

# CZECH ADVENTURE RACE 2025 - ROAD BOOK

## GUIDE TO ATTRACTIONS AND LANDMARKS OF THE RACE

created by Market V.

This year, CZAR will take you to the borderlands of Bohemia and Moravia.

You will see many ponds and bodies of water in the Třeboňsko Protected Landscape Area, and you will visit the Novohradské Mountains in the former border zone, known for their beautiful and wild nature. The race route will also lead you into the Česká Kanada Nature Park, which, with its rugged terrain and damp weather, truly resembles Canada.

Almost all checkpoints are located in places that are interesting either for their natural beauty or historical significance, and it would be a shame to pass by them unnoticed.



### Facts about Třeboňsko:

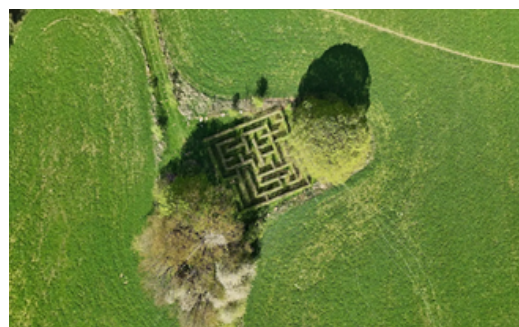
Area: 700 km<sup>2</sup>, Altitude: 410–550 m above sea level. Declared: March 14, 1980, 33 small-scale specially protected areas, 4 national nature reserves, 19 nature reserves, 2 national natural monument, 8 natural monuments. Natura 2000: 17 sites of European importance, 1 bird area.

The formation of the Třeboňsko landscape as we know it today was influenced by a combination of several factors. A distinct geological development compared to other parts of the Bohemian Massif. Older rocks were submerged in freshwater and covered by a thick layer of sediments. Later, the Lužnice River shaped this flatland with meanders, oxbow lakes, and peat-filled pools. The cultivation of the wetland landscape by people who wisely utilized its potential and developed a less common form of land use – fishpond farming. The preservation of a Renaissance landscape, which has survived to this day thanks to its uniqueness.

## Swimrun

### 2 – Chapel

In the High and Late Middle Ages, the landscape of southeastern Třeboňsko was originally inhospitable—full of swamps and primeval forests. Settlement began only at the end of the 12th century thanks to colonization, especially by German settlers under the patronage of the Zwettl Monastery. Villages were established along watercourses, while higher terrain was used for agriculture. From the 14th to the 16th century, the landscape was significantly transformed by water management works—creating a cultural landscape with ponds, dams, and canals. Settlements were founded either as village greens or strip villages along watercourses. Independent farmsteads also emerged along the Nežárka River. The main colonizers were the Doudleb family, who brought construction techniques influenced by Byzantium and antiquity. This led to the development of masonry architecture, especially in the form of four-sided farmsteads ("Vierkanthöfe"), typical of the Vitorazsko region. This area was reattached to the Czech lands only after 1920, based on the Treaty of Saint-Germain.



### 3 – Maze

The maze was created in 2017 on the initiative of the town of Strmilov. It features 900 planted seedlings of Siberian elm.

In the Early Modern Period (16th–17th century), the landscape of Třeboňsko underwent a fundamental transformation due to extensive Renaissance cultivation, especially through the establishment of fishponds and large estates. This development led to the disappearance of smaller noble residences.

The peak of fishpond farming occurred in the first third of the 16th century under the leadership of prominent figures such as Štěpánek Netolický, Mikuláš Ruthard, and Jakub Krčín. Serfs were granted substitute plots of land between the ponds, where isolated dwellings (so-called "units") were established, while new agricultural settlements were rather rare.

A significant feature of the landscape at that time were timber hay barns on the so-called Wet Meadows, used for storing hay on peat meadows.

The Thirty Years' War caused a further decline in villages, but after the war, economic recovery followed—ironworks, glassworks, and noble estates were established and developed.



Komorník Pond lies between the villages of Strmilov and Kunžak and is a popular destination for holidaymakers. It is nearly 3 kilometers long, covers an area of 59 hectares, and was first mentioned as early as 1575. It offers excellent conditions for swimming, water sports, mushroom picking, and hiking. The pond is known for its exceptionally clean water, which it maintains throughout the recreational season, and for its sandy, gently sloping beach—ideal for families with children.



