

V y s o č i n a

full of life

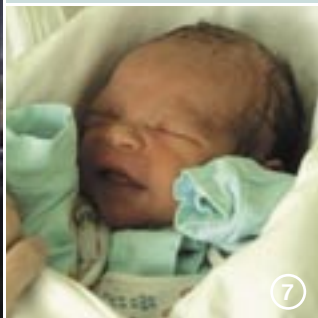


Poetry of Ordinary Days

People in Vysočina



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Welcome to Vysočina, the region of forests and groves, meadows and pastures, hills and ponds.

It's located in the very heart of Europe on the imaginary line connecting Prague and Vienna on the Czech-Moravian border. Most of the region lies in a hilly area known as Českomoravská vrchovina, characterised by its harsh climate and numerous unforgettable natural sights. The region stubbornly resists human intervention and still preserves valuable and large natural formations and remarkably clean air.

The history of settlements in Vysočina goes back to the 13th century and is marked by silver mining activities. Jihlava, currently the regional capital, was already in the 15th century one of the most important and economically strongest Czech towns. Even then the town was managed by municipal authorities administering legal and public affairs over the area as large as today's whole region. Other towns were established mainly due to their strategic location close to ancient commercial routes or river fords providing shelter and protection to travellers.

Visitors of Vysočina are charmed by unspoilt and to certain extent rough nature. Undoubtedly, spring is the most beautiful season as sunshine fills vegetation with new lymph, awakes new life and brings hope after a long and cruel winter. Summer is characterised by the scent of forest, relaxed atmosphere of moist evenings and glistening dawns. Winter season is also typical for Českomoravská vrchovina as the whole area is wrapped in white snowy blanket sending the nature to long sleep.

People living in Vysočina are toughened by their union with nature. The main source of living used to and often remains to be agriculture. People survived in the rough area thanks to spiritual culture and hard work. Even today we find here small fields worked with care and love. Vysočina is home to people who managed to adapt to the pace of local life and develop similar characteristics – they are hard but kind, hospitable and nice.

1. Jimramovské Pavlovice
2. The square in Jihlava
3. Competition in arts
4. Driving out partridges
5. Children in a playground
6. Art club
7. A welcome to newborn babies
8. A glass-cutting shop
9. Manufacture of goat's milk

Further information

Population:	520 000
Number of municipalities:	729
Area:	6 925 km ²
Population density in Vysočina:	75 inhabitants/km ²
Average number of inhabitants per municipality:	714
Average age in Vysočina:	38 years



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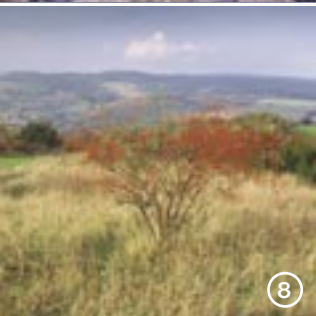
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Welcome to Nature

One Year in Vysočina



Seasons in Vysočina are influenced by local height above the sea level and related severe climate. Winter always lasts longer coming to the throne in the months of autumn and leaving only in April. The whole area is covered by a mantle of snow highlighting the colours of winter. Frost locks blue waters under a thick ice cap and wind forces people to stay in their homes and animals in their holes and shelters.

Spring awakens stiff nature from its winter sleep and shows her in a breathtaking beauty. The air is full of sound of numerous streams, rustle of freed treetops and joyful singing of birds. Everything comes to life, blossoms and tries to make up what was missed in winter.

