



# The Golden Road

## 1 Horská Kvilda and the Golden Road in the Middle Ages



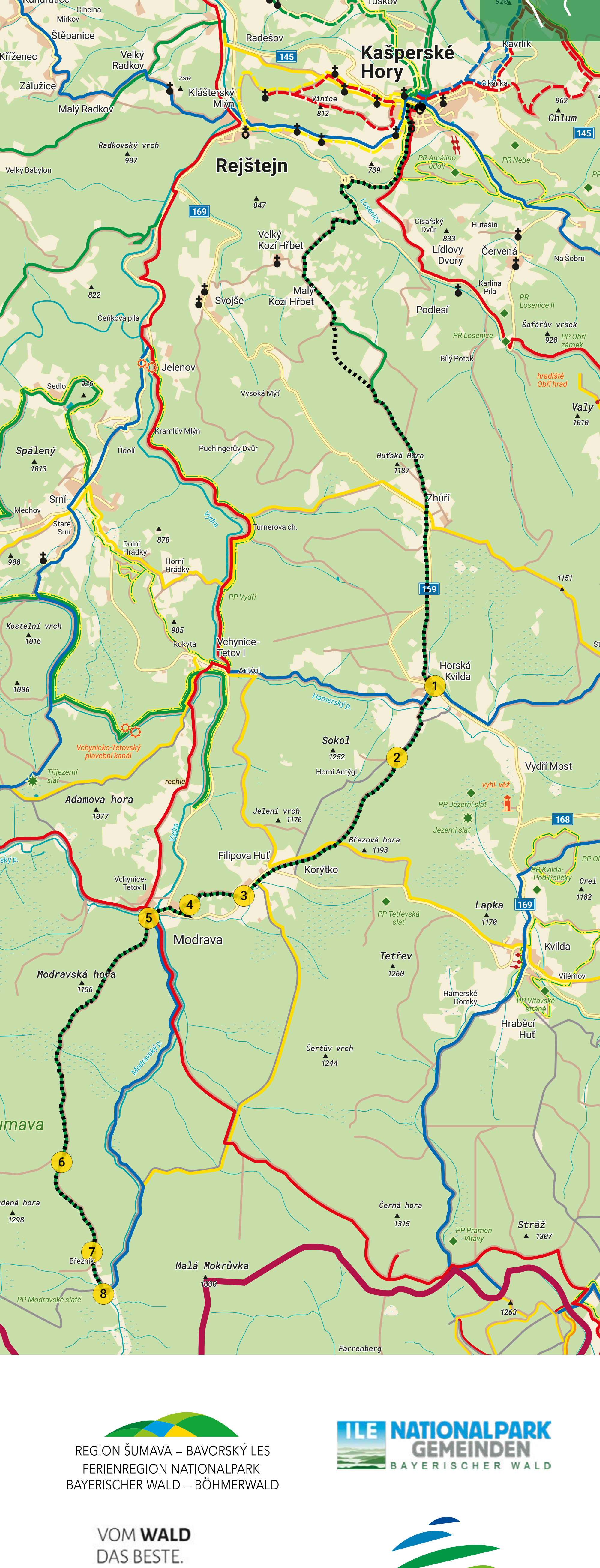
Length of Path 26,5 km

# Horská Kvilda and the Golden Road in the Middle Ages

In the first centuries of the Golden Road and the Golden Trail's existence, the area around Horská Kvilda was not yet permanently settled and caravans made their way through deep forest ever since exiting the last inhabited areas of Bavaria. Only in the 16th century was a building built which gave travellers some refuge. After the Thirty-years' war there were at least four houses, inhabited by the families of Martin Švorc, Zikmund Švarc, Jiřík Stac and Jakl Munksaumb. All four of them were traveling traders, who made their living by selling various items to Bavaria.

In the area of Horská Kvilda, the Kašperské Hory branch of the Golden Trail connected to another trade route – the Golden Road (Goldene Straße). It also went through middle Šumava and had a similar history, use, and structure of transported goods. Only this one was younger and politically and economically overseen by a Bavarian duchy. The Golden Road led from Passau through Hals, Grafenau, Sankt Oswald and Waldhäuser (a resting place for travelling tradesmen, created in the 17th century) to deep forests below the Luzný mountain and continued on Czech land to Filipova Huť and Horská Kvilda, where it connected to the local branch of the Golden Trail. Together they continued over Zhůří and Kozí Hřbet to Kašperské Hory. The protection of the Golden Road was administered by Grafenau and the Kašperk Castle.

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## 2 The remains of the Golden Road by Horní Antýgl