In the 18th and 19th centuries, the landscape of Třeboňsko was transformed by Baroque and Classicist construction of both religious and secular buildings, the building of roads lined with alleys, and the development of villages with new agricultural buildings and cottager colonies. A typical feature became the double-gabled façades of farmsteads with enclosing walls and rich stucco decoration. Distinctive Baroque landscape compositions emerged, for example, in Jemčina and Chlum u Třeboně.

From the mid-19th century, with the end of feudalism and the rise of industry, development shifted to the towns.

In the 20th and 21st centuries, Třeboňsko experienced significant changes in settlement structure. The construction of schools, pubs, and family houses led to the absorption of villages by towns, while wars and security measures caused the disappearance of some settlements. Insensitive interventions, such as the construction of collective farms (JZD), panel housing, or standardized new buildings, disrupted the traditional character of the countryside.

After 1989, the original agricultural way of life could not be restored, leading to uncoordinated construction and the loss of settlement character. A continuing challenge is the protection of unique settlement structures and the landscape character from inappropriate development and pressure to expand buildable areas.



### **Česká Kanada Nature Park Characteristics and Location**

Česká Kanada Nature Park was established in 1994 and revised in 2004. It is located in the Jindřichův Hradec district, on the southwestern edge of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, between Nová Bystřice, Kunžak, Slavonice, and the Austrian border. The area is valued for its well-preserved nature, which was partially protected due to its former status as a border zone. The name “Czech Canada” refers to its resemblance to the wild nature of North America.

### **Geography and Natural Conditions**

The park lies at an elevation of 468–732 meters above sea level, with the highest point being Vysoký kámen. The landscape consists of forests, pastures, boulders, bodies of water, and sparse settlement. Historically, it is the meeting point of Bohemia, Moravia, and Lower Austria—known as the “Triple Border.”

### **Geological and Natural Development**

The area was formed 327 million years ago during the Hercynian orogeny. A freshwater lake later developed here, and after it drained, swamps and wetlands remained. Due to glacial periods and subsequent warming, the region became forested. In the 20th century, forest growth was further supported by the decline of grazing and the expulsion of the population after World War II.

### **Settlement History**

The oldest traces of human presence date from the 8th–12th centuries. In the 13th–14th centuries, the Lords of Landštejn founded the first settlements. The greatest development occurred in the 16th century with the construction of fishponds. In the 17th century, the area became popular for hunting. In 1897, the narrow-gauge railway from Jindřichův Hradec to Nová Bystřice was opened.

### **Borderland and Village Disappearance**

In the 1930s, a line of bunkers (so-called “řopíky”) was built here. After 1945, the German population was expelled, and in the 1950s, the Iron Curtain was established. Many villages were completely destroyed and today remain only as ruins. After 1989, intensive agriculture declined, and extensive farming practices returned.

### **Present Day**

Today, Česká Kanada is an area with very few permanently inhabited places, no large towns, and no industry. Tourist interest increased in the 1990s. In 2004, the park was re-declared by the South Bohemian Region. The area retains its natural character and is popular for recreation and cottage living.



## **7 – Wayside Shrine**

A unique late Renaissance stone wayside shrine with the monogram “T S” and the date “1693” was, according to the Register of Monuments, commissioned either by the priest Tomáš Špamberger—who is said to have brought the first stonemasons to Kunžak and assigned them this work—or by Tereza Šavrdová, the landowner at the time.

## **8 – Cross**

Crosses in the Czech landscape—whether in the form of wayside shrines, atonement crosses, or Stations of the Cross—held primarily religious significance. They served as reminders of important events, as protection against misfortune, and also as landmarks in the landscape. They often marked places associated with Christian rituals, tragic events, or property boundaries. Their presence continues to shape the spiritual and historical character of the Czech countryside to this day.



**Bike 1**



## 10 – Jára Cimrman Memorial

Right next to the Kaproun train stop stands the Jára Cimrman Memorial along with a stone cairn. It was allegedly at this very spot that Jára Cimrman was expelled from a train. At the request of the citizens of Kaproun, a train stop was established here in 1930.

Jára Cimrman is a fictional Czech genius, born sometime between 1853 and 1884, created by Zdeněk Svěrák and Ladislav Smoljak. He was a universal inventor, playwright, philosopher, traveler, scientist, and all-around polymath who supposedly contributed to many historical discoveries—though none were ever officially recognized.

