***2. AREA AND CLIMATE***

*The Czech Republic is a land-locked country lying in the central part of Europe in the middle of the Northern Temperate Zone of the Northern Hemisphere. Its area of 78 868 km2, population of 10 538 275, and population density of 134 inhabitants per 1 km2 rank the country 15th, 11th, and 8th among 27 countries of the European Union (excluding Croatia), respectively (as at 1 January 2015). The country borders make vicinity to Germany (818.9 km), Poland (795.8 km), Austria (460.3 km), and Slovakia (251.8 km). The values come from the latest measurements and are valid as at 31 December 2015.*

*Since 1 January 2000, the Czech Republic has had a new territorial structure. The former administrative districts have been grouped to make 14 administrative regions, including the Capital City of* Praha, *which forms a separate* Hl. m. Praha *Region. Activities of the former district offices were terminated at the end of 2002, and a significant portion of their powers was delegated to 205 municipalities with extended powers, which began to function on 1 January 2003.*

*The main European watershed separating the basins of the North Sea, Baltic Sea, and the Black Sea passes through the territory of the Czech Republic. The divide node of the three seas is the mountain* Klepáč *(altitude 1 144 m) located in the massif of* Králický Sněžník*. The major rivers are the*Labe *River (369 km) and the*Vltava *River (433 km) in Bohemia, the*Morava *River (246 km) and the*Dyje *River (306 km) in Moravia, and the*Odra *River (135 km) and the*Opava *River (131 km) in Silesia and northern Moravia.*

*Geographically the Czech Republic lies on the boundary of two mountain systems, which differ in age and geological and geomorphological evolution. The western and middle areas of the Czech Republic are covered with the uplands of* Česká vysočina*, formed basically at the end of the Palaeozoic Era and being for the most part of a hilly nature, and with highlands (the mountain ranges of* Šumava, Český les, Krušné hory, Krkonoše, Orlické hory*, and* Jeseníky*). The mountains of* Západní Karpaty*, which gained its current appearance in the Tertiary Period (the mountain range of* Beskydy*), projects into the eastern part of the country. The boundary in between the two mountain systems is filled with a belt of valleys.*

*The climate in the Czech Republic is influenced by mutual penetration and mingling of ocean and continental effects. Prevailing westerly winds, intensive cyclonic activity causing frequent alternating of air masses, and relatively ample precipitation are characteristic for the climate. Maritime effects are mainly felt in Bohemia, whereas Moravia and Silesia are more affected by the continental climate. The Czech Republic climate is strongly influenced by the country altitude and geographical relief: 52 817 km2 (66.97%) of the country territory is located at an altitude of up to 500 m, 25 222 km2 (31.98%) lies at an altitude in between 500 and 1 000 m, and only 827 km2 (1.05%) is at an altitude above 1 000 m. The average altitude of the Czech Republic is 430 m.*

*Also wild fauna and flora species of the Czech Republic bear evidence of the intersection of principal directions, in which wild fauna and flora species spread across Europe. Forests, mostly coniferous, cover approximately 34% of the country area.*

*The soil mantle also features considerable variability in terms of both soil texture composition and occurrence of respective soil types. Brown soils (cambisoils) are the most prevalent soil type in the Czech Republic.*

*\* \* \**

*Further data can be found on the website of the Czech Statistical Office at:*

– [www.czso.cz/csu/czso/regions\_towns\_](https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/regions_towns_)

*or on websites of other institutions at:*

– <http://portal.chmi.cz/?l=en> *– Czech Hydrometeorological Institute*

– [www.vugtk.cz/en/](http://www.vugtk.cz/en/) *– Research Institute of Geodesy, Topography and Cartography (VÚGTK)*

