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Currently...

- 26. 1. – 20. 4. Middle East Europe** – an exhibition of works responding to the Middle East conflict
DOX Centre for Contemporary Art www.dox.cz
- 4. 2. Lamb** – a concert by the British trip-hop duo – Vltavská Arts Centre www.vltavska.cz
- 10. – 21. 2. Carnevale Praha** – carnival festivities – various venues in Prague www.carnevale.cz
- 14. – 19. 2. La Película** – 7th edition of the Spanish film festival – Světozor cinema www.kinosvetozor.cz
- 18. 2. Sting – Back To Bass Tour** – a concert by the acclaimed English musician
Congress Centre www.kcp.cz
- 22. 2. – 27. 5. Adolf Wölfli – Creator of the Universe** – an exhibition of the Art Brut artist
Stone Bell House www.adolfwolfli.cz
- 28. 2. Adolphe Charles Adam: Giselle** – ballet performance – State Opera www.sop.cz
- 6. 3. dEUS** – a concert by the Belgian alternative rock band – MeetFactory www.meetfactory.cz
- 10. 3. – 10. 6. The Human Body Exhibition** – a shocking exhibition of the human body
Exhibition Grounds www.jvsgroup.cz
- 14. 3. Dianne Reeves** – a recital of the American jazz singer – Municipal House www.strunypodzimuzi.cz
- 16. 3. WONDERLAND “Carnival”** – a party in the Venice Carnival spirit – SaSaZu www.sasazu.com
- 22. – 25. 3. Praha Cantat – Musica Academica** – an international competition of academic choirs
various Prague venues www.bohemiafestival.cz
- 22. – 30. 3. Febiofest** – 19th edition of the international film festival – CineStar Anděl www.febiofest.cz
- 22. 3. – 3. 6. Shirana Shahbazi** – an exhibition of works by the Iranian photographer
Galerie Rudolfinum www.galerierudolfinum.cz
- 29. 3. – 1. 4. young2012prague** – 10th edition of the international festival of musicians
aged between 8 and 26 – National House, Vinohrady www.youngprague.cz
- 3. 4. – 24. 4. Prague 2012 Easter Festival** – a cycle of classical music concerts
various Prague venues www.fok.cz
- 8. 4. The Sleeping Beauty** – ballet performance – National Theatre www.narodni-divadlo.cz
- 19. 4. Duke Ellington Orchestra** – a concert by the American jazz big band
Palác Lucerna www.lucpra.cz

Did you know that...

► Czech Dance Platform

The 18th edition of **Czech Dance Platform** will be taking place in Prague from 13 to 17 April. The festival provides scope to Czech artists creating contemporary dance and movement theatre, thus affording them a tremendous opportunity to showcase their talent to dramaturges and producers from abroad and the regions. The audience will see the most interesting Czech choreographies created over the past year. This year, the festival will present 10–15 performances and also feature an interesting accompanying programme, including site-specific projects, exhibitions, discussions and seminars devoted to dance and lighting design. The festival's jury will choose the Dancer of the Year (male and female) and the Dance Production of the Year, and the spectators the Audience Award.

www.tanecniplatforma.cz



► Rembrandt & Co. – Stories told by a prosperous age

From 10 February to 27 May, the National Gallery is hosting at the Sternberg Palace the exhibition titled **Rembrandt & Co. – Stories told by a prosperous age**. It is displaying some 120 pictures, with the most significant being Rembrandt's "Scholar in His Study" dating from 1634, which is the only work by the great artist permanently housed in the Czech Republic. The canvas will be presented within the context of other artworks of the "Golden Age" of Dutch painting from the collection administered by the National Gallery, as well as selected gems lent by foreign art institutions, including Rembrandt's "Man in an Oriental Costume" from the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. Neither the professional nor the general public have previously had the opportunity to view such an extensive and high-quality exhibition of the Prague collection of Dutch paintings from the 17th and 18th centuries. It also includes a section for young visitors – a special gallery displaying pictures of children, animals and nature, furnished with a special printed guide.

www.ngprague.cz

► Circus Circus

From 15 to 19 February, the third edition of the **Circus Circus** international festival will be taking place in Prague 10-Hagibor. In one of the largest heated tents in Europe, the visitors will have the opportunity to watch seven performances of jugglers, acrobats, animal tamers and other circus artists from all over the world. The organisers promise an action-packed show replete with superlative performances.

