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## The European Erasmus+ Project 2016-1-CZ01-KA219-023874-1 Strategic Partnership for Schools

### Tourist Handbook:

Each Partner School Has Prepared This Tourist  
Handbook Travel Guide About Their Country

### Partner Schools:



Czech Republic –  
School of  
International and  
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Prague



Bulgaria – Acad.  
Prof. Dr. Asen  
Zlatarov, Botevgrad



Romania – Colegiul  
Tehnic Mihail Sturdza  
Iasi



Italy - ITSTL "Leone  
Acciaiuoli" Ortona

**Year: 2016-2018**

*The Cultural European landmarks*

*through*

*ERASMUS + School Project*

*(2016-2018)*

*(Touristic handbook)*



# BULGARIA





# Content:

1. Geography

2. History

3. Currency

4. Traditional food and  
drinks

5. Sightseeing



This is the coat of arms of Bulgaria. It consists of two crowned lions, holding a dark red shield. On this shield there is also a crowned lion, which symbolizes bravery and strength. Above the shield is the Bulgarian historical crown. Under it you can see the national motto: “Unity makes strength”.



# Geography

Bulgaria occupies a portion of the Eastern Balkan peninsula, bordering five countries—Greece and Turkey to the south, Macedonia and Serbia to the west, and Romania to the north. The land borders have a total length of 1,808 kilometers, and the coastline has a length of 354 km. Its total area of 110,994 square kilometers.

## Общоевропейски транспортни коридори



## Красива България



This is a map of Bulgaria with her borders Romania, Serbia, Macedonia, Greece and the Black sea.



This is a map of Europe and Bulgaria is colored in red.



# Sofia is the capital city of Bulgaria.

Population is about 1,304,685.



The National Palace of Culture (abbreviated as *НДК*, NDK), located in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, is the largest, multifunctional conference and exhibition center in south-eastern Europe. It was opened in 1981 in celebration of Bulgaria's 1300th anniversary.

Saint Sofia Statue is a symbol of the city because St. Sofia is city's patron. Sofia means "wisdom" in Greek – that's why she hold a an owl in her left hand, a symbol of wisdom. In her right hand she holds a laurel wreath – a powerful symbol for Greeks and romans meaning peace, success, reputation etc.



# History

Bulgaria has rich history. Bulgaria was created in 681. In times Bulgaria became powerful country and a leader country on The Balkans.



Bulgarian oil-bearing rose – Rosa Damascene Mill has become the symbol of Bulgaria and gave the world the famous Bulgarian rose oil. History remembers times when its price was close to the price of gold. Since then it was called “the liquid gold”.



The Bulgarian First Army was a Bulgarian field army during the Balkan Wars, World War I, and World War II.

# Currency

Bulgarian currency/money/ is LEV- one lev is 0,51 Euro



In archaic Bulgarian the word "lev" meant "lion", a word the modern language became lăv.

# Bulgarian Cuisine

The country's traditional yoghurt and white cheese are very tasty.

Typically for the cuisine are: cheese pastry and home made bread and pumpkin pastry and Easter bread.



In Bulgaria, where yogurt is considered to be an integral part of the national cuisine, strained yogurt is called "tsedeno kiselo mlyako", and is used in a variety of salads and dressings



Banitsa is a traditional Bulgarian food prepared by layering a mixture of whisked eggs and pieces of cheese between filo pastry and then baking it in an oven.



Sirene or known as "white brine sirene" is a type of brined cheese made in the Balkans, especially popular in Bulgaria. It is made of goat's milk, sheep milk, cow milk or a combination of milks.



Cozonac is a traditional Romanian and Bulgarian sweet leavened bread, which is a type of Stollen. It is usually prepared for Easter in Bulgaria.

Bulgarians use lots of spices and herbs: salt, oil, vinegar, black and red pepper, parsley and fennel leaves. They make Bulgarian dishes so tasty.



Parsley is used to make different salads and dishes.

Black pepper and salt are the most universal spices and can be used in many kinds of recipes. In Bulgaria it is one of the main spice and is used in almost every dish.



The fennel leaves are one of the ingredients for “tarator”.

Many sunflowers are grown in Bulgaria for making sunflower oil.



Wine is traditional drink in Bulgaria.  
Bulgaria is on the 10th place in Europe for 2015.  
Also Bulgarians like drinking “rakia” and “mastika” with Shopska salad.



Grape growing and wine production have a long history in Bulgaria, dating back to the times of the Thracians. Wine is, together with beer and grape rakia, among the most popular alcoholic beverages in the country.

Rakia or Rakija is the collective term for fruit brandy popular in Southeastern Europe.



Mastika is a liqueur seasoned with mastic, a resin gathered from the mastic tree, a small evergreen tree native to the Mediterranean region.

Moussaka



Lutenitsa



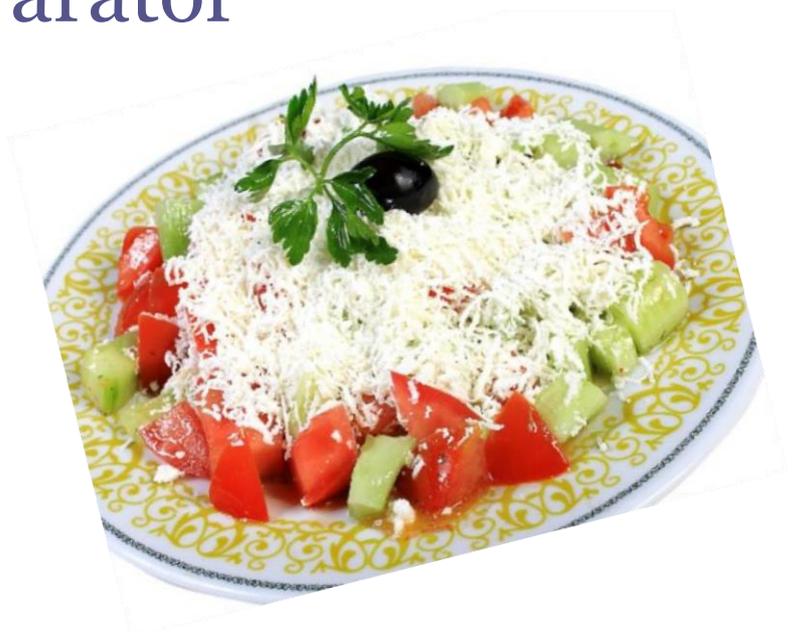
Homemade bread



Tarator



Beans



Shopska salad

# Moussaka

Moussaka is the perfect dish if you are in Bulgaria and want to experience traditional recipes along with banitsa, shopska salad and tarator. The yogurt and eggs layer on top gives the dish a unique taste which you can't find anywhere else.



We could call it the Bulgarian ketchup or the caviar of peppers, and the Bulgarian people know it from their earliest childhood. The Lutenitsa is a very typical and delicious red sauce in Bulgaria with peppers and consumed simply on a toast, with or without cheese, or to raise the taste of certain meats and garnishes.

# Lutenitsa



# Beans



Bob chorba is a national Bulgarian dish. The name translates to "bean soup". It is a soup made from dry beans, onions, tomatoes, chubritza or dzhodzhen (spearmint) and carrots.

Local variations may also exclude the carrots or include paprika, potatoes or even some

# Tarator

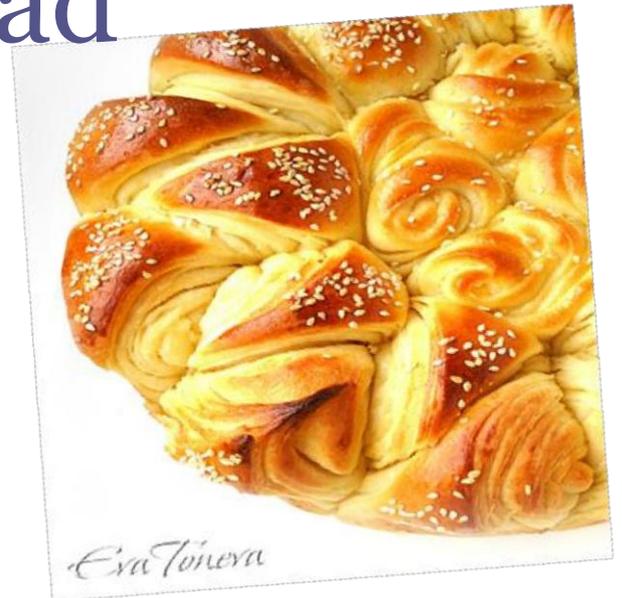
Tarator is a cold soup made of yoghurt, cucumbers, and garlic. It is best enjoyed in the summertime when the blazing sun scorches your head. You can eat it any other time too but you will appreciate its icy chill more when the temperatures around you increase.



# Homemade bread

Bread bears strong symbolic in Bulgarian folklore and the culinary tradition. It is present in various rituals and customs, and it is a symbol of hospitality, family and home.

Bread is baked for every holiday in Bulgaria. It is decorated in various ways, depending on the established traditions. It is prepared by flour, water, salt, butter or other fat, and yeast.



# Shopska salad

Shopska salata is a salad that originated in the Shopluk region of Bulgaria. There are slight variations from family to family but the basic ingredients for this refreshing salad, served year-round, are the same -- tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, onion, red-wine vinaigrette and feta cheese which is known as sirene cheese in Bulgaria.



# Sightseeings



The St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral is a Bulgarian Orthodox cathedral in Sofia. Built in Neo-Byzantine style, it serves as the cathedral church of the Patriarch of Bulgaria and it is one of the largest Eastern Orthodox cathedrals in the world, as well as one of Sofia's symbols and primary tourist attractions.

The Ivan Vazov National Theatre is Bulgarian's national theatre, as well as the oldest and most authoritative theatre in the country and one of the important landmarks of Sofia. It is located in the centre of the city, with the facade facing the City Garden. The



Ivan Vazov National Theatre has a well-equipped main stage with 750 seats, a smaller 120-seat stage and an additional 70-seat one on the fourth floor.

# Botevgrad-our hometown



The Tower of Botevgrad town counts the hours to chime like clockwork is renewed by the masters of the museum. The tower is included in the 100 national tourist sights of the SIP. She is very beautiful, with stonework at the base and baroque decorative elements - wavy moldings and murals.



Botevgrad is a town in western Bulgaria. It is located in Sofia Province and is close to the town of Pravets. Botevgrad is 47 km from Sofia, the capital city.

The region of Botevgrad municipality is quite rich in natural resources. The relief is remarkable for its variety. The municipality covers the following geographic parts: a part of Botevgradska Kotlovina (the valley of Botevgrad), some parts of Botevgradski Predbalkan and four of the Balkan shoulders — Razhana, Golyama Planina, Murgash and Bilo. Kotlovinata Zhleba (Fillet Hollow) is situated between the main Balkan Range and the Northern Balkan.

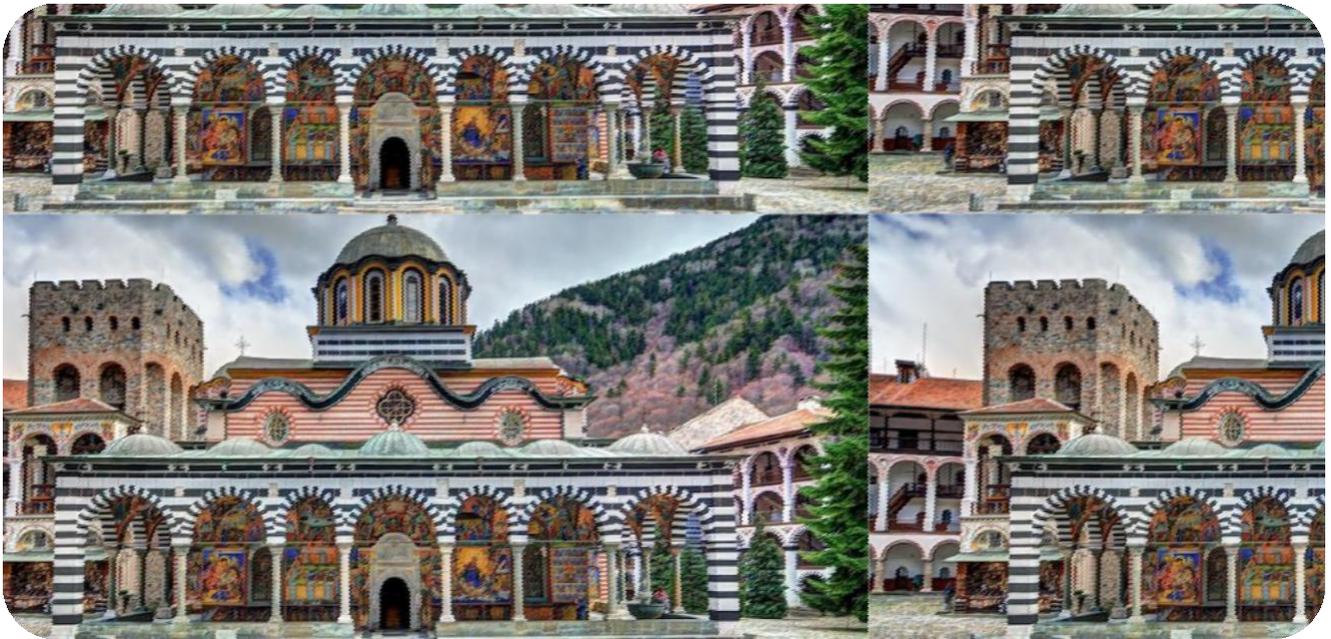




The Roman theatre of Plovdiv is one of the world's best-preserved ancient theatres, located in the city center of Plovdiv, Bulgaria. It was constructed in the 90s of I century AD, probably under the ruler ship of Emperor Domitian. The theatre can host between 5000 and 7000 spectators and it is currently in use.

