

ST HUBERTUS HUNTING TOURS



VIP HUNTING OFFER IN CZECH N. 1



Presidential Hunting Grounds' Landscape

We feel honoured that we can offer to our clients a stay in the czech presidential hunting estate. These hunting grounds - including a game

preserve with an extension of around 3000 ha and a perimeter of 26 km – are directly managed by the Office of the President of the Czech Republic. The Presidential Office arranges hunting stays on behalf of the Czech President's guests and of a selected clientele. Six species of hoofed game are hunted there: red deer, fallow deer, sika deer, sika Dybowski deer, mouflon and wild boar.



A Red Deer in The Presidential Game Preserve

The area outside the game preserve has an extension of 3074 ha where is possible to hunt find five species of hoofed game: red deer, sika deer, roe deer, mouflon and wild boar. There is also a pheasantry with an extension of 477 ha devoted to pheasant shooting (with an additional offer for roe deer and wild boar). The game preserve is characterized by the presence of different biotop with ravines, wide valleys, steep slopes and meadows. 70 % of hunting grounds are covered with broad-leaved (at first oak and beech), 30 % with meadows. There are also some ponds with a total extension of 20 ha. These hunting grounds are well known for amazing trophies of Red Deer, Sika Deer, Fallow Deer and Mouflon.



Fallow Deer in the game preserve during winter season

PERSONALIZED PACKAGES

We prefer to set up a personalized offer according needs and wishes of our guests. Our staff is at your disposal in order to manage a very pleasant, funny and relaxing stay in favor of hunters and no-hunter guest as well (with a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities: museum, theatre, opera, concerts, wellness, golf, tennis, biking, trekking, fishing and much more). We can arrange a guided tour in Central Bohemia (at first Prague but not only) with its many natural, historical and architectural gems. There is a wide hotel facilities' offer starting from a hunting lodge located inside the hunting grounds (if you prefer a stay in very close contact with nature) up to a deluxe accommodation in hotel-chateau 5 stars at Prague (30 km from hunting grounds) as well.

HUNTING OFFER

Red deer, Fallow Deer, Mouflon and Sika Deer shot in the Presidential Hunting Grounds often reach amazing gold medal trophies.



Mouflons in the Presidential Game Preserve

THE HISTORY OF THE CZECH PRESIDENTIAL GAME PRESERVE



The Presidential hunting grounds was first mentioned in the Early Middle Ages. Czech monarchs held red-deer and wild boars hunts there. Historical records reference a conflict between the family of Vršovci and Přemyslid princes concerning the hunting ground in Křivoklát and Lány forests, which dates back to the 9th century. Furthermore, we know that in the beginning of the 11th century, Přemyslid prince Jaromír hunted in the local forests. Besides, prince Břetislav II hunted here in 1100, king Přemysl Otakar I in the end of the 12th century, king Václav I in the middle of the 13th century and king Václav IV in the 14th century. The first recorded allusion to the village of Lány, which also concerns a yeoman mansion, can be traced as far back as 1392; the mansion was owned by Pavel of Kladno and Hašek of Lány, both kin to the yeoman family of Kladenský from Kladno. In 1587, Emperor Rudolf II bought the stronghold in Lány. As a result, Lány became a part of Křivoklát estate and remained the property of Czech monarchs until 1658. Rudolf II also ordered the building of a small hunting lodge in Lány. Interestingly, the ground plan of the hunting lodge was fully preserved in the construction of the Lány Chateau. After 1685, Emperor Leopold I sold the estate of Křivoklát to Earl Arnošt Josef of Wallenstein, thus breaking a rule made by the Emperor Charles IV in 1348, prohibiting the separation of the Křivoklát estate from the Czech Crown. The bill of sale, signed on 6 June 1685, compelled the dynasty of the Wallensteins to protect the big game in the estate so that they could arrange pompous hunts for the Emperor and his family. In 1713, a wooden fence was built around the game park in order to prevent both organized and individual poaching. Consequently, a large game park had been created: the 47 km long wooden fence enclosed the area of 9,600 ha. In 1731, the princely family of the house of Fürstenberg inherited the whole Křivoklát estate. In 1816, Jáchym of Fürstenberk divided the original game park into two smaller parts and created the the current Presidential game park (3,000 ha) intended for big game and the Řevničov Game Park for wild boars. Later, the Řevničov Game Park was dissolved. In the course of time, it became clear that the wooden fence did not serve its purpose because it was continually damaged by people trying to get inside the game park. Consequently, the game easily broke through the damaged fence and was then able to escape to the neighbouring fields. To prevent these problems, in 1787, the Fürstenbergs began with the construction of a massive stone wall that followed the northern boundary, starting in Pustá Dobrá and continuing to Lužná (ca 27 km). The construction lasted 10 years. On 21 July 1921, the Czechoslovak Republic bought the Lány Chateau, farmyards in Lány and Ploskov and hunting grounds in Lány, Ploskov and Běleč. Altogether, it cost 25 million Crowns. Following the resolution of the

National Assembly of the Czechoslovak Republic, the chateau was declared to be the official summer residence of the presidents of the republic.



