

CZECH REPUBLIC: 2005

The Czech Republic is a land-locked country lying in the central part of Europe, in the middle of the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere.

The country's borders make up neighbourhood with Germany (810.3 km), Poland (761.8 km), Slovakia (251.8 km) and Austria (466.3 km).

The major European watershed passes through the territory of the Czech Republic to separate the basins of the North, Baltic and Black Seas. Principal rivers are the Labe (370 km) and the Vltava (433 km) in Bohemia, the Morava (246 km) and the Dyje (306 km) in Moravia, and the Odra (135 km) and the Opava (131 km) in Silesia and northern Moravia.

Geographically, the Czech Republic lies on the borderline of two mountain systems. The western and central parts of the country are occupied by the hilly uplands Česká vysočina and by the low mountain ranges Šumava, Český les, Krušné hory, Krkonoše, Orlické hory, and Jeseníky. The Západní Karpaty mountains (Beskydy) penetrate into the eastern part of the country.

The climate of the Czech Republic is influenced by mutual penetration and mingling of oceanic and continental effects. It is characterized by prevailing westerly winds, intensive cyclonic activities and comparatively ample precipitation. Maritime effects are mainly felt in Bohemia, whereas Moravia and Silesia are more affected by continental climate. The Czech Republic's climate is also influenced to a large extent by the altitude and geographical relief: 52 817 km² of the country's whole territory (66.97%) can be found at an altitude of up to 500 m, 25 222 km² (31.98%) between 500 to 1 000 m, and only 827 km² (1.05%) above 1 000 m. The average altitude of the Czech Republic is 430 m.

Fauna and flora found in the Czech Republic also testify to the mutual penetration of principal directions in which fauna and flora propagated in Europe. Forests, mostly coniferous, cover 33% of the total area.

The soil cover is also varied. Brown soils are the most prevalent soil type in the Czech Republic.

SOME OF THE BEST IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Highest point	<i>SNEŽKA</i>	1 602 m a.s.l.	<i>Krkonoše</i> mountain range
Lowest point	Discharge of the <i>LABE</i> river at <i>Hřensko</i>	115 m a.s.l.	<i>Děčín</i> District
Largest dam reservoir	<i>LIPNO</i>	4 870 ha	<i>Český Krumlov</i> District and <i>Prachatice</i> District
Largest pond	<i>ROŽMBERK</i>	489 ha	<i>Jindřichův Hradec</i> District
Largest lake	<i>ČERNÉ JEZERO</i>	18.4 ha	<i>Klatovy</i> District
Longest river	<i>VLTAVA</i>	433 km	<i>Čechy</i>
Deepest chasm	<i>HRANICKÁ PROPAST</i>	274.5 m	<i>Přerov</i> District
Largest national park	<i>ŠUMAVA</i>	685.2 km ²	<i>Šumava</i> mountain range
Largest protected landscape area	<i>BESKYDY</i>	1 160 km ²	<i>Beskydy</i> mountain range
Highest placed settlement	<i>FILIPOVA HUŤ</i>	1 093 m a.s.l.	<i>Klatovy</i> District
Lowest placed settlement	<i>HŘENSKO</i>	130 m a.s.l.	<i>Děčín</i> District
Largest municipality	<i>PRAHA</i>	1 182 thous. inhabitants	Capital City
Smallest municipality	<i>VLKOV</i>	19 inhabitants	<i>České Budějovice</i> District