

PRAGUE

Discover
Guide



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Upon boarding the boat you will be welcomed by our hostess who will take care of you during the cruise. The hostess does not substitute for a guide; nevertheless, she will provide you with at least the basic information on the cruise programme and assist you if you have any inquiries. There are also professional barkeepers and catering staff looking after you.

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Charles Bridge – commissioned in 1357, this 520m-long stone bridge was the only link across the Vltava River and Prague Castle and the Old Town until 1841

Introduction

To enjoy the city to the fullest, regardless of whether you are visiting Prague just for a short time or for a full week, our guide will be there to help you discover the best of it. But, also be prepared to abandon our suggested sightseeing itineraries and wander wherever your mood takes you.

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Just take our guide and a map and explore. Don't overlook the small side streets and courtyards where Prague is often at its most charming. Don't worry about getting lost, Prague's centre is quite compact and best explored on foot. However, when you get tired, take the tram or metro. Public transportation is very efficient, cheap and one of the best in Europe.

Spend some time in traditional Czech pubs and cafés, do some shopping, take a few romantic photos of Charles Bridge, all-the-while marvelling at the beauty of a thousand spires that have already attracted millions of tour groups.

Prague is a city of red rooftops and thousand spires, of wooded

hills with splendid views. And one of the best views over the city is from Prague Castle. But if you prefer to escape crowds, visit other lofty vantage points like Petřín, Vyšehrad or Letná.

The capital was untouched by natural disasters for six hundred years and was undamaged by WWII. Few other European cities can offer you a such unforgettable experience, just by walking through the redeveloped Baroque, Rococo and Art Nouveau streets.

Despite Prague no longer being the bargain destination it once was, it is still a very affordable city where many attractions can be visited free of charge or with low admission. Our guide book will also give you an idea of what prices to expect when you go clubbing, visit a concert or dine at restaurants.

History of Prague

Founded in the latter part of the 9th century, Prague became the seat of the kings of Bohemia. The city flourished during the 14th century reign of Charles IV, who ordered the building of the New Town, the Charles Bridge, St Vitus Cathedral and the Charles University.

For centuries, Prague was a multi-ethnic city with an important Czech, German and (a mostly Yiddish, German speaking) Jewish population. The four cities that previously formed Prague only unified in 1784 to proclaim the Prague we know today. These four cities were Hradčany, Lesser Town, Old Town and New Town. In 1850 the city underwent further expansion when the Hebrew district Josefov was constructed and in 1883 Vyšehrad.

From 1939, when the country was occupied by the Nazis, and during WWII, most Jews either fled the city or were killed in the Holocaust. The German population, which had formed the minority of the city's inhabitants till the 19th century, was expelled in the aftermath of the war.

Prague was under communist rule for over 40 years and seldom visited by tourists until after the Velvet Revolution on 17 November 1989. From the moment freedom came to the streets, the city started enjoying a huge economic boom, even more so after the Czech Republic joined

the European Union in 2004. Now, it is a very popular tourist destination—according to statistics, it is the 5th most visited city in Europe.

The city is situated on both banks of the River Vltava in central Bohemia. Prague is the Czech Republic's capital and the cradle of Czech culture. Many famous writers, artists, athletes and sportspeople, models and film directors were born here.

Prague has a huge number of buildings of special architectural interest. In 1992, the historical centre of the city, covering 866 hectares (3.34 square miles), was listed in the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Register.

No matter where you go, you will discover parts of the city's multilayer history dating back to the Holy Roman Empire, the Habsburg Empire, the first Czechoslovak Republic (1918), the Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, the Czechoslovakia under Communist Regime to the present time of a democratic Czech Republic.

Brief Facts about Prague

Prague (*Praha* in Czech) is the capital and largest city of the Czech Republic. It is home to nearly 1.3 million inhabitants (94% Czechs and 4% Slovaks). The city is situated about 1377 km from London, 292 km from Vienna and 350 km from Berlin. The official language is Czech but the people also speak English, German and Russian.

Trip Planning

Prague is busy almost year-round, except in January and February, which are probably the quietest months of the year. Despite that fact, Prague isn't a city requiring a visitor to do extra planning or make advance bookings.

Most visitors book their accommodation prior arrival to get the online rates, which is much cheaper than the normal hotel walk-in rates. But, if for some reason you do not make an advance booking, Prague still has a lot of hotels and other facilities to accommodate crowds of tourists and you will always find a place to stay. The recession has hit Prague's hotel sector hard creating a constant oversupply of top-end hotel rooms causing many places to drop their prices and offer last-minute deals in an attempt to attract guests.

For the modest and cheap restaurants, it is not necessary to make a reservation, in the up-scale restaurants, it is recommended you reserve a table one day in advance, or even on the morning of the same day. The exception might be during New Year's Day, Valentine's Day or Easter, when one week in advance should be sufficient.

If you wish to attend a particular opera or classical music concert, we advise booking two or three weeks ahead to ensure seating. Outside of high season, you won't have any dif-

ficulty getting tickets from the box office on the day of the performance.

If you travel to Prague on a low-cost airlines, it is probably the only part of your trip where earlier means cheaper, in terms of advance ticket booking.

Money and Costs

Apart from hotel prices, city centre restaurants and other tourist attractions, Prague is still quite cheap and considered a bargain destination compared to other western European countries. Though for luxury goods, like electrical appliances, cosmetics and fashion, prices are higher here than elsewhere, resulting in the fact that many locals even go on shopping trips to neighbouring Germany or Austria.

An average tourist will spend around CZK 2500 per person per day, including accommodation, entry fees and transport costs. The lowest daily budget can be as low as CZK 900

MONEY EXCHANGE ADVICE

Some exchange offices in Prague charge commission of up to 10% and they will advertise higher exchange rates, hoping customers will not realise there is a high commission fee.

if you stay at cheap hostels, eat take-away food and use public transport. However, if you stay in private accommodation, eat at average restaurants, visit some paid attractions and manage your budget, you can get by on CZK 2500 a day. At the luxury end, if you stay at top-end hotels, eat at exclusive restaurants, do shopping and use taxis, you could easily spend CZK 10,000 a day.

Do not expect Prague to be extremely cheap and keep in mind that only some products and services are much cheaper here. Beer, food in supermarkets and public transport remain relative bargains compared to other European capitals.

Attractive hotels in Prague's city centre range between CZK 3500 and CZK 6000 for a double room, but hotels in Prague's suburbs can cost as little as CZK 700 for a single room. Staying in a hostel dormitory room for one costs on average CZK 400, but can be found for as low as CZK 250 in the low season. Dinner for two with some drinks at one of the

APPROXIMATE EXCHANGE RATES

	CZK		CZK
EUR 1	26.20	CAD 1	17.00
GBP 1	29.50	DKK 1	3.50
USD 1	23.00	JPY 1	0.20
CHF 1	24.00	NOK 1	2.70
AUD 1	17.00	SEK 1	2.60

ADVICE FOR SAVING MONEY

Always try to pay in local Czech crowns when possible. Even though euros are accepted at businesses such as big stores and most tourist restaurants, the exchange rate is never favourable.

fancier restaurants can cost around CZK 2000 or at a midrange restaurant from CZK 900 to CZK 1,200. Lunch in a pub costs about CZK 150 per person and a special lunch menu in cheap eatery costs around CZK 80 to 100. A cup of coffee in a city café is CZK 50, but in Starbucks it is around CZK 100. A beer in a pub outside the city center will cost around CZK 30 though in the heart of the city, this will cost up to CZK 80, soft drinks about CZK 35. Cigarettes are still a bit cheaper than in other parts of the EU: a pack of Marlboro cigarettes costs CZK 89. In supermarkets, a 0.5l bottle of water costs CZK 15, a loaf of bread from CZK 25, a litre of milk CZK 20.

If you are planning to rent a car, a litre of petrol will cost you around CZK 30. Cinema tickets cost up to CZK 200. A one-day public transport pass costs CZK 110, a taxi from the airport to the city centre is around CZK 650, and a taxi within the city centre should cost around CZK 250.

Best Time to Visit

Prague has a continental climate, with hot summers and cold winters. Probably the best time to visit Prague is around May or September, when the weather is not too hot or cold and the city is not overcrowded.

It is not unusual during the summer for temperatures to reach as high as 35°C (95°F), and in the winter it can be as cold as -15°C (5°F). The average high temperature from May to September is 22°C (72°F), with an average low of 12°C (54°F) and on average seven hours of sunshine per day.

Spring and summer are likely to be the sunniest months, while the period between May and August is the rainiest—sudden storms and showers are common, therefore don't forget your umbrella. The amount of rainfall is fairly consistent throughout the year, with just a tad more in spring and autumn, and the very occasional summer thunderstorm.

December is the time to visit Xmas markets or at the end of year join the New Years' crowds celebrating in the streets. It is also a good time for concert and opera lovers. Snow is rather rare in Prague but the best months to get a chance to see the city covered in a white blanket are January and February.

If you're planning to visit Prague during the peak summer season, be prepared for crowded restaurants and hotels, and a city full of tourists.

Clothes & Packing

The weather in Prague can be changeable during the spring and summer, so it is worth bringing some warm clothing and a waterproof jacket as well.

When visiting Prague during the autumn or winter months, bring a good selection of warm clothes. But probably the most important to take is a pair of comfortable shoes as you will be doing a lot of walking. Since many streets are still cobblestone, it can be tough on your feet.

Advice for Saving Money

- Do not take cabs for inter-city travel. Use public transport or book our shuttle-bus from the airport instead.
- Do not exchange money at the airport. Instead, obtain the local currency using your ATM card.
- Don't forget that lots of local dishes are sufficiently big to share, and that these can be complemented well with a traditional Czech beer.
- Always try to pay in local Czech crowns when possible.
- When you visit the theatre, request and reserve the least expensive seats (normally about CZK 150).
- Avoid the Italian restaurants and the sushi in the city centre and buy Czech food. You will discover better value for money in the favourite local restaurants.



Grand Hotel Evropa at Wenceslas Square is one of the oldest hotels in Prague, dating back to 1872. The building is an excellent example of Art Nouveau architecture

Accommodation

Prague offers an extensive range of accommodation options, from romantic hotels based in historical town houses, to international chain hotels, such as the Ibis, Hilton, Sheraton and Crown Plaza. There are also budget hostels, as well as smaller boutique hotels. Furthermore, a new trend has emerged of renting a Prague apartment for a short term period, which is particularly popular among bigger groups who prefer more self-catering and privacy.

Do not be surprised to discover some hotels which date back to the Communist period, but which are all equipped with modern amenities. Hotel prices are similar to the rest of Europe and, generally, the further you are from the centre, the less expensive the hotels are. Some hotels feature name prefixes, such as Lesser Town or Old Town (for instance, Ibis Wenceslas Square, Ibis Lesser Town, Hilton Old Town). However, often these hotels are not actually situated in these areas, and the name prefixes are just a marketing ploy.

If you are travelling around Christmas, Easter and July or August it is best to book well ahead. When looking for accommodation you should check both the price and the distance from the city centre. Some-

times it is better to find accommodation further from the centre because, compared to other world cities, Prague is quite small and its public transport is very effective.

Our Hotel Picks

*U ZLATÉ STUDNĚ******

Boutique hotel with parquet floors and antique furniture, which once was occupied by Emperor Rudolf II and is situated in a quiet part of the Lesser Town.

www.goldenwell.cz

*HOTEL JOSEF******

Contemporary design hotel with chrome-and-glass rooms with white touches, and chic, cool, all-white cocktail bar.

www.hoteljosef.com

*NH PRAHA*****

Comfortable rooms, with cable car to the on-site restaurant.

www.nhprague.com

*HOTEL POD VĚŽÍ*****

Located just a few steps from the fort of Charles Bridge, and with friendly staff, this hotel in a fairy-tale setting is also a TripAdvisor top choice.

www.podvezi.com

DŮM U VELKÉ BOTY

Centrally located pension in the quiet back-streets with antique décor.

www.dumovelkeboty.cz

Safety

Prague is a comparatively safe city, violent crimes very seldom happen, and while the crime rate is still low, common safety precautions should be taken as petty crime is on the increase in the central areas of Prague.

Do not leave valuables, including your passport, unattended in hotel rooms. Instead, use hotel safes or better yet, leave your expensive items at home and just take your passport. The biggest danger for tourists is definitely pick-pocketing. This is most common where large groups gather, i. e. on crowded trams or at busy tourist spots. When travelling, keep a photocopy of your passport and credit card information on you. This way if you lose these items or have them stolen, you will be able to get replacement travel documents and access to your money. According to Czech law you have to have proof of identification with you at all times, but in reality, the police very rarely ask people for identification. If arriving by car don't keep luggage and valuables visible in your car.

Watch out for Pickpockets

Pickpockets in Prague are very skilful. They usually act in a group and target trams, metros and other crowded places. Be particularly careful on tram no. 22.

Dishonest Taxi Drivers

Sadly, Prague still has some of the worst taxi drivers in the world when it comes to overcharging. It's a standard warning that taxi drivers in Prague are famous for trying to rip off both tourists and locals. Never take a taxi off the street, especially taxis parked in front of railway stations or tourist areas close to the Wenceslas Square, Old Town Square, etc. From the airport or train station, pre-book a safe taxi in advance with www.Prague-Airport-Transfers.co.uk.

Travelling on the public transport system can save you not only time but mainly money. That is, however, only in the case that you are travelling with the correctly stamped travel documents. After boarding your means of transport, it is necessary to get your ticket stamped. Only in this way is the ticket valid and you will not run the risk of a war of words with a ticket inspector. Transport inspectors like to check foreign tourists precisely because on many occasions they are not aware that their ticket must be punched.

Scams in Prague Restaurants

Even though the current situation is much better compared to ten years ago, you should still be aware of this and always check your bill carefully. The most common scam is charging for additional extras like sauces, bread, rolls or pretzels on the table. Usually the menu will state that the price excludes charges for bread, but the notice will be printed somewhere where it is hard to see. The simple solution is if you do not want to pay for those items, then ask the wait staff to take them away. Even if you do not eat it, but it is on the table, you are obliged to pay. In pubs if you do not get an itemised bill, do a quick rough calculation and if in doubt, ask your wait staff for a detailed bill. If you pay a large bill for a group of people, it is pretty easy to squeeze in a few extra crowns on your bill or they may make a wrong calculation. By Czech law, the bill always includes a service charge, but does not include optional tips. Some establishments might try to persuade customers to leave an additional 10%, although you do not have to unless the service was excellent.

Health

There is no health threat when travelling to Prague. The water supply in Prague is good. It is considered very safe to drink water from the tap, but

LEGAL MATTERS

Alcohol: The legal drinking age is 18 years.

Drugs: The law in the Czech Republic forbids possessing more than a small amount of drugs.

Driving: There is zero blood alcohol tolerance.

Tourist Police Station: Jungmanovo nám. 9 or Vlašská 3 (open 24 hours and have English-speaking officers).

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

112: General emergency number similar to 999 in the UK. Operators speak English and German. This can be used for any emergency situation (police, fire brigade, or emergency medical assistance, road accident report).

150: Fire brigade

155: Medical emergency (ambulance/first aid)

156: Prague City police

158: Police

it is heavily chlorinated so it can have a metallic taste. If you need drugs for a medical condition, go to a pharmacy, the only places that sell over-the-counter medicines. They also dispense many drugs normally available only on prescription.



The changing of the guard at Prague Castle

Activities

Prague is bursting at the seams with things to do. Whether you choose the city's rich musical heritage, opera or jazz, night clubbing, or simply enjoy a pint of Pilsner in one of its legendary beer cellars, this is the city where there really is something for everyone.

Most visitors simply enjoy relaxed strolling while discovering magnificent views, historic buildings, religious icons and galleries. For those who do not wish to get lost in the city's maze of small cobblestoned streets and lanes, there are plenty of walking tours to choose from. Some tours cover the general history and orientation of the city, while others focus on specific themes. But if you would rather get a good orientation of the city with an introduction to most of the important city landmarks, your best choice is to join our free four-hour walking tour.

If the idea of walking does not appeal to you, you can always blend culture with comfort by taking a ride through Prague instead. Horse-drawn carriages carry you at a gentle pace through the cobblestoned streets of the Old Town. Or you can

opt for a ride in a vintage car – open-top, weather permitting – or a hop-on-hop-off sightseeing bus, or do a Segway tour. Most tours start either from Old Town Square or from Na Příkopě near Republic Square.

Riverboats are another option for seeing the city from a different angle – there are choices of a lunch cruise, a quick one-hour cruise, an evening cruise with dinner, or a cruise with a live jazz band.

Shoppers won't be left behind either. For those looking for small gifts to bring back home, there are many souvenir stands around Old Town Square, Karlova and Charles Bridge. For luxury brands like Louis Vuitton, Hermès or Cartier, head to the Pařížská or visit Prague High Street Na Příkopě where you can find all the trendy fashion shops.

Suggested Itineraries

Prague in One Day

If you have only one day to explore Prague, then concentrate on the Castle District and Lesser Town, ending your walk in the heart of Old Town. Once you get to the Prague Castle complex, visit the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral and St. George's Basilica, and stop at the small picturesque houses in Golden Lane. Then, descend into Lesser Town where you'll find the ancient burgher houses and the Baroque copper-domed St. Nicholas' Church. Making your way across Charles Bridge can take as little or as much time as you like, if you enjoy souvenir stands, performers, artists, musicians, or just beautiful city views, you may want to linger a while longer.

If you want to feel even more of the romantic atmosphere of the city, you might wish to jump on the Venice Boat Cruise. During this short 40-minute boat cruise you will have a chance to see Prague's architectural gems from the River Vltava. The boat departure pier is just under Charles Bridge, accessible from Čertovka, Kampa Island. Once across the bridge, walk along the riverside and take a break at the famous Café Slavia, on Smetanovo Embankment, where you can have a coffee while enjoying the view across the river and up to the castle on the other side.



Powder Tower (Prašná brána)

After the rest, continue walking to Old Town Square to see the Astronomical Clock and watch 'The Walk of the Apostles' performing on the hour.

From there continue your walk towards Celetná Street where you can see quite a few architecturally and historically important houses, such as at the Three Kings, the White Lion, the Black Sun and the Black Madonna.

The most interesting one worth a visit is the House of the Black Madonna, which dates back to 1912. A multifunctional building, it houses shops on the ground floor, and offices, flats and the legendary Orient

coffee bar with its cubist furniture on the higher levels. Celetná Street will lead you to the Powder Tower. Next to the tower is the Municipal House – Prague’s most prominent Art Nouveau building, built between 1906 and 1912. This is a popular attraction for visitors, who are lured in by the building’s gold trimmings, stained glass, sculptures, and the regular exhibitions and concerts.

Prague in Two Days

On the first day walk to Old Town Square, view the ‘must see’ Astronomical Clock and visit the beautiful Gothic Church of Our Lady Before Týn or the baroque St. Nicholas’ Church. From there, head to Charles Bridge via Karlova Street to take some beautiful photos. Next head to Nerudova Street and climb up to the imposing Prague Castle, where St. Vitus Cathedral, Golden Lane and the Royal Garden await. If you are tired of walking, you might like to take tram no. 22 up the hill and approach



Golden Lane (Prague Castle)



Devil's Stream (Čertovka)

the castle from the other side. Once you have explored the castle complex make your way back downhill to Malostranské Square where you can have a traditional Czech meal at one of the numerous pubs and restaurants or just a less traditional Starbucks coffee.

The second day is good for ‘laid back’ exploring or a leisurely walk along the river and around Old Town. From Old Town Square, walk to the Jewish Quarter of Josefov and visit the Jewish Museum sites. For your lunch avoid Old Town Square and instead discover some eateries down the tiny side streets.



Vrtba Garden – situated on the slope of Petřín Hill

In the afternoon, do some shopping or just wander around Wenceslas Square. Later continue via Na Příkopě to the Art Nouveau gem of Municipal House. Stopping there either for a short tour of the building interiors or simply a coffee is well worth it. If you are still up for more shopping, continue to the modern Palladium Shopping Centre, situated just a few minutes' walk away on Republic Square. And finally in the evening you could have a few pints of world famous Czech beer at some local pubs to relax after your busy day of walking, or if you are into classical music, attend a concert at the Rudolfinum.

Prague in Three Days

For the first two days, follow our two-day itinerary. And on your last day in the morning, either:

- take a half-day trip to the medieval town of Kutná Hora or tour the Terezín holocaust memorial

- visit some of the National Gallery exhibitions located at different sites around Prague, highly recommended is St. Agnes Gallery in the Jewish Quarter where you can see a permanent exhibition of Medieval and early Renaissance art

In the afternoon, have lunch in one of Lesser Town's restaurants and then take the funicular railway up to Petřín Hill. It is an excellent place



The Petřín Funicular

for a relaxing walk in the peaceful gardens with great views over the city – and for even more spectacular views, don't forget to visit Petřín Observation Tower. If you are energetic enough, continue walking from Petřín Hill to Pohořelec (Hradčany) and visit Strahov Monastery. From



Baroque Chateau in Trója

there you can take the scenic tram number 22 back to the city.

In the evening you could visit some of the nice jazz clubs in Lesser Town, like U Malého Glenu. If jazz is not to your liking, do the night Dinner on The River Cruise, passing famous sights – all the while enjoying dinner and live music on board. Alternatively New Town is full of nightlife options to suit every taste.

Prague in One Week

One week will give you more time to soak up the city atmosphere. Cover the sights mentioned in the three-day itinerary and then add in visits to numerous museums and galleries, plus a day trip to Kutná Hora, Český

Krumlov or to the Pilsner Brewery. If you are still thinking of how to fill one of your afternoons, visit the pretty green grounds of Vyšehrad or Trója Chateau.

The Prague Zoo with more than 4100 animals is also good choice for sunny afternoon.



Konopiště Chateau

Popular Activities

During the summer months take a tram trip on Prague's historic tram 91, which can be great fun too. The National Theatre, Lesser Town Square and Wenceslas Square are all boarding points. Alternatively board tram 22 from the National Theatre stop and take ride up to Prague Castle, passing through Lesser Town and past other sights.

Other popular activity is to attend a performance at the Estates Theatre or see the puppets at the National Marionette Theatre. The Estates

Theatre hosted the premiere of Mozart's Don Giovanni in 1787 and this opera can still be seen here today or alternately performed by puppets at the National Marionette Theatre.

Even if you're not a classical music enthusiastic, slip in through the side door into one of Prague's hidden churches and cloisters, which are often used for musical concerts, and therefore rehearsals. Once inside pay your respects and if possible, stay for the angelic acoustics.

On the River Vltava, you can get an interesting new perspective and have family fun by renting a rowing



Prague Little Venice Cruise



Historic tram no. 91

boat. You will find boat rentals open every day from April to the end of October, under Charles Bridge, directly across from Club Lávka, or on Slovanský Island.

A must for every traveller to Prague is a visit to some of traditional Czech pubs where guests sit at plain wooden tables and wait to be served glasses of the frothy Pilsner Urquell lager. For more adventurous types, also try the popular local spirit Becherovka.

Visit some of the numerous shopping centres in the city centre. Palladium and Myslbeek are probably the most lavish and well-stocked in Prague.

They have a good range of shops like Marks & Spencer, Marlboro Classics, Kookai, Calvin Klein and Next, to name but a few.

The Best Place for a View over the City

Prague is a city of red rooftops, towers, and golden spires, of wooded hills and amazing views. Every visitor who climbs the steps to the castle is rewarded with a great view over the city. But if you want to escape the crowds, there are other lofty vantage points, including Vyšehrad, Petřín Hill Tower, Letná Park, Žižkov TV tower, Old Town Hall Tower and St. Henry's Tower.

Activities for Families with Children

There are many places which allow children with parents to enjoy Prague at its best. One of the most popular choices for family fun is definitely Troja Zoo (second best zoo in Europe, according to TripAdvisor) or Sea World in Výstaviště with giant fish tanks. For couples and children alike one tip is to take the funicular railway up Petřín Hill and then visit the Hall of Mirrors.

Puppet Show

The Don Giovanni Marionette Opera can be seen at National Marionette Theatre in Žatecká 1, Josefov. Tall marionettes as well as the stylish period costumes and original stage effects can be seen during this two-hour (8pm–10pm) performance. It is presented in the original Italian libretto.

Výstaviště Exhibition Grounds

The expansive Exhibition Grounds include a traditional funfair, Sea world aquarium, a swimming pool and a planetarium, which presents several shows daily.

National Technical Museum

If you are put off by the rather uninspiring name, then don't be, as a visit to Prague's Technical Museum is a rewarding experience. Without



National Technical Museum

doubt, the most impressive displays are found in the large Transport Hall, crammed full of vintage trains, planes and automobiles. Among the many exhibits here are examples of Czech engineering at its best – Škoda for example was one of the foremost engineering companies in Europe before WWII. Additionally, there is a large display of film and photographic equipment, while the mining technology exhibit recreates the workings of a coal mine in the museum's basement.

📍 *Kostelní 42, Prague 7, Holešovice*

🕒 *9am–5:30pm Tue–Fri
10am–6pm Sat&Sun*

🎫 *Adult/child CZK 190/90*

🌐 *www.ntm.cz*

Pedalos

The River Vltava is the perfect place to spend an hour or two on a pedalo with the kids. If the weather is nice you will have a great time, pedaling under the bridges and exploring the river. You can rent pedalos at Charles Bridge, Mánesův Bridge and Slovanský Island.

Toy Museum

This cute little place is full of antique trains, teddy bears and dolls, complete with English-language signs on most of them. Although there are not many things children are allowed to touch, there are plenty of mysterious mechanical objects, such as musical boxes and steam-powered toys, for the kids to speculate about. There is a Barbie exhibit on the second floor, which is rather interesting.

📍 *Clam-Gallas Palace, Husova 20*

🕒 *Daily 10:00am–6pm*

👉 *Adult/child/family CZK 70/50/200*

Prague Zoo

For nature and animals lovers Prague Zoo is the perfect place to visit. The zoo is open all year round and is located in the picturesque environment of the Troja Basin. Its diverse terrain makes it possible to walk through both shady groves and open, grassy plains. There is an ever-growing number of enclosures that blend with the natural landscape. To make your trip to the zoo

more pleasant, a popular series of commentated feedings and training exercises are prepared for the weekends, along with many other interesting programmes. There is also a small chair lift that will, no doubt, be entertaining for children.

How to get there: take bus no. 112 from the Nádraží Holešovice underground station and get off at Zoologická zahrada, the last stop. In the summer months, Prague Steamboat Company operates a boat which serves the zoological garden. Boats sail hourly every day from Na Františku quay.

📍 *U Trojského zámku 3/120, Trója*

🕒 *Daily 9am–7pm in summer
and until 4pm in winter months*

👉 www.zoopraha.cz

Aquapalace

Touted as ‘the largest water park in central Europe’, the facility features saunas, a spa complex, and a fitness centre, along with a variety of pools and nine water slides. It’s an attractive destination for families looking for some summer fun.

📍 *Bus from Prague-Opatov
to Čestlice; distance:
8 km south of Prague*

👉 www.aquapalace.cz

Railways Toy Museum

📍 *Stroupežnického 23, Prague 5*

🕒 *Daily 9am–7pm*

👉 www.railroad-kingdom.com



Christmas Markets at Old Town Square

Public Holidays

Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays mean most banks and offices will be closed. Ordinary shops also close on Sundays and public holidays, while supermarkets and shopping malls often stay open. Public transport does not run as often on these days as on weekdays.

Czech Independence Day and New Year (January 1)

A day to mark the creation of an independent Czech Republic following the division of Czechoslovakia on January 1, 1993.

Easter Monday & Good Friday (March/April)

Easter Monday is a religious holiday associated with a pagan ritual in which Czech boys beat girls with willow sticks.

Labour Day (May 1)

Romantics lay flowers in front of the statue of Hynech Mácha on Petřín Hill.

Liberation Day (May 8)

The day commemorates the liberation of Czechoslovakia by the Allies in May 1945.

Day of the Slavic Apostles Cyril and Methodius (July 5)

The missionaries Cyril and Methodius are closely associated with the

arrival of Christianity in this country and the first Slavic alphabet, Cyrillic (in the year 863).

Jan Hus Day (July 6)

The day marking the burning of Jan Hus at the stake (July 6, 1415). Jan Hus was a reforming religious leader and the rector of Prague University.

Day of Czech Statehood (September 28)

The day Czech Prince Wenceslas was murdered in the year 935 by his own brother. Not long after his death he was declared a saint. On this day the Czechs celebrate their patron saint and symbol of Czech statehood.

Czechoslovak Independence Day (October 28)

A public holiday to mark the day Czechs and Slovaks established their own state in 1918 – the most important national holiday of the year.

Freedom and Democracy Day (November 17)

The day Czechs remember the student struggles of 1939 and 1989 against the Nazi and communist regimes.

Christmas (December 24, 25 and 26)

Christmas Eve is the most festive day of Christmas in the Czech Republic, followed by Christmas Day and the 2nd Day of Christmas. Many tourist attractions and shops are closed.

Annual Events and Festivals

Big celebrations in Prague start with the popular Prague Spring Music Festival. Summer is dominated with street festivals and performances held in the castle gardens. In the coldest months from December, the ball season stars, with most events held indoors.

St. Matthew's Fair

Date: during February and March. St. Matthew's Fair (Matějšká pouť) marks the arrival of warm weather and features fairground rides for children at Prague's exhibition grounds at Výstaviště.

Witches' Night

Date: 30 April. This festival marks the end of winter and the new birth of spring. Bonfires are lit to purge the winter spirits. These festivals are mostly found in the countryside but can be seen at Petřín Hill in Prague as well.

Prague International Marathon

Date: April to May. The route runs throughout the city, starting and finishing in the historical centre, right next to the famous Jewish Quarter. Join the other runners from all around the world and after the run ends be prepared for a great street party. The whole Volkswagen Prague Marathon is 42km long (with a seven-hour limit)

and is held on 10 and 11th May, but you can go for the shorter option, which is the Hervis Prague Half Marathon held on 5th April. This is just 21km (with a three-hour limit). For the marathon run you have to pay a registration fee, ranging from CZK 500 to 1900.

 www.runczech.com

Prague Spring International Music Festival

Date: 12th May-3rd June. This is a famous series of classical music and dance performances in churches, palaces and concert halls, drawing thousands of visitors every year. Enjoy first-class symphonies, operas and chamber music from talented artists. The celebrations begin with a procession from Smetana's grave in Vyšehrad to his namesake concert hall in Municipal House. Tickets can be obtained through the official Prague Spring Box Office in the Rudolfinum, or from any branch of Ticketpro.

Czech Beer Festival

Is the largest gastronomic event in the Czech Republic calls attention to the wondrous varieties of Czech Beer in late May.

 www.cesky pivni festival.cz

Prague Food Festival

Date: late May. 3 days of the best gastronomy.

 www.praguefoodfestival.cz

United Islands of Prague

There are various venues across the city throughout June. Expect beers stands and concerts on the Vltava river front.

☐ www.unitedislands.cz

Dance Prague

In June you should not miss the international festival of contemporary dance and movement theatre – Tanec Praha. This festival is now one of the most successful in Prague.

