

Prague



Prague is said to be the “heart of Europe” and is sometimes called the “mother of cities”. Over the centuries, people have invented such nicknames for Prague as the City of a Hundred Spires, Golden Prague or Magic Prague – always celebrating its architectural and spiritual richness and its mystical attraction. You will discover the glorious history of this former imperial and royal city, which today is the lively and modern capital of the Czech Republic, at almost every step on Prague’s storied streets.

EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

TIP

Points of interest, history, cultural events, happenings – everything to help you get to know the diverse face of Prague.

TOP 10 in Prague

Discover Prague! Our top picks will take you to its most beautiful spots.

A GUIDED TOUR OF PRAGUE

We will lead you to famous monuments and places full of history and trace the footsteps of celebrated personalities, all with the high-quality commentary of professional tour guides.



A QR code links to the website www.praguewelcome.com where you can purchase the service online.

1. PRAGUE CASTLE

Climb the Old Castle Steps to Prague Castle and visit its courtyards and the interiors of the Old Royal Palace. From St. Vitus Cathedral, head to the Golden Lane – a former haven for alchemists and charlatans.

2. VYŠEHRAĐ

Soak up the atmosphere of the Vyšehrad fortified settlement, where before the arrival of Christianity pagan princes prayed to their forest idols and where today stands one of the most beautiful churches in Prague.

3. PALACE GARDENS

Relax on the terraces of the Baroque gardens below Prague Castle and stroll through the narrow, steep streets of the Lesser Town.

4. CHARLES BRIDGE

Take an early morning walk across the medieval stone bridge, before its magnificent Baroque statues are besieged by crowds of tourists.

5. OLD TOWN SQUARE WITH THE ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

Do not forget that the Old Town Square is the true heart of Prague. What’s more, at the top of every hour you can see a procession of the Apostles on the Old Town Hall Astronomical Clock! Then, while enjoying a beer or coffee under Baroque arcades, you can observe the bustle on the square and admire the towers of Týn Church.

6. THE JEWISH TOWN OF JOSEFOV

Follow the footsteps of Franz Kafka and Prague’s famous rabbis to the narrow lanes of the former Jewish ghetto.

7. THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

Visit the Church of Our Lady Victorious, where pilgrims pray to the famous Infant Jesus of Prague for protection and help.

8. MUNICIPAL HOUSE

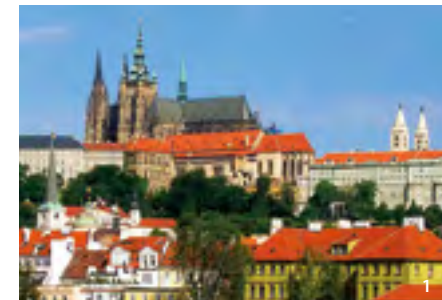
Go to a concert of Mozart or Vivaldi at the Municipal House, the most magnificent Czech Art Nouveau building.

9. PETŘÍN HILL

Surrounded by trees on the top of Petřín, you will forget that you are in the heart of a metropolis.

10. ESTATES THEATRE

Go to the Estates Theatre to see the opera The Marriage of Figaro, where it was personally conducted by the genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1787. This opera has played here ever since.





Old Town Square



St. George's Basilica



Astronomical Clock on the Old Town Square



Church of St. Nicholas



Singing Fountain



Tourists at Troja Chateau



Interiors of the Clementinum

Prague has always been a living organism, where over the centuries all European architectural styles have appeared. Prague now boasts a totally unique and extensive historical city centre, which since 1992 has been a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site.

GOthic AND ROMANESQUE GLORY

The oldest Romanesque church building in Prague is the 11th-century **Rotunda of St. Martin** at **Vyšehrad** with circumferential walls nearly a metre thick. The most famous, of course, is the **Basilica of St. George** at **Prague Castle**, in whose interior we can see the tomb of the Czech patron St. Ludmila.

Gothic architecture experienced its greatest period of expansion in Prague in the 14th century, during the reign of the Holy Roman Emperor and Bohemian King Charles IV. **St. Vitus Cathedral** and the **Old Royal Palace** at Prague Castle are among the jewels of European architectural heritage.

A photo of the **Charles Bridge** with the silhouette of Prague Castle in the background – this has become the visual symbol of the city of Prague. The bridge, with 31 statues and a massive tower at either end, is more than half a kilometre long. Its most famous decoration is a Baroque statue of St. John of Nepomuk.

The **Old Town Hall** complex is made up of a 70-metre tower, three adjacent houses, and its biggest attraction: the Astronomical Clock, where at every hour wooden statues of the twelve Apostles file past.

The Church of Our Lady before Týn, with two 80-metre towers, was in its time the tallest building in Prague. The church is the burial place of the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe.

THE STORY OF THE ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK

The fame of the Prague Astronomical Clock spread throughout Europe. Many wanted the Czech clockmaker Master Hanuš to construct in their city an equally wondrous instrument for measuring time. The Prague city councillors did not want to lose the uniqueness of their clock, so they had Master Hanuš blinded. Other legends are told about the Old Town Astronomical Clock. One says that when the instrument stops working, war will come to the land.

PRAGUE'S RENAISSANCE BEAUTY

One of Prague's first buildings in the Italian Renaissance style is the imposing **Schwarzenberg Palace** on Hradčany Square (Hradčanské náměstí). Nearby stands **Martinic Palace**, where several episodes of the popular historical series *Borgia* were shot. Both palaces are notable for their outstanding sgraffito decoration.

