



The Šumava Glassmakers' Trail

1 Hamry by Stateček (Güttl)



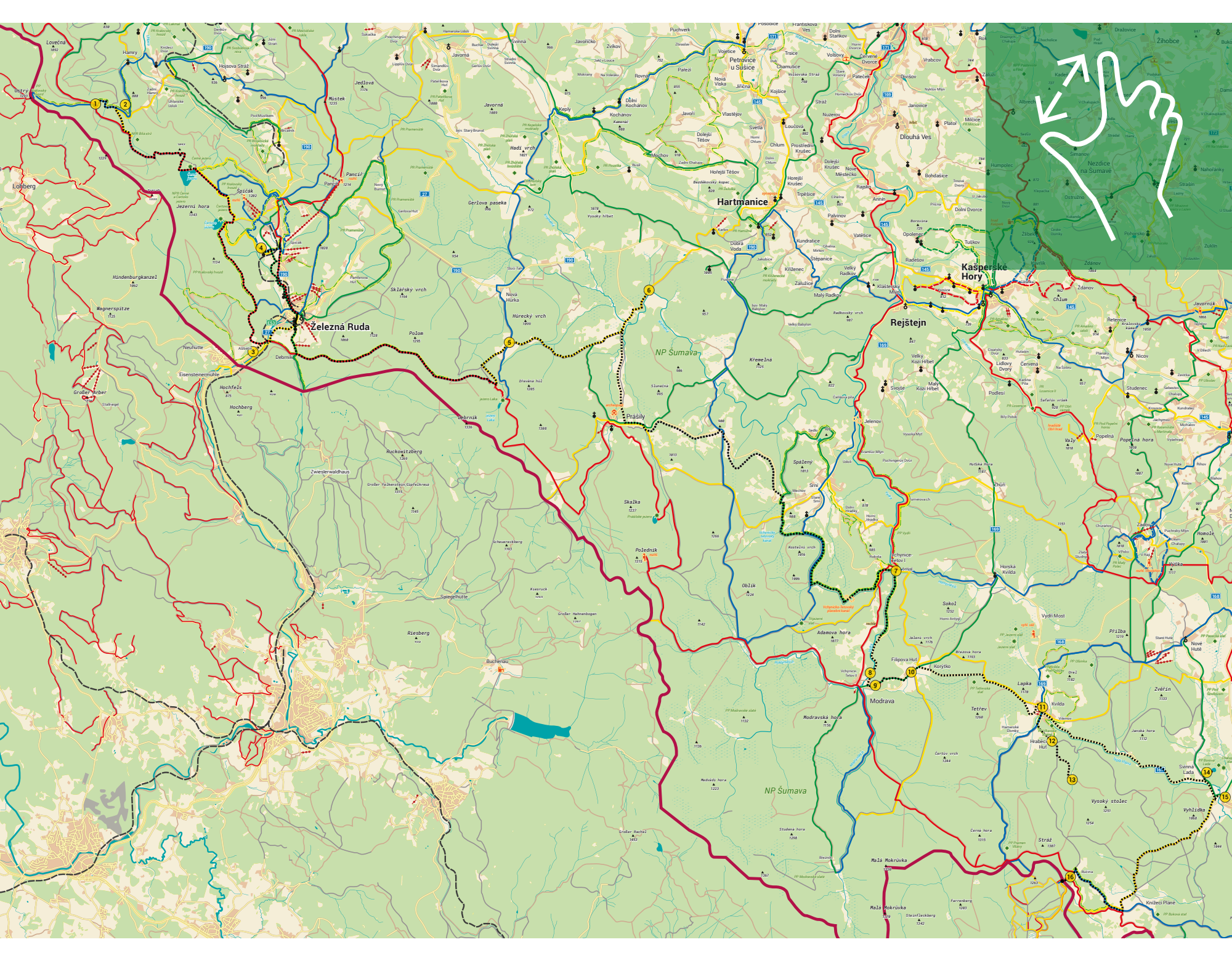
Length of Path 91 km

Hamry by Stateček (Güttl)

Probably sometime before the year 1695, a small glassworks was founded in 950 meters above sea level. The glassworks used to stand somewhere near the place where the road splits to the peak of Ostrý, to Hamry, Zadní Chalupy and to Černé jezero (Black lake). The last building standing there was an inn, which was demolished in 1953. A guide from 1901 states that there is a clearing with the old glassworks' ruins. Jiří Frölich from the Písek Museum says that there used to be stones with molten glass from the glassworks furnace poured over them. He also found blue, purple and colourless glass, and parts of round stained-glass window panels. There is yet no proof of any other products being made here.

The glassworks' founder was probably Johann Michael Pock from Huť pod Ostrým (Osserhütte). He is mentioned in the 1744 register of births and deaths as master Jakob Nitsch. The glassworks probably ceased to exist a couple of years after that.

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2 Hamry Ostré boudy



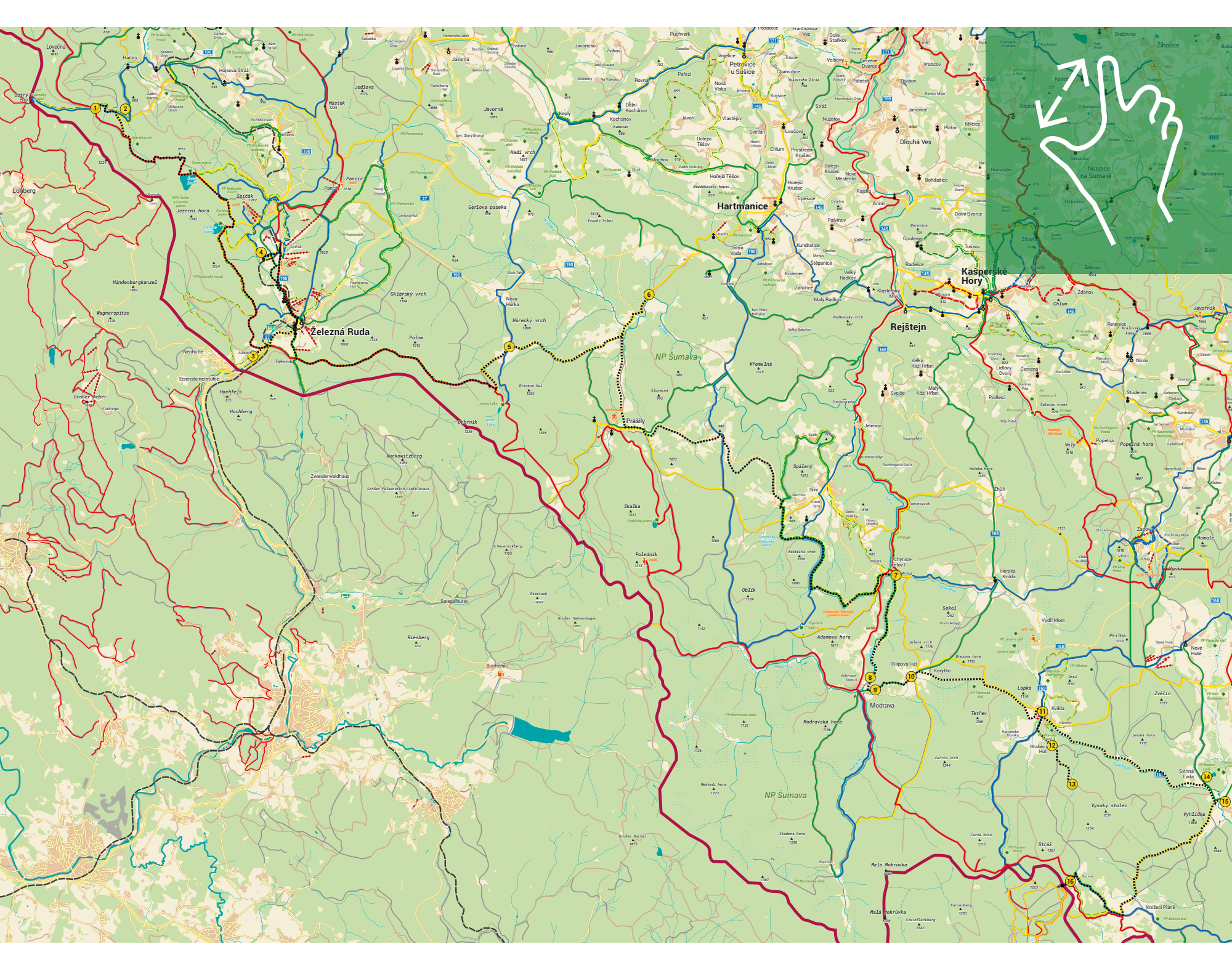
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Hamry Ostré boudy

At the beginning of the 1950 s this was the station of the 7th brigade of the Border Guards. At some point in 1952, it was moved to a former school building in Hamry.

About 500 metres from here, on the right bank of the White stream (Bílý potok), used to stand a glassworks. It was built during the first half of the 19th century and produced mainly sheet glass and mirror glass for round pocket mirrors. At first the glassworks employed up to 20 people. It was run by the Johann Anton Ziegler and Sons company. In 1874, Franz Schrek expanded and modernised it. The furnaces were heated by regenerative fuel. Just like many other glassworks in Šumava, it could not compete with the North Bohemian glassworks, which used coal as a fuel. After the lease ran out in 1891, the glassworks closed down. The empty buildings were settled by forest workers.