Verdi Festival

In late August come to see this 10-day festival featuring Italian operas at the State Opera House. The festival provides a chance to see very good productions outside the main opera season.

International Jazz Festival

This commences in the last week of October (this festival has a tradition of more than 30 years). If you like jazz, you should definitely not miss this festival, especially as you can see performances by jazz legends from all around the world, with plenty of local stars in between. The festival is held in several venues across Prague but mostly at Lucerna Music Bar.

☐ <http://jazzfestivalpraha.com>

Velvet Revolution Anniversary

17th November is a day which

changed the lives of all Czechs. A commemoration and wreath laying ceremony is conducted on Wenceslas Square.

St. Nicholas' Eve

Date: 5 December. People wander around the streets in groups of three dressed as St. Nicholas, an angel and a devil, symbolising confession, reward and punishment. On this day grown men stick to the hobby of beer drinking.

Christmas market on Old Town Square

During December a giant Christmas tree lights up the centre of the square, while the space around it is crammed with market stalls selling carved wooden toys, ceramics, glass figurines, Christmas gifts, delicious gingerbread cakes, barbecued sausages and mulled wine. Entertainment is provided by street performers. Even if you are not there to do shopping you can enjoy watching the street performers and indulge yourself in the Christmas atmosphere.

New Year's Eve

On 31 December head for spectacular fireworks and a mellower pace at Prague Castle or Vyšehrad. For great festivities go to Old Town Square where live big screening and other performances are held.



Modern tram near Jindřišská Tower

Transportation

Prague is a simple city to get around, especially in the centre, which is relatively small and compact. Most tourist attractions and sights are in convenient locations within the city and are best reached on foot or by using the metro or trams. Prague's public transport system is very well developed, efficient and accessible, and very popular with tourists.

Compared to other EU countries, public transport in Prague is quite cheap. For more information about public transport, go to www.dpp.cz or visit the information desks located at the airport and at selected metro stations: Muzeum (lines A and C), Můstek (lines A and B), Anděl (line B), Nadraží Holešovice (line C), Černý Most (line B). There you can buy tickets and travel passes, and get useful multi-lingual guides and maps to the whole transport system. Bus and tram timetables are posted at every station and stop, so you know what time to expect their arrival.

During the peak times, generally from 7am-10am and 3pm-6pm, expect some crowding. Also keep in mind that during the night time, pub-

lic transport services are very limited and operate at long intervals.

Be careful when crossing the roads at pelican crossings, as some drivers tend to ignore crossings without traffic lights. Also, trams travel quite fast and may come upon you with little warning.

Take taxis only when you need door-to-door service, like from the airport or train station, and only with a reputable company. Due to the frequent problems of overcharging and heavy traffic, it is not recommended to use taxis for short trips in the city centre. The same advice applies if you plan on driving in Prague, which can be horrendous for the uninitiated because local drivers have a bad reputation for their aggressive driving style.

Prague Public Transport

Prague Airport

Václav Havel Prague Airport is located 17km from the city centre and has all the modern amenities you would expect of a European airport. The journey from the airport to the city centre takes around 25 – 30 minutes by taxi, or around 50 minutes by public transport.

UK and other non-Schengen-zone flights arrive and depart from Terminal 1, and flights from Schengen-zone countries from Terminal 2 (without passport control).

In the arrivals area you will find the Prague Tourist Information desk and other kiosks where you can arrange a rental car, exchange money, buy public transport tickets or book a hotel. There is also a post office and a left luggage office.

When you are leaving Prague, you may want to eat before you head to the airport, as most restaurants at the airport are generally overpriced, but a few cheap fast food chains like McDonalds, Subway and Billa supermarket can be found in the public areas at arrivals, between Terminal 1 and Terminal 2.

Getting to The City

If you do not have a lot of luggage, take bus no. 119 from the airport to Veleslavín Metro station. From there, take the main A-line into the city

centre. There are also other buses (100, 254 and 179) but the 119 is the most convenient.

Just outside the terminal buildings you can get white metered taxis. The price to the city should be around CZK 650, depending on the exact distance and traffic. Due to the common taxi overcharging phenomenon, we recommend using our cheap airport shuttle or private taxi transfer with fixed prices. Simply pre-book online and travel with peace of mind.

Prague Metro

The metro is formed by three lines: A, B, and C. The metro lines are colour-coded and the operates from 5am to midnight. The green line (line A) connects Depot Hostivař and Motol. The yellow line (line B) connects Černý Most and Zličín and the red line (line C) connects Letňany and Háje. There are three line-crossing stations: Muzeum (lines A and C), Můstek (lines B and A) and Florenc (lines C and B). The time intervals are approximately two to three minutes at rush hour and four to ten minutes during off-peak times.

Line A (green) connecting the main areas of the city centre is most useful for visitors. To get to Prague Castle, get off either at Hradčanská or Malostranská station. If heading to the Old Town, get off at Staroměstská, and for Wenceslas Square, stop at Můstek.

Prague Trams

Trams are a convenient way of getting around and compared to the metro, you will have the chance to see much more. The tram routes are well structured and organised covering a large area of the city. Daytime trams run from 4:30am till midnight at eight-to-ten-minute intervals (8 to 15 minutes at weekends). Night trams (numbers 51-58) run from 12:30am until 4:30am in 30-to-40-minute intervals. The central interchange tram stop of night trams is Lazarská stop. Note that it is the custom for young and fit to give up their seats to passengers who need them more.

TRAM 22

Follow one of Prague's most scenic routes, passing by the National Theatre to Malostranská metro station, and continuing up to the Belvédér, Prague Castle and Pohořelec, with some stunning views on the way.

TRAM 9

This useful tram route runs across the city through Wenceslas Square, continues on to Lesser Town, then to Anděl (in Smíchov) and further.

ROUTE 17

This route follows the river bank from Vyšehrad, passing New Town (National Theatre), Old Town (Staroměstská), and Jewish Town to the Letná Park.

HISTORIC TRAM 91

Nostalgic tram 91 runs at weekends and holidays from the end of March through to mid-November. The tram leaves from Střešovice every hour from 12 noon till 6pm and continues through the city centre. Tickets cost CZK 35 for adults, CZK 20 for children and seniors over 70 years old.

City Buses

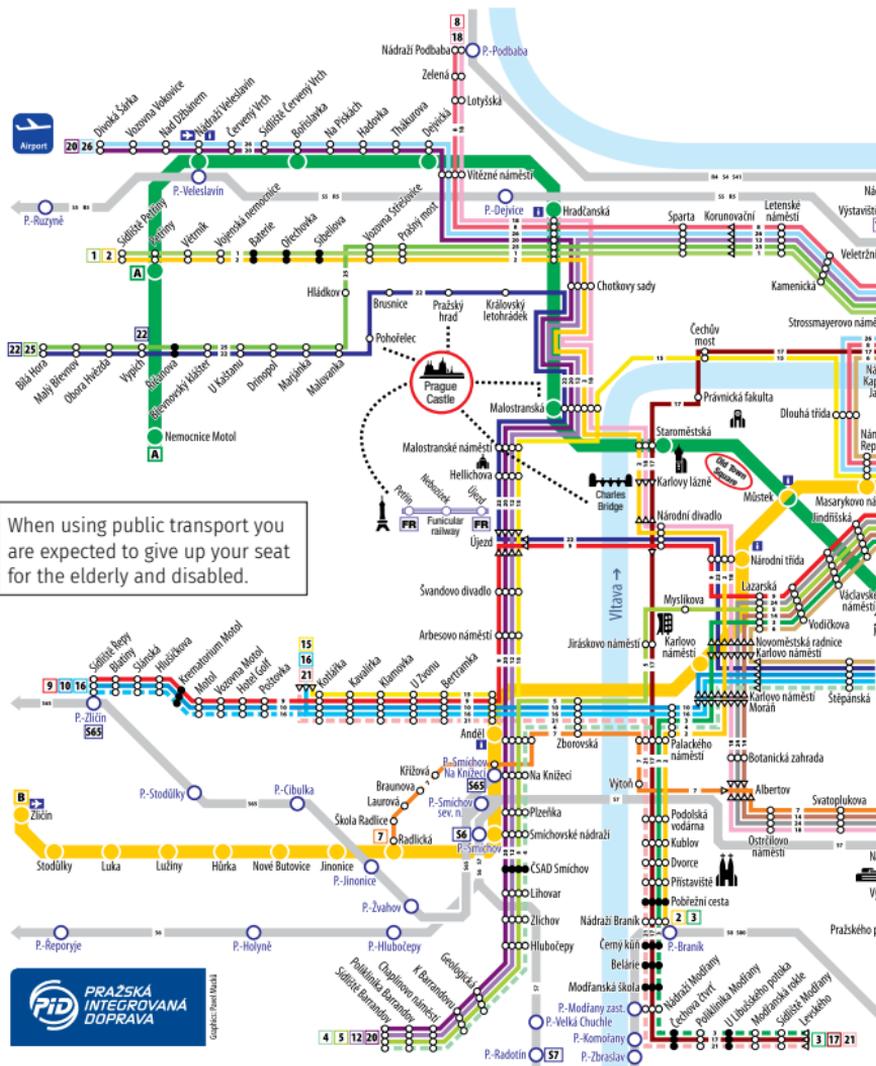
Buses mostly cover the outskirts of Prague, especially areas not covered by the tram system. Daytime buses run from 4.30am till midnight in six-to-eight-minute intervals during peak hours, 10-to-20 minute intervals during off-peak times, and 15-to-30-minute intervals at weekends. Night buses (numbers 501-512) run from 12:30am till 4:30am in 40-minute intervals.

WALKING

Probably the best and most enjoyable way to see the city is by walking. The only downside is the uneven cobbled streets which are often found around the city centre, and one must have good and comfortable shoes. Be careful on any crossings and keep in mind that trams do have priority at pedestrian crossings.

Map – Metro, Trams and Trains of Prague Integrated Transport

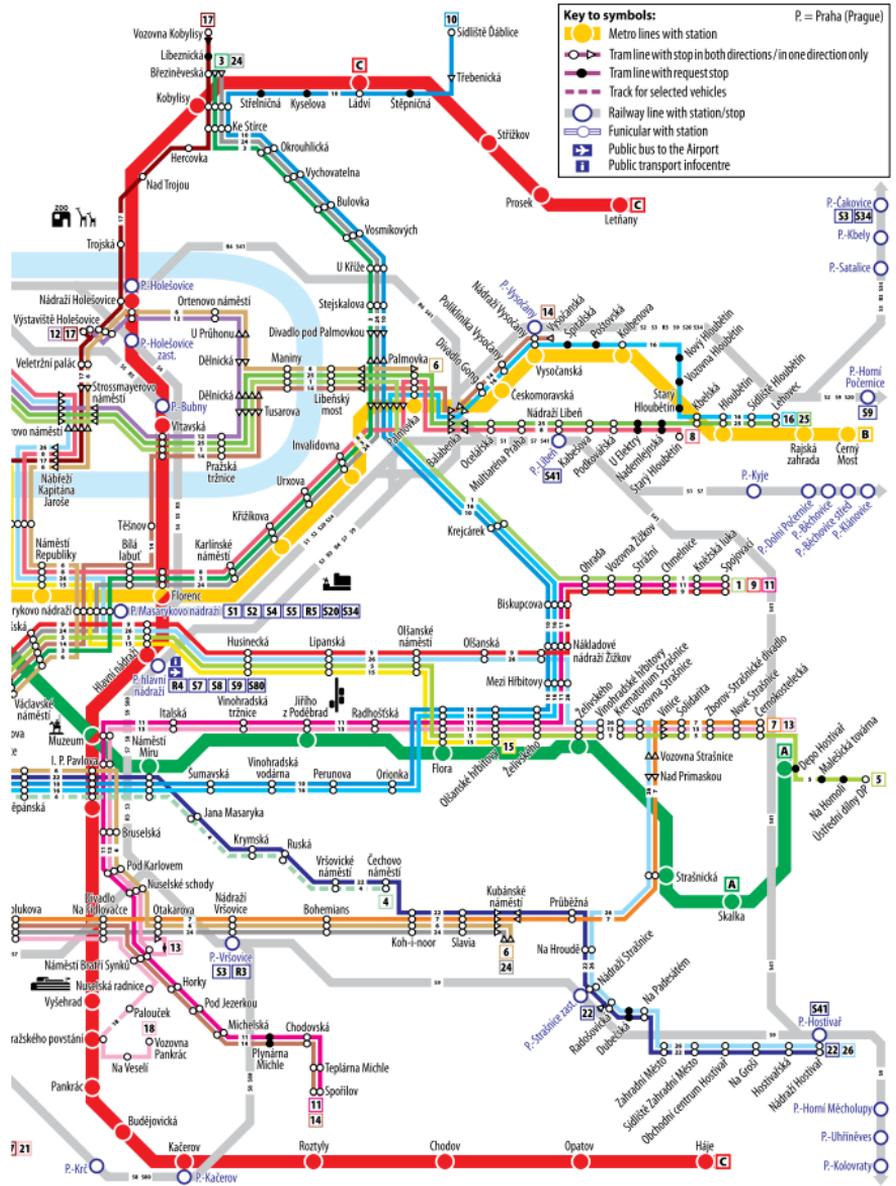
When a tram pulls up to a stop, two different names are announced: the name of the stop you are currently at, and then the name of the stop that's coming up next. Confused visitors, wondering whether they've heard their stop, are notorious for hurrying off the tram one stop too early.



Key to symbols:

- Metro lines with station
- Tram line with stop in both directions / in one direction only
- Tram line with request stop
- Track for selected vehicles
- Railway line with station/stop
- Funicular with station
- Public bus to the Airport
- I Public transport infocentre

P. = Praha (Prague)



Taxis

Taxi services in Prague might be tricky, especially if you hail a taxi off the street, so it is good idea negotiate your fare in advance or get an estimate. If you are going to or from the airport, train or bus station pre-book a taxi with Prague Airport Transfers. Maximum prices: CZK/km 28, CZK 6 waiting fee per minute, boarding fee CZK 40.

Public Transport Fares

The Prague public transport system uses two types of tickets – 30-minute and 90-minute tickets and travel passes. Passengers have to obtain their tickets before boarding a tram or bus, or entering the metro. It is possible to get a ticket directly from the bus driver, but you will have to pay an extra charge.

Tickets can be bought from ticket machines (which give instructions in English and supply change) at all metro stations and newsagents. A ticket must be validated (punched) at the entrance to the metro station and on the tram/bus to mark the start of the validation period. Plain-clothed inspectors frequently check tickets and will issue an on-the-spot fine of CZK 800 to anyone caught without a valid ticket or pass, controllers should show you their ID (a small metal disc) and give you a receipt. Tourists are well known targets, as many tourists do not know the fact that they have to validate a

ticket. A few may demand a higher fine from foreigners and pocket the difference, so insist on a receipt before paying.

Public transport tickets can be used on any type of public transport, and allow transfers between lines (metro to metro, tram to tram, etc.) and types of transport (metro to tram, tram to bus, etc.) for up to 30 minutes from validation for short-ride tickets, and up to 90 minutes for long-ride tickets. Tickets are also valid on night trams and buses and on the Petřín funicular railway.

30-MINUTE TICKET (SHORT RIDES)

Adults: CZK 24

Children 6-15 years: CZK 12

90-MINUTE TICKET (LONG RIDES)

Adults: CZK 32

Children 6-15 years: CZK 16

FREE TRANSPORT

Children under 6 years

Seniors 70 years and over

For children aged 10 years and over, you are required to carry proof of the child's age, with an identification card containing the child's name, surname, date of birth and photograph verified by the passport issuer.



Prague Metro

SHORT-TERM PASSES (UNLIMITED TRAVEL WITHIN TICKET VALIDITY)

24-hour pass: CZK 110

3-day pass (72 hrs): CZK 310

Most visitors find travel passes cost effective and hassle free. If you will use public transport more than a few times a day, definitely go for one.

Main Train Station

Prague's main train station is located in the city centre on Wilsonova near Wenceslas Square. The station

was recently fully renovated and modernised by the Italian Grandi Stazioni company to western standards from its former 'dirty' image of a shadowy part of Prague. The station serves international trains from all countries, in particular trains on the east-west route stop here (trains from Vienna and Munich, etc.). It is the largest railway station in Prague and has been operating here since 1871. Getting to the station is easy, the station is on the metro (line C), and is just one stop from the top of Wenceslas Square.

It is not recommended to take any of those taxi cabs hanging around the train station, as you will very likely be charged an inflated fare.

There are fast food restaurants, coffee shops, bookshops, currency exchange offices (might charge commission of up to 10%), cashpoints, luggage storage services (provided by coin-operated lockers), and a guarded luggage depository.

Reservation and Tickets

It is possible to purchase tickets online at the Czech Railways website (www.cd.cz) 60 days prior to travel for destinations within the Czech Republic and for selected destinations in the EU. You can also buy them from any train station in Prague or elsewhere in the Czech Republic.

At Prague's main train station, the ticket counters are on the basement level. Most locals do not make advanced reservations, and tickets are generally available to all destinations right up until the day of travel. If you are in a hurry, it is also possible to buy a ticket from the conductor, but be prepared for an extra charge.

Main Bus Station

Most international connections terminate in Prague at Florenc station, located on the metro (lines B and C). The main bus station serves all international and long distance domestic routes. From here, you can get to the

city centre by metro line B in about 5 minutes.

If you are travelling outside of Prague, a bus might be quite a good option, as they are usually cheaper than travelling by train. Most services are operated by ČSAD and Student Agency.

You can buy your tickets in advance, although most operators also allow you to purchase directly from the driver.

Vintage Car Tours

Do you want to feel as if you are in the 1920s? In Prague, nothing is easier. For about CZK 900 you can hire an antique car that best suits your taste and go on a trip around the historical centre of the city. The inter-war dream might be blown away by the seemingly never-ending queues at the traffic lights, but if you can let yourself ignore the mass of tourists around, you just might have a great time. This exquisite car rental can be found close to Old Town Square, on the Royal Route to Prague Castle. Most tours depart as you come, or for whenever you arrange it. Trips last from 30 minutes up to one hour.

Horse and Carriage Trips

Romantic horse-drawn carriages can be seen in the historical centre of Prague all year round. For about CZK 800 per carriage, which can take up to four people, you can go for a ride



Vintage Tour in Lesser Town.

around the most beautiful streets of the Old Town. You will find the carriages waiting for you in Old Town Square, next to the Old Town Hall and the Astronomical Clock.

Segways Tours

Due to the recent Segway ban in the city centre, all those tours will only bring you to the lesser-known of Prague's attractions, which are located further from the city centre, even though they are still great fun. For everyone's safety, Segway tours are properly guided and involve some training before set-

ting out. No prior experience is required.

www.prague-segway-tours.com

www.pragueonsegway.com

Cycling

Prague is home to a massive network of cycling trails, but most are at the city outskirts. Most visitors prefer taking a tour first for orientation before venturing further afield. It is easy to rent a bike from Praha Bike (www.prahabike.cz) or you might even rent an electric one (www.praguebyebike.com). Most rental shops do tours as well.

Intercity Transfers



We offer transfers to/from any city or town in the Czech Republic and neighboring countries. The rates we offer are likely to be much cheaper than when using a normal taxi, or for larger groups, similar to train ticket prices. However, unlike travelling by train or bus, with us you can break the journey with a few hours' visit to an interesting place en route. There will be just a small waiting charge. Also, for an extra charge, we can arrange a professional guide.

PRAGUE TO BERLIN

On the way to / from Berlin you might choose to stop in Dresden („Florence on the Elbe“) for a short visit to this beautiful city, perhaps having lunch and visiting Zwinger Palace and the Church of Our Lady.

- **Sedan/Minivan** (max. 4 pax)
CZK 6 408 (€ 246)
- **Minivan** (max. 8 pax)
CZK 8 010 (€ 308)

PRAGUE TO VIENNA

If you wish to make your journey from Vienna to Prague more interest-

ing, why not stop on the way in Český Krumlov. Travel time will be about 1.5 hours longer than the direct route and an extra 100km will be travelled, but it is definitely worth it.

- **Sedan/Minivan** (max. 4 pax)
CZK 5 958 (€ 229)
- **Minivan** (max. 8 pax)
CZK 7 448 (€ 298)

PRAGUE TO BUDAPEST

Transfers from Prague to Budapest can be combined with a recommended visit to Vienna or Bratislava, which lie on the way. You can choose either

to travel via Vienna or Bratislava, and stop there for a short visit to the city or just a lunch etc.

- **Sedan/Minivan** (max. 4 pax)
CZK 9 450 (€ 363)
- **Minivan** (max. 8 pax)
CZK 11 813 (€ 454)

PRAGUE TO NUREMBERG

Make a short stop at Plzen (Pilsen) on the way from or to Nuremberg. We recommend at least two hours for the Plzen brewery tour, or one hour if you wish just to stop in the city.

- **Sedan/Minivan** (max. 4 pax)
CZK 5 238 (€ 202)
- **Minivan** (max. 8 pax)
CZK 6 548 (€ 252)

PRAGUE TO PASSAU

Český Krumlov and České Budějovice are worth considering for a short stop on the way from or to Passau. If you decide to visit either or both of those cities, we recommend at least two hours for Český Krumlov and one hour for České Budějovice, or possibly one hour in Hluboká castle.

- **Sedan/Minivan** (max. 4 pax)
CZK 3 942 (€ 152)
- **Minivan** (max. 8 pax)
CZK 4 928 (€ 190)

10% OFF MINIBUS

LONG-DISTANCE TRANSFERS

If you travel with us between Prague and other EU cities like Vienna, Nuremberg, Passau, and Krakow etc., we offer 10% discount on such transport if you book and pre-pay a Superior Tour of Prague or Dinner on the river cruise.

PRAGUE TO SALZBURG

The beautiful city of Český Krumlov is a great place for a short stop on the way from or to Salzburg. We recommend at least two hours, or if you wish to tour the city or just stop for lunch, allow at least one hour.

- **Sedan/Minivan** (max. 4 pax)
CZK 6 768 (€ 260)
- **Minivan** (max. 8 pax)
CZK 8 460 (€ 325)



Book online at www.prague-airport-transfers.co.uk

PRAGUE TO KRAKOW

Stop en route for a few hours for a visit to Auschwitz (German Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp) and continue your journey to Krakow. Allow at least two hours for your visit.

- **Sedan/Minivan** (max. 4 pax)
CZK 9 720 (€ 374)
- **Minivan** (max. 8 pax)
CZK 12 150 (€ 467)

FREE MINIVAN UPGRADE

With us, we will accommodate groups of up to four passengers and your luggage in a bigger vehicle for no extra charge. When booking simply request “Minivan free upgrade”.

WAITING FEE CHARGE

If you require waiting or a multi-stop transfer, for example you go to one city where we wait for you and then you continue on to somewhere else, we will add a waiting charge to your fare. Our waiting

Get 11% off any shared tour or private tour when booking an airport transfer with us.

charges are as follows: 1–4 people: CZK 220 per hour; 5–8 people: CZK 260 per hour.

FAQ

Can we stop for a quick lunch or break along the way? Yes, we are quite happy to stop along the way at no extra charge. If you require a longer stop—over 15 minutes—we might charge a waiting fee.

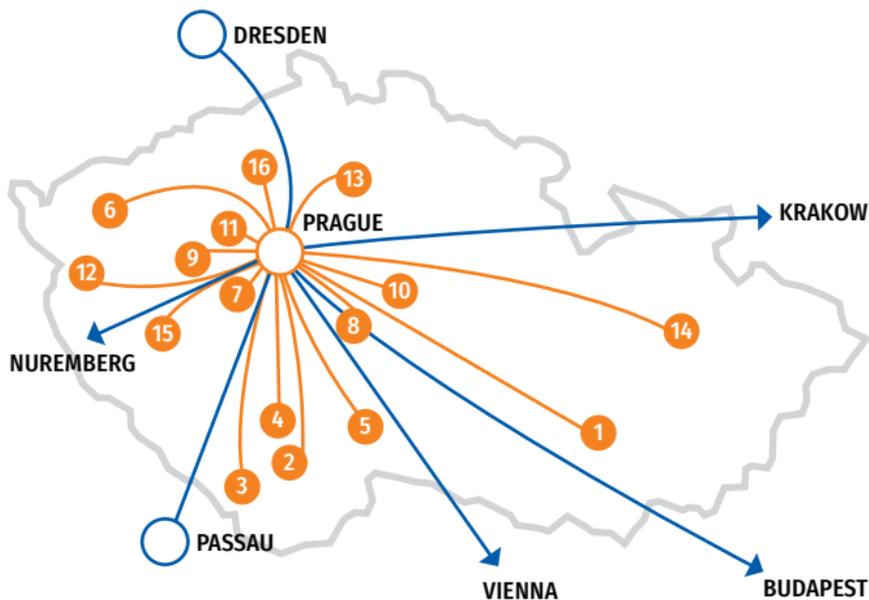
What are the advantages of using your transfers compared to traveling by train or bus?

Our transfers are provided with new and comfortable vehicles, and the travel time is significantly shorter. There are no other stops on the way, unless you ask us to do so (for lunch or toilet). If you travel by train or bus you will also have to add costs for getting to and from the station at both destinations, whereas our transfers are door-to-door and all-inclusive.

What is the fastest means of travel between Prague and other destinations? *Except for flying (where you must add time for getting to/from the airport and checking-in time) our private transfers are the quickest way of getting around.*

Book online at www.prague-airport-transfers.co.uk

Excursions and Transfers Organized by Prague Airport Transfers



Destinations abroad

	km	hours
H Budapest	520	4:45
D Dresden	150	1:45
PL Krakow	550	5:30
D Nuremberg	290	2:45
D Passau	220	3:00
A Vienna	340	3:45

Inland destinations

1 Brno	210	1:45
2 České Budějovice	160	2:15
3 Český Krumlov	180	2:45
4 Hluboká	150	2:00

5 Jindřichův Hradec	150	1:45
6 Karlovy Vary	130	1:45
7 Karlštejn	40	0:45
8 Konopiště	50	0:30
9 Křivoklát	60	1:00
10 Kutná Hora	70	1:15
11 Lidice	30	0:30
12 Mariánské Lázně	170	2:00
13 Mladá Boleslav	70	0:45
14 Olomouc	280	2:45
15 Plzeň	90	1:00
16 Terezín	60	1:50

Times and estimated distances are for one-way transfers from/to Prague's city centre.

EXCURSIONS & TRANSFERS TO OTHER CITIES

Transfer from/to Prague City Centre	1–4	5–8	9+
<i>One way, price in CZK</i>	passengers		
Berlin	6 408	8 010	ask us
Bratislava	5 904	7 380	ask us
Brno	3 708	4 635	ask us
Budapest	9 450	11 813	ask us
Český Krumlov	3 520	4 400	ask us
Dresden	3 000	3 750	ask us
Frankfurt	9 270	11 588	ask us
Hradec Kralové	2 360	2 950	ask us
Jelenia Gora	3 420	4 275	ask us
Karlovy Vary	2 540	3 175	ask us
Krakow	9 720	12 150	ask us
Liberec	2 280	2 850	ask us
Linz	4 392	5 490	ask us
Mariánské Lázně	3 400	4 250	ask us
Mladá Boleslav	1 400	1 750	ask us
Nuremberg	5 238	6 548	ask us
Passau	3 942	4 928	ask us
Plzeň	1 840	2 300	ask us
Salzburg	6 768	8 460	ask us
Vienna	5 958	7 448	ask us
Warsaw	12 384	15 480	ask us
Other Cities	ask us	ask us	ask us

Book online at www.prague-airport-transfers.co.uk



Prague Taxi Services

Our professional, English-speaking drivers have an excellent knowledge of the city and will pick you up straight from your hotel (or any other location you choose) and take you wherever you need to go.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- Cash on arrival (we accept CZK, GBP, EUR and USD only)
- Credit cards (you can make the payment online or pay the chauffeur)
- MC, Visa, AMEX, Diner's Club and JCB are acceptable
- Bank transfers (for corporate customers)
- PayPal

Taxi services	Sedan vehicle	Business sedan	Minivan vehicle
	1–4 group	1–4 group	1–8 group
Vehicle type	Škoda Superb, VW Passat	Mercedes E class	Mercedes Vito/Viano, VW Transporter/Caravelle
City zone	CZK 25/km	CZK 28/km	CZK 28/km
Zone Airport	CZK 550 (€ 21)	CZK 685 (€ 25.5)	CZK 780 (€ 30)
Zone Train station	CZK 390 (€ 14.5)	CZK 550 (€ 21)	CZK 550 (€ 21)
Minimum charge*	CZK 250	CZK 300	CZK 300
Waiting fee**	CZK 220/hour	CZK 280/hour	CZK 280/hour

*) There is a minimum charge per trip. If your fare calculation based on the km is lower than this amount you still be charged our minimum charge. We offer fixed prices only—no taxi metres.

**) There is no traffic waiting fee. If your vehicle is stuck in a traffic jam we do not charge extra. But if you require waiting at your request we do charge a waiting fee per hour (charged per each 15-minute interval).

Book online at www.prague-airport-transfers.co.uk



Lucerna Passage with an upside down version of St. Wenceslas and his horse

Shopping

Most shopping malls and arcades are located in the centre of Prague on Wenceslas Square, in the streets of Na Příkopě, 28. října, Národní, Vinohradská (above the National Museum), Pařížská are on or in the vicinity of Old Town Square.

Pařížská, in Josefov, is home to the city's luxury stores, among them branches of the international fashion houses. Celetná in Staré Město, and Na příkopě on the border of Nové Město, also specialize in luxury goods, clothes and souvenirs. The city's modern department store is the multi-storey MY Národní on Národní, connected with the Quadrio shopping mall.

Locals have had their own malls - known as passages - since the 1920s, and new ones continue to pop up. The biggest of all malls is Palladium, on Náměstí Republiky, housed in a castellated former army barracks. For more off-beat, independent shops, you need to explore the cobbled side-streets of the Old Town and New Town. For outlets, you need to explore the city suburbs.

Close to the tourist attractions there are many shops selling sou-

venirs, t-shirts with 'Franz Kafka' on them, Mucha merchandise, Russian dolls, puppets and Czech porcelain and glass. Beginning late in August, always attend the summer sales. January to mid-February is the optimal time to stock up on pants, jackets and sweaters and other warmer clothing for a fraction of their usual prices. Fall fashion starts following the sales in the summer; the fun colour and radiant florals of spring-time arrive in February, and the summer items are found in stores once Easter is over.

Best buys or recommended items to look for in Prague include Bohemian glass, crystal and china, ceramics, wooden toys and local handicrafts.

Non-EU residents exporting goods to another non-EU country are entitled to tax back; just look for the blue TAX FREE sticker in stores.

What Souvenir to Buy?