**Zeměpisné zajímavosti České republiky v roce 2015**

*Geographic features of the Czech Republic in 2015*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Zeměpisná zajímavost / *Geographic feature*** |  | **Hodnota/*Size*** | **Lokalita*/Locality*** |
| Největší obec | Praha | 1 267 449 obyvatel | hlavní město |
| *Largest municipality* |  | *inhabitants* | *Capital City* |
| Nejmenší obec | Čilá | 15 obyvatel | okres Rokycany |
| *Smallest municipality* |  | *inhabitants* | Rokycany *District* |
|  | Vysoká Lhota |  | okres Pelhřimov  Pelhřimov *Distric*t |
| Nejvýše položené sídlo | Filipova Huť | 1 093 m n. m. | okres Klatovy |
| *Highest settlement* |  | *Altitude 1 093 m* | Klatovy *District* |
| Nejníže položené sídlo | Hřensko | 130 m n. m. | okres Děčín |
| *Lowest settlement* |  | *Altitude 130 m* | Děčín *District* |
| Nejvýše položený bod | Sněžka | 1 602 m n. m. | pohoří Krkonoše |
| *Highest point* | *Mount* Sněžka | *Altitude 1 602 m* | Krkonoše *Mountains* |
| Nejníže položený bod | výtok Labe u Hřenska | 115 m n. m. | okres Děčín |
| *Lowest point* | *Discharge of the* Labe *River at* Hřensko | *Altitude 115 m* | Děčín *District* |
| Nejhlubší propast | Hranická propast | 442,5 m1) | okres Přerov |
| *Deepest chasm* | Hranická *Abyss* |  | Přerov *District* |
| Největší národní park | Národní park Šumava | 680,6 km2 | pohoří Šumava |
| *Largest national park* | Šumava *National Park* |  | Šumava *Mountains* |
| Největší chráněná krajinná oblast | CHKO Beskydy | 1 160 km2 | pohoří Beskydy |
| *Largest protected landscape area* | Beskydy *PLA* |  | Beskydy *Mountains* |
| Nejdelší řeka | Vltava | 433 km | Čechy |
| *Longest river* | Vltava *River* |  | *Bohemia* |
| Největší plocha povodí | povodí Labe | 51 103,9 km2 | Čechy |
| *Largest catchment area* | Labe *River catchment* |  | *Bohemia* |
| Největší jezero | Černé jezero | 18,4 ha | pohoří Šumava |
| *Largest natural lake* | *Lake* Černé |  | Šumava *Mountains* |
| max. hloubka */ maximum depth* |  | 39,8 m |  |
| Největší rybník | rybník Rožmberk | 489 ha | okres Jindřichův Hradec |
| *Largest manmade lake* | *Lake* Rožmberk |  | Jindřichův Hradec *District* |
| max. hloubka */ maximum depth* |  | 6,2 m |  |
| Největší přehradní nádrž | přehradní nádrž Lipno | 4 870 ha | pohoří Šumava |
| *Largest dam reservoir* | Lipno *Dam Lake* |  | Šumava *Mountains* |
| max. hloubka */ maximum depth* |  | 20 m |  |
| Nejteplejší minerální pramen | Vřídlo | 72,0 °C | Karlovy Vary |
| *Hottest thermal spring* | Vřídlo *Spring* |  |  |
| Nejvyšší denní maximální teplota vzduchu | Husinec, Řež, 8. 8. 2015 | 40,0 °C | okres Praha-východ |
| *Highest daily maximum air temperature* |  |  | Praha-východ *District* |
| Nejnižší denní minimální teplota vzduchu | Rokytská slať, 4. 2. 2015 | -29,0 °C | okres Klatovy |
| *Lowest daily minimum air temperature* | Rokytská *Peat Bog* |  | Klatovy *District* |
| Nejvyšší denní úhrn srážek | Bukovinka, 17. 8. 2015 | 81,4 mm | okres Blansko |
| *Highest daily precipitation* |  |  | Blansko *District* |
| Nejvyšší výška sněhové pokrývky | Labská bouda, 7. 4. 2015 | 178 cm | okres Trutnov |
| *Deepest snow cover* | Labská *Chalet* |  | Trutnov *District* |

1) dosud největší potvrzená hloubka k 1. 10. 2012 *1) The deepest point recorded so far as at 1 October 2012.*