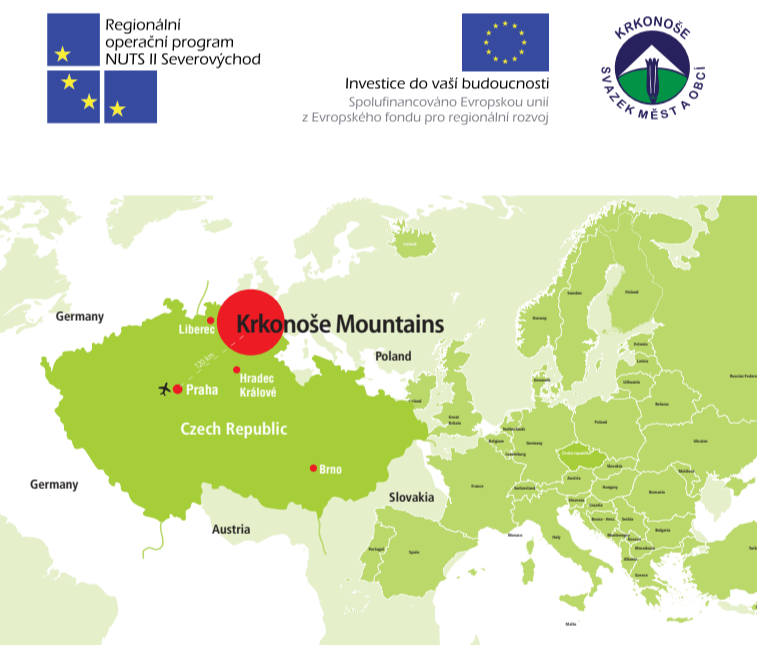


The Krkonoše

the Mountains for Great Experiences All Year Round



We would like to introduce you to the Krkonoše Mountains: a romantic mountain landscape with typical timbered houses, rich in picturesque natural sceneries, panoramic views, the folklore and tradition of the locals – you can get closely acquainted with all of this during your travels in the Krkonoše region. Come and stay!

Krkonoše Union

The Krkonoše Union of Towns and Boroughs ("SMO") is an organisation which realises projects to support tourism and guarantees their coordination and financing. It was established in 2000 and has 41 member towns and boroughs, covering approx. 65 000 inhabitants. In the future the Union will also focus on further local economic stability and the accompanying issues which affect the entire region. For further information, see...

www.svazek.krkonose.eu

Krkonošský National Park (KRNAP) and Karkonoski Park Narodowy (KPN)

The Krkonoše, although not very large as a mountain region, are internationally acclaimed as a very valuable area. In order to protect them from the dangers of industry and intense uncoordinated tourism, Karkonoski Park Narodowy was declared on the Polish side of the range in 1959, followed by the Krkonošský národní park on the Czech side in 1963. In 1992 this important site of Central European mountain nature was selected for the global network of the UNESCO Biospherical reserves as part of the MaB – Man and Biosphere project. See... www.krnep.cz

Tourism

There are hundreds of footpaths in the Krkonoše, whether designed for hiking, used as nature trails or tourist paths and ways. They are well marked with wooden signs and engraved symbols and equipped with panoramic maps and rest areas. The terrain is quite diverse and will satisfy the most demanding hikers as well as recreational tourists. The KRNAP area also offers hiking routes for the disabled.

The Krkonoše As Seen from a Bike

There are hundreds of marked cycling tracks in the Krkonoše and the Podkrkonoší (foothills) region with varying levels of difficulty, most of which offer views of the mountain panoramas. Cycling is allowed in the National Park and its buffer zone on marked cycling routes. The local terrain is demanding for cyclists; therefore, mountain bikes are recommended for most of the tracks. Solid surface roads here are suitable for trekking bikes, not for road bikes. In the Podkrkonoší region, lying at the foot of the mountains, both trekking bikes and road bikes can be used on most routes.