The Karlova street connecting the Old Town Square with the Charles Bridge is the busiest road in Prague, and is heavily frequented by tourists. It is packed with similar shops selling identical items and it pays to be cautious. The same can be said about Celetná, linking Old Town Square with Powder Gate and Municipal House. If you want to take traditional Czech items home with you, then you ought to shop away from this area. Although the large quantity of crystal, garnets and glassware being sold are authentically Czech, and some shops, like Moser, are also genuine, you should definitely avoid the shops which sell Slavic items, unless you wish to acquire some colourful nesting dolls from Russia, or some Communist-style furry hats. In fact, a wide array of dubious items are available, as most of the other stores sell inexpensive goods from China, which just have Prague logos stuck to them.

Czech Crystal, Glass, Porcelain and Ceramics

Bohemian glass is famous the world over for its uniqueness and quality. You'll find a lot of Bohemian glass, china and crystal shops spread all around the city centre. The most popular place to start looking is around Wenceslas Square, Na Příkopě and Celetná and close to the Charles Bridge. The two top producers are Moser and Egermann.

MOSER

This is a very well known and respected Bohemian glassmaker. Moser was founded in Karlovy Vary in 1857 and is famous for its rich and flamboyant designs. Visit their shop on Na Příkopě located at the House of the Black Rose.

- 📍 Na Příkopě 12, New Town
- 🕒 Daily 10am–8pm
- 🌐 www.moser-glass.com

ERPET

A wide range of top-notch crystal from a variety of manufacturers.

- 📍 Old Town Square 27
- 🕒 10am–11pm
- 🌐 www.erpetcrystal.cz

ART DÉCORATIF

This is a stunning shop and sells the best jewellery, lamps and furniture in the whole of Prague, most of which is in the Secessionist style.

- 📍 U Obecního domu 2, New Town
- 🕒 10am–8pm every day
- 🌐 www.artdecoratif.cz





Czech Glass

Most shops and shopping malls are open on Sunday as well. Big shopping malls close at 8pm or 10pm.

ARTĚL

Artěl is no ordinary luxury crystal company; they present a striking collection that flaunts hand-crafted finesse, in subtle, sophisticated rainbow hues, bold graphic design and contemporary shapes.

- 📍 U lužického semináře 7
- 📍 Celetná 29 (entrance on Rybná)
- 🕒 Daily 10am–7pm
- 🌐 www.artelglass.com

Beads and Jewellery Imitations

Beads have been made in the Jablonec area since the 16th century, and sold under the Jablonex brand to more than 80 countries for the past 50 years.

BELDA JEWELLERY

A showroom of a family run firm currently making modern pieces following their own designs and in co-operation with other contemporary designers as well as high-quality reproductions and new jewellery from designs by the 19th century artist Alfons Mucha.

- 📍 Mikulandská 10, Prague 1
- 🕒 11am–6pm Mon–Fri
- 🌐 www.belda.cz

Czech Garnet

The blood-red garnet is the official Czech national gem, a popular urban accessory, and is considered the best tourist purchase if you are jewellery-shopping in Prague. Garnets aren't necessarily deep red. There are at least five specific kinds; some are almost transparent and others are black, while the scarce green garnet is much sought-after. According to Czech legends the gemstone consistently wields its mystical powers to replace sadness with joy.

Most garnets are mined near the small town of Teplice, situated about 63km northwest of Prague. Garnets are produced by a single company – Granat Turnov (the only company authorized to mine Czech garnets) – which has branches in Dlouhá and Panská street, and many resellers.

GRANÁT TURNOV

Part of the country's biggest jewellery chain, specialising in Bohemian garnet, with a huge range of gold and silver rings, brooches, cufflinks and necklaces, all featuring the small, dark blood-red stones. There is also pearl and diamond jewellery and less expensive pieces set with the dark green semi-precious stone known in Czech as vltavín (moldavite).

📍 Dlouhá 28-30, Old Town

🕒 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, Sat until 1pm

🌐 www.granat.eu

HAVEL MARKET

Dating back to 1232, this market has seen many changes over the centuries. What began as only a produce market is beginning to get back to its roots as the produce stands now outnumber the souvenir stalls. The market is located off of Melantrichova Street near Můstek. Open daily 7am-6pm.

Czech Marionettes

In Prague, a city offering operas featuring traditional Czech marionettes, these puppets make a great gift. You may know someone who would fancy one of these eerie, but unarguably artistic creations.

THE PUPPET SHOP

📍 Nerudova 51, Prague 1

🌐 www.marionettes.cz

Absinthe

You do not have to be absolutely insane to like absinthe, but the potent, chemistry-lab green spirit is 70% alcohol.

Handicrafts and Gifts

There are many places in Prague to get traditional Czech products, such as handmade soap, beeswax candles, natural cosmetics, wooden toys and other traditional Czech handicrafts.

MANUFATURA

This shop offers original handcrafts, wooden toys and handmade skin care items. Their home woven linens are genuine. They have plenty of locations around Prague, but its major one is Melantrichova 17.

🕒 Daily 10am-8pm

🌐 www.manufatura.cz

BOTANICUS

With many positions in Prague, this brand of natural soap, herb and scent is a fantastic Anglo/ Czech success story. It was begun by a botanist from Britain and a Czech partner on a farm to the north east of Prague. Doctor Stuart's make wonderfully scented items which are excellent gifts for you to take back home with you.

🕒 *Týnský dvůr, Old Town (to the rear of the church of Týn) / Michalská 4, adjacent to Havelské Tržiště, Old Town*

🌐 www.botanicus.cz

Design Shops

GALERIE KUBISTA

Kubista concentrates on superb reproductions of Czech Cubist works, including ceramics and furniture, as well as selling a number of original pieces. Fittingly, it is located in the Cubist House of the Black Madonna.

🕒 *Ovocný trh 19, Old Town*

🕒 *10am-7pm Mon-Fri*

🌐 www.kubista.cz

MODERNISTA

Modernista concentrates on Czech design from the last 100 years, with reproductions of pieces by Adolf Loos and Functionalist designers. The main branch is located on the 2nd storey of Vinohradský Pavilon.

🕒 *Vinohradská 50, Prague 2*

🌐 www.modernista.cz

TIMOURE ET GROUP

Tailor-made coats, suits, trousers, jackets and sweaters.

🕒 *V Kolkovně 6, Old Town*

🕒 *Martinská 4, Old Town*

🌐 www.timoure.cz

KLARA NADEMLYNSKA BOUTIQUE

Boutique of one of the most famous and succesful Czech fashion designers, designed by Olgoj Chorchoj.

🕒 *Dlouhá 3, Old Town*

🕒 *Mon-Fri 10am-7pm, Sat 10am-6pm*

🌐 www.klaranademlynska.cz

HELENA FEJKOVÁ

Occasionally quaint and always wonderfully cut clothing, a venue for finding a garment for special events.

🕒 *Vinohradská 156, Prague 3*

🕒 *11am-7pm Mon-Fri*

🌐 www.helenafejkova.cz

BOHÉME

Czech clothing store for women.

🕒 *Dušní 8, Old Town*

🕒 *Mon-Fri 11am-7pm, Sat 11am-5pm*

🌐 www.boheme.cz

Shopping Malls

Prague's first shopping centres started opening in the mid-1990s. Since then, Prague has been experiencing a shopping mall boom. Today, visitors to Prague have plenty of choices of where to go for a shopping spree.

PALLADIUM

This very large shopping centre, is located in the city centre near the Municipal House, a few minutes' walk from Na Příkopě. There are four floors, with more than 200 shops and over 20 restaurants and cafés. There is also some historical value behind Palladium, as the foundations are associated with 12th century structures which have been integrated into the architecture of the shopping centre.

📍 *Náměstí Republiky 1*

🕒 *Shopping gallery Sun–Wed 9am–9pm and Thu–Sat 9am–10pm; Supermarket Mon–Sun 7am–10pm, Restaurants*

Mon–Sun 8am–11pm

🌐 www.palladiumpraha.cz

MY NÁRODNÍ (TESCO)

Just over the metro, the Národní is a 5 storey monolith, rather than a normal retail outlet. Also, it is the most centrally positioned supermarket, and the place you visit to get a few evening supplies, or some fresh bread or fruit.

📍 *Národní 26, Prague 1*

🕒 *Mon–Sat 7am–9pm, Sun 8am–9pm*

NOVÝ SMÍCHOV

This is a fashionable and modern shopping centre, as well as a favourite entertainment centre. It is located in the district of Smíchov, about a 10-minute walk from the city centre. Nový Smíchov is spread across three floors filled with 160 different shops, a food court and a Cinema City multiplex. There are several stylish boutiques, a large electronics shop and a Tesco hypermarket. There is also a huge area for parking underground. To get there take either a tram or the metro (line B) to Anděl.

📍 *Plzeňská 8, Smíchov*

🕒 *Shops daily 9am–9pm, restaurants until 10pm, Tesco from 6am–12 midnight*

🌐 www.novysmichov.eu

MYSLBEK SHOPPING GALLERY

This small shopping centre is located in a modern building just opposite the Černá růže (Black Rose) shopping centre. It is accessible from Na Příkopě Street or from Ovocný Trh Square. Behind a striking modern facade, this cosy and relaxed shopping gallery has 30 shops and boutiques offering mostly fashion goods, cosmetics, leather materials, ties and pearls. The shopping centre also contains a few restaurants.

📍 *Na Příkopě 19, New Town*

🕒 *Daily Mon–Sat 9am–8pm & Sun 10am–7pm*

🌐 www.ngmyslbek.cz

FASHION ARENA OUTLET

This is an outlet centre where you will find dozens of shops with brands discounted by 30-70%. It is open daily 10am-8pm. To get there, take the metro (line A) to Depot Hostivař and from there the shuttle bus runs directly to Fashion Arena.

📍 Zamenhofova 440, Štěřboholy

🕒 Daily 10am-8pm

🌐 www.fashion-arena.cz

SLOVANSKÝ DŮM

On the street of Na Příkopě is located Slovanský Dům shopping mall, featuring top stores, restaurants, cafes, beauty salons and a multiplex cinema. Inside this lovely social complex you will be amazed by the elegant, modern design and combination of high-end retailers like Armani, Clinique, Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein, and award-winning restaurants.

🕒 Daily 10am-8pm

(restaurants until 11pm)

🌐 www.slovanskydum.cz

KORUNA PASSAGE

This passage, located at the bottom of Wenceslas Square in the Art Nouveau Koruna Palace, offers clothing boutiques, a pizzeria, jewellery and watch stores, a cafe, Body Basics, a jewellery store, and Bontonland Megastore (the largest music store in Prague).

🌐 www.koruna-palace.cz

METROPOLE ZLIČÍN

This is not the biggest mall but it does have various fast food restaurants, a cinema and a supermarket. It also has plentiful parking and is close to the metro and bus route. You can jump on bus number 100 from the airport to Zličín to do some shopping or grab a bite to eat when you leave the airport.

📍 Metro station Zličín

🕒 Daily 9am-9pm (shops)

🌐 www.metropole.cz

ŠESTKA

Šestka is a new shopping mall and is very rarely busy. It is located one stop from Prague Airport, meaning that it is very far from the city centre but perfect to visit just before you leave.

🕒 Daily 9am-9pm

🌐 www.oc-sestka.cz

LUCERNA PASSAGE

Small shops, boutiques and interesting cafes can be found in passages which run under the Art Nouveau Lucerna Palace connecting the Vodičkova and Štěřpánská streets just off the Wenceslas Square. Here you will find the entrance to the the Lucerna cinema, a rock club, unique boutiques, a wine shop, crystal stores, and the Lucerna café. You can't miss an upside-down version of St Wenceslas and his horse by David Černý, hanging from the dome of the atrium of the Lucerna passage.

🌐 www.lucerna.cz



Roasted pork knee

Restaurants and Cafés

Restaurants in Prague have improved over the past few decades since the Communist times, when the state-licensed establishments had little incentive to progress.

Today, Prague's dining scene is in a constant state of flux, with new restaurants opening and closing constantly and where you can find everything from traditional Czech, Italian, Sushi and Thai to Vietnamese food. While standards are now much higher, there are still too many restaurants which serve mediocre meals for the masses of tourists. Most restaurants at tourist places in the Old Town and Lesser Town are likely to be tourist traps and should be avoided, serving overpriced meals rather than being the gourmet experience you would expect. Always ask locals or follow review websites.

But the good news is that, compared to other Western European cities, eating out in Prague is still very affordable.

Between 11am and 2pm virtually every restaurant in Prague offers a discounted lunch menu, therefore meaning you can eat a lot cheaper than usual.

The Restaurant La Degustation Boheme and Alcron has been awarded a Michelin star. Apart from the Michelin Star-awarded restaurants, the Michelin Guide also recommends the following, slightly more affordable, restaurants: Aromi, Divins, Le Terroir, Sansho, Aureole and SaSazu.

There are also some restaurants that will give you a fantastic view of the city including Bellavista, Terasa U Zlaté Studně (Terrace at the Golden Well), Boat Hotel Matylda Ristorante, Kampa Park, Letenský zámeček (Letná Beer Garden), Coda at the Aria Hotel, Terasa Hotel U Prince, Ginger & Fred, Villa Richter, Grosseto Marina Ristorante and Hergetova Chhelna.

If you are looking for a little romance as well Palffy Palace, U Modré Kachničky, Restaurant Pod Věží or La Finestra in Cucina will all fit the bill.

Czech Cuisine

Visitors to Prague often miss out on the best of traditional Czech cuisine which is heavily meat-based, but also quite diverse. Do not miss this, unless you are a vegetarian. The traditional national dish is “pork, cabbage and dumplings” (vepřo-knedlo-zelo) which must be accompanied with a pint of beer or two, the most typical Czech beverage.

This dish is composed of roast pork, ‘knedlíky’ (bread or potato-like dumplings, which is a kind of gnocchi made from bread or potato), gravy and sauerkraut (pickled cabbage). The reason why it gained so much popularity is because of its balanced taste, with the sour taste of sauerkraut a perfect complement to the salty taste of the meat.

Other popular choices to try are roast duck or sirloin beef in a cream sauce (svíčková na smetaně) with bread dumplings and garnished with cranberries. Czech cuisine also adopted schnitzel (breaded and fried chicken or pork) from Vienna, goulash (meat in gravy with bread dumplings) from Hungary, and other things like sour cream, vinegar, sour vegetables and gherkins – probably from the East.

Among grab-and-go foods, ‘bramborák’ (a garlic-seasoned fried potato pancake) is a quick, if not greasy, local favourite. The same goes for

‘smažený sýr’ (fried cheese). Fried cheese was, for a long time, practically the only vegetarian dish served in restaurants.

Tippling in Restaurants

A basic 5%-15% is appreciated, but not mandatory. Czechs mostly just round the bill up to the next round ten crowns. You can leave cash on the table if you thought the service was good, or say ‘dobrý’ when paying your waiter, it means “OK”, as in “keep the change”. Or, when handing over the money, just say how much you would like to pay. If you say nothing, you will receive the exact change.

Some restaurants add a “service fee” to the final amount, so the tip is included. If you are unsure, just ask. Also, if you are unsure about any items on the bill, it is wise to ask. It can be hard to figure out exactly what you are being charged for, and “mistakes” are not uncommon. Even today, some establishments try to rip off tourists.

Cheap Restaurants

Cheap restaurants are not hard to find, but can be less frequent around tourist spots. Generally, prices in cheap restaurants range from CZK 130 to CZK 250 for dinner and beer. Most of them serve Czech, Italian or American style dishes. It is also possible to eat very cheaply at some local Chinese restaurants for around

CZK 80 for a lunch. A set meal at McDonald's or KFC will cost you around CZK 120. Please note that most of the cheap restaurants do not accept credit cards.

PIZZERIA KMOTRA € ★★★

Here you can eat pizza. It is a perennial favourite: hence, the long queue for a table.

📍 V Jirchářích 12, New Town

🕒 Daily 11am-midnight

🌐 www.kmotra.cz

U KROKA € ★★★

It is not the best in Prague but if you have a small budget, this restaurant is definitely worth it. Whether you try goulash, pork with dumplings or potato soup the portions are big and the food is well cooked.

📍 Vratislavova 12, Prague 2

🕒 Daily 11am-11pm

🌐 www.ukroka.cz

PIZZA COLOSEUM € ★★★

This chain of restaurants is dotted around Prague and is a solid place for pizza and pasta. They are often busy, but a still choice for a pre-movie dinner.

📍 Vodičkova 32 in New Town and upstairs in Koruna Passage on the corner of Wenceslas Square and Na Příkopě

🕒 Mon-Sat 11:30am-11:30pm, Sun noon-11:30pm

🌐 www.pizzacoloseum.cz

BOHEMIA BAGEL € ★★★

A wide variety of fresh bagels, sandwiches and homemade soups are available here, as well as bottomless cups of coffee. We recommend you try the muffins, and cheesecakes. Opened in 1996 by American entrepreneur.

📍 Lázeňská 19, Lesser Town

🕒 Open 7:30am-6pm

📍 Masná 2, Old Town

🕒 Open daily 8am-8pm

🌐 www.bohemiabagel.cz

Restaurant Picks

U PRINCE HOTEL

ROOF TERRACE BAR €€€ ★★★

If you are looking for romance in Prague, then one of the best spots in town is the U Prince Hotel Roof Terrace Bar. As you sit down for a drink, be sure to enjoy the roof-top terrace at the five-star hotel by the same name. Located in Old Town Square, the sights are unforgettable as you are at eye-level with the famous Astronomical Clock Tower. The Roof Terrace Bar has some of the best views in all of Prague, and you can watch as the sun sets on Prague Castle and the square itself. You can even enjoy this spot year round as there are heaters and covers which keep the terrace warm and protected even in the middle of the winter months.

📍 U Prince Hotel, Old Town Square 29

🕒 Open daily 11am-11:30pm

🌐 www.hotelprince.com

SASAZU

€€ ★★★

SaSaZu continues its reign as the top upmarket Asian restaurant in Prague. The chef, Shahaf Shabtay, has travelled the world, and it shows on his menu, which includes flavours and dishes from India, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and other exotic locales in Southeast Asia. Prices for individual entrées are not outrageous.

📍 *Bubenské náměstí 306/13, Prague 7*

🕒 *Sun-Thur 12 noon- 12 midnight & Fri-Sat 12 noon-1am*

💰 *CZK 150-500*

🌐 *www.sasazu.com*

AMBIENTE

€€ ★★★☆

If you're up for perfect homemade pasta with a large selection of wine, one of the best choices is the permanently best-rated Ambi chain restaurant Pasta Fresca. From street level, where the café is, the restaurant might not look extremely charming, but once you enter the stairs will take you to the intimate 300-year-old cellar where everything is made by hand.

📍 *Celetná 11, Old Town*

🕒 *Daily 11am until midnight (café open 10am until midnight)*

💰 *CZK 200-400*

🌐 *http://pastafresca.ambi.cz*

PIANO NOBILE**AT VILLA RICHTER**

€€€ ★★★

This fine, exquisite French restaurant is located on the hillside just

GO TO RESTAURANTS**WHERE CZECH PEOPLE GO**

Many of the best areas of Prague are in the cobbled alleyways knotted together in delightful warrens, and this is where the best bars and restaurants can be found.

Unfortunately the grungy bars have moved here as well, but they are easy to tell apart.

Signs and menus in English (especially if exclusively in English) are a warning to leave immediately. However, staff being able to speak English is simply a tribute to the Czech education system, and not a reflection on the establishment.

A tourist wrangler on the street outside should be treated with caution, and their desperate or cunning entreaties ignored. Finally, a simple look at the other customers should tell you a lot. Local Czech people go to the best restaurants, tourists go to the easiest restaurants.

below Prague Castle in a summerhouse that dates all the way back to 1836. Newly restored, this restaurant offers not only a tremendous view of

Prague, but also fine food at reasonable prices. The restaurant also has over 2500 bottles of wine, including a wide international selection as well as popular Czech wines.

📍 *Staré zámecké schody 6, Prague Castle*

🕒 *Daily 11am-11pm*

💰 *CZK 350-550*

🌐 www.villarichter.cz

CHEZ MARCEL

€€ ★★★☆☆

This is Prague's most authentic Parisian-style brasserie popular with locals and "expats". The daily specials are recommended: pepper steak and paté.

📍 *Haštalská 12, Old Town*

🕒 *Daily 11:30am-11pm*

🌐 www.chezmarcel.cz

KONÍRNA RESTAURANT

€½ ★★★☆☆

Set in the middle of Lesser Town, Konírna Restaurant offers traditional Czech food. The building which houses the restaurant actually dates back to 1176, but has recently undergone an entire transformation that has not only kept, but also enhanced the atmosphere and character. The food on the menu is a blend of Czech favorites and international ones as well with such meals as beef sirloin and rib eye steak.

📍 *Maltézské náměstí 292/10, Lesser Town*

🕒 *Daily 11am-midnight*

🌐 www.konirna.eu

Expensive Restaurants

If money is not an issue, you can sample some of the best gourmet restaurants in Prague. When you pay a premium price, you expect VIP treatment—which is unfortunately not the case in every establishment. Our personal recommendations are the restaurants: Bellevue, with unparalleled views of Prague Castle and Charles Bridge, Ginger & Fred, for its excellent French cuisine and views of the Prague skyline. Another good tip is V Zátíší where you can indulge in a 5-course menu, located just beside Bethlehem Chapel. For seafood specialities, try Restaurant Restaurant Ungelt. Although not cheap, the dishes are an amazing combination of art and taste.

GINGER & FRED

€€½ ★★★☆☆

This restaurant offers one of the best French cuisines in Prague and is located on the top floor of one of Prague's most famous modern landmarks, the 'Dancing House' (Tančící dům). There are amazing views of the city both from the inside dining room and the rooftop terrace. Recommended are red snapper à la Provençal, tournedos de boeuf with Béarnaise sauce and young rabbit in mustard sauce.

📍 *Rašínovo nábřeží 80, Prague 2*

🕒 *Daily noon-11pm*

(no lunch on Mondays)

💰 *From CZK 700 and up*

🌐 www.ginger-fred-restaurant.cz



Kampa Park

KAMPA PARK €€½ ★★★

Kampa Park is an excellent choice, especially in the summer when diners can eat outside beside the River Vltava. Superb Scandinavian seafood and seasonal specialities are among the top choices at this posh riverside restaurant. Weekday lunches offer great value and are especially popular.

📍 They are located at Na Kampě 8b, Lesser Town (Kampa Island)

🕒 Daily 11:30am-11pm (bar is open 11:30am-1am)

💰 CZK 500-1000

🌐 www.kampagroup.com

TERASA U ZLATÉ STUDNĚ €€€ ★★★

The food is the clear highlight of this restaurant, but the views across the red-tiled rooftops of Lesser Town are also stunning. The kitchen, which has

French, Mediterranean and Asian influences also include fois gras, monk fish, royal pigeon, traditional French bouillabaisse, chocolate almond cake and homemade ice cream. This menu may be expensive but it is an act of luxury that some people may not get the opportunity to experience anywhere else.

📍 U Zlaté Studně 4, Lesser Town

🕒 Daily from 7am-11pm

📖 A La Carte menu CZK 720-1150

Multi-course menu at CZK 2100

🌐 www.terasauzlatestudne.cz

BELLEVUE €€€ ★★★

Stunning views of the castle and river complement the outstanding world-class, carefully crafted continental cuisine, served up in an atmosphere of formal elegance. There is also a lovely summer terrace. Fancied by



Bellevue

families, couples and businesses alike, the Bellevue is considered to be one of the top places to eat.

- 📍 Smetanovo nábřeží 18, Prague 1
- 🕒 Daily noon-3pm (last orders 2pm) and 5:30pm-11pm (last orders 10pm)
- 👉 From CZK 1000 and up
- 🌐 www.bellevuerestaurant.cz

V ZÁTIŠÍ €€€ ★★★

This is one of the best restaurants in Prague. V Zátiší is a relaxed, sophisticated venue, which was among the first restaurants to open in Prague following the Velvet Revolution. The restaurant is beautiful with several different rooms decorated in different styles. You may select from Bohemian, French or Oriental menu.

- 📍 Betlémské nám. / Liliová 1, Old Town
- 🕒 Daily noon-3pm & 5:30pm-11pm
- 👉 Three courses menu CZK 1090
- 🌐 www.vzatisi.cz

Czech Traditional Restaurants

With cheap student pubs being closed and substituted for more profitable hotels and shops, it is becoming hard to locate a genuinely authentic Czech restaurant or pub in the historical centre of the city. Many Czechs do not frequent “authentic” eateries, and prefer the more cosmopolitan food of other countries to boring sauerkraut. Consequently, historic venues with a

“traditional” Czech atmosphere have turned touristy, although they are still lots of fun, great value and liked by local people.

U KALICHA (AT THE CHALICE) €€ ★★★

Here you will find real Czech food. The Good Soldier Švejk made a date with a friend here for ‘six in the evening after the war’. It has lots of atmosphere and standard Czech fare.

- 📍 Na Bojišti 12-14, Prague 2
- 🕒 Daily 11am-3pm and 5-10pm
- 🌐 www.ukalicha.cz

BREDOVSKÝ DVŮR € ★★★

It serves the usual Czech dishes, sometimes with great aplomb. The ribs here stand out, as well does the duck.

- 📍 Politických vězňů 13, New Town
- 🕒 Mon-Sat 11am until midnight, Sun 11am-11 pm
- 🌐 www.restauracebredovskydvr.cz

VÝTOPNA €½ ★★★

This Czech restaurant right on top of the Wenceslas Square boasts 400m of miniature railway system that winds around the room and delivers drinks to your table. Unique restaurant for families and indeed for big kids of all ages.

- 📍 Wenceslas Sq. 56 (in Palác Fénix), New Town
- 🕒 Sun-Thr 11am-midnight, Fri-Sat 11am-1am
- 🌐 <https://vytopna.cz/>



Traditional Czech Roast Duck with potato dumplings and cabbage

KOLKOVNA

€½ ★★★

Run by the Pilsner Urquell brewery, Kolkovna is a stylish, modern take on the traditional Prague beer hall decorated with historical photos and advertisements, and old tools and artefacts traditionally used in beer brewing. The food is reasonably priced, with a large selection of traditional Czech fare such as roast duck and pork, Moravian sparrow, goulash and venison. Main courses are served

with traditional side dishes such as dumplings and red and white cabbage, along with mashed potatoes and chips.

📍 V Kolkovně 8, Old Town

🕒 11am-midnight

🌐 www.vkolkovne.cz

U SÁDLŮ

€½ ★★★

The restaurant has a middle-ages theme, complete with suits of armour and weaponry on the wall.

Their kitchen produces outstanding tenderloin, hearty soups and other burly fare, but with a certain “je ne sais quoi”, that is moderately priced. The food is really excellent and the portions are big.

📍 *Klimentská 2, New Town*

🕒 *Mon-Thr 11am-midnight, Fri-Sat 11am-1am, Sun noon-midnight*

🌐 www.usadlu.cz

LA DEGUSTATION BOHÊME €€€ ★★★☆☆

La Degustation Bohême features traditional Czech food, utilizing late nineteenth century recipes. Restaurant, led by Chef Oldřich Sahajdák is one of the two restaurants in Prague which have received the Michelin Star. A team of chefs and pâtisseries prepare three menus consisting of multiple courses supplemented with seven amuse-bouches. Visit their website for a menu selected using organic ingredients from Czech farms and small produce providers.

📍 *Haštalská 753/18, Old Town*

🕒 *Daily 6pm-midnight*

🌐 www.ladegustation.cz

LOKÁL € ★★★☆☆

Part of the successful Ambiente chain of „inventive“ restaurants, Lokál has championed the „Slow Food“ movement here in the Czech Republic, turning out quality, moderately priced Czech plates – think livers, fried cheese, svíčková (beef in a cream sauce and dumplings) –

served in a trendy space, with free-flowing Pilsner and a lively, upbeat pub atmosphere.

📍 *Dlouhá 33, Old Town*

🕒 *Mon-Fri 11am-1am, Sat 12pm-1am, Sun 12pm-10pm*

🌐 <http://lokal-dlouha.ambi.cz>

CZECHHOUSE GRILL €€½ ★★★☆☆

The Hilton Prague’s flagship restaurant features Czech specialties as well as contemporary European cuisine. In this vast room inside the Hilton, Chef Roman Paulus concentrates on upscale, modern versions of classics, but throws in a few twists, such as an over-the top prime beef tartar with caviar. Except for the less appealing view of a car park and office building, there is nothing disappointing about this place.

📍 *Pobřežní 1, Karlín (inside the Hilton Hotel)*

🕒 *Daily 6pm-11pm*

🌐 www.hiltonprague.com

U PROVAZNICE €½ ★★★☆☆

The room is unusual, with bizarre artwork and a poor masquerade of the faux-finish technique. The wooden tables and chairs are very uncomfortable, but it is quite difficult to find a more reasonably priced example of Czech cooking anywhere so close to the city centre.

📍 *Provažnická 3, Old Town*

🕒 *Daily 11am until midnight*

🌐 www.uprovaznice.cz

Vegetarian Restaurants

There are not many “100% pure” vegetarian restaurants in Prague, so if you are searching for one, it is good to know that many restaurants which appear in vegetarian directories are often mixed restaurants, serving both meat and only a few veggie dishes. Except for well-known vegan restaurants like Country Life and Govinda, check the ingredients in the dishes, as it is not unusual for your potential veggie meal to include pork.

COUNTRY LIFE €½ ★★★

This cafeteria-like or buffet-style vegetarian food hall offers a variety of ready-made selections, including sandwiches, salads, veggie burgers and veggie goulash. The extra healthy unprocessed, unrefined, non-dairy food is charged according to weight. This place gets really busy, but don't get frightened by the long line – it moves quickly. It also has a health food store where you can pick up some items to cook at home.

- 📍 Jungmannova 1, Prague 1
- 🕒 Mon-Fri from 8:30am, Sat&Sun closed
- 📍 Melantrichova 15, Prague 1
- 🕒 Mon-Fri from 10:30am, Sun from 12pm
- 🌐 www.countrylife.cz

GOVINDA € ★★★

The vegetarian restaurant Govinda belongs to one of the first vegetar-

ian restaurants opened in Prague. Various selections of Indian specialities and other meals inspired by western culinary art are on the menu. Simple interior, meditative music, low prices – that's what characterize this place.

- 📍 Soukenická 27, Prague 1
- 🕒 Mon-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 12pm-4pm
- 👉 CZK 100-150
- 🌐 www.govindarestaurace.cz

LEHKÁ HLAVA (CLEAR HEAD) € ★★★

A non-smoking, open-kitchen restaurant and tearoom, where you won't meet meat but excellent and cheap vegetarian cuisine. The menu features specials, tapas, soups, salads, desserts, pasta, main entrées, fresh juices, and other beverages. No eggs are used. The interior is unique, with each room having a different theme, a small colourful contemporary room, a warm orange room with fish tank, and a blue heaven room where the ceiling is decorated with stars.

