



TIPS FOR TRIPS

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PLZEŇSKÝ KRAJ



TIP VII

Zwieslerwaldhaus – Urwald (the primeval forest) Mittelsteighütte – Ruckowitzschachten – Höllbachschwelle – Großer Falkenstein – Kleiner Falkenstein – Zwieslerwaldhaus

From Zwieslerwaldhaus follow the green signage Fernwanderweg E6, which will show you round the primeval forest with 500 years old firs, beeches and spruces. Then keep following this signage going up onto the former grazing lands Ruckowitzschachten with a magnificent view of the region, (towards the area of Železná Ruda and Grosser Arber). From here climb up to the signpost under Falkenstein. We advise you to make a little detour to the left following the signage Silberblatt (Silver Leaf in English) to Höllbachschwelle. If you like wild little brooks with a rugged landscape and waterfalls, there is a lot to enjoy. From here you can climb up to the top of Falkenstein going along the signage Heidelbeere (Bilberries in English). On your way back we suggest you to follow the signage Eibe (Yew in English) over Kleiner Falkenstein back to Zwieslerwaldhaus.

You will walk 13.5 km far, going up and down 850 m. If you miss the little detour to Höllbachschwelle, your trip will be 1.5 km shorter and 150 altitudinal metres lower.



OTHER OUTLOOK TOWERS OF THE ŠUMAVA MOUNTAINS

If you like outlook towers and views of them, there are some more places that you can visit on foot or by bike:

POLEDNÍK/MERIDIAN

(1,315 m above sea level)

WITH AN OUTLOOK TOWER

This outlook tower has been open again after its reconstruction since autumn 2021.

On the top of the mountain there is a short experience way through a dry forest that is open after a bark beetle calamity and the hurricane Kyrill.

- 20.5 km on foot (according to entrance time restrictions)
- 28 km by bike (according to entrance time restrictions)
- 20 km by car and 7 km on foot or by bike

THE OUTLOOK TOWER ON THE SADDLE NEAR ALBRECHTICE

(902 m above sea level)

Built in 2009 in the place of a former military watchtower from the 60's of the 20th century. The building is wooden, with a ground plan of a sevensquare and the height of 28 metres. The outlook is situated in 24 metres and it is a beautiful round view of panoramas of the Šumava Mountains nature, the Bohemian Forest, South Area of Pilsen, the Area of Strakonice and also the Kašperk Castle.

- 37 km by car and 1.5 km on foot.

SVATOBOR NEAR SUŠICE WITH A COTTAGE

(845 m above sea level)

The stony outlook tower, with its height 32 metres and its 182 steps with a chalet in the Alpine style invites with its beautiful view of the region and a cosy restaurant

- 38 km by car

THE GLACIAL LAKES IN THE ŠUMAVA MOUNTAINS

In the area of the Czech Republic there are six glacial lakes and five of them are located on the Czech side of the Šumava Mountains. There are three more lakes on the Bavarian side. The location of the area of Železná Ruda is even much more interesting, because in 25 km there are six lakes out of the eight ones mentioned above – four lakes on the Czech side and two ones on the German one. The glacial lakes rank among the most visited places of interest for tourists on both sides of the state border, i. e. Czechia and Germany.

BLACK LAKE

The lake lies 1,008 m above sea level. With its area of 18.4 ha and its max. deepness of 40 m it is the largest glacial lake of both, the Czech and the German, parts of the Šumava Mountains and at the same time the largest lake in the Czech Republic. The wall of Lake Mountain rises 300 m above the lake and it is 1,344 high. Its water flows away through Black Brook into the Úhlava and then farther into the North Sea. The lake has been a part of the National Natural Reserve Black and Devil's Lakes since 1933. Isoetes lacustris, a very rare plant, a glacial relic, lives at the bottom of the lake. It cannot be found anywhere else in the Czech Republic.

