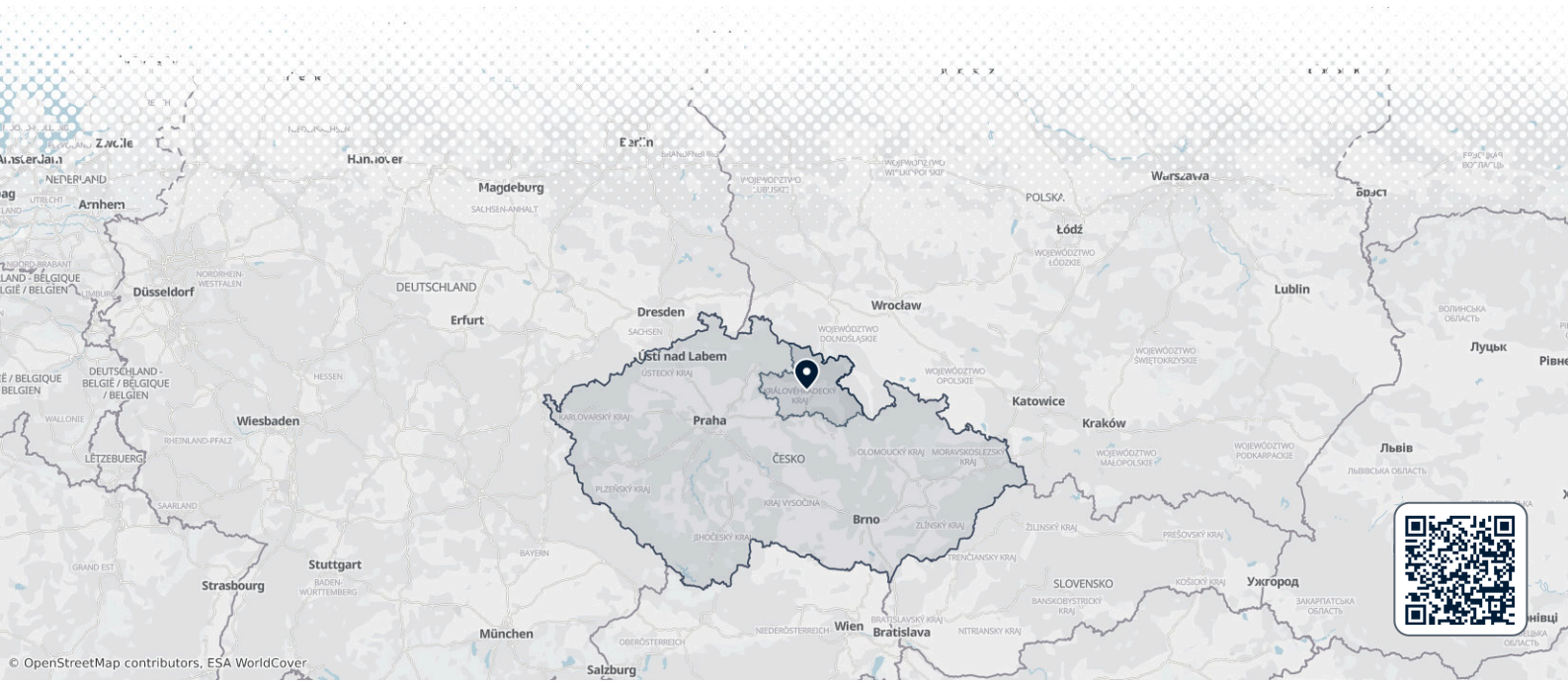


Hradec Králové Region

Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Královéhradecký kraj stretches from gentle farmland in the south to the high ridges of the Krkonoše mountains on the Polish border in the north. It packs a wide range of experiences into one region: a baroque hospital carved with dramatic statues, one of the country's best-known zoos, sandstone rock towns, and a regional capital admired for its early modern architecture.

