

5<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Speleologists in the Moravian Karst  
2<sup>nd</sup> year of the scientific conference


# Karst, Caves and People

On the occasion of the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first historical descent of man  
into the Macocha Abyss in the Moravian Karst  
and  
on the occasion of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the  
Czech Speleological Society

**September 20–24, 2023**  
**Sloup in the Moravian Karst**

2<sup>nd</sup> Circular





Dear friends of caves and karst,

we hereby present the Second Circular for the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> International Meeting of Speleologists in the Moravian Karst and, simultaneously, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the scientific conference Karst, Caves and People.

We resolved to organize these events because we enjoy spending pleasant time with people brought together by their common interest. The last time a similar international meeting was hosted by the Czech Republic was in 2013, when the 16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology was held in Brno. Now, after so many years, the team of its organizers was brought together again. And we hope that the present meeting will be no less successful.

The year 2023 was chosen quite deliberately for this Meeting: it is to commemorate an exceptional event which occurred 300 years ago. The first human, a provincial of the minorite monastery in Brno Lazarus Schopper, let his fellows to rope him down to the Macocha Abyss (-138 m), then the deepest known chasm in the world. This day can be considered the onset of the interest in exploration of Moravian Karst caves.

During the Meeting, a part of Saturday will be devoted to a historical reconstruction of this descent: a monk in a wicker basket will be lowered to the bottom of the Macocha Abyss.

As a part of the Meeting, you can visit the most interesting caves of the Moravian Karst and observe other peculiarities not only in the nature, but also in the city of Brno. The second largest city of the Czech Republic lies only 40 km from the venue of the Meeting. For details see: [www.gotobrna.cz](http://www.gotobrna.cz)

The Meeting also includes the scientific conference Karst, Caves and People, which will be held in the cine-hall of the Culture Centre at Sloup on Friday, 22 September, and on Saturday, 23 September between 9 AM and 5 PM.

All details to this Conference are given in the Circular below and on the website.

These two simultaneous events are convened by the Czech Speleological Society in collaboration with the following organizations:

- Cave Administration of the Czech Republic: [www.caves.cz](http://www.caves.cz)
- Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic: [www.nature.cz](http://www.nature.cz)
- Czech Geological Survey: [www.geology.cz/extranet](http://www.geology.cz/extranet)

and under the auspices of the International Union of Speleology UIS:  
[www.uis-speleo.org/index.php/what-is-the-uis](http://www.uis-speleo.org/index.php/what-is-the-uis)

For all relevant information on the Meeting and the Conference see: [www.speleo.cz/karst2023](http://www.speleo.cz/karst2023)

E-mail: [karst2023@speleo.cz](mailto:karst2023@speleo.cz)

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# Daily programme of the event, 20 to 24 September

Wed, 20 Sept	Thu, 21 Sept	Fri, 22 Sept	Sat, 23 Sept	Sun, 24 Sept
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival</li> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Accommodation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Field trips</li> <li>• Evening show</li> <li>• Official opening of the event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Field trips</li> <li>• <b>Karst, Caves and People Conference</b></li> <li>• Evening show</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Field trips</li> <li>• <b>Karst, Caves and People Conference</b></li> <li>• Re-enactment of the descent to the Macocha Abbys from 1723</li> <li>• Traverse across the Macocha Abyss</li> <li>• Farewell party</li> <li>• Closing word</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual excursion to Moravian Karst caves open to the public</li> <li>• Departure of participants</li> </ul>

## Registration

Registration will be available through: [www.speleo.cz/karst2023](http://www.speleo.cz/karst2023)

We will inform you as soon as the registration is launched. Please, consider an early registration: the number of participants is limited! Registration for the Meeting and the Conference will be possible using a single Registration form. Besides entering usual personal data, you will be asked to make a choice among three different types of registration:

### Forms of participation & fees:

Type of Registration	before 31 June, 2023	after 1 July, 2023
<b>A / MEETING only</b>	CZK 990	+ 10 %
<b>B / CONFERENCE only</b>	CZK 2,560	+ 10 %
<b>C / Combined registration for MEETING and CONFERENCE</b>	CZK 2,950	+ 10 %

### What do the different types of registration include?

	<b>A</b> MEETING only	<b>B</b> CONFERENCE only	<b>C</b> MEETING and CONFERENCE
Participation in field trips of choice	–	●	●
Participation in conference sessions	●	–	●
Conference proceedings (electronic form)	●	–	●
Traverse across the Macocha Abyss possible	–	●	●
Free entry to all Moravian Karst caves open to the public and to the Museum of Blansko Region – on individual basis	●	●	●
Access to the accompanying exhibition	●	●	●
Participation in social evening (farewell party)	●	●	●
Participation in other social events	●	●	●

The Registration form will allow you to make your choice for the accommodation and also to make a reservation for a particular field trip if this is included in your chosen type of registration. Details are given below in the respective sections of this Circular.



# Venue

Culture Centre of the town of Sloup, Moravian Karst

Sloup is the northern gateway to the Moravian Karst and a significant pilgrimage site. The foundation of Sloup dates to mid-11<sup>th</sup> century.

