



The Otava Glassmakers' Trail

1 Sušice Museum of Šumava

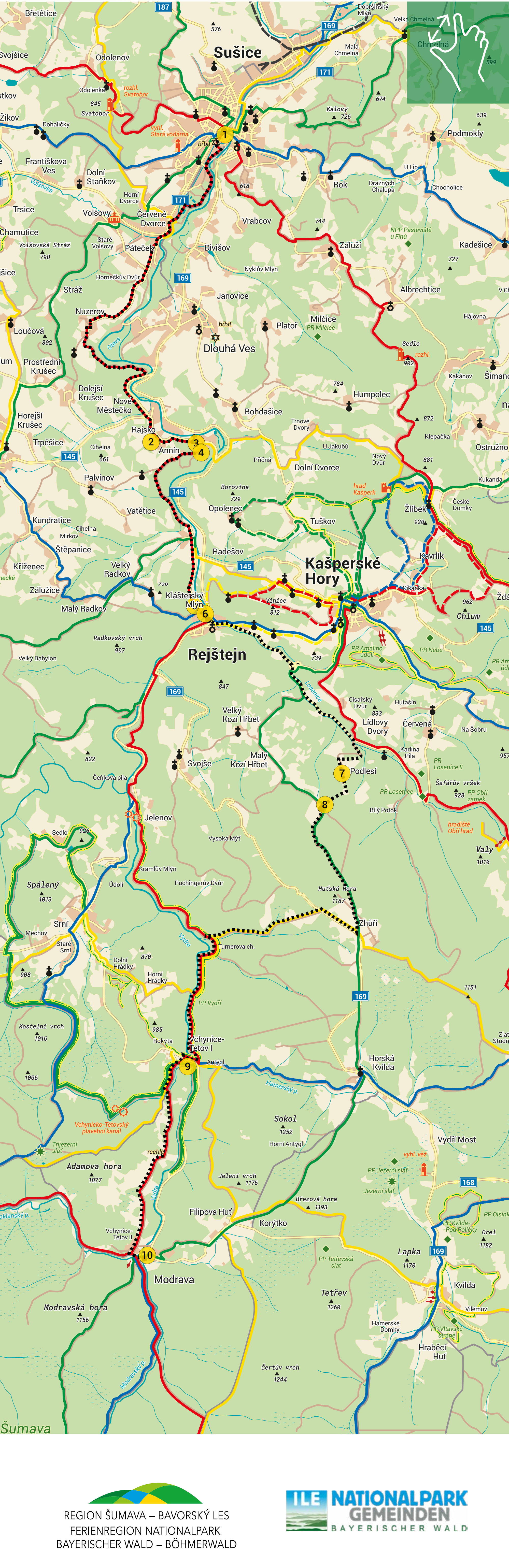
Length of Path 36 km

Sušice Museum of Šumava

The Sušice museum was founded in 1880 under the name “Šumava Museum in Sušice” by the Sušice Municipal Council on the incentive of a local teacher Josef Holík. The museum’s exhibitions were supposed to cover the town’s history, as well as the history and geography of the majority of the wider Šumava region as there was, by this time, no other museum in the region. Since 1933, it is located in the Voprchov house (the former deanery) on the Sušice square.

Today, the museum offers an exhibition which maps the town’s history, the history of match production or the renowned mechanical wooden nativity scene. A significant portion of the exposition is also devoted to glass production in Šumava. Visitors can see glass articles from Annín, Klášterský Mlýn, Lenora, or Adolfovo, a model of a glassworks, or tools used in glass production. The larger portion of the exhibited items was gifted to the museum by Brun Schreiber, a Swiss glass collector, in 2005.

