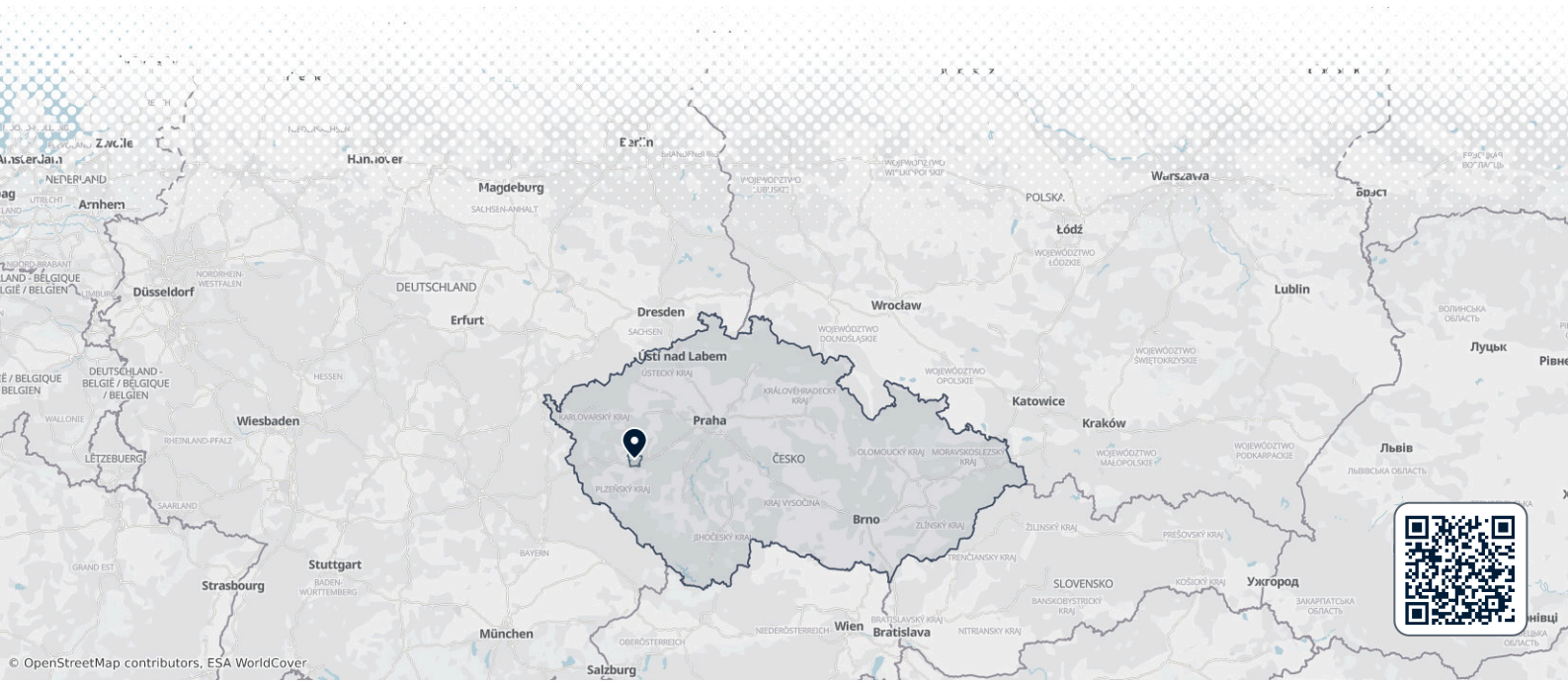


Plzeň

Czech Republic

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Plzeň is the fourth-largest city in the Czech Republic and the main city of western Bohemia. Most people know it for beer. This is where pale lager, known as pilsner, was first brewed in 1842, and the original brewery still sits at the edge of the old center as the city's biggest draw.

There is more here than beer. Plzeň has a large central square, a tall Gothic cathedral, and one of the largest synagogues in Europe. The city was European Capital of Culture in 2015 and keeps a good range of museums and events. It suits a relaxed one- or two-night stay, and works well as a base for the castles, forests, and spa towns of western Bohemia.

When to visit

Late spring to early autumn is the best time to visit, with warm days and long light evenings. Summer is the warmest but rarely uncomfortable, while winter is cold and grey, though the Christmas market on the main square is a draw in December. The city's signature event is the Liberation Festival (Slavnosti svobody) in early May, which marks the freeing of Plzeň by the US Army in 1945 with a parade of historic military vehicles and visiting veterans. Beer lovers may instead time a trip for Pilsner Fest, held at the brewery in early autumn.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor	2° / 8° Feels like -4°	-4° / -14°	14 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor	4° / 11° Feels like -1°	-3° / -13°	Dry air
March	Poor	9° / 17° Feels like 4°	0° / -6°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Fair	14° / 22° Feels like 11°	4° / -2°	Dry air
May	Good	19° / 26°	8° / 3°	15 rainy days · Dry air
June	Good	23° / 30°	13° / 7°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
July	Good	25° / 32°	14° / 9°	16 rainy days · Calm winds
August	Great	25° / 33°	14° / 10°	13 rainy days · Calm winds
September	Great	21° / 28°	10° / 5°	Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair	15° / 22° Feels like 12°	6° / -1°	Dry air
November	Poor	8° / 15° Feels like 4°	1° / -4°	Dry air
December	Poor	3° / 9° Feels like -2°	-2° / -11°	13 rainy days · Dry air

Best months: August, September

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

A Pilsen Brewery is the reason many people come to Plzeň. It is the home of Pilsner Urquell, the first pale lager, and the guided tour ends with a taste of unfiltered beer drawn straight from the cellars.