BAROQUE PEARLS OF PRAGUE

It is said about the **Church of St. Nicholas** in the Lesser Town that it is the most valuable Baroque building north of the Alps. Its interior is decorated with huge frescoes with scenes from the life of St. Nicholas. The composer W. A. Mozart rarely missed an opportunity to play the church's organ with its four thousand pipes.

The **Clementinum** is one of the greatest Baroque complexes in Central Europe. The most interesting places here are the 68-metre Astronomical Tower and the Baroque library hall with unique globes from the 18th century. Here you will also find the oldest Czech meteorological station.

The **Baroque gardens** situated on the slopes below Prague Castle and in the Lesser Town will entice you to relax. Be sure not to miss the terraced Vrtbov Garden and the garden of Wallenstein Palace.

TIP

In the Royal Garden in front of the Queen Anne Summer Palace you will see the Renaissance **"Singing Fountain"**. The sound of water falling on a bronze bowl recalls the distant ringing of Prague's bells. Carefully position your ear below the bottom of the lower bowl and let yourself be transported.

Take a **boat trip on the Vltava River** and visit the **Troja Chateau** with its beautiful gardens, art gallery and wine cellars. Near the chateau is a popular zoo and botanical garden. Steamboats sail from the Rašín Embankment (Rašínovo nábreží) daily at 9:30, 12:30 and 15:30 from late March to late October.

A GUIDED TOUR OF PRAGUE



A magnificent textbook of architecture.
Discover the city's most beautiful buildings and the history of their origins.



Municipal House

GEMS OF PRAGUE ART NOUVEAU

Art Nouveau architecture is characterized by its rich ornamentation with a wealth of floral motifs, all distinctively decorated in ceramic, gold, enamel and coloured cut glass. It was in full bloom in the early 20th century when the grand representational building of the Royal City of Prague – the **Municipal House** (Náměstí Republiky 5) was constructed. The regal appearance of this building is crowned with outstanding artistic decoration by many of

Villa of František Bílek – interiors



TIP

Visit the villa of the sculptor and graphic artist **František Bílek** near Prague Castle. The Art Nouveau building with its rough brick facade was intended by the artist to express fields of grain (the columns) and a scythe, which is represented by the unusual semicircular layout of the house. A permanent exhibition presents Bílek's sculptural works from his peak creative period.

the prominent personalities of the time, such as the world-famous painter Alfons Mucha. You can visit its perfectly preserved Art Nouveau café, and you can do likewise at the **Grand Hotel Evropa** (Wenceslas Square, 25-27).

Also significant is the **Pojíšťovna Praha** building (Národní 7), whose facade is decorated with a large and colourful Czech lion; the **Industrial Palace** at the Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice, where exhibitions and fairs have been held since the 19th century; and the lavish **Vinohrady Theatre** on Peace Square (Náměstí Míru), which in its day became the symbol of the wealth of the Vinohrady quarter.

SYMMETRICAL CLASSICIST AND EMPIRE STYLES

Classicism was inspired by the ancient world, eliminating the ostentatious ornamentation of the Baroque period and embracing austerity and simplicity. A prime example is the **Estates Theatre** on the street Ovocný trh (Fruit Market). W. A. Mozart liked it so much that he had precisely this theatre in mind when writing his opera Don Giovanni, which had its world première here in 1787. The Czech-born film director Miloš Forman shot scenes for his Oscar-winning film Amadeus here. Other examples of Classicism and the Empire style in Prague are the **Church of the Holy Cross** on Na Příkopě street, the **U Hybernů building** on the Square of the Republic (Náměstí Republiky) and the **Kinský Villa** at the foot of Petřín Hill.

HISTORICIST ARCHITECTURE OF THE 19TH CENTURY

The Neo-Renaissance building of the monumental **National Museum**, which occupies the entire top of Wenceslas Square, is of crucial importance to the Czech nation, as is the **Rudolfinum** building on Jan Palach Square (Náměstí Jana Palacha), which hosts major concerts. The beautiful building of the **National Theatre** is the representative stage of the Czech Republic and one of the

TIP

Visit the famous Neo-Renaissance **Pellé Villa** (Pelléova 10), which today houses a permanent exhibition of the works of Czech artist Jiří Anderle and his collection of African art.

Go to see Mozart's opera **The Marriage of Figaro** at the Estates Theatre, presented in the original Italian with English subtitles.

symbols of Czech identity. Because of its rich gold decoration, this theatre on the banks of the Vltava River is often called the "golden chapel".

Among church buildings, noteworthy ones are the Neo-Gothic **Church of St. Ludmila** on Peace Square (Náměstí Míru) in the Vinohrady quarter and the **Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul** at **Vyšehrad**, which is one of the dominant landmarks of Prague.



Church of St. Ludmila



National Museum



Estates Theatre

PRAGUE CUBISM



Kovařovic Villa



Cubist ceramics – Pavel Janák



House at the Black Madonna

Sharp edges, geometric forms and crystalline structures – these are the typical elements that adorn the facades and also the interiors of buildings created in the unique architectural style of Czech Cubism.

Visit the most famous Cubist building, the **House at the Black Madonna** (Ovocný trh 19), designed by the leading Czech architect **Josef Gočár**. It houses an original Cubist café with beautiful chandeliers and light fixtures and also the Kubista shop, where you can buy products such as jewellery, ceramics and light fixtures by designers inspired by this style. Note the Baroque statue of the Black Madonna on the corner of the house, which gave the building its name.

