



**HRONOV (1)**  
 HOLIDAY IN HRONOV'S MILL

- BIRTHHOUSE OF ALOIS JIRÁSEK
- MUSEUM OF SMART ENTERTAINMENT CALLED UNDER THE CAP (POD ČEPICÍ)
- DŘEVÍČEK MILL

**MALÉ SVATOŇOVICE (2)**  
 MINING AND BATH TOWN BELOW ŽALTMAN

- MUSEUM OF THE CAPEK BROTHERS
- MARIAN'S ORCHARD
- VIEWPOINT ŽALTMAN

**ÚPICE (3)**  
 CHILDREN'S ADVENTURES IN ÚPICE

- MUNICIPAL MUSEUM AND THE J. W. MEZEROVÁ GALLERY
- OBSERVATORY
- CAPEK FAMILY HOUSE

**ŽERNOV (4)**  
 ON THE FARM IN ŽERNOV

- VIEWPOINT ŽERNOV
- GRANDMA'S VALLEY
- WATER RESERVOIR ROZKOŠ

**HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ (5)**  
 KAREL'S YEARS OF STUDY IN HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

- WHITE TOWER
- GALLERY OF MODERN ART
- LABYRINTH OF THE THEATER DRAGON

**ŽACLĚŘ (6)**  
 JOSEF'S RESIDENCY IN ŽACLĚŘ

- CITY MUSEUM OF ŽACLĚŘ
- ŽACLĚŘ OUTDOOR MINING MUSEUM
- J. A. KOMENSKÝ MEMORIAL IN THE SETTLEMENT ČERNÁ VODA

**VRCHLABÍ (7)**  
 JOSEF'S YEARS OF STUDY IN VRCHLABÍ

- RENAISSANCE CASTLE WITH SURROUNDING CASTLE PARK
- KRKOŇOSÉ (GIANT MOUNTAINS) MUSEUM
- BAROQUE CHURCH OF THE AUGUSTINIAN MONASTERY

**ŠPINDLERŮV MLÝN (8)**  
 TIME TOGETHER IN ŠPINDLERŮV MLÝN

- MILLER'S TOURISTIC PATHS
- ELBE SPRING AND ELBE DAM
- BOBSLED TRACK & MONKEY PARK

**PLACES CAPTURED IN THE ENNEAD FAIRYTALES**

- places Mr. Kolbaba from the Postman Fairytale visited
- path of the hat from the Wanderer Fairytale
- waternymphs
- municipality, city

Source: Throughout the Region of the Ennead Fairytales, Ales Fetters, 2005

**VYSVĚTLIVKY - LEGEND**

- dálnice, expressway
- silnice I. třídy, silnice II. třídy; main road
- silnice III. třídy, ostatní silnice; secondary road
- zpevněná cesta; surfaced road
- železnice, stanice, zastávka; railway, station, stop
- lanovka; lift
- státní hranice, hraniční přechod; national border, border crossing
- letiště, nemocnice; airport, hospital
- parkoviště, jeskyně; parking, cave
- zámek, hrad; chateau, castle
- klášter, zřícenina; monastery, historical ruins

Map Source © Geotické On Line, spol. s r.o., 2017

Illustrated map published by: Branka, o. p. s.  
 WITH SUPPORT OF  
 city Úpice • city Vrchlabí • city Žacléř • township Žernov • municipality Malé Svatoňovice •  
 Prepared in cooperation with:  
 Marketa Venclová, Lenka Lembová, Eva Hymmerová, Ales Fetters,  
 Ilona Michová, Hana Záhrobníková  
 Editor: 70 000 pcs. Map details: Geotické On Line spol. s r. o.  
 Proofreading: Tomáš Křížek, Translation: Picturica  
 Photography: Jitka Pospíšil, Václav Špaček, City archive Vrchlabí,  
 Branka, o. p. s. archive



TRAVEL WITH US TO THE PLACES WHERE  
**KAREL, JOSEF AND HELENA**  
 LIVED AND CREATED



## TRAVEL WITH US TO THE PLACES WHERE KAREL, JOSEF AND HELENA LIVED AND CREATED

The Hradec Králové region is honored to be the birthplace of many literary giants. Among them are the Čapek siblings, whom not only by their work, but especially by their human dimension, have been notably enrolled into the history of our nation. All three are synonymous for courage, honor and justice because of their approach to society. Unfortunately, the historical period at the end of their lives did not have deep understanding for this kind of character and approach. We would like to remind you of their legacy not only by their work, but also through places and memories that are connected to our region.