www.cirkusfestival.cz

► Days of European Film

From 12 to 19 April, the 19th, festival **Days of European Film** will be taking place at Prague's Světozor and Lucerna cinemas. The festival will present selected contemporary European movies. The "National League" section will show films shortlisted for the 2010 and 2011 foreign-language Oscars, the "To the Point" section is dedicated to this year's European Commission theme – active ageing and intergenerational solidarity – while the LUX Prize section is made up of films nominated for the European Parliament prize. The Days of European Film festival will be screening about 40 films shot over the past two years in more than 20 European countries, including some whose films are rarely shown at Czech cinemas and festivals.

www.eurofilmfest.cz

The current brochure can also be found at
www.i-prague.info

Nostalgic Tram Line No. 91



The Prague Public Transport Company offers lovers of historical transportation means the opportunity to take a ride on the **"nostalgia line": the 91 tram**. During the period from 31 March to 18 November 2012, on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from noon till about 5.30 pm original period trams provide not only a historical travel experience but also show the passengers some of the major sights in Prague. Last year, the line celebrated 20 years of successful operation.

In 2012, the nostalgic line runs on the following route: Vozovna Střešovice – Brusnice – Prague Castle – Královský letohrádek (Royal Summer House) – Malostranská (metro) – Malostranské náměstí (Lesser Side Square) – Hellichova – Újezd – Národní divadlo (National Theatre) – Národní třída – Lazaruská – Vodičkova – Václavské náměstí (Wenceslas Square) – Jindřišská – Masarykovo nádraží (Masaryk Railway Station) – Náměstí Republiky – Dlouhá třída – Nábřeží Kapitána Jaroše – Strossmayerovo náměstí – Veletržní – Výstaviště (Exhibition Grounds).

For more information, visit: www.dpp.cz

Treasury of Saint Vitus

The unique Treasury of Saint Vitus has been on public display at the Chapel of the Holy Cross in the second courtyard of Prague Castle since 16 December 2011.

The **Treasury of Saint Vitus** is a collection of artworks and historical items dating back to the time of Saint Václav (Wenceslas). The beginnings of the Treasury's gathering are most likely directly connected with the construction of the first shrine to Saint Vitus, built by Prince Wenceslas at Prague Castle. In a gold-coated case, the relic that gave rise to the sanctuary being built (the shoulder of Saint Vitus) was displayed. In the second half of the 14th century, the collection was significantly extended owing to King Charles IV, who acquired a number of remains of saints and precious reliquaries. The Treasury of Saint Vitus also includes busts and crosses, liturgical items, caliches and monstrances, as well as the skull of the evangelist Saint Lucas, the cloth that legend has it covered the table during the Last Supper, the Virgin Mary's veil with Christ's



blood (yet these items are not part of the exhibition at the Chapel of the Holy Cross). The current exhibition displays some 139 items out of the total amount of several hundreds accumulated in the Treasury. Visitors can view the finest goldsmith works, paintings, period clothing and textiles, relics. Among the exhibits are Saint Wenceslas's sword and a fragment of the Holy Cross. One of the most valuable items on display is a more than half-metre gold cross that was created upon the instigation of Charles IV and was used during coronation ceremonies in Bohemia.

The Treasury of Saint Vitus was moved several times during periods of public unrest and war. It was deposited at Karlštejn, Oybin (in today's Saxony) and Zvíkov castles. Nevertheless, all the precautions did not prevent it from being damaged. A large part of the Treasury – paintings, sculptures and crosses – was destroyed by the Calvinists in 1619. Its last sanctuary was the Hilbert Treasury at Saint Vitus Cathedral, from where it was moved to the Chapel of the Holy Cross. The Treasury of Saint Vitus was displayed at the court chapel at Prague Castle from 1961 and 1990. Then, owing to worries about the Treasury's security and the unsuitable conditions, the chapel was closed to the public for a long time. Following the chapel's complete refurbishment over the past three years, the 19th-century interior decoration was restored too and the Treasury could be moved back to its former place. The permanent exhibition of the Treasury is scheduled to last for at least a decade. Those interested in visiting the Chapel of the Holy Cross need a special ticket, thus it is not necessary to buy a ticket for any of the Prague Castle tours. The maximum capacity of the building is 45 visitors at a time. www.kulturanahrade.cz

Prague Market



Prague Market is a protected monument located in the southern part of the Holešovice quarter at a picturesque meander of the river Vltava. The original Prague abattoir, opened in 1895, was an industrial project unique in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The slaughterhouse complex covered the area of 110, 000 square metres and was provided its own water conduit and sewerage system. It also included a meat market, a spacious restaurant, customs and veterinary administration buildings, as well as a tap line with unloading platforms. All the buildings in the complex were de-

signed in the neo-Renaissance style, with various types of roof structures and facades combining bare bricks and plaster. The greatest architectural and artistic gems are the former meat market building, the water tower and the sculptural allegories next to the main entrance.