A WALKING TOUR OF PRAGUE CUBISM

Take a walk past three of the most beautiful Cubist residential buildings in Prague, designed by the architect **Josef Chochol** and located below Vyšehrad. Not far from the Výtoň tram stop is the opulent **Kovařovic Villa** (Libušina 3). On the corner of Neklanova and Přemyslova streets is a masterpiece of architectural Cubism – a **four-storey residential building**. And beside the tram line leading from the city centre to Podolí below Vyšehrad Rock stands the two-storey **“Triple House”**.



TIP

On a walk through the centre of Prague, don't overlook the unique **Cubist lamppost** made of artificial stone, metal and glass on Jungmann Square (Jungmannovo náměstí). Credited with the preservation of this lamppost was the world-famous Czech architect Jan Kaplický, who designed such buildings as the Lord's Media Centre in London.

PRAGUE CASTLE



Panorama of the Hradčany quarter

At the ancient seat of Bohemian kings you will encounter unique buildings from many architectural periods, from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. Today the castle is the seat of the president of the Czech Republic, yet a large part of the complex is still open to the public.

St. Vitus Cathedral (1) is the largest and most important church in Prague. Don't miss the Art Nouveau window by Alfons Mucha, the Gothic tombs of Czech kings or the Chapel of St. Wenceslas, the patron saint of the nation. Inside the chapel, which is richly decorated with semi-precious stones, there is a room that protects the Czech crown jewels – a crown, sceptre and orb. They are displayed on special occasions. Do not overlook the valuable mosaic above the Golden Gate next to the entrance to the south tower, from which you can enjoy spectacular views.

The **Old Royal Palace** (2) served as the residence of Czech kings until the 16th century. During a tour of the palace you will see the great Vladislav Hall with its magnificent late Gothic vaulting.

The **St. George Basilica** (3) enjoys renown as one of the oldest religious buildings in Central Europe. It was founded as early as 920, and with the exception of the

facade, which was lavishly rebuilt in the Baroque style, it retains its Romanesque character.

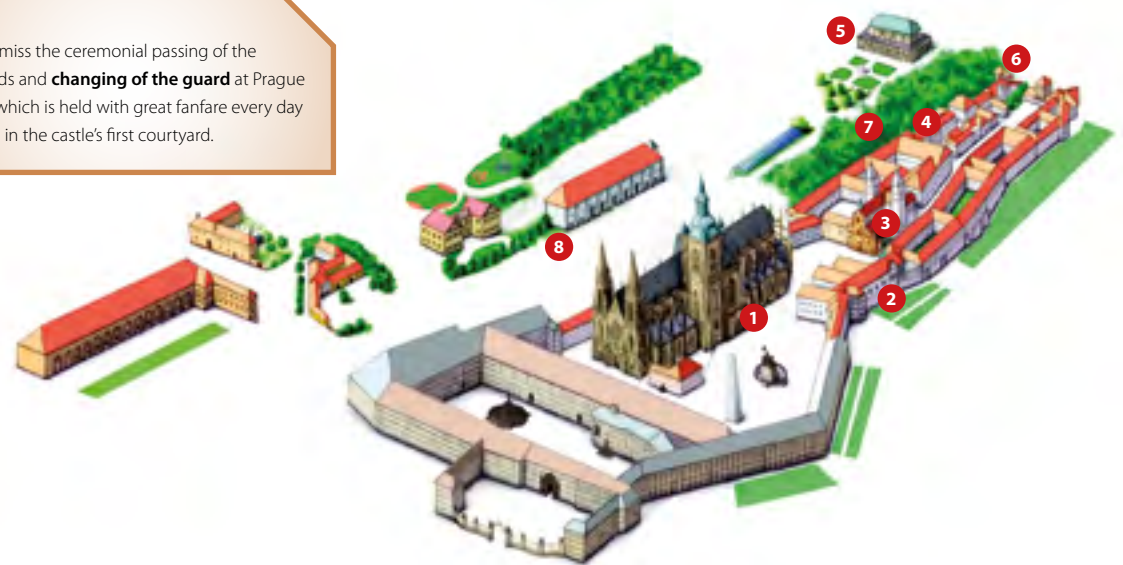
The colourful little houses with tiny windows and chimneys in the **Golden Lane** (4) is where until the mid-20th century craftsmen and artists lived, including Franz Kafka.

The **Queen Anne Summer Palace** (5) in the Royal Garden was built for festivities but also for rest and relaxation. In the park in front of it is the “Singing Fountain”.

The **Daliborka Tower** (6) was part of the castle fortifications. Today you can see the foundations of the dungeon, and the tower offers a beautiful view of the **Deer Moat** (7) below Prague Castle – a wooded ravine where Emperor Rudolf II went to hunt game. The Baroque **Riding School** (8), which is more than 90 metres long, was where the nobility came to hone their equestrian skills. It now holds exhibitions of fine art.

TIP

Do not miss the ceremonial passing of the standards and **changing of the guard** at Prague Castle, which is held with great fanfare every day at noon in the castle's first courtyard.





Prague from the tower of the Old Town Hall

Panoramic views of Prague are truly breathtaking. When you look out over the city from the Prague Castle, you see why it is called the City of a Hundred Spires – countless towers and the spires of churches and other buildings rise above it.