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2 Rajsko glassworks

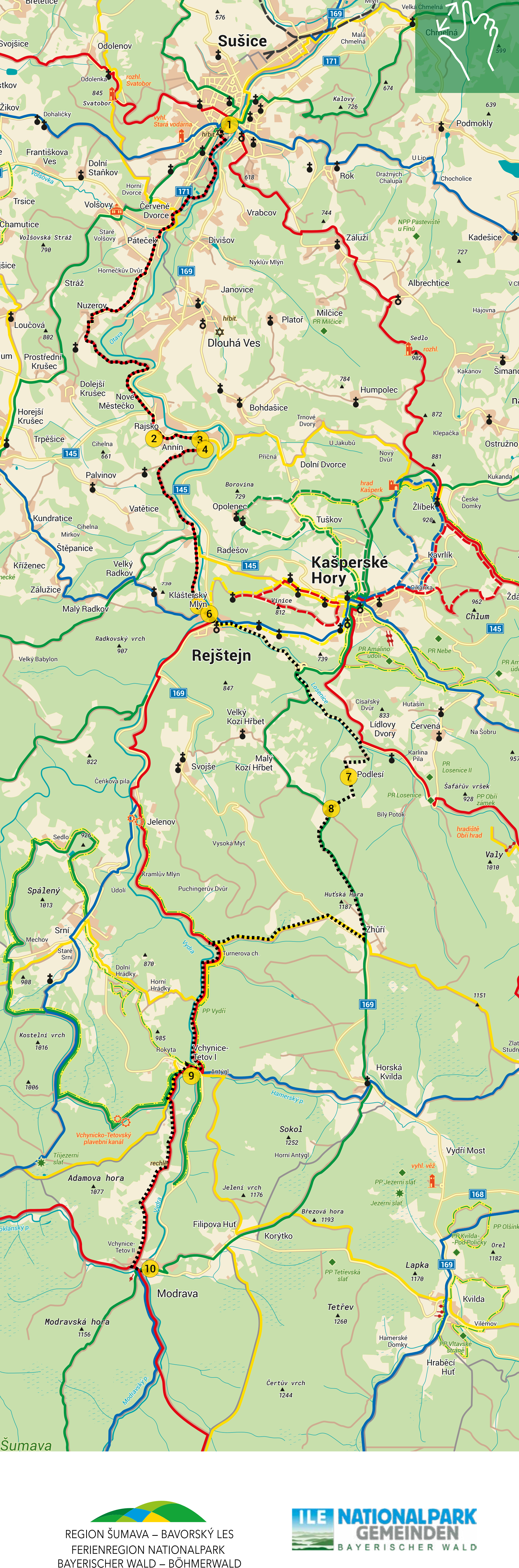


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Rajsko glassworks

In Rajsko by Annín stands a recently renovated (2013) glass cutting factory. The glass here is cut by four cutters under the leadership of Stanislava Benešová. The factory works with 24 % lead quartz and sells its products to Azerbaijan, Russia, or Saudi Arabia among others. Aside from the production itself, one of its goals is to popularize the craft and bring on new apprentices – for this reason, an interactive museum of glass production, where the public can try cutting glass themselves, opened here in 2014. Apart from that, there are Annín’s own products such as glasses or paperweights, as well as two historical machines made by the company Suchý Jouza Čáp and dating back to the Austrian-Hungarian empire. It is on them that one can, under the supervision of glassmakers, try cutting for oneself. A part of the museum is a studio for young glassmakers and a shop, where it is possible to buy local products. Among the exhibit you can see products of Šumava glassworks, such as the wedding glasses of Mr and Mrs Novotný, former owners of the Annín glassworks.

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3 Annín glassworks



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Annín glassworks

The glassworks in Annín was founded in 1796 by Augustin Müller, the burgomaster of Kašperské Hory. It was not the first one there, it followed the mill, which stood nearby and was running at some point around mid-18th century.

Since 1863 the glassworks was run by Josef Schmid from an old family of glassmakers from Vogelsang and begins with the glassworks' modernisation. He built a steam glass-cutting mill and rebuilt the furnaces, then built a new mill powered by gas generators Siemens. Their most famous product was the high-quality Venetian-style crystal glass. Among other popular articles counted Venetian-style glass, Karlovy Vary compote bowls, wine glasses, vases, and others. Especially beautiful was hollow glass with plastic stick-ons shaped like flowers or fruit. The products were sold mainly in England and in the United States, but the Russian royal family were also owners of Annín glass.

The Second World War meant a swift downturn for production and the glassworks never managed to recover its pre-war position. Only the glass-cutting mill was kept running. From Spring 2015 the business again functions as a glassworks – visitors can even try to blow their own piece of glass. Part of the areal is also a museum and gallery, where it is possible to buy local products. Glassmaking symposiums also take place here.

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4 Annín chapel



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Annín chapel

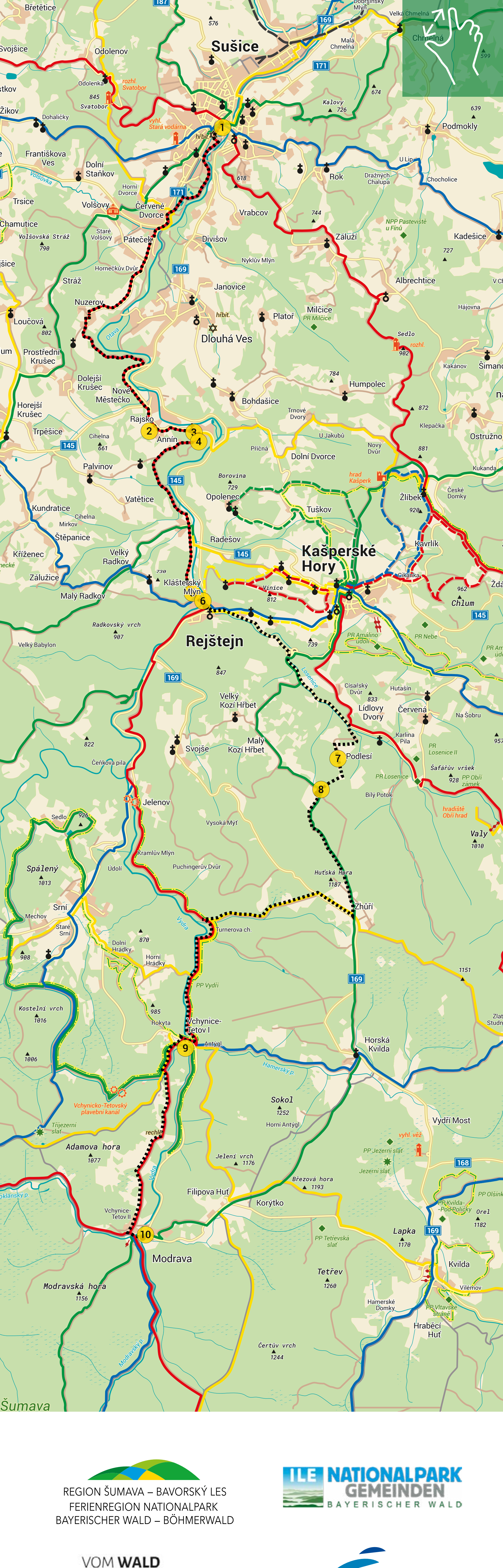
The chapel with a tomb was built in the Neo Gothic style in 1886 and is the final resting place of a renowned family of glassmakers from Šumava, the Schmid family. Its nave, with two stained glass windows on each side, faces East. On the Western side stands a two-storeyed tower. The chapel's presbytery is polygonal.