The lake makes an impression of a really black colour. The impression is caused by the surrounding dark forests that cast their shadows upon the surface of the lake. This mysterious place has inspired many famous artists to create their pieces of work, such as Antonín Dvořák – the Cycle from the Šumava Mountains, Jan Neruda – A Romance about Black Lake and others. Below Black Lake in the Valley of the Úhlava there has been a protected technical sight – the first pumping power station in Bohemia since 1930. The lake water has been driven into the valley reservoir near the village of Hanry through the pipes that are 1,266 m long, with their gradient of 274 m.

- 8 km on foot
- 9 km by bike
- 5 km by car, bus to P4 the Špičák Saddle by the Hotel Karl (a paid parking lot) and 4 km on foot/by bike

TIP I

Špičák Saddle – Black Lake and back

From the parking lot P4 on the Špičák Saddle follow the little envelope signs marked in yellow less than 4 kilometres along the tarmac road that leads mainly along the contour line, except for its final ascent about 200 m long. The way is suitable for baby carriages and also for scooters that you can hire right on the Špičák Saddle in high season. Moreover, in summer it is possible to go either by horse-drawn waggon, or by road tourist train. On your way back you can go by these once again or take a walk and feast your eyes on views of the Úhlava Valley that is the deepest one in the Šumava Mountains.

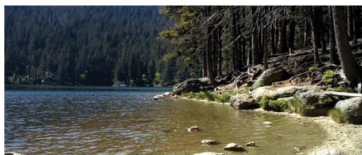
The route there and back is 8 km long, with its vertical distance +/- 73 m



DEVIL'S LAKE

The lake lies near Black Lake. They are separated one from another by the European Watershed and Lake Mountain. They are both located at its foot. Devil's Lake, with its 10.33 ha, is the second largest one in the Šumava Mountains. It lies 1,028 m above sea level and its max. deepness is 37 m. Together with Black Lake, it has been a part of the National Nature Reserve since 1933. Its water flows away through Lake Brook into the Řežná, then into the Danube and subsequently into the Black Sea. The lake is surrounded with many legends, stories and tales that indicates its name. According to one of all those stories the devil dug up a lake basin, because the girl, that it had wanted to take into hell, tied a big stone to its tail.

- 5.5 km on foot
- 5.5 km by bike
- 3 km by car, train to P2 at the railway station (paid parking) and 2 km on foot



TIP II

Železná Ruda – Špičák – Devil's Lake – Alžbětín – Železná Ruda

From Železná Ruda go on foot or go by bike 2.2 km along the red signage for tourists to the village of Špičák. Turn left at the crossroads of the Glass Nature Trail and a yellow sign for tourists, carry on along it three more kilometres to Devil's Lake. The way will go up sharply. After feasting your eyes on the lake, go on to the left along the red signage for tourists for 5.5 km. Apart the beginning, the whole way goes down and you can expect nice views of the surroundings. The route will guide you to Alžbětín by the main way. Cross it and carry on less than two kilometres along the way marked in yellow

back to the centre of Železná Ruda. The trip is 12.5 km long. You will overcome its vertical distance +/- 350 m.



LAKA LAKE

Laka is the smallest (2.8 ha), most highly placed (1,096 m above sea level), but also the most picturesque lake of the Šumava Mountains. Its floating peaty little islands, which move only very slightly, complement its romantic atmosphere. The glacial kettle hole has got gentle walls that are not typical. Water flows away through the Lake Brook into the Křemelná. The lake was used to drive grindstone engines in the glassworks in Hürka and Old Hürka. It is situated under the Plesná Mountain between Železná Ruda and Prášily.