The character has become a symbol of Czech humor, self-irony, and satire. In 1966, the Jára Cimrman Theatre was founded, and it continues to perform his plays to this day. Each performance consists of a “seminar,” in which actors portray researchers investigating Cimrman’s life, followed by a theatrical play. Interestingly, none of the original actors were professional performers—their comedic stiffness and natural delivery became a hallmark of Cimrman’s theatre.

The plays about Cimrman were created during the communist regime in Czechoslovakia and often contained subtle criticism of the totalitarian system. The authors used humor and historical parody to discreetly highlight the lack of freedom, censorship, and absurdity of the time.

Although Jára Cimrman is a fictional character, he has become a cultural hero. In 2005, he even received the highest number of votes in the “Greatest Czech” poll—though he was ultimately disqualified because he was “not real.”



## 11 – Stone Table

This stone table is considered a true megalithic structure—that is, a stone construction built by prehistoric people.

Megalithic structures are monuments made from large, often unworked boulders. They were created in prehistoric times and primarily served as burial sites, religious or astronomical structures, or as tools for timekeeping.



## 12 – Cross

Fishpond farming in the Třeboň region experienced its greatest boom in the 15th and 16th centuries thanks to the House of Rožmberk and three prominent builders:

Štěpánek Netolický designed a sophisticated pond system, including the Golden Canal (Zlatá stoka), which regulated water flow between the main ponds. Mikuláš Rutard of Malešov, his student, worked mainly in the Chlum area and became known for the Staňkovský Pond. Jakub Krčín of Jelčany, the most enterprising of the trio, expanded the Třeboň pond system by dozens of ponds, including the monumental Rožmberk Pond. At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, Josef Šusta elevated fishpond farming to a scientific discipline. His book *The Nutrition of Carp and Its Pond Companions* laid the foundations for modern fish farming.



## 13 – Rýdův Hill Lookout Tower (Děbolín)

The Rýdův Hill Lookout Tower is a prominent landmark in the landscape. Total height: 33 m. Elevation above sea level: 551.5 m. Viewing platform: at a height of 24 m. Spiral steel staircase (102 steps). Wooden staircase (128 steps). The architectural and structural design of the tower is based on the concept of an equilateral triangle (trigon), which forms its ground plan.



## 14 – Lanna’s Cross

This iron cross from 1854, placed atop a granite outcrop in the middle of the forest, commemorates the builder Adalbert Lanna. He was instrumental in making the nearby section of the Nežárka River navigable, which helped reduce unemployment in the region. In his honor, this memorial with a commemorative plaque was erected.

## 15 – Monument to the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Adolf Josef Schwarzenberg and Ida of Liechtenstein

This monument was created to commemorate the golden wedding anniversary of Adolf Josef Schwarzenberg and Ida of Liechtenstein, celebrated in 1907. In addition to the monument, a new forest path was established, named the Jubilee Trail. Ida Marie married 25-year-old Prince Adolf Josef at the age of 17. Their wedding took place on June 4, 1857, in Vienna and was officiated by Prague Archbishop Cardinal Bedřich of Schwarzenberg, the groom’s uncle. Their marriage was happy and lasted many years. They settled at the Libějovice chateau and had nine children together. Adolf Josef Jan Eduard, Prince of Schwarzenberg, was the 13th Duke of Krumlov, a member of both the provincial and imperial parliaments, and the largest landowner in the Kingdom of Bohemia (owning over 180,000 hectares of land). He supported forestry, the development of new industries, archaeology, and founded South Bohemian archival studies. He was known for his kindness, sense of humor, and efforts to promote peaceful coexistence between Czechs and Germans.



## 16 – Ema Destinová’s Oak

Near the Nová Řeka (New River) grows a memorial oak tree, a favorite spot of the famous opera singer Ema Destinová, who spent the last 16 years of her life in nearby Stráž nad Nežárkou. She found peace here, loved nature and trees, and enjoyed fishing. A small image of her is embedded in the bark of the oak, and a memorial plaque stands nearby.

Ema Destinová (born Emilie Kittlová) was born in 1878 in Prague. From an early age, she showed exceptional artistic talent—she played the violin, painted, wrote, and studied singing under Marie Loewe-Destinn, whose name she adopted as her stage name.

