

Dear applicant,

thank you for interest in our voluntary service! We are pleased that you are considering to stay at our Centre and help us for several months. This booklet should give you more information about our organization, our country, culture and finally about activities you can do here. Please, read it carefully before you agree with our EVS project.



Kaprálův mlýn

Kapraluv Mlyn Scout Environmental Education Centre is a modern eco-centre situated in the unique environment of the Moravian Karst Protected Landscape Area. The natural world of caves and varied habitat enables exciting first-hand experience of nature for children and youth. In its first two and a half years of operation, Kapraluv Mlyn has been successful in becoming a cross point of international events and work camps that offers a unique experience for young volunteers.

Mlýn means “mill” in Czech language, the centre indeed occupies the building of an old mill. It used to belong to the family of Aleš Kaprál and was named after him. You will have an opportunity to learn the fascinating story of the family and the building during your stay here (you can even read a book in English or Czech about it written by Kaprál’s wife).

The building was completely reconstructed in 2012 and turned into a model eco-friendly building (low-energy construction standard, solar panels, heat pump, recuperation of wastewater and air). All the technologies can be discovered by the visitors during our programs.

Location

Mlyn is located 10 km from Brno (the second biggest city in Czech Republic) in the beautiful nature of Moravian Karst Protected Landscape Area (read more at www.moravskykras.net). There are lots of caves and hiking trails so you can enjoy exploring the surrounding areas and learning more about the nature and history of the place.

It takes 30 minutes to get from the Brno downtown to Kapráluv mlýn by public transport (bus) and next 15 minutes walk down to the valley. From the airport it takes about 50 minutes to get to Kapráluv mlýn by the public transport.



Brno

- ☪ The population of the city is about about 400,000 residents.
- ☪ It has a great train and bus connection with Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Prague and many other cities.
- ☪ There is an international airport in Brno that connects it with England, Russia and the Netherlands, seasonally with Greece, Spain, Italy, Bulgaria and Turkey also.
- ☪ Brno has hundreds of historical sights, lots of theaters and museums, and it hosts many festivals throughout the year.
- ☪ It's a student city with 90 thousand students. Masaryk University is the second largest university of Czech Republic.
- ☪ More information about Brno you can find at <http://www.ticbrno.cz/en/uvod> and <http://wikitravel.org/en/Brno>



Czech Republic

There is about **10.5 million people** living in the Czech Republic. The capital city is Prague, one of the most beautiful European cities as well as one of twelve Czech monuments signed in **UNESCO cultural heritage list**.

Our country has very valuable nature. There are **4 national parks** and **24 protected landscape areas** with wide range of fauna and flora species. Kapráluv mlýn is located in one of them – Moravian Karst Protected Landscape Area. Hiking is very popular here and local system of **marked tourist trails** is one of the best in the world. Although we don't have a sea coast, you can find many lakes, ponds and dams suitable for swimming and recreation in summer season here.

The Czech Republic is located in **moderate climate zone** and during the year there are all four seasons. In summer, the temperature may rise to +35°C, in winter it sometimes falls to -15°C with snow cover. An autumn is often rainy so you may need all kinds of clothes.

As well as Czech weather, Czech people are “moderate” also. Sometimes at first contact their behavior is reserved but after some time they open themselves and help you with anything.

Don't be surprised by religious structure – two thirds of inhabitants are “non-believers” what means they are not members of any registered church. But still you can feel historical Christian roots influencing current society. In bigger cities like Brno you can find meeting houses of all main world churches.

If you want to know more about Czech Republic in general, look at www.czech.cz.



Voluntary Service – generally

The European Voluntary Service at Kapráluv mlýn takes 6-12 months, beginning usually in February or September.

In your time at Kapráluv mlýn you will have lots of different tasks. In average you will work 35 hours a week and will have 2 days off per week. You can take another 2 days of holiday per each month of EVS duration. Off days can be cumulated and spent together. Time of the working hours, days off and holidays are subject of agreement between you and the organization and they are always chosen considering priorities of both you and the organization.

Thank to the European Union, Kapráluv mlýn provides you pocket money, accommodation, food allowance, sim card, health insurance, Czech language course and 90 % of travel cost for free.

Transport and visa

The 90 % of travel costs from your country to Kapráluv mlýn and back will be refunded from project money. The arranging of your transportation is up to you, we can help you to find the cheapest and the most comfortable option.

