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The system of waymarking trails in the Czech Republic



Walking waymarked trails
Cross-country ski waymarked trails
Cycling waymarked trails
Horse riding waymarked trails
Wheelchair waymarked trails



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The system of waymarking trails in the Czech Republic

You will meet the waymarking of the **Czech Tourist Club (Klub českých turistů - KČT)** throughout the Czech Republic. Since 1889 it has given access, step by step, to the nicest places in the Czech Republic for nature lovers. At present, the KČT waymarked trails cover more than 80,000 kms. which comprise trails for walking, cross-country skiing, cycling, horse riding and also for wheelchair users. Some sections of the walking trails are also part of the international European Ramblers Association (ERA) long-distance paths.

The entire network of waymarked trails is displayed regularly in the updated walking maps of the **Czech Tourist Club**.

Walking trails are waymarked in the Czech Republic according to KČT methodology. Apart from on-road cycling, riding and wheelchair trails, they are marked with striped-shaped marks composed of three horizontal stripes one above each other, separated by a narrow gap. The outer stripes are the same colour and are called the **notification colour**, the middle strip is marked by the colour of the trail called the **leading colour**. According to this, the colour of the mark is determined, we call it e.g. the red (blue, green, yellow) mark or the red (blue, green, yellow) trail.

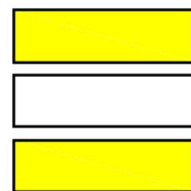
For **walking trails** the **white notification colour** is used, for **cross-country ski trails** **orange** and for **cycling trails** **yellow**.



Walking mark



Ski mark



Off-road cycling mark

The **leading colour red, blue, green and yellow** is used for **walking trails**. **Ski and off-road cycling waymarking** is done in a similar way, the only change is that yellow is substituted by white.

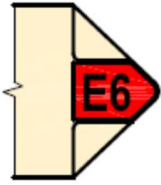


Fingerposts and signs are also part of the waymarking. They inform us, on the individual information points, of the waymarked trail where we are and how far it is to further points. The fingerposts and signs are of a similar shape and dimension, however, the ground colour is different: for walking, riding and wheelchairs they are beige, ski - orange and off-road cycling - yellow.

The **KČT walking trail** (Pěší trasa KČT), or the name of the path, the **KČT ski trail** (Lyžařská trasa KČT), the **KČT cycling trail No...** (Cyklotrasa KČT č. ...), the **KČT riding trail** (Jezdecká trasa KČT) and the **KČT wheelchair trail** (Vozíčkářská trasa KČT) are listed at the fingerposts' heading of the trails.

Text for the fingerposts for walking, ski and riding trails ordinarily consist of three lines (the closest place is shown on the first line from the top). With the cycling trails, which are usually of two-line text, the order is opposite, with the first line from the top showing the more distant place.

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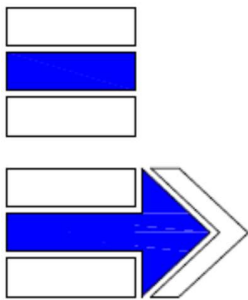
If an international European long-distance path crosses a given trail, its symbol (e.g. **E6**) is located in the arrowhead of all the fingerposts on the trail.

The fingerposts are usually outside settlements completed with a **local name sign** indicating the name of this place, altitude, and possibly brief information text.



As a rule large boards with big walking maps are situated at important crossings of waymarked trails and at their starting points.

Walking waymarked trails

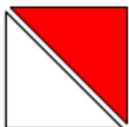
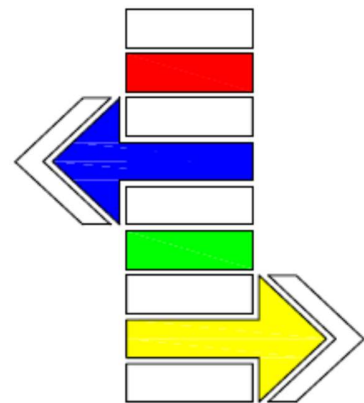


The walking trails are waymarked with three-stripe marks and object marks of 100 mm side length.

The **arrow** is used where the waymarked trail changes direction suddenly or branches out in another direction and if the normal waymarking is not sufficient enough to reliably inform about the situation. It not only draws attention to the change of direction, but also leads directly in this new direction.

An arrow is always situated before the direction change of the waymarked trail facing the oncoming walker and showing the way forward by the tip of its leading colour.

If several waymarked trails of different leading colours pass through the same route, all the marks are placed on one object in an obligatory shape of a **multicolour mark**.

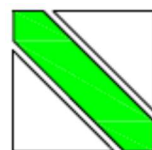


In the vicinity of large cities, recreational or tourism centres and campsites, the **local object waymarking** can also be seen. The triangle of the leading colour is always on the top right. The local object waymarking is used particularly for **shorter walking circuits**.

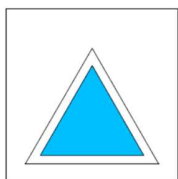


Also **educational trails** use special object marks with a green diagonal stripe on the white-notification-coloured square. However, the educational trails are not always waymarked in this way. They lead along current stripe or local marks and they attain the character of educational trails only on account of information panels and pictograms on the fingerposts.