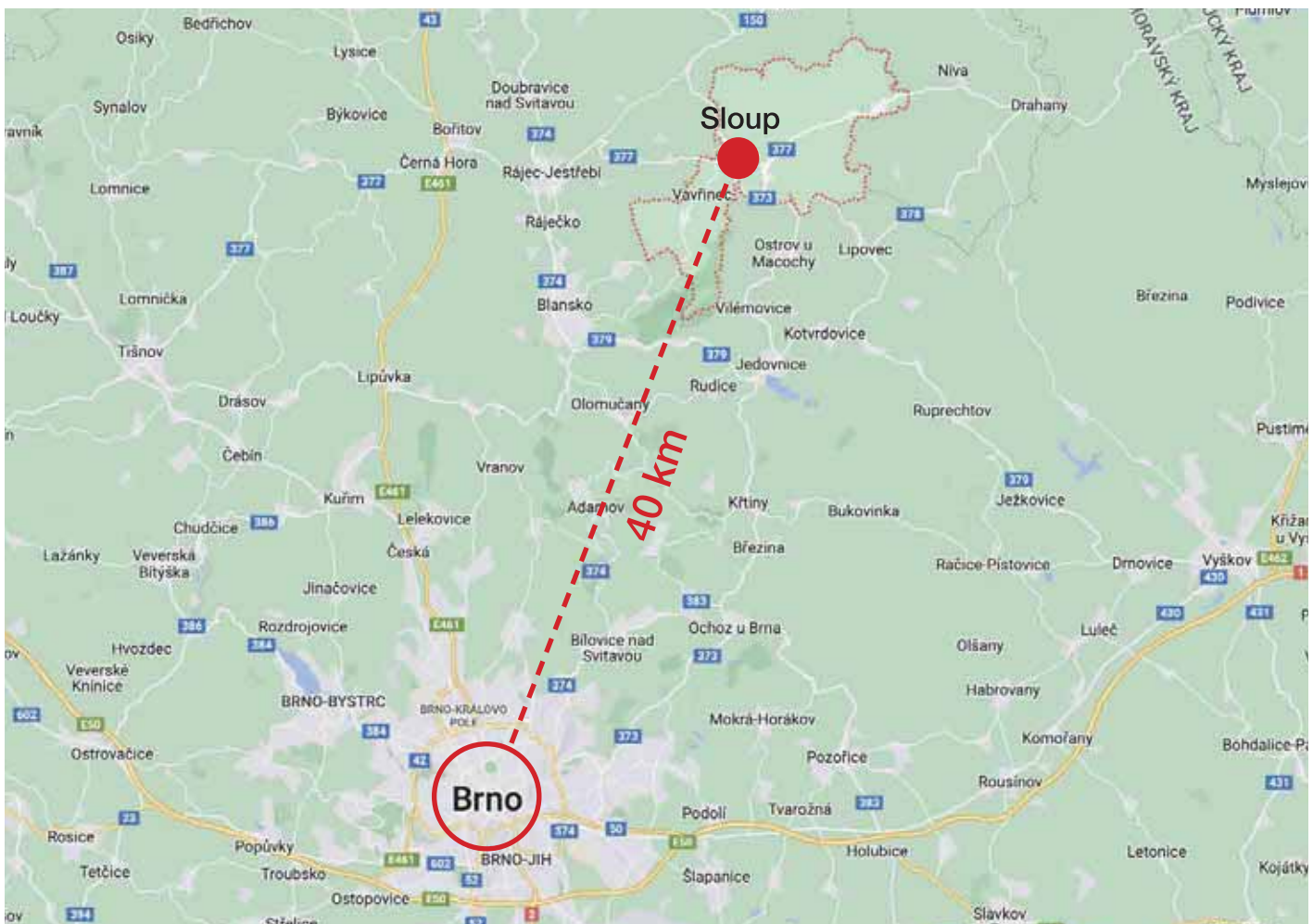
A natural landmark and a major tourist attraction in the area are the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves, which host the world-famous Eliška Cave, the stalagmite called Svícen (Candlestick) and the Kůlna Cave. The entrance area to the Caves is dominated by the free-standing rock pillar of “Hřebenáč”.

All other Moravian Karst caves open to the public are easily accessible from Sloup, following tourist trails (for their descriptions, see below). This also applies to the Macocha Abyss.

Among cultural monuments of the town, the most significant is the Baroque church of Our Lady of Sorrows, built in years 1751–1754. Registered monuments also include the Kůlna Cave with finds of skeletal remains of Neanderthal Man – a unique object in the European archaeological context.

The oldest historical monuments in the Sloup vicinity include the castle ruins of Blansek, Holštejn and Boskovice. Other pilgrimage sites within the reach are the towns of Křtiny (18 km) and Vranov (25 km). The city of Brno lies 40 km from Sloup.

The Culture Centre at Sloup, opened in 1975, provides a big ballroom with a lobby and a gallery, and a multi-purpose room with a graded auditorium. This building has witnessed dozens of caving events already, traditionally hosting the annual meeting of Czech cavers “Speleofórum”.



# Transportation

The town of Sloup in the Moravian Karst lies some 40 km from the city of Brno (second largest city in the Czech Republic), ca. 220 km from the capital of Prague.



## By air

The nearest airport is located in Brno but operates a limited number of flights. Besides, you can comfortably reach the venue from the airports in Prague (200 km) and Vienna (120 km).

## By car

Brno can be accessed via motorways D1 (Prague–Brno, continuing to Poland) and D2 from Slovakia, Austria or Hungary (Bratislava–Brno). The coordinates for the venue at Sloup are: 49.4158019°N, 16.7373561°E.

## By train

Trains provide a very good access to Brno, which is operated by international trains from Austria, Hungary or Germany. From Brno, you can take a train as far as the Blansko station and continue your trip by bus.

