



# KRKONOŠE TRIPS – WEST



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Harrachov ski jumping ramps

## ***Around Harrachov***

*Harrachov Ski Jumping Hills ➔ Šindelka Forestry and Hunting Exhibition  
➔ Harrachov Mining Museum ➔ Live and Dead Mumlava Educational  
Trail ➔ Harrachov Glassworks*



*Difficulty: Easy*



*Length of route: 5,5 km*

The starting point of the trip, on which you discover beautiful places in the Harrachov mountain resort, is the **ski jumping hills**. These are located in two areas, with the small hills with critical points of 40 m, 70 m and 90 m at

the hotel Skicentrum. The area standing higher on Mt. Čertová hora and built in 1978–1983 has a large 120-metre ski jumping hill, and the famous mammoth hill for ski flying, which after the last major reconstruction in 2000, has a critical



point of 185 m. The FIS Ski Flying World Championships took place on the mammoth hill in 1983 and 1992.

From the large ski jump hills follow the green hiking trail which takes you across the bridge over the Mumlava River to a crossroads. From here continue to the left along the green trail to the bus station. A few steps from the station is a granite house where shingles were produced from the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The last 60,000 shingles produced here were used in 1934 on the roof of the old Labská Chalet. The building known as **Šindelka** houses an exhibition of the Museum of Krkonoše of the KRNAP Administration devoted to forestry and hunting. Deep forests cover a large part of Krkonoše NP and the foresters put considerable effort into caring for them. The exhibition tells you how a forest is cultivated, but also how and why the timber is harvested.



Šindelka exhibition of forestry and hunting

In our exhibition you can see an overwintering game reserve with your own eyes



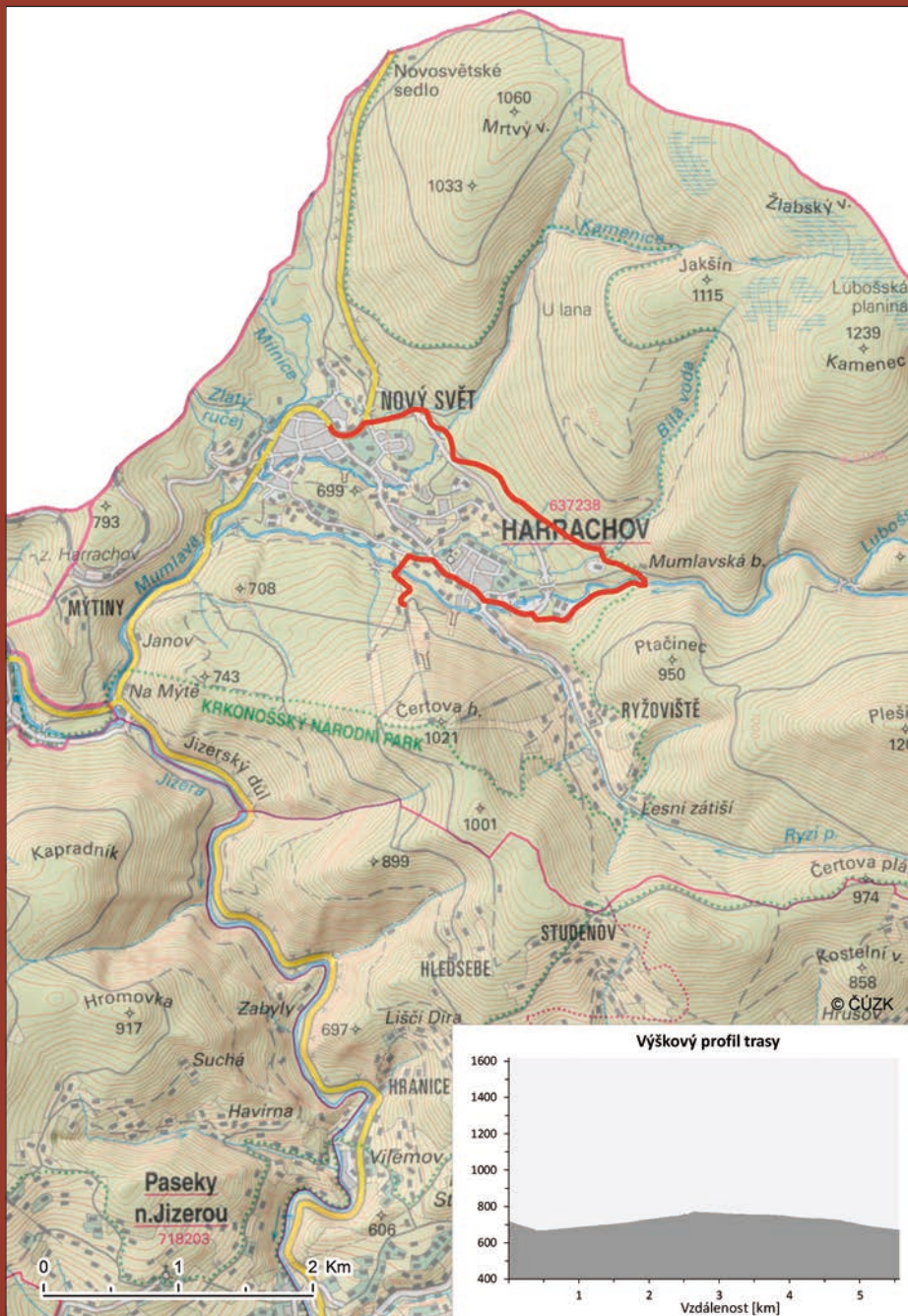




The Harrach seam of the vein type has been known since the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century

Wild animals are an integral part of the Krkonoše forests. It is necessary to take good care of the animals, in order to benefit the Krkonoše mountain forests, but also so that the animals do not cause excessive damage to the forests. In the exhibition you can see with your own eyes an overwintering game park and the variety of animals living in the forests. The exhibition contains a total of 32 stuffed animals, including red deer, roe deer or wild boar. Not only for those interested in history there is a functional model of a splash dam and log slide – facilities which were built in Krkonoše from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards, in order to float the harvested timber down to lower altitudes. In the mini-cinema you can enjoy breathtaking footage of the Krkonoše forests and mountain massifs with a few short films.