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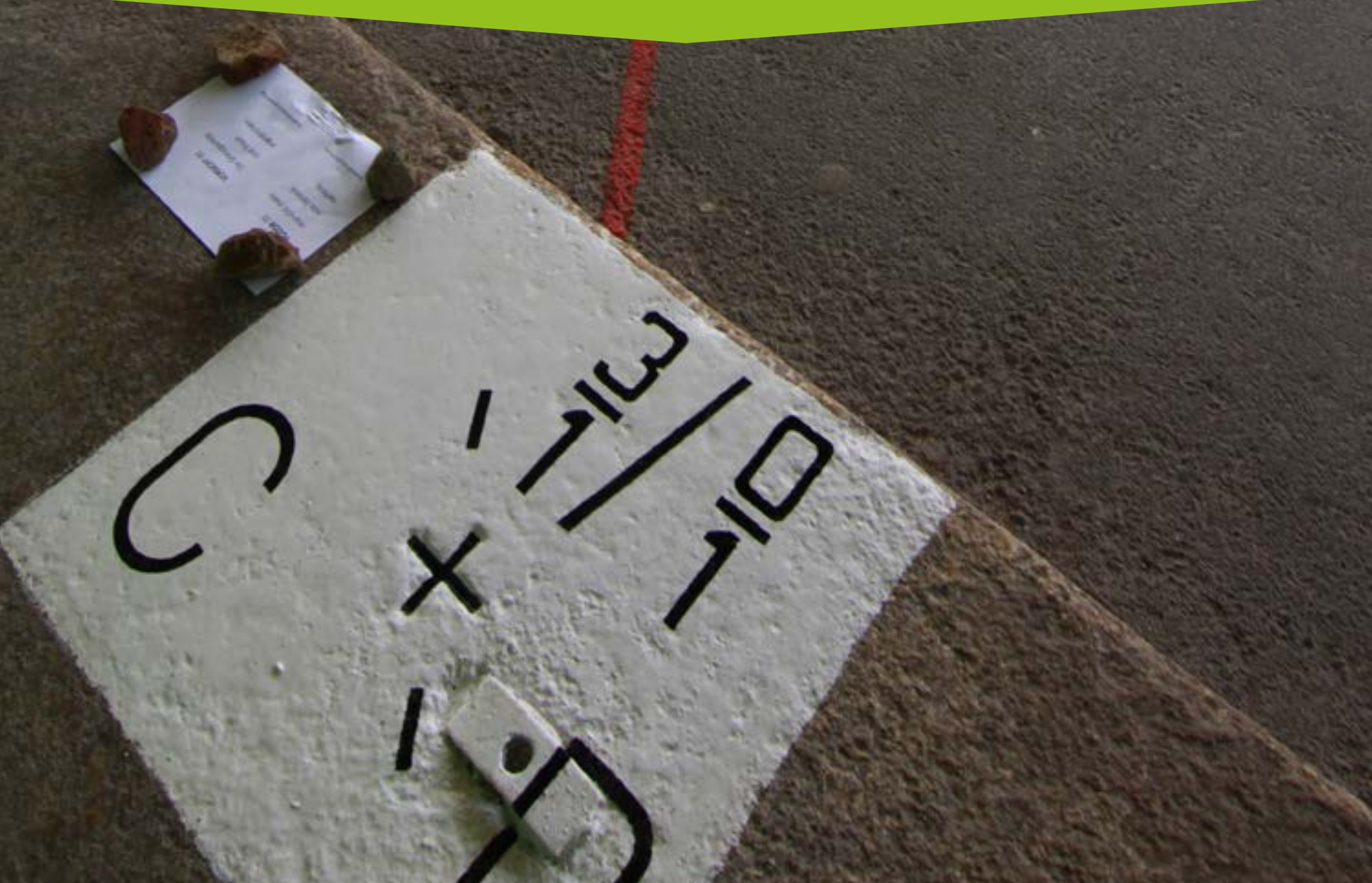


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3 Železná Ruda – Alžbětín



Length of Path 91 km

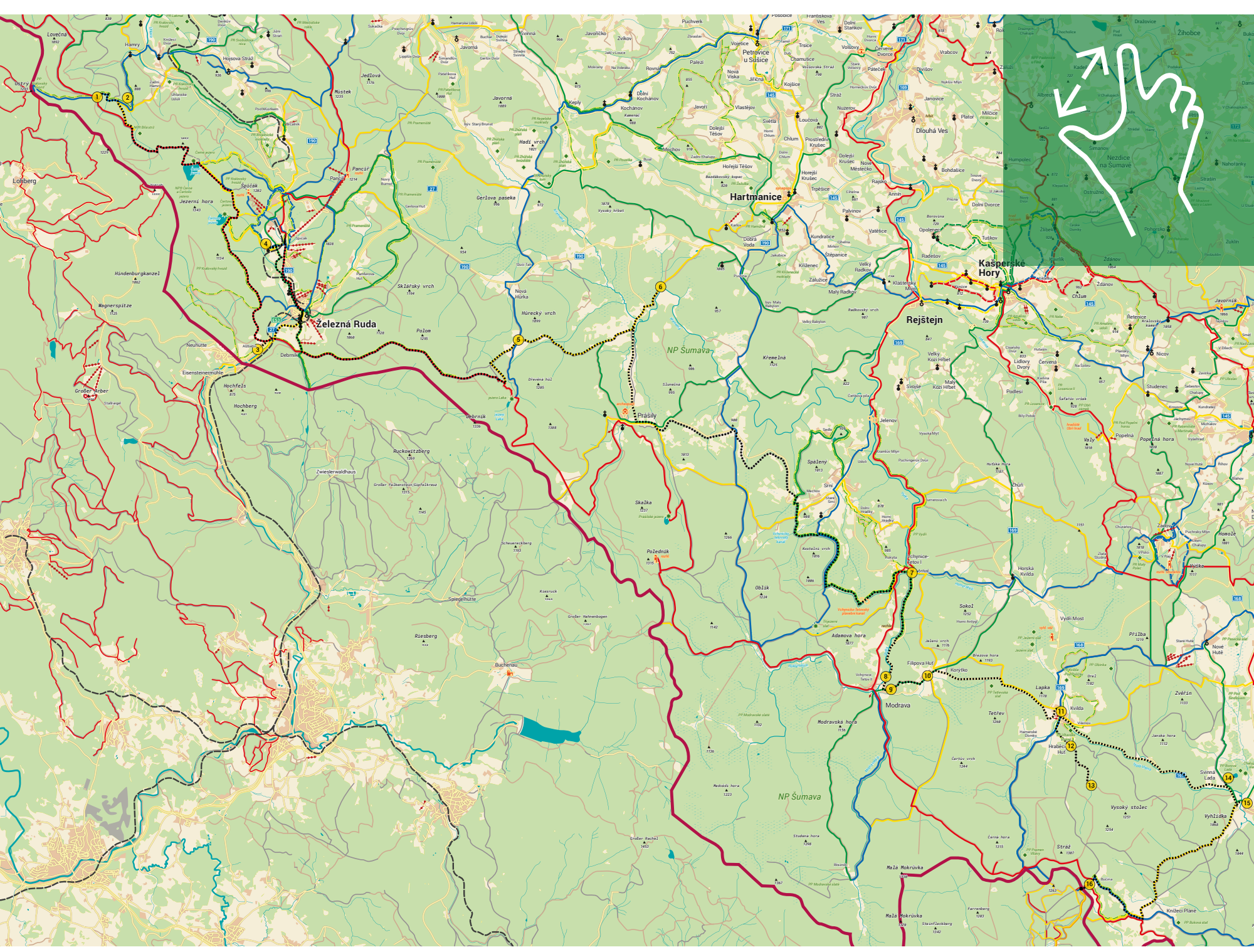
Železná Ruda Alžbětín

In 1842, the glassmaker Peter Ziegler leased a newly built glassworks in Alžbětín from Franz Xaver Hafenbrädl for fourteen years. However, it would seem that the glassworks stood here even before that time and that Hafenbrädl had it merely repaired in 1841. It got its name after Franz Xaver's aunt Marie Alžběta. In Spring of 1845, Ziegler's company was relatively successful at an industrial exhibition in Vienna. According to the production catalogue, the company then made around 2 800 q of raw glass and employed around 300 people.

Ziegler made white glass and so-called Jewish mirrors (round pocket mirrors). He did not have a glass-cutting mill and had to transport his glass to a leased mill in Oberfrauen, Bavaria.

In 1877 Alžbětín was leased by Ziegler's son-in-law, Franz Schrenk. A year later he already planned to build a new glass-cutting mill and a mirror polishing workshop, but his plans were made difficult by a shortage of firewood. Šumava glassworks were competing with North-Bohemian glassworks which used either coal or producer glass as fuel. As such, the glassworks had to be closed after Wenzel Schrenk's death (Franz's son, died 1905) in 1906. Matylda Schrenková continued to run the glass-cutting and polishing mill until 1929.

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4 Špičák – Bumbálka



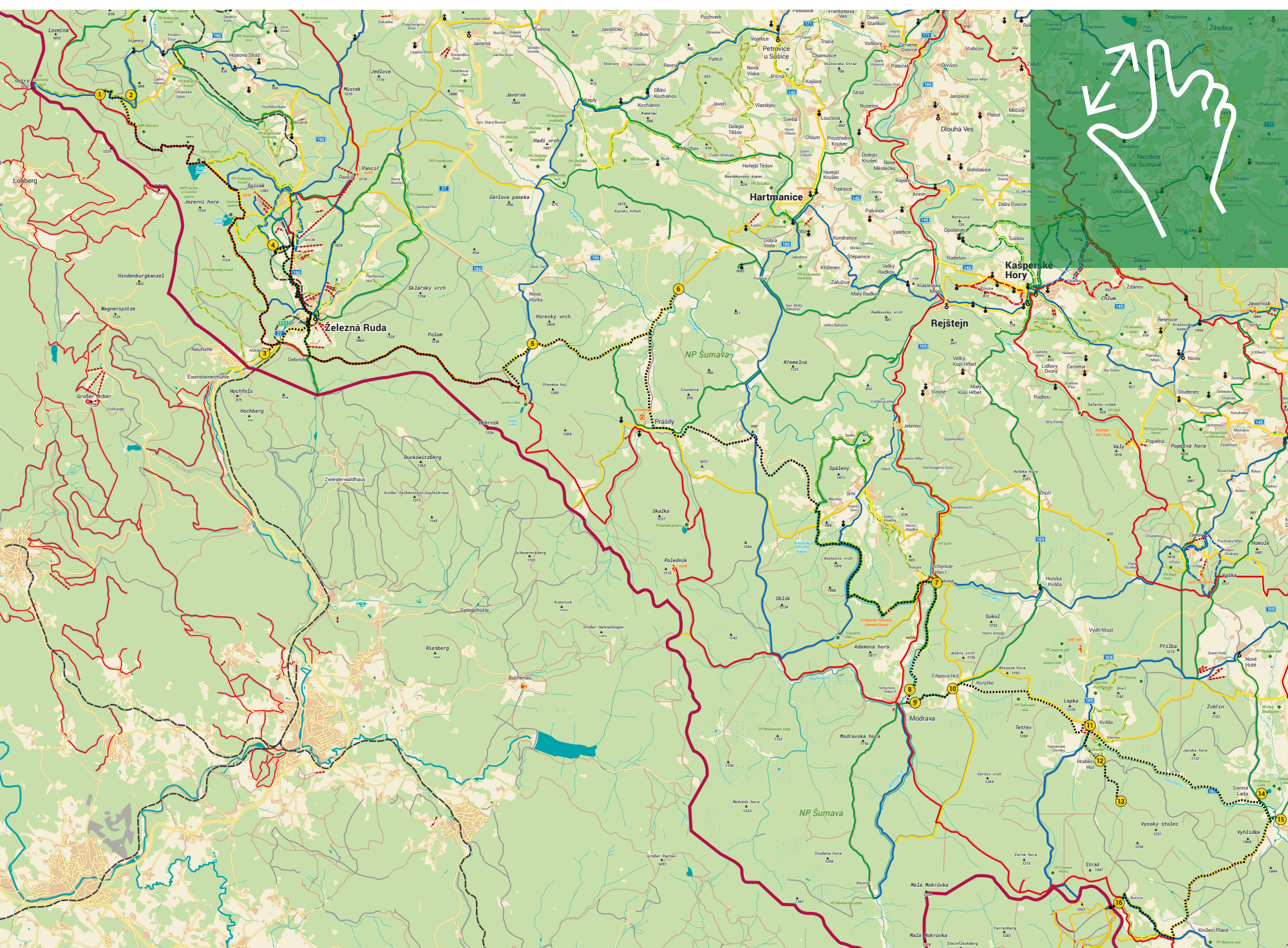
Length of Path 91 km

Špičák – Bumbálka

Opposite to the Bumbálka cabin used to stand Tereza's Glassworks (Terezina Huť). It belonged to the Girglhof dominion, which was one of the oldest and richest dominions in the Železná Ruda region. Girglhof's first owners were the Schreiner family, specifically mentioned is Michael. The estate's name is supposedly derived from Michael's sons' first names. All three of them were named Jiří. The male family line died out some 200 years ago and the only daughter married Josef Fuchs, a merchant who later became the mayor of Železná Ruda. The estate was damaged by the functioning of the state-owned socialist agricultural collective.