The tower of the **Old Town Hall** offers the **most comfortable** ascent – it is completely wheelchair-accessible. From the nearly 60-metre tower you will have a beautiful view of the **Old Town Square** and the roofs of the nearby houses.

The **Petřín Tower** (in Petřín Gardens), which is the younger sister of the Eiffel Tower, has the **most stairs** – 299. It measures only 60 meters, but it is set in a beautiful location – on top of **Petřín Hill**, which is popular with Prague residents as a place for walks. In good weather, you can catch a glimpse of Říp Mountain in the distance, a hallowed place in Czech history.

The **Žižkov TV Tower** affords the **most distant** views. Prague's tallest structure (216 metres), it has a panoramic terrace from which on a clear day you can even see the peaks of the Krkonoše Mountains in north-east Bohemia. The sculptor David Černý mounted huge sculptures of climbing babies on the tower's exterior.

The Lesser Town with the Church of St. Nicholas



The **most beautiful** view of the **Prague Castle** complex is your reward for climbing the 287 steps to the observation deck of the tower of **St. Vitus Cathedral**. Inside the tower is the largest Czech bell, nicknamed Zikmund.

Other Prague towers are certainly worth a visit – the belltower of the **Church of St. Nicholas** in the Lesser Town, the **Old Town and Lesser Town towers of the Charles Bridge**, and the **Powder Tower**.

Views of Prague will open up before you not only from Prague's towers but also from the surrounding **hilltop parks** – you will enjoy a bird's-eye view from **Vyšehrad**, Petřín, Hradčany or Letná Plain.

TIP

The most beautiful **photographs** of the panorama of the Prague Castle with the Charles Bridge can be taken from the Smetana Embankment (Smetanovo nábřeží).

You can see a virtual panorama of Prague on the website stovezata.praha.eu. It captures **360° views** of the city from Prague towers.

On the large map, look for the  symbol. It indicates the places that will offer you the loveliest views of Prague.



The view from Petřín



Statue of St. John of Nepomuk on the Charles Bridge

Prague formed over the centuries as a crossroads of Christian and Jewish cultures. Dozens of churches, from the Romanesque to modern times, as well as many celebrated Jewish synagogues, bear silent witness to the city's rich spiritual life.

An important pilgrimage site in Prague is the **Loreto** – a complex encompassing the Holy Hut and the pilgrimage Church of the Nativity of Our Lord. Listen to the unique carillon that chimes at the top of every hour. A rarity is the Loreta Treasure, whose most precious object is a monstrance decorated with 6,222 diamonds.

Pilgrims from all over the world flock to the Church of Our Lady Victorious (Karmelitská 9) and pray to the **Infant Jesus of Prague** for protection, healing and help in conceiving a child. The statuette, which is 47 centimetres high, comes from Spain and portrays Jesus in benediction.

TIP

In the Church of Our Lady Victorious you can view a **collection of gowns** in which the Carmelite Nuns dress the Infant Jesus of Prague according to liturgical customs.

In May each year, Venetian gondolas and dozens of historic ships with musicians sail down the Vltava River in the **Midsummer Navalis**, a beautiful spectacle of lights, music and fireworks in honour of St. John of Nepomuk.

CZECH SAINTS

The most famous is **St. John of Nepomuk**, who is one of the Czech patrons and is widely known around the world. He was martyred in 1393 and his body was thrown into the Vltava River from the Charles Bridge. Statues of St. John of Nepomuk are a traditional feature of the Czech countryside; you will recognize them by their halos with five stars.

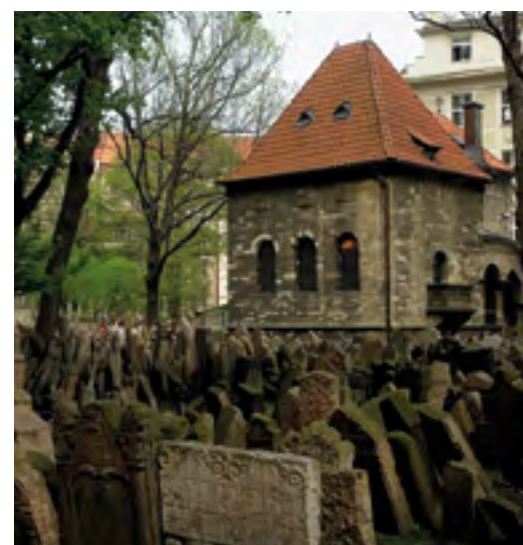
The main Czech patron saint and a symbol of Czech statehood is the Czech prince **St. Wenceslas**, whose monumental equestrian statue can be seen at the top of Wenceslas Square.

The Infant Jesus of Prague



Jews began settling in Prague as early as the 11th century, and the magnificent old synagogues in the area of Prague known as Josefov show that Prague has always been an important centre of religious and social life for the Jewish Community in Central Europe.