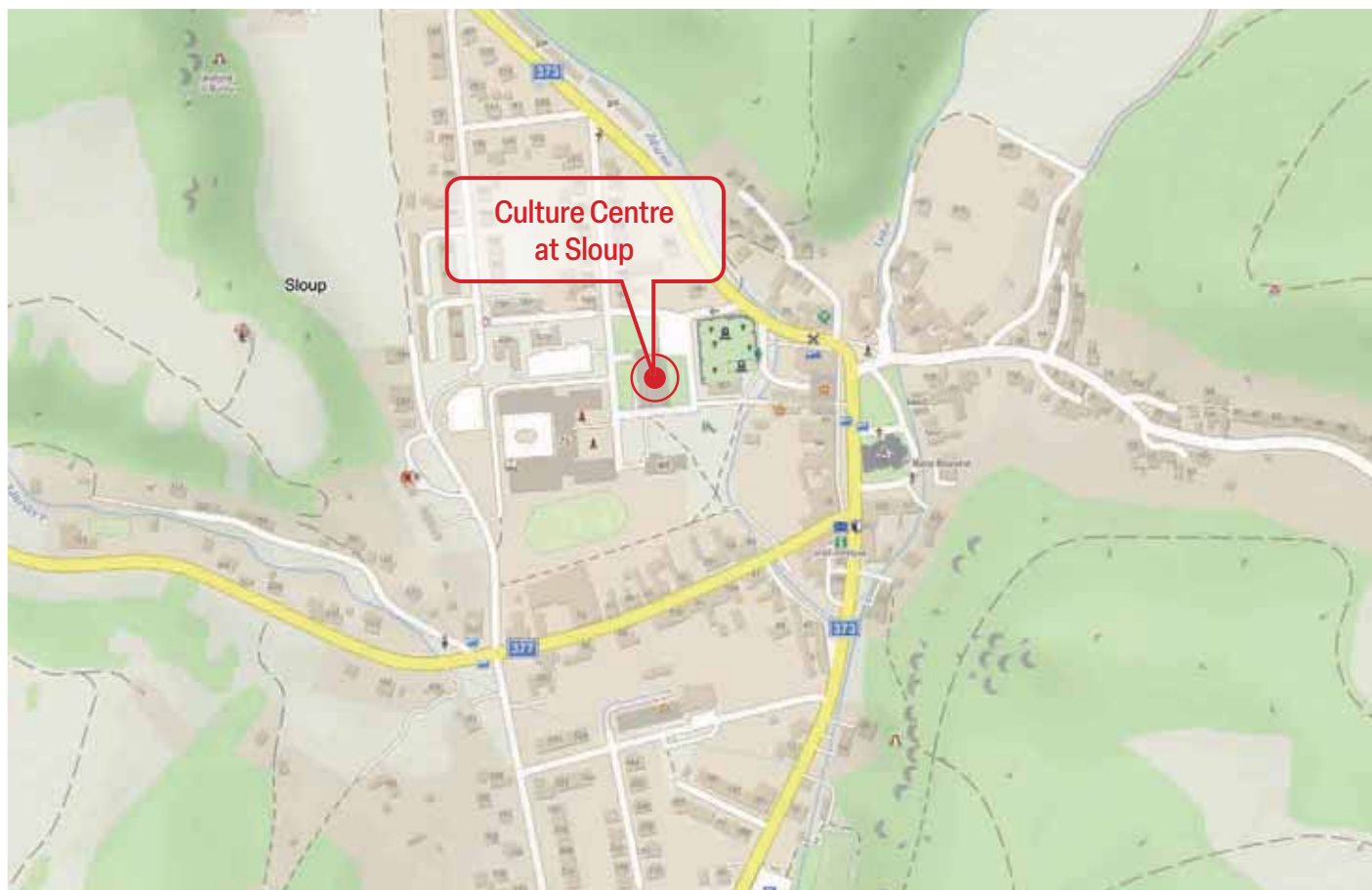
## By bus

The venue is directly operated by public buslines. The best option from Brno is to take a train to Blansko. The bus terminal at Blansko lies next to the railway station, and that is where the buses No. 233 for Sloup depart from. For additional information on bus connection, see [www.idsjmk.cz/connection-finder/search](http://www.idsjmk.cz/connection-finder/search).

Should you need a visa or additional travel information for your trip to the Czech Republic, click on [www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/information\\_for\\_alien](http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/information_for_alien)

# Check-in

Culture Centre at Sloup in the Moravian Karst 49.4158019°N, 16.7373561°E



## Official languages

Czech, English

## Currency in CZK

The exchange rate for 1 EUR is approx. 24 CZK. The stated exchange rate is indicative only.

Please note: it is, unfortunately, not always possible to pay with a credit card or with EUR in small towns. Having this on mind, always carry sufficient amounts in Czech crowns with you.

CZK can be exchanged in bigger towns or in exchange offices.

There is no ATM at Sloup. The closest ATM is in Blansko or Jedovnice towns (ca 15 minutes driving).



# Accommodation

Accommodation in the town of Sloup will be possible only through the organizer of the event. It is therefore recommended to book your accommodation directly within the registration process. Accommodation will be settled on a “first come, first dwell” basis.

We offer various types of accommodation, ranging from camps to hotels:







### 1. RELAXA Camp

Camping in your own tents or caravans, RVs.  
[www.camp-sloup.cz](http://www.camp-sloup.cz)



### 2. Seasonal cabins

Due to limited capacity, beds will be allocated to make full use of the cabins' capacity, i.e., 4 beds per cabin. Upon registration, you will be asked to give the name of your preferred roommate in the respective section of the form. If you make no suggestion, you will be assigned a roommate/-s by the organizers. There are no electric plugs in the cabins. Recharging of your cell-phones will be made possible at the Registration and other places.  
[www.rs-sloup.cz/cz/ubytovani/chatky](http://www.rs-sloup.cz/cz/ubytovani/chatky)



### 3. Dormitory

Rooms with 2, 3 or 4 beds; please, give the name of your preferred roommate in the respective section of the form upon registration. Separate rooms are available at an extra cost.  
[www.rs-sloup.cz/cz/ubytovani/penzion](http://www.rs-sloup.cz/cz/ubytovani/penzion)



### 4. Hotels

Rooms with two beds.  
 Again, separate rooms are available at an extra cost.  
[www.staraskola.cz](http://www.staraskola.cz)  
[www.hotelbrousek.cz](http://www.hotelbrousek.cz)

All accommodation facilities, including outdoor areas, are non-smoking.

**!** In case you are a larger group and wish to stay together, let us know by e-mail at the Registration office [karst23.register@gmail.com](mailto:karst23.register@gmail.com), we will be able to offer accommodation in a multi-bed apartment rooms.

## Accommodation prices

Type of Accommodation	Price per person and night
RELAXA Camp – tents, without electricity	CZK 290
RELAXA Camp – caravans and camper vans, incl. electric connection	CZK 390
Seasonal cabins – without electricity, light only	CZK 390
Dormitory	CZK 490
→ extra charge for a separate room in a dormitory	CZK 140
“Stará škola” hotel incl. breakfast	CZK 850
“Broušek” hotel incl. breakfast	CZK 850
→ Extra charge for a separate room in a hotel	CZK 300

If you find yourself unable to make a choice of the suggested accommodation, you still have an option to find accommodation on your own in the neighbourhood through [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com).