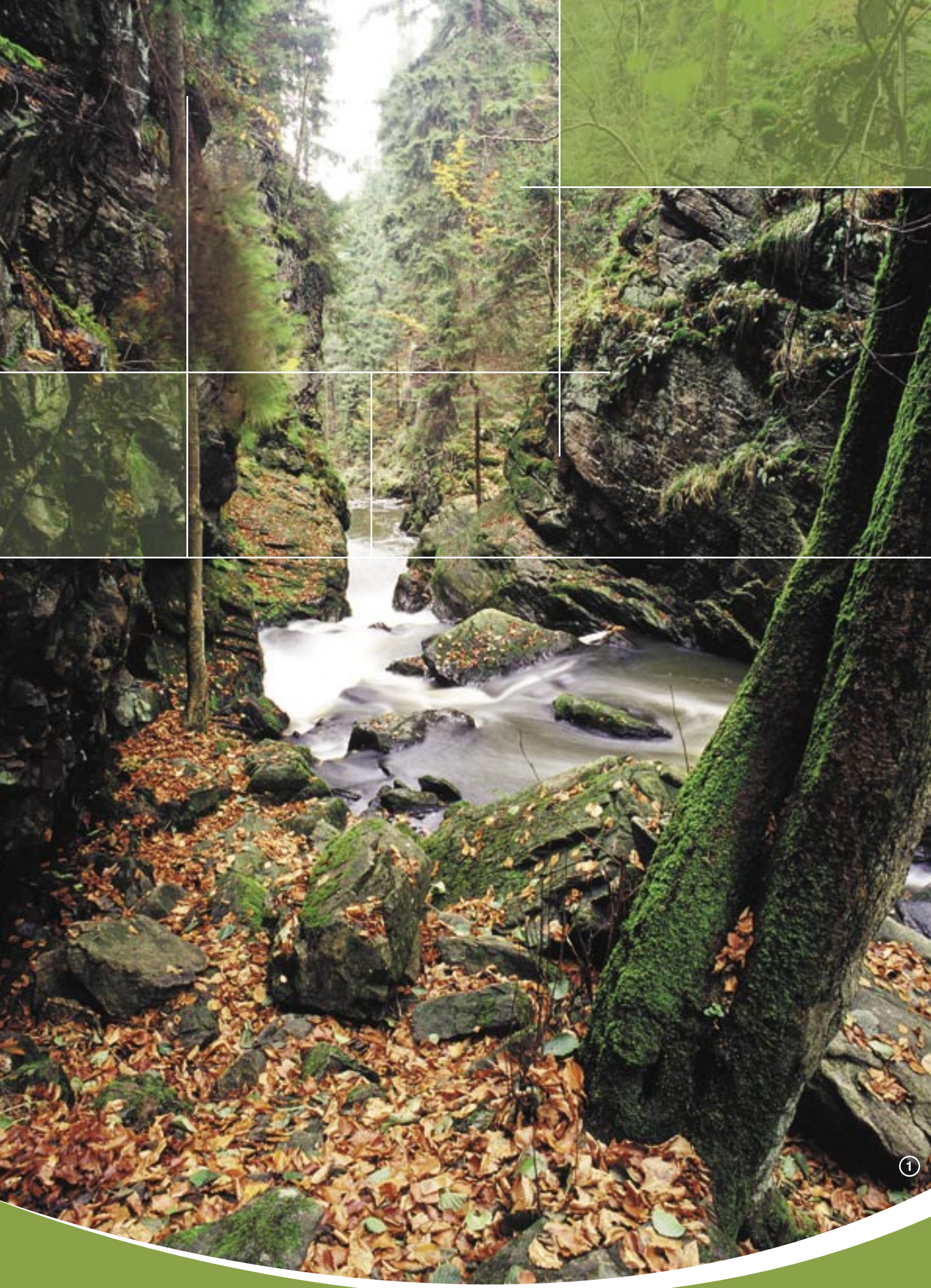
Summer in Vysočina is moist and mild. Forests spread their perfume in the rhythm of a light breeze and invite visitors to the shade of trees. Land is refreshed by occasional rain, streams and ponds glitter in summer sunshine and hillside meadows full of flowers invite for relaxing walks.