At the age of 20, she was rejected by the National Theatre, but she successfully debuted in Berlin and later shone at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where she performed alongside Enrico Caruso. In addition to music, she also pursued acting, and her great love was the cyclist Jindřich Vodišek.





## 18 – Sand Pit near Pístina – Swimming

This body of water, covering approximately 1.3 hectares, was formed after the extraction of sand and gravel from the alluvial deposits of the Nežárka River. Although mining still continues nearby, this particular site is no longer of interest to the mining company.

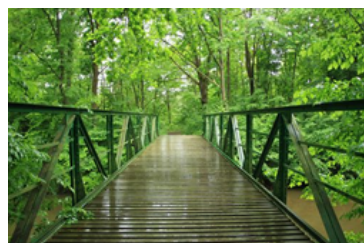
On the contrary—the company carried out basic reclamation, and the surrounding area was planted mainly with pine forest, creating a pleasant environment suitable for recreation and swimming.



## Kánoe 1



## Trek 1



## 21 – Bridge

In the Třeboňsko Protected Landscape Area and Biosphere Reserve, between the town of Veselí nad Lužnicí and the villages of Horusice and Vlkov, lies the Veselí Sand Pits area, covering 240 hectares.

Five separate gravel lakes were formed here after gravel and sand extraction between 1952 and 1986. Today, these lakes are a popular destination for recreation, swimming, and water sports.

## 22 – Oak by the Island

The Naděje (Hope) Pond System is located near Lomnice nad Lužnicí and consists of a chain of ponds approximately 7 km long and 1.5 km wide, stretching along the eastern bank of the Lužnice River.

It was established between 1577 and 1579 by Jakub Krčín, with the main ponds being Naděje and Skutek (Hope and Deed). Water was originally supplied via the Potěšilka canal, later replaced by the Adolfska outlet. After being drained in 1826, the ponds were restored in 1871 and expanded under Josef Šusta to include smaller ponds for breeding fish fry. Today, the system includes more than ten ponds, divided by a main dam with a road between Klec and Val. On the western side are the ponds Naděje, Víra, Lásky, Měkký, Rod, Horák, Fišmistr, Baštýř, Pěšák, and Pražský rybník, and further north, Překvapil and Nový rybník (Hope, Faith, Love, Soft, Family, Burner, Fishmaster, Bastyr, Pawn, and Prague Pond, and further north, Surprised and New Pond). On the eastern side of the main dam lie the ponds Bláník, Skutek (Deed), Dobrá vůle (Goodwill), and Strakatý (Mottled).

## 23 – Bench

This bench is located at the crossroads between the ponds Lásky (Love), Naděje (Hope), and Víra (Faith). It is a very romantic spot, ideal for rest, reflection, or a picnic in the heart of the historic pond landscape.

## 24 – Chapel

A legend is associated with this niche chapel, telling of a hunter who, during a hunt, saw a stag with a golden cross between its antlers. This motif is well known from the legend of Saint Hubert, the patron saint of hunters. According to the legend, Hubert, a passionate hunter, encountered a white stag with a cross between its antlers during a hunt, which led to his conversion to Christianity and later to his appointment as a bishop.

This symbol frequently appears in art and culture, especially in connection with hunting. Sculptures or statues depicting a stag with a golden cross are often found in forests and at sites associated with hunting or the figure of Saint Hubert.

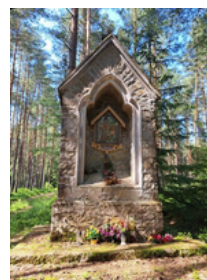
## 26 – Monument to Jakub Krčín

Jakub Krčín of Jelčany came from a poor noble family and likely studied at Charles University. He began his career in the service of Vilém Trčka of Lípa and later managed the monastery estate in Borovany. In 1559, he entered the service of the Rožmberk family, where, thanks to his diligence and abilities, he rose to become the burgrave of Český Krumlov.

He focused on economic development, especially fishpond farming. His first major project was the Počátek Pond. In 1569, he became the regent of the Rožmberk estate and introduced a number of reforms, including financial oversight.

Krčín became famous as a pond builder in the Třeboň region, continuing the work of Štěpánek Netolický. He founded or expanded many significant ponds, including Světlý and Rožmberk—the largest pond in Bohemia. Hundreds of workers were employed daily during its construction, and the Nová Řeka (New River) was built to regulate flooding.