Tsarevets is a medieval stronghold located on a hill with the same name in Veliko Tarnovo in northern Bulgaria. Tsarevets is 206 meters above sea level. It served as the Second Bulgarian Empire's primary fortress and strongest bulwark from 1185 to 1393, housing the royal and the patriarchal palaces, and is a popular tourist attraction.





The Monastery of Saint Ivan of Rila, better known as the Rila Monastery is the largest and most famous Eastern Orthodox monastery in Bulgaria. It is situated in the southwestern Rila Mountains, 117 km south of the capital, Sofia, in the deep valley of the Rilska River, inside of Rila Monastery Nature Park. The monastery is named after its founder, the hermit Ivan of Rila, and today houses around 60 monks.



The Bachkovo Monastery Dormition of the Holy Mother of God in Bulgaria is an important monument of Christian architecture and one of the largest and oldest Eastern Orthodox monasteries in Europe. It is located on the right bank of the Chepelare River.

# Bulgarian caves





## Magura cave

The prehistoric wall paintings of Magura have great resemblance with those of the Grotta dei Cervi in Italy, which are of exceptional expression and artistic depth and are considered the most significant works of art of the European Post-Paleolithic era.



## Yagoniska cave

With a total length of 10,500 m, Yagodinska is the third longest cave in the country after Duhlata and Orlova Chuka and the longest in the Rhodopes. Yagodinska cave is home to 11 species of bats.



## Ledenika cave

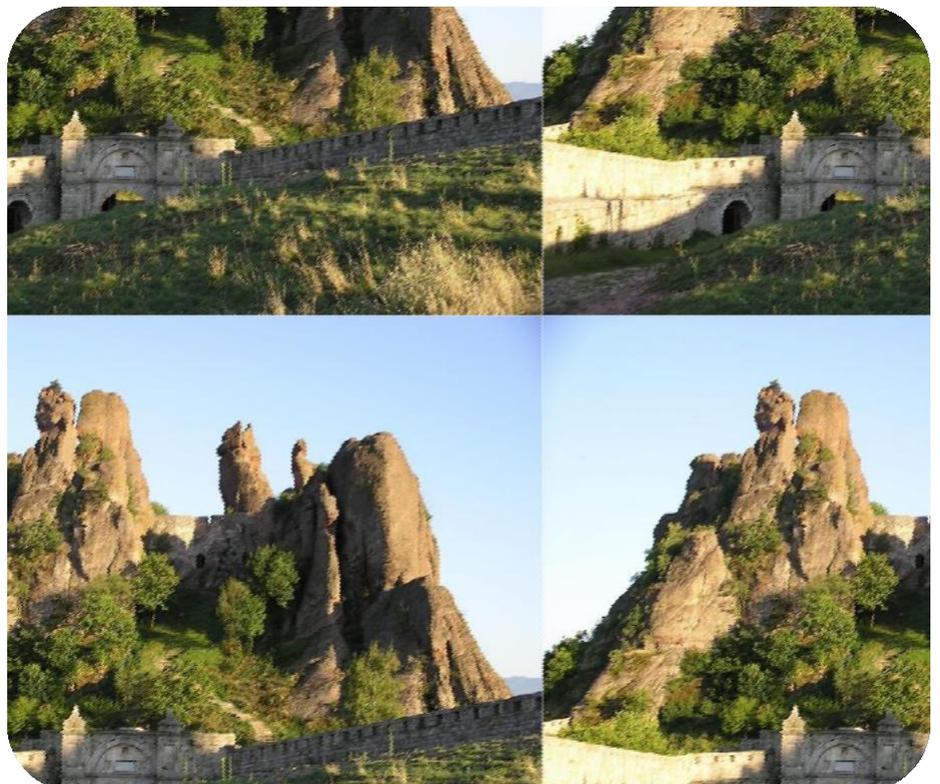
The caves feature an abundance of galleries and impressive karst formations including stalactites and stalagmites.





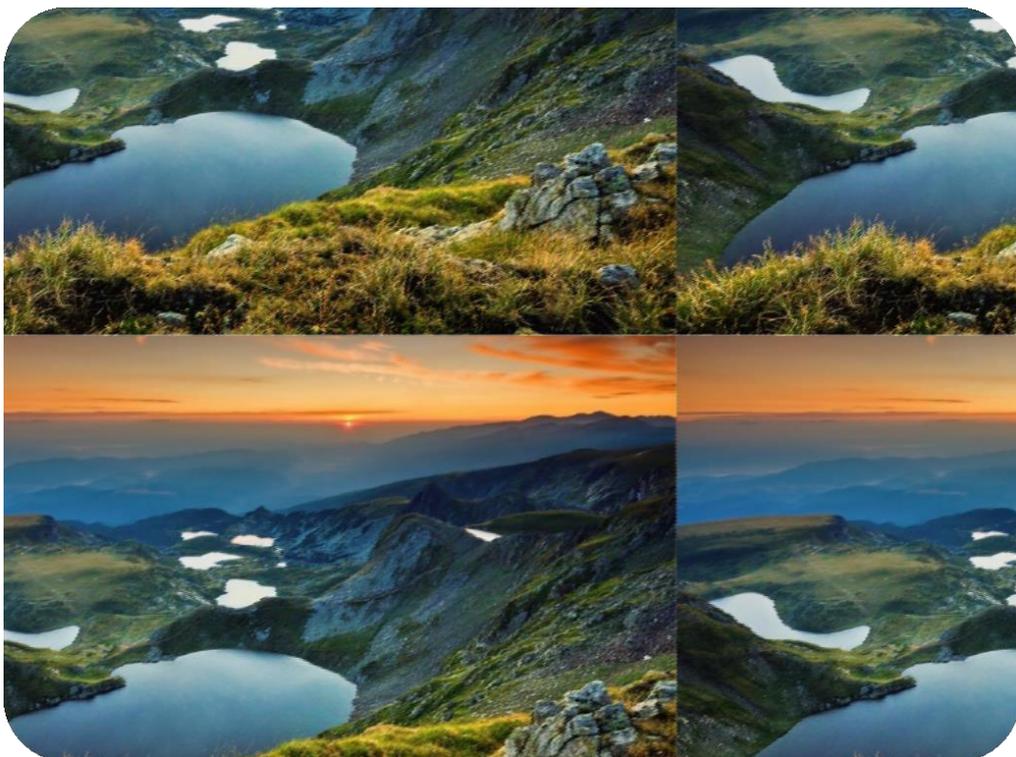
About 13km along a winding road north of Shipka village is the Shipka Pass. Almost 1000 steps lead to the top of Mt Stoletov (1326m), dominated by the impressive, 32m-high Freedom Monument. It was built in 1934 as a memorial to more than 7000 Russian troops and Bulgarian volunteers who died in the Battle of Shipka Pass, which culminated in August 1877. The fighters successfully repelled numerous attacks by around 27,000 Turkish soldiers.

The Belogradchik Rocks are a group of strange shaped sandstone and conglomerate rock formations located near the town of Belogradchik. The rocks vary in color from primarily red to yellow; some of the rocks reach up to 200 m in height. Many rocks have fantastic shapes and are associated with interesting legends. They are often named for people or objects they are thought to





The highest mountain is Rila with its highest mount Musala – 2925 m.  
Musala is the highest mount on The Balkans.  
The second mountain is Pirin with its highest mount Vihren - 2914 m.



# The beauty of Rhodope and Vitosha mountains



The Rhodopes are a mountain range in Southeastern Europe, with over 83% of its area in southern Bulgaria and the remainder in Greece. Its highest peak, Golyam Perelik (2,191 meters (7,188 ft)), is the seventh highest Bulgarian mountain.

Vitosha is a volcanic mountain massif, on the outskirts of Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. Vitosha is one of the symbols of Sofia and the closest site for hiking, alpinism and skiing. Convenient bus lines and rope ways render the mountain easily accessible. Vitosha has the outlines of an enormous dome. The territory of the mountain includes Vitosha nature park that encompasses the best known and most frequently visited parts. The foothills of Vitosha shelter resort quarters of Sofia; Knyazhevo quarter has mineral springs. Vitosha is the oldest nature park in the Balkans.



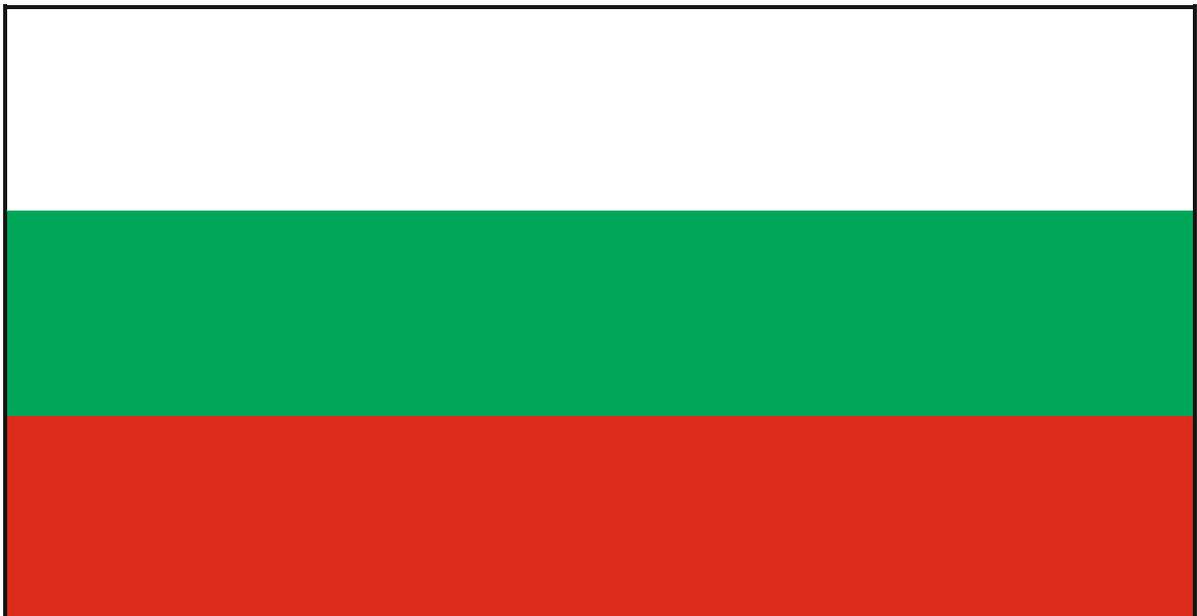
# The beauty of Bulgarian resorts



- The Bulgarian Black Sea Coast covers the entire eastern bound of Bulgaria stretching from the Romanian Black Sea resorts in the north to European Turkey in the south, along 378 km of coastline. White and golden sandy beaches occupy approximately 130 km of the 378 km long coast. The region is an important center of tourism during the summer season (May–October), drawing millions of foreign and local tourists alike and constituting one of the country's most popular tourist destinations.



# WELCOME to BuLGArIA



# BOTEVGRAD





**ŠKOLA MEZINÁRODNÍCH A VEŘEJNÝCH VZTAHŮ PRAHA**

**Střední odborná škola, s. r. o.**

**Michelská 12, 140 00 Praha 4, Česká republika**

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# **A BRIEF TOURIST HANDBOOK ABOUT THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

**PREPARED**

**by**

**Students of 3.AD and 3.BP**

**ŠMVV Praha**

**Prague, October 2016**



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# 1. Basic facts about the Czech Republic



## **Basic facts**

**Local name:** Czech Republic

**Timezone:** GMT+1

**Area:** 78 866 km<sup>2</sup>

**Population total:** 10 627,448 (2014 est.)

**Status:** Parliament Republic

**Date of independence:** 1. January 1993

**Capital city:** Prague, other large cities: Brno, Ostrava, Plzen, Olomouc

**Official languages:** Czech (official), Slovak, German, Russian

**Ethnic groups:** Czech (94%), Slovak (4%), Polish, Ukrainian, German

**Climate:** Continental, with warm humid summers and cold, dry winters. Average annual temperatures 2°C (January), 19°C (July) in Prague; average annual rainfall, 483mm/19 in.

**Currency:** Czech Crown (Kč)

**Transportation:** **Railways:** total: 9,469 km (2008). **Roadways:** total: 130,671 km; (2010), **Waterways:** 664 km (on Elbe, Vltava, and Oder rivers) (2010). **Ports and harbors:** Decin, Prague, Ústí nad Labem, **Airports:** 128 (2013).

**Head of State:** President - Miloš Zeman (2013),

**Head of Government:** Prime minister - Bohuslav Sobotka (2014)

**Government:** Unitary parliamentary constitutional republic with two legislative houses – Senate (81), Chamber of Deputies (200)



## News

The Czech Republic has a strong and highly-independent media scene, with a number of television channels, newspapers, and magazines catering to the masses. Unfortunately it is nearly entirely inaccessible for non-Czech speakers. However, visitors who wish to know what's happening in the country with current events and cultural happenings can stay abreast with a few useful sources.