The interior was damaged and most of it was stolen after the Second World War. Some parts later appeared in the Kašperské Hory museum. The walls are hung with framed epitaphs of the family. We know from those that the first person buried here was an eighteen-year-old Therese Schmid. We can also find the epitaph of the most famous member of the family, Josef Eduard Schmid and his wife Anna. Anna was the daughter of another renowned glassmaker Wilhelm Kralík. Ashes of Eduard's brothers, Josef and Rudolf, are also laid here. They were owners of the glassworks in Vogelsang and Stachy-Kůsov. Interesting are also glass decorations shaped like drops of water which hang from the choir loft.

The place is also noteworthy for the first spiritism attempts in Bohemia that took place here in Annín and were led by Eduard Schmid.

The chapel is open to the public during various Annín anniversaries.

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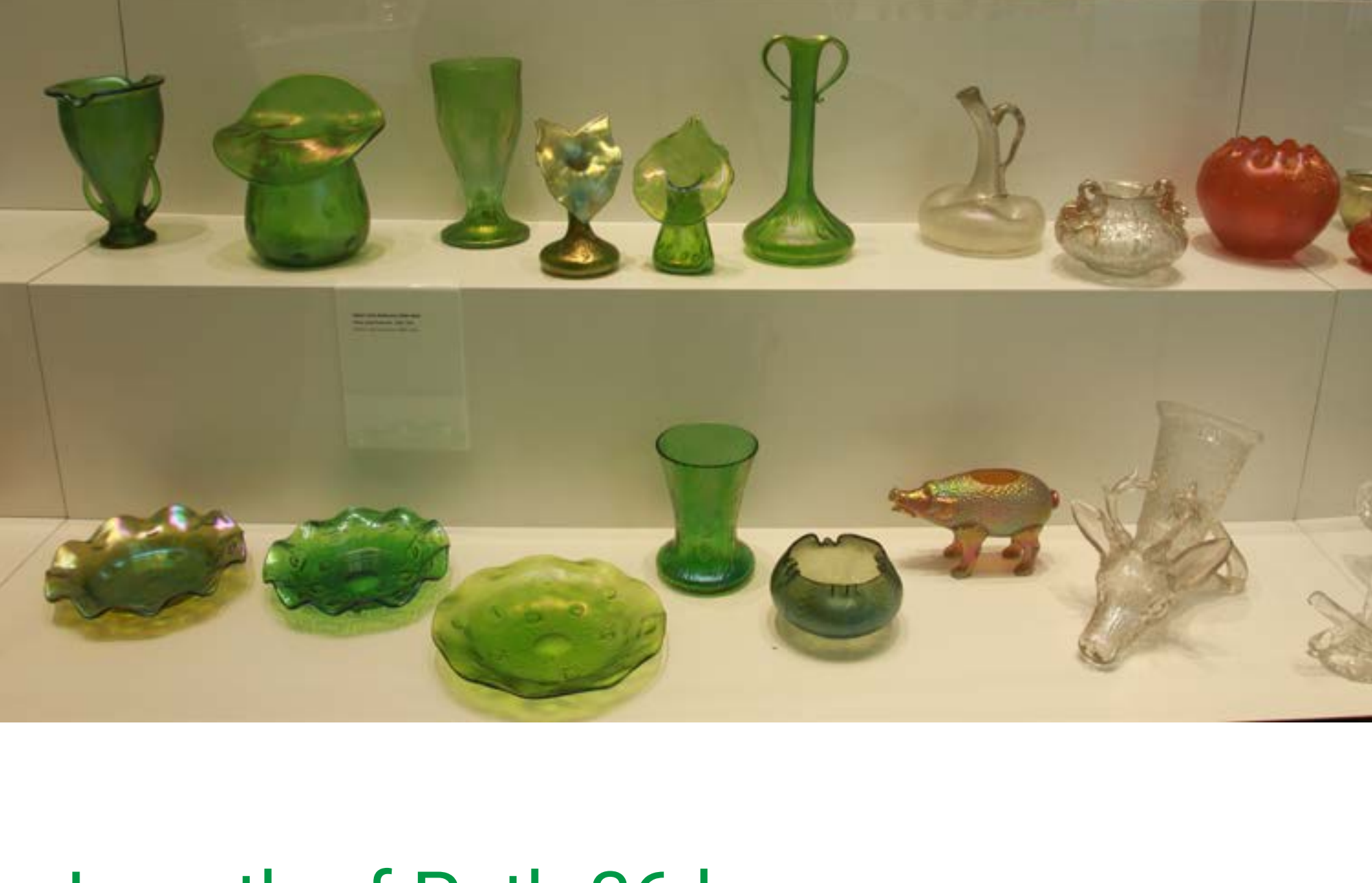


