

CENTRAL BOHEMIA  
TOURIST BOARD



# DISCOVER ANIMALS IN CENTRAL BOHEMIA



Central Bohemia Region

# INTRODUCTION

Dear visitors, let me invite you to the Central Bohemia Region!

Come with me to discover the world of animals. Just pick a direction, there's fun to be had within easy reach.

Central Bohemia is famous for its monuments, historic towns and beautiful countryside; but we also have several smaller zoos ready to introduce you to exotic animals – cheetahs, gibbons, lemurs, kangaroos or chameleons, to take your imagination to Asia, Africa or Australia.

Not forgetting our traditions, the zoo-parks and farms I'll be inviting you to also feature animals that were until quite recently part of every village cottage household. Find out what it's like to stroke a goat, milk a cow or smell a piglet.

I shall of course also invite you to our more distant past; to places, where you'll find out about the old Celts and animals of their time – the European bison, aurochs and wild horses.

Let's not forget our castles and palaces, where animals were always part of stately life. I'm thinking of traditional deer-parks, bears kept in dry castle moats and aristocratic menageries.

All the places I'll be introducing offer not only enjoyable family afternoons, but make great destinations for a school trip, a corporate event or an unusual wedding. I can promise you this – you're in for a memorable experience.

Wherever you choose to go in the Central Bohemia Region, you will always be very welcome!

*Your Auroch, Karl*

**Title page image: Zelčín Zoo-park**

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## CHLEBY ZOO

[www.zoochleby.cz](http://www.zoochleby.cz)

This accredited Zoo was established as a follow-up to the private initiatives of the Fraňek couple in 1997. Since then, thanks to its professionalism and friendly atmosphere it has become a very popular destination for families with children. When you visit you'll meet a variety of protected or endangered animals from around the world, and the Czech countryside, too. In the Pavilion, inspired by the Cambodian Temple of Angkor Wat, you'll see gibbons, in the Livingston House named after the famous explorer there are cheetahs to amuse you and a little further on, cute meerkats. In the freshwater aquarium you'll get a peek at Czech nature, specifically under the surface of the Elbe river. Since 2016 they have been keeping one of the rarest monkeys, the Red-shanked douc, perhaps the loveliest and the most difficult to breed.

In Chleby Zoo you'll find over 420 animals from 120 species from every continent except Antarctica. In the spring of 2018 two new arrivals – the Asian black bears Angar and Baloo quickly made themselves at home in the newly built enclosure.



## ACTIVITIES

Apart from comprehensive tours and school courses, the zoo offers experiential programmes that let you look after the animals. In the educational 'Mascarenas' photo setting you have the option to take your picture with a dodo. And you can also take a quick course in tracking – and a special exhibit teaches you to tell animals apart by their droppings.



from 100 CZK



**Open:** year-round, from 9:00

- families with children
- schools
- barrier-free access
- team-building
- refreshments
- playground
- no dogs

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« Have you ever wanted to keep a camel, a meerkat, or a cheetah? You can join us by becoming their adoptive parent. See our website for the current list of animals up for adoption; you can go ahead and choose whichever takes your fancy. Your financial contributions will help us take care of the animals. »



You'll find us in the village of Chleby, north of Nymburk.

Chleby Zoo  
Václava Otty 1, 289 31 Chleby





## KARLŠTEJN ZOO-PARK

[www.zoopark-karlstejn.cz](http://www.zoopark-karlstejn.cz)

The latest zoo-park in the Central Bohemia Region opened in June 2018. It is set in charming countryside on the banks of the river Berounka and has a unique backdrop – a medieval castle, the seat of Emperor Charles IV. When you plan your visit to the Castle, the zoo-park should definitely be on your list, too.

You'll meet many exotic animals, headed up by the king of the beasts – the noble white lion, Leon. You'll also say hello to other big cats, be it a spotty or black leopard or a tiger, while the tiger cubs are bound to enchant you. In addition to the beasts of prey there are also monkeys, macaques, Angolan talapoins and coatis.