**Radio Praha** — English language arm of public radio broadcaster Český rozhlas. Offers news, interviews and commentary for national and European news, as well as listings for cultural events. Also broadcast in Spanish, French, German, and Russian.

**Prague Daily Monitor** — daily updated English news website, translating stories, reviews, and commentary from Czech media outlets.

**Expats.cz** — a popular website maintained by the country's expatriate community, with news, cultural events listings, and a job board.

## **Public holidays**

The Czech Republic has **13 public holidays**, when similarly as at weekends children don't go to school and adults have a day off work. Therefore, offices and other institutions, such as banks and post offices, are shut. Some shops are also closed on these days, but this does not apply to shopping centres and larger cities.

**January 1<sup>st</sup> – Restoration Day of the Independent Czech State, New Year's Day**

**Good Friday**

**Easter Monday**

**May 1<sup>st</sup> – Labour Day**

**May 8<sup>th</sup> – Liberation Day**

**July 5<sup>th</sup> – Saints Cyril and Methodius Day**

**July 6<sup>th</sup> - Jan Hus Day**

**September 28<sup>th</sup> - St. Wenceslas Day (Czech Statehood Day)**

**October 28<sup>th</sup> - Independent Czechoslovak State Day**

**November 17<sup>th</sup> - Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day**

**December 26<sup>th</sup> - St. Stephen's Day**

## **Language**

Czech, a consonant-rich Slavic language, is among the world's most complicated. It contains sounds quite difficult for English speakers to produce. However, a growing number of young people, business people, politicians and shopkeepers in Prague speak English (particularly in the city's centre). Many, especially the older generations, also speak German.

Many guidebooks to Prague use English-language names for sights around town. This is helpful, but can be confusing when maps and street signs use the Czech spellings.

Here are the most common translations you'll see:

**Old Town = Stare Mesto**

**Prague Castle = Hradcany**

**Charles Bridge = Karluv most**

**National Theatre = Narodni divadlo**

**Main Station = Hlavni nadrazi (hl.n.)**

**Wenceslas Square = Vaclavske namesti**

**Old Town Square = Staromestske namesti**  
**Lesser Town = Mala Strana**

Most Czechs are aware that their language is a nightmare for foreigners, but a well-timed word or two might reward you with a smile if not noticeably better service, and --who knows -- it may open a few cultural doors.

English	Czech	Pronunciation
Please	Prosim	PRO-seem
Thank you	Dekuji	D'-e-kwee-ee
Yes	Ano (or "no")	AW-no
No	Ne	neh
Hello	Dobry den	DOE-bree-den
Goodbye	Na shledanou	NA SKLE-dawn-o
Do you speak English?	Mluvite anglicky?	MLOO-vee-tay awn-GLITS-kee?
One	Jeden, Jedna, Jedno	YED-en, YED-na, YED-no
Excuse me	Prominte	Pro-MIN-tay
Where is ...?	Kde je...?	GDAY ye ... ?
Where is the metro?	Kde je metro?	GDAY ye metro?
Where is the bathroom?	Kde jsou toalety?	GDAY sow TOWA-aletty?
One beer.	Jedno pivo.	YED-no pi-vo.
please	prosim	PRO-seem
Another, please.	Jeste jedno, prosim	YESH-ty-e, YED-no, PRO-seem.
How much does it cost?	Kolik to stoji?	Koe-LEEK toe STOY yee?

## **Driving in the Czech Republic**

In the Czech Republic The Highway Code does not differ much from any other European countries, but keep in mind that following: - **driving is on the right hand side**

- driving is on **the right-hand side**
- **maximum speed for passenger vehicles is 90 kmph, on towns and villages 50 kmph, and 130 kmph on motorways**
- safety belts **must be fastened** both in and outside towns and villages
- car safety seats are obligatory for children **up to 36 kg or 150 cm**
- **to drive under the influence of alcohol is prohibited**
- motor vehicles **must be alight both in the nighttime and daytime**

Remember that for driving on highway you **must have a toll sticker**. The appropriate special stick-on label can be bought at border crossings, fuel stations or [post offices](#). For vehicles up to 3,5 t the prices for a toll sticker are: **1 year - 150 CZK, 1 month - 440 CZK, 10 days - 310 CZK**. For the vehicles above 3,5 tons a highway toll sticker has been replaced by the electronic withdrawal. For more information see [www.mytocz.cz](http://www.mytocz.cz)

## **Prague Information Center**

**Prague information service is an official tourist information company** that provides all the necessary tourist information such as as well as organizes various services such as sightseeing tours, history walks or publishing brochures.

**You can get information in Czech, English and German via email: [tourinfo@pis.cz](mailto:tourinfo@pis.cz)** in their tourist information centers, which are located in various parts of the center: in [Old Town Hall](#) in [Staroměstské náměstí](#), in [Rytířská Street 31](#), in the hall of Main Railway Station, at the [Prague Airport](#) and in the [Lesser Town Bridge Tower](#). You can also find all the up-to-date information on their website [www.praguewelcome.cz](http://www.praguewelcome.cz), which is available to users in six language versions. Prague information service also publishes a monthly periodical Summary of **Cultural Events** in Prague that will provide you with update on culture life in the city. It is available in salesrooms, newsstands and on their internet pages. They also provide complete booking services, from accommodation, boarding, tickets for various events to guide services. Not to mention they provide interpreter's services, translations and mediate work of multilingual hostesses.

## 2. History – A brief history of the ČR

The Czech Republic is not a geographically large country, but it has a rich and eventful history. From time immemorial, Czechs, Germans, Jews and Slovaks, as well as Italian stonemasons and stucco workers, French tradesmen and deserters from Napoleon's army, have all lived and worked here, all influencing one another. For centuries they jointly cultivated their land, creating works that still command respect and admiration today. It is thanks to their inventiveness and skill that this small country is graced with hundreds of ancient castles, monasteries and stately mansions, and even entire towns that give the impression of being comprehensive artifacts. The Czech Republic contains a vast amount of architectural treasure, as well as beautiful forests and mountains to match.

### Samo's Empire

It was one of the first political systems in our area. According to Fredegar, Samo, a Frankish merchant united the smaller tribes into one, that existed between 631 and 658

The king **Samo**  
Fredegar (chronicle)

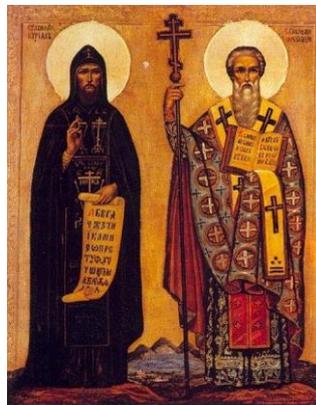


### Great Moravia

The first major state that was predominantly Slavonic occurred in the area of Central Europe. That stable state existed between 833-907



**Glholicce** (alphabet)



**Saints Cyril and Methodius\***

\*two brothers who were **Christian missionaries**. Through their work they influenced the cultural development of all Slavs

Typical house

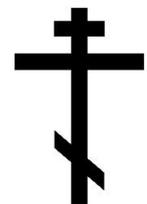


The king **Svatopluk**



### Kingdom of Bohemia

Was a medieval and early modern monarchy in Central Europe, the predecessor of the modern Czech Republic. The kingdom existed between 1198 and 1918 and after was transformed into the Czechoslovak Republic.

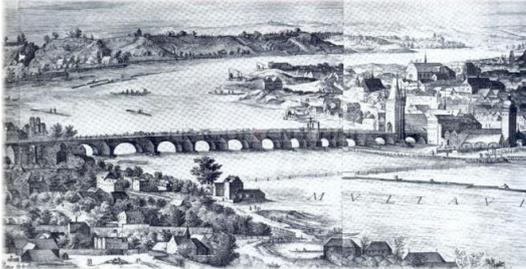


## Charles IV.

a King of Bohemia and the first King of Bohemia also became Holy Roman Emperor. He raised the land and often its called The golden age of Czech history.



The **Charles bridge**



A sign of **Charles University**



## Czechoslovakia

Was founded after World War I. The first President was Tomas Garigue Masaryk. Czechoslovakia was democratic state in this part of Europe.

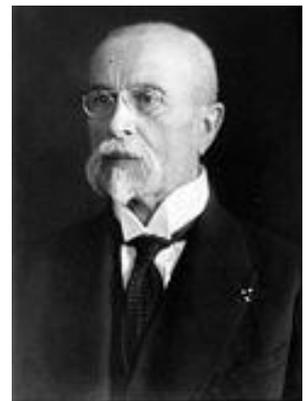
But the problem started with Nazi Germany. In the border zone, there lived a significant German minority. The border zone was called Sudetenland. The leader of German community in Sudetenland was Konrad Heinlein. The World War II. started in Munich.

Munich agreement guaranteed Germany that the Sudetenland will become a part of Germany.

After World War II. In 1948, Communist party took the power and destroyed the political opposition. The Head of Communist party was Klement Gotwald. In 1968, Army of the Warsaw treaty invaded to Czechoslovakia.

The change in political system took place on 17. November 1989. That day came thousands of students to Prague. We call it The Velvet revolution. After Velvet revolution Vaclav Havel became the first president.

1. January 1993 Czechoslovakia was separated and then started a new state Czech Republic. The new president of Czech Republic after Vaclav Havel was Vaclav Klaus.





## **Basic Historical Outline**

- End of the 5th and beginning of the 6th century -

arrival of Slavs in present-day Moravia and Slovakia

- Second half of the 9th century - arrival of Christian missionaries
- 9th century - 1306 a gradual strengthening of the Czech state during the reign of the Premyslid dynasty
- 1346-1378 - the peak in the prestige and power of the kingdom of Bohemia during the reign of Charles IV
- Beginning of the 15th century - a crisis of state leads to the Hussite movement
- 1526 - the Habsburg dynasty succeeds to the throne of Bohemia - the formation of a multi-national empire
- 1620 - the defeat of the Bohemian Estates at the Battle of White Mountain, continued centralization of the Habsburg Empire
- 28.10.1918 - foundation of an independent state of Czechs and Slovaks
- 15.3.1939 - 9.5.1945 - German occupation
- February 1948 - Communist takeover
- August 1968 - Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact countries brings an end to the "Prague Spring" and the Communist Party's attempt to build "Socialism with a human face"
- November 1989 - fall of the Communist regime
- 1.1. 1993 Czech Republic was founded after the split of Czechoslovakia
- From 1991, the Czech Republic, originally as part of Czechoslovakia and since 1993 in its own right, has been a member of the [Visegrád Group](#) and from 1995,

the [OECD](#). The Czech Republic joined [NATO](#) on 12 March 1999 and the [European Union](#) on 1 May 2004. On 21 December 2007 the Czech Republic joined the [Schengen Area](#).

### 3. GEOGRAPHY of the Czech Republic



The Czech Republic is located in Central Europe. The geography of ČR comprises of part of Silesia, Bohemia and Moravia. The country borders with Germany to the west, Austria to the south, Slovakia to the east and Poland to the north. ČR stretches along a total area of 79,000 sq.km.

#### Climate

The Czech Republic has a mild continental climate, with warm summers and cold, cloudy and snowy winters. There are four season: winter, spring, summer and autumn.



Winter in the Czech Republic is very cold and dry. It always comes in December to February. January is the coldest month with daytime temperatures usually around zero or far below zero.



Summer in the Czech Republic is very warm. It comes in June to August. Daily temperatures is about 25 Celsius degrees, but sometimes quite higher, around 30-35 Celsius degrees.



Spring and autumn are transition seasons between winter and summer. Spring is in March to May and temperature is around 10 Celsius degrees and they soar. Autumn is from September to November and the temperature is around 7 degrees Celsius and continues to fall.



#### Mountains

In the Czech Republic there are 10 main mountain ranges. They are Krkonoše, Jizerské hory, Orlické hory, Jeseníky, Beskydy, Novohradské hory, Šumava, Český les, Krušné hory a Lužické hory.

The highest mountain is Sněžka (1602 a. s. l.) located in Krkonoše.

Krkonoše and Šumava are also national parks.

## RIVERS

Water from the landlocked Czech Republic flows to three different seas: the North sea, Baltic sea and Black sea.



Labe is one of the major rivers of Central Europe. It springs in Krkonoše and flows into the North Sea.



Morava is the second main river. In Bratislava it empties in Danube.

## The biggest cities

### Prague

Prague is the capital and the largest city of the Czech Republic. The city is home of about 1,3 million people and it is a political, cultural and economic centre of central Europe. Main



attractions include the Prague Castle, the Charles Bridge and Old Town Square.



### Brno

It is the second largest city of Czech Republic and the largest Moravian city. Population is about 500

000 people. The most visited sites include the Castle Špilberk and the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Paul.



### Ostrava

Is the third largest city of Czech Republic. The population is about 400 000 people. The nickname is „Steel heart of the republic“, because there are main black coal mines. Main monuments are the New Town Hall and Stodolní street.