Do Not Ride Your Bike Uphill

The combination of nature and the latest technology is remarkable and impressive. Cable cars, for instance, help tourists reach a good starting point for their hiking or cycling in summers, and allow easier access to sports in winters. They also make the mountain tops easier to reach. You can take advantage of cable cars which will take you and your bikes to the mountain ridges. In summer, they run to the top of Hnědí Hill, Portášovy boudy, Medvědíň and Pláně, Černá hora Mountain, Žalý, Horní Domky and Čertova hora Mountain, for you to enjoy several kilometres of downhill rides.

We Recommend Visiting the Krkonoše in Poland in person or on the internet: www.karkonosze.eu

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www.krkonose.eu



Krkonoše Cyclobus

If you as a cycling or hiking tourist use a cycling bus, you have the chance to see a larger part of the Krkonoše in a short time. Two regular primary bus lines, running in the morning and in the afternoon, drive back and forth through the Krkonoše, followed by other connecting lines. The timetables can be obtained from the Krkonoše information centres, at bus stops or at www.krkonose.eu

Climb to Reach Far Reaching Views

The fast and unstoppable development of technologies brings man back to nature. People relax, rest, regain energy and enjoy beautiful natural sceneries. In the mountains, where deep valleys blend with steep or less steep ridges, the mountain tops offer magnificent and unforgettable views. There are plenty of them in the Krkonoše, and you don't actually need a viewing tower for this. We recommend the imposing and unique view which Sněžka, the highest Czech mountain, 1602 m a.s.l., offers in good weather. Every Czech and every visitor should experience this at least once in their lifetime.

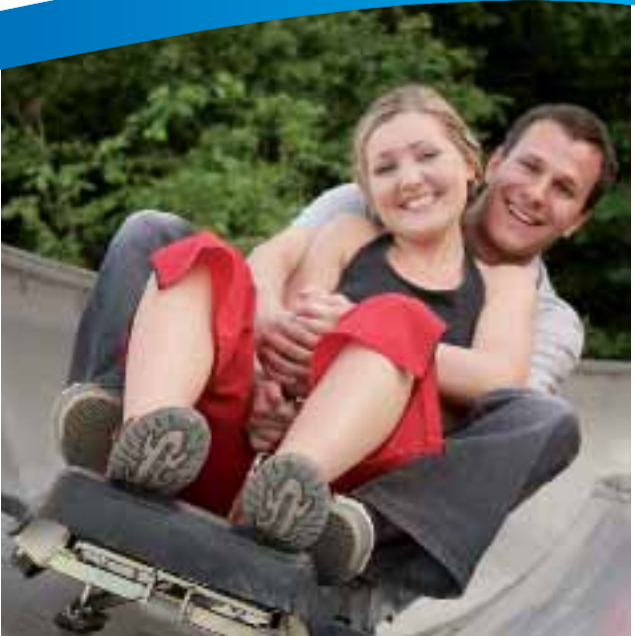
Other places offering lovely views are:

Čertova hora Mountain above Harrachov, Stráž Hill above Rokytnice nad Jizerou, Harrachova Rock in Horní Mísečky offering and the Harrachovy kameny rock formation, from where almost the entire mountain range can be seen. The Czech-Polish Friendship Path along the border ridge between Szrenica and Pomezni Boudy offers magnificent panoramic views of the Polish side of the mountains. Among other viewing points are: Žalý viewing tower in Benecko, Černá hora viewing tower near Janské Lázně, Štěpánka near Kořenov, Hnědí vrch viewing tower in Pec pod Sněžkou, U borovice viewing tower in Roprachtice and a unique viewing tower on the edge of Trutnov – the 20m tall General Gablenz Memorial from 1868.

Through Sport for Better Mood and Good Health

On Wheels

The bobsleigh tracks with a steel surface are open all year round. The experience from the ride can be enjoyed by anyone regardless of age. A cog railway line, the only one in Bohemia, connecting Harrachov and Tanvald on the steepest track in the country, or a ride by mountain train between Harrachov, Jakuszyce, Szklarska Poremba and Jelenia Gora certainly shouldn't be missed. Riding a scooter from the Krkonoše hills, for instance,



in Černá hora or Harrachov, will be enjoyed not only by children but also by adults wanting to go back to their youth.

