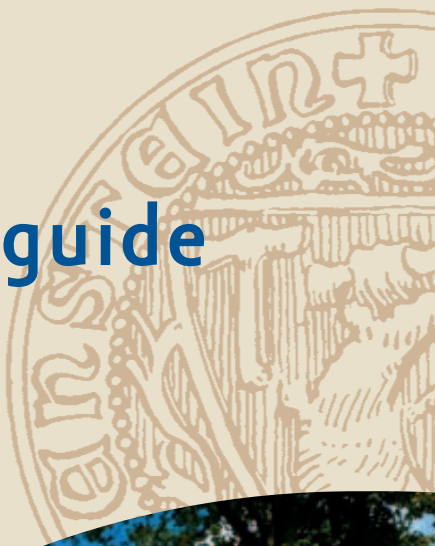
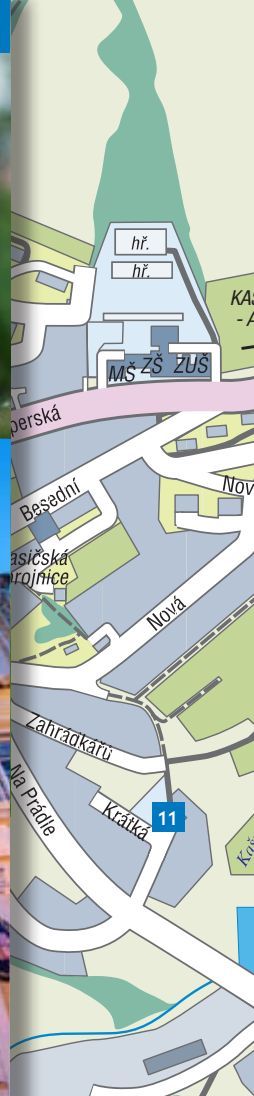




KAŠPERSKÉ
HORY

town guide





KAŠPERSKÉ
HORY

Welcome to Kašperské Hory!

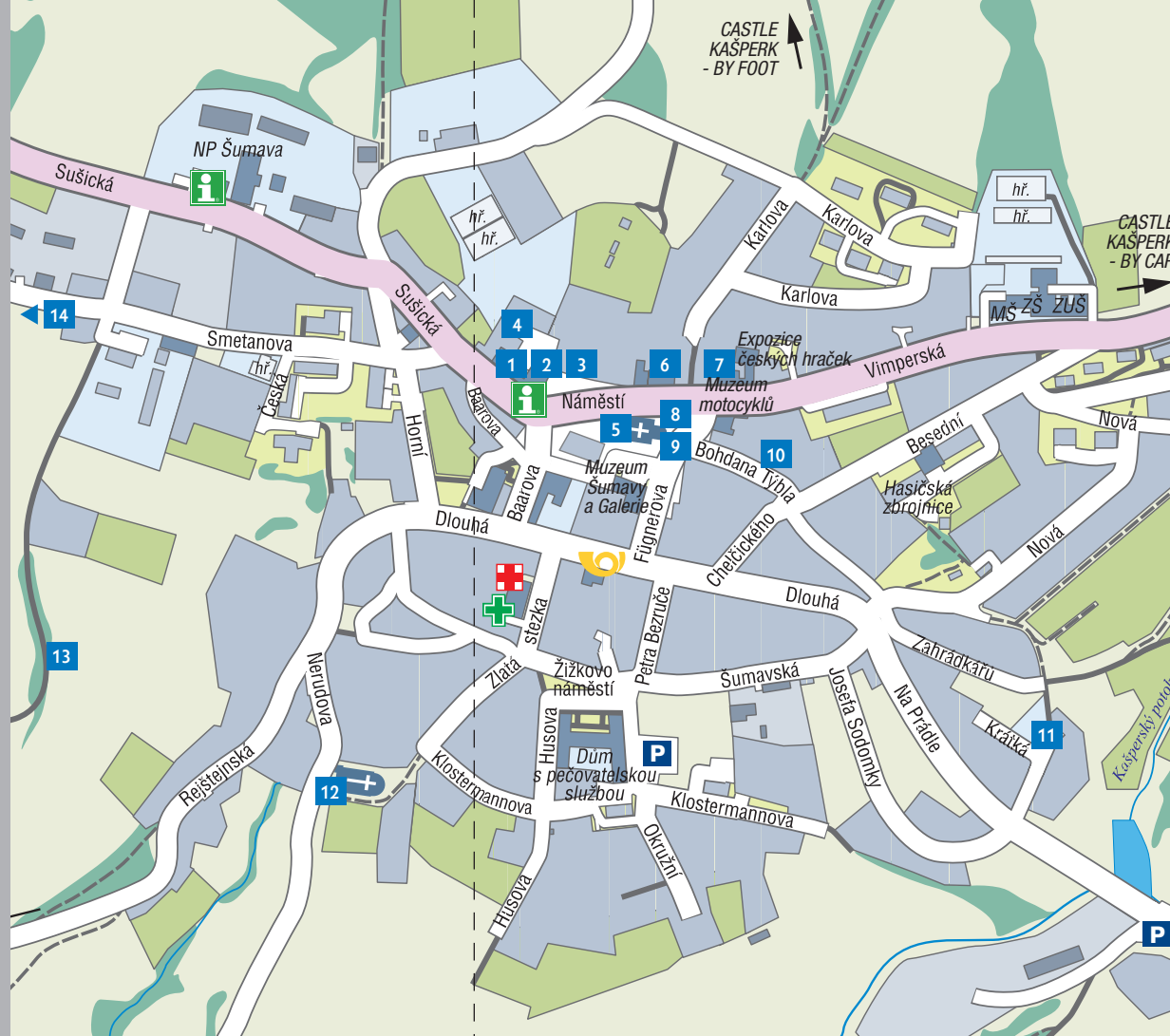
This small historical town dating from the early 14th century is becoming a popular tourist destination offering visitors a range of services all year round.