## 4. ECONOMY – A short essay

Before World War II, Bohemia and Moravia were among the most agriculturally and industrially developed areas in Europe. In 1993, the Czech Republic emerged from 40 years of centralized economic planning in the Communist era (including the more balanced economic development of the 1960s) with a more prosperous and less debt-ridden economy than most other post-Communist countries. It enjoys an extensive industrial sector strong in both heavy and precision engineering, self-sufficiency in a variety of agricultural crops as well as an exportable surplus of meat, extensive timber resources, and adequate coal and lignite to supply two-thirds of its total energy needs.

After recovering from a recession following the 1993 separation from Slovakia, Czech economy had to function on its own and keep pace with the changes happening in world markets as well as changes connected with the disintegration of the Czechoslovakia Republic. GDP growth of up to 5.5% was forecast for 1996 and 1997. Unemployment also stabilized at less than 3% through 1996. The annual rate of inflation dropped from 20% in 1993 to 9% in 1996. The thriving economy of the mid-1990s depended upon loans easily secured from state-owned banks to newly privatized companies that did not have effective managers. This method of fueling the economy collapsed in a 1997 currency crisis which caused the economy to go into a three-year recession. Following this collapse, the government rescued and privatized the four largest banks in the Czech Republic, which stabilized the banking sector, now largely foreign-owned. The banks had begun to lend again by 2001.

The relatively slow pace of growth from 2001 and 2002 was replaced with moderately high growth rates of the GDP in 2003 and 2004: 3.7% and 4.0% respectively; in 2005 the economy was expected to strengthen even further, with a real GDP growth of 4.3%. This moderate growth is the sign of a maturing economy that is trying to embed the market in a stable system. Inflation remained fairly stable, hovering around 3%. The unemployment rate fluctuated between 9% and 10%.



*The Czech Republic is part  
Of the EU single market and  
The Schengen Area*

*Škoda Auto is one of the largest car manufac-  
turers in Central Europe. In 2014, it sold a  
record number of 1,037, 000 cars and said  
It aimed to double sales by 2018.*

The Czech Republic possesses a developed, high-income economy with a per capita GDP rate that is 87% of the European Union average. The most stable and prosperous of the post-Communist states, the Czech Republic saw growth of over 6% annually in the three years before the outbreak of the recent global economic crisis. Growth has been led by exports to the European Union, especially Germany, and foreign investment, while domestic demand is reviving.

Most of the economy has been privatised, including the banks and telecommunications. A 2009 survey in cooperation with the Czech Economic Association found that the majority of Czech economists favour continued liberalization in most sectors of the economy.

The Czech Republic remains one of the strongest economies in Central and Eastern Europe. The main growth engines are exports, foreign and domestic investment, and tourism. Most of the economy has been privatised, including the banks and telecommunications. A 2009 survey in cooperation with the Czech Economic Association found that the majority of Czech economists favour continued liberalization in most sectors of the economy.

The country has been a member of the Schengen Area since 1 May 2004, having abolished border controls, completely opening its borders with all of its neighbours (Germany, Austria, Poland and Slovakia) on 21 December 2007.<sup>[84]</sup> The Czech Republic became a member of the World Trade Organisation on 1 January 1995. In 2012, Nearly 80% of Czech exports went to, and more than 65% of Czech imports came from, other European Union member states.<sup>1</sup>

Czech Republic would become the 49th largest economy in the world by 2050 with a GDP of US\$ 342 billion.

## Trade and finance today

European GDP (PPP) per capita in 2012

**Exports:** \$147.3 billion

**Export goods:** machinery and transport equipment, raw materials, fuel, chemicals (2014)

**Imports:** \$135.1 billion

**Import goods:** machinery and transport equipment, raw materials and fuels, chemicals (2014)

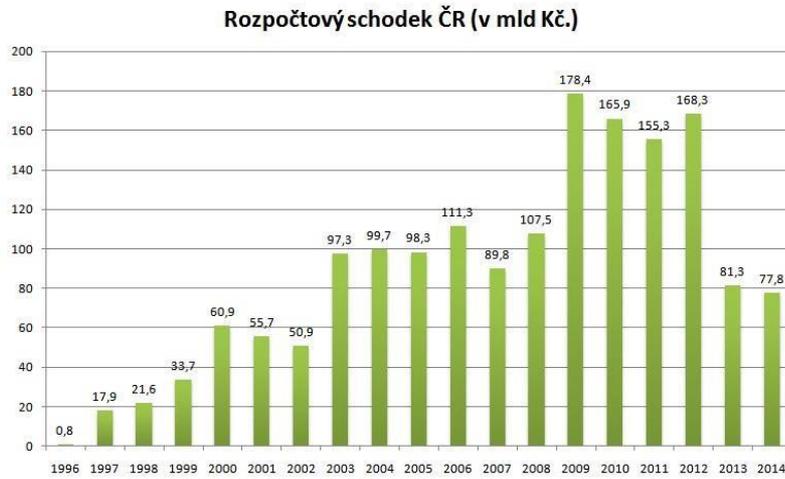
**Current Account balance:** -\$4,533,000 (2007)

**Export partners:** Germany 31.7%, Slovakia 9%, Poland 6%, France 5%, UK 4.9%, Austria 4.6% (2013)

**Import partners:** Germany 30.3%, Poland 8.1%, Slovakia 7.2%, China 5.8%, Netherlands 5.5%, Russia 5.1%, Austria 4.1% (2013) Reserves: \$59.15 billion (31 December 2014)

**Foreign Direct Investment: \$86.75 billion (2007)**  
**Czech Investment Abroad: \$6.058 billion (2007)**  
**Value of Publicly Traded Shares: \$48.6 billion (2006)**

**- External debt: \$116.1 billion (31 December 2014) -**



**Exchange rates:**

**koruny (Kč) per EUR €1 – 27.10**

## 5. CULTURE

### Festivals

Festivals take an important part in cultural life of Czech people. There are festivals of every kind – music, film, food, literature and many others.

#### Music festivals

The most famous classic music festival is **Prague Spring International Music Festival**. It is a permanent showcase for outstanding performing artists, symphony orchestras and chamber music ensembles of the world.

The most popular open-air music festival among young generation is **Rock for People**. It takes place in Hradec Kralove every year at the beginning of June. The festival features rock, indie, punk, hardcore punk, metalcore, electronic, metal, pop, hip hop, world music and dubstep. Others popular pop and rock music festivals are Colours of Ostrava, Trutnov Open Air Festival, Sázavafest and Mácháč.



#### Film festivals

One of the oldest film festivals in the world is the **Karlovy Vary International Film Festival**. It is held annually in Karlovy Vary and has become Central and Eastern Europe's leading film event. The second biggest film festival is Febiofest

#### Signalfest

Signal Festival is a showcase of light art and technologies in the Czech Republic. It is held every year in October and is the most visited festival in Czech Republic. It was voted one of Europe's top 10



light art festivals by The Guardian. Local landmarks used for projections included the Charles Bridge and the Church of St. Ludmila and the Petřín Lookout Tower.

### National Theatre

In Prague it is known as the alma mater of Czech opera, and as the national monument of Czech history and art.

Nowadays the National Theater consists of three artistic ensembles – opera, ballet and drama.

After the original building was destroyed by fire in 1881, Prague's Golden Chapel as the gold-crowned Neo-Renaissance building is known, was reconstructed with the help of financial contribution from people living there. The fire destroyed the copper dome, the auditorium and the stage of the theatre. The fire was seen as a national catastrophe.

The interior artwork was done by Mikolas Ales and Frantisek Zenisek. National Theatre had grand opening on 18. November 1883. The building, with perfect technical equipment, served without any extensive

modifications for almost one hundred years. It was only on 1 April 1977, following a performance of the Lantern by Alois Jirásek, that the theatre was closed down for six years. Architect

Zdeněk Vávra was appointed to take charge of the overall reconstruction work. The work was



completed to meet an important deadline, which was the date of the 100th anniversary of the opening of the National Theatre: 18 November 1983.

## Prague State Opera

Is an opera house in Prague. It's part of the National Theatre of the Czech Republic, founded by Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic in 1992. The theater was opened 1888 as New German Theatre. After that it known as the Prague State Opera. Currently it home to approximately 300 performances a year.



was  
is

## 6. System of Education in The ČR

### Pre-school education

- Nursery schools (*mateřská škola*) may be attended by children from 3 to 6 years of age
- They are established as day-care or half-a-day care centres
- Activities are focused on development of children' s personalities, broadening knowledge and skills, familiarity with the world around and development of hygienic and social habits and communication skills, mostly through games and physical activities (learning colours, numbers, geometric shapes)



### Primary education

- School attendance has been compulsory since 1774
- It lasts for a period of 9 years, usually from the ages of 6 to 15, mostly at the Primary school (*základní škola*)
- Pupils can leave a basic school at the end of the 5th year for an eight year Grammar school (*gymnasium*) or at the end of the 7th year for a six year term, after passing the entrance examination set by the school
- The school year begins on 1st September and ends on 31st August of the following year. Lessons of 45 minutes are spread over 5 days a week. There are 22-25 lessons in a week in the first stage (year 1-5), 27-30 lessons in the second stage (year 6-9)
- Pupils are assessed (by teachers) on the basis of written and speaking performance (and homework) and classified on a scale of 1 to 5
- Meetings with parents are organised to discuss the progress made by their children.

## **Secondary education**

- There are three main types of Secondary schools in the Czech Republic:
  - A) General secondary school also known as Grammar school (*gymnázium*)
  - B) Secondary technical school (*střední odborná škola - SOŠ*)
  - C) Secondary vocational school (*střední odborné učiliště - SOU*).
- A prerequisite for acceptance is successful completion of a compulsory education and successful meeting of the entrance requirements
- The headmaster decides to accept some applicants without an entrance exam and to set the content of the exam
- *Grammar Schools* provides a general, academic education. Its main aim is to prepare students for university studies. At the end of the fourth year students take their final School leaving exam/Graduation exam (*Maturita*)
- A secondary technical school usually provides a complete secondary vocational education which takes 4 years and concludes with a final School leaving exam/Graduation exam (*Maturita*) and sometimes also lower-level secondary vocational education (2- or 3-year courses)
- Secondary vocational school offers apprenticeship training mostly in 3-year (and sometimes 2-year or 1-year) courses ending in a final exam and apprenticeship certificate\_

## **Tertiary education**

- If students want to study at university, they have to pass the entrance exams
- For now, education at states universities is free of charge in the Czech Republic
- The most popular subjects are medicine, law or humanities studied at Charles University in Prague or Masaryk University in Brno
- The Universities in Czech Republic offer three-year-bachelor programmes as well as five-year-master programme
- Everything finishes with a final state exam and a thesis defence is required.
- The most popular University is:



**CHARLES UNIVERSITY**

## School holidays

The longest holidays take place in summer, starting on July 1 and ending on August 31. These two months in the Czech Republic are a synonym for [summer activities](#) such as biking or mountain hiking. The Christmas holiday also stretches over a few more days, usually starting a day or two before Christmas Eve and ending after New Year's Day. In this period public transport services may run to a special "holiday" timetable.

In addition, children in the Czech Republic have a week of spring holiday, determined within a certain range by each district individually, so it does not affect everyday life. A common activity for the spring holiday is to [venture out to mountains](#), still covered in snow at that time.

## E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF SOME IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONS

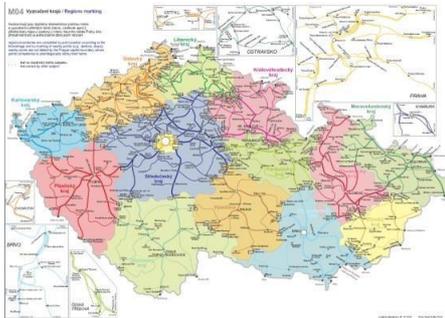
- \* List of universities: <http://www.agora.stm.it/university/ceco.htm>
- \* Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic: <http://www.cas.cz/>
- \* Ministry of Education: <http://www.msmt.cz/>
- \* High Schools in Czech Republic: <http://www.hiedu.cz/>
- \* Universities:
  - Charles University: <http://www.cuni.cz/>
  - Czech Technical University: <http://www.cvut.cz/>
  - University of Economics: <http://www.vse.cz/>
  - Masaryk University: <http://www.muni.cz/>
- \* Fulbright Commission: <http://www.fulbright.cz/>

## 7. Transport in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is one of the main transit points in Europe. The transportation network in the Czech Republic is very dense. In the scope of the European Union, the Czech Republic holds primacy in the density of its railway network, which has 120 kilometres of tracks for every 1,000 square kilometres of land. Besides trains, however, there are many other types of transport for travelling in the Czech Republic – personal automobiles, buses, trams, trolleys, airplanes, bicycles and even boats.

**Railway network** - The railway network in the Czech Republic is among the densest in the world and is quite flexible and accessible. The Czech Republic has a total railway length of 9,580 km. The majority of passenger services run nowadays are operated by the state company České dráhy (Czech Railways). The fastest Czech train is Pendolino. New railroads network are being built as well as the existing ones has undergone extensive modernisations.

The map of the railway network in the Czech Republic:



**Road transport** - The most preferred and most used type of transportation is road transport. It is among the most flexible means of transportation and enables connection in bordering cities in the framework of the entire country, and also easily connects with the other cities throughout Europe. The total length of roads and motorways in the Czech Republic is about 56,000 km. The development of highway transportation leans mainly on the construction of freeways, which the Czech Republic is working on intensively.

