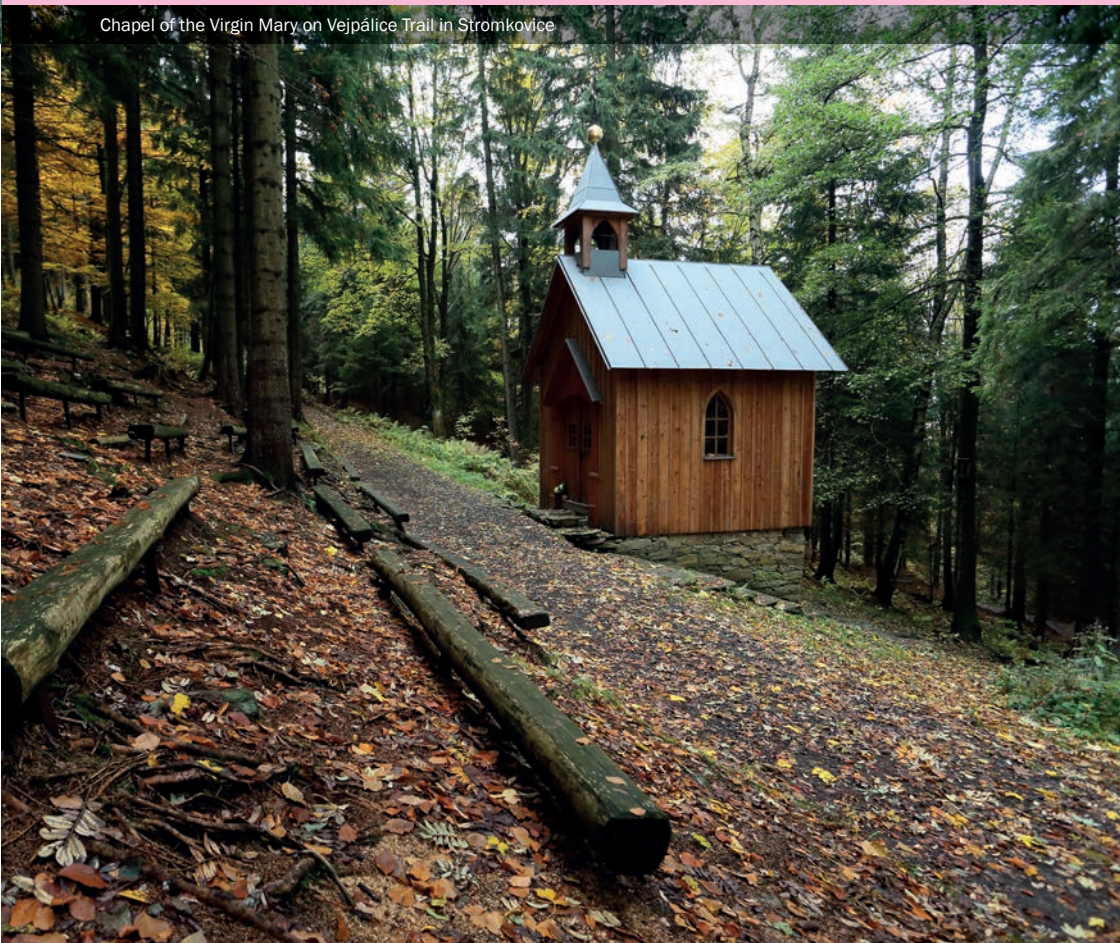
After a lively tour of Krkonoše history, head from the Rautis factory back down the road to the museum and walk from the museum (if you stand with your back to it) to the right, which is marked as the K8 cycle route. Before a sharp bend to the left, about 600 m. from the museum, turn right and walk along the path between houses and meadows, which is a shortcut and brings you back to the road after 400 m. (cycle route K8). Follow the cycle route for about 600 m. and before the road bends to the right, turn to the left and leave the K8 cycle route. The path leads you between

fields and meadows for about 1.2 km to the crossroads, where you join the yellow hiking trail. Turn left here and follow the yellow trail, mostly through the forest, for 2.8 km to the crossroads (bus stop in Horní Dušnice). From here turn right onto the blue tourist trail, also marked as K8A cycle route. When you come to the next crossroads after 1.2 km, leave the mass of marked hiking trails and continue only on the cycle route for 900 m. At this forest crossroads, leave the K8A cycle path and continue straight on for a few steps to the next crossroads, turn right and after 100 m. you arrive at the wooden **Chapel of Our Lady** in Stromkovice, standing in the forest. The chapel was established in the

1860s when Our Lady returned the sight to a blind woman here. It quickly became a popular destination for pilgrims and soon a Stations of the Cross was built. The pilgrimages were banned in 1949. The chapel was repeatedly burgled. The wooden structure was gradually falling apart in the harsh climate. The original chapel was demolished in spring, 2007 because the risk of collapse. Within 3 months a new wooden chapel was built in its place by the KRMAP Administration and the Zdravé Krkonoše civic association. The interior is decorated with a wooden altarpiece of the Virgin Mary.

From the chapel continue straight ahead on the forest path for 500 m, then between

Chapel of the Virgin Mary on Vejpálce Trail in Stromkovice



houses and meadows and woods along the unmarked road around Daňkův Hill for another 2 km. After Daňkův Hill, with its emergency landing strip for light planes, the trail turns to the left, then at the first junction turn right. After 200 m. you reach a junction where you turn left and join the yellow hiking trail. Follow the yellow trail for 600 m. and then continue to the right along the road and leave the hiking trail. After 400 m. you come to a road, marked as cycle route 4295 and then 22 and follow this route to the left. Follow cycling trail 22 for 1.3 km, past the Roudnice municipal

office and turn left onto the unmarked road that runs parallel to the cycle route No. 22. Walk for 600 m. along this track to the crossroads, where you turn right and after another 300 m. join the cycle route again. Follow cycle route 22 for another 500 m. and then turn left at the crossroads. In the distance you will see the tower of the Evangelical Church in Křížlice.

Křížlice, along with the neighbouring villages, is situated high in the mountains, creating a sort of isolated island. The **Evangelical Church in Křížlice** was built in 1786 by the

Interior of Evangelical Church in Křížlice





Animal Educational Trail in Benecko

Křížlice Evangelical Congregation, which was in its time the largest in Bohemia and followed the Lutheran doctrine. At that time, however, it was a rectangular building without a tower that had to accommodate as many believers as possible. The altar was traditionally oriented to the east and above it is a pulpit with a typical carved, white-painted Lutheran garden. Over the years, the church has been enhanced and become a very distinct and characteristic landscape dominant. An organ was built from money collected in 1842 and a tower with a high pointed spire was added in 1878. In 1881, three bells (Faith, Hope and Love) were raised into the tower, and were consecrated in front of 1,500 visitors. After Czechoslovakia was founded, the church became part of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren, which is still active here

today. The church remains a living spiritual centre with regular worship and other spiritual activities, such as summer concerts and Christmas services.

From the church, continue to the left to the crossroads where you turn right and after 300 m. you reach a junction, where you go straight on and after a few metres the road bends to the right. Walk this way for 1.8 km to the main road, where you turn right to **Mikolášek's Mill**, which you could see below you on your way here. This is one of the best preserved Krkonoše mills from the architectural and technological perspectives. The originally single-storey mill was built in the 2nd half of the 18th century. In the 2nd half of the 19th century, a multi-storey formwork structure, resembling timbering, was added to the original timber-framed single-storey mill.

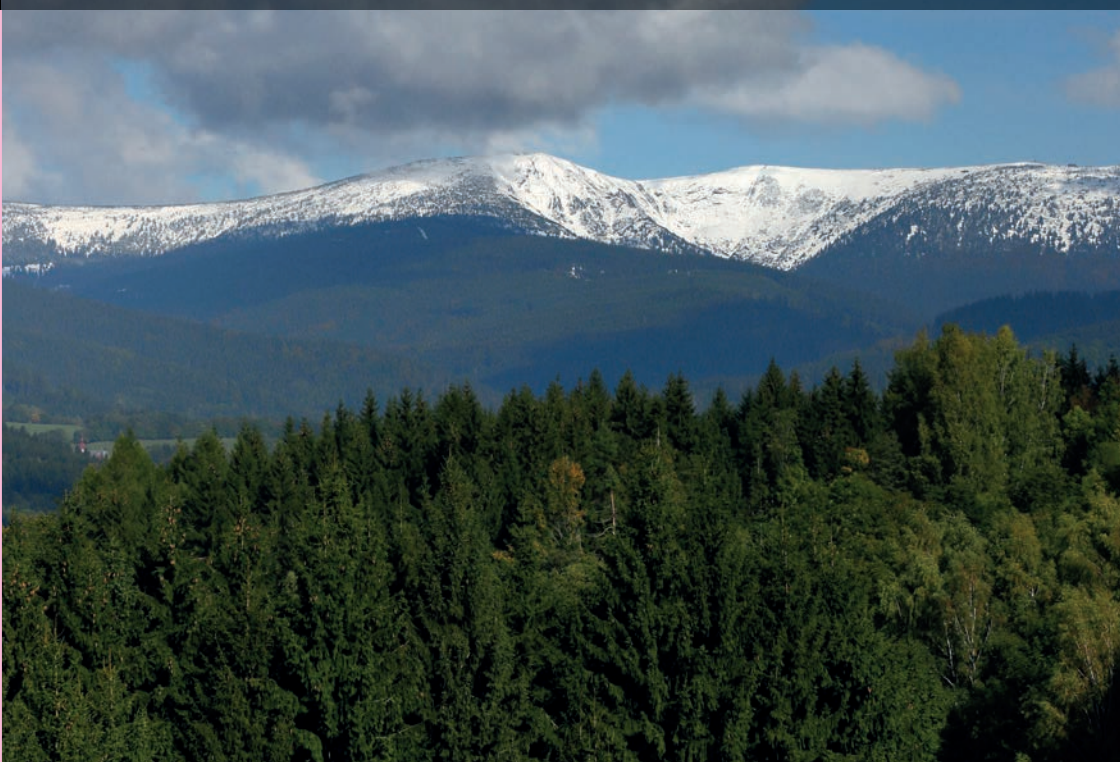
From the mill you cross the road and cross the bridge across the Jizerka River and set off on the way leading to the right. After 1.8 km you reach the trail junction by the Kotelská vantage point. From there continue to the left on the red-marked Buchar Trail to **Benecko**, the highest mountain village in western Krkonoše. Walk to the spot where **St. Hubert's Chapel**, the patron of hunters, stands. The patronage was derived from the Benecko coat of arms – St. Hubert's Cross appeared on the seal in 1842. The chapel was consecrated in an ecumenical service on 30th July, 2005.