Length of Path 26,5 km

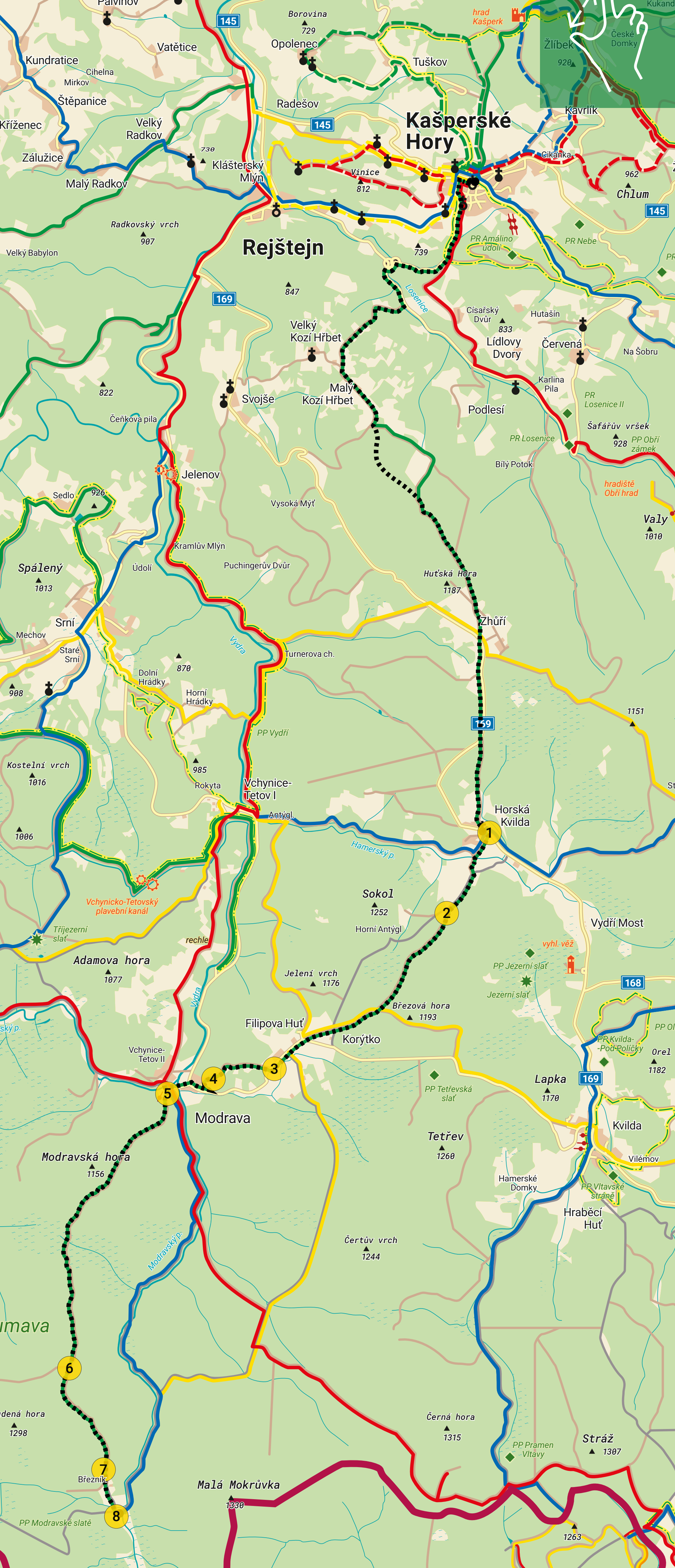
## The remains of the Golden Road by Horní Antýgl

Below Horská Kvilda, the Golden Road entered a free landscape, crossed the Hamry stream and began to climb to the opposite plateau. It likely went through the same corridor as today's road for cyclists and cross-country skiers, all the way to Horní Antýgl. A sunken lane can be seen above it, in the newly denuded clearing.

Other more or less visible remains of the road, mostly manifested as sunken lanes, all lie on the green tourist trail.

The remains of the Golden road in the forests below Luzný were still visible from both sides of the border in the 19th century. The Schwarzenberg forest geodesist A. Brzorád captured the Bohemian part of the Golden Road on a map in the summer of 1882 and published his findings shortly after. A. Brzorád captured the basic and most characteristic feature of medieval trade routes in a mountainous terrain – mainly the attempt to avoid wetlands, even if it means steeper ascent.

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## 3 Filipova Huť and the Golden Road in the Middle Ages