The map of the motorways and expressways in the Czech Republic



**Air transport-** Czech Republic currently has 5 International public airports (Vaclav Havel Airport Prague, Karlovy Vary, Pardubice, Brno-Turany and airport Leos Janacek Ostrava). The largest and main Czech airport is the International airport in Prague-Ruzyně, which changed its name to Václav Havel Airport Prague in 2012. Annually this airport handles about 11 mil. passengers. Actually it is the 28th largest airport in the EU countries. The airport is located approximately 17 km from the city centre on the northwest edge of Prague and has been in operation since 1937.

**Vaclav Havel Airport Prague in the Czech Republic:**



**Transport in Prague-** Prague has one of the best public transportation systems in Europe. The subway, trams and buses are used by two-thirds of Prague's population and cover the majority of the city and outskirts. The entire timetable of the city public transport is available on the Internet and by mobile phone.

**Subway-** Subway is the rapid transit network of Prague. It was founded in 1974. Prague has three mutually linked subway lines (A – green, B – yellow, C – red), serving 61 stations (predominantly with island platform), and consists of a transit network 65.2 kilometres (40.5 mi) long. The Prague subway is the fifth busiest underground system in Europe.

**Trams-** Prague's first horsecar tram line was opened in 1875, and the first electric tram ran in 1891. The Prague tramway network is the largest network in the Czech Republic, consisting of 142.4 km of track, 931 trams, and 21 daytime routes and 9 night routes with a total route length of 518 km.

**Buses-** The base system of metropolitan and suburban transport is Pražská integrovaná doprava (Prague Integrated Transport) organized by Prague municipal organization ROPID, though several urban and suburban lines aren't a part of this system. The first buses in Prague were experimentally operated in 1908 in the Malá Strana district, but due to unreliable technology at that time it was declared a failure after 20 months. Regular service was started on 20 June 1925 and has been continuously in operation since then.

## 8. Food and Accommodation



Czech cuisine is not exactly a synonym for healthy cooking. Our cuisine is affected by other countries. It is divided according to different regions. The body of our cuisine is composed of two or more courses. The first course is usually soup than main dish. The third course can be a dessert or compote. Our dishes usually contain thick soups with cream which are mostly based on boiled vegetables, dumplings and meat.

### The first course is soup which could be:

**Potato soup** – it's made of root vegetables, herbs, seasoning, potatoes and mushrooms.

**Garlic soup** – it's made of potatoes, garlic, seasoning, herbs and sometimes it can be served with cheese.

**Beef soup with liver dumplings** – it's made of beef meat and pork liver, herbs, root vegetables



### The second course is main dish which could be:

**Sirloin**- it's made of root vegetables, cream, seasoning, herbs, part of cow which is called sirloin, it must be soft and juicy. It is served with dumpling, whipped cream, lemon and cranberries.

**Goulash**- is made of beef or pork meat, garlic, onion, seasoning, herbs and so on. It is served with dumplings and onion

**Fruit dumplings**- it is basically dumpling filled with fruit, it could be strawberries, peaches etc.

**Roast pork with dumplings and sauerkraut**- it's most favourite dish of Czech people.

### And the last course is dessert and it could be:

**Compote** – it is made of whole or pieces of fruit in sugar syrup which could be seasoned with vanilla, lemon, cinnamon and orange peel. It's served warm or cold.

**Or apple strudel** – it is made of puff pastry filled with apples, cinnamon, sugar and sometimes raisins and walnuts.



### Christmas dish

Our Christmas dish is a potato salad which is made from potatoes, root vegetables, mayo and it's served with fried schnitzel and fried carp.

We are good at making Christmas sweets - we eat them only at Christmas time, for example gingerbread, vanilla crescents etc.

**Desserts** : Famous are the Czech Pancakes (**Palačinky** – read “Palachinky”), filled with ice-cream, jam or fruits and coated in whipped-cream, almonds or sugar. Try also the traditional **Fruit dumplings (Ovocné Knedlíky)**, read “ovotsne knedliky”) and the various forms of tasteful **Czech cakes (Kolač** – read “Kolach”) filled with different fruits, jams or curds.

**Drinks:** The Czech Republic is the **No. 1 beer drinking nation on the planet**, and no wonder when the beer tastes terrific and is cheaper than water. It is served everywhere in Prague, even in breakfast cafés. Try some of the popular Czech beers such as **Pilsner Urquell**, the original Pils beer from which all golden beers are derived. Recently, beer from smaller breweries have become popular too. Prague also hosts the [Czech Beer Festival](#) (Český pivní festival), which is the biggest [beer festival](#) in the Czech Republic, held for 17 days every year in May. At the festival, more than 70 brands of Czech beer can be tasted.

## Accommodation

In the Czech Republic you can choose the cheapest or most expensive options. It’s up to you if you want a luxury hotel, hostel, some wellness and spa or take a tent if you are interested in camping in nature „under the sky.“ But you can also use camp parks, which are for tents but everybody has sanitary facilities there. Most Czech people rent a cottage.

If you come to the city for example to Prague, you have so many options. There are so many hotels and hostels of different categories. The most expensive and luxury ones as well as cheap ones, it depends if you don’t like spending money.



## 9. PLACES TO VISIT

The Czech Republic has become a favourite tourist destination for many travellers who crave something off the traditional European tour path. It is a favourite destination for those who like wonderful castles and chateaux, world famous spas, unspoiled countryside, historical cities, etc. Here are a few places, besides the capital city Prague, to visit.

### **Moravian Karst**

Moravian Karst is nature protected natural site to the north of Brno. It is one of the most beautiful and important karst in Central Europa.

There are more than 1100 caverns and gorges but only 4 caves are opened for public. You can also find there Macocha Abyss. It is more than 138 metres deep and it is also the biggest gorge of this kind in Central Europe.



### **Castle Karlštejn**

Castle Karlštejn is 30 kilometres away from Prague. It was established by the most famous Czech king and Roman emperor Charles IV in 14<sup>th</sup> century as a place to store the royal treasures. The history of the castle is composed by both facts and fiction, so in the end it is hard to separate the truth written in books from the myth hidden in fantasy.



### **Český Krumlov**

## Český Krumlov

Český Krumlov is a small city in the South Bohemian region of the Czech Republic. The historic Centre of Český Krumlov is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town was built around a 13th-century castle with Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque elements. It is a lovely castle town that still has the look and feel of a Medieval town.



## Telč

Telč is a town in Southern Moravia, near Jihlava, where is located historic centre which is a UNESCO World Heritage. The most significant part of the town is a square with unique complex and Baroque houses with high gables. The Gothic castle was built in the second half of the 14th Century. In 16th Century Zachariáš of Hradec rebuilt in the Renaissance style.



## Olomouc

Olomouc is a city in Moravia. It is the 6th largest city and it is in the East of the Czech Republic. The most interesting place is The Holly Trinity Column. It was built 1754. The main purpose of that was celebrating of Catholic Church and faith. His height is 32 metres.

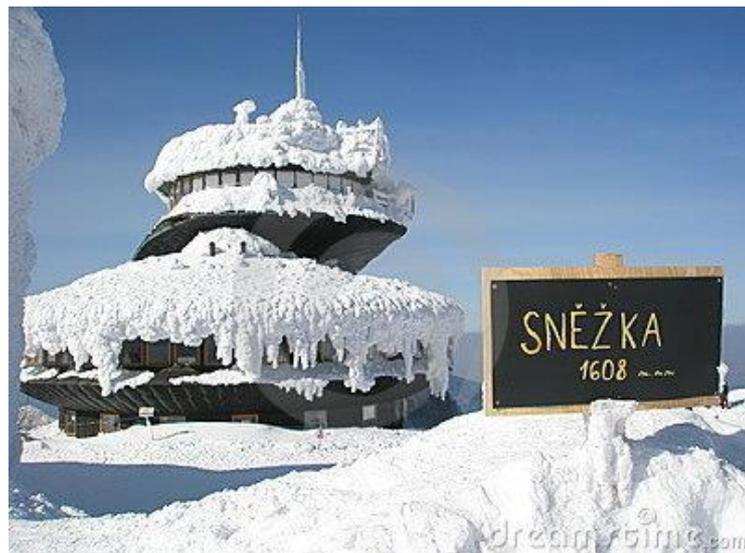


## Natural attractions

The Czech Republic is ringed by a series of mountain ranges, creating the country's distinctive borders that haven't changed much in nearly a thousand years. Mountainous ranges include the **Bohemian Forest** to the west, and the **Sudetes** to the north and east, which the Krkonoše, Jeseníky, and Soví mountain ranges are a part of. Within the country are 4 national parks, each containing rich natural

beauty. Krkonoše National Park is one of the most famous and popular. Within Krkonoše close to the state border is **Sněžka**, the republic's highest peak at 1,602 m (5,255 ft), where Czech and Polish hikers ascend from opposite ends of the mountain to meet at its summit. To the west near the German border is Šumava National Park, encompassing a large area of the Bohemian Forest. Often calculated as one of the coldest areas of the country, Šumava is home to gentle mountains, raised peat bogs, glacial lakes, and the remnants of primeval forests. With the area's German inhabitants expelled in 1945, as well as being part of the Czechoslovak-West German border exclusion zone during the Cold War, Šumava has had little human interference. The park shares a common border with the German Bavarian Forest National Park, and forms together a UNESCO-protected biosphere. In the republic's south, nestled against the Austrian border is Podyjí National Park, a forested land running along the deep Dyje River valley.

Near Brno is the **Macocha Abyss**, a massive sinkhole in the Moravian Karst, home to a narrow river gorge, an underground river and a large cave system. Unusual rock formations are also a major attraction in different parts of the country. The impressive **Rock Theatre** near Broumov is one such place to see these formations. Another is České Švýcarsko National Park, home to the Pravčická brána, the largest natural arch in Europe.



## 10. A Short Prague Guide

A city of a Hundred Spires, a UNESCO monument and one of the most beautiful cities in the world is the capital and **largest city** of the **Czech Republic**. It is the **15th largest city** in the **European Union**. It is also the historical capital of **Bohemia**. Situated in the north-west of the country on the **Vltava** river, the city is home to about 1.26 million people, while its **larger urban zone** is estimated to have a population of nearly 2 million. The city has a **temperate climate**, with warm summers and chilly winters. Prague's hidden courtyards, winding streets, traditional pubs, and eye-catching architecture are uniquely juxtaposed with the city's very modern business and academic opportunities. With a growing economy, vibrant arts and music scenes, an influential intellectual community, and architectural styles ranging from Gothic to Baroque to Art Nouveau, Prague is an ideal setting in which to explore Czech culture.



### 1) Basic information

- **Capital of the Czech Republic (EU member since 2004):** 1,259,079 residents
- **Currency:** Czech koruna (CZK)
- **Airport:** Václav Havel Airport Prague, 45 minutes to downtown, [www.prague.aero](http://www.prague.aero)
- **Distances:** Berlin 350 km, Vienna 330 km, Budapest 530 km, Krakow 540 km
- **Time:** Central European Time (GMT+1); Central European Summer Time +1 (GMT+2)
- **Climate:** temperate, average annual temperature 9.0 °C; summer average 19.0 °C; winter average -0.9 °C
- **Electrical voltage:** 230 V
- **National dialing code of the Czech Republic:** +420
- **The Vltava River** flows through the city for 31 km; maximum width 330 m
- **Historical centre:** Castle District (Hradčany), Lesser Town (Malá Strana), Old Town (Staré Město), New Town (Nové Město) and Vyšehrad
- **Important telephone numbers :**
  - Fire brigade: **150**, Ambulance: **155**
  - Police: **158**, City Police: **156**
  - Road assistance: **1230**
  - General emergency number: **112**
  - Medical information: **141 20**
  - Emergency road service: **1240**
  - Operator for Int. phone calls: **100 003**

## 2) Public Transport

Prague public transport is cheap, efficient and highly integrated. It is safe to travel around Prague by tram and metro, both during the day and at night.

### Travelling by plane

The modern city airport, Ruzyně, is situated about 20 km northwest of the city centre. There are direct flights from most major European cities.

Facilities in the main building include a 24-hour money exchange office, a few ATMs, fast food places, several travel and accommodation agencies, rental car companies, a post office. There is also a 24-hour left luggage service in the Arrival Hall (the charge is about 40 Kč per piece of luggage).

### Getting to the city centre:

Timetables are available at the airport information office in the main hall or on [www.dp-praha.cz](http://www.dp-praha.cz).

### Bus & Underground

Catch a bus No 119 or No 254 from the airport to Dejvická metro station, then follow a green line (A) of underground railway to the centre (stations Můstek or Muzeum). The trip takes about 45 minutes.

### Bus & Tram

Bus No 100 will take you from the airport to Zličín – the underground terminal stop of the yellow line (B) that leads to the town centre (Můstek station).

Catch night bus No 510 (between midnight and 3.30) to the tram-bound at Divoká Šárka, then go by tram No 51 to Dejvická metro station or further to the city centre (Náměstí Republiky, Wenceslas Square).