This is totally up to you.



# Board



Two restaurants and two grocery stores are operated directly in the town of Sloup. Additional catering will be provided for you directly at the venue: a perfectly equipped foodtruck will be parked in front of the Culture Centre. The last day of the Meeting will include a social evening with an opulent banquet.

Our Speleobar will be open at the venue for the whole duration of the event.

For other dining possibilities in the near vicinity, see [www.moravskykras.eu/gastronomie](http://www.moravskykras.eu/gastronomie)

Unfortunately, we cannot satisfy special food requirements. If you are on a special diet, please, make arrangements by yourself to meet your special needs and requirements.

# Weather



The usual September temperatures in our country are staying around 20 °C (68 °F), although rainy weather may occur.

The very reason for choosing this time of the year for the Meeting was the usual pleasant weather free of summer hot spells. Let us hope the plan will come off. 😊

# Social events



Photo B. Koutecký

As a part of the social accompanying programme we prepared film shows, stands with speleology themes and also an accompanying exhibition.

You can visit any Moravian Karst caves open to public for free.

The highlight of Saturday afternoon will be a historical reconstruction of a descent of monk Lazarus Schopper to the bottom of the Macocha Abyss.

Our speleological rescue service will prepare a traverse across the Macocha Abyss.

At the end of the Saturday evening, we are preparing a Farewell Party with music, dancing and an opulent banquet.

# Karst, Caves and People conference

The second year of scientific conference **Karst, Caves and People** is taking place on Friday, September 22 and on Saturday, September 23 in the Culture Centre of the town of Sloup in the Moravian Karst.

## Conference themes

- Colonization of karst areas
- The first karst researchers
- Scientific look at caves and its development through time
- Beginnings and present state of modern speleology
- Current utilization and protection of karst areas

All contributions related to the above given themes are welcome.

Official languages for the contributions are Czech and English. In Czech presentations, we recommend that the contributions are supplemented by English summaries.

Abstracts of the contributions with a max. length of 1,500 characters (including blank spaces) should be inserted into the pre-defined template downloadable from the Conference webpage and sent to the e-mail address: **abstracts\_2023@gli.cas.cz**.

Instructions for the submission of the final contribution will be subsequently sent to you together with the admission information.

## Important dates

Deadline for abstract submission: **1 May, 2023**

Information on admission/rejection: **by 15 May, 2023**

Deadline for the submission of final papers: **June 30, 2023**

## Scientific committee of the Conference

President:	Prof. Pavel Bosák, DSc
Secretary:	Michal Filippi, PhD
Committee members:	Dr. Johannes Mattes Jan Lenart, PhD Petr Zajíček, MSc Filip Chalupka MSc Petr Kostrhun, PhD



A full-page background image showing two researchers in a cave. One researcher, wearing a green helmet and a red jacket, is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. The other researcher, wearing a yellow helmet and a dark jacket, is in the background, standing near a small waterfall. The cave walls are wet and rocky.

# FIELD TRIPS



**Important info:** register for field trips in the Registration form (after the registration is launched).

**Transportation to the localities will be on individual basis!**



# Moravian Karst

Moravian Karst is the most renowned and most significant karst area in the Czech Republic. It features unique objects of animate and inanimate nature as well as numerous archaeological, paleontological and cultural monuments. Karst plateaus are dissected by canyons (here called “žleby”) up to 150 m deep. Almost 60 % of the Moravian Karst area is covered by forests. The bedrock is mostly formed by limestones of Middle Devonian to Lower Carboniferous age. Over 1,100 caves are registered in this area. Five caves are open to the public: **Balcarka Cave**, **Kateřinská Cave**, **Punkevní Cave**, **Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves** and the **Výpustek Cave**.

The previously accessible **Císařská Cave** is now utilized for speleotherapy. The largest cave system of the **Amatérská Cave**, over 50 km long, is accessible to speleologists only.



Cave sediments helped to preserve unique evidence of settlements of Neanderthal Man more than 120,000 years ago much like world-renowned animal carvings of the Magdalenian Culture from the late Palaeolithic (10,000 to 13,000 years B.C.). Iron ore from the central part of the Moravian Karst was processed in smelters dating to the times of the Great Moravian Empire (8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD).

Living nature of the Moravian Karst is also worth legal protection. Thermophilous communities in the south pass into vast beech forests in the central part of the karst area. Talus slopes of the canyon-like valleys are overgrown by montane forests. Endemic species are also present. Over one-hundred invertebrate species have been first scientifically described from this area. The varied nature of the Moravian Karst is documented by the occurrence of more than 2,000 butterfly species. The population of vesper and horseshoe bats is represented by twenty-one species.

The most valuable parts of the area are subject to legal protection in the form of eleven nature reserves, four national nature reserves and two national nature monuments. For its outstanding natural values, almost the whole of the Moravian Karst has been listed in Natura 2000 – the network of significant sites of Europe.




