- 📍 Boršov 2, Prague 1
- 🕒 Mon-Fri 10:30am-11:30pm, Sat-Sun 12pm-11:30pm
- 👉 CZK 150-200
- 🌐 www.lehkahlava.cz

Famous Cafés

CAFÉ IMPERIAL €€ ★★★

Café Imperial is a wonderfully elegant and stylish place to indulge yourself in for a few hours. This grand Habsburg-era café was recently reno-

vated and has retained its original, over-the-top, 20th century, cream-and-mustard ceramic tiled decor and colourful mosaic ceiling. You can come here just for a coffee and cake and soak up the atmosphere, or go a step further and enjoy a good meal from the kitchen of one of the Czech Republic's most well known TV celebrity chefs.

📍 *Na Poříčí 15, Prague 1*

🕒 *Daily 7am-11pm*

🌐 www.cafeimperial.cz

MUNICIPAL HOUSE CAFÉ €€ ★★★

This splendid café in Prague's lavish Municipal House provides the chance to sample your cappuccino amongst a cavalcade of art nouveau elegance. Also worthy of note is the nice, small American Bar down in the building's basement, with polished wood, gleaming copper and stained glass.

📍 *Náměstí Republiky 5, New Town*

🕒 *7.30am-11pm*

🌐 www.kavarnaod.cz

CAFÉ SLAVIA €½ ★★★

This is the most famous café in Prague: a cherry-wood and onyx shrine to Art Deco elegance, with polished limestone-topped tables and big windows overlooking the river and National Theatre just across the street. Indulge in your cup of coffee while watching the city pass by. The menu offers some great cream cakes, fresh salads, pasta and vegetarian dishes.

📍 *Corner of Smetanovo nábřeží and Národní třída*

🕒 *Mon-Sat 8am-12am,*

Sat-Sun 9am-12am

🌐 www.cafeslaviva.cz

CAFÉ SAVOY €½ ★★★

Spacious and unhurried, this elegant café on the edge of Malá Strana is rarely troubled by tourist overload and makes a good refuge from the hustle and bustle of the town centre. A small fountain at the entrance adds a touch of class and the lofty, extravagantly decorated 19th-century ceiling adds real character to this century-old room. The usual coffees and sweets (including a superb apple strudel) are complemented by a small drinks list and a few offerings for those wanting a salad or a full meal.

📍 *Vítězná 124/5, Lesser Town*

🕒 *Mon-Fri 8am-10:30pm, Sat-Sun*

9am-10:30pm

🌐 www.ambi.cz

CAFÉ LOUVRE €€½ ★★★

This historic French-style café is a place for a great coffee with an even greater feel for the real Czech atmosphere. There is an upstairs restaurant with views of the Art Nouveau architecture.

📍 *Národní třída 22, New Town*

🕒 *Mon-Fri 8am-11:30pm,*

Sat-Sun 9am-11:30pm

🌐 www.cafelouvre.cz



Some restaurants, especially those located in tourist areas, might try to cheat you. Be careful and always check the bill. Don't eat what is left on the table, as it will usually result in being charged extra

Pubs and Bars

Beer is the essence of any Czech culinary attitude. Czechs like to drink and they are amongst the biggest-drinking nations in the world. And when you want to spend all night drinking, you have plenty of choices as there are around 800 pubs in Prague, a few of which have existed for centuries. The most famous is U Zlatého tygra, not far from Old Town Square. It is the place where former Czech president Václav Havel took Bill Clinton for a drink in 1994.

Unfortunately, genuine Czech pub culture has developed drastically during the last decade, and some historic pubs are now highly overpriced and have since forced out local drinkers due to the high cost. It means a lot more attention should be paid in selecting places to visit if you want to avoid the unpleasant experience of paying four times as much as necessary.

If you have made up your mind and ended up at a busy pub with nearly no places to sit, don't worry. Czech tradition is sharing a table – it is not unusual if someone asks you if they can share your table with you, and of course, you are expected say

yes. And once you sit down and are drinking your first pint, do not be surprised if your glass is replenished without even asking (there is table service in Czech pubs). That is part of the Czech tradition too. If you find that pubs close a little bit early, especially on weekdays, at around 11pm, you might continue your night drinking by visiting many bars. Bars are usually open until early morning and drinking there is more expensive than in pubs. One of the best upscale bars in the city is Buggy's Cocktail Bar. Located just off of Old Town Square on Pařížská, Buggy's has a classic 1950s American theme, with waiters in bow ties.



Live Music at U Fleků

Pubs

U FLEKŮ

€€ ★★★

On the premises of the oldest Czech brewery in Prague, this pub and micro-brewery is more expensive than other places, but in return you are drinking special dark beer brewed right on the location while enjoying live music and chatting with tourists from all over the world. The front façade of the 12th-century building is unique in that it has an old, highly-decorated clock above its door. 13° black beer (0.4l) known as Flek costs CZK 59. Beware of the waiter

asking if you want to try a Becherovka – it will add CZK 80 to the bill.

📍 Křemencova 11, New Town

🕒 Daily 10am-11pm

🌐 www.ufleku.cz

U VYSTŘELENÉHO OKA

€ ★★★

It is a pleasant pub with a beer garden and serves cheap food and beer. This pub pulls in all sorts of people from backpackers to local writers.

📍 U Božích Bojovníků 3, Žižkov

🕒 Mon-Sat 4:30pm-1am

🌐 www.uvoka.cz

U PINKASŮ

€ ★★★

The first Prague pub to serve Pilsner Urquell (in 1843), it is still a place recommended for great and reasonably-priced Czech meals. The interior is spartan, but the back patio is a surprising haven, surrounded by ruins and divided into distinct open-air rooms, it welcomes boisterous groups (you may hear impromptu singing) or those seeking a more romantic place.

📍 Jungmannovo náměstí 16, New Town (close to Můstek metro station)

🕒 Daily 10am-11:30pm

💰 CZK 150-250

🌐 www.upinkasu.cz

U MEDVÍDKŮ

€½ ★★★

Some bars in Prague have veered towards the tourist currency, although U Medvídků has retained its traditional charm and is still very much a favourite with Czech locals. This is a straightforward Czech pub and easily large enough to accommodate everyone.

📍 Na Perštýně 7, Old Town

🕒 Daily 11am-10pm

🌐 www.umedvidku.cz

PIVNICE U ČERNÉHO VOLA

€ ★★★

This is an authentic and very nice beer hall. Local clientele and local prices.

📍 Loretanské náměstí 1; Prague Castle

🕒 Daily 10am-10pm.

🌐 www.ucernehovola.cz

PIVOVARSKÝ DŮM

€½ ★★★

The food is average, but the beer is experimental and very good. The restaurant's extensive beer list boasts some fairly unorthodox flavours such as coffee and champagne. This place is definitely worth a few pints, with a nice atmosphere and friendly service. Locals gather here to sample the classic Czech lager and it gets crowded, so expect to wait if you come at dinner time.

📍 Lípová 15, New Town (close to Charles Square)

🕒 11am-11:30pm

💰 CZK 250-400 CZK

🌐 www.pivovarskydum.com

NOVOMĚSTSKÝ PIVOVAR (NEWTOWN BREWERY)

€½ ★★★☆

This popular local beer hall is located just a few blocks from Wenceslas Square. If you have not booked, you will be lucky to get a table. The restaurant serves hearty Czech food at very reasonable prices. Light and dark beers from their microbrewery simply must not be missed.

📍 Vodičkova 20, New Town

🕒 Mon-Fri 10am-11:30pm, Sat 11:30am-11:30pm, Sun noon-10pm

🌐 www.npivovar.cz

U ZLATÉHO TYGRA

€ ★★★

(THE GOLDEN TIGER)

This is quite an old drinking hall with cool beer prices, just CZK 36 for ½ a litre of the frothy Pilsner Urquell lager.

Typical beer snacks

Pivní sýr – a little cream is added to dairy cheese and it is whipped up into a froth into which a small amount of fresh garlic is pressed.

Utopenec (literally drowned man)

– so called because it consists of a soft, strong, spicy sausage filled with onion and spicy paprika, seasoned with pepper and covered or “drowned” in a liquid made from water, vinegar and salt. After several days in cold storage, the smoked meat becomes a spicy delicacy.

Topinka – this is a piece of dark bread fried in salt, garlic and lard or oil. It is traditionally served with scrambled eggs, grated cheese, a meat mixture, or spicy cheese spread.

Pickled Hermelín – Hermelín is a camembert-type cheese. This one has been marinated in oil with onion, garlic, hot peppers and spices.

Tlačenka s cibulí (brawn and onion) – is a piece of haggis-resembling meat desert, garnished with vinegar and sprinkled with freshly cut slices of onion. Be aware that these are often quite acidic because of the vinegar.

When Bill Clinton visited the Czech Republic, Václav Havel former President of the Czech Republic showed him this pub – to see a real Czech pub. The average beer tourist may find it hard to get a seat in this popular local hangout, so make sure you get there early as seats fill up quickly. Have a pint while standing at the bar, if all the seats are taken or reserved for regular patrons. This is one of the world's greatest beer halls, so treat it and its regular patrons with appreciation.

📍 *Husova 17, Old Town*

🕒 *Daily from 3pm- 11pm*

💰 *Mains CZK 100-150, CZK 36 per 0.5l of Pilsner Urquell*

🌐 *www.uzlatehotygra.cz*

LES MOULES CAFÉ

€€ ★★★

This restaurant/café serves a large selection of Belgian beers, including Stella Artois, Chimay and Hoegaarden. From the food menu, try some delicious seafood.

📍 *Only a few steps from the Jewish Museum located at Pařížská 19, Josefov*

🕒 *Daily 11:30am-12pm*

💰 *It is a bit pricier compared to other pubs*

🌐 *www.lesmoules.cz*

KLÁŠTERNÍ PIVOVAR

€€ ★★★

(THE STRAHOV MONASTERY BREWERY)

This microbrewery is located close to Prague Castle (Strahov Monastery), it serves simple meals and famous

Czech beers. The pub serves up two varieties of its St Norbert beer – dark, a rich, tarry brew with a creamy head, and amber, a full-bodied, hoppy lager. It might be a bit more expensive by Czech standards, but is still a bargain for travellers.

📍 *Strahovské nádvoří 301, Strahov*

🕒 *Daily 10am-10pm*

🌐 www.klasterni-pivovar.cz

PIVNÍ GALERIE € ★★★

This is a bar and bottle shop together. They have a few beers on draft, along with hundreds of bottles of different Czech beer. If you're not sure which one to choose, ask the staff for help. The bar is located away from the city centre, about a 2/3 of a mile from Holešovice train station. Because of its location, many foreigners never find this very friendly bar with its great atmosphere.

📍 *U Průhonu 9, Holešovice*

🕒 *Mon-Fri 11am-7pm*

🌐 www.pivnigalerie.cz

FERDINANDA € ★★★

This establishment has two centrally located restaurants – one in Lesser Town and the other in New Town. Ferdinanda serves the tasty and unique Ferdinand beer, or try the „Sedm kulí“ (Seven Bullets), which is an excellent Vienna-style beer. Of course, they also have a good selection of pilsners and lagers. The food is different from what you would find in other



U Kocoura Pub (Nerudova 2)

similar places, and the staff is very friendly. Prices are very reasonable.

📍 *The New Town location is on the corner of Opletalova and Politických vězňů*

🕒 *Mon-Sat 11am-11:00pm*

📍 *Lesser Town location is at Karmelitská 18*

🕒 *Mon-Sat 11am-11:00pm, Sun 11am-5pm*

🌐 www.ferdinanda.cz

SURVIVAL BEER DICTIONARY

Beer – PIVO

Brewery – PIVOVAR

Dark beer – TMAVÉ PIVO

Lager beer – SVĚTLÉ PIVO

Draft beer – TOČENÉ PIVO

One beer – JEDNO PIVO

Two beers – DVĚ PIVA

Thank you – DĚKUJI

Bill please – ÚČET PROSÍM

Menu – JÍDELNÍ LÍSTEK

Good day – DOBRÝ DEN

Goodbye – NASHLEDANOU

Bars

There are three types of bars unique to Prague – the traditional Czech pub with a perfect local atmosphere and usually cheap beer, western-style bars serving trendy but expensive cocktails, and the casino bars which are a 24-hour bar-casino combination. These below are our favourites.

O'CHE'S BAR €€ ★★★

With a great location in the Old Town near Charles Bridge, there is no wonder that this pub is very popular. Interestingly, it is not a traditional Irish pub, but it is a mix between Irish and Cuban. As a result, O'Che's brings in a wide and varied clientele who come for the sports, the cocktails and the beer. O'Che's also sports an impressive number of beers on tap, as well as a cocktail of the week - and on Thursdays all cocktails are half-price. There are also three televisions and one large projection screen, receiving such channels as Sky Sports, ESPN, BBC and more.

- 📍 Liliová 14, Old Town
- 🕒 Daily 10am until 1am
- 🌐 www.oches.com

BUGSY'S BAR €€½ ★★★

An old reliable place, where trendy and hip crowds gather every night, it shakes, stirs and tosses the best cocktails in town. Their drink list is about the length of *The Great Gatsby*



Czech beer is world famous

and fun to read with over 300 different kinds of drink listed.

- 📍 Kostečná 2 (off Pařížská), Old Town
- 🕒 Daily 7pm-2am
- 🌐 www.bugsybar.cz

CAFFREY'S IRISH BAR €€ ★★★

Here you will find a casual atmosphere and full menu on Old Town Square. Guinness, Kilkenny and Bulmer's are all available. If you can, try going in the summer when the bar will open a terrace facing the Old Town Square. You will not want to miss having a great drink in such a great location.

- 📍 Old Town Square 10
- 🕒 Daily 9am-2am
- 🌐 www.caffreys.cz

AMERICAN BAR €€½ ★★★

This classic-style bar housed in the Art Nouveau Municipal House is one of the oldest in town. Drinks are poured by true experts. The bar was decorated with colored drawings by M. Ales in the period 1910-1911.

- ⊙ Republic Sq. 5, New Town
- ⌚ Daily 11:30am-11pm
- 📄 www.americkybar.cz/en/

DOUBLE TROUBLE CLUB €€ ★★★

This is a bar and club with small party atmosphere and huge cocktail list. No one is going to be shocked by people dancing on tables or seats, or even on the bar. Actually, this is the norm here.

- ⊙ Melantrichova 17, Prague 1
- ⌚ Daily 8pm-4am (Fri-Sat till 5am)
- 📄 Cuba Libre CZK 95, Mojito CZK 140
- 📄 www.doubletrouble.cz

AL CAPONE'S €€ ★★★

Small and cozy cocktail bar in the heart of the city. Low prices with fun guaranteed - all that makes it a good choice.

- ⊙ Bartolomějská 3, Old Town
- ⌚ Mon-Thr 5pm-2am, Fri 6pm-3am, Sat & Sun 6pm-midnight

BOMBAY COCKTAIL BAR €€ ★★★

Only a few steps from Old Town Square you can find this busy, popular music bar. It is quite small with a tiny dance floor. Regardless of its size, it has a good atmosphere and the best cocktails in town - guaranteed. This bar attracts mainly international travellers.

- ⊙ Dlouhá 13, Old Town
- ⌚ Sun-Wen 7pm-4am, Thr 7pm-5am, Fri-Sat 7pm-6am
- 📄 www.bombay-bar.cz

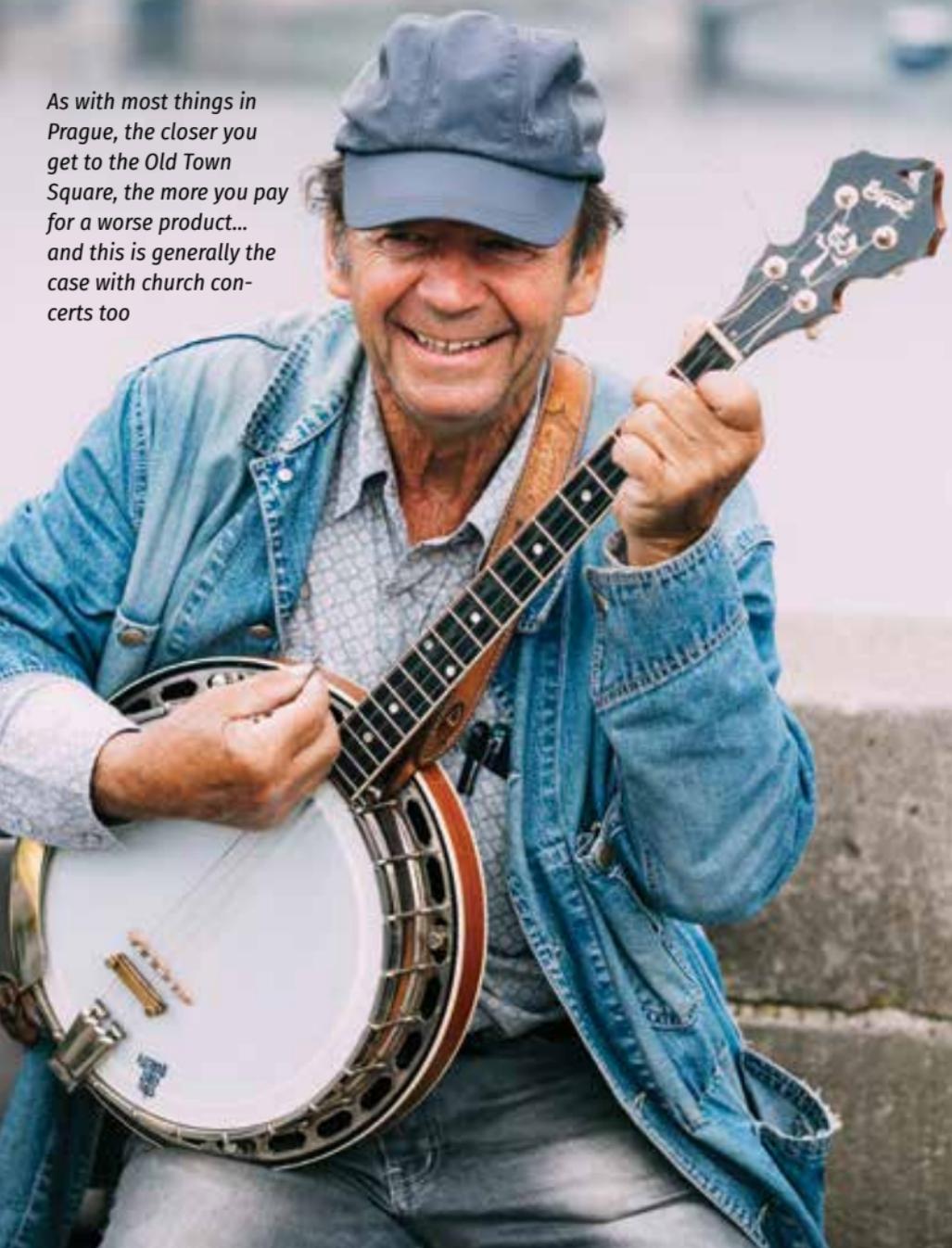
CZECH BEER

The love of beer is one of several characteristics that the Czechs share with the British. Czech beer tends to be more full-bodied and more bitter than foreign brews, and always arouses the desire for more. The most famous beers are Pilsener Urquell and Gambrinus from Plzeň (Pilsen), Budvar from České Budějovice (Budweis), Staropramen and Krušovice.

CZECH SPIRITS

If you prefer spirits, all the well-known ones are available, the most popular amongst Czech people being vodka followed by rum and fernet. Fernet is a dark herbal bitter drink. Becherovka is another herbal spirit, originally from the Bohemian spa town of Karlovy Vary. Another spirit you may come across is 'borovička' (a juniper-flavoured spirit with the influence of an Italian grappa) and 'myslivec'. If you will be invited to someone's home you might be offered 'slivovice' which is mostly home-made brandy made from plums.

As with most things in Prague, the closer you get to the Old Town Square, the more you pay for a worse product... and this is generally the case with church concerts too



Entertainment and Nightlife

Prague offers a large number of activities on which to spend your free time. There are theatres, museums, classical music recitals, festivals, exhibitions, galleries, discos, entertainment for children – every visitor will surely find something to suit his or her taste.

Night-time entertainment is lively and provides a huge range of options. There are shows, concerts, jazz, theatre, cabaret, pubs, casinos, nightclubs and strip clubs to be discovered, relished, tasted and enjoyed right through to the early hours of the morning. Cheap drinks, good performances, and liberal prostitution laws all pull in the crowds.

Prague has a long musical tradition which can provide a great opportunity to enjoy a classic concert, either at a Baroque palace, summer castle garden or acoustic church. Some plays are performed in English, and for much other entertainment knowledge of Czech isn't a barrier at all. For example, Black light theatre is a non-verbal performance characterized by the use

of black box theatre augmented by black light illusion.

Not only is the city renowned for producing some of history's great composers, including Antonin Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana, but it also attracted great composers from overseas, like Mozart, who premiered *Don Giovanni* in the city in 1787.

Prague's theatre and concert venues are all centrally located in the Old Town and New Town, and the same is true for most small and medium-scale jazz and rock venues. Žižkov has more late-night pubs and bars and Holešovice is good for nightlife, offering several of the city's newest clubs and venues. Wenceslas Square and side-streets like *Ve Smečkách* are the centre of Prague's red light district.

Museums**SPECULUM ALCHEMIAE**

It's a fascinating, magical and spell-binding experience. Watch the revelation from late medieval to early modern times, when science and mysticism were closely linked.

- 📍 *Haštalská 1, Old Town*
- 🕒 *Mon-Sun 10am-6pm*
- 💰 *Adult/child CZK 200/70*
- 🌐 *www.alchemiae.cz*

PRAGUE WAX MUSEUM

There are over 60 wax figures of personalities from Czech and world history, politics, culture and sport. At the same location from April 2014, there is an exhibition of Madame Tussauds, which is actually much better than the Prague Wax collection, and is included in the ticket price.

- 📍 *Celetná 6, Old Town*
- 🕒 *Daily 10am-9pm*
- 🌐 *www.waxmuseumprague.cz*

MUSEUM OF COMMUNISM

Permanent exhibition: Dreams, Reality and Nightmares – depicts the communist regime in Czechoslovakia.

- 📍 *Na Příkopě 10, Savarin Palace*
- 🕒 *Daily 9am-9pm*
- 💰 *Adult/discounted CZK 190/150*
- 🌐 *www.muzeumkomunismu.cz*

MUCHA MUSEUM

This very popular museum dedicated to the life and work of the world-acclaimed Czech Art Nouveau artist

Alfons Mucha (1860-1939) can be found in the Baroque Kaunický Palace. A stunning collection of over 100 exhibits includes Mucha's trademark Slavic maidens with flowing hair and piercing blue eyes, bearing symbolic garlands and linden boughs; and paintings, photographs, charcoal drawings, pastels, lithographs and personal memorabilia.

- 📍 *Kaunický palác, Panská 7, New Town*
- 🕒 *Daily 10am until 6pm*
- 💰 *Adult/discounted CZK 240/160*
- 🌐 *www.mucha.cz*

KAREL ZEMAN MUSEUM

The museum is dedicated to the life's work of the world-renowned film maker Karel Zeman and his cinematic special effects, which made Czech cinematography world-famous, and influenced a generation of filmmakers. It allows visitors to participate directly – to try out with their own photo and video cameras, selected special-effect techniques that Zeman used in his films.

- 📍 *Saská 3, Lesser Town*
- 🌐 *www.muzeumkarlazemana.cz*

LOBKOWICZ PALACE

Built in 1570, this palace houses an exquisite collection of Czech history and old master paintings by Canaletto, Brueghel, Bellotto, Cranach, Rubens, Velázquez and others. You can admire one of the most important collections of arms in Central Europe and original manuscripts by Mozart and Beethoven.

- ⊙ Jiřská 3, Prague Castle
- ⌚ Daily 10am-6pm
- 👉 Adult/discounted CZK 275/200
- 📄 www.lobkowicz.cz

Galleries

Prague is filled with numerous amazing art galleries, which are often forgotten by tourists. The National Gallery comprises many buildings around Prague and is famous worldwide for its collections.

PRAGUE CASTLE GALLERY

The Picture Gallery of Prague Castle (Obrazárna Pražského hradu) was founded in 1965. Today the gallery houses paintings from the 16th to the 18th centuries. The highlights of the gallery are: Guido Reni's The Centaur Nessus Abducting Deianeira, Titian's The Toilet of a Young Lady, and Rubens' The Assembly of the Olympic Gods. There are also sculptures and paintings by Czech baroque artists and many of Rudolf II's (1575-1611) best paintings.

- ⊙ Prague Castle Second Courtyard
- ⌚ Daily 9am-5pm (winter until 4pm)
- 👉 Adult/discounted CZK 150/80, Family CZK 200
- 📄 www.hrad.cz

ST. AGNES' CONVENT

When you are in Prague's Jewish Quarter, you should ensure that you see this convent. St. Agnes' Convent hosts a permanent exhibition of Medieval Art in Bohemia and Central

NATIONAL GALLERY ADMISSION
 Admission to all six permanent exhibitions of the National Gallery in Prague: CZK 300.
 Free entry for children and youth under 18 years and for students under 26 years.

Europe. Among the highlights are works by artists: the Master of the Vyšší Brod Altar, Master of the Michle Madonna, Master Theodoric, Master of the Litoměřice Altar, Master of the Altar of the Knights of the Cross.

- ⊙ U Milosrdných, Josefov
- ⌚ Tue-Sun 10am-6pm
- 👉 Adult/discounted CZK 150/80
- 📄 www.ngprague.cz

KINSKÝ PALACE

This palace hosts permanent collection with the title "The Art of Asia". Kinský Palace was built between 1755 and 1765 by Anselmo Lurago from designs by Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer. It is the most beautiful Rococo building in Prague. In 1768 it was bought by Rudolf Kinsky, an Imperial diplomat. In February 1948 Klement Gottwald proclaimed communist rule in Czechoslovakia from the palace balcony.

- ⊙ Old Town Sq. 12, Old Town
- ⌚ Daily except Monday 10am-6pm
- 👉 Adult/discounted CZK 150/80
- 📄 www.ngprague.cz

Cinema

Prague has numerous cinemas, many located in newly-built shopping centres, showing international films along with some Czech films. Admission is from CZK 90 to CZK 200. Hollywood blockbusters may be dubbed into Czech, but films are mostly shown in their original language with Czech subtitles.

Prague is not only popular with tourists but also many international movies have been shot here, such as *Mission Impossible*, *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*, *Amadeus*, *Oliver Twist*, *Hellboy* and many others. Full listings of movies shown in Prague's cinemas are published in the "Night & Day" section of the Prague Post newspaper.

CINEMA CITY

€€ ★★★

This ten-screen cinema is in a great location close to Wenceslas Square in the Slovanský Dům shopping centre.

📄 www.cinemacity.cz

LUCERNA

€€ ★★★

One of the oldest cinemas in town, seating over 500 people, located just off Wenceslas Square in Lucerna passageway.

📄 www.lucerna.cz

The Performing Arts

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Prague has two well-established concert halls – Dvořák Hall in the

Rudolfinum and Smetana Hall in the Municipal House – but it is possible to find classical music concerts all around the city. Also popular are classical music concerts and recitals held in churches and palaces. Regular concerts take place on the steps of the National Museum and during the summer in some of Prague's gardens.

The Czech Republic has produced a few famous composers, including Dvořák, Martinů, Smetana, Janáček and Mahler. Mozart also liked to perform in Prague because of his relationship to the city. Prague has four theatres where opera is performed and a few orchestras play, the most famous being the Czech Philharmonic (Česká filharmonie), which is located at the Rudolfinum.

OPERA

The two major companies, the National and the State, both perform exclusively in their own theatres – the National Opera Company in the National Theatre, the State Opera Company at the State Opera. The latter presents popular performances of a predominantly classical Italian repertoire, always in the original language with Czech and English surtitles. Tickets should be bought in advance.

The National Opera Company has a more experimental repertoire and most of its operas are performed in Czech with English surtitles. To view

a Czech opera, by Czech composers Smetana or Dvořák, the National Theatre is your best opportunity. A lesser known opera company based at the Estates Theatre performs mainly classical, Italian operas in the original language with English surtitles.

Opera tickets for top-price seats range from CZK 1000 to CZK 1300, which makes seeing an opera in Prague more accessible than in most European cities.

STATE OPERA (STÁTNÍ OPERA)

North of the museum, along Wilsonova and next to the former Parliament Building, is the massive building of the Prague State Opera. The State Opera was first opened in 1888 as the New German Theatre (as a Prague German stage with the performance of Wagner's opera, *The Mastersingers of Nürnberg*). Bohemian-born composer Gustav Mahler brought traffic to a standstill while conducting the premiere of his *Seventh Symphony*. It is one of three important venues for opera in Prague, the others being the National Theatre and the Estates Theatre. At that time, the theatre was known as one of the most beautiful German theatres in Europe, especially for its rich ornate neo-Rococo decor in the interior.

Most State Opera performances are of Italian repertoire – those of Donizetti, Rossini, Verdi and Puccini – with



State Opera

the occasional inclusion of Russian, German and French oeuvres (works of a composer) each season. At festive times, particularly leading up to Christmas, the Prague State Opera departs from opera and ballet to become the grand setting for a series of wonderful classical music concerts. Among the exceptional artists who performed here were directors Gustav Mahler, Richard Strauss, Felix Mottl, Arthur Nikisch and Felix Weingartner, as well as soloists Anna Bahr-Mildenburg, Berta Lauterer-Foerster, Maria Jeritza, Nellie Melba, Karl Burian, Enrico Caruso, Benjamins Gigli, Jan Kiepura, Richard Kubla, and Tino Pattiera. The venue is extremely popular and advance booking is advisable and often essential. Advance tickets can be purchased through Bohemia Ticket and Ticketpro, and range in price from CZK 100 to CZK 1150 (CZK 100 to CZK 500 for a ballet). The doors are open 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, Sat 9am-1pm. Performances usually begin at 7pm.



National Theatre at night

THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Dressing up for the theatre is customary, but is no longer a strict rule. You should, however, refrain from wearing trainers. When attending a classical concert or opera, on the other hand, you must be in formal attire. Whistling is not considered a positive form of applause: it is equivalent to booing.

Best Theatres in Prague

THE NATIONAL THEATRE

The most beautiful of all Czech theatres is The National Theatre in Prague, it became the symbol of the Czech national revival period. Funding for its construction was raised through a nation-wide public collection. Building began in 1868 according to the plans of architect J. Zítěk. However, in 1881, just as its construction was finally nearing its end, the theatre burned down. The reconstruction took two years and

finally on November 18, 1883, the National Theatre was inaugurated with the Czech opera *Libuše* composed by Bedřich Smetana. The decoration of both exterior and interior is a work of leading Czech artists M. Aleš, F. Ženíšek, V. Hynais, J. V. Myslbek and others. Today, the National Theatre consists of three art ensembles – opera, ballet and drama – which are performed at three places: in the original building of The National Theatre, in The Estates Theatre and in The Kolowrat Theatre.

📍 *Národní třída 2, New Town*

🕒 *The box-office is open Mon-Sun 10am-6pm*

💰 *Tickets cost about CZK 1200*

🌐 *www.narodni-divadlo.cz*



National Theatre interior

Tickets and Reservations

Even if you think you have to reserve your tickets for classical music, opera, theatre or ballet, or even some rock concerts, you might be fine just to buy tickets before the show (or at the theatre box office itself). But, to take advantage of booking ahead and having peace of mind, you will find plenty of agencies that deal with theatre, opera and concert booking. It is common for most venues to offer discounts for students, children and the disabled.