Short summer is followed by colourful autumn. It is the time to harvest the fruits of nature. Mysterious painter takes his palette and paints nature in many charming colours. The soil is covered by dry leaves and the inhabitants of deep forests are getting ready for the upcoming winter.

1. Near Doubravník
2. Spring in Vysočina (the Highlands)
3. Pasque-flowers near Třebíč
4. A mead near Telč
5. The valley of the Oslava River and Chvojnice River
6. Rožná u Bystřice nad Pernštejnem
7. View from Kočí Hill
8. Scenery near Koníkov
9. Pustá Rybná u Domašova
10. The Vířská reservoir
11. Stvořidla
12. Vlachovice

Where to go for a trip

Protected Landscape Areas:	Žďárské vrchy, Železné hory
National Nature Reserves:	Velký Špičák, Mohelenská hadcová step, Zhejral
National Nature Monuments:	Hojkovské rašeliniště, Jankovský potok
Nature Parks:	Balinské údolí, Bohdalovsko, Čeřínek, Doubrava, Melechov, Rokytná, Střední Pojihlaví, Svratecká pahorkatina, Třebíčsko



Symphony of Forests and Ponds



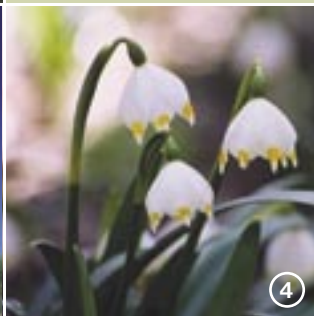
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Deep forests, rocks and rivers surrounded by lush vegetation inhabited by numerous species of animals, shallow and large valleys, mild slopes with rounded tops – that is Vysočina. Most of the region is situated in a hilly area of Českomoravská vrchovina what is the headstream of many rivers and the main European divide – rivers from the western part flow to the North Sea and rivers from the eastern part to the Black Sea. The river system is dense and rich and the best-known and biggest rivers are Sázava, Jihlava, Oslava and Svratka. Rivers occasionally cut into the land creating unforgettable natural sceneries. The most visited area is located in Stvořidla – boulder area between Ledeč and Světlá nad Sázavou.

The main regional jewel is the Protected Natural Area of Žďárské vrchy with many reserves, peat land plants, primeval forest remains, and white blankets of spring snowflakes. Unique sceneries can be also found in other places. There are so many of them that it's quite difficult for the visitors to decide whether to go to Velký Špičák with beech forests and rare flora, to see the valley of Doubrava with a 60-metre high riverbed, or the boulder field in Štamberk. Tourists shouldn't miss gneiss rocks above Zaječí skok or Mohelenská serpentine steppe with rare species of ferns and small trees. However, this is just a shortened list of many natural riches.

The whole area is interlaced by hundreds of kilometres of tourist routes and cycle tracks, but the beauties of Sázava can be enjoyed also from boats.

The charm of unspoilt nature, fresh air and calm deep forests attract every year increasing number of tourists seeking a quiet area to draw new strength for the hustle of everyday life.

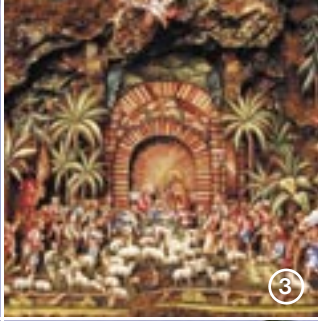


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1. The Doubrava River valley
2. The Dalešická Reservoir
3. Pines
4. A snowflake
5. Lake Vápenice
6. Čeřínek Hill near Jihlava
7. Morning forest

Fishing areas:

Trnávka Reservoir
Sedlice Reservoir
Sázava River
Pávov Reservoir
Zámecký Pond in Střítež u Jihlavy
Dalešická Reservoir
Oslava River



