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# EXPLORING BOHEMIAN SWITZERLAND

Sights and activities in and around Děčín

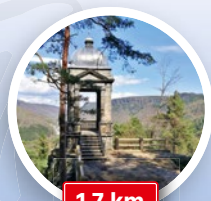




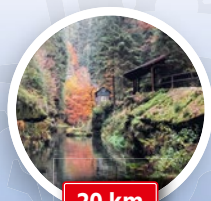
YOUR BASE  
FOR ADVENTURES



Pravčická brána



Labská Stráž



River gorges



Zubrnice village



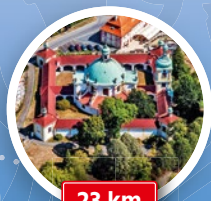
Děčínský Sněžník



Tisá cliffs



MĚSTO DĚČÍN



Česká Kamenice



Dolský mlýn



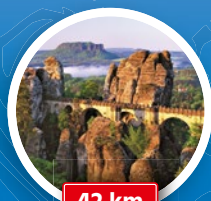
Vrabinec



Panská skála



Pirna



Bastei



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## “Děčín is a perfect spot...”

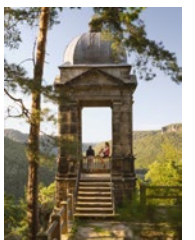
Dear visitor,

Děčín is a perfect spot to unwind, no matter what your interests. The town and nearby national park offer plenty of alternatives for active fun and quiet recreation. Bohemian Switzerland meets the Central Bohemian Uplands here, and the Elbe River runs through it all. There's plenty of natural beauty and historic charm with lots of mysterious little nooks and romantic viewpoints. The area's huge sandstone cliffs offer cool shade even as they promise extreme adventure.

The following pages present some of what Děčín has to offer. We hope this guide helps you plan your vacation, and we wish you a great visit, full of fantastic experiences and great times.

**Markéta Lakomá**

Director, Municipal Tourist Center



**On the cover:** The Labská stráž viewpoint near Děčín overlooks Europe's deepest sandstone canyon, the Elbe canyon. (Photo: Petr Špánek)



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## VISITOR INFORMATION CENTERS

### LIBRARY

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### MAIN STATION

Čsl. mládeže 89/4 | 405 02 Děčín 4 | +420 727 975 773



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# Discovering the unexpected in Děčín

Natural beauty, fantastic rock formations, meandering streams, and a bit of history await you here.





Děčín abounds in fantastic views

Here, where Bohemian Switzerland meets the Central Bohemian Uplands, lies a city rich in natural beauty, historical sites, and a range of sports activities. The country's lowest-lying town will surprise you with its green areas, romantic spots, and lovely views. The Elbe River lends a unique charm to the city and has left an indelible mark on life here.

### History at every step

If you enjoy exploring new places and finding traces of history, Děčín is the place for you. The past comes to life at every step, in chateaus, castles, crumbling ruins, and all of the little monuments that dot the countryside. Humble memorials and great buildings alike recall the past. Pause at the chain footbridge at the foot of the castle bluff or linger at the stone "old town" bridge with its central statue by



A view from the Elbe of the oldest riveted bridge in the Czech Republic

Michal Jan Josef Brokoff. And then there's "hunger rock," a reminder of the days when the Elbe was full of ships and Děčín was a bustling river port. Spelling out a warning of hard times for riverboat families in times of drought, the rock is one of the oldest hydrological landmarks in central Europe. And towering over the river is Děčín Castle, which dates back to the eleventh century.

### For people on the move

The local landscape here, at the beginning of Europe's deepest sandstone canyon, has shaped life in the town. The huge bluffs draw climbers from around the world. Pastýřská Stěna (Shepherd's Bluff) rises in the very center of town. You can get to the restaurant at its top by climbing one of 16 anchored climbing routes along the cliff face. The Elbe canyon and all of its beauty can also be enjoyed in safety and comfort from the deck of a riverboat, the Elbe bike trail, or any number of panoramic points. Růžový Hřeben ridge, Quaderberg, Belvédér, and Labská Stráž all offer breath-taking views of the canyon. And the cliffs towering over the river have always presented an irresistible challenge for the adventurous. Relax in one of the restaurants or cafés in the area. An evening walk along the riverbank



Děčín Castle rose garden

offers views of the castle, Tyrš bridge, and the municipal library as well as a number of options for getting a meal. You can blow off some steam at the Aquapark complex with its indoor and outdoor pools (including pools for water polo and deep-sea diving), and its wellness facilities and outdoor sports grounds.

### In the countryside

Once you feel like you've seen all Děčín has to offer, head outside of the city limits to explore the great outdoors and make some memories. Trails lead from the heart of town into Bohemian Switzerland National Park, the Central Bohemian Uplands, and the Ore Mountains. Three bike

trails meet at the foot of the castle in the heart of town, so you can pedal off in search of adventure in any direction. One takes you to Děčínský Sněžník, the highest table mountain in Bohemia. Another leads along the riverbank through the sandstone canyon all the way to the national park and beyond. And the third follows a shade dappled route along the meandering Ploučnice River. Take advantage of this network of bike trails to plan trips to different areas every day. You can wonder at the huge scale of the plateau or explore the hills of the Central Bohemian Uplands and the basalt ruins of Vrabinec. Or enjoy a ride through the woods of the Lusatian Mountains from viewpoint to viewpoint.



Aquapark offers multiple swimming pools, a wellness center, and playing courts



## Did you know?

... Děčín Castle is one of the oldest landmarks in the Czech Republic. The first indirect reference to the castle dates from the late tenth century. Its history has been unfolding for over a thousand years.

... it was regularly visited by important personalities. For example, Frederic Chopin composed his Děčín Waltz here. Another visitor of note was the young Empress Sisi, who made her debut in her official capacity as imperial spouse on an early stay here with her husband Franz Joseph I.

... it is the most visited castle in northern Bohemia. For the past several years, it has welcomed around 55,000 visitors annually.

... the one-of-a-kind Long Drive, measuring 292 meters, is an architectural masterpiece of national importance. Two thirds of its length were cut directly into the living rock of the castle bluff, a feat achieved by miners from nearby Krupka, who spent six years at the task.

... its lovely rose garden, with its gloriolite terrace and sala terrena pavilion, dates to Baroque renovations done in the late 17th century. Its celebrated collection included more than 80 varieties of roses.

... there were once 18 heated greenhouses in the south gardens. The famed gardener Franz Josst the elder put Děčín on the map with an excellent collection of orchids, camellias, and other tropical plants. It was on his watch, in the castle's south garden in 1852, that the Victoria amazonica was first coaxed into bloom on the European continent.

... thanks to the Thun family, the castle had one of Bohemia's best libraries. It contained more than 70,000 volumes. Among them were valuable sources that legendary Czech historian František Palacký visited here to consult in his work.

... after the assassination in Sarajevo of Franz Ferdinand d'Este, heir presumptive to the throne of Austria Hungary, his orphans found shelter and solace here. The children – Sophie, Ernst, and Maximilian – became the wards of Count Jaroslav Thun, the archduke's brother-in-law.

# Děčín Castle

The city's undisputed crown jewel is the castle perched on the bluff over the River Elbe. Hemmed in by lovely gardens and the Marian Meadow, it is an oasis of green in the heart of the city. The castle is a popular destination for visitors from all parts of the world, and its diverse events calendar attracts locals too.

**DAILY 9AM–5PM**

Open until 6pm in the summer



There are five castle tours to choose from. Besides the interior, you can visit the cellars, Baroque stables, and outer yard. There are reminders of the castle's recent history all along the way; the complex served for nearly 60 years as a military barracks. There is plenty for families and children too; the castle has an interactive tour full of challenges and riddles. The castle is also an ideal venue for weddings and celebrations. You'll find a range of rental options for corporate events. There are packages with options for special programs and accommodations in castle apartments as well.



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



# Děčín Zoo

Although Děčín Zoo is one of the smallest in Bohemia, visitors consistently rate it one of the nicest.

## Open daily year-round

MAIN SEASON  
May–Aug 8am–7pm

OFF SEASON  
Sept–Oct Mar–Apr  
8am–6pm

WINTER SEASON  
Nov–Dec 8am–4pm

Děčín Zoo  
- Pastýřská stěna, příspěvková organizace.  
Žižkova 1286/15 / 405 02 Děčín IV  
+420 412 531 164 / info@zoodecin.cz

## Paradise Islands Exhibit

MAIN SEASON  
May–Aug 9am–7pm

OFF SEASON  
Sept–Apr 9am–6pm

Paradise Islands Exhibit  
Teplická 19 / 405 02 Děčín IV  
+420 412 531 531 / tic@zoodecin.cz



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

Děčín Zoo operates on six hectares of woodland above the heart of town on the slopes of Shepherd's Bluff. Its main focus is on endangered and lesser-known animal species and indigenous flora. You'll find almost 400 animals here, representing 150 species. In 2019 the zoo welcomed its newest star, Bruno, a Kamchatka brown bear that visitors can see in a natural habitat. Other highlights include endangered Black-handed spider monkeys and crested black macaques. You'll also see vicuña llamas, capybaras, and fishing cats, as well as the giant anteater, the Mishmi takin, the South American tapir, and many others. Watch birds flying over your head in the bird house. And three new expositions present animals from colder climates such as the wolverine, the great horned owl, and the West Caucasian tur.

The Paradise Islands Exhibit (Rajské Ostrovy), a remote exhibition located in the heart of

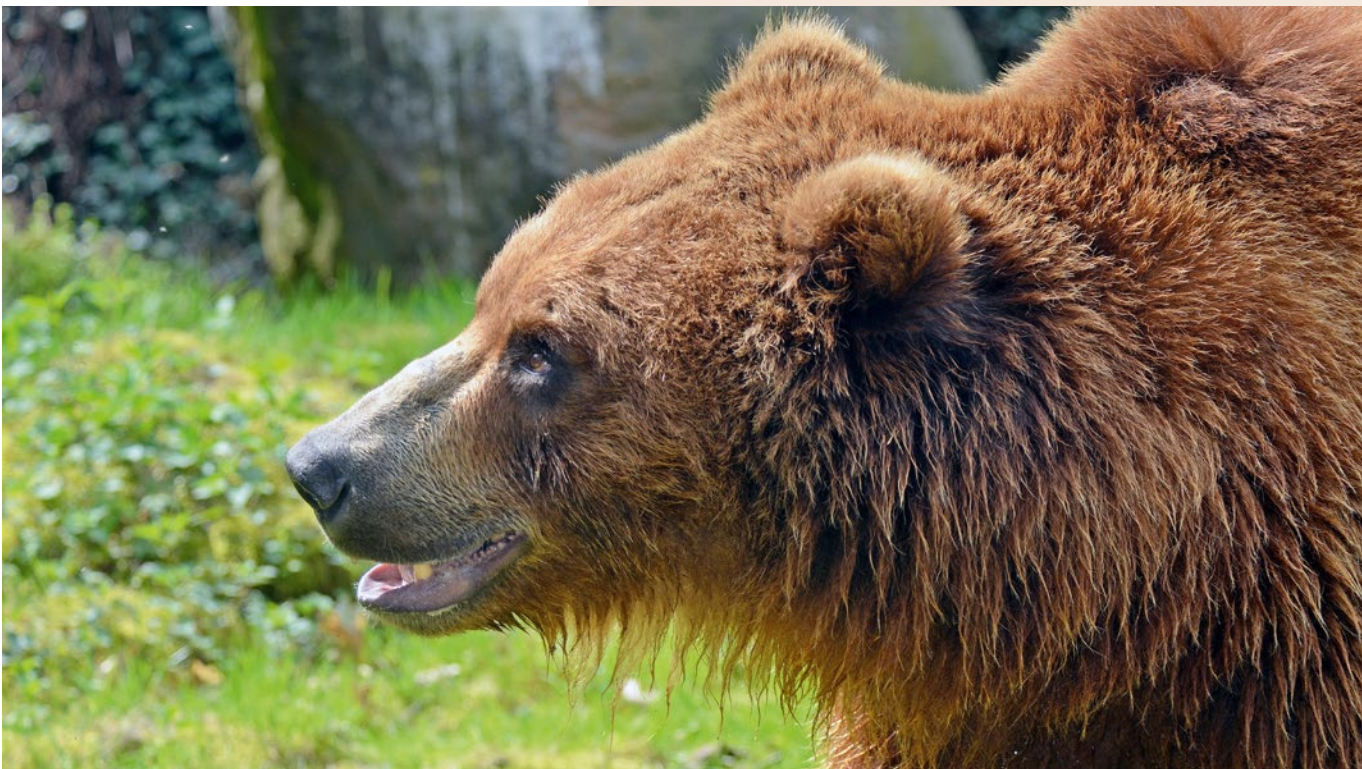
town, has transported visitors into the world of saltwater fish, corals, reptiles, and invertebrates since 2006. The expo is a bonus for zoo visitors. With your zoo ticket, entry to the Paradise Islands is free of charge! This benefit applies only on the day of your zoo visit. And it works the other way too – if you start your day at Paradise Islands and bring your ticket to the zoo gates, you will pay only the difference in the entry fee.

DĚČÍN



### Visitor services:

- Commented feedings at selected times
- Guided tours, evening tours
- Interactive trails (bear trail, bird trail, tree trail)
- Playground with jungle gym, petting zoo
- Educational programs
- Public events
- Refreshments, souvenirs
- Children's wagon rentals
- Parking, lockers
- Free wi-fi (in the refreshments area)







# Medieval Děčín

Though Děčín's regional museum is best known for its expertise in riverboat traffic, it also plays a broader role as a custodian of the area's past and its collections document the history and development of the region.

An integral part of the museum collection is made up of artwork, from paintings and sculptures to hand crafted items. Some of these items are of value not only from a documentary perspective, but in their own right. For example, the museum collection includes Gothic memorials that document the artistic potential of the region and present a palpable image of its development as early as the middle ages.