NATIONAL THEATRE BOX OFFICES

All tickets for performances can be bought online at www.narodni-divadlo.cz/en/tickets or at the below-listed box offices.

The National Theatre box office is open Mon-Sun 10am-6pm and you can buy tickets for five months in advance. Tickets are available for performances of Opera, Ballet, Drama, and *Laterna magika* at the National Theatre, the State Opera, the Estates Theatre and the New Stage Theatre. Tickets can also be bought 45 minutes before the beginning of performances at the box offices at the National Theatre historical building, at the State Opera and at the Estates Theatre.

IMAGE THEATRE

(Black Light Theatre)

Come to the theatre where dancers will express their unspoken emotions and overcome the laws of physics in front of your eyes. The intense darkness of the black theatre is full of fantasy. Music will bring the inanimate to life, tragedy will change into comedy and the unbelievable will become reality. Moreover, your imagination will be fully awakened.

📍 *Národní 25, Old Town*

🕒 *Performances starting at 8pm*

🎫 *Tickets cost CZK 480*

🌐 *www.imagetheatre.cz*

ESTATES THEATRE

The Estates Theatre is the oldest theatre in Prague, famed as the place where Mozart conducted the premiere of Don Giovanni on 29 October 1787. Mozartissimo – a medley of highlights from several of Mozart’s operas, including Don Giovanni – is performed here several times a week in the summer, see their website for the exact performances showing, the rest of the year sees various opera, ballet and drama productions. The theatre is equipped for the hearing-impaired and has wheelchair access (wheelchair bookings can be made up to five days in advance).

📍 *Ovocný trh 6, Old Town*

🎫 *You can buy tickets up to CZK 1200 from any National Theatre box office*



Night view of the old Estates Theatre

NATIONAL MARIONETTE THEATRE

The National Marionette Theatre has a long tradition in popular entertainment in Prague. Puppets and costumed actors perform classical operas like versions of Mozart’s famous “opera of operas”, Don Giovanni, as well as some lighter fare like the enchanting story of The Magic Flute. Another interesting performance is the Puppet Gala Performance, a mix of puppeteers’ finest works.

📍 *Žatecká 1, Old Town*

🕒 *Performances starting at 8pm*

🎫 *Tickets are around CZK 600*

🌐 *www.mozart.cz*

Church Concerts

If you fancy a classical concert with a difference during your trip to Prague, head to your nearest church. With one of the world's most atheist populations, many of the city's churches have been deconsecrated for alternative uses, with one of the major ones being as venues for classical music. It is ideal really – an opulent and atmospheric setting deliberately designed to have excellent acoustic qualities.

BAROQUE LIBRARY HALL

(Barokní knihovni sál)

With its stunning 18th-century frescoes and colourful stucco work, this monastery library hall is one of the most charming – if, for some reason, least used – concert halls in Prague. You are always guaranteed high quality here, with regular performances by the Collegium Marianum ensemble.

📍 *Melantrichova 971/19, Old Town*

CHURCH OF ST. SIMON AND ST. JUDE

(Kostel sv. Šimona a Judy)

This Jewish Quarter church may be deconsecrated, but that does not mean the aisles cannot still be rocking. With a restored organ and excellent acoustics, the Prague Symphony Orchestra regularly uses this place for chamber concerts and recitals, while it is also a main venue in many of Prague's big music festivals.

📍 *Dušní, Josefov*

BASILICA OF ST. GEORGE

(Bazilika sv. Jiří)

The oldest preserved religious building in Prague. It is only a small venue, but this beautiful 10th century basilica (located in Prague Castle, and home to the tombs of some very early princes) is the best place to see mini-ensembles playing the likes of Mozart and Verdi.

📍 *U sv. Jiří, Prague Castle*

ST. NICHOLAS' CHURCH LESSER TOWN

(Kostel sv. Mikuláše)

St. Nicholas' Church, created by three generations of the Dientzenhofer clan, was a favourite venue of Mozart, so you'll find local ensembles playing the maestro's music all year round.

📍 *Lesser Town Square, Lesser Town*

BASILICA OF ST. JAMES

(Bazilika sv. Jakuba)

Known as an excellent venue for organ concerts, the organ here was built in 1709 and retains its original tone structure to this day.

📍 *Malá Štupartská 6, Old Town*



Basilica of St. James

Rock Clubs

Under the communist regime rock and roll was banned, as it was considered too pro-western. Prague's rock scene was dominated by dissident-era rock bands and highly influential international acts, like the Velvet Underground and the Rolling Stones. But since 1989 after the Velvet Revolution, the independent rock and roll scene has flourished and evolved here. Now the city offers many different rock venues of a good old rock and roll. Clubs such as **FUTURUM**, **KLUB 007 STRAHOV**, **BUNKR**, **PALÁC AKROPOLIS** and **ROXY** usually host live rock bands.

MUSIC BAR FUTURUM €½ ★★★

Futurum is quite a large club, having a 500-person capacity, with a large bar occupying the longest wall next to the dance floor. It is primarily a rock club and because of its size, it is a venue for large bands to play – large in fame of course, not a band with a giant drummer and yeti guitarist – to fill the large dance hall. There are 80s and 90s parties every Friday and Saturday which specialise in showing old video clips on a large screen.

- ⊙ Zborovská 7, Prague 5
- ⊙ Mon-Thur 8pm-1am, Fri-Sat 9pm-5am, Sun 8pm-1am, concerts start around 9pm
- ⊖ Admission start at CZK 100
- ⊖ <http://futurum.musicbar.cz>



ROXY €½ ★★★

Arrive at around midnight when the fun starts in the best club in town, if funk, rock and techno is your favourite. Drinks prices are very reasonable.

- ⊙ Located at Dlouhá 33, Prague 1
- ⊙ Daily 7pm-5am
- ⊖ www.roxy.cz

VAGON CLUB €½ ★★★

With its entrance tucked away in a shopping arcade, Vagon is more like a student union bar than a club as such, but it always has a friendly, chilled-out atmosphere. There is live music pretty much every night, from local blues artists, through to Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin tribute bands to classic Czech rock bands, including regular performances by Plastic People of the Universe.

- ⊙ Národní 25, Prague 1
- ⊙ Mon-Thur 7pm-5am, Fri-Sat 7pm-6am, Sun 7pm-1am
- ⊖ Admission free after 11pm otherwise CZK 100
- ⊖ www.vagon.cz

Blues and Jazz Clubs

For blues and/or jazz, some good performances can be caught at U Malého Glena, near Lesser Town Square. The performance area is very small with just a few tables. The same goes for Ungelt Jazz and Blues club, behind Týn Church.

UNGELT JAZZ & BLUES CLUB €½ ★★★

A tiny club situated in the 15th-century cellar of a Renaissance building. A mix of blues, funk and jazz supplied by top Czech performers. They feature live shows every night.

📍 Týn 2, Old Town

🌐 www.jazzungelt.cz

U MALÉHO GLENA

Although there is only a tiny stage it is worth it for its electric mix of Latin jazz, be-bop and blues. This Irish-pub-style club hosts a wide spectrum of local bands playing jazz and blues.

📍 Karmelitská 23, Lesser Town

🕒 Daily 10pm-2am

📅 Mon, Tue and Thu 120 CZK; Wed, Fri and Sat 150 CZK; Sun 70 CZK.

🌐 <http://malyglen.cz/>

BLUES SKLEP €½ ★★★

One of the city's newer jazz clubs. A mix of blues, jazz and deep funk is played here.

📍 Liliová 10, Prague 1

🕒 Daily 8pm-3am

📅 Admission CZK 100

🌐 www.bluessklep.cz

Discos

Although Prague's clubbing scene can't be compared with the nightlife of London or Paris, there are some discos in Prague which are well worth a visit. **RADOST FX** is a club with enduring popularity, situated close to IP Pavlova metro. This club has many visiting star DJs for their dance floor downstairs. Upstairs, it is a lounge and vegetarian restaurant and coffee shop.

If you like funk and techno, then **ROXY** is the best club in town, located close to Naměstí Republiky. **KARLOVY LÁZNĚ** is a mega club near Charles Bridge, with four dance floors, each floor dedicated to a different music genre. This club is especially popular among tourists.

DUPLEX on Wenceslas Square is another disco popular with foreign teenagers and even stag-party stragglers. **LA FABRIQUE** has a couple of dance floors, and is near Wenceslas Square also, making it another good centrally-located option.

If you want to experience a more Czech atmosphere, try the club **KLUB 007 STRAHOV**, which is popular with the locals. **LUCERNA MUSIC CLUB** on Wenceslas Square is a fairly large club and it regularly fills to capacity. Another favourite among young people is **M1 SECRET LOUNGE** on Masná, near Old Town Square. The crowd is generally a mix of well-off young Czechs and expat students.

DUPLEX

€€ ★★★☆

Duplex is one of Prague's most popular nightclubs with a huge dance floor. It is a combination of nightclub, café and restaurant. During the day the 6th-floor terrace restaurant is a great place for a coffee and to enjoy the views. The night offers a view overlooking the lights of Wenceslas Square.

📍 *Wenceslas Square 21, New Town*

🕒 *11pm-5am*

🌐 www.duplex.cz

MECCA

€½ ★★★

One of the best in Prague. This is a very fashionable club (former warehouse), featuring industrial-chic, house and techno music to dance to.

📍 *Located at Průhonu 3, Holešovice*

🕒 *Mon-Sat 10pm-6am*

👉 *Women admitted free until midnight*

🌐 www.mecca.cz

RADOST FX

€½ ★★★

This very famous club features top local and international DJs. Exquisite sofas, mosaic-topped tables... A café serving great veggie food and cheesecakes, a Moroccan lounge in the back for relaxation, and a downstairs dance club that only gets going in the early hours.

📍 *Bělehradská 120, Vinohrady (close to IP Pavlova metro station)*

🌐 www.radostfx.cz

KARLOVY LÁZNĚ

€€ ★★★☆

Located close to Charles Bridge at Novotného lávka in Old Town, this is another huge and very cool night club. Each floor has its own style, from chill out to hard core trance, live bands at ground level, dance to classic disco on first floor (Discotheque), rock to 1960s and 70s music on the second floor (Kaleidoskop), or house and techno on the third floor (Paradogs).

📍 *Smetanovo nábřeží 198, Prague 1*

🕒 *9pm-5am*

👉 *CZK 150*

🌐 www.karlovy lazne.cz

Adult Clubs

The side streets near Wenceslas Square (especially Perlová Street) are full of strip clubs. This is Prague's small red light district.

The most famous and most expensive strip clubs are **GOLDFIN- GERS**, located under the Ambassador Hotel, **DARLING CABARET** at Ve Smečkách 32 and **K5 RELAX** at Korunní 5. Almost all strip clubs offer private strip shows and even more... whatever you fancy.

Generally all strip clubs charge entrance fees, so unless you have a promotion leaflet with a free entrance offer, expect to pay anything from CZK 200 to CZK 600. Drinks are usually much more expensive compared to the ordinary pubs or night clubs.

HOT PEPPER'S

€€€ ★★★

This exclusive club is located next to the disco Duplex and comes with a professional presentation. The all-night party includes exotic dancers, a lesbian show, stage show and private parties. There is free entry, two-for-one beers and many other offers.

📍 Wenceslas Square 21, New Town

🕒 Daily 8pm-6am

🌐 www.hotpeppers.cz

LOTUS CLUB

€€ ★★★

This newly renovated club specializes in luxury. This gentleman's club comes with young girls.

📍 Kupeckého 832, Prague 4

🕒 7pm to 8am

🌐 www.lotos.cz

Casinos

CASINO PRESIDENT

★★★

They offer free soft drinks if you gamble. This new and luxurious casino features roulette, black jack, punto banco and poker.

📍 Hotel President, nám. Curieových 100

🕒 Daily from 6pm-4am

AMBASSADOR CASINO

★★★

Open non-stop with Roulette, black jack, punto banco, poker and slot machines.

📍 Hotel Ambassado, Wenceslas Square 5-7

🕒 Nonstop

Massage and Spa

MANDARIN ORIENTAL SPA

€€€ ★★★

The only spa in the world located in a former Renaissance chapel offering a unique spiritual space to begin your journey to equilibrium. You'll need half a day here for the luxury Bohemian Ritual, but it's well worth taking the time out of your schedule for it.

📍 Nebovidská 459, Lesser Town

🕒 Mon-Sun 10am-8:30pm

🌐 www.mandarinoriental.com/prague/

THAI FIT

€½ ★★★

One of the oldest in Prague. The aroma of the adjacent Siam Orchid restaurant adds to the ambience of this great place and inspires you with what to do post massage. Eat! They also tantalize the senses with herbal, oil, chocolate and lava stone massages, and once you're limbered up, you can join one of their yoga courses or just lounge a bit longer in the sauna.

📍 Na Poříčí 21 or Vodičkova 41, New Town

🕒 9am-9pm

🌐 www.thaifit.cz

BEER SPA BERNARD

It's not simply a bath full of Pilsner beer; instead, it's water enriched with some of the key ingredients of beer, such as yeast and hops.

📍 Týn 10 (courtyard Ungelt), Old Town

🌐 www.pivnilaznebernard.cz



Astronomical Clock

Top Sights

Prague Castle

The network of towers, churches, museums, halls, gardens and palaces is virtually a village in itself.

Charles Bridge

Irrespective of whether you see Charles Bridge on a misty morning, or if you barge through the crowds in the afternoon, or if you see it at night with its picturesque views of Prague Castle illuminated in the background, travelling across Charles Bridge epitomises the Prague experience.

Old Town Square and Astronomical Clock

In spite of the hordes of tourists, busy pavement cafés and rampant commercialism, it is difficult to stop yourself from enjoying the spectacle of the premier public square in Prague. The Astronomical Clock is among the most popular sights of Prague Old Town.

Wenceslas Square

The top of this square has the Czech Republic national symbol – the Saint Wenceslas statue, designed by Myslbek.

Old Jewish Quarter

Small cobblestone streets are home

to the fabled Golem, and will take you to what used to be a Jewish ghetto in Prague.

Saint Vitus Cathedral

Situated at the Prague Castle, and positioned on the site of a tenth-century Romanesque rotunda constructed by Good King Wenceslas, Saint Vitus Cathedral is Prague Castle's most visited attraction.

Municipal House and Smetana Hall

The most noticeable Art Nouveau building in Prague is a cultural centre that has an auditorium and exhibition halls.

Trade Fair Palace

The starkly functional Veletržní Palác, constructed in 1928 to host international trade events, turned into the new venue for the National Gallery museum of twentieth- and twenty-first-century art.

Estates Theatre

This is the oldest theatre in Prague and well worth a visit for the fine architecture and performances alone. Now, this is the premier venue for 'Don Giovanni' (the famous opera by Mozart).

Neighbourhoods

The city was historically comprised of five independent towns: Hradčany (the Castle Area), Malá Strana (Lesser Town), Staré Město (Old Town), Nové Město (New Town), and Josefov (Jewish Quarter), and these are still relevant today. So if you can see how these relate to one another, and which side of the river each of them are on, the city suddenly becomes a lot easier to navigate.

Staré Město (Old Town)

This is Prague's most central area with the city's most popular attractions. The busy restaurants, pubs, and shops are here. During the day, and even in the evenings, crowds



of tourists fill its most-visited areas. Yet regardless of all the commercial activity, there are still plenty of small backstreets, giving the area a lived-in feel that is rarely found in European city centres. At the heart of

the Old Town is the Old Town Square, Prague's showpiece main square, the most magnificent in central Europe, and a great place to get your bearings before exploring further afield. The Old Town is connected to the Malá Strana (Lesser Town) via the Charles Bridge.

Hradčany and Prague Castle

Prague's skyline is dominated by the vast hilltop complex of Prague Castle in Hradčany (the district around Prague Castle). The castle looks out over the heart of the city from the west bank of the River Vltava. There's been a royal seat here for over a millennium, and it continues to serve as headquarters of the Czech president. It is also home to many of Prague's top tourist attractions.

Malá Strana (Lesser Town)

This is Prague's picturesque Little Quarter, situated below the castle, and in many ways the city's most captivating area. Its many peaceful, often hilly, cobbled backstreets have changed very little since old times. They cover a whole host of quiet terraced gardens, as well as the wooded Petřín Hill and spans up to the Charles Bridge which connect with the Old Town.

Josefov

Josefov's main attraction is the Old Jewish ghetto, which remains one

of the most remarkable sights in Prague. Although the warren-like street plan of the old ghetto was demolished in the 1890s to make way for streets of luxurious five-storey mansions, six synagogues, the Jewish town hall and the medieval cemetery still bear witness to the history. It is quite a small area spread around the Old Town, bordering with the River and Paris (Pařížská) Street – the most expensive area in the whole of Prague dotted with top-brand boutique shops.

Nové Město (New Town)

This is the city's commercial and business district, housing big shopping malls, hotels, cinemas, nightclubs and fast-food restaurants. The hub of the New Town is the long, sloping boulevard, Wenceslas Square. This square used to be the horse market for this bustling working class locale. The Old Town, even today, is segregated from the New Town by a "moat" (which refers to a street named Na Příkopě).

Vinohrady

Vinohrady is a late nineteenth-century residential suburb, dominated by long streets of grandiose apartment blocks, with few sights or attractions around, though the area is quite comfortable with easy access to the New Town and many good restaurants around.



Vyšehrad

The fortress of Vyšehrad makes for a perfect afternoon escape away from the human congestion of the city centre: its cemetery shelters the remains of Bohemia's artistic elite; the ramparts afford superb views over the river; and below the fortress there are several interesting examples of Czech Cubist architecture.

Smíchov and Anďěl

Smíchov is a residential and industrial area of Prague famous for its Nový Smíchov shopping mall, brewery, industrial architecture, cinemas, cosy restaurants, bars and nightlife. The Staropramen Brewery is located in Smíchov and is a popular place to visit if you are a beer lover.

Žižkov

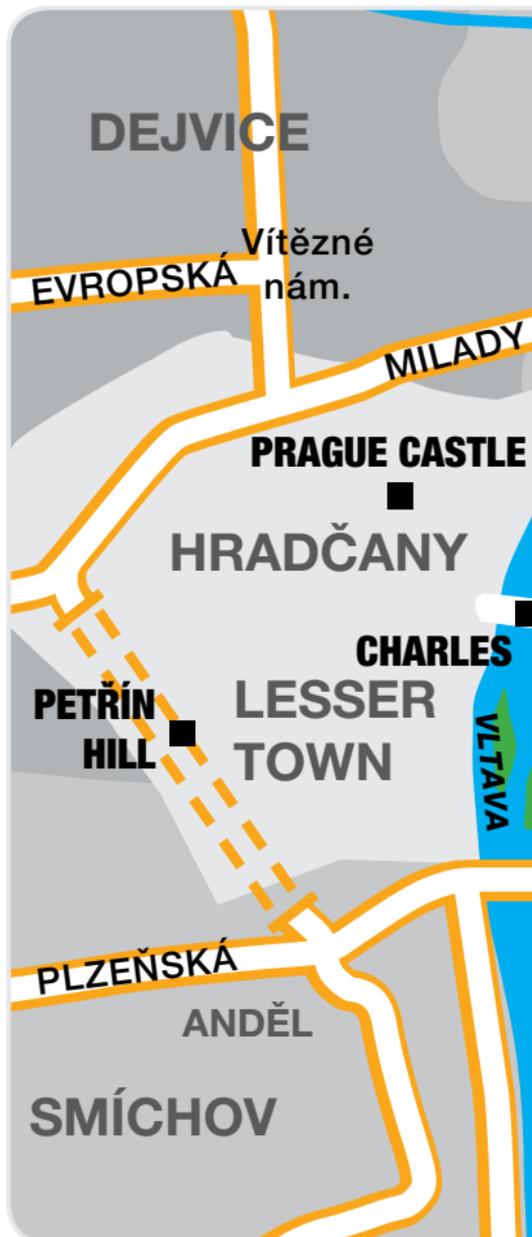
Žižkov is a grittier working-class district with no tourist attractions, whose shabby, rundown streets contain some of the city's well-known pubs and clubs. Today, many buildings have been renovated, and the shabby feeling about the area is slowly changing.

Holešovice

Tucked into a U-bend in the River Vltava, this dense, built-up neighbourhood dates from the late nineteenth-century, but for centuries was an area of fields and meadows. Still today this suburb of Holešovice boasts two huge areas of green: Letná, overlooking the city centre, and, to the north, Stromovka, Prague's largest public park, bordering the Výstaviště fun-fair and trade fair grounds.

Karlín

This is surrounded by the Vltava river and Holešovice on the northern side, Žižkov and Vítkov hill on the southern side, New Town on the western side, and Libeň on the eastern side. During 2002, Karlín was seriously hit by the thousand-year flood. Since then, it has recovered and become a new area for residences and businesses. Even these days, Karlín remains a rather shabby part of Prague, with lots of cheap hotels, situated close to the Florenc bus station.

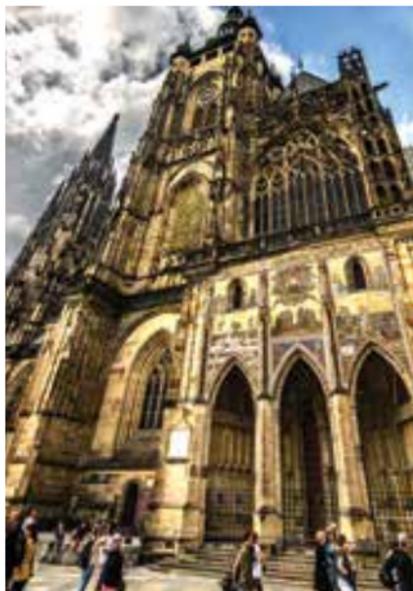




Prague Castle and Hradčany

Hradčany lies on the left bank of the River Vltava and is dominated by the Prague Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral. When entering Prague Castle through the ornate Matthias Gate, be prepared for an onslaught of historical facts and legends, not to mention a staggering variety of architectural styles. St. Vitus Cathedral is a breathtaking example of ecclesiastical architecture.

The oldest surviving church in the castle complex is the Basilica of St. George. Golden Lane was a double row of decrepit wooden shacks



St Vitus Cathedral

until the reign of the Habsburg Empress Maria Theresa, who modernised much of the castle in the neo-classical style. Several imposing palaces dominate Hradčany Square: Schwarzenberg Palace, Archbishop's Palace and Sternberg Palace. The nearby Loreta is one of the most beautiful pilgrimage sites in the Czech Republic.

GETTING AROUND PRAGUE CASTLE

The best metro stop is Malostranská via line A, while tram enthusiasts should jump onto tram line 22, getting off at the Pražský hrad stop. If you are going to the castle on foot, be prepared for a bit of climbing, but you will be rewarded with views of the colourful rooftops and the spires of the city. You can either start your walk from Nerudova Street just off Lesser Town Square or via The Old Castle Stairs from Malostranská metro station.

Prague Castle (Pražský hrad)

Prague Castle looks almost like a small town in itself. It is the largest ancient castle complex in the world at 570m (1870 feet) long and on average 128m (419 feet) wide. It is also the place where the Czech kings, Holy Roman Emperors and presidents of the Czech Republic have had their offices. Therefore, it is not surprising this is the most visited tourist attraction in Prague.



Archbishop's Palace

It is not exactly a “classic” castle because portions of it were built in different styles and it spreads out more horizontally than vertically. But inside the majestic castle, there are many sights and attractions.

The main attraction is St. Vitus cathedral, an interesting 14th century Gothic structure adorned with fasci-

nating gargoyles easily be seen from ground level. Inside the cathedral there are some very elaborate tombs, redolent of Czech history. It is worthwhile climbing to the top of the bell tower, which takes you to the highest point inside the castle. From the top, there are fabulous views of the castle and the Old Town of Prague.



Prague Castle Courtyard view

Prague Castle Courtyards

THE FIRST COURTYARD is easily accessed through Hradcany Square. However, this was not always the case as at one point, the courtyard was separated by a moat and could only be entered by using a drawbridge. This natural moat was actually one of three that originally protected the castle. You can enter this courtyard by going through a gate decorated with statues of fighting giants and guarded by two castle guards. This courtyard is also completely closed in by buildings. You can exit this courtyard into the second one by using the Matthias Gate which was the original entrance to the castle itself. When going through the gate, there

is a staircase that leads to representative rooms of the castle now used by the Czech president.

THE SECOND COURTYARD was originally created in the 16th century on a buried moat. Here, visitors will find Kohl's Fountain along with St Cross Chapel. In addition, most of the northern part of the courtyard was developed by Emperor Rudolf II. Since Rudolf was a great art lover, he used the stables here to store much of his art by adding a second floor above the stable and building grand Renaissance halls, including the Spanish hall and the Gallery. Today, the Prague Castle Picture Gallery is located in what used to be the stables and houses a small portion of Rudolf's art collection.

When the Gallery was being renovated, workers came across the remains of the first church at the castle to be dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Dating back to the 9th century, this church was only the second Catholic Church in Czech lands.

Entrance to **THE THIRD COURTYARD** is gained through a passageway in the east wing. This entire courtyard was paved in the 1920s and now covers the remains of the original medieval structures such as a church. The most important feature here is the Cathedral of St Vitus, known as the largest Christian church in the Czech Republic.

THE BASILICA OF ST. GEORGE is still the best preserved Romanesque place of worship in the city. While the basilica is a lovely sight, it does contain one small blemish. That is that the twin spires do not have the same proportions. Adam, or the south spire, is larger than the slimmer north spire named Eva. Inside the basilica are the final resting spots of numerous Czech royalties including two princes whose graves go all the way back to the 10th and 11th centuries. Also located here are numerous Romanesque murals as well as a Gothic statue depicting the Virgin Mary and Christ. The vaulting still bears the Romanesque frescoes from the mid 13th century. The convent of St. George was at one point a center of scientific research and



St. George's Basilica at Prague Castle now serves as a concert hall

housed a room where manuscripts were copied.

THE SPANISH HALL is also a famous spot located at Prague Castle. Built by Rudolf II, the first floor was at one point the largest secular room in the castle. Rudolf had it constructed to house his sculpture collection, but today it is used as a gathering place for both political and social events. The interior of the Spanish Hall dates back to the 17th century and has undergone numerous renovations throughout the years.

THE OLD ROYAL PALACE is located to the south of the Cathedral of St. Vitus, the Royal Palace is one of Prague Castle's oldest structures. Through-

out the years, it has been the scene of several history making events. For example, in 1618 the so-called Prague defenestration took place here as did the death sentence of 27 anti-Habsburg rebels in 1621. This palace was not built all at one time, but rather over many centuries in three main stages. The building that stands now is also built over an 12th century Romanesque palace which now forms the cellar of the current palace. The most significant construction took place toward the end of the 15th century when architects linked the earlier spaces and created one large space.

VLADISLAV HALL is also an important part of Prague Castle and today is used for important state occasions. It is made of two distinctly different architectural styles with Renaissance windows and entrances, but a Gothic ceiling. This hall used to be called the Great Throne Hall and was originally used for special occasions such as coronations, feasts and even jousting tournaments. When Rudolf II was emperor, it was used as an art market.

Located behind the Convent of St. George is the **GOLDEN LANE**. It gets its name from the goldsmiths that lived here in the 17th century. The areas is not only picturesque, but is also surrounded by numerous myths and legends. For example, many of the legends surround the alchemists

who were trying to make a stone of wisdom which would transform ordinary metals into gold and make the owner immortal at the same time. One alchemist in particular fueled these legends. The Viennese professor Uhdé lived on Golden Lane around 1830 and was known for being slightly off center. He would wear a long black coat and had a long white beard. He was constantly trying to develop a stone of wisdom and one night his lab suffered an explosion and created a fire. The professor suffered a stroke and he died with a smile while holding a nugget of pure gold. In later years, Golden Lane attracted the poor and the name Golden became more irony than anything else. It was said that at the time, there was only one toilet and an open sewer ran down the middle of the lane. It was around the turn of the 19th century that Golden Lane was renovated and several famous writers lived here including Franz Kafka and Nobel Prize winning poet Jaroslav Seifert.

Located next to the easternmost gate into Prague Castle, the **LOBKOVICZ PALACE** was built after a fire in 1541. However, it gets its current looks from the 17th century when it was rebuilt for the Lobkovicz family. The banquet hall is the largest and still sports the mythological paintings from the 17th century. On the other side of the palace is the Black Tower

which was an original part of the fortifications and later turned into a debtor's prison.

THE LEDEBURG, FURSTENBERG AND PALFFY GARDENS are located in spots that would have one point been working vineyards, but in the 16th century, nobility began to use the same ground for terraced gardens. These three gardens were then joined together to create one large one. Created in 1784, the Furstenberg Garden was decorated with statues and classic vases. The Palffy Garden still contains a sundial painted at the top of the staircase. The Ledenburg Garden is home to a stunning sala terrena and all can be accessed from the Palffy Palace and are well worth the trip.

Belvedere—The Royal Summer Palace

To the north of the castle fortifications and across from the deep moat stands Belvedere Palace, a pleasant place to relax. The palace can be seen from the tram if you take a ride up to the castle. Inside the Royal Summer Place, there are two domed Renaissance halls and a main dance hall on the first floor with a wooden coffered ceiling. It is embellished with paintings representing the history of the kingdom. In the garden in front of the palace you can see the bronze Singing Fountain built in 1568. The fountain acquired its name

because of the sound it makes when the water drops on the metal fountain bowls. The palace now hosts an art gallery and occasional exhibitions.

Prague Castle Gallery

The collection of Prague Castle Gallery, housed in the beautiful Renaissance stables at the northern end in the second courtyard, contains around 400 paintings and drawings of 16th to 18th century European Art. These paintings have been carefully selected from about 4,000 that are currently in the possession of Prague Castle. A few works have survived from the legendary collection of Rudolph II, but most were lost as spoils of war during the 17th century, moved to Vienna or sold—either to the Saxons or in the “Josephine” auction of 1782. The following are regarded as the most valuable paintings in the collection: Titian's Toilet of a Young Lady, Tintoretto's Flagellation of Christ and Rubens's The Assembly of the Olympic Gods. There are other major works by great artists including Hans von Aachen, Domenico Fetti, Bartolomeo Spranger, Paolo Veronese and Jacopo Bassano. Gallery holds temporary exhibitions, but also has a small permanent exhibition of pieces from the reign of Rudolph II. Czech art is represented by artists of the Baroque period by Kupecký and Brandt.



Belvedere (Letohrádek Královny Anny)

St. Vitus Cathedral

The spires of St. Vitus Cathedral, an elegant but domineering French Gothic structure, soar above the ramparts. It is the country's largest church, and contains numerous side-chapels, frescoes and tombstones, not forgetting the nave's beautifully coloured stained-glass windows created by the famous Czech Art Nouveau artists. It literally sparkles with all the finery inside.

