



EVS project PUZZLE

**Info Pack
for new volunteers**

1. How to get to OKO
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1. How to get to OKO

Joanne from Scotland (one off our ex-volunteers) prepared for you some instruction...look down



"Hi new OKO volunteers!

How to get to Rychnov from Prague airport:

1. Buy a 26 korun ticket from the office in the terminal or the machines at the bus stop. The bus stop is outside the terminal.
2. Take bus 119 direction Dejvicka A. Remember to validate your ticket in the yellow machine when you get on the bus. Keep it with you.
3. At Dejvicka (last stop) get off the bus. Go into the metro. Take the metro direction Skalka. The bus ticket works on the metro.
4. At Muzeum, get off the metro. Change to the red C line direction Ladvi. Get off at the next stop (Hlavni Nadrazi). You are now in the station.
5. Write "Rychnov nad Kneznou, jednoduche" on some paper and take it to the ticket desk. This will get you a ticket.
6. Go to the information desk and write "Muzete tisknout pristi spojeni do Rychnov nad Kneznou?" They will print you the train times.
7. Take the trains printed on the paper. If you are not sure, show someone at the station your paper and they can help you.

Hezky den, a stastnou cestu! (Have a nice day, and good travels!)

Joanne "

I turned up for you still one possibility - **how to get to Prague train station from Prague Airport** (Joanne didn't know about it). I mean this one new is better:

You can take BUS AIRPORT EXPRESS - a directly connection from airport to train station. You can buy ticket at driver place in bus and the price is 50 Kč with all luggage. So you can come directly (without change a bus and metro) to train station. The bus comes every 30 minutes (10.04, 10.34, 11.04, 11.34, 12.04, 12.34...) and the station are directly by all terminals. The bus need 51 minutes from airport to the train station and the bus has only 3 stations on its way: 1.Airport - 2.Masarykovo nadrazi (that is an old train station) - 3.Hlavni nadrazi (that is main new train station). Get up on Hlavni nadrazi! You will be directly next the train station :)

Than you need only to buy ticket for a train from Prague to Rychnov nad Kneznou. The price is usally 192 Kc.

Sometimes the train drives directly to Prague - Hradec Kralove - Castolovice and - that is in time from Prague:

09.10 No.R947

11.10 No.R949

13.10 No.R793

15.10 No.R791

17.10 No.R951

Sometimes the train drives directly only to Hradec Kralove and it is necessary to change the train in Hradec Kralove, Tyniste nad Orlici and in Castolovice. Or you can take a bus. There is quite a lot of possibilities - you can find it online or at the train station in Prague.

And I will be waiting for you at the train/bus station in Rychnov first day. Hope you will have enough instructions and a good journey :) Jitka

2. Area Description and free time possibilities in Rychnov



Dear next volunteers,

you could find a lot of information about our project in The Activity description and here is a description of our town and free time possibilities. This description have our volunteers prepared, they've spent almost one year in OKO project and our town. It is good to know that Rychnov is often small town or village for our volunteers, but for some volunteers, who are also from villages, is Rychnov nice, calm and quiet town with wonderful country site. So, you can start your reading.

Jitka - head of OKO

Rychnov nad Kneznou is a small town with about 12.000 inhabitants, so life here is very calm: shops close at 5pm during the week and they are closed in the week end, restaurants close at 11pm but there are some non-stop pubs.

A lot of young people go away from this town to go to study in bigger towns in the surroundings like Hradec Kralove or Pardubice. It takes about one hour to go to Hradec Kralove by train, which is the main town in this area, but there are no night trains or buses. Train and bus connections are sometimes quite difficult, it takes at least about three hours and three changes to go to Prague (it is about 150 km to Prague). What is more difficult is to meet people here, especially young people who can and want to speak English (because these people do not live in Rychnov, they are studying in bigger towns); it is also not easy to learn Czech and to be able to have a conversation (especially for non-slavonic language native speakers); so it's hard to get in touch with people, even though a lot of people here can speak a little bit of German. But if you find friends, than they are usually kind, friendly and helpful.