From the museum continue past the bus station, where you turn left and after 100 m cross the Mumlava River again. After the crossing the river bridge, take the first left turn and after 400 m the road takes you to the **Museum of Mining**. It was opened to the public, together with a sightseeing gallery, in 2003. The museum features samples of minerals from fluorite deposits, tools and aids used in mining, maps and photographs documenting work on the local deposit. The 1,000-metre-long observation gallery has an average annual temperature of 7 °C. On the floodlit tour route you can see a complete mining machine, mining cars, a battery powered locomotive or a mining loader. During the tour you can learn how men worked in the ore mines that no longer exist.











Mumlava Valley

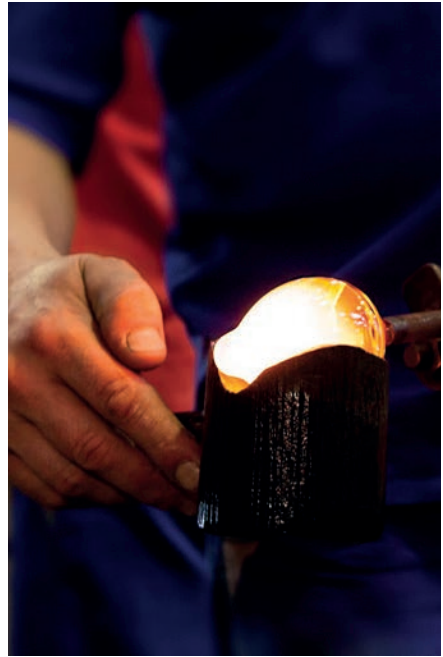


Spring Crocus

From the Mining Museum continue to the crossroads where the track joins the yellow tourist trail. From the crossroads turn left and cross the Mumlava River, which follows your steps all the way to the start of the popular **Živá mrtvá Mumlava (Mumlava Alive or Dead) Educational Trail**. If you have time to explore interesting places in Harrachov, you like the local landscape and you want to learn why the Mumlava is not bio, why eversion bowls are dangerous or how the Mumlava forms a tundra, be sure to take the trail to its end at Krakonoš's Breakfast. The educational trail is 4.7 km long, takes you through 6 stops, and follows the meanders of the Mumlava. The granite river bed is very

diverse in shape, with rock plates, eversion bowls (known as “Devil’s Eyes”), boulder-filled sections, rapids and waterfalls. The river is at its most impressive during the maximum spring runoff, so it is ranked among the rivers of the Central European (Oder) type.

And if you decide not to explore the educational trail in its full length and beauty, at least stop for a moment and enjoy the unique view of the **Mumlava Waterfall**. It is 9.9 metres high and 9–10 metres wide. The total gradient reaches 50°; the main wall is steeper, between 60–70°. The average flow rate is about 750 l/s, so the Mumlava Waterfall is the most powerful in our country. The Mumlavská Chalet, which stands by the waterfall, was founded by Count Jan Harrach for the Czech Forestry Association’s excursion in 1879. In 1909 the chalet, already owned by F. J. Erlebach, burnt down and was then restored in its present form.



In 1712 the local history of glass production began...

... and this is what the Harrachov Glassworks looks like today





From the crossroads where the yellow hiking trail meets the blue trail and where the Living Dead Mumlava Educational Trail begins, continue on the yellow trail for about 2.5 km. On your walk through mature forest you cross the Bílá voda Stream and the Kamenice River to a crossroads, where the yellow trail meets the blue trail from Harrachov to the Polish border. From here, continue to the left along the yellow trail to the junction with the main road. Take a good look both ways here, cross the road and continue to the left along the road. You are only about 250 m. away from your destination – **Glassworks and Microbrewery Novosad & syn.**

The first mention of the glassworks in Nový Svět dates to 1712. The skills of

Harrachov glassmakers, engravers, cutters and painters, together with the innovative work of the management, were the cause of great economic success. The glassworks has a rich history and a certain milestone for its present day is 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1993, when a trained glassmaker and lawyer JUDr. František Novosad became the owner of the Harrachov Glassworks. His family still owns the glassworks. You can arrange a tour of the glassworks, visit the Museum of Glass, but also the local brewery. The microbrewery produces unfiltered and unpasteurised beers under the names Glassworks Draught, František lager and Čerták dark lager. You can taste these delicious drinks at the local restaurant. Or after your exploration of Harrachov, enjoy a relaxing time in the Beer Spa.

The Glass Museum contains a comprehensive collection of historical glass produced by the Harrachov Glassworks







Monument to the Forgotten Patriots in Paseky nad Jizerou

## **Romantic Trip through the Land of Forgotten Patriots**

*Monument to Forgotten Patriots ➔ Church of St. Wenceslas ➔ Planýrka Crossroads ➔ Havírna ➔ Chapel of the Holy Trinity ➔ Protesaná skála Rock ➔ Mýto*



*Difficulty: Easy*



*Length of route: 6,8 km*

Paseky nad Jizerou, on the right bank of the Jizera River, is a village with unique folk architecture, several timbered cottages with typical Saxon ornamentation, offers impressive views of western Krkonoše and has a rich theatrical and musical tradition. It is also the

birthplace of the Krkonoše violin-making school.