The most beautiful of the cathedral's numerous side-chapels contains the tomb of St Wenceslas, the 'Good King Wenceslas' of the Christmas carol, which has become something of a pilgrimage site, and shows

scenes from the life of Christ. The Coronation Chamber houses the Bohemian Crown Jewels, and the Royal Crypt is where most of the Kings and Queens of Bohemia have their final place of rest (Charles IV, Wenceslas IV, George of Poděbrady and Rudolf II).

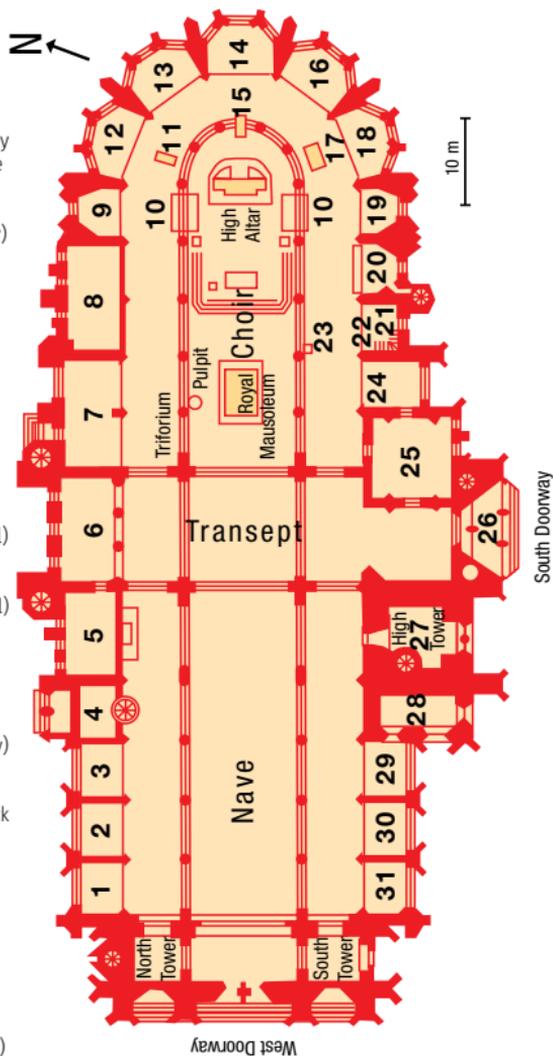
The southern entrance to the cathedral, the Golden Gate, is decorated with a richly gilded coloured mosaic representing the Last Judgement, dating from 1370, and it is one of the artistic treasures found in the Castle District. It is possible to climb the 96 m-tall tower for magnificent views over the city and clockworks. The tower's Sigismund Bell, made in 1549, is Bohemia's largest bell.



St. Vitus Cathedral interior

St Vitus Cathedral Map

- 1 Bartoň-Dobenín Chapel
- 2 Schwarzenberg Chapel
- 3 New Archbishops Chapel (Hora Chapel)
- 4 Old Treasury (Cathedral Treasury now in Holy Rood Chapel in the second courtyard)
- 5 New Sacristy
- 6 Wohlmut's Choir (Organ Gallery)
- 7 St Sigismund's Chapel (Czernin Chapel)
- 8 Old Sacristy (formerly St Michael's Chapel)
- 9 St Anne's (Nostitz Chapel)
- 10 Historical reliefs
- 11 Statue of Cardinal Friedrich von Schwarzenberg
- 12 Old Archbishop's Chapel
- 13 Chapel of St John the Baptist (Pernstein Chapel)
- 14 Lady Chapel (Trinity Chapel, Imperial Chapel)
- 15 Tomb of St Vitus
- 16 Reliquary Chapel (Saxon Chapel, Sternberg Chapel)
- 17 Tomb of St John of Nepomuk
- 18 Chapel of St John of Nepomuk (St Adalber's Chapel)
- 19 Waldstein Chapel (Magdalene Chapel)
- 20 Royal Oratory (Vladislav Oratory)
- 21 Chapel of Holy Rood
- 22 Entrance to Royal Vault
- 23 Monument of Count Leopold Schlick
- 24 Martinitz Chapel (St Andrew's Chapel)
- 25 St Wenceslas's Chapel (above, Crown Chamber)
- 26 Golden Gate
- 27 Hasenburg Chapel
- 28 Chapter Library
- 29 Thun Chapel
- 30 Chapel of Holy Sepulchre
- 31 St Ludmila's Chapel (Baptistery)



Tickets: Free admission for the small area of the Cathedral; but a charge is applicable for the crypt, the tower (with amazing views) and the choir.

Useful information

EATING

There is a limited choice of pricier restaurants. A good idea might be to bring your own snacks and possibly drinks, which can also be bought from souvenir shops.

SHOPPING

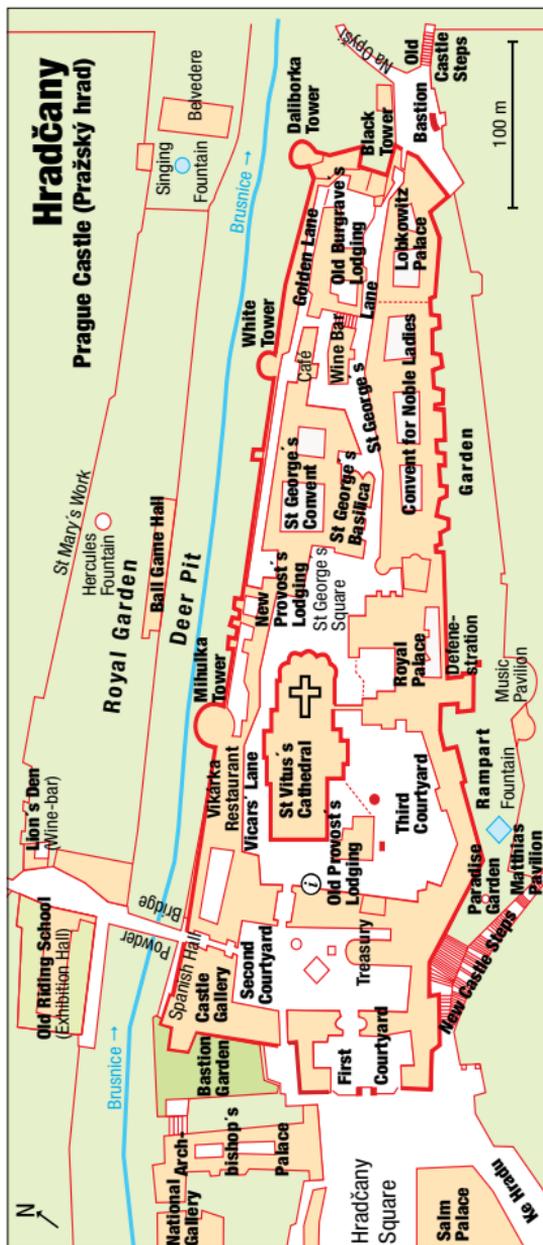
For shopping, do not miss Golden Lane – but be aware that this is one of the most expensive shopping areas in Prague.

COMING WITH CHILDREN?

You might wish to visit the Toy Museum, which features a large exhibition of toys from the ancient Greek period to the present, collected from all over the world.

PRAGUE CASTLE TOUR

The tour of Prague Castle takes two hours if you do not enter the buildings and the gardens. A thorough inspection of Prague Castle can take the whole day, but without the art galleries, four hours suffice.





New Castle Stairs consist of 208 steps

GETTING THERE ON FOOT

As a starting point, we recommend Malostranská metro station, located just below Prague Castle. From there

you will walk up on the Old Castle Stairs (Staré zámecké schody) directly to the castle gate. Another recommended option is from Lesser Town Square via Nerudova Street—a bit of a steep walk too. You will end up in front of the main entrance to the Castle. This option is not suitable for less energetic seniors.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

This is a ceremony that takes place at the Castle every day from 7am until 6pm (in summer until 8pm). The changing of the guard at noon also includes a fanfare and a flag ceremony on the First Courtyard.

GETTING THERE BY TRAM

If you prefer not such a steep walk up the Old Castle Stairs, you can take tram #22 up the hill and get off at the stop for Pražský hrad. Other tram stops include:

Královský letohrádek (Belvedere):

start with the Royal Garden, Belvedere and Ballgame Hall, then cross the Deer Moat bridge to get to the Second Courtyard. The Royal Garden and Deer Moat are closed from November to March.

Pohořelec: walk to the castle through Hradčany and you will arrive at the main entrance.

PRAGUE CASTLE OPENING HOURS

During the summer season (April–October), the castle complex is open daily from 6am to 10pm. Places where tickets are required are open from 9am to 5pm. Prague Castle Gardens together with the Deer Moat are open from 10am to 6pm. During the winter season (November–March), the castle complex is open daily from 6am to 10pm. Places where tickets are required are open from 9am to 4pm. Prague Castle Gardens, including the Deer Moat and the Riding School Terrace, are closed.



SECURITY CHECKS

The longest queues can be expected by visitors entering Prague Castle from Hradčanské Square. Almost no queues are reported after 4pm and on rainy days or by entering castle via Old Castle Stairs (Staré zámecké schody).

PRAGUE CASTLE ENTRANCE FEES

Entrance fees are required for a few selected areas, but visitors can walk freely through the grounds and even into the larger portion of the cathedral. A collective ticket can be purchased at the information office. Tickets are valid for two consecutive days. Allow a minimum of four hours for a visit.

– **Circuit A (CZK 350)**

St. Vitus Cathedral, Old Royal Palace, exhibition The Story of Prague Castle, Rosenberg Palace, St. George's Basilica, Golden Lane with Daliborka Tower, Powder Tower.

– **Circuit B (CZK 250)**

St. Vitus Cathedral, Old Royal Palace, St. George's Basilica, Golden Lane with Daliborka Tower. The most popular circuit.

– **Circuit C (CZK 350)**

Exhibition The Treasure of St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle Picture Gallery.

– **Exhibition The Story of Prague Castle (CZK 350)**

– **Prague Castle Picture Gallery (CZK 100)**

– **Exhibition The Treasure of St. Vitus Cathedral (CZK 300)**

– **Great South Tower with a View Gallery (CZK 150)**

– **Powder Tower (CZK 70)**

Loreta

This remarkable place consisting of a cloister, the Church of the Nativity, the Holy Hut and a clock tower with a world famous chime has been a place of pilgrimage since 1626, when it was endowed by a Bohemian noblewoman, Kateřina of Lobkovicz.

The Loreta was inspired by a medieval legend. In 1278, so the story goes, the Virgin Mary's house in Nazareth was miraculously transported by angels to Loreto in Italy and thus saved from the infidel. The Marian cult became an important propa-

ganda weapon of the Counter-Reformation and, following the defeat of the Protestants at the Battle of the White Mountain in 1620, some 50 other Loreta churches were founded in Bohemia and Moravia. The heart of the Loreta is the Santa Casa, a replica of the Virgin Mary's relocated house. Sumptuously decorated, it incorporates a beam and several bricks from the Italian original. On the silver altar (behind a grille) is a small ebony statue of the Virgin Mary. The rich stucco reliefs, depicting scenes from the lives of the prophets, are by Italian artists.



Loreta courtyard



The Chapel of St Francis Seraphinus



The much larger Church of the Nativity was designed by Christoph Dientzenhofer, and after his death in 1722 was finished by his son Kilian Ignaz, with ceiling frescoes by Václav Reiner and Johann Schopf. Less edifying are the gruesome remains of saints Felicissimus and Marcia, complete with wax death masks. The cloisters, originally 17th century but with an upper storey added by Ignaz Dientzenhofer in the 1740s, once provided overnight shelter for pilgrims. In the corner chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows is

an arresting painting of St. Starosta, a bearded lady who prayed for facial hair to put off an unwanted suitor, only to be crucified by her father whose plans for her wedding were thwarted. The Loreta treasury has a famed collection of vestments and other religious objects, including a diamond monstrance made in Vienna in 1699, which glitters with 6222 precious stones.

📍 *Loretánské náměstí 7, Hradčany*

🕒 *Daily 9am-5pm (summer),
9:30am-4pm (winter)*

👉 *Adult/student CZK 150/110*

Strahov Monastery

Strahov monastery was not much of a success until 1143, when a group of Premonstratensians settled here. The Premonstratensians are a Roman Catholic order of canons founded in 1120 by St. Norbert. They are also known as the Norbertians or White Canons. During communist times the monastery was closed and many monks were imprisoned. Later, after the communist regime collapsed, they returned here (in 1990). The monastery area includes the Church of St. Roch, the Church of Our Lady of Ascension, where Mozart



is said to have played the organ in 1787, Strahov Picture Gallery and the unique Strahov Library.

The magnificent library is located in large halls and decorated with Baroque ceiling frescos. It is the largest monastic library in the country with two baroque halls and is more than 800 years old. The library contains more than 200,000 volumes, including 1,500 books published before the year 1500, along with 3,000 manuscripts. The oldest book is the 9th-century Strahov Gospel. Other works include those of famous printers such as Christoffel Plantin from Antwerp.

There is the two-story high Philosophy Hall dating back to 1780 and its entire ceiling is covered with a delightful composition entitled *The Spiritual Development of Mankind* by Franz Maulbertsch. The lobby outside the hall contains a Cabinet of Curiosities which you simply must see. This corridor takes you to the Theology Hall (with a curved ceiling in Baroque stucco work) dating from 1679, built by Giovanni Orsi. Theology Hall has its walls lined with elaborately carved bookcases, stacked with precious volumes and manuscripts.

☉ *Library: 9am-noon & 1-5pm*

☐ *Adult/discounted CZK 80/50*

☉ *Picture Gallery:*

10am-11:30am & noon-5pm

☐ *Adult/discounted CZK 100/50*



The Amazing Strahov Library Interior



Schwarzenberg Palace

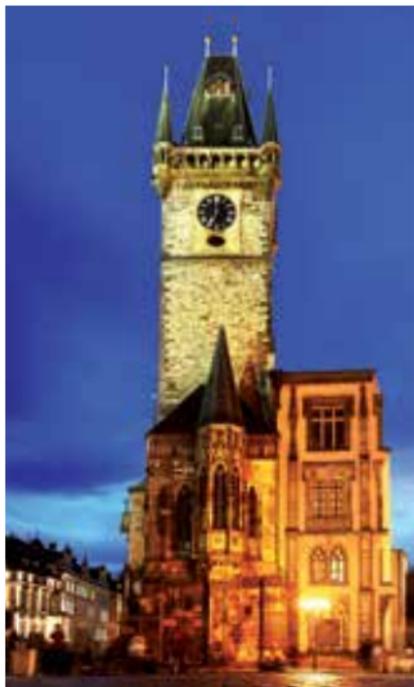
From a distance, the facade of this well preserved palace appears to be clad in projecting pyramid-shaped stonework, but it is an illusion created by rich black-and-white sgraffito patterns inscribed on a flat wall. It is an example of the so-called Czech Renaissance – mixing the Italian influences with Czech traditions. The palace was built on the ruins of three buildings which were destroyed by the great fire in 1541. The present look was designed by Italian architect Ago-

stino Galli in 1545-67 for Jan Popel of Lobkowitz, one of the richest noblemen in Bohemia. The ceilings inside Schwarzenberg palace are decorated with paintings on canvas stretched over a wooden construction. The four paintings made in around 1580 depict famous antic scenes – The Judgement of Paris, The Kidnap of Helen, The Conquer of Troy and The Escape of Aeneid. From 1909 the palace was used by the Technical Museum, but now it belongs to the National Gallery in Prague.

📍 *Hradčanské náměstí 2, Prague Castle*

Old Town (Staré Město)

Old Town is steeped in history. From the 9th century onwards, merchants from all over the world would meet here, at the crossroads of trade routes. Some of them chose to settle here, leaving their mark on the town's unique atmosphere. The Old Town is positioned on a bend in the River Vltava and grew up around Old Town Square. The southern part of Old Town is mainly a maze of narrow streets and arcaded courtyards that conceal gabled houses, cheerfully



Old Town Hall (Old Town Square)

painted shop fronts, churches and taverns. Old Town Square, the Astronomical Clock and the Old Town Hall are the best attractions which every visitor while walking in this district must see. Charles Bridge links Old Town to Lesser Town.

GETTING AROUND OLD TOWN

There is basically no public transit in Old Town as most streets are either pedestrianised or banned to buses and larger vehicles, except for local residents and taxis, so walking is the most common way to get around. Taking a taxi is an option, but due to the regular overcharging of tourists it is not worth the trouble. It takes about 15 minutes to walk from Náměstí Republiky to Staroměstská. There are three metro stops in this area: the most useful is Staroměstská (five minutes' walk from Old Town Square), Náměstí Republiky (near Na Příkopě street and Palladium shopping centre), and Můstek (where Wenceslas Square meets Old Town).

Charles Bridge

The 14th-century Charles Bridge (Karlův most) lined with Baroque statues ranks among the most popular tourist attractions in the city. Strolling this charming bridge, with its impressive vistas over Prague Castle and the Vltava River, is everybody's favourite activity. Unfortunately Charles Bridge is a victim



of its own popularity – most of the time it is packed with tourists and Czechs alike, especially during the spring and summer months. To avoid crowds and snapshotting tourists blocking stunning views, you have to either wake up early or come late. To experience the bridge with its most romantic, quiet atmosphere, morning is the best time to enjoy a less crowded walk, or to take a leisurely stroll across the bridge with the impressively-lit streets of Prague in the background at late evening.

From 9am till late, expect souvenir stands and postcard sellers, as well as an endless variety of street musicians playing their hearts out for you as you stroll across. You can even have your portrait drawn by caricaturists, which makes a nice souvenir to bring back home.

The famous Charles Bridge crosses the River Vltava in Prague. This “solid-land” connection made Prague important as a trade route between east and west Europe. The bridge was originally called Stone Bridge or



The place on Charles Bridge, where St. John of Nepomuk was thrown in the river in the year 1393, is connected with a nice legend. Touch the brassy cross here – and whatever you wish, it will come true!

Prague Bridge, but has been “Charles Bridge” since 1870.

King Charles IV’s favourite architect and builder, Peter Parléř, built the present-day bridge. The initial idea was to build a functional construction for jousting tournaments and for many years the only decoration on the bridge was a simple crucifix. But later, the desire of the Catholics for ornamentation resulted in 30 statues being built between 1600 and 1800.

Today most of the statues are copies, due to damage caused by various floods and catastrophes over the cen-

turies. Perhaps the most interesting statue, and oldest, is that of St. John Nepomuk (number eight from the right as you cross towards the castle). Sculptures decorating the bridge date back mainly to the Baroque period – from the 18th century. The most remarkable statues were created by Matyáš Braun and F. M. Brokoff.

The Bridge, which is 516 metres (1692 feet) long, contains 16 pillars and three bridge towers. One of the towers, the Old Town Bridge Tower, is considered to be the most beautiful bridge tower in Europe due to its rich sculptural decoration.



NÁM. PALACHA
SÍROKÁ
ZATECKÁ
KAPROVA
STAROMĚSTSKÁ
VELESLAVINOVA

ALŠOVO
STAROMĚSTSKÁ
VELESLAVINOVA

STAROMĚSTSKÁ
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STAROMĚSTSKÁ
VELESLAVINOVA

MARIÁNSKÉ NAM.
HUSOVA
SEMNÁRSKÁ
Klementinum

PLATNĚRSKÁ
KARLOVA
ANENSKÉ ANENSKÁ
ANENSKÉ NAM.

ŘEŤEZOVIA
ZLATÁ
LILIOVA

BETLÉMSKÉ
Betléhem
Chape

U DOBRĚN SKÝCH
NÁPŘSTKOVA
BETLÉMSKÁ

NOVOTNĚHO LÁVKA
STŘÍBRNÁ
KAROLÍNY SVĚTLÉ

ČIHLINA
UL. LUTICKÉHO SEMNÁŘE
Vojanovy sady

NA KAMPĚ
SASKÁ
KOPŘEVORSKÉ NÁMĚSTÍ

MALTEZSKÉ NÁMĚSTÍ
NEBOVIDSKÁ
HELICHOVA

Charles Bridge



STATUE OF ST. JOHN OF NEPOMUK, CHARLES BRIDGE

In 1683 the Jesuits placed a statue of John of Nepomuk on Charles Bridge as part of a campaign to create a Bohemian Catholic martyr. The real Jan of Nepomuk had been an ambitious vicar who was killed in 1393 in the power struggles between King Vaclav IV and his archbishop. The Jesuits devised a more saintly tale, claiming he died for refusing to divulge the queen's confession, and that when he was thrown from Charles Bridge, five stars appeared where he drowned. When his body was exhumed in 1719 his tongue, which had become his saintly attribute, was found miraculously preserved, pink and fresh. He was made a saint in 1729 and his statue can be found on bridges throughout Central Europe.

Legend says that if you rub the bronze plaque at the base of the statue, you will be sure to return to Prague one day, and countless tourists' palms have given the panel a bright golden sheen.



Jan Hus Monument, completed in 1915 on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the death of Jan Hus, the Czech Hussite reformer. This massive monument dominates the centre of the square.

Old Town Square

The square has always been a lively place, today it is a popular part of the town for both Czechs and visitors from abroad, as it offers plenty of restaurants, pubs, shops, entertainment, galleries and museums. Its long history goes back to the 11th century when the square formed the crossroads of several long-distance trade routes and served as a marketplace. It was known throughout the whole of Europe at that time. While sitting at some outdoor cafés or strolling around, do not miss the view of beautiful pastel coloured buildings of Romanesque or Gothic origin with fascinating signs. The

most notable sights here are the Church of Our Lady before Týn and the Astronomical Clock Tower. The historic rooms of the town hall, tower and Gothic chapel are open to the public. The Jan Hus statue is the centrepiece among a variety of surrounding historical buildings. The statue was erected on 6 July 1915 to mark the 500th anniversary of the reformer's death. The groundswell of supporters for his beliefs during the 14th and 15th centuries eventually led to the Hussite wars. Despite the initial outcry at the modern style of the sculpture, the statue stands as a symbol of Czech identity.



View of Prague's red rooftops from the Old Town Hall Tower



The house "At the Minute"

Next to Old Town Hall, the house "At the Minute" was Franz Kafka's childhood home. The Renaissance-era house has black and white designs covering the facade

Astronomical Clock

The most popular part of the tower is the town hall clock. Prague's Astronomical Clock is one of the oldest and most elaborate clocks ever built. The tower dates back to 1338, although the clock was first installed in 1410, the clock was rebuilt by Master Hanuš in 1490.

The clock is composed of three main components: the astronomical dial, representing the position of the sun and moon in the sky and displaying various astronomical details, 'The Walk of the Apostles', a clockwork hourly show of figures of the Apostles and other moving sculptures, and a calendar dial with medallions representing the months.

You can watch the twelve apostles appear every hour from 9am to 11pm in its upper section. Huge crowds



gather well in advance to watch this performance.

The Prague Information Service situated next to the Astronomical Clock provides information about concerts, performances, and other happenings in the city.

📍 *Old Town Hall*

🕒 *Mon 11am-6pm, Tue-Sun 9am-6pm*

St. Nicholas' Church

Though less popular than St. Nicholas' Church in Lesser Town, St. Nicholas' Church in Old Town Square deserves its place among Prague's most appreciated and visited places. The church is regularly used for religious and classical music concerts. Not to mention that it has a 2,500-pipe organ.



Little Square (Malé náměstí)

This small square is surrounded by neo-Renaissance and baroque facades, including the sgraffito-decorated Rott building (Hotel Rott), and has a wrought-iron fountain at its centre. The square links Old Town Square with Charles Street (Karlova), which leads to the Charles Bridge.



St. Nicholas' Church on Old Town Square



Stone Bell House

Do not miss exploring the streets surrounding Old Town Square where almost every building throws up some highlight.

THE OLD TOWN HALL is a curious amalgamation of buildings in different architectural styles – its earliest elements date from the 14th century – which has expanded as Prague grew in importance. The town hall was badly damaged in World War II and was rebuilt over many years. Its tower is 69.5m high and worth the climb (there is a lift) for splendid views.

🕒 *Mon 11am-10pm*

Tue-Sun 9am-10pm

👤 *Adult/discounted 130/80*

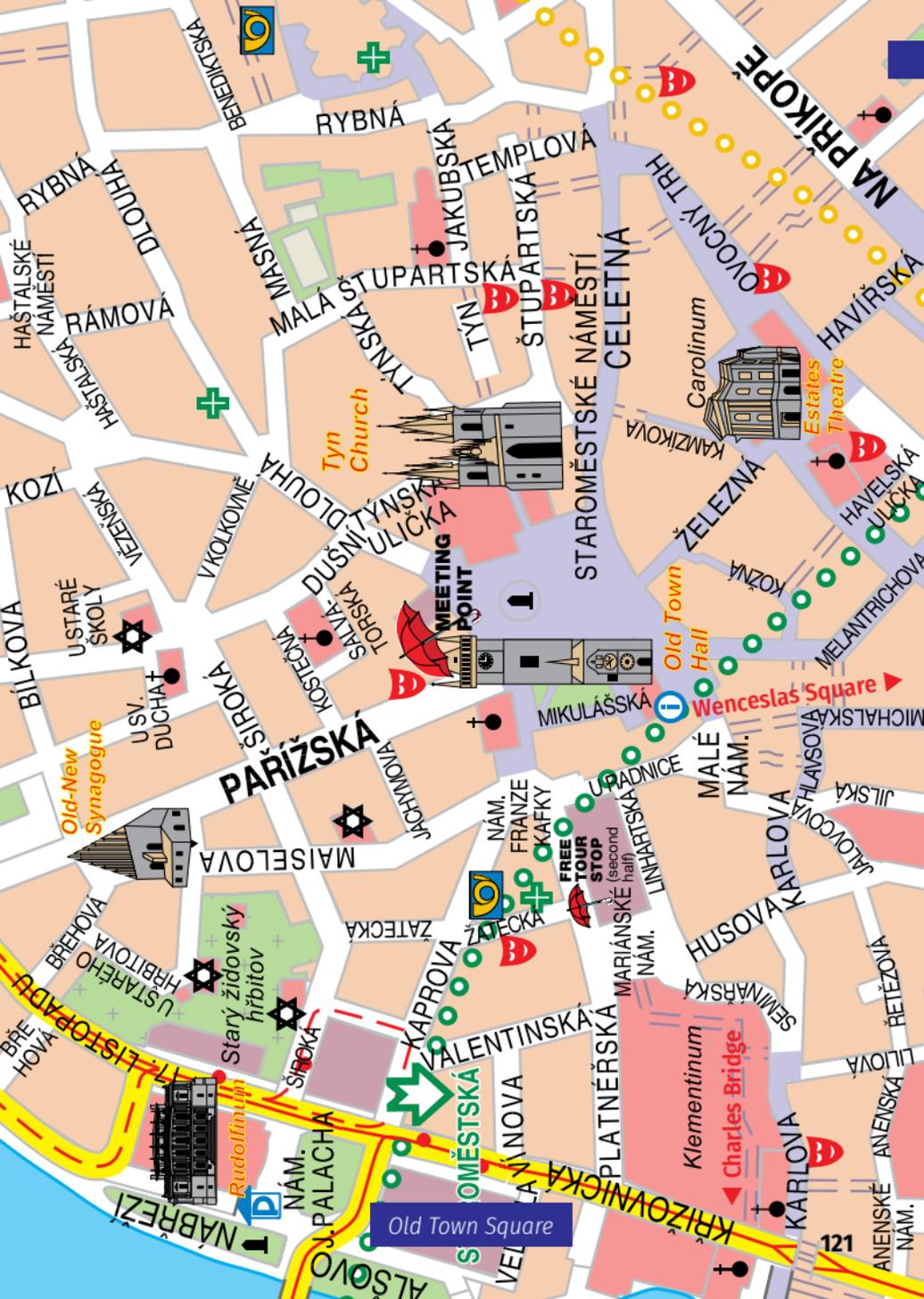
HOUSE AT THE TWO GOLDEN BEARS, situated at the corner of Melantrichova and Kožná Street, is another one of them. The building was constructed from two earlier houses in 1567. It is also one of the oldest houses in Prague. The house has beautiful Renaissance arcades dat-

ing from the 16th century and an ornate portal with reliefs of two bears, designed by the court architect Bonifaz Wohlmut.

THE HOUSE „AT THE MINUTE“ in Prague's Old Town Square is a typical Prague Renaissance house, adorned with much sgraffiti. The famous writer Franz Kafka lived here with his parents at the end of the 19th century. The house “At the Minute” was connected with the neighbouring Pecoldovský house and “At the Cockerel” house, and it was added to the Prague Old Town City Hall complex.

STONE BELL HOUSE, a unique city palace with original Gothic appearance, is perhaps the most attractive building in Old Town Square. Stone Bell House hosts temporary exhibitions of contemporary art and also musical events run by the City Gallery of Prague.

If you go from the square to Charles Bridge you will most likely go along Karlova (Charles Street) as this is the most direct route. Look out for the outstanding Baroque Clam-Gallas Palace. Named after the wealthy patron of the arts Václav Gallas, it was built by Johann Bernhard Fischer of Erlach (between 1713 and 1719). There are statues made by Matthias Bernhard Braun and a theatre where Beethoven performed some of his works. The palace has been restored and today it houses the Municipal Archives of Prague.



Old Town Square

FREE TOUR STOP (second half)

Tyn Church

Old Town Hall

Carolinum
Estates Theatre

Wenceslas Square

Klementinum
Charles Bridge

PARIŽSKÁ

Old-New Synagogue

Starý židovský hřbitov

Rudolfínium

121



Church of Our Lady before Týn (Kostel Matky Boží před Týnem)

This magnificent church dominates one side of Old Town Square. This Gothic-looking church with twin towers has a rich Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque interior. A beautiful entranceway decorated with scenes of Christ's passion and a huge Rococo altar on the northern wall are its most striking features. To the right of the altar there is the tomb of the Danish astronomer Tycho de Brahe, who worked at the court of the Emperor Rudolph II. Týn church has a grand-sounding pipe organ and is occasionally a concert venue. The entrance to the church is through the passage from Old Town Square no. 14



Old Town Square from a bird's eye view

New Town (Nové Město)

New Town – southwest of Old Town, with Wenceslas Square in its centre is now the commercial and administrative heart of the city. It is the fourth, and last, of Prague's towns which closed the medieval development of Prague. Despite its name, this quarter is relatively old. Founded by Charles IV in the mid-14th century, the town expanded rapidly. At the same time the Emperor initiated the construction of numerous monasteries, churches and squares within New Town's borders. The largest enclosed square in New Town, this was once the largest town square of medieval Europe and is now called



New Town Hall (Charles Square)

Charles Square (Karlovo náměstí). Until the time of the Hussite wars, a religious pilgrimage of European importance called “The Showing of Sacraments, Imperial Coronation Jewels and Sacred Remains” took place here every year. This is why the square was planned to cover such an extensive area. However, the present centre of New Town is definitely Wenceslas Square, the main thoroughfare of Prague, originally used as a horse market. The majestic National Museum and statue of St. Wenceslas on horseback dominate this long boulevard (square is not really an exact description). Na Příkopě is the street that was the traditional dividing line between Old Town and New Town, and is a good place to do your shopping. Wenceslas Square is also full of modern shops, restaurants, casinos and exchange offices. The Dancing House, located on the New Town embankment, is an example of modern architecture. The architects of this building received a prestigious international award.

