

# Wenger Czech Adventure Race 2020:

## Roadbook

Dear racers,

welcome to our beautiful area of Bohemian Paradise where we have tried to find the most attractive places for you. We believe you will enjoy the race in the breathtaking countryside rich in natural as well as historical sights.

**Start CZAR20: TA1, Thursday 27th October 2020 v 9 am.**

### Czech Paradise

Sandstone rocks, dead volcanoes, wets, deep forests are typical natural heritage, while ruins, castles and old folk homes remind of cultural history. Jizera river is the arteria and Jizera Mountains and Krkonose/Giant Mountains are the surroundings. Traditional crafts include the jewelry, jewel cutting, glass making and wood carving.

Prachov Rocks – the visit of Rock Town is highly recommended The formations are made of sandstone, originally in the form of a plateau. Since its formation over 60 million years ago, the rock has been eroded by wind and rain into the unique forms found at the site



## Stage: Orienteering (15 km, elevation gain 650m, free order)



Sandstone climbing in the Bohemian Paradise originated about 100 years ago. First, after the WWI German climbers climbed in the Bohemian Paradise. In the 1930s, however, pioneers from Czechoslovakia took over the pioneering. Many climbers grew up in the rock towns and took part in expeditions to the mountains around the world. Today we can only admire the courage and determination with which they embarked on difficult first ascents. Mainly because they lacked basic climbing equipment. They had ordinary hemp ropes, old slippers were used as climbing shoes, and harnesses were sewn at home from old fire hoses. All other gear was home made as well. Climbing on sandstone rocks has its own specifics:

magnesium and many types of metal equipment must not be used, climbing during rain or shortly after rain is forbidden and there are much greater distances between securing points than usual. A specific discipline is the jumping from rock to rock.

### **13 cp: The ruins of the castle Pařez**

The castle was founded in the 14th century and probably destroyed by the Hussites. Archaeological excavations revealed a few coins, pottery and a ceramic rattle. Little rooms carved into the rock and parts of a stone staircase have been retained.

## 2 Stage: MTB 1 (65 km, převýšení 1500 m)

### 15 cp: Rumcajs

From the hill of Brada you can see the town of Jičín, which is famous mainly for one fairytale character - the robber Rumcajs. Originally Rumcajs was an honest shoemaker from Jičín, but he was expelled from the city for insulting mayor's pride, so he settled in the cave in the Řáholec forest where he lived with his wife Manka and son Cipísek. He is a positive figure who fights against the lords with a pistol full of acorns and wild bees live in his beard. The Fairy Tales festival is held in Jičín every year, because many other fairy tale characters have found a home in the area.



### 16 cp - Zebín Hill

Like many other hills in the Bohemian Paradise, was formed by volcanic activity. There is the chapel of St. Mary Magdalene from 1700 on the top. An escape corridor from a nearby prison in the former closter of Valdice allegedly led to Zebín. The prison in Valdice is established from a former monastery from the 17th century and to this day it is used for dangerous criminals. There are remnants of a basalt quarry at Zebín.

### 17 cp - Castle ruins (Bradlec)



Bradlec is a castle ruin on the basalt hill of the same name. It was built in the 13th century. It often changed owners and became the seat of marauding knights. He gradually went to ruin. Only parts of the tower and the perimeter walls have been retained.

## 18 cp - Castle ruins - lookout tower (Kumburk)



Kumburk is the ruin of a gothic castle founded in the 13th century. Like Bradlec, it often changed owners. The only significant event is the 11-year imprisonment of the noblewoman Eliška Kateřina Smiřická for love affairs with a blacksmith. During the Thirty Years' War, the Swedes used the castle as a stronghold for further fighting.