Take a walk through medieval Děčín in the new "Gothic Art in Děčín" exhibit, which showcases the most valuable Gothic treasures preserved in the region. The exhibit was designed by a prominent Czech architect and includes 23 medieval statues, mostly of wood, dating from the first half of the 14th century to the early Renaissance period in the 16th century. In addition to these unique works of sculpture, the exhibit also includes fascinating archeological finds, such as the "Šluknov treasure," a cache of

roughly three score Bohemian and Miessen groschen and a unique silver brooch with Bohemian lions in relief.

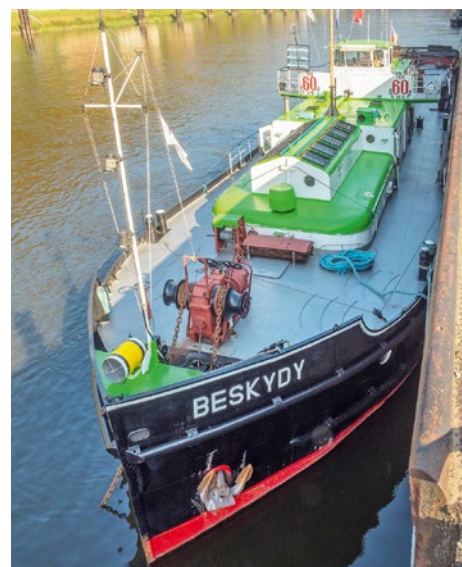
Also on display are an early 16th century Gothic monstrance and a stone sculpture of the Madonna, the only one of its kind, which was once installed at the Hotel Praha on Děčín's main square.

## City on the meadow

Continue your exploration of medieval Děčín in the permanent exhibit "City on the meadow," which presents the findings of a long-term archeological survey of the early settlement on Marian Meadow. Remains were uncovered of the original, medieval town site, abandoned after flooding in the mid 14th century. Its inhabitants relocated to the other side of the bluff and established a new settlement where modern Děčín lies today. This unique archeological find gives us an idea of how a medieval

settlement looked in the early years of its existence. In summer months, visitors can take advantage of thematic tours of the exhibit combined with a walking tour of remnants of the medieval town.

In the "Walk through old Děčín" exhibit you'll see early buildings and landmarks – although most are shown only in the form of artistic depictions due to widespread demolition done after 1945.



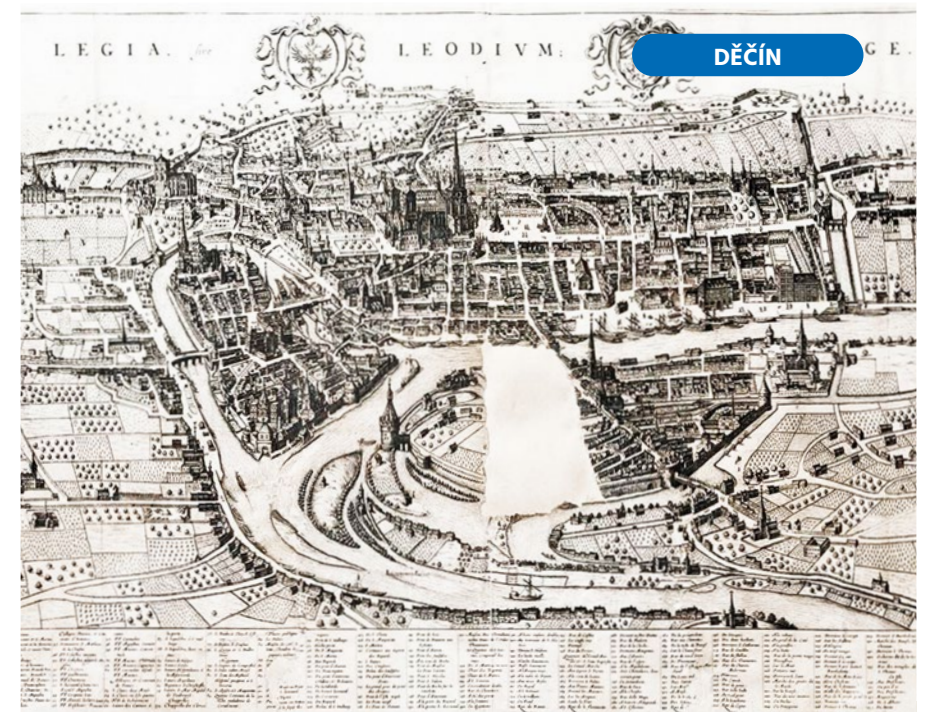
Wind up your visit to Děčín's medieval past in the sculpture garden in the museum courtyard. Here you'll find remnants from buildings no longer standing that date from the end of the 16th century to the beginning of the 20th century. Outstanding examples include a 16th century stone depiction of the seal of the Lords of Bünau, the tombstone of Count Lev Thun, a conciliation cross dating from the 15th century, and some columns from the Loreto that stood on Děčín's main square.

The courtyard is dominated by a Renaissance portal, recovered from the inn atop Quaderberg before its demolition, framing a statue of Arion of Corinth from the now defunct Dolní Žleb spa. The collection includes family crests, border markers, and mill wheels. A huge, metal statue of Lenin stands in the rear section, a reminder of the not so distant past.

## Water traffic

Dozens of models present the development of watercraft construction on the Elbe in a completely refurbished exhibit dedicated to the history of Bohemian water traffic. New information has been incorporated into the installation and the original exhibit expanded to create an experience unparalleled in the Czech Republic. The museum offers tours of the rear-paddle-wheeler Beskydy in summer months. Tour dates are posted on the museum website and Facebook page.

Children will enjoy the permanent exhibit "Birds of Děčín." The museum presents specimens of the region's winged populace in modern, well-lit display cases. The experience is enhanced by recorded birdcalls. Aside from the museum's permanent exhibits, temporary expositions



showcase the work of local artists or draw on museum collections to present special topics. In these short-term shows, visitors can see rare items that are usually hidden in the depths of the museum depository.

## New this year

In 2020 the museum is once again preparing several fascinating expositions. One will map the Děčín neighborhood of Podmokly (Bodenbach in German). Visitors will learn more about the history of this part of town through historical photographs and post cards, local realia, and even architectural blueprints. The curators aim to show how this humble left-bank settlement transformed into a modern industrial hub. Visitors will learn about the district's history, social life, and booming industry, transport, and construction sectors. The exhibit will focus primarily on the latter half of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, when Podmokly experienced its boom. Preparations for the exhibition, include reconstruction of the exhibit space, so visitors certainly have something to look forward to.

## Advent at the museum

Over the winter holiday season every year, the museum hosts a well-attended and very popular exhibit of nativity scenes accompanied by an educational program for elementary school children. Locals also turn out in large numbers for the traditional museum Christmas market, which takes place on the second weekend in Advent in the museum courtyard. The event is accompanied by caroling and creative workshops.

## Fun for all ages

Every year the museum sets aside a "Children's Day" Saturday just for children in late May or early June. And, for all ages, there is Museum Night, which takes place in early June.

JAN-APR WED-SUN 9AM-5PM

MAY-AUG SUN-TUE 10AM-6PM

SEP-DEC TUE-SUN 9AM-5PM



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





# Bohemian Switzerland with stroller in tow

**Where can you head with your little ones if you want to enjoy the national park and get a bit of exercise? We've got a few priceless tips for trips where the whole family can head out with no fear of encountering insurmountable barriers for your stroller-bound tots.**

## QUADERBERG NATURE TRAIL AND THE IMPERIAL OUTLOOK

**Start:** Bottom of the park (at the street U Střelnice)

**Terrain:** Flagstone walkways, forest trails

**Length:** About 1.5 hours

**Description:** The route starts at the bottom of the park, winding its way gently uphill past educational panels with information about the flora and fauna of the national park. On the way, there are a few stairs, but only a single step at a time, so they're easy to overcome with a stroller.

Upon reaching the top of the park, take the red trail that zig-zags up the hillside to the Imperial outlook. The path to the top is paved in cobblestones and rock. After about 20 minutes, you'll be standing on the outlook terrace at the top of Quaderberg. There's a big wooden bench to sit down on. If you want to get to the lower terrace, and the very edge of the viewing area, you'll need to get the stroller down a half dozen stairs.

## ELBE CANYON VIEW – RŮŽOVÝ HŘEBEN

**Start:** Village of Bynovec, from the chapel near the main bus stop, to the left towards the cattle farm

**Terrain:** Classic forest trail, some rocks and tree roots

**Length:** About half an hour (2 kilometers to the viewpoint)

**Description:** The route follows the red trail from the cattle farm. You can park near the farm. The red trail is mostly level and is well marked. It is sometimes used by forest rangers, whom you may meet in cars. (Note – This trail is closed to all other automobile traffic except by special authorization from the village.)

On the last 30 or 40 meters to the view point there are a lot of tree roots on the path, so you may want to take your child out of the stroller for a piggy-back ride and carry the stroller across empty. You will be rewarded with a beautiful view of the Elbe canyon, magnificent cliffs, and the Děčín valley.

You'll turn and follow the same route back. The red trail actually continues another five kilometers along the ridge all the way to Quaderberg, but the route is not suitable for a stroller. If you still want to try it, we recommend a child carrier backpack.

## HIGHLAND PLATEAU – DĚČÍNSKÝ SNĚŽNÍK

**Start:** Parking lot, Sněžník bus stop

**Terrain:** Asphalt, forest trail at the top

**Length:** About 2.5 hours to the watch tower and restaurant

**Description:** Whether you head out by car or bus, your starting point is the same – the main road below the trail that leads up Děčínský Sněžník. There's a bus stop there, and a parking lot too. The route starts with a stiff climb up an asphalt trail and passes cliff faces to the plateau at the top of the mountain.

Along the way you'll catch a number of wonderful views of Bohemian Switzerland, starting with the "Dresden outlook," where there are several picnic tables. Continue on to the stone watch tower and restaurant, where you can have a bite and admire the panorama of the national park and the countryside stretching far and wide.

If there is a group of you, take turns carrying the stroller up the stairs to the top of the watch tower. From the top you can see the surrounding mountain peaks – Ještěd, Sněžka, Milešovka, and Říp.



## AND AN EASY WALK THROUGH TOWN – RIVERSIDE, CASTLE, AND THEREABOUTS

**Start:** Parking lot by the visitor center in the library

**Terrain:** Asphalt, paved

**Length:** About an hour, not including café stops

**Description:** From the parking lot (pick up free city maps and brochures at the visitor center) head along the Elbe bike trail on the river bank. You'll see Děčín Castle perched above you on its sandstone bluff. On the other side of the river you may see climbers making their way up the via ferrata to the fairytale castle (a restaurant since 1905) atop Shepherd's Bluff. The bike trail will take you all the way to the old town bridge. Cross the road and continue towards the castle pond. (Tip: If you stay on the bike trail instead, you'll soon reach Kocanda, a restaurant with a huge outdoor children's playground.)

You'll find a café and a microbrewery near the pond. Go on to Marian Meadow, a leafy green park below the castle with plenty of benches and cool, shady spots. From here, cross the historical, suspension footbridge to the little gate that lets you into the south castle gardens with their vineyards, cool fountain, and tea pavilion. If you cross the gardens, you'll find yourself in the castle courtyard, where there is a restaurant and café. Explore the courtyard and the rose garden.

We do not recommend taking a stroller interior tours of the castle; tour groups go upstairs and downstairs.

Descend from the castle along its Long Drive, a 292-meter walk down to Křížová ulice, where there is a French restaurant with outdoor seating. From here it's a short walk to the parking lot and the visitor center, where you can top off your trip with a cup of locally roasted coffee or a glass of wine.



**Aquapark Děčín**  
Oblouková 1400/6  
405 02 Děčín IV  
+420 412 704 211



### More than just swimming

Děčín's aquatic park is just off the Elbe cycle route. It offers visitors a unique combination of indoor and outdoor attractions. Indoors are a 25-meter pool, a learners' pool, 3 toboggans, a water mushroom, a lazy river, spouts and geysers, massage jets, 2 whirlpools, a wading area, and a refreshments area. Upstairs are a wellness center with saunas, a club area with a private

sauna and jacuzzi, a massage area, a solarium, a gym, and an outdoor terrace.

The park's outdoor attractions include 50- and 25-meter pools, a recreational pool with attractions, a massage bench, a lazy river, a wading area, and a stainless-steel water polo pool with a 6-meter deep-sea diving well. A natural thermal water source means that the outdoor 25-meter pool is open year-round with water temperatures of around 28 °C.

The outdoor area also includes a children's play area and a sports area with two beach volleyball courts that can also be used for beach football, a football tennis court that doubles for basketball and can hold two pick-ups at once, and pétanque.



[www.aquaparkdecin.cz](http://www.aquaparkdecin.cz)  
info@aquaparkdecin.cz

This modern recreational complex with a natural thermal water source is one of the largest in the Czech Republic.



## Aqua Hotel

Lodging in Děčín's aquatic park is located right next to the pool. There's lots of fun and relaxation at the doorstep. The pool complex is open year-round and thanks to its thermal water source, the outdoor pool is open all winter.

Aqua Hotel is located in the park complex just outside of the

**100%**  
SATISFACTION  
GUARANTEED



**Aqua Hotel**  
Ploučnická 1297/10  
405 02 Děčín IV  
+ 420 778 427 130

historical center of Děčín. It is near the Elbe cycle route in the romantic Bohemian Switzerland area. **The hotel has 40 beds in 10 quad rooms.** A breakfast buffet is served at the Aqua buffet, with fresh coffee and home-made baked goods every morning. As a bonus, guests have full run of the outdoor pool area.

For perfect rest and regeneration, guests can take advantage of the wellness center. Services include aromatic massage, a wood sauna, and a jacuzzi. With its outdoor sport area and facilities the hotel is a perfect match for sports clubs, schools, and team building events.

## Hostel

Comfortable lodging in the heart of town

For simple, comfortable rooms in Děčín at low prices, this is the place.

Centrally located near the train station and bus stops, Hostel is an ideal base for daytrips to Bohemian and Saxon Switzerland.