### Minibus

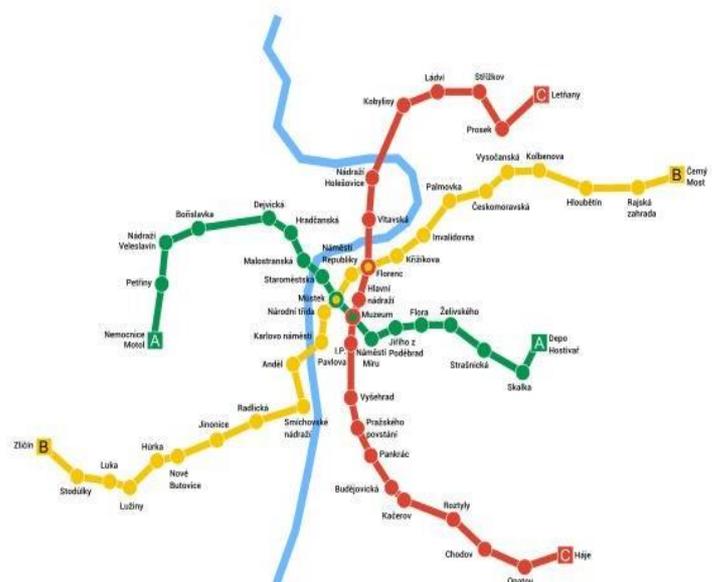
There are vans operated by Cedaz running from the airport (6 am – 9 pm) to Náměstí Republiky every 30 minutes for 90 Kč per person. Departure from Náměstí Republiky is between 5.30 am and 9.30 pm. Transport to any place of customer's wish within Prague is also possible: for 360 Kč (1-4 persons), 720 Kč (5 and more persons).

### Taxi

Depending on the destination, a trip to the city costs up to 700 Kč per 2-3 persons. Before entering the car check the price with the driver. It is not recommended to accept a price over 700 Kč.

### Travel around the city centre by public transport

Prague is a compact city, so it is a pleasure to travel around the city



centre on foot or by public transport. Use taxis with caution - taxis hailed on the street can overcharge, plus there is often considerable traffic congestion.

There are three metro (subway) lines, numerous bus and tram (streetcar) lines, regional (*S*) trains within Prague, as well as a funicular to Petřín hill and few ferries across Vltava river - all integrated in **Prague integrated transport (PID)**.

A ticket or a pass for the public transportation network permits you to travel on trams, buses and the metro for a set period of time. Plus, it permits you to switch between the three transport modes.

There are single tickets, and 1-Day, 3-Day and 1-Month passes.

**The Prague Metro** carries around 400 million passengers a year. It is cheap, fast, efficient, clean and easy to use. Its three lines consist of about 50 km of tracks (running mostly underground) and some 50 stations. All the stops are equipped with escalators and some with a lift for the disabled. **The metro is formed by three lines: A, B, and C.** Lines are colour coded and the metro is in operation from 5am to midnight. The green line (line A) connects terminus Skalka and terminus Dejvická. The yellow line connects terminus Černý Most and terminus Zličín and the red line (line C) connects terminus Ládví and terminus Háje. There are three cross stations: Muzeum (lines A and C), Můstek (lines B and A) and Florenc (lines C and B). Time intervals are approximately two to three minutes at rush hour and four to ten minutes off peak.

Buy tickets at newsagents, metro stations and Public Transport Information Centres. **The information centres open daily 07:00/08:00-20:00/21:00 at Prague Airport terminals 1 and 2, at Muzeum metro station (top of Wenceslas Square), and at Praha hlavní nádraží (main train station).** They also give out free tram and metro maps.

### **3) Where to stay in Prague**

Since The Velvet Revolution of 1989 Prague has become more visited. There are plenty of hotels, pensions, hostels and private accommodation available. Number of stars does not usually correspond with international regulations because the owners class their businesses by themselves. Accommodation in a four stars hotel can be, therefore, cheaper than living in a three stars hotel.

It is sometimes better to find accommodation further away from the centre because in comparison to other world metropolises Prague is quite small and its public transport is effective so you do not have to worry that you will spend most of your time on trams and buses. If you plan going to Prague in the high season (April to October), around Christmas and New Year as well as for a weekend or at the time of public holiday, you should book your accommodation ahead, preferably by at least a few weeks.

#### **Hotels**

It is very difficult to make any recommendations but listed accommodation should serve as a guide. More hotels on [booking.com](http://booking.com) or [prague-spot.com](http://prague-spot.com) or [prague-hotels-site.com](http://prague-hotels-site.com) or [prague-hotel.wz.cz](http://prague-hotel.wz.cz).

#### **Hostels**

With rooms for more than two people and shared toilets and shower hostels offer very cheap place to stay for modest visitors of Prague. It is better to get accommodation at hostels further away from the centre. There are only few hostels in the centre and their prices are nearly as high as

cheaper hotels. Majority of hostels is seasonal – they provide accommodation at colleges (e.g. Strahov, Podolí) only during summer. All year round service provide hostels Vesta and Alia. For more info about hostels go to [prague-hostels.cz](http://prague-hostels.cz)

### **Private Rooms & Self Catering Apartments**

This kind of accommodation is popular with visitors of Prague because of its low price and numbers of places available.

A good example is the U tri houslicek (At the Three Fiddles) in the Lesser Town (Nerudova 12, Praha 1, Tel. +420 233 350 618).

Here you can find some [Prague apartments](#). If some of them is not available the agency send you list of all their available apartments (more then 100). Prague Information Service (Na Příkopě 20, 110 00 Praha 1) can also help you.

### **Campings**

Campsites in or near Prague are very cheap with basic facilities and accessible by public transport. Most of them are closed from November until April.

For more details contact Prague Information Service – PIS (Na Příkopě 20, Praha, Tel. +420 212444)

## **4) Health and Insurance**

Medical care in the Czech Republic is on very good professional and technological level. Results of Czech doctors in some fields can be considered as top-ranking worldwide. Health care is provided by state-run and private medical facilities in the Czech Republic. In the event of sudden illness or injury outside of surgery hours it is ensured in the emergency departments in hospitals. In cases of sudden serious illness you can call an ambulance on 112 all over the country.

Medicines to relieve flu or a cold and other similar preparations can be purchased without a prescription in pharmacies. A prescription from a doctor is required to purchase other medicines.

The Czech public health insurance system is based on obligatory participation of insured persons. Most medical facilities have concluded a contract with an insurance company on provision and settlement of costs for healthcare and only provide insured patients with the essential care subject to settlement of the excess as stipulated by law.

### **Health insurance of foreigners from EU**

**The citizens of EU countries become entitled to participation in the public health insurance if:**

- they have permanent residence in the territory of the Czech Republic
- they do not have permanent residence in the territory of the Czech Republic, but are employed by an employer with a registered office in the territory of the Czech Republic
- if they are governed by the Czech regulations based on EU Directive (this group includes wage-earners in the Czech Republic (employees and self-employed persons), as well as persons on benefits from previous earning activity, i.e. old-age pensions, and family members of all entitled persons, i.e. wife or husband and dependant children).

Having arrived in the Czech Republic, you must visit one of the health insurance companies and get registered there. The insurance company will then give you the insurer's card that you will hand in at the doctor's office.

**In case of an emergency call 112.** This is the general emergency number in the European Union. It should be used in case of serious emergencies only. As well as their native Czech, the operators also speak English and German. The number is free of charge. Whether the call is made from a fixed line or from a cell phone, the caller can be located precisely and a response team dispatched instantly.

The number can be used to reach the police, the fire department or emergency medical assistance. However, each service can be reached through separate numbers. **These are 155 for medical emergencies, 150 for the fire department and 158 for the police.**

You will be treated at a hospital in the Czech Republic, even if you do not have Czech health insurance. You can pay up front or not depending on whether your insurance company recognizes the hospital and is willing to provide a coverage letter. **The hospital will not turn you down in emergency situations, however, the insurance company may not want to foot the bill.** If you do have Czech insurance or a European Health Insurance Card, you **will have to pay 60 CZK per day spent in the hospital.** If you do not have either of these you are exempt from the 60 CZK fee.

## **5) Mobile phones**

**The Czech mobile network uses GSM 900/1800 standards and is widely available. There are three main providers: Telefónica O2, Vodafone and T-Mobile. They all offer different price plans, information about which can be found on their websites.**

If you do not stay in the Czech Republic for long but still want a cell phone, a prepaid card is the right choice. They are offered by all providers and you can choose whether you only want the SIM card or a phone as well.

To get a prepaid card you usually have to pay around 200 to 500 CZK. A part of that money is your starting credit. If you want a phone as well you will have to pay about 1,200 CZK for a very basic one.

Prices per minute range from 3 to 7 CZK for calls within the Czech Republic, and SMS messages cost between 1 and 4 CZK. As a rule of thumb you can keep in mind that the more you use your prepaid account the cheaper your tariff will become.

After the break-up of Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and Slovakia, the country code 42 was used by both countries for another four years and changed eventually to 420 for the Czech Republic, and 421 for Slovakia.

### **Public phones**

There are many public payphones in the Czech Republic. There are two types; those accepting coins, and those accepting telephone cards. Telephone cards can be bought at news stands, post offices, department stores etc. Using public payphones is convenient if you are not staying in the Czech Republic for very long. They are very expensive however if you make international calls.

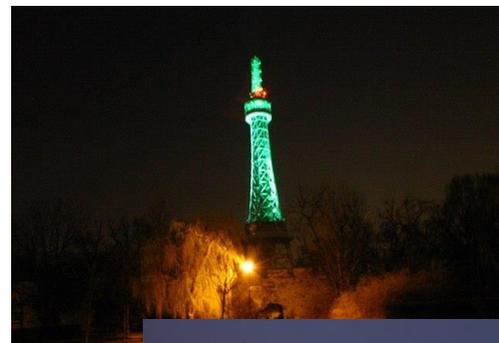
## International calls

To make international calls from the Czech Republic you have to dial 00, followed by the appropriate country code. Since international calls are usually very expensive there is a huge number of different calling cards available. These allow you to make relatively cheap phone calls to a pre specified country.

## 6) What to see in Prague

There are so many interesting and worth seeing places in this beautiful city.

- One of them is the **Prague Castle** which is one of the biggest medieval castles in the world.
- **Petřín** is also a very interesting place to see. It's a tower which looks like Eiffel tower in Paris. From Petřín, there is an amazing view of the whole city.
- **Vyšehrad** is a medieval castle from the 10th century. It's really a nice and peaceful place and there are a lot of legends about Vyšehrad.
- **Žižkov** is the highest tower in Prague. It's really nice to see Prague from Žižkov tower because it's a unique and amazing view.
- **Prague ZOO** is a ZOO in part of the city called Troja(Troy). It's near the Vltava river in the north of Prague. It's one of the top 10 ZOO in the world and the best ZOO in the Czech Republic.



**Old Town Square** : The heart of Prague's historical center is the Old Town Square. It has been beautifully restored and it is a good place to start your Prague visit. You will find the Gothic spires of the **Týn Church** towering over the square and the statue of reformer Jan Hus, and the **Astronomical Clock** on the Old Town Hall on the opposite side of it. Personally, we don't think that the hourly display of the 12 apostles on the Astronomical Clock is worth a wait longer than five minutes, but some may disagree.

You will not regret a climb to the top of the **Old Town Hall tower**. The view of the square and beyond is spectacular.

You can buy a ride in a **horse-drawn carriage** that starts and ends on Old Town Square. The carriages are lined up near the white St. Nicholas Church and a 20-minute ride costs around 800 - 1,000 CZK per carriage (seats four people).



**Around Old Town Square:** Wander the streets leading off the square - the grand Pařížská, the charming Týnská that leads to Ungelt, the ever-busy Melantrichova that will take you to **Wenceslas Square**... Walk down Celetná to the **Powder Tower**, one of the historical entrances to the Old Town. Connected to the tower is the exquisite **Municipal House**, Prague's Art Nouveau gem.

**The Jewish Quarter:** It is (**Josefov**) not far from Old Town Square and it would make sense to visit it in connection with your tour of the Old Town. The Jewish Museum administers the following sites: the Maisel Synagogue, the Pinkas Synagogue, the Spanish Synagogue, the Old Jewish Cemetery, the Klaus Synagogue, and the Ceremonial Hall. The Old-New Synagogue is the oldest working synagogue in Central Europe.

**Charles Bridge:** Walk across the Bridge on your first day because you may want to do it again. Stroll across it at night to enjoy the magnificent view of the Prague Castle all lit up. Also, at night the crowds will be smaller. Keep in mind that during the day you can climb the towers on both sides of the bridge. We especially recommend the one on the Old Town side for wonderful views of the bridge and the spires of the Old Town..

