

The new (old) beer revolution in Czech Republic



The beer trend is here to stay. In Czech Republic, the numbers of microbreweries are growing at a furious pace. Czech Republic is from the beginning a beer nation. The Czechs love to talk about beer, and they love to drink beer. In order to find the best Czech beer, you need to look into the regions.

The Czechs have brewed beer for 2,000 years and neither war, economic crises nor threats of eternal excommunication by the pope has been able to stop them. The country is home to about 125 breweries ranging from small brewpubs to industrial giants. A few years ago there were 23 Czech breweries represented at pubs in Prague. Today, there are more than double the numbers of what can be considered Czech craft breweries, small-scale producers whose products are preferred by connoisseurs. If you want to learn more about the different varieties before heading on a journey of discovery through the country then you should start at pivnigalerie.cz in [Prague](#). The owners Peter and Olga Vanek probably know more about Czech beer than any beer journalist. If there is any beer that they do not have in stock, it probably doesn't exist. The beer gallery has space for visitors to sit down and try different local beers. Beyond that they also sell bottles for you to take home. Each day they also serve a new draft beer to complement the chilled bottled beers. If you want to try a historical beer, you should head to [Břevnovský Monastery Brewery](#) in Prague, which is the oldest known brewery in Bohemia. The Břevnovský Brewery history is connected with the history of the monastery. Prague's second bishop St. Adalbert and Prince Boleslav II founded the brewery in the year 993. The brewery was reopened in 2013 and is located in the Baroque stables at the monastery near the Prague Castle. Besides the classic lager, the brewery produces a variety of specialty beers using different types of malt and hops. Abbey beer is sold under the trademark Břevnov Benedict. The restaurant "Klasterní Senk" is located in the monastery cellar, and you are able to taste most of the beer produced.

Beers on offer are: Břevnov Benedict - light lager, dark lager, wheat beer, monastic IPA, Břevnovské Abbey, Imperial Pilsner and Russian Imperial Stout.

A beer trip in the Czech Republic

An hour's drive from Prague, you will discover Pivovar Matuška founded in April 13, 2003 on an Easter Monday. It was the day when the first round of a special dark beer was brewed. Founder Martin Matuška says it took two years to assemble the microbrewery with the help of his family. At Matuška they produce a craft beer that is unfiltered and unpasteurized. Matuška's craft beer is brewed without sugar, syrup or extract of hops. They create the beer purely using water, malt, hops, yeast and a decoction of mash. A process that is very time and energy consuming, but which gives the beer a richer body. If you want to try their craft beer in Prague head to the Augustine Hotel, Kulový Restaurace Blesk, Kávovarna Palac Lucerna or restaurant Velká Klasterní.

If you like smaller breweries, do not miss the chance to visit the Brewery Dobřany. Here they brew the much-loved beer Dobřanská Hvezda and Dobřanský Dragoun to name two. They have also won many awards in the Czech Republic. You can also try a light and fruity beer at the microbrewery Rokycany U Stočesů and combine a pleasant tasting with a visit to local attractions such as the neo-classic Kozel Chateau. Another beer route takes you to the oldest brewery in Western Bohemia. Here you will find the delightful drink in Chodova Plana, where the ale has been made since the 1200s.

Try the refined Prezident beer or the lager Zámecký before unwinding at a spa. There are some things that the Czech spa region is known for such as being the major producers of Lager and for a traditional spa culture, especially in the towns of Karlovy Vary and Mariánské Lázně. Combine the two and you wind up in a beer bath, which means a therapeutic dip in a special hot tub that is supervised by a licensed Balneologist. First out to create the first Czech beer spa was the family-owned brewery Chodovar who installed a half a dozen large bathtubs in their basement in the beginning of 2006. You enter into the glorious bath, which is a mixture of warm mineral water, beer and a few grains coming from the fermenting process. Then you lie in the bath for 20 minutes and sip on a small beer. It is not only very relaxing but the beer bath is also very beneficial for your skin! If you want to taste a banana and cherry beer you should head to the brewery U Rybiček in Stříbro. Once here, you must not miss to spin the car around a few laps in the beautiful historic centre. Cities like Stříbro and Plzen offers beautiful gems that you will not find in other parts of Europe. Namely breweries that have been converted into hotels! From the 1700s style of the brewery U Rybiček to the modern hotel Purkmistr Brewery, which has its own bowling alley. Simply put unique hotels to sleep in after a day and night of beer drinking!

Just an hour away you will find the Šumava area where our beer rout leads us to the doors of the beer house Modrý Abbé Klatovy. The local specialty is the dark beer Granat. In the small town of Železná Ruda on the edge of the National Park Šumava you find Belvédér Brewery where you can try the strong beer Pašerk that tastes of honey. Nearby you will find a building from the 1800s that once housed a much larger brewery, but which has long since been abandoned until Jan Scale decided to re-occupy and re-open Kout na Šumavě. His traditional Czech beer is made according to old

traditions, which means a 200-year-old recipe. He uses water from the region, local barley and hops with either a rare decoction of double or triple mash. He also keeps the fermenting process open leaving the beer unpasteurized and then transported in a cool box, door-to-door, from Kout na Šumavě directly to the bottler Shelton Brothers. This is to preserve its unique quality as a “Real Lager”. You are invited to try a living beer that is intended to be consumed as soon as possible after it has left the brewery!

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