If you are not from Schengen country, you need visa for your stay. You have to apply for visa (the long term one, over 90 days) at the embassy in your country. For that, you need a lot of different documents, some of them will be provided by us, some of them you have to get by your own. Whole visa process takes up time so it is better to start it at least 3 months before your arrival.



What do we expect from you

- 🌱 Knowledge of English. We expect you to speak English on a sufficient level to be able to explain yourself clear, to communicate with visitors and staff.
- 🌱 Initiative. Sometimes you need to ask or think of the next thing to do on your own. Or just help where it is needed most without being asked to do so.
- 🌱 Flexibility. Things change quickly and we expect you to be understandable and ready for the changes.
- 🌱 You should be ready to do manual work. It is not an easy thing to wash dishes after lunch for 70 people or work in the orchard for the whole day outside.
- 🌱 Preventing conflicts. Sometimes the working mood is quite stressful, when there are lots of things to do. The most constructive in those situations is searching of the best solutions, not searching of reasons why something is not possible.
- 🌱 High morale. Once you became a part of our team, we give you our trust fully that also means your higher responsibility for the behavior.
- 🌱 Preparedness to be alone. Sometimes it is not so easy to look through rainy window in foreign country when all your friends are so far from you. But don't worry – we are prepared to become your new friends for the time of your stay here 😊



Activities

All your service activities can be divided in four categories:

1. Operation and development of the Kapráľův mlýn Scout Environmental Education Centre:

- 🌱 assistance at environmental education programs, help with their preparation and creation, help in kitchen, clean-up, maintenance of Kapráľův mlýn grounds, looking after the garden, guests-care and info-shop duties;
- 🌱 help with development projects (construction of house for volunteers, furnishing campgrounds);
- 🌱 administration and office work.

2. Conservation projects:

- 🌱 learning-by-doing of different techniques of natural conservation;
- 🌱 assistance to other youth volunteer groups in their conservation projects.

3. Environmental management and civic society education:

- 🌱 taking part in the educational programs (e.g. meeting successful environmental projects and their proponents: local politicians, officers, NGO activists);
- 🌱 excursions to explore local natural and cultural heritage;
- 🌱 English & Czech lessons.

4. Personal project:

- 🌱 during the service you will plan your own personal project with focus on application of the experience acquired at Kapráluv mlýn either into your future or for the benefit of the organization.

Part of your volunteer service may be taken in cooperation with (or within) partner NGOs from Brno.

Trainings

You are expected to undergo three main EVS trainings. The first should be held by your sending organization before departure from your country. The second and the third ones are organized by Czech National Agency somewhere in Czech Republic – there is on-arrival training (after your arrival here) and midterm training (about 4 months later). Those two training take 3-6 days, you meet there other international volunteers serving in the Czech Republic and have lots of fun with them.

Life at Kapráluv mlýn

Accommodation – you will share a room with one volunteer of the same gender. A new house for volunteers is currently under construction, where all volunteers can stay together. It is a two-storey house situated on a nice place with a great view just



50m from the main bulding of Kapraluv mlyn. On the first floor there is going to be a kitchen a living room and a small guest bedroom. On the second floor there will be three bedrooms.

Laundry – a washing machine is available for free use.

Internet – there is Wi-Fi in the whole building, sometimes the signal is weak, but in general it is not bad.

Meals – during the week and most of the weekends you can get hot meals for lunch and dinner. Most of the meals are typical Czech (soup and second dish (pasta, dumplings, stews, rice). Vegetarian options are available. You can also choose to cook on your own. There are no grocery stores in the vicinity of Kaprálův mlýn, you need to go to Brno in order to buy groceries. Some snacks (cookies, chocolate, soda drinks, etc) can be bought in the small gift shop in Mlýn. There are lots of cafes in Brno where you can eat quite cheap but it is definitely not an everyday option.

Language course – Many foreigners say it is very difficult to learn Czech language. But it is much easier for Slavic nations, at least when you want only understand what you hear. You will be attending Czech lessons for free.



Phone - You will be provided a Czech sim-card and added to the company plan so all the calls to Kaprálův mlýn colleagues will be for free. Texting and calls beyond this will be deducted from your allowance after the end of the month. Usual price for one minute of internal call is 5 CZK (0,2 €) and international call costs depending on country (0,13 – 1,1 €).