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5 Rejštejn Klášterský Mlýn



Length of Path 36 km

Rejštejn Klášterský Mlýn

The glassworks was founded in the place of a former Benedictine monastery. It was built by Johann Baptist Eisner in 1836. It produced páteříky (small glass beads used to make rosaries), later sheet glass, cut and coloured glass. In 1848, the glassworks was bought by Eisner's son-in-law Martin Emanuel Schmid, who also ran the Vogelsang glassworks. Here, he made crystal glass. In the year 1851, it was bought by Johann Lötž's widow, Susanne. She picked her grandson Maxmilian von Spaun to be her heir and he took up the leadership position in 1879. Spaun's entering the company brought with it a lot of changes. The business began to focus on producing luxurious decorative glass. Just as during Susanna Lötž's years, their products continued to be highly regarded at industrial exhibitions across Europe and decorated many townhouse salons. At the beginning of the 20th century the company began collaborating with Vienna creators. The company was negatively affected by the financial crisis and a great fire in 1930. The mill was definitively closed in 1947. The building was taken apart in 1979 and sold to an open-air folk museum in Tittling in Bavaria, where it stands to this day. The world-famous glassworks' products can be seen in Klatovy, in the PASK gallery.

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6 Rejštejnská vila – Spaun's villa



Length of Path 36 km

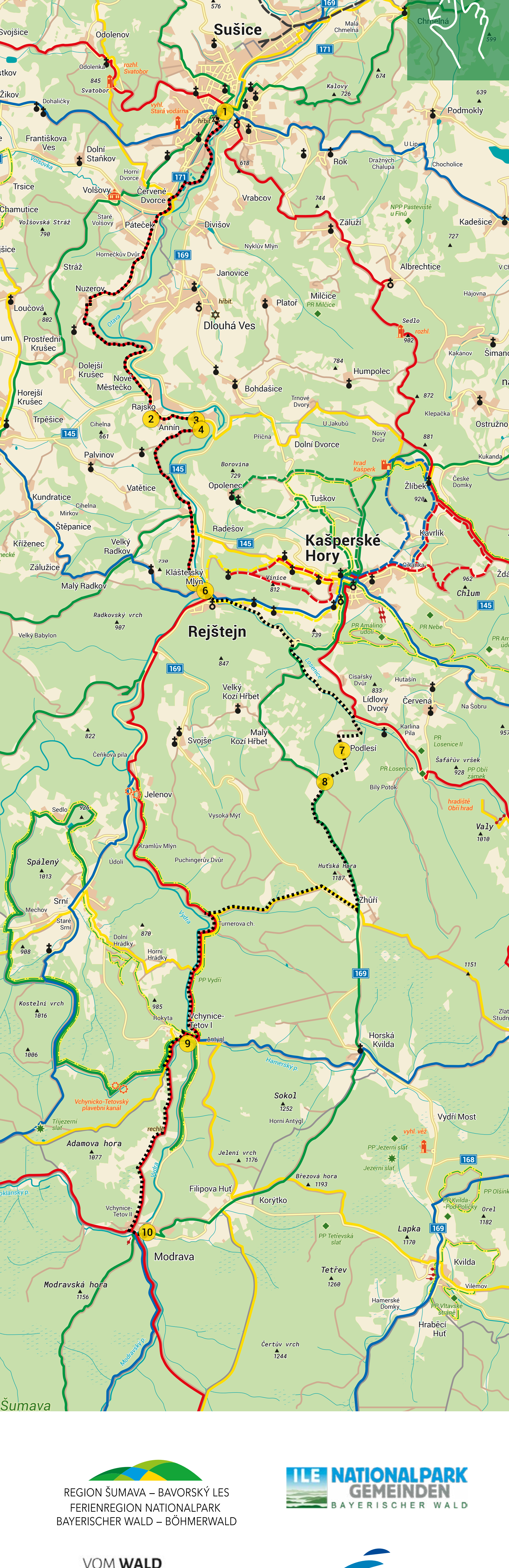
Rejštejnská vila

The success of the local glassworks went together with the request for a construction of a new representative residence. The project was given to a Vienna architect Leopold Bauer (1872–1938).