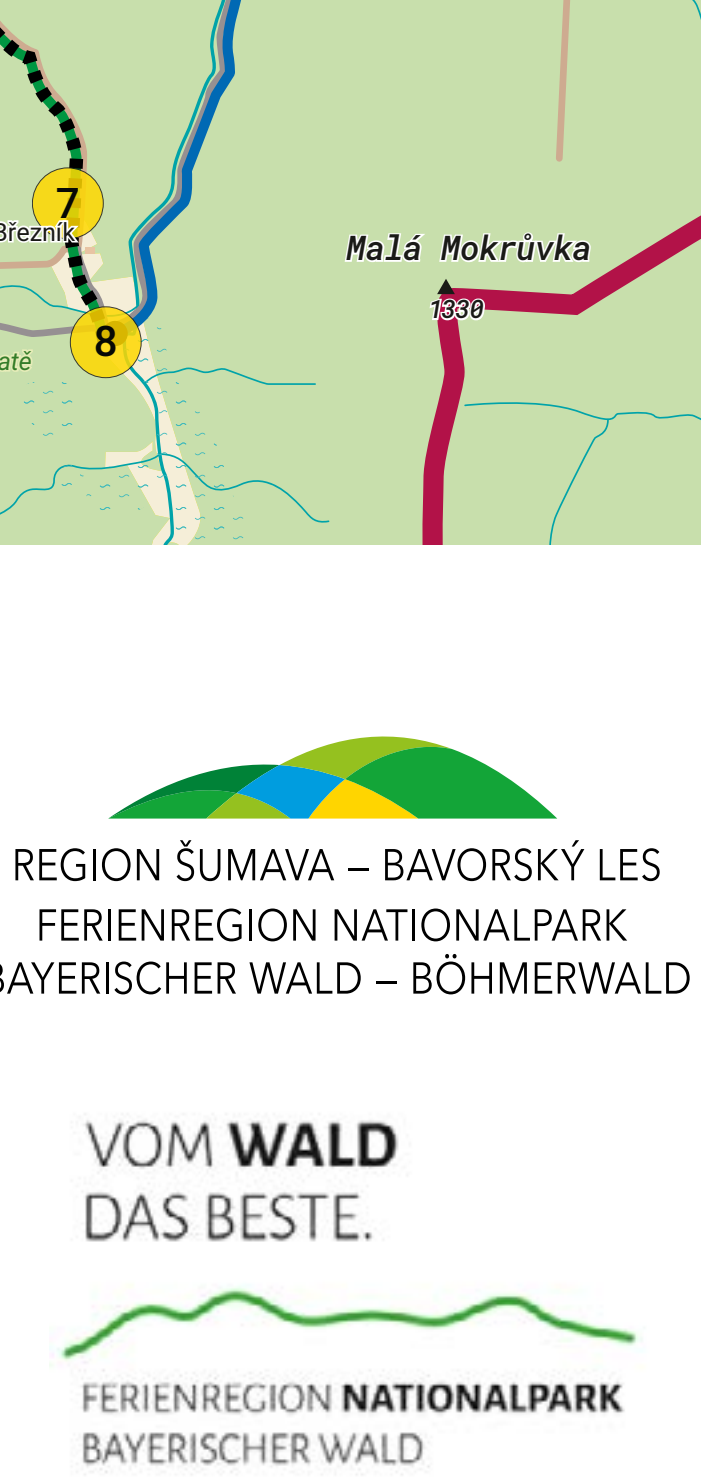
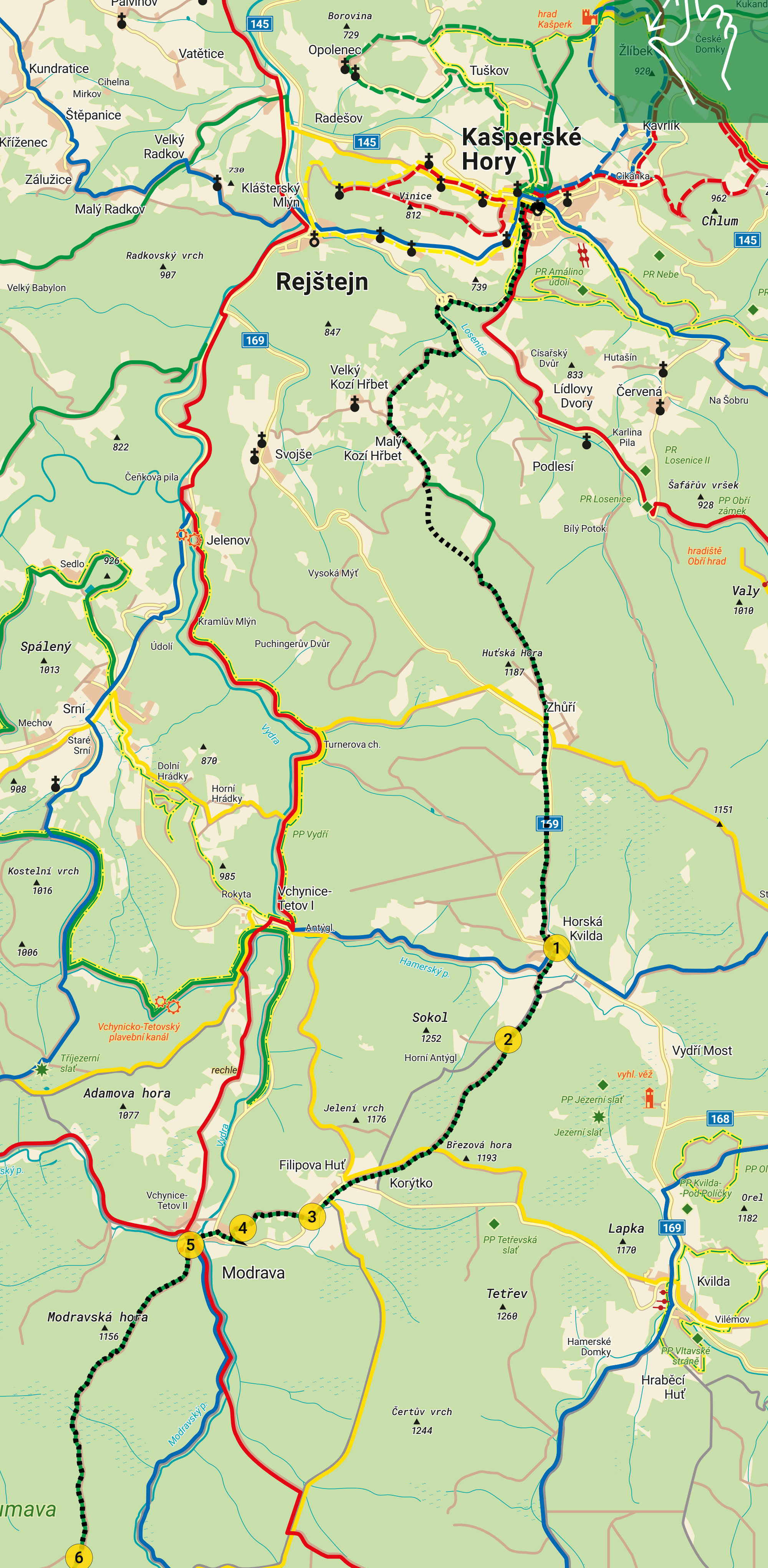
Length of Path 26,5 km

# Filipova Huť and the Golden Road in the Middle Ages

Over the plain between the scattered houses of Filipova Huť, the medieval Golden Road used to lead back towards today's Modrava-Kvilda road. Due to the terrain, no remains have been preserved. The Golden Road turns at today's Rendlová boarding house towards the "Preisleithe" forest and then to Modrava.

