

# Moravian Karst's Official Webpage: An English Translation

Klára Dokoupilová

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**PhDr. Katarína Nemčoková, Ph.D.**

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doc. Ing. Anežka Lengalová, Ph.D.  
děkanka



PhDr. Katarína Nemčoková, Ph.D.  
ředitelka ústavu

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## **ABSTRAKT**

Tato bakalářská práce je zaměřena na anglický překlad oficiálních internetových stránek Moravského krasu. Teoretická část zahrnuje teorii překladu, překladatelské strategie a překládání internetových stránek. Praktická část zkoumá českou a anglickou verzi oficiální internetové stránky Moravského krasu jako text, hodnotí její anglický překlad a navrhuje nový funkční překlad.

Klíčová slova: překlad, analýza textu, webové stránky, Moravský kras

## **ABSTRACT**

This Bachelor's thesis focuses on English translation of the Moravian Karst's official webpage. The theoretical part contains theory of translation, translation strategies and translation of webpages. The analytical part analyses Czech and English version of the Moravian Karst's official webpage as a text, evaluates English translation of the webpage and suggests new functional translation.

Keywords: translation, text analysis, webpages, Moravian Karst

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## INTRODUCTION

Imagine that you are going to visit a place you are interested in, for example in China. You are looking for some information about this place on their official webpage, but you know no Chinese and when you switch the webpage into English, there is not much information and the text is not well readable. Therefore, you have no new insights about possible ticket reservation. However, you are still planning to visit this place. After your arrival you come to know that previous order of a ticket to this place is required in the full season and it is the reason why you cannot enter. So, what now? – Even though this situation seems unbelievable, it is the reality repeating year by year in the Punkevní Caves in Moravian Karst.

The Punkevní Caves are the most visited caves in Moravian Karst with almost 1500 visitors per day in full season. The capacity of the caves is limited due to the motor boats and narrow corridors which they cruise through. These are the reasons why it is necessary to have previous reservation. However, an English version of the official webpage is insufficient and not well-arranged and due to this fact many foreign tourists are confused and they lack important and useful information.

This is the reason why I have chosen the topic of the English version of the Moravian Karst's official website as the focus of my Bachelor's Thesis. My aim is to analyse and evaluate the current version and suggest a functional English translation of the Czech official webpage.

The thesis is divided into two parts: theoretical and analytical. The theoretical part introduces translation studies to the reader; it explains the problem of equivalence and non equivalence together with translation strategies and translation of proper names. It also deals with language of the internet and translating webpages.

The analytical part is mainly focused on analysis of English translation of the Moravian Karst's official webpage. It evaluates original translation of the webpage and describes and analyzes mistakes in translation. For each crucial mistake there are my ideas how to correct them and how to improve the translation. In Appendices there are my suggestions for new translation together with visualization; however, it includes only chosen parts of the webpage to demonstrate the final product.

# **I. THEORY PART**

## 1 TRANSLATION

This chapter focuses on the theory of translation. It describes translation process itself, the problem of equivalence and translation techniques and strategies since the main goal of this thesis is translation of written texts.

Several definitions of translation exist. According to Munday, the word “translation” is not only a process of transferring the text from one language to another. It is also a product made by translation process and a “general subject field” (Munday 2001, 4). House states that “translation is replacement of an original text with another text” (House 2009, 3). Translation has been considered inferior to the original text. On the other hand, not everyone is able to read texts in their original language. Moreover, translation helps overcome language and cultural barriers. To make an adequate translation of the source text, several criteria have to be fulfilled:

- a) The target text acts and sounds natural.
- b) The target text has the identical (or as close as possible) meaning as the source text. The effect on the target text’s reader is the same as it is on the source text’s reader.
- c) The language of the target text keeps the dynamics of the source text (Knittlová 2010, 14-15).

It is necessary to distinguish between the source text (the original text) and the target text (the translation of the original text). The source text is written in the source language while the target text is written in the target language. Target text is dependent on the source text and exists only “as a version derived from” the original text (House 2009, 29). Translation process consists of two basic phases: decoding and recoding. Whereas decoding is in source language, recoding is in target language.

There are three kinds of translation: interlingual, intralingual and intersemiotic translation. *Interlingual translation* means that the source text in one language is transformed into the target text in another language with no meaning and stylistic shifts. On the other hand *intralingual translation* reformulates text within one language, whereas *intersemiotic translation* express one information in a language by another expression in non-language way. All of the described translations reformulate one message by another “in a different form” (House 2009, 4).

## 1.1 Equivalence and non-equivalence

As it was said in the previous chapter, translation transfers the original text in one language into a text in another language. It means that the target text is equivalent to the source text. However, equivalent does not mean identical, but the translation should have the same function (House 2009, 29-42). Even though the target text is linguistically different than the source text, they can deliver the same informational message and have the same effect on the audience.

### 1.1.1 Equivalence at word level

This chapter deals with equivalence at word level. When translating, translators focus on keeping the particular meaning of the translated text.

Baker (1992, 11) states that there is no one-to-one relationship between orthographic form of the word and its meaning. It means that the particular fact may be expressed by one word in one language, whereas the other language expresses the same fact by two words. An example is *žleb – dry valley, nejznámější – the most famous*. Kvetko (2009, 21) calls this feature *partial equivalence* and describes it that there is some equivalence, but it differs in a form – in one language it is one-word expression, whereas the other language formulates it by two words. Then he talks about *complete equivalence* and *non-equivalence*. Not many words are complete equivalents. In this group only basic words which are not ambiguous and which denote the same matter of fact, can be found, such as *řeka – river, jeskyně – cave, průvodce – guide*.

A word is expected to be the smallest unit which has an individual meaning. But smaller units can carry the meaning as well; they are referred to as morphemes. Morphemes differ from words by the fact, that they “cannot contain more than one element of meaning” and it is not possible to analyse them in more detail (Baker 1992, 11). The word *unexplored* (e.g. cave) can be paraphrased as a place which has not been looked over yet. It consists of three morphemes: *un* which indicates negation, *explore* means ‘look over’ and *(e)d* changes a part of speech (from verb to adjective). Morphemes can also indicate grammatical categories such as plural (*caves*), gender (*waitress*) and tense (*discovered*).

Every word is unique thanks to its lexical meaning. Baker (1992, 12-17) describes Cruse’s (1986) model which analyses the components of lexical meaning. They can be divided into four main categories:

- a) *Propositional meaning* is on the basis of relationship between an expression or a word and the fact that it characterises in both realistic and unrealistic world. This type of meaning allows us speculate whether the statement is true or not.
- b) *Expressive meaning* is connected to the sender's emotions and it is the reason why this type of meaning is not possible consider as neither true nor false statement.
- c) *Presupposed meaning* is related to restrictions and what people expect from them. It is possible to divide them into two categories: selectional restrictions and collocational restrictions. *Selectional restrictions* ensue from the propositional meaning of the utterance. Based on previous experience, people can expect what will follow the particular word (e.g. *sell out the tickets*, but not *sell out the time*). *Collocational restrictions* are connected to the fixed expressions in the particular language.
- d) *Evoked meaning* comes from dialect (language of a particular group of people) and register (language used in a specific situation). Different people think differently and their opinions what is acceptable in some situation differ. Translators have to be sure that their translation is appropriate to the situation to avoid unpleasant reactions.