In the large enclosure, you'll get close to majestic camels (one hump or two...), as well as bison, llamas or zebras. European hoofed animals are proudly represented by touchable French donkeys and Shetland ponies.



## ACTIVITIES

You can take a pony ride, while the more adventurous can sit astride Ali, the Bactrian camel and have a picture taken. There is also a kids' corner with a giant slide, and for hunger or thirst a kiosk 'At the White Lion'. Should you wish to extend your stay there is a nearby guest-house right on the banks of the river Berounka.



from 100 CZK



**Open:** May-September from 10:00 to 18:00

- ❖ families with children
- ❖ schools
- ❖ barrier-free access
- ❖ refreshments
- ❖ playground

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« I can hardly remember ever seeing such impressive views elsewhere. Here you can admire the majestic Karlštejn Castle dating from the 14th century, when it was the seat of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV. When you take a walk in the zoo-park you can muse about the private menageries of medieval monarchs. »



You can find us in the village of Karlštejn, 25 km from Prague, close to the station.



Karlštejn Zoo-park, Karlštejn 329,  
267 18 Karlštejn



## ZÁJEZD ZOO-PARK

[www.zoopark-zajezd.cz](http://www.zoopark-zajezd.cz)

This small zoo hosts nearly 100 species of exotic animals such as lemurs, monkeys, camels, llamas, meerkats, caracals, kangaroos as well as different species of parrots; but also animals that, with any luck, you can come across in our forests, such as the Eurasian Lynx or birds of prey. Also to be found here are domestic animals – goats, sheep, pigs and chickens. A new addition to the zoo is the terrarium, the largest public collection of chameleons in the world, where you can see chameleons, iguanas, turtles and poison-arrow frogs.

A guided tour will tell you all about these animals, including numerous curiosities, and you'll get a chance to feed some yourself. The zoo-park has also prepared various educational programmes for schools and nursery schools, showing children not only the animals, but how they are kept, and about their natural environment. Visiting talks can be arranged at your school, even bringing along selected animals. And if you're looking for an offbeat venue for a birthday party or team-building event, they'll do a bespoke programme for you here.



## ACTIVITIES

In addition to tours of the zoo with the keepers, there are ready educational programmes for visitors – such as falconry in historical attire, but also a variety of family events to have fun and learn at the same time. There's also a children's playground, a nature trail and a picnic area. And if you want to, you can adopt your favourite animal. By doing so, you help fund their upkeep and the zoo-park's development.



from 75 CZK



**Open:** all the year round

- families with children
- barrier-free access
- children's playground
- birthday parties, kids' suburban camps
- schools
- refreshments

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« Come and try your hand at being a keeper. We'll take you through an entire shift, taking all-round care of the animals. A truly memorable experience! And for the more adventurous, you can feed a chameleon, say, or even hold a cockroach. »



You can find us in the village of Zájezd, 10 km east of Kladno.

Zájezd Zoo-park, Zájezd 5,  
273 43 Zájezd





## ZELČÍN ZOO-PARK

[www.zooparkzelcin.cz](http://www.zooparkzelcin.cz)

In this small zoo you'll meet the kind of domestic animals that used to be part of cottage life. Find out what it's like to stroke a goat or sheep or smell a piglet. Of course, there are also cows, chickens, geese, rabbits, and cats, but there are also more exotic residents – ferrets, guinea pigs, and even emus. You may give most of the animals a treat from nearby dispensers.

The pride of the zoo are Fjord horses, the breed most similar to the Przewalski wild horses or ancestral horses from the ice age. And if you love horses, you'll welcome the chance to ride in the saddle or in a carriage. They also offer hippo-therapy rides for the disabled.

Afterwards you can assuage your hunger in the local inn or relax with a coffee on the terrace, while the children can expend some energy in the adjacent playground. And if you don't want to leave, you can overnight right there in the homestead suites, in the camp, or in a teepee next to the horse corrals.