Since the 2nd half of the 14th century, the commodities transported on the Golden Road were similar to the ones transported on the neighbouring Golden Trail – to Bohemia from the south, through Passau it was salt and luxury items from the south (spices, wine, fabrics, weapons, etc.), in the other direction mainly corn and other foodstuffs (malt, hop, cheese, fat, tallow), but also barrels of salted herring from Baltic cities. Tariffs meant profits for the Bavarian duke, but also for villages on the road. Just like other trade routes back then did, it attracted thieves; for example in 1402, a Prague merchant was robbed on the Golden Road.

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## 4 Remains of the Golden Road above Modrava



Length of Path 26,5 km

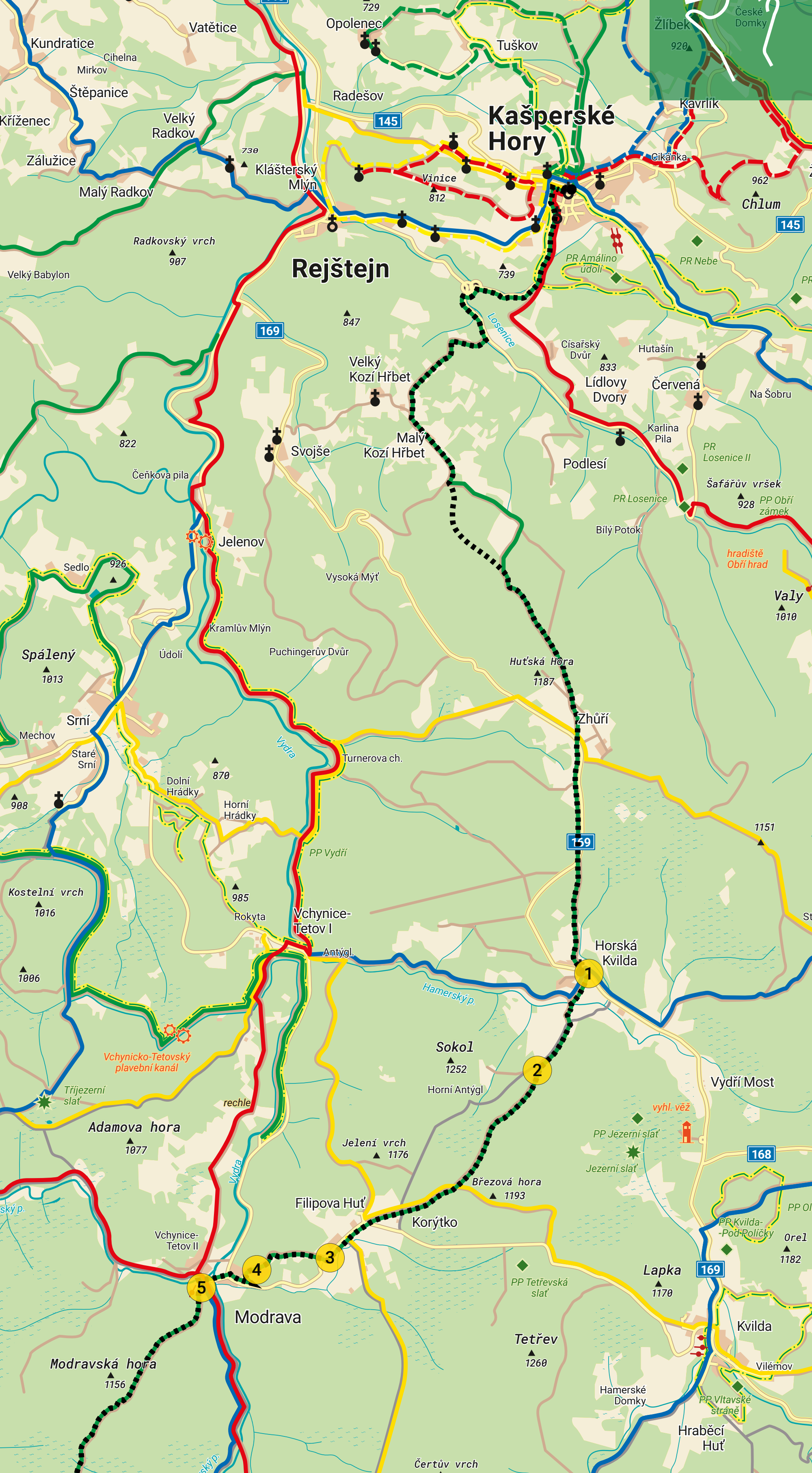
## Remains of the Golden Road above Modrava

The trail of the Golden Road turns by the boarding house Rendlová in Filipova Huť into the "Preisleithe" forest and leads to Modrava. Its remains can be seen from stepping into the forest. There is a sunken lane which continues all the way to the northeast side of Modrava, for 1250 m. It is joined by another rail from the west and there is an old junction between the two rails. In the final part, just before Modrava, signs of other rails appear as well.

The trail of the Golden Road just passes a modern residential place northeast above Modrava and leads into the road from Kvilda to Filipova Huť, just before the edge of Modrava. Not far from here is a modern concrete cross (above Klostermann's lodge).

The Hussite wars at the beginning of the 15th century and the following long unrest of the post-hussite and Poděbrad era paralysed trade on the Golden Road. The Bavarian-Bohemian border witnessed many armed and bloody dispute among the restless west-bohemian nobility and this made trade conditions much worse. The catholic magnates House of Rožmberk and the city of České Budějovice took advantage of this and moved a large portion of salt and other trade to their land around Vltava, from Vyšší Brod to Budějovice. A revival of trade on the Golden Road and Trail happened during the 16th century.