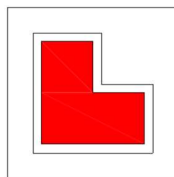
On waymarked trails, we also see square object mark with the special significance, mainly on detours from stripe-shape-marked trails to the places of tourist interest, located outside the waymarked trail. The detours marked in such a way are of a maximum length of 1 km.



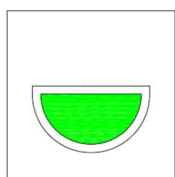
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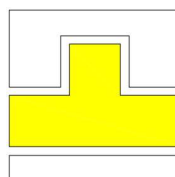
*Detour to a peak
or scenic vista*



*Detour to a ruin of a castle
or another historical monument*

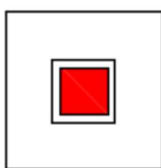


*Detour to a fountain
or well*



*Detour to another sight
of tourist interest*

A trail-end mark belongs to square object marks. It is used at both ends of waymarked trails and at the end of each detour.



Cross-country ski waymarked trails (ski trails)

The same kind of stripe and objects marks are used both for cross-country ski and walking trails with the difference in changing the notification colour from white to **orange** and the yellow leading colour to **white**.

When creating ski trails, it is a priority to use walking trails. If the route of both the walking and ski trail is the same for the whole length between two information points, the trail is not specially waymarked by marks and fingerposts, but this fact will be taken into account on the walking fingerposts by placing the ski symbol on the places where the ski trail passes.



If the ski and walking trail have only a very short common section (up to 1 km) or no information points on the way, the walking trails are waymarked in parallel with the ski marking.

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Some walking sections, where the passing with cross-country ski is very difficult and there is a possible alternative way, which is more suitable for winter season with ski, they are waymarked with the fingerposts including the text „Winter cross-country ski trail“ (Zimní lyžařská cesta).

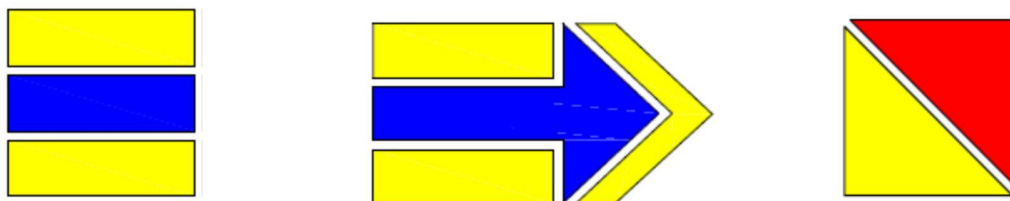
Mechanically maintained ski trails are not waymarked with a stripe mark because the marking is replaced by a maintained track, but at the crossroads and the exits of these trails ski trail fingerposts are placed.

Cycling waymarked trails

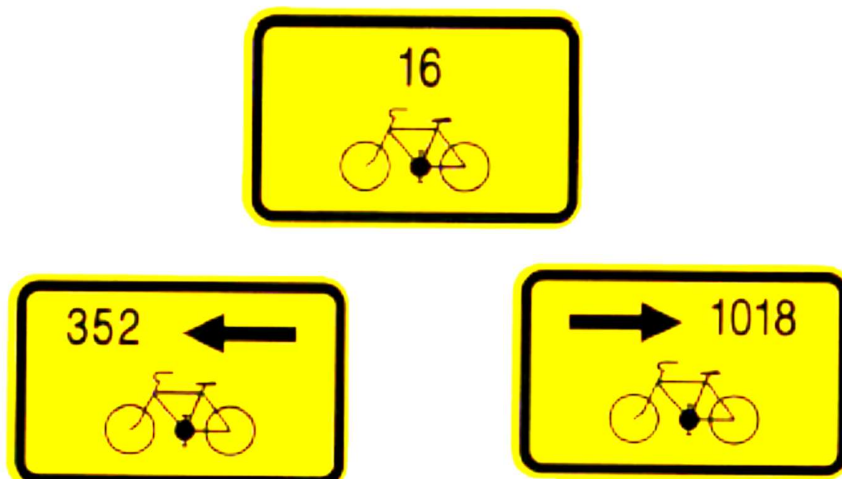
There are two cycling waymarked trails split into so called **off-road cycling trails** using mainly less suitable multi-purpose ways, field and forest unpaved trails and so called **on-road cycling trails**, which mainly lead to roads and local streets and multi-purpose ways of better quality. The first type of waymarking is solely used in the area of national parks.

Both types of cycling trails are designed to enable use by ordinary bikes, not only mountain bikes.

To mark **off-road cycling trails**, the same stripe and object marks are used as for walking trails, but of 140 mms. side length. The notification stripes are yellow.