# Cave trips

## List of caves

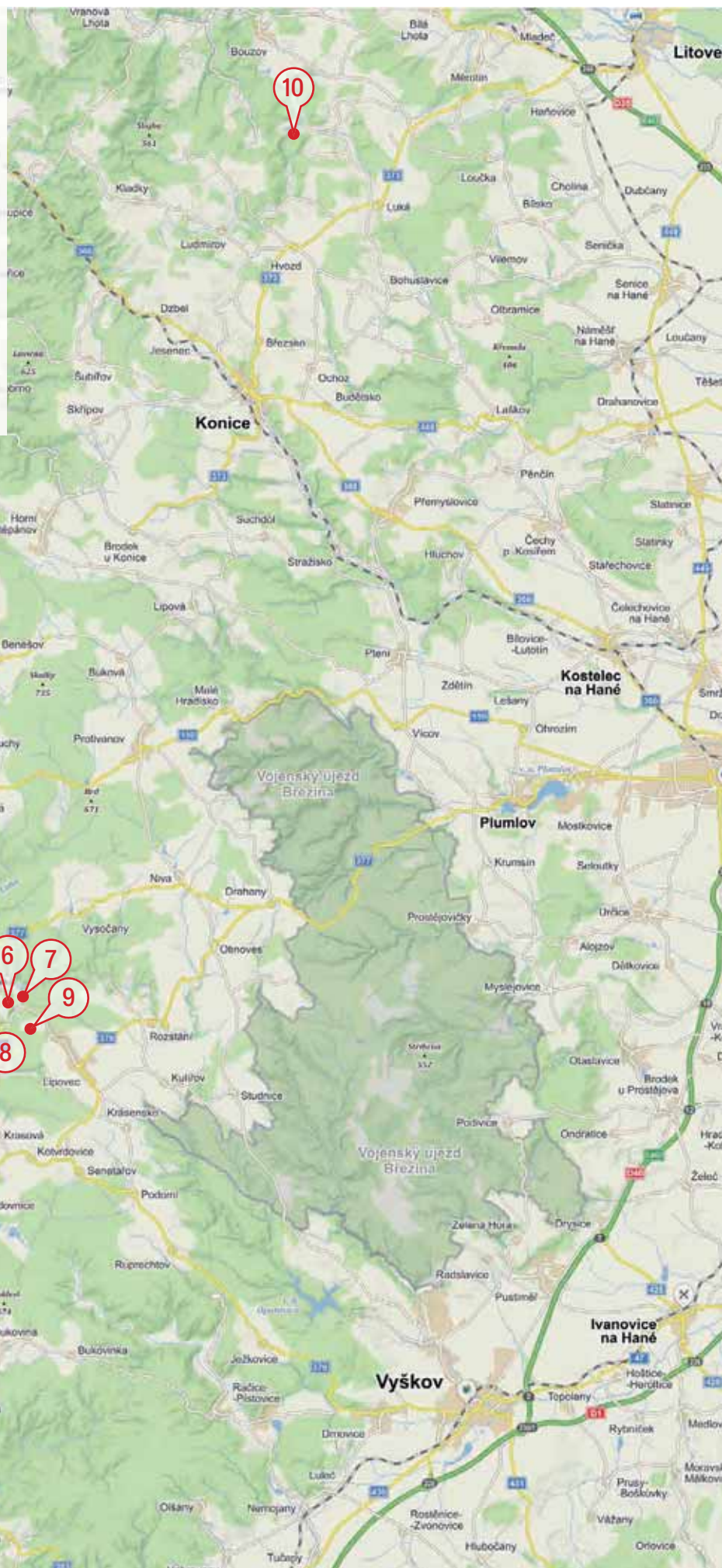
1. Nová Amatérská Cave
2. Stará Amatérská Cave
3. Pod šachtou Broušek Cave
4. Rudické propadání Cave
5. Býčí skála Cave
6. Piková dáma–Spirálka Cave
7. Nová Rasovna Cave
8. Lopač Cave
9. Plánivy Cave
10. Javoříčko Cave
11. Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves
12. Macocha Abyss

A brief description of the caves is given on the following pages, details on individual excursions are given using symbols. A separate filed-trip guidebook including maps will be issued before the event.

## Filed-trip symbols

	<b>Easy track</b> – Predominantly walk without any physical difficulties.		<b>Dry</b>
	<b>Moderate difficult track</b> – Mostly easy with some physical difficulties at times.		<b>Combined</b>
	<b>Difficult track</b> – Many obstacles and physical hard parts. Also SRT can be used.		<b>Wet</b>
	<b>Extremely difficult track. Difficulties all the time</b> – The trip is characterized by free climbing, exposed or narrow places, single rope technique is often necessary to use.		<b>Walk</b>
			<b>Ladders or fixed ropes</b>
	<b>Trip duration</b> (hours)		<b>Boat needed</b>
	<b>Trip length</b> (kilometers)		<b>Single rope technique needed</b>
	<b>Trip denivelation</b> (meters)		
	<b>Horizontal</b>		
	<b>Vertical</b>		
	<b>Combined</b>		

1. Nová Amatérská Cave
2. Stará Amatérská Cave
3. Pod šachtou Broušek Cave
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5. Býčí skála Cave
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# 1. Nová Amatérská Cave

**Nová Amatérská Cave** is the longest cave system of the Czech Republic with about 19 km of passages. Together with other caves (Stará Amatérská, Punkevní, Sloupsko-šošůvské, Stará and Nová Rasovna, Piková dáma, Spirálka and 13C caves), it represents a single unit, i.e., a system developed along the Bílá voda and Sloupský streams with the total length of over 50 km. The two streams meet under the ground in a cave, forming the well-known Punkva River.

Nová Amatérská Cave can be entered through a 100 m long artificial tunnel leading from the meander of the Koňský spád into the Javorová (Maple) Passage, which continues to the Západní Macošský (Western Macocha) Corridor. Here, slightly to the right, the largest hall of the cave – the Absolon Dome – is situated. From the Dome, we can continue through a passage and Bahnitá (Muddy) Lakes up to the active reach of the Punkva River. Our downstream course will take us to the Předmacošský Sump, which separated the Amatérská Cave from the Macocha Abyss.

Upstream, the river channel continues to the Zadní (Rear) Lake fed by the Punkva River. From this place, the Východní macošský (Eastern Macocha) Corridor continues by the Stupňovitá (Steplike) Passage up to the Roztoka Dome at the higher level. The Východní and Západní macošský corridors merge in the Roztoka Dome, forming the 900 m long Macošský (Macocha) Corridor, which continues to the NNE. The corridor is richly decorated by varied forms of speleothems. The end of the corridor, on the left side, features three entrances to the Milan Šlechta Labyrinth.

The labyrinth represents the confluence of the Sloupský potok and Bílá voda streams during floods. At the U homole Dome, the passage splits into the Sloupský Corridor and Bělovodská (Bílá voda) Branch. The latter, leading to the Holštejn village, continues further by the collapsed Souběžná (Parallel) Passage as far as to the Dlouhé (Long) Lake. To cross the lake, boat must be



used. The active channel of the Bílá voda Stream will be reached behind the Lake. The Chodba samoty (Passage of Solitude) leads upstream through the largest dome of the Cave (Katedrála J. Šlechty – J. Šlechta Cathedral) as far as to the inflow Povodňový (Flood) Sump of the Stará Amatérská Cave. From the U homole Dome, the Sloupský Corridor leads through four lakes to the Černý (Black) Dome with a labyrinth of passages and an active channel of the Sloupský potok Stream.

