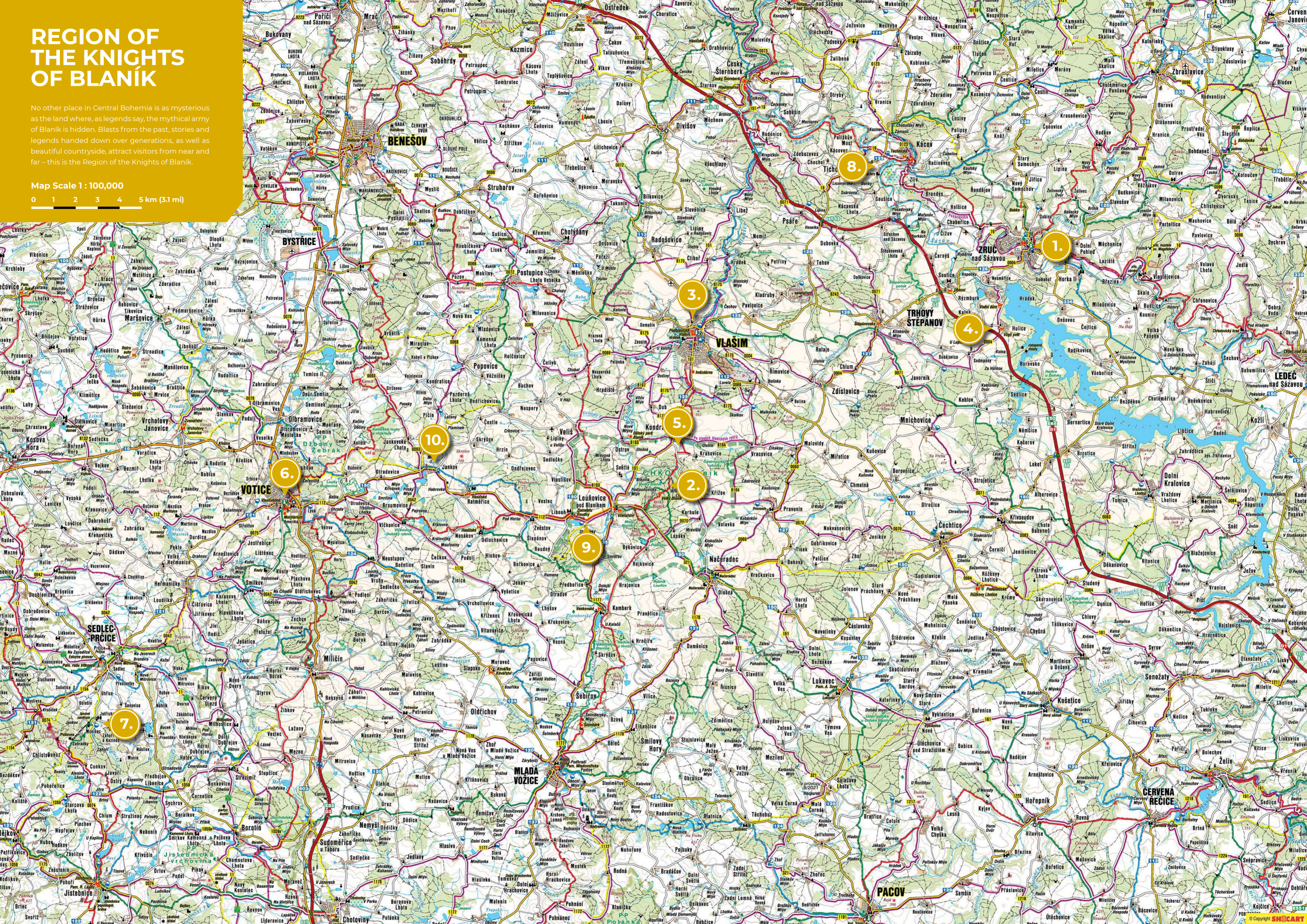


# REGION OF THE KNIGHTS OF BLANÍK

No other place in Central Bohemia is as mysterious as the land where, as legends say, the mythical army of Blaník is hidden. Blasts from the past, stories and legends handed down over generations, as well as beautiful countryside, attract visitors from near and far – this is the Region of the Knights of Blaník.