The Region of Traditional Folklore and Crafts

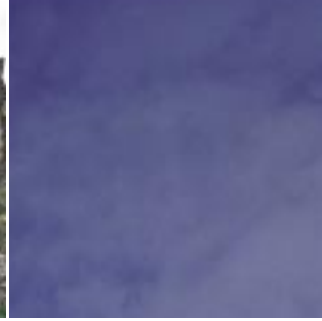
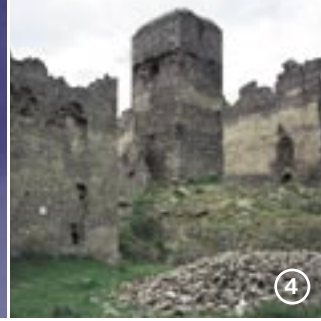
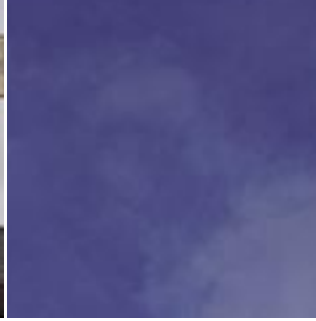
Living traditions and cheerful people



Vysočina has been home to many trades. Silver mining is one of the oldest and even now is celebrated every other year by Jihlava miners' parade of historically dressed children reminding us of faded glory and miners' hard work. Cloth manufacturing was undoubtedly one of the most significant trades in Vysočina, but local glass workers have also gained worldwide reputation. In the surroundings of Žďár and Jihlava, there are several glassworks still manufacturing traditional handmade Bohemian crystal. Skills and precision of ancient craftsmen are reflected in Nativity scenes in Třešť and Třebíč, still functioning and amazing people by their size and elaboration of details. Many trades have been preserved only in the form of national crafts and dances performed by folklore ensembles with great success at home and abroad. Festivals held in Vysočina also bring great success. The Folklore Festival in Telč, Opening of Springs in Jinošov, Potato-picking in Třebíč or the Folklore Dance in Žďár nad Sázavou – that's just a selection of events organised every year.

Some traditional customs have been preserved to present days. Many villages still celebrate carnivals; people wearing costumes and masks visit their neighbours and wish them success in the upcoming year. In summer, people organise traditional village fairs.

1. Nový Jimramov
2. Spring-Welcome in Vysočina (the Highlands)
3. A crib in Třešť
4. Folk dances from Horácko region
5. Potato harvest in Třebíč
6. Historic celebrations in Telč
7. Coal-miners' parade in Jihlava
8. Folk celebrations in Telč
9. Napoleonic celebrations near Štoky





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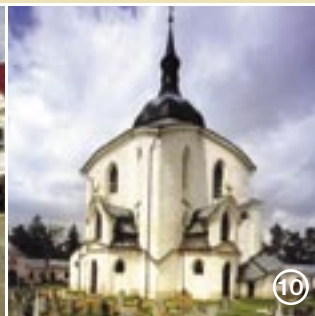
Predecessors and their Heritage



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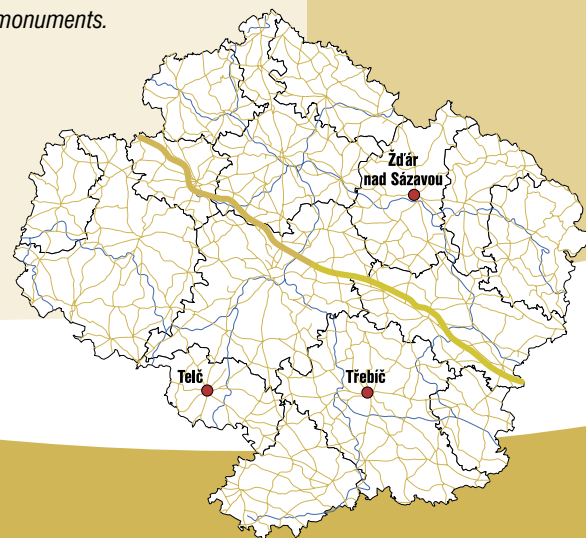
The picturesque landscape of Vysočina was moulded for hundreds of years by our predecessor who had built numerous historical monuments. There are numerous gothic castles constructed to protect trade routes, renaissance palaces providing their residents with luxurious comfort, or baroque church buildings astonishing visitors by their decoration and monumentality. And last but not least, there are many monuments of folk architecture.