## ACTIVITIES

You will learn a lot of things about domestic animals you'd not normally come across. You can get to know them quite close-up and have a go at looking after them. If you want, you can take a goat for a walk on a leash! In the summer there are feeding times with commentary, so you can learn a lot about what our ancestors had to master to take care of their animals.



the fee is for your chosen programme



**Open:** throughout the year, from 10:00

- families with children
- schools
- barrier-free access
- refreshments
- accommodation
- camping
- playground
- no dogs

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« You can spend more than a day. We offer stays for the weekend or even a week. We will put you up, we will plan your programme at the zoo, we will teach you to ride a horse or even take a ride on a raft on the Vltava river, rent you a bicycle or scooter or roller-blades for exploring the surrounding trails. »



You can find us in the village of Zelčín, south-west of Mělník.

Zelčín Zoo-park Zelčín 1,  
276 01 Hořín





## BLANÍK FARM

[www.farmablanik.cz](http://www.farmablanik.cz)

This farm and theme park in beautiful countryside below fabled Blaník mountain is a paradise for children. Not only to get close to animals like sheep and goats, rabbits, donkeys, Czech livestock or piggies, and the rural back yard with its duckpond – surrounded by geese, turkeys, chickens and ducks. Most of the animals can be approached and petted, even fed, the ponies and donkeys even saddled up and ridden. And there's even a herd of horses!

In addition, there are dozens of attractions to develop children's skills and imagination. Kids can climb up a lookout tower with a big slide, or a straw bale castle, with a great view of the surroundings. They can explore woodland full of night sprites, or the forest temple with a druid keeping an eye on the "hejkal" Czech wood goblins, or sit in the hideout and watch for wild animals with a telescope, collecting points for the Blaník decathlon. There's wild fun to be had on a huge trampoline, a kids' cable car or sporty offroaders.



## ACTIVITIES

This is a farm to entertain and delight kids and parents alike. There are children's outdoor attractions and in bad weather an indoor Kids' world and a games room. They'll organize a family day for you, with competitions, but also arrange for a wedding or corporate event, by way of a farm or equestrian themed team-building. Also available is a swimming pool, a playground for ball sports, and of course accommodation in a small guesthouse with a restaurant and café. And please note, dogs on a leash are welcome.



from 100 CZK



**Open:** all the year round

- ❖ families with children
- ❖ schools
- ❖ barrier-free access
- ❖ team-building
- ❖ refreshments
- ❖ playground

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« Beneath Blaník, the old legends of the Blaník knights and the ancient Celts live on. In the park is a Blaník Knights cave to explore, go in search of the Blaník treasure, or try out the defences of a Celtic stronghold. We will even teach you to pan for gold in the local 'Goldsmith' creek as the ancient Celts once did. »



You can find us in the village of Ostrov, south of Vlašim.

Blaník Farm, Ostrov 1,  
257 06 Louňovice pod Blaníkem





## FARMAPARK SOBĚHRDY

[www.farmapark.eu](http://www.farmapark.eu)

Soběhrdy Farm-park makes a great all-day outing. There are more than 60 species of animals to meet, really close-up! Of course, as well as enjoying your encounters with the animals, there's lots more fun to be had. A fun place for everyone large and small, in any weather. In bad weather, the kids can enjoy the heated indoor playground with climbing frames, slides, a huge trampoline and a mini cinema.

Outside, kids can test their agility in the rope park, let off some steam on the big chain swing or on the trampoline, or cut through stormy seas on a wooden ship. And after that, get racing on mini quad bikes. For the smaller visitors, as well as the playground, carousels and sandpit, there's a play area for building with wooden blocks. And on hot days there are water games galore.

As for a bite to eat – take your pick of goodies from the local restaurant or at one of the stalls in the grounds.



