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## WELCOME TO PILSEN

The City of Pilsen will host the 2009 final of the International Awards for Liveable Communities. This is the very first time that this competition will be held in the Czech Republic. I am delighted that Pilsen will flank Madrid, Al Ain, Hamamatsu, Washington, Shenzhen, Stuttgart, Apeldoorn, Niagara Falls, La Coruna, Hangzhou, London and Dongguan. I am also honoured that Pilsen will be hosting this event supported by the United Nations Environmental Programme. Besides the accompanying exhibitions throughout this year, Pilsen will also organise the UN international seminar for the LivCom delegates, as well as environmental experts and other interested parties, on 12 October 2009.



Pilsen hosts major international competitions and festivals and is gearing up for its candidature to become the European Capital of Culture in 2015. Such events push the city to higher limits and enhance its face. They are a celebration of creativity and international collaboration and confirm that Pilsen not only has unique historical monuments and a rich cultural life to offer, but also makes a pleasant and hospitable place to meet, share experiences and live.

Have a great stay in Pilsen!

Pavel Rödler  
Mayor of Pilsen

## ENTER THE COMPETITION

**Is the environment an important topic in your city or have you implemented an interesting project? You can still send your application form till the end of May to participate in the 13th year of The International Awards for Liveable Communities (LivCom), a prestigious international competition focusing on the environment and sustainable development. If you are successful, you can look forward to the LivCom Finals, to be held in the Czech Republic for the first time, in Pilsen on 8-12 October 2009.**

If your competition entry is delivered to the organisers at Globe House, Crispin Close, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 7JS England by the end of June, you will hear from the competition's international jury whether you have made it to the finals. Even if you do not, you can come as visitors and gain experience for your city's presentation in one of the future years of the competition.

The International Awards for Liveable Communities comprises several sections. The Whole City Awards is divided into five categories based on the city's population (A: up to 20,000, B: 20,001–75,000, C: 75,001–200,000, D:

200,001–750,000, E: over 750,000). You can submit a project that is under way or one that has been completed for the Environmentally Sustainable Project Awards. If you participate in the Whole City Awards or the Environmentally Sustainable Project Awards, you can compete for a grant in the Bursary Award to get funding for your project that has not yet been implemented. You can also propose a candidate for the LivCom Personal Award for the person's lifelong contribution to the environment and community planning.

The rules of the competition, in thirty languages, including Czech, can be downloaded from [www.livcomawards.com](http://www.livcomawards.com). Details about this year's competition can also be found at [www.livcom2009.cz](http://www.livcom2009.cz). The presentations of the competition entries and one of the exhibitions will take place in the Congress Centre Parkhotel Pilsen. Live internet feeds from the presentations, as well as the gala evening, will be available for online viewing from anywhere in the world at the competition's international website [www.livcomawards.com](http://www.livcomawards.com). The official language of the competition is English.



## PILSEN, THE HOST OF LIVCOM 2009

Pilsen, founded by King Wenceslas II in 1295, has been an important city at the crossroads of trade routes since it was founded. Today it is the natural economic, administrative, educational and cultural centre of the region. Covering an area of 138 sq km and with a population of approximately 180 thousand, it is the second largest city in Bohemia after Prague and the fourth largest in the Czech Republic. The capital of West Bohemia is situated in the Pilsen Basin at the confluence of four rivers – the Mže, Radbuza, Úhlava and Úslava. The city is conveniently located on the main traffic route between Prague and Germany and has excellent transport connections to the Šumava Mountains and the spa towns of Karlovy Vary and Mariánské Lázně.

The world-famous Pilsner Urquell brewery, founded in 1842, and the Brewery Museum are among the city's most visited tourist attractions. The historical city centre, which has been declared a heritage reserve, is known particularly for the Gothic cathedral of St. Bartholomew, which has the highest church spire in Bohemia (102.6 m) and the Renaissance town hall designed by the Italian master builder Giovanni de Statia. Beneath the city's main square there is a labyrinth of corridors and cellars known as the Pilsen Historical Underground, one of the largest such systems in Europe (over 20 km long). A

rather valuable component of the urban layout is the green ring of gardens that goes three quarters of the way round the city centre, dominated by the neo-Renaissance building of the J. K. Tyl Theatre, Burghers' House, Museum of West Bohemia, and the Great Synagogue built in 1893, the third largest in the world after those in Jerusalem and Budapest.