We offer cheap accommodations with shared bathrooms and kitchen facilities for hikers and backpackers as well as en suite rooms and suites with kitchenettes.

We now offer via ferrata climbing set rentals, bike rentals, and sauna for 15 people. Our friendly staff is always ready to help you plan your trip.

**Hostel Děčín**  
Čsl. mládeže 21  
info@hostel-decin.cz  
Reservations:  
**+420 777 286 963**  
**+420 775 286 963**



**SAUNA 4PM-8PM**  
TUES: MEN  
THURS: WOMEN  
SUN: MIXED

DĚČÍN

**HOSTEL**  
Děčín



**WI-FI**  
**BIKE STORAGE**  
**LAUNDRY**  
**GYM**  
**SAUNA**



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



## Formule Hotel and Camp

Formule is located on the Elbe bike trail between Prague and Hamburg.

Pěší 113 | 405 02 Děčín 33  
**+420 412 548 445**  
**+420 602 452 440**



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

We offer lodging in a pleasant, peaceful atmosphere at the edge of Děčín. **The hotel offers 64 beds**, plus accommodations in mobile homes and cabins. There is also a camp on the premises, where guests can pitch a tent or park a camper. The restaurant and bar with outdoor seating are open to the public for special events such as cookouts, smokehouse specialties, wine tastings, and more. Formule is a great venue for social and company events and family celebrations; book just the restaurant or the whole complex. Sport facilities include a mini-golf course, skittles, ping pong table, foot tennis court, and an outdoor pool. The restaurant, terrace, and mini-golf areas are open to the public as well as hotel guests. So stop by for a cup of coffee, a home-made pizza, or a game of mini-golf. For information about special events, visit our webpage or Facebook profile.

This hotel is rated **Hotel \*\*** by Hotelstars, is certified **cyclist friendly**, and is a member of AHR CR.







# Tomáš Kraus

## It's just so nice in Děčín

Děčín native and ski-cross legend Tomáš Kraus lives in a little house on a hill above town. This kid from a town without any ski runs fought his way to world champion. Twice. He is the four-time winner of the World Cup in ski cross and in 2005 became the overall champion. He has competed in the winter Olympics twice. He is five-time champion of the Czech Republic in alpine skiing. For this interview, we visited him at home. His kids joined us, and our conversation turned from sports to everyday life.



### Tomáš, the first question, of course, is what do Olympians do when they're not competing?

Well, I'd love to say that I spend time with my family, but I'm sure it's not as much as they'd like. Anyway, I've definitely got more time. A friend and I have an adventure agency and I represent some athletes, like Eva Samková. Not too long ago we opened a jet surfing base in Třeboutice.

### That sounds like a full program.

To be honest, I thought I'd have a lot more time for sports.

### A person with your drive suddenly doesn't have time for sports. Don't you miss it?

Yeah, of course. But there's a lot of work and, same as for anyone else I guess, just talking about going out and doing something is easier than actually doing it.

### We filmed a television series together about bike touring once. Do you still ride the hills around here?

I ride a lot less than I used to. In the past few years I've been running more. After my last injury, where I broke my collar bone, I'm pretty sure I'll definitely be back on my bike again. I do a lot of jet surfing, in Litoměřice, so a bike might be a good way of getting there.

### That's not exactly close, but the Elbe bike trail is nice, maybe an electric bike would make the trip faster.

I'm not one for electric bikes, but they're a great option for people with some kind of handicap, or older people, or maybe for a couple where one of them isn't so strong. Definitely e-bikes have a lot to offer. I like that.

### You've got a lot going on, and most of it outside of Děčín. You've traveled the world. Have you ever thought about moving away?

In the past few years I've been spending up to four days in Prague, and I did think about it for a while. But it's just so nice here. Especially in the spring it's beautiful. When I'm coming back from Prague and I see those green hillsides, it cheers me up.

### Not long ago you and Eva Samková filmed a series for Czech Television where you visited interesting spots in the Alps and had adventures. Are you planning on

### doing anything like that here in Bohemia?

We also helped produce that show and I got to have a say in the content. We really enjoyed it and if we have a chance, we'd like to do something like that in Bohemia, and of course Děčín would be first on my list.

### Our readers will certainly want to know how a kid from Děčín got into an offbeat sport like ski cross.

My parents are crazy about skiing. But it's really not easy skiing around here. We travelled all over, trying to compete in races that sometimes didn't even take place because there was no snow. So when I did get onto the snow, I totally made it count. It's the same with surfing. That's not easy to make happen either, and I like that about it.

### Your two great kids, Tomáš and Lucka, have been sitting here with us the whole time. Are they into sports?

We do sports, like every active family, I guess. We go skiing, Lucka plays volleyball. Tomík is going to be a photographer. But we also play guitar and ukulele. We've got a great teacher. We really love it.

### Do you have any family plans?

Once in a while we all manage to go to some jet surfing competition, Lucinka competes too sometimes. We'll probably do some more episodes with Eva Samková.

### Last question. Where can people run into you in Děčín?

That's easy. All winter, three times a week, we swim in the river where the Ploučnice joins the Elbe. At six in the evening. There's a whole group of us. Sometimes I'm out of town, but I try not to miss it.





# Mother Nature casts her spell

Get out for a ramble through the dusky valleys and deep woods of Bohemian Switzerland, see the view from the clifftops and observation towers, or stop in one of the quaint towns and villages. You can cross over to the beautiful, yet geologically different, landscapes around Panská Skála or the Central Bohemian Uplands.



# The fantastic Tiské Stěny cliffs

Step into Narnia... no magic wardrobe required

Standing among the cliffs at Tiské Stěny is like being in a fairy tale. This fantastic landscape, often sought out by filmmakers, lies at the edge of the Elbe Sandstones in the village of Tisá. This magical concentration of rock formations surprises visitors with weird shapes resembling animals, figures, and faces. Marked trails covered with fine, white sand, offer seven informational stops.

The entrance to the cliffs is in the village of Tisá, with parking near St. Ann's Church. You can end your visit with a bite to eat at one of the charming restaurants in the little town. This is a great outing for families with children practically year-round.



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



AROUND DĚČÍN

## Děčínský Sněžník

Take a look around from the highest table mountain in the Czech Republic.

No visit to Děčín would be complete without a visit to one of the oldest watchtowers in Bohemia. Děčínský Sněžník, at 723 meters above sea level, will stun you with its wonderful view of the Lusatian Mountains and Bohemian and Saxon Switzerland.

### Getting to Sněžník

There are lots of ways of getting to this regional landmark. The simplest is by car. Drive to the paid parking lot and then you'll walk 1.5 km up a paved path to the top. You can opt for an alternate route along the red trail that follows the edge of the ridge. A restaurant and buffet serve refreshments at the foot of the watchtower. Ride your bike up from town on bike route 23. Or save yourself a little effort and take advantage of the bus-and-bike service. Once you're at the top, there are plenty of bike paths to choose from.





# Děčín rides the river

No visitor should pass up a chance to cruise the Elbe River canyon. It's an extraordinary experience. There are so many ways to enjoy the water and the breathtaking beauty around it.

## Round-trip cruise in the rocky canyon at Hřensko with cookout and live music

Treat yourself to a special afternoon or evening on a round-trip cruise on the Elbe from the gateway to Bohemian Switzerland, Hřensko. The rocky gorge, several meters deep, that forms the river bottom in this segment of the river between Dolní Žleb and the national border means that the river is navigable even when other parts of the Elbe are impassible.

The Elbe sandstone cliffs tower overhead, forming a dramatic backdrop to our 90-minute summertime cruise with barbecue. And when the ship docks, there's no need to rush; your ticket is good for another half hour while the ship is docked in Hřensko. On afternoon cruises, choose from an array of grilled delicacies and coffee and cake too, while our crew takes the very best care of you. The bar will be open too. And in the summer months a weekly evening cruise offers live music!

Round-trip cruises depart from Hřensko regularly from mid-June through August.

## By boat from Děčín to Dresden and back

You're in for a romantic riverboat cruise in the rocky Elbe canyon from Bohemian Switzerland, through the Elbe meanders, to Königstein fortress, places that Hans Christian Andersen admired back in 1831. We'll go through historical Pirna and past vineyards to the picturesque Pilnitz chateau. Lunch will be served on board. We'll pass under the historic bridges of old town to dock in the heart of Dresden by the Elbe terrace near Frauenkirche and the world-renowned Zwinger gallery. Passengers can disembark and explore the twisting streets of the old town with plenty of time to see the sights.

Main season from April 1  
to November 1, 2020



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



On the way back, passengers will enjoy dinner with live music and a tasting of local German wines. An expert guide will provide commentary on points of interest along the way. Sunset on the Elbe canyon and the limpid waters of the river have inspired numerous artists, such as Richard Wagner and Frederic Chopin.







# Pirna: An eye for detail

A world-famous square; wonderful shops, cafés, restaurants; social and cultural life; and all a stone's throw from Dresden and Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland – there are a thousand reasons to visit Pirna, the metropolis of the Elbe sandstones.

Pirna enchants with its lovely old town, profusion of little shops, and selection of places to just stop and sit for a while. The lovingly restored historical center is characterized by town homes and shops with richly ornamented facades, winding streets, attractive courtyards, and artistic bays. There are enchanting details around every corner. Take a tour of the old town, on your own with an audio guide, or as part of a group to see all of the major sights up close and personal, such as the Stadtkirche St. Marien, one of Saxony's largest late Gothic churches.

Painter Bernardo Bellotto, also known as Canaletto, who worked in Venice, Warsaw, and Dresden, was taken with the picturesque scenery of Pirna, which he captured on eleven canvases in 1750. His "Square in Pirna" is the best known. It's a sight not to be missed when, every April, the painting is re-created by actors in authentic costumes as "Canaletto's live painting."

Preacher Johann Tetzel, Napoleon, August II the Strong, and other historic figures have left their mark on Pirna. The city felt the effects of the Thirty Years' War; Swedish forces threatened to raze it to the ground and a brave pharmacist stepped up to save the day. The story is brought to the stage every September in a production called "The Savior of Pirna – Theophilus Jacobäer." The performance, on an open-air stage with riders on horseback, thrilling sword fights, and musical performances, will celebrate its twentieth reprise in 2020 and draws large crowds every year.

Pirna is a great vacation destination for nature lovers and hikers as well as culture vultures interested in taking advantage of its proximity to Saxony's capitol city Dresden. The natural wonders of Saxon Switzerland lie right at the doorstep and are easy to explore by bicycle, train,



or riverboat. A glass of wine on the Saxon wine trail or a visit to the brewery also make a great experience. Those who climb to Sonnenstein castle are rewarded with a magnificent view of the city. The Canaletto trail offers a nice view over the rooftops with a relaxing stop on the castle terrace. And a visit to the Pirna Summer of Sculpture on the ramparts (May to September) is worth visiting with children.



AROUND DĚČÍN

**TIP:** If you are in the mood for a Baroque Saxon Christmas, then make a visit to the Canalettomarkt. This unique family Christmas market will light up children's eyes when the town hall is transformed into a gigantic gingerbread house and the steam locomotive chugs off on its scenic route. The diverse mix of stalls offering refreshments and crafts draw many visitors to Pirna's historic town center.

## Pirna events in 2020

<b>Apr 8</b>	Pirnaer Tresen pub night
<b>Apr 24</b>	Attack of the Swedes in Pirna
<b>May 10 – Sep 27</b>	Summer of Sculpture
<b>May 16</b>	Culture festival
<b>May 24</b>	WagnerWiese
<b>Jun 19-21</b>	Town festival
<b>Jul 4-5</b>	Art days
<b>Aug 1</b>	Pirna courtyards night
<b>Sep 12-13</b>	20th annual "Savior" production
<b>Nov 25 – Dec 30</b>	Canalettomarkt Christmas market (closed Dec 24-26)



[www.pirna.de](http://www.pirna.de)



# Bastei: Saxon Switzerland's top attraction

The beauty of nature knows no boundaries. Hop across the border for a leisurely stroll through lovely Saxon Switzerland.

Take advantage of reduced fares with the Elbe-Labe ticket for this trip; tickets are sold at the railway station or on intercity buses on the day of your trip. From Děčín's main station the national park train follows the route Děčín – Sebnitz – Rumburk. In Bad Schandau transfer to the Bad Schandau – Meissen Trebischthal train and get off in Pirna. From Pirna bus station (directly across from the train station) bus number 237 departs from gate 1. Get off at Rathewalde P+R-Platz and take the Bastei shuttle P+R-bus from gate 1 to the parking lot at Bastei.

The Bastei will impress you with its unique clifftop bridge, one of the jewels of Saxon Switzerland, with its lovely views of the Elbe River canyon below. Enjoy the atmosphere with a cup of coffee at a nearby restaurant. Also within reach is the clifftop castle Neurathen. The trip back will take you along a fairly steep, rocky path through the woods to the little town of Kurort Rathen. About halfway down there's an option to turn off to the left for a look at the outdoor theater. From the box office a path leads right through the woods taking you to the Amselsee lake in a couple of minutes. There are boats for hire or you can walk to the waterfall. To get back, you'll take the ferry across the Elbe.



On the other side of the river in Kurort Rathen, a miniature railway (Eisenbahnwelten) with moving models is always a hit with children. If you have time for coffee or a snack, there's a little restaurant near the railway station. The return train leaves from Kurort Rathen station with a transfer in Bad Schandau for Děčín.

## TIP:

The Elbe-Labe ticket is not valid for the ferry across the river to Kurort Rathen, so expect to pay extra. The Elbe-Labe ticket is valid on express and local trains but not on international Eurocity lines.



# Forststeig hiking trail

Get back to nature with a hike through Bohemian and Saxon Switzerland.

The Elbe Sandstones hiking trail is a joint project of the Saxon and Czech forestry services (Sachsenforst and Lesy České republiky). The result is a trail roughly 100 km in length that winds through the forests and rocky wilderness of the Elbe's left bank in the Bohemian and Saxon Switzerland nature areas. The romantic landscape between Děčín and Pirna has been a sought-after destination for over a century and is starting to reach maximum capacity in places like Hřensko, Rathen, and Königstein where tourists pack in to see the river gorges, Pravčická Brána arch, and Bastei. But as is so often the case, it only takes a couple of steps off the beaten path to escape the madness and immerse yourself in a landscape full of magical places where you won't meet another soul.