The **Maisel Synagogue** (1) was commissioned by a wealthy primas of the Prague Jewish Community, Mordechai Maisel, nearly five centuries ago, as was the largest synagogue in the ghetto, the **Klausen Synagogue** (5). In the **Pinkas Synagogue** (2), visitors see a very unusual exhibition – more than 4,000 drawings by Jewish children who were interned at the Terezín concentration camp in northern Bohemia, many of whom died at the hands of the Nazis. The walls are hand-inscribed with some 80,000 names of Czech Jews who perished under the Nazi regime. At the **Old Jewish Cemetery** (3), among the 12,000 tombstones you will find the grave of Rabbi Löw, who, according to ancient legend, created an artificial being – the Golem. The building of the former **ceremonial hall** (4) and charnel house was designed in a pseudo-Romanesque style at the beginning of the 20th century and is now an exhibition venue. The oldest and most beautiful Jewish temple is the **Old-New Synagogue** (6), which boasts massive brick gables. According to legend, it is in the attic here that the fabled Golem is stowed. The gorgeous **Spanish Synagogue** (7) stands on the site where Jews from Spain settled when they were expelled by Queen Isabella of Castile in the 15th century.



The Old Jewish Cemetery



TIP

It is said about Prague native **Franz Kafka** that nowhere but in Prague could his novels *Metamorphosis*, *The Castle* and *The Trial* have originated. Visit the Café Louvre (Národní 22), where Kafka used to go and where the physicist **Albert Einstein** also liked to stop on his visits to Prague. Do not miss the Café Slavia, which was frequented not only by Franz Kafka but later by the writer **Milan Kundera**.

On the **tombstone of Rabbi Löw**, tourists leave little notes with secret wishes. It is said that the rabbi is able to fulfil the pilgrims' wishes. Recently, Michelle Obama did this, and you, too, can try it.

A GUIDED TOUR OF PRAGUE



Jewish Prague. What was the old Jewish ghetto like? The fate of its locations, residents and prominent personalities.



Prague in the footsteps of Franz Kafka. Where did the famous writer go, where did he live, and where did he fulfil his secret aspirations?



Statue of Franz Kafka in front of the Spanish Synagogue

ROMANTIC PRAGUE



Smetana Embankment



A wedding in romantic Prague



A view of Prague with Petřín Hill

Prague is a city tailor-made for romance. Evening strolls through the narrow streets in the glow of old street lamps, exploring half-forgotten nooks and corners of the Old Town, wandering through the blooming orchards on Petřín Hill, a boat ride on the Vltava River, a picnic on the grass along the river banks – all these romantic experiences are at your fingertips in Prague.

Romantic **Kampa** is located in the Lesser Town, just below the **Charles Bridge**. Originally it was an island separated from the mainland by the Čertovka mill race. Waterwheels can be seen to this day, as well as picturesque houses and small squares from which you can head to beautiful park land near the river.

Other islands are also romantic – you can relax pleasantly on the grass on **Střelecký (Shooting) Island** – at sunset there is an especially breathtaking view of the National Theatre from here. An ideal place for romantic walks is **Letná Park** above the Vltava River, and a popular place for picnics is the former game park **Stromovka**.

Right in the city centre rises **Petřín Hill**, where particularly in May, amongst the flowering cherry trees, romance hangs in the air. At its top you will find a look-out tower and a pavilion with a mirror maze. For more than a century, visitors have been able to reach the top of the hill via a unique funicular.

TIP

Observe how Prague gradually **lights up** after dusk, for example from the outlook platform at Prague Castle. First to be illuminated are buildings from the 10th century, and at an interval of 3 minutes structures from the following centuries are lighted.

On Slovanský (Slavic) Island, you can rent a **rowboat** or a **pedal boat** and see the Charles Bridge, the art museum at Sova Mills and Střelecký Island from the water, just as it was seen by rafters who for centuries floated wood down the Vltava.

MAGIC PRAGUE

Prague is a city of legends and ghost stories. Some have their origins in medieval times, but many of them belong purely to the realm of fantasy. On your wanderings through Prague, let yourself become swept up in the old tales about headless knights, devils and wizards.

The best-known legend of old Prague is about the **Golem**. It is said that this artificial man was created from clay by the Jewish scholar Rabbi Löw to serve him and protect the Jewish ghetto. According to the tale, the rabbi hid the Golem in the attic of the Old-New Synagogue.

The painting **The Death of St. Francis Xavier**, which can be seen in the Church of St. Nicholas in the Lesser Town, allegedly holds a mystery. It is said that whoever is able to decipher its secret while contemplating the painting will receive enormous wealth.

On one of the pillars of the **Charles Bridge** is a column with the **Knight Bruncvík**. According to a medieval Czech legend, Bruncvík rescued a lion from a dragon, and the lion then accompanied him on his travels. It is said that this is how the lion became part of the emblem of Czech kings. The story goes that Bruncvík's legendary sword was embedded in the one of the pillars of the bridge after the knight's death, and it is said that it will appear again when the Czech nation is experiencing its worst times.



The painting Death of St. Francis Xavier, Church of St. Nicholas



The Golden Lane



A performance by the Laterna Magika ensemble

TIP

See one of the **Laterna Magika** performances at the New Stage of the National Theatre (Národní třída 4), which use no words but work with a combination of film projections, dance, music, light and pantomime. In the production Legends of Magic Prague, for example, the Golem and alchemists from the court of Emperor Rudolph II appear. More at www.laterna.cz

A GUIDED TOUR OF PRAGUE



Prague by night, or on the trail of Prague legends and ghosts.
A headless knight, buried treasure, a burning man – where will you encounter them in Prague?



Overlooking the Mandarin Hotel

Today, Prague is a cosmopolitan city where side by side we find restaurants with cuisines from around the world. In this babel of flavours and aromas, however, you will still easily recognize a typical Czech restaurant with toothsome dishes, Czech beer on draught and excellent Moravian wine.