For the first time the bell, transferred here from the demolished bell tower by the Hanč Chalet, was heard ringing. Since then, it is rung 3 times a day, at 7 AM, 12 AM and 8 PM. On the gable above the entrance there is a relief with the municipal emblem carved into Hořice sandstone.

Four windows illuminate the inner space, in which you will be captivated by the picture of St. Hubert. In the middle stands a red deer with a shining cross between its antlers. Hubert the hunter with a spear and dogs is kneeling on the left, looking at the apparitions in amazement. A grey-haired monk stands on the right, a doe and a hut (hermitage) behind him. The painting is by Miloš Gerstner, a former mayor and one of the main initiators of the building.

It's just a short walk from the chapel to the **Jindrova skála vantage point**. According to local legends, a Benedictine monk lived here as a hermit, which may be the reason the village was later named Benecko. Now the Chapel of St. Hubert stands on this site. From the rock continue along the red tourist route and after about 500 m you arrive in the centre of Benecko.

Mt. Kotel from Benecko





Chateau in Vrchlabí

From Vrchlabí to Horní Branná

Vrchlabí Chateau ➤ KCEV Krtek (Mole), Vrchlabí ➤ Monastery Gardens, Vrchlabí ➤ Museum of Krkonoše Čtyři domky (Four Houses), Vrchlabí ➤ Harrach Tomb of the Holy Cross, Horní Branná



Difficulty: Easy



Length of route: 7,4 km

The picturesque mountain town of **Vrchlabí** is an ideal starting point for hiking trips around the area, and offers visitors the opportunity to visit unique cultural monuments, as well as architecturally prized modern buildings. The historically most important person of Vrchlabí was Christoph Gendorf, who bought the Vrchlabí estate in 1533. In the same year Vrchlabí was

granted town rights and a coat of arms. Gendorf also gave the city a new German name created from the Czech translation – Hoheneibe. In 1546, the construction of the **Chateau** began, which is the starting point for this trip. Over more than 400 years, the chateau and garden have undergone many changes. Gendorf's building did not resemble today's elegant castle – it was

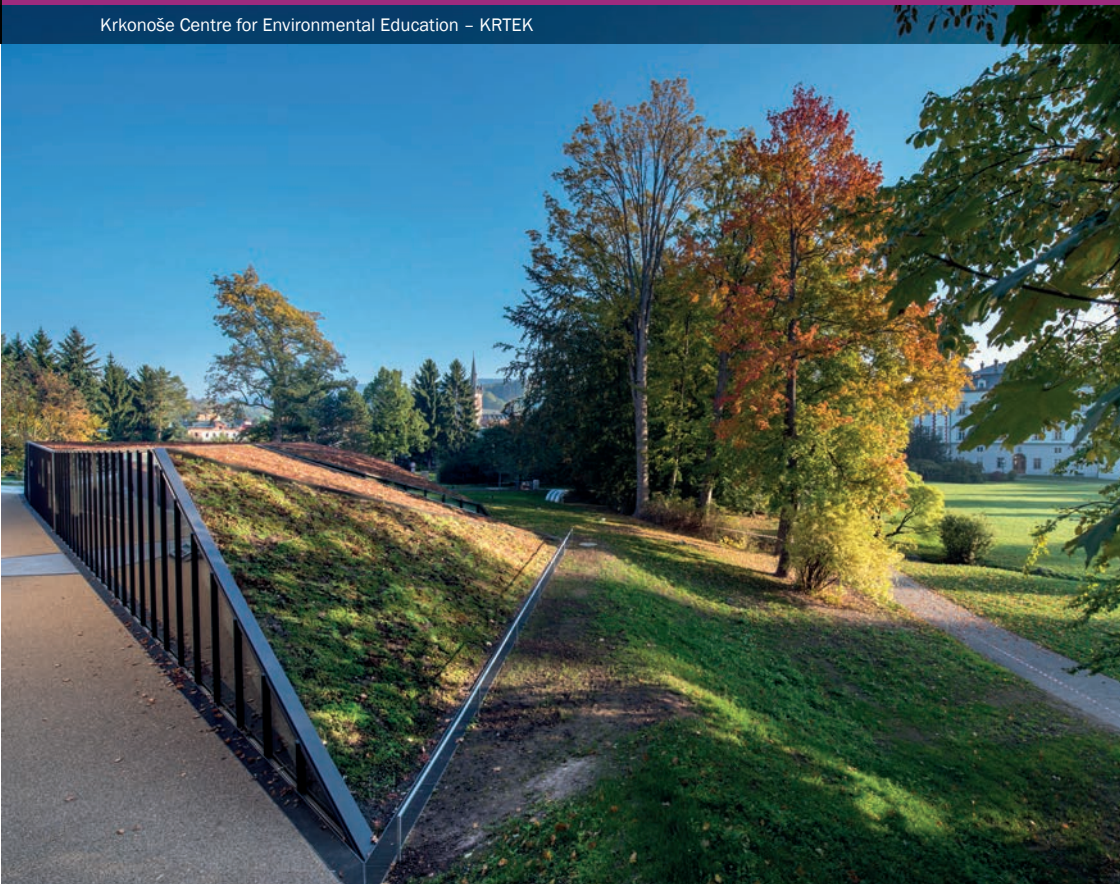
surrounded by a 12-metre-wide moat, over which three bridges entered the castle. The last nobles in the chateau were the Czernin-Morzin family. Part of the chateau's furniture from that time can be seen in **Museum of Krkonoše** in Vrchlabí or in the Museum of Podkrkonoší in Trutnov. Today, the chateau houses the municipal offices, and visitors can only enter the entrance hall free of charge. Here you can see inlays on decorated doors and decorated benches from the 17th century, and also pictures of the last bears hunted in Krkonoše.

From the chateau entrance, turn right on the path around the pond, then turn right at the first crossroads and walk to a place which is worth visiting. In front of the KRMAP

Administration building the **Krkonoše Centre for Environmental Education**, nicknamed the MOLE, was ceremonially opened in 2014. The building, so inconspicuous from the outside, was designed by the architect Ing. Petr Hájek. Thanks to its unique shape and original construction processes KCEV Krtek has attracted the attention of architects, designers, builders and the public, and has received several nominations and awards. Krtek contains a lecture hall for c. 80 people, laboratory, small gallery and a library and space for holding chamber concerts, exhibitions or other cultural events. You can view this unique building on regular tours.

From the KCEV – MOLE step into the **Monastery Gardens**. The garden offers

Krkonoše Centre for Environmental Education – KRTEK



three parts you can walk through, experience and learn something new. In the first part you can test your senses on the sensory footpath, walk through a wicker tunnel or just sit down for a while in the gazebo. Another part of the garden is spread out by a pond where you can see an open-air petrological exposition with large boulders of Krkonoše rocks and information panels about the geology of Krkonoše. And as you continue along the path between the two sections, you reach the largest space in the garden, where flower beds with typical Krkonoše flora have been built, and there is an orchard of native fruit trees. If you like the garden and want to do something else here, pick up the booklet “Krkonoše Quests” from KRTEK or from the reception at the KRNAP Administration and try to discover the “Secret of the Monastery Garden”.

After about 300 m. you come to junction (náměstí Míru), where you can see the neo-Gothic St. Lawrence’s Church built in 1886–1889. Turn left at the junction and after a few steps you come to the unique set of 4 gable-fronted houses, which are among the oldest houses in Krkonoše and a rare remnant of the original urban development. The houses contain exhibitions belonging to the **Museum of Krkonoše** and a KRNAP Administration Information Centre. Here you can learn about flax production in the Krkonoše region, painted rustic furniture from the late 18th and early 19th centuries and the history of the town of Vrchlabí and Krkonoše.

From the museum, walk through its garden back to the former Augustinian Monastery. From here you go straight up the hill along