The Forststeig trail is marked "Forststeig/Lesní stezka" with a vertical, gold stroke. The trail is meant for hikers accustomed to longer treks in the wilderness. It goes through deep forests, joining nearly all of the table mountains in this area, occasionally meeting up with more frequented paths, especially in the area near the national border between Zschirnsstein and Kristin Hrádek.

You can take it in one-day segments such as Děčínský Sněžník—Ostrov—Tisá or the sections around the



Herculean columns, Nikolsdorf cliffs, Pfaffenstein, Gohrich, Papststein, and Kleinhennersdorfer Stein in Saxony. You will be endlessly rewarded with new scenery, rocky labyrinths, and spectacular views.

But you can also tackle the whole thing in a multi-day trip, camping or sleeping in forest huts along the way. Multi-day treks are allowed from 1 April to 31 October, governed by a few simple rules. To stay in the woodland cabins, you must secure hiking tickets ahead of time. They are sold at the information center at Bad Schandau railway station for

10 euros for a night in a hut and 5 euros for pitching a tent in a bivouac spot (e.g., the campsite at Ostrov). See the trail website for more details. The proceeds from sales of hiking tickets go to maintaining the five huts and three bivouac spots, which are open for the seven-month period from April through October. The trail was established by Sachsenforst, the Neustadt forestry office, and Lesy ČR.



[www.forststeig.de](http://www.forststeig.de)





## PANSKÁ SKÁLA

You'll find this basalt cliff formation mid-way between Kamenický Šenov and Prácheň in the heart of Bohemia's traditional glass-making region. It was made famous in the beloved Czechoslovak film *The Proud Princess*, which was shot on location in 1952.

The film tells the story of Princess Krasomila and how she learns a much-needed lesson in humility. She is accompanied on her adventures by her supposedly penniless companion (the handsome young king of the neighboring realm in disguise). It is on Panská Skála that the pair hide themselves from their pursuers as they flee the forces of the Midnight Kingdom.

## TISKÉ STĚNY CLIFFS

The undisputed queen of the Elbe Sandstones Landscape Preserve, Tiské Stěny are an extensive labyrinth of cliffs with bizarre outcroppings and towers twisted into various fanciful shapes by the natural forces of erosion. The cliffs, 18 kilometers outside of Děčín, have attracted dozens of filmmakers over the years.

The biggest spectacle to have been filmed here is, without a doubt, the fantasy film *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, based on the children's classic by C. S. Lewis and directed by Andrew Adamson in 2005. The faun Tumnus had his cozy little home

in these cliffs. Remember how he lulled little Lucy to sleep with tales of talking animals? The peculiar tree at his doorstep was made to order and brought all the way from New Zealand for filming.

Other locations in the area appear in the make-believe world of Narnia too, such as Pravčická Brána arch near Hřensko. Czech projects filmed in the cliffs include *Kawasaki's Rose* (2009), *Once Upon a Time in Paradise* (2016), *A True Knight* (2016), *Merry Christmas Octopus* (1987), and many more.



## LOUBÍ DOCKS

The Czechoslovak-German co-production *Merry Christmas Octopus*, a madcap family comedy directed by Jindřich Polák, included scenes shot on the riverside. In one scene dad runs after a car carrying child protagonists Eva and Honzík and two octopus figures made of clay that have magically come to life. The Elbe canyon serves as the backdrop for the mayhem.

More recently the docks and riverside around Děčín have served as the setting for Czech television crime thriller *Rapl* (2019) and the brooding *Cirkus Bukowsky* (2013).



## DĚČÍNSKÝ SNĚŽNÍK – DRESDEN OUTLOOK

Oscar-winning film director Jan Svěrák shot a children's fairy tale here in 2014. The film, *The Three Brothers*, features shots taken at the Dresden outlook on Děčínský Sněžník. Viewers see the three brothers of the film's title approaching a castle on horseback to awaken Sleeping Beauty. Of course, the castle was added later by the special effects department.



## DOLSKÝ MLYN MILL

The spooky remains of the flour mill at Dolský Mlyn lie about three kilometers outside of the village of Jetřichovice. The mill, built in 1515, was added to the register of historic places just thirty years ago, but made its first appearance on the silver screen in 1952 with the Czechoslovak classic *The Proud Princess*. The title character and her companion take shelter in the mill and put themselves to work grinding and bagging flour side by side. It's a classic scene in Czech cinematography. And it was shot right here.

Years later, in 2008, director Miloslav Šmídmaier used the mill for parts of *Hell with a Princess*, his successful entry in the crowded Czech fairytale genre. The film toys with the idea of real fairytale creatures encountering actors in costume at this haunted spot. Of course, everyone lives happily ever after.

**Still looking for something to do? Why not get the family together for a movie night... and head out for a trip tomorrow morning!**

# On location in the national park

## Local sights shine on the silver screen

Natural wonders, historical buildings, and even docks and bridges in Bohemian Switzerland attract tourists from around the world and draw domestic and international filmmakers too.

Film tourism is a growing phenomenon worldwide and it's no different here. Film lovers are drawn to this part of northern Bohemia to explore the settings for their favorite films and walk in the steps of the stars. It's something the whole family can enjoy together. You don't have to go far to find the spots where some treasured works of Czechoslovak and world cinematography have been shot.

Here's a look at some of the places that have made their appearance on the silver screen. So strap on your hiking shoes and check them out.

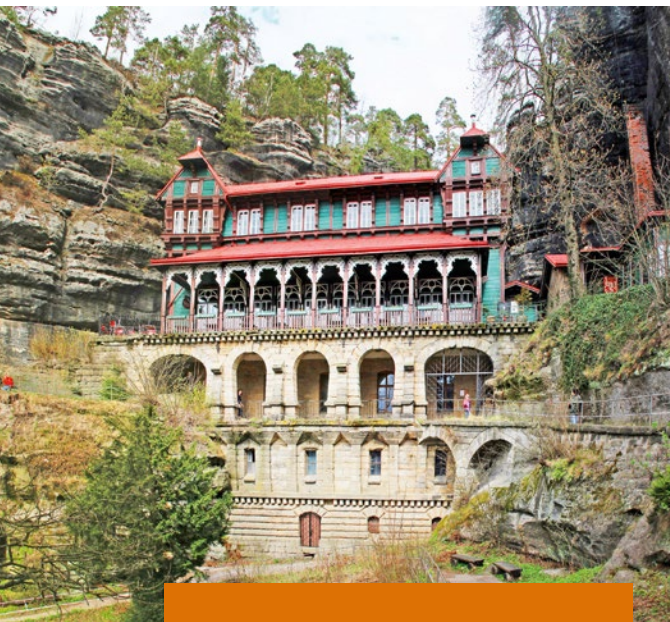






26.5  
m  
Europe's largest natural  
sandstone arch

# Pravčická brána



APR–OCT DAILY 10AM–6PM

NOV–APR FRI–SUN 10AM–4PM

DEC 26–JAN 1 DAILY 10AM–4PM

## Don't miss Europe's biggest natural sandstone arch

One of Bohemian Switzerland's most stunning natural formations is undeniably Pravčická Brána. This natural sandstone arch, a symbol of the region, is a truly impressive natural formation that no visitor to Děčín should miss seeing. Its great size is even more astounding up close. The arch spans 26.5 meters at a height of 16 meters and is 7 to 8 meters wide. At its narrowest, the bridge is only 3 meters across. The upper surface is 21 meters up.

There are several paths leading to this wonder. A long, easy walk heads from the parking lot in Mezní Louka, following the red trail along the sandstone cliffs for 6 km. A shorter, more demanding route starts at the paid parking lot in Hřensko, the lowest-lying town in Bohemia, and climbs straight up to the arch.



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

# Hřensko

## Gateway to Bohemian Switzerland National Park

On 4 May 2020 it will be 130 years since the **Edmund River Gorge** was opened to a curious public. It was a turning point for the local tourism industry. We know with certainty that the godfather of the project was the lord of the local estate, Count Edmund Clary-Aldringen (1813–1894). The founder of the Clary line was a Tuscan of the Clary de Riva family who moved to the Teplice area in Bohemia at the time of the Thirty Years' War (1618–1648). After German noblewoman Anna von Aldringen married a member of the Clary family, an imperial decree (1630) authorized their descendants to use the surname Clary-Aldringen.

In 1841, at the age of 28, Edmund Clary-Aldringen married 16-year-old Russian princess Elizabeth Alexandra Kutuzova (1825–1878), who was fondly referred to as Elisalex within family circles. In 1917 the village of Hřensko christened a rest stop with her name on the path to the Edmund River Gorge. The couple had four children – a girl and three boys.

Edmund Clary-Aldringen brought a force of 200 workers from Italy to Bohemia for the hard work of making the gorge accessible. In a matter of months they had damned the river, built access paths, viewpoints, promenades, and tunnels. The effort cost 170,000 Gulden with a return on investment of one year with boat rides priced at 30 Kreuzer apiece. In the first year of operations the gorge's five boats, each piloted by a ferryman in a sailor suit, served 80,000 visitors.



130  
EDMUNDOVA SOUTĚSKA  
HŘENSKO



Clary-Aldringen's handiwork is the village of Hřensko's greatest asset to this day. The village authority maintains the river gorges and has invested millions of Czech crowns in improving infrastructure and services for visitors.

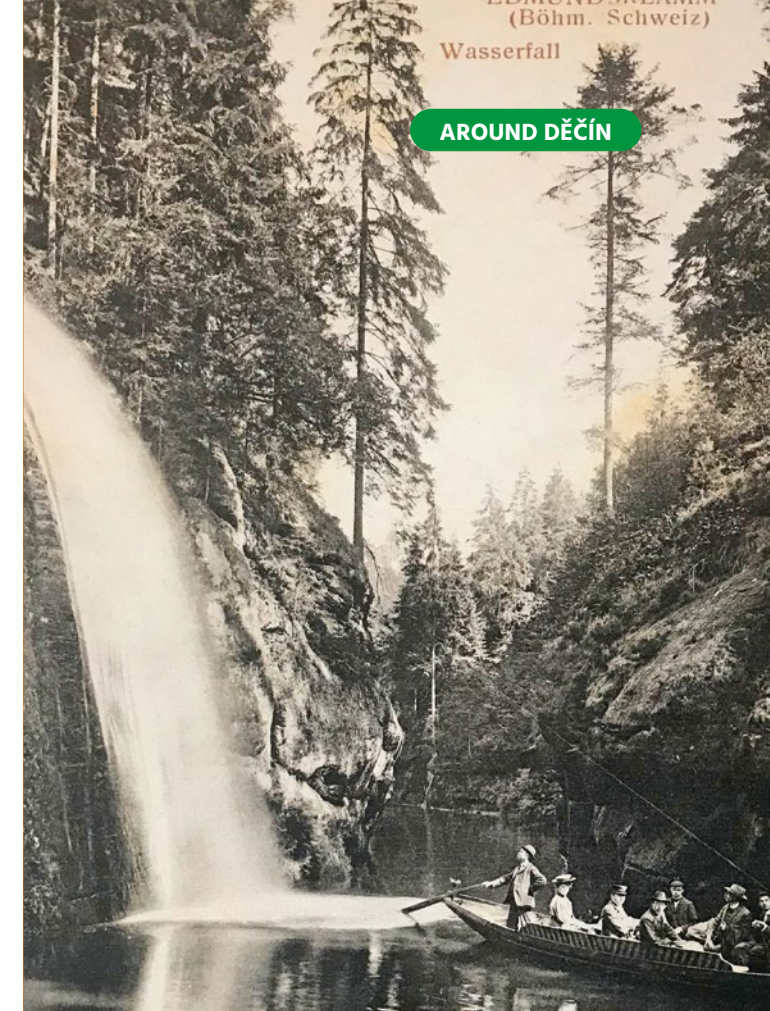
The gorges continue to attract visitors and their reputation is growing. In the seven months that the boats are in operation each year, they serve an average of 300 to 400 thousand visitors and are an integral part of the local economy.

Come for a visit and leave your cares behind for a few hours in the romance of the river gorge. It is sure to be a highlight of your stay in the national park.

JUDr. Zdeněk Pánek,  
Mayor of Hřensko



[www.ihrensko.cz](http://www.ihrensko.cz)  
[www.hrensko.cz](http://www.hrensko.cz)



Wasserfall

AROUND DĚČÍN





AROUND DĚČÍN

SAXON SWITZERLAND  
NATIONAL PARK

SAXON SWITZERLAND  
NATIONAL PARK

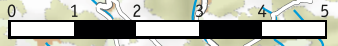
BOHEMIAN SWITZERLAND  
NATIONAL PARK

Děčín

Rumburk

Varnsdorf

Nový Bor





# Under a blanket of snow

Do you enjoy a long walk in the nippy air? Long to get away from the crowds? Come discover Bohemian Switzerland in the wintertime, when Jack Frost works his magic on the sandstone cliffs in shades of ice and snow.



The cold nips your nose, frost burns your cheeks, snow crunches underfoot. From the warmth of a cozy hotel room, we're off in search of Jack Frost. Our first trip leads to the very heart of Bohemian Switzerland, Pravčická Brána itself. The way from Mezní Louka is lined with sheer cliff walls rising up on either side and we are curious how the great stone arch will look with its dusting of snow. We're just a bit frozen and just a bit impatient. The kids are asking if we're there yet. As usual. For a while we start to wonder if we took the right turn. But then, suddenly, there it is, towering above us. It's huge, massive, and powdered like a great big dessert. It's too bad the restaurant is closed and we can't get to the next viewpoint. But it doesn't matter really. The arch is beautiful, and worth the trip. What's more, there's no one around, and we can take our time reveling in the forces of nature.

