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What's Going On in Prague

Cecil Beaton • an exhibition of the work of the British photographer of film stars and the royal family
Museum Kampa, until 7 October

www.museumkampa.cz

Promenade Concerts at Prague Castle • open-air concerts of military music
South Gardens of Prague Castle, 4 August and 8 September

www.kulturanahrade.cz

Castle-Château Night • night-time tours and a non-traditional programme at landmarks
various sites in Prague, 26 August

www.hradozameckanoc.cz

The First Lady of Czech Fashion • an exhibition devoted to the famous fashion salon
Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, from 29 August until 30 November

www.upm.cz

Experience the City Anew • an informal neighbourhood celebration where anyone can take part
various sites in Prague, 15 September

www.zazitmestojinak.cz

Prague 1848–1918 • transformation of the Czech capital shown by archival photography
City of Prague Museum, until 24 February 2019

www.muzeumprahy.cz

Lužany Mass • music by Antonín Dvořák in a version written specifically for the concert venue
Rudolfinum, 16 September

www.dvorakovapraha.cz

Architecture Day • guided tours, workshops, and lectures on architecture
various sites in Prague, from 28 September to 4 October

www.denarchitektury.cz

Reconstruction of the Battle of White Mountain • re-enactment of a battle during the Thirty-Years' War
White Mountain Plateau at the Star Game Reserve, 22 and 23 September

www.bilahora.eu

Nikolai Demidenko & Rachmaninoff • a concert of the Russian pianist accompanied
by the Prague Symphony Orchestra • Municipal House, 17 and 18 October

www.fok.cz

Prague Crossroads • international political theatre festival
New Stage of the National Theatre, from 29 September to 7 October

www.prazskekrizovatky.cz

Czech Nature Photo • outdoor exhibition of the best Czech nature photography
National Museum of Agriculture, until 31 October

www.nzm.cz

From the Gendarmerie to the Police • an exhibition of a hundred years of history
of the Czech security forces • Czech Police Museum, until 21 December

www.muzeumpolicie.cz

František Kupka • a large exhibition of works by an important Czech artist
National Gallery, from 7 September until 20 January 2019

www.ngprague.cz

The Operas Werther and Nabucco. The National Theatre in Prague has prepared productions of two important operas. One is an operatic adaptation of a novel by the great German writer Johann Wolfgang Goethe. Upon its publication, *The Sorrows of Young Werther* became a sensation. In the love story of this epistolary novel, the emotions overpowered the cool reason upon which the enlightenment was built. Some readers were also overcome with emotions, and they followed the example of the novel's chief hero who suffers because of his love for an unattainable woman, and they resolved their own difficult emotional situations by committing suicide. The music by the

French Romantic composer Jules Massenet further highlights the passionate emotions of the story. You can hear his opera at the National Theatre on 19 and 29 September. Among the new productions of the leading Czech theatrical stage is Verdi's *Nabucco*, an opera that is a part of the repertoire of every opera house. It deals with the Old Testament story of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. You can hear one of the most famous of all opera scenes, "Va, pensiero, sull'ali dorate", in Prague on 13 and 15 September and 30 October on the stage of the Karlín Musical Theatre. Both operas are being sung in the original language (i.e. in French and Italian respectively) with supertitles in English and Czech.



The life and work of the photographer Josef Koudelka at two exhibitions. Josef Koudelka is one of the most important Czech photographers. His most famous collection consists of photos he took during the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops in 1968, which ended the socialist country's journey towards greater democratization. With his camera, Koudelka captured Soviet tanks in Prague and the futile protests of Prague's inhabitants, and he managed to smuggle the pictures to the West, where he had them published in the foreign press. The photogra-

pher also remained abroad. He lived in the United Kingdom, then he settled in France. Among other things, he became a member of the agency Magnum Photos. After his emigration, he photographed wars, gypsy ghettos, and theatre, and he had his first solo exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The devastation of the landscape by man and nature became a major theme of his works. That was also the topic of his work for the Vatican Museum, which approached Koudelka and other artists with a request that they create photographs for the first presentation of the Holy See at the biennale in Venice in 2013. The assignment was to take inspiration from the Book of Genesis. Koudelka created a set of large-format panoramic photographs depicting destruction from the opposition of man and nature, from wars and also from natural disasters. The collection with the title *De-creazione* is on exhibit at the

National Gallery in Prague. The Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague has also prepared a retrospective on Koudelka's life and work titled *Návraty* (Returning). Both exhibitions will continue until 23 September.