The regional capital, Hradec Králové, sits where the Elbe and Orlice rivers meet and makes an easy, walkable base for exploring the wider region. The writer *Božena Němcová* spent part of her childhood near Ratibořice Chateau, in the valley that later inspired her best-known novel. The region suits travelers who want variety over a few days — baroque grandeur, sandstone wilderness, and quiet countryside towns — rather than a single big-name sight.

When to visit

Spring and autumn are mild, good for castle-hopping and short hikes. Summer is warm, sometimes hot, and the best season for the sandstone rock towns and the high Krkonoše ridges. Winter is cold, with reliable snow in the mountains for skiing.

Plan around **Rock for People**, one of the Czech Republic's largest music festivals, held every June on the grounds of Hradec Králové's airport and drawing major international acts alongside tens of thousands of visitors.

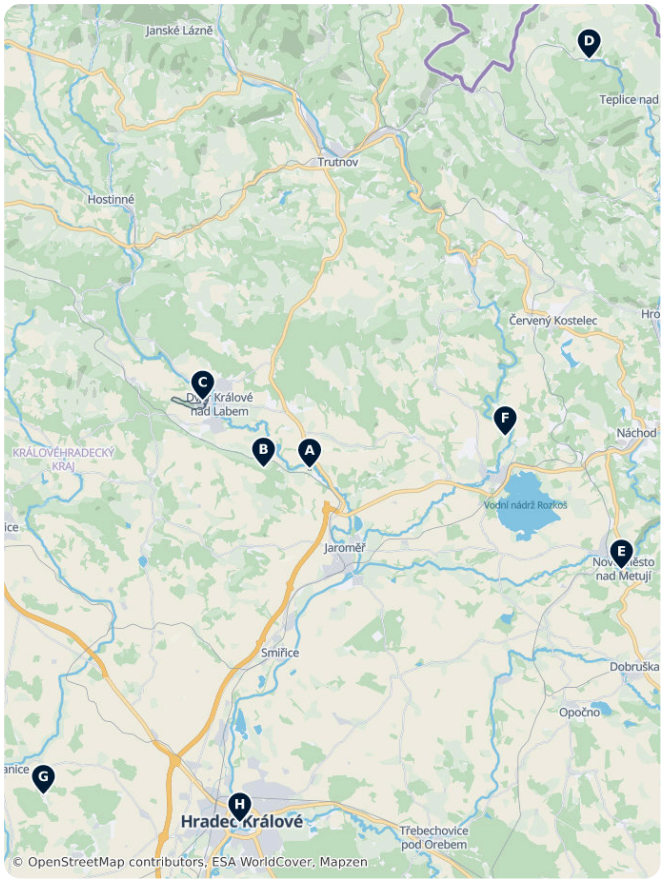
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	0° / 7° Feels like -6°	-6° / -16°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	2° / 9° Feels like -3°	-5° / -15°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	7° / 15° Feels like 2°	-2° / -8°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Good Good for cycling	13° / 21° Feels like 9°	3° / -3°	Dry air
May	Good Good for sightseeing	18° / 25°	7° / 2°	15 rainy days · Dry air
June	Great Great for sightseeing	22° / 29°	12° / 6°	14 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 31°	14° / 9°	16 rainy days · Dry air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	24° / 31°	13° / 8°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 27°	9° / 4°	Dry air
October	Good Good for hiking	13° / 21° Feels like 10°	5° / -2°	Dry air
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	6° / 14° Feels like 2°	0° / -6°	Dry air
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	1° / 7° Feels like -4°	-4° / -13°	13 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: August

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

August is usually the warmest, sunniest month, while spring and autumn bring the fewest crowds at the region's castles.

Top sights



A Kuks Hospital is a vast baroque complex built in the early 18th century for Count *František Antonín Špork*, its grounds lined with dramatic statues of virtues and vices carved by *Matthias Bernard Braun*. A short walk into the forest nearby leads to **B** Braun's Bethlehem, a set of monumental figures the same sculptor carved directly into the sandstone rock face.

