

The Třeboňsko House of Nature



Rožmberk fishpond with the Old River, a part of internationally significant wetlands

Welcome to a landscape of double skies, reflected by the surface of the fishponds, and to the watery landscape of mysterious bogs, deep forests, river bends and pools, which the works of Rožmberk's fish farmers have transformed. Welcome to a landscape of interwoven networks of canals and fishponds, oak avenues and picturesque villages and solitary houses, where the coexistence of people with nature has for centuries formed a fragile balance.



A double-sky landscape

The white-tailed eagle, symbol of the Třeboňsko House of Nature



The critically endangered white-tailed eagle is one of the most impressive species in our bird world. As the largest European eagle and ruler of these skies, it may be spotted circling high above the Třeboňsko landscape. Although exterminated in the past by humans, it returned in 1984 after a 150-year absence. Now there are at least 10 pairs nesting here permanently, and its return is one of the greatest successes of Czech nature conservation.

A landscape of otters and white-tailed eagles

The exceptional appearance of the Třeboň landscape began to form about 90 million years ago, when sand and clay were deposited at the bottom of a large lake. Sometime around 4 million years ago, the River Lužnice cut its channel through these sediments. A peat bog developed and the sand layers were formed into sand dunes by the wind. Until the 12th century Třeboňsko was covered in coniferous forests of predominantly European silver fir; peat-bog pine grew in the peat bogs. It was slow and difficult for people to gain areas suitable for cultivation and grazing. A real change in the landscape began only with the construction of the first fishponds. Štěpánek

Netolický brought "live" water from the River Lužnice to them via the Golden Canal. Thanks to him, Mikuláš Ruthard and Jakub Krčín, Třeboňsko became filled with fishponds and a complex network of canals. The traditional method of managing fishponds led to the creation of unique fishpond and wetland ecosystems. The pond surfaces attracted flocks of waterbirds that belong in this landscape, as do circling white-tailed eagles, summer frog concerts and otters' pawprints. As an area of exceptional natural history, Třeboňsko was listed in the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves and declared a Protected Landscape Area.



Floodplain forest



Former sand quarry at Dračice



The Třeboňsko House of Nature

The visitor centre of the Třeboňsko Protected Landscape Area and Biosphere Reserve can be found in the premises of Třeboň State Chateau. At the entrance you will notice a pond with a wooden water feature called "New and Old River". In a permanent exhibition called Landscape and People you can explore the history of Třeboň's nature and landscape, from the times of the great fish farmers until the present. An oak elf awaits the children to guide them through the exhibits, chateau park and closest surroundings.

Třeboňsko's landscape was formed through the coexistence of people and nature. Please help us preserve Třeboňsko so that you too will feel at home here.

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Did you know that ...

-  In the course of three centuries more than 500 fishponds were created in Třeboňsko? Today these form 16 fishpond networks within the catchments of the Lužnice and Nežárka rivers.
-  Peat bogs are of irreplaceable significance for the landscape's water regime? In Třeboňsko these are protected under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
-  That the sand layers reach a depth of 350 m in the Třeboň Basin and you can visit two sand dunes here? They are called Písečný přesyp u Vlкова and Slepíčí vršek u Lužnice.
-  That the European oak is a typical tree in Třeboňsko? You can see the largest group of heritage oak trees at the Nová Reka dam and the largest oak near Jemčina Chateau.
-  That two-thirds of Třeboňsko was declared a Special Protection Area for birds under the Natura 2000 European network of protected sites?

Thank you for your considerate conduct towards our shared natural heritage and for:

-  camping and lighting fires only in places so designated
-  driving and parking only where permitted
-  walking only on marked trails while in national nature reserves
-  riding your bicycle on cycle paths and being respectful to nature and other visitors
-  leaving alone the animals and plants in their natural habitats
-  not damaging the non-living parts of nature and valuable monuments
-  taking your rubbish home with you.



Eurasian otter

Tip for a Trip: Velký Lomnický Nature Trail

You can get stuck into watching waterbirds along this nature trail near Lomnice nad Lužnicí, which is equipped with shelters, observation towers and hides for birdwatching. The trail starts from Zámecká ulice at Zlatá stoka (Golden Canal) and leads you around the Vydýmač and Velký Lomnický fishponds. Along the route there are also benches and tables, as well as children’s play accessories.

Tip for a Trip: Červené Blato National Nature Reserve

The wooden walkway of the Červené Blato nature trail not far from Šalmanovice leads you through the mysterious world of peat bogs, where a patch of tundra has stayed preserved since the end of the Ice Age. You will walk through a stand of bog pines and see a peatbog lake; in spring, you can admire the white flowers of marsh tea. Earlier, this area provided people a livelihood in peatcutting, and the blocks were used for heating. The abandoned pits have grown over with bog pine, marsh tea, cottongrass, sundew and blueberry bushes. Some unique invertebrate species and other organisms live here; occasionally even elk show up.

Tip for a Trip: Jemčinská Obora deer park

You can ride your bicycle through Jemčinská Obora along the nature trail Lesy a rybníky Řečicka (Forests and Ponds of Řečicko). The forested area between the River Nežárka, Kardašova Řečice and Jindřichův Hradec was once the site of great hunts, in which the guests of the House of the Czerníns of Chudenice met at Jemčina Chateau. The chateau park, where several rare tree species grow, is one of the most important dendrological sites in Třeboňsko. The nature trail starts and finishes in Kardašova Řečice, with a longer and shorter option.

Tip for a Trip: River Lužnice

The natural meandering flow of this river is best seen on a paddling trip from Suchdol nad Lužnicí to the village of Majdalena. You will see the whole beauty of the river floodplains and the place where the famous Golden Canal starts. If you want to go further, you can navigate the marshy heart of Třeboňsko through to Rozvodí, where Krčín’s artificial canal Nová řeka (New River) separates from the Lužnice, carrying some of the water to the Nežárka.

Tip for a Trip: The sand dune near Vlkov

You can visit this sand dune, which formed about 10,000 years ago at the end of the Ice Age, via the nature trail Veselské pískovny. On the trail around the lakes, created by the quarrying of gravelly sand, you will learn some interesting facts about nature and changes in this landscape. In summer these lakes, located not far from Veselí nad Lužnicí, are a favourite swimming spot, with a car park, visitor amenities, refreshments and cultural events on offer.



Great white egrets



Peat bog with flowering marsh tea



Jemčina Chateau



A meander of the River Lužnice



Sand dune

About the life of the white-tailed eagle



White-tailed eagles feed mainly on fish and waterbirds, but often eat carrion or hunt weakened animals, so their function is to be nature's 'health police'.



Both parents feed the chicks and continue to care for them for another month after they have fledged. The eagles reach adulthood at 5-6 years of age and live up to 34 years.



Nuptial flights usually occur from January. In late February the female lays 1-2 white eggs 75 x 58 mm in size and 141-145 g in weight. Then both birds incubate the eggs for about 38 days.



Eagles usually build their nest in a tall tree near water. For two and a half weeks both birds will work on it, using strong branches and twigs, pine needles and grass for lining. They return to it every year, thus, a nest can reach a height of 2 m.



The bird is easily recognised in flight by its long flight feathers. The tail is wedge-shaped and its colouring changes from brown in juveniles to white with brown edges on the tail feathers in adults.



The white-tailed eagle is the largest raptor occurring in the Czech Republic, with a wingspan up to 260 cm. The females weigh about 5.5 kg and like in most other raptor species, they are larger than the males (4 kg).