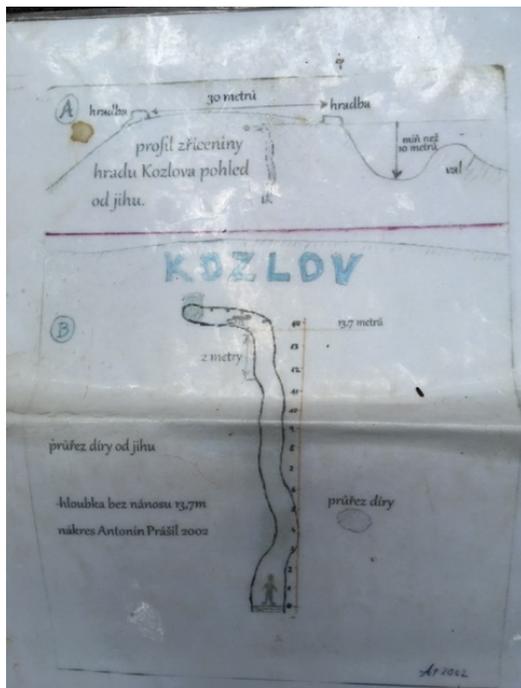
The castle went to ruin and its partial rescue was mainly due to effort of the Czech Tourists Club.

## 19 cp - Lookout tower - (Tábor)

The lookout tower on the Tábor hill was built in 1911. It is 35 m high. Next to the tower is a tourist cottage and a baroque pilgrimage chapel with a Stations of the Cross from the 19th century.

## 20 cp - Cave - (Kozlov)

One member of the team has to descend to the bottom of the cave and then go back.



Kozlov Castle was founded in the 14th century and in the 15th century it was already abandoned. Only bandits lived in it. The hole into which you will rope down served either as a water reservoir or as an escape corridor. The legend tells only of a Tartar scout, who was forgotten by his army here, and he subsisted on raiding the locals. The nearby town of



Lomnice nad Popelkou got him into the emblem for his capture.

## 21 cp - Lookout tower - (Kozákov)

Kozákov - the highest mountain of the Kozákov ridge 744 above sea level. There is a large deposit of precious stones. Signal fires burned here in the Middle Ages. Kozákov is a popular place for paragliding. The lookout tower (44m) and the tourist cottage were built in 1926 by KČT (The Czech Tourists Club).

## 22 cp - Finish TA 2 (Malá Skála)



Vranov Castle, founded in the 14th century, rises above Malá Skála. In 1802 the entire estate was bought by the textile industrialist Rönich who built the Pantheon on the remains of an old castle which is a nature park and a memorial to all the heroes of Czech history with a neo-Gothic summer house.

## 3 stage: Canoe (35 km)

### Jizera



The Jizera Mountains were named after the Jizera river, where the river springs on the slopes of the highest mountain Smrk. The origin of the word Jizera is Celtic and means sharp, fast, fresh. The Jizera has a characteristic brown color because it flows out of the peat bogs. At the beginning it forms the border between Poland and the Czech Republic and at the end it flows into the Labe river.

The water from the Jizera was used in textile factories but today it is the cleanest river in our country.

## 4 stage: Trek 2 (50km, elevation gain 1000m)

### 24 cp - overpass over the highway

At the time of the pandemic when the nation itself procured hand-sewn face masks and protective shields a joke circulated that we could build the missing highways on our own. It would be cheaper and especially faster. They also have better roads in Rwanda or Kenya.

### 25 cp - info board (Valečovské rooms)



The Valečov Castle was originally carved into the rock and partly built sometime in the early 14th century. The nobility never lived here but the castle was maintained until the Thirty Years' War. Then it was abandoned and served as a residence for the poor and as a source of building materials. There are rock flats nearby in which the poor also lived. The apartments had wooden floors, glass windows and a stove with a chimney. There were also barns for domestic animals. At the end of the 19th century, seven families (about 30 people) lived here, including the famous midwife. The inhabitants were forcibly evicted in 1892 due to unsatisfactory hygienic conditions and fear of cholera. The rooms were demolished and the inhabitants were placed in poorhouses.