C Dvůr Králové Zoo is one of the best-known zoos in the country, known for its African section and for leading international efforts to save the northern white rhino from extinction.

D Adršpach-Teplice Rocks is a maze of sandstone towers and narrow gorges, explored on marked trails and, in places, by a short boat ride along a still, narrow river between the rock walls.

E Nové Město nad Metují Chateau anchors a well-preserved Renaissance square in the small town of the same name, one of the prettiest small-town centers in the region.

F Ratibořice Chateau sits in the wooded valley that writer *Božena Němcová* made famous in her novel *Babička* (The Grandmother), still one of the most-read books in Czech literature.

G Hrádek u Nechanic is an unexpected English-style neo-Gothic country house, built for a noble family in the 19th century and modeled on English manor houses seen on their travels.

H Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and the freestanding White Tower belfry beside it anchor the historic core of Hradec Králové's main square.

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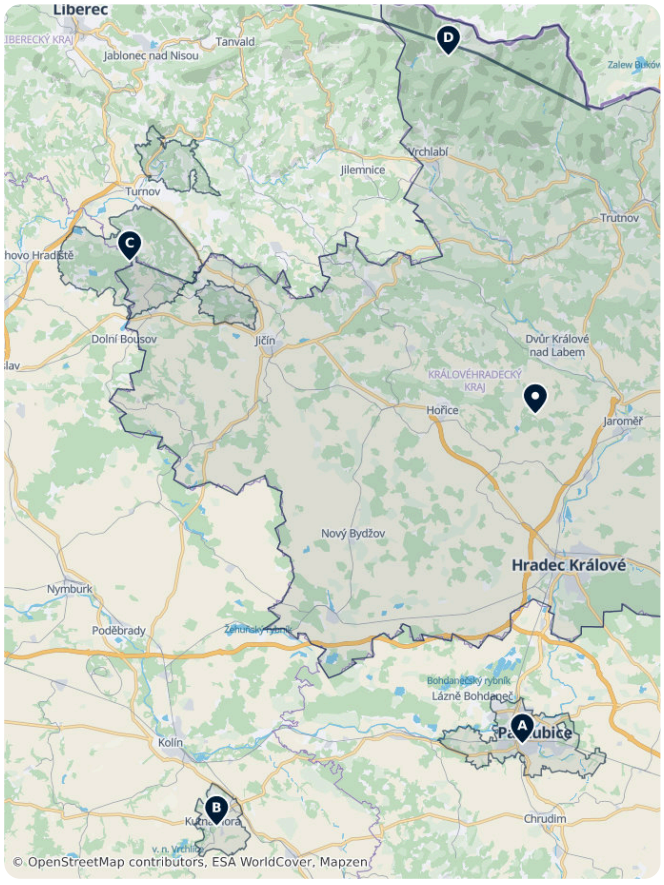
What to experience

- Watch the sunset from the riverside promenade where the Elbe and Orlice rivers meet, a favorite evening walk for locals in Hradec Králové.
- Take a short boat ride through the narrow river passage inside Adršpach-Teplice Rocks, gliding between sandstone walls that almost meet overhead.
- Follow the marked walking trail through Babiččino údolí (Grandmother's Valley) around Ratibořice Chateau, the real-life setting of one of the most-loved books in Czech literature.
- Ride a safari-style tour bus through the semi-open enclosures at Dvůr Králové Zoo, a different way to see the zoo's African section.
- Cycle a stretch of the marked Elbe river cycle route that follows the water through Hradec Králové and out into the surrounding countryside.

