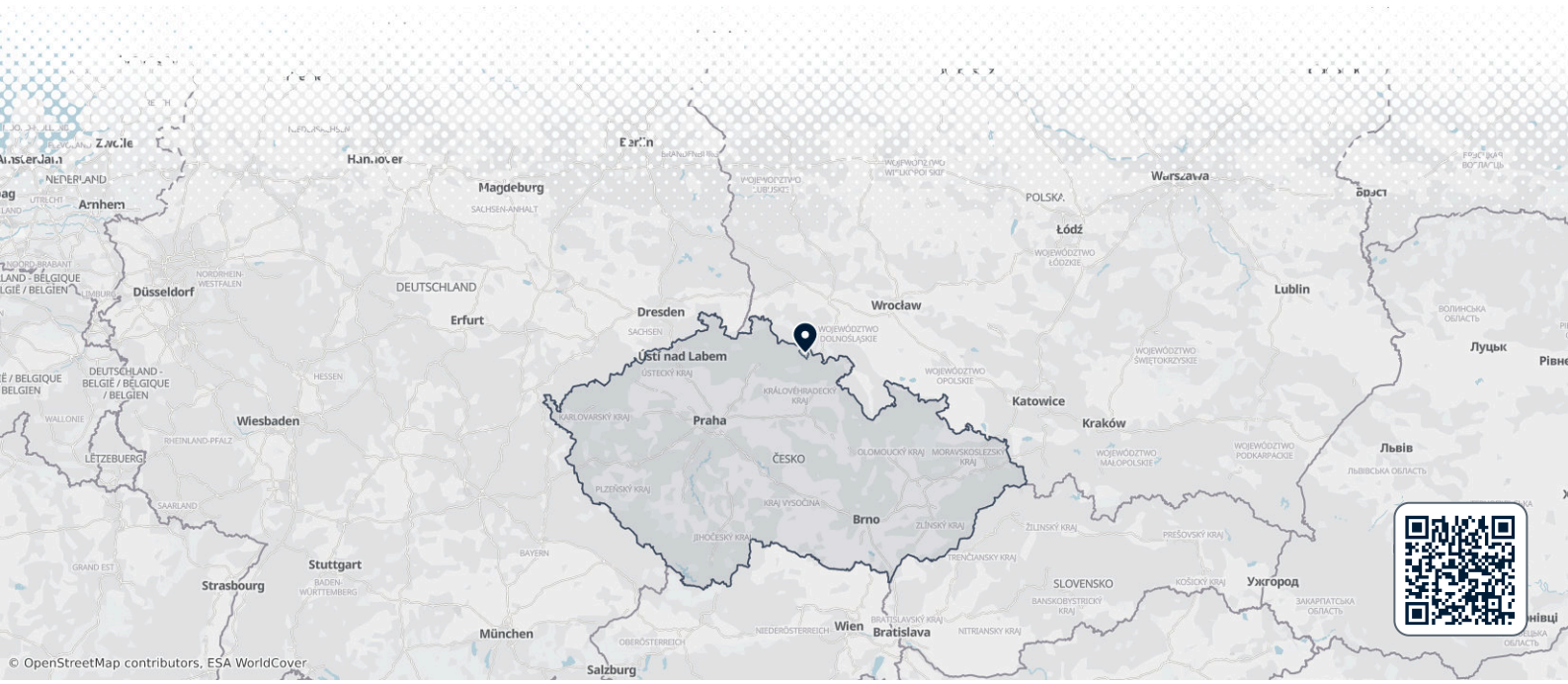


Pec pod Sněžkou

Hradec Králové Region · Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Pec pod Sněžkou is a small mountain village at the foot of Sněžka, the highest peak in the Czech Republic, in the heart of the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše) range near the Polish border. Fewer than a thousand people live here year-round, but the valley fills with skiers in winter and hikers in summer, its wooden hotels and lift stations climbing straight up from the village toward the ridge.

The town grew from a small tin-mining settlement into the country's best-known mountain resort, and it still works as a base rather than a sightseeing stop. It suits travelers who want mountain air and physical activity over museums and city streets: skiing or snowshoeing in winter, hiking to the summit and across the national park's high moorland in summer.

When to visit

Winter (December–March) is Pec's main season: snow above the village is reliable, and the resort's lifts and cross-country trails usually run from before Christmas into March. Summer (June–September) is quieter and cooler, and it is the best time for hiking to the summit and across the national park's high moorland; August is usually the warmest and sunniest month. The village gets busiest during the Christmas and New Year school holidays, when mountain huts and lift lines fill fast — book lodging well ahead if visiting then.

