

Canoeing and Kayaking on the Vltava River in Šumava National Park



Canoeing and Kayaking in Šumava National Park

Canoeing and kayaking are not permitted on all rivers in Šumava National Park. Only a few river sections are open to visitors, including one of the most valuable – the **Teplá Vltava** River. It is one of the **cleanest rivers** in the Czech Republic and provides an outstanding habitat for many rare plants and animals that have disappeared from other places.

Exploring this unique river ecosystem by **canoe** or **kayak** is an **unforgettable experience**. The section from Soumarský Most to Pěkná is one of the highlights of a visit to the national park. To ensure that future generations can enjoy it as well, please follow the boating regulations.

A **responsible paddler** respects both nature and other visitors.



Splouvání řeky Vltavy

kompletní informace

Kanufahren auf der Moldau

Alle Informationen, inkl. Registrierungssystem

Canoeing and Kayaking on the Vltava river

All information, incl. registration system

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Operations of the Registration and

Information

Center Soumarský Most: May – October



Regulations for Canoeing and Kayaking on the Vltava River

When paddling the Teplá Vltava River, you are not travelling along an ordinary canoe route – you are passing through one of the Czech Republic's most valuable river ecosystems. To ensure that future generations can enjoy this unique experience, it is essential to follow the regulations that protect the rare species living in and around the river.

Minimum water level

Canoeing and kayaking are permitted only when the water level reaches the required minimum. Low water levels can damage underwater vegetation with paddles, while walking through the river may crush the fragile shells of young freshwater pearl mussels.

Maximum number of boats

The number of boats allowed on the river each hour is limited. Small groups help reduce disturbance to wildlife and make navigation safer and easier.

Guide accompaniment

Every group is accompanied by a guide, who provides information about the unique natural features of the Warm Vltava River and ensures that the regulations are followed. Registration for departures from Soumarský Most is subject to a fee.

Please follow the instructions of the river guide and the Šumava National Park rangers.

Thank you for helping us protect Šumava.



We paddle in single file, not side by side.



We follow the main current and avoid shallow areas.



We do not push off the riverbed with our paddles.



We do not wade in the river or walk on the riverbed.



Canoeing and Kayaking on the Vltava River in Šumava National Park



In Šumava National Park, only canoes and kayaks are permitted on the Vltava River.



Borová Lada → Polka

Permitted period (spring boating season):
March 15 – May 31
(Saturdays and Sundays only)
Permitted hours: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Polka → Lenora

Outside the national park, there are no restrictions on paddling in this section.

Lenora → Soumarský Most

Permitted period:
May 1 – October 31 (daily)
Permitted hours: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Soumarský Most → Pěkná

Boat registration is mandatory in this section.
Permitted period: May 1–May 31
(Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays only)
June 1–October 31 (daily)
Permitted hours: 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Pěkná → Nová Pec

Permitted period:
May 1 – October 31 (daily).
Permitted hours:
8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Detailed terms and conditions:

www.splouvani.npsumava.cz



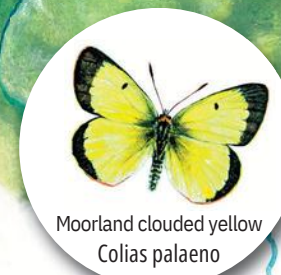
Eurasian otter
Lutra lutra



White-throated dipper
Cinclus cinclus



Common kingfisher
Alcedo atthis



Moorland clouded yellow
Colias palaeno



Brown trout
Salmo trutta



Eurasian beaver
Castor fiber

Freshwater pearl mussel

Margaritifera margaritifera

The **freshwater pearl mussel** has become a very rare bivalve species because it requires a high-quality environment with **clean, flowing water**. It survives in only a few locations in the Czech Republic. One of these is the **Teplá Vltava River** in Šumava National Park, where a **conservation program is underway**.

Freshwater pearl mussels have an extremely complex reproductive cycle. As tiny larvae (glochidia), they attach themselves to the gills of trout and live there for nearly a year as parasites.

They then detach as minute **juvenile mussels** and burrow into the riverbed for about

five years. Gradually, they anchor themselves in the sediment using their muscular foot and begin to reproduce at around 15 years of age. Only about 2% of freshwater pearl mussels reach adulthood! However, they can **live for more than 100 years**.

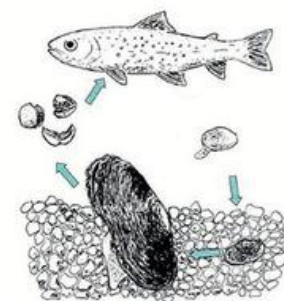


Illustration M. Bílý

Floodplain Mrtvý luh

The Teplá Vltava River flows through the tranquil **Vltavský luh** floodplain, where the meandering river regularly overflows its banks, creating a unique floodplain landscape with numerous oxbow lakes and pools. **The largest peat bog** in the Czech Republic is also located here — **Mrtvý luh**, covering an impressive area of approximately 350 hectares. It can only be viewed from a boat, so that its “inhabitants” can live in peace. The following species can be found here: **black grouse**, common crane, white-tailed eagle, as well as the rare

Menetriés ground beetle, and many other vertebrates and invertebrates.

Let us respect this quiet landscape and **not disturb the peace** and natural beauty it offers.

Thank you for helping us protect Šumava!