



Best of Bohemia

České Budějovice p202

Bustling regional capital with the country's largest town square and home-brewed Czech 'Budweiser' beer.

Český Krumlov p208

A Renaissance town so pretty even Praguers get a teensy bit envious.

Třeboň p213

A sleepy getaway with a pretty Renaissance castle nestled within a protected landscape.

Tábor p216

This old Hussite bastion has some bewildering underground passage-ways.

Plzeň p220

The EU's 2015 cultural capital, and, did we mention the brewery tour?

Karlovy Vary p226

Waters and wafers at the Czech Republic's best-known spa town.

Mariánské Lázně p233

Goethe, Chopin and even Mark Twain were drawn to the tranquility of this spa resort.

Bohemia



České Budějovice

Explore

České Budějovice (pronounced *chesky bood-yo-vit-zah* or simply 'Budweis') is the provincial capital of southern Bohemia and a natural base for exploring the region. Transport connections to nearby Český Krumlov are good, meaning you could easily take in both places on an overnight excursion from Prague. While České Budějovice lacks top sights, it does have one of Europe's largest main squares and a charming labyrinth of narrow lanes and winding alleyways, some of which hug a sleepy but atmospheric canal. It's also the home of 'Budvar' beer (aka Czech 'Budweiser'), and a brewery tour usually tops the 'must-do' list.

The Best...

- **Sight** Budweiser Budvar Brewery (p203)
- **Place to Eat** U Tří Sedláku (p205)
- **Place to Drink** Modrý Dveře Jazz & Blues (p208)

Top Tip

If you're travelling during the ice-hockey season (September to March) catch the home team **ČEZ Motor České Budějovice** in action at Budvar Arena (p208). Tickets can be bought at the arena on game days.

Getting There & Away

- **Bus From Prague, Student Agency**
(☎ 386 111 000; www.studentagency.cz; Lannova 27; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri) buses leave from Na Knížecí bus station (150Kč, 2½ hours) at the Anděl metro station (Line B). There are decent bus services from České Budějovice