For centuries, traditional Czech cooking was influenced by other nations due to its location in the centre of Europe, and likewise Czech cuisine had a big influence on Austrian and Bavarian cooking. Yet it still maintains a very distinctive character. Popular Czech dishes include variations of sauces with meat and dumplings, roast poultry, freshwater fish, hearty soups, sweet buns, and cold meals that are a perfect accompaniment to beer.

Many gourmands set off to Prague in search of excellent Czech **beer**. It is offered by most restaurants and bars. These days, the best beer is being poured in the so-called brewpubs, which are large, often multi-storey, restaurants where beer is brewed on site in brass tanks. The best foods to enjoy with beer are spicy goulash, roast duck, roast pork knee or, when you are not terribly hungry, sausages pickled in vinegar called utopenci, literally “drowned men”.



The Alcron at the Radisson Blu Hotel

TIP

Gastronomy at the highest level can be experienced at the Alcron restaurant in the Radisson Blu Hotel (Štěpánská 40) and at La Degustation Bohême Bourgeoise (Haštalská 18), which boast a **Michelin star**.

When dining at a restaurant, order the popular Czech dish *svíčková na smetaně* – **tenderloin in cream sauce**. Your plate will arrive with a slice of quality beef with dumplings, all bathing in a mild yet flavourful sauce made from vegetables and cream.

If you are looking for a quality restaurant, choose one that is marked with the **Czech Specials** sticker. This designation guarantees high-quality Czech cuisine in a pleasant environment. Look for more about Czech cuisine at www.czechspecials.cz.



Visit Prague's **farmers' markets**, where food producers from the Czech countryside come to sell their products – homemade cheese, sausages, ham, fish delicacies, sweets and wine. Large farmers' markets take place seasonally, for example, at George of Poděbrady Square (Náměstí Jiřího z Poděbrad) and along the waterfront near the Palacký Bridge.



Beef tenderloin in cream sauce



A romantic table for two



A scene from a performance of the opera Don Giovanni

When one mentions Czech music, many will immediately think of the composers Antonín Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana, who were inspired by Prague to create their world-known musical masterpieces.

You can learn about the life of **Antonín Dvořák**, whose Symphony No. 9, known as From the New World, was heard when American astronauts first landed on the Moon, at a museum in Villa America (Ke Karlovu 20). The Museum of **Bedřich Smetana**, where you can hear, for example, his symphonic poem Vltava, is located in a historical building near the Charles Bridge (Novotného lávka 1).

“My Praguers understand me” – this is the famous declaration the genius **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** made to express his relationship to the people of Prague. His stays in Prague are associated primarily with the **Estates Theatre**, where he conducted the world premiere of one of his operas, and the Church of St. Nicholas, where he played the organ.

DON'T MISS A MUSIC FESTIVAL

Prague Spring, a festival of classical music, is held in May and June at such venues as the Rudolfinum and the Municipal House.

Strings of Autumn, a festival whose programme creates a bridge between musical genres, takes place in the fall at places including the Rudolfinum and the Estates Theatre. The **Summer Night's Dream** festival holds concerts at the end of summer on floating stages on the Vltava River near the Charles Bridge. **United Islands** is a multi-genre festival taking place on Prague's islands in the summer.

TIP

Visit the **Czech Museum of Music** (Karmelitská 2/4), where you can see a piano that belonged to Bedřich Smetana and listen to original recordings of musical compositions.

A thrilling marriage of music, water and light effects takes place at the **Křižík Fountain** at the Výstaviště exhibition grounds in Holešovice. Especially in the summer season, do not miss a ballet performance to the music of Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake or The Nutcracker.

www.krizikovafontana.cz

A GUIDED TOUR OF PRAGUE



Through Prague in search of music.
In the footsteps of Antonín Dvořák, W. A. Mozart, Bedřich Smetana, all the way to the John Lennon Wall.

Various locations in the centre of Prague are associated with the former Czech President Václav Havel (1936–2011). This writer, dissident and prisoner of the communist regime is considered around the world to be one of the most important figures in the modern history and culture of Central and Eastern Europe.

On **Wenceslas Square** at the end of the 1980s, demonstrations took place against the communist regime. At that time Václav Havel was the leader of the democratic opposition, and in November 1989 he gave a speech from the balcony of the **Melantrich** building (Václavské náměstí 36) above the crowded square that charted a path to democracy.

Nearby stands the **Lucerna Palace** (Vodičkova 36), which was built in the early 20th century by the grandfather of Václav Havel. In its time, Lucerna was the epitome of modernity – it had a cinema, café, dance hall and music club. In the spacious arcades of the complex hangs from the ceiling an unconventional **equestrian statue** of Prince Wenceslas. The sculpture was made by Czech artist David Černý, who also created, among other

works, the black babies crawling up the Žižkov TV Tower. Visit the places where Václav Havel went with **Bill Clinton**, **Madeleine Albright** or **Mick Jagger** for a beer or coffee.

You simply must start at the **Café Slavia**, directly across from the National Theatre. This is where Havel used to come as a student to meet with poets and intellectuals. **Franz Kafka** frequented the same café in his day. From the café there is a wonderful view of the **Prague Castle**. On the street Národní třída is the **Reduta Theatre**, where Bill Clinton played the saxophone for Václav Havel and other guests. On the picturesque St. Anna Square (Anenské náměstí 5) is the **Theatre on the Balustrade**, where Václav Havel began as a stage technician and later presented his theatrical plays.

