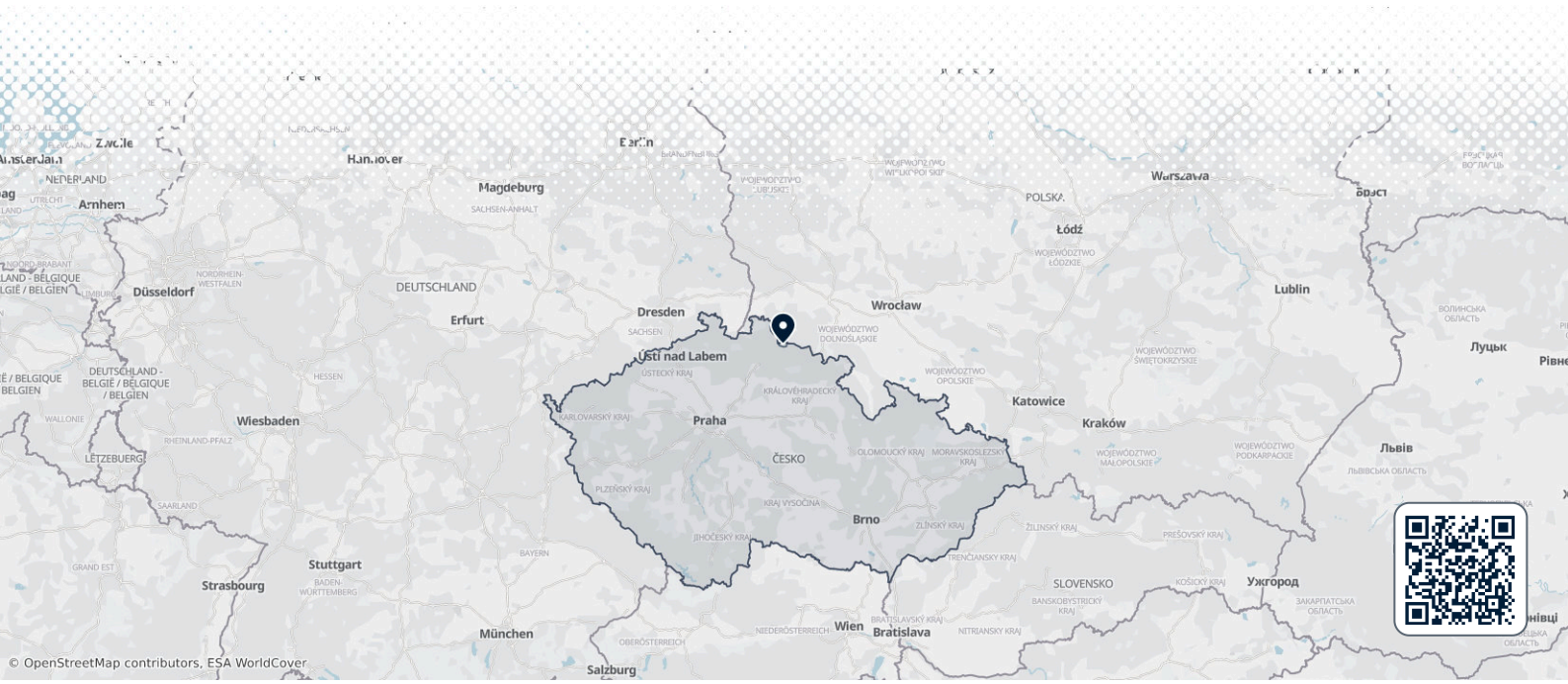


Harrachov

Semily District · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Harrachov is a small mountain town in the western Giant Mountains (Krkonoše), right on the border with Poland. It sits in a forested valley at about 700 m, inside Krkonoše National Park. The town grew around glassmaking, and its glassworks still makes glass by hand today.

Harrachov suits an active holiday in any season. In winter it is a family-friendly ski resort with cross-country trails nearby. In summer it is a base for hiking to waterfalls and up to the main ridge of the mountains. The town is famous for its large ski jumping hills, which hosted world championships in ski flying.

When to visit

Winter, from December to March, is the main season for skiing, and snow is usually reliable. Summer and early autumn are the best times for hiking, with mild days and green forests. Late autumn and early spring are quiet and often wet, and some lifts and huts close for maintenance.