The villa was built very close to the glassworks between 1903 and 1904. It consists of two parts, which are connected via a staircase: a representative hall and the two-storied residential building. Bauer incorporated practically all features of Vienna geometrical Art Nouveau into the architecture. He put pieces of Art Nouveau iridescent glass into the then-yellow plastering as a reminder of the owner's profession.

Probably in 1906, the terrace was decorated with a beautiful mosaic by a native of Karlovy Vary, Art Nouveau painter, graphic designer, puppeteer, and musical composer Richard Teschner (1879–1948). The mosaic forms a water fountain with two colourful long-tailed peacocks, one on each side. Flowers are intertwined around the blasting water and butterflies fly around. Colourful fish swim in the water. The mosaic is made using glass from the local glassworks, be it clear, opacified or iridescent. These shards were cut into required shapes. Currently, the villa is in private possession and not accessible to the public. When Maxmilian Spaun died, Leopold Bauer designed is tombstone, which can be seen in the upper part of the Rejštejnský hřbitov to this day.

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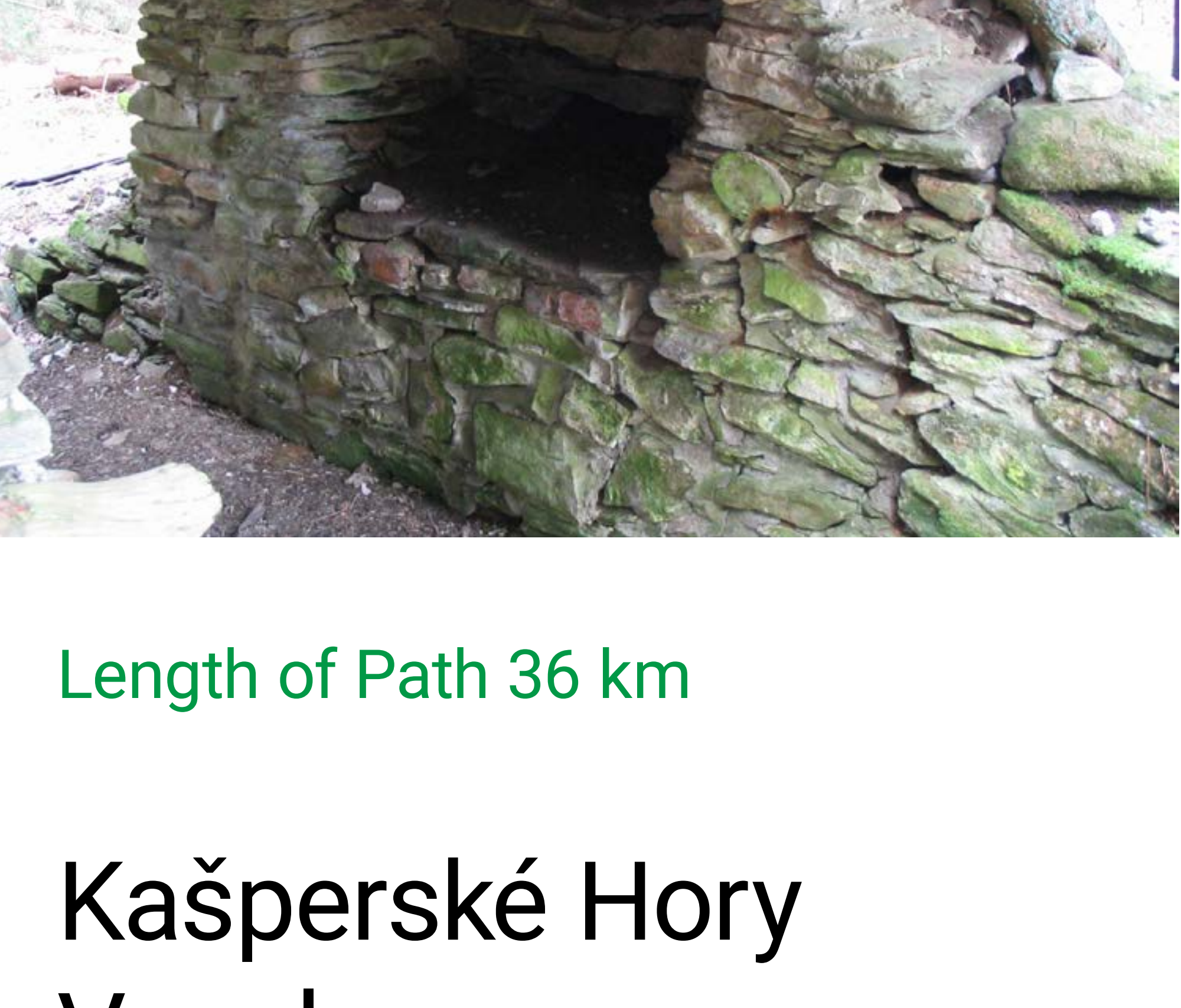
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7 Kašperské Hory Vogelsang



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Kašperské Hory Vogelsang

Among the oldest glassworks in the Kašperské Hory area count the glassworks of Podlesí. The first of them was founded during the first half of the 15th century.