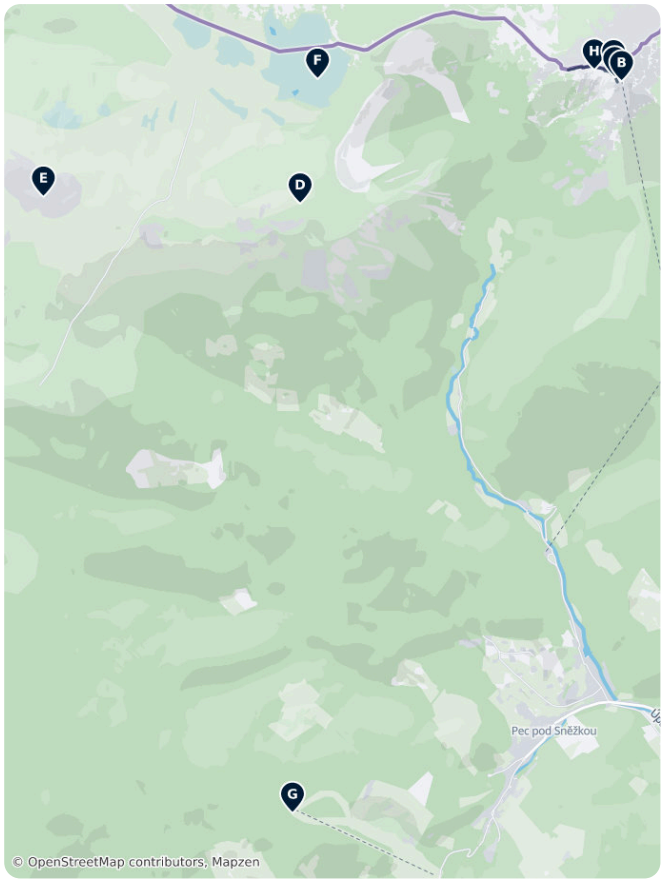
MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for skiing	-3° / 4° Feels like -9°	-9° / -18°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Great Great for skiing	-1° / 6° Feels like -6°	-7° / -17°	12 rainy days · Dry air
March	Good Good for skiing	4° / 12° Feels like -1°	-4° / -11°	13 rainy days · Dry air
April	Fair Fair for skiing	10° / 18° Feels like 6°	0° / -6°	Dry air
May	Good Good for hiking	15° / 22° Feels like 11°	5° / -1°	15 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good Good for sightseeing	19° / 26°	9° / 4°	15 rainy days · Dry air
July	Good Good for sightseeing	21° / 28°	11° / 6°	17 rainy days · Dry air
August	Great Great for sightseeing	21° / 28°	10° / 6°	13 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for hiking	16° / 24° Feels like 13°	6° / 1°	Dry air
October	Fair Fair for hiking	10° / 18° Feels like 6°	2° / -5°	12 rainy days · Dry air
November	Good Good for skiing	4° / 11° Feels like -1°	-2° / -9°	12 rainy days · Dry air
December	Great Great for skiing	-2° / 4° Feels like -7°	-6° / -16°	14 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: August

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

Even on a mild day in the valley, wind and cold on the exposed ridge above the village can catch hikers out — dress in layers for any walk above the tree line, in any season.

Top sights



A Sněžka is the highest point in the Czech Republic at 1,603 meters, its summit straddling the border with Poland and topped by a small chapel and a post office.

B Sněžka Cable Car Station carries visitors most of the way up in a two-section cable car, turning a multi-hour climb into a short, scenic ride — though it pauses in high wind or poor visibility.

C Krkonoše National Park covers most of the mountains around Pec and, together with its Polish neighbor, forms a UNESCO-recognized transboundary biosphere reserve protecting rare alpine plants and glacial landforms found nowhere else in the country.

D Studniční hora is the third-highest peak in the country, a flat, wind-scoured summit ringed by glacial cirques inside the park's most strictly protected zone.

E Luční hora is the second-highest peak, rising just behind it with a broad, plateau-like top that makes for easy walking once the height is gained.

F Úpské rašeliniště is the range's largest high-altitude peat bog, crossed by a boardwalk trail through a landscape of peat pools and cold-climate plants that survive nowhere else in the Czech Republic.

G rozhledna Hnědý vrch is a 31-meter lookout tower a short walk from the village, giving a wide panorama over the surrounding peaks without the climb to the main ridge.

H Obří důl is a dramatic U-shaped glacial valley below Sněžka, its slopes scarred by old iron and copper mining and its floor crossed by a trail past waterfalls.