His talents were recognized by Emperor Rudolf II, who entrusted him with overseeing pond management in the Poděbrady region. Krčín also proposed technical projects such as a water supply system for Prague Castle and water pumping for the Kutná Hora mines, though not all were realized.





## Bike 2



### 28 – Watershed – Educational Panel “Wetland Heart”

The area of the Old and New River, referred to as the “wetland heart of Třeboňsko,” is one of the most valuable natural regions in the area. It consists of the National Nature Reserve Stará a Nová řeka, which includes the meanders of the Lužnice River, the Novořecké Marshes, and the Watershed – the place where part of the Lužnice’s water is diverted by the New River into the Nežárka River to protect the Rožmberk Pond.

Although the flow of the Old River is partially regulated, the area has retained high natural value. It is popular among paddlers and tourists, but visitation is reaching its limits – tens of thousands of cyclists visit it annually.

### 29 – Lookout Tower on Kraví hora (Cows Mountain)

The current lookout tower on Kraví hora was originally a military watchtower, which in 1988 replaced an older triangulation tower. During the communist era, it was used to monitor the western border of Czechoslovakia, allegedly as a defense against the “imperialist enemy.” After the army left, the tower was left unused. Everything changed in 2001, when the structure was stabilized and began serving both telecommunications purposes and as a publicly accessible lookout tower.

### 30 – Wayside Shrine in the Abandoned Village of Jedlice

At the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, many residents of Jedlice left for work in Vienna, leaving farming to the elderly and children. After World War II, the original inhabitants were expelled, and the new settlers – mainly Hungarians – did not stay. Eventually, only two families remained in the village. Electricity was never introduced to Jedlice, and the village gradually fell into disrepair. In 1951, it was completely demolished by a military unit as part of the construction of the Iron Curtain. It is the only village in the Novohrad region to have been entirely destroyed, including its sacred monuments and war memorial.

To this day, a niche chapel still stands above the former village, along with shelters over nearby springs. On the Austrian side of the border, the Göllitzhof farmstead remains. Jedlice was officially dissolved on July 1, 1952, by a decision of the Ministry of the Interior, and its name was erased from maps.

### 31 – The Black Cross

“In reverence to God, the game, and the forest.”

This inscription was carved into the cross in 2023 by Zuzana and Milan Jirušek. The modernly designed wooden cross, featuring a beautiful sculpture of a hunter, feels modest yet powerful. It quietly watches over the surrounding forest, the water’s surface, and the people who pause here for a moment.



### 33 – Bike park – Novohradské Mountains

The Novohradské Mountains, located in the south of Bohemia near the Austrian border, represent an almost untouched landscape of forests, meadows, streams, and ponds. Thanks to their location in the former border zone, they were spared from major human intervention.

On the Czech side, they cover an area of 162 km<sup>2</sup>, with the highest peak being Kamenec (1,072 m). In 2000, the Novohradské Mountains Nature Park was established here. The landscape is interwoven with a network of trails that connect villages and lead into the wilderness – ideal for cycling, hiking, and exploration.



### 35 – Summit of Starohuťský vrch

Starohuťský vrch (704 m above sea level) is located in a vast forested area. Although the view from its summit is limited, it is still a small miracle given the density of the surrounding woods. Unfortunately, the view will likely disappear over time, as the trees in the direction of the vista continue to grow.

### 48 – Trail Junction – Struha Stream

This location lies by the Struha Stream, a natural feature in the landscape and a navigational point for hikers. The trail junction serves as an important hub for both hiking and cycling routes in the Česká Kanada region.

### 49 – Crossing of Path and Stream – Historic Land Border

At this location, the historic land border between Bohemia and Moravia is crossed. While it no longer holds administrative significance, it still carries cultural and historical value. The border stretches from Králíky Sněžník to the tripoint near Slavonice and roughly follows the main European watershed between the North Sea and the Black Sea.

The origin of this border dates back to the 12th–14th centuries, when it gradually took shape. In the Middle Ages, it ran through uninhabited forest, which was colonized from both sides in the 13th century, causing the border to shift away from the watershed. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the border stabilized, and some of its sections still align with current cadastral boundaries of municipalities.

As an administrative boundary, it ceased to exist on December 31, 1948, with the abolition of the land-based administrative system. Nevertheless, its course remains visible – for example, through old boundary stones, some of which are being restored. The border’s path can still be traced on historical maps, such as the Imperial Imprints of the Stable Cadastre or specialized historical map portals.