The route first leads you along the green hiking trail along a historic path called Buďárka. This path was used by mountain farmers from Rokytnice to carry

St. Wenceslaus's Church in Paseky nad Jizerou







View from the church

their produce, such as cheese and butter, in baskets on their backs to the markets in Tanvald and in the German town of Gablonz an der Niesse (now Jablonec nad Nisou). So the word bouda (mountain farm) gave its name to the Budárka route.

Continue along the blue-marked hiking trail called Planýrka, which was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Count Kamil Rohan, lover of botany and former landowner on the borders of the Krkonoše and Jizerské hory Mountains, as well as the Sychrov Chateau near Turnov.

Our trip starts from the **Monument to Forgotten Patriots**, a former parish building, which was founded in 1958 thanks to several passionate enthusiasts and thanks to willing donors of rare family heirlooms, originally a literary memorial dedicated to the memory of scribe, violin maker and teaching assistant Věnceslav Metelka. The memorial was

named after a novel by realistic writer Karel Václav Rais, who was inspired by Metelka's works to write the novel "Zapadlí vlastenci" (Forgotten Patriots). Public interest has led to a gradual expansion of collections and exhibition space, and over the years several new exhibitions have been opened. The Monument to Forgotten Patriots has been administered by the KRNAP Administration since 1981.

Near the museum stands **St. Wenceslaus's Church**, built in 1787–1789, one of the most impressive and most visited sacral buildings in western Krkonoše. This is due not only to the unique charm of the building and the village and the unique views of Krkonoše, but also the famous literary, musical and violin-making traditions associated with Věnceslav Metelka. On the south side of the church there is a sloping mountain cemetery, surrounded by a stone wall.





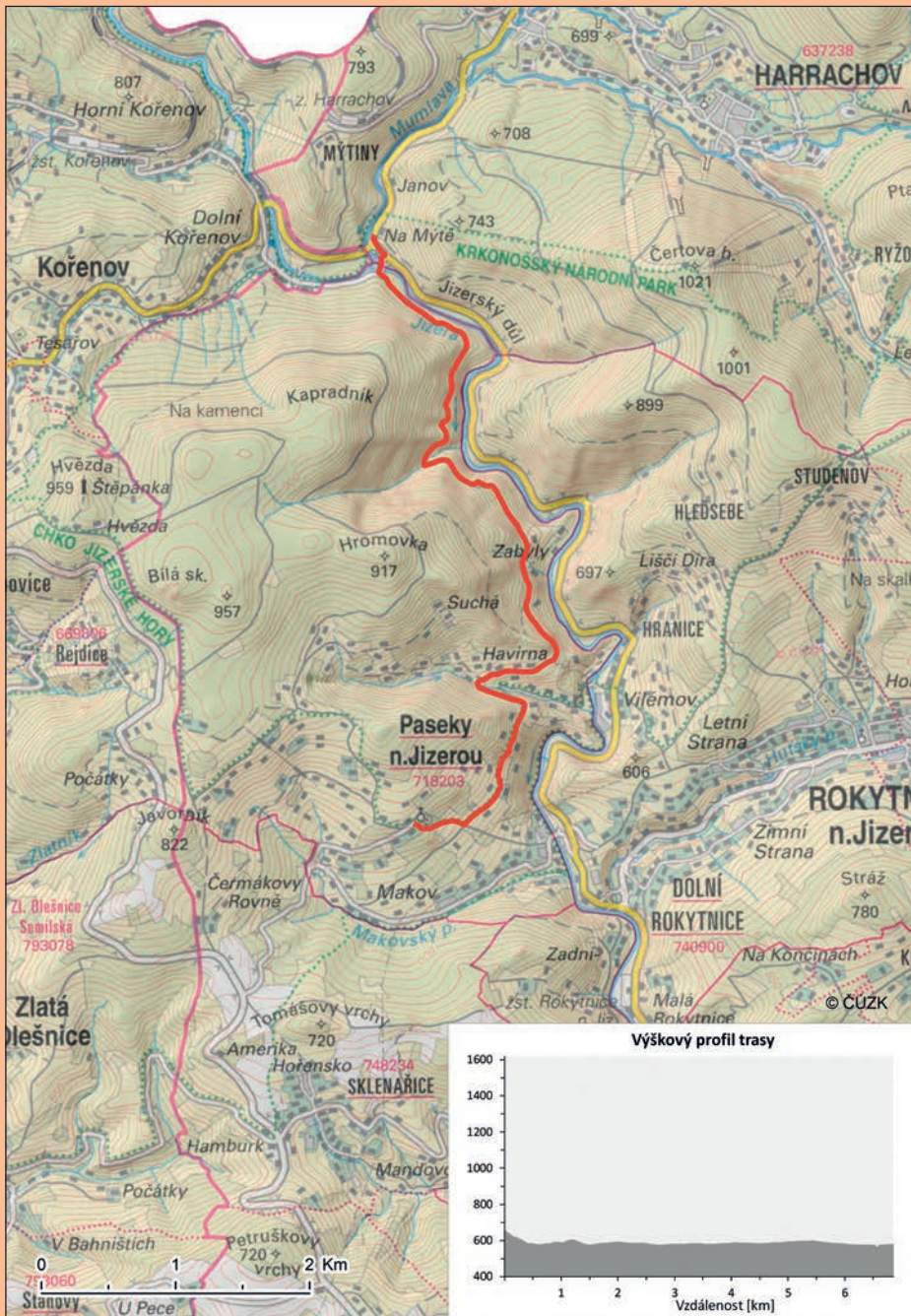
The grandson of Věnceslav Metelka Josef and his son Stanislav

Věnceslav Metelka rests in a grave decorated with a lifelike bust.