Podlesí was bought, together with its right to glass production, in 1695 by a member of the known glassmaker family Gerl, Sebastian Florian Gerl. He built an extensive farmstead with other economic buildings as well as the St Barbara chapel. It is also very probable that he built a new glassworks, focusing on the production of clear hollow glass. We know from preserved order receipts that cut glasses, bottles or egg cups were made here. The glassworks also produced optic glass and continued producing glass beads and other small items.

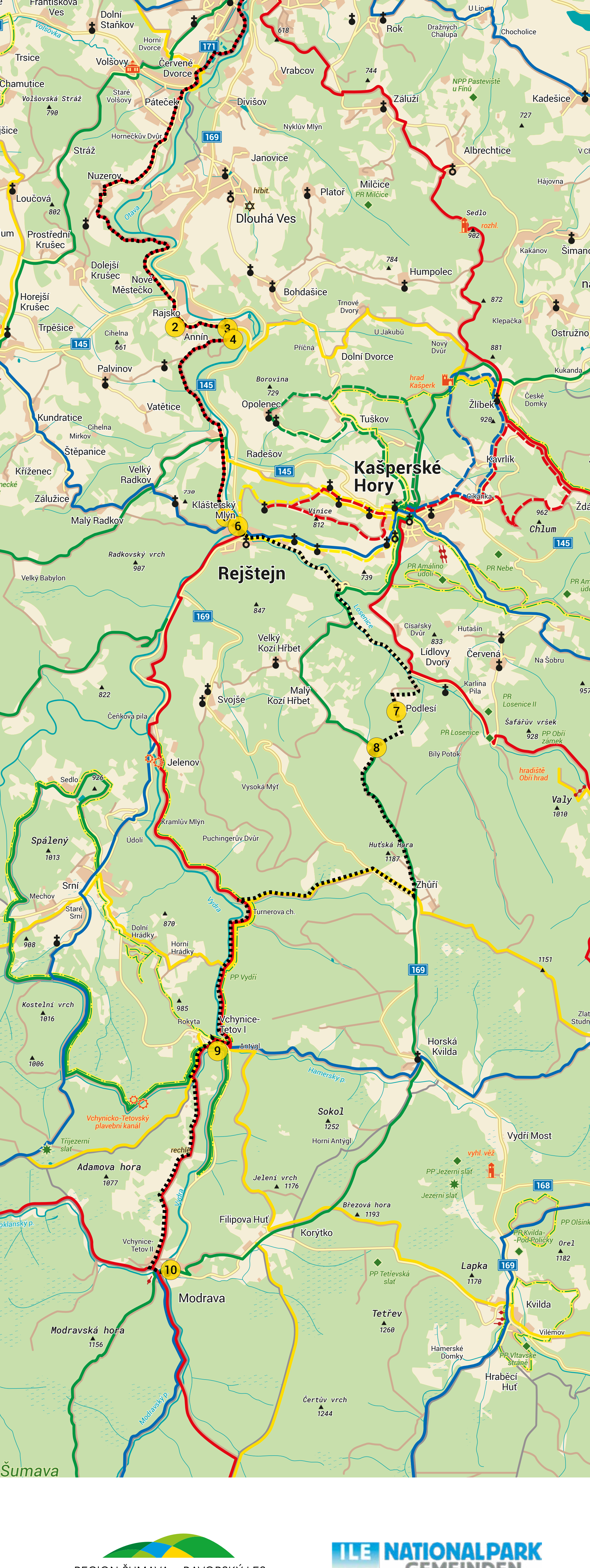
On November 13, 1765, the glassworks was bought by Anna Marie Eisner from the renowned Eisner family of Šumava glassmakers. After the death of her husband and both sons she led the business herself, at least until the sons of her eldest son, František Karel, reached adulthood.

After 1842 the running of the mill passed onto Eisner's son-in-law Martin Emanuel Schmid. The glassworks closure in October 1891 was definite. After the remaining glass was processed, the glass cutters left as well, which meant the end of glass production in Podlesí. In 1892, its owner Eduard Schmid died and his son-in-law sold Podlesí, now with only a farmstead, to the Duke of Schwarzenberg in 1911.

The glassworks location changed throughout centuries. Allegedly, it could have had as many as eight different locations. The most apparent remains are in a place which maps refer to as Stará Huť I (Old Mill I) (N49°5.45585', E13°33.49628'). The remains are dated back to the second half of the 18th century. A part of the original furnace wall is still preserved there. Today it is conserved and covered by a shelter which protects it from adverse wind conditions.