## ACTIVITIES

The Soběhrdy Farm-park will acquaint you with animals from around the world, spread over its 62 acres (25 ha). You can feed many of them yourself, under keeper supervision. Awaiting you are goats, sheep, cows, donkeys and Shetland ponies, as well as their more exotic friends – pygmy pigs, Bactrian camels, emus, kangaroos, llamas and water buffalo. All of them look forward to a little tête-à-tête.



from 150 CZK



**Open:** from May daily from 10:00,  
off-season at weekends

- ❖ families with children
- ❖ barrier-free access
- ❖ a playground and a large covered games room
- ❖ refreshments
- ❖ no dogs

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« For relaxation there are hammocks, a café with pancakes and ice cream or a fire-pit for roasting sausages. And when your legs get tired you can hire a farm taxi to take you anywhere you need. We have great and unusual attractions for everyone great and small; the more adventurous can try tubing – riding on inner tubes. »



You can find us in the village of Soběhrdy, just north of Benešov.

Farmapark Soběhrdy,  
256 01 Soběhrdy





## HUSLÍK ECO-CENTRE

[www.ekocentrumhuslik.cz](http://www.ekocentrumhuslik.cz)

The Huslík eco-centre is about environmental education, awareness-building and consulting in nature conservation. The eco-centre belongs to the Founding Organization of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation and is devoted to particular programmes aimed at environmental education of children and youngsters (nursery and primary schools) and the general public.

In the eco-centre you can attend any of the educational lectures or workshops, or visit the rescue station for injured animals, which is part of the complex. You'll get close to animals typical of the Elbe river basin, such as the stork, eagle owl, otter, squirrel, owl, crow or raven, but also the badger, marten or roebuck, with even a sea eagle as a bonus. There is also a pool with amphibians and an insect house. All this with expert commentary by eco-centre staff. You can also celebrate Earth Day, the summer solstice or the autumn equinox.



## ACTIVITIES

For schools, the eco-centre offers several comprehensive tutorial programmes teaching children about the natural world. It teaches them how to protect nature and why. For schools and the general public, they put on events, lectures and film screenings about ecology and travel. You might thus watch flamingos from Spain and moose from Poland, in quick succession.



by type of event



**Open:** throughout the year, from 10:00

- ❖ families with children
- ❖ schools
- ❖ barrier-free access
- ❖ no dogs

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« At our events, you can go back to the olden days when our ancestors knew how to live in harmony with the environment and nature to their advantage, with care and respect. We'll teach you to recognize herbs or grow old Czech varieties of fruit trees, and how to make use of the fruits that nature provides. »



You will find us between Poděbrady and Libice nad Cidlinou, not far from the confluence of the Labe and Cidlina.

Huslík Eco-centre, Na Zálesí 1473,  
290 01 Poděbrady





## MILOVICE NATURE RESERVE

[www.ceska-krajina.cz](http://www.ceska-krajina.cz)

A trip to Milovice will take you back centuries, to a time when wild horses, bison and aurochs roamed. The landscape of the former military area, until 1991 used by the Soviet army, was in danger of losing its original steppe character and bountiful meadows. A nature reserve was established, where animals that in medieval times were part of the Czech countryside are making a comeback. Grazing by large hoofed animals keeps aggressive grasses and shrubs at bay and facilitates diverse vegetation as a biome for endangered species.

Only here can you see three large European ungulates together! The wild horses have come from Exmoor in England and are close to the original wild horses of Europe. Keeping them company are European bison, the largest terrestrial animals of the old continent, long since gone, and aurochs, the ancestors of today's cattle. These were also wiped out, so the ones you see are the product of selectively breeding from their nearest primeval European relatives.



## AKTIVITY

So as not to disrupt the animals, there is no car park, but you can pull up in marked places along the driveway. Parking is available in Ostravská street in Milovice (for the wild horses and aurochs) or in the parking lot at the Motocross in the suburb of Kbely, in Benátky nad Jizerou (for wild horses and bison). The whole reservation is fenced, and you'll need about 70 minutes to go around each pasture. You can watch the grazing herds of wild horses, aurochs and bison from elevated observation points. One of them includes a four-metre rope bridge, via which you can watch the animals right by the fence.



free



**Open:** all the year round

- families with children
- schools

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« With us you can glimpse the lost European landscape of hundreds of years ago. On this sample expanse of preserved steppes rich with flora and fauna are herds of animals our medieval ancestors knew well, but we've progressively eradicated. We are now striving to make good their return. »



You'll find us in Milovice and also near Benátky nad Jizerou.