Helena, Josef and Karel Čapek, 1896

The Čapek siblings' childhood is connected to several places in this region: Malé Svatoňovice and Úpice, where they spent practically their entire childhood. However, there are also places like Hronov and Žernov, where their parents and grandparents came from and where their holiday tracks were mostly headed. Furthermore, we cannot forget Začlěf and Vrchlábí, where Josef Čapek lived throughout his study years, and Hradec Králové, where Karel Čapek sat at a desk in the local gymnasium for four years. Furthermore, Karel and his sister Helena spent a few weeks' summer holiday together in Špindlerův Mlýn.



The Čapek family with Grandma Helena Novotná (lower left), 1901

Considering that in this period of time, the primary obligation of a woman was providing care for her family, it is very admirable that Helena, the eldest of three siblings, was even yet able to fulfill herself as a writer. First and foremost, her book "My Dear Brothers" provides clear testimony of sibling community, love for one another and lifelong cohesion. "Grandma's Apron Fairytale", where recollections of grandma from Žernov are shown, illustrates that Helena wrote books for children, as well.

The younger brother Josef Čapek was not only a reputable painter, illustrator and graphic designer, but the co-author of Karel's artwork as well. The legendary book "Tales About A Dog and A Cat," which he wrote and illustrated himself, is still published in many languages up to this day.



Helena Čapková, 1904

We proudly claim a link to the places where the Čapek siblings first saw the light of the world and which they used to discover during their childhood. We would like to present you the places that played an important role and influenced their artwork during their lifetime. These places are where many of the stories from their books and lives took place.

Karel Čapek and Dášeňka, 1929



Let's visit the places together, where fairytale figures like Lotrando, the water nymph of Havlovice or the wizard Magiáš "were born," places that are inherently bound to Karel, Josef and Helena Čapek.

## HOLIDAY IN HRONOV'S MILL

Hronov, a little town in the center of the Kladsko Borderland, is the birthplace of Helena (1886) and Josef (1887) Čapek. Although the married Čapek couple lived at that time in Malé Svatoňovice, the mother had given birth to Helena and Josef in Hronov. Only the youngest brother Karel was born in the residence place Malé Svatoňovice.

During a walk around Hronov you can visit the place where the siblings used to spend their holidays. The memorial marked with the letter „Č“ can be found in front of the current industrial high school. That is where the cottage, where the grandparents had lived before they purchased the mill, initially stood. The town of Hronov proudly claims the link to the Čapeks not only by city commemorative plaques, but also by naming the town social hall, where most of the town community events occur. It bears the name Josef Čapek Hall. Statues of both brothers can be seen in the local Jirásek's Theater.

### Tips for a trip:

Josef and Helena Čapek aren't the only natives from the little eastern region Czech city. If you visit Hronov, you will discover that the Jirásek's Theater dominates the city square and, as the name suggests, is named after another famous native, Alois Jirásek, who also several times placed his birth town into his own creations. A few steps from the square, in the direction towards the town Police nad Metují, you can see the exterior and through the interior of this native writer's house, and you can walk in a park which naturally connects to his birth place. There you can also taste the local mineral spring water called Regnerovka and Hronovka. If you enjoy discovering new things, we would like to sincerely invite you to the interactive museum of smart entertainment called Under the Cap (Pod Čepicí), which you can find in the center of the town and which is also an amazing place for discoveries and creations. The nearby located Dřevěčkův Mill is also worthwhile, which you can find along the main road in the direction to the municipality Stárkov. The mill, where milling occurred during the first republic era, has been preserved in its original state, and Mister Millman himself will walk you through this amazing technical memorial.



## MINING AND BATH TOWN BELOW ŽALTMAN

When the cry of a newborn baby boy surrounded the Čapek's house, located in the square in Malé Svatoňovice in January 1890, nobody had any idea that little Karel Čapek would be written into the subconscious minds of many generations, not only by his creations, but also by his straightforward, honest and scrupulous approach to life in general.

However, during a visit of Malé Svatoňovice today, you can still visit the birthhouse of Karel Čapek, where The Museum of the Čapek Brothers has been open since 1947, accompanied by a memorial and statue of Karel Čapek created by the academic sculptor Karel Dvořák. In the square park you can see a sculpture of the Čapek brothers, created in 1969 by Josef Malejovský. Also, you can visit the pilgrimage church of Virgin Marie Sedmiradostná and the chapel with seven springs of local, miraculous water. Right here was the place where Karel's mother used to come to sacrifice wax breasts, so that little Karel would have strong lungs. If you would like to enjoy the atmosphere of the Studděnecká Capkiana Literary Festival, head to Svatoňovice in May, when the time of Čapek is the most intense in this area.