Day trips

Beyond the region's own sights, these are worth the trip:



- Ⓐ Pardubice (≈35–40 min by car or train) has a compact old town with a Renaissance chateau and a famous gingerbread-making tradition; the Grand Pardubice Steeplechase, one of Europe's toughest horse races, runs there every October.
- Ⓑ Kutná Hora (≈45 min–1 h by car or train) is a UNESCO World Heritage silver-mining town, home to the Gothic St. Barbara's Cathedral and the unusual Sedlec Ossuary, decorated with the bones of tens of thousands of people.
- Ⓒ Bohemian Paradise (≈45 min–1 h by car, around Jičín) is the edge of the Bohemian Paradise sandstone landscape; Prachovské skály, a compact rock city of towers and narrow passages near Jičín, makes a good half-day hike.
- Ⓓ Krkonoše (≈1–1.5 h by car to Špindlerův Mlýn or Pec pod Sněžkou) fills this region's own northern edge with the Czech Republic's highest peaks, marked hiking trails, and ski resorts — it has a full guide of its own if you want to stay longer.

Where to explore

Dvůr Králové nad Labem is best known for its zoo, but its own Renaissance square is worth a stroll before or after a visit. Kuks, the tiny village around the baroque hospital, has a handful of places to eat if you want to linger.

Heading east, Broumov has a well-preserved Baroque monastery and sits below the sandstone ridge known as the Broumov Walls, a quieter alternative to Adršpach for a longer hike.

In the north, Trutnov is the main gateway town into the Krkonoše mountains, with regional trains and buses continuing up into the resort villages.

Getting there

- **By air**: Václav Havel Airport Prague (PRG) is the main gateway, roughly 1.5–2 hours from Hradec Králové by car or bus. Hradec Králové's own airport handles only small aircraft and has no scheduled passenger flights.
- **By train**: Regional and fast trains connect Hradec Králové to Prague in roughly 1.5–2 hours, usually via Pardubice, a major rail junction. Book on České dráhy.
- **By bus**: Direct long-distance coaches link Prague with Hradec Králové in roughly 1.5–2 hours.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Hradec Králové has an extensive trolleybus and bus network; buy tickets from machines at stops or through the IREDO regional transport app, which also covers buses between towns across the region. Outside the capital, a car is the practical way to reach most castles and rock formations.
- **Taxi / ride-hailing**: Bolt operates in Hradec Králové; elsewhere, local taxi firms are the more reliable option.
- **On foot / cycling**: Hradec Králové's compact old town and riverside parks are easy on foot, and a well-marked cycle path follows the Elbe river through the city and beyond. Outside town, reaching the region's castles and rock formations on foot isn't realistic.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Low

Hradec Králové's compact old town is easy on foot, but the region's castles, the zoo, and the sandstone rock towns are spread out and need a car or the regional bus/train network.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

A well-marked cycle path follows the Elbe river through Hradec Králové and beyond, though reaching the more distant sights by bike takes real effort.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Yes, outside Hradec Králové itself. The region's castles, the zoo, and the sandstone rock towns are spread out and only patchily served by public transport.
- **Parking**: Castles and rock formations have their own paid car parks with ticket machines; Hradec Králové's center has metered on-street parking and several multi-storey garages just outside it.
- **Restrictions**: None beyond the usual town-center pedestrian zones.

Food & drink

Regional food follows classic Czech countryside cooking: roast pork with dumplings and cabbage, duck, and freshwater fish from the region's ponds. Around the mountain foothills in the north, hearty dishes with cabbage and smoked meat are common, similar to what you'll find higher up in the Krkonoše mountains.

For eating out, head to Hradec Králové's main square and the streets around it, where restaurants and cafés cluster within a short walk of each other; smaller towns like Nové Město nad Metují and Broumov have their own compact centers with a handful of good options each.

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

Královéhradecký kraj is very safe for travelers, with low crime and few scams aimed at tourists. The main practical risk is in the mountains along the region's northern edge, where weather can change quickly even in summer — bring warm layers and sturdy shoes for any hike above the tree line.

History

The region takes its name from Hradec Králové, whose name means roughly "Queen's Castle" — a title it earned as a dower town settled on Bohemian queens from the 14th century onward. In the early 20th century the city became a testing ground for progressive urban planning under mayor *František Ulrich*, who commissioned architects *Jan Kotěra* and later *Josef Gočár* to design its new districts. The Museum of Eastern Bohemia, designed by Kotěra and built between 1909 and 1912, is one of his major works and still anchors the city's reputation for early modern architecture.