That evening we relax in the sauna and plan the next day's trip. We want to see Brtnické Ledopády, a series of frozen waterfalls in the Vlčí Potok valley. The next morning we head out to the village of Brtníky,



where we leave the car and take off on foot. Soon we're marveling over fascinating ice formations with names like "the curtain," "Bethlehem," "the pipe organ," and "big column." The walk is seven kilometers. Plenty of time for snowball fights. We head for hot soup in a local restaurant, where we get a tip on an ice cave. So we head out to the Kyjov valley and the river Křinice. The kids pull out their sleds and since the path to the cave is a straight one, they hitch up the dog and let him pull. As we get closer, the path gets a bit trickier. It's slippery and the

dog keeps getting underfoot. The kids love it. We claw our way up the hillside to Jeskyně Víl (the "fairy cave"). It's basically an overhang that fills up in the wintertime with icicles. It's so gorgeous. Before heading back, we stop for tea in a little local place and then head home. But we'll be back. Winter in Bohemian Switzerland has a lot to offer. Next week we'll be here with our cross-country skis. There are some good tracks on Děčínský Sněžník and the kids have found a thermal spa they want to go to just across the border in Bad Schandau.

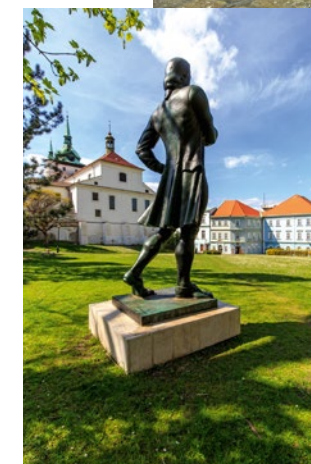


## Treat yourself to some spa time

One of the most exciting new attractions in the region, Bohemia's largest treatment spa **THERMALIUM**, is less than an hour from Děčín. Over 450 square meters of water surface are fed by the eighteen-thousand-year-old spring Pravčídlo that bubbles up from the volcanic rock below Teplice's Beethoven spa building. It's the only one of its kind in the world.

In the main treatment and rehabilitation pool, where one does not swim but relaxes, the spring delivers a balmy 35°C. There is a range of attractions for the visitor – a massage table, a waterfall, massage jets for every part of the spine, an underwater bicycle, foot massage jets. In the other pool the temperature of the spring water is slightly reduced to allow exercise at a comfortable 29°C, so that swimmers can enjoy the panoramic view of the spa as they take laps. Switching between hot and cold, combined with walking on the pebbled Kneippe walkway, helps decrease swelling and supports healthy circulation in the legs. For sauna enthusiasts, there are four saunas with varying levels of heat and humidity.

Set aside a day for relaxation and head for the nearby spa town Teplice. Thermalium itself will win you with its architecture and grounds, where tradition meets modernity.



### TEPLICE HAS

- The oldest spa in the Czech Republic
- The longest spa tradition in central Europe
- The oldest central European spa architecture



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





its “stone horseshoe,” a U-shaped piece of rock surrounded by local legend, and its nine-sided Renaissance fountain with a Baroque statue of the Virgin Mary. One of the major cultural landmarks is the Gothic-Renaissance cathedral. There are guided tours during the tourist season. In the covered passage between the church and the stone castle there is an exposition dedicated to the history of the town. Visitors can climb the church tower, where there is a wonderful view of the town and countryside. Another important landmark is the pilgrimage chapel of the Birth of the Virgin Mary, a high Baroque structure dating from 1736 to 1739 with ambits and a four corner chapels. The structure is most likely a late work of Litoměřice architect Octavio Broggio. The interior was completely renovated in 1883-1885 under the patronage of local businessman and town mayor Franz Preidl. There are also guided tours available here during the season.



cliff chapel of the Holy Trinity. The double-peaked basalt hill with its clifftop viewpoint Jehla is certainly worth seeing, as is Ponorka, a trio of natural sandstone chimneys accessible by carved stairway.

To see the surroundings, take a walk on the yellow trail. Along the way you'll find viewpoints and points of interest in the area such as the

East of Děčín lies the town of Česká Kamenice, guarded on the south by the ruins of a hilltop castle and on the north by a massive basalt cliff. The little town is surrounded by beautiful natural scenery where three landscapes meet: The Elbe Sandstones, Central Bohemian Uplands, and Lusatian Mountains.



Today, Česká Kamenice is a bustling regional tourist center, visited not only for its good looks and abundance of cultural sites, but also for its fortunate location in an attractive landscape. Its historical center has been exceptionally well preserved and was declared a municipal landmark in 1992. Over the years the number of buildings declared cultural landmarks has grown to 49. The renovated town square is known for



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



# Studenec

Unique observation tower



Five kilometers northeast of Česká Kamenice, between Líska and Studený, lies a unique landmark – an all-metal riveted tower on the summit of Studenec at an elevation of 736.5 meters. It was erected in 1888, renovated in 2007, returned to the summit on 14 March 2009, made accessible on 5 June, and opened officially to the public on 21 June 2009. The renovation was overseen by the city of Česká Kamenice, which owns the structure, in partnership with Studený and Lipnice citizens' association (now active as Spolek pod Studencem), Amici Decini, and the Czech Tourists Club. Individual donors are commemorated with nameplates on the stairs of the observation tower.

Studenec is home to chamois brought here in the early 20th century from the Alps. The animals have adapted well to local conditions and today you will encounter them on hillsides in the Lusatian Mountains and even near human settlement. As for other area wildlife, a local chronicle kept by Ernst Vater noted "in 1759 wolves were seen on Kaltenberg." Presumably they haven't returned. The hill is one of the most valuable biological locales in the Lusatian range.

# Dolský Mlýn, steeped in mystery

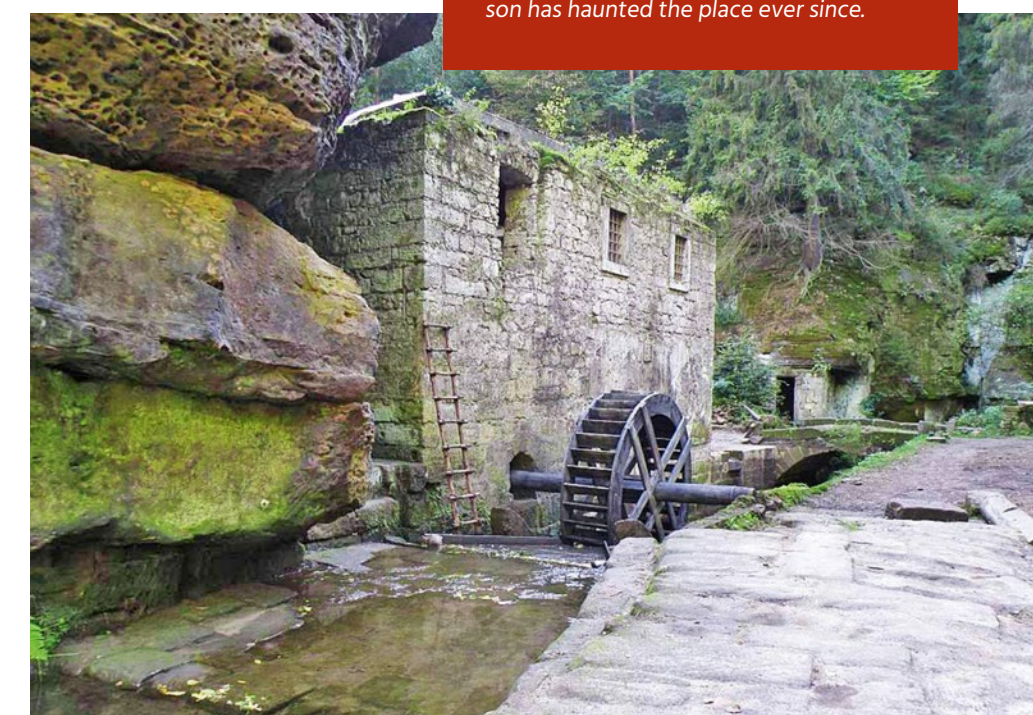
When you visit Bohemian Switzerland National Park, don't miss the chance to stop by this spooky little mill, a fairy-tale place with a shadowy past and a bright future.

There it sits, at the confluence of the Kamenice River and Jetřichovická Bělá, not far from the pretty village of Kamenická Stráň. It casts a spell in all seasons, but is truly irresistible on hot summer days. The mill and the paths that lead to it are nestled deep in the woods and the river cools the air. The place is popular with film-makers, who bring fantastic stories to life among its mossy stones. And the old mill has a legend of its own that is re-enacted regularly by a local troupe. The mill dates from 1515; it was registered as a cultural landmark in 2007.

The original mill had three wheels. Two were used for grinding grain into flour and the third powered a saw. They were fully operational until 1814. In time, the millers turned to brewing beer and distilling spirits. In the late 19th century, day trippers visiting the spot could refresh themselves in a little restaurant. After the Second World War, the mill was abandoned. Today only portions of its outer walls remain.

The easiest way to get to the spot is from Jetřichovice on the yellow trail through the woods, three kilometers. The path is suitable for strollers.

The nearest bus stop is in Vysoká Lípa; from there the route follows the blue trail down to the Kamenice River and two kilometers along the river. There is plenty of free parking in Vysoká Lípa. Two routes lead from there, so you can go full circle. On the way, there are plenty of pretty cottages and, halfway down, a little chapel in a nook on the cliff, but the path descends steep stairs cut into the rock, so be careful.



AROUND DĚČÍN



## THE LEGEND OF THE MILL

Legend has it that once upon a time the miller's son set off to seek his fortune. Years later he returned, a rich man, to the home of his parents. Time had so changed his appearance that he thought he'd play a trick on them. He pretended to be a stranger, with the intention of surprising them at breakfast the next morning. But the miller and his wife, seeing the wealth of their guest, killed him in his sleep and robbed him of everything. In the morning they discovered that the dead man was their very own son. Unable to live with what they'd done they took their own lives. It is said that the ghost of the miller's son has haunted the place ever since.



# VLČÍ Hora: Aromas, gardens, and repose

This village at the edge of Bohemian Switzerland National Park is home to the country's leading producer of natural organic cosmetics and aromatherapy products.

The fragrant history of Nobilis Tilia began 26 years ago. Since then, the company has become a pioneer in the development of cosmetics that bring beauty and harmony to their customers. They have something for every skin type, from body lotion to ultra-sensitive products for infants, toddlers, and expectant mothers, with the broadest portfolio of products certified CPK and CPK BIO in the country.

The Nobilis Tilia philosophy is grounded in the power of esoteric oils. They are nature's most effective way of harmonizing all aspects of the human senses. Esoteric oils relieve the body, elevate the spirit, strengthen intuition, and in combination with the finest plant-based oils they are the most reliable path to natural beauty and supple, healthy skin. Customers find that their application becomes a relaxation ritual that perfectly supports peace of mind.

And where does it all happen? In the realm of nature! VLČÍ Hora holds more than just "ordinary" manufacturing halls; a whole aromatherapy center has sprung into existence here. It is an authentic

space for developing and producing natural cosmetics, a place where staff and visitors can relax, and a space for education and outreach. In the neighborhood of the Nobilis Tilia offices, you'll find a unique herbal garden, a renovated village schoolhouse with a visitors' center and a gift shop, an herbal tea house,



a professional studio, and educational facilities.

Come browse. Test the products. Pamper yourself. Accept our sincere invitation to visit the fragrant gift shop, where friendly staff can advise you in selecting the product that's right for you. Entrust yourself to the



Explore  
the world  
of aromas!

hands of the experts in the cosmetic studio, where you can learn how to use natural products to care for yourself at home. In the herbal tea house you can enjoy wonder-

ful herbal infusions, freshly ground organic coffee, and homemade baked goods.

The visitors' center is open year-round and offers regular educational programs. Sign up for courses in aromatherapy, natural gardening techniques, massage, and cosmetics.



The current course selection is posted on the company website.

During your visit, stop for a moment in the herb garden, which is open all year. An interactive information system makes it easy to visit on your own at any time, and guided tours can be arranged. Enjoy the fragrance of the aromatic and medicinal plants grown by Nobilis Tilia gardeners using the principles of permaculture and biodynamics. On warm days, relax in the gazebo with its floral mandala. Children will have fun on the natural jungle gyms and other attractions.



**NOBILIS TILIA**  
VLČÍ Hora 147  
407 46 Krásná Lípa  
+420 412 383 421  
nobilis@nobilis.cz



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



# Riding the iron horse into the Central Bohemian Uplands

Děčín lies at a point where two geomorphological localities meet and two tourist destinations as well. It is the gateway to the Elbe Sandstones but is also adjacent to the hill country of the Central Bohemian Uplands.



Peaks such as Velký Chlum, Sokolí Vrch, and Vrabinec all lie in the Central Bohemian Uplands Landscape Preservation Area. So why wait? Head out to explore this unique landscape today. And why not take a train?

The Zubrnice museum railway (Velké Březno—Zubrnice—Lovečkovice—Úštěk) runs historical locomotives on summer weekends and holidays. Trains depart from Ústí nad Labem – Střekov, passing through Svádov, Valtířov, and Velké Březno to Zubrnice. The stop nearest Děčín is Malé Březno. What can you expect on the way? In the first place, a ride on a historical train, usually pulled by an M131.1 locomotive

(affectionately dubbed “Hurvínek”). Some trains are pulled by a steam engine. The final destination is the village of Zubrnice, one of three village folkways reservations in the Ústí region. The main attraction here is the outdoor museum of village life, which hosts regular events such as a May fair, Easter, or “Autumn in the village.” The other major attraction lies directly on the rail line itself. It’s the Zubrnice railway museum housed in Zubrnice–Týniště station. Visitors can see a reconstructed historical railway office and a number of expositions, including an exhibit of handcars.

Zubrnice is a great destination itself. But it also makes a great starting point for a hike. The most popular walk from here is the climb up Buková Hora on the red trail. When

you reach the top, an elevation of 683 meters, you’ll find a broadcasting tower that is the highest concrete structure in the country. Don’t forget to visit nearby Humboldt outlook with its fantastic views. You can see the Central Bohemian Uplands’ highest peak Milešovka from here, or the nearby Ore Mountains.

