

# The town of Kralovice



## St. Peter and Paul's Church

The Gryspek Citizen Action Group

Vydalo OS Gryspek za finanční podpory Plzeňského kraje PLZEŇSKÝ KRAJ

© Reklama tel.: 373 397 676 mobil: 777 293 440

## Kralovice

The town which lies 35km north of Pilsen, close to primary state highway 27, is the traditional administrative and cultural centre for the north-eastern part of the Pilsen District. With a population of 3,500 inhabitants, Kralovice is the administrative centre for 44 villages and towns with 22,000 inhabitants. There are many shops, hotels, guest houses, a camping site, restaurants and pubs in the town. In addition there are also a variety of sports and cultural opportunities too.

Kralovice is a starting off point for discovering interesting sights of historical interest in the northern Pilsen District. These sights include the former Mariánská Týnice Monastery – at present the museum and gallery of the northern Pilsen District, Manětín Castle, the town of Rabštejn, the Plasy Monastery, Kaceřov Castle, the Střela River valley and the Berounka River with the ruins of the Krašov and Libštejn Castles.

Kralovice is first mentioned in 1183 as a village with a fort. In 1400, Kralovice was chartered by emphyteusis and received more business and legal privileges managed under the old municipal legislation. The arrival in the 16th century of the Gryspek family from Gryspach brought a boom to Kralovice. In 1547, at the request of the Gryspek family, King Ferdinand I promoted Kralovice to a town. A municipal government was established in the town at the end of the 18th century. Between 1850 and 1949 it was the seat of the state administration for the judicial and political district of Kralovice. The town grew quickly throughout the 19th century and had 355 houses and 2,000 inhabitants. Even greater prosperity came during the 1st Republic and after World War II.

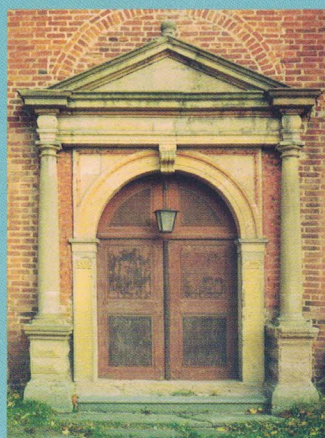


## History of St. Peter and Paul's Church in Kralovice

The single nave presbytery church, already mentioned in 1250, was modified in the Renaissance style in 1575 – 1581. It is a large building with a rectangular nave and a trilaterally closed choir with buttresses. There is a prismatic tower with an onion cupola drawn into the nave on the north side. The idea of a single nave area with rostrums between supporting pillars, a so called "Wandpfeilkirche", is very particular to the Renaissance building style in Central Europe. Bonifác Wolmut, who designed a lot of buildings for Ferdinand I in Prague Castle, is likely to be the designer of the church in Kralovice.

Florián Gryspek initiated the establishment of a family crypt in the south chapel where members of the large Gryspek family were laid to rest in glass coffins. Unusually, the bodies have remained in good condition, which has led to them being called the mummies of Kralovice. There is a Renaissance epitaph of the Gryspek family in the chapel from 1593.

In the choir there is also a Baroque organ from 1689 with carvings of angels playing instruments. The main altar of the church is from the late Renaissance period, the 2nd half of the 17th century, with statues of saints Peter, Paul and Andrew and a glass cabinet with a sculptural group depicting the Annunciation of Our Lady of Mariánská Týnice.



[www.gryspek.cz](http://www.gryspek.cz)