

JIHLAVA, VYSOČINA REGION

JIHLAVA

The town is situated in the middle of a hilly region, rich in forests and lakes, known as Bohemian-Moravian Highlands.

These days Jihlava with its about 50 thousand inhabitants is an industrial and cultural centre of the Highlands, the centre of the Vysočina region (its regional capital)

The most important industrial branch in the town is engineering (Bosch, Automotive Lighting, Motorpal). Tesla produces elements for electronics and microelectronics. Modeta Style is the best-known representative of the traditional textile industry (swimming suits etc). Food industry is important too (a brewery, a dairy plant, and bakery plants).

Jihlava is situated near the main Czech motorway Prague – Brno. You can travel from the town by train in three directions (Prague, Brno, Veselí nad Lužnicí), the bus connections are even better. Public means of transport in the town are buses and trolleybuses.

The shopping possibilities in Jihlava are quite good. There are a lot of shops all over the town. People can use several hypermarkets or a department store (Prior). Shopping centres named City Park and Aventin are especially popular: You can not only do shopping there, you can also have your meal or spend some time in a multiplex cinema.

In Jihlava there are a lot of primary schools and secondary schools (some of them are private): e.g. two grammar schools (in Czech “gymnázium”), a business academy, a manager academy, secondary schools for engineering and IT, for nursing, social work etc. Also some higher schools can be found here – one of them became Polytechnic College in 2005.

Cultural institutions are represented first of all by *Horácké Theatre*, *Cultural Centre (Dům kultury)*, the Diod theatre, two cinemas, several museums and galleries (*the Highlands Museum*, *Gustav Mahler's Museum*, *the Highlands Gallery* etc.)

Jihlava is also a town of sports: The most famous local sportsmen are ice hockey and football players, other successful sportsmen are e.g. swimmers, tennis players, judoists (Lukáš Krpálek), wrestlers and rhythmic gymnasts. A water park called Vodní ráj (Water Paradise) is popular with both the inhabitants of the city and with its visitors.

The most interesting sights in Jihlava are:

- *the Zoological Garden* in the valley of the river Jihlávka,
- *the catacombs* (underground passages, second in length in the Czech Republic – after Znojmo),
- the outlook tower at *St. Jacob's Church*.

People more interested in architecture admire *Masaryk Square* – one of the largest in the Czech Republic - with many *old houses*, *the town hall*, the Baroque *St. Ignatius' Church*, two *fountains* and *the plague column*. Many of them also want to see all three big Gothic churches situated near the square (*St. Jacob's*, *Holy Cross' and Virgin Mary's Churches*), *Virgin Mary's Gate* and rests of the former *town walls*.

VYSOČINA REGION

It's situated almost in the centre of the Czech Republic. It's mostly hilly (the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands – the highest part is called the Žďárské vrchy but the highest hill is Javořice

in the Jihlavské vrchy). No wonder the climate is relatively cold (compared to the rest of the country). The most important motorway in the CR – the D1 goes through the region.

The region is relatively sparsely (= not very densely) populated. There aren't any big cities – the biggest ones being Jihlava and Třebíč.

However, there are even three UNESCO sights – the church at Zelená Hora in Žďár n/S built by Santini, the historic town of Telč with a beautiful square and a nice castle, in Třebíč tourists admire the old basilica (= kind of church) and the Jewish quarter.

Sports fans know best Nové Město na Moravě where important international events take place in winter (biathlon, cross-country skiing).

As for cultural events in the region, among the most popular are the International Documentary Film Festival (held in Jihlava at the end of October) and the Holidays in Telč Music Festival (in summer).

QUESTIONS

- 1) Where is Jihlava situated?
- 2) How big is Jihlava these days? Why is it important?
- 3) What are the most important industrial branches and factories in Jihlava?
- 4) What do you know about transport in Jihlava?
- 5) Characterize the shopping possibilities in the town.
- 6) What types of schools can be found in Jihlava?
- 7) Name some cultural institutions in Jihlava.
- 8) Why is Jihlava also a town of sports?
- 9) What are the most interesting sights in Jihlava?
- 10) You and Jihlava.
- 11) How would you spend a day with an English-speaking guest in Jihlava?
- 12) Where is the Vysočina Region situated, characterize its countryside and climate.
- 13) What do you know about the population density? What are the biggest towns?
- 14) Name all three UNESCO sights situated here.
- 15) Speak about the most popular sports and cultural events in the region.
- 16) Give some information about the place you live in.

JIHLAVA-QUESTIONNAIRE

1. When was the town of Jihlava founded?
11th century 13th century 15th century
 2. Why did Jihlava soon become one of the richest towns in the Czech Kingdom?
Silver was found here Gold was found here. A royal castle was built here.
 3. When was Jihlava destroyed very much, by whom?
the Hussites - the 15th c. the Swedes - the 17th c. the Nazis – WWII.
 4. How many inhabitants live in Jihlava these days?
35,000 people 43,000 people 49,000 people
 5. Which of these sights can't you find in Jihlava?
The ZOO a medieval castle catacombs
 6. How many big churches can tourists see in Jihlava?
Three four five
 7. Correct three mistakes in the following information about Masarykovo Square:
It is the largest square in the Czech Republic. You can see the old town hall, the Baroque St. Peter's church, three fountains and a plague column there.
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