GETTING AROUND NEW TOWN

Probably the most convenient metro stops for this area are Muzeum (at top of Wenceslas Square), and Můstek (at the bottom of Wenceslas Square) with intersections for all lines (A, B and C). Alternatively Karlovo náměstí, on line B, also lies within this district.



Wenceslas Square

The south end of Na Příkopě meets Wenceslas Square (Václavské náměstí) – the 750-metre long and 60-metre wide boulevard. It was first laid out over 600 years ago in Charles IV's period when it was used as a horse market. Since then, the square has been a regular parade ground for every kind of person, organisation or political party known in the Czech Republic. The square can, and has before, comfortably held 400,000 people. In the upper part of the boulevard, the statue of St. Wenceslas on his horse can be seen. A few metres from the statue a plaque stands in memory of those who were killed during the communist period, including Jan Palach, a

20-year-old student, who set fire to himself in January 1969 in protest of the Soviet invasion four months earlier. Jan Palach died three days later with 85% burns. 800,000 people followed the funeral.

Following the collapse of Communist rule in December 1989, Václav Havel and Alexander Dubček appeared on the balcony of number 36 to greet their ecstatic supporters. Palach and other victims of the regime are commemorated in a small shrine in front of Josef Myslbek's equestrian statue of St. Wenceslas. Today, Wenceslas Square is a hustle and bustle of commerce. It really comes alive after dark, when its restaurants, cinemas and nightclubs attract tourist crowds.



National Museum (closed for renovation until 2018)

The major historical sites are all within walking distance of the street and are worth walking step-by step. At the northern end of the square, you can find the Neo-Renaissance National Museum. Another significant building is Koruna Palace – a covered shopping arcade with a stunning glass dome dating from 1911.

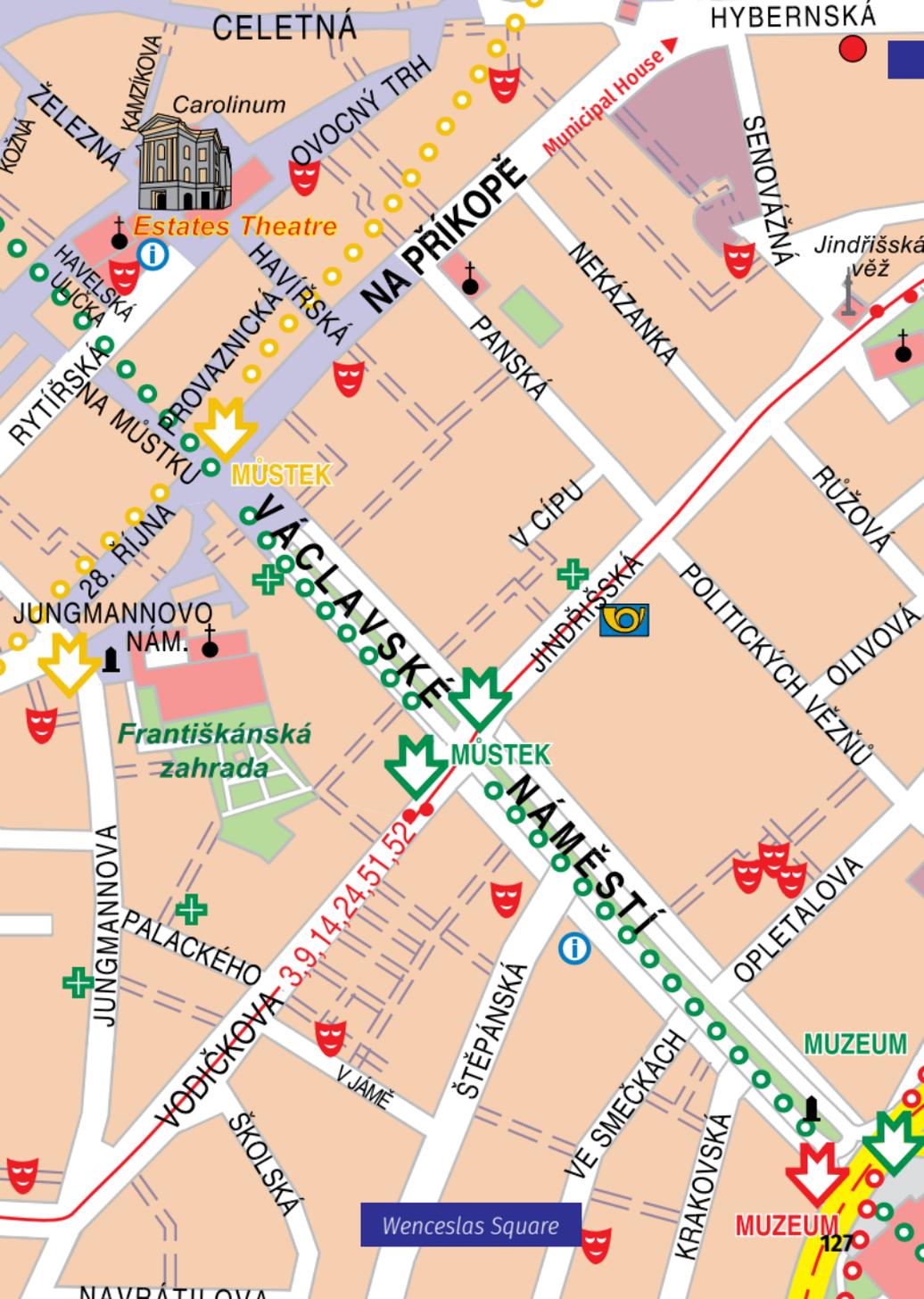
Na Příkopě

If there is to be only one street in Prague symbolising a shopping paradise, it would be Na Příkopě Street, slanting down from Republic Square and the Powder Tower to the northern tip of Wenceslas Square. Chain-

stores, restaurants and shopping centres dominate the scene, while modern art installations appear in the summer. However, this street became a real shopping centre only after the opening of shopping passages built at the end of the 1990s.



Na Příkopě



CELETNÁ

HYBERNSKÁ

Carolinum



Estates Theatre

Municipal House

ŽELEZNÁ
KAMZIKOVA

OVOCNÝ TRH

SENOVAŽNÁ

Jindřišská věž

HAVELSKÁ
ULIČKA

HAVÍŘSKÁ

NA PRIKOPĚ

NEKÁZANKA

PANSKÁ

RYTÍŘSKÁ

PROVAZNICKÁ

MŮSTEK

VÁCLAVSKÉ

V CÍPU

JINDŘIŠKÁ

POLITICKÝCH VĚZŇŮ

RŮŽOVÁ

OLIVOVÁ

JUNGMANNOVO NÁM.

Františkánská zahrada

MŮSTEK

NÁMĚSTÍ

OPLETALOVA

JUNGMANNOVA

PALACKÉHO

VODIČKOVA

3, 9, 14, 24, 51, 52

ŠTĚPÁNSKÁ

MUZEUM

MUZEUM 127

Wenceslas Square

NAVŘÁTILOVA

KRAKOVSKÁ



Municipal House

Prague's most exuberant and sensual building stands on the site of the Royal Court, seat of the Bohemian kings from 1383 to 1483, which was demolished at the end of the 19th century.

Between 1906 and 1912, the Municipal House was built in its place – a lavish joint effort of around 30 leading artists of the day, creating a cultural centre that was the architectural climax of the Czech National Revival.

Restored in the 1990s, after decades of neglect during the communist era, the entire building was a

labour of love, every detail of design and decoration carefully considered, every painting and sculpture loaded with symbolism. The mosaic above the entrance, *Homage to Prague*, is set between sculptures representing the oppression and rebirth of the Czech people, other sculptures ranged along the top of the façade represent history, literature, painting, music and architecture.

You pass beneath a wrought-iron and stained-glass canopy into an interior that is art nouveau right down to the doorknobs (you can look around the lobby and the downstairs bar for free). The restaurant and the

café flanking the entrance are like walk-in museums of art nouveau design.

Upstairs are half a dozen sumptuously decorated halls and assembly rooms that you can visit on a guided tour (90 minutes, three or four per day), which can be booked at the building's information centre (through the main entrance, and around to the left of the stairs). The first stop on the tour is Smetana Hall, Prague's biggest concert hall, with seating for 1,200 people spread out beneath a glass art nouveau dome. The stage is framed by sculptures representing the Vyšehrad legend (to the right) and Slavonic dances (to the left).

Several impressive official apartments follow, but the highlight of the tour is the octagonal Lord Mayor's Hall (*Primátorský sál*), whose windows overlook the main entrance. Every aspect of its decoration was designed by Alfons Mucha, who also painted the superbly moody murals adorning the walls and ceiling.

Above you is an allegory of Slavic concord, with intertwined figures representing the various Slavic peoples watched over by the Czech eagle. Figures from Czech history and mythology, representing civic virtues, occupy the spaces between the eight arches, including Jan Hus as *Spravedlnost* (justice), Jan Žižka as *Bojovnost* (military prowess) and the

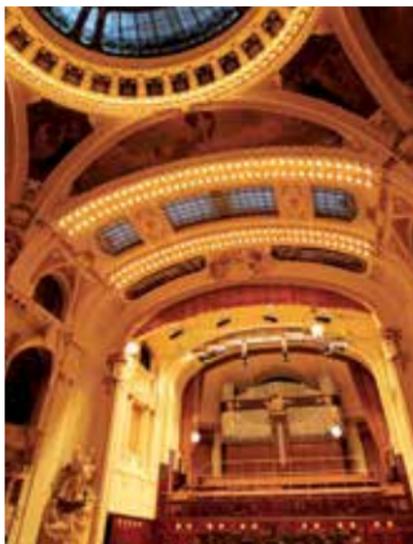
Chodové (medieval Bohemian border guards) as beady-eyed *Ostražitost* (vigilance).

On 28 October 1918, an independent Czechoslovak Republic was declared in Smetana Hall, and in November 1989 meetings took place here between the Civic Forum and the Jakeš regime.

The Prague Spring (*Pražské jaro*) music festival always opens on 12 May, the anniversary of Smetana's death, with a procession from Vyšehrad to the Municipal House followed by a gala performance of his symphony *Má Vlast* (My Country) in Smetana Hall.

🕒 7:30am to 11pm

👉 Adult/discounted CZK 290/240



Smetana Hall

Dancing House

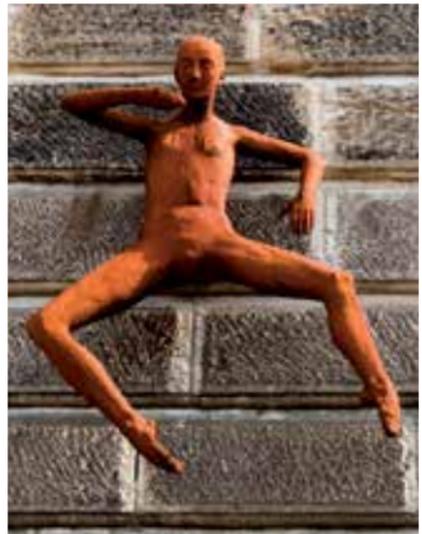
The Dancing House, nicknamed 'Fred and Ginger' is an office building in downtown Prague. It was built in 1997 by Croatian born Czech architect Vlado Milunič in co-operation with American architect Frank Gehry. It was built on a vacant riverfront plot, next to a building owned by Czech playwright and former president Václav Havel, whose strong support for avant-garde architecture was instrumental in getting the controversial design approved and built. Known in Czech as Tančící dům ('the Dancing House'), this building vaguely resembles a pair of dancers and stands out, but without clashing with, the Neo-Baroque, Neo-Gothic and Art Nouveau buildings that Prague is famous for. The building's tenants include several multinational firms. There is a highly-rated French restaurant on the roof with magnificent views over the Vltava river and the castle. French fine cuisine, with seafood and meat dishes and a few vegetarian main courses, is on the menu.



The crisply formal atmosphere is perfect for a special celebration.

- ☉ *The junction where Resslova meets the river at Rašínovo nábřeží 80. The restaurant is located on the 7th floor*
- ☉ *Daily Noon-11pm*
- 👉 *Mains are reasonably priced (from CZK 365 to CZK 600)*
- 🌐 www.tancici-dum.cz





David Černý is a Jewish–Czech sculptor whose works can be seen in many locations in Prague. His works tend to be quite controversial

Old Jewish Quarter Josefov

The Jewish Quarter is a small area known as Josefov which contains the remains of Prague's former Jewish ghetto between Old Town Square and the River Vltava. Josefov was named after the emperor Josef II, whose reforms helped to ease living conditions for the Jewish population. There are two figures here synonymous with this part of the city, Franz Kafka (1883–1924) and the mystical homunculus Golem created by Jehuda ben Bezael, also known as Rabi Löw. Most of it can be walked around in a single day.

GETTING AROUND JOSEFOV

The Jewish Quarter is quite a heavily visited location in Prague, especially in peak tourist season, when its tiny streets are packed with visitors. The area is quite small and very compact, so a fairly thorough tour should take less than half a day. Due to the proximity to Old Town Square, the best way to visit is on foot.

Prague Ghetto

THE OLD JEWISH CEMETERY – with the tomb of Rabbi Löw.

⊕ *Entrance on Široká*

OLD-NEW SYNAGOGUE – the early Gothic 13th-century building, and the oldest synagogue in Europe.

⊕ *Červená 2*

PINKAS SYNAGOGUE – this is the gateway to the Jewish cemetery. Under the Communist regime, the building was closed and all the names of holocaust victims inscribed on the walls were erased. Later, all 77,927 names were restored and now they cover the entire interior.

⊕ *Široká 3*

HIGH SYNAGOGUE – so-called because its prayer hall is closed to the public. Located directly across from the Old-New Synagogue.

KLAUS SYNAGOGUE AND CEREMONIAL HALL – both host exhibitions on Jewish traditions and customs such as birth, circumcision, bar mitzvah and marriage.

⊕ *U starého hřbitova 3a*

MAISEL SYNAGOGUE – history of Jews in Bohemia and Moravia.

⊕ *Maiselova 10*

THE SPANISH SYNAGOGUE – the history of Jews from emancipation to the present.

⊕ *Věžeňská 1*

JUBILEE SYNAGOGUE – situated outside the Jewish Quarter, close to the main railway station. The Jubilee Synagogue was built in 1905–06 in Art Nouveau and pseudo-Moorish styles as compensation for demolished synagogues in the Jewish Quarter.



The Old Jewish Cemetery

Mysterious Jewish Quarter

Tales, legends and other such mysteries have been woven around a good many places in Prague. One of the most interesting is about Golem. It is

KOSHER FOOD

The Dinitz Kosher Restaurant is very low-key and the most affordable kosher restaurant within the Jewish Quarter.

☺ Bílkova 12

The more elaborate King Solomon Restaurant represents a better deal for Shabbat cuisine.

☺ Široká 8



Spanish Synagogue



Jubilee Synagogue

said that in the attic of the Old-New Synagogue, the Golem is hidden – a mighty being made of clay that was, according to legend, created by Rabbi Löw to protect the Jewish Quarter. The Golem is inextricably linked to the mysterious atmosphere of old Prague.

VISITOR CENTER AND TICKET SALES:

☺ Maiselova 15 (you can also hire a guide and buy refreshments here)

MUSEUM ONLY:

☺ Adult/discounted CZK 330/220;
Entrance fee for all sites: Adult/discounted CZK 500/340

☺ 9am-6pm Sun-Fri Apr-Oct, 9am-4:30pm Sun-Fri Nov-Mar, closed on Jewish holidays and on Saturdays

Franz Kafka

Even if you have never heard about Franz Kafka and have never read one of his books (novels *The Trial*, *America* and *The Castle* have been translated into several languages), you will surely notice his presence while visiting Prague. T-shirts, posters and mugs carrying the writer's image are available at every souvenir shop across Prague.



Franz Kafka Statue

Kafka was a Czech Jew who wrote in German and was a citizen of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at birth, and a citizen of the newly-formed nation of Czechoslovakia. He was born in Prague on July 3, 1883, right above the Batalion Schnapps bar on the corner of Maiselova and Kaprova. Kafka spent most of his life living in and around Josefov (Prague's Jewish Quarter), studying at a German school on Old Town Square and working as an accident insurance clerk, until he was forced to retire through ill health in 1922. He died of tuberculosis at the age of 40 in a sanatorium just outside Vienna two years later, but his body was returned for burial in Prague's New Jewish Cemetery (Olšanské cemetery).

To learn more about Kafka, visit the exposition dedicated to his life at Cihelná 2b. Open daily 10am-6pm. Entrance fee: Adult/discounted CZK 200/120.

www.kafkamuseum.cz

Pařížská Street

Pařížská Street, the ultimate bourgeois avenue, thanks to its location, has always been a street with a high concentration of luxurious shops, swanky cafés, restaurants and bars. This street runs off Old Town Square to the River Vltava and bisects the Jewish Quarter. It is an easy walk from some of the best five-star hotels in Prague.



Agnes of Bohemia tending the sick by the Bohemian Master from 1482

St. Agnes Convent

The convent was founded in 1234 by Agnes, sister of King Wenceslas I. It was completed at the end of the 14th century but the convent was eventually dissolved in 1782. An ambitious restoration programme was undertaken in the 1990s. The most remarkable building is the Church of the Holy Saviour, an exceptional example of early Gothic architecture. Look out for the capitals, which are highly decorated with reliefs showing the rulers of the Přemyslid dynasty. During restoration, the burial place of some of these kings and

queens was unearthed, including the tomb of King Wenceslas I in the Church of St Francis (which is now used as a concert venue). Today the convent house serves as a division of The National Gallery that exhibits excellent medieval art from Bohemia and Central Europe (1200-1550). Among the highlights are works by various artists: the Master of the Vyšší Brod Altar, Master of the Michle Madonna, Master Theodoric, Master of the Litoměřice Altar, Master of the Altar of the Knights of the Cross.

📍 *U Milosrdných 17, Josefov*

🕒 *Tue-Sun 10am-6pm*



Ceremonial Hall – permanent exhibition of the Jewish Museum



Petřín Hill

Only a stone's throw away from Prague Castle is Petřín Hill, perfect for a summer walk away from the bustle of tourists. Part of the hillside is set aside for an apple and a pear

orchard from which the fruit can be freely picked from the trees. Much of the stone used in building the major sights in Prague was quarried out of Petřín. However, today this is not noticeable beneath the trees and gardens. The observation tower and a manicured garden dominate the summit, and halfway down is the famous restaurant Nebozízek – where you can enjoy a meal with a perfect view of Prague. Do not forget the hall of mirrors for a new and varied perspective of yourself – The Petřín Hill Maze. Originally a pavilion of the Czech Tourist Club at the 1891 Jubilee Exhibition, it was later transferred to Petřín Hill and turned into a hall of mirrors. It is a favourite spot for children. The hill is 327 metres high. For those less energetic, a funicular rail-

FUNICULAR RAILWAY TO PETŘÍN HILL

Just opposite Újezd tram stop (trams 12, 22) in Lesser Town, the railway runs daily from 9am to 11:30pm (11:20pm from November to March) in 10-15 min. intervals. The charming Victorian Funicular is very popular.

way will save you trouble of a climb (for the price of a normal tram ticket). Petřín Hill is also easily accessible on foot from Hradčany and Strahov.

Petřín Look-Out Tower

This iron tower, 60m (196 feet) tall, was built in 1891 by F. Prášil for the Jubilee Exhibition as a copy of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. It has 299 steps that lead up to the top platform, or if you feel tired you might use the comfortable lift instead.

Hall of Mirrors

Fun for all located on Petřín Hill. This pavilion was built in 1891 for the Jubilee Exhibition, and later transferred to Petřín. There is a dioramic picture commemorating the battle of students with Swedes on Charles Bridge in 1648 and the subsequently constructed hall of mirrors.

Nebozízek Restaurant

The food is not that great but the views from the terrace are spectacular. The restaurant is often full, so to ensure seating reserve a table. Petřínské sady and Lesser Town can be reached from the funicular's second stop.

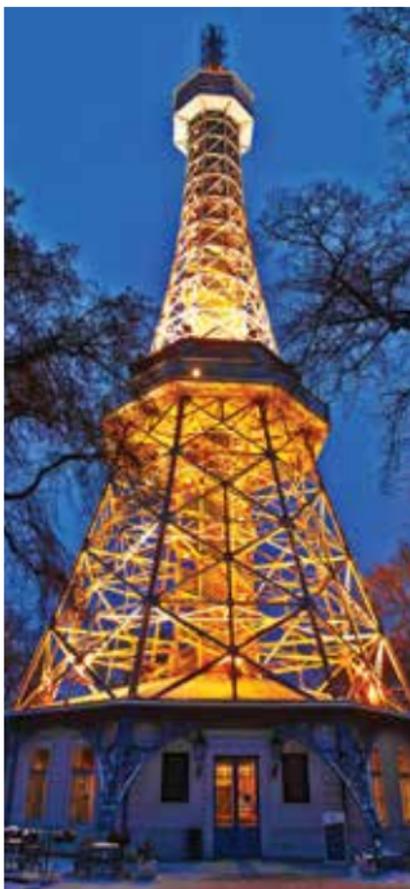
www.nebozizek.cz

Vrtba Garden

Vrtba Garden is situated on the slope of Petřín Hill and is one of the most precious and beautiful of Prague's Baroque gardens.

Petřín to Strahov Walk

Take the funicular railway up to Prague's best picnic spot, Petřín Hill, which is also very popular with joggers, dog-walkers, lovers and families. From here you have magnificent vistas across the "city of 100 spires", and the panorama gets better as you follow the trail down and around to Strahov Monastery.





Lesser Town

Lying below the castle and reaching across to the banks of the Vltava is Lesser Town (Malá Strana). It is certainly no less of a beautiful town, it is called Lesser Town because traditionally it was the smaller half of Prague, the half in which the king lived, and the half away from the bustle of the markets on the other side. Today Lesser Town is a maze of narrow cobblestoned streets, winding their way between historical monuments – including the beautiful Baroque St. Nicholas' Church. Pleasant hours can be spent strolling among the multitude of

cafés, restaurants, shops and quaint, tiny cottages, crumbling with age.

GETTING AROUND LESSER TOWN

The metro's A-line Malostranská station will take you to Lesser Town, it is the most central stop. But there is no better way to arrive in Lesser Town than after a nice downhill walk from the castle or a popular stroll from Old Town across Charles Bridge, along Mostecká street leading to Lesser Town Square. Alternatively take tram 22 from Národní třída (just next to the National Theatre) and in two stops get off just below the Petřín funicular railway to Petřín Hill.

St. Nicholas' Church

This exquisite Baroque church was built between 1704 and 1755 by Kilian Dientzenhofer. It is one of the most beautiful Baroque churches in Europe. The splendid dome is 70m high. The 79m-tall belfry is directly connected with the church's massive dome. The belfry, with its great panoramic view, was - unlike the church - completed in Rococo form over 1751-1756 by Anselmo Lurago. The Rococo pulpit with angels and cherubs was made by Peter and Richard Prachner in 1765. Inside is a Baroque organ from 1746 which was played by Mozart when he was in Prague. Four years later it was played at a funeral mass in his memory. St. Nicholas' Church is also a very popular concert venue during the summer.

📍 Lesser Town Square 38

🕒 Daily 9am-5pm (on Tue till 6pm)

Mar-Oct, 9am-4pm Nov-Feb

📶 CZK 70



The belfry of the St. Nicolas' Church is open to the public and offers a beautiful view of the Lesser Town.



Cupola of St. Nicholas Church



Baroque organ

Church of Our Lady Victorious

This church is world-famous thanks to the Prague Bambino – Infant Jesus wax figure (of Spanish origin), which was presented to the church by Polyxena of Lobkowitz (1628). The Church of Our Lady Victorious, built in 1613, has on its central altar a 47cm-tall waxwork figure of the baby Jesus. Known as the Infant Jesus of Prague (Pražské Jezulátko), it is said to have protected Prague from the plague and from the destruction of the Thirty-Year War. An 18th century German prior, ES Stephano, wrote about the miracles, kicking off what eventually became a worldwide cult, today the statue is visited by a steady stream of pilgrims, especially from Italy, Spain and Latin America. It was traditional to dress the figure in beautiful robes and over the years various benefactors have donated richly embroidered dresses. Today the infant's wardrobe consists of more than 70 costumes donated from all over the world, these are changed regularly in accordance with



Infant Jesus

a religious calendar. At the back of the church is the museum, displaying a selection of the frocks used to dress the infant. Shops in the street nearby sell copies of the wax figure. Looking at all this, you cannot help thinking about the Second Commandment (“Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image...”) and the objectives of the Reformation. Jan Hus must be turning in his grave.

📍 Karmelitská 9, Lesser Town

🕒 Church 8:30am-7pm Mon-Sat & 8:30am-8pm Sun, museum 9:30am-5:30pm Mon-Sat & 1-6pm Sun

🆓 Admission free



NEBOVIDO

KARMELETÁNSKÁ

Church of Our
Lady Victorious

Schönbornská
zahrada

Lobkovická
zahrada

Petřín Hill

HELLIČOVA

U LANOVKY
DRAHY

ŘÍČNÍ

12,20,22,57

ÚJEZD

Hladová zeď (Hunger Wall)

Štefánikova
hvězdarna

Petřín
Look-Out
Tower

MILÁŠSKÁ

Prague Castle

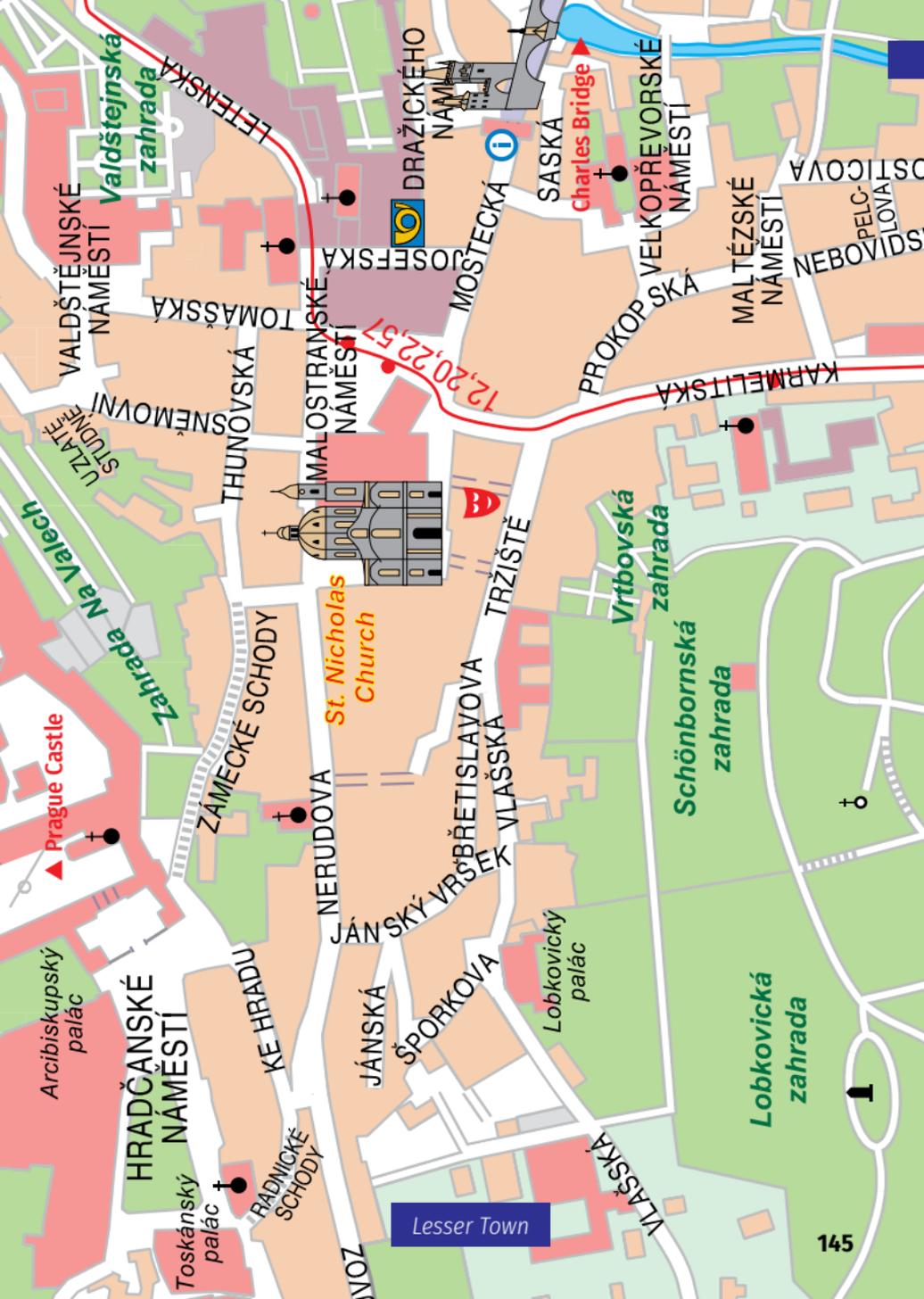


The Three Fiddles – one of many beautiful house signs on Nerudova Street

Nerudova Street

If you head west from Lesser Town Square to Prague Castle you will pass through the beautifully picturesque Nerudova Street named after Jan Neruda. He was a famous Czech poet who lived at the house called 'At the Two Suns' (which is no.47). All the houses in Prague used to be marked by house signs until 1770 when a new way of numbering was introduced. The houses in Nerudova Street bear an extraordinary selection of heraldic beasts and house signs. Climbing up this steep street you will notice

The Red Eagle, The Golden Horseshoe, The Green Lobster or The White Swan. Many houses are now used as cafés, wine bars and pubs. Several large Baroque palaces are also situated in this street, for example, Thun Palace (the Italian Embassy) and Morzin Palace (the Romanian Embassy). The façade of Morzin Palace is decorated with two huge statues of Moors holding a round balcony. Another impressive facade belongs to the Theatine Church of Our Lady. The Order of Theatines was founded during counter-reformation times.



Lesser Town

145



Lennon Wall

Lennon Wall was an ordinary wall in Prague, but since John Lennon's death Prague's youth have covered it with John Lennon inspired graffiti and Beatles lyrics.

In 1988 the wall was a source of irritation for a communist regime of Gustav Husák. Young Czechs would write grievances on the wall and a government report written about it at this time led to a clash between hundreds of students and security police on nearby Charles Bridge.

The text on the wall is continuously changing and the original

portrait of Lennon is long lost under layers of spray paint. It is located at Velkopřevorské náměstí (Grand Priory Square), Lesser Town.



The Memorial to the victims of Communism located at the base of Petřín Hill

Žižkov Television Tower

The Žižkov TV Tower is Prague's controversial structure, standing at two hundred and sixteen metres tall. Up close, it is an imposing, post-modern style of architectural design characterized by the disturbing image of numerous giant baby statues making their way up its sides, crafted by the designer David Černý - but amongst locals it is much disliked.

