

# VOLUNTEERING AT KAPRÁLŮV MLÝN

## Dear volunteer,

thank you for your interest in our voluntary service! We are pleased that you are considering staying at our centre and helping us for several months. This booklet should give you more information about our organization, our country, culture and finally about the activities you can do here. Please, read it carefully and don't hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

## First of all - something **ABOUT US**

We are Kaprálův mlýn scout environmental education centre.

this is Kaprálův mlýn

and this is Kaprálův mlýn in winter



Mlýn means “mill” in Czech language. The house is originally a water mill from the 17th century, which in the first half of the 20th century the family of Aleš Kaprál - a famous inventor - rebuilt into a functionalist villa.

In 2012, the building was turned into a demonstration eco-friendly building and since the same year our international scout education centre has been in operation.

The whole history of the building is truly fascinating and dramatic, and you will have the opportunity to learn about it during your stay here.

## One of the advantages of the centre is its **LOCATION**

Kaprálův mlýn is located 10 km from Brno (the second biggest city in Czech Republic) in the unique environment of the Moravian Karst Protected Landscape Area. The natural world of many caves and diverse habitat enables exciting first-hand experience of nature.

It takes 45 minutes to get from the Brno downtown to Kaprálův mlýn by public transport (15 minutes by tram, then 15 minutes by bus and another 15 minutes' walk down the valley). From the airport it takes about 50 minutes to get to Kaprálův mlýn by the public transport.



## You will love **BRNO**

Brno is a vibrant centre of students, culture and gastronomy. From medieval streets and the majestic St Peter's Cathedral, to upmarket cafes and bistros, music clubs and a vibrant arts scene, this city combines historical charm with a modern feel. There are also old parks, farmers' markets and daily entertainment. The large number of students from all over the world, combined with the natural character of the South Moravian population, makes Brno friendly, open and easy to make new friends.



Brno has a very sophisticated transport infrastructure. From direct connections to all the surrounding capitals, through air connections to e.g. Britain, Italy, Spain, Greece, Egypt and others, to the absolutely unique night bus connections called "rozjezdy" (try to look it up, it's worth it).

The **CZECH REPUBLIC** is a country of 10.8 million people. The capital is Prague, which is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and one of the 27 monuments on the territory of the Czech Republic inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.



Our country has very valuable nature. There are 4 national parks and 26 protected landscape areas with wide range of fauna and flora species. Kapráluv mlýn is located in one of them – Moravian Karst Protected Landscape Area. Hiking is very popular here and local system of marked tourist trails is one of the oldest and best in the world. Although we don't have a sea coast, here you can find many lakes, ponds and dams suitable for swimming and recreation in summer season. If you're a movie fan, you can go looking for famous locations, of which there are many.

The Czech Republic is located in moderate climate zone and during the year there are all four seasons. In summer, the temperature may rise to +35°C, in winter it sometimes falls to -15°C with snow cover. Autumn is often rainy so you may need all kinds of clothes.

Religiously, we are a very benevolent state, two thirds of inhabitants are “non-believers” what means they are not members of any registered church. In larger cities like Brno, you will find meeting houses for all the world's major religions.

## **VOLUNTARY SERVICE** in general

Long-term volunteer service at Kapráluv mlýn lasts 6-12 months (unless other arrangements are made), usually starting in September or March.

During your time at the Kapráluv mlýn you will have many different tasks. On average you will work 35 hours per week and have 2 days off per week. You can take an additional 2 days off each month. The days off can be added up and spent together.

The distribution of working hours, days off and holidays is subject to agreement between you and the organisation and is always chosen with your and the organisation's priorities in mind.



Thanks to the European Union's European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programme, Kapráluv mlýn provides you with pocket money, accommodation, food allowance, sim card, health insurance, Czech language course and travel allowance.

It's up to you to plan your **TRANSPORT** to us yourself, but we can help you find the cheapest and most convenient option. Travel costs from your country to Kapráluv mlýn and back will be reimbursed from project funds.



If you are not from Schengen country, you need **VISA** for your stay. You have to apply for visa (the long term one, over 90 days) at the embassy in your country. For that, you need a lot of different documents, some of them will be provided by us, some of them you have to get on your own. Whole visa process takes up time so it is better to start it at least 2 months before your arrival.

What do **WE EXPECT** from you?

- knowledge of English at a communicative level
- initiative - sometimes you need to ask or think of the next thing to do on your own. Or just help where it is needed most without being asked to do so
- flexibility - things can change quickly compared to the schedule and we expect you to have no problem with that
- manual work - you should be prepared for that. It's not easy to prepare wood for winter or work in the orchard for the whole day outside
- non-conflict - you'll be doing most things as part of a team, and sometimes the working atmosphere can be stressful when there's a lot to do
- high ethics - we give you full trust, which also means we expect you to take full responsibility for your actions
- endurance - some days are harder on the mill than others. Rainy, freezing, busy days... some days you'll have to manage on your own

What do **YOU CAN EXPECT**?

## Operation and development of the centre and summer camp

You will assist with the overall care of guests during and after their stay. You'll be working shifts in the info-shop, helping with the cleaning, also with the care and maintenance of the garden and the entire outdoor and indoor area. Sometimes you'll help in the kitchen.