Kuks Hospital tells a different story: built in the early 18th century by Count *František Antonín Špork* as a hospital and pilgrimage site, its statues by *Matthias Bernard Braun* are considered among the finest baroque sculpture in Central Europe.

The writer *Božena Němcová* spent part of her childhood at Ratibořice Chateau in the early 19th century, and later drew on those memories for *Babička*, a novel still taught in Czech schools and one of the most enduring pieces of the country's literary canon.

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

Královéhradecký kraj Essentials

This region in the northeast of the Czech Republic contains the country's highest mountain, Sněžka, and its tallest waterfall, Pančavský vodopád. The landscape is defined by the Krkonoše National Park and the intricate sandstone formations of the Adršpach-Teplice and Prachov Rocks. Architectural highlights include the Baroque hospital at Kuks with its allegorical sculptures, the Renaissance White Tower in Hradec Králové, and the Tudor Gothic Hrádek u Nechanic. The area also features the unique Safari Park in Dvůr Králové and the iconic twin towers of the Trosky Castle ruins.





A Śnieżka / Sněžka

Sněžka or Śnieżka is a mountain on the border between the Czech Republic and Poland, the most prominent point of the Silesian Ridge in the...

Droga Jubileuszowa, 58-540 Karpacz, Poland (50.73603, 15.73961)

sniezka.karpacz.pl



B Adršpach-Teplice Rocks

The Adršpach-Teplice Rocks are a set of sandstone formations in Hradec Králové Region of the Czech Republic.

54957 Adršpach (50.61537, 16.12267)

adrspasskeskaly.cz



C Kuks Hospital

Significant Baroque complex and former charitable institution for military veterans founded in the 18th century. It houses a pharmaceutical museum, a collection of allegorical sculptures, and the family tomb of its founder.

81, 54443, Czech Republic (50.39777, 15.88936)

Apr-Jun Tu–Su	09:00–17:00
Jul-Aug Mo–Su	09:00–17:00
Sep-Oct Tu–Su	09:00–17:00

hospital-kuks.cz, +420 499 692 161



D Dvůr Králové Zoo

Safari Park Dvůr Králové, known as Dvůr Králové Zoo until 2018, is a 72-hectare zoo located in Dvůr Králové nad Labem, Czech Republic.

Štefánikova, 54401 Dvůr Králové nad Labem (50.43395, 15.80006)

May Mo–Su	09:00–21:00
Jun-Aug Mo–Su	09:00–22:00
Jan-Apr Mo–Su	09:00–20:00

zoodvurkralove.cz, +420 499 329 515



E Krkonoše national park

Krkonoše National Park is a national park in the Liberec and Hradec Králové regions of the Czech Republic.

54352, Czech Republic (50.69161, 15.63517)



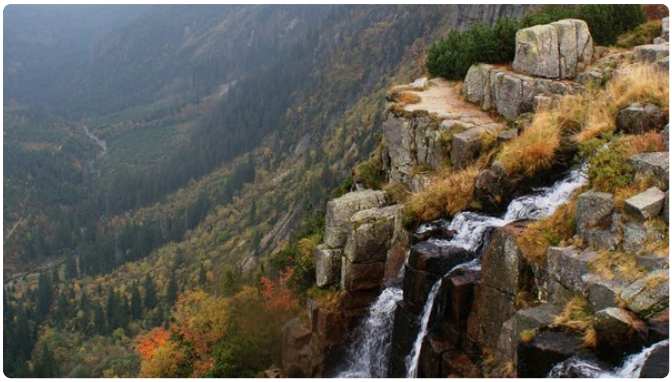
F Trosky Castle

Trosky Castle is a castle ruin in the municipality of Troskovice in the Liberec Region of the Czech Republic.