However, it is hard to separate all mentioned types of meaning in practice.

### 1.1.2 Equivalence above word level

Words do not appear separately in a text, but they always stand together. However, their position is not random. There is a strict position of the words in English to make a grammatically correct sentence.

#### 1.1.2.1 Collocations

Collocations are non-idiomatic combinations (Kvetko 2009, 100). Some of the frequently used word combinations are free, so it is hard to predict what will follow them. Those are for example verbs, such as: *be, have, get*. Other words are more specific and it is easier to predict, what will follow them. Baker (1992, 49-52) calls this a *collocational range*. Every word has its range of other words which it is compatible with. The term collocation is mostly used in two meanings:

- a) *A tendency to co-occurrence* – which means that some words collocate with the others (e.g. *blond hair, \*blond car; \*yellow hair, yellow car*).

- b) A combination of words that constantly stay together. These words are combining in predictable way and they are in a way limited (e.g. *interested in*, *\*interested about*) (Kvetko 2009, 100-101).

Baker (1992, 47-50) points out, that words which seems to be synonyms (or their meanings are similar) differ in the sets of collocates. On the other hand, she states that there is no collocation which cannot exist. People are making new collocations every day; it makes the language playful and more interesting. In the literature, it can catch the reader's attention better.

Collocations are sometimes divided into two groups: grammatical and lexical collocations (Svensén 1993). *Grammatical collocations* are composed of a lexical and grammatical word (e.g. *afraid of*), whereas *lexical collocations* consist of two components on the same level (e.g. *high school*).

### 1.1.3 Non-equivalence

The situation when no direct equivalent can be found in the target language for a word in the source language is rather common. Such feature is called non-equivalence. It causes problems for translators, however they need to know how to face it and they need to come up with some acceptable solution.

Common problems of non-equivalence are according to Baker (1992, 21-26) following:

- a) *Culture specific concepts* – The problems may appear when translating a cultural specific text. The terms (traditional food, clothing) may be unfamiliar for the target audience, because in their culture those expressions do not exist. In that case “the more cultural text means the less equivalent effect” (Newmark 1998, 48). However, an intralingual translation can help the reader to understand the text better.
- b) *The source-language concept is not lexicalized in the target language* – In some cases happens, that some term is known for both source and target audience. However, in one language they do not have a word for it – it is not lexicalized.
- c) *The source-language word is semantically complex* – It is not rare problem when translating, that one language expresses something in one word (this word is called *semantically complex*) whereas another language has no simple naming for it and has to paraphrase it.
- d) *The target language lacks a superordinate* – It means that it is impossible to express general word in the target language, because the target language has only its specific forms.

- e) *The target language lacks a specific term* – This case is the reverse of the previous one and is more common. The target language has only general form of the word in the source language.
- f) *Differences in expressive meaning* – It may happen, that in both source and target language the word has the same propositional meaning, whereas expressive meaning differs.
- g) *Loan words in the source text* – Loan words are sometimes used in the target text to evoke special occasion. It is hard to translate them and keep their intended meaning. There is also problem with false friends which is connected to loan words. False friends have the same (or very similar) form in both source and target language, but their meaning is different.

Strategies for dealing with non-equivalence problems, which were named in this chapter, are described in the following chapter.

## 1.2 Traditional translation strategies

Translation is done by different methods. Those methods often have different names depending on the person who describes them. But all of these methods have the same aim. Munday (2001, 56-60) describes Vinay and Darbelnet's model of traditional basic translational strategies, which deal with the lack of the direct equivalent:

- a) *Borrowing* – Direct transfer of the word from one language to another. Sometimes it is used to evoke local pattern, but borrowing is mostly used “to fill a semantic gap” in the language (Munday 2001, 56).
- b) *Calque* – Calque is a type of borrowing, when a word from the source is literally transferred into the target language. Typical example is *skyscraper* – *mrakodrap*.
- c) *Literal translation* – Literal translation is *word-for-word* translation and according to Vinay and Darbelnet it is mostly used between languages which are in the same family and have similar culture. But they warn of some situations when literal translation becomes unacceptable: translation may give a different meaning or have no meaning in the target culture.
- d) *Transposition* – Vinay and Darbelnet say that transposition is the most used structural change. It means that it is necessary to change grammar because of the differences of the languages, but the sense has to stay unchanged.
- e) *Modulation* – Modulation means changing a point of view and a semantic change.

- f) *Equivalence* – The same situation is described differently in a matter of stylistic or structure (Munday 2001, 58). The term ‘equivalence’ used in this case, should not be confused with the term ‘equivalence’ discussed in the Chapter 1.1.
- g) *Adaptation* – The situation described in the source language is substituted by another situation which is closer to the target audience (Knittlová 2003, 14).

### 1.3 Translation strategies used by professionals

On the other hand, Baker (1992) describes translation strategies which are used by professional translators. There are different strategies how to deal with non-equivalence depending on its type. Only some of the strategies were chosen to be described due to their usage in the practical part of the thesis.

- a) *Translation by a more general word* is one of the most common strategies which helps translator to deal with the lack of the specific term in the target language.
- b) *Cultural substitution* is used in cases of culture-specific terms (see Chapter 2.1.3). Culture-specific term in the source language is replaced by a term in the target language which has the same effect on the target reader.
- c) *Translation by paraphrase using a related word or an unrelated word* – Paraphrasing by the related word can only be used when the term is lexicalized in the target language in a different form. On the other side paraphrasing by the unrelated word is used when the target language has no lexical expression for the word in the source language.
- d) *Translation by omission* – In some cases the strategy of omission can be used. But only for the words in the text which are not vital and would be difficult to describe them to the target reader. Or its description does not necessarily have to be difficult, but it can also be long and disturbing. But Baker (1992, 42) warns that this strategy should be used only as the last option which will provide smooth reading to the target audience, and translators should be careful what they will omit.

### 1.4 Translation of proper nouns

Two types of nouns exist – common nouns (nouns with general meaning) and proper nouns. Proper nouns refer to a person, place, animal or plant, so they can be divided into the categories:

- a) *Anthroponyms* which include first names and surnames, nicknames and group names.



- b) *Ethnonyms* are for example names of nations.
- c) *Toponyms* specify place names.
- d) *Chrematonyms* are for the names of institutions, the trade names of people's products and also for the names of newspapers and masterpieces.

Proper noun is defined by Oxford Dictionaries (2016) as “a name used for an individual person, place, or organization, spelled with an initial capital letter.” In case there is an article which is the official part of the proper name, both article and proper noun will be with initial capital letter. When there is a place name which is connected to the proper name, they both will have initial capital letter (Cámara 2008, 1), e.g., the Punkevní Caves.