In 1983 the abattoir was closed down and the entire complex transformed into a city market, which still serves its purpose. Today, the perfectly preserved original industrial buildings house numerous retail and gastronomic outlets. The glazed market boutique shops offer a vast variety of goods, from souvenirs, handbags, jewellery, household utensils, footwear to cut-glass products. The complex also includes an extensive Asian market, the largest farmers market in Prague, as well as the world-class dance club SaSaZu.

Prague Market is a unique entity possessing a special atmosphere whose vast area, history and architectural significance have no counterpart in Europe. It is not a crammed shopping centre but a spacious area where you can shop both in the open air and in covered halls, bargain with the vendors or just stroll through and soak up the half-forgotten atmosphere of a city market.



Prague Market

Unique atmosphere
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www.prague-market.cz

Unique atmosphere of old market places, colorful streets full of merchandise, farmers' market, souvenirs or trendy club SaSaZu.

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 tram st. Pražská tržnice 1, 3, 5, 25

Fata Morgana greenhouse



foto: Eva Smržová

Fata Morgana is a greenhouse situated in the Botanical Gardens in Troja. One side of the state-of-the-art structure dating from 2003 is embedded directly in the rocky ground, thus blending into the landscape. In addition, the rock's broken terrain forming the greenhouse's back wall is used as terraces for plants. Fata Morgana covers the area of approximately 1,750 square metres and its interior is divided into three independent sections, each having a different temperature and air humidity. The introductory part is devoted to thermophilic vegetation of the dry tropics and subtropics. The visitor first enters the Australian outback and then can see examples of Madagascan flora, followed by plants from southern Mexico and several African regions. The greenhouse's middle sec-

tion, the largest, represents the lowland rainforest of the wet tropics. It is connected to the succulent-plant section by an underground tunnel through the rock, at the end of which there is a view of two freshwater aquariums inhabited by numerous tropical fish and other aquatic animals. The largest part of the tropical forest is made up of the flora of South America and selected Central American locations; other sections are allocated to plants from Australia, Oceania, Africa and Madagascar, Vietnam, the Sunda Islands and the Philippines. Other allurements include the small tropical ponds that can be observed from above their surface, a lookout terrace and a waterfall, which completes the illusion of being amid a real virgin forest. The last, cooled, section of the greenhouse represents the harsh environment of high mountains. It includes plants growing in the Andes, upland areas of the Asian mainland and islands, and subtropical southern Africa. The exhibition's central section displays the precious vegetation of Venezuelan mesas. The three sections contain a total of 5,000 plant and 70 animal species. Recorded sounds of more than 80 animals accompany the visitors throughout their time in the greenhouse. Fata Morgana is open to the public all year round (every day except Monday). There is always something new to discover – plants, flowers and the constantly changing structure of the vegetation. In addition, from 6 January to 24 February the greenhouse can also be visited after dark, when you will experience the unique atmosphere of the virgin forest at night, with the air permeated with the heady scent of flowers and the accompanying sound of the croaking of dozens of tropical frogs. The torch-lit Fata Morgana guided tour starts every Friday at 7 pm.

Saint Agnes of Bohemia – Princess and Nun

From 25 November 2011 to 25 March 2012, an exhibition dedicated to Saint Agnes of Bohemia, one of the most notable women of the Přemyslid dynasty, is taking place on the ground floor of the Saint Agnes Convent in Prague's Old Town.

The **Saint Agnes of Bohemia – Princess and Nun** exhibition opened towards the end of the Year of Saint Agnes of Bohemia, announced to commemorate last year's 800th anniversary of the birth of the saint and this year's 730th anniversary of her death. It is the most extensive exhibition to date dedicated solely to Saint Agnes. It includes some 300 exhibits and aims to present the cult of Saint Agnes within its historical connections. The first part of the exhibition relates to Agnes's origins, everyday life, as well as the sources of her spirituality.

The second section displays graphic and literary monuments documenting various forms of adoration of Saint Agnes from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. The exhibition's conception also comprises relics relating to two noble women linked with Agnes in terms of kinship and spirituality - Saint Hedwig of Silesia and Saint Elisabeth of Hungary.