The continuation leads through narrow passages and Turbina (the narrowest place at the course of the Sloupský potok Stream) as far as to the rear part of the Sloupský Corridor. It is a spacious passage richly decorated with speleothems.

The active channel will be followed along its left side, terminating at the inflow sumps of the Sloupský potok Stream from lower parts of the Pod šachtou Broušek Cave.

Nová Amatérská Cave Light  
(suitable for children)



Nová Amatérská Cave Medium



Nová Amatérská Cave Hard





## 2. Stará Amatérská Cave

The cave is located on the Ostrov plateau below the top of Simonův vrch Hill. It presents only a part of the longest cave system in Czech republic – the Amatérská Cave system, 53 km long.

The entrance to the cave is from the bottom of the Ciganský Sinkhole. The entrance shaft, 110 m deep (ladders), descends successively to the Vstupní dóm (Entrance Dome), the Kruhový dóm (Circular Dome), the Sintrová síň (Sinter Hall), and finally to the giant Dóm Objevitelů (Discovery Dome) (90 × 30 × 30 m).

Its floor is covered with flowstone and stalagmite piles. The subterranean stream of Bílá voda (White Water) flows beneath clay and gravel. It incised a significant, about 1 km long passage from the inflow sump from Cave 13C to low, 300 m long semi-sumps of the active bypass (Obtok) and the outflow sump.

The cave also includes the Přítoková chodba (Inflow Passage), 250 m long, with fine stalactite decoration in places (Variety Chimney over 100 m high) and the Povodňová chodba (Flood Passage) serving as a flood outlet of the Bílá voda Stream. This passage also displays rich stalactite decorations. The total length of all corridors is about 2,600 m.



### 3. Pod šachtou Broušek Cave

Pod šachtou Broušek Cave is a significant autonomous cave system in the northern part of the Moravian Karst, between the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves and the end of the Sloupský Corridor of the Amatérská Cave.

This complex cave system consists of several geomorphologically distinct cave tiers corresponding to different evolutionary stages of underground spaces linked to the Sloupský Stream. Its geographic position can be defined by three points. The terminal sump of the Sloupský Corridor of the Amatérská Cave separates it from the Amatérská Cave, and a set of sumps, through which it is connected to the water surface near the outflow sump of the Palmová Abyss, separates it from the lower tier of the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves.

The third significant geographic point is the as yet unsurpassed sump S10 at the end of the Šošůvecký Corridor, which probably leads toward the Za Evropou a Indií Cave system. Only a difficult access to this cave system was formerly possible through the Amatérská Cave, requiring to cover the distance of 6 km and to cross five lakes and four sumps. To overcome this obstacle, a new entrance to this system was created in 2003–2005 by digging a 21 m deep shaft from the surface into one of the chimneys.

This entrance lies on the left-hand side at the beginning of the Pustý žleb Valley near the Broušek Hotel. The entrance shaft is rigged with fixed iron ladders enabling a descent into the Dóm bezpečnostních směrnic (Safety Guidelines Dome) and further to the spacious Nový Sloupský Corridor. Spacious passages with rich drip-stone decorations are characteristic for this corridor, hosting the Sloupský Stream at high water levels. The corridor is terminated by two sumps in the direction of the Amatérská Cave, which can be by-passed through a passage with several minor verticals, also rigged with iron ladders.



This passage opens to the Šošůvecký Corridor, directly linked to the terminal parts of the Sloupský Corridor of the Amatérská Cave. The latter leads all the way to the Za Evropou a Indií Cave near the municipality of Sloup. A great variability is characteristic for this corridor – from smaller passages heavily silted with sediment to spacious corridors similar to those of the Amatérská Cave.

Pod šachtou Broušek Cave



Pod šachtou Broušek Cave long



## 4. Rudické propadání Cave

The Rudické propadání Cave is interconnected with the Býčí skála Cave, thus forming the second largest Czech cave with a length of 13 kilometres. The Jedovnický Stream sinks to a depth of 90 metres and forms a system of subterranean waterfalls, which freeze in winter and turn into icefalls.

After a descent of circa 90 m, visitors reach the main cave corridor. In this main corridor, forming a deep canyon, visitors can access the active flow of the wild waters of the Jedovnický Stream with the help of hanging ladders and rope traverses.

Above the subterranean stream, sometimes more than 100 m above its level, a labyrinth of chimneys and horizontal passages was found. Together with rich dripstone decorations, this labyrinth evidences the unending process of karstification. The cave is also home to the Rudická Abyss, the deepest dry Czech abyss, and the Giants' Dome, one of the largest cave spaces in the Czech Republic. The Serbian Sump then connects this cave with the Býčí skála Cave.



Rudické propadání Cave



Rudické propadání Cave SRT





## 5. Býčí skála Cave

Býčí skála Cave (Bull Rock Cave) is a part of the second longest cave system in the Czech Republic. It is also famous for archaeological discoveries.

The cave lies in the central part of the Moravian Karst, in the Josefovské údolí Valley between the town of Adamov and the village of Křtiny.

Together with the Rudické propadání Cave, the Býčí skála Cave forms the second longest Czech cave system, after the Amatérská Cave. Its explored length is over 13 km. The entrance to the cave was always known locally, with the first written note dating to 1669. The cave was visited by two European monarchs: by the Holy Roman Emperor Franz II on September 7, 1804 and, on another occasion, by Alois I, the Prince of Liechtenstein. During 1867–1873, the tract of Předsíně was explored by archaeologist Jindřich Wankel, who discovered a Palaeolithic settlement from around 100,000–10,000 B.C. Later, a statuette of a bronze bull was found, and starting in 1872 a large Hallstatt culture site was excavated. The site contained animal and material offerings, crops, textiles, ceramic and sheet-metal vessels, jewellery, glass and amber beads.