- 10 km on foot or 30 km by bike
- 9 km by car, bus + 4 km on foot or by bike



TIP III

Železná Ruda – Under Polom- Laka Lake – New Hürka

From Železná Ruda follow the green signage for tourists towards Debrník, turn left along the way marked in red uphill over the saddle Under Polom to Laka Lake. The final descend to the lake (a turn-off the tarmac way) is impassable for bikers and baby carriages. It is necessary to go around along the cycle track 2,113 via Hürka (+ 2.5 km). After enjoying the look at the lake, follow the blue signage for tourists, direction New Hürka. On the way

you can feast your eyes on the Hürka alley and stop at the cemetery chapel. You can go by bus from New Hürka back to Železná Ruda. You will walk nice 14 km on foot, with the vertical distance +440/-306 m.



PRÁŠILY LAKE

Another, from Železná Ruda more distant, lake is Prášily Lake. The well-known Mountain Poledník/Meridian rises above it. The Lake is located 1,079 m above sea level and its area is 3.7 ha. The water from the lake flows away through the Lake Brook into the Křemelná. This water used to be used for floating wood in the past. That is why the dam of the lake had been increased artificially and it has stayed like this up to the present. On the dam of the lake you can find a tombstone dedicated to a drowned student Otto Kareis. In 2019 new species of Ophrydium versatile was found in the lake. That is the first finding of this kind in Czechia.

TIP IV

Prášily – Slunečná – Prášily Lake and back

Come to the parking lot Slunečná/Sunny near Prášily (20 km) by car or by bus. From here go along the yellow signage for tourists and then farther along the way marked in green to the crossroads Liščí díry/Fox Holes and from here follow the red sign to the lake. The last 200 metres of the way accessible on big stones and on foot only. It is possible to lock bikes and baby carriages and leave them at the local shelter. You can go back using either the same way, or continue along the way marked in red directly to Prášily. This part of the way is convenient for hikers only. The trip may be prolonged from 7 km to 8 km and its vertical distance from +/- 193 m to +/- 206 m.



OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST

WATERFALL WHITE GORGE

White Gorge is, with 12 m of its height, the highest waterfall in the Šumava Mountains. You can find it on the White Brook at the altitude 940 m above sea level on the red signage for tourist between Black Lake and the village of Hanry. It is a part of the national nature reserve.

- 11.5 km on foot
- 12 km by bike
- 12 km by car
- 5 km by car, by bus and 7.5 km on foot/ by bike

VALLEY RESERVOIR HAMRY

This reservoir is connected with Black Lake and it is a part of the small water power station Black Lake

- 9 km on foot
- 9 by bike
- 7 km by car/by train + 2 km on foot or by bike

SPRING PLACES

Oblast Železnorudska je bohatá na prameniště. Naleznete jich zde hned několik - Úhlava, Řežná a Křemelná – všechny tyto řeky pramení pod vrcholem Pancíře. Pramen Úhlavy se nachází na západním svahu a je dostupný na kole i pěšky. Stejně tak pramen Řežná, nacházející se na jižní straně svahu Pancíře, je přístupný pěšky i na kole. Křemelná pramení na severní straně Pancíře a je součástí přírodní rezervace Prameniště. Pramen je přístupný po neznáčené nepevně cestě (viz příložená mapa).

THE GLACIAL LAKES IN NEIGHBOURING BAVARIA

GREAT MAPLE LAKE/GROSSER ARBERSEE

The lake is located at the south-east foot of Grosser Arber in the altitude of 934 m above sea level and its area is 7.7 ha. It ranks among the most visited glacial lakes that is influenced by its good accessibility. It is possible to come to the lake by car (a paid parking lot). By the lake there is a chalet

with souvenirs, a restaurant with a terrace and a boat hire service. The so-called Seewand, a 360 m high lake wall, rises above the west bank of the lake. The entire area has been a part of the Nature Reserve Grosser Arbersee and Arberseewand since 1939.

- 9 km on foot
- 10 km by bike
- 14 km by car

TIP V

Around Great Maple Lake/ Grosser Arbersee

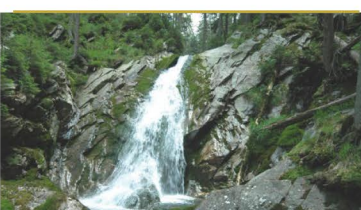
It is possible to walk around the lake. The route is 1.5 km long and wheelchair accessible. The vertical distance is +/- 55 m all the route long.