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Interesting Facts about Prague's Cemeteries

Cemeteries are final resting places as well as places for contemplation and reminiscing. Within their walls, there are also many curiosities and legends. Within the territory of the City of Prague, there are more than seventy cemeteries. We have selected some of them that are worth a visit.

Olšany Cemetery in the neighbourhood Prague–Žižkov comes first in three categories. Covering more than fifty hectares (over 120 acres), it is Prague's largest cemetery with respect to area. It is the country's most populous cemetery, as the final resting place for ca. two million people. In 1921, after the law permitted the cremation of the dead, this cemetery also became the site of the first Prague crematorium in operation, although it no longer serves that purpose. The original village Olšany, for which the cemetery complex is named, is also no longer there. Even the very first cemetery opened there at the end of the seventeenth century after a plague epidemic is now gone. Of the preserved tombs, among the most interesting is certainly the largest, covering an area of ca. 90 m². Two entrepreneurs, important for the construction of railways among other things, had it built at the end of the nineteenth century. It is actually a sort of duplex, in which a half was reserved for each of them. Those who are interested in apocryphal tales should visit the tomb that belonged to the family of Alois Hrdlička, a territorial court official. He is buried there with his wife and his son who died young of pneumonia. The striking sculpture that decorates the tomb, however, gave rise to a different, more mystical story. The statues represent a mother broken with grief, being comforted by her husband while



their son, dressed in a uniform, is carried away by an angel. According to legend, the mother dreamed that she saw her son die in a war, but in reality he supposedly committed suicide because of unrequited love or because of gambling debts. In the sculpture of the father, people have even seen Emperor Franz Joseph I. Nothing of the kind actually happened. Men of state and their family members are buried elsewhere in Olšany. One finds here, for example, the grave of the first communist president



Klement Gottwald and the son and grandchildren of the first Czechoslovak president T. G. Masaryk. Also buried here is the student Jan Palach, who immolated himself in January 1969 to protest the country's occupation by Warsaw Pact troops. The grounds also include an Orthodox cemetery and a Jewish cemetery, where the remains of the Prague German author Franz Kafka are laid to rest. You can get to the Olšany Cemetery either from the tram stop with the same name or from the Flora or Želivského Metro stations. Helping visitors find their way around the huge Olšany Cemetery is an educational trail with signs pointing to interesting graves.

The **Vyšehrad Cemetery** is the burial site most closely associated with the Czech nation and its history. It was established in the thirteenth century, but the most important fact is that in the latter half of the seventeenth century it was rebuilt as a national burial grounds. This is one reason why it was not moved from the site in the centuries that followed, after cemeteries within the city limits were banned. A visit to the tombs there is like taking a stroll through Czech history. A shared tomb was built for the greatest figures of culture, the arts, and



science and was given the name Slavín – from the word “sláva”, which means “fame” or “glory”. The inscription carved on it reads: “Though they have died, they still speak.” The poet Julius Zeyer was the first to be buried there in 1901, and among the others for whom it is the final resting place are the painter Alfons Mucha and the inventor of the arc lamp František Křižík. Vyšehrad itself, the site of the national cemetery, is an historic place in its own right. It was the seat of the first King of Bohemia at the end of the eleventh century, and according to legend, the hill fortifications there were built by a mythical duke whose daughter foretold the founding and glory of Prague. A park at Vyšehrad also offers a lovely vista of the city including nearby Prague Castle. If you look down the steep slope on the side facing the Vltava River, you should recall the Czech legend about the nobleman Horymír who is said to have escaped death by jumping into the Vltava River on horseback. His faithful steed did not survive this incredible athletic feat, but the nobleman managed to swim to the opposite shore. People wanting to get to or from Vyšehrad need not attempt anything so dangerous. There is convenient access from the Vyšehrad Metro station, or visitors may choose a more strenuous route and climb to Vyšehrad by a staircase leading up from the riverbanks.