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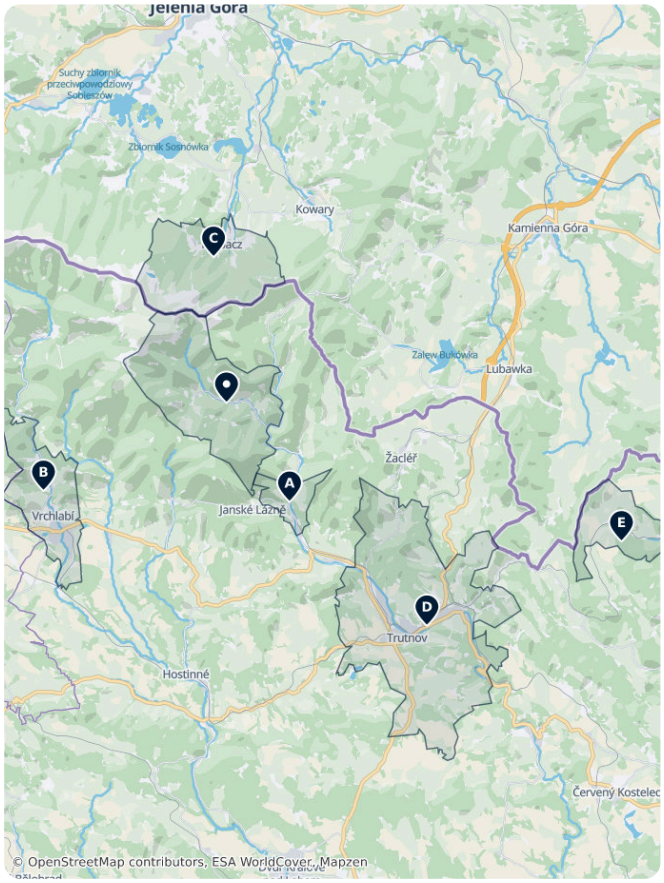
What to experience

Pec has plenty to do beyond sightseeing — a few things worth building a day around:

- Ride Sněžka Cable Car Station's cable car up for sunrise or sunset, when the light on the surrounding peaks is best and the crowds are thinnest.
- Soak in the beer spa at Luční bouda, a wooden tub filled with warm water and spent brewing ingredients from the hotel's own high-altitude brewery.
- Take a run down the summer toboggan track at Relaxpark Pec, which reaches speeds most first-time riders don't expect.
- Ski or snowboard the connected runs of the Černá hora–Pec resort, one of the country's larger ski areas, without needing to drive anywhere.
- Once the snow sets in, snowshoe or cross-country ski the marked winter trails through Krkonoše National Park.

Day trips

Pec makes a good base for exploring the rest of the Krkonoše ridge and the towns below it — here are the best options, closest first.



- Ⓐ Svoboda nad Úpou — ≈15 min by car or bus. A small riverside town in the valley below, useful for a quieter lunch stop away from the resort crowds.
- Ⓑ Vrchlabí — ≈25 min. The administrative gateway to Krkonoše National Park, with the park's own museum and a restored historic square.
- Ⓒ Karpacz — ≈25–30 min, across the Polish border. Home to Wang, a 12th-century Norwegian stave church moved here piece by piece in the 19th century, plus its own cable car and toboggan runs.
- Ⓓ Trutnov — ≈30–35 min. The region's largest town, with a historic arcaded square and a fuller range of shops and services than Pec itself has.
- Ⓔ Adršpach — ≈1.5 hours. The Adršpach–Teplice Rocks, a maze of tall sandstone towers and narrow canyons explored on foot or, in one stretch, by raft — worth the longer drive.

Where to explore

Pec sits within the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše), the mountain range that runs the length of the Czech-Polish border and gives the whole region its outdoor character. Two other classic Krkonoše resort villages make natural additions to a longer stay: Janské Lázně, a quieter spa town built around thermal springs on the range's southern edge, and Špindlerův Mlýn, the range's largest and liveliest resort, reached over the ridge or around it by road.

Getting there

- **By air**: Prague Airport (PRG) is the main international gateway, about 2.5–3 hours away by car or transfer. Wrocław Airport (WRO) in Poland is a possible alternative for some routes, though it has fewer international connections and involves crossing the border.
- **By train**: There is no station in Pec itself. The nearest useful stops are at Svoboda nad Úpou and Trutnov, both reached from Prague or Hradec Králové with a change via Czech Railways; from either, finish the trip by bus or taxi.
- **By bus**: Direct long-distance coaches run from Prague's Florenc bus station to Pec pod Sněžkou, taking roughly 3 hours; regional buses also connect from Trutnov and Vrchlabí.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Regional buses connect Pec with Špindlerův Mlýn, Trutnov and Vrchlabí; buy tickets from the driver or through the regional IREDO transport app. There is no train or tram service in the village itself.
- **Taxi**: A handful of local firms run airport transfers and late-night rides in ski season; there is no ride-hailing coverage here.
- **On foot**: The village center is small and easy to walk, but most sights sit up on the mountain and need a lift, a marked trail, or a car to reach. Summer brings a network of dedicated mountain-bike trails alongside the hiking paths.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The village center is small and easy to walk, but many of the top sights sit up on the mountain and require a cable car, a marked trail, or a car to reach.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Casual road cycling is limited by the terrain, but a network of marked mountain-bike trails opens up in summer.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Not for the village itself — Pec is small and walkable — but yes for reaching the wider Krkonoše region, since public transport between resort towns is limited.
- **Parking**: Paid lots sit at the edges of the village, including near the Hnědý vrch cableway; central spaces fill early in ski season, so arrive early or plan to walk in from an outer lot.
- **Winter driving**: Snow chains or winter tires are legally required on mountain roads in winter conditions, and some minor roads close temporarily after heavy snowfall.