Below this location of the glassworks we can find remains of Stará Huť II (Old Mill II) (N 49°5.71983', E 13°33.65818'). A part of today's cabin is an old tall chimney which remains from the original homestead. West from this cabin, we find hollows created by quartz mining. The location of the most modern Vogelsang glassworks can be found about 300 metres from the former manor house (N 49°6.62753', E 13°33.18343'). Only parts of the perimeter wall remain and they have about a meter in height but are overgrown by naturally seeded plants. At all locations of the mill, it is possible to find pieces of glass or glass beads (páteříky).

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8 Kašperské Hory – Flusárna



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Kašperské Hory Flusárna

In the first half of the 19th century, Flusárna had five houses. The hamlet was dominated by a large two-storey building (no. 6) with a jerkinhead roof decorated by a traditional small Šumavian bell tower, the interior combining living and economic space. One smaller house belonged to this homestead as well and it stood in the place of today's cross.

Another homestead (no. 19) stood higher up the meadow. It included a second house, but that was demolished at the beginning of the 20th century. Potash was processed in the final small building (next to no. 6). After the decline of glass production in the region, the building was probably made into a chapel. The houses were demolished in the 1950 s. "Flusárna" was a name for places where potash (in Czech also 'flus'), or chemically potassium carbonate, was produced as one of the ingredients for glass production. Potash was made by leaching wood ash. The process, although technically fairly easily, demanded large amounts of wood. The high consumption of wood needed to produce potash and even to just use during the everyday running of the glassworks was one of the reasons why the heavily forested Šumava area became one of the most significant glassmaking centres.

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9 Srní Antýgl

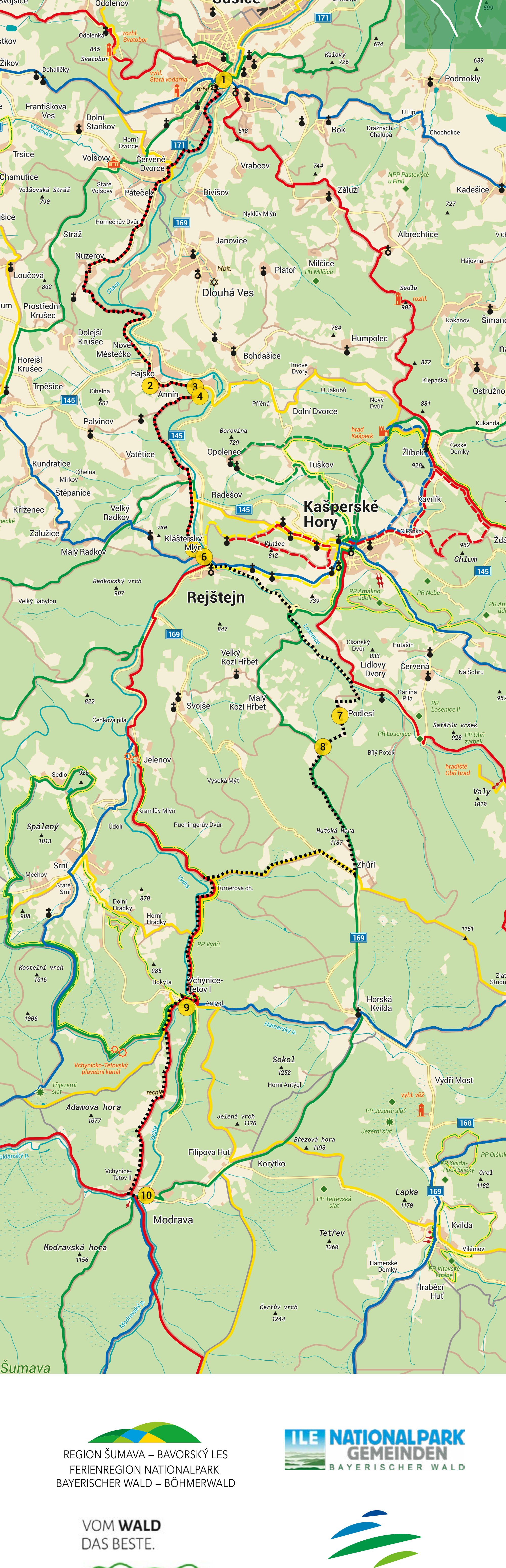


Length of Path 36 km

Srní Antýgl

If there even was a glassworks on Dolní Antýgl, that is, in the area of the surviving village on the river Vydra which belonged to the free guards of the Czech-Bavarian border (Králováci), it could have been put into operation sometime after the year 1523. The only remaining historical record from this year informs us about a “wise and careful Honza Fux, glassmaker in Svojše” buying the river Modrava and the Otygl forest from a certain Jandele, Přech Lčovský’s man, for 42 threescores of Míšeň groschen. However, a specific mention of a glassworks or any archaeological findings are absent. In 1786, a glassworks with three furnaces was built by the town of Kašperské Hory on Horní Antýgl (N 49°2.58643', E 13°32.35722'). The furnaces were used for making hollow glass, one of them for making glass beads. It was leased to Anna Marie Eisnerová up until the year 1796 and to her son Ignác after that. It also employed seven glass engravers. In 1790, the bead making glassworks was leased to a master glassmaker Christian Gattermayer for twelve years. In 1802, Gattermayer’s son-in-law Josef Schmid got it. Later, the glassworks was again leased by Ignác Eisner. He used it to make glass beads and colourful rings and from them rosaries and necklaces. He exported them mainly to Turkey and Italy. The glassworks definitively shut down in 1818 as a result of economic changes caused by the Napoleonic wars.

