

HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

BASIC FACTS

Hradec Králové is the capital of East Bohemia.

It lies **in the middle of** East Bohemia, in the middle of the Czech Republic and in the middle/ **in the heart of** Europe [hárt, jurop]

It was built **on the confluence** [kon-flu-ens](soutok) **of the Labe and Orlice rivers**.

The town is **surrounded by hills with woods**.

There are two rivers, a lot of beautiful architectural [áky-tek-č-ri] spots and **parks**.

The present **population** is about 100,000 (hundred thousand) inhabitants. [in-he-bi-t@nts] It is **one of the most beautiful towns in the country**.



ELIŠKA REJČKA

The history of the town as well as the cathedral are connected to **ELIŠKA REJČKA**. She was called **Elizabeth Richeza** [ričeza] of Poland. You can see her portraits [port-ri-čs] in the cathedral.



Eliška the Polish PRINCESS

Eliška was a **Polish princess**. [pouliš] Her mother died after her birth, her father was murdered when she was young. The death of her father, the king of Poland changed the political situation in Europe. Elizabeth of Richeza was sent to PRAGUE and in 1303 she **married** a widowed [vidoutd](ovdovělý) **WENCESLAS II** (the second) in Prague Cathedral. She was too young, so Wenceslas II had to wait for her to marry him till she was 15. Two years later, at the age of 17 she gave birth to a daughter Agnes, her only child. Only 6 days later Wenceslas II died of probably tuberculosis.

Eliška and her DOWRY [dauri] (dědictví)

17 year old queen Elizabeth gained/ **got several lands and towns as dowry**. Elizabeth married for the second time, her second husband was a very rich man, king **RUDOLF III**. He also died soon after becoming ill and also left her **huge pieces of land**. Eliška gained Hradec, Chrudim, Jaroměř, Polička and Nové Město. At the end of her life she moved to Brno and created a huge Cistercian monastery and church in Old Brno.

THE CATHEDRAL OF HOLY SPIRIT

Eliška moved to HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ and she **settled there**. (usadila se tam) She made Hradec **a centre of art and culture**. [kal-čr] The town of Hradec got the name/the attribute/ Králové (=Queen's) after her. Eliška **founded**

the beautiful brick (cihlová) CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. It has **two towers** and it is the seat of bishop.

In 1337 Jan of Luxembourg, King of Bohemia, **granted royal rights to HRADEC**. (udělil Hradci statut královského města)

Every year, at the beginning of **September**, **Celebrations of Queen Eliška of Hradec Králové take place**.



THE LARGE SQUARE

When tourists come to Hradec Králové, they usually start their sightseeing tour **in THE OLD TOWN SQUARE** called **THE LARGE SQUARE, or the BIG SQUARE**.



THE WHITE TOWER is the dominant of the square. You can see the whole town but also the Krkonoše and Orlické mountains in the distance.

It was **built in renaissance style**.

It is called white because it was **built of white stone**, Hořice sandstone. **Augustin is the 3rd largest bell** in the Czech Republic. The tower is open daily except Xmas Eve and New Year's Day.



The hands of the clock are in a wrong way, in the past, the minutes were not important for the people working in distant fields, they needed to see the hours, that's why the big hand shows the hours and small one shows the minutes.

In the square you can go to **many restaurants** or bars, you can see **the Town Hall** (radnice), **tearoom** (čajovna) near the hall, **the Klicpera theatre**, there's a beautiful **baroque church of Nanebevzetí pany Marie**. There's also **the Gallery of Modern Art** or many little expensive shops people or tourists like to stop at.

People walk in a parade [p-rejd] (průvod), wear historic costumes, choose “the Queen” (Misses) of the year and watch fireworks. There are dancers, musicians, horses and street theatre groups. People love it.

ARCHITECTURE

You can find there various architecture, **gothic, renaissance, and baroque styles**. **Many churches, monasteries and hospitals** were built, not only in the centre but also on the outskirts. In 1420 Hradec Králové was **conquered by the Hussites, the royal castle and a number of other buildings were DESTROYED** (zničeno) during this period. Then a **fire, plague epidemic, the Thirty Year’s War** came.

Between 1895 and 1929 MAYOR František ULRICH created a new town plan. The famous architects Jan KOTĚRA and Josef GOČÁR created such architecture that **Hradec gained the title “the SALON of the REPUBLIC”**. New buildings, roads, bridges, squares and parks were built. Hradec is beautiful from the air.

Some of the most interesting architectural buildings are: **East Bohemia Museum** by Kotěra, **State Grammar school of JK Tyl** by Gočár, Gočár’s **Anglobank**, modern **State Library**, **water plant (elektrárna) Hučák**, **the Brewery**, **wooden church of St Nicholas** from the 16th century (reconstructed), Gočár’s **Municipal Authorities** [ó-š-rytýs](Magistrát) and others.



There’s a great **number of elementary schools**, secondary schools (grammar, commercial, technical) and Universities with several faculties (teacher’s training, medical, etc).



JIRÁSEK’S and ŠIMEK’S GARDENS



Hradec Králové has a lot of **BEAUTIFUL GARDENS AND BANKS** (parks a nábřeží) **along the Labe and Orlice rivers**. The most popular is **JIRÁSEK’S or ŠIMEK’S GARDENS**.



Jirásek’s garden is by the Winter stadium. There’s a large **children’s playground**, but also an area where **concerts** take place. It is on **the confluence** of the rivers.

Šimek’s garden is a place where you can have a **barbecue** with your friends. There are **grill places**. There’s a **pond** with a small restaurant and a **large skatepark**, too.

You can go everywhere **on foot**/ it’s easy to walk everywhere, everything is **near the centre**, or you can take **city buses** (městská), trolley buses or **hire/ rent the city bicycles** (půjčit si za peníze kolo).

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO IN HRADEC?

HRADEC AND FESTIVALS



There is **the Museum of East Bohemia**, the concert hall of the **HK Philharmony**, the **Klicpera Theatre** and the **famous Drak Theatre**.

There are also many regular exhibitions, trade fairs, cultural and sports events and **open air street theatres and music festivals**, for example **Majales** – concerts on many stages where thousands of

people come annually, **CIAF – International Air festival**, **Techno festival**, **Hip Hop Kemp**, **Rock for people** or **Burger festival** connected to food and eating as many other ones. **Czech International Air Fest**, the **Jazz Goes to Town** festival, Theatre festival, etc. Hradec is also a town of sports as well. The winter stadium, the football stadium, the Sokol Hall athletic stadium and the **Aqua Centre** are only some of the many sport facilities in the town.

Most people live in **on the outskirts of HK**, in blocks of flats, but also **in quiet quarters** of detached or semidetached houses, terrace rows **surrounded by** small gardens. **Where do you live? What is your favourite place in Hradec Králové?** Where do you study? Stay? Like going to?