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## 5 Modrava and the Old Březník Way

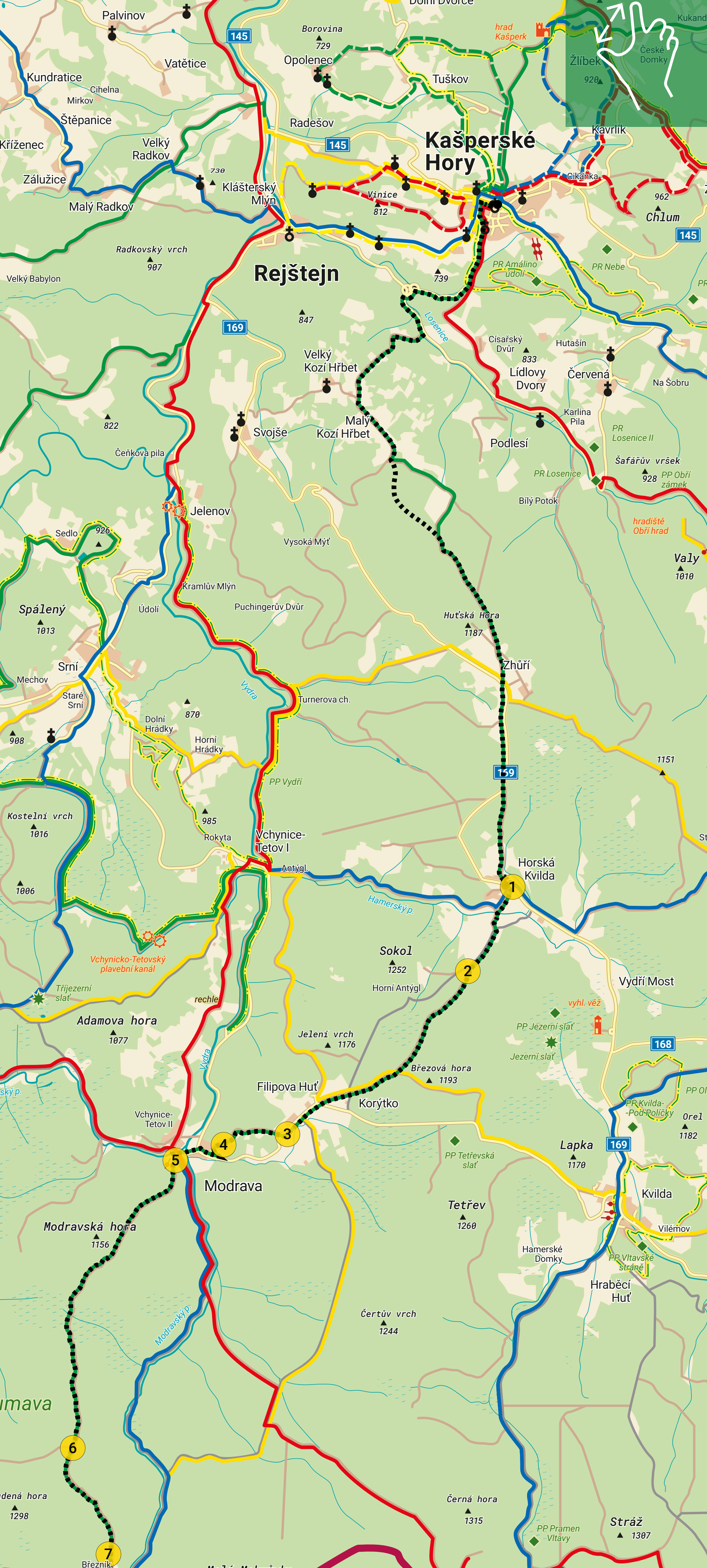


Length of Path 26,5 km

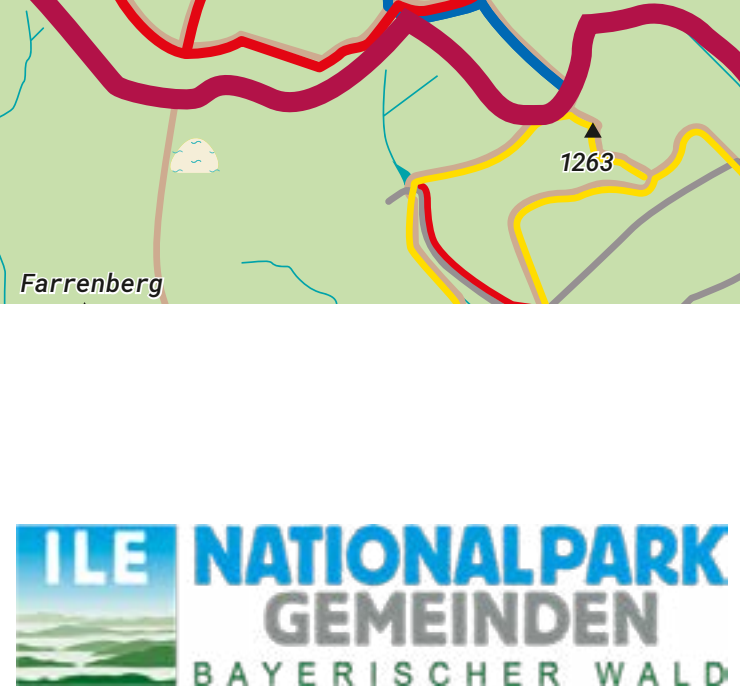
# Modrava and the Old Březník Way

The Golden Road passed through Modrava in almost the same line as today's road, towards the bridge across the Modrava stream. After passing it, it separated from the road to Březník (so called Old Březník Way) and began to climb south. The remains of the old road can be found in a dense forest cover above Modrava, where they are interrupted by a newly built road, but continue on a plateau, on the western edge of which they follow a marked tourist trail in continuous steep climb to the spot height 1102. It is one sunken lane, which splits in parts, gets closer and further away from today's road, but still keeps within reasonable distance. It is more visible in some places than in others. In any case, it can be considered a remnant of the old Golden Road. It is around 600 m long and disappears east of the 1102 spot height, where the terrain evens out. Traces of the old road can be followed west from today's green tourist trail while climbing the Modrava mountain (1157 m).