SMALL MAPLE LAKE/KLEINER ARBERSEE

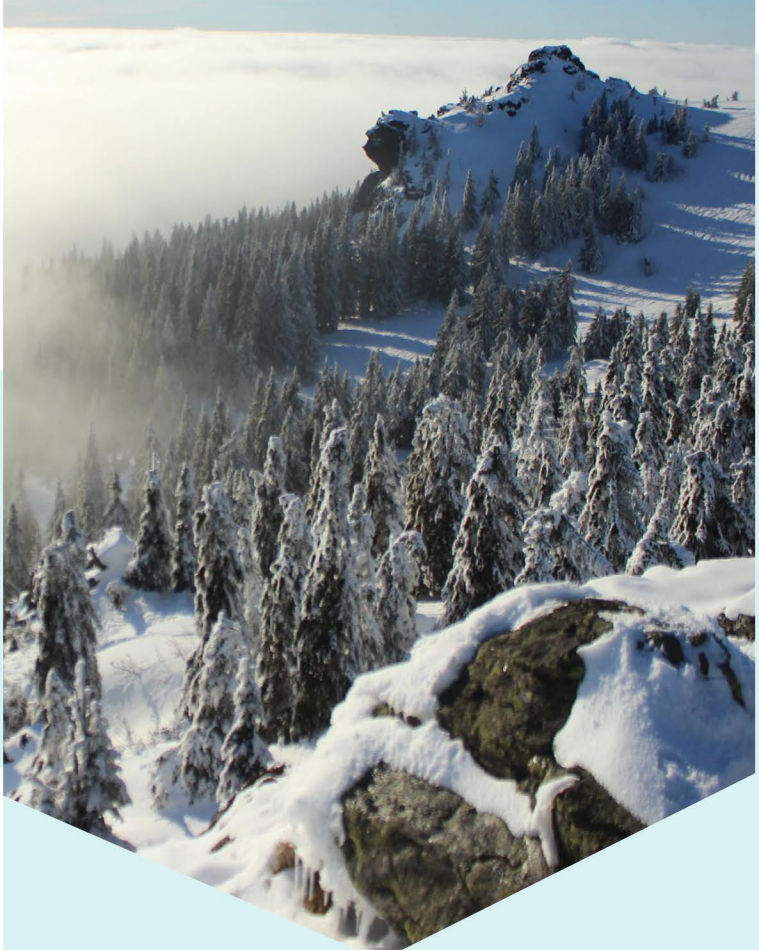
This most lowly placed lake in 918 m above sea level with its area 9.4 km lies on the north-west slope of Grosser Arber. It is typical of its three large floating islands that makes it unmistakable from bird's eye view. There is a restaurant on the north-west bank.

- 12.5 km on foot
- 13.5 km by bike
- 10 km by car and 2.5 km on foot



OTHER WATERFALLS

On the slopes of Falkenstein there are Steinbachfälle and Hölbachgespreng from the other side of the mountain. There is one of the greatest waterfalls Rissloch (see the added map) behind Grosser Arber towards the south to Bodenmais.



Distances in km are stated from the centre of the town of Železná Ruda.

Texts: the Information Centre of Železná Ruda
Translation: Mgr. Bc. Lucie Charlotte Kopecká
Photos: the archive of the Information Centre of Železná Ruda, Šumavanet.cz, Johannes Matt

Informační turistické centrum města Železná Ruda/The Information Centre of the town of Železná Ruda

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Explanatory notes:



On foot



Family



Baby carriage



Wheelchair users

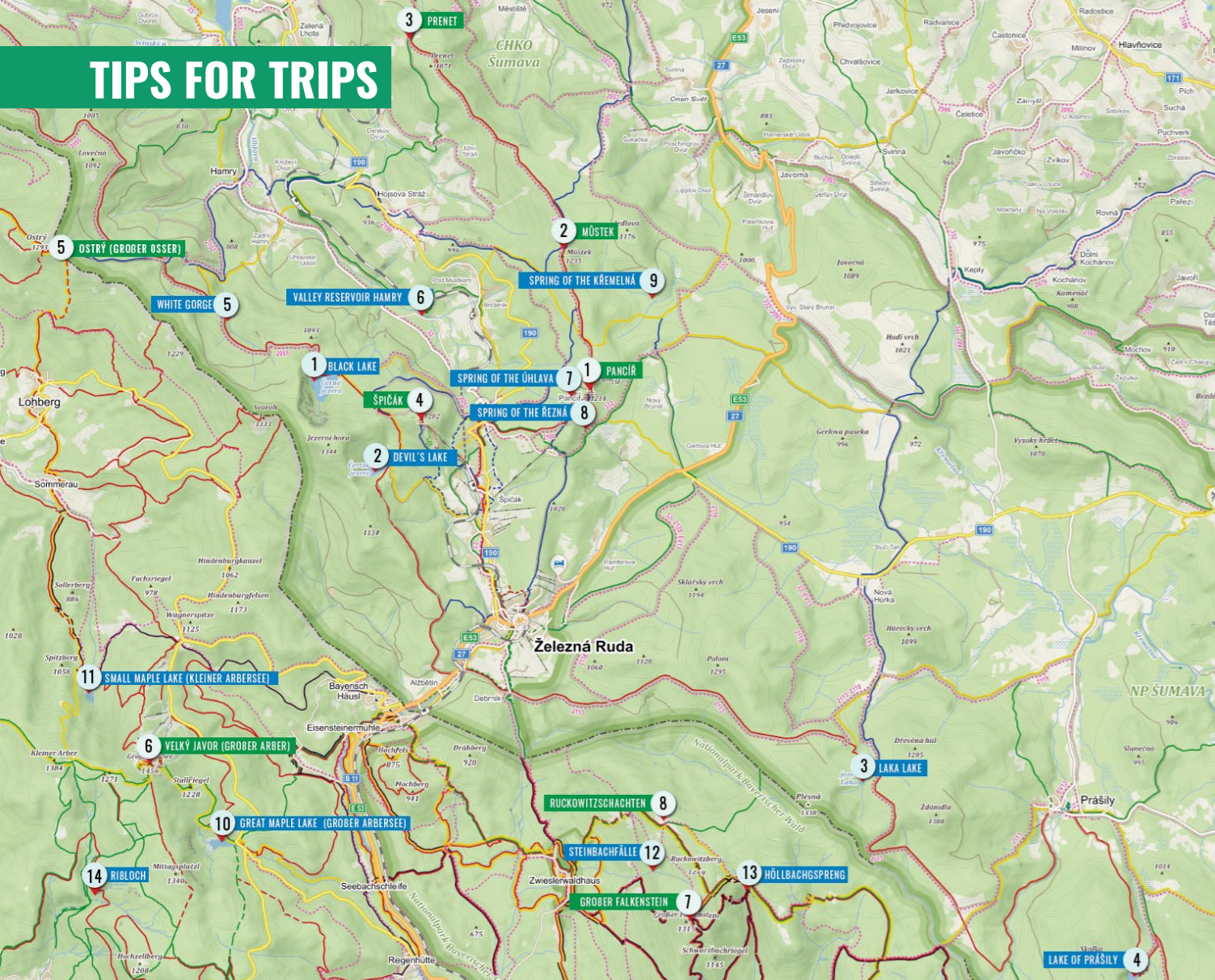


Bike



Sports baby carriage

TIPS FOR TRIPS



PEAKS

1. Pancíř
2. Můstek
3. Prenet
4. Špičák
5. Ostrý (Großer Osser)
6. Velký Javor (Großer Arber)
7. Großer Falkenstein
8. Ruckowitzschachten