Several classification criteria of proper names exist:

- a) *Ortographic* – Proper names always occur with initial capital letter.
- b) *Morphosyntactic* – Proper names do not have plural form and are used with no articles.
- c) *Referential* – Proper name refers to the unique individual.
- d) *Semantic* – “Proper names do not impute any qualities to the objects designated” and this is the reason why they are meaningless (Cámara 2008, 2).

Theo Hermans (1999) describes four strategies suitable for translating proper names. At first, they can be copied; it means to reproduce them from the source language to the target language in unchanged form. Another option is transcription or transliteration. Translators may use substitution of “formally unrelated name” in the target language for any name in the source language. Meaningful proper names in the source language can be translated. Moreover, they can also be modified according to phonological system of the target language. Or, they can be explained to the target audience to keep the intended effect (Zarei 2014).

On the other hand, Newmark claims that names should not be translated (Newmark 1981, 70). However, Nord states that “there are no rules for the translation of proper names” (Nord 2003, 186). It is up to the translator whether they will keep the source name, or transfer it to the target language. However, it has to be “clear what place the name refers to” (Nord 2003, 186).

## 2 LANGUAGE AND THE INTERNET

There are different types of places on the internet where people can express themselves, such as e-mails, chatgroups, virtual worlds and World Wide Web (WWW). However, this chapter describes only WWW because the thesis is focused on the website translation.

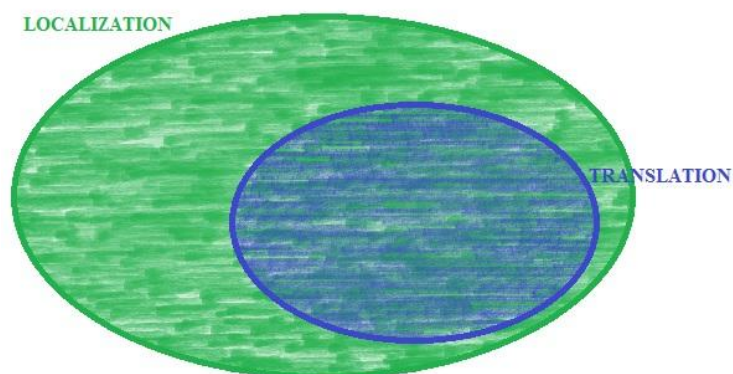
Oxford Dictionaries (2016) describe the World Wide Web as “an information system on the Internet which allows documents to be connected to other documents by hypertext links” which enables the user to look for information by moving from one document to another. On the other hand, Business Dictionary (2016) states, that the WWW is “collection of internet resources, hyperlinked text, audio, and video files, and remote sites” which the internet users may access, search and browse the websites.

Web pays emphasis on its graphical design together with written language in all aspects such as grammar and vocabulary with correct spelling and use of capital letters. It is not difficult to publish something on the Web, so “anything that has been written can appear” there (Crystal 2001, 196). Electronic texts published on the internet have the same linguistic features as printed texts.

### 2.1 Webpage translation

Internet plays big role in people’s lives and the world becomes more and more globalised. It is the reason why webpage’s owners should consider having their websites in different languages, so they can attract broader spectrum of their readers. But translators of the websites should keep in mind that what is appropriate for the source reader may be irrelevant for the target reader.

Webpage translation is connected to localization. It means that the text is not only translated, but also adapted to a “particular locale” (Esselink 2000). In fact, translation is considered as a part of the localization process.



Picture 1 Translation as a part of localization (Esselink 2000)

When translating a webpage, it is necessary to both translate the text and to readjust the webpage to the target audience. Moreover, translator has to pay attention to the final look of the translation, because it has to fit in the layout of the webpage (columns, tables and active links). For this case, translators may use CAT tools<sup>1</sup> which help them keep the same design of the webpage.

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<sup>1</sup> CAT (computer-aided translation) tool is software which helps professional translators with translating.

### 3 TEXT ANALYSIS

Before the start of the practical text analysis, it is necessary to describe what the text is and what standards of textuality are used. This chapter focuses on basic terms that will be used in the practical part of this thesis.

Text is everything what has meaning in a concrete situation and context and what has “a communicative purpose” (Widdowson 2011, 4). Text are not only sentences in paragraphs (verbal communication), but also pictures, tables, videos and graphs (visual communication). When verbal communication together with visual communication is used, the text is called multimodal. Multimodality is one of the engaging discourse strategies together with intertextuality (referring to other texts), code-switching (e.g. switching in formal and informal language), figurative language (metaphors and idioms), exemplification, narration and dialogism.

In the text analysis standards of textuality are considered:

- a) *Coherence* – Text is logically built-up and makes sense as a whole.
- b) *Cohesion* – Text has formal links which connect all textual elements.
- c) *Intertextuality* – Text refers to another text.
- d) *Intentionality* – Text always has some purpose.
- e) *Informativity* – Informativity refers to new information in the text (high informative text vs. low informative text).
- f) *Situationality* – The role of the situation in text production and interpretation.
- g) *Acceptability* – Reader accepts the text as relevant and useful.

Texts may consist of visual signs which are more understandable for readers and they can read them faster; they are more memorable than long sentences and are universals – understandable for everyone no matter what language people speak. Visual signs are also connected to readers’ associations.

## 4 KARST AREAS AND CAVES

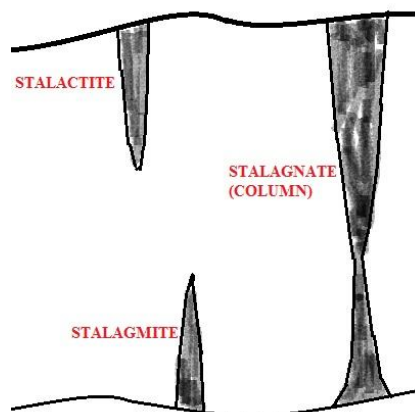
### 4.1 Karst areas

Karst is a place which was formed by dissolution of the rocks. In most cases it is limestone and gypsum. For karst areas sinkholes and caves are typical features. Sinkhole (in Czech *závrt*) is a circular hole; its average can be from several metres to one kilometre. Sinkholes are formed by dissolution of the rocks (Gunn 2007, 1017-1020).

### 4.2 Caves

Caves can be described as natural openings which can be found mostly in rocks. Cave spaces are connected to the surface by the entrances. Caves are created by different processes and it is possible to classify them according to their origin and “the lithology of host rock” or according to the type of sediment inside the cave (Gunn 2004, 417). Most of the caves are karst caves, which were formed by “dissolution of bedrock” caused by running water (Gunn 2004, 417).

Karst (solution) caves can be found in most cases in the limestone rocks. Their process of creation and developing is supported by the erosion and gravitation. Limestone mostly consists of “calcium carbonate in the form of mineral calcite” (Britannica 2016). In the solution caves there can be found beautiful karst decoration, which is called speleothem. The definition of the speleothem is following: It is “a secondary mineral deposited in a cave by the action of water” (Parker 1997). Several types of the speleothems exist, but in the Czech Republic the type of speleothems called dripstone is the most common. There can be found stalactites, stalagmites and stalagnates (columns or pillars). Stalactite hangs down from a roof of a cave; stalagmite grows upwards from a floor of a cave. When stalactite and stalagmite meet and become one, they are called stalagnate.



