Brewing Beer in the Krkonose
Pivovarnictví v Krkonoších
Brewing Beer in the Krkonoše
Brauereiwesen im Riesengebirge
Browarnictwo w Karkonoszach

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6. Libeč u Trutnova
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Brewing beer in Jilemnice first mentioned in 1384, but the first small brewery near the castle was not established until the Baroque period. At the end of the 19th century, the brewery was expanded to the end of the 20th century. After the production dropped to 12 thousand hectolitres, and despite a quick growth which followed, it never reached the pre-war volumes. Already a national property, the Jilemnice brewery closed down in 1957 and the valuable building was left to dilapidate, being at first used as a store and later abandoned. An extensive reconstruction of the old brewery in the past ten years has helped to create four large halls, each with a different atmosphere. The exhibition hall of the Krkonose Museum and traditional craft fair have become the main tourist attractions. It’s just a pity that the neighbouring “new” brewery, once having a peculiar charm, remains unused.

Vrchlabí

The town of Vrchlabí was proud of its brewery in the latter half of last century. In the 1950s beer was brewed using high quality water, drawn from Hotel Vrchlabí, under the brand “Mbíbucel”. Lemonade production was launched later on. The plant ceased production at the end of last century.

Trutnov

The town of Trutnov is about 30 km from Liberec. It is the capital of the Trutnov region and lies at the meeting point of the districts of Liberec, Hradec Králové and Ústí nad Labem. Trutnov lies on the old trade route from Prague, the centre of the Czech lands, and the Hanseatic League to the west. The town is particularly known for its brewery and the Hotel Arts, which are a series of distinct landmarks in the town. Trutnov has a rich history, dating back to the Middle Ages, and has been home to a number of important people and events. The town is particularly known for its brewing industry, which has been in operation since the mid-13th century. The town is surrounded by a number of picturesque landscapes, and is a popular destination for tourists and nature lovers. The town has a number of attractions, including the Hotel Arts, which is one of the oldest and most famous hotels in the region. The hotel was built in the late 19th century and has been in operation ever since. The hotel is particularly known for its art collection, which includes works by some of the most famous artists of the 20th century. The hotel also has a restaurant, which is highly regarded for its delicious cuisine. Trutnov is a popular destination for tourists and nature lovers, and is a great place to visit for anyone who loves history and culture.
There are two microbreweries in Vrchlabí now

Basta Microbrewery

Krkonošsky medved (Krkonoše Bear) beer with a cherry flavour contains 4.8% alcohol. The Krkonošsky medved light draught ale and Krkonošsky medved dark lager contain 5% alcohol. The brewery has recently introduced a special light lager with an adventure of honey and Krkonošky medved - Vsetce pivo (‘Mercy’ Beer) containing 7% alcohol. These beers can be tasted in a restaurant on the brewery’s premises, decorated with copper beer tanks. Beer in bottles can be purchased directly at the brewery.

Hendrych Microbrewery

This microbrewery offers solely unfiltered and unpasteurised beer. All beers brewed here are at the uppermost extract limit with a strong addition of hops. The beer achieves a full bitter taste which makes it different from the competition. Beer is prepared using the traditional method of two-stage fermentation with separate main and secondary fermentation. You can try the pleasant local pub to taste the HB beer with its low alcohol content and the H11, H13 and H16 ALE beers. Hendrych beers can be ordered at other Krkonoše restaurants, where it is supplied in barrels. The guided tour of the microbrewery and professional presentation are very interesting.

There are microbreweries above 1000m a.s.l.

Friesovy Chalets Microbrewery

‘Fries’ mountain beer is brewed from mountain water at an altitude of 1217m a.s.l. It is only available on the site. You have to ascend above the tree line, where you will get a gift at the last one. If you like their beer and decide not to continue your trip you can stay overnight at each trail station. The Krkonose Beer Trail is open from 1 June to 30 September every year. You can collect stamps over the whole four months. A leaflet with information is available from the microbreweries or the Krkonoše Regional Tourist Information Office in Vrchlabí.

Lucni Chalet Microbrewery

The Lucni bouda mountain hotel lies at an altitude of 1410m a.s.l. and has the highest located Central European microbrewery. Water from the nearby sources of the River Bile Labe (‘the White Elbe’) is used in the production of the beer. The microbrewery produces a traditional light and semi-dark lager, dark and wheat special and top-fermented Indian Pale Ale, a British-type ale. The beer is named Parohac, referring in Czech to the large herd of deer living near the chalet. Their grunt is best heard at dawn or dusk when they are most active. The beer bath offered here is an unforgettable experience that will top off your stay high in the mountains.

Microbreweries on the Polish Side of the Krkonoše

The tradition of beer brewing in Poland has not been as significant and historical as on the Czech side. A modern microbrewery called Medzibanka was built in Janowice Wielkie, near Jelenia Góra. It is renowned for its Rudawskie, Cycuch Janowicki and Górnik beers. The architecture of the modern building allows pleasant views of the romantic valley of the River Bobr when consuming beer. A visit to the beautiful Valley of PALaces and Gardens in the Jelenia Gora basin can be combined with a visit to the Medzibanka microbrewery.

Recommended Trips

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The Krkonose Beer Trail on the Czech side of the Krkonoše connects Vrchlabí, the Frenzy Chalets microbrewery and Lucni Chalet microbrewery. The 22-km long trail offers a nice hike with beautiful natural scenery, panoramic views and breath-taking glimpses of the Krkonoše Mountains, and will also let you learn about reminiscing settings and taste original beers with an exquisite taste. Have at least two in each place. You will get a stamp in each microbrewery you visit if you consume their beer, and you will get a gift at the last one. If you like their beer and decide not to continue your trip you can stay overnight at each trail station. The Krkonose Beer Trail is open from 1 June to 30 September every year. You can collect stamps over the whole four months. A leaflet with information is available from the microbreweries or the Krkonoše Regional Tourist Information Office in Vrchlabí.

On the Polish side of the Krkonoše, you can take a trip from Karpacz by cable car to Kopa mountain. From there, you follow the black marked tourist path to Stary dym (‘Drunken dym’) Chalet near the former Obri Chalet and continue down the Schwarzkopf path to Lace Chalet. You can take the Krkonose Beer Trail in the reverse direction and use the accommodation offered by every microbrewery. After that, a dense network of marked tourist paths or a Krkonose cyclobus will take you to the border, where you can continue on foot back to Poland.

When planning your trip, it’s best to assume a two or three-day schedule or an extended weekend.

Your experience in the natural environment of the beautiful Krkonoše National Park with its unforgettable long-distance views and good beer will be cherished. You can soak up the local atmosphere, the locals will offer a friendly welcome and the things they produce.
Krkonoše
svazek měst a obcí

Zámek 1
543 01 Vrchlabí
Tel.: +420 499 405 732
E-mail: svazek@krkonose.eu
www.krkonose.eu