In 1883, Josef Fuchs (1834–1921) built a glassworks which produced sheet and mirror glass near the estate. The glassworks was named after Fuchs' wife Terezie. It only had one furnace, which ran on regenerative fuel and had eight crucibles. Fuchs employed up to 30 workers. But the glassworks could not compete with the coal-fueled North-Bohemian glassworks. It survived one fire, but gave in to the second one in 1892. The remains of the glassworks, specifically the flue with stiff molten glass, are visible to this day.

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5 Prášily – Stará Hůrka



Length of Path 91 km

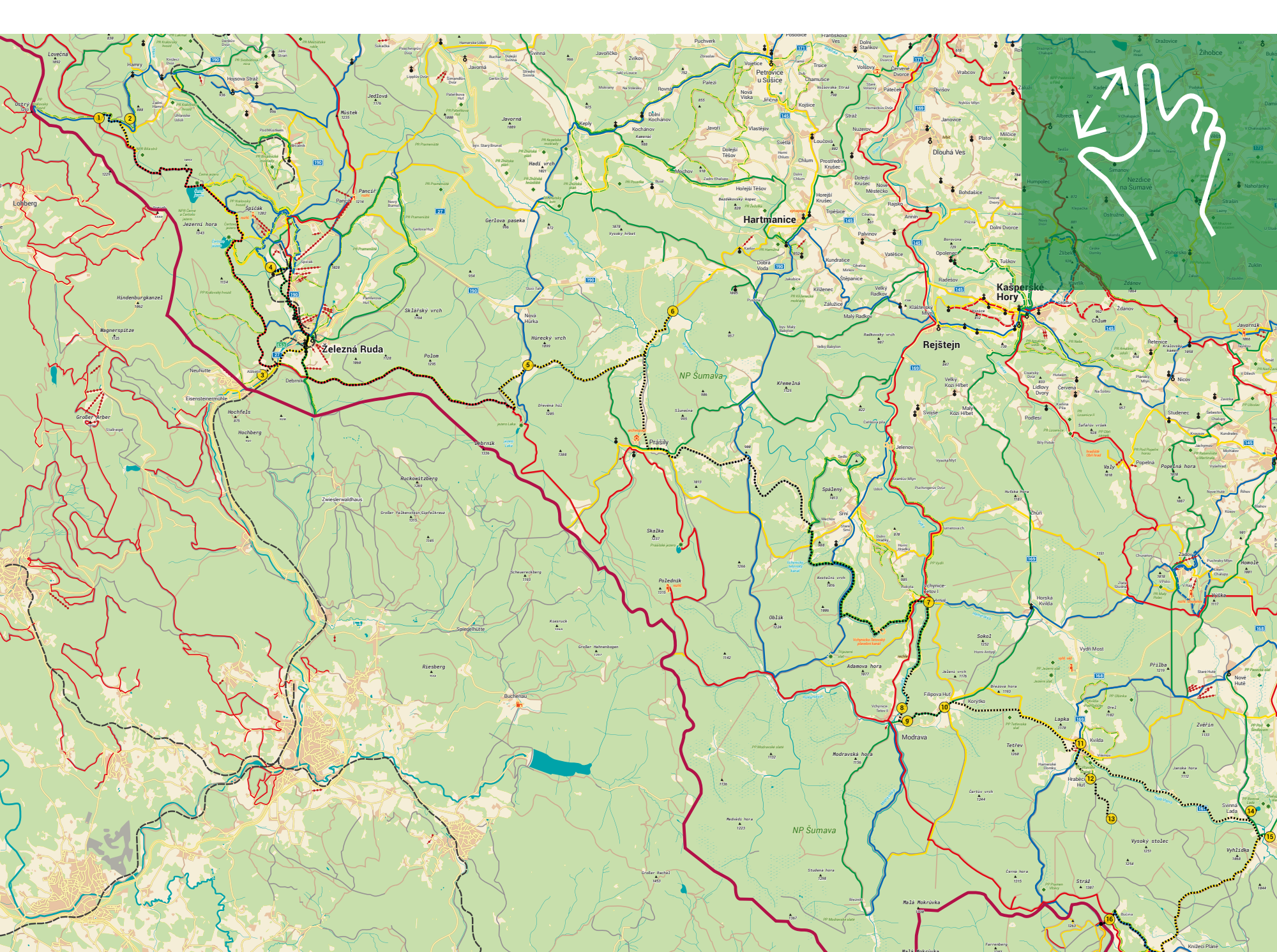
Prášily – Stará Hůrka

The beginnings of the local glassworks reach back to the year 1732, when, on the Vysoké Lávky cadastre, the glassmaker Jan Jiří Hafenbrädel bought the forest and the surrounding area of over 1000 ha from Eleonora of Mansfeld. He paid 2500 golden pieces for the area.

Other glassmakers in the area protested, but Jan Jiří's request to build a glassworks, a mill, and a sawmill. The glassworks was given the name Česká huť (Czech glassworks). It stood on the left bank of Jezerní stream. It made sheet glass. In 1747, Jan Jiří gave the glassworks to his son Ignác for four thousand golden pieces. Ignác then moved the glassworks to a new place – today's Hůrka. The original glassworks began to be referred to as the old glassworks and the village near it as Stará (Old) Hůrka.

The new glassworks was, together with the village, bought by Jiří Kryštof Abele in 1801 and from his heirs it was bought by Karl of Hohenzollern. The Abel family had the Holy Cross Chapel built as a family chapel with a family crypt in 1820. The village was not small, apart from the 1789 St Lawrence Church and the Holy Cross Chapel, there was also an inn, two mills, a post office and a hotel. Part of the village was also a mansion-house called 'little chateau'. In the 1950s the place became a part of a military area, but before that, in the year 1949, director Vladimír Čech used it to shoot his film Divá Bára, based on a book by Božena Němcová. What remains from the former village is only the graveyard chapel and the remains of the church.

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6 Prášily – Frauenthal



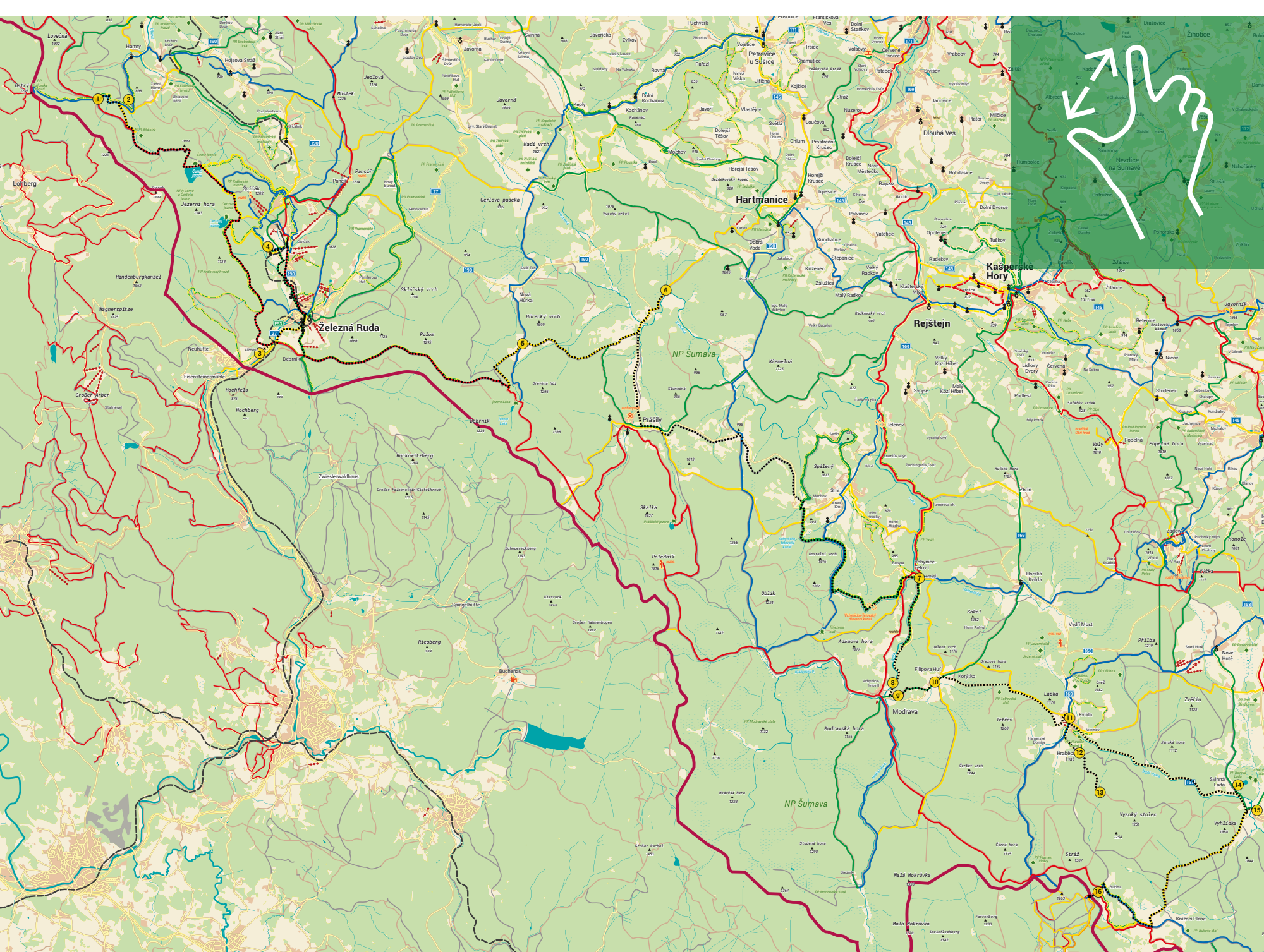
Length of Path 91 km

Prášily – Frauenthal

The Old Frauenthal glass-cutting and polishing mill was founded in 1863 by Isak Simon Bloch from Hartmanice in place of an old farmhouse, built by farmer Lenz from Stodůlky in 1753. The mill focused mainly on producing round pocket mirrors, often called Jewish mirrors. It had 12 cutting machines and several tens of polishing ones, powered by five water wheels with a diameter of 5 meters. The water was brought to the wheels by a five-kilometre long canal from the Křemelná river, which began below the confluence of Křemelná and Prášilský stream. The mill employed 200 people in total. It was extended in 1872 by a new cutting mill with a workshop for faceting the edges of large mirror glasses, powered by two water wheels. The complex included the surrounding lands with a gamekeeper's lodge, a smithy, and an inn.