Started in the 1970s for the purpose of jamming Western German TV transmissions, this tower has only been completely operational since the 1990s. During the process of building it though, the Communists decided to destroy part of a local Jewish graveyard which had featured in the locale from 1787 to 1891; in the north-west of this tower, however, a smaller part of this graveyard still survives.

The three pods that are situated directly underneath the tower's top decks are utilized for apparatus relating to the structure's main purpose, and are not accessible to the general public. The six pods that are left are accessible to tourists, and the tallest of these has observation areas at one hundred metres, offering breathtaking views of Prague and its surrounding areas.

Getting there: Catch the metro line A to Jiřího z Poděbrad, then walk north-east for two blocks - it is hard not to see it.



🕒 Observation deck and upper deck restaurant 8pm-midnight; Garden restaurant 9am-midnight; Café 8am-5pm

👤 Adult/discounted CZK 180/CZK 120

🌐 www.towerpark.cz

Vyšehrad

Vyšehrad, sometimes referred to as “Prague’s second castle”, is another of the Czech Republic’s fine castles. It was built in the 10th century on a hill over the River Vltava and within the castle grounds is the Church of St. Paul and St. Peter, as well as Vyšehrad Cemetery, containing the remains of many famous people from Czech history.

The castle’s centrepiece is the church, whose blackened shape stands grandly upon the hill overlooking the River Vltava.

Every inch of the interior is immaculately covered with decorations much like those on the pages of an illustrated manuscript, thus making it one of the most beautiful interiors in Prague. A small fee is required for this viewing pleasure.



HOW TO GET TO VYŠEHRAD?

It is easily and quickly reachable from the city centre on metro line C to Vyšehrad (two stations from the National Museum). From there, it is about a 10-minute walk to Vyšehrad’s main gate. The tour of the complex takes about 2 to 3 hours.

The Rotunda of St. Martin, dating from the 11th century, can be viewed a short distance from the church towards Vyšehrad metro station. It is one of the original rotundas of the city.

Vyšehrad is an alluring and pleasant walk lasting about 2 hours. Even though it is situated close to the city centre, you will be in quiet surroundings away from the traffic. Due to its position on a high rock just above the Vltava River, it offers nice panoramic views over part of Prague. The gardens surrounding Vyšehrad Church are peaceful and nicely manicured.

There are some nice views of the Vltava, a couple of restaurants to visit and some enormous statues depicting figures from Czech mythology to examine. Any time of day is a good time to visit. Take a morning off from sightseeing and bring a picnic lunch. Not many areas in Prague are as quiet, green and peaceful as Vyšehrad.



SEKANINOVA

OLDŘIČHOVA

NEZAMYSLOVA

ČIKLOVA

Prague Congress Centre



OSTRČILOVO NAMĚSTÍ

JAROMÍROVA

SLAVOJEVO

NA BUČANCE

NA PANKRACI

NA SLUPI

KROKOVA

LUMÍROVA

Taborská brána

VRATISLAVOVA
PREMYSLOVA

Panna Maria
V Hradbach

Rotunda
† sv. Martina

Leopoldova
brána

V PEVNOSTI

VICTORIA

Cihelná brána

V PEVNOSTI

Vyšehradské sady

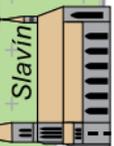
K ROTUNDĚ

SOBĚSLAVOVA

Ústav pro matku a dítě

RYBAŘSKA

ŠTULCOVA



Slavín

NA LIBUŠINCE

Vyšehrad

Vyšehrad

tunel

PODOLSKÉ NABŘEŽÍ

Vltava River

Tours and Excursions

Best Deals



Tours and Excursions

Our tours section will guide you through the city's historical quarters, so rich in history to the most important sights of the New Town. You will learn about highlights on both banks of the Vltava. We also offer most popular recommendations for day trips outside of Prague.

Prague Walking Tours

Taking a walking tour around the city of Prague is a great opportunity to see the sights and to get to know the city. It can also lead to lots of hidden places that you may not otherwise have found without a guide. Prague walking tours are an excellent way to become acquainted with the city's rich history and architectural beauty, especially if you are visiting Prague for the first time.

Most of our walking tours leave daily from Old Town Square in the city centre. If you would rather not walk, we also offer some sightseeing tours where our coach will pick you up from your hotel and take you around the city in comfort.

Taking a leisurely cruise along the Vltava can also be a great oppor-

tunity to see Prague's architectural gems from a different angle, while enjoying lunch or dinner on the boat. Most lunch cruises depart at noon, and dinner cruises at 6:40pm.

Whether or not you are on a budget, consider taking our free tour that will show you the city's main highlights. It is a great introduction to Prague and will also give you a great orientation for your own further exploration.

If you are looking for something more flexible and private, we can arrange a professional English-speaking guide for you. The tour guide can even tailor this walk to your special needs, for example recommend a place where to stop for lunch, including a river cruise or tram ride if you are tired walking, etc. The guide can pick you up at your hotel, or you can arrange to meet anywhere in the city.

4-hour Free Prague Walking Tour

The tour starts on Old Town Square with a general introduction to Prague where we will admire the impressive composition of the old buildings and churches, we also become acquainted with the life of the Czech reformer Jan Hus.



Crooked lanes lead us back around other keyholes into Prague's past: Mozart's Don Giovanni in the Estates Theatre, Karolinum – Charles University since 1348, the cubist house of the Black Madonna and the medieval courtyard Ungelt.

Next we continue on to visit the Jewish Quarter that leads us back to



Prague's tragic history. You discover the destiny of Prague's Jews, living behind the wall of the former ghetto. The Old-New Synagogue, the Old Jewish Cemetery, the Jewish Museum and follow in the footsteps of the famous Jewish writer Franz Kafka.

After this, we will have a 30-minute break from 12:45pm to 1:15pm at Mariánské Square. After the break, you can continue the tour or come back another day for the second half.

The second half starts at the beautiful baroque library of Klementinum. We cross Charles Bridge coming into Lesser Town Square, the highlight of which is the huge St. Nicholas' Church.

After a relaxing visit to the church, we climb 200 steps leading to Hradčanské Square and Prague Castle, the largest castle complex in Europe. This "city within a city" hides Schwarzenberg Palace, the Archbishop's Palace, the Old Royal Palace, the Basilica of St. George... and the greatest architectural treasure of all – St. Vitus Cathedral. The walk finishes next to the Old Royal Palace with a charming view of Prague, the city of a hundred spires. It is really easy to walk, simple to understand and great to enjoy!

How Do I Claim My Free Walking Tour?

When you use our airport transfer service your driver will automatically give you what we call a 'transport voucher'. This is your proof of purchase of your Prague airport transfer; all you need to do then is bring your voucher and show it to the tour guide to join the walking tour. If you need transport to the meeting point, we are happy to book this for you if you contact us in advance.

TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Daily at 11:00am. Guided tour spoken only in English.
- **Price:** Free, if you use the transfer from the airport, booked through Prague Airport Transfers, our chauffeur will automatically give you a "transport voucher". All you need to do is to bring your voucher and show it to our tour guide.
- **Booking information:** No pre-booking is necessary. Just show up 10 minutes prior to the tour start time.
- **Where does the tour finish?** It finishes at Prague Castle. Our tour guide will gladly navigate you back to the city centre.



PRIVATE GUIDES

We can arrange a professional guide covering both Prague itself and the whole Czech Republic for your tailor-made tour. All our guides have a licence and appropriate education and certificates provided by the Prague Information Service. We are able to manage a guide in most common languages (including German, Spanish, French, Dutch, Italian and Russian). We charge one fixed rate per hour, no matter how many people are in your party, although we do recommend a maximum group size of 20 people per guide. Our normal standard rate is from CZK 500 per hour for most common languages. Contact us for exact price offer.

6-hour Superior Tour of Prague

Full day in Prague on foot, by river boat and by tram!

This walk is a unique combination of the very best aspects of each of our walks. Moving from the magical little web of alleys in Old Town past the important milestones in the history of the Jewish Quarter and Wenceslas Square in New Town, the site of astonishing protests and uprisings, we come to the river. Here we can enjoy a comfortable cruise that shows us the most romantic spots of Prague, such as Lesser Town or Prague Castle, from the most unusual angles. Then we board the tram to ascend the hill to Prague Castle.

As we stroll around the Jewish Ghetto we can look into Jewish traditions and history. The ghetto is formed of small houses and narrow alleys and attracts tourists with its unique monuments – the Old Jewish Cemetery, the Old-New Synagogue (still in use), and the Jewish Museum.

We admire the rich history of the Old Town with the marvellous Church of St. James, the medieval customs yard Ungelt, the Estates Theatre where Mozart's Don Giovanni was introduced to the world, and Charles University, the oldest university in Central Europe. On Wenceslas Square we see where the Velvet Revolution occurred in 1989.

After a typical Czech lunch served in a nice restaurant we take our cruise. Prague Castle, crowning the

top of a picturesque hill, Lesser Town, St.Nicholas' Church – a Baroque jewel, Charles Bridge, the National Theatre... Get unsurpassed views of all of Prague's treasures from the river!

After the cruise we come to the Castle, the real heart of Prague. Your guide takes you through all the courtyards, shows you the Old Royal Palace, the Basilica of St. George, the Royal Garden and the architectural gem of St.Vitus Cathedral. On this tour with a great guide, you can peer into the past from the 21st century.

TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Daily starting at 11am.
- **Price:** CZK 1 500 per person
- **Includes:** lunch, drinks, canal cruise and a tram ride and optional pickup from your hotel—free of charge.
- **Special Offer:** Enjoy a 47% discount and pay only CZK 770

ADVANCED BOOKING

Except for our free tour, we strongly recommend making a booking. Please call us on +420 222 554 211 or book online at www.prague-airport-transfers.co.uk

Where, When and How to Join Us

WALKS: MEETING POINT

The meeting point for all the walks (except the Beer and Ghost Tour) is on the corner of Paris Street (Pařížská) and Old Town Square, opposite the St Nicholas Church next to the Czech Tourism office. You might ask at your hotel reception for exact directions. The Old Town Square is just a short walk from Staroměstská metro or tram station, and is one of the most famous locations in Prague. Your guide waits for you with a red Prague Airport Transfers sign umbrella. Please turn up 10 minutes before the walk starts. For the Beer and Ghost Tour, the pickup point is from the Premiant Tour kiosk at Na Příkopě 23, which is five minutes' walk from Wenceslas Square.



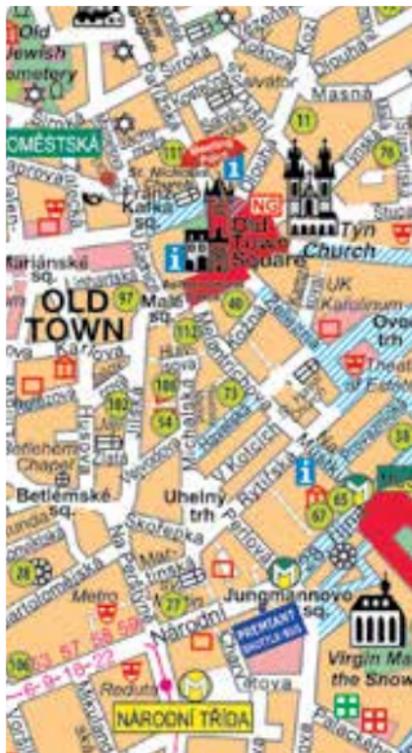
and walk another five minutes (to the right in relation to Prague Castle) until you see Classic River boat. Please be at the boat departure pier at least 15 minutes before boat departure time.

BUS EXCURSIONS: PICKUP POINT

The pickup point is from Na Příkopě 23 (a 5-minute walk from Wenceslas Square). If you also booked transportation to the excursion, the driver will pick you up directly at the hotel reception.

BOAT: DEPARTURE POINT

The boat departure point is from Dvořákovo Quay, and the boat is located between Čechův Bridge and Štefáníkův Bridge, closer to the Štefáníkův Bridge. If you walk from Old Town Square, follow Pařížská Street and after ten minutes you reach the riverbank (Čechův Bridge) right next to the Intercontinental Hotel. Then, walk down to the pier





Hluboká is a monumental romantic chateau located near Český Krumlov

Excursions

If you are staying in Prague for more than a few days or it's not your first visit, it's a good idea to see other amazing places outside of Prague.

West of Prague, you can soak in the soothing natural thermal springs of Karlovy Vary or Mariánské Lázně. This area produces some of the finest glass and porcelain pieces in the world.

South-west of Prague lies the city of beer, Plzeň. The city has become

famous throughout the world thanks to the excellent Pilsner Urquell beer, brewed here since 1295. The guided tour of the cellars (there are 9 km) includes a visit to the extravagantly decorated beer hall, definitely an experience not to be missed.

Head north out of Prague and you enter the side of the Republic with a dark past—the holocaust. Located here are two painful reminders, Lidice and Terezín. Lidice was destroyed by the Nazis in vengeance for Reichsprotektor Reinhard Heydrich's assas-

sination. Terezín was a former Czech Jew concentration camp. One hundred and forty thousand people passed through here, but fewer than 11% survived until the end of the war.

To follow the offbeat track head to the Mělník, just about 40 km north of Prague, where the Lobkowitz family's Mělník Chateau can be found. It overlooks the Labe and Vltava rivers and has a vineyard that has produced grapes for centuries.

When going south, a must-visit is the medieval town of Český Krumlov. This picturesque historical town, tinged with romance, has been, not unjustifiably, the second most visited in the Czech Republic.

Some sights outside of Prague are different, unique even. Take Konopiště Chateau, for example. Here you can witness the hunting obsession of Archduke Ferdinand by touring the Trophy Corridor and Chamois Room and seeing the thousands of stuffed heads, antlers and skulls of his trophies.

And then there is Kutná Hora. Visiting this town gives you an opportunity to explore a medieval silver mine. Put on your helmet with light and get started! Finally, a bizarre experience is visiting the Sedleč Ossuary at Kutná Hora, where your spine will tingle looking at the decorations which have been made out of the bones of 40,000 people.



Telč



Mariánské Lázně

Kutná Hora (5.5-hour tour)

Regularly organised excursion shared with others, guided and including all fees

A medieval centre of silver-mining, this was the second richest town in the Bohemian Kingdom. The variety of Kutná Hora architectural monuments and the well preserved structure of the town-centre reflect its ancient fame and wealth, which has lasted until the present day. During our walk, we will visit the gothic cathedral of St. Barbara and the Italian Court—originally a Royal Mint. No less admirable are the other beautiful gothic, renaissance and baroque burgher houses and the unique stone well from the 15th century.



Italian Court



Sedlec Ossuary

TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Daily starting at 1pm.
- **Price:** CZK 990 per person
- **Includes:** Entrance fees to St. Barbara's Cathedral, the Italian Court and Sedlec Ossuary. Optional free pickup from your hotel.



The plague Column of the Virgin Mary



St. Barbara's Cathedral

Kutná Hora (6.5-hour private tour)

Flexible private excursion.

*On demand anytime you wish,
exclusive of entrance fees and guide*



St. Barbara's Cathedral

TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Recommended pick-up time: from 9am to 2pm. Free time at the destination amounts to 3 to 4 hours, which is enough time to see the city on foot.
- **Prices:** Prices shown are for a whole group. 1–4 people: CZK 3 120, 5– 8 people: CZK 3 860.
- **Excludes:** Tour Guide and entrance fees to St. Barbara's Cathedral, the Italian Court and Ossuary.

Karlovy Vary (9.5-hour tour)

Regularly organised excursion shared with others, guided and including all fees

This spa town's history goes back to the 14th century, the time of Charles IV. Such celebrities as Russia's Caesar Peter the Great or world famous poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe praised the healing effects of the town's local mineral springs. This town is also famous for the production of the world-famous Bohemian crystal Moser, for local china production known as Karlovarský porcelán (Karlovy Vary porcelain) and for the production of a delicious herb spirit called Becherovka.



The best-known spring of Vřídlo



Baroque colonnade

160

**TOUR DETAILS**

- **Tour date/time:** Daily starting at 8:45am.
- **Price:** CZK 1 690 per person.
- **Includes:** Fully-guided tour, lunch and Moser glass factory tour.



Karlovy Vary
(7 or 9-hour private tour)
Flexible private excursion.
On demand anytime you wish,
exclusive of entrance fees and guide



Thermal mineral water

TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Recommended pick-up time: from 7am to 1pm. There are two different lengths of tours – one seven hours in duration, and the other nine hours. With the short tour, there are three hours of free time at the destination, and with the longer tour there are five hours of free time.
- **Prices 7-hour tour:**
 - 1-4 people – CZK 3 600.
 - 5-8 people – CZK 4 400.
- **Prices 9-hour tour:**
 - 1-4 people – CZK 4 600.
 - 5-8 people – CZK 5 000.
- **Excludes:** Tour guide and entrance fees.



Český Krumlov (9-hour tour)
*Regularly organised excursion
shared with others, guided and
including all fees*

This historical centre and medieval town is formed of narrow and winding little streets with a number of gothic, renaissance and baroque houses that originated as mansions of such noble families as the Rožmberks, the Schwarzenbergs and the Eggenbergs. You will walk through the town accompanied by our guide

and have lunch in a medieval tavern. In the summer months, a visit to the local castle is included.

TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Daily at 8:45am.
- **Price:** CZK 2 090 per person.
- **Includes:** Lunch and entrance fees and a free optional pickup from your hotel.

Český Krumlov
(8.5 or 11-hour private tour)
Flexible private excursion.
On demand anytime you wish,
exclusive of entrance fees and guide



Český Krumlov Castle walls



TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Recommended pick-up time: from 7am to 1pm. There are two different lengths of tours – one is 8½ hours in duration, and the other is 11 hours.
- **Price:** Prices quoted are for a whole group.
- **8½-hour tour:**
 - 1-4 people – CZK 4 500.
 - 5-8 people – CZK 5 700.
- **11 hour tour:**
 - 1-4 people – CZK 5 000.
 - 5-8 people – CZK 6 200.
- **Excludes:** Tour guide and any entrance fees. Castle entrance fee varies from CZK 35 to CZK 300 per person.



Terezín Memorial

Terezín (5-hour tour)

Regularly organised excursion shared with others, guided and including all fees

If you are interested in the history of World War II and the holocaust, this tour is for you. The former military fort of Terezín was built in the 18th century by Emperor Joseph II and will always be connected with the history of World War II. Better known as the Big Fort, the town of Terezín itself was used as a transit camp for Jews from all over Europe and at the same time during visits of the In-

ternational Red Cross Organisation it was misused for Nazi promotion purposes. The small Fort Terezín was a cruel prison of the Gestapo – the Reich's secret police.

TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Daily starting at 9am.
- **Price:** CZK 1 150 per person.
- **Includes:** Free pickup from your hotel (optional) and all entrance fees.

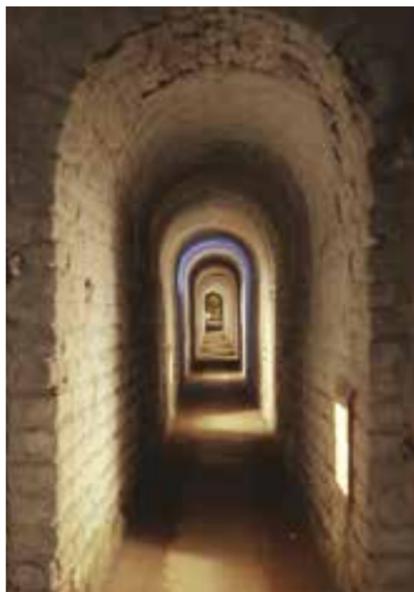
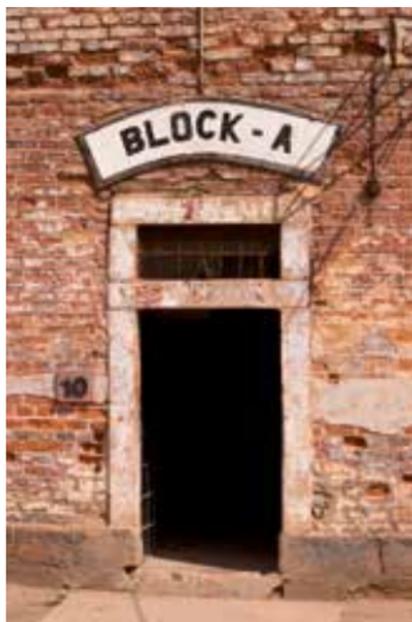


Terezín

(5.5-hour private tour)

Flexible private excursion.

*On demand anytime you wish,
exclusive of entrance fees and guide*



TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Recommended pick-up time: from 8am to 2pm. Free time at destination: 3 hrs 30 min (tour of Terezín memorial complex takes about 1 hr 30 min to 2 hours).
- **Prices:** Prices shown are for a whole group.
1-4 people – CZK 2 500.
5-8 people – CZK 3 200.
- **Excludes:** Memorial tour guide and entrance fees. Terezín Memorial entrance fee is CZK 200 and is paid directly by the customer.

Pilsner Urquell Brewery (6-hour tour)

Flexible private excursion.

*On demand anytime you wish,
exclusive of entrance fees and guide*



TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Recommended pick-up time: from 10am to 1pm.
Free time at destination: 4 hours. This is sufficient to visit the Pilsner Brewery (including Brewery Museum), have lunch, and still have time for a quick visit to the city centre. The city can be easily seen on foot.
- **Prices:** Prices shown are for a whole group.
1-4 people – CZK 3 200.
5-8 people – CZK 4 000.
- **Excludes:** Entrance fees to the Pilsner Brewery or any other entrance fees, which should be paid directly by the customer.





Karlštejn (4-hour tour)

Regularly organised excursion shared with others, guided and including all fees

Karlštejn is one of the most visited Czech castles, built by Emperor Charles IV between 1348 and 1355. This Gothic castle served as a depository of royal and imperial jewels and coronation jewels, and also as an archive of state documents. After climbing the hill you will take an hour-long sight-seeing tour of the Karlštejn castle interior. Your guide will acquaint you with not only the history of the

TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Every Thursday and Saturday at 9 am. During January and February the castle is closed, except from 1st-9th January.
- **Price:** CZK 890 per person.
- **Includes:** Free pickup from your hotel (optional) and all entrance fees.

castle, but also with the life of Charles IV and art during his reign.



Karlštejn (4.5-hour private tour)

Flexible private excursion.

*On demand anytime you wish,
exclusive of entrance fees and guide*

Our private excursions are completely flexible and even your itinerary can be tailored to exactly what you want to see. As well as being able to adjust your itinerary on a private tour, you can also choose your own time for your tour, and how much time you spend at each attraction (if you want to cut your tour short, or extend your time, for example, we'll adjust the price/waiting fee on the spot).



TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Recommended pick-up time is from 9am to 2pm, except Mondays when the castle is closed (also closed during the winter months of January and February)..
- **Prices:**
 - 1-4 people – CZK 1 750.
 - 5-8 people – CZK 2 150.
- **Excludes:** Tour Guide and entrance fees are not included. Castle entrance fee starts at CZK 250 for a guided 50 to 60-minute tour.



Dresden (11-hour tour)

Regularly organised excursion shared with others, guided and including all fees

From a fishing village, Dresden grew into a spa and a royal residence, and later became the capital of Saxony. The galleries of Zwinger and Albertinum, the Hofkirche and Frauenkirche churches, and Semper's Opera are among the most important sights of Dresden. During the 2nd World War the city was completely destroyed by a massive bombardment, but was renovated and rebuilt. In the famous Baroque palace of Zwinger and the

Art Gallery you can admire the "Sixtin Madonna", the famous picture by Raphael, as well as many notable works by the Old Masters from the 14th to 17th centuries (Rubens, Rembrandt, Poussin etc.).

TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** This tour starts at 8.45am and only operates on Tue, Wed., Thus. and Fri.
- **Price:** CZK 1 750 per person.
- **Includes:** Free pickup from your hotel (optional).

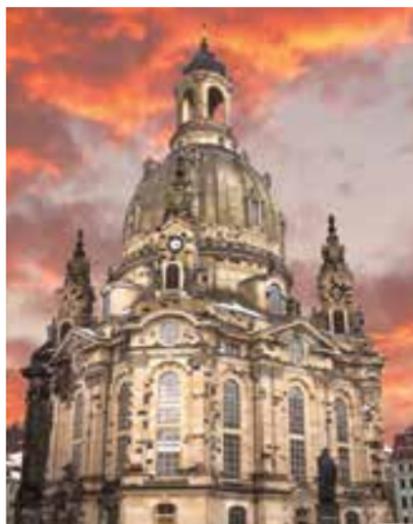


Dresden

(10-hour private tour)

Flexible private excursion.

*On demand anytime you wish,
exclusive of entrance fees and guide*



TOUR DETAILS

- **Tour date/time:** Recommended pick-up time is from 7am to 11am.
- **Prices:**
 - 1-4 people – CZK 4 320.
 - 5-8 people – CZK 5 310.
- **Excludes:** Tour Guide and entrance fees are not included.

Language

The national language is Czech. However, English is widely spoken (especially by the younger generation), as is German and Russian (mostly by the older generation). Czech is the national language though.

Unlike English, each Czech letter is always pronounced the same way, so once you are familiar with the Czech alphabet you will be able to read. Stress is usually on the first syllable of a word. The Czech language can be quite difficult to learn and many English speakers find it very hard to pronounce.

Survival English-to-Czech Dictionary

Do you speak English? Mluvíte anglicky? (*mlu-veete an-glits-ki?*)

Hello Dobrý den (*dobree den*)

Thank you Děkuji (*yekooyee/ je-koo-yi*)

Good morning Dobré ráno (*dobreh rahno*)

Good evening Dobrý večer (*dobreh vehcher*)

Good Night Dobrou noc (*dobroh nots*)

Good bye Na shledanou (*nas-klehdanoh*)

Excuse me Promiňte (*prominyte*)

My name is Jmenuji se ... (*ymeenooye se*)

If you are keen to learn some basic words and phrases, we recommend the Czech phrase book by Lonely Planet. Believe or not, even knowing a few short sentences will always delight the locals, who will be pleased at your efforts and admire your trying.

Czechs usually speak German, English or Russian as a second language though their ability will vary. This may be more obvious when talking with the older generation. Before the revolution in 1989, learning Russian was compulsory in schools. Today, almost no one learns Russian and most people prefer to speak English or German.

Nice to meet you Těší mě (*tye-shee mye*)

How much? Kolik? (*kolik*)

How long? Jak dlouho? (*yak dlow-ho*)

Where is ... ? Kde je ... ? (*gde ye*)

I'd like ... Chtěl bych ... (*khtyel bikh*)

I do not understand Nerozumím (*nerozooomeem*)

I don't speak Czech Nemluvíم český (*Neh-mloo-veem cheskee*)

What time is it? Kolik je hodin? (*kolik ye hodeen*)

Can I have a ...? Mohl(a) bych dostat ... ? (*mo-hla bikh dostat*)

What is it? Co je to? (*tso ye to*)

How are you? Jak se máte? (*yak-se mah-te?*)

Hospital Nemocnice (*neh-mots-nitse*)

Train Station Nádraží (*nah-drazhyee*)
Cheers Na zdraví (*nah zdrah-vee*)
Bon appetite Dobrou chuť (*do-brooh khutye*)
The bill, please. Prosím, účet. (*pro-seem oo-chet*)
Please, you're welcome Prosím (*proseem*)
Waiter! Pane vrchní (*pane vrkh-nyee!*)
Waitress! Slečno (*slech-no*)
Beer Pivo (*pivo*)
Toilet Toaleta (*toh-ah-lehta*)
Please Prosím (*proseem*)
Yes / No Ano / Ne (*ano / ne*)
Shop Obchod (*ob-khod*)
Street Ulice (*oo-leetse*)
Police Policie (*poleetsee-ye*)
Airport Letiště (*leh-teesh-tye*)

1 Jedna (*yed-na*)
2 Dvě (*dvye*)
3 Tři (*trzi*)
4 Čtyři (*chti-rzhi*)
5 Pět (*pyet*)
6 Šest (*shest*)
7 Sedm (*sedm*)
8 Osm (*osm*)
9 Devět (*dev-yet*)
10 Deset (*des-et*)
100 Sto (*sto*)
1 000 Tisíc (*tyi-seets*)
Day Den (*den*)
Week Týden (*tee-den*)
Big Velký (*vel-kee*)
Small Malý (*ma-lee*)
Hot Horký (*hor-kee*)
Cold Studený (*stu-de-nee*)
Bad Špatný (*shpat-neré*)
Good Dobrý (*do-bree*)

Pronunciation

a as in cat

á as in bar

c as ts in its

č as ch in cheap

ch as ch in loch

d' as in duration

e as in elf

é as ea in wear

ě as ye in yell

i as in kit

í as ie in belief

j as y in yellow

ň as ni in opinion

q is pronounce kv

r is rolled

ř combines rolled r and zh sound in measure

š as ss in mission

ť as t in overture

u as on could

ú and **ů** as oo in soon

w is pronounced v

y as i in kit

ý as ie in belief

ž as zh sound in measure

Famous Czechs

Politicians

- **Václav Havel** (1936-2011)
Czech playwright and dissident and later Czech president, one of the great men to emerge from the anti-communist revolutions.
- **Václav Klaus** (*1941)
former prime minister and ex-president of the Czech Republic.
- **Madeleine Albright** (*1937)
Czech-born American politician and diplomat.

Scientists/Pioneers

- **Prokop Diviš** (1698-1765)
Inventor of electropathy and the lightning conductor.
- **Sigmund Freud** (1856-1939)
Inventor of deep psychology.
- **Tomáš Baťa** (1876-1932)
Founder of the Baťa worldwide shoemaking industry.
- **Otto Wichterle** (1913-1998)
Inventor of silon and contact lenses.

Authors

- **Franz Kafka** (1883-1924)
Czech-German author who wrote The Trial, The Castle, America.

Composers

- **Antonín Dvořák** (1841-1904)

Soccer Players

- **Petr Čech** (*1982)
- **Pavel Nedvěd** (*1972)
- **Tomáš Rosický** (*1980)
- **Josef Masopust** (1931-2015)

Tennis Players

- **Tomáš Berdych** (*1985)
- **Ivan Lendl** (*1960)
- **Petra Kvitová** (*1990)
- **Radek Štěpánek** (*1978)
- **Martina Navratilová** (*1956)

Hockey Players

- **Domínik Hašek** (*1965)
- **Jaromír Jágr** (*1972)
- **Patrik Eliáš** (*1986)
- **David Krejčí** (*1986)
- **Tomáš Vokoun** (*1976)

Models

- **Eva Herzigová** (*1973)
- **Petra Němcová** (*1979)
- **Karolína Kurková** (*1984)
- **Tereza Fajková** (*1989)
(Miss Earth 2012)
- **Taťána Kuchařová** (*1987)
(Miss World 2006)

Filmmakers

- **Miloš Forman** (*1932)
- **Jan Svěrák** (*1965)
- **Jiří Menzel** (*1938)

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