

The Kašperské Hory cabinet nativity scene ranks among the largest of its kind in the Czech Republic (3 m long, 1.2 m deep and 2.5 m tall). Building on the old local nativity scene tradition, Vladivoj Hrach (wood carver and painter) and Jiří Brož (cabinetmaker) unveiled their remarkable work to the public in 2012 after six years of their labour. Each year they added new figures and scenery, and over 200 are on display today. Two scenes are in fact mechanical, and some buildings have their own lighting. The nativity scene is impressive for its precision, faithful depictions and great sense for detail.

Do you know on which roof an orange cat is sunning itself or what a dog is chasing in the glassworks? Come visit us and discover the answers to these and many other questions. We look forward to seeing you at any time of the year during the opening hours of the information centre in the town hall.

Vladivoj Hrach

Vladivoj Hrach moved to Kašperské Hory from Kralupy nad Vltavou at the end of the 1990s. His woodcarving studio and stylish shop are located in the historical U Madonky building on the town square. Hrach's work is a continuation of the nativity scene tradition in Kašperské Hory. His creations bring joy not only to many families in Bohemia and abroad, but also to visitors to sacred buildings in the broad surrounding area.

Jiří Brož

Jiří Brož was born in Sušice, grew up in Lhota pod Kůstrým, attended school in Čestice and has lived in Kašperské Hory since 1977; he works as a cabinetmaker for the Šumava National Park. He also carved some of the figures.



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KAŠPERSKÉ
HORY



Kašperské Hory Cabinet Nativity Scene





Two patrons watch over the entire town

King John of Bohemia, who elevated Kašperské Hory to town status, and his son Charles IV, the founder of Kašperk Castle rising on the horizon.

Historical buildings (from left, upper level):

- 1 Former salt-house – the oldest building in the town
- 2 Church of St. Margaret
- 3 Baroque granary known as Baywa – in front is a pilgrimage procession led by Cardinal Dominik Duka
- 4 Bílá Růže Hotel
- 5 town hall – in front are post-revolution mayors (in coach)
- 6 town brewery – today Parkhotel Šumavské Herbal Spa
- 7 Gasthaus – former inn
- 8 U Čerta Pension – today the U Kašny Pension, in front is a statue of St. Adalbert, which was destroyed in 1958
- 9 house no. 11, known as U Madonky – the facade is adorned with a mural of the Virgin Mary with Baby Jesus
- 10 Kašperk Castle, founded by king Charles IV in 1356–1361

Local tradesmen (from the left, middle level):

- 11 Baker Netáhlo
- 12 Volunteer Fire Brigade with historic fire engine
- 13 L. Hadrava – blacksmith
- 14 Nebespán – originally the convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame
- 15 musicians from Nezdice, who travelled with various circuses around the world
- 16 Wagon repairs Oudes
- 17 Kůs Cabinetmakers
- 18 Voldřich Stoves
- 19 Vrhel butcher's shop
- 20 skiers



Lower level:

- 21 central scene – new-born Baby Jesus in a shed surrounded by his parents, shepherds, the Three Kings and animals
- 22 left – gold extraction in mine – mechanical scene
- 23 right – Lötz glassworks in Rejštejn – mechanical scene
- 24 far right – Virgin Mary Chapel



Important personalities:

Upper level:

Kůrovci – popular local band

prostřední patro:

Karel Větrovec – teacher and chronicler

Jiří Valášek – as the commander of the military troops in Kašperské Hory, he did not permit the Russians to enter the town in 1968

Václav Hrabánek – famed for painting on glass, originally a lawyer, lived in Žezulka Mill near Hartmanice (Sterzmühle)

Jaroslava Korandová – Hrabánek's follower in glass painting

Vladimír Horpeniak – Šumava Museum historian, author of many books and articles on Šumava

Ivan Lukeš – Šumava Museum zoologist, photographer, operator of animal rescue station

Emil Kintzl – Šumava legend, teacher, passionate skier, hiker, cyclist and creator of the series Zmizelá Šumava (Forgotten Šumava)