

Welcome to Butterfly Paradise!

There are not many places like this in the Czech Republic! Half our butterfly species still survive here. These remarkably biodiverse grasslands are only a short walk from the centre of Ždánice – we hope you will visit them and enjoy this butterfly adventure yourself! As a result of their geology and geographic position and thanks to a long history of sensitive low-intensity agricultural management, these fields still support a wide range of habitats. In the open rolling landscape between the municipality and the wooded areas of Ždánický Forest you will find a patchwork of former common pastures, old orchards, abandoned terraces, fallow land, small field strips and vineyards, interlinked by a web of ancient field paths.

This environment is a small relic of the steppe and forest-steppe that used to cover much of the country, and you can still see here many of the natural jewels that are now rarely found elsewhere.

The most spectacular are the butterflies – 84 species have been found here: Swallowtails, Clouded Yellows and Orange-tips, Hairstreaks and Blues, Emperors, Admirals and Maps, large and small Fritillaries, Satyrs and Wood Nymphs, Skippers and Burnets in the family Zygaeninae. They are as beautiful and as complex as their names!



As well as the butterflies, many other species of insects abound here – the mysterious Praying Mantis, the huge armour-plated Stag Beetle, the dramatic but harmless Bushcrickets, beautiful Dragonflies and many others. Moreover, you can see or hear many species of birds: Corn Bunting, Wryneck and Barred Warbler are all species of old orchards and bushy areas. In the summer the fields are a haze of colour – don't miss the beautiful array of orchids, Military, Fragrant and others, with their extraordinary shapes, the pink of Restharrow (*Ononis spinosa*), Centaury (*Centaureum erythraea*) and Knapweeds (*Centaurea*), the creamy white flowers of Gromwell (*Lithospermum officinale*), and the blues of the rare Cross Gentian (*Gentiana cruciata*) and its delicate relative, *Gentianopsis ciliata*.

We recommend you to visit the two valleys – Šraňky and Habrůvky, both leading directly north from Ždánice town. You will find four interpretative boards for the Butterfly Paradise nature trail with much useful information. There is one board in Habrůvky valley and three others in Šraňky valley, numbered 12, 13 and 14 linking this trail to the Ždánický Forest Nature Trail.

The Butterfly Paradise Nature Trail is signposted from the bus station, past the townhall up to the end of town along Žandrov Street, where the trail enters Šraňky valley. At the end of valley you can enter the wood and join the Ždánický Forest Nature Trail. You can choose either a short walk on the Butterfly Paradise Nature Trail or a longer, circular trip through open grasslands and forest.

The best time for butterfly watching is May and June, but Butterfly Paradise offers glimpses of its beauty and natural gems throughout the year. The paths are suitable for families with children.



The nature trail was created by DAPHNE CZ – Institute of Applied Ecology, in cooperation with Ždánice town. We can arrange guided excursions on request, and in summer we organise nature conservation activities for volunteers. Contact us by email daphne@daphne.cz or find more www.daphne.cz/projekty/motyli-raj.

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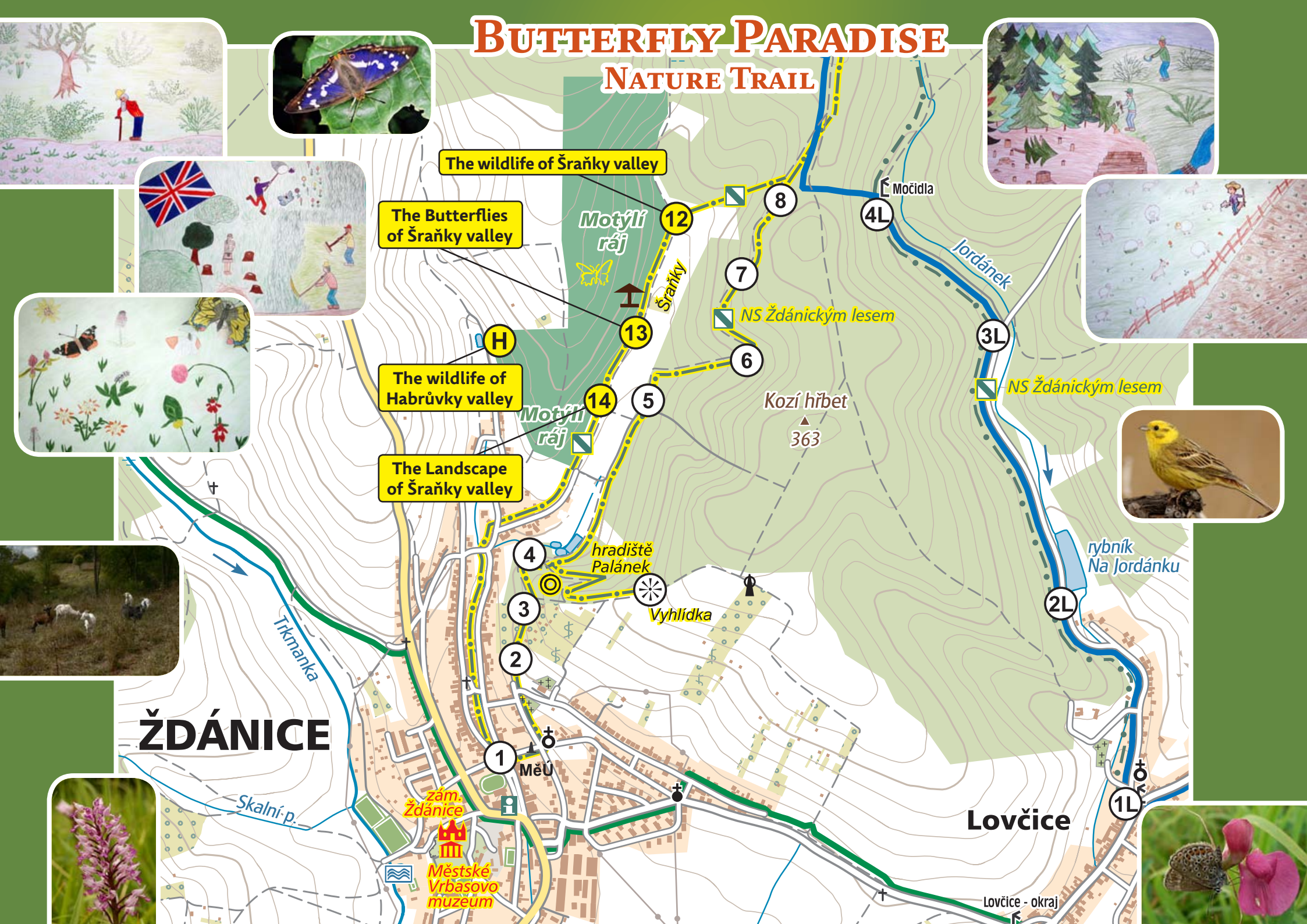


BUTTERFLY PARADISE

A beautiful valley on the edge of the town of Ždánice in South Moravia – a haven for wildlife!



BUTTERFLY PARADISE NATURE TRAIL



The wildlife of Šraňky valley

The Butterflies of Šraňky valley

The wildlife of Habrůvky valley

The Landscape of Šraňky valley