Saint Agnes of Bohemia was the youngest daughter of Přemysl Otakar I, King of Bohemia, and Constance of Hungary. From her childhood, she was brought up to play the role of a Přemyslid Princess who should be married to a politically convenient husband. Agnes, however, decided to become a nun and live according to the spirituality of Saint Francis of Assisi. With the support of her brother, King Václav (Wenceslas) I, at the beginning of the 1230s she founded the Hospital of St. Francis and subsequently two convents, where the Franciscan friars and Poor Clare nuns who worked at the hospital resided

(Na Františku). She soon became a nun herself, and until her death was Mother Superior at the convent. Saint Agnes also founded the only original Czech Order, still existing today – the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star. Many items displayed at the exhibition are connected with this Order.

The exhibition is held at the Convent of Saint Agnes, which is a significant historical monument in itself since it is the very first Gothic structure to have been built in Prague. The convent is the final resting place of both of its founders, Saint Agnes and her brother Wenceslas I, as well as Constance of Hungary (a fragment of her tombstone is on display here) and Wenceslas I's wife, Kunigunde of Swabia. The major part of the buildings erected during Agnes's lifetime has been preserved to the present day, including the nuns' private dwelling quarters.

Visitors to the exhibition can view Přemysl Otakar II's funeral insignia and the tombstone of Princess Guta, daughter of King Wenceslas II. Several interesting findings from extensive archaeological research in the 20th century will be displayed for the very first time, including the original architectural elements dating from the time of the convent's construction (the capital of one of the pillars of the shrine to Saint Salvador, embellished with a small head of a nun, generally considered to be a portrayal of Saint Agnes). Other artefacts showcase the everyday life in the convent and there are also texts of Latin and Old Czech legends on display. The set of images of Agnes is supplemented by a decorative initial of a kneeling nun at the Osek lectionary. The visitors can also see the one and only preserved Baroque Saint Agnes cycle – a series of lunette pictures. The recently revived interest in the Czech saint is documented by selected

works dating from the last quarter of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, mainly by Josef Vojtěch Hellich and Josef Václav Myslbek.

The exhibition also focuses on Agnes's beatification in 1874, which preceded her later canonisation, as well as the canonisation process itself – from the failed efforts of the Luxembourgs at the time they were on the Czech throne up till the successful culmination in 1989, when Agnes was finally canonised.

www.apha.cz



Places bearing Václav Havel's imprint

Václav Havel, the first president of the independent Czech Republic, passed away on 18 December 2011. Listed below are a few places connected with this historically significant figure.

Café Slavia – Smetana embankment – Václav Havel's favourite coffee house, where he used to get together with his fellow artists and in later years even invited state visitors. In the second half of the 1990s he helped to save the café when there was the threat that the building would be turned into a shopping centre.

Prague Castle – during Havel's presidency, Prague Castle underwent many changes. Owing to his efforts, all the gardens surrounding the Castle were gradually opened to the public, the Orangery of the architect Eva Jiříčná and a tunnel in the Stag Moat designed by Josef Pleskot were built. Many buildings underwent repairs, including the Imperial Stables and the picture gallery, while Jiřské square behind Saint Vitus Cathedral was re-paved. The uniforms of the Castle Guard were changed too. The former president's court architect was Bořek Šípek, who implemented many (primarily interior) modifications at the Castle. Havel opened Prague Castle to the people and cultural events, simply returned life to it.

The Václav Havel Library – Voršilská street – was founded in 2004. The one and only institution of its kind in Europe, it serves for documentation, research and promotion of Václav Havel's life, work and ideas.

Prague Crossroads – Zlatá street – the previously long neglected and deconsecrated Saint Anna Church in the Old Town has owing to the renovation initiated by Havel been transformed into an international spiritual centre, a venue hosting conferences and cultural events.



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EXHIBITIONS

- ▶ **Thus Spoke LaChapelle** ◀
until 26 February
- ▶ **Jan Hisek: Night Rider** ◀
until 26 February
- ▶ **Bernd and Hilla Becher: Mines. Steelworks** ◀
21 March to 3 June
- ▶ **Shirana Shabhazi: Then Again** ◀
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The Stone Bell is now hosting a one-man show of work by one of the 20th century's most remarkable artists whose output reaches far beyond the borders of all known art categories. The Swiss artist Adolf Wölfli (1864–1930) spent most of his life in an institution for the mentally ill. He managed to transform his sense of social isolation and his mental illness into a creative potential of immense power. Adolf Wölfli's first retrospective being staged in the Czech Republic presents about 100 works spanning the full scope of his creative stages.



