

# 6 principles

## for considerate visitors to the countryside

- I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING.**  
I plan my trip to suit my abilities and experience. I take everything I might need along with me. I know the rules and restrictions that apply in the place I plan to visit.
- I PROTECT NATURE AND EVERYTHING SHE PROVIDES.**  
I do not damage my surroundings, I do not pick plants, nor do I kill any living things. All I take away with me are memories and pictures. I move around under my own steam, where possible. It generally doesn't matter if I pick berries for my own use.
- I RESPECT THE PLACE I AM VISITING AND ITS INHABITANTS.**  
I abide by the restrictions in place in protected areas. I am aware of everything around me and I treat nature and the local people with respect. I do not create a disturbance with noise, light or my presence, nor do I obstruct anyone. I behave in a manner that allows other visitors to enjoy a pleasant experience. I always have my dog under control.
- I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY SAFETY.**  
I am aware of my surroundings, and don't take risks. I know that nature can be dangerous for an inattentive visitor, yet I am glad that it remains unfettered.
- I LEAVE NO TRACE.**  
Everything I bring into the countryside, I take away with me. When "nature calls", I leave no visible traces. I leave the place I visit exactly as I found it.
- I HELP TO CARE.**  
I protect the place I visit. I do not post photos or coordinates of places that are not open or generally known to the public. I inform the rangers of any damage to nature that I see.

### When you feel the call of nature while you're in Paradise:

- As a last resort, the toilet is just a stone's throw away. It's dry!
- The toilet is well out of sight... I leave no traces. What I don't bury, I take away in a bag.
- It's a bit like a game of "minesweeper". I have to avoid footpaths, campsites and other public places. I steer well clear of nature reserves and water sources.
- I take care choosing my spot. In warm, loose and nutrient-rich soil, nothing I produce will stay around for long.
- Nothing can beat a hole. I make it plenty wide enough and at least 15 centimetres deep.
- What do I want to leave for future generations? Not wet wipes or panty liners, that's for sure. Not nappies, either – they take so long to decompose that I'll be gone before they are.

[www.wcvraji.cz](http://www.wcvraji.cz) | [www.chodimbezestop.cz](http://www.chodimbezestop.cz)



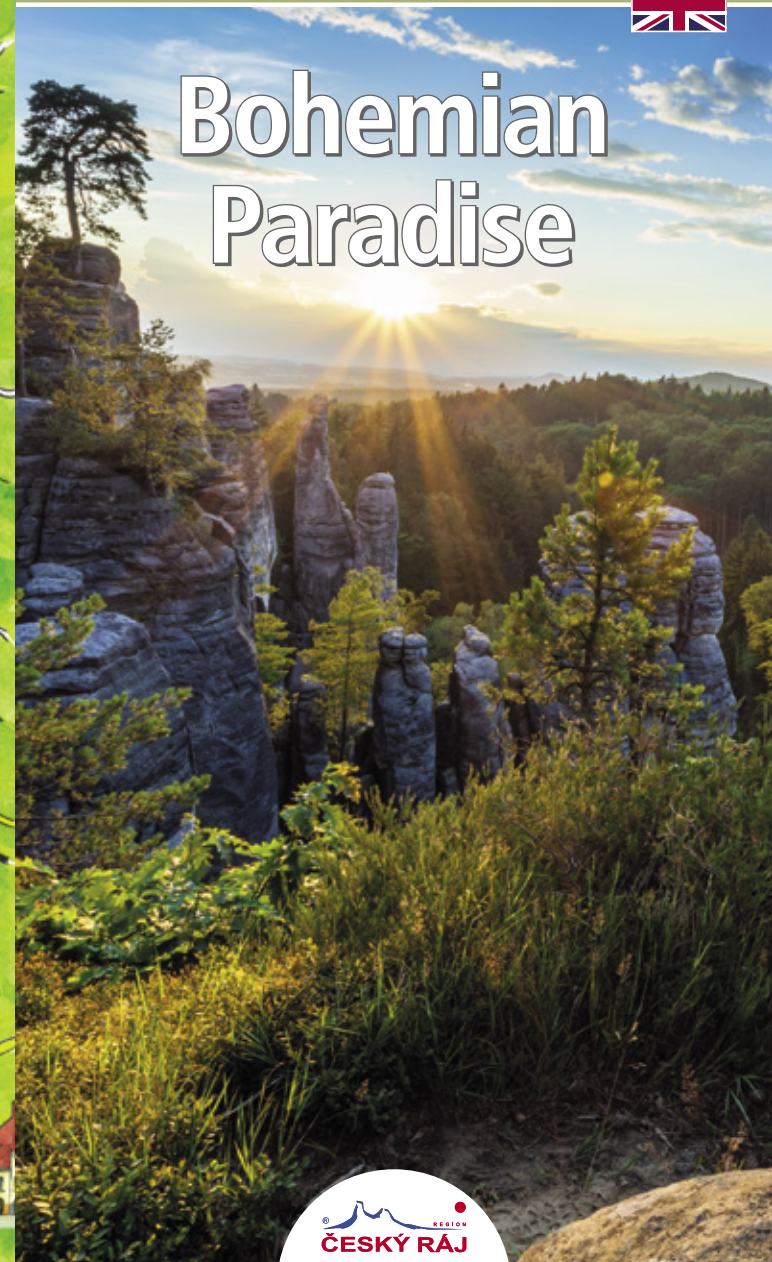
Středočeský kraj



# ROCK TOWNS



## Bohemian Paradise







## BOHEMIAN PARADISE

The sandstone rock towns of the Bohemian Paradise are unique not only for their beauty, but also for their remarkable density. The term rock town is used to refer to groups of various rock blocks, towers and walls, formed by weathering and erosion processes in different types of rocks (volcanic, sedimentary, crystalline, etc.).