Picture 2 Speleothems

## **II. ANALYSIS**

## 5 THE CAVE ADMINISTRATION OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The Cave Administration of the Czech Republic was established in 2006 by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic as a partially self-financing organization. The organization protects and takes care of the caves and other spaces which are under the surface. It also supports research of the caves and it provides guide services for the visitors. These days, the organization takes care of 14 caves in the Czech Republic which are accessible for the public – five of them are located in the Moravian Karst. But there are 4000 caves registered on the territory of the Czech Republic (Cave Administration of the Czech Republic 2016).

The Cave Administration of the Czech Republic is a member of International Show Caves Association (I.S.C.A.) which was founded in Italy in 1990. It connects almost 100 members from the entire world (International Show Caves Association 2016). The purpose of the organization is not only to protect the cave areas, but also improve their economical conditions and develop them.

### 5.1 Moravian Karst

Moravian Karst is famous and important karst terrain in the Czech Republic, located in the Drahany Highlands, about 40 kilometres to the north of Brno. Moravian Karst is protected landscape area since 1956. Flora, fauna and all the karst decorations are protected by law. With its area of 92 km<sup>2</sup>, it becomes the largest karst region in the Czech Republic. Area “is formed by limestone-organic sea sediments from the middle to upper Devonian period” (Zajíček and Hromas 2013, 3-4). There are more than 1100 caves, but only five of them are open to the public, such as the Balcarka Cave, the Kateřinská Cave, the Punkevní Caves, the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves and the Výпустek Cave. Thanks to the boat trip and the tour at the bottom of the Macocha Abyss, the Punkevní Caves are the most popular and the most visited caves in the Moravian Karst. But other caves also have something to offer to the visitors. Each of them is different, but all have one in common – rich karst decoration. The Balcarka Cave’s entrance portal is the place where stone and bone tools from Early Stone Age were found. Karst decoration gets ochre and red colours thanks to iron salts. The Kateřinská Cave is located in Suchý žleb. Its entrance corridor leads to the Hlavní dóm (the Main Hall). There is great acoustics so concerts and cultural events take place there. At the entrance there were significant archaeological and paleontological findings discovered – skeletons of cave bears. Thanks to its ‘fairytale’ karst decoration such as

Witch (which is a symbol of the cave), Bamboo Forest and Lambs it is highly recommended for families with children.

The Punkevní Caves are located in Pustý žleb and were discovered by speleologist professor Absolon. During one-hour long excursion visitors can see great cave halls, corridors with karst decorations and the bottom of famous Macocha Abyss. Then they discover underground part of the Punkva River on small motor boats. The Punkevní Caves continue in the Amateur Cave which is the longest cave system in the Czech Republic.

The Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves are a place where skeletons of cave animals such as: bear, lion and hyena were founded. The cave is rich in karst decoration and there are great halls with good acoustics, so occasionally concerts take place there. In the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves there is the deepest underground abyss in the Czech Republic called Nagel Chasm. In the Kůlna Cave, which is part of the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves, there was Neanderthal man's skull founded.

The Výpustek Cave used to be the largest and the most important cave in the Moravian Karst with rich karst decoration. But phosphate mining and building a manufacture for making parts of aeroplane engines during World War II damaged interior of the cave. In the 1960's there was a nuclear bunker. The Cave Administration of the Czech Republic takes care of this cave since 2006. The 'technical' parts of the cave are open to the public; on the other hand visitors cannot enter the parts with rich and unique karst decoration, because it might be dangerous for them.

## 5.2 Statistics, visitors from abroad

As it was already said in the previous chapter, Moravian Karst is a popular tourist destination. This place earned "Certificate of Excellence" by TripAdvisor. Only places that "consistently earn great reviews from travellers" may deserve this certificate (TripAdvisor 2016). It proves that this place is highly visited. Concrete numbers are in the following table (see Table 1).

	Visit rate 2014 - total	Foreigners
<b>The Balcarka Cave</b>	28 736	2 926
<b>The Kateřinská Cave</b>	45 943	12 168
<b>The Punkevní Cave</b>	188 830	Not available
<b>The Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves</b>	43 199	Not available
<b>The Výpustek Cave</b>	18 928	1 109



Table 1 Visit rate in Moravian Karst in 2014 (Správa jeskyní České republiky 2016)

Unfortunately, numbers of foreign visitors in the most popular cave in Moravian Karst, the Punkevní Caves, are not available. However, from my personal experience, this cave is visited by visitors from abroad more than the other caves.

Foreign visitors are significant part of the visit rate not only in the Moravian Karst, but in whole Czech Republic. Entrepreneurs should be aware of this fact and try to customize their services to those people who bring tourist income to the Czech Republic and who are willing to spend the money there. But to do that, they need some motivation to visit this place and a well-designed website in language they know can strengthen their choice.

## **6 ANALYSIS OF THE WEBPAGE**

This chapter analyses Moravian Karst's official webpage which is available in four languages: Czech, English, German and Polish. In this thesis, only the Czech version and the English version were analysed. However, each of the versions has different features and it is the reason why they will be described separately.

### **6.1 Czech version**

The aim of this chapter is to introduce to the reader the Czech version of the webpage, which was the base for English translation.

The webpage is an online source purpose of which is to inform potential and future visitors of the caves in Moravian Karst as well as to promote the caves and new expositions. It also gives interesting information about history of the area and the development of the caves. Target audience are potential and future visitors of the caves, tourists in general and people who are interested in music, because some of the caves are venues for concerts. The webpage can be considered as a multimodal text – there are pictures and tables and many active links to other websites.

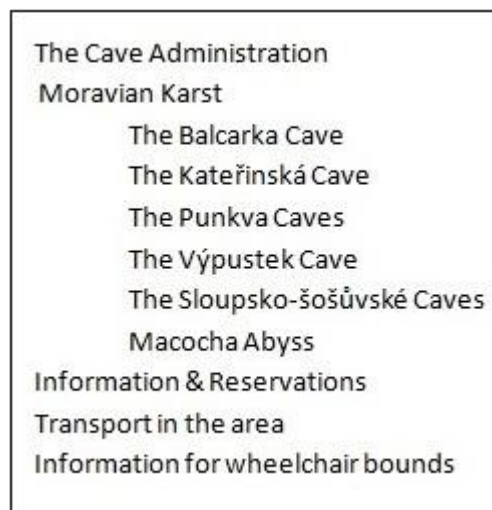
The webpage is arranged into several sections which make working with the webpage easier. The first section is news where potential visitors can find upcoming events in the Moravian Karst. Then there are sections about the Moravian Karst itself, about five caves which are open to public and about Macocha Abyss. Following section gives information about possible reservations. Then there is information about transport in the Moravian Karst, useful fact for the wheelchair users. The last sections are references to other caves in the Czech Republic and partners of the Moravian Karst.

