



Hradec Králové lies 100 km from Prague, and can be easily reached by car or train. The city stands out above all due to its urbanistic and architectural tradition. The beginning of the 20th century saw new development of the city in the Art Nouveau and functionalism styles, enriching the city with many noteworthy buildings.



92 742



Pardubice Airport – 26 km



Tourist Information Centre

Velké náměstí 165, 500 02 Hradec Králové

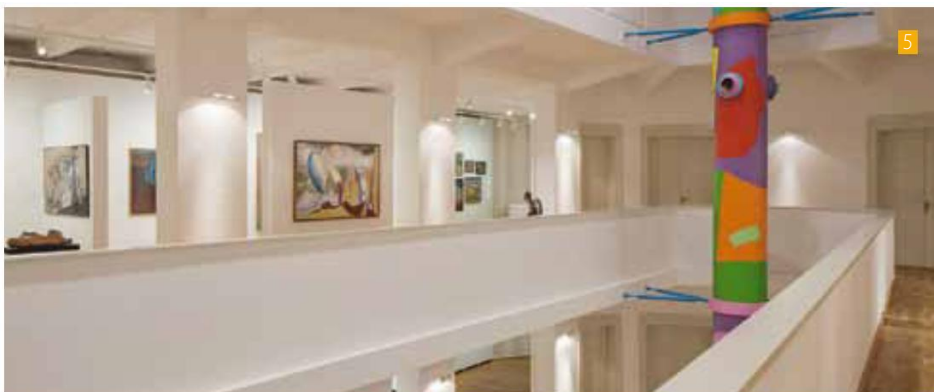
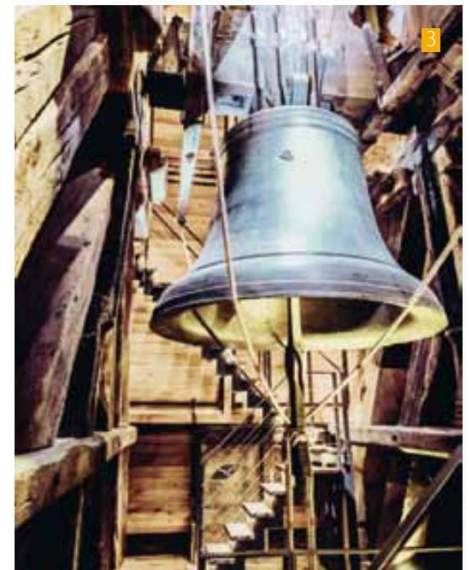
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www.ic-hk.cz, www.hradecko.eu

MUST-SEE PLACES

You can enjoy perfect views of **the city centre** ¹, as well as places far and wide in the surroundings, from **the White Tower** ², a Renaissance structure that is over 71 metres tall and is the dominant feature of Hradec Králové. The tower is open all year round, and offers special experiences, such as watching the sun rise above Hradec Králové while enjoying a hearty breakfast, or joining the ringing of the bell called **Augustin** ³, the third biggest bell in the Czech Republic. Among other things, the recent renovation of the tower has brought about a unique glass model of the White Tower weighing approximately 1,000 kg, and a modern interactive exhibition with LCD panels. Right next to the tower is **the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit** ⁴ which was built in the early 14th century. Going from the cathedral across the Great Square (Velké náměstí), you'll come to **the Gallery of Modern Art** ⁵ which displays collections of Czech fine art from the turn of the 20th century all the way to the art by contemporary authors. Following Klicperova Street and going through the Žižka's Gardens, you will reach Adalbertinum. From there, you can walk along Palacký Street to reach **the Museum of Eastern Bohemia**.



