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www.festival.cz

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www.narodni-divadlo.cz

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Did you know that...

... the names of the most famous Czech travelers are Hanzelka and Zikmund? In post-war Czechoslovakia, their names became synonymous with adventure. Jiří Hanzelka and Miroslav Zikmund met at a business college, and they graduated after the Second World War (Czech universities had been closed during the war). Their shared passion for travel led them to set out in 1947 on their first expedition of Africa and South America. They took the trip in a Tatra vehicle that is inseparably associated with their journeys. In the course of three and a half years, they passed through 44 countries, covering 69,000 miles. They climbed Kilimanjaro, spent the night on top of the

Cheops Pyramid, and encountered headhunters. During their dangerous passage through Abyssinia, they were attacked by bandits. Sharing their experiences were the people back home in Czechoslovakia, where a Communist putsch had taken place in the mean time. Hanzelka and Zikmund continuously reported on their journey on radio broadcasts, and they also wrote several books and made documentary films. People also eagerly followed their second expedition from 1959 to 1964 around Asia and Oceania. Meanwhile, gradual changes were again taking place in Czechoslovakia, leading to what was known as the "Prague Spring", a period of considerable political

relaxation. Both men took sides with the Communist reformers, so after the hardliners returned to power, they were unable to publish their works or take part in public life. Not even the publication of accounts of their journeys could resume until after the Velvet Revolution in 1989. When the borders were opened, Miroslav Zikmund again set out on journeys. He visited Australia, New Zealand, and Siberia, but he was no longer accompanied by the ailing Jiří Hanzelka, who died in 2003. An exhibition at a museum in Zlín is devoted to these famous travelers, and the Tatra 87 car they used on their first expedition is on display at the National Technical Museum in Prague.

... sixty years ago, the world's first multimedia theatre Laterna magika (Magic Lantern) was opened in Czechoslovakia? The productions there are wordless, so there are no language barriers. Dance, music, lighting, pantomime, projections, and new media are combined interactively. Laterna magika was created for EXPO 1958 in Brussels, and at the time it enchanted many visitors to the Czechoslovak pavilion. The same name, Laterna magika, was then given to the theatre in Prague where the programme from Brussels was shown. After successes at other international exhibitions in Montreal and Osaka, this innovative form of theatre was presented around the world. Today, Laterna magika is a part of the National Theatre in Prague, and during May, June, and July you can go there to attend any of the following productions. The most typical demonstration of Laterna magika as an art form is Kouzelný cirkus (Wonderful Circus). This poetic



tale of the futile pursuit of immortal beauty has been shown more than 6,400 times. The visual and motion production Human Locomotion is inspired by the story of Eadweard Muybridge, an important figure in the development of photography. The dance project

Cube uses the latest video techniques such video mapping and 3D visualization. While the latter two productions are geared more for adult audiences, Laterna magika also has productions for the whole family in its repertoire. The playful project Vidím nevidím (As Far as I See) tells the story of a blind girl who discovers the world mainly through touch and hearing, and her discoveries are projected into her imagination. There are also two productions based on great works of literature: Malý princ (The Little Prince) is an adaption of one of the most beautiful stories by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, while the show Podivuhodné cesty Julese Verne (The Extraordinary Journeys of Jules Verne) invites the audience into the world of fanciful adventure. Those who cannot decide which programme to choose can attend the production Cocktail 012, which is a selection of the best from the shows at Laterna magika.

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What's Going On in Prague

Places in Prague where famous movies were filmed.