Map Scale 1 : 100,000

0 1 2 3 4 5 km (3.1 mi)





1. ZRUČ NAD SÁZAVOU

Zruč nad Sázavou is a paradise for families with children. Visit the chateau exposition on the **World of Blocks and Dolls**, and the interactive **Story of the Sázava River** exposition. Take a look at the chateau park with a fun educational trail from the top of the **Kolowrat Tower**. The chateau offers two guided tours, and a Baťa museum. Children can practice their knight skills along the entertaining **Trail of Knight Milota of Kolowrat** in the chateau moat. You can then continue to the **children's and traffic playground**, with a **marbles play area**. You can buy marbles at the chateau information centre. Enjoy a day full of games with a stroll along the Zruč trail to the **Babka lookout tower**.



3. VLAŠIM

Visit the exposition of the **Podblanicko Museum** at Vlašim Chateau, climb up the chateau tower, or explore the basement. Discover the romantic structures in the large chateau park: the **Chinese Pavilion**, the **Old Castle** and the **Neo-Gothic entrance gates**. Take a guided tour through the park, provided by the **Podblanicko Information Centre** found in the courtyard. Visit the **Kingdom of Dolls** in the Občanská záložna gallery opposite the chateau. Learn about handicapped animals at the **paraZOO**. **Rodinná cukrárna**, a confectionery at Žižkovo Square, will let you discover many sweet secrets. Continue to Bolinka with the **Loreto Chapel**. Watch the night sky from the **Vlašim observatory**.



5. BLANÍK PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AREA

The smallest Czech protected landscape area is popular for its rural charm with a dense network of field and forest roads winding past chapels, crosses and wayside shrines. Learn about the local nature at the **Blaník House of Nature**, where the **With a Knight to Blaník educational trail** departs on a journey to a **lookout tower**. Or take the **Blaník-Říp pilgrimage trail**, 190 kilometres long, starting in Louňovice pod Blaníkem. Learn about the legends of the Blaník Knights along in the **Footsteps of the Blaník Knights** cycling trail. It will take you to rotundas in Libouň and Pravonín, to Louňovice and Načeradec. Grab something to eat at the famous **U Matoušků Restaurant** in Kondrac.



7. ČESKÁ SIBIŘ ('CZECH SIBERIA') REGION

Czech Siberia, referring to the inhospitable Russian region, and the neighbouring area of **Čertovo břemeno** are a cross-country skiing and cycling paradise. Take the trails of Čertovo břemeno, go skiing at **Monínec** and **Kvasejovice Ski Resort**, or cycling along the **Votice Daisies** trails. One of the cycling trails will take you to Calvary hill and a rock formation called the **Lion of Miličín**. Legend says that the lion will wake up the Knights of Blaník with his roar when the Czech nation suffers the most. The Čeněk Kraupner educational trail will take you there. Discover the legends and mysterious stories along the **Mysterious Legends of the Votice Region educational trail**.



9. REGION OF THE KNIGHTS OF BLANÍK GEOPARK

The tourist destination of the Region of the Knights of Blaník is largely spread across a **national geopark** area of the same name. The Blaník Furrow runs through its centre, and you can see its 3D model in the **Blaník House of Nature**, which also has an interesting outdoor geological exposition of local rocks. Discover what is concealed inside Blaník at the nearby **Křížkovský quarry**. The **Roudný Gold Mine educational trail** will take you through the most profitable mine in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. The unique stone geological map in Louňovice pod Blaníkem introduces the geology of the Czech Republic. Each sample of almost a hundred rocks has a QR code to access more detailed information.