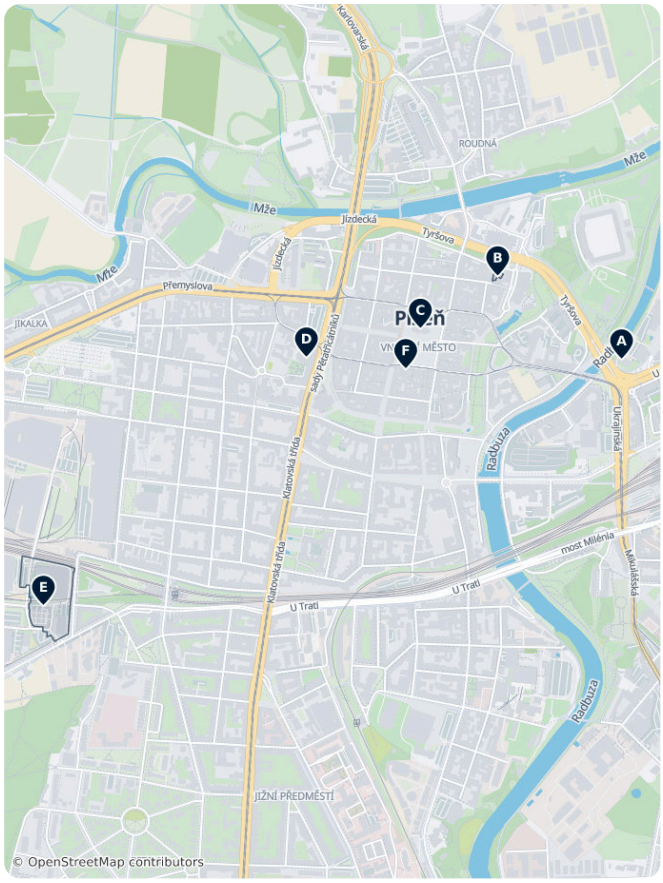
Next door, the B Brewery Museum traces the city's brewing history inside a late-Gothic malt house and makes an easy add-on to a brewery visit.

On the main square stands the C Cathedral of St. Bartholomew in Pilsen, a Gothic church whose tower is the tallest in the country. You can climb it for a wide view over the rooftops.

A few streets away, the D Great Synagogue (Plzeň) is one of the largest synagogues in Europe, with a striking mix of Moorish and neo-Renaissance design. It hosts concerts and exhibitions.

Families should make time for E Techmania Science Center, a hands-on science museum with a planetarium set in a former Škoda factory hall.

Plzeň is also a center of Czech puppetry, and the F Muzeum loutek tells that story through the well-known characters Spejbl and Hurvínek.



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What to experience

Beyond the main sights, a few things are worth doing in Plzeň:

- Go underground. A guided walk through the Plzeň Historical Underground leads through medieval cellars and tunnels dug beneath the old town, once used to store beer and food.
- See a puppet show. Puppetry is a local tradition, and an evening marionette performance is a fun, very Czech night out.
- Soak in a beer spa. Several spas in the city let you bathe in warm water with hops and malt, usually with a glass of beer to hand.
- Time your visit for the Liberation Festival in early May or the Christmas market in December, when the main square fills with stalls and events.

Day trips

Plzeň sits within easy reach of castles, spa towns, and the Šumava forest. Good options for a day out:

- Starý Plzenec — about 15 minutes south, with the Romanesque Rotunda of St. Peter and the Radyně castle ruin on a hill above.
- Kozel Chateau — a neoclassical hunting lodge roughly 20 minutes south by car, with elegant interiors and parkland; ideal for a half day.
- Klatovy — about 45 minutes by train, known for its baroque tower, catacombs, and a historic pharmacy.
- Mariánské Lázně — roughly an hour by train, one of Bohemia's grand spa towns, with colonnades and a singing fountain.
- Karlovy Vary — about 1.5 hours by bus or car, the best-known Czech spa town, famous for its hot springs.

Prague is only about an hour and a half away by train and works as a day trip, though it deserves longer.