In the past, many beautiful towns were built on the Czech-Moravian border and their former fame and significance is palpable even today. Their history often goes back to the beginning of the 13th century or even further. Urban development was supported by discovery of silver-bearing veins. Jihlava, the biggest town of the whole region, used to be one of the most important towns of the Czech Kingdom.

Telč, probably the most beautiful Czech town, the Jewish ghetto in Třebíč, basilica of St. Prokop, and Santini's church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora in Žďár nad Sázavou – all of them are UNESCO listed monuments, which places Vysočina on the top of the ladder among other regions in terms of the number of such precious monuments. Vysočina is rightly proud of them.

The whole region is marked by its rich history and proudly offers its jewels to visitors. You will be welcomed in its castles, towns or churches. Vysočina opens its town houses to you and guides you through educative trails in silver mining areas, invites you to mysterious catacombs, preserved fortifications, and other monuments.

1. Premonstratensian monastery in Želiv
2. Museum exhibition in Polná
3. The God's Mother's Gate in Jihlava
4. The ruins of Rokštejn castle
5. The memorable lime tree in Klokočov
6. Pernštejn castle
7. Monument of the Bible of Kralice in Kralice nad Oslavou
8. Chateau in Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou
9. Historical centre of Telč (UNESCO)
10. Pilgrimage church of St. Jan Nepomucký on Zelená hora (UNESCO)
11. Basilica of St. Prokop in Třebíč (UNESCO)

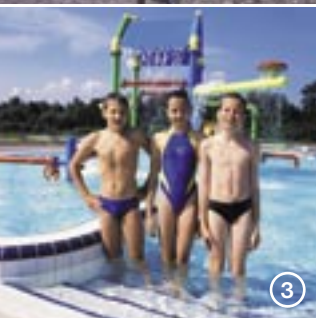


UNESCO monuments in Vysočina

Telč:	Historical centre
Třebíč:	Jewish town, Jewish cemetery, Basilica of St. Prokop
Žďár nad Sázavou:	Church of St. Jan Nepomucký on Zelená hora

Vysočina

- Region in Motion



Vysočina is very suitable for active relaxation. There are hundreds of kilometres of hiking and educative trails providing both entertainment and information. Long-distance cycle tracks are connected to a number of regional routes. Visitors can enjoy the beauty of local nature also by riding horses or roaming boats. In summer, you can swim in natural reservoirs, in-door swimming pools or the Jihlava aqua park. There are also tennis courts and a golf course in Svatka. Football fields, volleyball courts, bowling alleys and ice hockey and athletic stadiums are available without saying. Winter sports lovers will be fully satisfied in Nové Město na Moravě, centre of Czech cross-country skiing. Pursuers of very active relaxation can enjoy agrotourism, work with domestic animals and get involved in agricultural and farming works that are distant or inaccessible to them in their everyday life.

Deep forests are suitable for quiet rest and mushroom gathering, or long and comforting walks.

All visitors of Vysočina will find opportunities for active relaxation according to their needs.

