

North East Broumovsko, Czech Republic

In northeastern Bohemia, Czech Republic, lies a beautiful and orderly protected nature reserve: the Broumovsko. This remarkable area that consists of several smaller nature reserves, close to Poland's southern border, is very suitable for organizing unique hikes in it. With a little planning and a good map, you can hike from reserve to reserve in a relatively short time - several days.



Broumov

Broumov

A good place to start is the town of Broumov, the namesake of the area. Enjoy the beautiful center square, dominated by a Maria column from 1706 and a plague column. Or set aside time to visit the Benedictine monastery with its dazzling library that boasts many rare printed materials.

Rock Town

The walks go through a lovely landscape with the Giant Mountains, the Javoří Mountains and the hills of Hejšov and Bor constantly in the background. What a number of nature reserves have in common are jagged, high rock formations and ever-weathering sandstone formations that have the most imaginative shapes. The most famous is probably the rock formation called the "Rock Town": the *Adršpašské skály*. This consists of tall and almost baroque towers made of sandstone. After buying an entrance ticket, you walk through a fantastic environment, over decks, past lakes at altitude and waterfalls... Finally, you can also climb and scramble between "the mayor and his wife" and "Lovers and their kiss." Something you don't do every day, either. The downside to walking through this formation is the potential crowds. Buses full of people visit the "city" every year. This also involves all kinds of commercial phenomena.

You can avoid all this by walking in early spring.

Broumov Walls

Much more intimate, but just as beautiful, are the formations of the Broumov Walls, located between Police nad Metují and Broumov. It is a 10-kilometer-long forested ridge with impressive views of the Giant Mountains, other rock formations and the valleys you may later walk through. At 773 meters, Božanovský Špičák is the highest peak. You can also enjoy the view from the Hvězda chapel, which you enter via a beautiful stone bridge. Or, a little further west, from the table mountain Ostaš (700m). Phenomenal!

The trail at times leads through such narrow passages that we even had to wriggle through them!



Broumov walls

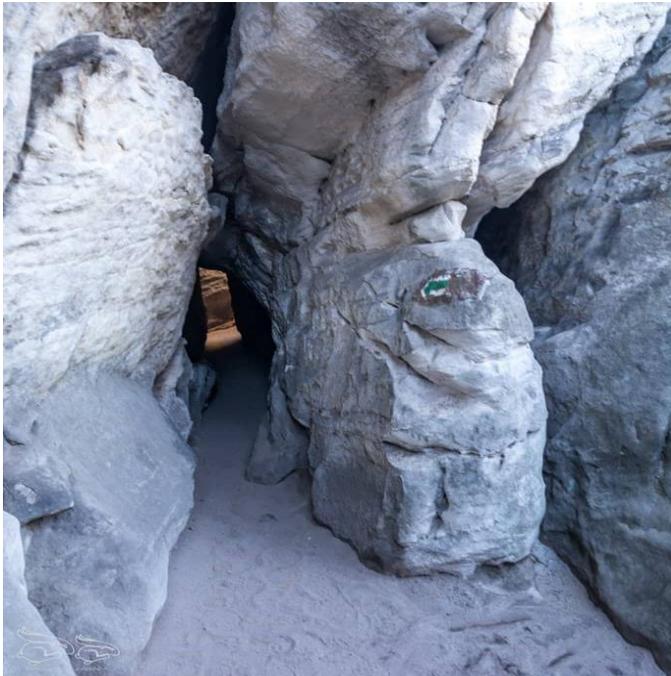
The Czartowskie Skały.

Between the villages of Różana and Łączna in the Mieroszów (PL) municipality lies the Czartowskie Skały nature reserve. Formations of sandstone in various colors. 580 – 620 meters. In an open field you can admire the most strange formations. With names like devil's stone, Lonely, the windows, the twins, Twiniaczki and Samotna.



Ostaš

Ostaš is de 700 m. hoge Tafelberg, gelegen tussen de rotsen van Teplice en Broumov. Het gebied is te belopen met behulp van twee routes: het Onder- en Bovenlabyrint, resp. net blauwe pad en het groene pad. Bizarre rotspartijen met huiveringwekkende namen als Graven des Doods (Mohyla smrti). Of, minder huiveringwekkend: Verraderstoren. Soms nauwe doorgangen, en paar houten trappen, een "vastgeklemde rots" met de suggestie dat ie zo naar beneden kan vallen. in het seizoen wordt er entree gegeven.



Nauwe doorgangen... Foto: Hasowanie Zajac

History, birds and plants

You walk through areas where, during the turbulent and tumultuous times of the Czech Republic, many residents of the region sought refuge. Want to know more about this history? Then read the [article about the National Park in Šumava](#).

In the valleys, bird and plant lovers also get their money's worth. Among others, you can admire the peregrine falcon and the great eagle owl here. And for plant lovers, there are orchids, gentians and sundew.

Routes through the valley

As usual in the Czech Republic, marked trails have been set up almost everywhere, including in the valleys. These are very well maintained! Colored stripes on trees, barns, houses, signs, poles, etc. Looking from a lower valley to the higher rock formations, you get another completely different picture: wider, wider, more imposing and more in perspective. A walk through the valleys passes through multicolored, rolling farmland.

The pagan princess

If your walk begins in Broumov, then it is advisable to visit the wooden Kostel Panny Marie. This church dates back to 1177. According to legend, it was founded by a "pagan princess" who was cured of her blindness after washing her eyes with baptismal water. Afterwards, the church was rebuilt and refurbished many times, in part because of destruction by the Hussites. They also waged a fierce religious and cultural battle against the Roman Emperor and the Roman Catholic Church here around 1400.



Adrspach Rock Town

The toy museum

If your walk passes through Police nad Metují, you can take a moment to visit the Merkur museum. Merkur was the formidable competitor of Meccano, construction toys of great class! Did you play with it as a child, then you must see this museum! The better memories...?

Attention:

Starting point: anywhere you like

Gravity: light to moderate

Excellent hiking maps are available locally. The routes are marked on them in colors.

Between Mierószow (PL) and Meziměstí a train is running. And what a one! There are stories here that the Orientexpress used to pass through here. From the looks of the train now, not imaginable!



En route to Mierószow (P), at Easter.....- 6°C.



Teplice n. Metuji , the valley (Google)