Unfortunately, sections are not in the right order – there are important and unimportant information mixed together. However, the most vital information should be at the top of the navigation whereas less attractive information should be placed at the bottom of the page. Wrong order causes problems in orientation and readers may overlook some essential information. On the other hand, pages are well-arranged, text is divided into paragraphs, important things are written in bold and author of the text uses different colours for headlines to make clear what the text is referring to.

## 6.2 English version

English version differs from the Czech version described in the previous chapter. The purpose of the English version is to inform English-speaking tourists about Moravian Karst and to promote this area and the caves there. It means that target audience are potential and future visitors from the entire world (excluding German and Polish-speaking people, because there is German and Polish version of the website). As well as the Czech version, the English version is a multimodal text, which means that active links, pictures and tables can be found there.

The difference comes with the division into the sections. The navigation bar has only six sections – one is for the Moravian Karst and the rest describe all five caves in Moravian Karst, which are accessible for public. Unfortunately, there are missing important sections for wheelchair users, information about possible reservations to the caves and facts about the transport in the area. In fact, this information is mentioned in the texts about the caves; however, they are not emphasized and may disappear within the reading. On one hand, there is missing crucial information; on the other hand, there is useless information, such as maps of the caves written in Czech. The heading of the webpage is also in Czech instead of in English.



Picture 3 Suggested version of navigation bar

The text is structured into paragraphs which are logically built-up. Unfortunately, important information is neither in bold, nor highlighted; on the other side, active links are recognizable from the text by different colour and underlined format. Some parts of the webpage are structured in bullet points, which make the text easy to read and the reader is more likely to pay attention.

The caves which are accessible for wheelchair users are marked by a wheelchair sign to make it clear on the first sight. It is good idea to use these signs because they are understandable for all people and it is not necessary to know the language.



Picture 4 Visual signs

In the pricelists, there are prices in the Czech currency. However, in case of English version, there might be either exchange rate (CZK - EUR) or prices in Euro. Czech currency is not well known and potential visitors may not know whether it is expensive or cheap for them. It is also a good idea to inform customers about paying in a different currency (in this case probably in Euro), or whether they can pay by their credit or debit card.

Due to the large area where the caves are located, visitors should get some information about the possibility of accommodation and refreshment. There should be tips where they can look for the accommodation that is in an appropriate distance from the visited area.

Visitors enter the protected landscape area that requires special behavior of people there. It is the reason why the visitors need to be informed how to behave there and what rules they should follow, because the rules in the Czech Republic may differ from the rules in different countries.

## 7 ANALYSIS OF THE TRANSLATION

In the theory part the translation of websites is discussed (see Chapter 2.1) and this chapter analyses how the theory is transferred into real life in case of Moravian Karst's official webpage.

On the first sight it is visible that English version of the webpage differs from the Czech version and that there is less text in English version. But from the theory part (Chapter 2.1) we know, that it is not necessary to translate everything to satisfy foreign reader. There should be only information which is relevant for the target reader. However, in more detailed observation of the website we realize that there is important information missing together with mistakes in translation. All mistakes are analysed and discussed in the next chapter.

### 7.1 Mistakes in English translation

In English translation of the Moravian Karst's official webpage there are numerous mistakes. Some of the mistakes are ordinary, such as typing errors; however, very serious mistakes occur in the translation and they will be described in individual sub-chapters.

Even though the following mistakes are not crucial and do not influence the reader much from the point of informativity, it is good to mention them. Even small mistakes can destroy final image of the webpage. I would expect the official webpage to be written in perfect language with no spelling, grammatical, and factual mistakes, because it needs to be representative.

In the text of the title page, there is the very first mistake. It is not a vital one but it spoils the first impression. There is wrong formatting – “100 km 2” instead of “100 km<sup>2</sup>”. It may happen when the text is copied from the text editor to the web that format of the text is changed. In this case, it is necessary to check the output and correct all changes in formatting. However, this does not have to be translator's mistake but mistake of the person who was creating the website and a subsequent flaw of the final product proofreading.

To focus more on language errors, there are mostly spelling mistakes, such as “*affraid*” instead of “*afraid*”; “*opening*” instead of “*openning*” and “*reconstuction*” instead of “*reconstruction*”. We can only guess where and in what conditions the text was created. Nowadays, most of the text editing software offer spell check in which the word is written with wrong spelling is underlined, or, automatic spell check may be used – while writing, the text editing software automatically corrects spelling mistakes. However, spell check

does not have the required effect when the translator is writing in English and the text editing software is set up on Czech text. In this case each word is underlined and it is hard to orient in the text and make sure that there are no mistakes.

In the text, punctuation mistakes such as “*The World War II. have changed (...)*” occur. This case is similar to those which were already mentioned. Author of the text was probably not familiar with using punctuation marks in cases like this one. However, spell check in their text editing software would signalize the mistake but it is possible that the author was ignoring this signalization.

The webpage contains collocation mistakes or expressions that are not usually used. In the text, the term “*Service life*” occurs and refers to page where opening hours of a particular cave are written. However, according to OECD Glossary of Statistical Terms (2016) “*service life*” means a period in which an asset or product is used. It is the product’s expected lifetime. The definition proves that this collocation has nothing in common with information which is referring to. On the other hand, *slovník.cz – Multilingual Dictionary* (2016) shows that “*service life*” means not only lifetime of a product, but also “*provozní doba*” which may be translated to English as “*opening hours*” or “*working time*”. However, in this case it does not mean “*opening hours*” but again the time during which a product is in use.

Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves offer three types of guided tours – long, short and historic; in the text they are named as “*route*” but Cambridge Dictionaries (2016) state that the word means “a particular way or direction between places.” However, more appropriate word for this fact would be “*tour*”, because it refers to “journey made for pleasure” where people look around and learn about the location (Cambridge dictionaries 2016). Tour may be more specified – in this case it is “*guided tour*”, but it can also be “*sightseeing tour*”. These examples show that in some cases it is better to use not only dictionaries that can limit us, but also parallel texts that help with using appropriate terms when we are translating.

Grammatical mistakes are the last type of mistakes mentioned in this chapter. Author of the text have problems with subject-verb agreement; there are mistakes such as “*The region lie on the territory (...)*” Situations like this may happen, however the author should avoid them because it makes bad impression and the reader may find the website untrustworthy.

In conclusion, all of the mentioned mistakes connected to spelling, punctuation, collocations and grammar should not appear in representative texts. Organisation should pay attention on publishing high-quality texts to impress the reader. To do so, it is good to

find responsible proof-reader who will correct all mentioned mistakes and who will give the text structure.

### 7.1.1 Omission

Omission is the most crucial mistake in English translation of the webpage. In most cases there is important and valuable information missing. Many tourists come to the Moravian Karst by car, because it is sometimes hard to get to some places in this area by public transport. Due to this fact, information about parking places at the caves is helpful. However, in English version of the webpage there is nothing about the possibilities of parking. The reader may only find GPS information for two parking places (see Table 2). This information evokes that these two parking places are the only parking places in the area and visitors can leave their cars there and then easily get to all surrounding caves either by public transport or by foot. However, it is not really true. Neither public transport nor visitors' feet can get them to all of the caves, because public transport does not operate within the caves and to get to the furthest cave from the mentioned parking places by foot would take more than three hours. So these are the reasons why this section would deserve more information.