Bus pass – each month you will be given four tickets (for 156 CZK each, one ticket covers 3 return-tickets from Centre to Brno). These tickets can be used both to get to Brno by bus and to get around Brno on trams and buses.

Money – Each month you will get pocket money - 95 € paid in CZK according the actual EUR/CZK exchange rate (about 2 300 – 2 700 CZK). You also get money for food - 135 CZK/day paid at once each month (if you eat lunches/dinners at Kaprálův mlýn, you will pay for them in the end of the month from these money).

Used currency is Czech crown (CZK). 1 euro is about 27 crowns. In most of the places (bars, cafes, theater and so on) you can only pay in cash (only in Czech crowns). Shops in general accept bank cards (Visa, MasterCard...). Here you can see prices of some common goods:

1 loaf of bread (500 g) = 25 CZK	1 main meal in restaurant = 120 CZK
100 g of cheese = 20 CZK	1 ticket in cinema = 100 CZK
1 soft drink (0,5 l) = 20 CZK	1 ticket in theater = 250 CZK
1 beer (0,5 l) = 25 CZK	1 ticket in local city transport = 25 CZK

Insurance – you will get an insurance that will allow you to see a doctor if needed. Mind that it covers only necessary emergency cases. For example, it doesn't cover common dentist visit so make sure to see the dentist before coming here. You will undergo a physical check-up after your arrival in order to get a permission to work in the kitchen.

European Youth Card - a card for young people offering a large number of discounts on culture, travel, accommodation, shopping and services in most European countries. You will be issued this card and can use it during your volunteer service. Learn more here: <http://eyca.org/EVS>

Youthpass

The Youthpass is a new way for volunteers at European Voluntary Service to describe what they have done and to show what they have learnt during the stay. It is an internationally accredited certification that identifies all competences you gain. For more information look at www.youthpass.eu. We discuss with all volunteers their Youthpasses continuously. **It is optimal when each volunteer prepare a concept of Youthpass before s/he arrives to Kaprálov mlýn.**

What to Bring with You

- 👉 Working boots (good hiking boots or just some sturdy boots that you are not afraid to get dirty/broken) and boots for the city walk
- 👉 Working clothes (pants, long sleeve shirt, sweater, T-Shirt, all can be used also for caving as you can get quite dirty in the caves!)
- 👉 Sandals or slippers (in the office we don't use outside shoes)
- 👉 Rain jacket (good for hiking, working outside, walks)
- 👉 Gloves, hat, warm clothes in general (but you can also find clothes pretty cheap in the second hand stores in Brno)
- 👉 Small backpack (useful for caving, short hikes, grocery shopping)
- 👉 Big backpack and sleeping bag (useful for more-days hiking; optional)

- 👉 Laptop/tablet
- 👉 Phone (you will get a local sim-card, so make sure that you can use your phone with new sim-card)
- 👉 Climbing shoes (only if you already have them and want to practice climbing, most of the gear that you need for it you can find in mlýn)
- 👉 Musical instrument (if you have. There is a guitar in mlýn)
- 👉 Souvenirs from home (sweets, tea, small gifts, etc) optional:)



Useful Links

<https://www.facebook.com/KMvolunteer?fref=ts> – facebook page of volunteers at Kapráluv mlýn, you can see there what they do all the time☺

http://europa.eu/youth/vp/organisation/26000423990_en – description of our EVS project

<http://www.kapraluvmlyn.cz/> - official web site of Kapráluv mlýn

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111486602202489/> - official facebook page of Kapráluv mlýn

http://scout.org/en/information_events/media_centre/press_room/press_releases/steve_broke_the_record/scenes_centres - information about SCENES (Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature and Environment), Kapráluv mlýn has SCENES accreditation

www.czech.cz – information about Czech Republic

<http://www.mapy.cz> – maps of Czech Republic

www.youthpass.eu – YouthPass official website

Contact

Web: www.kapraluvmlyn.cz

E-mail: volunteer@kapraluvmlyn.cz

Phone: +420 544 212 993

Mail address: Ochoz u Brna 235,
664 02, Czech Republic

EVS coordinator:

Pavla Šlimarová,

+420 732 412 942,

volunteer@kapraluvmlyn.cz