Former Augustinian Monastery



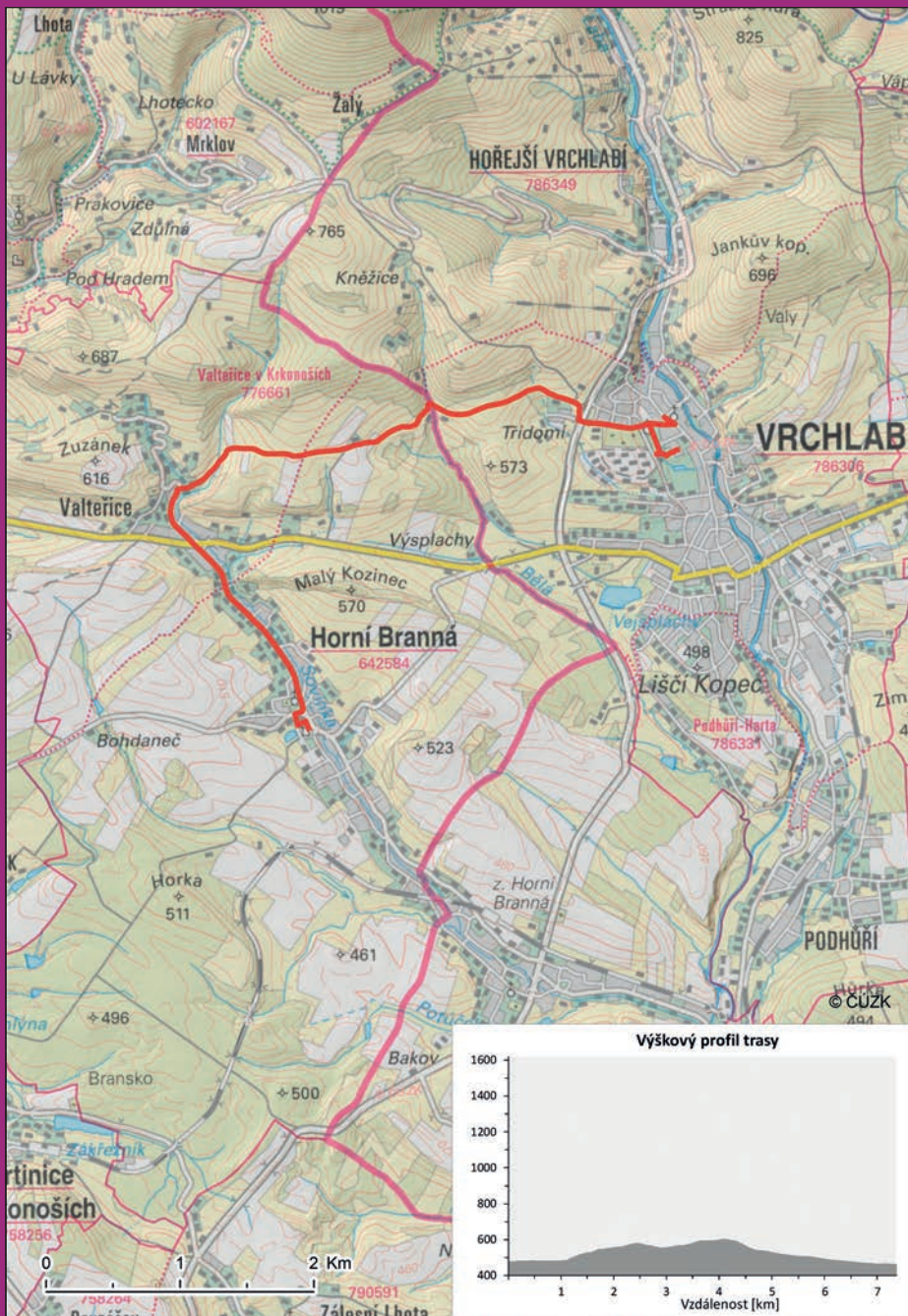


Four historical houses on náměstí Míru Square



In the Harrach Mausoleum

the green hiking trail. Cross the bridge, continue to the right after the bridge, and on a left-hand bend continue along the green hiking trail. The route leads you for 3.3 km between meadows, fields, forests and houses to the fire station in Valteřice. During your trip, don't forget to stop and explore the beautiful countryside and enjoy the exceptional views. From the crossroads near the fire station, the green hiking trail leads you right to the next crossroads. From here you go left 100 m. along the green trail and then walk straight on an unmarked road for 2 km. This road takes you through part of the village of Horní Branná, as far as the municipal office and St. Nicholas's Church, from where it is only a few steps to the **Harrach Family Tomb of the Holy Cross**. Construction of the tomb began in 1840 and it was consecrated in 1870. In the underground part of this interesting and rare building is a crypt where





Interior of the mausoleum

the remains of Harrach family members are stored. The tomb is open to the public on the occasion of some cultural events.

In sight of the tomb is another Horní Branná landmark – the **Chateau**. It was founded by Zdeněk of Valdštejn and after

his death, his wife Marie of Martinice completed the building in 1582. The castle was very pretentious for its time, as it had 2 floors, a stone ground floor and a wooden upper floor with galleries, with a turret on the roof ridge. It was regarded as a leading product of the architectural and structural arts of the time. The chateau was badly damaged during the Thirty Years' War. Additional buildings were gradually added later, resulting in a square complex of buildings with a large courtyard inside. It was accessed by two gates for wagons and two gates for pedestrians. The main east gate has a carved portal, with the Harrach coat of arms. After 1945 the chateau was administered by the Directorate of State Forests and Farms in Prague, but later by the Local National Committee. After the Velvet Revolution it became the property of the village. Today you can visit an interesting exhibition “**Living under the Mountains**” here.

Harrach Mausoleum





Žalý Lookout Tower

Vrchlabí, Horní Mísečky, Špindlerův Mlýn *From Vrchlabí over three hills to Špindlerův Mlýn*

*Vrchlabí, Herlíkovice ➔ Žalý Lookout Tower ➔ Buchar Trail
(Šeřín – Černá skála – Mechovinec) ➔ Harrach's Rock ➔ Bear Trail
➔ Water Supply Trail ➔ Bedřichov ➔ Špindlerův Mlýn centre*



Difficulty: Hard



Length of route: 15,4 km

The picturesque mountain town of **Vrchlabí**, which is the seat of the Krkonoše National Park Administration, is an ideal starting point for hiking trips. The starting point is in Herlíkovice village, where you take the chairlift to the summit of Přední Žalý.

A few metres from the upper station of the chairlift stands **Žalý** – a stone lookout tower built in 1892. Before the stone tower was built, a wooden tower, built by Count Jan Harrach in 1836, stood here. With good visibility, from the lookout

tower you can see the panorama of Krkonoše, part of the Jizerské and Orlické Mountains, the foothills and part of the Bohemian Paradise.

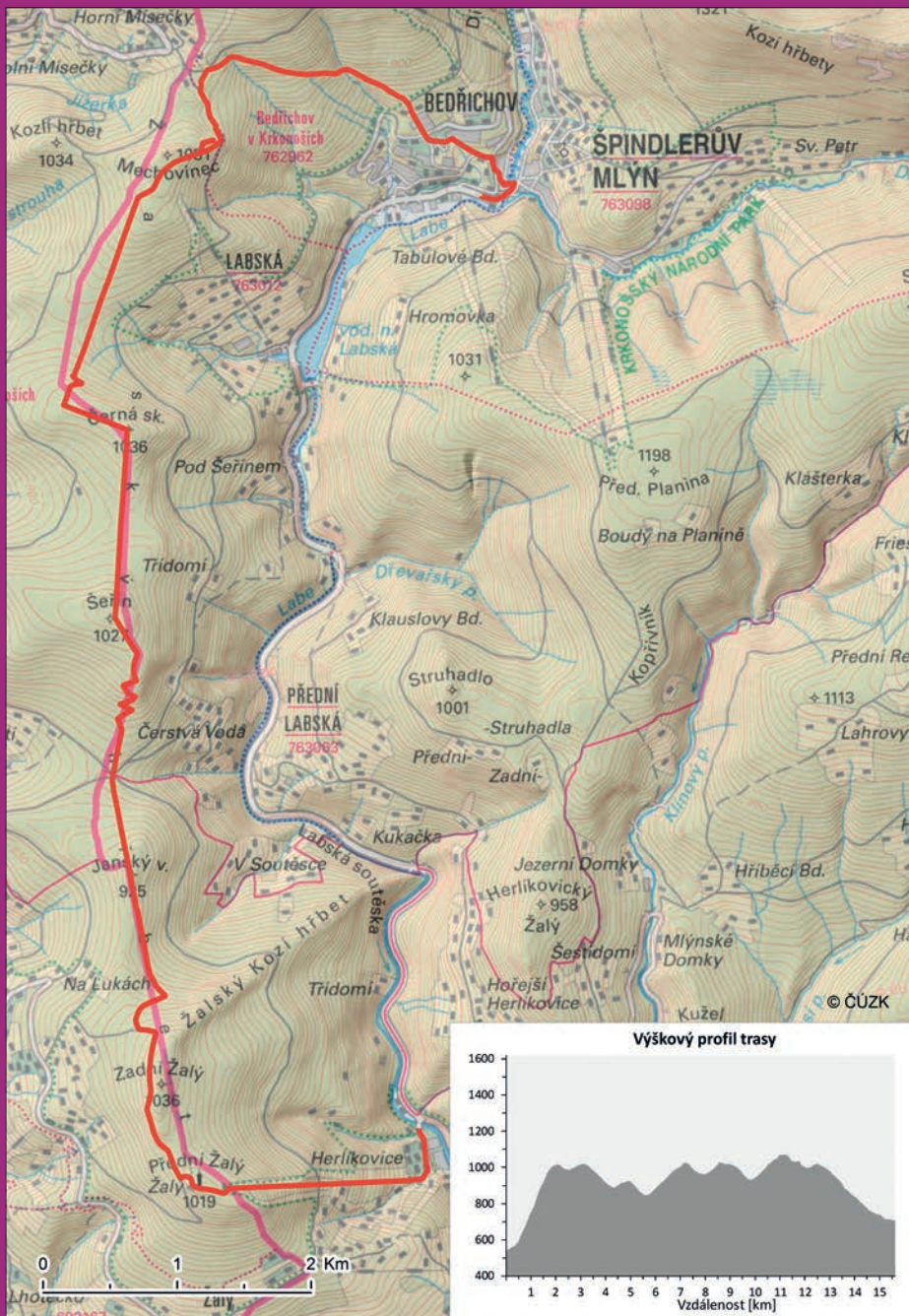
From the lookout tower follow the red hiking trail, named the **Buchar Trail**. You will only walk a part of the Buchar Trail, which connects the town of Jilemnice and the spring of the Labe, and its total length is nearly 30 km (starting from Masaryk Square in Jilemnice).

The trail was named in honour of Jan Buchar, a head teacher from Dolní Štěpanice and one of the founders of Czech tourism and skiing in Krkonoše. The trail was built by the Czech Tourists Club of Jilemnice and, to a large extent, thanks to Jan Buchar himself.

The Buchar Trail follows the axis of the Žalský Ridge and continues to the Rovinka crossroads. From the crossroads you pass over 3 summits: Šeříň (1,027 m), Černá skála (1,039 m), and Mechovinec (1,081 m). This part of the Buchar Trail is named “**Trail over Three Hills**” and was once a popular ski route. The distinctive Šeříň offers a wide view of the landscape from the viewing platform on its summit rock. Černá skála with a modified vantage point is easily accessible from the marked trail, but the view is limited by the forest. The flat-topped Mechovinec is the highest and most northerly peak of the Žalský Ridge and near the saddle there is a rest area with a picnic table, where you can relax and enjoy something to recover your strength.