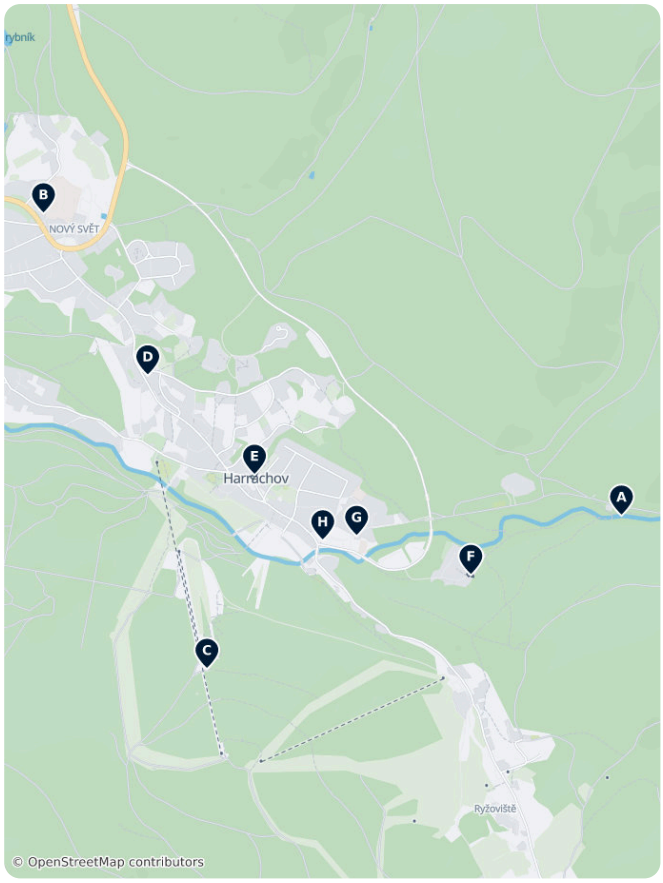
The biggest annual event nearby is the Bieg Piastów cross-country ski race at Jakuszyce, just across the Polish border. It usually takes place in late February or early March and brings thousands of skiers, so book a room early for that weekend.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	-2° / 5° Feels like -9°	-8° / -18°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Great Great for skiing	0° / 7° Feels like -6°	-6° / -16°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Good Good for skiing	5° / 13° Feels like -1°	-4° / -11°	13 rainy days · Dry air
April	Fair Fair for cycling	11° / 19° Feels like 6°	1° / -6°	Dry air
May	Good Good for cycling	15° / 22° Feels like 12°	5° / 0°	14 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 25°	9° / 4°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 7°	16 rainy days · Dry air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 27°	11° / 6°	12 rainy days · Dry air
September	Good Good for hiking	17° / 24° Feels like 13°	7° / 1°	Dry air
October	Fair Fair for cycling	11° / 18° Feels like 6°	3° / -4°	12 rainy days · Dry air
November	Good Good for skiing	4° / 11° Feels like -1°	-2° / -8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
December	Great Great for skiing	-1° / 5° Feels like -7°	-6° / -15°	13 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: August

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



A Mumlava Waterfall is the most visited waterfall in the Czech Republic. The Mumlava river drops about 9 m over granite rocks, and the water has cut deep round pools into the stone. An easy forest path leads there from the town centre in about 20–30 minutes.

B Glass Museum is part of the Novosad & syn glassworks, which has made glass here since 1712. On a tour you can watch glassblowers shape hot glass at the furnace and see the historic grinding shop. The museum shows glass from the factory's long history.

C Mamutí můstek is one of the few ski flying hills in the world. It is part of the Čerťák jumping complex on the slope of Čertova hora, which hosted the Ski Flying World Championships four times. The big hills are no longer used for competitions and are in poor condition, but they are still a striking sight from the valley.

D Harrachov Ski Resort covers the slopes of Čertova hora above the town. A chairlift runs from the valley, and in summer it serves hikers and mountain bikers.

E Church of St. Wenceslas is the town's parish church, built in 1822–1828. Its glass altar and large glass chandelier were made in the local glassworks.

F Mining Museum is set in a former mine near the Mumlava valley. You can see old mining machines and walk into an underground gallery, where it stays cool all year.