## Trek 2





### 550 – Summit of Vysoký kámen (728 m)

Vysoký kámen (728 m above sea level) is a prominent mountain in the Česká Kanada region, located approximately 1.5 km from the historic land border between Bohemia and Moravia. The summit lies on the Moravian side and directly on the main European watershed.

A stone staircase leads to the rocky summit. At the very top, there is a forestry memorial plaque dedicated to Angelo, Knight of Picchioni, the owner of the Český Rudolec estate and long-time holder of the Rožnov manor.



### 52 – Self-Service Taproom

A unique feature of this location is a self-service bar where visitors can pour their own beer. For example, Bernard beer is available here. The spot is popular for its informal atmosphere and pleasant seating area.



### 53 – Bohemia–Moravia Boundary Stone

This boundary stone is one of the preserved remnants of the former land border between Bohemia and Moravia. It serves as a reminder of the historical division of the lands, which held significance from the Middle Ages until the abolition of the land-based administrative system in 1948. The stone is a valuable cultural and historical artifact.



### 54– Devil’s Bread

In the forests around the Zvěř Pond lies an area filled with so-called “devil’s” stones. One of the most fascinating formations is Devil’s Bread – a cluster of boulders, the largest of which is split like a loaf of bread. It is this appearance that gave the formation its name. The boulders range in height from 1 to 4 meters.



### 55 – Devil’s Butt

In the Česká Kanada Nature Park, near the settlement of U Panského lesa, there is a curious granite boulder known as Devil’s Butt. Thanks to its unmistakable shape, it is one of the most famous rock formations in the area.

Nearby, you can also find other intriguing stones, such as the Stone Table (likely a megalith from prehistoric times) and other formations that spark visitors’ imaginations with their unusual shapes and mysterious remnants.



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### 57– Baron’s Spring

Baron’s Spring is an accessible source of flowing water, popular among both tourists and locals. If there are cups present at the spring, it’s usually a sign that the water is likely drinkable. The spot is ideal for a quick refreshment during a trip.

### 58 – Summit – Suchdolský vrch

Suchdolský vrch is a prominent granite formation at an elevation of 713 meters above sea level. It is located in a peaceful part of the landscape and offers scenic views of the surrounding area.

### 59 – Former Rocking Stone Trkal

On the Kníže Hill near Suchdol lies the Trkal rocking stone, made of porphyritic granite. Height: nearly 7 meters. Weight: approx. 30 tons. Unique feature: it rested on a narrow surface of bedrock.

Its surface contains 13 circular depressions known as “bowls,” formed by erosion and weathering. According to local legends, they contain “living and dead water.” Trkal is considered one of the four most significant rocking stones in the Czech Republic. Its original purpose is unknown, but one theory suggests it was used for ritual purposes by druids.





## Bike 3

### 67 – Summit with Bunkers (Řopíky)

Near this summit are two bunkers of the “řopík” type, which were part of the Czechoslovak fortification system built between 1935 and 1938.

This defensive system was intended to protect the republic from attacks by neighboring states, especially Nazi Germany. It consisted of light fortifications (řopíky) and heavy fortifications, including artillery fortresses.

After the Munich Agreement, the fortifications were abandoned, and most of the structures were destroyed or damaged.

### 68 – Summit of Vysoký kámen (738 m) (see also entry 39)

Vysoký kámen is the highest peak of the Česká Kanada region, with an elevation of 738 meters above sea level. A triangulation point is located at its summit.

In the 16th century, the borders of three dioceses—Prague, Olomouc, and Passau—converged here.

The summit is formed by massive boulders, on which you can observe natural depressions known as “bowls” that retain water. These formations were believed to have magical properties and are sometimes called “devil’s basins.”

### 70 – Gateway – Trail of the 20th Century

The Trail of the 20th Century is a Czech-Austrian cross-border educational trail that presents the historical development of the region throughout the 20th century.

After 1918, following the collapse of Austria-Hungary, the land border between Bohemia and Lower Austria became a state border. Some villages, such as Reingers and Hirschenschlag, suddenly found themselves abroad.

In the 1930s, with the economic crisis and Austria’s annexation by Nazi Germany, tensions along the border increased. The Munich Agreement led to the annexation of the Czechoslovak borderlands by the German Reich – in this area from Nová Bystřice to Jindřichův Hradec.