### **Clubbing/dancing:**

- **Karlovy Lázně**, Novotného lávka, Praha 1 – just next to the Charles Bridge (the biggest music club in Central Europe or so they say;-), 4 floors each with different music
- **Duplex** on Wenceslas Square
- **Roxy** at Dlouhá Street for more alternative folks
- **Lucerna Music Bar** at Lucerna Passage on Wenceslas Square (80s and 90smusic)
- **Popocafepetl** at Újezd, daily life concerts
- **Club Újezd** at Újezd, three levels, great interior design, fun bar
- **Vagón** at Národní třída, daily concerts, mostly Czech rock bands
- **Palác Akropolis** at Kubelíkova, Žižkov, close to Jiřího z Poděbrad metro station, pub & club, life concerts, djs, exhibitions. Great interior design (František Skála)
- **Cross Club** – Plynární Street in Holešovice, close to Nádraží Holešovice metro station (line C), incredible design, moving machines, great djs, a place you won't forget
- **Agharta Jazz Club** – Železná Street, just off the Old Town Square
- **U stare paní Jazz Club** – Michelská 9
- **Jazz Dock** – Janačkovo nábřeží 2, a new large place south to Malá Strana
- **Jazz Club Ungelt** – Týn 2, just off the Old Town Square
- **Reduta** – Národní 20, famous jazz club with interpreters such as Bill Clinton
- **U malého Glena** – Karmelitská 23, jazz club addressing international audience, small but neat

### **Paddling boats:**

Slovansky ostrov (next to the National Theatre) – per 2-4 people: you need an ID/passport; the fee is approx. 100 CZK/hour

### **Boat trip – cruise on the river Vltava:**

You can find the boats at "Čechův most" – next to hotel Intercontinental (5 mins walk from the Old Town Square map: <http://www.evd.cz/cz/kde.htm>), boats leave every day at 10:00; 11:00; 12:00; 13:00; 14:00; 15:00; 16:00; 17:00; 18:00, price: 220 Kč. Night ride with dinner also available– 790 CZK.

### **Theatres:**

**National Theater** (Národní divadlo) shows also opera and ballet, <http://www.narodni-divadlo.cz> – also in English

**State Opera House** (Státní opera Praha), <http://www.opera.cz/en/>

**Laterna Magika** – non-verbal theatre, <http://www.laterna.cz/en/>

**Image Theatre** - <http://www.imagetheatre.cz/english/en-index.asp>

**Wow Black Light Theatre** - <http://www.wow-show.com/en/>

**Křižík's Fountain** (Křižíkova fontána) – a water & light spectacle often accompanied by Czech classical music but also by e.g. the Queen. See <http://www.krizikovafontana.cz/en>

**Nový Svět** – a little neighborhood close to the Prague Castle, lost in time, full of tranquil beauty, originally poor, later popular with Czech artists

**Prague City Gallery** [68]. A museum of modern Czech arts divided between several sites most of which are in the old town. Its main building is the House of the Golden Ring at the Old Town Square featuring 20th Century Czech art in a beautiful medieval edifice. 19th Century Czech art is exhibited at the Troja Castle.

**Jaroslav Fragner Gallery** [87], contemporary architecture. You can find here profiles of influential people and groups, retrospective exhibitions, thematic exhibitions, recent movement in architecture. Gallery provides lectures, seminars and publishing, regarding central Prague the JFG became a centre for architects, professional and general public, students of architecture and construction companies.

**Czech National Museum (Národní muzeum)** [67]. An association of various museums. The main building is at the Wenceslas Square and is dedicated to natural history (this branch is closed until 2017). Other branches include museums of the Czech composers Dvořák and Smetana, Czech Music Museum, Historical Pharmacy Museum, Prince Lobkovicz' Collection at the Prague Castle, Czech Ethnographical Museum and Naprstek Anthropological Museum.

#### **Trója Chateau: Praha 7-Trója, U Trojského zámku 1**

- Open: Tuesday - Sunday 10am. – 6pm.
- Entrance fee: 140/70 CZK
- Baroque architecture and a French park surrounding the chateau
- Permanent exhibition: Czech art of the 19th century
- How to get there: metro C – stop Nádraží Holešovice, then take bus 112 to the last stop

### **Night life**

- Prague is full of fun and especially in the night
- There are a lot of pubs, bars, night clubs, casinos, etc.



## **7) Shopping in Prague**

The streets around Old Town are full of gift shops geared towards tourists, selling Bohemian crystal, soccer shirts and other mass-produced memorabilia. The thoroughfare between Charles Bridge and Old Town Square is particularly bad, turning off into one of the laneways you can find the exact same merchandise for half the price. If you are looking for some decent souvenirs, try to get off the beaten path. Street vendors can have some unexpected treasures and there are plenty in the Charles Bridge area. Prints of paintings and good quality photos are very popular, and a really good way to remember Prague. Don't bother buying overpriced furry hats and Matryoshka dolls, although, because they have nothing to do with Prague - they are Russian in origin, and their sellers are just trying to capitalize on unknowing tourists. There are several large shopping malls in Prague. **A few of them are:**

**Palladium[122]** - situated directly in the city centre, it's the newest and perhaps most luxurious shopping mall. On the top level (+2) are some moderate to expensive restaurants and a food court with McDonald's and a few other options. Tram/metro station Namesti Republiky.

**OC Letňany** - the largest shopping mall in Czech Republic located near metro station Letňany (free of charge OCL and T,E,S,O bus). In addition to famous brand shops this shopping mall offers its visitors cinema, aqua center and ice rink services.

**OC Chodov** - a huge shopping mall with hypermarket located slightly further away from the centre at metro station Chodov.

**Šestka** - new shopping mall just 1 station from the Prague Airport. Very far away from the center but ideal for last minute shopping before your departure. Take bus 119 from Dejvicka metro station.

**Palác Flora** - medium-sized shopping mall with IMAX cinema in the top floor. Tram/metro station Flora.

**OC Nový Smíchov** - big shopping mall with 2-floor Tesco hypermarket, a cinema, bunch of fast food on the top floor and very close to metro/tram station Anděl.

**Metropole Zličín** - medium-sized mall with a cinema, hypermarket Interspar, fast foods, huge parking lot and near the metro/bus station Zličín. If you are hungry after your flight, take a bus 100 from the airport to Zličín and then just walk few meters to this mall and buy something to eat.

## **7) Eating out in Prague**

**Restaurants, Cafes & Tearooms** : Czech Republic is no land for dieters or vegetarians. In Prague there are many kinds of restaurants and pubs, but we honestly recommend to try some traditional Czech cuisine and popular Czech beer such as **Pilsner Urquell**. In Malá Strana, Staré Město, Žižkov and Nusle there are hundreds of restaurants, bars and pubs. A few, not very expensive are listed below.

- **Novoměstský pivovar**/brewery – Czech traditional food, their own beer brewed in the house, possibility to arrange a short tour, Vodičkova Street
- **Bílá vrána** – Jagellonska 10, cheap and pleasant place not far from the hotel
- **U pomniku** – Czech traditional food, Gorazdova 1, not very far from the Dancing house
- **U Rudolfiny** – Křižovnická 10, close to the House of the Artists (Rudolfinum;-), supposedly the best Pilsner Urquell in Prague, good traditional food
- **Lehká hlava**/Clear Head – beautifully designed vegetarian restaurant at Boršov, close to the Charles Bridge. Reservations recommended, call 222220665
- **Druhejsvět**/The Second World – Mezibranská, close to Wenceslas Square, „modern“ Czech meals
- **BarBar** – Všešrdova 17, Kampa, great food, great interior design, fun place
- **Café Louvre** - 20 Národní Street, if you want to feel the Austro-Hungarian atmosphere, nice and inexpensive, great food
- **Kaaba** – Mánesova 20, Vinohrady, retro design café, close to National Museum
- **Radost FX** - for vegetarians, 120 Bělehradská, Vinohrady
- **Café Imperial** - Na Poříčí, close to Masaryk train station, wonderfully reconstructed, slightly pricey but worth the atmosphere
- **U Sudu** - expats' favourite bar at 10 Vodičkova Street, right off Wenceslas square, originally a wine place & cellar

- **Kozička** – popular bar in Kozí Street just off the Old Town Square, look for an iron goat in front of it;-)
- **La Casa Blue** – another popular bar, this time with Spanish/Latin American atmosphere
- **Blue Light Bar** – Josefská, close to Charles Bridge, a bar/cafe with great atmosphere
- **Taj Mahal** – Indian restaurant right behind the National Museum
- **Pravěk/Prehistory** - at 40 Na Bělidle Street, subway station Anděl
- **Limonádový Joe** – live Czech bands & old time djs daily, Kotva, Náměstí republiky
- **Dobrá čajovna/Good Tearoom** – Wenceslas Square 14, paradise for tea lovers
- **Čajovna u kostela/Tearoom** by the church, Strossmayerovo Square, spacious & offering sishas (waterpipes) as well
- **U zlatého kohouta/By the golden rooster** – Michalská, another pleasant tearoom
- **Vesmírna** – Ve Smečkách 5 (just off the Wenceslas sq.), cafe with mentally challenged staff. Very interesting experience!

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# ORTONA



The province of Chieti contains **Ortona**, a town founded by Frentani people for trading with the Greeks.

**Ortona** is a coastal town and municipality of the Province of Chieti in the Italian region of Abruzzo, with some 23,000 inhabitants.



Presentation of our town: Ortona

Ortona was the site of fierce fighting between the 1st Fallschirmjäger Division and the 1st Canadian Infantry Division during the Italian campaign in World War II. The ferocity of the Battle of Ortona led it to be known as the "Little Stalingrad".



Presentation of our town: Ortona



Ortona declined in the early Middle Ages and reflowered during the Swavian domination. In 1566 it was burnt down by the Turks and passed into the hand of Margareth of Austria, then to the Farnesi and the Bourbons. In December 1943, it was the site of a violent battle and suffered serious damages.

Presentation of our town: Ortona



*Italian civilians amid the ruins of Ortona December 1943*

Presentation of our town: Ortona



The Feast of Pardon is held on the 1st May each year with an historical procession.



Presentation of our town: Ortona

The **Passeggiata Orientale**, a promenade which dominates the port, faces the Adriatic sea.



The **Farnese Palace** was the residence of the duchess Margareth of Austria. Unfortunately she never lived in this building because she died before her residence was ultimated. It is situated in a small square called "Carbonaro" in the centre of Ortona and it has a beautiful view of the sea.

Presentation of our town: Ortona



The design of the palace was commissioned to *Giacomo Della Porta*, one of the most highly renowned architects in Rome. Each side of the building had 11 windows. Actually only one third of the imposing palace is left and it houses the *Cascella Art Gallery* and a museum.



The **Aragonese Castle** was erected in XV century to defend [Ortona](#) in the war against Venice, though it is believed by many scholars that its architect, *Giacomo Caldora*, had only to strengthen a more ancient fortress, instead of erecting a new one.

The basis of the castle is trapezoidal. It is featured by four cylindrical towers. Seriously damaged by the bombardments in 1943 and the following mudslide, today it has been completely restored. From the castle there are stunning views of the sea, the port of Ortona and the old fishermen's borough, where many fish restaurants, bar and pizzerias welcome the tourists to this remarkable historical and natural scenario.

A curio: the plants growing on the castle walls are capers, often used in Italian cuisine as a dressing or seasoning





**The church of St. Catherine** in Ortona was built in the XVII century, in the Baroque period. During the Second World War the little church suffered the bombardments but nowadays it is still intact. On the walls there are significant paintings by G.B. Spinelli. On the side there is a terrace reserved to the nuns to follow the religious celebrations.





The patron saint of Ortona is **Saint Thomas the Apostle** (Tommaso), whose relics are kept here. St. Thomas the Cathedral was built in 1258. It was reconstructed after the Second World War but the anterior part still presents a Gothic portal, which was recomposed from fragments. On the altar there is a ciborium containing a silver bust enclosing the saint's skull and bones.

Presentation of our town: Ortona



The **Moro River Canadian War Cemetery** lies in the locality of San Donato in Ortona and is situated on high ground near the sea just east of the main Adriatic coast road (SS16). It contains the graves of those who died during that fighting at Moro river and Ortona, and during the weeks that preceded and followed it. In December 1943 alone, the 1st Canadian Division suffered over 500 fatal battle casualties. Moro River Canadian War Cemetery contains 1,615 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War.

Presentation of our town: Ortona



The **Museum of the Battle**(MUBA) is located in Ortona in via Garibaldi, in the former convent of Sant'Anna which was seriously damaged during

Presentation of our town: Ortona

the battle of Ortona. Set up in 2002, it is made up of three exhibition rooms, dedicated to civilians, the two armies and the strategies used in the bloody battle.



**F.P. Tosti theatre** is an important and monumental construction for the town of Ortona. It opened its doors in 1930. After a decay period, it has now regained its ancient splendour thanks to a diligent and careful restoration work. Notwithstanding its small dimensions, the theatre is a stately building complying with the classic academicism that signed the constructions in the big European towns at that time.



Presentation of our town: Ortona



This is just a taste of our beautiful town,  
Ortona.....Thanks for your attention!!!!

Presentation of our town: Ortona



# *The Province of Chieti*

The province of Chieti is mostly a hilly and mountainous area between the Adriatic sea to the east and the Maiella chain to the north-west. It is extensively cultivated with olive trees and vineyards, and produces celebrated wines and extravirgin oliveoil.



The province of Chieti was called "Citeriore" since it was situated to the right of the Pescara river and was in Latin "citra" (this side) with reference to Naples, the capital of the Kingdom. The Pescara river separated it from the province of Teramo, the Apennine Mountains from the province of L'Aquila, the right shore of the Sangro and the Valicella of the Varrino from Molise. The territory includes mountainous features, the group of the Maiella, and 72 km of steep and rocky coast, along the Adriatic sea.

Presentation of our Province: Chieti



The **province of Chieti** (Italian: *provincia di Chieti*) is a province in the Abruzzo region of Italy. Its provincial capital is the city Chieti, which has a population of 53,163 inhabitants. The province has a total population of 392,763 inhabitants as of 2015 and spans an area of 2,599.58 square kilometres (1,003.70 sq mi), giving it a population density of 151.09 inhabitants per square kilometre. It is divided into 104 comuni (*comune*) Chieti's cathedral was first constructed during the 9th century but was reconstructed during the 13th century.