Here you will find the perfect place to relax. You can enjoy fresh air, quiet walks and the mysteries inside magical places of worship that have stood here for centuries.

Absorb nature's energy at the Šumavské Lázně spa, try some excellent coffee at the local roasting company, or give your muscles a great workout on hiking trips in the surrounding hills. You will fall in love with the panoramic views, whether you see them at dawn or dusk.

And don't forget to take home a local souvenir – there are a great many Šumava craftspeople here!





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history

tour of the town

museums and galleries

Kašperk Castle

other offers

contacts





A little history

The earliest settlement of these regions dates to around 400 BC, when the Šumava area was settled by the Celts. The gold-bearing area around Kašperské Hory was already widely used at that time. Gold panning in the nearby creeks and streams was replaced at the turn of the 14th century with underground mining. The written history of this town dates from around that time...

The earliest written mention of the settlement is contained in a mortgage deed of King John of Luxembourg dating from 10 July 1338. This document describes Kašperské Hory as one of the most important gold mining sites in Bohemia.



The municipality witnessed its peak of importance in the 14th century when, under the reign of John of Luxembourg, it gradually took on the attributes of an urban settlement and began using a town seal (the second-oldest in the country after Brno). Czech King Charles IV also paid special attention to the town, and had Kašperk Castle constructed between 1356 and 1361. In the same

year he began to establish a new trading route, the Kašperské Hory branch of the Golden Path leading to Passau in Bavaria.

In the 15th century there were almost 40 large gold mines and a significant number of galleries in operation here.

The town's prosperity lasted until the Thirty Years' War (1618 – 1648), after which there was a decline in gold mining. In

the 2nd half of the 18th century mining activity was only continued in several galleries. The declining gold mining was replaced by trade, glassmaking, logging, papermaking and livestock rearing.

The social life of the town developed rapidly in the middle of the 19th century. The town became host to local authorities and schools. The first large companies were established – mainly in wood processing. The locality became the seat of the district court. In 1930 there were 2,289 people living in the town, 186 of whom were Czechs. In October 1938 Kašperské Hory was annexed to the Third Reich under the terms of the Munich Agreement. It became part of Czechoslovakia after liberation by the American army in early May 1945.





1 The town hall building

was founded on today's site sometime in the second half of the 16th century. The original building was purchased in 1539 by the then lienholder of Kašperk Castle Jiří (George) of Lokšany. He generously improved the building and connected the first water supply to it. Part of the house as well as the later town hall used to be a pub, a courtyard with a brewery, and a garden. In the 17th and 18th centuries the town hall building was rebuilt into its present Renaissance-Baroque form.

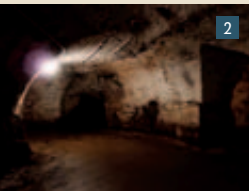


Did you now that ...

... the town hall building is made up of two stone two-story houses from the 15th century? You can still try to find where they were connected today.

2 Town hall cellars

The cellars were originally used for storage and as a cool room for the needs of the house. A legend tells of a labyrinth of dark corridors that allegedly lead to Kašperk Castle itself. Today these spaces serve as wintering for bats, and for this reason they are open to the public from June to September.