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## 6 The remains of the Golden Road by Trampus' cross

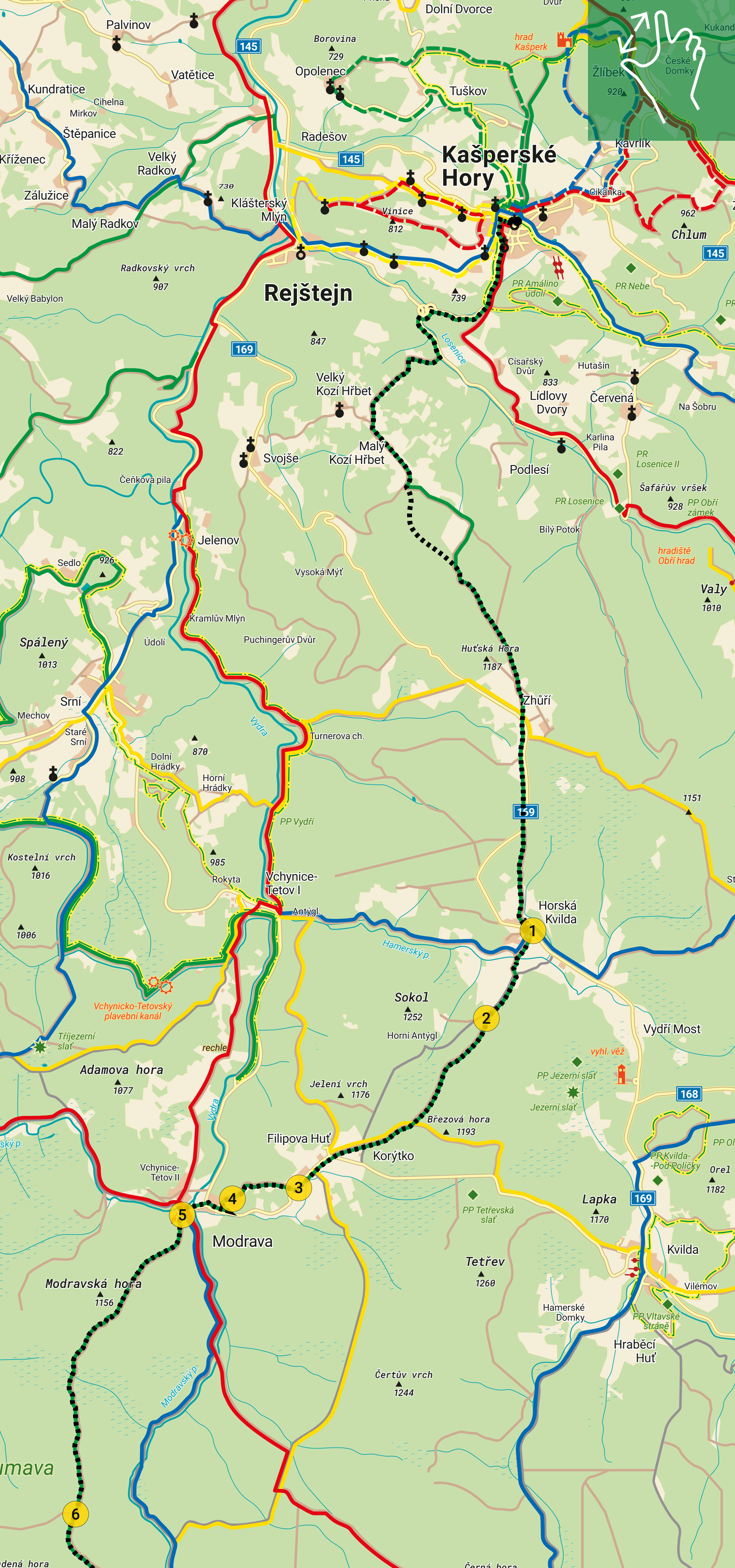


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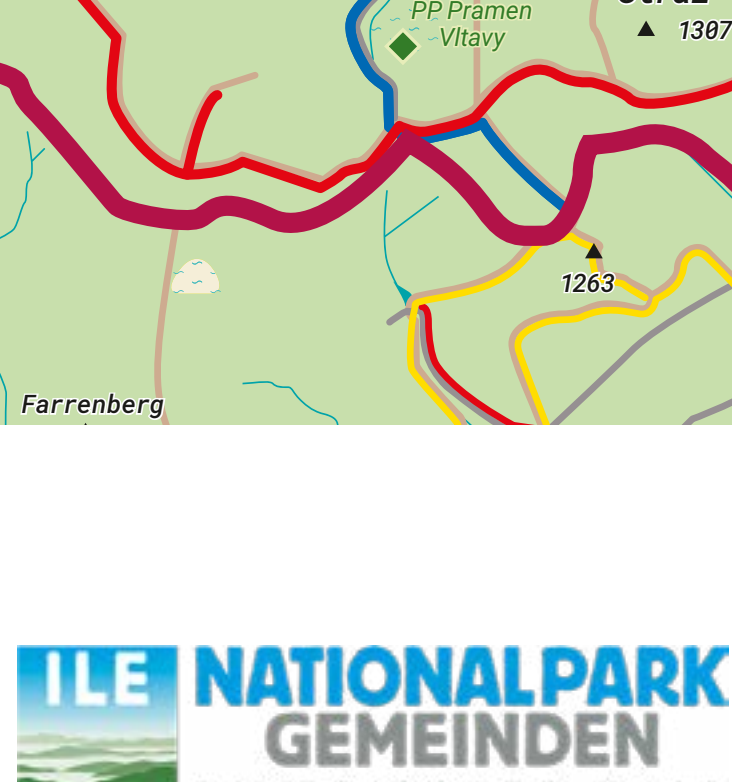
## The remains of the Golden Road by Trampus' cross