The glassworks in Frauenthal stopped running during Christmas of 1932, because they couldn't stand against the competition. The village became an army training station after 1952, as part of the Dobrá Voda military district.

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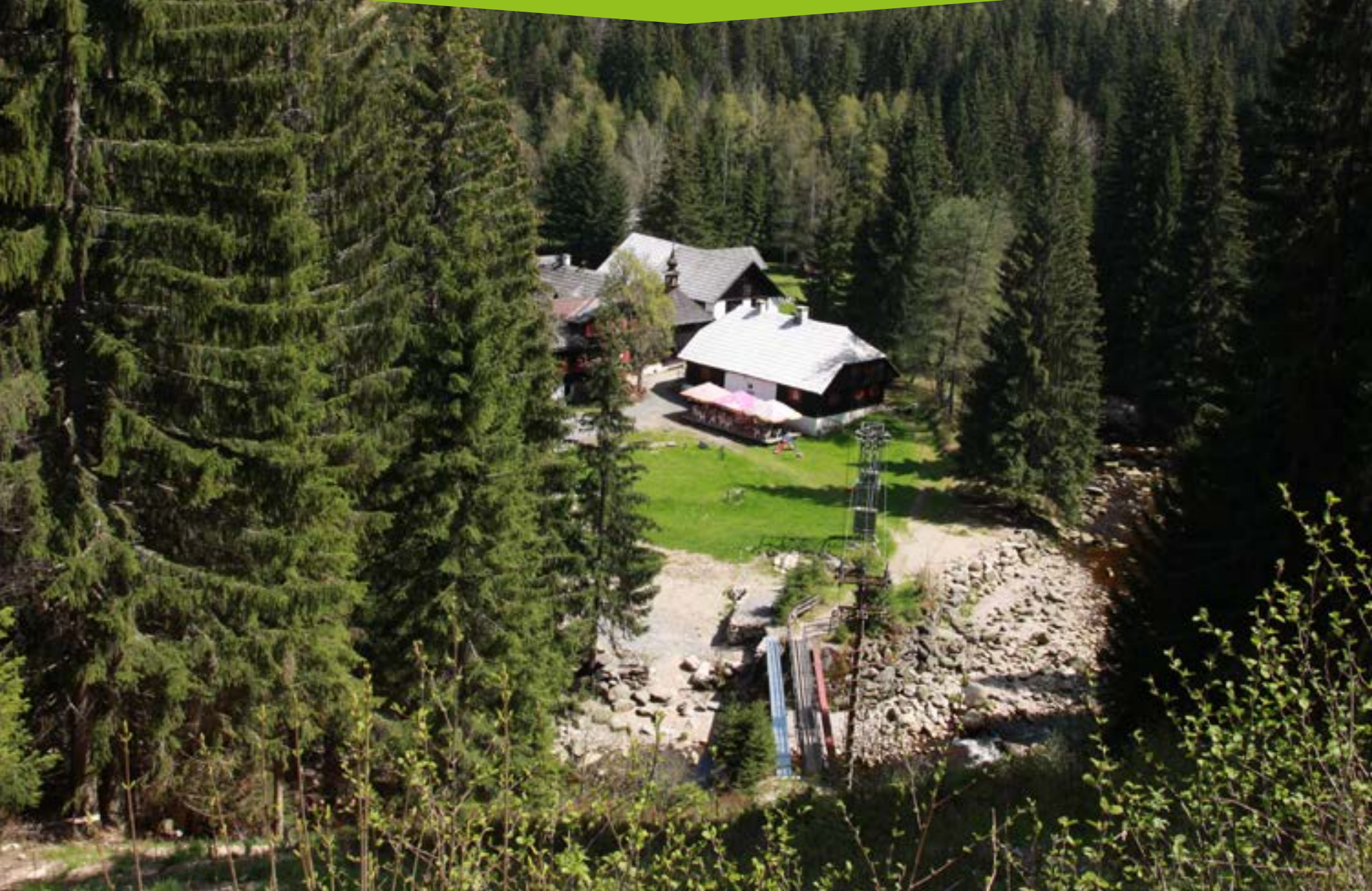


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The Šumava Glassmakers' Trail

7 Antýgl



Length of Path 91 km

Antýgl

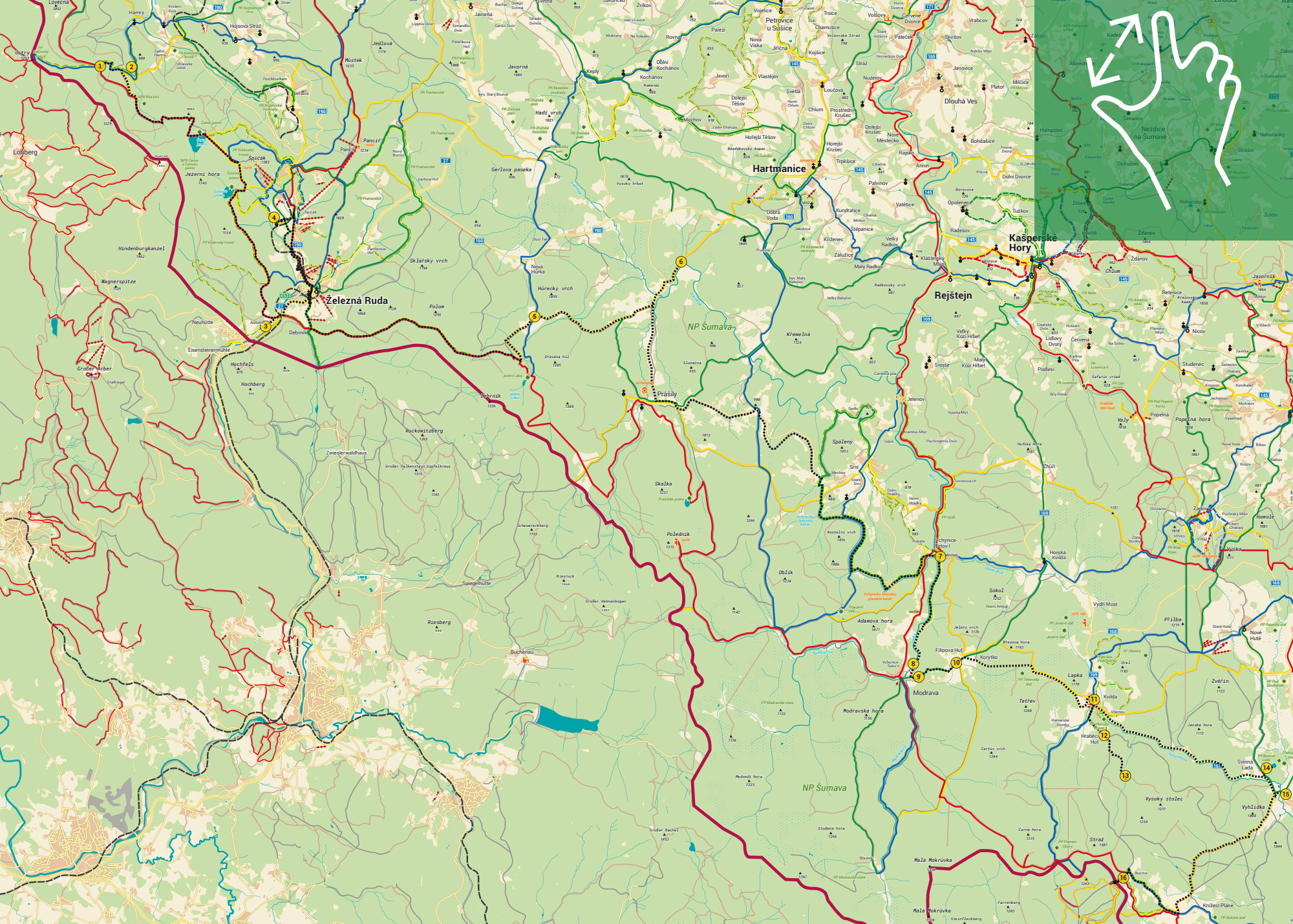
Antýgl used to be a village belonging the free German-speaking guards of the Bohemian-Bavarian border called Králováci. They inhabited an independent border area Královský hvozď (King's Forest) spanning from the village of Svatá Kateřina in the West to Stachy. It existed as an administrative area up until 1848 and its end was tied to the abolition of statute labour and servitude. Králováci's legal status stemmed from the fact that they were direct subjects of the Bohemian King (the Czech word for king is král – hence their name).

The first mention of Králováci comes from the year 1314, when Elizabeth of Bohemia, wife of the Bohemian King John of Luxembourg and mother of the future King Charles IV, granted them their first privilege - the right to autonomy. Their other rights included the right to hunt, brew beer, distill spirits, craft, sell and trade properties... However, these rights were not codified on paper until 1617 and then they had to be affirmed by each new ruler of Bohemia. The King's free peasants (Künische Freibauern) managed to retain their privileged status even after the Thirty Years War and up until 1848, when servitude was abolished and they, together with everyone else, became free citizens of the Habsburg Monarchy.

Glassmaking was among traditional employments for Králováci, it could even be said that it was their most characteristic occupation. The beginnings of glassmaking in the King's Forest reach back to the early 15th century, when the first glassmakers came here from Bavaria - that's why a lot of the first glassworks were built close to the border.

The reparation of the estate itself started in 1961 by the Sušice branch of the Union for Cooperation with the Army (or Svazarm, for short) and today it serves as an autocamp.