The explorations of Wankel discovered skeletons of one man and forty young women. Some women were beheaded, some were missing legs or hands. A skull and severed hands were placed on a small “altar”. Wankel's romantic interpretation was that he had discovered the grave of a nobleman, accompanied by ritually killed women. Other theories suggested the death of people hiding in the cave during a war or from an explosion of gas or dust. Later, the research identified seventeen skeletons as men; the people ranged from children to adults 50–60 years old. In 1920, when water was pumped out, another cave was discovered, the “Nová Býčí skála” (New Bull Rock Cave), with the Jedovnický Stream running through it.



During World War II, the Nazis built an underground factory in the cave, damaging the entrance area. After the war, a few more caves were discovered: Sobolova (Barová), Májová, Prolomená and Proplavaná.

Býčí skála Cave  
(suitable for children)



Býčí skála Cave long



## 6. Piková dáma–Spirálka Cave

The **Piková dáma Cave** (Queen of Spades Cave) is situated near the closure wall of the semi-blind Holštejnské údolí Valley. It is an old ponor of the Bílá voda Stream. The ponor is inactive, only its lowermost part can be occasionally flooded. It descends in two steps down to the flood level of the Bílá voda Stream at the level of -61 m under the surface. The cave consists of an unusual labyrinth of passages, shafts, domes, halls and lakes. Decoration is relatively scarce, preserved only in the upper parts. Some parts are filled with ice (Ledová Passage) owing to the special air dynamics. Connection with the nearby Spirálka Cave was discovered in 1968. Cave divers connected both caves in 1979 by passing the sump between the two caves. The total length of the cave is 1,700 m.

The **Spirálka Cave** was discovered from an excavated shaft in unstable scree at the margin situated in the right slope of the Hradský žleb Valley.

The shaft ended in a huge abyss with an extensive labyrinth of domes and passages at -67 m under the surface. The entrance, a 20 m deep shaft, leads to a fissure with a small passage leading to the roof of the 40 m deep Central Shaft. The connection passage with the Piková dáma Cave (Spojnice Passage) is situated in one-half of the shaft. The shaft bottom is formed by a scree cone descending to the level of Jezírko (Lake) – i.e., to the entrance to the sump between the Piková dáma and Spirálka caves.

The total length of the Spirálka cave is about 1,800 m. The cave is equipped by fixed steel ladders. The trip duration does not exceed 2 to 3 hours.



## 7. Nová Rasovna Cave

The cave belongs to the important ones in the Moravian Karst.

It represents the ponor of the Bílá voda Stream, one of the two tributaries of the subterranean Punkva River. The entrance tract has a shaft-like character, connecting the richly decorated upper level with the middle level characterized by interesting forms of walls. The lower level consists of long passages of flood character.

The cave has three entrances. The upper entrance, located near the road, is a step-like shaft with a depth of about 50 m, equipped with a steel ladder. The lower part is the large horizontal Macošská chodba (Macocha Corridor) that leads to the Macocha Sump, separating this cave from the Píková dáma Cave. The total length of the cave is over 2,000 m.





## 8. Lopač Cave

Ponors of the Lopačský Stream are located in the Ostrovský žleb Gorge on the southern edge of the municipality of Ostrov u Macochy. The cave system comprises the Starý Lopač Cave and the Nový Lopač Cave, separated by a sump 60 m long and 7 m deep.

It is a complex system of meandering corridors and domes connected by the Lopačský Stream. The as yet unknown lower tier of the cave system drains the territory towards the Small Resurgence in the valley of the Punkva River.

The total length of the cave exceeds 2 km.



## 9. Plánivý Cave

The cave drain waters of the Plánivský potok Stream forming a small valley on the Plánivý Plateau between the villages of Holštejn and Lipovec. The cave is characterized by long and hardly accessible vertical fissures and meanders incised by the Plánivský potok Stream.

The Plánivý Cave belongs to caves with the most problematic access in the Moravian Karst. The Hlinitý dóm (Loamy Dome), 25 m high, is the only larger space in the first half of the cave. Rich decorations are visible especially in the Stříbrný dóm (Silver Dome).

The system has a length of about 500 m and a depth of 90 m.

**Attention! An extremely difficult trip!**





## 10. Javoříčko Cave

The underground system of the Javoříčko Cave consists of a complex set of corridors, caves and abysses formed within the “island” of Devonian carbonate rocks by the Špraněk Stream, close to the city of Olomouc.

To this date, over 3.5 km of corridors have been investigated at Javoříčko. The cave is beautifully decorated with stalactites and stalagmites, the most beautiful ones are to be found in two magnificent rooms – the “Detritus Cave” and the “Cave of the Giants”.

In addition to the traditional types of stalactites and stalagmites, some of them reaching respectable size, there is also a wide occurrence of “helictites” – dripstone growing against the laws of gravity.

The lower tier of the cave poses a complex labyrinth of corridors connected by abysses up to 60 m deep, which have not been fully investigated yet.



# 11. Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves – long

This large complex of underground domes, passages and abysses has two tiers. The Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves are important for the finds of skeletal remains of cave animal (bear, lion, hyena). The Elizabeth Cave with its rich dripstone decorations has also excellent acoustics and, as such, it is sometimes used for chamber music concerts.

During the reconstruction in 1997, the Stepped Abyss was spanned with a bridge, and a new, nontraditional view revealed to the visitors. The Nagel Abyss, 80 metres deep, is the greatest underground abyss of this type in the Czech Republic. From the two platform-bridges, the visitors can look down to the bottom.

In 1997, the world-famous archaeological site of Kůlna Cave was also included in the sightseeing tour. In this cave, a fragment of Neanderthal man's skull, about 120,000 years old, was found. The Šošůvka part of the cave, discovered at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century is characterized by fragile and colourful dripstone decorations.

Visiting the inaccessible lower tiers of the cave, which host the Sloupský Stream, is also an impressive experience.