### 26 cp - Kost Castle

is a Gothic castle located atypically on a rocky promontory where three rocky valleys meet. The castle is owned by the Italian branch of the

Kinský family. The tower has the shape of an irregular trapezoid. This is to protect against bullets from the siege works. The castle was never conquered. Originally it was surrounded by three ponds.



## **27 - crossroads**

The Golden Trail of the Bohemian Paradise, a red-marked path that you will follow, was created in the 1930s with the boom of tourism and KČT. It is a long-distance route and has 160 km. It connects all interesting places of the Bohemian Paradise. In the interwar period, it was very popular and was walked by many personalities of Czech history. Gradually, however, it fell into oblivion. Today, KČT and the Bohemian Paradise Association are trying to revive the trail as a long-distance route of the European level.

## **28 - crossroads**

Věžický pond - is a part of a system of eight ponds on Želejovský brook. It is considered to be the most beautiful pond in the Bohemian Paradise,



mainly due to the view of the rocks rising directly from the water. In summer, there is a pleasant swimming. In front of the parking lot at the crossroads, where you will turn right to the pond, is the Prdlavka spring with cold drinking water. You can pick up. There are several springs on the way to control, but only this one is safe to drink.



## 29 cp - cemetery (Hrubá Skála)



Hrubá skála Chateau is a Renaissance chateau built on the site of a Gothic castle from the 14th century. During the communist era it was rebuilt into a trade union hostel and there was not much left of romance and history.

Symbolic cemetery of climbers - Bohemian Paradise is one of the centers of sandstone climbing. Not far from the Hrubá Skála chateau a symbolic cemetery of climbers was established of those came from the Bohemian Paradise and died tragically during their expeditions.

### 30 cp - Lookout tower below (Dubecko)

The 50 m high Dubecko lookout tower was originally just a telecommunication tower, but the village of Dubecko forced the construction of a gallery for tourists. The lookout tower was opened in 2002.

### 31 cp - Prospect



Rotštejn Castle is a bit unlucky. It was founded in 1250 but in 100 years it has been deserted. The local people dismantled it for building materials, the cellars were loaded with rubbish, the vandals destroyed the walls and the castle did not escape natural disasters and excessive tourism. Maintenance and repairs are currently underway to prevent it from falling apart completely.



Klokočka (Klokočské skály) and other rocks - The formation of sandstone rocks dates back to less than a hundred million years ago when a large part of the Bohemian Paradise was located below the surface of the shallow sea into which the river delta flowed. Gradually the sand brought by the water began to settle. Numerous fossilized shells of sea bivalves have also been preserved in it. The sand was gradually compressed, the gaps between the individual grains were additionally filled with other small particles of putty and so the foundation of today's quartz sandstone rocks was formed. Over the course of many millions of years the movements of the earth's crust have lifted them to the surface and the powerful forces of gravity, erosion, and weathering have reshaped them as we know them today.

## 32 cp - Crossroads

The Dry Rocks (Suché Skály) are also called the Czech Dolomites. The stone in Dry Rocks is harder and unlike Prachov or Hruboskalsko it can be climbed on the rocks even after rain. But magnesium is forbidden. The Dry Rocks resemble an organ or the back of a dragon.



**5 stage: MTB 2 (45 km, elevation gain 1100 m)**

## 34 cp - Climbing (Bezděčín)



converted and saved his property.

The ruins of Frýdštejn Castle – Frýdštejn Castle was built in the 14th century as a guard castle. Living in it was not comfortable and therefore in the 16th century it ceased to be used. During the Hussite wars, it was besieged by the Hussites because its owner, Bohuš of Kovář, was a Catholic. In the end, however, he

Bezděčín Rocks – a rocky, roughly 4 km long ridge, which tourists neglect, but is a valuable location for climbers. Climbers tried to conquer the rocks as early as the end of the 19th century. The name of the two main towers Velká and Malá Kvočna (Small and Big Hen) comes from that time. The relatively exposed Velká Kvočna (Big Hen) was not climbed until 1904 after many attempts.