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10 Modrava – Infocentrum



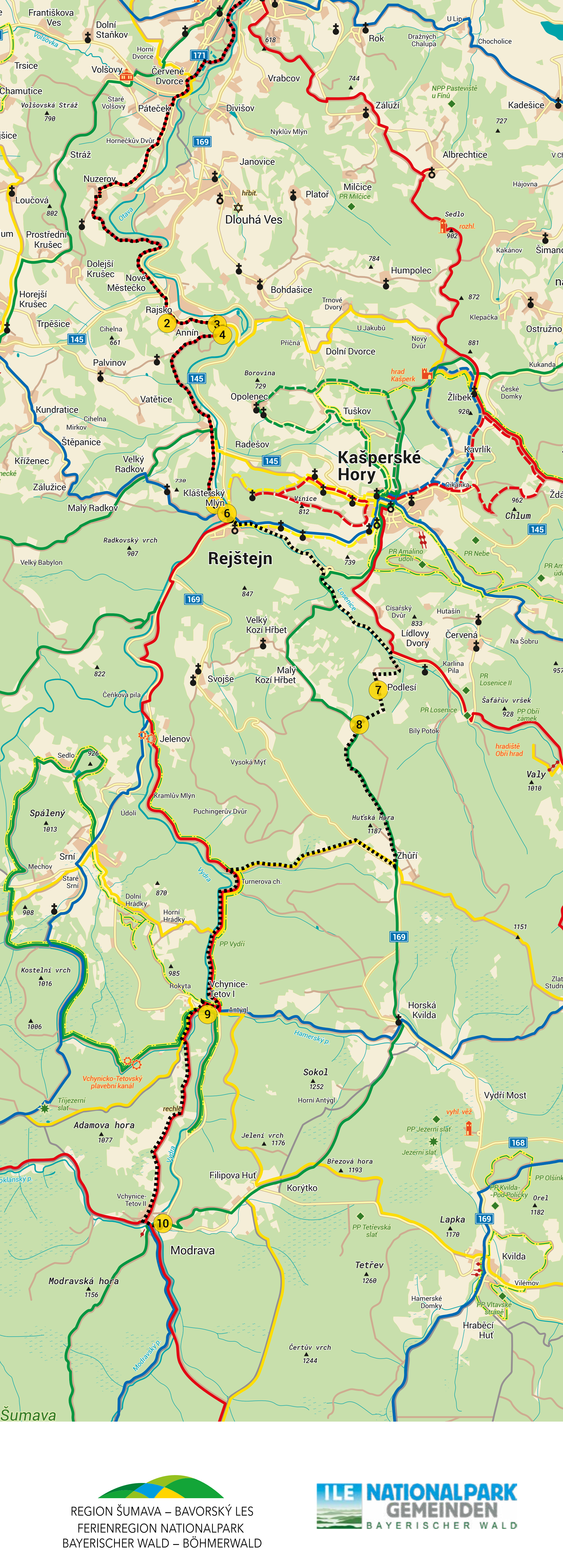
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Modrava Infocentrum

Glassworks have a long tradition in Šumava. The first known glassmaker was a certain Kadolt from Nýrsko, residing in Prague in the 14th century. Glassmakers likely came to Bohemia from Bavaria.

The Šumava region offered everything they needed: wood, quartz, limestone and water. Though they had plenty of wood to make potash, they did sometimes use up all in their immediate surroundings and found it easier to move the glassworks closer to the forest. That is why old Šumava glassworks have the same names but are in different locations. To make a kilogram of potash, one or two tons of wood had to be used. The wood was burned and the ashes were leached to obtain potash. If the glassmaker wished for a purer quality, he would achieve it by calcination in a reverberatory furnace. Potash was added to the preparation mixture in order to lower the melting temperature of quartz sand. Adding it reduced the melting temperature by half, to the acceptable 1200 °C. 100 kilograms of preparation mixture could contain 25 kilograms of potash. Quartz was crushed into quartz sand. Firstly though, the quartz rocks had to be heated up in a furnace, then thrown into cold water where they would crack. Only then would either industrial power hammers or poles with metalwork crush them into sand. The original glass from Šumava was green in colour and called forest glass. The colouring was due to the presence of iron in the quartz which the old glassmakers were not able to get rid of. Limestone was added to a type of glass which was possible to make very thick and as such was suitable for cutting. The oldest glassworks in the Modrava area stood in Svojše and Podlesí. The founder of the village and the leaseholder of the Kašperk castle, Petr Zmrzlík from Svojšíň, ran glassworks here in 1452 at the latest. The closest glassworks were those in Antýgl or in Filipova Huť.

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