

GGN/EGN - Geopark Annual Report 2023

1. GEOPARK IDENTITY

Geopark name, country, regional Network: Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Global Geopark (BPUGGp), Czech Republic, European Geoparks Network

Year of inscription / Year of the last revalidation: 2005 / 2021



Illustration photo: Geopark Bohemian UNESCO Paradise Day, Sedmihorky

2. GEOPARK FIGURES

Number of Geopark's staff: 2 including 1 geoscientist paid by a partner, 3 contractors (accountant, social media administrator, graphic designer)

Number of visitors:

Total number of the visitors to the BPUGGp is difficult to estimate, the BPUGGp shows the number of the visitors to the major geosite(s), museum or visitor center.

The number of visitors to the 65 tourist attractions in the Bohemian Paradise region which monitor the visitor statistics will surpass the 1.5 million people in 2023 - an increase of almost 10 percent compared to 2022.

The most visited sights in the region last year included Prachovské rocks (152 100 people), the ruins of Trosky Castle (95 166), Kost Castle (approximately 68 000), Bozkov Dolomite Caves (58 700) and Valdštejn Castle (53 306).

Almost all information centres in the area recorded higher numbers of visitors. Almost 325,000 tourists and local residents used their services. Most of them came to the Municipal Information Centre in Jičín (80 805 people), followed by the reception and information centre of the Sedmihorky Autocamp (43 796) and the Regional Tourist Information Centre in Turnov (38 518).

A significant increase was recorded, for example, at the Hotel & Chateau Information Centre in Svijany or at the IC and City Museum in Nová Paka.

Data on the number of visitors are monitored by the Bohemian Paradise Association, which is a strategic partner of BPUGGp.

Number of Geopark events held by geopark management:

- 17 geoexcursions
- 1 Czech-Taiwaneese geological mini-conference
- 18 lectures
- 7 geological workshops
- 1 one week summer camp for children focused on local geology led by geopark geologist
- 2 geological cross-border (Czech-Polish, seminars
- 3 major events events - Bohemian Paradise UGG Geopark Day in Trosky Castle,
 - Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Geopark Day in Sedmihorky,
 - Stonemason's Day in Museum Nová Paka

Number of Geopark events held by geopark partners:

23 geoexcursions and environmental programs

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes held by BPUGG management:

- 9 school excursions
- 7 school programmes

Number of school classes realize Geopark educational programmes held by BPUGG partners:

Ekological Education Center Střevlák in the Bohemian Paradise House of Nature:

94 environmental education programmes for 1678 children from kindergartens and primary schools

Ecological Education Center Sedmihorky:

73 environmental education programmes for 1095 children from kindergartens and primary schools

Number of Geopark press releases:

- 7 press releases, articles in the national and regional media and UNESCO GGN Brouchure
- 9 press releases issued by the Bohemian Paradise Association (cooperating tourist destination company)
- 44 news published on the BPUGGp website
- 44 news published on the BPUGGp Facebook (3800 followers)
- Photos on Instagram (1 080 followers)

3. GEOPARK ACTIVITIES

Major achievements in 2023

- Realization of the new BPUGGp Interpretive centre and geotrail Paleopark Balka in Nová Paka (Czech - Polish cross-border INTERREG project - planned opening early spring 2024)
- Presentation of the new Interpretation Plan of the BPUGGp to the public
- Implementation of the ERASMUS+ cross-border project “GeoEducation For Combatting Climate Change“ (partners of the project: BPUGGp, Kula Salihli UGGp, Turkey, Nograd UGGp, Hungary, Holy Cross UGGp, Poland, Iron Mountains Gp, Czech Republic). Study trip to Geopark Nograd UGGp, Hungary (together with geopark’s geologist)
- Presentation of the BPUGGp at the HOLIDAY WORLD & REGION WORLD fair in Prague (provided by the Bohemian Paradise Association)
- Participation in the CC EGN meeting in Hateg UGGp, Romania (together with geologist geopark’s geologist)