### 35 cp - Lookout tower – bottom (Black Well)



The Black Well (Černá Studnice) lookout tower is one of the most beautiful lookout towers in the Czech Republic. It lies on a hill 896 m high. It was built in 1905. The lookout tower is 26 m high and it is built of heavy granite blocks, some of which weigh up to 3 tons. It offers a circular view of the surrounding peaks of the Jizera Mountains with many lookout towers, as well as the

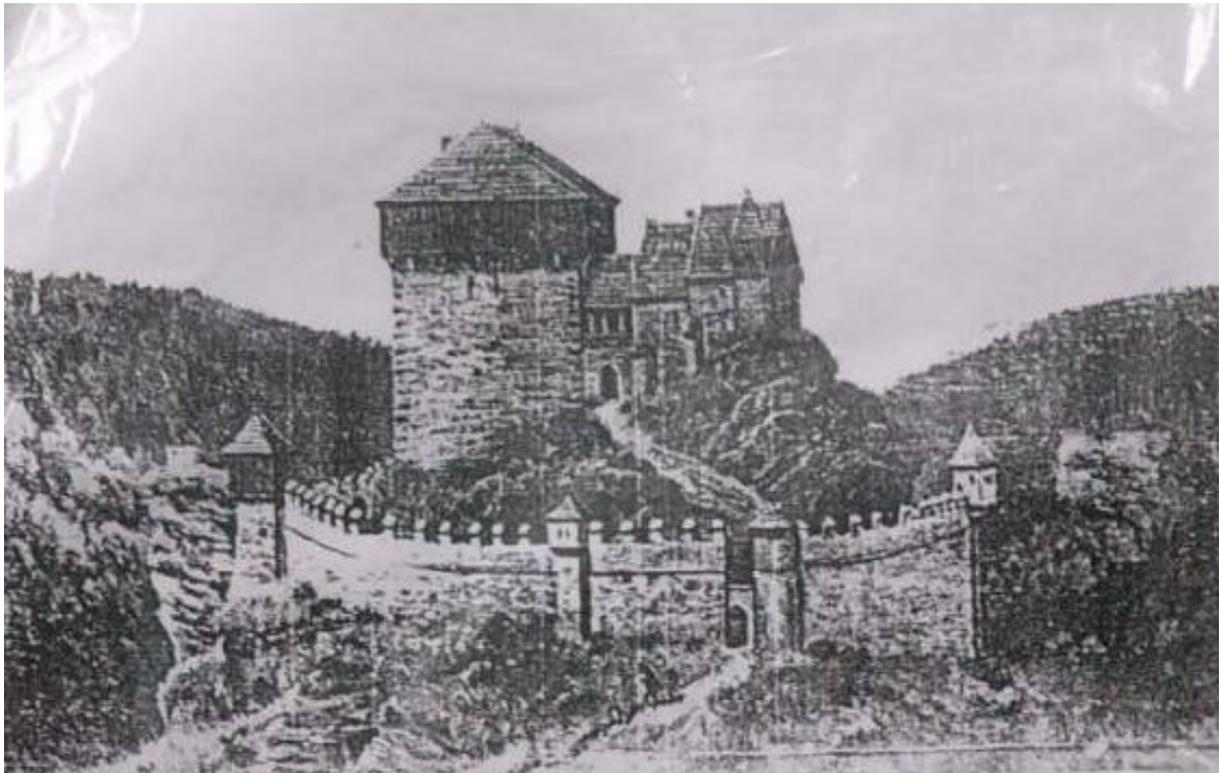
mount of Ještěd, the mount of Ralsko, the mount of Kozákov, Trosky Castle, Bezděz Castle and the mount of Sněžka with other Giant mountains (Krkonoše) peaks.