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2. VELKÝ A MALÝ BLANÍK

**Velký Blaník** is the highest place in the Region of the Knights of Blaník, with a **lookout tower** shaped as a Hussite castle keep. When hiking up, you will pass **Veřejová Rock**, with the mythical entry to its heart, and **Slepíčí Rock**, from where one of the foundation stones of the National Theatre was taken in 1868. Discover the mystical **ruin of the Chapel of St Mary Magdalene** on top of **Malý Blaník**, where a massive spruce has been growing at its centre for 200 years. Learn about the archaeological finds from both mountains in the **museum at the Louňovice pod Blaníkem Chateau**. From Blaník, head to the **Růžkovy Lhotice Chateau**, where composer Bedřich Smetana spent his youth.



4. HULICE

Take your children to the **Water House** by the Švihov water reservoir. The exposition will take you to the 'micro' water world, under the water surface, and to the riverbanks. You can try to control water in the lobby using gaming elements. A guided tour will take you to the **usually inaccessible Hitler's highway bridges**. Children will also enjoy the interactive **Bees' World** exhibition, where you can stroll through a beehive and listen to a swarm of bees. Reward yourself at the nearby **Švihov family brewery**, where they serve hop lemonade and Dutch-style beer. Photographers should stop at the **stone railway viaduct** near Némčice, or the **stone arch bridge** in Zahradčice.



6. VOTICE

The dominant former **Monastery of St Francis of Assisi** now hosts the Votice regional museum, an exposition on the collectivisation of agriculture, or a sacral art gallery. Children will enjoy the exhibition of strollers and art workshops. You can see a private Marian chapel, and an atrium with a sun dial. Continue to the 17th century replica of the **Holy Sepulchre**. View the town from the 22-metre-high **Václavka** tower of the Church of St Wenceslas. Explore the colourful world of the **Butterfly Garden**. Butterflies fly from the open garden to the nearby **Old Orchard**. A short interactive educational trail will guide you. Enjoy a refreshing summer dip at the new **Pilař natural swimming pool**.



8. SÁZAVA RIVER

**Sázava** is one of the most beautiful rivers in the country, also thanks to the **Stvořidla rapids**. Take a **one-day cruise from Horka to Kácov** and visit the **Water Sports Museum** in Zruč nad Sázavou to learn how people used to navigate rivers decades ago. View the **confluence of Želivka and Sázava rivers** from a rock. Taste the popular local beer in the **Hubertus Kácov brewery**. Learn about its brewing secret during a tour. In Kácov, you will find the **Small Museum of Technology**, with a display of Czech and Slovak motorcycles. Return to Horka by the **Posázaví Pacific train**. Or take a longer cruise and navigate the Sázava River all the way to its confluence with the Vltava River.



10. COUNTRYSIDE OF THE BATTLE OF JANKOV

The **Battle of Jankov Monument** commemorates the defeat of the imperial army by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War – it is one of the stops found on the **Along the Tracks of the Battle of Jankov** trail. Have a rest in the **Odlochovice Chateau park**. **Farmer Oneš' Educational Trail** introduces the story of the Ratměřice farmer and the difficult life during the war. The trail will take you to the **well of St Anne** with its curative mineral water. Finish your walk in the **Ratměřice Chateau** park with two giant sequoia trees, 5 metres wide and 45 metres high. Treat yourself at the stylish **Sequoia Restaurant** at the chateau, now a luxurious wellness hotel.

ADDRESS

Tourist Information Centre of the Central Bohemia Tourist Board  
Husova 156/21  
Prague 1 – Old Town

CONTACT

Tel.: +420 222 288 911 @VisitCentralBohemia  
E-mail: info@sccr.cz @VisitCentralBohemia

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@KrajBlanickýchRytíru www.blanik.net  
@KrajBlanickýchRytíru info@blanik.net



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