Did you now that ...

... a bat trail has been created leading from the town hall building to the Church of St Nicholas, and can provide you with a great deal of information not only about the nocturnal creatures, but also about other fauna living in our neighbourhood.



3 Kašperské Hory nativity scenes

Another unique aspect of the town hall is the largest encased nativity scene in Bohemia. This hand carved and painted gem is the work of local carvers. You can see it year round in the exhibition hall at the town hall.



Did you now that ...

... some characters in the nativity scene are actually models of interesting personalities from Kašperské Hory life; have you heard of any?

4 Town brewery

founded in the 16th century at the location of today's Parkhotel Kašperské Hory, it is one of the oldest breweries in the western Bohemia region. In around 1654 there were 116 townspeople with brewing licences in Kašperské Hory. In the 18th century a spacious cellar was carved by hand into the stone foundations of the brewery, shaped like a huge cave with a storage area of 140 m². The brewery ceased working in 1947.

Did you now that ...

... around 40 batches of beer were brewed at the brewery in one year. Can you calculate how often each of the brewing-licence-holding townspeople came to brew their batch?

5 Church of St Margaret

originally dedicated to St Linhart, it was built in the middle of the 14th century. The triple-naved Gothic basilica houses a mainly Baroque interior dating from the 18th century. The beautiful carved pews and altar are the work of local carvers. The painting work throughout the church is of interest.



Did you now that ...

... during the last reconstruction in the 19th century a 50-metre high tower was added to the church? Can you find here the exact year in which it was built?

6 Home of the Sisters of Notre Dame

In 1907 the congregation purchased the old house at number 7 on the square, had it demolished and a new one constructed. This new Art Nouveau building from 1925 served as a school for handicrafts and oration. A nursery school was also established in it. Music and language teaching was commenced there after 1946.

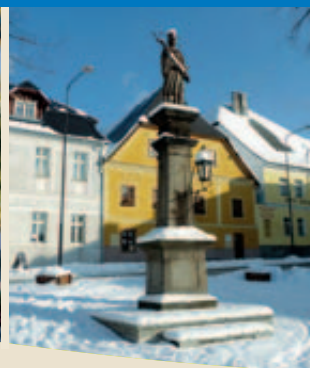
Did you now that ...

The school was constructed in an Art Nouveau style to blend in with the contemporary rebuilding of another local building. Can you find that building on the square in Kašperské Hory?

7 Madonna

House number 11 is one of the most important monuments in Kašperské Hory. The building is of Gothic origin. The façade has in its centre a framed wall relief painting of the Virgin Mary with Baby Jesus. The building is now privately owned.





8 Fountain and statue of St John of Nepomuk

The circular fountain with its stone frame is labelled 1899. Nearby there is a plinth dated to 1861 bearing a moulded pillar with a cast iron statue of St John of Nepomuk.

9 Kohoutí kříž (Cock cross)

also called Arma Christi Cross, with a representation of the Instruments of the Passion. The popularity of this religious folk art theme prevailed in our region especially in the 19th century under the influence of neighbouring Bavaria.



Did you now that ...

... the cross placed on the wall of the Church of St Margaret was originally from Nicov, where a copy of it is to be found today.



11 Gold ore treatment plant

In 1988 part of the old miners' production facilities was uncovered. These are the stone foundations of a wooden building. According to the findings it was established at the turn of the 13th and 14th

centuries. The plant was used for roasting gold ore, which could then be transported for crushing and process.

Did you now that ...

...the off-white silica containing gold was heat-treated in the furnace. To ensure that the gold-bearing ore was easily cracked into smaller pieces, it was first heated for several hours and then water from a tank was poured onto it on stone plates.



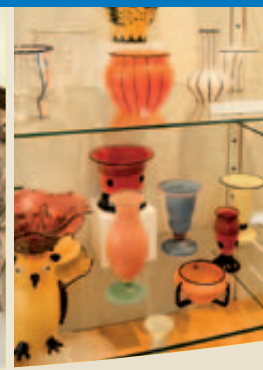
12 Church of Our Lady of the Snows and the Chapel of the Virgin Mary of Klatovy

This pilgrimage church is the youngest of the three Kašperské Hory churches. It was built in the Neo-Romanesque style between 1850 and 1867. The adjacent Chapel of the Virgin Mary of Klatovy (Grantl chapel) was constructed because of the tradition of Marian pilgrimages. However over time its capacity began to be insufficient for the large influx of pilgrims, and so it was decided to construct a new church nearby.

Did you now that ...