### Hrubá Skála region

The forested ridge in the Bohemian Paradise most popular with visitors, which leads between Hrubá Skála and Turnov, is known as the Hrubá Skála rock town. It is made up of more than 400 towers, up to 55 metres in height, and some renowned climbing areas, such as The Lighthouse, Dragon Rocks, The Band-master and Sahara, as well as The Devil's Hand, with the archaeological remains of a prehistoric hill fort.

The natural scenery can be admired from several viewpoints, including U Lvíčka (The Lioness) and Na Kapelu (The Band), not to mention Mariánská vyhlídka (Mary's Rock), the most famous and widely photographed viewpoint.

You can get back to Hrubá Skála chateau through the narrow rock passage known as The Mouse Hole or through the Adam's Bed grotto.



### Borecké skály

Borecké skály near Rovensko pod Troskami, with its Turtle rock formation, is particularly popular with families with children as it is an easy walk. You can enjoy a unique view of Trosky from the Svatopluk Čech viewpoint, 360 metres above sea level.

### Prachov Rocks

The most famous rock town of the Bohemian Paradise, which is situated 7 km from the town of Jičín, is made up of more than 200 high rock towers and countless other rocks. There are footpaths leading through the bottom labyrinth of passageways, as well as along the tops of the rock ridges. Prachov Rocks have a rich history of hiking and climbing and were declared a state nature reserve back in 1933.

The well-maintained viewpoints offer views from a bird's-eye perspective and it only takes a little imagination to understand why these rocks bear names such as Krakonoš, Madonna with Child, or the Prachov Needle.

There are two entrances to the rock towns, at which admission is charged: from Prachov and from the Prachov Tourist Chalet.

Not far from the Tourist Chalet lies the Pelíšek natural outdoor swimming pool, named after the mythical guardian and protector of Prachov Rocks. The rocks are run and owned by the Schlik family.



### Klokočské skály and Betlémské skály rocks

This somewhat unjustly overlooked area to the northeast of Turnov is made up of primordial sandstone blocks up to 60 metres thick. The continuous rock wall of Klokočské skály is 1 600 metres long and is riddled with numerous hollows and caves. There are only a few isolated rock towers in this area – the most well-known include the Town Hall, the Jug and Růženka. Klokočské skály rocks merge with a highland area

with the remnants of the castle of Rotštejn. There are also various well-developed pseudokarst sinkholes in the northern outcrop, which is known as Betlémské skály. The Postojna cave can be found in Zelený důl (Green Valley), amidst the Klokočské skály nature reserve. Its narrow entrance opens out into a vast dome – the Great Hall – which covers an area of 16 × 18 m. You can enter the cave from April to October; the cave is closed in the winter due to the hibernating bats.

### Malá Skála region

There are several rock areas to be found here. On the right-hand bank of the Jizera River there is Drábovna and the Vranov Cenomanian sandstone ridge, which, with its Garden viewpoint and the remains of the Vranov-Pantheon castle, is one of the prettiest parts of the Bohemian Paradise. Besedické skály rocks and the scenery of Dry Rocks are well worth visiting on the left bank of the river.

Dry Rocks are very beautiful and hugely popular with climbers. When it rains in the Bohemian Paradise, this is where all the climbers flock to. This is because of the firm Cenomanian sandstone here, which, unlike the other rocks between Jičín and Turnov, can also be climbed in wet weather without damaging it.



### Besedické skály

Besedické skály form a labyrinth of sandstone rocks and stunning viewpoints. The main group of rocks is called Chléviště (The Hatchery) and contains the Cave of the Exile Václav Sadovský of Sloupno. At the place known as At the Chalice, which is located in the middle of five rocky gorges, there is an altar with a carved chalice and the date 1634.



### Příhrazské skály rocks

Příhrazské skály, a large area of sandstone rocks, is situated near the basalt hill of Mužský. This seemingly flat plateau is full of deep canyons, on the edges of which there are 178 rock towers skirted by massifs. One of the prettiest places is the narrow rock crevasse known as the Cold Passage, and the iconic Mare's Head rock (the Mare), which resisted all attempts to climb it until the 1930s. The Hynšta 'chapel' lies in the depths of the rock town.

The shortest route to the rock town leads from the car park up the steep Příhrazské Steps.

On the edge of Příhrazské skály is Drábské světničky, a rock castle at the end of the Hrad plateau, dominated by Mužský, the highest hill in the area. "Drábky" rise to a height of 177 m. On these rocks you can still see the remnants of eighteen rooms, fully or partially hewn into the sandstone rock, as well as the traces of seven wooden buildings and six bridge structures that linked the individual blocks of rock. It is also well worth visiting Klamorna, a nearby prehistoric hillfort.

Note: Reconstruction work was started at Drábské světničky in 2022 and the rocks are closed to visitors until at least 2025!

### CLIMBING

If you want to find out more about climbing, visit the Museum of the Bohemian Paradise in Turnov, where a new climbing exhibition was opened in September 2019, designed for all lovers of sport, nature and history.



#### IMPORTANT WARNING!!!

[www.horosvaz.cz](http://www.horosvaz.cz)

The rocks may only be climbed with a valid climbing permit. Climbers must respect the conditions stipulated by the nature conservation authorities, the climbing rules, and also the legitimate interests of land owners and local residents.