Getting there

- **By air**: Plzeň has no passenger airport. The nearest is Prague's Václav Havel Airport, about 90 km away. From there you can reach Plzeň by direct coach, or transfer into Prague and continue by train (about 1.5 hours in total).
- **By train**: Frequent direct trains link Plzeň with Prague in about 1.5 hours. The city is also on the international line between Prague and Munich and has connections to České Budějovice and Cheb. Book through Czech Railways.
- **By bus**: Coaches from Prague take just over an hour and run frequently, with direct links to Munich and other regional cities.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: Plzeň has a wide network of trams, trolleybuses, and buses run by PMDP. The easiest way to pay is to tap a contactless bank card or phone on the reader when you board. See Plzeň public transport (PMDP).
- **On foot**: The historic center is small and flat, and you can walk between the main sights in a few minutes.
- **Cycling**: There are cycle paths along the rivers, but the city is not especially geared toward casual cycling.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

Plzeň's historic center is compact and flat, so you can walk between all the main sights in a few minutes.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycle paths run along the rivers, but the central streets are not especially set up for casual cycling.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not for the city itself, which is walkable and well served by public transport. A car helps only if you plan to explore the wider region, such as the castles and the Šumava forest.
- **Parking**: The center has paid zones and several car parks, and park-and-ride sites on the edge of town let you leave the car and take a tram in.
- **Restrictions**: The area around the main square is a pedestrian zone and closed to normal traffic.

Food & drink

Plzeň is the birthplace of pilsner, so beer is part of almost every meal here. The one place to try is Na Spilce, the brewery's own pub inside the Pilsen Brewery grounds, which pours unpasteurized tank beer and serves Czech classics in a large hall.

For more choice, head to the streets around the main square, náměstí Republiky, where restaurants, cafés, and beer halls cluster within a short walk. Expect hearty Czech cooking: roast pork with dumplings, goulash, and svíčková.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Fruit Dumplings · Ovocné knedlíky
Sweet dumplings filled with seasonal fruit (like plums or apricots), topped with cottage cheese and sugar.

DINNER

Svíčková · Svíčková na smetaně
Marinated beef sirloin in a creamy vegetable sauce, served with bread dumplings and cranberries.

Goulash · Guláš
A hearty stew, typically made with beef, onions, and paprika, often served with bread dumplings or potatoes.

Roast Pork with Dumplings and Cabbage · Vepřo knedlo zelo
A traditional Czech dish of roast pork, bread dumplings, and sauerkraut or stewed cabbage.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Fried Cheese · Smažený sýr
A thick slice of cheese, breaded and deep-fried, usually served with fries and tartar sauce.

Potato Pancakes · Bramboráky
Crispy pancakes made from grated potatoes, flour, and spices, often served as a side dish or a snack.

Chlebíčky
Open-faced sandwiches on slices of white bread, elaborately decorated with various toppings.

Fried Cauliflower · Smažený květák
Breaded and deep-fried cauliflower florets, similar to fried cheese but made with cauliflower.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Trdelník
A sweet pastry made from rolled dough, wrapped around a stick, grilled, and topped with sugar and walnut mixture.

DRINKS

Pilsner Urquell · Plzeňský Prazdroj
The world's first pale lager, originating from the city of Pilsen, known for its crisp, refreshing taste.

Becherovka
A traditional Czech herbal liqueur with a distinctive bitter-sweet taste, often enjoyed as a digestif.

Kofola
A popular Czech herbal cola-like soft drink, often described as having a unique, slightly medicinal flavor.

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Safety & health

Plzeň is a safe city, and serious crime against visitors is rare. Normal caution is enough — watch your belongings in crowds, at the main train station, and around busy festivals. There are no areas a tourist needs to avoid.

History

Plzeň was founded in 1295 by King *Wenceslas II* as a royal town, laid out around the large rectangular square you still see today. Its position on trade routes made it wealthy, and the brewing rights held by its citizens set the stage for what came later.

The turning point was 1842. Unhappy with poor-quality beer, local brewers built a new brewery and hired a Bavarian brewer, *Josef Groll*, who produced the first clear, golden lager. That beer, Pilsner Urquell, gave its name to the pilsner style now brewed worldwide, and you can trace the story at the Pilsen Brewery and the Brewery Museum.

In the 19th century Plzeň also became an industrial center, home to the Škoda engineering works. In May 1945, at the end of the Second World War, the city was liberated by the US Army under General *George Patton* — one of the few parts of the country freed from the west. The Liberation Festival still marks it each spring.

Country facts

Here are the practical basics for traveling in the Czech Republic:

CURRENCY
CZK Kč

EMERGENCY
112

ELECTRICITY

Type C / Type E
230 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES
Czech

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Walks

Audio Guides by Tripomatic
Walk it with an audio guide
Available in 9 languages · **Plays when you arrive** · **Works offline**
Scan to get the app