... the pilgrimage of Our Lady of the Snows is held annually on the first weekend of August and is one of the most important religious and also secular celebrations in the town.





13 Pillory

dating from 1630 it originally stood on the square in Kašperské Hory and was a place of public punishment and disgrace. It was not until the 19th century that the stone pillory was taken behind the town under Gallows Hill and converted into a Calvary.

Did you now that ...

... justice was carried out in several places in the town, not only at the pillory - Kašperské Hory also had its gallows and a scaffold in the Cikánka district.



14 Church of St Nicholas and the Chapel of St Anna

Two structures found 1.5 km from the centre of the town. In the early Gothic Church of St Nicholas you will find frescoes dating from the beginning of its construction, as well as a beautiful painted joist ceiling featuring planks dating from 1700. A massive triple-naved basilica will enchant you with its antiquity, austerity and unique acoustics.

Did you now that ...

the Church of St Nicholas is open to the public during religious services, concerts and through guided tours?



Museum of Šumava and Gallery

The most valuable exhibits at the Museum of Šumava include a set of **late Gothic sculptures** from the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries, in particular woodcuts by the anonymous creator **Master of the Lamentation of Christ from Zvíkov**, which are among the best examples of late Czech Gothic, and also the **collection of Šumava glass** with Art Nouveau vases from the glassworks in **Klásterský mlýn u Rejštejna**. The folk paintings on glass from Kvilda, original folk wood carvings and the unique Šumava „umrlčí prkna“ („death boards“) are the subject of permanent admiration.

A **permanent natural history exhibition** presents, in addition to exhibits in the fields of zoology, botany, geology and nature conservation, individual natural environments (biotopes) of the Šumava landscape. Through the historical exhibits special attention is paid to relics from agriculture, logging, glassmaking, gold mining, folk products, culture and art.

Relics from the extraction and processing of gold, the manufacture of „dřevěný drát“ („wooden wire“ for matches) or folk nativity scenes are of special importance.

The museum holds regular thematic seasonal exhibitions.



Muzeum Šumavy Kašperské Hory
Náměstí 140, Kašperské Hory
phone: +420 376 582 226, 376 528 850
e-mail: horpeniak@sumavanet.cz
www.muzeum.sumava.net
GPS: 49°8'36.041"N, 13°33'21.022"E



Museum of Historical Motorcycles

This private collection of motorcycles and bicycles ranks among the largest exhibitions of historical motorcycles in the Czech Republic. Here you will find many completely unique examples, often the only one still existing, such as the JAC 500, Wagner and others. Even the complete layman will be fascinated, with surprises such as the longest motorcycle ever produced in the world – the Čechie – for 3 people. The collection is supplemented with a collection of historic bicycles, including

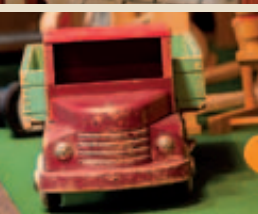
a penny-farthing made by Kohout in 1870. The museum is located in the unusual space of an old attic featuring rafters up to 14.5 m high, itself a demonstration of the wonderful work done by the old Šumava carpenters.

Museum of Historical Motorcycles, Vimperská 12, Kašperské Hory • phone: +420 606 737 041

e-mail: moto-muzeum.zdenek.balek@seznam.cz,

www.historicke-moto.cz

GPS: 49°8'39.740"N, 13°33'24.172"E



Czech Toy Exhibition

You will feel like you are rediscovering a magical world hidden in an old attic when you visit this private toy exhibition. The combination of untraditional exhibition spaces and toys will remind you of your youth and children's games.

This collection contains around one thousand exhibits, including dolls' houses, cars, trains and more. The exhibition also includes an extensive collection of tin and plastic models of Zetor tractors and a whole series of puppet theatres and puppets. Another part of the exhibition is devoted to examples of traditional toy manufacture in the municipality of Skašov. According to some sources, this tradition is over 200 years old.

Czech Toy Exhibition • Vimperská 12, Kašperské Hory • phone: +420 731 510 734

e-mail: RBrand@seznam.cz, www.expozicehracek.sweb.cz

GPS: 49°8'39.740"N, 13°33'24.172"E



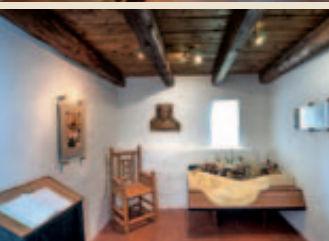
Kašperk Castle

You must be sure not to miss the highest royal castle in Bohemia with the most beautiful views of Šumava when you visit Kašperské Hory.

