

## Maturita card: Hradec Králové

### BASIC FACTS

Hradec Králové is the capital of East Bohemia, built **on the confluence of the Labe and Orlice rivers in the middle/ in the heart of East Bohemia**. The town is **surrounded by hills with woods** and with its two rivers, architectural treasures and parks it is one of the most beautiful towns in the country. **The present population** is about 100,000 inhabitants.

### THE HISTORY



Hradec has **many historical and cultural landmarks/ monuments**. In **1306 Wenceslas II dedicated** the town to his wife, a Polish princess **Elizabeth Richeza of Poland (Eliška Rejčka** zvaná také Alžběta Polská), and so Hradec became **the dowry town** (věnné město) of the Czech Queens with **the attribute** Králové (Queen's). Eliška **founded** the beautiful brick Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, and later came to live here for

ten years. In 1337 **Jan of Luxembourg**, King of Bohemia, **granted royal rights to the town**. Later on Elisabeth of Pomerania, the fourth wife of Charles IV, stayed in Hradec. The town has lived through various **building stages** and developments, **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** during this period. Then a fire, plague epidemic, the Thirty Year's War came.

### FAMOUS ARCHITECTS IN HK

Between 1895 and 1929 Mayor František Ulrich **created** a new town plan. The **famous architects** Jan Kotěra and Josef Gočár rose the level of architecture to such a degree that Hradec **gained the title "the salon of the republic"**. New buildings, roads, bridges, squares & parks **were built**. The town is beautiful from the air.



### IMPORTANT LANDMARKS/SIGHTS

Hradec Králové has much to offer, e.g. **parks/ the Jirásek's park and the banks of the Labe and Orlice rivers** where people like running, jogging or cycling. **There's a cycle route from Hradec to Kuks** which is 26 km long. The route goes through the beautiful countryside of Polabí. The route is easy, along the river, **suitable for families with small children**. All in Hradec can be **reached on foot and by trolley bus**. All is mainly in the city centre. In the historical centre there is **the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, the White Tower**, which can be seen from afar, **the Town Hall** reconstructed in the renaissance and baroque styles, etc. **There's a great number of elementary schools, secondary schools** (grammar, commercial, technical) and **Universities** with several faculties (teacher's training, medical, etc). Students often stay in the town hostels from Mondays to Fridays, they always leave the town for the summer holidays.

There is **the Museum of East Bohemia, the concert hall of the HK Philharmonic, 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 **CIAF**, the Jazz Goes to Town

festival, Majales and **other festivals take place there**. Hradec is also a **town of sports** as well. **The winter stadium, the football stadium**, the Sokol Hall athletic stadium and families like going to **the Aqua Centre**, tourists like the **open air swimming pool** in the summer. It has heated water so you can go there even when the weather is not very good. These are only some of the **many sport facilities in the town**.

### HOUSING IN HK

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**.

### MEANS OF TRANSPORT

**People in Hradec can travel by cars, by trolley buses, by buses**, they use bicycles or they can walk. **The public transport** is very good and **cheap**. There's a very good **railway connection** to Pardubice or Prague, from Pardubice people can even **fly to foreign countries**. There's an airport. In Hradec **the airport is only used for commercial purposes**, for music and other festivals.

### MY FAVOURITE PLACE IN HK

My favourite place in Hradec is

I go there (how often)

It is my favourite place because..