Hrad Trosky, Troskovice 21, 512 63 Rovensko pod Troskami, Czech Republic (50.51644, 15.23084)

Tu–Fr	08:00–15:00
Sa	08:00–12:00
Su	08:00–15:00

hrad-trosky.eu, +420 481 313 925



G Pančava Waterfall

The highest waterfall in the Czech Republic, cascading 148 meters down the rocky slopes of the Labský důl valley in the Krkonoše Mountains. It features several drops and offers viewpoints overlooking the glacial valley.

54351, Czech Republic (50.76108, 15.54523)

krkonose.eu/spindleruv-mlyn



H Hrádek u Nechanic Castle

Nineteenth-century Tudor Gothic castle and National Cultural Heritage site featuring opulent interiors and an extensive English park. It is known for its architectural resemblance to Hluboká Castle and its use as a frequent filming location.

32426, 503 15 Nechanice, Czechia (50.22362, 15.66706)

zamek-hradekunechanic.cz/en, +420 495 441 244



I Prachov Rocks

Sandstone rock city featuring iconic rock towers, viewpoints, and hiking trails for various skill levels. Evidence of human settlement in the area dates back to the Stone Age.

507 15 Dolní Lochov, Czechia (50.46072, 15.28649)

Mo–Su 07:00–19:00

prachovskeskaly.cz



J White Tower

Renaissance bell tower standing 72 meters tall and built from Hořice sandstone. It features the historic Augustin bell, an astronomical clock, and galleries providing panoramic views of the city and surrounding mountains.

Franušova, 500 05 Hradec Králové, Czechia (50.20901, 15.83079)

Mo–Su 09:00–18:00

bilavez.cz, +420734711142



K Braun's Betlem

Baroque sculptural ensemble and national cultural monument featuring reliefs and statues carved directly into natural rock formations. Created between 1718 and 1732, it serves as an outdoor gallery of biblical scenes.

54401, Czech Republic (50.39826, 15.85088)

hospital-kuks.cz/en/tipy-na-vylet/8235-b... , +420499692161



L Krkonoše Tree Top Walk

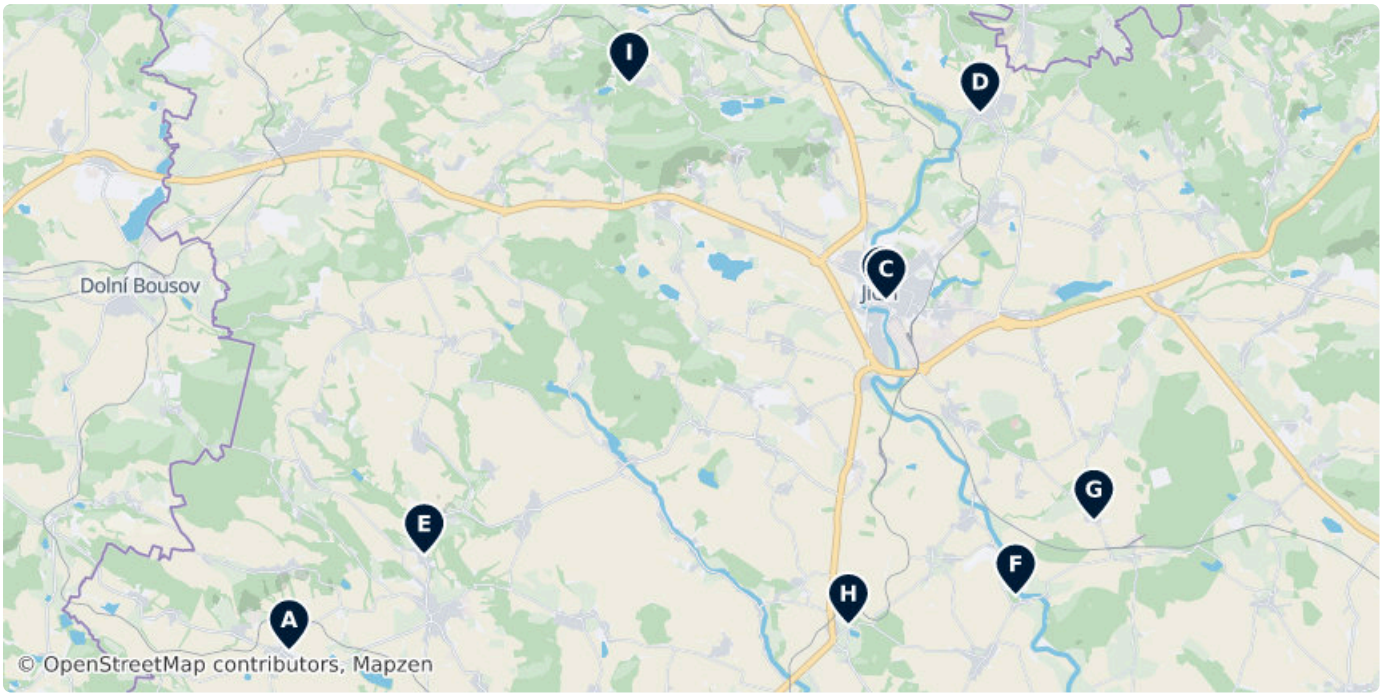
A 1,500-meter-long treetop walkway reaching a height of 45 meters. It includes an underground educational center focused on the root system of the Krkonoše forest and a 50-meter-long spiral slide for the descent.