The Golden Road led here from today's Modrava. After crossing the Modrava stream, it separated from today's road to Březník alongside the stream (so called New Březník Way) and climbed steeply south. The remains of the old road can be found in a dense forest cover above Modrava, leading across a plateau alongside a green-marked tourist trail. Several sections of the Golden Road have survived alongside the old Březník way. Specifically, it is one sunken lane, which splits in parts, gets closer and further away from today's road, but still keeps within reasonable distance. Traces of the old road can be followed west from today's green tourist trail while climbing the Modrava mountain (1157 m). But no remains survived on the following moorland-covered plateau with beautiful views upon the two peaks of Roklan and Luzný. They appear again during the descent towards Cikánská peat bog. From there a clear sunken lane appears and leads west towards a place called "By Trampus' Cross".

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## 7 Březník and the remains of the Golden Road



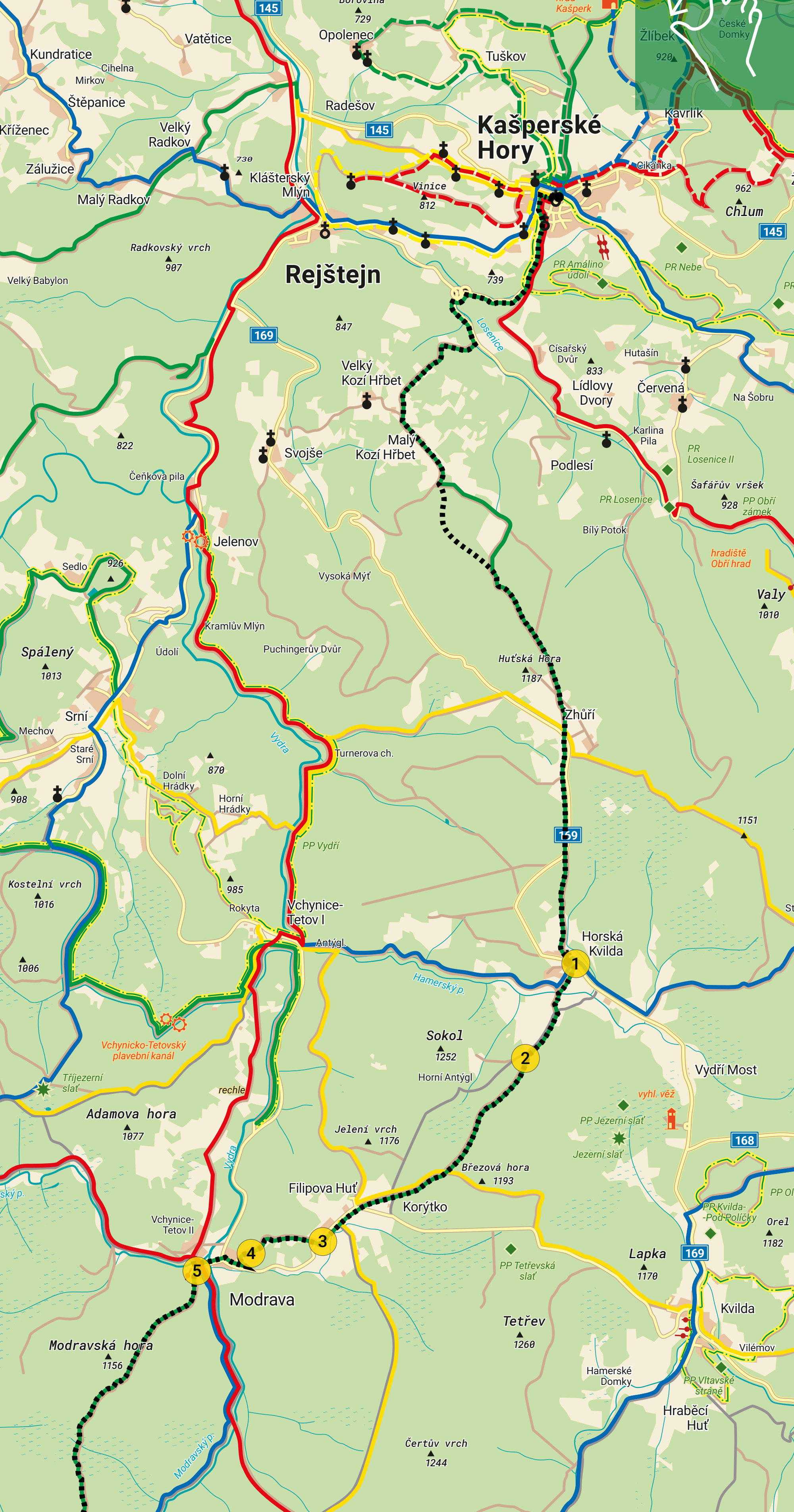
Length of Path 26,5 km

## Březník and the remains of the Golden Road

Recent research has shown that, in the section from Horská Kvilda to Březník, representative and relatively evenly spread remains of the Golden Road have survived practically alongside the entire length of the section.