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8 Vchynice-Tetov



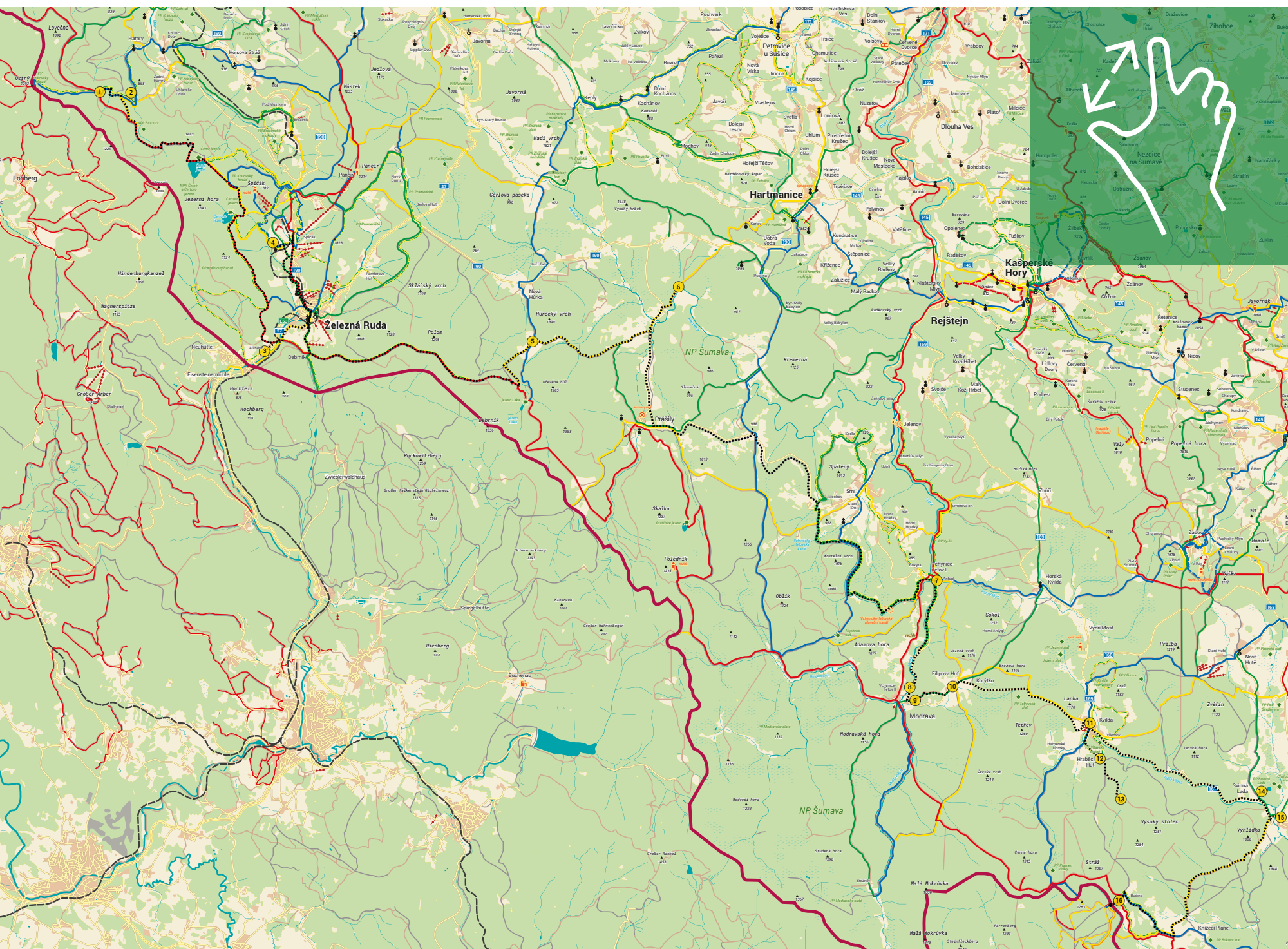
Length of Path 91 km

Vchynice-Tetov

In 1790 and 1792, two villages were founded at the foot of Adam's Mountain, called Einbauern and Brennten by the people, but officially named Vchynice-Tetov, in honour of the owner of the dominion Filip Kinský of Vchynice and Tetov. He needed woodcutters to settle there to process the riches of the local woods. In 1799, the dominion became a part of prince Josef Schwarzenberg's lands. Schwarzenberg decided to realise an ambitious plan – building a 14 kilometre long floating canal which would connect the Vydra and Křemelná rivers in a way that would bypass the unnavigable section of Vydra. Schwarzenberg's main reason for carrying out this project was his interest in logging in the dense woods of his newly acquired lands - floating the logs through the canal, their subsequent tying into rafts and transporting them via broad rivers was the easiest and fastest way to get them inland. The project was developed by Ing. Josef Rosenauer and the canal was built between 1799 and 1801.

The village was used as a location for the filming of an adaptation of Božena Němcová's book Divá Bára.

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9 Modrava



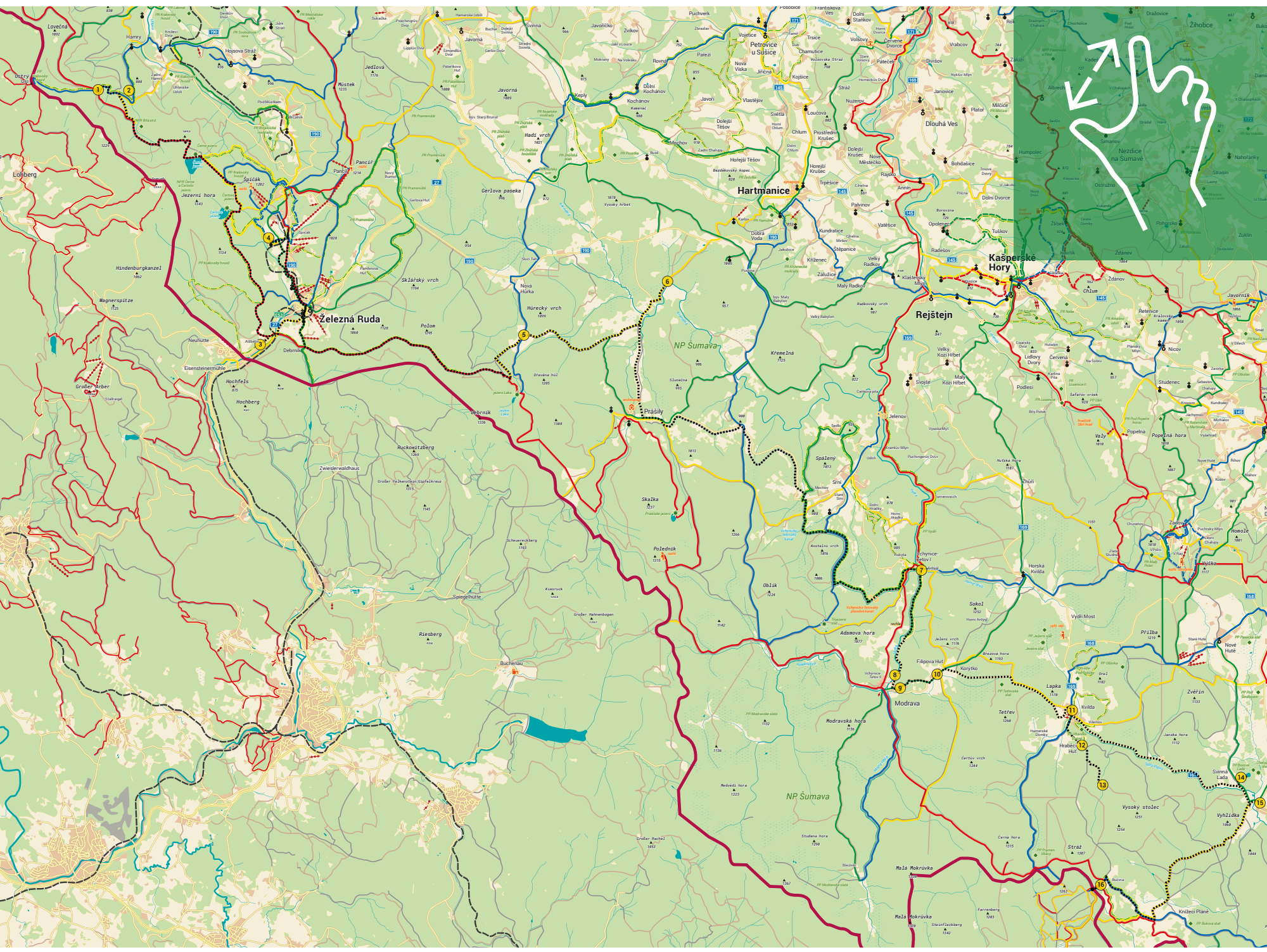
Length of Path 91 km

Modrava

The village of Modrava consists of three original settlements: Modrava, Filipova Huť, and Vchynice-Tetov. Modrava is the oldest of them, the first mention of it dates back to 1614, while the other two were founded at the end of the 18th century. Water was key to all of their developments – Modrava was founded as a fishing village on the Modrava stream, which then had plenty of fish. Since 1757, Modrava kept developing as a fishing and hunting village, up until 1799. In that year, count Filip Kinský sold the Prášily dominion to Josef II of Schwarzenberg, duke of Krumlov and the founder of the Hluboká-Krumlov branch of the house of Schwarzenberg. He began with extensive logging in the area and initiated the construction of the Schwarzenberg floating canal. He also built a small, half-timbered hunting chateau.

With the development of logging, a number of new buildings were built in the area, for example Bienertov's sawmill or the gamekeeper's lodge in Březník (Pürstling), a setting of the Šumava author Karel Klostermann's famous novel *Ze světa lesních samot*, which was first published in 1891 as a series in a newspaper. Apart from Klostermann's novels' popularity, the Modrava area is also made attractive by "Klostermann's cabin", which was built in 1924, a year after the author's death, by the Society of Czech Tourists. It was designed by a renowned architect Bohuslav Fuchs and to build it cost the Society 1 041 500 crowns.

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10 Filipova Hut'