Food & drink

Mountain hut food is the local specialty here: hearty goulash, potato pancakes (bramboráky), sausages, and mugs of hot mulled wine (svařák) served at the wooden boudy along the hiking trails. It is built to refuel a day outdoors, not for a leisurely restaurant meal.

For something more distinctive, stop at Lučni bouda, whose restaurant and on-site brewery sit at over 1,400 meters, one of the highest-altitude breweries in the country, and serve their own Paroháč beer alongside bread from the hotel's bakery.

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

Pec is a very safe place to visit; petty crime and scams are rare. The real risks come from the mountain itself: weather on the ridge can turn quickly, and hikers caught out in poor visibility or an afternoon storm above the tree line are a common reason for mountain rescue call-outs. Stick to marked trails, check the forecast before a summit attempt, and carry proper layers even on a clear morning — conditions at 1,600 meters can be very different from the village.

In winter, stay on marked and patrolled slopes; backcountry and off-piste terrain can carry avalanche risk, and conditions are not always signed as clearly as in the Alps.

History

Pec's name comes from the Czech word for "furnace" — a reminder that the village began as an iron, copper and arsenic mining settlement in the early 16th century. Mining continued here until 1959, but from the second half of the 19th century onward tourism grew alongside it, as visitors began climbing Sněžka for the view and staying overnight in simple huts along the way.

Some of those huts became local landmarks in their own right. Luční bouda, the oldest and largest hut on the ridge, traces back to the late 16th century; it burned down completely in 1938 and was rebuilt just two years later. Obří bouda once played a similar role lower in the valley for more than a hundred years before falling into disrepair and being pulled down in 1982 — only its ruins remain today. Skiing arrived in the region at the turn of the 20th century and gradually turned Pec from a summer mountaineering base into the year-round resort it is now.