From the Air

The Krkonoše can be experienced from a paraglider with experienced instructors. The Visitors' Guide for KRNAP gives flight corridors and the following take-off and landing sites: Černá hora (Janské Lázně), Čertova hora (Harrachov), Mísečná pláň (Horní Mísečky), Svatý Petr (Spindlerův Mlýn), Žalý (Vrchlabí) and the foothills of Lysá hora (Rokytnice nad Jizerou).

On and in the Water

In the spring, when rivers run high, the Labe (Elbe) and the Jizera are open for canoeists. The Labe can be canoeed from the Labská dam in Spindlerův Mlýn to Herlíkovice on a KRNAP permit, and rafting is allowed in the Jizera from Vilemův to Horní Sytová. The boarding sites are marked along the roadway to Harrachov. When the weather is good you can dive into the mountain torrents and rivers or enjoy swimming pools or lakes. The water is crisp and cool, but it will certainly refresh you. Fishing is possible with a permit in the quiet Javorek near Jilemnice, in Dolce Vita in Trutnov, Martinice v Krkonoších, Hostinné, near Labská dam in Spindlerův Mlýn and in other places.



From Horseback

Horse riding is taught in the following riding halls, where trips into the Krkonoše can be enjoyed as well: Vítkovice v Krkonoších, Rokytnice nad Jizerou, Kněžice u Vrchlabí, Čistá u Horek, Svoboda nad Úpou, Pilňov and others. Horse carts are available as well, offering an enchanting experience.

Get the Adrenaline going

You can enjoy a monstrous swing in rope parks such as in Spindlerův Mlýn, Pec pod Sněžkou, in Harrachov or elsewhere. Specialised agencies offer this experience, supervised by specialists – instructors.

With Ball Games

Information on the nearest tennis halls and courts, minigolf, bowling, table tennis, football and volleyball grounds can be found in the information centres. The nearby submontane area of the Krkonoše offers ideal terrain configuration for golf. Golf courses are located in Mladé Buky, Benecko, Harrachov, Semily and Prosečné near Vrchlabí.

Landscape Tinged with Folklore and Tradition

The mountain people used to specifically change the appearance of the range and made traditions which we can still experience today, not only in the rich collections in the museums. They are inscribed in the folk habits, in the landscape as well



in the typical timbered Krkonoše houses. They can be seen in performances by local folklore music and dance ensembles such as Spindleráček, Horal or brass bands such as Krkonošská dechovka. The Krkonoše is also closely linked to the Krkonoše fairy tales and legends, collected by writer Marie Kubátová.

Where to Learn about the Region's History

This is quite easy. The footprints of the region's history can be found all about it. The way the people lived here, when the first visitors came and other information can be found in the permanent exhibitions of the KRNAP Administration and in the municipal and private museums in Žacléř, Trutnov, Vrchlabí, Jilemnice, Černý Důl, Poniklá, Paseky nad Jizerou, Vysoké nad Jizerou, Harrachov and elsewhere.

Where to Find Technical Monuments

On your hikes along the mountain ridges you will see permanent defence fortifications, namely reinforced concrete structures varying in size, resistance, use and type, which were based on the French Maginot line and were built in 1935–1938 as part of the national defence system. Among them, the Stachelberg gun fort is an unusual structure which was meant to be the biggest in the system if it had been completed. Some other structures, such as the former Kovárna mine, can be found underneath Sněžka Mountain. In Trutnov you can visit the memorial to Marshal Ludwig von Gablenz, who was the commander of the army in one of the victorious battles of the Prussian–Austrian war on 27/06/1866.

Where to Meet the Mountain Folks

During the year there are various people's fairs, music festivals, concerts and performances, and also tourist marches, funfairs, folk craft days, traditions, Krakonoš summer evenings, beer fests, educational programmes held by the KRNAP Administration and other interesting events. All of them, whether held on the Polish or Czech side of the mountains, can be found in the calendar of anticipated events. You can download it at www.krkonose.eu.

Krakonoš

Krakonoš, the master of the mountains, is the symbol and mighty protector of the highest Czech mountains. His character is well known to generations of children and adults from folk tales, books and films. Krakonoš first appeared in folk tradition in the 15th century. He possesses supernatural powers, strength and abilities which he uses to help humans or to punish them. As a gift or souvenir, it is highly appreciated.