Like many other burial sites, the **Malá Strana Cemetery** was originally built for plague victims. After that, it became a final resting place for Prague's citizens, including important representatives of the Enlightenment and of the Czech National Revival. People also came (and are still coming) here to light a candle on the grave of the Holy Girl. She was probably the daughter of the Austrian painter Christian Ruben, who was working in Prague in the middle of the nineteenth century. She died when she was between three and five years old, supposedly after



falling from a window. According to a book by the Czech author František Kožík who wrote a literary adaptation of the Legend of the Holy Girl, she came from the family of a poor Czech musician. Her name was Aninka. The special girl's birth was said to have been foreshadowed by extraordinary events – a great star appeared in the sky, dead trees bloomed, and harps could be heard playing. From an early age, the little girl helped others, shared whatever she had with anyone in need, and visited sick children. She sought food and clothing for the poor and hungry, and people were supposedly incapable of refusing her: they gave her anything she requested for the needy. For her goodness, she became known as the “Holy Girl”, but one night while she was watching a storm from her window, a gust of wind blew from her grasp a doll that she wanted to give to a poor friend. Aninka reached for it – and fell from the window. Children kept coming to her grave with pleas for help. The story goes that once an ailing girl came to visit the grave, having run away to the Malá Strana Cemetery from an orphanage so she could ask the Holy Girl for healing. And while the other girls and

To be continued on the next page

nuns were searching for her, lightning struck the orphanage and caused a great fire. If anyone had been inside at the time, they probably would not have managed to escape. It is now difficult to determine what is or is not true, but in any case, until the middle of the twentieth century, children would visit the tomb of the Holy Girl and leave flowers and little notes with their wishes. And even today, people do this on All Souls' Day. If you wish to visit her grave, the best way to get to the Malá Strana Cemetery is from the Bertramka tram stop.

Those interested in more recent history should consider going a bit further from the city centre to the **Ďáblice Cemetery**. It was built just a hundred years ago, but it is associated with many people whose tragic fates were shaped by the unrest of the twentieth century. During the Second World War, part of the cemetery was reserved for the common graves of people whose identity could not be determined; suicides and bodies used for dissections were also buried there. This was frequently the burial site for the remains of members of the anti-Nazi resistance, including those who assassinated Heydrich, the Acting Reich-Protector, in 1942. The proximity of the Kobylišy Shooting Range, where executions were carried out, played a role in the choice of this site. Today, there is a monument there, surrounded by a housing development, and it takes about twenty minutes to walk to it. Also related to the Second World War is the hallowed ground where Yugoslav and Italian partisans are buried. With the 1950s came political show trials, and the executed and murdered victims of communism are buried here in a place of honour. For example, the Roman Catholic priest Josef Toufar is buried here in a mass grave. The communists accused him of staging miracles. He supposedly used an ingenious device



to cause the altar crucifix to appear to move on its own during Mass. The best way to get to the Ďáblice Cemetery with its dark stories is from the tram station Sídliště Ďáblice at the end of the line or by taking the longer walk from the Ládví Metro station.

Did you know that...

Prague's cemeteries were established under the rule of Emperor Joseph II? His edict dated 23 August 1784 abolished all of the city's old cemeteries and the tombs in churches and monasteries, and two years later, new cemeteries for Prague were opened, but now beyond the former city limits. The reason for moving the cemeteries outside the city mainly involved hygiene. Among the first to be buried at a new cemetery were an Olšany constable and the porter from the Institute of Aristocrats, whose grave is located at the Malá Strana Cemetery. In 2013, a project was launched for the restoration of abandoned, artistically significant graves. Those who wish to can "adopt" a grave and contribute towards its restoration.