Czech version	English translation
<p><b>“Parkování u jeskyní</b> Parkoviště u <b>Sloupsko-šošůvských jeskyní, u jeskyně Balcarka a u jeskyně Výpustek</b> se nachází přímo v areálu jednotlivých jeskyní a jsou zdarma.</p> <p>Pro návštěvu <b>Kateřinské jeskyně</b> slouží placené parkovit za Skalním mlýnem u provozní budovy jeskyně. (...) Toto parkoviště je východiskem i pro Punkevní jeskyně.</p> <p><b>Doprava v oblasti Punkevních jeskyní</b> Cesty v oblasti krasových údolí (žlebů) jsou pro motorová vozidla uzavřeny. Placená parkoviště pro <b>Punkevní jeskyně</b> jsou na Skalní mlýně a u propasti Macocha.</p> <p>Od Skalního mlýna na Punkevní jeskyně</p>	<p>GPS Parking Skalni mlyn: 49°21'48.201"N,16°42'31.636"E</p> <p>GPS Parking Macocha: 49°22'17.489"N,16°43'50.288"E</p>

<p>můžete jít bu pěšky (asi 2 km) nebo se svézt silničním vláčkem. Od propasti Macocha k Punkevním jeskyním jezdí lanovka nebo můžete jít rovněž pěšky po turistické cestě asi 1,5 km.</p> <p>GPS souřadnice: Parkoviště Skalní mlýn: 49°21'48.201"N, 16°42'31.636"E</p> <p>GPS souřadnice: Parkoviště Macocha: 49°22'17.489"N, 16°43'50.288"E</p>	
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Table 2 Example of omission

Czech version informs customers about the possibility of special guided tours for handicapped visitors. There is not much information for these people; however, there are phone numbers where visitors can get more information. English translation lacks any written information for handicapped people (see Table 3), but luckily for them, in the description of the caves there are visual signs, so it is easily recognizable which of the caves is suitable for wheelchair users (see Picture 7). Moreover, administration workers at the information centres are able to communicate in English so they can provide valuable information to the wheelchair users. Due to this fact, there should be at least telephone numbers in English version together with a note that visitors who are interested in guided tours for handicapped people may feel free to phone there to find out more about this kind of service. However, in my opinion there should be written information about access to the caves for the handicapped people on the website, because in the full season administrative workers have a lot of work to do, so it would make their work easier when there is information for those people on the internet.

Czech version	English translation
<p><b>“Informace pro vozíčkáře</b> Jeskyně Sloupsko-šošůvské a jeskyně Výпустek jsou z velké části upraveny jako bezbariérové a tak i osoby na vozíku mohou tyto jeskyně navštívat. V Punkevních jeskyních mohou vozíčkáři absolvovat trasu suchou částí Punkevních jeskyní na dno propasti Macochy a zpět.</p>	<p>???</p>



Prosím, nahlaste se předem na níže uvedení tel. číslech.”	
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Table 3 Example of omission II

### 7.1.2 Proper names

As we already know from the theoretical part of this thesis, translation of proper names always causes difficulties. It is the translators' choice how they will deal with this problematic issue. However, in case of Moravian Karst's official webpage, the translator did not handle the situation very well. Names of the caves seem to be chosen randomly; there are more names for one cave which may cause reader's confusion. Following table shows Czech names of the caves and their English translation which can be found thorough the webpage (see Table 4).

Kateřinská jeskyně	Katerinska Cave Kateřina's Cave Catherine Cave
Punkevní jeskyně	Punkevni Caves Punkva Caves
Jeskyně Balcarka	Balcarka Cave
Sloupsko-šošůvské jeskyně	Sloup- šošůvka Caves Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves Sloupsko-Sosuvske Caves
Jeskyně Výпустek	Výпустek Cave Vypustek Cave

Table 4 Translations of the caves' names

In case of *Kateřinská jeskyně* translator came up with three ideas how to translate this name. The version “*Catherine Cave*” seems to be a good choice because translator adapted Czech name *Kateřina* into English version *Catherine* so visitors can better imagine that the cave is named after a girl. However, the problem appears when customers are looking for more information about this cave on the internet. Due to the fact that there are articles about Catherine's Cave which is located in Canada, this version of the translation is unacceptable. Additionally, in the area of Moravian Karst there are traffic signs only in Czech language, so in case the English version differs too much from the original name, foreign tourists may be confused. “*Kateřina's Cave*” is another version used which

indicates that the cave is named after a girl. The last version “*Katerinska Cave*” keeps the original name of the cave, but it is not understandable for foreign visitors what the name means.

There are two versions of *Punkevní jeskyně* such as “*Punkevní Caves*” and “*Punkva Caves*”. The first version keeps the original form of the name whereas the second version changes the name into the name of the river which is the cave named after. The second version is easier to pronounce for visitors so in the real life it is used very often.

*Sloupsko-šošůvské jeskyně* lie on the territory of two villages called Sloup and Šošůvka that give the name to the caves. Moravian Karst’s official webpage uses name “*Sloup-šošůvka Caves*” which is not as difficult to pronounce as “*Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves*”.

*Jeskyně Výpustek* and *jeskyně Balcarka* are less problematic terms for translation. Their names are meaningless in Czech language and they have not many diacritical marks, so it is the reason why they occur in the text in almost unchanged versions: “*Vypustek Cave*” and “*Balcarka Cave*”.

Almost all caves’ translations deal with problem of diacritical marks which are used in the names. To make the situation easier for foreigners it is possible delete all diacritical marks; however, in my personal opinion; I would not delete all the diacritical marks to keep the names accurate. I would also suggest not translating or rewriting the caves’ names due to the already mentioned fact that in the area traffic signs use only Czech versions of caves’ names and in case English version differs from the Czech one too much, visitors would not be able to follow these signs.

Each of the mentioned versions in Table 4 (except “*Catherine Cave*”) is acceptable. However, in one text only one version of the translation should be used to keep the text consistent and not confusing the reader too much.

In the caves there are stalactites, stalagmites and stalagnates and places which have meaningful names and Czech visitors can imagine how the karst decoration or place will look like. These names are not translated in English version and occur there in their original names. Unfortunately, names such as *Bambusový lesík*, *Jeskyně Popeluška*, *Dantovo peklo*, *Dóm Chaosu*, *Medvědí komín* and *Ledová chodba* tell nothing to the foreign reader, they do not know what to expect. In my opinion, I would suggest either omit the original names of these places and explain them right at the guided tour in the cave, or translate them. Mentioned names are not difficult to translate and it is the reason why I would choose the option of translation (see Table 5).