LAKES

1. Black Lake
2. Devil's Lake
3. Laka Lake
4. Lake of Prášíly
5. White Gorge
6. Valley Reservoir Hamry
7. Spring of the Úhlava
8. Spring of the Rezná
9. Spring of the Křemelná
10. Great Maple Lake (Großer Arbersee)
11. Small Maple Lake (Kleiner Arbersee)
12. Steinbachfälle
13. Höllbachspreng
14. RiBloch

TOPS AND VIEWS

The Železnorudsko area boasts of even several tops having more than 1,200 m above sea level. It is an ideal place for everyone that wants to get on those tops and has nothing against demanding terrains. The Železnorudsko area ranks among the most intended parts of the Šumava Mountains.

PANCIŘ/ARMOUR (1,214 m above sea level) WITH A CHALET AND AN OUTLOOK TOWER

Since 1923 there has been a chalet with an outlook tower on this significant top of Železná Ruda that offers refreshments and accommodation. You can go on top by one-seat chairlift. Its journey is 3 km long, one interstation named Hofmanky on the way. The chairlift has been in service since 1971 and it ranks among the oldest ones in the Czech Republic. On the way you can enjoy not only magnificent views of the ridge of the Royal Deep Forest and the Bavarian Forest, but you can see even the Alps in case of high-visibility. The chairlift transports not only hikers but also bikes and baby carriages and in winter skiers (downhillers and cross-country skiers) and hikers. The favourite photo point the Open Door by the We Love Šumava society has been embodied in the top of Pancíř/Armour/ since 2019.

- 5 km on foot
- 3 km by bike, car and bus
- in P3 Kaskády/Cascades (parking for free) and 3 km by chairlift
- 5 km by bike, car and bus to P4 the Špičák Saddle (paid parking) and on foot following the red signage of 2.5 km

MŮSTEK (1,234 m above sea level)

Můstek is the highest peak of the Pancíř Ridge. From here there is a gorgeous view not only of the Royal Deep Forest but also inland. The Chalet Můstek with an outlook tower had stood there since 1924 and it was a refuge for many skiers. It burnt down in 1995. There is only a raft foundation left there. There is a tourist shelter next to it now.

- 3 km on foot from Pancíř
- 4 km by bike from the crossroads under Pancíř
- 18 km by car/train to the railway station Želená Lhota and 9 km on foot/by bike 9 km

PRENET (1,070 m above sea level)

The most northern peak of the Pancíř Ridge is called Prenet. It lies 3 km far from Želená Lhota. When climbing up, you can notice some foundations of a former settlement or orchards and alleys that left there after their inhabitants. There is a magnificent view of inland in the saddle between Malý/Small and Velký/Great Prenets, where some meadows, the Chapel of St. Kunhuta from 1384 and several houses have remained.

- 8 km on foot from the peak of Pancíř
- 9 km by bike from the crossroads under Pancíř
- 18 km by car/train to the Želená Lhota railway station and 4.5 km on foot/by bike

TIP I

The Ridge Route Pancíř/Armour – Můstek – Prenet – Želená Lhota/ Green Middle of Nowhere

From Pancíř go along the tourist signage marked in red over Můstek to Prenet. From there carry on along the green signage to the railway station in Želená Lhota. The length of the route is 12 km, vertical distance +97/- 674 m. The way is suitable for hikers and bikers. We advise to go round the initial downhill from the top of Pancíř (following the red signage for tourists) on the south side along a tarmac road and behind the crossroads Under Pancíř to get connected to the cyclotrack 2,100 towards Můstek.