## Other destinations

From Zubrnice it’s not far to Lovečkovice, where you’ll find the Uhelná Stezka trail (the “coal trail”). It’s a walk of 4.5 km from the little museum in Lovečkovice through the village of Náčkovice to the Vířová outlook. Signs along the way provide information about local flora and fauna and the fascinating story of coal mining in the area around Lovečkovice.

[www.stredohori.cz](https://www.stredohori.cz) [@stredohori.cz](https://www.stredohori.cz) [@stredohori.cz](https://www.stredohori.cz)





# Get up and go!

Sandstone cliffs with a thousand trails, anchored climbing routes in the heart of town, Bohemia's greatest river, diverse terrain – there are a thousand ways to enjoy an active vacation here.





www.idecin.cz/via-ferrata

# Via ferrata in the middle of town

Few cities can boast as many anchored climbing routes as Děčín. The riverside bluff in the heart of town has hours of climbing enjoyment to offer.



150 m

Biggest via ferrata in CZ

Sixteen via ferrata routes compete for your attention, offering gorgeous views for climbers from all over the world. Flip through the visitor's log at the top to see who was there before you. With 150 meters of anchored trails of various skill levels, there's something for anyone who's not too afraid of heights. The climb takes about one hour from the riverside to the top of the sandstone bluff and is something even a ten-year-old can master.

An intense experience and stunning views of the castle and river are no longer a privilege reserved for experienced climbers. Qualified guides help individuals and groups on the ascent. And equipment rental is available at the foot of the cliff.



## Via ferrata on Vrabinec

Another via ferrata scales the basalt cliff formation Vrabinec near the village of Těchlovice. Great both for beginners and advanced climbers who want to enjoy the view.

The anchored climbing route is rated difficulty level B. There are three routes here, designed by local climber Karel Bělina. If you're headed out to try the via ferrata, you might also pack along a climbing rope; Vrabinec is a rock-climbing destination with 83 climbing routes.

### www.naferratu.cz

Want to try the via ferrata, rock climbing, or abseiling, but need a little guidance? We're here to help. We offer certified climbing instruction on the Pastýřská Stěna wall in Děčín and on other anchored routes in Saxony. We do sandstone climbing. We rent equipment. And we work with children too. Try climbing here in Bohemian and Saxon Switzerland and you'll be hooked for life.

Labské nábřeží 1717/31 | Děčín  
+ 420 724 220 529

### Getting to the via ferrata

By train: From Těchlovice station (on the Ústí nad Labem – Střekov – Děčín line), follow the red trail about 1 km uphill.

By bus: Bus 450 to the stop in Těchlovice, at the turn for Babětín.

By car: Head to Těchlovice, turn off for Babětín. There's a Vrabinec information board posted on the left; take the red trail from there about 1 km uphill.

### Parking

There's usually room to park in the grass on the shoulder of the road across from the info board. If there's no room, go on until you find a free spot on the left shoulder.



### Other tips

The red trail continues 7 km to Velký Chlum, then 3 km more to Děčín. Make a stop at the foot of the ruins to roast hot dogs on the camp fire or cook out on the grill. There's a swing set too.

ACTIVITIES



# Three days of adventure

Děčín is the perfect place for an active vacation. Come out and see for yourself. Try scaling a hundred-meter cliff, take to the Elbe on a paddleboard or raft, tear downhill on a scooter from the top of Děčínský Sněžník, the highest table mountain in the country, and enjoy the outdoors in motion.

## By raft, canoe, or paddleboard on the Elbe... and back again by bike or scooter

Think the Elbe is just for riverboats? Think again. Navigating downstream from Děčín to Bad Schandau in neighboring Saxony is a one-of-a-kind experience. The broad back of the river will carry your little boat through the breath-taking valley while you watch the cliffs roll by. You might spy a heron or black stork flying overhead, and dodge the occasional ferryboat. Your choice of watercraft includes inflatable rafts and plastic canoes. The trip to Bad Schandau takes about 4.5 hours, while Schmilka takes just three and for Dolní Žleb you only need two hours. You can try paddle boarding on the calm waters in Děčín. You'll never see the river the same way again. Camp Děčín, located on a spot between the river and the bike trail, is your watersports base.



## Bikes, electro bikes, and scooters from Děčínský Sněžník

The bike trail goes along the Elbe River valley, so it's easy to combine a water adventure with a bike trip or a ride on a push scooter. It's a popular combination. Once you make shore, just swap your paddle for a bike or scooter and return along the Elbe bike trail. It's a great trip for the whole family. But the Elbe bike trail isn't your only option for a ride. There are the Ploučnice and Krušnohorská trails as well. The latter gets you from Děčín all the way to the Tisá rock formations, which are well worth a visit. Be prepared for some uphill riding, but if you rent an electro bike, you'll get there with ease. And while you've got that electro bike, you should definitely head for Děčínský Sněžník; it's got a great view of Bohemian Switzerland and the central uplands. But if you're looking for a really unique experience, you've got to ride down to Děčín from atop Bohemia's highest table mountain on a scooter. We'll take you from the pickup in Děčín to a spot just below the summit and after you've conquered the hill, you'll ride the 12 km back. For hardcore adventurers there's a 45 km route. We provide maps on every trip or you can get a guide that will show you the beauties of the area best.

## Town and castle sweet-tooth tour

And we've got a tip for the end of your stay in Děčín. Wrap up three days of adventure with a guided walk of the historical castle grounds and a tasting of local goodies. And, why not mix things up a little, and take it on scooters?

## Via ferrata alone or with a guide

Only in Děčín can you experience the thrill of conquering the biggest via ferrata park in Bohemia. With a variety of routes to choose from, there's something for experienced climbers, beginners, and families with children. You won't have to worry about equipment. We'll rent you everything you need right at the foot of the cliff. We'll show you what to do and help you choose the right route. And if you need a helping hand, our friendly, experienced guides are there for you. A climb on the cliff with its unbeatable view of Děčín Castle and the Elbe River canyon is something you simply must do.



## ACTIVITIES

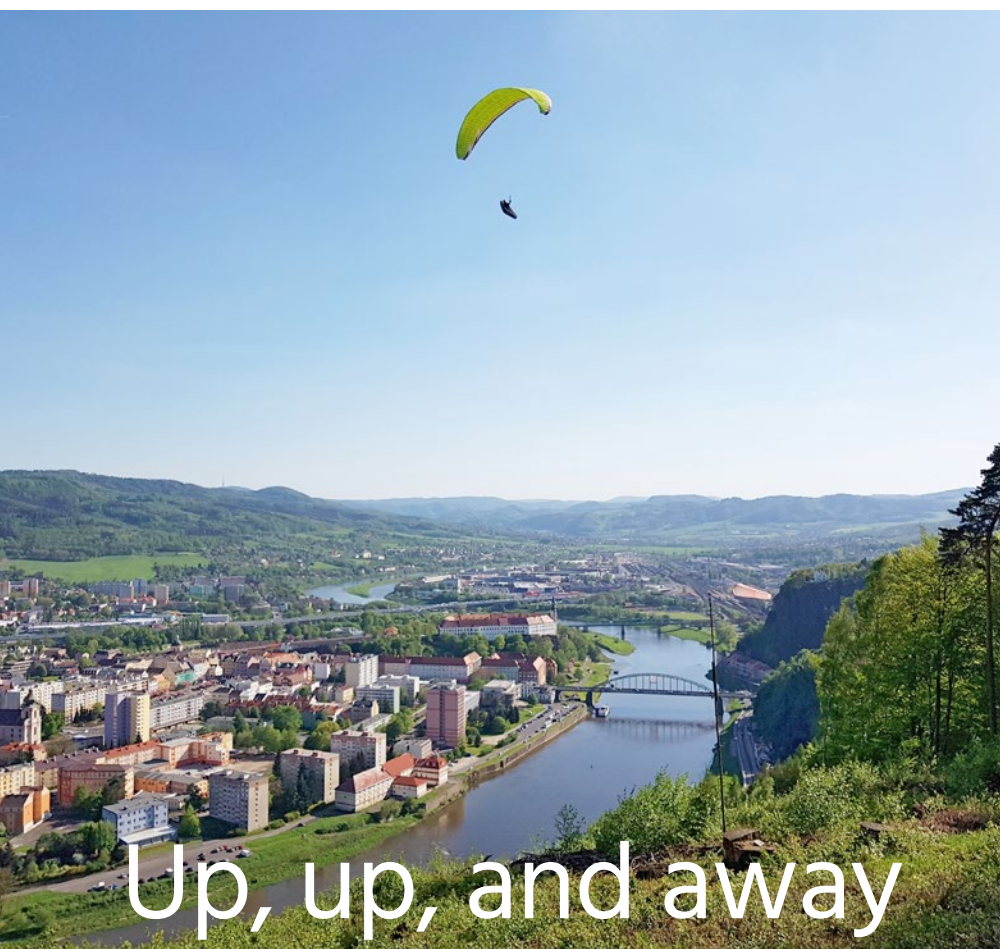
All adventures and equipment rentals can be arranged seven days a week by the experts in Bohemian Switzerland's largest sports equipment rental agency, Active Point Děčín. You'll find it on the river bank near the base of the via ferrata complex. They carry first-class certified equipment from Czech manufacturers and can outfit individuals and large groups. They can also arrange accommodations in Camp Děčín in modern bungalows with their own bathrooms or in "glamping" tents.

**OPEN**  
**APR-OCT DAILY 9AM-7PM**



**Active point**  
Labské nábřeží 33  
405 02 Děčín  
info@active-point.cz  
**+420 739 561 932**  
**+420 724 006 865**





Děčín's unique setting opens the door to many sports activities. And those who love a bit of adrenalin really come into their own. Since 2013 paragliding enthusiasts have been able to take to the air and enjoy birds-eye views of the city and Europe's deepest sandstone canyon. A clearing on one of the slopes above the river makes a perfect take-off site for paragliders. You'll have to get there on foot, following the green trail from the railway crossing at Přípeř, and about half-way up the trail, head straight up. The take-off point is 295 meters above sea level. Total climb 160 meters. Gliders land on the riverbank.



[www.windguru.cz/station/1144](http://www.windguru.cz/station/1144)

GPS: 50.789N 14.2126E

# Up, up, and away

Getting a birds-eye view of Děčín is an unforgettable experience

## Sokolí vrch bike trip

One of the area's most interesting observation towers is at the top of Sokolí Vrch. There's a climb up 162 stairs to the top, but the view is certainly worth the effort. At 34 meters, it's the second highest viewing tower in northern Bohemia. It's a quick bike ride from Děčín.

Route: Děčín – Ploučnice bike route #15 – in Březiny the bike trail joins the Děčín–Benešov road, which you'll follow to the left, towards Děčín. After 800 meters, turn right towards Dobrná. Continue to Huntřov, where you'll see a turnoff to the left for Sokolí Vrch. Return to Děčín via Folknáře.



## Family ride to the “pipes” of Panská Skála

Looking for a day-long family ride? Want to see Bohemian Switzerland and visit one of the area's most popular natural attractions? Hop on your bikes and head to the rocks at Panská Skála.

### Heading out

Our trip begins behind the hockey stadium in Děčín, where you'll join bike route #15 along the Ploučnice River. It's ten kilometers upstream to Benešov on a surface ranging from asphalt and gravel to packed dirt. The route is a bit hilly. After the first segment, you can take a break at the Pod Lesem rest stop, which has bike stands and a toilet. Continue from here through Starý Šachov about nine kilometers to Žandov. From there it's six kilometers to Volfartice on a marked bike trail which also runs on a back-country road, so be alert. There's a village here with a nice lake and some good places to stop.

### Almost there

From Volfartice, continue on bike trail #3056 Varhany, which will take you the rest of the way. The trail follows an abandoned railway line through the woods, joining Česká Lípa and Kamenický Šenov. It is paved, with a gentle climb.

During the ride, you'll pass a couple of rest areas. Cool water falls from the cliffs, offering a chance for a refreshing splash. After about ten kilometers, your destination will



come into view – Panská Skála, a basalt rock formation of pentagonal and hexagonal columns rising twelve meters. This natural landmark is the oldest protected geological formation in the country and is open to the public year-round.

### Getting back

The way home is a breeze... it's downhill the whole time. You can

#### Distance:

30 km one way

#### Terrain:

Asphalt, gravel, roadway, nature trails

#### Bike routes:

Ploučnice #15

Varhany #3056

#### Difficulty:

Medium



# Hoofing it

## Explore the area on a different sort of daytrip

Always ready to try something new? An excursion in Bohemian Switzerland with a donkey by your side may be just the thing! Donkeys can get you to popular tourist destinations such as Dolský Mlýn mill or Růžový Hřeben ridge with its fantastic view of the Elbe River canyon. In addition to the routes we've prepared for you, we are happy to plan a trip just for you.

A donkey trip is sure to be a hit with the kids. Older children can try their hand at leading the animal, and smaller children (30 kg and less) can go for a ride. Or borrow our pack saddle and load it up with your rucksacks. You can head out on your own or take along an experienced guide. Going it alone is a great challenge – you'll learn how to communicate with the donkey, we'll give you some tips on handling various situations and you will soon learn that if the animal senses danger, it will stop and wait (unlike a horse, which can spook and make a run for it). Our donkeys are calm and are in contact with children every day.

Understandably, you don't have to be on the move the whole time. Our recommended routes offer a range of attractive stops. Take a break for a picnic lunch, which we can provide for you. There is plenty to choose from and we are sure you'll have plenty to look forward to! Picnic baskets are packed for our clients by the staff at Café Páv.

Our services are available year-round, weather permitting (in a hard rain, even a donkey wouldn't want to go out). Autumn excursions are especially popular, as Bohemian Switzerland puts on its fall colors.

Where can you find us? Our recommended routes start in the villages of Bynovec and Růžová, which are both easy to reach by bus or by car. You can take out one or both donkeys and the rental period depends on the route you choose. The shortest excursion, from Bynovec to Růžový Hřeben, takes about three hours.