Bambusový lesík	Bamboo Forest
Jeskyně Popelůška	Cave Cinderella
Dantovo peklo	Dante's Inferno
Dóm chaosu	Dome of Chaos
Medvědí komín	Bears' Chimney
Ledová chodba	Ice Corridor

Table 5 Translation of places' names

In Moravian Karst there are two places called “*Suchý žleb*” and “*Pustý žleb*”. “*Žleb*” in Czech means depression or small valley and English equivalent for this word is “*dry valley*”. Problems may appear when translator decides to translate these names, because Czech word “*suchý*” means in English “*dry*”. “*Pustý*” means in English “*empty*” or “*desert*”, however the Czech name of this place: “*Pustý žleb*” is derived from the fact that there is no water in this place, so the meaning is again “*dry*”. I would not recommend translating these names, because it would only cause the reader's confusion. Or, there can be used footnotes where the author can briefly describe origin of the names to make clear what the literal meaning of these toponyms is.

### 7.1.3 Translation?

In English version of the Moravian Karst's official webpage there are parts that cannot be considered as translation of the Czech version. However, these parts carry valuable and important information for the customers, on the other hand, Czech version lacks this information or the information has different meaning (see Table 6).

<p><b>“Punkevní jeskyně</b></p> <p>Vstupenky je možné zakoupit přímo ve vstupní hale do jeskyně nebo na informační službě na Skalním mlýně či v sezóně blízko horního můstku propasti Macocha. Zejména v sezóně (květen – září) jsou vstupenky do Punkevních jeskyní často vyprodány a proto je vhodné si je rezervovat předem (rezervaci lze provést až rok dopředu).”</p>	<p><b>“Punkevní Caves</b></p> <p>Tickets to the caves of the Moravian Karst can be ordered in the Central Information Centre at Skalní Mlýn with possibility of reservations one year in advance also for individual visitors to the Punkva Caves. Please be sure to make reservation in advance because tickets are often sold out.”</p>
---	---

Table 6 Czech and English version: Ticket reservations

The fact that the Czech version is with punctuation mistakes is not a subject to discuss in the thesis, but it is obvious that it gives poor basis for English translation. Moreover, there are factual mistakes in the Czech version, which can be visible only for those people who know how it works in practice. The real facts are hidden for the visitors, unfortunately.

Czech version informs visitors where they can buy tickets. The headline indicates that the text below it refers to the Punkevní Caves even though it is not written there. On the other hand, English version gives advice where the customers can order tickets to the caves of the Moravian Karst. Firstly, this information is not really true, because only tickets to the Punkevní Caves can be ordered at the mentioned place. Secondly, English version does not correlate in the meaning with the Czech version. Both Czech and English version should include information about booking tickets as well as about buying tickets.

In the real life, visitors are required to have a reservation in a full season to the Punkevní Caves, due to high visit rate and limited number of people who can enter the cave. However, Czech version tells the customer that it is good to have a ticket reservation in advance, because mostly in the full season tickets to the Punkevní Caves are often sold out whereas English version points out, that visitors should make sure that they have previous reservation because tickets are often sold out. In this case, Czech version has less influence on the reader than the English version because of the choice of the words. Czech version gives only advice whereas English version expresses obligation.

## 8 CONCLUSION

This bachelor's thesis focused on English translation of the Moravian Karst's official webpage. The need for analysing the webpage's translation emerged from the fact that foreign visitors of this area did not have needed information and they were complaining about poor quality of the webpage and bad orientation there.

Analysis proved that original English translation of the Moravian Karst's official webpage is insufficient and customers' complaints were on the right place. There are repetitious spelling mistakes which declass reader's first impression of the webpage. On one hand, there is missing important information, on the other hand, there is redundant information. Analysis showed that in some cases English version is not equal to Czech version. It makes impression that English version is not real translation, but only a text written by someone who knows something about Moravian Karst and how it works there, but has never seen the Czech version of the webpage. However, we can only speculate how it is possible, that in the original translation there is wrong information, whereas English version contains valuable information.

Another problem of English version is not consistent text. Author uses several names for one cave, so the reader who is not familiar with the situation may be confused. Translators should decide how they will translate particular term, use only the chosen version and not combine it with different ones. The reason why this problem occurs is that there are no official translations for these caves and translators make their own translations. But once they decide to translate in one way they should keep it for whole text.

All mistakes make the reader wonder who the author of the text is, where he or she wrote the text and how it is possible that the official webpage is made in poor quality. It may be because of the lack of money; however, the organization could cooperate with students who would translate the website within the framework of their practical training, so the organization would pay very little or nothing for translation in good quality.

The Cave Administration of Moravian Karst is planning to introduce new official websites during the season 2016. Content of this thesis should be helpful in the creating process and parts of my suggested versions for new English translation may be used for new websites.

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## APPENDICES


P I      Suggestion of the new translation and visualisation

# APPENDIX P I: SUGGESTION OF THE NEW TRANSLATION AND VISUALISATION

**The Cave Administration of the Moravian Karst**

Manager: Jiří Hebelka  
Address: Svítavská 11-13,  
678 01 Blansko


Phone number: +420516415476, +420516417903  
Fax: +420516417252  
GPS: [49°21'25.42"N, 16°38'40.427"E](#)




The Cave Administration of the Moravian Karst is an organizational organ of the **Cave Administration of the Czech Republic** - the state semi-budgetary organization which seats in Průhonice. The Caves Administration of the Moravian Karst ensures the direct administration and operation of the caves which are open to the public (the Punkva Caves, the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves, the Kateřinská Cave, the Balcarka Cave and the Výpustek Cave) - which means: guide service, information and promotion service, protection of the caves, care and potholing. Organization also provides operation of the Central Information Centre **Skalni Mlýn**, information centre at **Macoča** and both of the view points at the Macoča Abyss, current maintenance and operation of the administration buildings in Blansko, repair service of the boats at Skalni Mlýn, water station at Punkva Caves and last but not least making safe the cliffs in all areas of the caves and in the Macoča Abyss.

**Moravian Karst**

Moravian Karst is the most famous and the most important karst terrain in the Czech Republic. It is located in the Drahany Highlands, about 40 kilometres to the north of Brno. Moravian Karst is protected landscape area since 1956. Flora, fauna and all the karst decorations are protected by law. With its area of 92 km<sup>2</sup>, it becomes the largest karst region in the Czech Republic. There are more than 1100 caves, but only five of them are open to public, such as the Balcarka Cave, the Kateřinská Cave, the Punkva Caves, the Výpustek Cave and the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves.



Moravian Karst is also significant archaeological and paleontological place – there were discovered skeletons of cave bears, lions and hyenas.



## The Balcarka Cave

The Balcarka Cave is situated in Ostrov u Macochy and with its karst decorations it becomes the karst-richest and well-known cave in the Moravian Karst. It is also the oldest historical place in the area and the entrance portal of the cave is a significant paleontological place – the bones of Pleistocene animals were found there as well as bone instruments and fireplaces from the Early Stone Age.

There is unique and very rich and colourful karst decoration. "The Gallery" and "The Natural Corridor" are one of the most beautiful sights in the Moravian Karst.