Gourmet Heritage

The local housewives knew how to use anything growing around. Potatoes, mushrooms and blueberries are typical for the Krkonoše cuisine. Potato cakes, called sejkora, made of raw grated potatoes, are the most renowned local food. Kyselo is another well-known local food, made of bread yeast and mushrooms. Mushrooms were added in soups and sauces as the cheapest and most abundant ingredient. They used blueberries in cakes or in sweet dumplings. Very strong garlic soup was used to cure ailments of the body. The local restaurants offer other delicacies as well.

Sněžka and the River Labe

Everybody knows the stony silhouette of Sněžka Mountain and one of the greatest European rivers, the Labe (Elbe) whose source is in the Labská louka area. They are found in the heart of Europe in the highest and most attractive Czech mountains, always known as the Krkonoše. Their peculiar and unique beauty inspires everyone who visits them.

Krkonoše Season - Tourism newspaper

The tourist newspaper entitled Krkonoše Season is a good alternative to the tourist information centre if you want to find out how to spend your leisure time in the region. It will provide you with tips for trips, whether on foot, by car or on your bike. The newspaper is available together with other printed materials in the Krkonoše information centres.

The Power of the Mountains – Unlimited Passion

The Krkonoše is a gateway to entertainment in the snow, whether on downhill skis, snowboard, cross country skis, snowshoes, in snowtubing corridors, on sledge or on foot. You can decide where to go each day. The Krkonoše boasts of the most numerous skiing opportunities in the Czech Republic. There are 170 km of downhill tracks, 70% of which use technical snow. A total of 20 cable cars and 110 ski lifts are operated with a total capacity of 120 thousand people per hour. There is a large network of groomed cross country tracks, covering up to 500 km in good conditions. The entire mountain range is connected to a 71 km long primary cross country route called Krkonošská magistrála.

Skiing in Spring, Pass Discounts, Fewer Skiers, Sunshine and Ease

You can buy a joint ski pass for several resorts or a point-based ticket. There are many differences between the main season and off-season days in winter, offering not only lower daily pass prices as well as less crowded runs. Ski equipment rental is available. The ski schools offer suitable courses for everyone, and even the youngest can play in snow playgrounds.

Krkonoše – Cross Country Skier's Paradise

The Krkonoše is interwoven with a network of cross country tracks. Thanks to the care of more than twenty operators and the coordination of managers at Krkonoše – Union of Towns and Boroughs, hundreds of kilometres of tracks are prepared depending on the current weather. The project is the basis of the systematic coordination of winter tourism within the Krkonošský National Park within the framework of nature protection.

Before You Go on a Trip

Remember to take a good map. It is in your own interest to be well informed of the current weather and not to underestimate climatic conditions. Weather may change very quickly in the mountains. Be careful when in open countryside. Show consideration towards the nature of the Krkonoše.