In the 1950s, during the Iron Curtain era, Nová Bystřice and Reingers were connected by one of the few border crossings. After 1989, with the fall of the communist regime, Czech-Austrian cooperation and cross-border contact began to be restored.

### 71 – Border Stone at the Tripoint

This boundary stone is located at the point where three historical regions meet: Bohemia, Moravia, and Lower Austria. It lies within the cadastral territories of: Staré Město pod Landštejnem (Bohemia), Maříž (Moravia), Reinolz (Lower Austria). It is a significant geographical and historical landmark that symbolizes the cultural and administrative crossroads of Central Europe.

### 72 – Rock with Grasel’s Triple-Loading Muzzleloader

On this rock formation, there is a replica of a historical firearm – the so-called Grasel’s triple-loading muzzleloader.

Johann Georg Grasel (Jan Jiří Grasel), born in 1790 in Nové Syrovce, was an infamous bandit and murderer who operated in the borderlands of South Bohemia, South Moravia, and Austria. In 1815, he was arrested and, after a three-year trial, convicted of two murders and over two hundred robberies. He was executed in Vienna in 1818.

After his death, a legend grew around him – in German-speaking areas, he was seen as a noble outlaw, while in Czech, his name became synonymous with “criminal” – grázl. Today, his story is often romanticized.

### 73 – Grasel’s Bath

Grasel’s Bath is a cluster of stones with depressions on top that fill with water after rain. Although it’s unlikely that Grasel bathed often, the stones are located along a trail he frequently used, which is why they bear his name.

Nearby is also Grasel’s Cave – a small cavern where he supposedly hid with his loot. The cave is accessible (for slimmer visitors), but no treasure has been preserved inside. Not far from it, a warning sign hangs on a tree, claiming the area may not be safe – supposedly, another gang might be lurking around.

### 74 – Granite quarry - Swimming

The flooded granite quarry Řásná is located on the southwestern slope of the hill Vrch, about 1 km southwest of the village of Řásná.

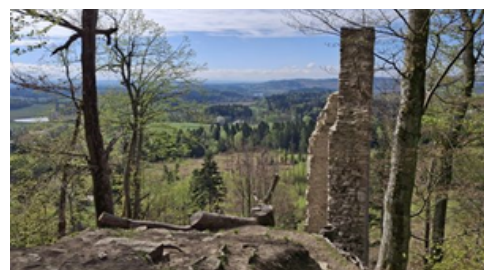
•Mining began: 1908, originally known as Komárek’s Quarry

•Post-WWII: Abandoned, but resumed by the company Kavex after the Velvet Revolution

•Mining ended: 2010, since then the quarry has been filling with groundwater

•Current depth: Up to 15 meters, with remnants of mining equipment visible on the bottom

Nearby are the ruins of the Gothic castle Štamberk, built in the 13th century by Jaroslav of Šternberk. From this protected heritage site, parts of the outer walls, a fragment of the palace wall, remains of a guard tower, and fortifications have survived. The castle was abandoned in the 15th century after being destroyed during the Hussite Wars.





## 75 – Memorial of the 1150th Anniversary of the Arrival of Cyril and Methodius to Great Moravia

This memorial commemorates the arrival of Saints Cyril (Constantine) and Methodius to Great Moravia in the year 863. The brothers from Thessaloniki came at the request of Prince Rastislav, who sought to reduce the influence of the East Frankish Empire and asked the Byzantine emperor to send teachers.

Constantine created the Glagolitic script, and together with Methodius, they translated liturgical books into Old Church Slavonic, laying the foundations for Slavic liturgy. They also authored the legal text *Zákon sudnyj ljudem*, which aimed to suppress pagan practices.

In 864, however, Louis the German invaded Moravia, forcing Rastislav to acknowledge vassalage to the East Frankish Empire, which led to conflicts between Latin and Old Church Slavonic liturgies. In 1981, Pope John Paul II declared Cyril and Methodius co-patrons of Europe. Their feast day is celebrated on July 5.



## 76 – Crossroads by Maráz Pond

Maráz Pond is located about 1.5 km southeast of Popelín. It is suitable for both swimming and fishing and is largely surrounded by forest. Just a few dozen meters to the east lies Horní Maráz, and beyond that, Malý Maráz, which is private.

On the way from checkpoint 64, you'll pass by the Javořická Highlands Nature Park.



**FINISH CZAR 2025**