The Stone Bell
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www.ghmp.cz

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Sunday
09:00–17:00 market with accompanying programme
11:00 gala finale



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Czech traditions

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras is the period between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday. In the past, the royal court held lavish banquets, cities dance festivities and villages pork feasts during which the people prepared themselves for the subsequent 40-day Lenten fasting. The fancy-dress entertainment, which usually took place on Shrove Tuesday, was the culmination of Mardi Gras. In recent years, this tradition has been revived in the Czech Republic, with festivals taking place in towns and villages throughout the country. This year, the celebrations are taking place from 18 to 21 February. The most famous carnival, which has been UNESCO-listed since 2010, is held in the Hlinecko region. Every February, the procession of masked figures (including Turks, the Woman, the Brute with a Grasshopper, the Chimney Sweep) makes its way through the villages of Vortová, Studnice, Hamry and Blatno. The Mardi Gras tradition has been passed down from generation to generation.

Easter

Easter is an important holiday in the Czech Republic. Christians commemorate the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, while non-believers celebrate the coming of spring. Easter is the Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox, hence its date differs from year to year. In 2012, Easter Monday, a state holiday, falls on 9 April. The individual days of Easter week are known in the Czech lands as Blue Monday, Grey Tuesday, Ugly Wednesday, Green Thursday, Good Friday, White (Holy) Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday and each of these days has its own specific customs. Ancient Czech and Moravian folk customs culminate

on Easter Monday, “thrashing” day, on which men and boys go from house to house to beat women with braided whips made from pussywillow twigs and decorated with ribbons. The women reward them with painted eggs and alcohol. This ritual serves to celebrate fertility. There are also traditional Easter foods. A lamb-shaped cake to commemorate Jesus Christ, Agnus Dei, is baked from sweet dough. The cross-buns known as “Judases” are pastries whose shape is reminiscent of the rope on which Judas Iscariot hanged himself. People in the Czech Republic also adorn their homes with Easter decorations – coloured eggs, twigs in bloom, figures of lambs, hares, chickens, etc. In large towns you will find bustling Easter markets, where you can encounter examples of traditional crafts, buy everything you need for the holidays and sample Czech delicacies.

Witch-burning

Witch-burning (Philip and Jacob Night, Walpurgis Night or Beltane Eve) is a popular tradition in the Czech lands. The custom, having pagan roots, takes place on the night from 30 April to 1 May. In the past, people believed that on this night witches gather at a coven and that caves and underground caverns open to reveal treasures. To protect against evil, people built bonfires on hills, and this gradually developed into “witch-burning” (pitch-covered broomsticks were set on fire and thrown upwards). The ashes from these bonfires were said to have magical powers and boost the crop. Today, girls dress up as witches and jump over the fire. On 30 April, in every Czech town and village people gather around bonfires, sing songs and burn an effigy of a witch to shrieks of delight. This custom symbolises the end of winter, purification, protection against evil, new beginnings. People welcome the coming of the month of May and the spring itself.

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www.czechstepbystep.cz

Currently...



SIAL (The Liberec Association of Architects and Engineers)

20. 1. – 15. 4. Plzeň

The West Bohemia Gallery in Plzeň is hosting an exhibition dedicated to **SIAL – The Liberec Association of Architects and Engineers**. The leading figures of the group, which was formed in 1968 at Stavoprojekt in Liberec, were the recently deceased Karel Hubáček, the architect Miroslav Masák and the structural engineers Zdeněk Patman and Václav Voda. SIAL's most notable work is Hubáček and Patman's TV transmitter featuring a hotel at the top of the Ještěd mountain built in 1963–1973, which received the 1969 UJA Auguste Perret Award. Between 1968 and 1971, Liberec became a significant centre of Czech architecture. The exhibition maps SIAL's history. Also on display are period and new models, as well as original drawings and plans.

www.zpc-galerie.cz

JazzFest Brno

11. – 26. 4. Brno

The 11th international **JazzFest Brno** will again be taking place in the traditional format of double concerts on selected days, supplemented by night-time jam sessions. The artists scheduled to perform at several venues in the Moravian metropolis include the Radio String Quartet Vienna, the Donny McCaslin Group, Tigran Hamasyan Solo, the Alex Sipiagin Quartet featuring Boris Kozlov, etc. The festival's highlight will be a concert given by Israel's Avishai Cohen. JazzFest will also have its echoes – on 28 June the Pat Metheny Unity Band will be performing at the Bobbycentrum in Brno.