Museum of Eastern Bohemia

The museum is located on the Elisabeth Embankment (Eliščino nábřeží) in a magnificent building from the early 20th century. The building was designed by the architect Jan Kotěra, and has become a national cultural monument. The museum houses large collections on archaeology, natural sciences, and history.

www.muzeumhk.cz



Hradec Králové Digital Planetarium

You can't overlook the UFO-like building of the Digital Planetarium in the south-eastern part of the city. A night sky full of stars, spatial representation of the cosmos, and thematic films projected on a spherical dome above the visitors are among the biggest, but not the only, attractions here. The visitors can also enjoy two interactive exhibitions, a meteorological station, and a robotic telescope.

www.astrohk.cz



Labe River Steamboats and Children's Railway

From May to September, you can board a pleasure steamboat at the Smetana Embankment (Smetanovo nábřeží) sitting on a bank of the Labe River, and enjoy a 50 minutes long sightseeing cruise. During the same time, young and old visitors alike can use the children's railway situated next to the quay in the park at the Fifth of May Square (náměstí 5. května).



www.paroplavbahk.cz; www.nabreziparomilu.cz



Kuks Hospital – 28 km from Hradec Králové

In the Baroque compound of a former spa, pharmacy, and hospital with the Holy Trinity Church, you can see, among other things, mural paintings with the 'Dance of Death' theme. They form a series of 50 paintings depicting the equality of people who are living the final moments of their lives. In the lapidarium, you can see the originals of the twelve Virtues and twelve Vices made by the remarkable Czech Baroque sculptor, M. B. Braun. One of the parts of the hospital is a garden, where herbs, medicinal plants, and fruit trees are grown.

www.hospital-kuks.cz; www.zkuskuks.cz



www.safaripark.cz



Dvůr Králové Safari Park – 38 km from Hradec Králové

Dvůr Králové Safari Park ranks among the most beautiful in Europe, and is at the same time the biggest breeder of African animals on the Old Continent. In addition to the traditional section of the zoo, you can also visit its safari with no barriers between animals and people, just like in the national parks in Africa. You can enjoy the safari on foot, by safari bus, minitrain, your own vehicle, or a rope trail. You can even spend the night in the safari park.

NEARBY TRIPS

Just 8 km northwest from Hradec Králové you can visit **the Věstary Archaeopark** **5**. Its grounds offer an exceptional exhibition on prehistory, including demonstrations of buildings, crafts, customs and rituals from that time. You can also get to Věstary via a 12-km-long cycle path, which runs along local archaeologically significant sites. Just under 50 km towards Liberec, you can come across **Jičín**, a town associated with the fairy tales highwayman Rumcajs. The town is also a symbolic gate to **the Bohemian Paradise Protected Landscape Area**.



www.archeoparkvestary.cz

Věstary Prehistory Archaeopark – 8 km from Hradec Králové

In the outdoor exhibition you can see displays of prehistoric structures and burial mounds, as well as practical demonstrations of all kinds of work being done in prehistoric times, such as grain crushing, stone axe sharpening, pottery making, weaving, and field cultivation. The indoor exhibition then comprises of three parts representing the underground, life, and spiritual world of prehistoric people.

Bohemian Paradise – 55 km from Hradec Králové

This exceptional landscape full of ravines, paths, towers and observation decks has been added to the list of UNESCO Global Geoparks. One of the oldest nature reserves in the Czech Republic, the Prachov Rocks, are considered the most beautiful area of the Bohemian Paradise. This rock city provides both short and long sightseeing tours, during which you'll pass through several vantage points, climb up rocky stairs, and squeeze through narrow crevices between giant boulders.



www.cesky-raj.info

If you head up north, you'll get to the fortress town of **Josefov** **6** (→ p. 60) and the nearby **Kuks Hospital** **7**, a unique Baroque compound formed in the late 17th century. These two tourist attractions are linked to Hradec Králové via a 26-km-long cycle path running through the beautiful landscapes around the Labe River. Only 14 km lie between the hospital and **the Dvůr Králové Safari Park** **8**, which is one of the best-known Czech zoological gardens. You should also not miss the **Adršpach-Teplice Rocks** and the unique **museums in Police nad Metují** located near the Polish border.



MERKUR Toy Construction Sets Museum – 60 km from Hradec Králové

This one-of-a-kind museum maps the past and present of the best-known Czech toy – the MERKUR construction set. You can see here the oldest set from 1920, a 1:45 scale rail track model, and many other structures. However, the crown jewel of this place is the Steel City – the biggest structure built from MERKUR, included in the Guinness World of Records book.

www.merkurpolice.cz



Museum of Paper Models, Police nad Metují – 60 km from Hradec Králové

In the only exhibition of its kind in the Czech Republic, you can see over 1,200 meticulous paper models made by leading authors from the Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia.

