

THE CZECH REPUBLIC



evropský
sociální
fond v ČR



EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

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LOCATION, GENERAL INFORMATION

- The Czech Republic is a state in Central Europe. The country borders on Poland, Austria, Germany and Slovakia, with which it was united in the state of Czechoslovakia until 31 December 1992.
- The country consists of two main regions: Bohemia - the western half and Moravia - with part of Silesia in the east. Bohemia is more densely populated and industrialized than the eastern part.
- It occupies an area of 78 864 sq km (about same size as Ireland) and has about 10.33 million inhabitants.
- It has been a member of NATO since 1999 and EU since 2004.

GEOGRAPHY

- Our state has a varied landscape. Bohemia is surrounded by a ring of mountains - the Šumava range, the Krušné Mountains, the Jizerské Mountains, the Krkonoše and the Orlické Mountains. The Jeseníky and the Beskydy are situated in Moravia.
- There are also some hilly regions such as the Českomoravská vysočina, the Brdy and the Oderské vrchy. The highest Czech mountain is Sněžka (1603m).



- The Czech Republic also has a number of river systems. Bohemia has the Vltava and the Labe. In Moravia there is the Morava in the east and the charming Dyje in the south along the Austrian border. Northern Moravia also has two small rivers, the Odra and the Opava.
- There aren't many lakes in our republic (e.g. *the Black Lake* or *the Devil Lake* in the Šumava) but there are plenty of ponds, especially in the southern Bohemia near Třeboň. On the big rivers (e.g. the Vltava River or the Dyje River) there are cascade system of dams e.g. Lipno, Orlický, Slapy etc.



Confluence of the Elbe and Vltava as seen from Mělník

PLACES OF INTEREST

- In the Czech Republic there are many famous and world-known *spas* too – e.g. Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně in Western Bohemia or Luhačovice in Moravia. Among the most beautiful natural places belong the Czech Paradise, Czech Switzerland, the Boubín virgin forests and Macocha abyss.
- There are really plenty of interesting places in our republic some of them have been listed as UNESCO sights such as the historical centre of Prague, Český Krumlov and Telč, Kutná Hora, Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape, Litomyšl Castle, Třebíč etc.





Český Krumlov



Kutná Hora

CLIMATE

- Czech weather is moderate but unpredictable. It is a fairly wet country. We have a continental climate. It means quite warm, sometimes dry and hot summers and mild, sometimes rainy - winters.
- Big parts of the CR, mainly big cities are devastated by an air pollution and the acid rains from the chemical factories and spoiled by industry and heavy traffic. The worst air pollution is in the Ostrava area.

ECONOMY, INDUSTRY, RAW MATERIALS

- The most important part of our economy is engineering, other important branches are metallurgical and chemical industries and tourism, textile and glass industries have a long tradition.
- One of our most significant raw materials is coal. There are also minor deposits of iron ore, uranium and oil. The rich deposits of kaolin and clay are important for the ceramics and glass industries as well as stone and limestone for the building industry. Besides this there are the chemical industry, food industry, textile industry and metallurgical industry.
- The main items of agriculture are wheat, maize, sugar beet, grapes, hops and fruit. In animal production, cattle breeding and pig breeding are the most important. Fish breeding has a long tradition in South Bohemia ponds.

SPORT

- The two leading sports in the Czech Republic are football and ice hockey, they both draw the largest attention of their supporters. Other sports include basketball, volleyball, handball, athletics, floorball and others.
- The sport events which are the most important for Czech fans are: the Ice Hockey World Championship, the Olympic ice hockey tournament, the European football championship, the football World Cup and qualification matches for such events.

SYMBOLS

- The state anthem is the first verse of the song "**Where is my home**" composed by František Škroup to the lyrics by Josef Kajetán Tyl.
- The symbol of the Czech state, a white-red-and-blue flag was created in 1920, shortly after the founding of the first independent Czechoslovak state.



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