www.jazzfestbrno.cz

AniFest 2012

26. 4. – 1. 5. Teplice

The overarching theme of the 11th international festival of animated films **AniFest** is the magic of the film puppet. This year, we are celebrating the centenary of the birth of the legend of Czech animated film Jiří Trnka. The festival's competition will include the categories of short- and feature-length animated films, series, advertisements, video clips, student films and many others. The accompanying programme will be focused on puppet animation – under the guidance of the curator, Paul Wells, a stop-motion animation from Britain will be shown. Moreover, those interested can attend lectures and workshops on the theme of the puppet, its contemporary creators, building, production and setting in motion. There will also be concerts and exhibitions, with the most significant being dedicated to Jiří Trnka. Children can look forward to puppet-theatre performances, animation classes, art workshops and screenings of Czech Television bedtime stories.

www.anifest.cz

The Face of Leonardo da Vinci – The Story of the Knights Templar

13. 1. – 18. 3. Zbiroh

The unique exhibition **The Face of Leonardo da Vinci – The Story of the Knights Templar** will be hosted by the Renaissance Zbiroh Castle. The project presents Leonardo's recently discovered self-portrait, as well as items dating from the 12th-14th centuries relating to the Order of the Temple. Exhibits from Italian collections, the majority of which have not previously been displayed beyond Italy, will be accompanied by little-known items from Czech and Moravian museums connected with the presence of the Knights Templar in our country. The visitors will have the opportunity to see the original counter, which in the past served as a cheque, probably the one and only preserved item of its kind in the world. Also on display are Templar stones from Italy, the precious relic of a splinter from the Holy Cross, Bertrand's lead bulla from the second half of the 12th century, valuable documents from the collections of the Prague Metropolitan Chapter, the original Rule of Saint Bernard's from the National Library, a stone with a Templar cross from the Saints Peter and Paul Church in Řeznovice, artefacts excavated at Templštejn castle, and other fascinating exhibits.

www.zbiroh.com



Reopening of the Tugendhat Villa



The UNESCO World Heritage listed Tugendhat Villa in Brno is a prime example of Functionalist architecture. Following a two-year refurbishment, the building will reopen to the public on 3 March. The reconstruction aimed to preserve the original architectural substance and layout, including structural details, material scale and functional systems. The renovation works were carried out on the house, in the interior and the garden. The challenging project was undoubtedly the most significant structural intervention in the building's history. The traditional role of the Tugendhat Villa – a monument of modern architecture – will now be supplemented by new services provided to its visitors: a shop with specialist literature, a research room in the villa's study and documentation centre, new tours (e.g. on the technical floor).

History and interior of the villa

The unique building was designed in 1928 for Greta and Fritz Tugendhat by the German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. In 1929 and 1930 it was constructed by the Brno-based civil engineering company of the brothers

Artur and Mořic Eisler. The villa is particularly valuable owing to the layout of the main dwelling space, its steel bearing structure, the application of precious exotic materials and extraordinary technical facilities. The three-storey villa, facing south-west, is embedded on steep ground. On the first storey, the basement, there are the house's technical facilities. The second story, the ground floor, is the main dwelling and social space; it includes a winter garden, a terrace, the kitchen with fixtures and rooms for the staff. On the third storey there is the main entrance from the street with a passage to the terrace, the anteroom, the master bedroom, two children's bedrooms and the governess's room with a bathroom. A separate access leads to the chauffeur's flat, the garage for two cars and the terrace. The second storey comprises free space divided by curtains from shantung silk and velvet and a wooden semi-circular wall from Macassar ebony, behind which there is a seating space by a milk-glass wall that can be illuminated. An onyx partition separates the study with bookcases and the adjacent winter garden. The wall, made of honey-yellow onyx (from the Atlas Mountains) with a white pattern, has a unique property – at a certain angle it transmits sunrays and its colour changes as a result. The interior can be interconnected with the garden by means of lowering two large window-panes. The villa also contains a darkroom for Mr. Tugendhat, an enthusiastic amateur photographer and film-maker. The air-conditioning system is extremely advanced for its time, combining heating, cooling and air humidification. Unlike the top and bottom storeys, where standard radiators are installed, the middle floor is heated by hot air blown into it from the basement through vents in the floor and walls.

