

Table of contents



Foreword 5

Introduction 10

Wandering through Šumava history	12
The mountain peaks of Šumava	13
The network of Šumava rivers and streams	13
Climate and weather	14
The origins of Šumava fauna and flora	14
Šumava settlement from prehistoric times to the present	15
Conservation today	17

Mountain spruce forests 18

About mountain spruce forests	21
Why do we need dead wood?	22
Changes in mountain spruce forest	23
The story of stilt roots	24
A noteworthy tree of mountain spruce forest	25
Mountain spruce forest illustrated	26
European spruce bark beetle	27
Small animals of mountain spruce forest	28
The "deaf grouse"	30
Birds of mountain spruce forests	32
Mammals of mountain spruce forests	34
Red deer	35
Eurasian lynx	36
Vegetation in mountain spruce forests	38
Lignicolous or wood-decaying fungi	39
Herbs and other plant life	40
Tips for trips	41
Terms to remember	41

Mixed forest 42

Natural forest	46
Monocultures	46
Sights seen in the forest in spring	47
Composition of woods	47
Herb-rich beech forests	48
Mountain sycamore beechwood	50
Acidophilous beech forests	52
Ravine forests	54
Mixed forest illustrated	56
Insects	58
Ant mounds	58
Soil life or edaphon	59
Small animals of mixed forests	60
Birds - Piciformes	62
Common cuckoo	64
Songbirds of woods	65

Ural owl	66
Pygmy owl	66
More birds of mixed forest	67
Mammals	68
How do we know who lives in the wood	69
The flora	71
Mosses	71
Ferns	71
Flowering plants	73
Fungal life	74
Trees	76
Why leaves fall off	82
Do you know what conifer sheds needles?	82
Tips for trips	83
Terms to remember	83

Boreo-continental pine forests and rock fields 84

Boreo-continental pine forest	87
How a rock field is born	88
Rock fields of Šumava: the bedrocks	89
How woodland changed over the millennia	90
Relict pine woods illustrated	92
Insects	94
Birds	95
Mammals	96
Šumava dormice	96
Bats	96
European badger	97
Lichens	98
Mosses	99
Ferns	99
Plants	99
Trees	100
Fungi	100
Tips for trips	101
Terms to remember	101

Meadows and pastures 102

A meadow or a pasture?	106
Mountain heathlands	107
Matt-grass meadows	108
Oat-grass meadows	110
Trisetum mountain meadows	112
Intermittent wet Molinia meadows	114
Thistle wet meadows	116
Meadows and pastures illustrated	118
Striped pyjamas on the meadow	120
Insects in other colours	122





The meadow of butterflies	123
Brushfoots, satyrs and wood-nymphs	125
The lizards of the meadows	126
Runners in the grass	126
Colourful singers	127
Birds of prey	128
Creatures running over meadows	129
Tips for trips	131
Terms to remember	131

Mires	132
How do we know we are at a peat bog?	136
How a peatland emerges	136
History of the forest	137
Types of peatlands	138
Peat bogs illustrated	140
Bog insects	142
Butterflies	144
Weather-proof vertebrates	146
The floral life of peatlands	148
Peat or sphagnum moss	149
Carnivorous plants	150
True grasses and sedges	151
Flowering plants of peat bogs	152
Shrub-forming plants	153
Trees	154
Tips for trips	155
Terms to remember	155

The rivers of Šumava	156
The major streams	159
The colour of water	162
Fallen wood in the river	162
The creative power of water	163
Floodplains	163
A Šumava river illustrated	164
Aquatic insects	166
Bivalves and gastropods	168
European crayfish	168
How do we know if water is clean?	168
Amphibians	169
Fish & reptiles	170
Aquatic birdlife	171
Mammals near water	172
Aquatic plants	173
Trees	174
Tips for trips	175
Terms to remember	175

Glacial lakes	176
The stories of the lakes	179
The rise of the lakes	180
Šumava National Park	181
Lake Plešné jezero	181
Lake Prášilské jezero	182
Lake Laka	183
Šumava Protected Landscape Area	184
Lake Černé jezero	184
Lake Čertovo jezero	185
Bavarian Forest National Park	186
Lake Rachelsee	186
Bavarian Forest Nature Park	187
Lake Little Arbersee	187
Lake Great Arbersee	188
Šumava lakes: the size	189
Glacial lakes illustrated	190
Life under water	192
Insects	193
Fish	194
Birds	194
Animals visiting from time to time	194
Where to find Šumava quillwort	195
Flowering plants of glacial lakes	196
Tips for trips	197
Terms to remember	197

Closing words	198
List of species - the flora	199
List of species - the fauna	200
References	202
Photographers	203
About the authors	204



Eurasian wren