The famous musical tradition was followed from the 1980s by excellent music productions initiated by Josef Valdman. These were renamed the **Paseky Musical Celebration** in 1991 and are held annually at the turn of July and August. The Choir of St. Wenceslaus invites well-known names to perform and the church is packed for the performances. After combining this experience with a visit to the fascinating Monument to the Forgotten Patriots and enjoying the views of the

View of part of the "Krkonose violin-making school" exposition









Holy Trinity Chapel

mountain summits, you will leave here with an unforgettable impression.

From the church continue on the Budárka Trail to a crossroads, where you turn left onto the blue-marked Planýrka Trail, which leads from Vysoké nad Jizerou through Paseky nad Jizerou to Kořenov and Harrachov. In Paseky it connects the two oldest parts of the village, Makov and Havírna. Havírna is a typical mountain settlement extending across a steep, grassy slope between the Mechovice ridge (799 m) and Hromovka (916 m). At the locality known as Na Kopci (On the Hill) stands the Holy Trinity Chapel.

According to tradition, the Holy Trinity Chapel was built by miners who extracted silver in this part of Paseky in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The strong chapel walls built of stone, of which there is plenty on the steep slope

of the Mechovice ridge, grew damp over the centuries, and the chapel “shrank” as its surroundings changed. The chapel was also robbed of its interior decorations several times. In 1994 it was rebuilt from the foundations up, but the space, shape, dimensions of the walls and size were preserved exactly. The coloured wood carving of the Holy Trinity in a traditional rustic style was made by the artist Jiří Kment. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were frequent processions to the chapel and after World War I the pilgrimage began on the feast of the Holy Trinity in Havírna. The pilgrimage was celebrated at this chapel, where there was a pub and several houses.

From the chapel the path runs parallel with the Jizera River through spruce forests with preserved beechwoods in places. After less than 3 km you reach the **Protesaná skála (Carved Rock)**, in which









Protesaná skála Rock

the forest road through the cutting overcomes a massive rock rib.

However, if you are enthusiastic hikers and discoverers of unique places in Krkonoše NP, then about 300 m. further you go through the notch of the Klokotivý Stream and continue on the Planýrka trail. Along the way you pass an atypical pair of concrete bunkers of the Krkonoše fortifications built in 1938 one above the other, with one shooting loophole each, so that together they could increase the angle of coverage of the steep slopes of the Jizera valley. This would not be possible if only one classical bunker had been built here.

And then you must decide whether to cross the Jizera over the old stone bridge to Mýto and continue your trip to Harrachov or follow the blue hiking trail towards Kořenov.

Pair of bunkers







Rokytnice nad Jizerou

## Quest for Crafts

*Rokytnice nad Jizerou, Town Hall ➔ Stráž Vantage Point ➔ Janata's Mill in Buřany ➔ Stromkovice Chapel ➔ Museum of Krkonoše Crafts in Poniklá*



*Difficulty: Hard*



*Length of route: 20,5 km*

The town of **Rokytnice nad Jizerou**, located in a picturesque valley dominated by Mt. Kotel and Mt. Lysá hora, is an ideal place for hiking trips on the surrounding hillsides and further afield. The starting point is Dolní náměstí (Lower Square), where the unique Town Hall from 1902

was built according to a project by Holman and Krause from Vrchlabí, by builder Josef Hájek from Rokytnice nad Jizerou. Follow the yellow trail south for around 800 m. until you reach a crossroads, where you go straight on, still on the yellow trail to the next crossroads Pod Stráží, turn right and



Stráž vantage point

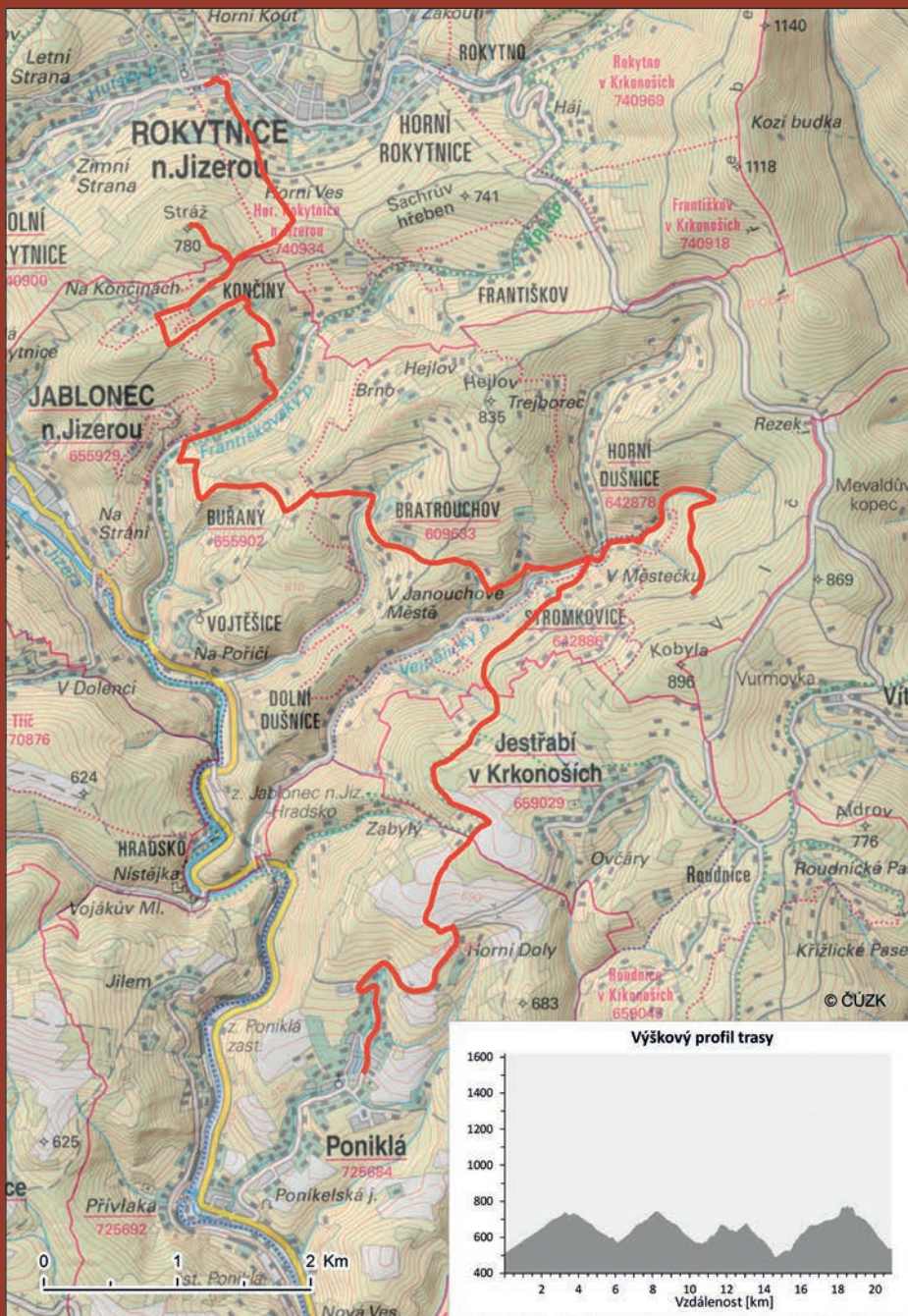
continue along the red-marked hiking trail. Follow this trail for about 500 m. to the junction, where you turn right, directly to the summit of Mt. Stráž.