The Tugendhats only lived in the villa until 1938, when they were forced to leave Czechoslovakia because of their Jewish origin. Following their emigration, in 1939 the house was seized by the Gestapo and in 1942 it became the property of the German Reich. Between 1945 and 1950 the villa served as a private dance school before being confiscated by the state. From 1950 to 1979 its premises served for rehabilitation exercises for children with spinal defects. Since 1980 the house has been owned by the city of Brno. Between 1981 and 1985, the Tugendhat Villa underwent its first renovation and reconstruction, following which, until 1992, it served as a showcase of the city of Brno and the state. In August 1992 the treaty that effected the split of the Czechoslovak Federal Republic was signed there. Since July 1994 the villa has been managed by the Museum of the City of Brno, which has opened it to the public as a monument of modern architecture. In August 1995 the Tugendhat Villa was declared a National Cultural Monument and in December 2001 it received a UNESCO listing.

www.tugendhat.eu



Points of interest:

- ▶ Prague is the capital city of the Czech Republic. It has approximately 1.3 million inhabitants, on an area of some 500 sq km (193 sq mi). The President of the Czech Republic resides in the Prague Castle. The office is currently held by Václav Klaus. The official Czech currency is the Czech Koruna, and Czech is the official language.
- ▶ There are three underground (metro) lines operating in Prague – green (A), yellow (B) and red (C). The metro system interconnects all the important places around the city, with tram and bus connections to destinations where the metro does not reach. The public transport network is reliable and covers the city thoroughly. The metro operates daily from 5 a.m. to midnight, and to 1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. After 1 a.m., public transport is secured by night tram and bus lines.



- ▶ The central coach station in Prague is located at “Florenc” (metro line C, station “Florenc”). The main railway station is just next door (metro line C, station “Hlavní nádraží”). Another important transport hub is the Holešovice railway station (metro line C, station “Nádraží Holešovice”).
- ▶ The majority of shops open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on workdays. It is, however, easy to do one’s shopping at weekends as well, primarily thanks to numerous shopping centres (e.g. Palladium near metro station “náměstí Republiky”, Nový Smíchov near metro station “Anděl”, or Centrum Chodov at metro station “Chodov”).
- ▶ Alcohol and cigarettes can be purchased at nearly any grocery shop as well as at numerous specialised outlets. Only those above 18 years of age may legally drink alcoholic beverages in the Czech Republic, while doing so in many public places around Prague is prohibited and a finable offence. The most popular beverage in the country is beer. The Czech Republic is home to the best beer in the world. Numerous breweries apply production technologies of longstanding tradition and make beers with various degrees of alcohol content in a broad range of tastes. A pint (around half a litre) of beer costs around CZK 30 on average.

- ▶ Traditional Czech dishes are a meal of braised beef with cream sauce and bread dumplings and roast pork with dumplings and cabbage, while the traditional Christmas meal is carp. Main courses in restaurants usually cost (depending on location) from CZK 120 to CZK 300.
- ▶ Popular souvenirs purchased in the Czech Republic include Czech cut glass, porcelain, traditional liquors (Becherovka – herbal bitters, mead, Slivovice – plum brandy), Bohemian garnets, amber, wooden marionettes, art and design pieces, folk art pieces, spa wafers and typical spa drinking cups, etc.
- ▶ Bank holidays in the Czech Republic:
1 January – New Year, Easter Monday, 1 May – Labour Day, 8 May – Liberation Day, 5 July – The Day of Missionaries and Saints Cyril and Methodius, 6 July – Jan Hus (John Huss) Day, 28 September – Czech Statehood Day, 28 October – Independence Day, 17 November - Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day, 24 December – Christmas Eve, 25 December – Christmas Day, 26 December – Boxing Day.

Public transport fares:

TYPE OF TICKET	Adults	Children up to 15 years
Basic 90 min.	CZK 32	CZK 16
Short-term 30 min.	CZK 24	CZK 12
1 day 24-hour	CZK 110	CZK 55
3 days 72-hour	CZK 310	-
Airport Express (AE) Ruzyně Airport – Main Railway Station	CZK 60	CZK 30

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Public transport links to Ruzyně Airport:

Bus 119 – “Dejvická” (metro line A) – “Letiště Praha” – 22 min.

Bus 100 – “Zličín” (metro line B) – “Letiště Praha” – 16 min.

Bus 179 – “Nové Butovice” (metro line B) – “Letiště Praha” – 38 min.

Airport Express – Prague main railway station “Hlavní nádraží” (metro line C, with SC, EC, IC and EN type rail links) – “Letiště Praha” – 33 min.

Currency exchange rates:

One US dollar buys approximately 19 CZK, one Euro approximately 25 CZK, and one pound sterling approximately 30 CZK.

Postal services:

The main post office is located at 14 Jindřišská Street in the very centre of the city, near metro station “Můstek”, the interchange metro station for the A and B lines. The post office is open daily from 2 a.m. until midnight.

