



# AIAST CONFERENCE 2014

24 - 28/08/2014

PLZEŇ (Pilsen, Czech Republic)

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## Plzeň – sights of interest

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2. The Great Synagogue – the third largest synagogue in the world
3. Zoo and DinoPark - an appealing attraction with moving models and sound effects of these prehistoric reptiles
4. Techmania Science Centre - science is not just about research, but is also a possible source of fun
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## Around Plzeň

1. Klášter Plasy (Plasy monastery)
2. Mariánská Týnice Monastery - Museum and Gallery of the Northern Pilsen Area

## THE VENUE

Parkhotel Congress Centre Plzeň: <http://www.parkhotel-czech.eu>



The nearest airport to the venue is the Václav Havel Prague Airport (PRG). The transfer apt – htl – apt will be organised for participants arriving at the V. H. Prague Airport (PRG).

**The Parkhotel and Congress Center Pilsen** is the new 4\*\*\*\* modern Hotel with complex services. The Hotel is placed in the beautiful environment of Borsky Park, situated in the **southern part of the Pilsen city** and it is very easy to reach the town centre and the international highway net from here. The Parkhotel Congress Center Pilsen is one of the biggest congress and hotel facilities in the Czech Republic outside Prague.

#### The hotel offers following sport facilities:

- outside heated swimming pool in beautiful surrounding of Borsky Park
- wellness spa with sauna, massage, whirlpool and pool
- tennis courts, 10 with clay courts, 3 with synthetic cover (possibility to organize tournaments)
- fitness studio club will help you to release the tension from Your body
- jogging in the adjacent green area of Borsky Park

The various golf playing areas are available in the surroundings of Plzeň.





## CITY OF PLZEŇ AND SURROUNDINGS - HIGHLIGHTS

### ► Plzeň – Location

Town Pilsen has strategic location on the highway D5 between Prague (D5, 80 km), München (D5, A 93, 280 km) and Nürnberg (D5, A6, 180 km). It offers a lot of possibilities for your leisure time like visit to Pilsen Brewery and Museum, Historical underground and has a good starting position for trips to Prague, Karlsbad, Marienbad and Šumava National Park.

- Plzeň – Wien/420 km • Plzeň – Salzburg/430 km
- Plzeň – Berlin/450 km • Plzeň – München/280 km
- Plzeň – Nürnberg/200 km • Plzeň – Stuttgart/400 km
- Plzeň – Frankfurt a. M./420 km • Plzeň – Zürich/600 km



### ► Plzeň - History in brief

The royal city of Pilsen **was founded in 1295** by Wenceslas II at the confluence of four rivers – the Úhlava, Úslava, Radbuza and Mže. Its advantageous location **at the crossroads of major trade routes** contributed to the rapid economic development of the city, which soon became a centre of cultural and humanistic traditions. The high cultural and social level of the city is reflected in its unique building development. Valuable monuments include the **Gothic St. Bartholomew's Cathedral, the Renaissance town hall, a Franciscan monastery and a Jewish synagogue**. During the age of industrialization in the 19th century, industrial giants, including the **Skoda engineering complex and world-famous Pilsner Urquell brewery**, were founded in the city. The founding of the University of West Bohemia and a bishopric added further cultural and spiritual dimensions to the city.



City of Plzeň



The Great Synagogue – the third largest synagogue in the world

### ► Plzeň – the European Capital of Culture 2015

Today, Pilsen covers 138 km<sup>2</sup>, and with nearly 170 thousand inhabitants, it is the fourth largest city in the Czech Republic. Pilsen is the dynamic and modern metropolis of **western Bohemia**. It is home to many major firms and industrial companies, universities and medical schools. It has an extensive network of hotels and restaurants, as well as a rich cultural and sports programme and well-developed tourist infrastructure. Its exceptional quality was confirmed when it earned **the title European Capital of Culture for 2015**.