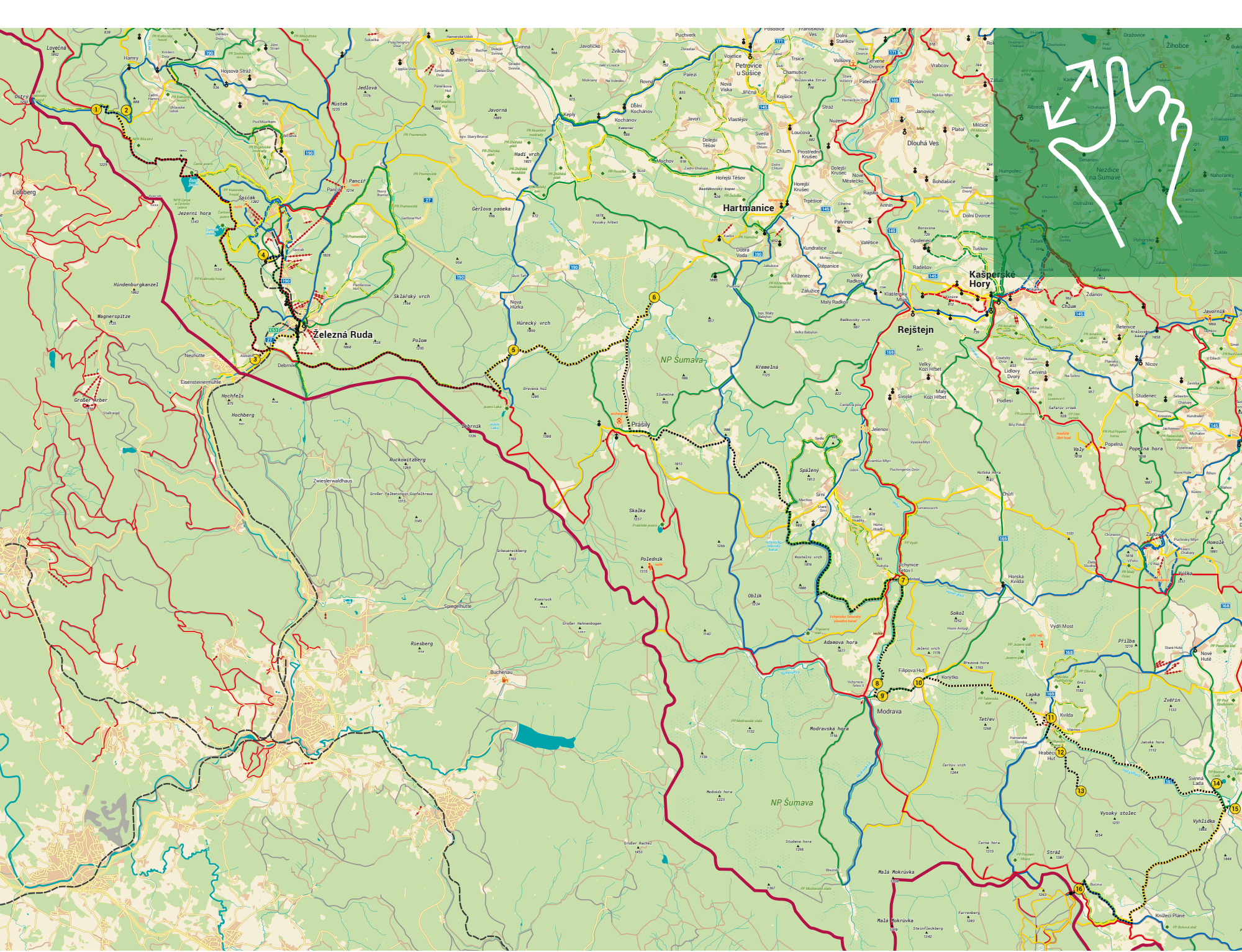
Length of Path 91 km

Filipova Hut'

The glassworks which used to stand here was founded by former timber floaters Franz Denk and Franz Weber from Schlösselwald in 1785. The glassworks only had one crucible and specialised in the production of hollow glass. It was named after the local nobleman Filip Kinský.

However, running the glassworks proved to be more difficult than the founders had anticipated and it soon became unprofitable and even loss-making. Its last owners sold it to prince Schwarzenberg – but he did not care for carrying on with glass production, closed the glassworks and used the buildings which used to house its workers to house logger's families. Glass production there was never renewed (and no part of the glassworks remains standing), but the place became a known woodworking village. Around the year 1880, during its greatest boom, it had 1620 residents – a very high number for a Šumava village.

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11 Kvilda – the reverse glass painting workshop



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Kvilda – the reverse glass painting workshop

Pictures of saints created using the reverse painting technique were possible to find on the wall of almost every (not only) Šumavian household.

Several factors contributed to the development of reverse painting in Šumava - firstly, it was the accessibility of cheap sheet glass, which was made in the local glassworks; secondly, it was the life conditions in the mountains, where cold winters kept people inside for the majority of the year and reverse painting thus became an ideal source of additional income for folk artists; the third factor was the fact that the technique was not too difficult - the paint dries by itself and the glass protects it from pollution from external sources, and as such, there is no need to provide it with any more treatment.

As to the distribution of the holy images, a large portion of them was exported abroad, especially to other states which fell under the Habsburg monarchy, or to Germany. A part was sold on annual markets or festivals and the rest by door-to-door sellers.

The most frequent motive were saints, particularly popular were pictures of Virgin Mary. Another period of reverse glass painting in Kvilda begins during the first quarter of the 19th century and is tied with the person of Michael Verderber. Under his son Johann's leadership, their reverse painting business truly prospered – thanks to excellent management, organisation and division of labour, the workshop was able to produce thirty to forty thousand reverse paintings in a year. It employed 10 to 15 workers, including paint mixers and framers. The paintings were exported to the whole of the Habsburg monarchy; they were sold at fairs and markets in Bohemia or distributed with the help of door-to-door sellers.

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12 Kvilda – Hraběcí hut' (Grafenhütte)



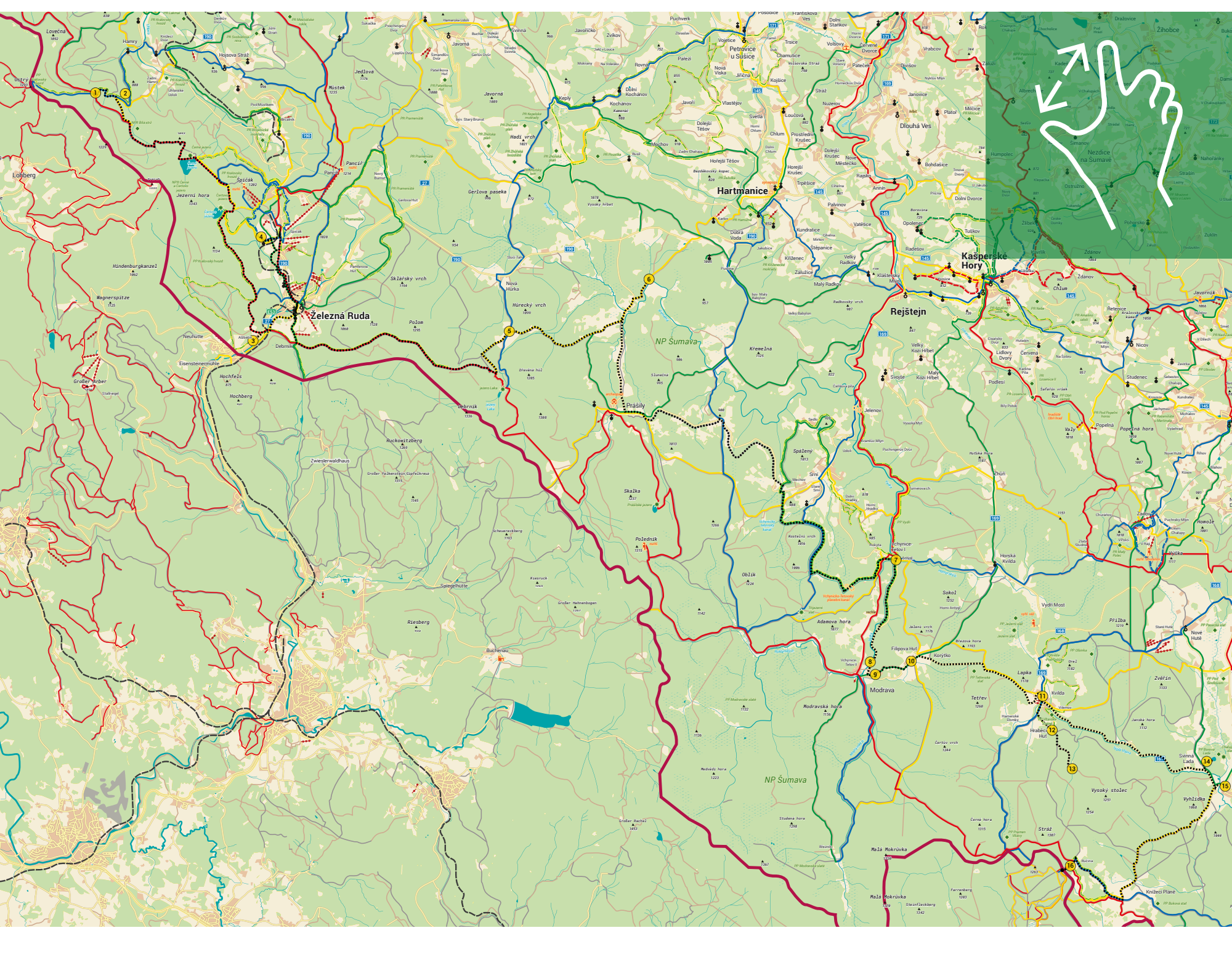
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Kvilda – Hraběcí hut' (Grafenhütte)

The original glassworks already stood here in 1794, when the house of Malowetz owned Zdíkov. It stood next to a potash mill on the right bank of Vltava. The master glassmaker was Simon Gattermayer and the glassworks produced hollow glass and cut mirror glass. The 1803 register refers to it as “Graffenhütte am der Moldau” (Count’s Glassworks on Vltava). In 1871, after a calamity which led to a drastic fall in timber prices, the production in the glassworks was restarted by Johann Kralik and businessmen Michl Roth and Josef Strunz. Strunz led the glassworks by himself from 1875 onwards. It focused mainly on sheet glass production.

In 1880, the glassworks passed on to the Johann Lötze Witwe company from Klášterský Mlýn (Klostermühle). Sheet glass production was expanded on with hollow glass production. Unfortunately, the glassworks encountered numerous problems and had to be closed after its lease ran out in 1888.

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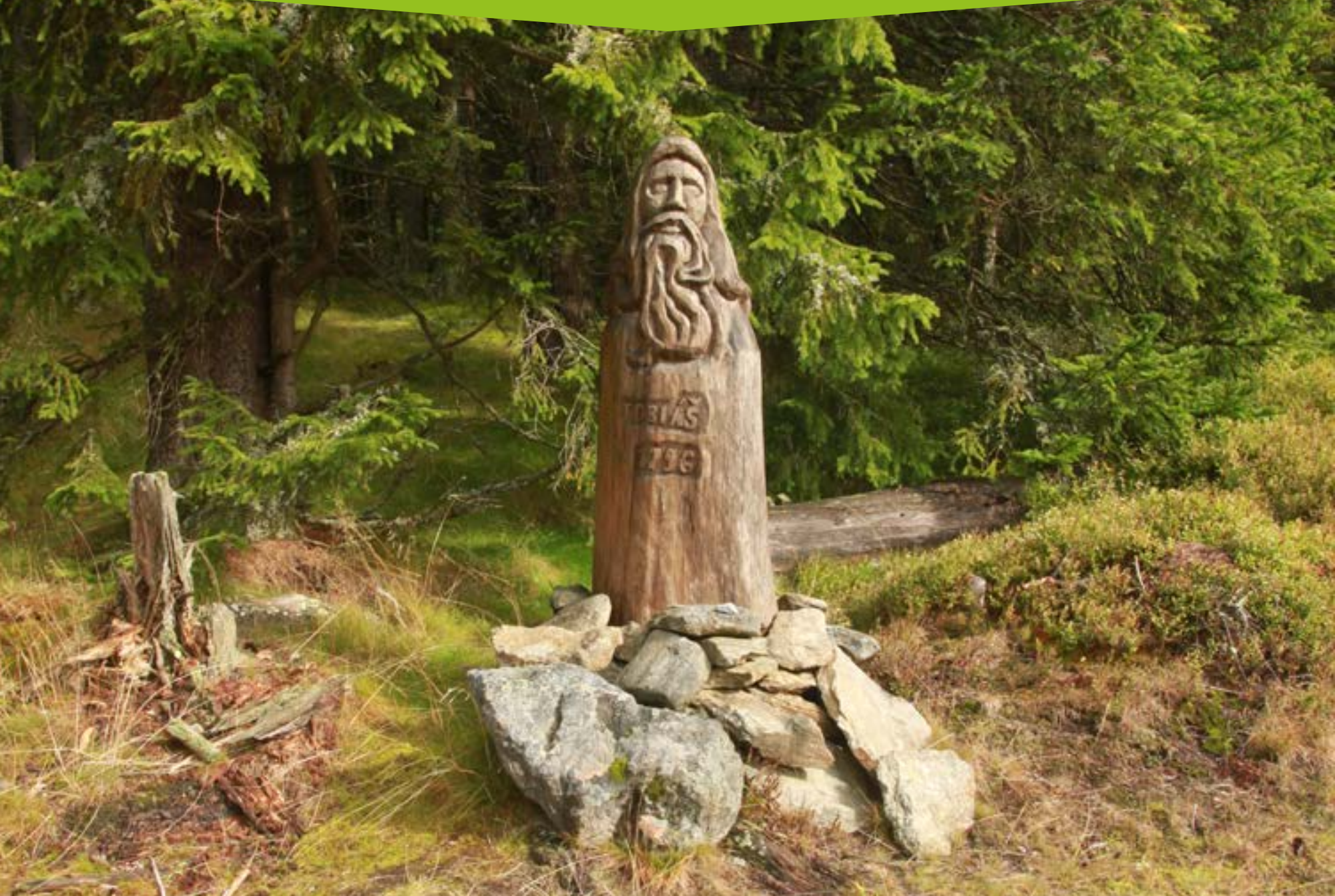