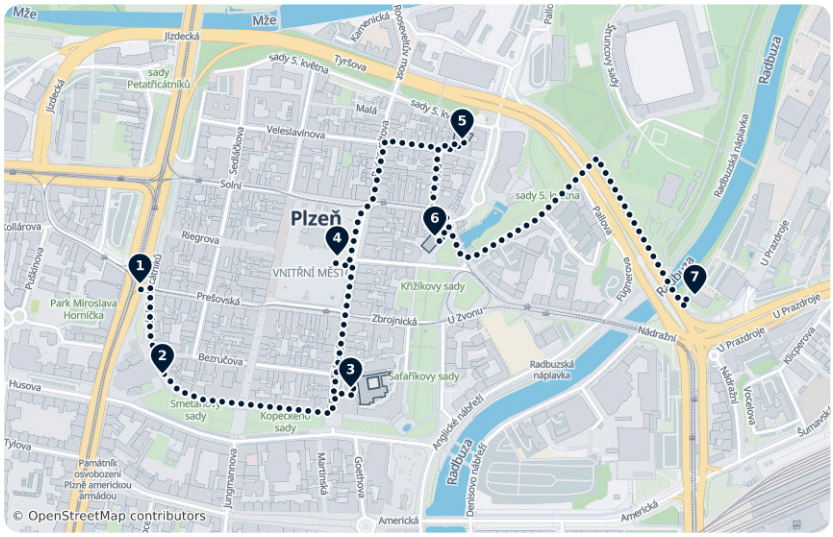
Best of Plzeň

1h 20min · 2.1 km · 7 stops



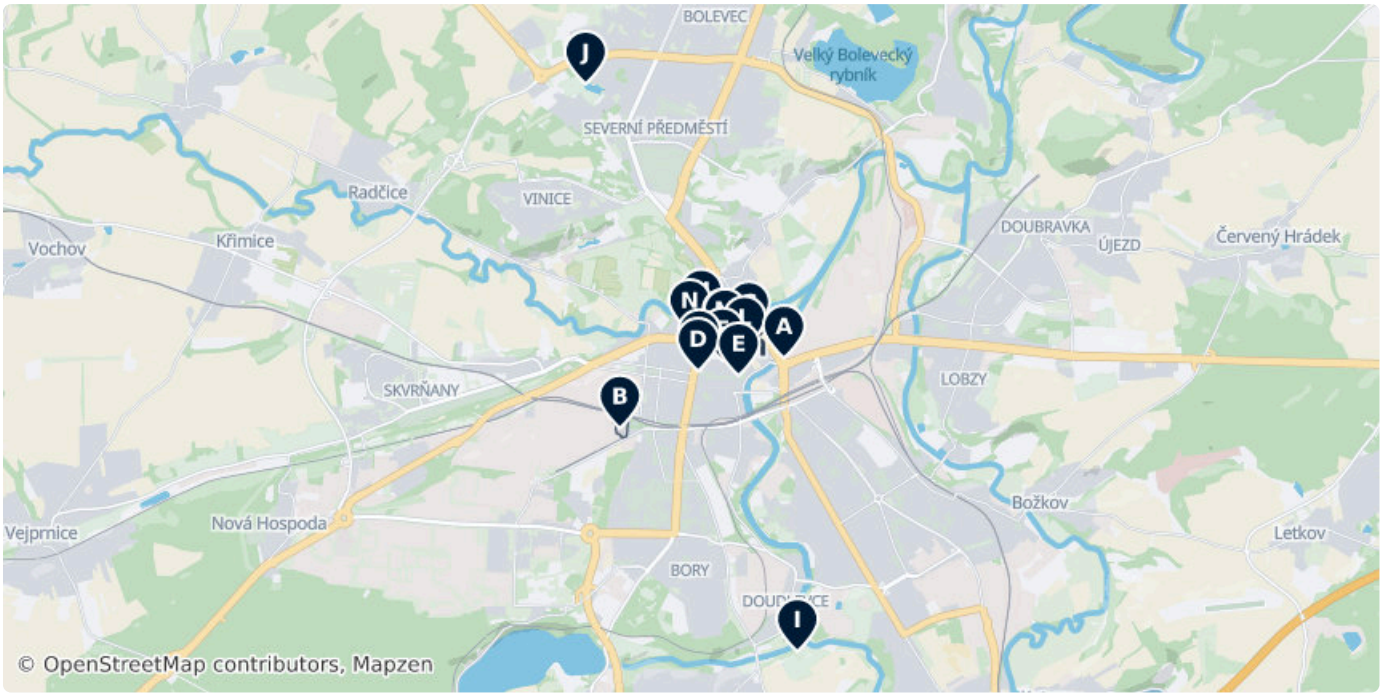
1. The Great Synagogue
2. The J. K. Tyl Theatre
3. The Franciscan Monastery
4. Republic Square and Saint Bartholomew's Cathedral
5. The Brewery Museum and the Historical Underground
6. Masné krámy
7. The Pilsner Urquell Brewery