(Unnamed Road), 54225, Czech Republic (50.63107, 15.75765)

stezkakrkonose.cz, +420499110019

Editor's Choice Highlights

This selection highlights castles ranging from early Baroque to classicist styles, local museums preserving regional history, and vantage points offering panoramic views. Included are well-preserved fortifications and ruins, as well as cultural institutions that reflect the heritage of the Královéhradecký region.





A Dětenice Castle

Located south of the Bohemian Paradise, this chateau combines historical architecture with a notable brewery on site.

1 280, Dětenice 50724, Czech Republic
(50.36806, 15.17290)

zamekdetenice.cz



B Jičín Castle

Early Baroque and classicist castle situated in Jičín's city center, also known as Valdštejnský zámek.

(50.43622, 15.35226)

C Muzeum Rumcajsova ševcovna

Museum dedicated to the folk character Rumcajs and traditional shoemaking.

102 Pod Koštofránkem, Jičín 50601, Czech Republic (50.43571, 15.35369)

rumcajsovasevcovna.cz



D Železnice - Vlastivědné muzeum

Local history museum showcasing artifacts and exhibits relevant to Železnice and its surroundings.

Muzejní 181, 50713 Železnice (50.47175, 15.38214)

May-Sep Tu–Su	09:00–11:30, 13:00–16:30
Oct-Apr Th–Fr	09:00–11:30, 13:00–16:30

muzeumzeleznice.webk.cz, +420732836309



E zámek Staré Hrady

Historic castle with origins dating back several centuries, featuring Gothic and Renaissance elements.

63, Staré Hrady 50723, Czech Republic (50.38657, 15.21382)

F zámek Milíčeves

1, Milíčeves 50601, Czech Republic (50.37880, 15.39293)

G Zámek Tuř

1, Tuř 50601, Czech Republic (50.39320, 15.41657)

zamektur.cz

H Zámek Jičíněves

56, Jičíněves 50731, Czech Republic (50.37307, 15.34227)