Prague's historical center in particular is not only an attraction for tourists, but also a place popular with foreign film directors. For example, the action in the first film from the series Mission: Impossible took place in Prague. Notice that after the explosion of the aquarium, the main hero played by Tom Cruise is running ahead of the water through what is actually Old Town Square. Later, he jumps into the river from nearby Charles Bridge, built at the initiative of Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor. Heath Ledger also used Charles Bridge and Hradčany as a backdrop. In the romantic adventure film A Knight's Tale, those locations were used to represent medieval London. And it is not only in this film that Prague sites have "played" other cities. As agent Ethan Hunt, Tom Cruise also carried out his Mission: Impossible in Prague in a film subtitled Ghost Protocol. In this case, Prague venues stood in for Budapest and Moscow. For example, the filmmakers used Prague Castle for scenes in Moscow's Kremlin. Hradčany Square in front of the castle complex represented revolutionary Paris of the nineteenth century in one of the many adaptations of Les Misérables. The chief protagonist Jean Valjean (Liam Neeson) was living there in Martinic Palace. To make the illusion perfect, in several shots the filmmakers "erased" the dominant feature of the neighborhood – St. Vitus's Cathedral – and replaced it with the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. Hradčany also played a role in the film The Illusionist with Edward Norton in the leading role. It has also stood in for Schönbrunn in Vienna. The Bond movie Casino Royale was likewise filmed in Prague. In the film, Daniel Craig plays James Bond staying at a luxurious hotel in Venice, which was in reality the building of the National Museum on Wenceslas Square. At the



National Museum as well as at the Strahov Monastery, for example, Johnny Depp searches for Jack the Ripper in the film From Hell. For the purposes of the film, however, both places were shown as part of mysterious London. The Oscar winning director Guillermo del Toro went farther out from the historic center of the city to do filming. In the horror action film Hellboy he used the national monument on the hilltop at Vítkov as an institute for the study of paranormal phenomena. The scene from Wanted in which Angelina Jolie chases a train was shot at a disused freight depot in the same neighborhood (Žižkov) as the monument. And here is yet another curiosity: for the filming of the thriller Child 44 with Tom Hardy in August 2013, the Prague Metro was shut down during routine operation for the first time in history.

Paintings by Jan Zrzavý. Museum Kampa in Malá Strana is presenting a classic of Czech modernist painting. The works of Jan Zrzavý (1890–1977) are sold for tens of millions of Czech crowns, and the museum is exhibiting some of his lesser-known creations from private collections. The curators describe his paintings as "a stage where people have not yet arrived or have just made their exit". A poetic and melancholy style of painting was just as characteristic of this artist as the cane and beret he could be seen with in the streets of Prague. It had been Zrzavý's wish to be an artist from his childhood, but his father only allowed him to devote himself to art after a long illness, because the doctors predicted that Jan would barely survive to adulthood. Fortunately, their prediction did not come true. The exhibition at Museum Kampa will focus on the four most important areas of the artist's creative work. After early joyful, sometimes even erotic drawings, Zrzavý began to paint psychological female figures. Religious motifs are typical of his work. The museum will also display some of his landscapes from Bretagne and Venice, where he also spent time. You can visit the exhibition until 1 July.



The Prague Loreto. This self-contained complex of Baroque buildings can be found a stone's throw from Prague Castle at Loretánské Square. The focal point of the pilgrimage site is the Santa Casa [Holy House], consecrated in 1631. Its interior is said to contain several girders and bricks from Loreto in Italy. Loreto's Basilica della Santa Casa was, in the telling of the legend, the actual home once occupied by the Virgin Mary. It was

brought from Nazareth by angels according to the legend. The Prague Loreto includes a treasury, built as the most recent addition to the compound. The treasury is home to a collection of monstrances and other liturgical items, including the diamond-adorned "Prague Sun" monstrance, a vessel intended for the display of the Eucharist host, representing the Body of Christ. Prague Loreto is open every day from 9am to 5pm.