## ► The Pilsner Urquell Brewery

The Pilsner Urquell Brewery, birthplace of the world-famous Pilsner Urquell beer, is the largest brewery in the Czech Republic. Beer has been brewed in Pilsen almost since the city's inception. The Pilsner Urquell Brewery itself was founded and built through the joint effort of burghers with brewing rights. In 1842, in the former Burgher's Brewery in Pilsen, the first bottom-fermented lager was brewed and before long it had conquered the whole world under the name Pilsner Urquell. Pilsner Urquell is a major manufacturer and exporter of Czech beer, exporting to more than 50 countries all over the world. The Pilsner Urquell Brewery is one of the most visited tourist sites in the city, with more than 250,000 visitors from around the world passing through on guided tours annually. [www.prazdrojvisit.cz](http://www.prazdrojvisit.cz)

## ► Historical Underground

The Brewery Museum building is also a starting point for tours of the city's historical underground. The Pilsen Historical Underground originated from the time of the founding of the city itself and up to the 18th century was gradually linked to two or three-storey cellars. Its complex labyrinth of corridors, cellars and wells, with a length of almost 20 km, makes it one of the largest in Central Europe. The cellars and corridors were used mainly for economic and technical purposes – as a store for food and barrels of beer. It was also used for workshops. The cellar contains a bookbinding exhibit with a medieval printing press that serves as a reminder of the printing of the Trojan Chronicle, the oldest printed book in Bohemia (Pilsen, 1468). A facsimile of it is on display in the Education and Research Library of the Pilsen Region.

In the 16th century a waterworks was established in Pilsen. A water tower was built with a water machine that pumped water through wooden pipes to fountains on the square. When replacing the floors, which were destroyed by floods in 2002, a pumping machine from the second half of the 19th century was discovered under the floor tiles. The original site was equipped with a replica water wheel made according to a design from 1875. The house with a late Gothic water tower at no. 19 (Pražská ulice – Prague Street) strengthened the defence function of the nearby Prague Gate as part of the city's fortification system. The old water tower was in operation until the late 19th century. Today, the cellar of the water tower is part of the Pilsen underground tour and offers views of a functional model of a water wheel.

[www.plzenskepodzemi.cz](http://www.plzenskepodzemi.cz)

## ► Brewery Museum

The Brewery Museum, located in the historical centre of the city, is the only museum of its kind in the world that is located in an original house with brewing rights from the 15th century. The house has been preserved in its original form, and here the visitor can see a Gothic malt house, malt drying kiln, rolling room, ice room, two-level cellars and parts of the former taproom. Hundreds of unique exhibits illustrate the history of brewing from ancient times to the present-day. In the vicinity of the Brewery Museum is one of the oldest pubs in Pilsen, Parkán. Its name is derived from its location in the space between the medieval city walls, called parkán.

[www.prazdrojvisit.cz](http://www.prazdrojvisit.cz)



## Plzeň – sights of interest

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### ► 1. The Republic Square with St. Bartholomew's Cathedral

At the time of the foundation of the city, **the square, with dimensions of 139 x 193 m, was one of the largest in Europe**. It has undergone thorough renovations, gaining new flagstones as well as three new, modern fountains which portray heraldic figures from the Pilsen coat-of-arms: an angel, a camel, and a greyhound. To this day, the square is the main venue for cultural and open-air events and festivals. It is also the site of traditional markets. Together with its nearby vicinity, it invites visitors to the museums, galleries and historical sites, or to enjoy the romantic parks in the city centre. The square is surrounded by rows of **valuable historical houses**, with Renaissance and Baroque modifications, often indicating the fast-growing wealth of their owners.



Plzeň – Republic Square and St. Bartholomew's Cathedral



The Town Hall

### Town Hall

Directly on Republic Square is a Renaissance jewel – the Town Hall, which, since its construction, has continued to serve its original purpose. It was built according to the plans of the Italian architect Giovanni de Statia in the years 1554-1559. The building is decorated with sgraffito displaying the city's coat-of-arms and Czech rulers. In the back room behind the mázhaus (foyer) there is a model of the historical centre of the city on a scale of 1:200 (free admission).

### Plague Column

Right in front of the town hall stands a plague column with a Baroque replica of the Pilsen Madonna on top. It was built in 1681 to protect the city from the plague, from which legendary Emperor Rudolf II fled to Pilsen.