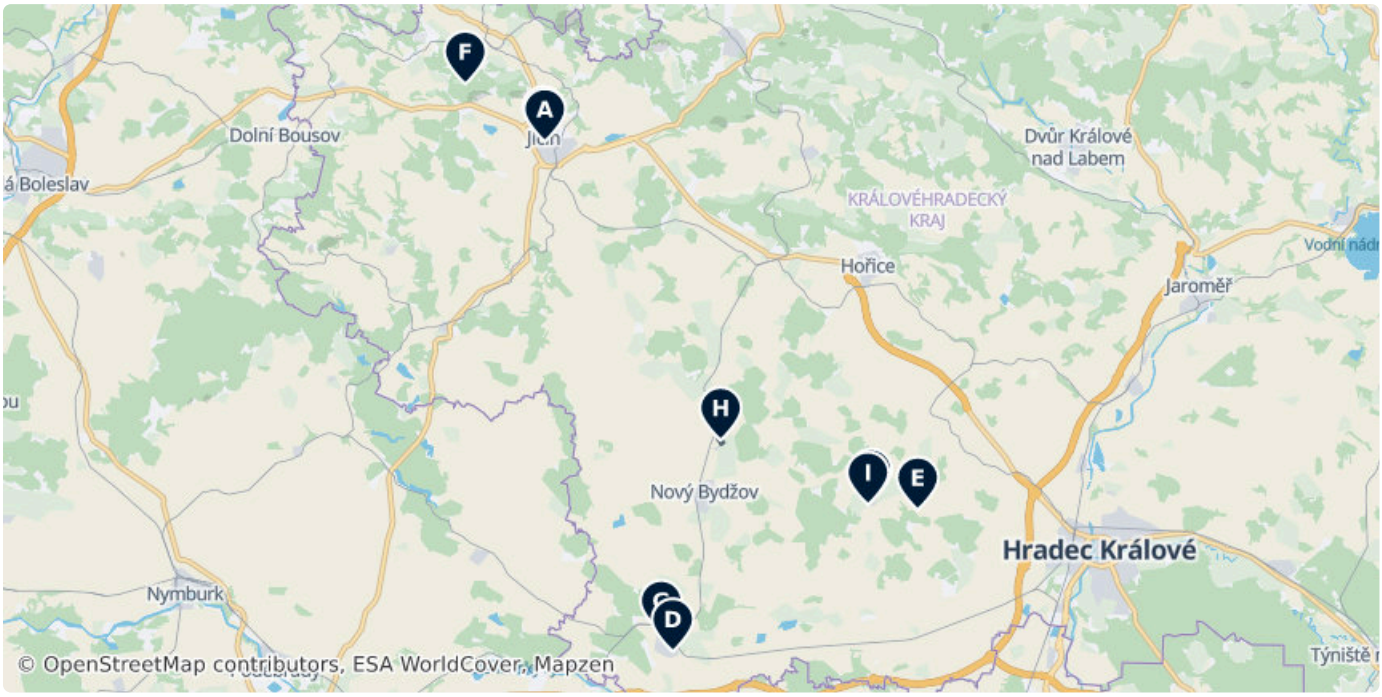
Pařez

Ruins of a former castle located in the region.

(50.47747, 15.27585)

Hidden Historical Gems

This collection features eleven lesser-known sites in the Královéhradecký kraj region, including medieval castle ruins such as Břecštejn and Výrov, historical monuments like the Morový sloup, and natural landmarks such as the Novopacký vodopád waterfall and the Lokomotiva rock formation. Each location offers insight into local history, geology, and cultural heritage off the main tourist routes.





A Zámecký park

81 Pod Koštofránkem, Jičín 50601, Czech Republic (50.43559, 15.35279)



B Mariánský sloup

Baroque Marian column serving as a religious monument in the region.

2 Valdštejnovo náměstí, Jičín 50601, Czech Republic (50.43679, 15.35165)

C Památník obětem světových válek

(50.23668, 15.63505)

D Sousoší Mariánského sloupu

(50.15382, 15.46349)

E Statue of St. Kristýna

(50.23224, 15.67549)

F Žáček

(50.46719, 15.28391)

G Parčík a hřiště mezi sídlišti

(50.16403, 15.45346)

H zámecký park Skřivany

50352, Czech Republic (50.27077, 15.50491)

I Štrosovy sady

(50.23501, 15.63242)

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