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The Šumava Glassmakers' Trail

13 Kvilda – Tobiášova huť (Tobias' Glassworks)

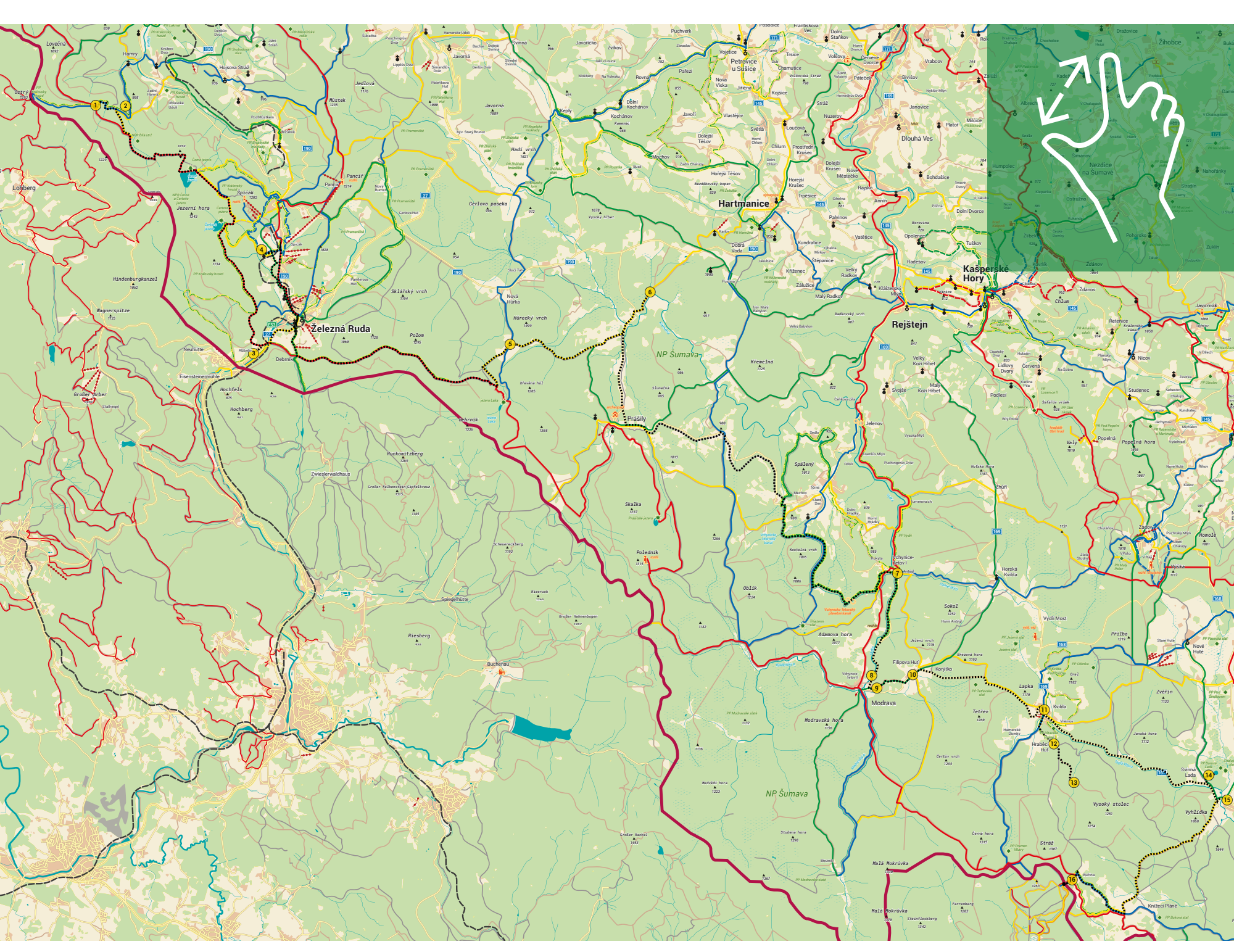


Length of Path 91 km

Kvilda – Tobiášova huť (Tobias' Glassworks)

Tobias' (also called Tafelberg) glassworks was built by Tobias Rafael Adler on the western slope of the Tafelberg mountain in 1 100 meters above sea level in 1796. It was consecrated by the local parish priest on November 22 of the same year. The glassworks produced hollow glass, which was cut and painted, as well as glass beads which were used to make rosaries. It employed one glass-cutter and two painters. In 1796, Tobias' son Antonín became the local master glassmaker – hence the glassworks' later name Antonia Hütte. After Tobias Adler's death on August 26, 1810, Antonín was not able to keep the glassworks running. We do not know the exact year the glassworks closed, the production ceased gradually as the lease ran out sometime before 1816. By 1837, there were five buildings and the cadastre still referred to the place as Tobiashütte. It was destroyed by a fire in 1890. We are reminded of the glassworks' existence by the name of the clearing where it used to stand – Tobiaska.

[Whole text](#)



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The Šumava Glassmakers' Trail

14 Borová Lada-Chalupská peatland / Teplá Vltava



Length of Path 91 km

Borová Lada-Chalupská peatland / Teplá Vltava

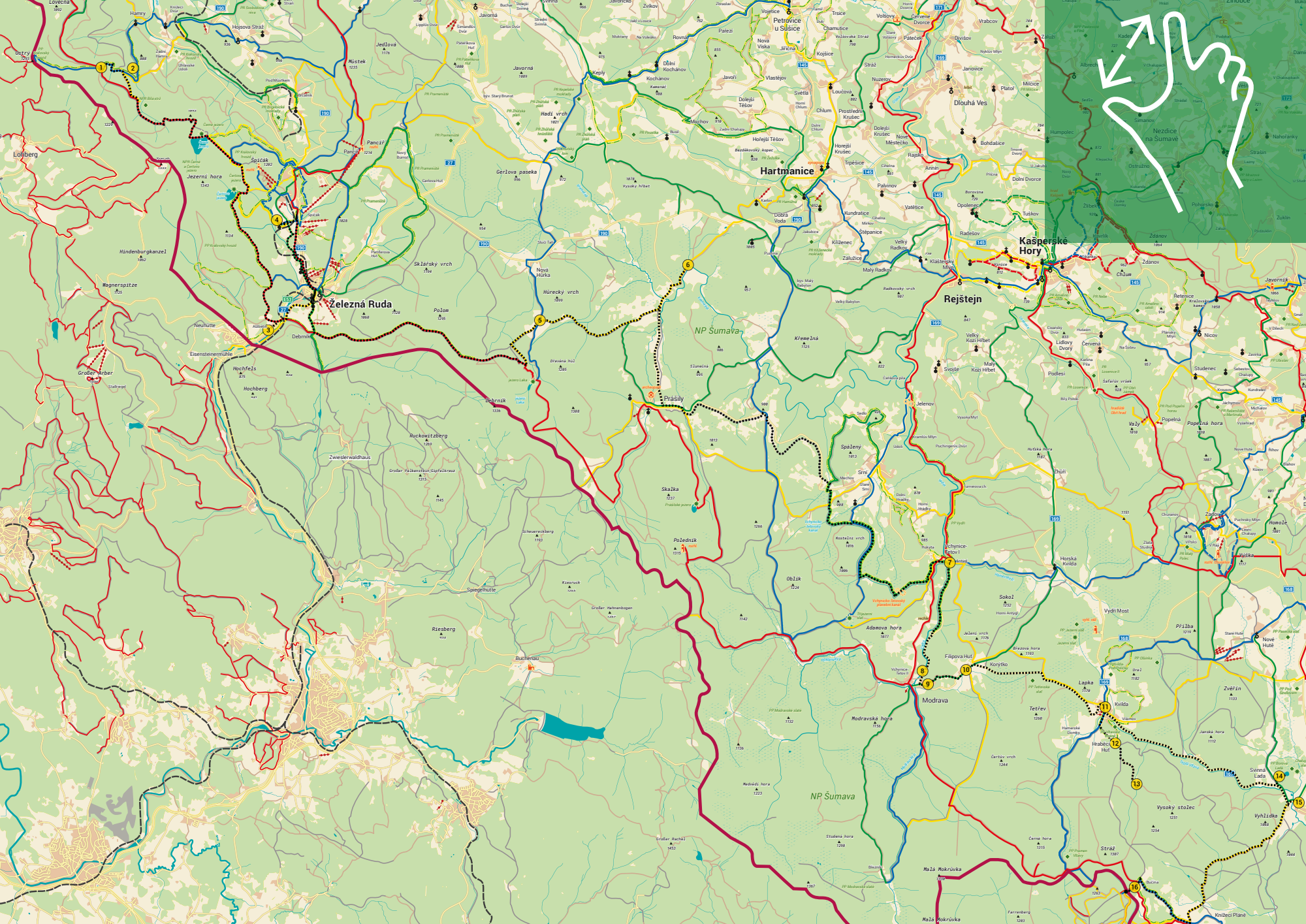
The peatland takes up an area of 137 hectares on the right side of the Vydří stream. The educational trail which goes through the peatland finishes with a viewing platform, offering a view over the largest bog lake in the Czech Republic. The area has been disrupted by peat mining in the past. First mentions of peat extraction come from the second half of the nineteenth century. After being dried, the peat served as litter and later as fuel in homes and glassworks and later in a paper mill.

The peat began to be mined in large quantities after the foundation of a paper mill in Františkov in 1895. It used to be mined by hand, using a special trowel. The extracted brick's size was around 10 cm × 10 cm × 45 cm.