### 36 cp - Castle ruins - view at the entrance (Navarov)

Navarov is another ruin of a Gothic castle from the 14th century. Life in the castles was not pleasant at all. The defense function took precedence over comfort and residential function. The rooms were cold because of the thick stone walls. The fire was kept in an open fireplace in the corner of the room or in an iron basket with charcoal. But there was mostly a black kitchen in the castles, where the fire burned all day and heated the whole

castle with vents. The windows were small and mostly without glass, only covered with shutters at night. There was little light on the castle, so it was lit by torches or torches of oil. The furniture was simple, a table, chairs and a chest, cabinets did not exist at that time. The bed was a luxury and people slept mostly in chests or on the floor. The dishes were made of wood or clay, more rarely of glass or tin. Drinking water was obtained by drilling a well or building a rainwater tank. People went to public baths at least once a week. The richer owners of the castles had chapels on the top floor of the castle, the poorer ones had only a small niche with an altar. Livestock ran everywhere and the waste was not dealt with. The favorite pastime was hunting game and drinking.



## 6 stage: Trek 3 (20 km, elevation gain 650 m)

### 38 cp - Crossroads



The Palacký Trail leads through the wild valley of the mountain river of Kamenice. Kamenice is the largest tributary of the Jizera river and it is one of the most popular rivers among paddlers (WW III-IV section Plavy - Jesenný). The trail is named after the important Czech historian and politician František Palacký. It was built in 1912

by the Czech Tourists Club.

### 39 cp - Crossroads

The Bozkov Dolomite Caves (Bozkovské jeskyně), the dolomite caves around which you will walk is the longest dolomite caves complex in the Czech Republic. It measures 1060 m. There are two separate systems of caves and corridors connected by a long gallery. The largest Czech underground lake is located in the lowest parts.



### 40 cp - Viewpoint (Mouse Rock)

Mouse Rock (Myší skála) is a viewpoint on a basalt hill built in 1926 and it requires a bit of climbing ability. Chains and stairs carved into the rock will help you get out.

## 41 cp - Viewpoint (Peretka)



From the checkpoint at the Peretka lookout point you will descend to Rieger's Trail. Rieger's trail was built in 1909 again by the Czech Tourists Club. It bears the name of František Rieger, a prominent Czech politician and native of the town of Semily. Rieger was Palacký's son-in-law, so it is actually a family tourist complex. On the trail you will find many attractions: viewpoints, a spring, a tunnel, two hydroelectric power plants and a hanging gallery 77 m long and 5.5 m above the river.

From the suspension bridge you can see the Via Ferrata Water Gate, which you were originally supposed to complete, but the operator said an uncompromising NO. So at least you can have a look from the distance.

## 42 cp - Viewpoint (Bohmová vyhlídka)



The Art Nouveau hydroelectric power plant Spálov at the confluence of Kamenice and Jizera rivers dates back to 1921. At that time technical buildings also had to meet high aesthetic parameters so the power plant was designed by Art Nouveau and Cubist architect E. Králíček and the engine room has Art Nouveau painted decoration. It is still

functional. Water is fed to the power plant by a 1323 m long gallery excavated in a very hard rock.



## 7 stage: MTB 3 (75 km, elevation gain 1600 m)

### 44 cp - Lookout tower below (Kozinec)



The Czech Tourists Club is one of the oldest and largest sports clubs in our country. It was founded in 1888 and quickly gained in popularity. Thanks to the club the Czech Republic and Slovakia have the densest network of marked trails for tourists, skiers and cyclists in the world. The club has also contributed to the construction of many lookout towers, hostels and tourist cottages. Today the club has about 40,000 members. All routes are marked and maintained by professional "markers" who do their work voluntarily and free of charge. In the Czech Republic alone, there are 43,000 km of marked hiking trails. Recently, the system of tourist signs has also become the subject of exports, for example, to Brazil, Georgia or Albania.

### 45 cp - Church - entrance to the cemetery (Pecka)



Pecka Castle was founded as a defensive castle in the 14th century. It was to protect the trade route and also the nearby gold mines. It was later rebuilt into a Renaissance chateau, but it burned down in the 19th century and has since fallen into despair. Today it is partially repaired and you can see in it a 56 m deep well, a black kitchen and a medieval torture chamber.