The chairlift to Mt. Přední Žalý offers views of central Krkonoše







Harrach's Rock

From Mechovinec continue on the Buchar trail to the turn-off, where you turn left to the Bear Way Educational Trail to **Harrach's Rock**. From the rock, at an elevation of 1,035 m, you have a wonderful panoramic view of the settlements of Špindlerův Mlýn and Horní Mísečky, also

of mountain peaks and ridges, such as Kozí hřbety Ridges, Mt. Luční hora, Mt. Kotel, Zlaté návrší and Medvědí. If you are not sure which one you are looking at, look at the wooden panoramic map, located on the vantage point.

The route of the **Medvědí cesta (Bear Way) Educational Trail** is lined with information boards with interesting facts about bears, and leads to a crossroads where it joins the Buchar Trail. Turn right here and continue along the Bear Trail towards Špindlerův Mlýn. At this point the route connects to another educational trail – Krakonoš's Story. After about 100 m. turn right at the next crossroads, still on the Bear Trail and also the red tourist trail, called the Water Supply Trail.

The Water Supply Trail runs down to **Bedřichov**, a part of Špindlerův Mlýn. This part of the town was named after



Norway Spruce

Bedřich of the Harrach family; the predecessor of the aforementioned Jan Harrach. Here you stroll through the town past the houses, a swimming pool, hotels and guest houses as you walk to the centre of Špindlerův Mlýn.

The **Špindlerův Mlýn** mountain resort lies in the very heart of Krkonoše. The town lies in the valley on the confluence of the Labe River and Dolský Stream, and it also includes adjacent mountain ranges, forests, meadow enclaves, but also housing estates. It offers visitors and locals an extensive network of hiking, cycling and cross-country skiing trails to the mountain tops, as well as to the foothills. The town was named after the miller Špindler,

who, together with his neighbours, sought to build their own church. On 13th July, 1793, they were granted a licence by the Emperor Franz I, and on the same day Špindlerův Mlýn entered history as a separate settlement.

The Labe River flows through the centre of town and is crossed by the unique **White Bridge**. This reinforced concrete segmented arch bridge was built in 1911 and its shape has become a symbol of the town. The 27.6-metre-long bridge is now part of the pedestrian zone. After the White Bridge, turn right; walk along the main road and after about 300 m. you come to the bus station on the left side, from where you can take a bus back to Vrchlabí.

Statue of St. Jan of Nepomuk, White Bridge and Hotel Hubertus





Chateau in Jilemnice

From Sovinec to Jilemnice

*Sovinec Lookout Tower ➔ Žalý Lookout Tower ➔ Štěpanice ruined castle
➔ Bohumil Hanč House Jilemnice ➔ Museum of Krkonoše Jilemnice
➔ "Curiosity Street" Jilemnice*



Difficulty: Hard



Length of route: 16,3 km

The starting point of the trip is the **Sovinec Viewing Platform**. You can get to the viewing platform if you take a bus from Vrchlabí or Jilemnice to Na Křížovky (bus stop Benecko, Mrklov, na Křížovkách). From the bus stop go to the car park, from the left corner of which you follow a footpath, past the wood, between meadows and after 500 m.

you reach the top of Sovinec hill (765 m), with a small wooden lookout tower.

From the lookout tower return the same way to the car park, cross the road and take the yellow hiking trail, which takes you to the summit of Přední Žalý (1,019 m). The stone **Žalý Lookout Tower** was built in 1892. With good visibility, from the tower you

can see the panorama of Krkonoše, part of the Jizerské and Orlické Mountains, the foothills and part of the Bohemian Paradise.

From the lookout tower, follow the red tourist route, called the **Buchar Trail**, in the direction of Benecko. The trail was named in honour of Jan Buchar, a head teacher from Dolní Štěpanice and one of the founders of Czech tourism and skiing in Krkonoše. The trail was built by the Czech Tourists Club of Jilemnice and to a large extent, thanks to Jan Buchar himself.

Benecko is the highest mountain village in western Krkonoše. On your way, you walk through its centre along the red-marked trail and there are many

opportunities to stop and admire the stunning views of the Krkonoše ridges. An ideal place for a short stop is the Jindrova Rock, which you pass about 500 m. from the tourist signpost located at the central car park in the village centre. According to the local legend, a hermit of the Benedictine Order lived at the rock, and later the village was named after him. On the same spot now stands St. Hubert's Chapel, the patron of hunters.

From the chapel continue along the Buchar Trail, past another tourist signpost and after 1.3 km, before the signpost at the Kotelská vantage point, turn left onto the forest path towards Horní Štěpanice. The trail leads you between forests and

St. Hubert's Chapel in Benecko



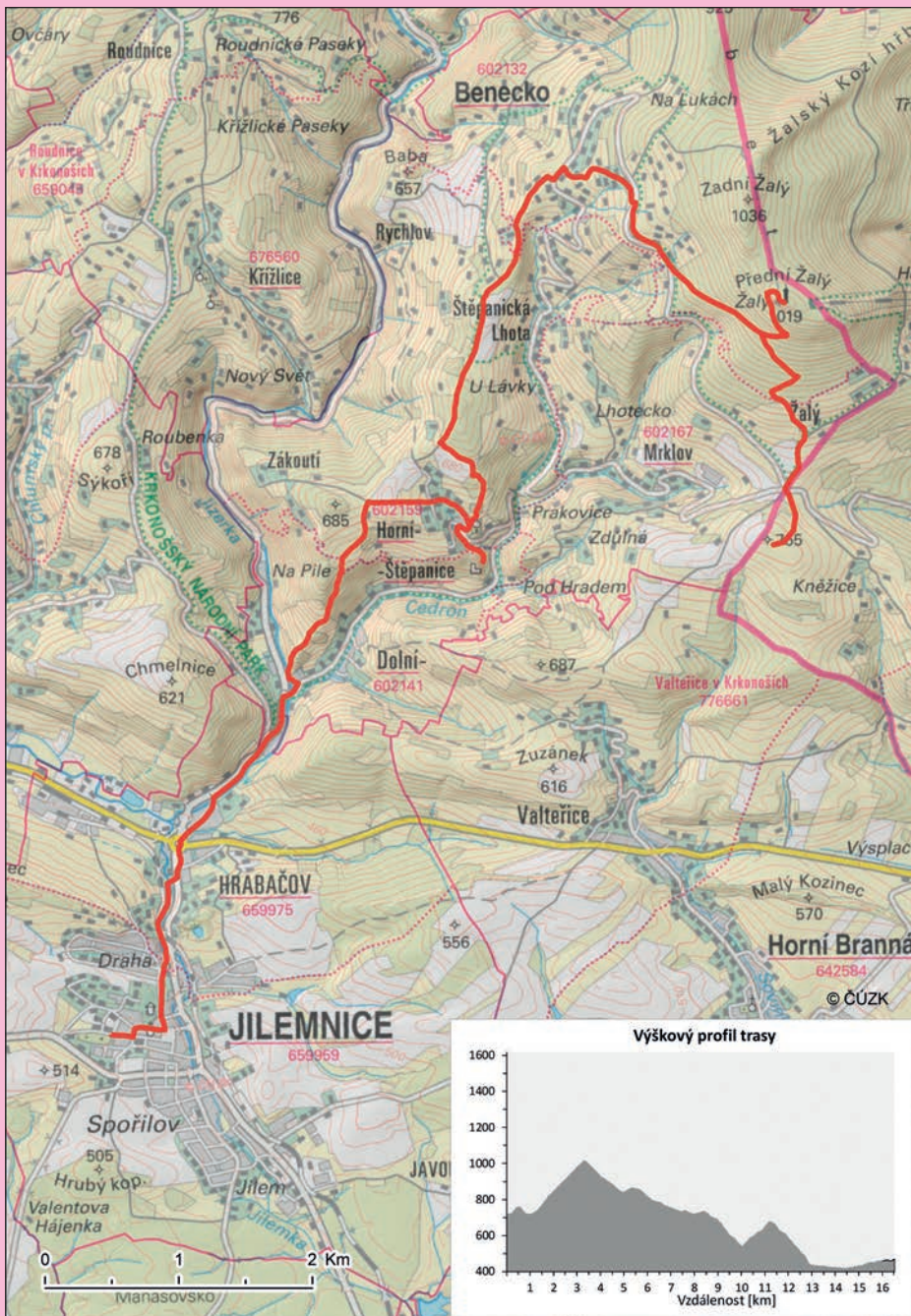


Ruined castle in Štěpanice

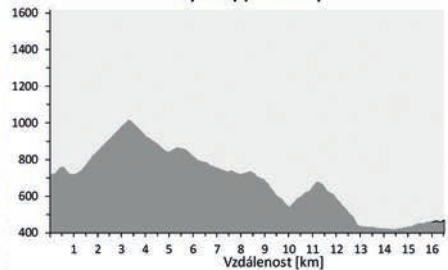
fields to the Evangelical Cemetery and then to the Catholic Cemetery with the Church of the Holy Trinity, where you join the road. From the car park at the church, follow the road as it bends to the left; after about 100 m turn right and follow the forest trail to the **ruined castle in Horní Štěpanice**. The castle consisted of two parts, the higher and more fortified Upper Castle, where the nobles lived, and the Lower Castle, where production was concentrated. Literary sources indicate the founder of the castle in the early 14th century was Jan of Valdštejn, but according to archaeological evidence, confirming Balbín's theory, the castle was built in the 2nd half of the 13th century and founded in 1254 by Jindřich of Valdštejn. In the 14th and 15th centuries, the castle remained in the hands of the Valdštejns as mining of gold and ore developed in the area. The castle also became the administrative centre of the

area. By the year 1524 the castle was abandoned.

From Štěpanice Castle return the same way to the Holy Trinity Church. From the church continue to the left along the trail, which is also the K10 cycle trail, to the crossroads, where you turn left and join the red-marked Buchar Trail again. On this way you go past the chapel in Dolní Štěpanice, cross the bridge over the Jizerka River and turn left on the main road (Krkonošská St.). After about 1 km, turn left and follow the Buchar Trail (U Jizerky St.) to the roundabout in Hřabačov. Here you cross the road and head past the bus stop on the main road (Krkonošská St.), after a few steps you again cross the road and follow the path to the crossroads, where you turn left (Hanč and Vrbata St.). This is also cycle route 22 and leads you to the **Bohumil Hanč House**. Bohumil Hanč, who was one of



Výškový profil trasy



the most famous Czech ski racers, lived with his wife in house No. 771 in Hrabačov before World War I. On 24th March, 1913, he took part in the 50 km race on the Krkonoše ridges, during which he died of exhaustion and hypothermia, after a brave battle with the raging elements of the cruel mountains.

From the Bohumil Hanč house continue along the Buchar Trail, across the railway crossing, along the left bank of the Jilemka River to the roundabout. Cross the road and go straight on past the U Labutě house for 100 m. and take the first right turn, after another 100 m. turn left, which joins the yellow-marked trail. The foot-path through the Chateau Park leads you to the **Museum of Krkonoše**, based in the magnificent Jilemnice Chateau. The Museum was founded in 1891 as part of the preparations for the Czech-Slavonic Ethnographic Exhibition in Prague in 1895. It is based in the former residence of the Counts of Harrach since 1953. The decisive contribution to the building of the museum belongs to the headmaster of the girls' schools in Jilemnice, Jáchym Metelka (1853–1940). Since 1979 the museum is part of the Museum

of Krkonoše of the KRNAP Administration. The museum's collections primarily focus on the history and ethnography of Western Krkonoše, the beginnings and development of Czech skiing, and the gallery on the works of František Kaván (1866–1941). Permanent exhibitions are complemented annually by a number of exhibitions and accompanying events.

After visiting the museum, one more unique part of the town awaits you in Jilemnice, which you definitely cannot miss. Follow the yellow hiking trail past the vicarage (Kostelní St.), primary school (K Břízkám St.) and the statue of St. John of Nepomuk, until you arrive at the timbered cottages in **Zvědavá ulička**. "Curiosity Street" is a unique collection of rustic architecture. Most of the houses were built after the town fire in the year 1788. The street's name is based on the fact that the houses on the west side are built one behind the other so that each one stands one window axis closer to the street. It quickly narrows and turns, with the houses giving the impression that their residents were nosey and wanted to see what was happening on the main square.

Metelka's mechanical nativity scene (Bethlehem) in Jilemnice Chateau





Dam wall of Labská Reservoir

From Špindlerův Mlýn over Mt. Janova hora to Vrchlabí

Labská Reservoir, Špindlerův Mlýn ➔ Harrach's Rock ➔ Hucul Horse Farm, Janova Hora ➔ Žalý Lookout Tower ➔ Vrchlabí



Difficulty: Medium



Length of route: 16,5 km

The starting point of the hike is the **Labská Reservoir** in Špindlerův Mlýn. The impulse to build the dam was extensive floods in the late 19th century, which

caused catastrophic damage. The main purpose of this beautiful structure is to reduce the flow of flood waters and protect the area below the dam.

The construction of the dam began in 1910 by the Viennese company Redlich & Berger and the dam was operational from 1918. Over the years it had to undergo several repairs, with the last reconstruction in 2006–2007. The dam wall is 41 metres high and its crown is 154 metres long. The total volume is 3.292 million m³ and the maximum flooded area is 26.78 ha. The initials R. Č. in the middle of the dam wall are a symbol of the Czechoslovak Republic.

From the dam you set off on the right along the blue hiking trail to the **vantage point** on the **Harrach's Rock**, standing at 1,035 metres, from where you have a wonderful, panoramic view of Špindlerův Mlýn and Horní Mísečky and also of the Krkonoše summits, such as Kozí hřbety, Mt. Luční hora, Mt. Kotel, Zlaté návrší and Medvědín. If you are not sure which peak you are looking at, you can look at the

wooden panoramic map located on the vantage point.

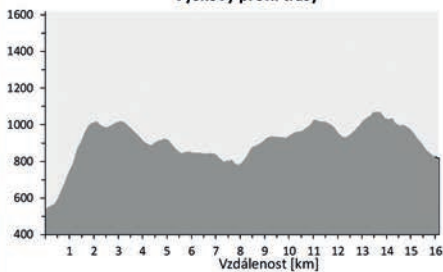
Continue to the left from the vantage point along the red-marked **Buchar Trail**. The trail was named in honour of Jan Buchar, the head teacher from Dolní Štěpanice and one of the founders of Czech tourism and skiing in Krkonoše. The trail was built by the Jilemnice Club of Czech Tourists and also largely thanks to Jan Buchar himself. Follow this trail over **Mt. Mechovinec** (1,081 m); the highest and northernmost peak of the Žalský hřbet Ridge. Continue over **Mt. Černá skála** (1,039 m), which has a vantage point on the summit close to the marked trail, but the views are limited by the forest. From the summit, follow the red-marked trail and after about 800 m. turn right and continue through the forest on an unmarked trail for another 400 m. Here you reach a crossroads where you join the marked K10B cycle trail on the left. After

Špindlerův Mlýn from Harrach's Rock





Výškový profil trasy





Hucul horses on Mt. Janova hora

another 1.3 km you reach the next cross-roads, turn right, leaving the marked cycle trail and the track takes you to the **Hucul Horse Farm at Janova Hora**.

The history of the farm began in 1979, when the first group of volunteers from the Czech Union for Nature Conservation came to Janova Hora and took up work on rebuilding the former calf barns. The first horses of different breeds, including Hucul mares



Hoar frost on a birch

and stallions, came to the repaired stables in the spring of 1980. More **Hucul horses** were gradually bought from all over the country and the herd of this Carpathian mountain breed now numbers around 70 horses. On the pastures of this 300-hectare farm you have the opportunity to experience an unforgettable ride and enjoy breathtaking views of the Krkonoše mountain ridges and the Jizerka River valley. You can also admire the herd of Highland cattle from Scotland with their long, flowing thick coats, or a herd of goats. Since 1998 the farm has been included on the list of organic farmers.

After a ride with a noble companion or a tour of the beautiful farm, head straight out of the farm and after 200 m. join the marked cycle trail K10 and after another 500 m. you reach a crossroads, where you continue straight on the marked cycle trail. Walk about 1.3 km along this path to **na Rovinku**, from where you continue to the right along the red-marked

Buchar Trail, which is also cycle trail K10A. After about 1 km you reach the crossroads, where you leave the cycle trail and follow the red Buchar Trail. After another 1 km the trail leads you from the crossroads on the left and here you join the K10A cycle trail again. After about 1.5 km you reach the last crossroads, where you turn left along the yellow trail to the stone-built **Žalý Lookout Tower**. This tower was built in 1892 to replace an earlier wooden lookout tower; built by Count Jan Harrach in 1836. In good visibility, the entire panorama of Krkonoše, part of the Jizerské and Orlické Mountains, the foothills and part of the Bohemian Paradise can be seen from the lookout tower.

A few metres from the lookout tower there is a chairlift that can take you to Herlíkovice, part of **Vrchlabí**, and take the bus to the town centre. If you still have the strength and desire to walk another 7 km of trails that offer amazing views of the Krkonoše ridges, you can walk from the Žalý lookout tower along the yellow hiking trail. The path will take you through woods, meadows, between chalets in the foothills and pastures, past the **Chapel of St. Anne and the Fourteen Holy Helpers**, which was reconstructed using donations from the public collections in 1997–1999, to Vrchlabí town centre to the former Augustinian Monastery, which houses the collections of the Museum of Krkonoše of the KRNAP Administration.

Chapel of St. Anne and the Fourteen Holy Helpers





Centre of Špindlerův Mlýn

Špindlerův Mlýn in search of Woodcutters, Devils and Water Sprites

Špindlerův Mlýn, Bus Station → Dřevařská cesta (Woodcutters' Way)
→ U Bílého Labe Chalet → Čertova strouha (Devil's Stream)
Educational Trail → Weber Trail → Dívčí lávky → White Bridge
→ Špindlerův Mlýn, Bus Station



Difficulty: Medium



Length of route: 14,7 km

The starting point of our trip is the bus station, from which you turn right along the green hiking trail to the crossroads. On your left you will see the unique **White Bridge**. This reinforced concrete segmental arch bridge was built in 1911 and has become a symbol of the town for its shape.

The 27.6-metre-long bridge is now part of the pedestrian zone. At the crossroads turn right (along Svatopetská St.) and after around 200 m, in front of the Library, turn left. Along the way, you climb a gentle hill past the Town Hall and Tourist Information Centre and after 100 m. you join the red

hiking trail. Go up to the crossroads by the forest, where according to the tourist signpost you continue on the left along the yellow hiking trail, called Dřevařská cesta (Woodcutters' Way). Do not forget to stop occasionally to enjoy beautiful views of the Krkonoše ridges and chalets. After about 3.5 km the path leads you the last few metres through the forest to the **U Bílého Labe Chalet**. If you have not unpacked your picnic, you have an excellent opportunity to stay here and have genuine Krkonoše sour soup or delicious blueberry dumplings.

From the chalet continue along the yellow-marked route, cross the wooden bridge and after about 200 m. the **Čertova strouha (Devil's Stream) Educational Trail** joins the yellow-marked route. The trail is 1.4 km long and at 8 stops you

will find out, why in the early 20th century stonemasons forced the Devil's Stream into a walled channel, why they used granite and how a saturated forest prevents flooding. When you reach the end of the educational trail by the former blacksmith's forge, return approximately 100 m. and go straight on the unmarked Hoffman Trail. During your trip, enjoy unique views of the Krkonoše forests and ridges. Follow the unmarked road for about 1.5 km until you reach a crossroads (TK 861), where you turn left and join the yellow hiking trail that takes you back to the start of the educational trail, then turn right and you will arrive back at the U Bílého Labe Chalet.