On the other hand around Rychnov there is a lot of wild nature: rivers, lakes and woods where you can go when the weather is nice and where you can see also some wild animals, especially deers and rabbits. There are also plenty of small picturesque villages with castles and watchtowers in the countryside.

If you are sportive there are gyms and sport teams you can join, a swimming pool close to the apartments and in winter you can go cross-country skiing not far from the block of flats or downhill skiing on the mountains Orlicke Hory. We have some volunteers' skiing equipment in the flats, and you can always ask to someone in OKO if they can borrow you some special clothes or skiing equipment for the snow (everyone is really helpful).

There is also the possibility to play bowling or squash, or if you like music there is a choir and a music school you can join to play some instruments or have some lessons. You can use the volunteers' guitar we'll leave in the flat.

There is also a cinema (with some English films), a theatre and a discoclub.

In spring and summer there are a lot of open air festivals and concerts you can go to, where you can also camp. The most difficult period is winter, which is very cold (temperature can reach -25°C, usually is about -2-10°C) and it is quite long; furthermore not so much is going on during this period (you can enjoy the snow skiing or snowboarding), compared to spring or summer (nice weather for going to forests, lakes or mountains, concerts...).

Volunteers from OKO



3. Clothes

You should wear casual clothes (jeans and T-shirts). Only I prefer to wear usually suit, skirt, blouse or jumper because I deal with partners and clients but other teachers. Volunteers really wear usually jeans and T-shirts.

4. Weather



In summer (Jun, July, August)

There is about 20-30, sometimes about 30-34. It's raining not every day, only sometime and you can swim in pools outside..

In autumn or in spring

There is about 10-15-20. It can be sunny or cloudy, sometime foggy and windy and it can be raining. Quite mix of all possibilities. You can see some wonderful sunny days but dull days, too.

In winter

There is the weather different and diverse: -5,-10,-20 or 0, +5. We have snow about 2-3 months in Rychnov. In Prague is snow only sometimes, but in Mountains (20 km from Rychnov) we have snow usually from December to March - April. So take also jacket, gloves, cap and good boots for winter. You can see wonderful winter time with sun and snow. But sometime is there cloudy without the Sun and than is the winter time quit to long and tiresome.

In this moment has already begun typical autumn weather. It's sunny and windy and rainy in one day and morning are already cold (+8,+12)C. In the afternoon is about +18C... (Monday, 30th September)

5. EVS flats in OKO

There are two flats for the EVS volunteers in an office building about five minutes from the centre of the town. In the building, there are also two of OKO's club rooms, where some of the language courses take place. There is a Penny market 5 minutes from the flats and you can be out of the town in 10 minutes. You can walk to OKO, which is on the main square of Rychnov, in five minutes.



Two volunteers stay together in each flat. In each flat there are two big rooms, a hallway, a toilet and a bathroom.

At the moment, in one of the flats, there is one room for each volunteer and the kitchen is in the hallway. In the other flat, the two volunteers share a room and use the other room as a living room and kitchen.

However, it is possible to change this.

Both flats are fully furnished. In each flat there is a stove, an oven and cooking equipment. There is no sink in the kitchen and the dishes have to be washed in the bathroom.

In one flat there is the washing machine, clothes line and iron. And in the other flat there is a TV, DVD-player and CD-player. One of the flats has a balcony.

There are enough sheets and some towels. But maybe it is best to bring your own towel. There is one vacuum cleaner and one hair dryer.

The flat is equipped with all the necessary things that you may need in your every day life.

At first the walls of the rooms may seem white and empty. But it is always possible to paint them or you can bring posters and picture, etc. to put them on the walls.

In both flats there is no Internet or telephone. However, the volunteers have one Czech mobile telephone from OKO to share and Internet and skype are always available in the office.