The **Stráž (Guard) Vantage Point**, also known as Strážník, is a place with a good circular view of the Jizera Mountains, Rokytnice Valley and the western part of the Bohemian Ridge, dominated by Mt. Kotel. In Medieval times this guard post protected the northern border of the Bohemian Kingdom by warning against enemies by fire or smoke signals, not just the surrounding settlements, but through a sophisticated system it was able to transmit messages via Kozákov to Central Bohemia. Another interpretation says it is named after a number of guard fires that the Swedish army guards built here during the Thirty Years War.



Avenue of trees in Rokytnice









St. John the Baptist's Church in Křížlice

From the vantage point, go back to the junction and continue to the right along the red-marked hiking trail. After about 700 m you reach a crossroads, where you turn left and leave the red trail. But you continue along the marked cycle route 4174, to the next crossroads, where the cycle trail turns left and after about 600 m. you take the first turning to the right, where you also leave the marked cycling trail. Walk between the meadows and the forest road to the next place, which is definitely worth seeing. The log-built **Janata's Mill** in Buřany dates from 1767 and is an important testament to the history of milling. The mill and its oldest preserved part

Hutský Waterfall







Janata's Mill in Buřany





Stations of the Cross

– the ground floor and milling mechanism  
– were built by the builder Jan Bouzek from Tříč. The Janata family bought the mill from the Tříč millers in 1841, owning and maintaining it until 2006. In the originally two-storey mill, later extended into a five-storey building you can see the complete milling technology, as well as a functional bread oven.

From the mill go right and continue along the road for about 700 m. to the crossroads, where you turn left and join the blue hiking trail. Follow it between meadows, woods and several houses to the crossroads, where the blue trail turns to the right. From here you walk approximately 2.7 km through meadows and

forests, the village of Bratrouchov, through the V Janouchově Městě forest to the crossroads at Stromkovice (bus stop Horní Dušnice). Here the blue hiking trail goes straight on, along with the K8A cycle route. About 1.2 km from the crossroads, leave the blue hiking trail and follow the K8A cycle trail for another 1.2 km, where at the crossroads the cycle trail turns to the right, you leave it, heading to the left and then at the first crossroads turn right. After a few steps you reach the wooden **Stromkovice Chapel** standing in the forest. The shrine originated in the 1860s, when the Virgin Mary returned the sight to a blind woman. The chapel quickly became a popular destination for pilgrims and soon a Stations of the Cross was established.



In 1949 pilgrimages were banned. The chapel was repeatedly robbed and in the harsh climate the wooden structure was slowly rotting away. The original chapel was pulled down in spring 2007 because of the danger of its collapse. During 3 months a new wooden chapel was built here by the KRNAP Administration and the Zdravé Krkonoše Civic Organisation. The interior of the chapel is decorated with a wooden altar painting of the Virgin Mary.

From the chapel return the same way to the crossroads (Horní Dušnice bus stop). Then go to the left along the yellow hiking trail, which is also marked as cycle route K8. The trail again winds between green meadows and forests, fields and houses. After 2.9 km, the road turns right then left (Zabylý) and leads to the village of Jestřábí v Krkonoších. But you continue straight on, past the houses, on an unmarked trail that turns after 900 m. to meet the



The water here is (supposed to be) medicinal

Chapel of the Virgin Mary on Vejpálce Trail in Stromkovice



road (marked as cycle route K8), where you turn right. Continue along the cycle route for about 650 m. and then turn left along the side road, from which you rejoin the K8 cycle route after a few metres. Here, where the side road rejoins the main road, continue to the left and after 600 m you arrive at the **Museum of Krkonoše Foothills Crafts**.

The museum stands on the left side of the road next to the cemetery. This private collection of nearly 700 exhibits offers visitors an insight into former life in the Krkonoše Foothills. You can see an agricultural exposition, a room in the parsonage, lighting, flax processing, washing and ironing laundry, butter production, shoemaking, button making, enamel work, pearl decorations, carpentry, a pub, fashions of the First Republic, children's corner,



Christmas decorations from Rautis

Mrs. Jitka Krejčová's pram exhibition, lace gallery and other attractions.

And if you still have time and the desire to see and experience how to produce original mother-of-pearl ornaments, visit the traditional **Rautis** Christmas Decoration Factory, located just across the road from the museum.

In the Museum of Krkonoše Foothills Crafts







View from Vysoké to the east

## *Perfect Views from Vysoké nad Jizerou*

*Dr. Karel Kramář Square ➔ St. Catherine of Alexandria's Church  
➔ Krakonoš Theatre ➔ Poets' Park ➔ Mária's Cross ➔ Dyk's Rock  
➔ Nístějka castle ruins ➔ Jilem mountain village ➔ Farský Mills  
➔ National History Museum ➔ Dr. Karel Kramář Square*



*Difficulty: Medium*



*Length of route: 11 km*

The mountain town of **Vysoké nad Jizerou** was built on the boundary of the Krkonoše and Jizera Mountains at elevations of 420–720 metres and its cadastre is made up of sections – Vysoké nad Jizerou,

Sklenařice, Třič, Stará Ves and Helkovice. Vysocko is famous for its amateur theatre group, excellent red cabbage called hla-vatice, or the unique Metelka's mechanical nativity scene. Vysoké nad Jizerou is



Kramář Villa in Vysoké



Bust of Dr. Karel Kramář

an ideal location for walking trips to the surroundings; offers its visitors cycling experiences and in the winter months is the place to be for all lovers of skiing. On the 11 km yellow-marked trail you can discover the rich history and present of the town and also enjoy the charming landscape and beautiful views of the panorama of Krkonoše. The starting point for our trip is Dr. Karel Kramář Square, where the birthplace of this native of Vysoké, the first Prime Minister of the Czechoslovak Republic, stands.

The trail continues past the Town Hall, the Municipal Library and St. Catherine of Alexandria's Church to the Krakonoš Theatre, built in 1925. The **Krakonoš**





Krkonoše traditional costume in the museum in Vysoké

**Theatre Group** has been based here ever since and continues the tradition of amateur theatre in Vysoké, dating from 1786. The theatre also has a puppet stage. The Krakonoš Theatre Autumn, a national festival for amateur theatre groups, has been held here since 1971.

The Town Park, also known as **Poets' Park**, where the trail leads you, offers the opportunity to study the landscape thanks to a relief map of the Czech and Polish parts of Krkonoše, located in the gazebo in the park. You can also find a monument to the writer Karel Havlíček Borovský or the busts of Viktor Dyk and Antonín Sova, who were regular visitors to the town.

Behind the park you pass the local cemetery and football field, from where you continue between fields and meadows along a footpath lined with rowans. Views of the peaks of Krkonoše already open up here,

Mechanical nativity scene (Bethlehem) in the Homeland Museum for Vysoké nad Jizerou and its surroundings







so just sit on the bench for a while, where the native and writer Zdeněk Rón used to sit, enjoy the unique view of Mt. Čertová hora, Mt. Plešivec, Mt. Lysá horu, Mt. Kotel, Zlaté návrší, Kozí hřbety Ridges, Mt. Luční hora and Žalý and then continue to where **Márinka's Cross** has stood since 1848. From the bench under the lime tree you can see the whole inner ridge of Krkonoše.



The poet's favourite place

The yellow trail between fields of corn, cabbage or Vysoké red cabbage leads you to the edge of the forest to **Dyk's Rock**. This granite boulder, brought here from the Mumlava River from Nový Svět in Harrachov, where the poet also stayed, marks the poet Viktor Dyk's favourite

place during his mushrooming trips to the surrounding forests during his stays in Vysoké in 1917–1931. In the Vysoké forests, if the season is just right, you can

Márinka's Cross







On the rocky promontory above the Jizera River lie the remains of a Gothic castle from the early 14<sup>th</sup> century





Nístějka Castle was destroyed by fire in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century

try your luck in finding mushrooms today. And who knows, maybe you'll bring home an unforgettable experience, as well as something good for dinner.

After slight descents and ascents through the forest, still following the yellow hiking trail through Pohaniště, Niva, Buky and Hradsko you arrive at the **Nístějka castle ruins**. The castle was founded in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century by the Valdstejn family, but the castle burnt down and was abandoned in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. The last archaeological research of the castle ruins was carried out in 2006. Part of the findings is exhibited in the National History Museum in Vysoké nad Jizerou. The beech trees on the slope above the Jizera, as remnants of original herb-rich beech forest, along with the Nístějka castle ruins with the occurrence of the rare

plant nodding stickseed were declared a protected natural monument in 1996. Here you have the opportunity to shorten the trip and from the crossroads to return along the road past Voják's Mill, originally a mill and today residential buildings, back to Vysoké.

But if you want to discover other beautiful places, then from Nístějka walk down the road along the Farský Stream to the Pod Nístějkou signpost, which shows you the right direction of the walking circuit. Cross the stone bridge and continue on the yellow trail to Jilem. The mountain village **Jilem** is the lowest place in the Vysoké cadastre and since 1960 it has been attached to Poniklá. According to the information board located in Jilem, there used to be a popular inn Na Táboře here, but if you are hungry today, you will

have to dig into your own backpack. So let's hope you didn't forget your snack at home.

Then you climb along the road, which is also marked as cycle route 4295. During this part of the route, you can learn more about the history and present of the places you are passing from the information boards installed here. The trail guides you past the place where the ski jump hill of the Vysoké Ski Club stood in 1931–1943, and where the Farský Mills stood in the 18<sup>th</sup> century or around the now abandoned swimming pool, which was built by the Vysoké Enhancement Society in the years 1924–1925. Continue to the Nad koupalištěm crossroads, from where you go up the road back to Vysoké.

Here you will surely recognise the places you visited at the start of this circuit. You pass the football pitch, cemetery and the Poets' Park. If you walk this way in the autumn, slow down and look under the mature horse chestnut trees for one chestnut to put in your pocket as a souvenir, or just for fun.

