



**ENVIRONMENTAL  
CENTRE**

Železná Ruda



[www.zeleznaruda.cz/itcruda](http://www.zeleznaruda.cz/itcruda)



PLZEŇSKÝ KRAJ



## The Section of **MOUNTAIN FORESTS**

It introduces the composition and development of the forests in the Šumava Mountains depending on the altitude and the exposition of the terrain. The part of the exposition is a 3D model of the Železná Ruda area called Železnorudsko, from the peak of Můstek to the peak of Lake Hill, where the inhabited area, a border between a mountain spruce forest and a mixed one are depicted. It means the area where the spruce is „at home“ in an abundant extent. There have been the unoriginal spruce monocultures. The coniferous forests mixed with the deciduous ones used to be here. At the same time there is also a 2D model available that expresses a difference between the forests and their kind composition in the National Park of the Šumava Mountains and the Bavarian Forest. The exposition effect of the cardinal points on the change of the kind composition of the forests is depicted here excellently. Some historical and contemporary devices, used in the forest for finding out the age and height of the forest cover, are parts of it. You can try here if you are able to match particular plants and their habitats.



The picture of a mixed forest in the Šumava Mountains



## The Section of **HERBS AND MUSHROOMS**

Our ancestors' tools for picking up and treating herbs and mushrooms are exhibited in the exposition. They looked after their farms and had neither electricity, nor any other amenities. You learn something about instruments for making flaxseeds cloth and see here a wooden mousetrap, a slicer, a pair of scales and the others. An exhibition of drawings of significant protected species of plants and an educative board with pictures of plants and their habitats in the Šumava Mountains are parts of it.



## The Section of **EUROPEAN BEAVER**

Let's visit the beaver just at its home. In this section there is the so-called beaver castle, a place, where the beaver lives. You can look inside and watch a little beaver, being active, on the screen. The part of the exposition is also a beaver family. Do you know how long the beaver stays under the water? You will find it out in our exposition, too.



The picture of the European beaver



## The Section of **RED DEER**

In the last section you will meet Charles the Deer and its friend Tony the Roedeer. You can notice their different sizes and try to compare footmarks of particular kinds of animals. If you get it right, you will hear a loud compliment of the stated animal.

Even the other mammals living in the Šumava Mountains are parts of this exposition. Rico the Lynx that used to live in the area of Železná Ruda called Železnorudsko for many years and then became a victim of a



The picture of the Section of Red Deer train crash, has been waiting here for you. There are also several representatives of weasel beasts of prey here, then an otter or a racoon dog that is an unoriginal kind of animal in the Šumava Mountains.

Please, no eating, no drinking and no shifting chairs into the other rooms. No touching exhibits put on public display. The team of the Železná Ruda Environmental Centre looks forward to you all!

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## THE ŽELEZNÁ RUDA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE

The centre was created in the building of the former school on the basis of the support of the State Fund of the Environment of the Czech Republic from the environment operation programme, from the funds of the EU and also the national funds of this fund.

### FROM HISTORY UP TO THE PRESENT

The building of the Environmental Centre (house number 12) served right after the Second World War as a common school and a town one as well. Then, a year later, the town school moved into the building where the municipal authority has been today. In 1951 the working of the school kitchen/canteen and the after school club of schoolchildren started in the building of the common school (First School). Later the first school pupils went into that building. There was a gym there, too, but the building capacity was not sufficient. That was the same with the space in the building for lower secondary school where the town school used to be situated. Neither one object, nor the other one was convenient from the point of hygiene and safety. That is why there was an effort to build a new school, thanks to which a new modern school building was built up. Both, first school and lower secondary school, were moved into it in 2000. The building with the house number 12 served several years as a shopping centre. Some leaseholders kept changing in there then. The town of Železná Ruda saw a new way of using its building. It applied for a grant in 2014. It succeeded. Between 2015 and 2016 the whole building was reconstructed. It got back its educational form and the Environmental Centre was created there.

Now its exposition is dedicated to the fauna and flora of the Šumava Mountains, geology and geomorphology, skiing, cross-country-skiing, the Mountain Rescue Service and Prof. Julius Komárek, a significant Czech entomologist, writer and a gamekeeper, who was born in Železná Ruda. The Information Tourist Centre is also a part of the building. Its visitors can get a lot of required information and material. It is also possible to buy here some maps, viewcards, publications and souvenirs. In the building there is a room providing the public Internet, a library, a lecture theatre or a 3D cinema for programmes of ecological education that are realized in the centre.

## THE EXPOSITIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE



### THE KOMÁREK LIBRARY

This room is a reminder of Prof. Komárek, a native from Železná Ruda, his life and work. He was born in the Železná Ruda stately home. It is possible to look into his books here and to see the desk he wrote at.

The room serves as a cosy reading one at the same time, where you can have a rest, reading a chosen book. When presenting your identity card, you can borrow it for free to read it at home. The town of Železná Ruda also uses this library as its representative room.



The picture of the Komárek Library



### THE EXPOSITION OF SKIING AND THE MOUNTAIN RESCUE SERVICE

The exposition was created with the aid of Mr Emil Kintzl, a famous propagator of the Šumava Mountains. The exposition learns its visitors about the history of skiing and the Mountain Rescue Service that was founded in Železná Ruda or, more precisely, in Špičák. Among others, the medals, cross-country shirts and the other awards and prizes of Martin Jakš, the Czech successful representative and Olympian at cross-country skiing, have recently been its part.



### THE EXPOSITION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE ENTRANCE HALL OF THE STAIRCASE

By the staircase between the first floor and the second one there is a space available for the realization of temporary exhibitions. The photographs taken by pupils of primary schools that took part in a traditional photo contest, taking place in wintertime. The contest is always announced by the Železná Ruda Environmental Centre, supported by the town of Železná Ruda.

At the same time you can notice photographs decorating the staircase on the right when moving upstairs. The photos represent the evolution of the forest and its change of composition of species depending on the altitude.

Historical photographs by the Photographic Studio Seidel in Český Krumlov are exhibited in the corridors of both floors. They depict the image of the area of Železná Ruda named Železnorudsko at the beginning of the 20th century.

On the second floor of the building there are six sections dedicated to the fauna and flora, geology and geomorphology of the Šumava Mountains. The footmarks of Ruda the Lynx accompany you all the exposition through. From time to time you can happen to meet even the footmarks of the wolf.



The picture of the exposition of skiing and the Mountain Rescue Service



### The Section of BLACK STORK

The room is dedicated to the birds living in the area of the Šumava Mountains, especially in the area of Železná Ruda called Železnorudsko. Here you can meet both, the commonly living species and the especially protected ones. A special attention is paid to the black stork as a rare inhabitant of the Šumava Mountains and a less known related one to the white stork, whose life is very different. You can sit on a swinging bench carefully and enjoy a video of air views of the Šumava Mountains. You can get to know the grouse, the black grouse, precious species of the owl or, for example, the red crossbill that will attract you with its unusual beak that gave it its name.



The picture of the black stork



### The Section of GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The Šumava Mountains were created 300 million years ago and they are the oldest mountain range of Europe. The Železná Ruda Highlands are also their part that are the most indented one. In the exposition you can find a large part of species of rocks of which this rock consists.

The exhibition named The Czech Crater is its part, too, where you can learn that a huge part of the Czech Republic is located on a crater that is more than a billion years old.

During the inspection you will also get acquainted with the way of the origin and evolution of the glacial lakes and the bulding of the Špičák Tunnel that had been the longest railway one in the Czech territory until recently. Its way of construction was very exacting and unique.