It is possible to come back by train, bikers can follow Route 2,100 and over the South Hillside onto the Špičák Saddle and from here along Route 33 to Železná Ruda. (+ 18 km)



ŠPIČÁK (1,202 m above sea level) WITH AN OUTLOOK TOWER

This peak, located in the National Nature Reserve Royal Deep Forest, lies opposite the top of Pancíř. Two glacial lakes – Black Lake and Devil's Lake – were created at its foot towards the end of glacial period. In 2014 an outlook tower was built on top of Špičák. You can enjoy views of the Železná Ruda Valley, Pancíř, Polom, German Falkenstein or the surface of Devil's Lake in the background with the highest mountain of the entire Šumava Mountains, Grosser Arber/Great Maple on the German side and the Nýrsko Reservoir in inland. The Alps are visible during high-visibility.

This peak, located in the National Nature Reserve Royal Deep Forest, lies opposite the top of Pancíř. Two glacial lakes – Black Lake and Devil's Lake – were created at its foot towards the end of glacial period. In 2014 an outlook tower was built on top of Špičák. You can enjoy views of the Železná Ruda Valley, Pancíř, Polom, German Falkenstein or the surface of Devil's Lake in the background with the highest mountain of the entire Šumava Mountains, Grosser Arber/Great Maple on the German side and the Nýrsko Reservoir in inland. The Alps are visible during high-visibility.

- 5 km on foot
- by train, bus or car in P1 (P for free) or P2 near the railway station (P paid) and 2 km on foot or 0.5 km on foot and 1 km by chairlift onto the top



TIP II

Ski & Bike Špičák – Devil's Lake – Black Lake – Špičák Saddle

From the Ski & Bike Špičák site go along the tourist signage marked in blue to the crossroads Špičák - Lake Way and from here farther following the little envelope sign in yellow to Devil's Lake. From here you will be led by the red signage to Black Lake. Between the lakes (the Watershed Area) you can expect a steep rise and a subsequent fall that is about 2 km long. From Black Lake follow the little envelope sign in yellow nearly copying the contour line to the Špičák Saddle.



TIP III

The Špičák Outlook Tower

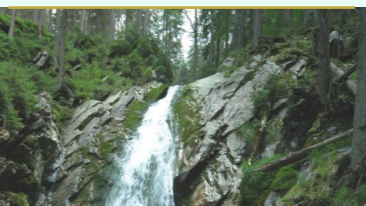
- Devil's Lake (from 15.06. to 15.09. only) From the top of Špičák go along the so-called Rozvodská cesta/Watershed Way where the Hare and the Three-toed Woodpecker Nature Trails go, to the crossroads Pod Malým Špičákem/Under Small Špičák. Turn left here to go along the tourist sign marked in red to Devil's Lake. Then follow the little envelope sign in yellow to the Špičák crossroads – Jezerní cesta/Lake Way. Turn here to go along the blue signage back to the sports site Ski & Bike Špičák. The length of the route is 5 km, with its vertical distance +52/- 384 m.



TIP IV

The Špičák Outlook Tower

- Black Lake (from 15.06. to 15.09. only) Go along the so-called Rozvodská cesta/Watershed Way from the top to the crossroads Pod Malým Špičákem/Under Small Špičák. The Hare and the Three-toed Nature Trails lead through this place. Turn right following the red signage to Black Lake. Then go to the Špičák Saddle following the little envelope sign in yellow. From here the green signage leads you back to the site in Špičák. The route is 7 km long, with its vertical distance +11/-344 m only.



OSTRÝ/SHARP (1,293 m above sea level) WITH A CHALET

This rocky top on the Bavarian side of the Šumava Mountains with a chalet, which offers board and lodging, is located closely across the border with Czechia. Together with the second top (Malý Ostrý/Small Sharp 1,266 m above sea level) it makes a specific formation, visible from far away, also called the Bossom of God's Mother. There was a beautiful Královák chapel with the Czech Madonna built on the saddle (on the German border), between these tops. In front of the chapel there is a historical Terežian border stone from 1772 that was replaced from the nearby Bavarian-Czech border. The mountain meadows around Malý Ostrý/Small Sharp used to be used for shepherding the cattle. Today they catch the tourists' attention with their magnificent view.