Kašperk Castle is without doubt the dominant feature of the surrounding Šumava hills. At 886 m above sea level this Gothic castle majestically reigns over the surrounding countryside.



Tours



- **Construction of the castle** – a visit to the Gothic building site at the end of the 15th century through a unique audio-visual projection
- **Life at the castle** – find out about life in a medieval castle through a reconstruction of a single specific day
- **Interactive tours for children aged 6 to 11** (*reservation required in advance*)

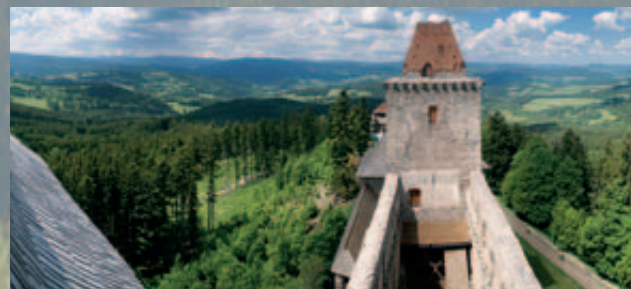
How to get to the castle

- On foot:**
- along the footpath following the green tourist markers directly from the town square (3 km) 🚶
 - a walk following the blue „Na Kašperk jinak” circuit, via the ruins of the Pustý hrádek fortifications with their wonderful view of the surroundings and of Kašperk Castle itself (4 km)
- By car:**
- by car to the castle car park along road No. 1458 in the direction of Nezdice na Šumavě, then just under 1.5 km on foot without significant climbing to Kašperk 🚗
- By bike:**
- from the town square via the Kavlík settlement and then along the unmarked forest path to the castle (4 km) 🚲
 - climb along road No. 1458 to the „u Žlíbku” junction, where you transfer to cycle path No. 1140 (5,5 km)

Opening hours

April	weekends	10.00 a.m. – 17.00 p.m.
May – June	daily except Mondays	10.00 a.m. – 17.00 p.m.
July – August	Monday	10.00 a.m. – 18.00 p.m.
	Tuesday – Sunday	9.30 a.m. – 18.00 p.m.
September	daily except Mondays	10.00 a.m. – 17.00 p.m.
October	daily except Mondays	10.00 a.m. – 16.30 p.m.
		Tuesday – Friday tours at these times: 10.30 a.m., 12.00 p.m., 1.30 p.m., 3:00 p.m.
28 Dec – 1 Jan	daily	10.00 a.m. – 16.30 p.m.

The last tour starts 1 hour before closing time (except in October)!



Kašperk Castle • Žlíbek 55, Kašperské Hory
 phone: +420 376 582 324, e-mail: info@kasperk.cz • www.kasperk.cz
 GPS: 49°09'57.837"N, 13°33'49.154"E (Kašperk Castle),
 49°09'53.7"N, 13°34'51.2"E (castle car park, around 1.5 km from the castle)



Other offers

walking trails and nature trails around the area: marked trails start from the tourist signpost located on the square in Kašperské Hory

bicycle trips: several numbered bicycle routes lead around the town, while you can also plan beautiful trips away from the marked routes



programmes and trips with a guide from Šumava National Park: Šumava National Park Information Centre arranges interesting events

www.npsumava.cz

paintball: the paintball area offers an adrenaline rush

www.paintballsumava.cz

children's playground: for families with children in Smetanova Street

children's play area with garden: an indoors and outdoors play area for children is part of the Nebespán café • www.nebespan.cz

programmes for children: a rich offer of programmes for children year round offered by Sporthotel Rilancio • www.hotelrilancio.cz

Šumava herbal spa: Parkhotel Kašperské Hory includes a modern balneo operation offering herbal procedures, baths, wraps and massages • www.sumavskelazne.cz

restaurants, cafés, confectioner's shop, coffee roasting company: a wide selection of catering establishments with children's play areas, gardens and quality ingredients

ski area and winter cross-country skiing routes: www.bilestopy.cz



Town Culture and Information Centre

You will find maps of walking circuits, tips for bicycle trips, other advice and recommendations directly at the Town Culture and Information Centre located in the

town hall building on the square in Kašperské Hory. You can also find information on our website at www.sumava.net/ickhory.



Tourist information centre services:

- basic information materials about the town
- tourist information about attractions in and around the town
- information about cultural, sports and social events in the town
- information about accommodation and catering options
- guides
- sale of souvenirs
- internet services for the public





KAŠPERSKÉ
HORY

Kašperské Hory
Town Culture and Information Centre
Tourist information centre

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