- Development of the Teaching Program Methodology for secondary school students with a geo-environmental theme for the Bohemian Paradise House of Nature
- Stonemason's Weekend (excursion and stone grinding) for the public at the Nová Paka Museum
- Geoenvironmental excursion for the public: Mother Earth Day with the BPUGGp – „What the Jizera river brought“
- Conclusion of the Memorandum on cooperation within Visegrad 4 national geoparks (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary) in Banská Štiavnica Geopark, Slovakia, participation of the BPUGGp
- Geological excursion and presentation of the the BPUGGp at Hrubá Skála Castle for a delegation from the Polish Lubusz region
- Participation in the Bohemian Paradise Association Tourism Forum in Mnichovo Hradiště
- Promotional events during European Geoparks Week:
 - Presentation of the BPUGGp – “Day of the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Geopark at Trosky Castle, 500 participants
 - Geoexcursion for the public led by geologist from the Czech Academy of Science in Prachovské Rocks
- Participation in the Bohemian Paradise Association Tourism Forum in Mnichovo Hradiště
- Participation in the Monuments for Everyone seminar, presentation of the A. Heyduk prize for the most accessible monument for disabled people, Kuks (Hradec Králové region), the BPUGGp is a partner of the project
- Promotion of teh BPUGGp during „Museum Night“ in the Museum in Nová Paka
- Participation in a study trip to the Sudetic Foothills Geopark (PL) as part of the Czech-Polish cross-border INTERREG project, leader of the project: Geopark Ralsko (Czech Republic)
- Participation in the final conference of the TUL project in Liberec "Proactive solution to the negative effects of overtourism" (The BPUGGp was the application guarantor)
- Four day visit of a 41-member delegation from Taiwanese national geoparks to the BPUGGp, geoexcursions and implementation of a mini-conference (76 participants) focused on geoparks.
- Popularization of geoscience – 8 workshops on geological topics for children und public during summer holidays in Turnov – A Day with the Mineralogist
- Participation in week GEOCAMP in Geopark Ralsko, Czech Republic (teaching program for teachers and lecturers of geology)
- Participation in a study visit to the Sudetic Foothills Geopark (Poland) as part of the Czech-Polish cross-border INTERREG project, leader of the project: Geopark Ralsko (Czech Republic)
- Week-long children's mineralogical camp in Nová Paka region led by geopark's geologist
- The Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Geopark's Day at Sedmihorky Autocamp in cooperation with the Center of Environmental Education - traditional and main promotional events of the Geopark with 11 stands, 350 participants (mostly families with children)
- Geoexcursion in the BPUGGp for Czech Geological Survey led by geopark's geologist (preparation for the International Paleobotanical Conference 2024 in Prague)
- Lecture on the Geopark UNESCO Bohemian Paradise for the public led by geopark's directress in the library in Turnov
- Participation in the 10th UNESCO Global Geoparks Conference in M'Goun UGGp in Marrakesh – Morocco (together with geopark's geologist)
- Publication of an article about the BPUGGp in Global Geoparks publication UNESCO Geoparks Goiong Green
- Participation in conferences of Taiwanese national geoparks, lecture and presentation of the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Geopark at a conference of Taiwanese national geoparks in Taipei, Taiwan
- Implementation of the cross-border Czech-Polish LEADER+ program: "Geodiversity for local