**ASINARA**  
info@asinara.cz  
+420 777 730 958  
[www.asinara.cz](http://www.asinara.cz)



We can pack you a picnic basket from Café Páv at Děčín Castle

## ACTIVITIES



City bus 210 or intercity bus 433 will take you from Děčín to Maxičky. From Maxičky, follow the yellow trail to Dolní Žleb (7 km) – the last third of the route goes through the woods on an old stone path alongside a sparkling stream.

In Dolní Žleb, take the ferry to the right bank of the Elbe. Cross the road to the information panel, where you'll see a marked footpath that will put you on the green trail, a climb of 1 km to Belvédér. From the terrace, you'll get a fabulous view of the Elbe canyon.

You can return to Děčín by bus (Labská Stráž stop) or hoof it on the Knížecí Cesta trail and the Elbe Canyon nature trail, marked in red. Don't pass up the detour to Růžový Hřeben and the viewpoints at Spálenisko, Labská Stráž and Quaderberg. From the terrace on Quaderberg, you'll descend to the hospital, where there is a bus stop. The whole route is 19 km.



# Belvédér daytrip from Maxičky

## WHAT TO EXPECT

**Lovely views of the Elbe canyon**

**Belvédér**  
(popular attraction in Bohemian Switzerland)

**Few hikers on the route**

**Romantic spot**

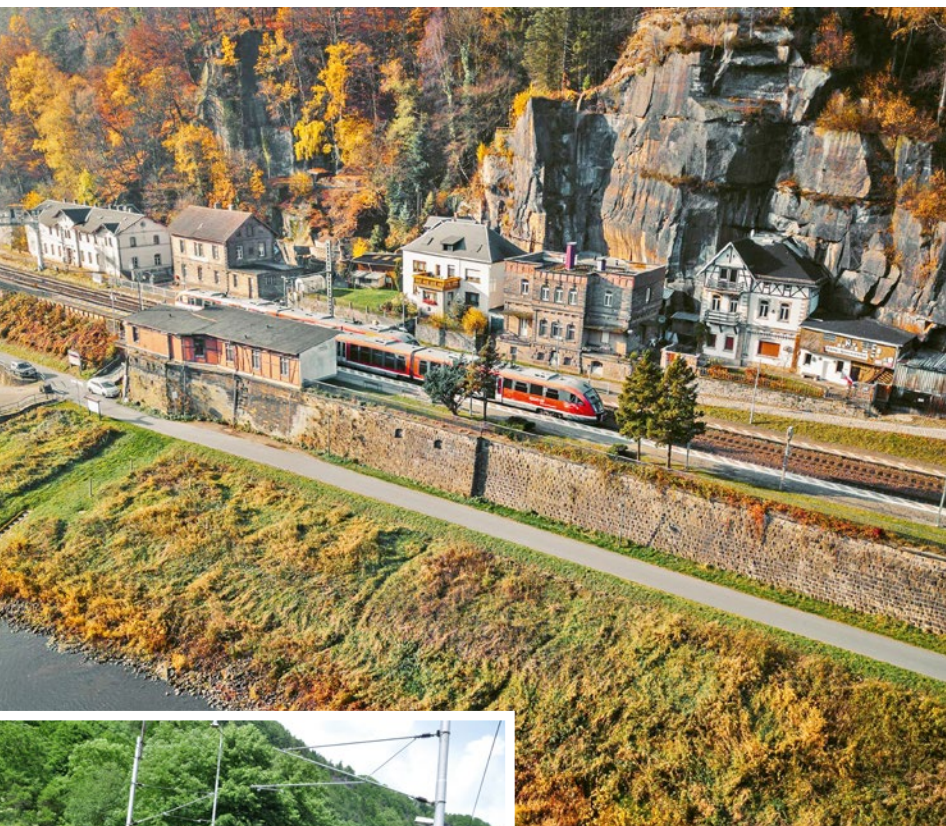
## PLEASE NOTE

Between Maxičky and Dolní Žleb you'll need sturdy shoes, some parts may be slippery, not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs.

## BUS TIMETABLES

[www.kr-ustecky.cz](http://www.kr-ustecky.cz)  
[www.dpmdas.cz](http://www.dpmdas.cz)  
[www.restaurant-dolni-grund.cz](http://www.restaurant-dolni-grund.cz) (ferry schedule)





Explore the park without your car and save yourself the headache of parking. The national park rail line will get you to top destinations.

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

## Visiting the national park without a car

Service on the route Děčín – Bad Schandau – Sebnitz – Mikulášovice – Rumburk – Krásná Lípa – Jedlová – Česká Kamenice – Děčín will take you to within a ferry ride of Hřensko with a stop at Schöna. The mission of the national park rail line (Dráha národního parku) is to provide an alternative to driving. Besides, everyone loves a train ride! There are well marked paths to many of the park's lesser attractions from each station. This sustainable tourism project provides ecological transport to the lesser known, but no less beautiful, spots around Hřensko.

For a map of the system, visit [www.drahanp.cz](http://www.drahanp.cz).

Buses pick up where the railway leaves off, with service to Mezní Louka, Jetřichovice, Schmilka,

Janova, Růžová, Brtníky, and more. And service from Rumburk and Varnsdorf, connects Bohemian Switzerland with the Šluknov spur. Bus 434 links the main centers around the national park with hourly service (in season) to locations such as Doubice and Jetřichovice, making getting around much more convenient than in the past.

The Elbe Sandstones area on the left bank is also better connected today. There is bus-and-bike service from Děčín to Sněžník, a line from Ústí to Tisá, and in the summer German buses from Tisá to Königstein via Sněžník.

In partnership with the Ústí regional transport authority, Czech railways, bus service providers, and Saxon transport companies, it is now easier than ever to shuttle back and forth

across the border. Boat cruises in the Elbe valley are among the loveliest in Europe. Across the border in Germany, nineteenth century riverboats travel as far as Dresden, the historical Kirnitzschtalbahn dating from 1898 winds along the narrow road at the bottom of the Kirnitz gorge from Bad Schandau to the Lichtenhain waterfall, and an early 20th century electric-powered elevator goes to Ostrau.



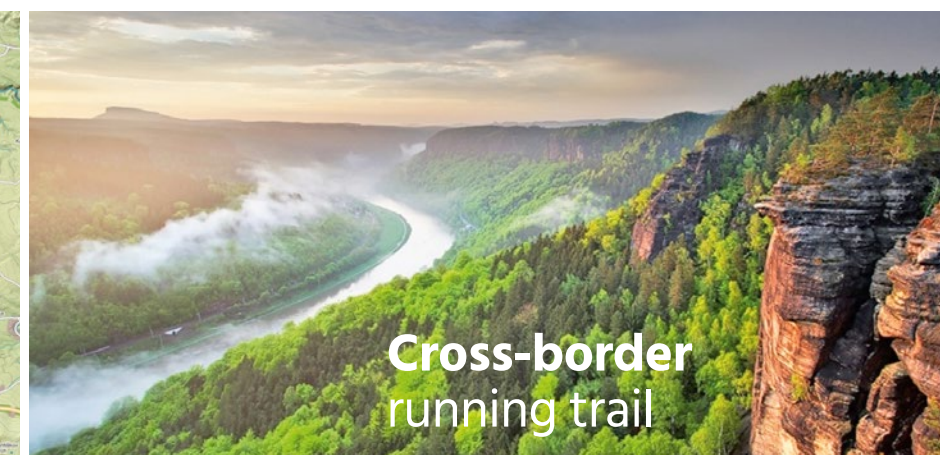
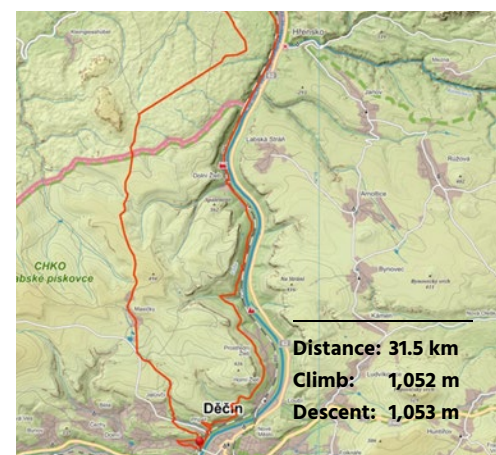
### ACTIVITIES

**Nordic Walking gets you out and about and delivers peace of mind and well-being. Stretch your legs, breathe some fresh air, get yourself in shape, and let the stress melt away.**

Northern Bohemia has plenty to offer Nordic Walkers. This is the northernmost point in the Czech Republic, a sort of Bohemian Nordkapp, with a large number of viewpoints, unique natural wonders, and countless lovely spots worth seeing. Specially designed walking sticks help you engage your upper body as you head off to see the sights.

Nordic Walking is something anyone can do. There are routes for walkers of all ages to get out and get some exercise.

[f Nordic Walking České Švýcarsko](#)



Starting at the left bank parking lot by Tyrš Bridge, run through the tunnel under the railway track and turn right. Cross the tracks again at the railroad crossing, turn left and follow the yellow trail all the way through Maxičky to the crossroads marked U Buku. Continue across the plateau on the green trail to the Czech–German border and Česká brána ("Bohemian gate"). Here you head right, crossing the first path and join the yellow trail, which you

follow to the right. It takes you to a major crossroad where you choose the way to the right and run on towards the village of Schöna. Follow the yellow trail around Zirkelstein, where there are excellent views of the Saxon table mountains and into the village.

Once in the village, take a right at the Old Timer museum and run down to the River Elbe. The trail continues along the river, where

you can enjoy a view of Europe's deepest sandstone canyon. Continue until the ferry crossing in Dolní Žleb, a rock-climbing hot spot. Run under the railway overpass to the right and then take a left and go on until you join the yellow trail, which takes you towards Děčín. On the way you have a great view of the rock climbers on the opposite shore. In Čertová Voda take the green trail, which leads back to the bridge where you started.



# Traveling on your stomach

Let's just admit it – the urge to try various local cuisines is one of those things that prompts us to leave the comfort of home. Because sometimes, when you least expect it, you stumble upon the most wonderful delicacies.







# An extraordinary meal in an extraordinary setting

Seasonal dishes made with local ingredients, home cooking, friendly staff, great coffee... that's the castle restaurant Café Páv.

The castle at the top of the Long Drive is the heart of Děčín. And the heart of town is where you want to go out for dinner! You want to experience that special atmosphere – the calls of peacocks, the shade of ancient trees, the view of the castle's west wing. In summer months you'll fall for the home-made ice-cream (a family recipe), enjoy refreshing, home-made iced drinks, and treat yourself to a piece of cheesecake.

The castle restaurant is open year-round, so you can settle in the cozy interior with its potted plants, massive furniture, and abstract paintings, for coq au vin with a glass of wine from an extensive wine list, even in the winter months.

Café Páv is a place where fine cuisine is served in a family atmosphere. The restaurant seats 60, but can be adapted for groups of up to 90 people,



making it a great place for family celebrations, parties, and company events. The restaurant has experience catering for large groups. The local, seasonal cuisine uses fresh ingredients. You can even have your meal packed up in a picnic basket to enjoy in the castle gardens.

**FUN TIP:** If you like what you see on the menu at Café Páv in Děčín, stop by Café Páv at Ploskovice castle, another popular destination in the Ústí region, where the restaurant has been serving satisfied customers since 2016.



[www.cafepav.cz](http://www.cafepav.cz)  
Fb/cafepavdecin





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We are a family-owned café... a place for great-smelling coffee and interesting stories.



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

Coffee & Books is a story itself... of a search for meaningful work and a happy life. We have tried to create the sort of place that we'd like to find on our travels, a source of inspiration. We've come up with a menu to suit our own tastes, which is easier said than done. There are cakes and pastries, smoked meats and delicacies of all sorts. There's local prosciutto, cider made from native apple varieties, coffee from our hometown roaster Caffé 08. We always opt for local suppliers when we can. We make our huge sandwiches with the award-winning bread from a local bakery, Danino pekařství. Even the jam we serve with our fluffy waffles and crusty croissants has a story – we get it from Štěpánka, a local jam maker, whose marmalades have won awards in England, the world's marmalade superpower. We think it makes sense to work with local suppliers because that's the basis of sustainable business. We make most of our own desserts. Our addictive "čoko-maus" Belgian chocolate mousse, cheesecake, carrot cake (a recipe that came to us from Wyoming) – all of them have their own story. Come for breakfast any time. The doors are open seven days a week. We look forward to seeing you! Jana and Jan



[WWW.VINOTEKADECIN.CZ](http://WWW.VINOTEKADECIN.CZ)

## A glass by the castle

If you're strolling about town, it's worth stopping at Vinotéka Děčín in Křížová ulice. The shop carries wines from Bohemia and Moravia along with many other regional products. You can enjoy a cup of select coffee from the local roaster Caffé 08 and in addition to its year-round seating, it also hosts special tastings of selected wines. Reservations can be made for corporate events and private tastings. Vinotéka Děčín regularly hosts several major events – Day of Rosé, Bubble Fest, and the Saint Martin's new wines festival.

**OPEN**  
**MON-FRI 10AM-6PM**  
**SAT 9AM-12PM**

[www.vinotekadecin.cz](http://www.vinotekadecin.cz)  
martina@vinotekadecin.cz

## DĚČÍN ROWANBERRY BRANDY

The hills around Děčín offer suitable conditions for rowan trees, used in folk medicine for a long time. The distinctive piquant flavour of our rowanberry brandy without added sugar will surely enchant you. 46 % alc. by vol.

## DĚČÍN CASTLE LIQUEUR

The liqueur follows in the tradition of growing exotic plants in Děčín Castle gardens. The refreshing taste of citrus fruits is accompanied by aromatic herbs and spices. 38 % alc. by vol.

