

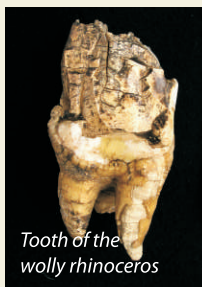
Sudslavice cave

Sudslavice cave is one of the most important sites containing animal bone remains from the Pleistocene period in Central Europe.

In 1879, Dr. J. N. Woldřich discovered the remains of fauna from the last ice age and subsequent to it in the cave. Of the almost 9 thousand bones and 13 thousand teeth, he found vertebrates such as mammoths, reindeer, horses, bears, deer and rhinoceroses, as well as many kinds of birds.



Skull of the polar fox



Tooth of the woolly rhinoceros

The cave today is all that is left of the original huge system, which was destroyed by the construction of the railway and limestone extraction.



Inside the cave

Sudslavice lime tree

The protected Sudslavice lime tree is one of the landmarks on the nature trail and around the nature reserve. It is a roughly 600-year old Small-leaved Lime with a girth of 11.90 m and is one of the largest trees in the Czech Republic.



Meeting of accordionists

The lime tree stands in close proximity to Vanický mill and it is used for holding various social events, such as meetings of accordionists or brass band performances.



● Starting point for Nature circuit trail Sudslavice

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Nature Reserve

Opolenec



Circuit nature trail Sudslavice



Opolenec Nature Reserve

The nature reserve is located approximately 5 km north of the town of Vimperk on the right-hand bank of the Volyňka river. The reserve was declared on 1. November 1985. The protected land is also part of the Natura 2000 network of important protected areas.



Pile of stones

Circuit nature trail Sudslavice, built between 1974 and 1977 as one of the first nature trails in South Bohemia, leads through the nature reserve. The trail was completely renovated by ZO ČSOP Šumava (The Czech Union for Nature Conservation, Šumava branch) in 2010 as part of the 'NET4GAS Closer to nature.' programme. The trail has 15 stops and begins at Sudslavická lípa (the Sudslavice lime tree), or at the train station in Bohumilice v Čechách.



Limestone rocky outcrops

The land is made up of areas of stony woodland, planted pinewoods, secondary shrubland and mesophilic highland meadows. Limestone rocky outcrops are typical for Opolenc.

Limestone mining

Geologically, the whole area is made up of lenticular crystalline limestone laid in acidic rocks dominated by biotic paragneiss.



Construction of the limestone mine

You will find old quarry walls and small experimental quarries on the slopes of the nature reserve, the remains of limestone extraction which used defunct limekilns to produce lime between 1922 and 1935.



Silver-washed Fritillary

Rare species of fauna and flora

Opolenec's limestone bedrock provides the basis for the presence of a large number of rare and protected species of plants and animals. Seven kinds of orchid repeatedly occur here, as well as interesting plants such as Spring Snowflakes and Moneses uniflora (Single Delight). Some of the rarest plants include the autumn flowering *Gentianella praecox bohemica*, northern holly fern and flyorchid.

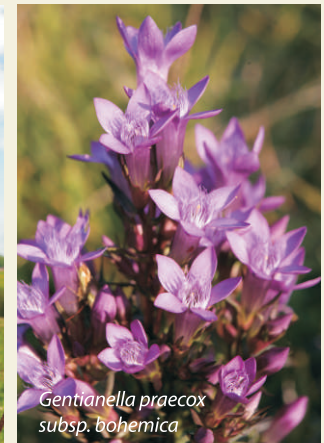


Eurasian Eagle-Owl

As well as being home to protected plants, Opolenc is also home to a number of rare animals. You can see the common European adder in sunny areas, the Eurasian Eagle-Owl uses the rocky outcrops for nesting, and you can find unique snail species in the stony woodland. Look out for Old World Swallowtail, Cranberry Fritillary and Polyommata butterflies in the blossoming meadows.



Green-winged Orchid



Gentianella praecox subsp. bohemica