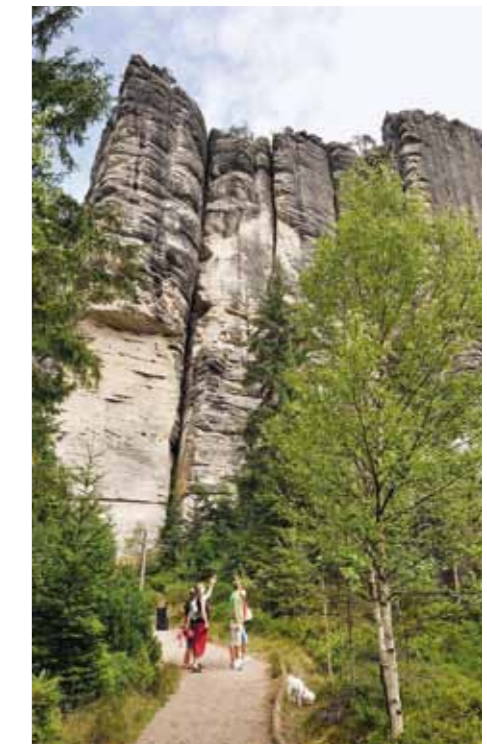


www.mpmpm.cz



Adršpach-Teplice Rocks – 70 km from Hradec Králové

The main destination of those who come to Adršpach is the sandstone rock city, which ranks together with the Teplice Rocks among the largest continuous rock massifs in Central Europe. The visit to the rocks is livened up by two waterfalls (one small and one large), and a boat trip on a lake surrounded by the rocks.



In the area east of Hradec, it's worth visiting the nearby **Krňovice Open-Air Folk Museum**, which showcases a series of vernacular buildings, historic exhibitions, and live demonstrations of crafts. Other points of interest include **the Třebechovice Museum of Nativity Scenes**, where you can feel the Christmas atmosphere all year round; **the Vamberk Museum of Lace** or the chateaux on the Orlice River (→ p. 42-43), fittingly labelled 'the Czech Loire'.

Krňovice Open-Air Folk Museum – 13 km from Hradec Králové

The sightseeing trail includes the vernacular buildings themselves, as well as their interiors furnished with period exhibits, many of which can be tried on by the visitors.

www.krnovice.cz



www.betlem.cz

The Třebechovice Museum of Nativity Scenes – 13 km from Hradec Králové

The museum is the only facility of its kind in the Czech Republic. Among other things, it boasts a unique mechanical nativity scene made by folk woodcarvers, who made it over a hundred years ago. The wooden nativity scene spans over an area of 7 x 3 metres, and includes more than 350 carved figures.



The Vamberk Museum of Lace – 38 km from Hradec Králové

The museum showcases Czech lace-making in a modern exhibition, and demonstrates through original exhibits the transformation of lace in Bohemia from the early 18th century to the present.

www.muzeumkrajky.cz

REGULAR EVENTS

JANUARY

Šediváček's Long Trail Race

FEBRUARY-APRIL, OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Jazzinac

MARCH

The Krkonoše 70-km Race

APRIL

Hradec Králové Grand Prix

MAY

300 Turns of Gustav Havel, Hořice

MAY AND JUNE

Cirk-UFF

JUNE

The Theatre of European Regions and Open Air Programme, Hradec Králové
Pod Zvičinou International Folk Festival
Rock for People, Hradec Králové

JUNE-AUGUST

Treasures of the Broumov Region

AUGUST

The melting of glass using wood, Deštná International Folk Festival, Červený Kostelec
Jirásek's Hronov International Mountaineering Film Festival, Teplice n. Metují
Kuks Theatrum

SEPTEMBER

Jičín – the Town of Fairy Tales

OCTOBER

Jazz Goes to Town, Hradec Králové

NOVEMBER

Music Forum, Hradec Králové
JazzNights, Hořice

DECEMBER

Špindl Ski Opening

The Theatre of European Regions and Open Air Programme, Hradec Králové



www.klicperovodivadlo.cz; www.openair.cz

Rock for People, Hradec Králové



www.rockforpeople.cz

International Folk Festival, Červený Kostelec



www.folklorock.cz

300 Turns of Gustav Havel, Hořice