- development" with partners from Holy Cross UGGp, Land of Extinct Volcanoes Gp and Łuk Mużakowa UGGp, study visit to Łuk Mużakowa UGGp, Poland
- Presentation of the BPUGGp at the online conference of the Tourism Department of the Jihlava Polytechnic University "Sustainable tourism in natural locations" (participants from Czech National Parks and several Czech geoparks)
 - Participation in the presentation of the outputs of the University Hradec Králové project
 - "Reducing the Negative Impacts of Overtourism on Ecosystems", the BPUGGp was a partner of the project
 - Conclusion of the Memorandum on cooperation and financial support of the BPUGGp by Central Bohemia region
 - Co-organization of the 4th edition of the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Geopark Award Price (Tomáš Řídkošil Memorial) – 100 pupils and students took part in swimming competition
 - Participation in the conference "Ralsko in changes" -10th Anniversary of the founding of the Ralsko geopark, Doksy, Czech Republic
 - Implementation of the cross-border Czech-Polish LEADER+ program: "Geodiversity for local development" with partners from Holy Cross UGGp, Land of Extinct Volcanoes Gp and Łuk Mużakowa UGGp, study visit to Holy Cross UGGp, Poland.
 - Study visit of the project partners from Holy Cross UGGp, Land of Extinct Volcanoes Gp and Łuk Mużakowa UGGp in the BPUGGp. Lecture on the BPUGGp, presentation of examples of good practice, geoexcursion in Prachovské Rocks, Hruboskalsko Sandstone Rocks Area (28 participants)
 - Developing and approval of the BPUGGp Action Plan 2023-2025,
 - Lecture and presentation of the Bohemian Paradise Geopark UNESCO at the Department of Tourism of the Polytechnic University in Jihlava. Conclusion of a cooperation agreement, listing of topics for bachelor's theses on the topic of the Geopark UNESCO Bohemian Paradise
 - Placement of the BPUGGp logo + UNESCO logo together with an information about the BPUGGp on the new information boards and panels that the Bohemian Paradise Association implements according to a unified visual in the Bohemian Paradise.
 - Consultation of student bachelor and master theses
 - Scientific activity in cooperation with Charles University in Prague, Czech Geological Survey, Czech Academy of Science, Museum für Naturkunde Chemnitz, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, AMAP+University of Montpellier

Contribution towards GGN - Networking and participation

- Implementation of the cross-border Czech-Polish LEADER+ program: "Geodiversity for local development" with partners from Holy Cross UGGp, Land of Extinct Volcanoes Gp and Łuk Mużakowa UGGp
- Realization of the new BPUGGp Interpretive centre and geotrail Paleopark Balka in Nová Paka (Czech - Polish cross-border INTERREG project - planned opening early spring 2024)
- Implementation of the ERASMUS+ project (BPUGGp, Kula Salihli UGGp, Turkey, Nograd UGGp, Hungary and Holy Cross UGGp, Poland)
- Conclusion of the Memorandum on cooperation within Visegrad 4 national geoparks (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary) in Banská Štiavnica Geopark, Slovakia, participation of the BPUGGp
- Participation in a study visit to the Sudetic Foothills Geopark (Poland) as part of the Czech-Polish cross-border INTERREG project, leader of the project: Geopark Ralsko (Czech Republic)
- Participation in the 10th UNESCO Global Geoparks Conference in M'Goun UGGp in Marrakesh – Morocco (together with geopark's geologist)
- Participation in conferences of Taiwanese national geoparks, lecture and presentation of the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Geopark at a conference of Taiwanese national geoparks in Taipei, Taiwan

- Volunteer from the BPUGGp partner organisation Environmental Education Centre works as a volunteer in Rinjani UNESCO Geopark (Indonesia) – See Major achievements in 2023
- Two representatives of the BPUGGp regularly attend EGN, CC EGN and GGN meetings and conferences
- The BPUGGp was visited by various delegations from European and non-European geoparks

Management and Financial Status

- Management: Board of Directors (12 members in the Management Board, representatives of local municipalities, business and expert - 3 women), Supervisory Board (3 members - 2 women), Scientific Council (28 members)
- Financial status: multi-source financing, financial support of the BPUGGp comes from 3 regions (Liberec, Hradec Králové, Central Bohemia) and from Liberec and Central Bohemia was increased for 2023. Three municipalities in the region provide stable financial support to the geopark. The financial deficit was due to the pre-financing of the Czech-Polish cross-border project (project repayment in January 2024)