The city also offers opportunities for recreation and sports. One of the favourite recreational areas is the unique Bolevec Ponds system, established in the 15th century and today used mainly for swimming and fishing. There are several nature reserves, natural monuments and nature trails within the city limits. Other places of interest include the frequently visited Zoological and Botanical Garden and the surrounding hills of Krkavec, Chlum and Sylván with their look-out towers.

The growing science and R&D base, together with a range of secondary schools and two universities, make Pilsen one of the largest centres of education in the Czech Republic. With its great cultural and social background and the improving tourist infrastructure, the city is developing its potential for congress tourism and other activities. Today, Pilsen is proud to be a liveable city with excellent opportunities for work, housing and leisure.



## ENJOY PILSEN

### Interesting places to visit

J. K. Tyl Theatre  
Cathedral of St. Bartholomew  
Škoda Museum  
Memorial to the Victims of Evil  
Patton Memorial Pilsen  
Pilsner Urquell Brewery  
Brewery Museum  
Pilsen's Historical Underground  
Techmania Science Centre  
Great Synagogue  
Gallery of West Bohemia  
Museum of West Bohemia in Pilsen  
Zoological and Botanical Garden

### Traditional events

February: Smetana Days (musical festival)

April: April Festival (the opening of the tourist season)  
Finále (festival of Czech films)

May: Freedom Celebrations (commemoration of Pilsen's liberation by the US Army)  
Májáles (students' festival)

June: History Weekend (procession of ghosts, historical street theatre performances)  
International Folklore Festival (folklore groups performing in the city centre)

August: In the Street (open-air festival of music and theatre)

September: Pilsner Fest (days of Pilsner beer, gastronomy and entertainment)  
Divadlo (international theatre festival)  
Science and Technology Days in Pilsen (demonstrations of technological exhibits in the streets)

October: National Day Celebrations (commemoration of 28 October 1918, when Czechoslovakia became independent)

December: Christmas Carol Singing (lighting up of the Christmas tree)



## WELCOME TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC, WELCOME TO THE PILSEN REGION

We encourage you to visit the Czech Republic's official website [www.czech.cz](http://www.czech.cz) run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in six languages) to get to know our country. Discover the charm of this land in the heart of Europe. Experience the beauty of its landscape and see what this small European country contributes to the world's cultural heritage.

Covering an area of less than 79,000 sq km, the Czech Republic is one of the medium-sized European countries and is comparable in size to Austria or Ireland. It has a population of 10.5 million. The capital city is Prague. The Czech Republic borders with Germany in the west, Austria in the south, Slovakia in the east and Poland in the north. The country's territory consists of three historical lands: Bohemia, Moravia and Czech Silesia. The Czech Republic has comprised 14 self-governing regions since 2000.

One of them is the Pilsen region in the south-west of the Czech Republic. It is the third largest in size among the Czech regions, with an area of 561 sq km, but only ranks ninth in terms of population (570 thousand). It is the second least densely populated region in the country after that of South Bohemia. The longest stretch of its state border is the one in the south-west with Bavaria, Germany. The Pilsen region is located conveniently between the capital, Prague, and the countries of Western Europe.

The natural conditions of the Pilsen region are rather varied. In terms of major watercourses, the Berounka river basin covers its largest portion. There are four protected landscape areas (Šumava, Český les, Slavkovský les and Křivoklát) and over 180 small-sized protected areas in the Pilsen region. Its varied landscape, together with its varied population density and concentration of industry, create a diversity of habitats for fauna and flora. The most interesting natural sites are located in the mountain range of the Český les and Šumava. The peak of Velká Mokrůvka (1370 m above sea level) in the Šumava Mountains is the highest point of the Pilsen region.

The Pilsen region is among the economically most developed regions of the Czech Republic. In 2007, it ranked third in GDP per capita, after the capital, Prague, and the Central Bohemia Region. This achievement is due to the high economic output of the city of Pilsen, which generates almost two thirds of the

region's total GDP. More information is available on the [Pilsen region's website](#).



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