### Tips for a trip:

Marian's Orchard, the pilgrimage place of Malé Svatoňovice, with its seven chapels and a crossroad, is the place that is without a doubt worthy to see. Visit the Hawk Mountains, known as Brendy from Karel's work. Don't forget the highest peak Žaltman with its lookout tower, and courageous ones can take a journey to the nearby Lotrando's den. There, in the event of favorable weather, you can also roast sausages.



## CHILDREN'S ADVENTURES IN ÚPICE

Úpice is the place where Lenča, Peča and ěček lived throughout their childhood adventures. That is where all three siblings attended school and where they used to hide in their father's beloved garden and communicate in their own Indian language.

The house where the Čapek family lived stands near the Úpice city center up to this day. Nowadays, it is used as a facility for the Czech Republic Police Department; however, the second floor it is still accessible to the public and, upon individual request, they will be glad to let you in. The garden, that witnessed so many siblings' adventures, unfortunately hasn't been preserved, but the local bus station is currently situated in its initial place. On the square opposite the church still stands the post office, which was the main site for "Postman Fairytale," marked by a memorial plaque. Thanks to the exhibition located in The Municipal Museum and the J. W. Mezerová Gallery, you will be able to learn more about the Čapek family and the period during their time of living in Úpice.

### Tips for a trip:

Úpice is not only a city where you can follow the tracks of the Čapek family, but you also can see the stars and planets. The Úpice Observatory, which specializes in observation of the sun, has been offering a look into space for already more than fifty years. The city is the ideal exit point to the Hawk Mountains. From there, it isn't far to Havlovice, where you might not be able to see the water nymph of Havlovice anymore ("Doctor's Big Fairytale" from the "Ennead Fairytales"), but you will surely enjoy all kinds of sport activities at the local multi-sport campus.

## ON THE FARM IN ŽERNOV

Žernov is the birthplace of the Čapek siblings' father, Antonín. Helena, Josef and also Karel used to travel there to visit their grandma and grandpa. Karel really remembered and often thought back about crazy Victoria (Viktorka), a figure from the book "Grandma" (Babička) by Božena Němcová.

The Čapek family's descendants have lived in Žernov up to this day. House number 63, where the Godfather and the Čapek siblings' uncle (brother of their father Antonín) had lived, used to be a tavern and a store until not so long ago. Today, it serves for private purposes only.

### Tips for a trip:

The Žernov viewpoint offers not only a wonderful outlook of the entire Kladsko borderland region, nearby Ratibořice with its eponymous castle, and Grandma's Valley (Babiččino údolí), but also to more distant surrounding areas. In the adjacent camping area of the Rozkoš water reservoir – also known as the Eastern Czech Sea, you can find not only accommodation, but also an invitation to various water sports. The Česká Skalice city offers a visit to Barunka's School (Barunčina škola), the place where Božena Němcová attended and the local Božena Němcová Museum that has an exhibition dedicated to the famous writer.



## KAREL'S YEARS OF STUDY IN HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

Right in Hradec Králové, also known as the Saloon of the Republic thanks to its architecture during the first republic period, Karel began studying in grammar school at eleven years old. Here he also met his first loves and started to think politically while he was participating in the Anti-Austrian Alliance.

Even today, located in the Small Square in the historical center of Hradec Králové, you can find where Karel Čapek had lived during the years between 1901 – 1905. These days it serves as the Hotel of Queen Elizabeth, but it is marked with a memorial plaque in memory of Karel Čapek. A sculpture of Karel Čapek can be seen in the Gallery of Modern Art in an exhibition of Vladimír Preclík (you can see the same sculpture in the Museum of the Čapek Brothers in Malé Svatoňovice). You can also visit Klíper's Theater (Klíperovo divadlo), where the premiere of the theatrical play "R.U.R." prepared by Klíper's amateur group debuted in January 1921.