## 12. Macocha Abyss – SRT

The abyss is known worldwide and represents one of the symbols of the Moravian Karst. It is situated on a forested plateau between the Suchý and Pustý žleb valleys. Its mouth is gigantic, 174 by 76 m in size. The bottom of the shaft is formed by a large scree cone, 45 m high. At the foot of the cone, the Upper Lake (11 m across) and the Lower Lake (30 m across) are situated.

The total depth of the abyss is 138 m. Several entrances to caves lie in the walls of the abyss. The natural connection with the cave along the Punkva River was blocked during the origin and collapse of the abyss. The Macocha Abyss was formed by an interconnection of an extensive and old karst pocket with a later formed gigantic dome by a large collapse.

The collapse was induced by water corrosion and fall of loose blocks; a light-hole was formed. The entrance to the Punkevní Cave was found in 1914 from the end of the Trámové Cave. For the first time, man penetrated the abyss bottom from the Pustý žleb Valley.

As one of the latest discoveries to be mentioned, the connection of the Amatérská Cave with the Upper Lake of Macocha was found by passing through a 420 m long and difficult sump.





# Trips to the Moravian Karst caves open to the public

## Punkevní Cave

The Punkevní Cave is located in the canyon-like Pustý žleb Valley, about 1 km from the Skalní mlýn Information Center. The cave was discovered in several stages in the years 1909–1933 by Professor Absolon's group of speleologists. The visitors walk through mighty underground spaces and passages decorated with stalactites and stalagmites to the very bottom of the world-famous Macocha Abyss.

The abyss is 138 m deep, with fascinating dimensions of its cross section: 174 by 76 m. The foot walk is followed by a motor boat ride along the subterranean Punkva River. The ride includes a visit of the Masaryk Dome, one of the most beautiful caves of the Moravian Karst.

The Punkevní Cave is an extension of the longest cave system in the Czech Republic, the Amatérská Cave, with the length of corridors exceeding 50 km.

**Field-trip duration 2 hours.**



## Výpustek Cave – show cave

The Výpustek Cave is a show cave in the central part of the Moravian Karst Protected Landscape Area. It is located in the upper section of the Křtiny Valley, in the municipality of Křtiny. It forms two subterranean levels of an ancient ponor system of the Křtinský Stream. It is a significant paleontological site, one of the few European sites where complete skeletons of early Quaternary (Pleistocene) fauna can be found.

The total length of all the spaces known today is ca. 1,300 m, with an elevation difference of 55 m. In the period of speleological explorations in the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was considered the largest cave in Moravia. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was intensively used for exploitation of phosphate clay, as an army depot, a German army factory – airplane motors manufacturing and a secret command post of the Czechoslovak Army; in spite of that, some parts were preserved in a natural state.

The cave has been open for tourist visits since 2008.

**Field-trip duration 1 hour.**



# Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves

This large complex of underground domes, passages, abysses has two tiers. The Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves pose an important site with finds of fossil animal skeletons (bear, lion, hyena). The Elizabeth Cave with its rich dripstone decorations has also excellent acoustics and, as usch, is occasionally used for chamber music concerts.

During the reconstruction in 1997, the Stepped Abyss was spanned with a bridge, and a new, nontraditional view revealed to the visitors. The Nagel Abyss, 80 metres deep, is the greatest underground abyss of this type in the Czech Republic. From the two platform-bridges, the visitors get a view of the bottom.

In 1997, the world-famous archaeological site of Kůlna Cave was also included in the sightseeing tour. In this cave, a fragment of Neanderthal man's skull, about 120,000 years old, was found. The Šošůvka part of the cave, discovered at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century is characterized by fragile and colourful dripstone decorations.

**Field-trip duration 2 hours.**





## Other field trips

### Geological field trip

(Geological surface trip to the most interesting geological sites of the Moravian Karst)

The surface trip is focused on processes that formed the Moravian Karst. 1) depositional processes related to Devonian reef formation, 2) tectonic evolution of the area, which influenced not only the present relief but also cave evolution, 3) paleokarst phenomena and other young events of the evolution of the Moravian Karst will be presented.

**Field-trip duration 5 hours.**



### Historical field trip

A trip to the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves focused on the history of speleological research in the Moravian Karst.

**Field-trip duration 4 hours.**



### Blansko Region Museum

The museum exhibitions are dedicated to the development of the Moravian Karst and cave archaeological finds.

[www.muzeum-blanenska.cz](http://www.muzeum-blanenska.cz)





# Moravian Karst caves open to the public

Below you will find an overview of Moravian Karst caves open to the public. You can walk from the town of Sloup, but to the Výpustek Cave it is better to use a car (20 km).



<https://visit.caves.cz/en/cave/sloupsko-susuvské-jeskyne>

<https://visit.caves.cz/en/cave/punkevní-jeskyne>

<https://visit.caves.cz/en/cave/kateřinská-jeskyne>

<https://visit.caves.cz/en/cave/jeskyne-balcarka>

<https://visit.caves.cz/en/cave/jeskyne-vypustek>

You can visit any cave open to the public individually and completely free of charge based on a proof of your registration for the Meeting or Conference.

## Trips around the area

The Moravian Karst offers many attractions that you can visit on your own.

More info: [www.south-moravia.com/en/destinations/moravian-karst](http://www.south-moravia.com/en/destinations/moravian-karst)



# Important contacts

## ORGANIZATION

**Zdeněk Motyčka**

karst2023@speleo.cz  
z.motycka@mediform.cz

## EXCURSIONS

**Tomáš Mokrý**

tomas.mokry@minerva-is.cz

## REGISTRATION

**Kamila Svobodová**

karst23.register@gmail.com

## CONFERENCE

**Michal Filippi**

filippi@gli.cas.cz

**You will get other important info in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circular or follow the website: [www.speleo.cz/karst2023](http://www.speleo.cz/karst2023)**

**E-mail: [karst2023@speleo.cz](mailto:karst2023@speleo.cz)**

**We look forward to meeting you!**

Authors of photos:

J. Šanda

P. Zajíček

J. and K. Šírovi

B. Koutecký

M. Audy

P. Polák

J. Mrázek

R. Nejezchleb

and the archive of the Cave Administration of the Czech Republic

## PARTNERS





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