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

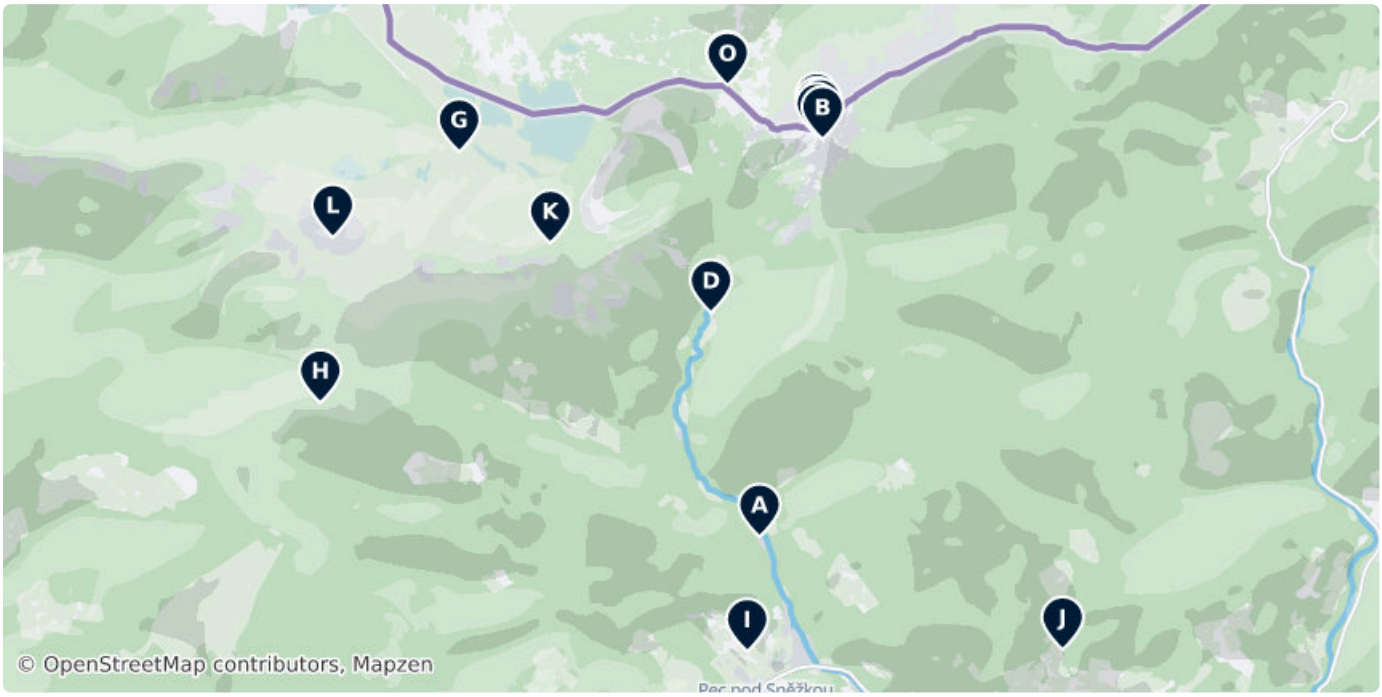
Czech

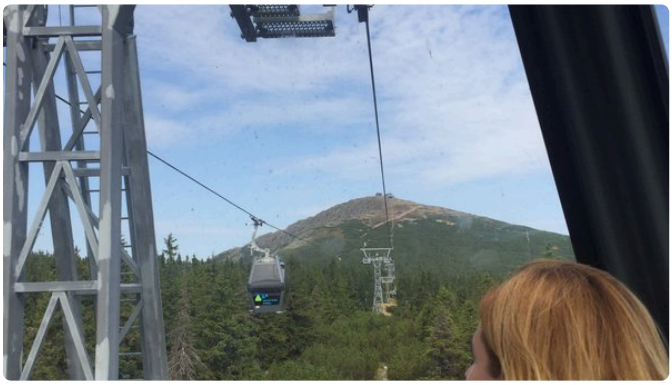
TAP WATER

Safe to drink

Pec pod Sněžkou's Crown Jewels

Pec pod Sněžkou serves as the primary gateway to the eastern Krkonoše Mountains. This selection features the ascent to Sněžka, the highest peak in the Czech Republic at 1,603 meters, accessible via a two-stage gondola lift or through the glacial scenery of Obří důl. Highlights include the modern Poštovna post office on the summit, the high-altitude brewery at Luční bouda, and historic mountain huts like Výrovka and Dom Śląski. The area encompasses the third highest peak, Studničná hora, and the protected landscapes of Krkonoše National Park.





A Pec pod Sněžkou ⇔ Růžová hora

The first stage of the gondola system connecting the resort town to the intermediate station on the way to the Sněžka summit.

345, 54221, Czech Republic (50.70525, 15.73287)

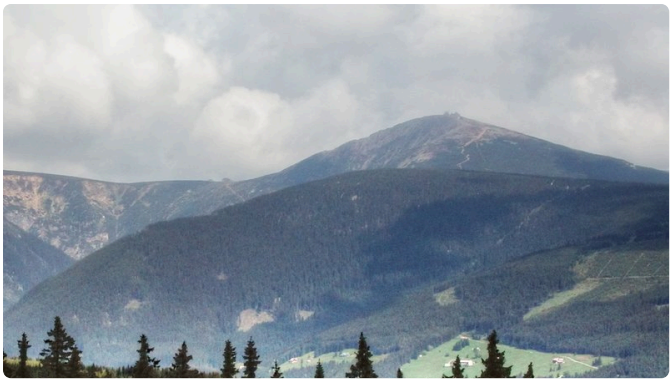
B Sněžka Cable Car Station

The summit terminal of the cable car system on the highest peak of the Krkonoše Mountains, situated on the border between the Czech Republic and Poland.

54227, Czech Republic (50.73533, 15.74042)

May 01-Sep 30 Mo–Su	08:00–19:00
Oct 01-Apr 30 Mo–Su	08:00–18:00

pecpodsnezkou.cz/en/



C Krkonoše National Park

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

54221, Czech Republic (50.73559, 15.73972)

krnap.cz

D Chapel in the Giant Valley

A small wooden chapel located in the glacial valley of Obří důl, built to commemorate the victims of a 19th-century landslide.

(Unnamed Road), 54221, Czech Republic (50.72222, 15.72706)



E St. Lawrence's Chapel, Śnieżka

St. Lawrence's Chapel – a Roman Catholic chapel located on the peak of Śnieżka; in Poland.

54221, Czech Republic (50.73603, 15.73975)



F Poštovna

The highest post office in the Czech Republic, housed in a modern eco-friendly structure on the summit of Sněžka, featuring an observation deck and postal services.

(50.73592, 15.74018)

Mo–Su 10:00–16:00

postovnasnezka.cz

G Paroháč

The highest brewery in Central Europe, located within the Luční bouda mountain hut, producing local beer using spring water from the White Elbe.

203, 54221, Czech Republic (50.73439, 15.69694)



H Výrovka

A mountain hut situated at 1,363 meters in the saddle between Luční hora and Zadní Planina, offering regional cuisine and accommodation on a major hiking crossroads.

(50.71540, 15.68033)

vyrovka-krkonose.cz



I Pec Ski Resort

A wonderful ski resort with numerous slopes and also a ski arena, a fun place with various jumps and obstacles for snowboarders and others...

339, Pec pod Sněžkou 54221, Czech Republic (50.69657, 15.73139)

skipec.com

J Lanová dráha Portášky

A three-seater chairlift connecting the village of Velká Úpa with the Portášky mountain hut, serving as a starting point for hikes toward the Sněžka ridge.