1. Running tracks
2. Cycling routes
3. Vodní ráj (Water paradise) in Jihlava
4. Golf course in Svatka
5. Horse-riding
6. Canoeing on the Sázava River

Events you shouldn't miss:

Golden Ski - World Cup in Cross Country Skiing, Nové Město na Moravě

Horácká Rally - International Championship of CR in Motorcar Rally, Třebíč

Golden Horseshoe - competition of riders and coachmen, Humpolec

Handball Help - sport, social and humanitarian handball competition, Havlíčkův Brod

Air Show of Horácko - exhibition of aerobatics, Jihlava

Pearl Cup - the oldest football championship in the Czech Republic, Žirovnice

Broken Half Axle - competition of historical off-road vehicles, Třebíč

Rovner Vysočiny - great cycle race, Žďár nad Sázavou

Games for everyone

- the young and old alike



Vysočina provides its small and adult visitors with many sources of entertainment and information. The Jihlava ZOO has a worldwide reputation for its breeding successes. Visitors are mostly attracted by unique corrals free of bars and a newly opened African village. Supporters of untraditional kinds of entertainment will certainly like Pelhřimov, known as the town of records. The local museum mapping unique performance of Czech and world record holders is the only one of its kind in Central Europe. Even tramping lovers will find interesting place to visit. Sázava PACIFIK train will carry them back to the times when tramping was the lifestyle of many generations. And tramping is very close to real Western. Šikl's mill is a renowned bastion of gunmen, desperados, sheriffs, and bar singers. A different trip to the past is also offered by the Museum of Historical Cars in Humpolec.

The summer folk festivals in Telč or in Náměšť nad Oslavou are renowned events attracting every year many folk music admirers. Vysočina also holds festivals of classical music. Just to name a few, the Peter Dvorský Festival in Jaroměřice nad Rokytnou, Mahler's Festival in Jihlava, Music Festival and Czech-French Academy in Telč, Music Festival in Nové Město etc.

One of the old traditions established by a courageous acrobat Saltinbango who drove a wheelbarrow on a rope from the St. Jacob's church at Jihlava's square has been recently renewed after many years.

People in Vysočina know how to entertain themselves and have many opportunities to do so. And they gladly welcome visitors coming to their region after travelling a long distance to rest and draw new strength.

1. Western City of Šiklův mlýn
2. Record Festival in Pelhřimov
3. Jihlava ZOO, the African village of Matongo
4. Balloons over Telč
5. Cross-country skiing races
6. Old-timers meeting in Telč



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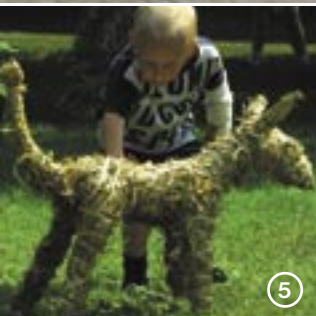
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...and lifestyle

Hospitable Vysočina



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Vysočina has two faces. One of them is marked by rough nature that sometimes constrains our endeavours. The other one reflects local people toughened by climatic conditions and used to deal with ill fortune and cope with difficulties when earning their living. However, local inhabitants are nice and helpful.

Agriculture has been the main source of living for a very long time, potatoes being the main crop. Vysočina has also given birth to many traditional meals – potatoes made in thousands manners.

However, the times have changed. Vysočina is open to all visitors and provides them with comfort. There aren't only modern hotels, centres of entertainment and various free time activities, but the main asset is the unspoiled nature. Nature that doesn't demand any strenuous sport performance, but opens active ways of relaxation to everyone. Beautiful nature is the most valuable jewel that Vysočina offers to its visitors.

1. Children's playground
2. Students in IT lesson
3. Volleyball in Vodní ráj
(Water paradise) in Jihlava
4. An afternoon in Telč
5. „Strawing“ in Červená Řečice
6. Fishing races
7. Record Festival in Pelhřimov
8. A concert in the square in Jihlava
9. Balloons over Telč

Ideas for a Sweet Tooth – Potato Cakes with Plum Jam

300 g boiled potatoes, 75 g wholemeal flour, 1/2 egg, salt, plum jam, cinnamon sugar, oil to grease the pan

Grate boiled potatoes, add salt, flour, and eggs and make dough. Cut small equal pieces of dough and roll out thin pancakes. Fry them on both sides in a well-greased pan. Add plum jam on fried pancakes, roll them, and sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Serve with white coffee or milk.



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