Lucerna Palace



Václav Havel

TIP

Visit the permanent exhibition “**Václav Havel: a Czech Myth, or Havel in a Nutshell**” at the Montmartre Gallery (Řetězová 7). The exhibition documents the life of Václav Havel and charts the changes in Czech society in his time.

A GUIDED TOUR OF PRAGUE



Prague in the modern era. Discover the places associated with the modern history of the heart of Europe.

Václav Havel



Joyful shopping

From our trips and journeys we bring home experiences and memories. Some may have a tangible form. We can hang them on a wall, place them on a shelf, or eat and drink them. Also, however, we can wear them or read or listen to them ... there is a wide range of such memories you can take back from Prague.

If you want to bring back from Prague something truly exclusive, you should not forget about jewellery with **Bohemian garnets**. Working with garnets has been a tradition here since the 14th century, and it is said that these gemstones have miraculous and healing properties. A shop offering guaranteed authenticity is located at Dlouhá Street 28.

The most traditional and most sought-after Czech craft industry is the manufacture of high-quality **art glass**. In Prague you can find a shop on every corner selling traditional hand-cut vases, bowls, drinking glasses and various types of glass figurines. The best-known brands of glass are Moser (Na Příkopě 12) and Preciosa (Jindřišská 19). If you are looking for outstanding Czech glass in contemporary designs, then you should not overlook the leading Czech glass artists: Rony Plesl, Jiří Pelcl, Bořek Šípek and Olgoj Chorchoj.

Fans of **modern design** should not miss the Křehký Gallery (Osadní 35), where on display and also for sale are masterful products by designers from the Czech Republic and countries around the world. At the Modernista shop (Celetná 12) you can buy glass, porcelain and jewellery, ranging from Czech

Cubist and Functionalist pieces through objects by contemporary Czech designers. Do not miss the sales gallery DOX by Qubus (Poupětova 1). Its selection reflects the absolute peak of Czech design and conceptual creation, such as the Qubus Design studio (Rámová 3), founded by the successful young Czech designers Maxim Velčovský and Jakub Berdych.

Moser glass showroom



A fashion show at "Designblok"

Women who like to dress in high-quality and original **clothing** will be delighted, for example, by the boutique of the designer Klára Nademlýnská (Dlouhá 3), which offers luxury pret-a-porter women's clothing. At the same address you will also find the exclusive boutique of the designer Beata Rajská, which targets more conservative lovers of fashion, and the boutique of the artist and designer Natali Ruden.

International luxury fashion brands can be found in shops on Pařížská Street, which branches off the Old Town Square.

TIP

Visit the international **Designblok** exhibition, which takes place at Prague galleries and shops in the first week of October each year and regularly showcases leading Czech and international designers of furniture, jewellery, glass, home accessories and other decorative items.

Bring your children a **handmade puppet** or perhaps a plush Krteček figure, the mole from a popular Czech animated series. Also a great hit with children are wooden or tin retro toys.



Rony Plesl – vase



Maxim Velčovský – Golden Line



Loreto



The Vltava River with the Charles Bridge

Prague is a city full of surprises. Just one day to discover the city certainly will not be enough. We present some ideas on how to choose from the best that Prague has to offer when you are in the city for only one or two days. Let it inspire you ...

DAY ONE

The first day you will definitely want to begin in the **Hradčany** quarter. Start from Pohořelec near the interesting **Černín Palace**, which houses the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Stop at the **Loreto**, with its Holy Hut and a valuable treasury, and listen to its carillon. Walk through the **Strahov Monastery** and climb the **Petřín Tower**, which rises above the city to a height of nearly 300 metres. From here, the entire city unfolds before your eyes. When you head back to Hradčany Square, stop at the Marian Plague Column and the statue of the first Czechoslovak president, T. G. Masaryk. Then you are greeted by **Prague Castle**. Set aside enough time for a tour of this most important of Prague sights. At the castle, be sure to visit the Cathedral of Sts. Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert and the Golden Lane, where alchemists once lived in the miniature houses. If you arrive at the first courtyard of the castle by noon, you will see the ceremonial **changing of the guard** with an unusual musical accompaniment. From April to November, you can also view the beautiful gardens of **Prague Castle**.

DAY TWO

On your second day in Prague, explore the areas below the castle. Tour the picturesque Old Town and the Lesser Town. Start at the **Municipal House**, from where you will head down **Celetná Street**, where the writer Franz Kafka lived at No. 2 and 3, towards the Old Town Square. Stop at the **House at the Black Madonna** (Ovocný trh 19), where you can visit a shop to buy a unique Cubist piece of jewellery or vase. On the **Old Town Square**, do not miss the show put on by the **Prague Astronomical Clock** at the top of the

hour and the picturesque facades of the buildings in the shadow of the Church of Our Lady Before Týn. From here, it is only a short walk to the **Old Jewish Quarter of Josefov**. You will definitely want to see the Old-New Synagogue and the Old Jewish Cemetery. If in this area you find yourself at the intersection of Dušní and Věžeňská streets, you will see a wittily conceived **statue of Franz Kafka**. If you came here to shop, you can now head to the elegant **Pařížská Street**, where an array of international luxury brands have their shops. To continue exploring the city, you should not miss a walk across the **Charles Bridge**. It is the oldest extant bridge across the Vltava River in Prague and the second oldest stone bridge in the Czech Republic. On the other side of the bridge you enter the picturesque Lesser Town. Descend the steps at the end of the Charles Bridge and head towards the river and you will find yourself in the area of the Lesser Town called **Kampa**. There are many restaurants and cafés here, a large park, and a museum of contemporary art. Through the entire neighbourhood flows a branch of the Vltava River called Čertovka with romantic nooks and a watermill.