### Fountains

Modern fountains designed by Ondřej Císler stand on three corners of the square. A reservoir of black Chinese granite catches water falling from gilded spouts that symbolize an angel, greyhound and camel motifs of a Pilsen character. The spouts are bronze castings of various heights whose gilding required about 720 grams of gold. Seven types of gold leaf 80 x 80 mm were combined to create a structure with different colour effects.

### St. Bartholomew's Cathedral

The truly dominant feature of Pilsen is the Cathedral of St. Bartholomew, whose construction coincided with the establishment of the city and was completed in the **early 16th century**. The church is a national monu-

ment, as is the argillite sculpture on its main altar, known as **the "Pilsen Madonna"**. The statue represents the so-called "beautiful style" of the Gothic period. The cathedral boasts **the highest church tower in the Czech Republic (102.6 m)**, whose galleries at a height of 60 metres provide an overview of the entire city and its surroundings. The Šternberk Chapel, with an overhanging roof bolt, dates back to the first half of the 16th century. In 1993, on the order of Pope John Paul II, **Pilsen was declared a bishopric and St. Bartholomew's Church became a cathedral**. The statue group on the east side of the exterior of the temple depicts Christ on the Mount of Olives, protected by a row of little angels, one of whom, according to legend, will make even the most secret of wishes come true ...

## ► 2. The Great Synagogue

Jews have lived in Pilsen since the 14th century, and throughout the centuries there have been five synagogues in the city, two of which have been preserved to this day – the Old Synagogue, which is located in the courtyard of houses in Smetana Gardens (Previously there was even a Jewish school here. Today, in its place there is an unusual memorial to Holocaust victims) and **the Great Synagogue which, built in 1893 in Moorish-Romanesque style, is the second largest synagogue in Europe (and third in the world)**. It is a testament to **the rich Jewish community in Pilsen**, which was unfortunately almost decimated during the Nazi occupation in the years 1939-1945. The historic building underwent a complex renovation in the late 20th century, and, thanks to **the excellent acoustics and unique atmosphere of the building**, it serves not only religious purposes, but as a concert and exhibition hall as well.

## ► 3. Zoo and DinoPark

### Zoological and botanical gardens of Pilsen

An ideal destination for a family trip is the Pilsen Zoological and Botanical Gardens, which are situated close to the city centre, in **an attractive rugged area with lakes, an arboretum, rocks and landscaped park**. Over 1,300 species of animals live here, including the stars of the place – a couple of Indian rhinos and Rothschild giraffes. The zoo features a run for monkeys and large cats, **the second largest bear enclosure in Europe**, lush greenery in the greenhouse and nature trails. It also includes **a botanical area with a Japanese meditation garden and the Lüftnerka village farm**.

[www.zooplzen.cz](http://www.zooplzen.cz)

### DinoPark

The upper part of the Pilsen Zoo contains the very popular DinoPark, **an appealing attraction with moving models and sound effects of these prehistoric reptiles**, displayed in natural scenery reminiscent of their environment from the distant past. The exposition changes annually, and for a better knowledge of the dangerous world of the Mesozoic Era, 3D movies are screened at the on-site cinema. This paleontological playground offers children a chance to uncover a real dinosaur skeleton.

[www.dinopark.cz](http://www.dinopark.cz)



*The reptile in the DinoPark*



#### ► 4. Techmania Science Centre

The Techmania Science Centre, one of the newest tourist destinations in Pilsen, is housed in a renovated factory building in the Škoda Plzeň complex. **This modern interactive centre demonstrates that science is not just about research, but is also a possible source of fun.** An area of 3000 square metres offers exhibits focused on physical games, experiments and scientific news or the exposition called MáToHáček, a collection of original scientific toys (not only) for children. In the permanent exhibit on the history and modern-day Škoda Plzeň one can admire unique technical items – the first locomotive with a fibreglass body (1963), the only surviving trolleybus type 3Tr3 (1947) and **the oldest surviving electric locomotive produced in Pilsen.**  
[www.techmania.cz](http://www.techmania.cz)

#### ► 5. Other places of interest

##### The Park Ring

##### West Bohemia Museum

The West Bohemia Museum, with a collection of more than 2 million items, is one of the largest museums in the Czech Republic. The monumental Neo-Renaissance building with a large circular fountain is located in the city park ring. The museum's unique exhibits include a rare European collection of arms from the 14th - 17th century and an Art Nouveau library with valuable first editions.