Prague Proms Music Festival. For the fourteenth time, a highlight of summertime in Prague will be orchestral performances of jazz, musicals, and film music. The main programme begins on 19 June with a performance of the *Messa di Gloria* by the Italian composer Pietro Mascagni. Performing the mass at the Municipal House near Old Town Square will be the Czech National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Marcello Rota. The Prague Proms will conclude at the same venue on 19 July with the traditional Hollywood Night. As the name implies, the concert will feature great melodies from the silver screen. This year's theme is the sea, so the public will hear, among other things, music from the films *Pearl Harbor*, *Dunkirk*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Another festival programme will offer jazz brought from Los Angeles by Monica Mancini (1 July). The concert includes a commemoration of her father Henry Mancini. She will sing the title song from the movie *Moon River*, for which her father won an Oscar. The famed jazz singer Kurt Elling has also accepted an invitation (7 July). He has been nominated for the prestigious Grammy award twelve times, and he won the prize for his recording *Dedicated to You*. Accompanying him at his Prague Proms appearance will be the trumpet player Marquis Hill. Also performing at the festival will be the famed jazz pianist Chick Corea. The Oscar-winning



film composer Ennio Morricone (15 July) is coming to Prague as well with the programme *Musica Assoluta*, which includes his film music and symphonic works. Of the Czech artists, audiences should not miss Xavier Bautista (27 June), a singular musician who is unafraid to cross over musical genres. He will be presenting himself at the festival with the Jazz Punk Trio. A tribute to the Czech trumpet player and teacher Václav Junek will be the only festival concert to take place outside of Prague. Junek's pupils will be playing works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Georg Philip Telemann, and Leoš Janáček at St Barbara's Church in Kutná Hora (6 July). The church and the historical centre of the city are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and they are located about an hour away from Prague by car.



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Museums for Lovers of Technology and History

If you would like to visit a local museum while in Prague, there is more to choose from than just art galleries. For example, you can see exhibitions on the history of transportation, aircraft, or Prague's ghosts. Most of them are in or near the city center.

The **Museum of the Police of the Czech Republic** (Ke Karlovu Street) follows the activities of Czech security forces from their founding until the present. You can learn details about the history of the police at the large permanent exhibit. The beginnings of the police are

presented in a section devoted to the history of the gendarmerie and police from 1850 to 1938. You can see the old uniforms and weapons that officers of the peace were using at the time. The exhibit even includes a fully equipped gendarmerie station and even an original border marker from the period just before the beginning of the Second World War. Another area of the museum is devoted to wartime, when Czech territory was under the administration of the Third Reich as a protectorate. The exhibition also commemorates Prague's police officers who were killed during the war, or were executed

Exhibitions on the development of technical fields, the natural sciences, and the applied sciences and industry are all found at one place, the **National Technical Museum** (on Kostelní Street). You can choose from among fourteen permanent exhibits. For example, in the Architecture, Construction, and Design section, you can examine an architect's study from the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries or try to orient yourself using historical maps. In the collections of the astronomy exhibit, you will find a meteorite that is nearly five thousand years old, which was found in Argentina in 2005. The transportation section is especially popular with visitors. It concerns ground, water, and air transport and the pioneers of the field. For example, one finds here the first car made in this country in 1898 and the plane used by Jan Kašpar to make the first long-distance flight in the history of Czech aviation. In the section devoted to Printing, you can admire the manual

press for book printing used by the Jesuits at the turn of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and you can even try your hand at the printing trade. The Mining exhibit includes a coal and iron mine. A section devoted to Household Technology evokes nostalgia and amazement among visitors. A short-term exhibit through 2 September commemorates the use of Bakelite, formerly the most widespread form of plastic, and from 10 to 27 May there will be an exhibit on prosthetics of the past and present.





or murdered. After the era of the Protectorate, the museum presents the period of Socialist Czechoslovakia, including a chapter covering border guards from the days when the border to the West was closed, and also exhibits about the feared secret police. There are displays of technology used for surveillance. There is also a section devoted to the present-day police including officers of the peace, mounted police, the bomb squad, and special weapons and tactics teams. There is also a special exhibit about the history of criminology, where visitors are informed about the most famous cases and can even try out the work of detectives. Along with the permanent exhibition, there are temporary exhibits. Until the end of June, there is an exhibit titled Banned Creativity, displaying homemade weaponry.

The **Postal Museum** (near Nábřeží Ludvíka Svobody) is an introduction to the world of more than just postage stamps. It presents the history of postal services, travel, the telegraph, the telephone, and transportation technology. The permanent exhibition in Prague is devoted to Czechoslovak, Czech, and foreign postage stamps, while the first storey of the museum is reserved for short-term exhibits from the history of the postal service and stamp making. From 20 June to the end of October, for example, visitors can learn about the mail of the Czechoslovak Scouts. Continuing until 10 June is

Do you believe in the supernatural? Are you unafraid of being afraid? The **Museum of Prague Ghosts and Legends** (on Mosteká Street) offers an atmosphere of mystery. On the ground floor of the building is the library of the Spirit of Prague – Genius Loci Pragensis. The most daring adults and children can go down into the cellar, part of which dates back to the twelfth century. Here, one can experience the atmosphere of Prague at midnight many centuries ago, and more than twenty Prague ghosts are waiting to add to the fun. The **Museum of Alchemists and Magicians** (at the address Jánský vršek) offers a similar experience. It makes reference primarily to the era of Emperor Rudolph II, who had a notorious weakness for alchemy and magic. At the emperor's residence in Prague Castle in the latter half of the sixteenth century, many practitioners of alchemy got the opportunity of engaging in their craft. The museum exhibits focus mainly on the English alchemist Edward Kelly, who found employment at Rudolph's court. On display at the museum is his laboratory, which visitors can access by a staircase

that the famed alchemist himself is said to have designed during the sixteenth century. Kelley also supposedly was able to use a special mercury amalgam to change any metal into gold and had a "black mirror" for listening in on private conversations or for seeing things at a distance. He also attempted to create an elixir of youth for the emperor. Visitors to the museum laboratory will find Kelly making a homunculus, i.e. an artificial man, and they can look into the master's flasks and observe his experiments. They are kept company by figures of Emperor Rudolph II and of Kelly's teacher, the alchemist and magician John Dee.



an exhibition unrelated to the topic of the postal service. Once a year, the museum allows its premises to be used for the presentation of literature and illustrations for children. This year, students and teachers from the university in Pilsen will be presenting their work. The Postal Museum also has a branch in South Bohemia at the Cistercian Abbey in Vyšší Brod. There, you can examine historical objects from routine postal operations, and there is even a collection of carriages and sleds. A tour of the abbey itself is also worthwhile. Prague's **Military Museum** focuses on the military and related matters. The main building is closed because

of ongoing renovations. The affiliated **Museum of Aviation** in Prague – Kbely, the location of the historic military airbase, is worth a visit. It is one of Europe's largest aviation museums. Currently on display in hangars and outdoors are 128 aircraft – fighters, military and civilian planes. In addition to Czech or Czechoslovak aircraft, one also finds a German Messerschmitt, a Soviet Yakovlev, and an American Lockheed. Besides the planes and other technical equipment, there are also displays of gear, banners, and medals relating to the century-long history of Czech aviation and of military aviation in particular.

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From Czech History: the Burning of Jan Hus at the Stake

6 July is a national holiday in the Czech Republic. It is the date of the death of the medieval religious thinker, church reformer, and preacher Jan Hus, who was burned at the stake for his opinions.

Little is known about Hus's childhood. He was born in ca. 1370 to an impoverished family, but historians have discovered no details about his relatives. He seems to have received a basic education at a parish school, and at about sixteen years of age, he went to Prague to study at the Charles University. He studied theology, and in 1398 he joined the ranks of the academicians. His academic career was on a promising trajectory: he was a lecturer, then he was elected dean and even rector, when most of the teachers and pupils departed for Leipzig to study at a competing university. This occurred because of ongoing ethnic disputes at the university, further worsened by the political interests of the King of Bohemia, who changed the balance of votes at the university to the favor of Czech representatives. The church was also facing difficulties, as it was forced to find a resolution for the papal schism. Hus, who was also an ordained priest, was a critic of the conditions of the church and of its moral decline. At the Bethlehem Chapel (which you can still visit in the centre of Prague), he preached on the need for reforms. As his departure point, he used the writings of the English theologian John Wycliffe, whose teachings had largely been condemned as heresy. The Archbishop of Prague also ordered that Wycliffe's writings be burned, and he banished Hus. Hus nonetheless continued to defend the opinions of the English reformer, and he definitely did not help calm down the situation by speaking out



against indulgences. The antipope had announced the possibility of purchasing absolution from sins in connection with a crusade. For this reason, Hus called the Pope the Antichrist, and in return, the Pope excommunicated him. The church leaders were also none too pleased with the preacher's opinion that even a layman could preach publicly from the Bible. Hus himself was a supporter of translating biblical texts into a language that ordinary people would better understand. For this reason, he also influenced the contemporary form of the Czech language, eliminating some consonant clusters and replacing them with diacritical marks.

Jan Hus viewed the Council of Constance in Germany as an opportunity to defend his opinions. The main purpose of the council was to resolve the protracted papal schism, but Hus also received an invitation from Holy Roman Emperor Sigismund, along with a letter of safe conduct, which he assumed would guarantee his freedom to enter into disputation with the church leaders. In this, he was mistaken. He was imprisoned, and instead of a debate, the investigating commission ruled on whether or not his teachings were compatible with the teachings of the Ro-

Jan Hus's Legacy in History

The burning of Jan Hus at the stake did not dissuade his followers. In the atmosphere of the Bohemian Reformation, which strove for major changes to the church, the Hussite Movement gradually crystallized, leading ultimately to the Hussite Wars. The Hussites themselves then split because of disagreements between radicals and moderates, but as a result of their actions, an agreement was reached in 1436 with the Roman Catholic Church recognizing the right to receive communion in both species (i.e. to receive both the body and the blood of Christ).

Jan Hus tends to be regarded as a forerunner of the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century. Also of interest is the later perception of this preacher and of Hussitism. He began to be seen as one of the great figures of Czech history during the nineteenth century, when efforts were being made to create a Czech nationalist consciousness. For the five-hundredth anniversary of the burning of Hus at the stake in 1915, a monumental sculpture was placed on the Old Town Square. The Hussite tradition was also maintained after the founding of the independent state of Czechoslovakia after the end of the First World War. The new Czechoslovak Hussite Church followed up on the traditions of Hussitism. When the Communists took power after the Second World War, they came up with their own ideological interpretation of Hus: he and the Hussites were used as symbols of the social uprising of an oppressed people.

man Catholic Church. Hus refused to recant, so the "inventerate Bohemian heretic" was burned at the stake on 6 July 1415. His ashes were scattered in the Rhine, to prevent his grave from becoming a pilgrimage site for his followers.

An Excursion to the Regions: Brno

Brno is the second-largest city in the Czech Republic. It is located in a part of Moravia that is mainly associated with fine wine. It is a good idea to combine a visit to a Moravian wine cellar with a tour of one of the local landmarks or an excursion into the surrounding wilderness. Here are some tips about interesting things you should not miss.

Špilberk. Like Prague, Brno also has a castle of its own. Špilberk was built in the latter half of the thirteenth century by Přemysl Ottokar II, the future King of Bohemia, and it has undergone many changes over the centuries. The most important change was its renovation as a massive baroque fortress, which was besieged several times, but without success. In part because of its formidable defenses, a feared civilian prison was built there for the most hardened criminals. The first prisoners were transferred there in 1784. In addition, the lower halls were divided into cells where shackled criminals served life sentences. Relatively quickly, however, Emperor Leopold II closed the portion of the prison for life sentences and also introduced some improvements of the conditions for the other convicts. Špilberk nonetheless continued to serve as a prison, and it began to be a place where political prisoners were kept behind bars, including the French revolutionary Jean-Baptiste Drouet, the Hungarian Jacobin and author Ferenc Kazinczy, and the Italian patriot and poet Silvio Pellico, who would later write a description of his experiences as a prisoner in Špilberk in a book. To Czechs, the best known prisoner there was Václav Babinský, a bandit who served time in Špilberk from 1841 until 1855, when the prison there was closed. He seems to have been reformed, because after his release, he worked for the rest of his life as a gardener

at a monastery, but after banquets, he enjoyed telling frighteningly invented stories about banditry, and those tales made him famous.

A dominant feature of Brno is the **Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul** on Petrov Hill. It stands out from the panorama of Brno thanks to its two towers that are 84 meters high. The church, an emblematic feature of Brno, is also depicted on the Czech ten-crown coin. Its appearance is Neo-Gothic, but its foundations date back to the turn of the eleventh and twelfth centuries. On the other hand, visitors to Freedom Square will find a contemporary curiosity. The unveiling of an **original astronomical clock** there in 2010 stirred up some controversy. Its interesting shape reminds people of various things, but it is intended to represent a projectile, referring to the city's courage during the siege of the Swedish troops during the Thirty Years' War. The individual parts of this clock turn to show the time, but passersby will not be able to read the time without instructions. A different peculiarity of the clock tends to attract attention: every day at 11 a.m. after the playing of the carillon, a glass marble falls from one of four openings. If you are lucky, you can catch it and take it home.

Villa Tugendhat is a functionalist building in Brno designed by the German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. It was built in 1929–1930 on commission for the couple Greta and Fritz Tugendhat. Mies van der Rohe used modern technologies and materials and even designed the furnishings. The fate of this unique building and its inhabitants was rather dramatic. The Tugendhats abandoned the villa in 1938 out of fear of the rise of Nazism, and they never returned to their home. The building was occupied by the German authorities, and at the end of the war it was partially damaged during

an air raid. In 1945 the Soviets used it to house their soldiers and as stalls for horses. After the war, it served for instruction in gymnastic dancing and later as a rehabilitation center. It was not recognized as a landmark of modern architecture until 1969. In the 1980s it underwent somewhat careless renovations, but the building was returned to its original condition by renovations in 2010–2012. The villa is now open to the public.

If you visit Brno, it would be a shame not to go into the surrounding countryside as well, in part because Moravia is a winemaking region known for its wine cellars. A wine tasting trip can be combined, for example, with a journey into ancient times: Moravia is also the site of important archeological excavations. For example, in the **Pálava** region you can visit an archeological site at a settlement of mammoth hunters. From Brno, it also is not far to the **Moravian Karst nature reserve**, with its many beautiful rock formations, abysses, and especially caves. The Punkva Caves, which are accessible by boat, are one of the most frequently visited sites.



Points of interest

- There are numerous beautiful parks and gardens in Prague, occupying approximately 5% of the total urban area. The most beautiful include the former Royal Preserve, now more frequently referred to by its popular name "Stromovka", the complex of gardens on the Petřín Hill, the Vrtbovská Garden, the gardens at Letná, the Wallenstein Garden (Valdštejnská zahrada), and the Prague Castle gardens.
- There are ten islands on the Vltava (Moldau) River running through Prague (e.g. Střelecký, Císařský, Dětský). A few years ago, the prestigious traveler's server VirtualTourist.com declared the Prague island of Kampa the second most rewarding urban island in the world.
- Prague's astronomical clock (Pražský orloj), one of the best-preserved medieval astronomical clocks in the world, is a feature of the tower of the Old Town Hall. It was created by Mikuláš z Kadaně, a clockmaker to the royal court, in 1410.
- The Jan Žižka Monument on Vítkov Hill is one of the world's largest bronze equestrian statues. It weighs 16.5 metric tons and is 9 meters tall and 9.6 meters long.
- Charles Bridge was the only bridge in Prague right up until the 19th century. It is the second oldest bridge in use in the Czech Republic.

**Taxi to
the airport
for €18**



www.transport-in-prague.com

Useful information

- **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). It originated around 1000 A.D. and for many years remained a group of independent villages. Under the rule of Charles IV (14th century) medieval Prague experienced its greatest development. At the turn of the 17th century the city gained further renown owing to Emperor Rudolf II. Between 1918 and 1992 Prague was the capital city of Czechoslovakia, and since January 1993 it has been the capital of the independent Czech Republic. Since 1 May 2004 the Czech Republic has been a member of the European Union, and on 21 December 2007 it became part of the Schengen Area.
- **Bank holidays** in the Czech Republic: 1 January – New Year, 30 March – Good Friday, 2 April – 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 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.
- **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 the location) from CZK 150 to CZK 300.
- **Banks and Currency exchange rates**
Most banks in Prague are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. One Euro buys approximately CZK 26, one US dollar approximately CZK 21, and one pound sterling approximately CZK 29. We recommend not changing money on the street with strangers; use banks, money exchange offices and hotels. Listed exchange rates are for the purchase of hard currency.
- **Most shops are open** from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, but business hours are limited on holidays. Stores with sales space in excess of 200 m² are closed on 1 January, Easter Monday, 8 May, 28 September, 28 October, and 25 and 26 December. There are exceptions for pharmacies, filling stations, shops on hospital grounds, and at airports and train stations.
- **Popular souvenirs** purchased in the Czech Republic include Czech cut glass, porcelain, Becherovka (a traditional bitter herbal liquor), mead, Slivovice (plum brandy), Bohemian garnets, amber, wooden marionettes, art and design pieces, folk art pieces, spa wafers and typical spa drinking cups.
- **Postal services**
The main post office is open daily from 2 a.m. until midnight. It 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.

Public transport information

- **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. Night tram and bus lines provide public transportation after midnight.



Fare

				
Basic	90 min.	CZK 32	CZK 16	CZK 16
Short-term	30 min.	CZK 24	CZK 12	CZK 12
1 day	24 hrs	CZK 110	CZK 55	CZK 55
3 days	72 hrs	CZK 310	•	•

For children from 6 to 15 years (note) of age N.B. and seniors from 65 to 70 years (note) of age N.B. that have an opencard with a „Special fare endorsement“ (endorsement price is 120 CZK), the fare for travel in Prague (tariff zones P, O and B) is 0 CZK. Children from 6 to 10 years of age N.B. require only an identification card certified by its issuer (a corporate entity) with name, surname, date of birth and a photograph.

Public transport links to Václav Havel Airport Prague (Letiště)

Bus 119 – “Nádraží Veleslavín” (metro line A) – “Letiště” – 17 min.

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

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

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

State police emergency number

158

Information (tel. numbers, information on traffic, cultural events, etc.)

1188

Useful Czech telephone numbers

1180

Prague contact centre

12444

Roadside assistance

1230

Airport information – nonstop line

220 111 888

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.prague.eu

Prague tourist web portal

www.czchtourism.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.idos.cz

website timetables of trains, buses and public transport in the Czech Republic and Europe

www.chmi.cz

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



PRAGUE CITY TOURISM INFORMATION CENTRES

- Old-Town Hall
- Rytířská 12
- Wenceslas Square
- Václav Havel Airport Prague



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

- Václav Havel Airport Prague, Terminal 1 and 2
- Prague City Hall, Jungmannova 29/35, Prague 1

Metro stations:

- Můstek - Hlavní nádraží
- Hradčanská - Nádraží Veleslavín



Prague

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