Just a few steps and you reach the Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria and the Krakonoš Theatre, which are just a short walk from the starting point on Dr. Karel Kramář Square. Do not, however, forget to stop in the **National History Museum** for the Vysoké nad Jizerou area, where you can see the unique exposition on the Giant Krakonoš, and exhibitions on skiing, the history of the town and the theatre or local natives.

Part of the museum exhibition in Vysoké is dedicated to the history of skiing and ski making in Vysoké







Lookout tower on Sovinec hill

## From Sovinec to Jilemnice

*Sovinec Viewing Platform ➔ 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, Mrklav, 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 about 500 m

you reach the top of Sovinec hill (765 m), with a wooden viewing platform.

From the viewing platform return to the car park the same way, cross the road and go right along the yellow hiking trail; this takes you up to the summit of Přední Žalý (1,019 m). Here stands the stone **Žalý**



Mt. Žalý

Lookout Tower, built in 1892. With good visibility, from the lookout tower you can see the whole panorama of Krkonoše, part of Jizerské Mountains and Orlické Mountains, 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. after the tourist signpost located at the central car park in the village. 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.





St. Hubert's Chapel in Benecko

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 fields to the Evangelical Cemetery and further to the Catholic Cemetery with the Holy Trinity Church, where you join the road. From the car park at the Holy Trinity Church, follow the road and after about 100 m. turn right and follow the forest road 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 at the turn of the 14<sup>th</sup> century was Jan of Valdštejn, but archaeological evidence, confirming Balbín's theory, shows that the castle was built in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and was founded in 1254 by Jindřich of Valdštstejn.

Ruined castle at Štěpanice





Virgin Mary of Lourdes Chapel at Štěpanice

In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, the castle remained in the hands of the Valdštejns as mining of gold and ore developed in the surroundings. The castle also became the administrative centre of the area. Before the year 1524 the castle was completely 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 (Krkonoská St.). After about 1 km turn left and follow the Buchar Trail (U Jizerky St.) to the roundabout

in Hrabačov. Cross the road and head past the bus stop back to the main road (Krkonoská St.), after a few steps cross the road again and follow the path to the crossroads, where you turn left (Hanč a Vrbata St.). This route is also cycle route 22 and leads you to the **Bohumil Hanč House**. Hanč, who was one of the most famous Czech ski racers, lived with his wife in house 771 in Hrabačov house before World War I. On 24<sup>th</sup> March, 1913, he took part in the 50 km race on the Krkonosé 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 red tourist route, across the railway crossing, along the left bank of the





Holy Trinity Church in Stěpanice









Jilemnice Chateau



Bohumil Hanč's house

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 leaves the Buchar Trail and joins the yellow-marked tourist trail. The footpath 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 housed in the former residence of the Counts of Harrach since 1953. The decisive contribution to the building of the museum belongs to the former headmaster of the girls' schools in Jilemnice, Jáchym Metelka (1853–1940). Since 1979 the museum has been a part of the Museum of Krkonoše under the KRNAP Administration. The museum's collections are primarily focused on the history and ethnography of western Krkonoše, the beginnings and development of Czech skiing, while the gallery focuses on the works of František Kaván (1866–1941). Permanent exhibitions are complemented annually by a number of exhibitions and events.

After a tour of the museum, one more unique and unmissable part of the town awaits you in Jilemnice. Follow the yellow hiking trail past the vicarage (Kostelní St.), primary school (K Břízkám St.) and the statue of St. Jan 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 1788. The name of the street is based on the fact that the houses on the west side are built one behind the other so that each was built one window axis closer to the street. It quickly narrows and turns, and the houses give the impression that their residents are nosey, and want to see what is happening on the main square.

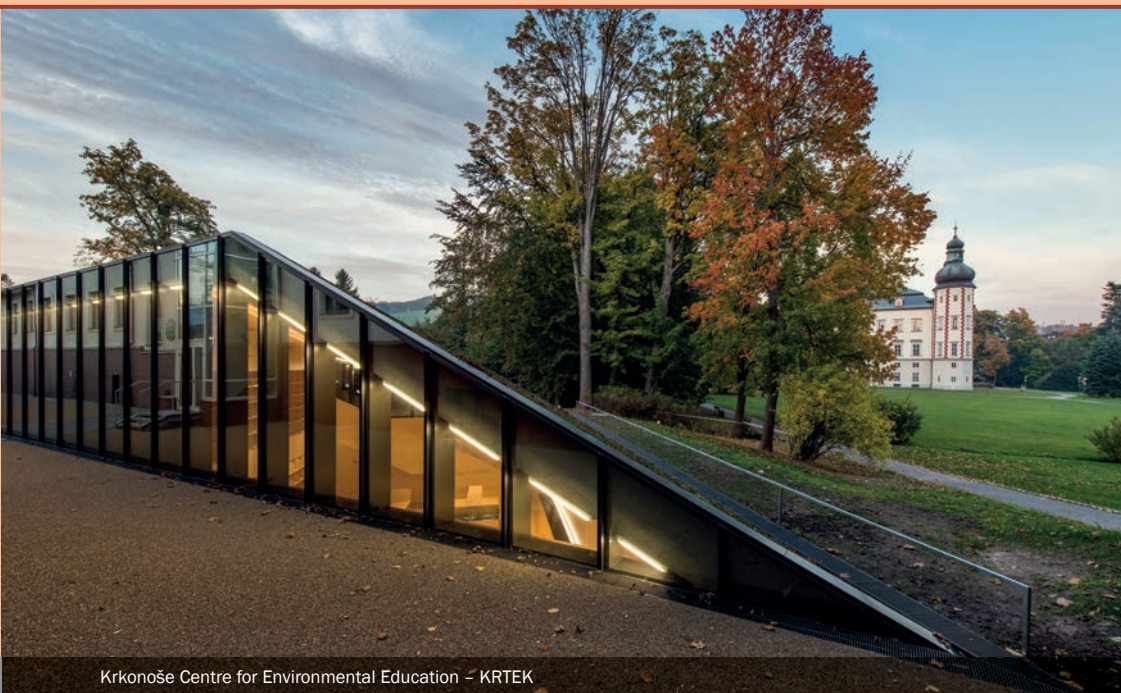


František Kaván: Stará hora

Zvědavá ulička (Curiosity Street) in Jilemnice







Krkonoše Centre for Environmental Education – KRTEK

## *From Vrchlabí over Three Hills to Špindlerův Mlýn*

*Vrchlabí, Herlíkovice ➔ Žalý Lookout Tower ➔ Buchar Trail (Šeřín – Černá skála – Mechovinec) ➔ Harrach Rocks ➔ 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