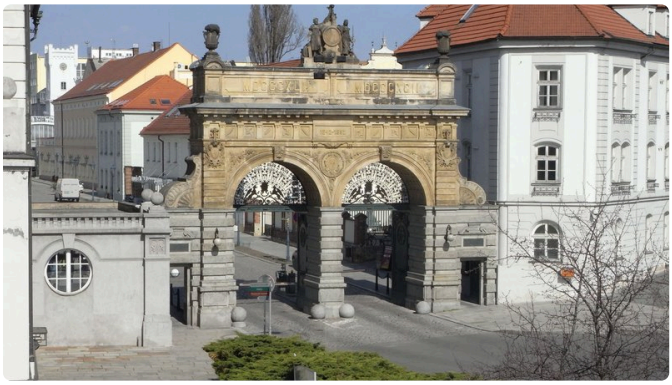
Walk through the heart of Plzeň, the royal town founded in 1295 that gave the world golden lager. You'll see one of Europe's largest synagogues, the theatre named after the author of the Czech national anthem, and St Bartholomew's Cathedral with the country's tallest church tower. Then follow the brewers' streets past the Brewery Museum and the medieval meat stalls to the gate of the Pilsner Urquell brewery. Seven stops, about 2 km and 90 minutes on foot. The walk starts at the Great Synagogue on the park ring, a few minutes' walk west of the main square.



Editor's Choice Highlights

Discover Plzeň's rich heritage through its iconic Pilsner Brewery established in 1842, innovative museums such as Techmania and the Patton Memorial, historic theatres including the Josef Kajetán Tyl Theatre and New Theatre, alongside memorials and public artworks that reflect the city's historical and cultural identity.





A Pilsen Brewery

Plzeňský Prazdroj, a. s. is a Czech brewery which opened in 1842 in Plzeň, Bohemia.

U Prazdroje 64/7, 301 00 Plzeň, Czech Republic (49.74664, 13.38598)

prazdrojvisit.cz/en/, +420 377 062 888



B Techmania Science Center

Techmania Science Center is one of the first science centers in the Czech Republic and an important institution of informal education.

U Planetária 2969/1, 30100 Plzeň, CZ (49.73996, 13.36175)

techmania.cz, +420 737 247 581



C Pomník generála Pattona

Sculpture located in Pětatřicátníků Gardens commemorating General George S. Patton.

7 sady Pětatřicátníků, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic
(49.74622, 13.37347)



D J.K. Tyl Great Theater

Main stage of the Josef Kajetán Tyl Theatre, significant cultural monument in Plzeň.

Smetanovy sady 1129/16, 30100 Plzeň, CZ
(49.74542, 13.37329)

djkt.eu, +420 378 038 070



E Západočeské muzeum

Regional museum in West Bohemia housing historical and cultural collections.

Kopeckého sady 357/2, 30100 Plzeň, CZ
(49.74497, 13.37928)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00

zcm.cz, +420 378 370 111



F Muzeum loutek

Museum dedicated to puppetry, part of the West Bohemian Museum network.

náměstí Republiky 137/23, 30100 Plzeň, CZ
(49.74638, 13.37694)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00

muzeumloutek.cz, +420 378 370 801



G Brewery Museum

Museum showcasing the history of brewing in Plzeň.

Veleslavínova 58/6, 30100 Plzeň (49.74889, 13.38079)

prazdrojvisit.cz/prohlidky/prohlidka-pivovarskeho-muzea/

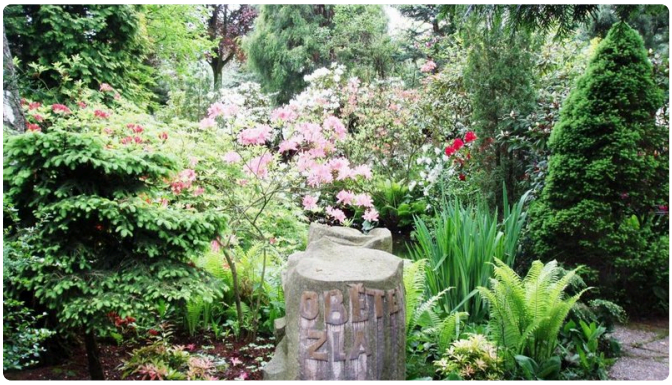
H Patton Memorial Pilsen Museum

Museum opened in 2005 commemorating the American army in Plzeň during 1945.

Pobřežní 10, 301 00 Plzeň (49.75008, 13.37376)

We–Su 09:00–16:00

patton-memorial.cz, 378037956



I Památník obětem zla

Meditation garden in Plzeň-Doudlevce dedicated to victims of evil.

547 Hluchavková, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic (49.71865, 13.38795)

J Andělíček

Public artwork statue in Plzeň.

(49.77277, 13.35669)

K Galerie města Plzně

City art gallery exhibiting contemporary and historical artworks.

289/40 náměstí Republiky, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic (49.74820, 13.37710)

Tu–Su 10:00–12:00, 12:30–18:00

galerie-plzen.cz

L Masné krámy Gallery

Art gallery located in the historic Meat Market building.

