

## HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ

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-rl] 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**.

- **THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN** is connected to **ELIŠKA REJČKA**

Eliška was **the Queen of Bohemia** as well as **the Queen of Poland**.

She was called **Elizabeth Richeza** [ričeza] of Poland.

Eliška was a **Polish princess**. [pouliš] Her mother died after her birth, her **father was murdered** when she was young. Her aunt looked after her for some time and after a while Eliška was **sent to monastery**. [monastri](klášter)



The death of **her father, the king of Poland** changed the political situation in Europe. As the only child Eliška was a perfect wife to a lot of rich rulers, especially in Poland.

- Elizabeth of Richeza **was sent to PRAGUE** and in 1303 she **married a widowed** [vidoutd](ovdovělý) **WENCESLAS II** in Prague Cathedral. **During the ceremony she was crowned** [craunt](korunovaná) **the Queen of Poland and Bohemia**.

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**.

17 year old queen Elizabeth gained/ **got several lands and towns as dowry** [**dauri**] (**dědictví**)

- 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 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 got **married for the third time**, she married Jan of Luxemborough . Eliška **had a love affair**, a romantic relationship to one of the most important men of those times, noble man Henry of Lipá, King John imprisoned him. **Eliška wasn't a very good wife**. She spent most of her life waiting for the king to come from Prague. She was young and wasn't loyal to her husband.

Eliška **died at the age of 47, very young**, she was known as **the queen from abroad**, but she had a big influence **IN THE 14TH CENTURY**.

- 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**. 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.



Every year, at the beginning of **September**, **CELEBRATIONS OF QUEEN ELIŠKA OF HRADEC KRÁLOVÉ** take place.



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.

- 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**.

**From the top of THE WHITE TOWER** 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 it is the big hand that show 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.

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

You can go there **on foot/ it's easy to walk everywhere, everything is near the centre, or you can take city buses or trolley buses**.

- 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.

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



- **What else can you do in HK?**

There is **the Museum of East Bohemia**, the concert hall of the **HK Philharmony**, the Klicpera Theatre and the **famous Drak Theatre**. **Regular exhibitions, trade fairs, cultural and sports events are held in HK**, e.g. **Czech International Air Fest**, the Jazz Goes to Town 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. Many **theatre or music festivals** take place in Hradec, for example **Majales, Air festival, Techno festival, hip Hop Kemp, Rock for people** or **Burger festival** connected to food and eating as **many other ones**.

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?