



EVS project PUZZLE

**Info Pack
for new volunteers**

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1. How to get to OKO



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 213 Kc.

Usually the train drives directly only to Hradec Kralove and it is necessary to change the train in Hradec Kralove and in Castolovice. There are times of departure from Prague:

09.11 No.R945
10.11 No.R925
13.11 No.R947
17.11 No.R949

One train drives directly from Prague to Castolovice, so it is necessary to change the train only in Castolovice : **15:11** No. R935

One train drives directly from Prague to Hradec Králové, so it is necessary to change the train only in Hradec Králové : **19.11** No.R953

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.

When you know exactly time of your arrival to Rychnov, you will text me 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 and Vasek

2. Area Description and free time possibilities in Rychnov

Dear future volunteers,

*You can 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 small club.

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 usually prefer to wear suit, skirt, blouse or jumper because I deal with partners and clients but other teachers. Volunteers really wear usually jeans and T-shirts. Jitka, director

4. Weather



In summer (Jun, July, August)

During the summer it is normally about 20-30, sometimes 30-34, degrees. It does not rain that often so it is usually a nice idea to use the outdoor swimming pool which is situated nearby.

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.

5. EVS flats in OKO

The volunteers live in two shared flats, which both consist of two rooms, a bathroom and a kitchen - all rooms are fully furnished. Since there is no specific living room it is up to the volunteers how they want to arrange the rooms. As it is for now, each volunteer has their own room, while one of the rooms is also used as a living room.

The flats are both situated in the same building as OKO's office at the main square of Rychnov: one in the same hallway as OKO and another a bit further away. The first has the biggest kitchen, which is directly connected to the office and therefore also used by OKO's staff, about three people, during working hours. The same goes for the bathroom of this flat.

Both kitchens have heating plates, an oven and cooking equipment. Furthermore the flats have two drying racks, a shared washing machine, vacuum cleaner, hairdryer and iron. There should also be enough sheets and towels for all volunteers, so you don't have to bring that.

At first the walls can seem a bit dull, but you are welcome to decorate and paint them as you like. There are also bulletin boards in all rooms, so it is a good idea to bring photos, posters or other types of decoration, you can use for them. Last but not least there is WIFI in both flats.

Even though Rychnov is a small town there are many different supermarkets and grocery stores to choose between. Just below OKO there is a "Potraviny" (small store) and about five minutes away by foot there is a Lidl. Are you in the mood for a longer walk; you can go to Kaufland, Tesco, Billa or Penny Market.



One of the rooms.



The kitchen of the flat next to OKO.