353/18 Pražská, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic (49.74748, 13.38018)

Tu–Su 10:00–18:00

zpc-galerie.cz, +420775896883

M Galerie Jiřího Trnky

Art gallery named after the Czech illustrator Jiří Trnka.

náměstí Republiky 40, 30100 (49.74819, 13.37727)

Tu–Su 11:00–17:00

uvu-plzen.cz/galerie.php, 792534532

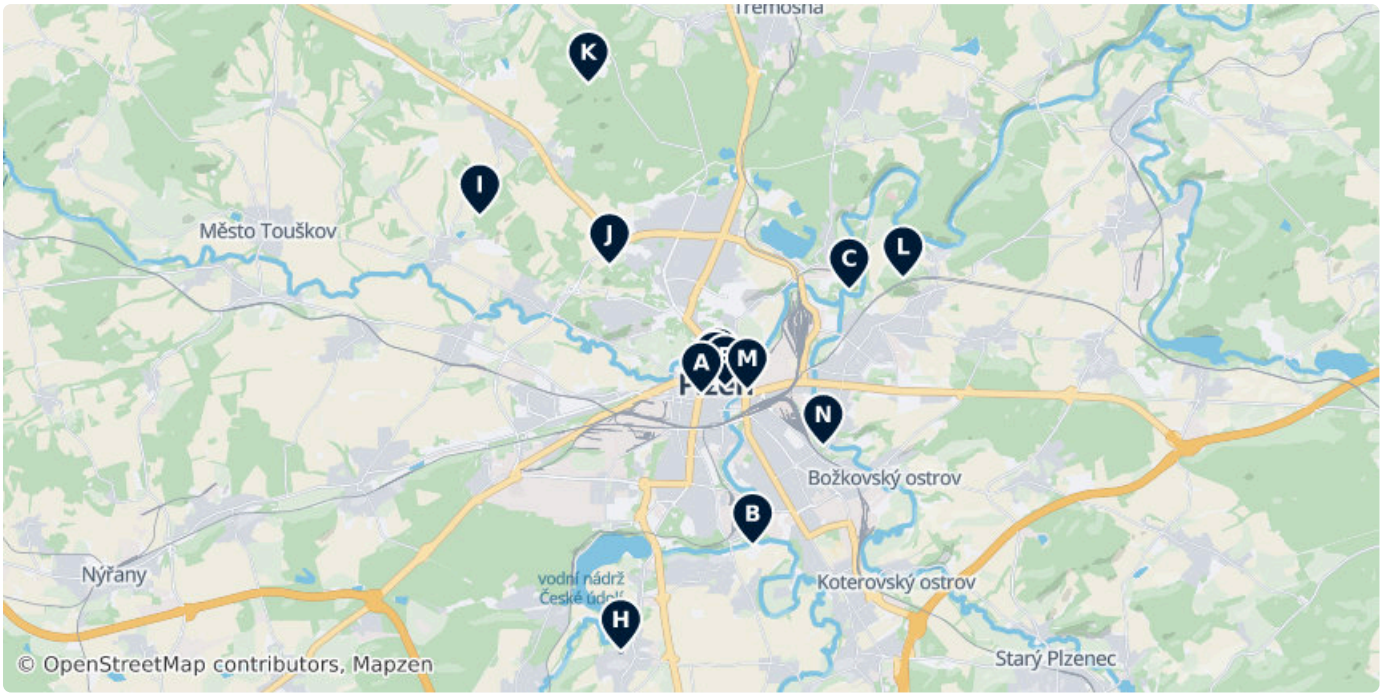
N New Theatre

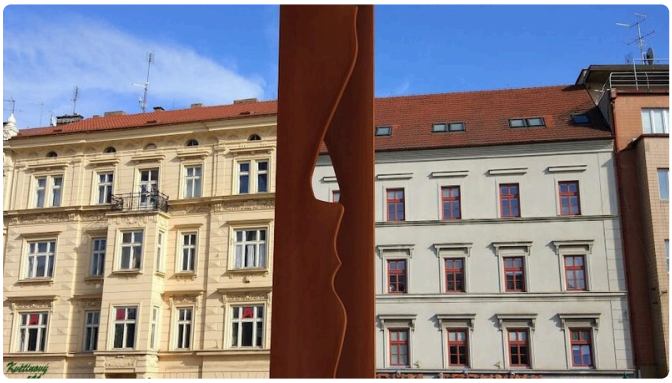
The New Theatre in Plzeň is a Czech theatre. Construction of the venue cost 880 million CZK.

11 Jízdecká, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic (49.74910, 13.37206)

Hidden Cultural Gems

Explore a diverse collection of sites around Plzeň including memorials commemorating significant historical figures and events, medieval castle ruins offering a glimpse into regional fortifications, serene shrines, and vibrant art galleries showcasing local creativity. Observation towers and viewpoints provide panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, enriching your understanding of the area's cultural and natural heritage.