Mt. Šerín



Norway Spruce

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 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





Žalý Lookout Tower

Rovinka crossroads. From the crossroads you pass over three summits: Šeřín (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 Šeřín 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 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.

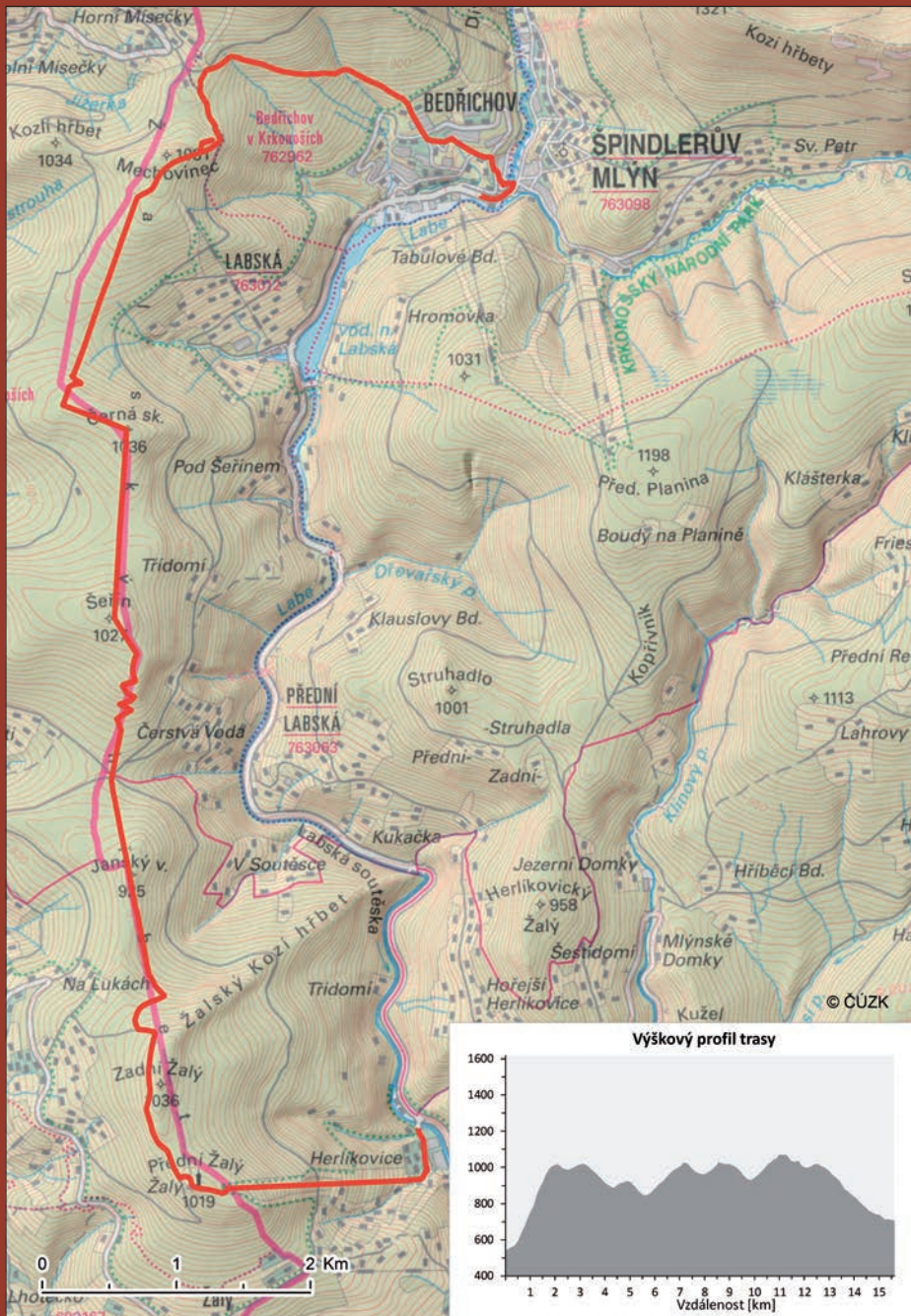
From Mechovinec continue on the Buchar trail to the turn-off, from which you turn left on the Bear Way Educational Trail to **Harrach’s Rock**. From the rock, at an elevation of 1,035 m, you have a wonderful panoramic view of the settlements of Špindlerův Mlýn and Horní Mísečky, also to mountain peaks and ridges such as Kozí hřbety Ridges, Mt. Luční hora, Mt. Kotel, Zlaté návrší and Medvědin. If you are not sure which one you are looking at, you can 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

Harrach’s Rock









Špindlerův Mlýn



Blueberry plants in autumn

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 the town of Špindlerův Mlýn. This part of the town was named after Bedřich of the Harrach family, who was the predecessor of Jan Harrach. Here you stroll through the town past the houses, a swimming pool, hotels and



Labská Reservoir



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 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

White Bridge across the Labe river









## **Krkonoše Trips – West**

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