## Work on programs

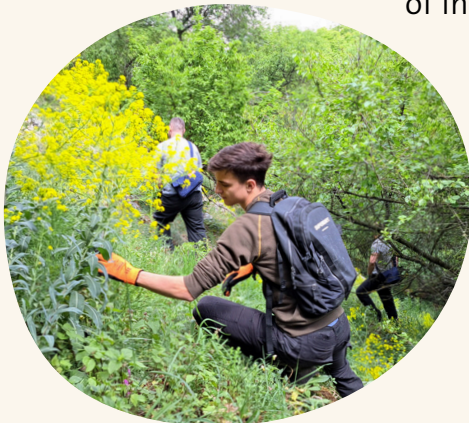
We have many educational programs for different age groups. You will help with their preparation and running. After thorough training, you will even lead some programs yourself - for example excursions to caves and much more.

We also organize events for the public, such as open days, scout festivals and educational fairs. You will help us with the organisation and preparation of these events.



## Nature conservation and environmental management

Kaprálův mlýn is located in a protected landscape area, which we take care of in special ways that we will teach you. We are also part of several ecological and conservation projects that you will be part of.



We manage and care for the landscape, herd sheep, keep bees, save frogs, work with local produce..

## PR and marketing

We are on social media, in the press, documenting projects, organising events. You'll be a part of it all, and we welcome your ideas and skilled hands. Photography, graphic design, writing, filmmaking... choose yours.



## Personal project

After the first weeks, you will think and plan your personal project, which should improve and demonstrate in practice the knowledge and experience you have gained during your volunteering. Each volunteer works under the supervision of an assigned staff member who provides the necessary support, assistance and knowledge. The project will then also serve as a beautiful memory of your time at the mill.

## Accommodation in a house for volunteers

Volunteers at Kapráluv mlýn live in a self-contained house for volunteers only. This house is built with special eco-technology and we call it Straw House. This two-storey house stands on a site with a beautiful view only 50 m away from the main centre building.



On the first floor of the house you will find a shared kitchen, a living room, where is a projector for movie nights, a terrace and a small guest room. Upstairs there are 3 rooms for volunteers. It depends on the number of present volunteers, but it is likely that you will be sharing a room with some volunteer of the same gender. There are also 2 bathrooms in the house, where you will find a washing machine for laundry.



## Support

Going to the unknown can be a bit scary, but don't worry, you'll have support from several sides throughout your stay, before and after. First of all, there will be a volunteer coordinator with whom you will be in the closest contact. Our entire team will also be there for you, with their knowledge, help and hugs when you need them. There is also the possibility of having your own mentor from among the Czech volunteers.

Through the ESC project you will have a permanent public transport ticket, you will receive pocket money of 6 euro/day in Czech crowns at the beginning of each month and the food allowance.

You can provide your own food (there are plenty of shops and supermarkets in Brno) or you can use our excellent kitchen, which normally cooks 3 times a day during the week, often at the weekend, vegetarian options are available.

During your stay here you will have health insurance which covers your normal medical care.

If you have a non-European phone number, a SIM card with a Czech phone number will be provided.

## Further education

You'll have a lot of fun here besides work! We regularly organise handicraft workshops for volunteers of old and new crafts (basket weaving, ceramics etc.), trips to get to know the city and the countryside around the mill, and you will take part in a Czech language course.

We also encourage your own initiative and desire to learn and experience something new, so just come up with an idea!



## Trainings

You are expected to participate in three main ESC trainings. The first should be held by your sending organization before departure from your country. The second and the third ones are organized by Czech National Agency in Czech Republic – on-arrival training (after your arrival here) and mid-term training (about 4 months later).

It is usually 4 - 6 days full of fun, where you meet a lot of new friends - foreign volunteers from other Czech workplaces.

## Youthpass

You will leave with a Youthpass certificate, confirming all the knowledge you have gained during your volunteering with us.

It is an internationally accredited certificate and is used as a tool to document and recognise learning outcomes in youth work.



## WHAT TO BRING with you?

- working boots (good hiking boots or just some sturdy boots that you are not afraid to get dirty/broken) and boots for the city walk
- sandals or slippers (in the office we don't use outside shoes)
- working clothes (pants, long sleeve shirt, sweater, T-Shirt, all can be used also for caving as you can get quite dirty in the caves!)
- quality seasonal clothing (rain jacket, thermal underwear, wool socks, gloves, swimwear...)
- small backpack (useful for caving, short hikes, grocery shopping), you may also need a large backpack and sleeping bag for bigger trips if you want to do them
- laptop / tablet, a phone (suitable for possible SIM card replacement - it's a micro-sim)
- a socket reducer if you need it (you can find type E and C in the Czech Republic)
- your hobby - your favourite book, musical instrument, sketchbook, etc.
- you can also bring some snacks from home for the mill team, as a demonstration of your culture (sweets, tea, biscuits...)

## Some **USEFUL LINKS**

[website](#) of Kapráluv mlýn

[European Youth Portal](#) and [project ESC](#)

all about the [Youthpass](#) certificate

[news](#) about what's happening at the mill among volunteers

information on visa policy can be found on the [Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)

[maps.cz](#) is better than classic google maps for an overview of nature and hiking trails

the whole of [Brno](#) on one portal

always find the best [public transport](#) connections on [Idos](#)

## CONTACT us!

volunteer coordinator - Kamila Novotná  
email: [volunteer@kapraluvmlyn.cz](mailto:volunteer@kapraluvmlyn.cz)

postal address:  
Říčky 235/4  
Ochoz u Brna, 66402, Czech Republic

Keep an eye on the mill and **FOLLOW US**



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## EXPERIENCE

# **KAPRÁĽUV MLÝN** SCOUT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE