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Did you know that...

... in Prague you can find many works by the Baroque sculptor and wood carver **Ferdinand Maximilián Brokoff**? He created some of them together with his brother and father who operated a sculpture workshop. All three also met the same fate – they died of tuberculosis, an illness common among sculptors because of inhaled dust. When Ferdinand Maximilián died in 1731, he was just 42 years old. He was unmarried and had no children, but he left behind works that can still be admired today. He also received commissions in Vienna and in the Silesian city Breslau (Wrocław), but his work is associated primarily with Czech cities. His best known works in Prague are on Charles Bridge, where he has been identified as the probable author or co-author of nine sculptures. One of them is the sculpture of the Jesuit missionary St. Francis Xavier. In it, the twenty-three-year-old Brokoff immortalised himself as well by carving his own face onto the kneeling figure. He probably also made the most frequently visited sculpture on Charles Bridge, which represents the Slavic pilgrim Ivan and a group of Trinitarians, members of a religious order that ransomed Christian prisoners. In this epic sculpture, Brokoff placed the suffering prisoners behind bars in a rocky prison cell guarded by a Turk. The sculptor depicted the pot-bellied guard leaning in a casual pose. The public was so taken with this figure that it gave rise to the Czech adage: “standing like the Turk on the bridge in Prague”. The sculpture was intended as a warning against a still present danger, so until the beginning of the nineteenth century, a box for donations was attached to the sculpture, allowing people to make contributions towards the struggle against the Turks. Unfortunately, Brokoff's largest sculpture on

Charles Bridge has not been preserved – a statue of Ignatius of Loyola, the cofounder of the Jesuit order. Most of the sculpture toppled into the Vltava River during the great flood in 1890. It took several years to fish the torso of the statue out of the water, and then it was not returned to the bridge. It is now on display at the Lapidarium of the National Museum at the Exhibition Grounds in Prague-Holešovice. More of Brokoff's works can be found in the centre of Prague. When you head from Charles Bridge to Prague Castle along Neruda Street, at the Morzin Palace you can see quite a few of his statues: Moors holding up a balcony and sculptures representing the four continents. At Hradčany Square, he took part in the decorating of the Marian plague column, which commemorates a great plague epidemic at the beginning of the eighteenth century. In the Old Town, you can also find Brokoff's works at the Church of St. Castulus and at the Church of Sts. Simon and Jude, which has an organ made in his workshop. Among those who have played the organ were Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Joseph Haydn. The church is now under management of the Prague Symphony Orchestra, which holds concerts there.



... the first European cosmonaut was a Czechoslovak? Vladimír Remek is also the only Czech so far to have visited outer space. According to the statistics, he was the 87th cosmonaut/astronaut in history, and the first from a country other than the United States or the Soviet Union. He got his opportunity thanks to the Soviets' Interkosmos programme, which offered Eastern Bloc countries a chance for their cosmonauts to visit the Soviet space station. Remek joined fellow crew member Alexei Gubarev, a Soviet cosmonaut. The launch took place on 2 March 1978 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome. They spent 7 days, 22 hours, and 17 minutes in space, and they joined the long-term crew of the Salyut 6 space station, to which they brought a dental drill, among other things. The Salyut crewmembers had been complaining about toothaches, but when they discovered that Gubarev and Remek had only managed to complete two weeks of dentistry training, they declined to receive treatment. Cosmonauts had to deal with such problems in those days. After returning to Czechoslovakia, he served as a military aviator, and after the revolution he went into business and also into politics, serving as the ambassador to Russia and as a member of the European Parliament. Of course, he is primarily remembered in this country for his journey into space – The Cosmonauts is a statue standing by Háje Metro station to commemorate his mission. Yet another space-related anniversary falls to this year. The first Czechoslovak satellite, named Magion, was launched into space during the same year as Remek's spaceflight, i.e. in 1978. The most recent space launch of a Czech satellite occurred in 1996.