Geoconservation

- Partnership in the project Reducing the Negative Impacts of Overtourism on Ecosystems (University of Hradec Králové), tourist traffic monitoring.
- Cooperation with the Technical University of Liberec on the project Proactive solution of the negative effects of overtourism

Sustainable tourism (Geotourism)

- Guided geological excursions only in locations approved by the Administration of Bohemian Paradise Protected Landscape Area
- The BPUGGp Interpretation Plan was presented to the public
- Promotion of geosites outside congested areas (every month publishing the Geologist's Talk), promotion of geosites where there is minimal risk of conflict with nature conservation, promotion off season tourism (websites, facebook, videospot)
- Cooperation with the Bohemian Paradise Association (touristic destination)

New education programmes on geoconservation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction

- Educational excursions for schools focused on geology and ecology, cooperation with BPUGG Geoschools
- Development of the Teaching Program Methodology for secondary school students with a geo-environmental theme for the Bohemian Paradise House of Nature
- Cooperation with the Center of Ecological Education Bohemian Paradise, House of Nature of Bohemian Paradise, Center for Ecological Education of the Liberec Region
- Seminars on sustainable development and geoconservation, participation in seminars and projects on sustainable development held by partners
- Mother Earth Day Educational excursion for the public
- Cooperation was established with the Sedmihorské Wetlands Land Association - whose long-term mission is the restoration and protection of the Libuňka River wetlands.
- Lectures for experts and for the public
- Popularization of geoscience – 8 workshops on geological topics for children and public during summer holidays in Turnov – A Day with the Mineralogist

Strategic partnership

- Scientific Board of the Bohemian Paradise Geopark
- Center for Ecological Education of the Bohemian Paradise

- Center for Ecological Education in the Bohemian Paradise House of Nature
- Center for Ecological Education of the Liberec Region
- Association of Geoparks of the Czech Republic
- National Geoparks of the Czech Republic
- Czech Geological Survey
- Destination company of the Bohemian Paradise Association
- University of Hradec Králové
- Technical University of Liberec
- Polytechnic University of Jihlava
- Turnov Geo School
- Mnichovo Hradiště Geo School

and other partners with whom the geopark has a partnership agreement.

Promotional activities

- Promotional events during European Geopark's Week – see Major achievements in 2023
- Stonemason's Day in the Nová Paka Museum for the public - grinding and polishing of minerals
- Presentation of the BPUGGp at the HOLIDAY WORLD & REGION WORLD fair in Prague (provided by the Bohemian Paradise Association)
- Guided lectures by a geologist at the Museum in Nová Paka
- Presentation of the BPUGGp – “Day of the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Geopark” at Trosky Castle, 500 participants
- Summer camp for children focused on local geology led by geopark's geologist
- Day of the Bohemian Paradise UNESCO Geopark in Sedmihorky, about 350 participants - see Major achievements in 2023
- Placement of the BPUGGp logo + UNESCO logo together with an information about the BPUGGp on the new information boards and panels – see Major achievements in 2023
- Relocation of 2 outdoor mobile large format panels for promotion of the BPUGGp between touristy places in the Geopark
- The BPUGGp banners in touristy places in the Geopark
- Popularization of geoscience – 8 workshops on geological topics for children and public during summer holidays in Turnov – A Day with the Mineralogist
- Facebook website (3 900 followers) Instagram (1 080 followers): publishing of news and 1x per month Geologist Talk about the important geosites of the BPUGGp Geopark – promotion of less visited geosites out of over-touristed areas (up to 700 reads)
- Publication of an article about the BPUGGp in Global Geoparks publication UNESCO Geoparks Going Green
- Article on the BPUGGp in the Bohemian Paradise Tourist Newspaper 2023 (30 000 issues), distribution in 17 information centers in the region

4. CONTACTS

Manager: Blanka Nedvedická, info@geoparkceskyraj.cz

Geologist: Václav Mencl, sapropel@post.cz