

KLADNO

Kladno is a large city in the **Central Bohemian Region**. It is **the thirteenth largest city** in the Czech Republic and its population is **almost 70,000 people**.

History

The first written record of Kladno dates back to the **14th century**. Until the 19th century, Kladno was a small unimportant town that nobody cared about. However, things changed when **coal was found** in the area of Kladno. Thanks to **coal mining and steel production**, the population of Kladno grew very rapidly and in **1870**, Kladno finally became **officially a city**. It continued to grow during the 20th century when some neighbouring villages (Kročehlavy, Rozdělův, Dubí, Dříň, Újezd, Vrapice, and Švermov) became part of Kladno.

Symbols

The main symbols of Kladno are its **coat of arms**, its **logo**, and the **city flag**. The coat of arms of Kladno is **blue** and there are **two animals** on it – a **silver eagle** and a **lynx**. There are also **two small crossed hammers** above the animals. The city flag looks pretty much like the coat of arms but the background is not just blue but blue and white. The logo of Kladno is **blue on the white background**. It says "Kladno". There is an **open bracket** at end of the word. It is an **emoticon** which means "**smile**" and it shows everyone what a **cool and modern city** Kladno is.

Sights

There are many interesting sights in Kladno, at least according to its website. Here are just a few of them.

The chateau

Kladno Chateau looks just like a bigger detached house. The building comes from the **18th century**. Today, there is a **gallery and part of the municipal library**. There are **bears** in the chateau garden. It is hard to find out how many bears are there at the moment – most websites say **two**. I'm afraid of bears so I'm definitely not going to check it.

The town hall

The town hall is located on **Mayor Pavel Square**. It was built in the **19th century** and it is the seat of the **City Council**.

The Church of the Assumption of Virgin Mary

It is a large church located on **Mayor Pavel Square**. It was built at about the same time as the town hall.

St Florian Chapel

St Florian Chapel is a **Baroque** building from the 18th and 19th centuries. The author of its design was the famous Baroque architect **Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer**.

The former synagogue

The building of the former synagogue is located on **Colonel Stříbrný Street**. It was built in the **19th century**. Today, it is a **church of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church**.

St Wenceslas Church

It is a church in **Rozdělův**. It was built in **the first half of the 20th century**.

Rozdělův high-rise buildings

This sight is **not listed on the official website of Kladno**. It is a pity because they are so ugly that they are beautiful. They were built in **the 1950s** and they look **Soviet as hell**. There are **six** of them and they can be seen from very far away.

Institutions

Kladno is the seat of several important institutions. There are the **Central Bohemian Scientific Library** and the **Municipal Library** where people living in Kladno can **borrow books**. There is the **District Court** which can **send them to prison** (the people, not the books). There are more than **thirty kindergartens** and **nineteen elementary schools** where people who live in Kladno can send their children. There are **two grammar schools** – SGAGY and The-One-That-Must-Not-Be-Named – and **nine other high schools**, **three so-called institutions of higher education**,

and **one real university** – the **Faculty of Biomedical Engineering of the Czech Technical University**. There are **two theatres** and **two cinemas**, an **athletic stadium**, an **ice hockey stadium**, a **swimming pool**. There is a **hospital**, a **fire brigade** and several **police stations**. There are **several parks** where you can go for a walk and smell marijuana and human piss.

Famous people

There are quite a lot of famous people who were either born in Kladno or who lived in Kladno at some point of their lives. Here are just a few of them.

Cyril Bouda

Cyril Bouda was a Czech **painter and illustrator**. He painted and drew and then he died.

Antonín Čermák

Antonín Čermák was a **Czech immigrant to the USA** who was born in Kladno. In 1931, he was elected the **Mayor of Chicago**, which is the third largest city in America. Two years later, **he was shot**. He should probably have stayed in Kladno.

Zora Dvořáková

Zora Dvořáková is a **writer** from Kladno. She has written **books about Czech history**, for example about the murder of Milada Horáková.

František Pavel

František Pavel was the **mayor of Kladno** in 1938 and 1939. He was **arrested by the Nazis** and transported to Brno, where he **died in prison**. Today, one of the main squares in Kladno is named after him.