President of Czechoslovakia Tomáš Masaryk in Lány Estate

There were several reasons for this choice; first off, the interior was representative enough, and yet it fulfilled Masaryk's requirements for simplicity. Secondly, the Chateau was close to Prague, with convenient railway and motorway connections, and it was situated in the beautiful area of Křivoklát woods. Finally, the residence was in the proximity of the Lány Game Park that had traditionally served as a site of aristocratic hunts. It was the chancellor Přemysl Šámal who had suggested the purchase of the Lány Chateau. He was a passionate hunter who was very well aware of the importance of the friendly and casual atmosphere of hunting events when seeking favourable results in political or diplomatic negotiations. As the records in a commemorative book demonstrates, Šámal's assumption was right - it was mainly foreign ambassadors, ministerial counsellors, and generals who were invited to the hunts in the Presidential Game Park. One of the most important hunts that took place in the period of the First Republic was the so-called Royal Romanian hunt organised in honour of His Majesty king Carol II and His Majesty prince Michael (in 1936). In 1925, the negotiations concerning the Little Entente (a military and economic

alliance between Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia) took place in the game park under an oak that has been since then called the “Agreement Oak.” In that year, they mainly dealt with the possibility of transporting armed forces and military equipment across the territories of the states involved in the treaty.



The staff of Lesní správa Lány (1928)

In 2007, in commemoration of this event, Lesní správa Lány initiated the erection of a small obelisk. During the Second World War, high-ranking Nazi German officials made use of the Lány Game Park. Despite the intimidating presence of the representatives of Nazi power, some of the employees of Lesní správa Lány bravely supported partisan groups that sought shelter in Křivoklát woods. Towards the end of the war, local people rescued a pilot of an American Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress shot down near Sýkořice and took care of him. The commemorative books of Lesní správa Lány were hidden during the war, so that they would not fall into Nazi's hands. Between the years 1948 and 1989, those who hunted in the Lány Game Park came mainly from the USSR, Hungary and Bulgaria, but among the visitors were also the ambassadors from the German Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Argentina, Indonesia, China, North Korea, Cuba, Ghana, Mali, Lebanon, Tunisia, Turkey, India, Switzerland, France, Italy, Canada, the Netherlands, Syria, Poland etc.

Since the 1989 Velvet Revolution, the number of commercial hunters has increased, but the main purpose of the game park remains the same - to accommodate the guests of the Czech president. For instance, during the 2006 summit of the Visegrád Group, the game park was visited by the four presidents - Czech, Slovak, Hungarian and Polish.

THE HISTORY OF GAME KEEPING IN LÁNY

The red deer has been kept in the Lány Game Park from the very beginning. A hunting code issued as far back as 1817 by Jáchym Egon of Fürstenberk set the dates for the shooting season for this game, as well as the first rules for its selective culling.



A red deer in the Lány Game Park – 1950s

In 1736, the fallow deer was introduced to the game park. They increased in number and assimilated soon afterwards. Before the First World War, the population of fallow deer reached several hundred, but during the war, their numbers were drastically reduced because their meat was used for food supply, mainly for military hospitals. What is more, the game was not fed enough and its population was negatively affected by the decay of local people's morals, that is to say by poaching. This resulted in the extinction of the white fallow deer – the last one was shot and consequently donated to the National Museum by Professor Julius Komárek in 1931. In 1885, a pair of mouflons was introduced into the game park, but they did not breed. In fact, the ram killed itself - it hit a tree while running. In 1922, three mouflon rams and four sheep were brought from Topolčianky, Žinkov and Ždírec. In 1928, the population of mouflon increased to 60 – 70, but only ten of them survived the severe winter between the years 1928 and 1929. Later, three other mouflons were purchased, so in 1937 their number increased to 80 and it was kept at this level. In 1922, one stag and two hinds of sika deer came to

the game park. This was a present from Count Coudenhove-Kalergi who donated another stag of sika deer in 1923. In addition, another stag and a hind were bought at a farm in Holešov. The population of sika deer was deliberately protected, which resulted in 36 individual sika deer by 1937. During the winter between the years 1961 and 1962, the first two hinds, two stags and two fawns of sika Dybowski deer were brought into the game park from the USSR. They assimilated very well, and their number reached 60 in the course of a few years.



