

KRKONOŠE



A Guide to 

The Real Krkonoše

Feel free to accept an invitation to the hills and valleys of the Krkonose Mountains. Explore as a pilgrim a landscape whose uniqueness transcends the boundaries of the country.

www.krkonose.eu



The Krkonose's Unique Nature

The Krkonose are an island of mountains amidst the lowlands of Europe. It is an island brushed by a glacier and battered by winds blowing from the North Sea, an island shaped into a variegated mosaic of intertwining natural phenomena. One of the most important is the **arctic-alpine tundra** prevailing on its ridges. To see it, you have to climb through **blooming meadows** rich in herbs and **beech forests**. Let yourself be guided by the rivers and mountain brooks that cut their way through the valleys and tumble over edges of corries as roaring **waterfalls**. They will take you to forbidding, wild and windy places. Meadows with coloured flowers will gradually give way to **peat bogs** and stoney fields. Forests will turn into low **dwarf pine growths** and allow you to enjoy distant views. Welcome to the Krkonose ridges! Enjoy the panoramic views and hit paths that will stay in your memory forever.

Pure Nature, Real Experiences

When it comes to the real Krkonose, it's not about walking great distances and climbing great summits. It is the sounds of silence that only a morning in the Krkonose can offer; it is the moment when the sun's rays mount the horizon and reach the valleys and waterfalls. It is also the light in the unique matgrass meadows and their warm hues, the distant views and deep corries, strong winds and fog, as well as the warmth of the mountain chalets.

The real Krkonose offers room to anyone who appreciates the rough beauty and quietness of the nature and can enjoy it more intensely than just by seeing it.

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How to Cross the Krkonose

There is more than one way. You can start in Harrachov and end in Zacler, or take the opposite direction. You can make it a three-day trip or a week of holiday. Your route can include the border stones on the ridges as well as picturesque valleys with mountain brooks and waterfalls.

60 kilometres / 5 stages

We don't offer just one specific route, but also some alternatives. We have divided the trip into five stages, feel free to combine or join them as you wish. We have also added tips for you to see some **points of interest** in every part of the mountains, and also **mountain chalets** that will offer a bed and allow you to stay on the ridges throughout your trip.

STAGE

1

Eastern Parts of the National Park, Starting in Zacler

The eastern end of the Krkonose lies near the town of **Zacler**, the place where you can also start your trip. The **Stachelberg** artillery fort is also a good starting point, with the red-marked hiking trail leading towards the Rychory ridge. It is a landscape little impacted by tourism, rich in plant and animal species. The beech and spruce forests and meadow enclaves with orchids and white gentians in bloom are dominated by a magnificent view of the eastern parts of the Krkonose.

This trail will take you around the **Dvorsky primeval forest**, with its bent, moss-clad beech trees that give a mysterious impression. The trail continues to the Snezne domky enclave and **Rychorska chalet**.

If you want to continue and enjoy a quiet trip to see the Krkonose's timbered houses and blooming mountain meadows, go through Horni Alberice and end this stage at **Lysecinska chalet**. There is no need to hurry, the eastern parts of the Krkonose are extraordinary.



Places to stay and rest:

Rychorska chalet, Lysecinska chalet



Route length: 17.9 km

Map: mapy.cz/s/gegusafovo

2 Via Horni Mala Upa

You can continue down the ridge trail from Rychorska chalet via **Pomezni ridge**. This is an undisturbed hike on a border trail to **Mala**



Upa surrounded by forest. This Krkonose village is deservedly called picturesque, with its chalets and timbered houses appearing as natural in the local meadows as the grazing cattle. They give a hint as to how households were formerly kept at altitudes around 1,000 m a.s.l.

If you go via Lysecinska chalet and Horni Lyseciny, it will be the **Fairytale Trail**, inspired by fairytales by the local writer Marie Kubatova, that will take you to Mala Upa. From the U Kostela intersection, we recommend trying the trail down to Eliscino valley along the comfortable Cerna voda brook, where you will probably be alone even in the high season.

From Horni Mala Upa, the most interesting countryside can be seen from the trail on the **Lesni ridge**. There is a shorter way that runs directly to **Jelenka chalet**.