From the chalet, continue to the right on the blue hiking trail, also called the **Weber Trail**, after the Dean of Vrchlabí

The water in the Bílé Labe is very cold, even on the warmest summer days





Bílé Labe valley

and representative of the Krkonoše Tourist Club. On this route through the Bílé Labe valley, you can see several breathtaking waterfalls and numerous cascades. Between the U Bílého Labe Chalet and the road bridge, which you cross, is the Plotnový Waterfall, falling 5.3 m. over a smooth rock plate into a very deep pool. The following Dlouhý Waterfall, which is 14.5 m. high, is almost hidden by shrub vegetation. Near the U svozu rest stop you can see the Balvanový Waterfall, the name of which is derived from a large round boulder, which was wedged 1 metre above the surface in a rock gorge below the waterfall after a previous flood, creating a false rock bridge. The 2006 flood carried it away again, but immediately filled the gap with other boulders, this time a barrier across the entire profile. Further along the Bílé Labe we can see the 3.4-metre-high

Mřížková Cascade. The following Velký skok Waterfall is not very high (only 2 m), but represents a really sharp contrast, cascading with a slope of 45° on the right but completely vertical on the left. This is followed by the Hučivá Cascade of 4 m. in height, followed by the Schodová Cascade by the information panel, which is subdivided into almost regular steps along roughly horizontal beds and vertically along the flow of transverse fissure surfaces. The next is the Soutoková Cascade at the mouth of the Černý Stream, 3.4 m. in height. Below the mouth of the Černý potok is the Velký Waterfall, which is most distinctively cascading and the most attractive in the whole Bílé Labe Valley. Its wall is unusually densely cracked and is subject to relatively rapid erosion compared to other Krkonoše waterfalls on granite. At the foot is an extremely deep pool, bounded from





U Dívčích lávek Chalet

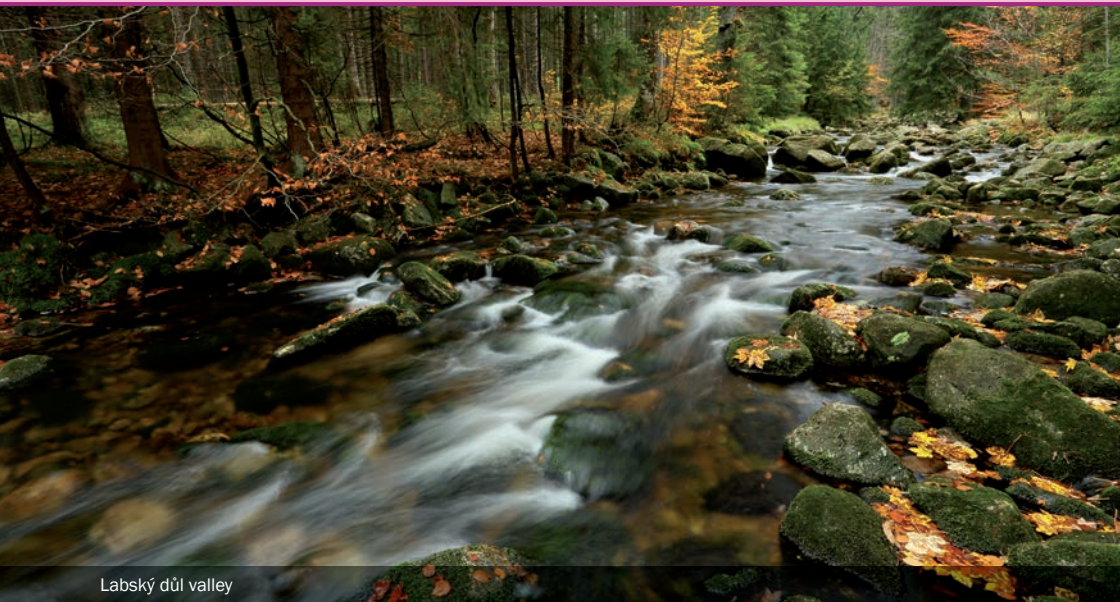
the left by a rock wall and from the right by the valley road. The last significant step is the Dívčí Rapids between the bridge on the road to the Špindler Chalet and its

confluence with the Labe, which includes an unusual triangular eversion bowl.

Under the trees and a few metres from the last cascade is the seasonal KRNAP Administration cabin, in the place where the **U Dívčích lávek Chalet** stood. Here you can learn about other interesting trips in Špindlerův Mlýn and its surroundings. From the cabin turn left, still following the blue-marked trail, this is now the Harrach Trail, along the Labe River. After 2.2 km, pass the lower station of the cable car to Mt. Medvědí, where you can go on another day to discover the Giant Krakonoš's story or to explore the Medvědí (Bear) Trail. But now continue straight on the blue trail to the White Bridge in the centre of Špindlerův Mlýn. After you take the last photos from your trip, walk to the Bus Station, where we started and now end our trip.

Confluence of Labe and Bílé Labe





Labský důl valley

Špindlerův Mlýn

Špindlerův Mlýn, Bus Station → White Bridge → KRNAP Information Centre → Labský důl Educational Trail → Labská bouda Chalet → Zlaté návrší Plateau → Špindlerův Mlýn



Difficulty: Medium



Length of route: 11,9 km

The starting point of this trip is the mountain resort of **Špindlerův Mlýn**, which stands at the heart of Krkonoše. The town offers its visitors an extensive network of hiking trails for cyclists and cross-country skiers to the tops of mountains and in the foothills too.

On your way from the Bus Station to the town centre, follow the green tourist trail to the crossroads by the unique **White Bridge**. This reinforced concrete

segmental arch bridge was built in 1911 and became a symbol of the city because of its shape. Today the 27.6-metre-long bridge is part of the pedestrian zone. Cross the bridge and turn right onto the blue tourist trail, following the Labe River upstream. The path takes you to the lower station of the Medvědíň cable car. From here, continue right across the bridge, walk through the car park and turn left. Continue along the marked cycling route K15 and after 200 m. you arrive at the

KRNAP Information Centre. Here you can see an exhibition on historical changes to the Krkonoše nature and landscape, and you can also find useful information about Krkonoše National Park.

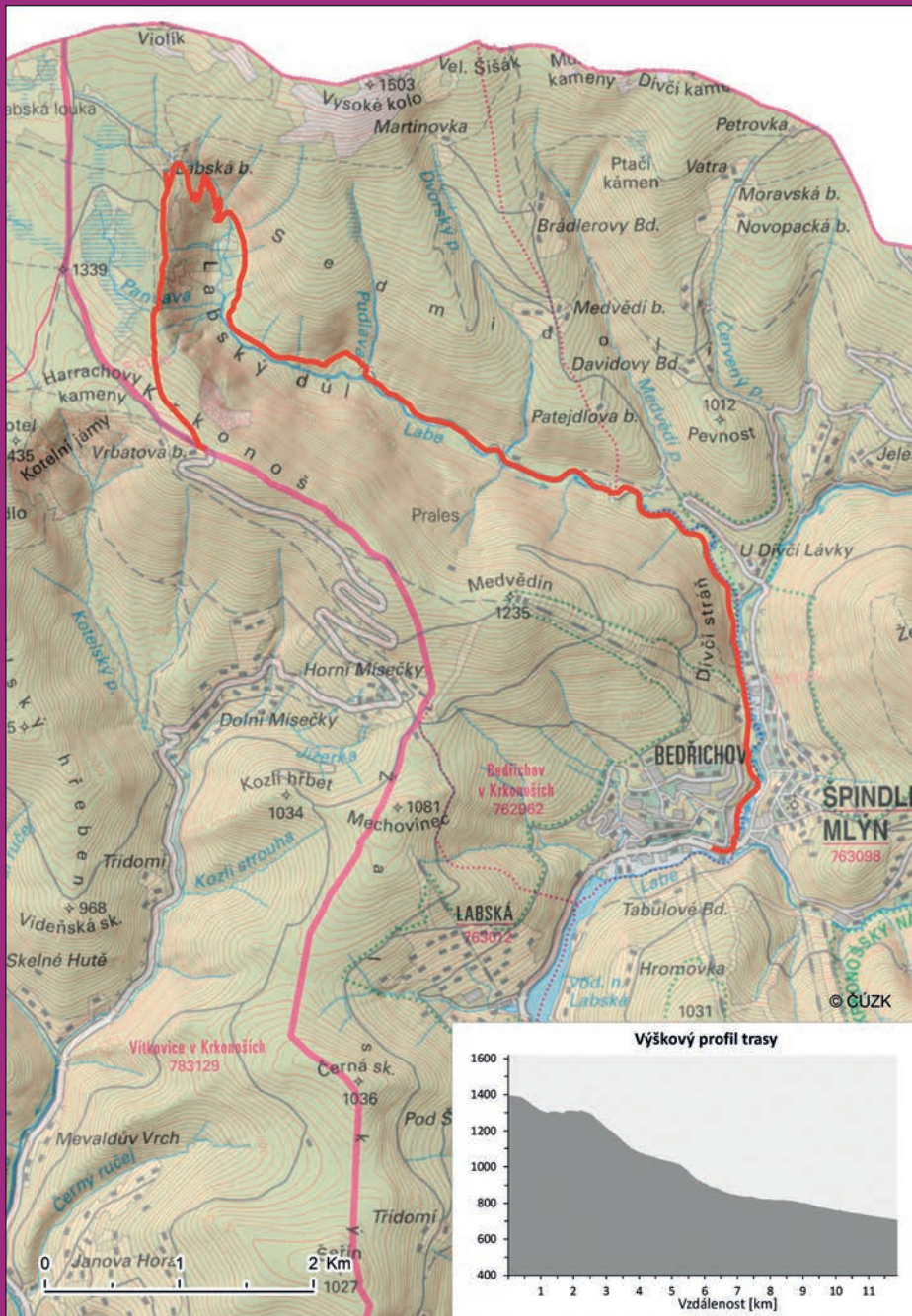
After visiting the information centre continue for about 100 m. along the K15 cycle route and then turn left. Along the way you will reach the bridge over the Bílé Labe and after this turn left to the Pod Dívčí strání crossroads, where the **Labský důl Educational Trail** starts. The trail is 7.5 km long and reveals to you on 8 information panels, how to distinguish between



Glacial moraine

Pančavský Waterfall and Labský důl valley







Meanders on the Labe from Pančavský Waterfall

rocks from a moraine or a stream, without what the famous Krkonoše Gardens cannot exist, and which are the most beautiful glacial valleys in Krkonoše. A journey through a glacial valley that almost copies

the meanders of the Labe River, leads through beautiful Krkonoše forests, offers breathtaking views of the Krkonoše ridges and reveals the grandeur of the highest Czech waterfall on the Pančava Stream and the uniqueness of the cascading Labský Waterfall.