107, 54221, Czech Republic (50.69671, 15.76912)



K Studniční hora

At 1,554 meters, this is the third highest peak in the Czech Republic, known for its steep slopes and the 'Map of the Republic' snow field that persists into summer.

54221, Czech Republic (50.72747, 15.70784)



L Luční hora

Luční hora, is the cumulonimbus mountain located in the Krkonoše mountains about 5.5 km northwest of the town Pec pod Sněžkou and 4 km east...

54351, Czech Republic (50.72792, 15.68182)



M Tadeusz Hołdys High-Mountain Meteorological Observatory on Śnieżka

The Tadeusz Hołdys High-Mountain Meteorological Observatory on Śnieżka - an institution of the Institute of Meteorology and Water...

58-540, Poland (50.73636, 15.73971)



N Dom Śląski

A Polish mountain hut located at the Obří sedlo mountain pass at the base of Sněžka, providing accommodation and services for hikers on the Czech-Polish border.

Na Śnieżkę 20, 58-540 Karpacz (50.73952, 15.72896)

domslaski.pl, +48 75 612 67 00

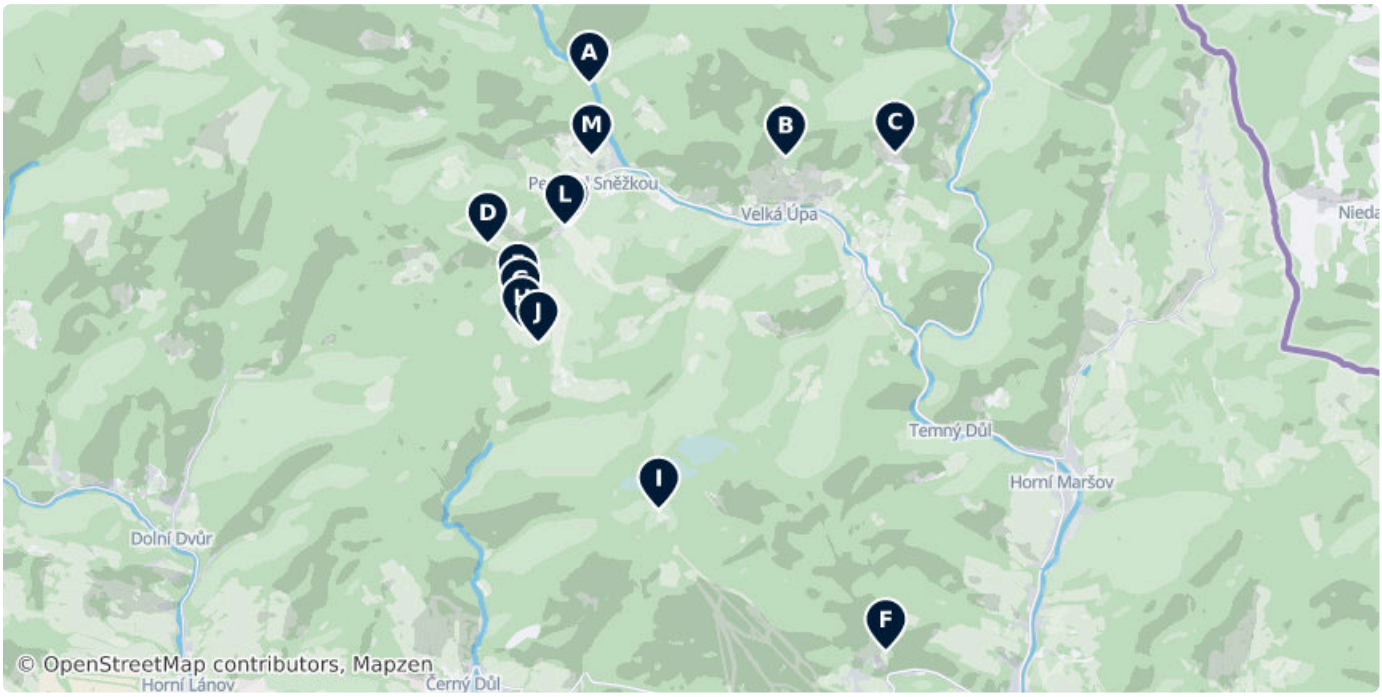
O Dom Śląski

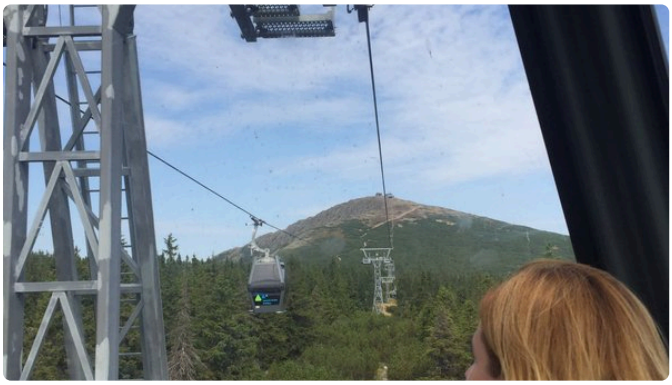
Dining facility within the Polish Schronisko Dom Śląski, serving traditional Polish dishes such as bigos and pierogi to hikers traversing the main Krkonoše ridge.