G Šindelka is a small museum of forestry and hunting in a historic granite building. It explains how people once cut and floated timber in these mountains.

H Ski Museum has a large collection of old skis and trophies. It tells the story of skiing and ski jumping in the Giant Mountains.

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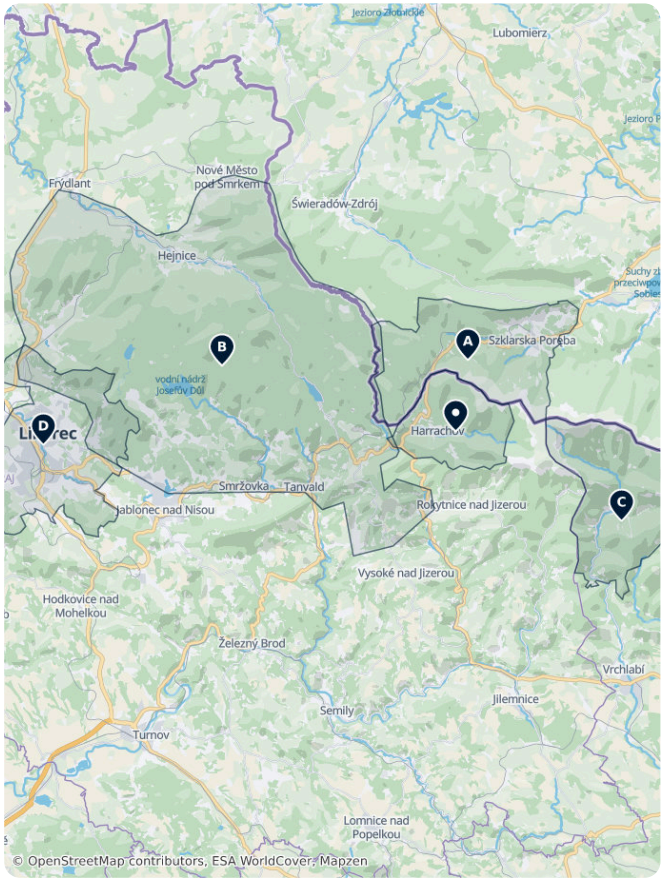
What to experience

The best moments in Harrachov happen outdoors, in every season.

- Cross-country skiing towards Poland: Groomed trails lead from Harrachov to the large cross-country centre at Jakuszyce, just across the border. You can ski between two countries in one day.
- Soak in a beer spa: The glassworks brewery runs a beer spa, where you bathe in a tub with brewing ingredients and drink the local beer.
- Hike to the source of the Elbe: Walk up the Mumlava valley to Vosecká bouda, a historic mountain hut on the main ridge, then continue across the meadows to the spring of the Elbe river.
- Ride the summer toboggan: Bobová dráha Harrachov is a 1 km steel track down the hillside, with a rope park next to it. It is a good choice for families.
- Watch the frozen waterfall: In a cold winter, Mumlava Waterfall partly freezes into walls of ice. The short walk there is also pleasant on snowshoes.

Day trips

Harrachov is close to Poland and to two mountain ranges, so good day trips are short. They are listed from closest to farthest.



- Ⓐ Szklarska Poręba — about 15 min by car, or a short train ride across the border. This Polish mountain resort has a lift up to Szrenica, waterfalls and many restaurants.
- Kořenov — about 15 min by car or train. Ride the rack railway line from Tanvald, the steepest railway line in the country, and visit the small railway museum at Kořenov station.
- Ⓑ Jizera Mountains — about 20–30 min by car. Quiet forests, peat bogs and the lonely hamlet of Jizerka make this a calm alternative to the busier Giant Mountains.
- Ⓒ Špindlerův Mlýn — about 45 min by car. This is the largest ski and hiking resort in the Czech Giant Mountains, set on the young Elbe river.
- Ⓓ Liberec — about 1 hour by car or 1.5 hours by train. The regional capital has a grand town hall, a zoo and the Ještěd tower on the mountain above the city.

Where to explore

Harrachov sits at the western end of the Giant Mountains, where they meet the Jizera Mountains.