Option 1

Places to stay and rest:

Trautenberg brewery, Jelenka chalet

Option 2



Route length, Option 1: 19.2 km

Map: mapy.cz/s/bevunufeca

Route length, Option 2: 17.6 km

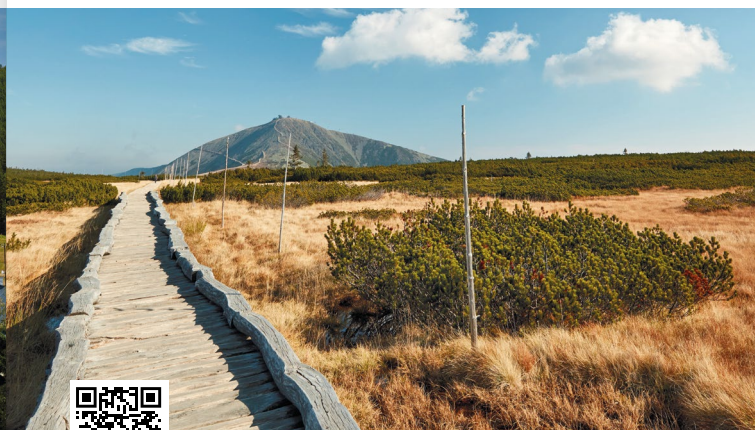
Map: mapy.cz/s/muvavakaza

3 To Mount Snezka and via the Upske Peat Bogs

From Jelenka chalet, we recommend keeping close to the border stones and climbing **Svorova mountain**. The first parts are difficult but will get you within reach of Snezka, the highest mountain. Its summit will be the only thing you will see as you walk through a "tunnel" of dwarf pine branches. When this narrow path turns into a stone field covered in heather and lichen, you will have just reached the area of **arctic-alpine tundra**.

Snezka is a beautiful and majestic mountain, especially when viewed from a distance. We do not recommend staying too long on its summit particularly in the high season as it could be a stressful experience due to the crowds of other tourists. Take the Jubilee Trail to go down (the chain trail is only used to go up in summer) and take the causeway above the **Upske raseiniste peat bogs**.

From the intersection near **Lucni chalet**, you can either take the Czech-Polish Friendship ridge trail for Petrova chalet, or go down along the Bile Labe river rapids to **U Bileho Labe chalet**.



Option 1

Places to stay and rest:

Vyrovka chalet, Petrova chalet, U Bileho Labe chalet

Option 2



Route length, Option 1: 16.4 km

Map: mapy.cz/s/fuvedulaco

Route length, Option 2: 10.6 km

Map: mapy.cz/s/bepumajolo

4 To Snezne jamy Corries and Waterfalls

Starting at Vyrovka, Petrovka or U Bileho Labe chalet, you enter the central part of the mountains, the most popular one. It is full of iconic places.

The highest elevation is reached at **Snezne jamy corries**. At the end of summer, the path to Snezne jamy is lined in violet heather that softens the depth of the corries. Looking back to the east, you will realise how mighty the mountains are. You could continue along the state border, but we recommend going to see the sources of the **River Labe**, the **Labsky waterfall**, and taking a rest at Labska chalet. After that, you can continue along the edge of the Labsky dul valley to reach the **Pancavsky waterfall**.

The **Hanc and Vrbata monument** reminds us of death, while the view from **Harrachovy kameny rock formation** is amazing especially if you happen to be there at sunset.



Places to stay and rest:

Martinova chalet, Labska chalet, Vosecka chalet

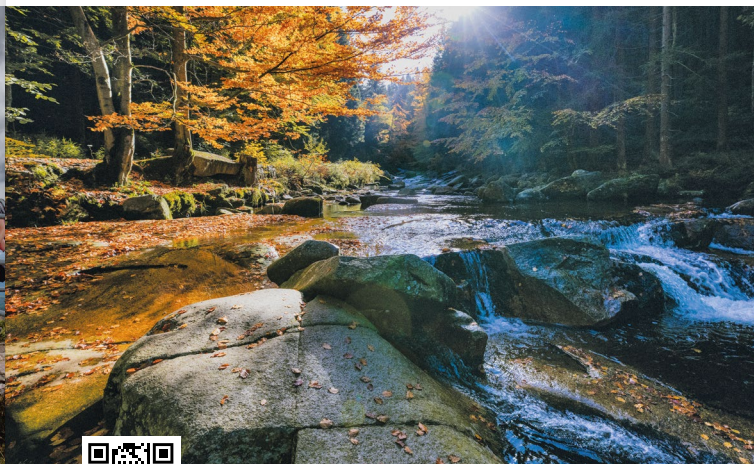


Route length: 20.3 km
Map: mapy.cz/s/loderulose

5 Through the Western Krkonose to Harrachov

Harrachov, your final destination, can be reached in several ways when you come down from the ridges. If you are in a hurry to catch your bus, take the shortest route from the **'U Ctyr panu' junction** along the Mumlava River.

If you still have the time and strength, we recommend following the trail on the edge of **Kotelske jamy valley**, which is especially impressive in the autumn, blazing in warm colours. Enjoy the Kotelske sedlo viewing point as well as views from the terrace of Stumpovka restaurant, part of Dvoracky chalet. The whole town of Harrachov is viewed best from the top of **Certova mountain**. You will descend past the famous ski jumps. The history of the local glassworks is no less famous. This is where your Krkonose trip ends. But the paths run farther ... To Poland, or to the Jizerske Mts. ...



Option 1

Route length, Option 1: 10.1 km

Map: mapy.cz/s/dutujunara

Option 2



Route length, Option 2: 14.2 km

Map: mapy.cz/s/gufadajozu

Practical Information for Your Trip

Where to Park Your Car and How to Get Back

If you decide to use one of the hubs as your starting point, e.g. Vrchlabí, Rokytnice nad Jizerou, and Trutnov, it is easy to get to the route and back. For more detailed information including available parking spaces, please visit our website.

TIP If possible, try to take the train on the romantic railway line called the **Jizera Pacific**, between Jablonec nad Jizerou and Martinice v Krkonosích.



Rules of Behaviour in the Krkonosky National Park

The nature of the Krkonose includes phenomena of global importance, and that's why a national park was declared here as far back as in 1963. The rules of behaviour are defined by the **Visitors' Rules** and the valid laws. Let's obey them! Be aware there are different rules of behaviour on the Polish side of the Park!

The basic rule says – Stay on the marked paths!

- Do not disturb the Krkonose's animals.
- Do not pluck wild flowers.
- Do not enter non-mown meadows.
- Do not enter or ride in forested areas.
- Do not camp or light a fire in forests or anywhere in the Krkonose.
- Take away whatever you bring with yourself.
- Leave your drones and fireworks at home. Do not fly Chinese lanterns.

Safe Movement in the Mountains

The Krkonose are the only Czech mountains with an alpine character. The climate on its ridges, considering the high altitude, is also specific and can be risky. It is therefore wise to get information before you start your hike, and especially to prepare yourself very well.

If you want to be well prepared:

- Do not go hiking alone, and if so, inform your relatives of your route.
- Download the **Zachranka** and **Mapy.cz** mobile apps.
- Constantly check and do not underestimate the weather.
- Find out as much information about your route as possible.

And also pack all the necessary items in your backpack.

What you should not miss when setting out for the mountains? Certainly spare clothes (a functional T-shirt, head band, cap, socks), waterproof poncho or raincoat, a spare sweater or hoodie, first aid kit, suntan lotion and sunglasses. Of course also food and enough drinks.

TIP Extra things to take with you

- Light jacket
- Neck guard, baseball cap, headband, a simple cap
- A pair of light gloves for cold weather
- Trekking poles



www.krkonose.eu/en/travel-safely-mountains



A Guide to the Real Krkonose



The “Mountain Chalet Phenomenon”

Mountain chalets are an inseparable part of the Krkonose's landscape, just as gondolas are part of Venice. They have contributed to its specific character for more than 300 years now. We admire sunlit meadow enclaves in places where forest once had to give way to pastures.

The paths that were formerly used for supplies changed into hiking trails and opened up the mountains, until then inaccessible, to visitors. The locations where the former chalet owners strove hard to create acceptable conditions to live and work are now provided with water and electricity. But that does not mean that life on the ridges is easy. It takes resilience, humbleness, and also the favour of the good spirit of the mountains. Quite often this is more the way of one's heart rather than that of business.