Nearby Březník, the Golden Road more or less followed today's tarmac road and climbed all the way to the plateau with the spot height of 1258. On its southern edge, just by the forest, a distinct sunken lane can be seen, at first overgrown by grass and later entering the forest. Here starts another remain of the Golden Road, which zig-zags west of today's road towards Březník and is very distinctive and visible, with its deep sunken lane covered with moss. The corridor is in some parts covered by fallen trees, branches and brushwood. It is about 550 m long and comes out from the south of the forest into a steep meadow, about 180 m northwest from the gamekeeper's lodge in Březník. It disappears in this meadow, but its end points towards the end of the Březník-Modrava road in the Luzenský stream valley. The Road then continued below the Březník forest and towards the Blue column.

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## 8 The Golden Road by the Bohemian-Bavarian border and in Bavaria

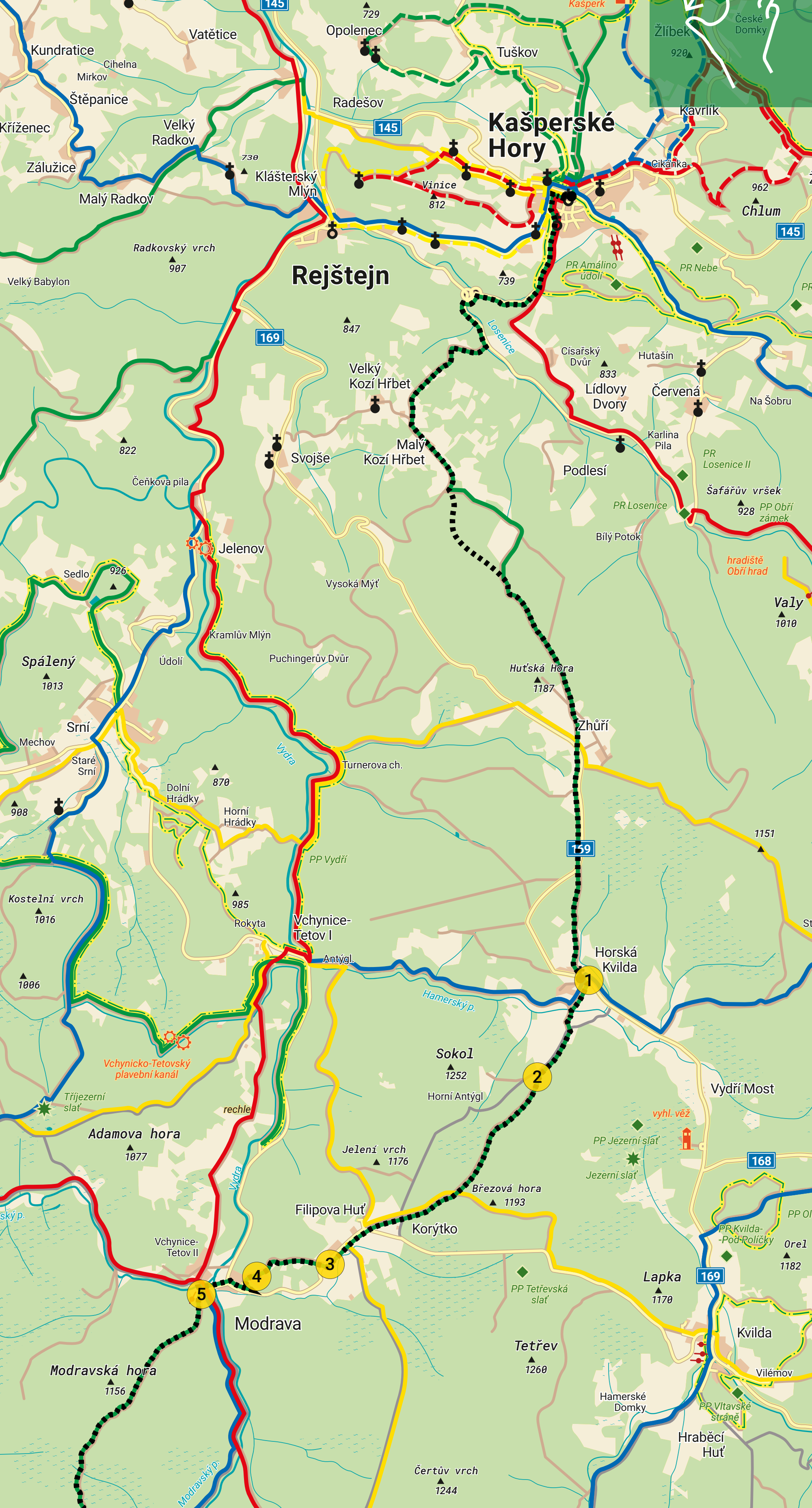


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# The Golden Road by the Bohemian-Bavarian border and in Bavaria

From the gamekeeper's lodge in Březník, the Golden Road descended in a southeastern direction towards the Březník stream valley. After crossing the stream it reached today's road, which leads west from the resting place by the end of the Modrava road and towards Studená (Cold) mountain, then to the marshes of the National Park towards Medvědí (Bear) mountain (1224 m). After crossing the road towards Studená mountain, the Golden Road connects to the remains above the gamekeeper's lodge and begins to climb in a south-eastern direction towards the state border with Bavaria . An unmissable, densely covered and marshy terrain rises towards Hraniční slat (Border peatbog) and into the hills of Hraniční (Border) mountain, whose peak is already on the other side of the border (Kleiner Spitzberg, 1233 m). A large and very visible sunken lane can be identified here, with smaller ones around it. They are all densely overgrown in this environment. These are the last remains of the Golden Road on Bohemian land, which then continues in Bavaria until the border crossing Modrý sloup (Blue pillar). There are many documented findings of medieval horseshoes and other things along its course.

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