58-540, Poland (50.73942, 15.72905)

Pec pod Sněžkou Ski Lifts

This collection details the transport infrastructure of the SkiResort Černá hora – Pec, specifically within the Pec pod Sněžkou and Velká Úpa sectors. It includes the gondola system leading toward the summit of Sněžka, the Hnědý vrch chair lift providing access to a local observation tower, and high-speed facilities like the Zahrádky Express. The list also covers essential T-bars, Poma lifts for intermediate terrain, and specialized magic carpets located within the LivePark beginner zones.





A Pec pod Sněžkou ⇔ Růžová hora

The first section of the two-stage gondola lift system connecting the town of Pec pod Sněžkou to the summit of Sněžka via the intermediate station at Růžová hora.

345, 54221, Czech Republic (50.70525, 15.73287)

B Lanová dráha Portášky

Three-seater chair lift in Velká Úpa that connects the valley to the Portášky mountain hut, serving as a gateway to cross-country trails and downhill slopes.

107, 54221, Czech Republic (50.69671, 15.76912)

C Lyžařský vlek Pěnkavčí vrch

Poma lift serving the slopes of Pěnkavčí vrch, located in a quieter area between Velká Úpa and Malá Úpa.

54221, Czech Republic (50.69715, 15.78928)

penkavcivrch.cz

D Hnědý vrch

Four-seater chair lift operating year-round, providing access to the Hnědý vrch observation tower and several mountain biking trails.

54221, Czech Republic (50.68654, 15.71419)

E Zahrádky Express

Modern high-speed four-seater chair lift equipped with protective bubbles, serving the central Zahrádky slopes.

206, 54221, Czech Republic (50.68059, 15.71975)

F A11 Koštálka 1

T-bar lift located on the slopes of Černá hora, providing access to intermediate terrain within the interconnected ski resort.

(50.63901, 15.78756)

G Zahrádky II

T-bar lift running parallel to the Zahrádky Express, typically used to increase capacity on the central Zahrádky slope during peak periods.

(50.67880, 15.72019)

H Klondike

Poma lift serving the upper sections of the Klondike slopes, frequently utilized for ski training and lessons.

(50.67663, 15.72050)

I Černá bouda

Poma lift situated on the Černá hora plateau near the Černá bouda mountain hut, serving gentle, high-altitude terrain.

(50.65554, 15.74572)

J U Lesa

Poma lift located in the lower part of the Pec pod Sněžkou valley, serving a short intermediate slope.

(50.67500, 15.72347)

K LivePark Pec

Magic carpet conveyor belt located in the dedicated LivePark area, designed for children and beginner ski instruction.

(50.68872, 15.72912)

L LivePark Pec

Secondary magic carpet conveyor belt within the ski school training zone for beginners.

(50.68867, 15.72840)