The guided-tour takes about 60 minutes. The tour is 720 metres long including number of stairs.

Please note that inside the cave there is a constant temperature: 8 °C (47 °F).

GPS: [49°22'36.854"N, 16°45'26.89"E](#)

[Opening hours and prices](#)

[Map of the Balcarka Cave](#)

[History of the Balcarka Cave](#)



## The Kateřinská Cave

The entrance to the Kateřinská Cave is located in deep canyon called Suchý Žleb (the Dry Valley) near the Central Information Centre Skalní Mlýn. In the Kateřinská Cave there is a place called "the Main Hall" and it is the largest underground space that is accessible to the public in the Czech Republic. Thanks to its great acoustics it is place where instrumental concerts take place. In the cave, there are colourful stalactites, stalagmites and stalagnates – one of them is stalagmite called "Witch" that is a symbol of this cave.

The guided-tour takes about 30 minutes (430 metres).

Please note that inside the cave there is a constant temperature: 8 °C (47 °F).

GPS: [49°21'40.117"N, 16°42'34.108"E](#)

[Opening hours and prices](#)

[Map of the Kateřinská Cave](#)

[History of the Kateřinská cave](#)





### The Punkva Caves

The Punkva Caves are located in Pustý žleb, 2 kilometres far from the Central Information Centre Skalní Mlýn. The Punkva Caves were discovered step by step from 1909 to 1933 (1909-1914 the dry part of the cave, 1920-1933 water part) by the research team under Professor Karel Absolon's direction. Visitors go through giant domes and corridors with the karst decoration to the Macocha Abyss. The depth of the abyss is 138 meters.

The following part of the guided tour is a motor boat excursion on the Punkva River. During the boat trip, the visitors will enter the most beautiful part of the caves – The Masaryk Dome. The Punkva Caves are part of the longest karst system in the Czech Republic – the Amateur Cave. The length of its discovered corridors is more than 30 kilometres.

It may happen that the water level in the cave goes up during strong rains. Due to this fact, boat trip may be shortened or cancelled, because visitors could be in danger.



GPS: The Punkva Caves: [49°22'14.54"N, 16°43'32.47"E](#)

GPS: Parking place Skalní Mlýn [49°21'48.201"N, 16°42'31.636"E](#) - open: all year

GPS: Parking place at Macocha Abyss: [49°22'17.489"N, 16°43'50.288"E](#) - open: April - November

[Photo gallery: the Punkva Caves](#)



### The Výpustek Cave

The Výpustek Cave is one of the most important cave systems in the Czech Republic. The labyrinth of corridors and domes was created by the underground stream. In the cave there were bone tools founded. They come from the Palaeolithic and Neolithic period.

The Výpustek Cave used to be the largest cave in the Moravian karst that has rich karst decoration. However, phosphate mining and building a manufacture for making parts of aeroplane engines during World War II, damaged interior of the cave. In the 1960's there was a nuclear bunker. The Cave administration of the Czech Republic takes care of the cave since 2006. The "technical" parts of the cave are open to public. Unfortunately, visitors cannot enter the part with rich and unique karst decoration, because it might be dangerous for them.



Please note that inside the cave there is a constant temperature: 8 °C (47 °F).

GPS: [49°17'28.949"N, 16°43'25.969"E](#)

[Opening hours and prices](#)

[Map of the Výpustek Cave](#)

[History of the Výpustek Cave](#)



### The Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves

The Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves are the largest caves in the Czech Republic that are accessible to public. They consist of large underground domes, corridors and chasms that are in two floors. The Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves are an important place where animal skeletons have been found. There is place called "Eliška's Cave" with great acoustics and it is the reason why music concerts take place there. There is the greatest underground abyss in the Czech Republic called "Naql chasm". Inside the cave, there was part of the Neanderthal man's skull found.

There are two options of guided-tours:

1. 60 minutes (890 metres)
2. 100 minutes (1760 metres)

Please note that inside the cave there is a constant temperature: 8 °C (47 °F).

GPS: [49°24'41.786"N, 16°44'18.788"E](#)

[Opening hours and prices](#)

[Map of the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves](#)

[History of the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves](#)

### Macocha Abyss

Macocha Abyss is the deepest abyss of its type in the central Europe. There are three options how to see the abyss. The first option is during the guided-tour in the Punkva Caves which includes the bottom of the abyss. The two other options visitors may experience individually – by the visit of two viewpoints (upper and lower). Close to the upper viewpoint there is cablecar which goes to the Punkva Caves. There is another way how to get to the Punkva Caves – from the lower viewpoint there is 2km long forest way. Near the abyss there is new-built information centre and the restaurant Macocha.

GPS: [49°22'17.489"N, 16°43'50.288"E](#)

[History of the Macocha Abyss](#)



## Information & Reservation

Central Information Centre Skalní Mlýn provides information services, booking and selling tickets to the Punkva Caves and selling tickets for the road-train and the cable car.

### Opening Hours: Central Information Centre Skalní mlýn

IV. - IX.	8:00-16:30
X. - III.	8:00-15:00

### Tickets to the caves:

You can buy your tickets to the Balcarka Cave, the Kateřinská Cave, the Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves and the Výpustek Cave at the [entrances to these caves](#).

Tickets to the Punkva Caves may be bought at [Central Information Centre Skalní Mlýn](#), at [Information Centre Macocha](#) or at the [entrance to the Punkva Caves](#).

### Reservation

The Balcarka Cave requires reservation only for groups of visitors bigger than 15 people. Please, call +420 516 444 330 for the reservation.

The Kateřinská Cave requires reservation only for groups of visitors bigger than 15 people. Please, call +420 516 413 161 for the reservation.

The Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves require reservation only for groups of visitors bigger than 15 people. Please, call +420 516 435 335 for the reservation.

The Výpustek Cave requires reservation only for groups of visitors bigger than 15 people. Please, call +420 516 435 335 for the reservation.

The Punkva Caves requires reservation for both individuals and groups of visitors. Please, for your reservation call the Central Information Centre Skalní Mlýn: +420 516 413 575, +420 516 410 024 or write e-mail [info@caves.cz](mailto:info@caves.cz). Please, make sure you have ordered your tickets in advance (in the full season at least 1 month in advance), because the tickets are often sold out.

### Parking

Parking places for the visitors of the Balcarka Cave, Sloupsko-šošůvské Caves and the Výpustek Cave are located right at the caves and they are for free.

Parking place for the visitors of the Kateřinská Cave and the Punkva Caves is the same – located at Skalní Mlýn. The Kateřinská Cave is about 300 metres far from the parking. The Punkva Caves are 2 kilometres far from the parking place at Skalní Mlýn – you can walk there, or you can buy tickets for the [road-train](#). For visitors of the Punkva Caves there is another option – there is parking place near Macocha Abyss. The Punkva Caves are 2 kilometres far from there, so you can walk or you can use [cable car](#).

Parking at these places costs 50 CZK (cca 3 Eur) per car per day.