The educational trail ends by the **Labská Chalet**, the history of which begins as early as the year 1830. Over the years it underwent many modifications and had several owners. In 1965 the previous chalet burnt down, and in 1969 the foundation stone of the new nine-storey reinforced concrete panel building, which still stands here, was laid. Here you have the opportunity to relax and regain your strength after a difficult climb. When you are ready to leave, turn left on the red hiking trail towards Zlaté návrší and the Vrbata Chalet.

On this section of the trip you descend along the **Buchar Trail**. The trail was

Labská bouda Chalet





Willow Gentian

named in honour of Jan Buchar, a head teacher from Dolní Štěpanice and one of the founders of Czech tourism and skiing in Krkonoše. The trail was built by the Jilemnice Club of Czech Tourists and largely thanks to Jan Buchar himself. Along the route you have countless opportunities to stop for a moment and enjoy magnificent views of the Labský důl Valley. You also have the opportunity to view the steps of the Pančava Waterfall from above, at the Hanč Memorial you can learn about the tragic fate of Bohumil Hanč and about the history of ski racing in Krkonoše, but also enjoy the breathtaking views of our highest mountains. The red hiking trail leads you to the **Vrbata Chalet at Zlaté návrší**, from where you can take a special tourist bus to Horní Mísečky, then continue by regular bus to Jilemnice, then via Vrchlabí and back to Špindlerův Mlýn.

Vrbatova bouda Chalet





Centre of Špindlerův Mlýn

Špindlerův Mlýn

Trip for families with children

Svatý Petr Ski Resort, chairlift to Pláň ➤ Mechová pěšinka (Mossy Path)
Educational Trail ➤ Labská Reservoir



Difficulty: Easy



Length of route: 9,3 km

This time we visit the mountain resort of **Špindlerův Mlýn**, located in the heart of Krkonoše. The town stretches along the valleys of the Labe River and Dolský Stream, and includes adjacent mountain ranges, forests, meadow enclaves, but

also housing estates. It offers visitors and locals an extensive network of hiking trails for walking, cycling and cross-country skiing to the mountain summits and towards the foothills. The town was named after the miller Špindler, who is credited, along

with his neighbours, for gaining the rights to build their own church. Permission was granted on 13th July, 1793 in a patent from Emperor Franz I, and Špindlerův Mlýn entered history as a separate settlement.

The starting point is the Bus Station, from which you set off on the right along the green hiking trail to the crossroads, where you can see the unique **White Bridge** on your left. This reinforced concrete segmental arch bridge was built in 1911 and became a symbol of the city for its shape. The 27.6-metre-long bridge is now part of the pedestrian zone. Turn right at the crossroads (Svatopetrská St.) and walk straight on for 700 m. until you reach the cable car, which you can take to Pláň.

From this summit there are beautiful views of the Špindlerův Mlýn valley and the



White False Hellebore with dead wood

Krkonoše has the richest moss communities in Czechia





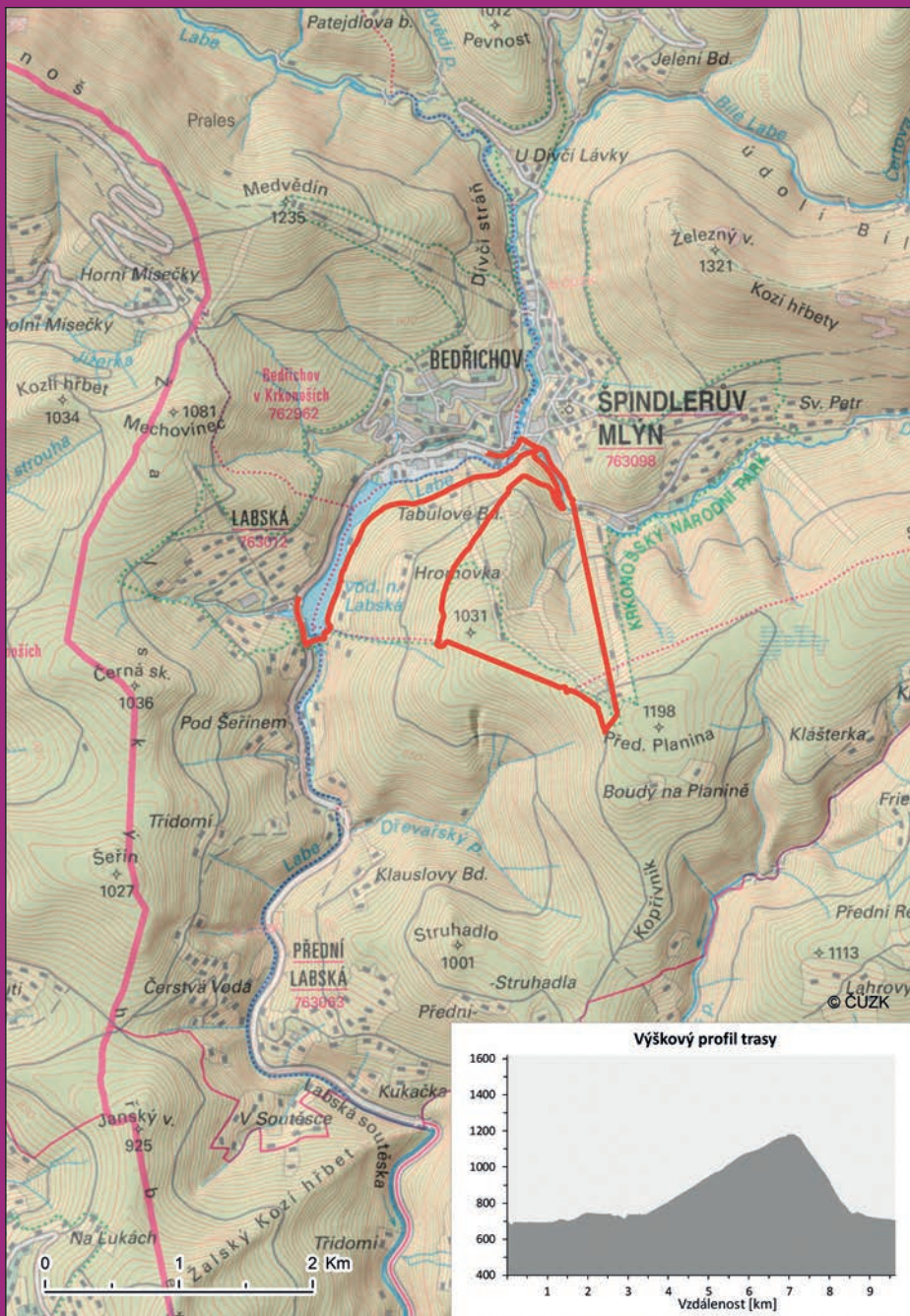
Labe valley with Labská Reservoir



Adders love to sunbathe

surrounding mountain ridges. From here you follow the **Mechová pěšinka (Mossy Path)**, a 3.8-km-long educational trail. During the trip you will learn a lot of interesting and possibly new information about the plants of Krkonoše on the information panels. You will search for them, research them, smell them, and write down all the useful things you find out about them. The trail takes you again to the lower cable car station.

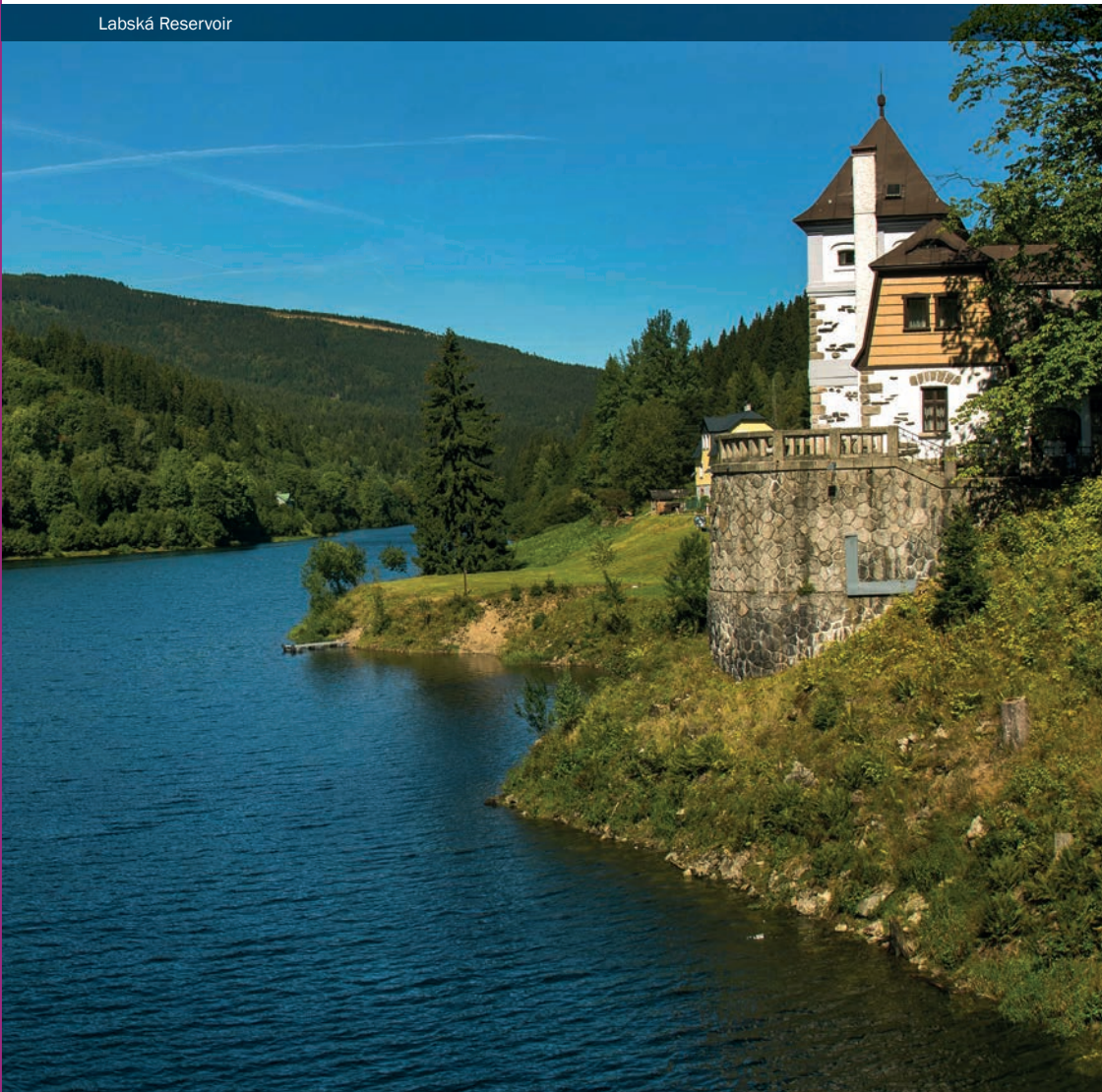
From the cable car station you follow the same trail you came here on and after about 500 m. you reach the bridge over the Svatopetrský Stream. Cross the bridge and continue to the right on the green hiking trail. The trail leads you through forests, past the Tabulové Boudy Chalets and it turns and approaches the banks of the Labe River. This 2.4-km-long route takes you to the