##### National History Museum of the Pilsen Region

The National History Museum of the Pilsen Region (the ethnographic department of the West Bohemia Museum) is housed in two connected historical buildings - the Chotěšov and Gerlach houses. There are interesting exhibits of Pilsen residential interiors from the Gothic to the first third of the 20th century, the original open-fire kitchen from the early 19th century, a village living room typical of the Pilsen area and a Baroque pharmacy.  
[www.zcm.cz](http://www.zcm.cz)



„Research“ in the Techmania centre



The Park Ring

#### Around Plzeň – sights of interest

1. Klášter Plasy (Plasy monastery)
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## ► 1. Klášter Plasy (Plasy monastery)

The monastery was **founded in the mid-13th century by the Czech king Vladislav II.** It was later used by Cistercian monks. Baroque modifications were carried out by **the architect Jan Blažej Santini Aichl.** There is a historical exhibition, a Baroque chapel, and the Stretti gallery, as well as exhibitions on pharmacies, contemporary art and music in different acoustic spaces. Particularly captivating is a living gallery of 20th century artists.

[www.klaster-plasy.cz](http://www.klaster-plasy.cz)



*Plasy Monastery*

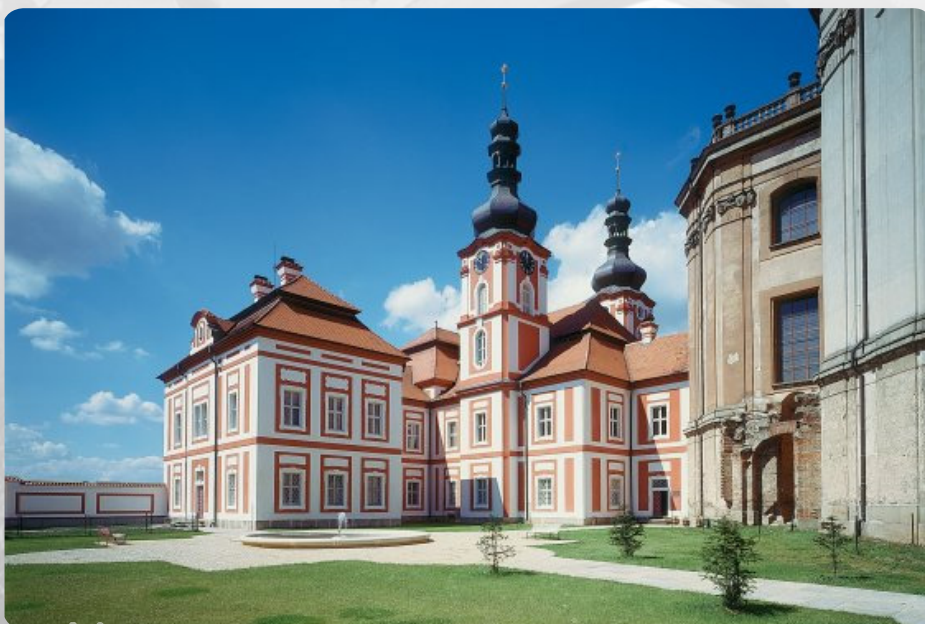


*Plasy Monastery – the St. Benedict Chapel*

## ► 2. Mariánská Týnice, Museum and Gallery of the Northern Pilsen Area

The church in Týnice was mentioned as property of the Plasy monastery as **early as 1250.** It was gradually rebuilt and expanded, and in the late 17th century, a cloister and provost were added, and became an important place of pilgrimage. Since the mid-1990s a major reconstruction has been underway, which is gradually restoring the original appearance of the building. In **the Baroque church and former provostry from the 18th century (by J. B. Santini Aichl),** is the Museum and Gallery of the Northern Pilsen Region. In the permanent exhibition, one can find archaeological sites, a collection of Gothic and Baroque art, guild production, housing typical of 19th century villages and towns, as well as an example of kitchen from a 20th century small town. Another attraction is an extensive collection of products of the Plasy art and utility cast iron from the 19th century.

[www.marianskatynice.cz](http://www.marianskatynice.cz)



*Mariánská Týnice Monastery*