You can see this yourself during your trip. We have chosen ten chalets (“bouda” in Czech) that you can use as a shelter in need, for refreshments, or accommodation. Some also offer the option to stay overnight under a starry sky and wake up to a quiet and fresh morning.

INFO

The prices are valid for the **2024 season**. We recommend always checking them before your trip, and booking your rooms well in advance.

CHALET

1 Rychorska Chalet

The top of **Kutna hill** is dominated by Rychorska chalet. The surrounding pastures are used by Highland cattle, unaware that its regular grazing helps to preserve the variety of species in meadow enclaves. The beef from the cattle served at Rychorska chalet is therefore of high quality, prepared with great care.

Rychorska chalet is one of the most isolated chalets in the Krkonose. It cares well for its guests as well as random visitors.

TIP

Outside opening hours, your life can be saved by warm soup or tea, and you can help yourself to either of these. The amount you leave for your host is up to you.

Accommodation is provided in single to five-bed rooms with high-quality wooden furniture. Some rooms have their own bathroom, others use shared bathrooms and toilets.



Price: 780 CZK / night per person, incl. breakfast

www.rychorska-bouda.cz

2 Lysecinska Chalet

“The right place for those looking for comfort and peace at the world’s end” – this is how one of the guests referred to his visit at Lysecinska chalet. This traditional wooden chalet in Horni Lyseciny offers rooms in an area featuring Krkonose timbered houses and blooming meadows. The original rooms underwent partial reconstruction to increase guests’ comfort, but the specific style has been maintained.

The restaurant focuses on Czech and Krkonose cuisine. The local specialty on offer is Karluv jelen, a beer brewed here, and also locally made mead.

The chalet offers fifteen rooms with shared bathroom.

TIP Not far from Lysecinska chalet is the **Vapenka Museum**. You can reach it only with keys borrowed in the information centre in Horni Marsov.



Price: from 1562 CZK / night per person, incl. breakfast
www.lysecinskabouda.eu

3 Pivovar Trautenberk Brewery

This is an example of a respectful yet highly effective use and revival of what once was a dilapidating building. The brewery was built during the reconstruction of the former Tippeltova chalet, known later as the Druzba hotel.

It was newly opened in 2016, and excellent **Trautenberk beer** has been brewed here since then, served with other delicacies. You can stay in rooms of various sizes with their own bathroom, or in a shared dormitory for 20 persons. The room price includes a Finnish sauna.

The beer is non-pasteurised and non-filtered, refreshing, brisk and just as bitter as necessary. In short – the beer of the mountain folks! You can try it yourself in an excursion to the brewery.

TIP Trautenberk brewery is one of the four stops on the so-called **Krkonose Beer Trail**, on which you can discover special Krkonose beers. See www.krkonose.eu/en/krkonose-beer-trail



Price: 380–680 CZK / night per person, incl. breakfast
www.pivovartrautenberk.cz

4 Jelenka Chalet

When you climb the yellow-marked hiking trail from **Horni Mala Upa** through deep forests, and start thinking you have reached the world's end, a glade will open up before you, with romantic-looking Jelenka chalet. It was built in 1936 by Count **Jaromir Czernin-Morzin**.

The chalet has preserved its traditional appearance and is well kept. Simple rooms are equipped with bunk beds and guests are attended by Czech-Polish staff. You can use your own sleeping bag, or pay extra for bedding. There is a bathroom on each floor.

TIP

If you wish to **see sunrise on Mount Snezka**, Jelenka is the ideal starting point. Remember, however, that if the weather is good, a summer sunrise on the top of Snezka can attract as many as 200 people, so it's better to plan this event for autumn or spring.



Price: 490–670 CZK / night per person,
incl. breakfast
www.jelenka.eu

5 Vyrovka Chalet

One of the most popular chalets in the Krkonose, it can be found in a saddle between **Lucni mountain** and **Zadni Planina mountain**. Since the end of the 18th century, this chalet has in various forms served as a meeting point on the intersection of hiking trails from Strazny to Lucni chalet and from Spindleruv Mlyn to Pec pod Snezkou. Its strategic position made it a popular observation point for tax officials who took advantage of the good view to watch for smugglers.