## **46 cp - Lookout tower below - jumping tower (Lomnice nad Popelkou) - jummaring, rappelling**

The lookout tower is located in the ski jumping area on the highest ski jump K-70. The steel tower is assembled only by screws without a single weld. It is 28 m high and provides a beautiful view of the Eagle Mountains and the Giant Mountains with the highest mountain of the Czech Republic the mount of Sněžka. Children and young people train mainly on the ski jumps.



## **8 stage: Orienteering 2 (5 km, elevation gain 200 m)**



Bark beetle calamity in the Czech Republic - the current bark beetle calamity is the worst since the 18th century. Thanks to the dry and warm summers the bark beetle reproduces up to 4 times a year. It mainly attacks drought-weakened spruces, but also pines

and ash trees. All over the country new trees are being cut down intensively and more resistant trees are being planted. It is estimated that the Czech Republic will lose 1/3 of all forests due to bark beetles in 10 years.

## 9 stage: MTB 4 (120 km, elevation gain 1700 m)

### 59 cp - Viewpoint (Veliš)



There used to be a royal and politically important castle on the hill of Veliš. Together with the town of Jičín, it formed the center of Eastern Bohemia. Almost nothing of it has survived, however, and its destruction was accomplished mainly by the basalt quarry in its immediate vicinity. The town of Jičín can be seen from the hill of Veliš. The town was originally founded just below Veliš in the 11th century. Later the city was moved closer to the river of Cidlina. The town of Jičín became rich thanks to trade and crafts. In the 16th century the walls were restored and a gate was built and became the dominant feature of the town of Jičín. Twice the city burned down completely because it was built mostly of wood. The greatest expansion occurred during the reign of Albrecht of Wallenstein, who made Jičín his seat and center of his duchy. Wallenstein gave Jičín and its surroundings a Baroque character. He cooperated with important Italian builders and tried to compose the landscape. If you look from Veliš towards the town of Jičín in one line you will see the Chateau, the Church of St. Jakub and Valdická gate, linden alley with thousand trees, a baroque loggia with a park and last in a row there is the monastery in Valdice (now prison).



## 62 cp - Chapel - spring (Klokočka)



Klokočka - Chapel of St. Stafin - Baroque chapel was built in 1730 by the Countess of Wallenstein as a thank you for healing a family member using water from a spring that springs under the chapel.

## 64 cp - Castle - west side (Humprecht)



The castle of Humprecht is a Baroque hunting lodge from the 17th century. It was built by Humprecht Jan Czernin for his wife Diana Maria, an Italian marquise who was the most beautiful woman in Europe at the time. However, she never stayed at the castle.

## 65 cp- Church (Vyskeř)



Vyskeř - next to the church there is a wooden bell tower from 1750. It originally had two bells. One was requisitioned and melted down during the World War I, the second was confiscated during World War II but it was later found in Prague and

returned to the bell tower. The church next to the bell tower dates from 1915 but has a built-in original Gothic building.

### **66 cp - Cemetery (Hrubá skála)**



Pekař Gate is the shortest tunnel in Europe. It was carved in 1914 in the Monk Rock which stood in the way of the road. It has the shape of a Gothic angled arch and is named after the important Czech historian professor Pekař.

### **67 cp – The ruins of the castle of Trosky - entrance (Trosky)**



Trosky Castle is a symbol of the Bohemian Paradise. It was founded in the 14th century. The upper tower is called Virgin the lower tower is called Old Woman. The builder of the castle had ordered a long corridor cut through in the basalt rock between the cracks and the caves which was to be used to escape in the case of a siege. It is estimated that in

one of the caves below the castle was a lake that served as a reservoir of water. There was no well in the castle. It is said that robber knights often hid their treasures here. The entrance to the corridor from the castle is well hidden and has not yet been found. The exit from the corridor is about 500 m from the castle on a rocky slope.

### **69 cp - TA1 - FINISH CZAR2020 !!!!**