



Krkonosé – Velký důl

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Ministry of Environment is the central government department charged with environmental protection in its entirety as well as with managing all its components. The national parks are managed by their respective administrations; these are state organisations established and funded by the Ministry, and reporting to the Ministry. The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the execution of certain acts of state administration, for co-ordination of international relations and for management and guidance of the comprehensive care of Czech Republic's national parks.

CZECH REPUBLIC'S NATIONAL PARKS

These are extensive areas, unique on the national or even on the international scale, dominated by sizeable areas where the ecosystems have been preserved in their natural condition or were affected by man to only a slight extent, with features of flora, fauna and landscape of extraordinary importance to science and education (Act No. 114/1992 Coll. on Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection).

NATURE CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT AT THE NATIONAL PARKS

The instruments adopted of National Parks management stem from Act No. 114/1992 Coll. on Nature Conservation and Landscape Protection and from related legislation:

- Specialised state administration as applied to nature conservation and landscape protection as well as to the protection of agricultural land and fisheries.
- Management of government land focusing mainly on forested and non-forested lands including the title to game-keeping and hunting.
- Professional activities related to nature conservation, especially including the co-ordination of research and monitoring activities,

the development of protective management plans (National Parks' management plans), professional documentation, inspection and supervision activities, methodology assistance and implementation of the subsidies policy of the Ministry.

- Public relations focusing mainly on information, awareness-raising and educational activities, operation of visitor centres and other facilities for visitors, and communication with the general public.

INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS

- Every National Park has its counterpart on the territory of a neighbouring country – which means that all these parks are bilateral, cross-boundary, i.e. international parks.
- The administrations of the National Parks are members of EUROPARC Federation, a Pan-European organisation of similar protected areas of Europe.
- The Krkonosé (Giant Mountains) National Park and the Šumava Mountains National Park belong to the global network of biosphere reserves of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere programme.
- The Podyjí (Dyje River Basin) National Park received Council of Europe's "European Diploma" award.
- All National Parks are to become the core areas of the proposed European Ecological Network (EECONET).

Further information can be obtained from the

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National Parks Department
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website: <http://www.env.cz>

NATIONAL PARKS OF THE



CZECH REPUBLIC

ČESKÉ ŠVÝCARSKO (BOHEMIAN SWITZERLAND)

Area: 80 km²
Altitude: 120 m (Hřensko border crossing) – 619 m (Růžovský vrch Hill)

The unique geomorphology of a 'town' of sandstone rocks and its rich biodiversity are the main objects of protection here. Herb-rich beech forests with an abundance of plant species on basalt formations stand in sharp contrast to acidophilous beech woods and to pine and spruce forests growing on sandstone. Rare flora is represented, for instance, by interrupted clubmoss or Labrador-tea, rare fauna is represented by eagle owl or peregrine falcon. The most famous formation of this National Park is the great rock arch of Prácheňská brána – Prácheň Gateway, unique in Europe. Within as well as around the National Park there are valuable buildings of folk architecture.

Bohemian Switzerland National Park Administration:
Pražská 52, CZ-407 46 Krásná Lípa
Phone/Fax: +420 412 354 050
n.park@nps.cz, www.nps.cz



České Švýcarsko – celkový pohled

KRKONOŠE (GIANT MOUNTAINS)

Area: 363 km² (national park) and 184 km² (buffer zone)
Altitude: 383 m (Horní Svatá) – 1602 m (Sněžka Mountain)

The Giant Mountains is a mountainous region of historical importance to the nature and culture of North Bohemia. Its attractiveness is due to an unusually diverse landscape and to an abundance of species of both flora and fauna which occur there. Deciduous as well as mixed forests can be found here at the foot of the mountain ridges, as well as autochthonous and secondary mountain spruce forests, dwarf-pine growths and herb-rich alpine meadows, glacial cirques with famous botanical 'gardens' and an extensive lichen tundra atop the highest ridges. The Giant Mountains climate is cold and very wet with dominating westerly winds from the Atlantic. Four major watercourses have their springs here – the Labe, Úpa, Jizera and Mumlava rivers.

Administration of the Krkonoše National Park:
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NATIONAL PARKS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC



Krkonoše – Luční hora

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photo K. Hník, V. Hošek, B. Prokůpek, V. Sojka



PODYJÍ (DYJE RIVER VALLEY)

Area: 63 km² (National Park) and 29 km² (protection zone)
Altitude: 226 m (Dyje River at Znojmo Dam) – 536 m (Býčí hora – Bull's Peak)

This is a showcase of a uniquely preserved river valley in a landscape covered with rich forests bordering on Austria. The Dyje River Valley National Park features extraordinary sceneries composed of a wide palette of rock slopes and steep walls, meanders, vast scree fields and gorges that are hard to penetrate on foot, but also alluvial plain meadows along the Dyje River banks and sunny forest-steppes with varied carpets of thermophilous flora. The territory is characterised by its prodigious biodiversity in flora and fauna and also its high concentration of species populations on a relatively small area. Its richness of species of flora and fauna is due to the fact that this protected area is situated at an interface of two biogeographic systems.

Administration of the Podyjí National Park:
Na Vyhlídce 5, CZ-669 01 Znojmo
Phone: +420-515 282 240, Fax: +420-515 282 241
info@nppodyji.cz, www.nppodyji.cz



Podyjí – vřesoviště

ŠUMAVA (ŠUMAVA MOUNTAINS)

Area: 690.3 km² (national park) and 979.7 km² (protected landscape area)
Altitude: 600 m (Otava River valley near Rejstejn) – 1378 m (Plechý Mountain)

Since ancient times the forested mountain range along the frontiers with Bavaria and Austria has been known for its impressive size, mysterious aspect, and beauty. The forest inspired numerous poets, writers and composers. Nearly 85 % of its central zone is woodland and in higher-altitude locations there are even remnants of primeval forests. The whole range is scattered with abundant wetlands and raised bogs, and the silent beauty of the glacial lakes is famous. The territory makes home to a number of protected species of fauna and flora, many of them being relicts of the Ice Age. The diffuse imprints of historical settlements and a number of technology monuments complement the uniqueness of this Green Roof of Europe. The Šumava Protected Landscape Area surrounds the National Park territory.

Administration of the Šumava National Park and the Protected Landscape Area:
1. máje 260, CZ-385 01 Vimperk
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Šumava – Borová lada