- from the German side: 33 km by car via Lam and Lambach and then turn onto Auf dem Sattel- Wanderparkplatz Osser-Sattel/ On the Saddle – hiking parking lot Sharp/ Saddle + 2.5 km on foot
- from the Czech side: 12 km by car
- or 16 km by train to Hamry (P for free) + 6.5 km on foot

TIP V

The Špičák Railway Station – Devil's Lake – Black Lake – White Gorge Waterfall – Sharp – Hamry

Go by train or by car to the railway station in Špičák. Follow the blue signs for tourists to the Ski & Bike Špičák site and afterwards to the crossroads Špičák – Jezerní cesta/Lake Way. From here carry on following the little envelope sign in yellow to Devil's Lake, then follow the red signage around Black Lake and after that to the Waterfall Bílá strž/White Gorge. From the waterfall go down to the crossroads Stateček and then go up following the blue signage to the top of Ostrý/Sharp. From here then back along the blue one to the crossroads Bílý potok/White Brook. Turn left here following the yellow signage for tourists to the railway station Hamry-Hojsova Stráž. The whole hike is 20 km long, with its vertical distance +863/- 946 m.



LIEBESHÖHE (936 m above sea level)

This beautiful rocky vantage point with a bench invites to sitting and romantic dates. It only takes 10 minutes to come here from Hojsova Stráž along the blue signs for tourists turning off the main road by the Astronomical Clock of the Šumava Mountains. There are nice views of Ostrý/Sharp and the Royal Deep Forest from the prominence. Even three ways lead to the top (two from Germany, one from Czechia).



PEAKS AND VIEWS IN NEIGHBOURING BAVARIA

On the neighbouring Bavarian side there are also several interesting peaks that are worth visiting. The highest mountain of the Šumava Mountains and the Bavarian Forest ranks among them.

GREAT MAPLE/GROSSER ARBER (1,456 m above sea level) WITH CHALETS / GROBER ARBER

This peak is the highest point of the entire Šumava Mountains and the Bavarian Forest. Its part is a ski centre with a tradition of the World and European Cups at downhill skiing. The area is fully-equipped both for winter and summer seasons. Its visitors can go up under the top of it by gondola chairlift. There are two chalets there, offering refreshments and accommodation. Just below the top there is a charming wooden chapel Arberkapelle, which invites to stopping and meditations. The very top plate consists of four individual little tops. You need an hour of your free time to inspect them. On the

- by bus, car to Brennes (P paid) and 4 km on foot
- by bus, car to Arber Bergbahn (P paid), by gondola chairlift and 400 m on foot



TIP VI

Great Maple/Grosser Arber – Great Maple Lake/Grosser Arbersee – Gondola Chairlift onto Great Maple/Grosser Arber Bergbahn

From the Grosser Arber platform go east past the cottages standing under the top near the gondola chairlift and after that under the ski lift station along the green signage Arberweg/Maple Way. This way is stonier at first and therefore it is suitable for firm footwear. After four kilometres the way will lead you to Grosser Arber See/Great Maple Lake. It is possible to go around it that only this lake enables in the entire Šumava Mountains. Go back along the same way but only for 700 metres. Turn right then along the red way Wanderweg 2 that will lead you after 3.5 km back to the Grosser Arber area under the gondola chairlift. The length of the route is 7.5 km and its vertical distance +133/-498 m.

GROSSER FALKENSTEIN, (1,315 m above sea level) WITH A CHALET

Grosser Falkenstein is another significant peak a bit across our borders. This mountain is located in the National Park Bavarian Forest (Nationalpark Bayerischer Wald) and it ranks among the highest ones in the whole park. Its part is St. Frank's Chapel. The top chalet, whose history has been kept since 1932, offers refreshment and accommodation. It was completely reconstructed in 2019. The Falkenstein surroundings represent one large nature garden.

- 11 km on foot
- 10 km by bike
- 14 km by car to Zwieslerwaldhaus + 4.5 km on foot or 9 km by bike