- **Nearby towns**: Rokytnice nad Jizerou is the next ski resort to the south, about 10 minutes away. Jilemnice is a small historic town in the foothills, known for its ski museum.
- **Across the border**: Szklarska Poręba is the Polish resort on the other side of the pass.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest large airport is Prague Václav Havel Airport, about 150 km away. The drive takes about 2 hours. By public transport, go into Prague and continue by bus.
- **By bus**: Direct buses run from Prague to Harrachov and take about 2.5–3 hours. Buses stop at the bus station in the town centre.
- **By train**: Trains run on the line from Liberec via Tanvald to Harrachov, and some continue to Szklarska Poręba in Poland. From Prague, the trip takes about 3–3.5 hours with changes. Harrachov station is in the Nový Svět area, about 3 km west of the centre. Check times on České dráhy.

Getting around

- **Public transport**: Local buses connect the railway station, the town centre and the nearby villages. Harrachov is part of the regional IDOL network, and you can buy a ticket from the driver. Timetables are on IDOL.
- **Taxi**: Taxis are few and must be booked by phone. Ride-hailing apps do not operate here.
- **On foot / cycling**: The town is long and spread out along the valley, so expect some walking between its parts. Marked trails start right in town. In summer, mountain biking is popular, and forest roads lead up towards the ridge.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The town is spread out along a valley, but marked trails start right in the centre.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Forest roads and mountain-bike routes are popular in summer; the terrain is steep.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: A car is useful for day trips, trailheads and the ski areas in nearby towns. For a stay focused on Harrachov itself, buses and walking are enough.
- **Parking**: There are paid car parks in the centre and at the lifts below Čertova hora. They fill up on winter weekends, so arrive early.
- **Winter driving**: Winter tyres are required when roads are snowy or icy, which is common here from November to April. Snow chains can be useful on side roads.
- **Border**: The main road continues over the pass to Poland. There are no border checks, but carry your passport or ID card.

Food & drink

Mountain food here is hearty. Look for kyselo, a sour soup made with fermented dough, mushrooms and egg, which is the classic dish of the Giant Mountains. Mountain huts on the trails serve simple meals such as goulash, dumplings and soups.

For a distinctive meal, go to Pivovar Novosad. It brews unfiltered beer on site, and you can watch the glassmakers at the furnaces while you eat. Otherwise, most restaurants are in the centre around the bus station and the main road.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Fruit Dumplings · Ovocné knedlíky
Sweet dumplings filled with seasonal fruit (like plums or apricots), topped with cottage cheese and sugar.

DINNER

Svíčková · Svíčková na smetaně
Marinated beef sirloin in a creamy vegetable sauce, served with bread dumplings and cranberries.

Goulash · Guláš
A hearty stew, typically made with beef, onions, and paprika, often served with bread dumplings or potatoes.

Roast Pork with Dumplings and Cabbage · Vepřo knedlo zelo
A traditional Czech dish of roast pork, bread dumplings, and sauerkraut or stewed cabbage.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Fried Cheese · Smažený sýr
A thick slice of cheese, breaded and deep-fried, usually served with fries and tartar sauce.

Potato Pancakes · Bramboráky
Crispy pancakes made from grated potatoes, flour, and spices, often served as a side dish or a snack.

Chlebíčky
Open-faced sandwiches on slices of white bread, elaborately decorated with various toppings.

Fried Cauliflower · Smažený květák
Breaded and deep-fried cauliflower florets, similar to fried cheese but made with cauliflower.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Trdelník
A sweet pastry made from rolled dough, wrapped around a stick, grilled, and topped with sugar and walnut mixture.

DRINKS

Pilsner Urquell · Plzeňský Prazdroj
The world's first pale lager, originating from the city of Pilsen, known for its crisp, refreshing taste.

Becherovka
A traditional Czech herbal liqueur with a distinctive bitter-sweet taste, often enjoyed as a digestif.

Kofola
A popular Czech herbal cola-like soft drink, often described as having a unique, slightly medicinal flavor.

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Safety & health

Harrachov is a safe town, and crime against visitors is rare. The main risks come from the mountains.

- **Weather**: Conditions on the ridge can change fast, with fog, strong wind and snow even in late spring. Take warm layers and stay on marked trails.
- **Mountain rescue**: The Horská služba (mountain rescue) has a station in town. In an emergency in the mountains, call **1210** or the general emergency number 112.
- **Winter**: Above the treeline there can be avalanche danger. Check the Horská služba reports before you go.
- **Ticks**: Ticks are common in forests and meadows from spring to autumn, so check your skin after hiking.