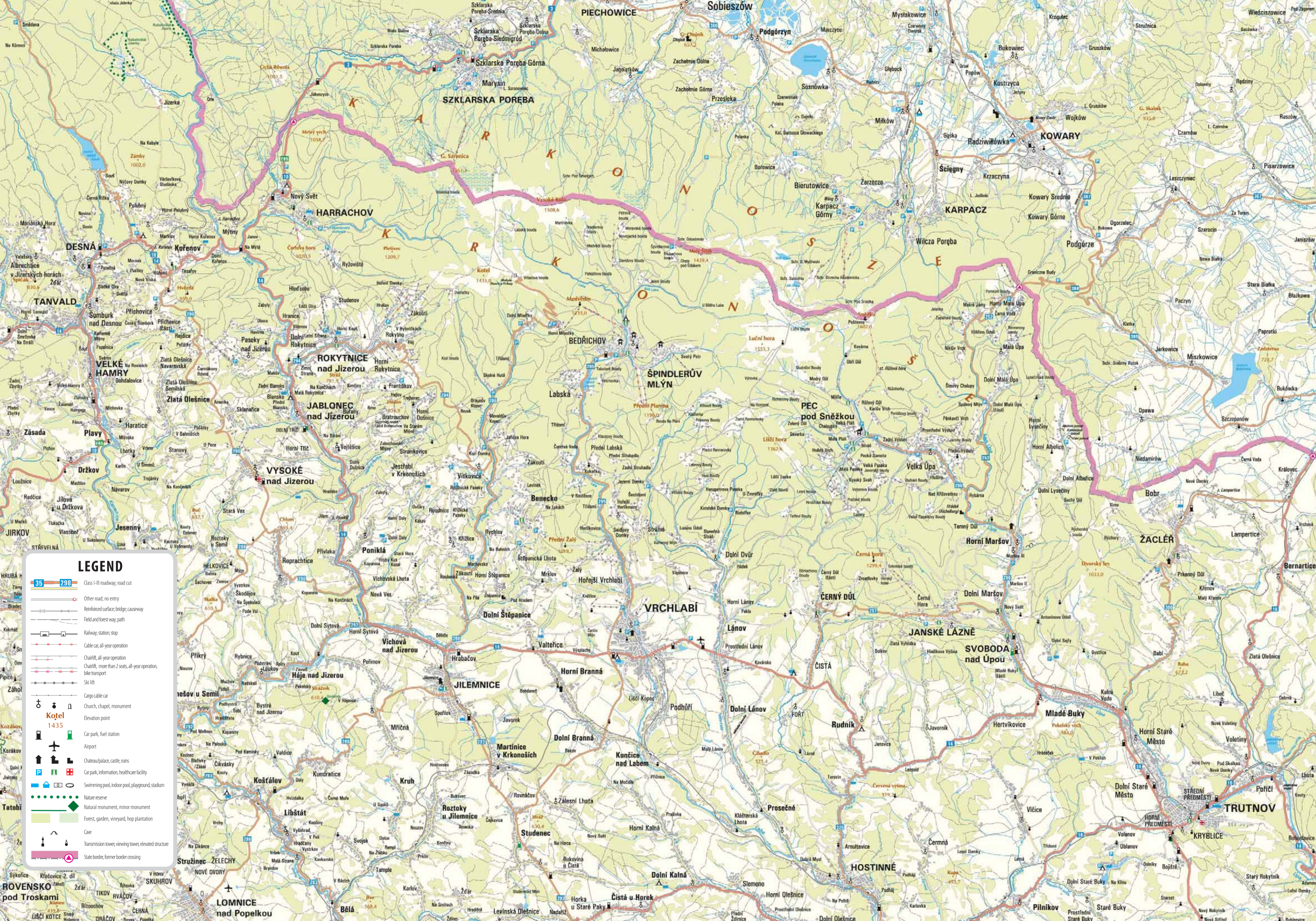
Your Stay in the Mountains Will Bring Many Experiences

Staying in the mountains means enjoying a lot of experiences, fresh mind and relaxation. Fresh air and beautiful nature assist. Always take your swimming costumes (even in winters), sunglasses and sunbathing lotion. Whether you prefer to relax, take a horse-ridden sleigh, use the aquapark, whirlpool, snowtube, walk in snowshoes or ski downhill, there's always something new for you to discover.

What, When and Where

There are various races that take place in the ski resorts in winter. Visitors are attracted by traditional folk, social, sport or other events. Information is available in the information centres, at www.krkonose.eu or on the websites of the towns and boroughs, the website of each ski resort.





LEGEND

- Class III roadway, road cut
- Other road, no entry
- Reinforced surface; bridge; causeway
- Field and forest way, path
- Railway; station; stop
- Cable car, all-year operation
- Chairlift, all-year operation
- Chairlift, more than 2 seats, all-year operation, bike transport
- Ski lift
- Cargo cable car
- Church, chapel, monument
- Elevation point
- Car park, fuel station
- Airport
- Chateau/palace, castle, ruins
- Car park, information, healthcare facility
- Swimming pool, indoor pool, playground, stadium
- Nature reserve
- Natural monument, minor monument
- Forest, garden, vineyard, hop plantation
- Cave
- Transmission tower, viewing tower, elevated structure
- State border, former border crossing