GRĚŠÍK®  
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Březinova ul., Děčín I, tel.: +420 412 516 268  
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## PENSION & RESTAURANT

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# Gastromap

The more ground I cover touring with the theatre, the more convinced I become that this country is growing, progressing, getting more beautiful. I started to really get into food and about six years ago and I began posting daily reports from my travels on Facebook – **Lukáš Hejlík's Gastromap**. Every day I'd add another place where it was worth getting a bite, or coffee, or dessert.



Near Děčínský Sněžník, a place called Ostrov is worth visiting. It's in a valley surrounded by cliffs. The Kulič family runs it, continuing the work their dad began before he died tragically. They've built their hotel's whole reputation on great food. It may have cost them a couple of regulars, but the restaurant has a growing following among foodies. If you order their pastrami, grilled sheep's cheese, or mutton in prune sauce, and wash it down with beer made especially for them by Falkenštejn brewers in Krásná Lípa, you'll be in paradise.

In Děčín, get a coffee and something sweet (or a hefty sandwich, or toast) in Coffee & Books. Yes, there are plenty of books, and a load of cultural events take place here too. The coffee is roasted by Caffé08 in nearby Březiny and the café works with lots of other local businesses, from bakeries to delicatessens. Watch out, there are English courses too!

At night things get hopping at Karl's. Karl's Grill Bar does American double-decker burgers, awesome Mexican tacos, and British fish 'n' chips, but they also have local beer from Děčín and soft drinks from Brno. Some people come to fortify themselves before a long night out. And some come back later for seconds. Karel

and his buddy work the grill until one o'clock in the morning. But really, there's no need to go anywhere else, the bar serves decent mixed drinks too.

The food at Na Stodolci guest house has achieved such renown, that sometimes guests come stay here without any intention of enjoying the beauties of Bohemian Switzerland. They just want a taste of the local cuisine. Matěj and Tereza Kudla were among the first to start cooking local. And young, talented head chef Miloš Daněk is from the next village. You can try out his Malin goat cheese, Rožanský trout, beef cheeks from the local Biopark,

## DINING

with a beer made to order by the Krásná Lípa brewery Falkenštejn. And if all else fails, you have to try their pancakes and just soak in the country atmosphere, animals everywhere you look and honest-to-goodness cooking with the best ingredients.

Heading towards Pravčická Brána, you can get a great meal at U Fořta. The place is always packed, but the kitchen and wait staff manage everything with bravura. Kulajda, goulash, duck, boar loaf, or cream cakes with vanilla sauce, will make your mouth water. And there's Cvikov on tap!

In Rumburk you can try Bohemian Coffee House, in Varnsdorf of course the Kocour brewery, but also desserts from the pastry shop Dlask, and in Česká Kamenice the goods at Martin bakery will knock your socks off.

Enjoy day-tripping, choose your lunch spot well, talk with your server, that's the only way that Bohemian cuisine will keep moving ahead. Every good, new place generates new, satisfied customers. When you've had an unbelievable experience in a pub the night before, you don't want to find today's place wanting. And from tomorrow's you'll expect something more! And that's good. Enjoy your meal.







## Beer from Bohemian Switzerland

You'll find Falkenštejn brewery on the town square in Krásná Lípa, the heart of Bohemian Switzerland National Park. The place lies on the crossroads of the popular hiking regions of Bohemian Switzerland, the Lusatian Mountains, and the Šluknov spur.

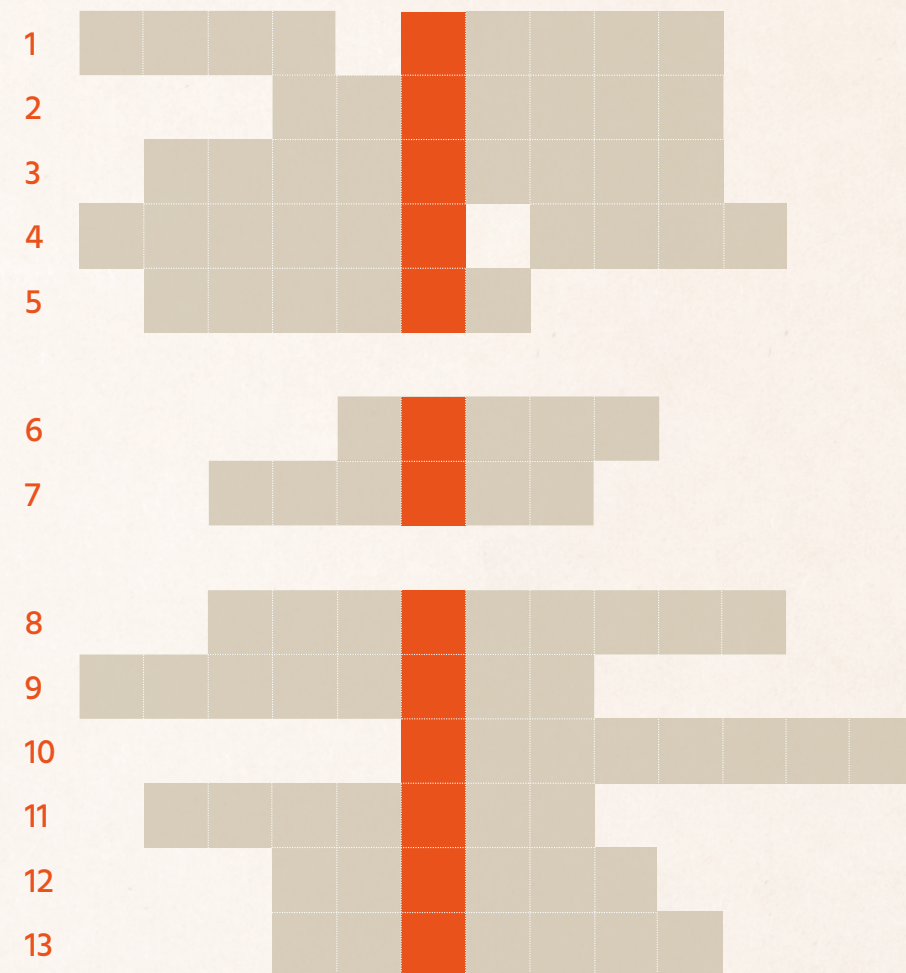
The brewery has its own in-house restaurant, where you can enjoy a cold brew along with some Bohemian cuisine. For those who want to stay the night, there is lodging available in the guest house. For larger groups or corporate events, there is a small banquet room. For company events, we can set up a full program including a beer talk, a tour of the brewery with a tasting, or a guided trip.

You can combine a brewery visit with a day exploring one of Bohemia's most beautiful and diverse natural areas, no matter what the time of year. Whether you head out on foot, by bike, or on snowshoes to the national park or the Lusatian Mountains, Falkenštejn beer will always be at hand!



## Before the coffee comes...

- 1 At 292 m, Děčín's \_\_\_\_\_ is the longest castle driveway.
- 2 Bohemia's highest table mountain (723 m) is Děčínský \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Europe's biggest natural sandstone arch is \_\_\_\_\_ Brána.
- 4 The viewpoint at \_\_\_\_\_ in Dobrná has 162 steps.
- 5 You can ride a flat-bottomed boat through the \_\_\_\_\_ Gorge in Hřensko.
- 6 This town in Saxony was defended by a brave pharmacist in the Thirty Years' War.
- 7 The old mill at \_\_\_\_\_ Mlýn was built in 1515.
- 8 The cliffs and rock formations around Děčín are made largely of this rock.
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_ Switzerland National Park lies along the Czech border with Germany.
- 10 Just south of Děčín, you can climb the via ferrata at \_\_\_\_\_.
- 11 Thermal water from the Pravčická spring feeds the spa in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12 The Czechoslovak fairytale *The Proud Princess* was filmed at \_\_\_\_\_ Skála.
- 13 In season there are daily cruises to this Saxon metropolis from Děčín.



## DINING

## KAFÁRIUM CAFFÈ08 POINT



### A tranquil break in a modern setting

Select coffee | Organic soft  
drinks from Proviant | Cakes  
Kombucha | Sedlák wines  
Grešik teas  
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### CAFÉ AND SHOP

OPERATING HOURS  
Current hours are posted online

Březiny 211 | 405 02  
Děčín 2  
Czech Republic







# Pivovar shopping center

A short walk from the main railway station in Děčín's Podmokly quarter is a place dedicated to recreation and relaxation, where past and present meet. The city brewery has been transformed into a multipurpose shopping center while still retaining its special character. The history of Děčín's brewery reaches back to the 18th century, and visitors will notice original details at every turn, among the modern shops and cafés.



Děčín's only shopping center offers visitors a diverse mix of shops. A McDonald's restaurant opened here this year. Other attractions include a microbrewery and restaurant, cafés, a supermarket, services, a family fun center, and plenty of parking.

An homage to the center's past can be found in Kapitán restaurant and micro-brewery, located in the old cellars. Diners can enjoy excellent food made by traditional recipes along with house beers in a cozy, pleasant atmosphere under historical, arched, stone ceilings.

And if you've got the kids along? There's something for them too. Take them to the Hopsárium play area on the upper level. It's one of the largest indoor playgrounds in northern Bohemia. There are kid-sized cars, a jungle gym with slides and obstacles, a big trampoline, a jumping tower, foosball, and Xbox Kinect interactive games.

The center hosts regular events such as concerts, contests, celebrations, and more. When you visit Děčín, be sure to stop by for a look at this historical building and admire the way old and new can come together.

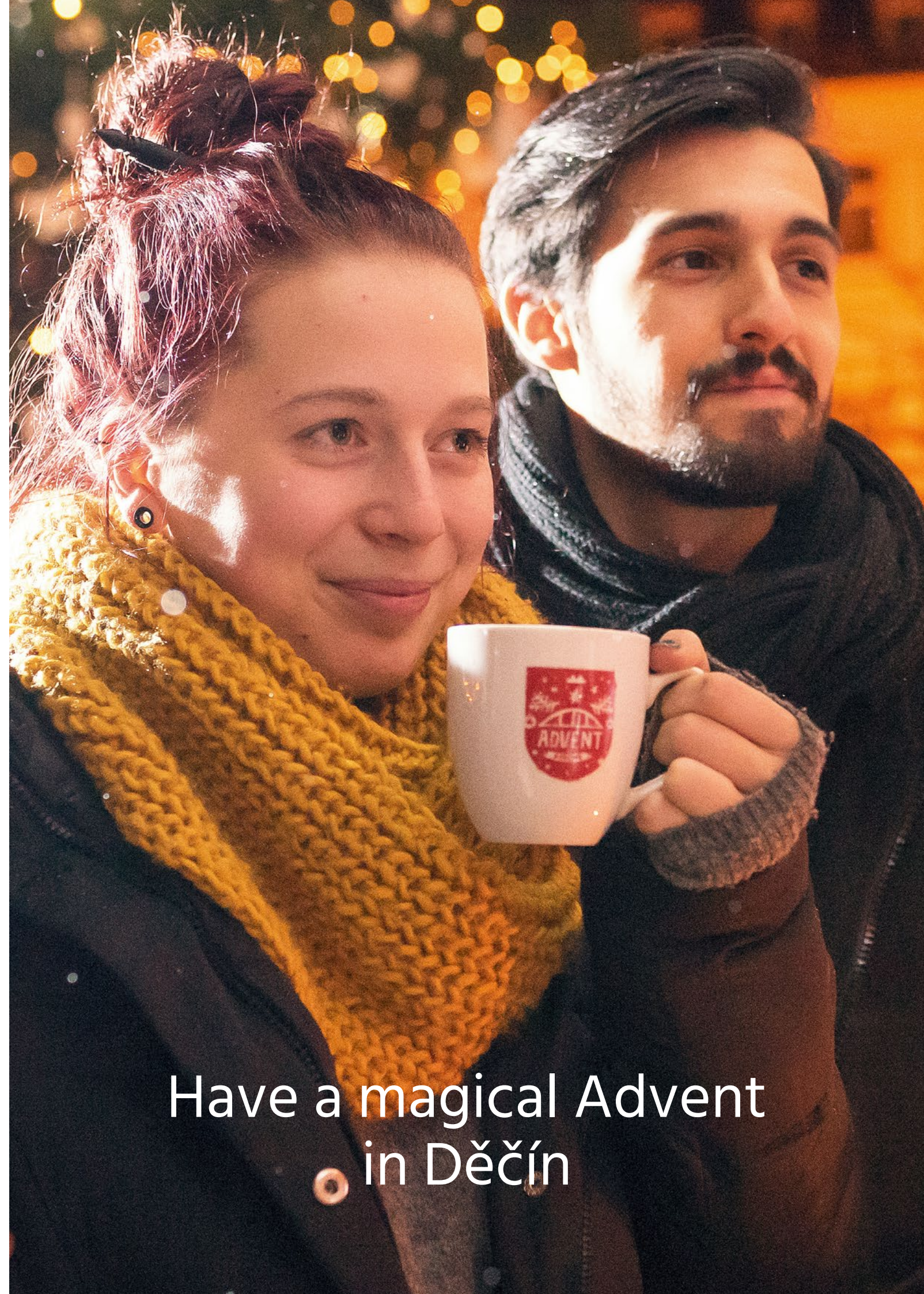
[www.pivovarskarestaurace.com](http://www.pivovarskarestaurace.com)  
[www.decin.hopsarium.cz](http://www.decin.hopsarium.cz)

OPEN  
DAILY 8AM-8PM

OC PIVOVAR | Sofijská 2/3 | Děčín 4



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



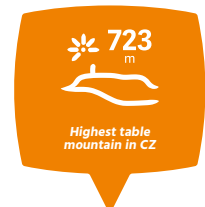
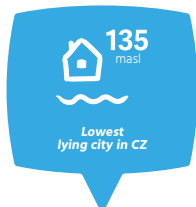
Have a magical Advent  
in Děčín





# Discover Děčín

Did you know that Děčín is a city of superlatives? During your visit you can walk the longest castle access road, climb on Shepherd's Bluff on anchored climbing routes, see Europe's largest natural sandstone arch, relax in the greenest and lowest lying city in the country, wander along Europe's deepest sandstone canyon, ride the most popular bike trail, and take in the view from the highest table mountain in Bohemia.



DĚČÍN IS DIVINE