History

Harrachov grew up around glassworks in the early 18th century. The settlement took its name from the noble Harrach family, who owned the local estate. The glassworks was founded in 1712 and still works today, which makes it one of the longest-running glassworks in Bohemia. Its products still decorate Church of St. Wenceslas.

For centuries, most people in the area spoke German, and the town was called Harrachsdorf. Glassmaking, forestry and later mining at the site of today's Mining Museum shaped local life. After 1945, the German population was expelled, and new Czech settlers arrived.

In the 20th century, Harrachov became a winter sports centre. The Čerťák complex with Mamutí můstek opened in 1980 and hosted the Ski Flying World Championships in 1983, 1992, 2002 and 2014.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for the Czech Republic at a glance:

CURRENCY

CZK Kč

EMERGENCY

112

ELECTRICITY



Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

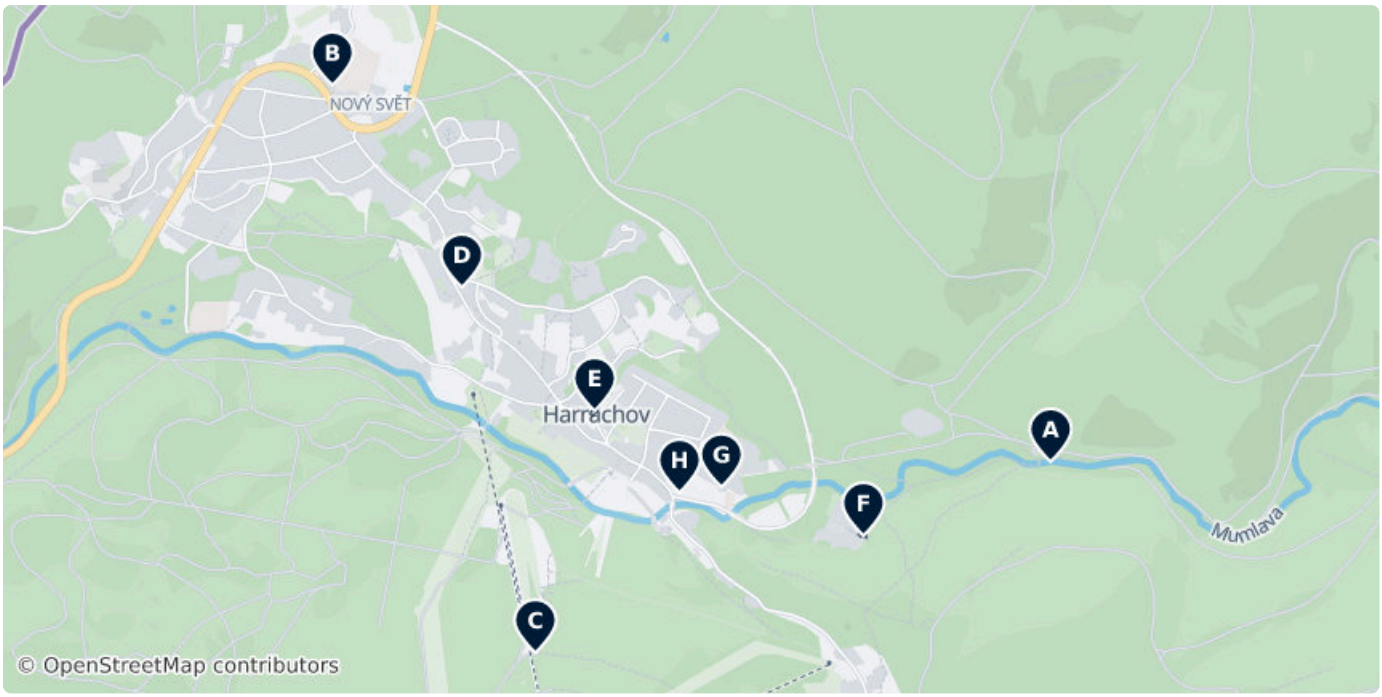
LANGUAGES

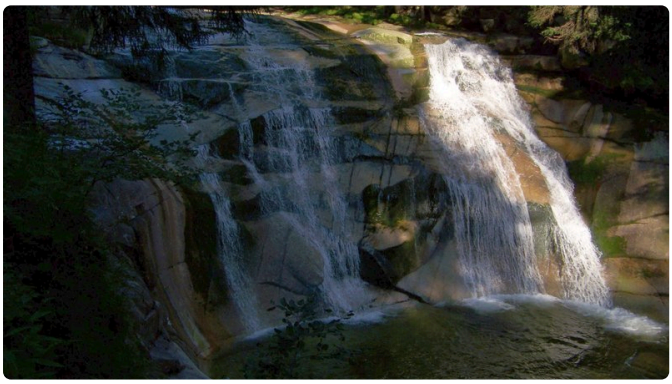
Czech

TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Top sights





A Mumlava Waterfall

Powerful waterfall notable for its significant width and water volume. The site features unique granite erosion formations known as giant pots at its base and top.

270, 51246, Czech Republic (50.77063, 15.45318)

krkonose.eu/mumlavsky-vodopad

B Glass Museum

Historic glassworks museum featuring a comprehensive collection of historical glass and technology alongside a functional century-old grinding shop. The site includes the oldest continuously working glass factory in the world and a local microbrewery.

10, 512 46 Harrachov, Czechia (50.78195, 15.41898)

Mo–Su 08:00–15:00

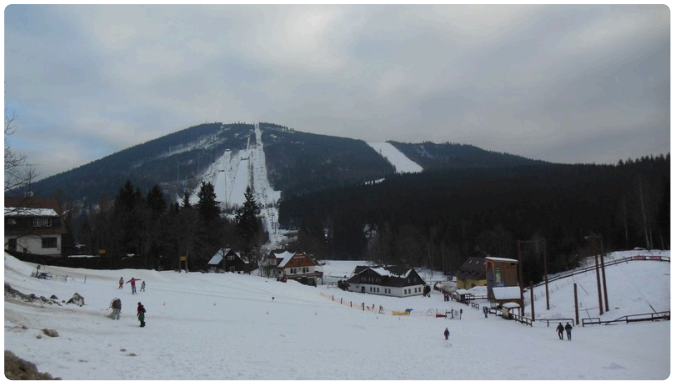
krkonose.eu/en/museum-glass-and-mic... , +420481528142

C Mammoth Ski Jump