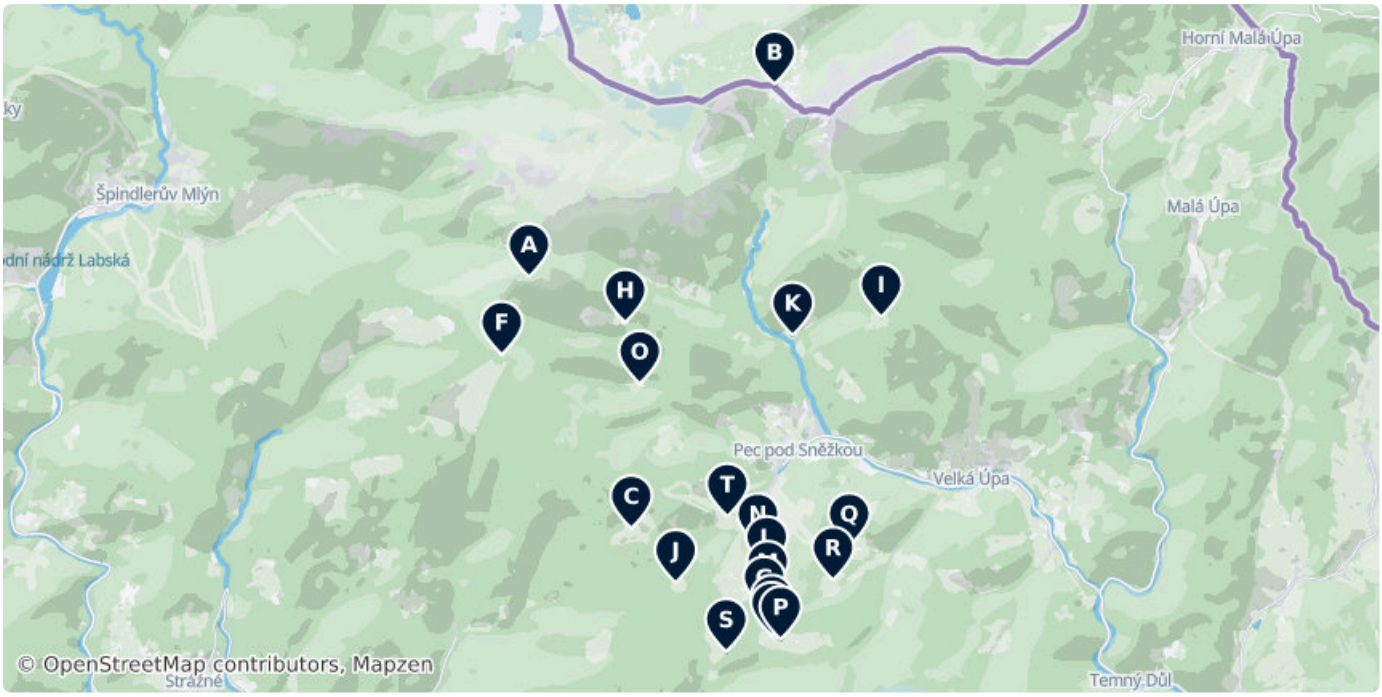
M Koula

Poma lift located near the Javor slopes, serving a short run used for training and evening skiing.

(50.69681, 15.73335)

Alpine Huts and Chalets

This collection features traditional Krkonoše mountain huts (boudy) situated around Pec pod Sněžkou and the ridges of the Giant Mountains. These establishments, ranging from historic chalets like Výrovka at 1,363 meters to eco-farms like Lesní bouda, provide high-altitude accommodation and regional cuisine. Many are located along major hiking trails near Sněžka and Liščí hora, serving as essential rest stops and weather shelters for mountain trekkers.





A Výrovka

High-altitude hut at 1,363 meters in the saddle between Luční hora and Zadní Planina, located approximately 2.5 km from Luční bouda.

(50.71540, 15.68033)

vyrovka-krkonose.cz



B Dom Śląski

Polish mountain hotel and shelter situated on the ridge at the foot of Sněžka.

Na Śnieżkę 20, 58-540 Karpacz (50.73952, 15.72896)

domslaski.pl, +48 75 612 67 00

C Lyžařská bouda

Private hotel and restaurant located on the southern slope of Liščí hora at Liščí louka.

(50.68389, 15.70059)

Mo–Su 10:30–22:00

lyzarskabouda.com, +420 774 304 091

D Bouda Na Lučinách

Mountain hut and restaurant specializing in regional Krkonoše cuisine.

27, 54221, Czech Republic (50.67139, 15.72842)

boudanalucinach.cz, +420 (777) 110 966

E Bouda Slovanka

Traditional alpine hut and restaurant serving regional dishes.

182, 54344, Czech Republic (50.67048, 15.72838)

slovanka-cz.com

F Chalupa Na Rozcestí

High-altitude ridge restaurant and major hiking trail junction featuring wheelchair access.

(50.70567, 15.67492)

Mo–Su 10:00–18:00

chalupanarozcesti.cz, +420499896295



G Husova bouda

Mountain accommodation facility and hut also known locally as Husovka.

26, 54221, Czech Republic (50.67370, 15.72689)

H Richtrovy Boudy

Alpine hut used for accommodation and mountain training programs.

81, 54221, Czech Republic (50.70969, 15.69939)

richtrovyboudy.cz, +420 499 896249

I Bouda Růžohorky

Mountain hotel and hut at 1,280 meters, located near the Růžová hora cable car station.

(50.71038, 15.75009)

ruzohorky.cz, +420 606 300 767

J Lesní bouda

Hotel and eco-farm situated on the southern slope of Liščí hora, specializing in regional gastronomy.

187, 54344, Czech Republic (50.67707, 15.70935)

lesnibouda.cz

K Máma

Mountain hotel and alpine hut.

124, 54221, Czech Republic
(50.70808, 15.73253)

L Konopindova chata

Alpine hut.

(50.67873, 15.72740)

M Na Muldě

Alpine hut.

(50.67564, 15.72759)

N Lokomotiva

Alpine hut.

(50.68162, 15.72567)

O Chata Jelení Louky

Alpine hut located in the Jelení louky meadow.

77, 54221, CZ (50.70201, 15.70226)

+420 499896212

P Helena

Alpine hut.

183, 54344, Czech Republic
(50.66998, 15.73017)

Q Javorka

Alpine hut.

(50.68165, 15.74372)

R Vebrovy boudy

Alpine hut.

318, 54221, CZ (50.67740, 15.74052)

S Náchodská bouda

Alpine hut.

206, 54344, Czech Republic
(50.66842, 15.71939)

T Chata Smetánka

Alpine hut.

(50.68536, 15.71960)

DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

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