Milovice Nature Reserve,  
Milovice-Mladá, 289 24 Milovice





## ŽLEBY DEER-PARK

[www.oborazleby.cz](http://www.oborazleby.cz)

Rare white deer probably originated from Persia, and first came to Bohemia around 1780 as a fashionable stately deer-park accessory. Most are gone, but in Žleby their glorious breeding history continues. Inside the 299- acre (121 ha) woodland complex around Žleby château is an accessible showpiece deer-park, where you will not only see white harts and does but learn about their past and present.

In addition to the white deer you will meet our other woodland wildlife – mouflon, fallow and sika deer, roebuck, wild boar and various bird species. And since the park is also dedicated to protecting and exercising birds of prey, there is a falconry demo with commentary on breeding and conservation.

A log cabin houses a forestry exhibition, and you can choose from the refreshments menu and relax with a coffee while the children explore the wooden climbing frames in the playground.



## AKTIVITY

The park offers exciting school programmes, both in the deer-park and by way of talks brought to the school. Talks on birds of prey include a live demonstration of their flight and alighting on a child's gloved hand. In May and June the deer-park has a programme for school children focused on its hosted animals. Among other things, the children get to see the feeding of white deer and take part in an archery tournament.



from 40 CZK



**Open:** May-September daily from 10:00

- families with children
- schools
- refreshments
- playground

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« Do you want to know how to photograph wildlife? We will teach you in our photographic workshop, where you'll be taking amazing pictures of animals, up close. And from May to the end of September you can see the Žleby white deer from a few feet away, while they're being fed, twice daily. »



You can find us in the village of Žleby, right next to the château.

Žleby Deer-park, Žleby 104,  
285 61 Žleby





## TOČNÍK CASTLE

[www.hrad-tocnik.cz](http://www.hrad-tocnik.cz)

One of the favourite residences of King Wenceslas IV., it has had a turbulent history, but has kept its late 14th century romantic medieval look to this day. This must be why Točnín castle is so popular with film-makers, and to be seen in many Czech and international films.

After visiting the Castle, be sure to go to the bear enclosure to say hi to Agatha and Martin, the bears from a popular TV nature series. The castle complex also has ducks, sheep, goats, pigs and rabbits to say hello to. Over the summer you'll find a colony of greater mouse-eared bats, and roosting kestrels and swifts.



from 60 CZK



**Open:** whenever the castle is open,  
June-August daily except Monday from 9:00

- families with children
- refreshments



You can find us in the village  
of Točnín near Beroun.

Točnín Castle, 267 51 Zdice





## BEROUN BEAR-PARK

[www.mesto-beroun.cz](http://www.mesto-beroun.cz)

Near the historic centre of Beroun is 'City Mountain' forest park, an oasis of calm and greenery where the kids can have fun in the playground, and from the (1936) lookout tower you get a lovely view of the city and the Berounka river valley.

The big attraction is the local bear enclosure, where brothers Kuba and Matěj live, born in 2000. While still cubs they starred in a popular kids' bedtime nature series on TV. And where else, since Beroun has had a bear in its emblem since medieval times?



free



**Open:** daily

- families with children
- refreshments
- playground



You can find us in Beroun,  
close to the historic centre.

Information centre Beroun,  
Husovo nám. 69, 266 01 Beroun





## JEMNIŠTĚ CHÂTEAU

[www.jemniste.cz](http://www.jemniste.cz)

A visit to the magnificent Baroque chateau of the Šternberk Family is a feast for all the senses. In addition to tours of the stately interiors there are yummy goodies in the local restaurant or the café, where they'll even do you a picnic basket. Take it with you to a place in the park with the fragrant rosarium and lots of enchanting plants.