The present appearance dates back to the late 1980s. The chalet offers accommodation in fully furnished rooms with two to four beds with a bathroom, or in a shared dormitory where guests use their own sleeping bags. The location is outside the main ridge route crossing the mountains, but if you are not in a hurry, it is the ideal starting point for trips in every direction.



Price: 680–1150 CZK / night per person,
incl. breakfast
www.vyrovka-krkonose.cz

6 U Bílého Labe Chalet

This chalet takes its name from the **Bíle Labe river**, in whose valley it stands. It was built to offer refreshments to tourists who went to admire the mountain brook's rapids and cascades that form small waterfalls. Surrounded by mountains, the chalet still serves the same purpose.

Besides traditional Czech cuisine, it offers accommodation in rooms with two to four beds, each with its own bathroom. The spacious terrace with smokehouse and barbecue is an ideal place to sit after a mountain hike, in the setting of a gurgling Krkonose river with forests all around.

TIP The **Certova strouha** nature trail starts only 300 m from the chalet. The brook bearing the same name is confined within a brick bed with many small dams, the way our ancestors effectively prevented large floods. Not only is the system still functional, but also interesting to see.



Price: 980 CZK / night per person,
incl. breakfast
www.boudabilelabe.cz

7 Martinova Chalet

A traditional mountain chalet located on the south-eastern slope of **Vysoké kolo mountain** from 1795.

INFO

Did you know that the Czech tennis player **Martina Navratilova** took her name from the chalet? Her father was the caretaker here, and she spent the first weeks of her life in the chalet.

Accommodation is now offered in 12 rooms, and the chalet features restored stylish interior furnishings and a well-known specialty – blueberry dumplings. The rooms have two to five beds and their own bathroom.

Staying here overnight means a night in an authentic environment in an isolated mountain landscape, at an intersection of hiking trails and within reach of the ridges. You can also go to Ptáci kamen rock formation to see the sunset and enjoy the hour of golden light, together with a view of Labský důl valley.



Price: 930 CZK / night per person,
incl. breakfast
www.martinovka.cz

8 Labská Chalet

One of the Krkonose's most famous mountain chalets is less than one kilometre from the sources of the **River Labe**, on the edge of the **Labský dul valley**.

Its origins date back almost two centuries. Originally a stone and withe chalet, it was changed into an iconic wooden structure in the late 19th century. After burning to the ground, the current concrete building was erected. It is as sharp as the edge of the Labský dul valley, and as rough as its depth. It is perfectly placed in the landscape and joined with the mountains, especially when seen from the surrounding trails.

You can be accommodated in luxury rooms with two to four beds with their own bathroom, or use the shared dormitory. Just wake up within reach of **Pancavský waterfall** and experience sunrise in one of the most beautiful spots in the Krkonose.



9 Vosecká Chalet

Taking its name after the meadow on which it stands, high above the Mumlava valley and three kilometres from the sources of the River Labe, this is the **westernmost mountain chalet on the border ridge** of the Krkonose Mountains. It was originally a hay shed that began to be used by tourists in 1896. Its present appearance dates back to after World War Two, and it still maintains its authenticity, contemporary interior furnishings and the smell of the good old times. Perhaps this is because it is one of a very few Krkonose chalets that have never been damaged by fire.

The chalet offers accommodation in rooms with two to five beds, one 12-bed room, and a shared dormitory. Sanitary facilities are shared.



What makes it a peculiar place is the absence of an electrical supply, so the necessary power is produced by a diesel generator. You can enjoy tasty dishes in its timbered self-service restaurant.



Price: 850–970 CZK / night per person,
incl. breakfast, depending on how many
persons use the room.

www.labskabouda.cz



Price: 500–675 CZK / night per person,
incl. breakfast

www.voseckabouda.cz

The Most Beautiful Places on the Ridges

Muzske kameny Rock Formation ■ Mount Snezka
Pancavsky Waterfall ■ Dvorsky Forest ■ Mumlavsky Waterfall
Sources of the River Labe ■ Hanc and Vrbata Monument
Upske Peat Bogs ■ Certova Nature Trail ■ Snezne jamy Corries



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