Banks:

Most banks are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Important telephone numbers:

The EU universal emergency telephone number:

112

Fire Brigade emergency number:

150

Emergency medical service number:

155

Municipal police emergency number:

156

Emergency number of the Police:

158

Information line (telephone numbers, traffic information, information on cultural events, etc.):

1188

Prague contact centre:

12444

Roadside assistance:

1230

Airport information – nonstop lines:

220 113 314, 220 113 321

International country calling code for the Czech Republic:

+420 (00420)

Useful links:

www.czech.cz

official website of the Czech Republic

www.praha.eu

web portal of the City of Prague

www.praguewelcome.cz

Prague tourist web portal

www.czechtourism.com

official travel site of the Czech Republic

www.kudyznudy.cz

ideas for trips

www.florenc.cz

website of the Florenc coach terminal

www.cd.cz

Czech Railways website

www.prg.aero

Prague Airport website

www.dpp.cz

website of the Prague public transport operator

www.chmi.cz

website of the Czech Institute of Hydrometeorology – information on weather in the Czech Republic



TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

- Old-Town Hall
- Main Railway Station
- Lesser-Town Bridge Tower (April – October)
- Rytířská 31
- Airport Ruzyně



TRANSIT INFORMATION CENTRES

- Airport Terminal 1 and 2
 - Prague City Hall, Jungmannova 29/35, Prague 1
- Metro stations:
- Muzeum
 - Anděl
 - Nádraží Holešovice



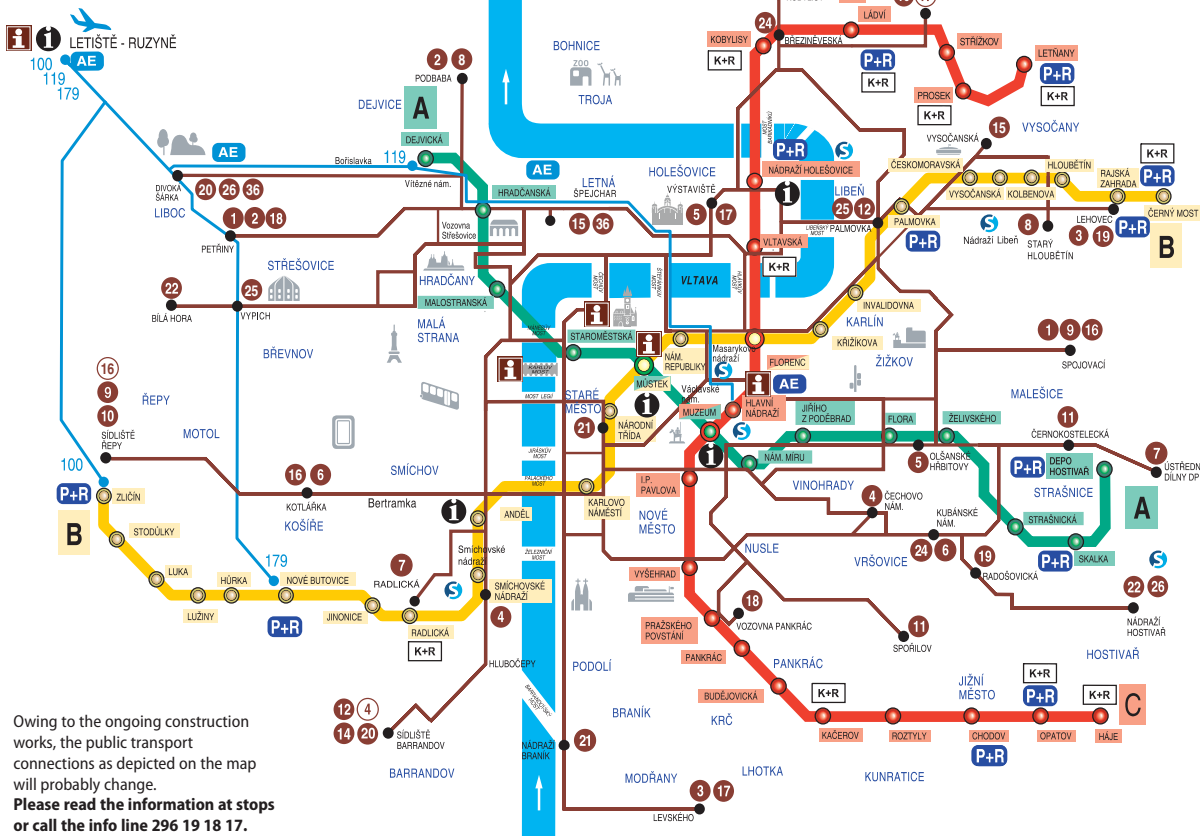
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