### Tips for a trip:

The regional metropolis is not called the Saloon of the Republic in vain. The architectural buildings of Jan Kotěra, his student Josef Gočár and others have since transformed the fortress city into the economic and cultural center of the region. There are four city walkway trails available that can take you not only to the most significant, but also to the lesser known corners of the city. In Hradec Králové, remembered as a royal dowry city, you can see memorials even from the period when Hradec Králové served as the residence of the Queens Eliška Rejčka and Eliška Pomořanská. These monuments include the Cathedral of St. Spirit (katedrála svatého Ducha), the White Tower (Bílá věž), the Labyrinth of the Theater Dragon (Labyrint Divadla Drak), the Petrof Museum, the Museum of the Eastern Czech Region (Muzeum východních Čech) (Closed during the period of 1/2018 - 6/2019 due to ongoing reconstruction), the Observatory and Planetarium (Hvězdárna a planetárium) and the Elbe Power Plant (Labská elektrárna) and are also worthwhile.



## JOSEF'S RESIDENCY IN ŽACLĚŘ

Before his studies in Vrchlábí, Josef had been sent to a little town known as the eastern gate of Krkonoše. It was expected that Josef would improve his German in Žaclěf, because in Vrchlábí he was taught in that language only.

You can still find the house where Josef had lived and the tavern of J. Zizka had been at that time in the square in Žaclěf, as well as the former local bourgeois school. The school, however today, serves only as the local public library and the local preschool. The residency of Josef is also commemorated by an informational sign located in Rýchory Square.

### Tips for a trip:

In addition to the buildings evocative of Josef's residency in this little town, Žaclěf also offers different places that are worthwhile to see. The City Museum of Žaclěf welcomes all of its visitors and offers a presentation of rich regional history and thematically oriented exhibitions. On the premises of the museum, you can also use the services of the local information center. The Žaclěf Outdoor Mining Museum, which is located on the grounds of a former mine called Jan Šverma, is a reminder of the many long years of hard coal mining. The engine room, mine shaft buildings, preserved portions and air ventilation channels of the pit called Julie are all available for visitors to look through. The city is also, thanks to its location, one of the centers for cross-country and downhill skiing during the winter months.

## JOSEF'S YEARS OF STUDY IN VRCHLABÍ

The picturesque lowland mountain city became the second home of Josef Čapek between 1901 - 1903. There he studied in a German technical weaving school. Josef's parents planned that he would then rebuild the mill in Hronov, inherited from great-grandparents, into a textile factory...

The building in which Josef studied has fulfilled its educational purpose up to today; however, it is specializing only in mechanical engineering and gastronomy. Nowadays, the secondary vocational school can be found at Krkonošská 265. The building is marked with a memorial plaque for Josef Čapek. The house where Josef used to live is located not far from the Elbe River, and it is situated in the part of the city that freely joins a portion of the newly renovated embankment of the Elbe.

### Tips for a trip:

Vrchlábí has changed since Josef studied there. It has become a popular lowland mountain city in the middle part of the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše), located in the valley of the upper stream of the Elbe. It is worthy to see the renaissance castle, of which part is the freely accessible surrounding castle park. During summer you can visit the local baroque church of the Augustinian Monastery, built in 1705. As examples of architecture from the 16th Century in the Giant Mountain (Krkonoše) region, you can also find historical houses located near the neo-Gothic Temple of St. Vavřinec. Today it houses the Krkonoše Museum and represents the nature of the mountain region and lives of the local community. For relaxation, you can choose a walk along the Elbe River with its newly created dike, where you can relax while listening to the murmurs of the Elbe River.

## TIME TOGETHER IN ŠPINDLERŮV MLÝN

Karel Čapek and his girlfriend at that time, Olga Scheinpflug, who subsequently became his wife, together with his sister Helena, stayed for a few weeks during their holiday in 1921 right in the heart of the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše). In the Savoy Hotel they enjoyed a stay not very far from their birthplace region.

All three siblings always thought back with nostalgia about their time spent together on shared holidays, trips and free days. They often resided together at various places throughout the Bohemian and Moravian regions, even during the time when Helena already had her own family and her brothers were still single. They always perceived the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše) as a part of their birthplace region, and in 1921 they came precisely to the city of Špindlerův Mlýn.

They stayed in the Savoy Hotel that is standing in the city center up to today and is considered to be the most famous and visited center of the highest mountain region in the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše). Karel returned to Krkonoše, to the Hotel Prague, even in later times.

### Tips for a trip:

During the winter season, Špindlerův Mlýn is predominantly a center for downhill skiing. Perfectly maintained slopes of various difficulties are available from December until April. However, Špindlerův Mlýn isn't alive only during the winter time. The city offers quiet areas designated for resting and relaxing that are available for all interested visitors. Visitors can also enjoy numerous touristic paths and cycle trails that are available from spring to autumn.