World-renowned ski flying hill and sports complex featuring a steep incline of 33.9 degrees. It is one of only five such facilities globally and has a history of hosting international competitions and historical cycling events.

Televizní cesta, 512 46 Harrachov, Czechia (50.76488, 15.42865)

harrachov.cz/aktuality-akce/media/naps... , +420481529138



D Harrachov Ski Resort

One of the most popular ski resorts in the country with excellent conditions.

611, Harrachov 51246, Czech Republic (50.77588, 15.42515)

skiareal.com, +420 481 529 353

E Church of Saint Wenceslaus

Empire style Roman Catholic church and cultural monument featuring unique glass elements in its interior. The building houses a large glass chandelier and a partially glass altar crafted in local glassworks.

213, Harrachov 51246, Czech Republic (50.77215, 15.43147)

vikariatjilemnice.cz/farnost/harrachov



F Mining Museum

Mining museum located at a former ore mine featuring a one-kilometer-long underground exhibition gallery. The site showcases historical equipment and a collection of minerals from local fluorite deposits.

654, 51246, Czech Republic (50.76840, 15.44427)

G Šindelka Exhibition

Forestry and hunting museum housed in a historic granite building that originally served as a factory for wooden shingles. The facility displays exhibits on forest management, local wildlife, and historical timber transport methods.

269, 51246 Harrachov, CZ (50.76986, 15.43751)

Tu–Su	09:00–12:00, 13:00–17:00

krnap.cz/navstevnici/muzea/expozice-s..., +420 481 528 310

H Ski Museum Harrachov

Private exhibition documenting the history of skiing in the Krkonoše Mountains and the development of the sport in the region. The collection includes over 400 pairs of historical skis and trophies from the local ski club.

645, Harrachov 51246, Czech Republic (50.76970, 15.43551)

We–Fr	14:00–17:00
Sa	10:00–17:00

DATA SOURCES

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