It was usually mined eight weeks before harvest. Mining was most difficult from the depth of 3 meters. The bricks were then aligned and left to dry out. Women and children often helped with this part of the process. The dry bricks were taken away by local cottagers on ox-pulled wagons, or on sleighs in winter.

After the peat bricks were extracted from the ground, they were taken to be dried out. Then they were taken to places that used them for fuel. Originally, the whole of the peatland was meant to be mined and the bog lake was expected to be drained, but these intentions were fortunately not carried out. The reason for that was the 1929-1933 economic crisis. Mining continued on a more limited scale until 1947.

[Whole text](#) ➔



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The Šumava Glassmakers' Trail

15 Borová Lada – village



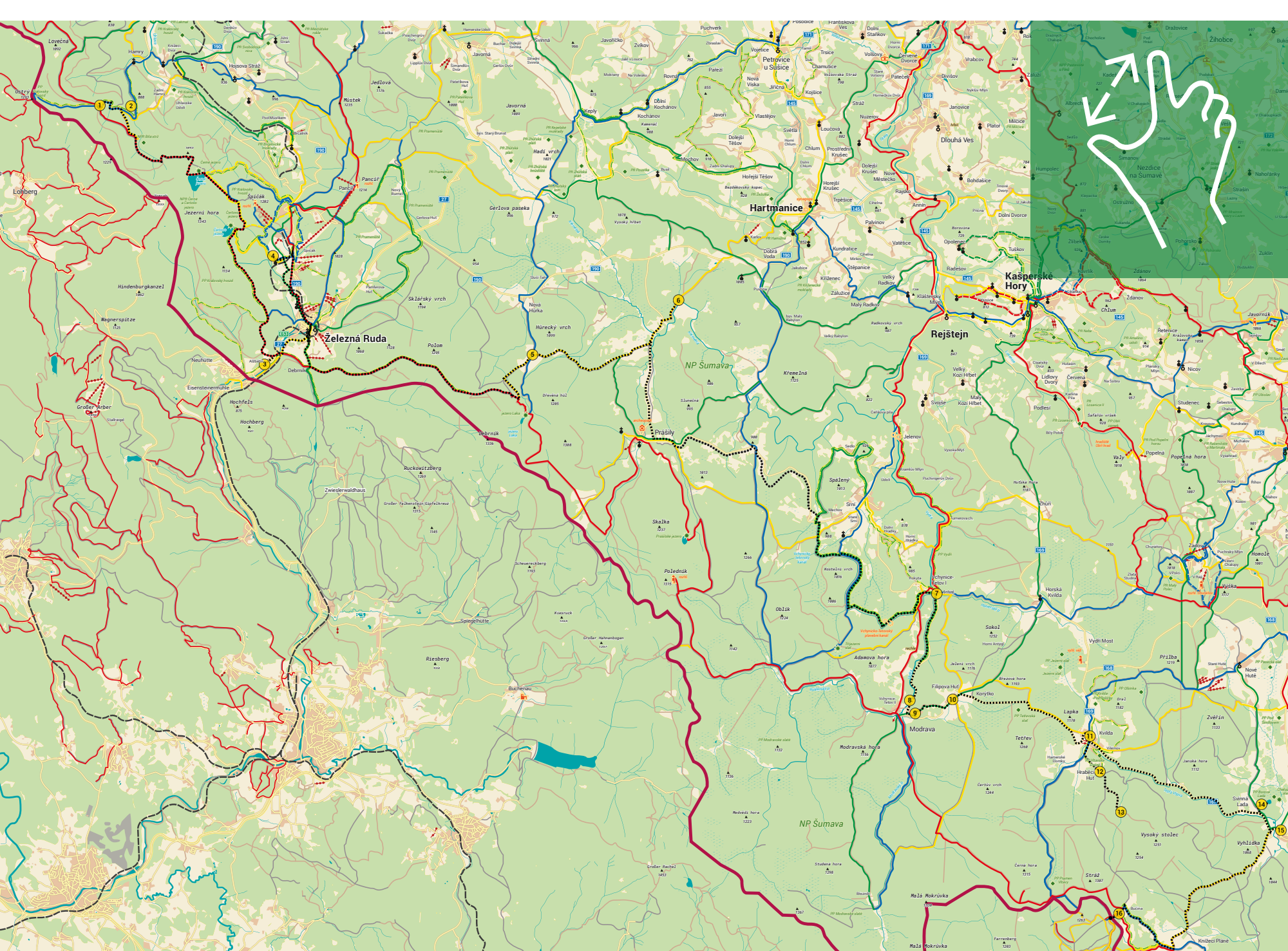
Length of Path 91 km

Borová Lada – village

The village was founded in 1750 on the confluence of Černý (Black) stream, Vydří (Otter) stream, and Malá Vltava. It was, just like the majority of the surrounding villages, a wood-cutter settlement. The incentive was given by the owner of the Vimperk estate, Josef Adam of Schwarzenberg who wanted to create villages in the forest that would fall directly under the nobility's administration, called terra dominica. The first settlers, mostly woodcutters, came from the neighbouring villages in the Vimperk dominion and from recently closed glassworks.

In Spring of 1724, Prince Adam František of Schwarzenberg assigned 22 320 litres of land by the so-called Boubské moorland (Busker Heide) to Jan Michal Müller, so that he would build a new glassworks there. It was actually the third location of the Helmbach glassworks and its builder was nobody else but the grandson of one of Šumava's most renowned glassmakers Michal Müller. The glassworks made cups, bowls and goblets, but also round window stained glass panels and window panes. The primary ingredient was crushed in stampers powered by the Vltavský stream. Quartz was mined for free. Timber from the surrounding woods which was needed for fuel and potash production came for free as well, as long as it was already blown-down. The glassworks used to stand in the direction of Knížecí Pláně, in the place of today's waterworks. Pieces of coloured molten glass can still be found around there. Some findings can be viewed in the Kvilda museum.

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The Šumava Glassmakers' Trail

16 Bučina



Length of Path 91 km

Bučina

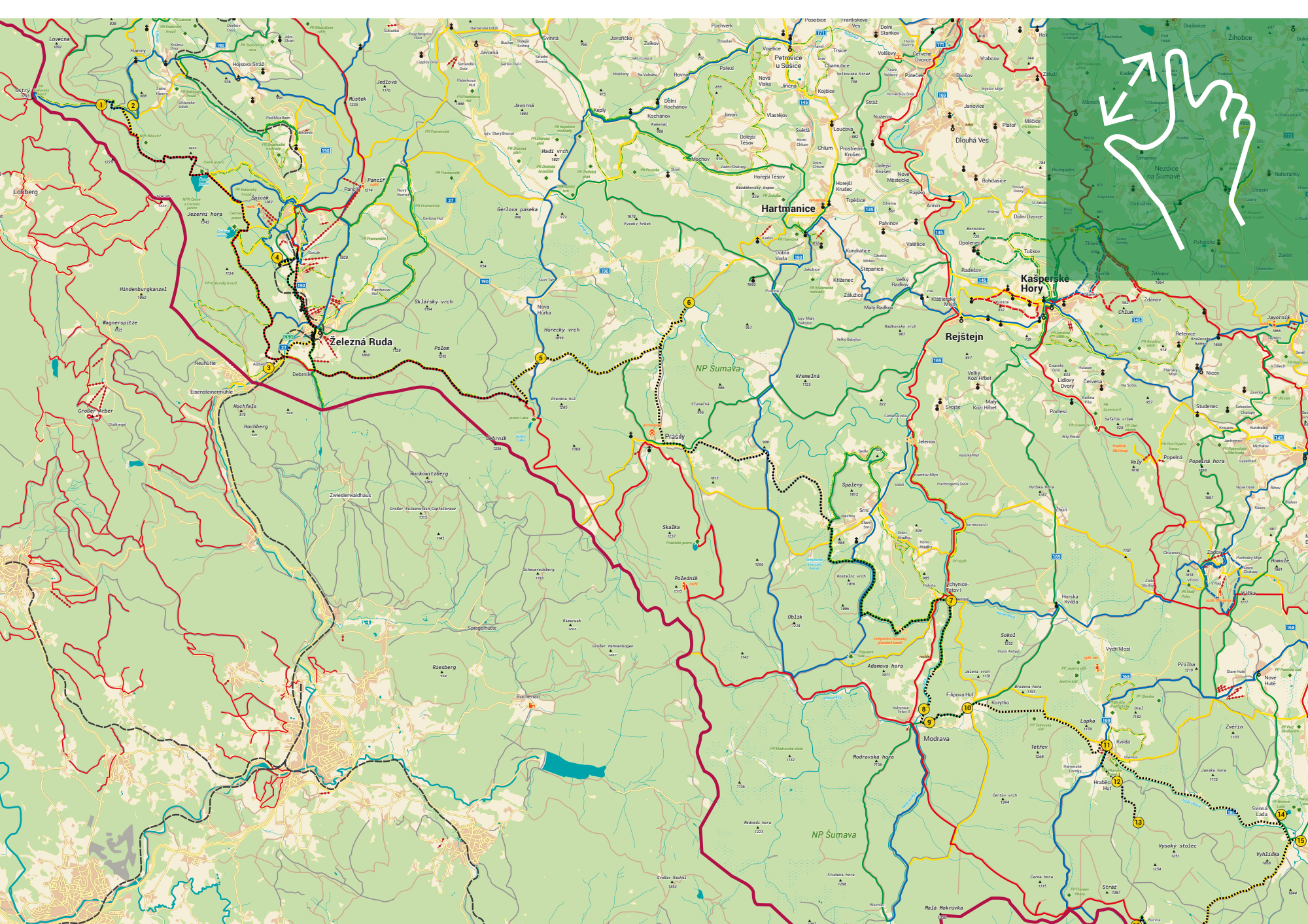
The Golden Trail was a trade route via which Bohemian glass was transported abroad. The most common export around the middle of the 15th century were 'páteříky' - small glass beads used to make rosaries. The first stop was usually Nurnberg. From there they were transported for example to Spain. Other customers were also slave traders who would sell the glass beads in Africa in exchange for slaves, who they then forcefully transported to American colonies.

By the beginning of the 17th century, the beads were being made in a wide range of colours. They were usually exported from the glassworks in barrels, each of which could bear up to two hundred thousand beads. One wagon could carry four to five barrels.

The glass from this area was sold by the trader from Kašperské Hory Georg Rauscher. A wagon carrying barrels with glass beads from the local glassworks would pass Bučina approximately once a week. In return, it would bring spices, textiles, whetstones, millet, or wine.

The reverse glass painting technique first came to Bohemia through Bučina. That changed in 1785, when the Prague Gubernium issued a customs decree, according to which their import was to be subject to duty. For that reason the painters of these under-paintings moved to Bohemia. This is especially true for the Verderber family from the Bavarian town of Raimundsreut. They settled in Kvilda, where they continued their livelihood.

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