Bohumil Hrabal

Bohumil Hrabal is **one of the most famous Czech writers** of the second half of the 20th century. In the 1950s, he worked at the **Poldi Steelworks**. He didn't live in Kladno but travelled there from Prague almost every day. Some of his short stories are **set in Kladno**, for example *Jarmilka*. Hrabal also wrote a long poem about his experiences in Kladno – it is called *Beautiful Poldi*.

Ota Pavel

Ota Pavel is another famous Czech **writer** connected with Kladno. He grew up in Buštěhrad. Ota Pavel wrote short **stories about his family, World War Two, fishing**, and other things. These stories often take place **near Kladno**. He also wrote articles about **sport**.

Jaromír Jágr

Jaromír Jágr is an **ice hockey player** from Kladno. He is one of the most famous ice hockey players in the world. He played for many **NHL** teams, for example for **Pittsburgh Penguins**. At the moment, he is the **president and owner** of the ice hockey club **Rytíři Kladno** ("Kladno Knights" in English).

Jiří Kolář

Jiří Kolář is a Czech **artist and poet** who spent his youth in Kladno.

Václav Jamek

Václav Jamek is a **contemporary Czech writer** who writes in two languages: **Czech and French**. He is **openly homosexual**. He sometimes uses the pen name **Eberhardt Hauptbahnhof** to write parodic poetry and prose.

Industry

Kladno is famous for its **coal mining** and for its **steel industry**. The most famous steelworks in Kladno is **Poldi**. It was set up in 1889 and a lot of people from Kladno worked there. In the past, it was really big and produced a lot of steel. Today, the largest company in Kladno is probably **Lego**.

Shopping and food

There are many supermarkets and shops in Kladno. There are also two large shopping centres – **Oáza** and **Central**. There are **at least three bookshops** and several **pet shops**. There are **pizzerias and Chinese restaurants**. There is an

Indian restaurant and a **Mexican restaurant**. There are **kebab shops** and **places selling hot dogs**. There is a **McDonald's** and a **KFC**. There are **cafés** and there is a **tea house**. There is a **pub with an Irish name**.

Sport

There are many sports clubs in Kladno. The most famous one is probably **the ice hockey club, Rytíři Kladno** (Kladno Knights in English). The owner of the club and its most famous member is **Jaromír Jágr**. The club was established in 1924. For a long time, it was called **Poldi Kladno**. It **won the top Czechoslovak ice hockey league six times**.

Another sport that is popular in Kladno is football. In 1922, there were **21 football clubs** in Kladno. The best of these clubs was **SK Kladno**. It is still the top football club in Kladno today. Its most famous player was **František Klož**. He was **the best shooter in the Czechoslovak league twice**. At the end of World War Two, he took part in **fighting against the Nazis**. He was **injured in the fight and he died** as a result. Ota Pavel wrote a story about his death called **František Klož's Last Match**. Today, the **Kladno football stadium is named after him**.

The most famous athletic stadium in Kladno is called **Sletiště**. You can **run, jump and inline skate** there. You can also run in the nearby forest. Important athletic competitions take place there. There is a **swimming pool** right next to the stadium. **Kladno Marathon** takes place there every year in September.

Other sports that are popular in Kladno are for example **swimming, volleyball, aerobics, and floorball**.

Partner Cities

Kladno has three official partner cities. They are **Bellevue** (Washington, USA), **Vitry sur Seine** (France), and **Aachen** (Germany). Students from Kladno sometimes study in these cities and students from these cities sometimes study in Kladno.

Sítná

Sítná is a **green valley** in the middle of Kladno, not very far from the sports school. According to the official website of Kladno, **there used to be vineyards** in the past. It is hard to believe. There is a **little stream** in the middle of the valley. There are wooden bridges across the stream. There are also **little lakes** and **wooden benches** in the valley. There are **birds and squirrels** which play merrily in the trees. And there are **ugly communist buildings** all around.

Transportation

There are **no trams** in Kladno, just **buses**.

This overview is largely based on the following sources:

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