Changing of the Castle Guard



ADDITIONAL DAYS

WHAT ELSE NOT TO MISS:

VYŠEHRAĐ

Head upstream along the Vltava River to a rocky promontory on which rises the oldest Bohemian royal residence, **Vyšehrad**. Vyšehrad is a place full of history and is surrounded by many legends. From here you will have a spectacular view of Prague, and in the summer months it comes alive with culture – plays and concerts are held in an open-air theatre.

DANCING HOUSE

On the Rašín Embankment (Rašínovo nábřeží) you will certainly be swept away by the Dancing House, a building from the 1990s. It got its name because the two towers recall the dancers Ginger Rogers (the glass tower) and Fred Astaire (the concrete one). The building was designed by the architects Frank Gehry and Vlado Milunić, and the interiors were designed in part by the Czech-born architect Eva Jiřičná. In 1996 the building received a prestigious award from the American magazine Time.

PETŘÍN AFTER DARK

Petřín Hill is at its most romantic at sunset. Go down Újezd Street and from here you can continue either on foot along winding paths surrounded by fruit trees or by funicular all the way to the top. Just below the lookout tower you can have fun in the mirror maze.



Dancing House



Vyšehrad



HRADČANY

PRÁŽSKÝ HRAD

MALÁ STRANA

JOSEFOV

STARÉ MĚSTO

NOVÉ MĚSTO

SMÍCHOV

VYŠEHRAĐ

Map of the Prague Metro



CzechTourism information centre

www.czechtourism.com

Staroměstské nám. 5, Prague 1

Vinohradská 46, Prague 2

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www.praguewelcome.com

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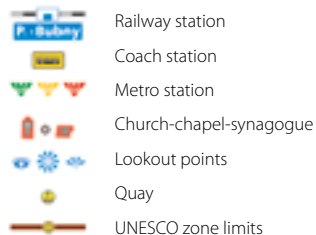
Rytířská 31

Hall of the Main Railway Station

Lesser Town Bridge Tower (April–October)

Václav Havel International Airport, Terminal 2

Map key



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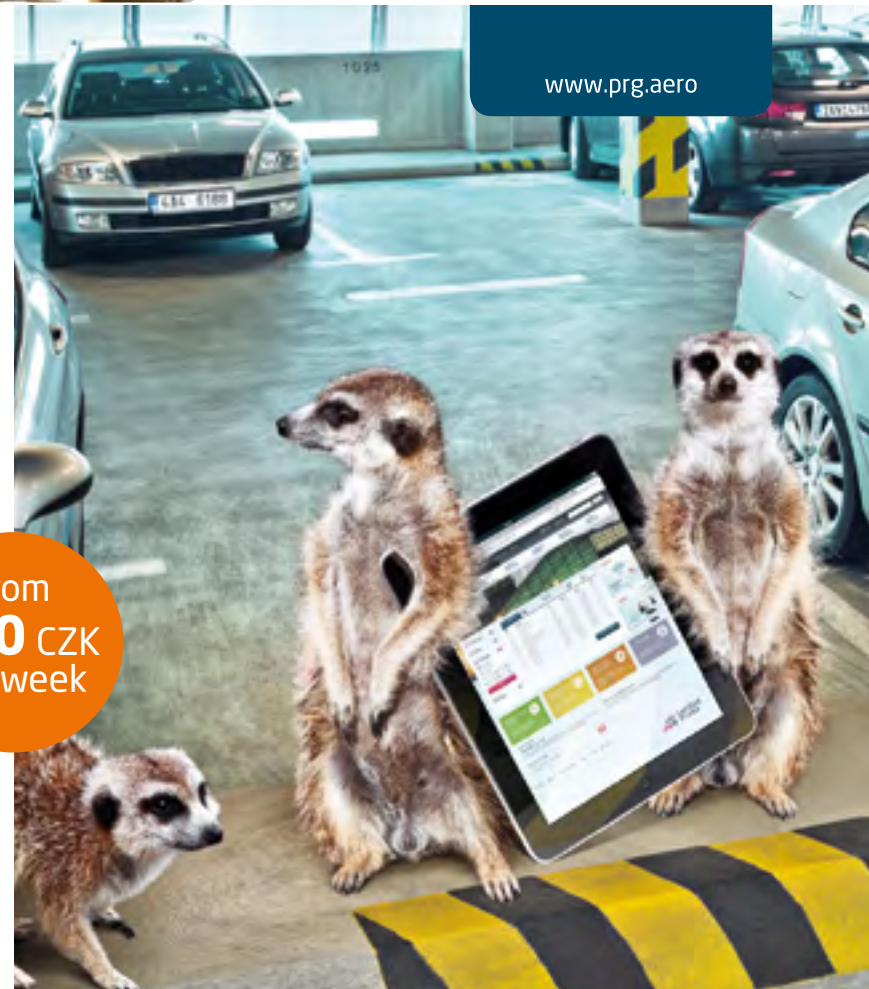
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