And let's not forget the menagerie, where you'll find peacocks blue and white, parrots, geese, Dutch goats, llamas, donkeys, raccoons, and coatis.



from 55 CZK



**Open:** whenever the chateau is open,  
July-August daily from 9:00

- ❖ families with children
- ❖ refreshments
- ❖ no dogs



You can find us in the village of Jemniště between Benešov and Vlašim.

Jemniště Chateau, Jemniště 1,  
257 01 Postupice





## KONOPIŠTĚ CASTLE

[www.zamek-konopiste.cz](http://www.zamek-konopiste.cz)

Originally a Gothic castle, progressively turned into a château. At the turn of the 19th and 20th century it became the seat of Franz Ferdinand d'Este, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, and his wife Sophie Chotek.

The interiors, park and garden have remained true to this period. The bear enclosure in the moat also goes back a fair while, 150 years. Currently you can admire George, a rare Asian black bear who loves sweet melons, grapes, white yoghurt, trout and cheese. There are also peacocks (all blue), adorning the castle terraces and the rose garden.



from 130 CZK



**Open:** whenever the castle is open,  
June-August daily except Monday from 10:00

- ❖ families with children
- ❖ refreshments
- ❖ barrier-free access



You will find us just by Benešov.

Konopiště Castle, Konopiště 1,  
256 01 Benešov



# MAP AND DIRECTORY



## CENTRAL BOHEMIA REGION

1. **CHLEBY ZOO** – Václava Otty 1, 289 31 Chleby
2. **KARLŠTEJN ZOO-PARK** – Karlštejn 329, 267 18 Karlštejn
3. **ZÁJEZD ZOO-PARK** – Zájezd 5, 273 43 Zájezd
4. **ZELČÍN ZOO-PARK** – Zelčín 1, 276 01 Hořín
5. **BLANÍK FARM** – Ostrov 1, 257 06 Louňovice pod Blaníkem
6. **SOBĚHRDY FARM-PARK** – 256 01 Soběhrdy
7. **HUSLÍK ECO-CENTRE** – Na Zálesí 1473, 290 01 Poděbrady
8. **MILOVICE NATURE RESERVE** – Milovice-Mladá, 289 24 Milovice
9. **ŽLEBY DEER-PARK** – Žleby 104, 285 61 Žleby
10. **TOČNÍK CASTLE** – 267 51 Zdice
11. **BEROUN BEAR-PARK** – Information centre Beroun, Husovo nám. 69, 266 01 Beroun
12. **JEMNIŠTĚ CHÂTEAU** – Jemniště 1, 257 01 Postupice
13. **KONOPIŠTĚ CASTLE** – Konopiště 1, 256 01 Benešov





Discover Animals in Central Bohemia

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Husova 156/21, Prague 1 – Old Town

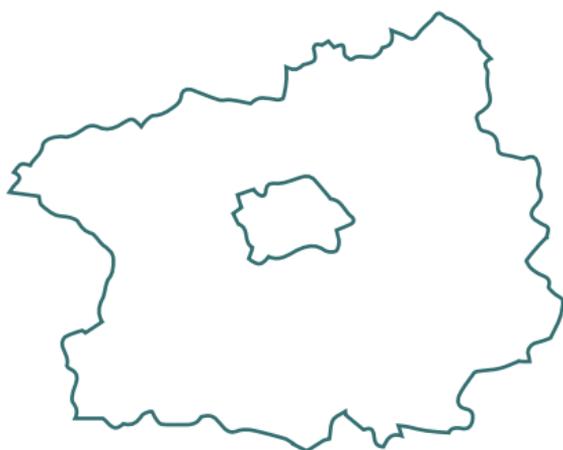
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Central Bohemia  
Tourist Board



## ADDRESS

**Central Bohemia Tourist Board**

Husova 156/21

Praha 1 – Old Town

## CONTACT

**T.:** +420 222 288 911

**E.:** info@sccr.cz

**www.centralbohemia.eu**



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