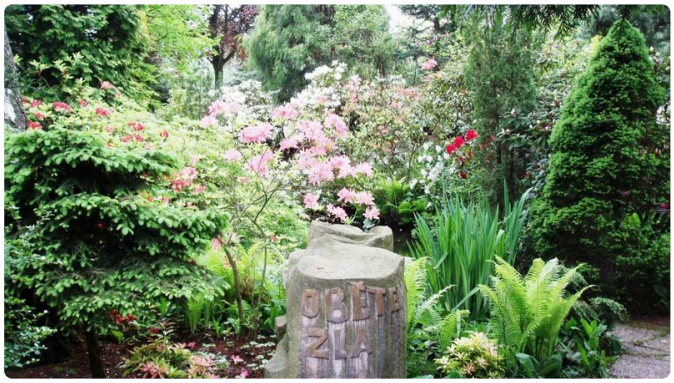




A Pomník generála Pattona

Sculpture located in Pětatřicátníků Parks honoring General George S. Patton's role in World War II.

7 sady Pětatřicátníků, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic (49.74622, 13.37347)



B Památník obětem zla

Meditation garden established by political prisoner Luboš Hruška, dedicated to victims of evil.

547 Hluchavková, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic (49.71865, 13.38795)

C Pecihrádek

Well-preserved late medieval fortified settlement situated on a promontory above the Berounka River.

30100, Czech Republic (49.76519, 13.41521)

D Galerie Azyl

Contemporary art gallery hosting exhibitions of local and regional artists.

Veleslavínova 11/17, 30100 Plzeň, CZ (49.74884, 13.37824)

Mo–Th	08:00–19:00
Fr	08:00–01:00
Sa	18:00–01:00

galerieazyl.cz, +420 377 235 507

E Masné krámy Gallery

Art gallery housed in a historic building, featuring rotating exhibitions; admission fee applies.

353/18 Pražská, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic (49.74748, 13.38018)

Tu–Su	10:00–18:00

zpc-galerie.cz, +420775896883

F Galerie Jiřího Trnky

Gallery dedicated to the works of Jiří Trnka, a notable Czech illustrator and filmmaker; entry requires a ticket.

náměstí Republiky 40, 30100 (49.74819, 13.37727)

Tu–Su	11:00–17:00

uvu-plzen.cz/galerie.php, 792534532

G Galerie města Plzně

Municipal art gallery presenting a variety of visual art exhibitions in Plzeň.

289/40 náměstí Republiky, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic (49.74820, 13.37710)

Tu–Su	10:00–12:00, 12:30–18:00

galerie-plzen.cz

H zřícenina hradu Litice

Ruins of Litice Castle reflecting medieval fortress architecture.

15 K Valše, Litice 32100, Czech Republic (49.69927, 13.35073)

I Zřícenina Kyjov

Remnants of Kyjov Castle, characteristic of regional medieval ruins.

(49.77868, 13.31086)

J Sylván

Scenic viewpoint tower offering panoramic views of the Plzeň region.

151 Pod Sylvánem, 32300, Czech Republic (49.76971, 13.34750)

K Krkavec rozhledna

Observation tower named Krkavec providing expansive vistas over surrounding landscapes.

126, 33014, Czech Republic (49.80282, 13.34154)

L rozhledna Chlum

Chlum observation tower known for its elevated views of the area.

(Unnamed Road), 31200, Czech Republic (49.76735, 13.43046)

M Boží muka

Traditional roadside shrine known as Boží muka, common in Czech cultural landscapes.

(49.74695, 13.38644)