Sika Deer in Obora Lány

The wild boar was at first kept in the Řevničov Game Park and in the beginning of the 20th century, it was also brought from the Carpathian Mountains. The first recorded reference to the shooting of pheasants in Lány comes from 1858. In 1899, they started with the breeding of pheasants. At first, the birds were let out at a distant end of the Chateau Lány Park, and later in the area of the current Pheasantry Amálie, which was rebuilt to its present-day image before the visit of King Carol II. Predatory animals were systematically reduced in the region of Lány. The last bear was shot in 1692 and the last wild cat in 1780.

SOME TOURIST AMENITIES IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE HUNTING GROUNDS

KŘIVOKLÁTSKO AND RAKOVNICKO REGION

Dense forests, massive rocks, mysterious castles and ruins as well as the wide and calm River Berounka flowing through the whole of the Křivoklátsko and Rakovnicko region – this is how you could describe one of the most beautiful regions lying on the border of Central, West and North Bohemia. Get to know this emerald gem of Europe – the Protected Landscape Area of Křivoklátsko – and discover the history of the Gothic Křivoklát Castle.



Křivoklát Castle

In this region intersected by a great number of cycle paths and hiking routes, hops of the highest global quality and with a subtle aroma are also cultivated. Křivoklátsko and Rakovnicko are dominated by the River Berounka, which was created by the confluence of four rivers near the city of Plzeň. You can visit natural formations along its course such as “Little America” and “Big America”, the Skryjská Lake reservation and museum of fossils, the magnificent Křivoklát, Žebrák or Točnick castles and last but not least the Celtic centre in Chateau Nižbor. A dominant feature of the area is one of the oldest of Czech castles, Křivoklát, which apparently got its name from its crooked foundations. The extensive and magnificent castle was a representative seat of Czech kings hidden in the deep forests which

served as royal hunting grounds. The most valuable part of the castle, with its monumental round tower, is the Royal Hall, the largest in Bohemia after the Vladislav Hall at Prague Castle. The Fűstenberg Library will amaze you with its books numbering almost thirty thousand. One of the towers called Huderka was used to hold the legendary alchemist Edward Kelly, whose unsuccessful attempt at escape ended with a broken leg. You can explore an extensive hunting collection in the Great Tower. Cultural events and traditional markets held at Křivoklát will provide you with an insight into the crafts and products made by the inhabitants of the Křivoklátsko area.



Landscape near Krivoklát

A stunning example of high Gothic architecture is represented by the ruins of Krakovec Castle, which was the last refuge of the preacher Jan Hus, when he was banished from Prague and declared a heretic. Točník Castle is only a few metres from Žebrák Castle, which was destroyed by fire. You will be captivated by the ingenious layout of the buildings with representative halls and rooms designed for the king's personal requirements alone and for his protection. Also make sure to accept your invitation to the Hamous Estate on a rural settlement with a log house and brick-built stables. Get to know the farming of old, the traditions, crafts and customs of this region. The Rakovnicko area can also offer you a gastronomic experience. Enjoy a visit to the Krušovice Royal Brewery, during which you will find out how top quality Czech beer is brewed and how it tastes. Travel all over the Křivoklátsko and Rakovnicko region on horseback, by water, by bike or on

foot. Your steps could take you further on to Bohemian Karst and Karlštejn Castle.

LANÝ CHATEAU

The Baroque Lány Chateau, the official summer residence of the presidents of the Czech Republic, is set deep in the forests of Křivoklátsko. It is usually only open to the public on the anniversaries of the birth and death of T. G. Masaryk, the first Czechoslovak president, but you can walk in the adjacent park all year round. Originally a small hunting chateau, built for Rudolph II in 1592 on the place of a medieval fort. Rebuilt by the Wallenstein family in 1730. In 1747-52 to the residential part attached a self-standing chapel. In the 19th century in the period of the Fürstenberg family it was enlarged.



Lány Chateau

In 1929, already as a state-owned chateau (since 1918) Josip Plečnik rebuilt it into a summer residence of the president T.G.Masaryk. The chateau park, founded in 1770, adjusted according to the design by J.Plečnik and the chateau chapel, decorated with sculptures by J.Jelínek and woodcarvings by J.F.Platzer, are accessible to the public.

KŘUŠOVICE BREWERY

Come and see for yourself how the Krušovice Brewery remains true to long established traditions going back to the 16th century. The royal brewery had its heyday when it was acquired by Emperor Rudolf II in 1583. A lot has changed since then, but Krušovice still attracts drinkers with several types of exceptional beer. Krušovice 10°, 12°, dark, Mušketýr, Malvaz and non-alcoholic beer Fríí are very popular, as are tours of the brewery. These acquaint visitors with the various stages in the production process as well as taking in the brewery chapel. It goes without saying that tours include a tasting session.



Krušovice Brewery