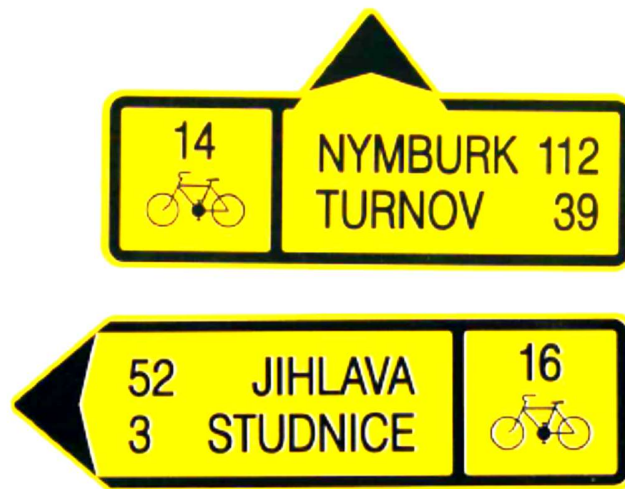


The **on-road cycling trails**' marking is carried out according to the Act on Road Traffic, it uses yellow fingerposts with the dimension of 200 x 300 mms. with an icon of a bike and the cycling trail number in the heading. The small direction signboards with a black arrow in the corresponding direction are used instead of arrow marks.



There are **direction signboards** at the main starting points and crossings of the cycling trails and in addition the names and distance (in kms.) of further destinations.

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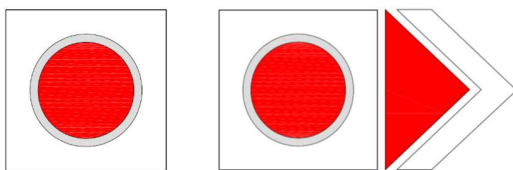


At some crossings or sections with difficult orientation the so called **crossing information panel** is used. It shows a plan of the entire crossing in a given location and further direction of the cycling trail or other connected ones.



End of cycling trail

Horse riding waymarked trails (Riding trails)



The riding waymarking were created after the year 2000 as a requirements of various equestrian associations and serve both for long-distance horse treks throughout the Czech Republic and for short trips around riding stables.

The long-distance riding mark is made up of 100 mms. side length white square with a coloured central circle according to the leading colours of walking marks.

The same marks but with a simplified horseshoe instead of the circle are used for horse riding circuits. Fingerposts are the same as for walking trails, only the „KČT horse-riding trail“ (Jezdecká trasa KČT) is used in their heading and a reduced mark of the relevant riding trail is in the arrowhead.

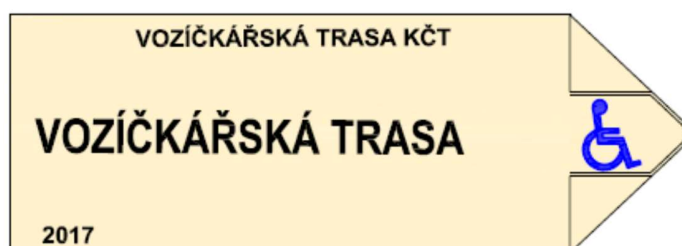


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Wheelchair waymarked trails

In 2009, KČT, in cooperation with wheelchair associations, decided to waymark wheelchair trails, which serve for the safe and reliable movement of physically handicapped people on their manual and electric wheelchairs. The three-step difficulty of the trail has been agreed - blue trails are the easiest, red more difficult and black most difficult. In the terrain, the difficulty of the trail is waymarked by the same colour as the wheelchair symbol in the arrowhead. Roads with a solid surface and small elevation are chosen for wheelchair trails, to allow the safe passage of wheelchairs. They are established in cooperation with the relevant wheelchair association.



Wheelchair trails are waymarked only by fingerposts, which are placed at crossroads to indicate the further direction of the trail. The fingerposts are equipped with the text "KČT wheelchair trail" (Vozíčkářská trasa KČT) in the heading and with the wheelchair symbol in the colour of trail difficulty in the arrowhead. Information points use the same fingerposts as walking and riding trails, only the symbol of the wheelchair in the appropriate colour of difficulty is in the arrowhead.



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The cases of damaged reliability of the waymarking

The KČT waymarkers make as much effort as possible to keep the waymarked trails in good condition at all times. In spite of this fact various imperfections can happen caused mainly by outside influences which cannot be anticipated or immediately removed by the waymarkers (forest arboricultures, entry prohibition around water sources, closing the way crossing by a private-owned area etc.). Sometimes the trail is damaged intentionally by removing the waymarking or by overpainting. Such sections are usually not too long and such a section could be avoided with more attention and looking for traces of damage.

The officially extinguished or changed trails are different. The original route of them is shown on older maps and the newer issue of the map does not show it anymore. We should not use such trails as we do not know the reason of extinguishing or changing the route of the trail.

If you discover any marking imperfection during your activities, please advise the waymarking department of the relevant KČT area committee or directly to the KČT head office at: kct@kct.cz, phone: +420 251 625 116. Another option is to use the appropriate form on the website: www.turistickeznaceni.cz.

**We wish you
a pleasant journey
using the waymarked trails
of the Czech Tourist Club**



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Projekt „Systém značení turistických tras v České republice“ byl realizován za přispění prostředků státního rozpočtu ČR z programu Ministerstva pro místní rozvoj.

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