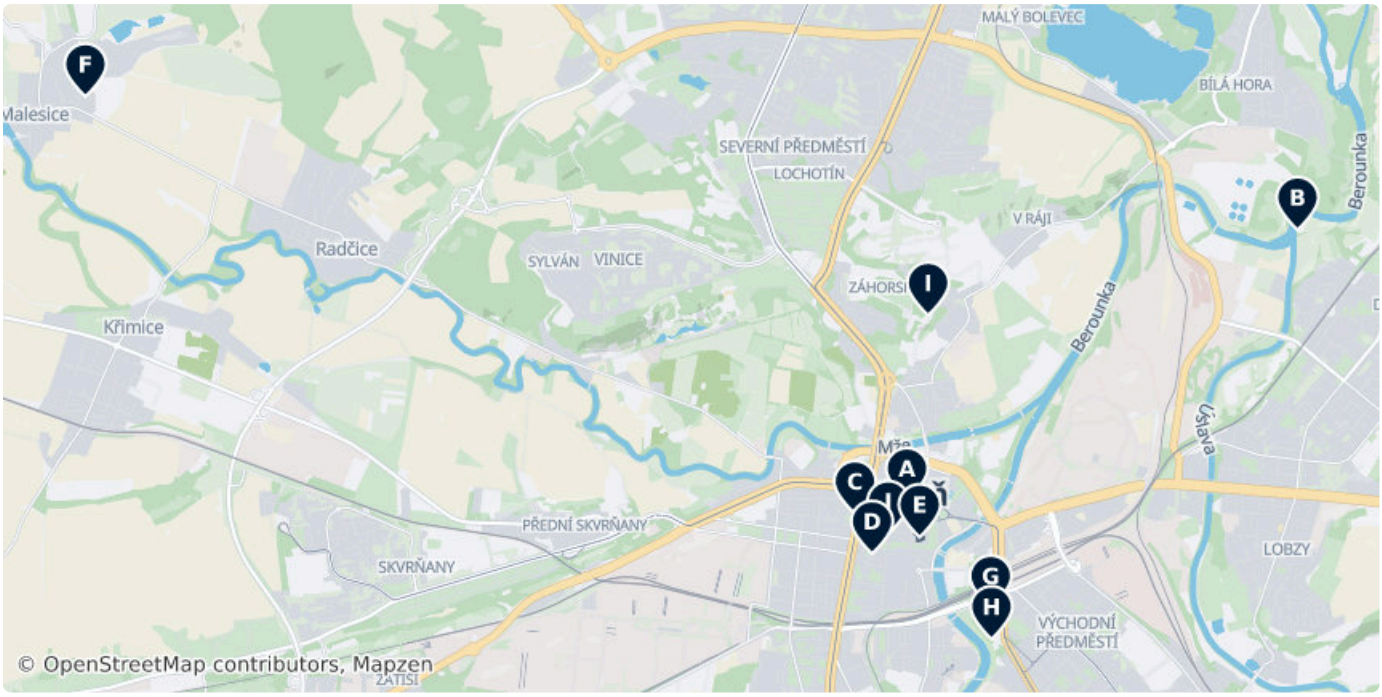
N Boží muka

Another example of a Boží muka shrine, marking local religious heritage.

(49.73676, 13.40789)

Historic Churches & Synagogues

Discover Plzeň's key Christian and Jewish places of worship, including historic cathedrals, baroque churches, synagogues, and monasteries. These sites highlight diverse architectural styles and centuries of religious and cultural history in the region.





A Cathedral of St. Bartholomew in Pilsen

The Cathedral of St. Bartholomew, originally the Church of St.

Náměstí Republiky 234/35, 30114 Pilsen, Czech Republic (49.74747, 13.37755)

katedralaplzen.org, +420 377 226 098

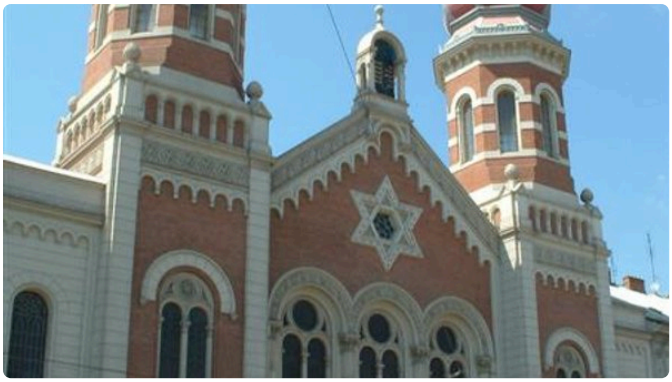


B svatý Jiří

Likely the oldest preserved church in Plzeň, located in the Doubravka district.

13/60 Ke svatému Jiří, Plzeň 31200, Czech Republic (49.76356, 13.41348)

farnost.sdbplzen.cz



C Great Synagogue (Plzeň)

The Great Synagogue in Plzeň, Czech Republic is the second largest synagogue in Europe.

Sady Pětatřicátníků 35/11, 30124 Pilsen, Czech Republic (49.74669, 13.37277)

zoplzen.cz/index-cz.html, +420 377 235 749



D Old Synagogue

Historic synagogue serving the local Jewish community in Plzeň.

Smetanovy sady, 301 37 Pilsen, Czechia (49.74433, 13.37435)



E Franciscan Monastery, Plzeň

The Franciscan Monastery is located near the Main Square in Plzeň, Czech Republic.

121/11 Františkánská, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic (49.74532, 13.37871)

frantiskanskyklaster.4fan.cz

F Kostel sv. Jiří

Church forming a local landmark in Plzeň 9-Malesice alongside the nearby castle.

1 Ke Kostelu, Malesice 31800, Czech Republic (49.77147, 13.30198)



G Nejsvětějšího Jména Ježíš

Baroque church notable for its rare dedication to the Holy Name of Jesus.

2432/3 U Ježíška, Plzeň 32600, Czech Republic
(49.74109, 13.38525)

kostelujeziska.cz



H svatý Mikuláš

Founded in 1406 on the historic Mitrvald fortress site.

(Unnamed Road), Plzeň 32600, Czech Republic
(49.73925, 13.38533)

svaty-mikulas.mozello.cz



I Church of All Saints

The Church of All Saints is situated in Plzeň in the Czech Republic. It is one of the oldest churches in the area and it was considered the...

77/95 Pod Všemi svatými, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic
(49.75849, 13.37951)

J Church of St Anne

Newly consecrated Orthodox church located on Bezručova Street.

20 Bezručova, Plzeň 30100, Czech Republic
(49.74551, 13.37583)

web.zcu.cz/plzen/landm/anna-chr.html

DATA SOURCES

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