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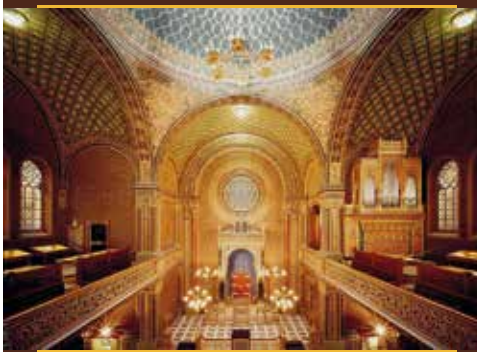


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From Czech History: 100 Years since the Founding of Czechoslovakia

This year, the Czech Republic is commemorating a number of anniversaries of events that occurred in years ending in eight: the Munich Agreement in 1938, which allowed Hitler to occupy Czech territory with little effort, or the occupation of the country by Warsaw Pact troops in 1968. Of course, the most important anniversary commemorates a time when no one had any idea of what the country's future had in store – the founding of the independent state of the Czechs and Slovaks on 28 October one hundred years ago.

There had already been thoughts of a single state that would combine these nations, which shared an historical and linguistic affinity, but the first opportunity for realising those ideas did not come until the First World War. That war brought Europe the tragedies that accompany such a conflict, and it also broke the continent geopolitically. Czechoslovakia was then able to emerge as one of the successor states to the previously unshakeable Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The founding of Czechoslovakia is associated mainly with three figures who had in common their participation in the resistance against Austria. They also all lived abroad, although they each left their homeland under rather different circumstances. The future first President of Czechoslovakia, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, at the time a politician and philosopher, left Austria-Hungary in 1915, and he was unable to return because of a warrant for his arrest. His connection with his homeland was secured by Edvard Beneš, who was organising a resistance movement within the country. Soon, however, he also was forced to flee. A foreign resistance movement then emerged



thanks to the Slovak Milan Rastislav Štefánik, who took part in the formation of the Czechoslovak Legion. Czech and Slovak prisoners joined the legion in Russia or Serbia, countries against which they would have had to fight as subjects of those countries' enemy Austria-Hungary. Štefánik had good contacts mainly in France, to which he

had originally gone as a successful astronomer. Later, he began a military career.

Štefánik in France, Beneš in Britain, and Masaryk in the USA worked hard to convince the Entente about the need to break up Austria-Hungary after the war and to create an independent Czechoslovak state. They succeeded at gaining the international recognition of many countries for the future Czechoslovak state already during 1918. At the beginning of October, Germany and Austria-Hungary offered to enter into peace negotiations, and in the United States, Masaryk presented a declaration of the independence of the Czechoslovak nation. The future state had to defend itself from Hungarian interests in Slovakia, and the Sudetenland, a border region where there was a large German minority, was expected to be a part of the new country as well. Subcarpathian Ruthenia, now Ukrainian territory, was also annexed to Czechoslovakia, but that territory was lost when Europe was divided up after the Second World War. This somewhat artificially constructed state is sometimes regarded as one of the causes for the later problems with neighbouring Germany, but it seemed inconceivable at the time that defeated Germany would turn into such a threat in just a few years. The official declaration of Czechoslovak independence took place in Prague on 28 October 1918. Masaryk died in 1937, having already turned over the office of president to Edvard Beneš. Soon thereafter, Beneš was forced to abdicate under the pressure of the Munich Agreement, and he abdicated a second time ten years later when the Communists took power. Štefánik became the young country's Minister of Military Affairs. He was unable to continue his work, however – he died in a plane crash in 1919. With an interruption during the Second World War, Czechoslovakia existed until the end of 1992. After that, it was divided into independent Czech and Slovak states. But that is another chapter of history.

Events for the Czechoslovak Centennial that May Interest You

Alfons Mucha: *The Slav Epic*. At the Municipal House, an Art Nouveau building, until next January there will be an exhibit of a selection from a monumental cycle by the most important Czech Art Nouveau painter. As a whole, *The Slav Epic* consists of twenty large-format canvases, on which Mucha wished to summarise the history of the Czechs and of other Slavic nations.

Touches of Statehood at Prague Castle. For the anniversary, Prague Castle has prepared a whole series of exhibitions. Until 31 October at the Riding School, there will be an exhibition devoted primarily to the history of state symbols. In addition to state decorations, visitors will see exhibits such as a presidential car. At the same time, they can view an exhibition focusing on the castle guards in the Theresian Wing of the Old Royal Palace.

National Jubilee Exhibition – Young Czechia. From 14 October to 30 April, a large-scale exhibition at the exhibition grounds in Prague-Holešovice will summarise what the Czechs have manufactured and created and what their future might be. It will review, among other things, Czech industry and culture, and a portion will be devoted to making visionary predictions.

A ceremonial review of the troops will be one of the highpoint of the celebrations on 28 October. Nearly 2,000 soldiers will be marching down Evropská třída (European Avenue), and military technology will be on display, ranging from historical objects to Gripen jet fighters. Also, from 28 October to 18 November, the Legiovlak, a replica of the train of the Czechoslovak legionnaires, will be standing at the Prague-Dejvice railway station.

An Excursion to the Regions: Litomyšl

If your travels take you to eastern Bohemia, don't forget to visit Litomyšl. This town of ten thousand residents presents itself as a "modern, historic city" and also as a "spa for the spirit". What are its tourist attractions?

The town rightly takes pride above all in its **Renaissance castle**, which was built in the sixteenth century at the site of a former monastery. It is registered on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in part thanks to its extraordinary sgraffito decorations. The castle also boasts the second-oldest palace theatre in Czech territory (the oldest is in Český Krumlov). It was built in 1797. Also on the grounds is the former castle brewery, where the composer **Bedřich Smetana** was born to the family of the brewer in 1824. On the premises where he lived, there is an exhibition that shows what the Smetana family household was like at the time. Since 1949, helping to sustain the composer's legacy is Smetana's Litomyšl, an opera festival held in late June and early July at the castle courtyard and other venues. The castle, the theatre, and Smetana's birthplace are all open to visitors in August and September on Tuesdays through Sundays and in October on weekends. Those who wish to relax in natural surroundings can take a walk in **the monastery gardens**. They are found on the hill where the castle is located.

On the first storey of the castle, you can visit **the Municipal Art Gallery**. It is open until the end of September (Tuesdays through Sundays). At this time, visitors can get a look at the best artworks in the collection. Since 1925, the Litomyšl gallery has collected nearly two thousand Czech artworks there. **The Knights' House** on Litomyšl Square is also reserved for the visual arts. This

Renaissance structure is one of the town's oldest. Today, the building belongs to the Municipal Gallery, and it is used for presenting short-term exhibitions. Until 9 September, there will be a presentation here of the work of Jaroslav Brychta, a local native, glass designer, and sculptor. On 15 September, it will be replaced by a salon of professional and amateur artists with ties to Litomyšl. Litomyšl has a true artistic peculiarity known as **the Portmoneum**. The little house was decorated literally from the floor to the ceiling by the painter, graphic designer, and author Josef Váchal for his friend who owned the house. This highly original artist, underappreciated in his day, drew inspiration from the Baroque era, oriental philosophy, and demonology. Visitors are literally surrounded by colourful clutter exhibiting the artist's imagination. Until 28 October, there will also be an exhibition of photography and sculpture titled *Mysticism Hidden in the Mountains and Woods*.

If you would like to learn about Litomyšl without going all the way there, visit the National Technical Museum in Prague. Until 21 October, one of its exhibits will be presenting Litomyšl's contemporary architecture.



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 25,

one US dollar approximately CZK 21, and one pound sterling approximately CZK 28. 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

Tickets		Adult		Child		Senior	
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, 0 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 Bus – 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.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.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
- Rytiřská 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 • Anděl
- Hradčanská • Nádraží Veveřavín



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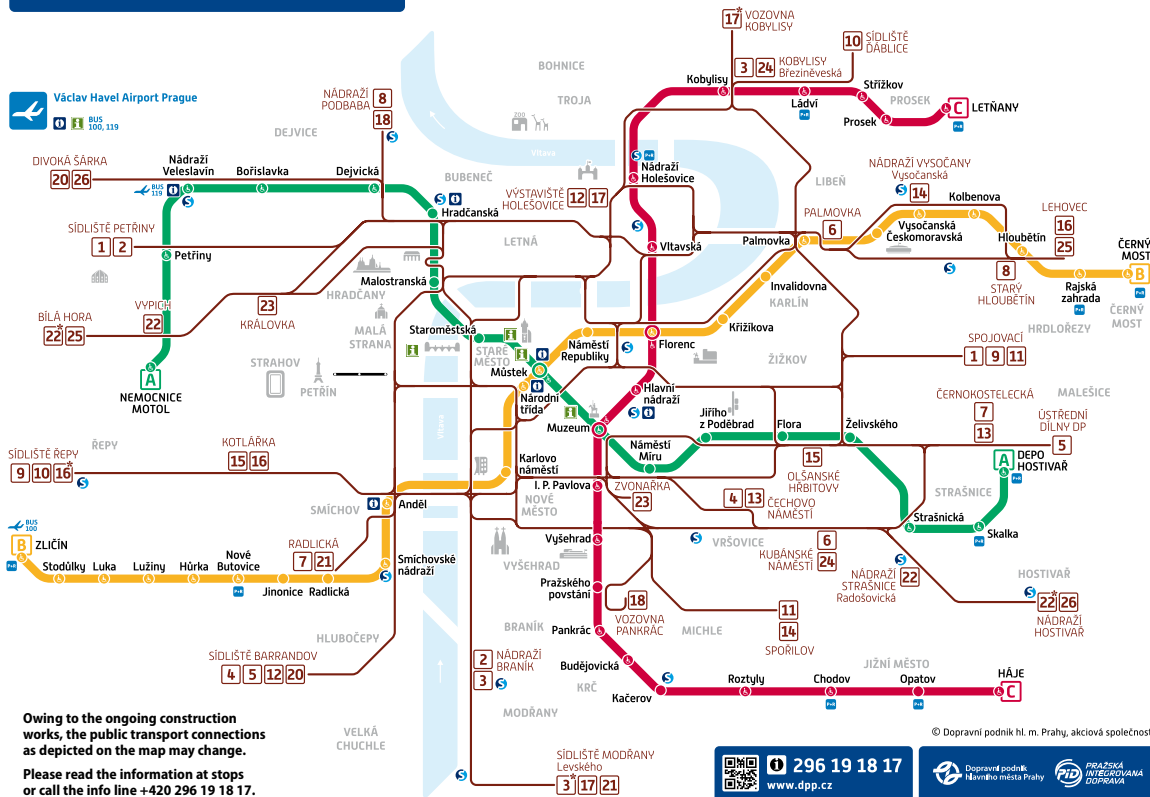
MK ČR E 20878

vydavatel: Ing. Klára Vurbová



Trams and Metro in Prague

Map – Daytime operation – Permanent situation – July 2018



Metro lines with and without barrier-free access stops

Metro transfer station

Tram line with terminus



Only selected connections run to these final stops

Public transport buses to Václav Havel Airport Prague

Funicular



Park and Ride

Public transport information; Tourist information centre

Transfer to lines S and other railway lines

www.i-prague.info

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