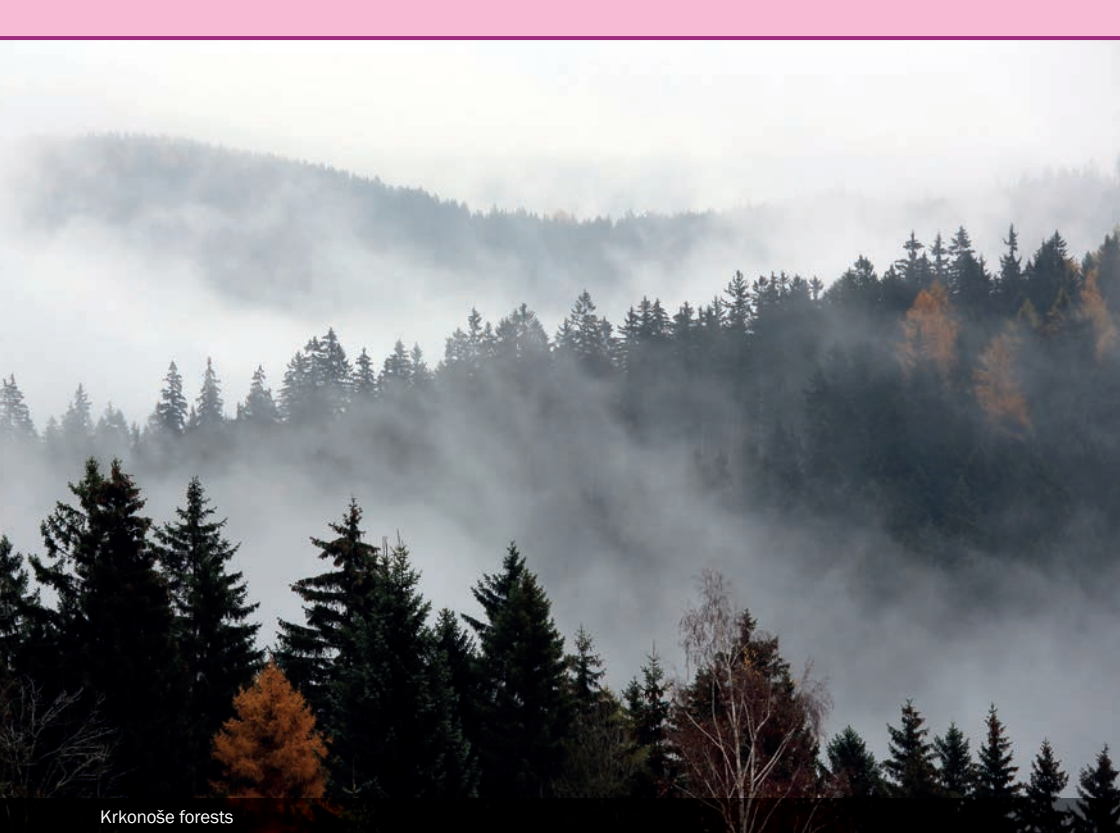


Labská Reservoir. The impulse for the construction of the dam was extensive flooding in the late 19th century, which caused catastrophic damage. The main purpose of this beautiful structure is to reduce the flow of floodwaters and protect the area below the dam. The construction of the dam was begun in 1910 by the Viennese company Redlich & Berger and the dam was operational by 1918. Over the years it had to undergo

several repairs. The last reconstruction of the dam took place in 2006–2007. The dam is 41 metres high and the dam wall is 154 metres long. The total volume of the reservoir is 3.292 million m³ and the maximum flooded area is 26.78 ha. The initials R.Č. in the middle of the dam wall are a symbol of the Czechoslovak Republic. From here it is just a few steps to the bus that takes you back to the centre of Špindlerův Mlýn.

Labská Reservoir





Krkonoše forests

From Dolní Dvůr to Strážné

Dolní Dvůr, carillon of bells ➔ Slezská stezka (Silesian Trail) Educational Trail, Friesovy Boudy Chalets ➔ Fries Brewery ➔ Strážné



Difficulty: **Hard**



Length of route: 14,3 km

You can spend five seasons in the picturesque mountain village of **Dolní Dvůr**. How is it possible? Thanks to the unique carillon of bells, which were installed on the church in 1995 by the honorary citizen of the village Mrs. Anna Alena Kyšerová. The **carillon** always plays 4 melodies, different for each

season, and Christmas carols. The carillon plays from Monday to Friday at 10:00 and 17:00, on Saturdays and Sundays at 10:00, 12:00 and 17:00. The Church of St. Joseph, built in 1802–1806, was consecrated to St. Joseph in honour of the patroness of the construction Countess Josephine

Czernin-Morzin. Listen to the sound of the bells at St. Joseph's Church and then set out on your trip.

From the church, follow the yellow hiking trail along the Kotelský Stream towards the ski resort and the Morava Hotel. Turn left at the crossroads by the ski resort and continue along the yellow trail across the Sluneční Stráň slope, past the last buildings and into the forest. After 300 m. you come to a crossroads in the forest, where the yellow trail turns to the right and after another 1 km to another crossroads, where the yellow trail crosses the K1B cycle route. From the crossroads, keep straight on the yellow trail until you come out of the forest at Hanapetrova Paseka. **Hanapetrova Paseka** is a place where there are visible traces of iron ore mining in the 19th century. After around 100 m. the trail curves



Carillon of bells

St. Joseph's Church in Dolní Dvůr





to the left to a crossroads, where the yellow trail goes straight on. We keep walking uphill on the yellow trail, on which you meet a crossroads after 700 m, where you go straight on. Here you are on the cadastre of **Strážné**, which contains the territories of two historical villages – Herlíkovice, which was an independent municipality until 1951, when it was divided between Vrchlabí and Strážné – and Pommerndorf, which was the name of Strážné at that time. Today, this mountain village is a popular place for summer and winter holidays and offers activities for families with children and demanding tourists.

From the 1 km distant crossroads, the yellow hiking trail leads to the left. After another 1 km you reach a crossroads where the yellow hiking trail meets the red trail, and also the **Silesian Route Educational Trail**. This trail passes the Rybníční Domky

enclave, around the Strážné quarry, Hřiběcí Boudy, Lahrový Boudy, Přední Rennerovky, Zadní Rennerovky, Dvorské boudy Chalets, and the Na Rozcestí and Výrovka cottages. The trail is 5.5 km long and takes you on the route that pilgrims travelled for more than 1,000 years from Central Bohemia to Silesia and back. At 7 stops you can learn why the old mountain farmers did not support horses, what the Swedes did in Krkonoše in the 16th century and what the Krkonoše locals did to the Swedes, or why nothing was previously built at the site where the Na Rozcestí cottage stands today.

At the crossroads turn right and after a few metres turn left along the green hiking trail towards the **Friesovy Boudy Chalets**. The first mention of this enclave dates from 1676, when a certain George Fries was allowed here to build a chalet here. The chalets were off the main hiking trails

Swedish Cross





Zadní Rennerovky chalets

for many years, but after the completion of the cable car to Pláň in 1947 they became popular with tourists. The chalets had several owners over the years and have undergone many modifications. The previous building of Hotel Friesovy boudy No. 95 was completely demolished in 1987 and newly built closer to the forest. Friesovy Boudy consists of three chalets – Hotel Friesovy boudy, Penzion Andula and the Minister’s Chalet. The Fries Microbrewery is now based in Penzion

Andula. Here you can taste three refreshing beer types Fries 12° Lager, 13° Dark Lager and 14° Ale.

Follow the driveway from Friesovy Boudy back to the Silesian Educational Trail and continue on the red-marked trail past the **Lahrový Boudy Chalets**, which still bear the name of their previous owners. About 1 km from Lahrový Boudy you come to a crossroads, where the blue and red trails meet, and where you turn left towards the Hříběcí Boudy Chalets, walk around a former quarry to another crossroads, where the red and blue trails divide.



Friesovy Boudy chalets

In the second half of the 19th century, the **quarry** was a source of high-quality Krkonoše marble, which was used in construction and for artistic purposes, for the production of small souvenirs and as raw material for sculptors. From the crossroads behind the quarry continue to the left along the blue-marked trail until you reach Luisino údolí. Then you just have to walk back along the road to Dolní Dvůr.





Krkonoše Trips – Central

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