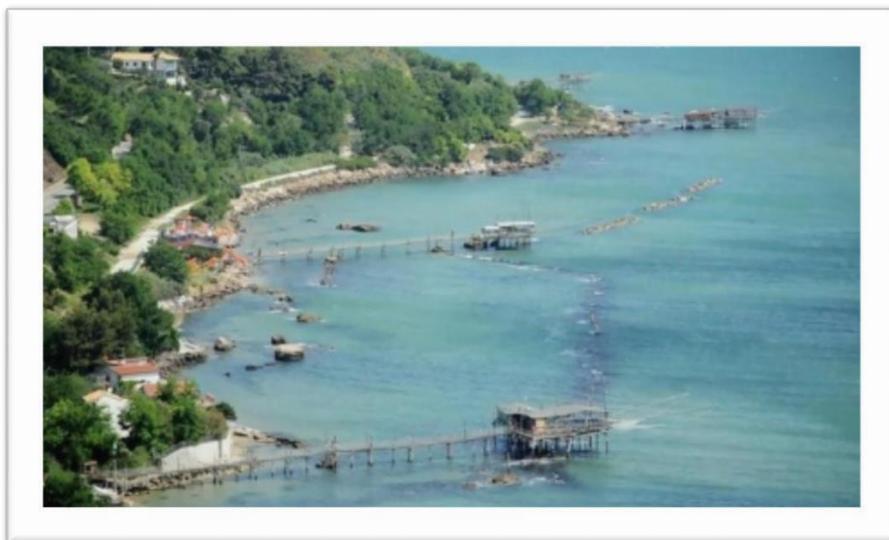


Presentation of our Province: Chieti

The Teatine coastline is called the **Costa dei Trabocchi** because of the *trabocchi*, picturesque wooden fishing installations that line the coast.



The shoreline is characterized by an alternation of low and sandy or pebbly beaches, and high, rocky cliffs that gently slope into the sea.



Presentation of our Province: Chieti

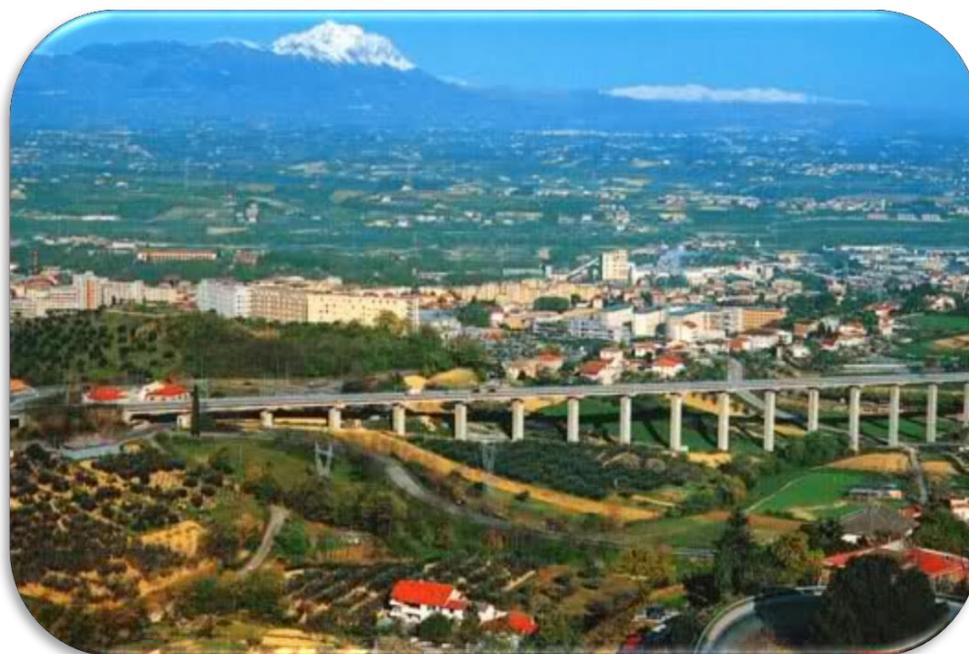


**Chieti** is the fourth municipality in Abruzzo for number of inhabitants, and over time it has been dominated by the Angioini family, the Aragonesi family and the French, in the 19th Century.

It stands on a hill that separates the Aterno-Pescara waters from those of Alento. The city consists of two parts: Chieti Alta (the higher part) including the old city center, and Chieti Scalo (the newest part), including the university campus.



Presentation of our Province: Chieti



Presentation of our Province: Chieti

The **Cathedral of San Giustino** is the largest and most important church in town.



Presentation of our Province: Chieti

The communal villa, a Neoclassical residence, hosts the **National Archaeological Museum of Abruzzo**.



It contains items from the area prior to Roman rule. When you arrive at the National Archaeological Museum in Chieti you can see in the most important room the "Capestrano Warrior".





The **Warrior of Castrano** is a tall limestone statue of a Picene warrior dated to around 6th century BC. The statue stands at around 2.09 m. It was discovered accidentally in 1934 by a labourer ploughing the field in the Italian town of Castrano. The statue has traces of pink paint and features a hat with a huge brim and a disk-type armor (kardiophylax) protecting the chest and back. The warrior bears a short sword, knife and

Presentation of our Province: Chieti

axe. He has also a defensive device known to the Greeks as *mitra* (a short apron covering the back), a wide belt, necklace and armlets.

A South Picene inscription incised on the pillar standing to the right of the warrior reads: "**Makupri koram opsút aninis rakinevíi pomp[úne]í**" ("Aninis had this statue made most excellently for Rakinewis, the Pomp[onian]").

The subsequent investigation showed that the vineyard where the statue was found was situated above an Iron Age cemetery. Together with the warrior, a female statue in civilian attire was found at the same site, the so-called Lady of Castrano.



Presentation of our Province: Chieti

The frescoes, paintings and ceramics at the **Museum of Art "Costantino Barbella,"** are housed inside the Martinelli-Bianchi Palace.



**Marrucino Theatre** is located in the historic centre of Chieti, in Cesare de Lollis street. After the unification of Italy, it changed its name from Real Saint Ferdinando Theatre into Marrucino, from the local Italic people. It was built up in early '800. Today it represents one of the historical buildings of the city, wherein Abruzzo's main lyrical and theatre events are held.







The **white** color in the coat of arms symbolizes the snow-capped peaks, the **green** reminds us the woods and hills of the region and the **blue** of the sea. The arrangement reflects the succession of mountains, hills and the sea, according to the natural evolution of the regional geomorphological.



## Presentation of our Region: Abruzzo

Located in central Italy, Abruzzo is easily reached from most parts of Italy, nonetheless remained at distance, a little withdrawn, for a long time, but little by little it is very rightly being rediscovered.



Presentation of our Region: Abruzzo



The region is divided into the four provinces of **L'Aquila**, **Chieti**, **Teramo**, and **Pescara**. Abruzzo borders the region of Marche to the north, Lazio to the west and south-west, Molise to the south-east, and the Adriatic Sea to the east.



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## THE LAND

Abruzzo is outlined by the Apennine Mountains. The mountains that run through the region include some of the highest peaks in the chain: both **Gran Sasso** and the **Maiella** group are over 8,000 ft high. The landscape

flattens as you move eastward towards the sea. Rather than mountains, you find soft hills, often covered by forests. Abruzzo was originally home to the Piceni population, who also occupied the southern part of the Marche.

Abruzzo was conquered by the Romans, who divided the territory into two parts. With the fall of the Empire, Abruzzo fell under the control of the Byzantines, the Lombards and the Franks. The region later became part of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies and was under the Norman domination when Emperor Frederick II united the area and founded the city of **L'Aquila**. During the successive battles between the French and the Spanish for control of the kingdom of Naples, until the unification of Italy, Abruzzo experienced a long period of unrest and emigration.

Abruzzo houses a good number of medieval towns and castles. Apart from the mountains, wild life and coastline of Abruzzo, visitors with a love for archeology flock to Abruzzo for these palaces and old towns.





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## THE FOOD

The gastronomic culture of Abruzzo is made up in large part by the influences of the surrounding regions, especially the Marche. Abruzzo, itself, is considered a frugal, pastoral place and the food is generally very simple and inexpensive. However, during times of celebration, the cooking becomes more elaborate.

**Maccheroni alla chitarra** is a classic first course in Abruzzo. Maccheroni are squared spaghetti-like noodles made from fresh pasta dough. The pasta is often served with a traditional lamb ragu cooked in a *catturo*, or copper pan, with onions and **peperoncino**, the ubiquitous dried chili pepper. In Abruzzo, you will also find **crepelle**, savory Italian crepes, stuffed and cooked in the oven with meat sauce or on the stovetop in a simmering broth. However, Abruzzo is famous for its excellent **dried pasta**, the best of which is made by local artisans.

When it comes to meat, **lamb** is often prepared using a recipe called **Cacio e uova**, meaning with **pecorino cheese and egg**, and the lamb intestines are used to stuff meat roll-ups.

The fish and seafood dishes are usually more fanciful than the meat. The recipes tend to rely less on tomato and more on peperoncino, especially in fish stews.

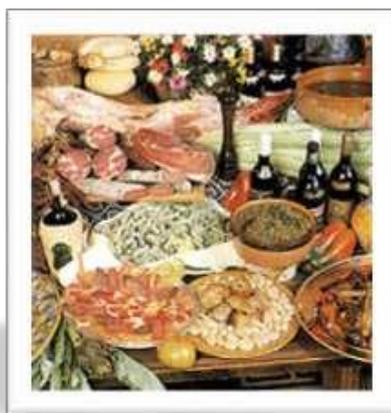
Abruzzo is also known for a number of unique, regional products. **Cicerchia**, or grass-pea, is a regional specialty, as are **truffles** and **saffron** from L'Aquila, **red garlic** from Sulmona and the **diavolillo peperoncino** that is used to flavor just about any dish. Abruzzo is also a big producer of **extra virgin olive oil**.

**Sheep's milk cheeses** dominate dairy production. **Caciocavallo** and **Scamorza** are two local favorites that can be found young and aged. **Ventricina** is a pork sausage found in both Abruzzo and Molise and stuffed into a casing made from pork stomach, rather than intestine. **Soppressate** and **mortadella** are also produced in Abruzzo, and should be eaten with a glass of local **Montepulciano d'Abruzzo or Trebbiano wine**.

Presentation of our Region: Abruzzo



Presentation of our Region: Abruzzo



Presentation of our Region: Abruzzo





# Romania



## *Cultural and historical landmarks*



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to  
Ramatia



## ***ROMANIA IN EUROPE***



**LOCATION:** Southeastern Central part of Europe, about **2900** km from Atlantic Ocean (West), the north extremity of the Scandinavian Peninsula and Ural Mountains (East).

**POPULATION:** 19,638,000 (2017 census). **CAPITAL:** Bucharest.

**FLAG:** Three vertical stripes (blue, yellow, red).

**LANGUAGE:** Romanian, just like Spanish and Italian, the only Latin speaking country from this corner of Europe:

**“An island of Latin, in a sea of Slavic peoples”**

**CURRENCY:** The Romanian Leu (RON).

**May 9, 1877:** represents **Independence Day** (the day when the independence was proclaimed and the modern Romanian state was born).

**December 1** is the **National Day of Romania**.

**The origins of the Romanian people and of the language go back to the ancient civilizations created by the Geto-Dacians and the Romans, who conquered the Geto-Dacians and their country (Dacia) in the year 106 A.D., so that:**

**«ROMANIANS are a people of Dacian-Roman origin, and the Romanian language is of Latin origin»**

# *Romanian historic regions*



**The Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic territory of Romania**, is divided into several cultural-historical regions, which differ from one another by some pronouns of pronunciation, traditions and habits, architecture and even specific cuisine.

There are also differences in the ethnic structure of the population within these regions, which is the consequence of different periods of foreign occupation in the course of history.

For example, in the central and Western part of Romania many inhabitants are of Hungarian and German origin. In the South-Eastern part of the territory (in Dobrogea) some of the inhabitants are Turkish / Tatar and even Greek.

In the last decades, citizens from the Republic of Moldova, also known as Bessarabians, have settled in Romania (permanently or temporarily) and. The strong presence of the roma ethnicity (Gypsies) within the Romanian population in all regions of the country should not be forgotten.



## **WALLACHIA**

*Land of the Vlachs or Walachs*, the ancient population of the area.

Situated north of the Lower Danube and south of the Southern Carpathians, is traditionally divided into two sections:

- *Muntenia* - Greater Wallachia, which united with Moldavia in 1859 to create modern Romania;
- *Oltenia* - Lesser Wallachia, the territory between the rivers Danube and Olt and

the Southern Carpathian became part of the Principality of Wallachia in the early 14th century.

Wallachia is characterized by a unique blend of historical and natural attractions. This part of Romania was influenced by the Byzantine, Ottoman and even Greek culture for most of its history until the 19th century. The occidental cultural impact accelerated at the beginning of the 20th century, being highly visible during the “*Belle Epoque*”, period of Bucharest when the monumental landmarks of the capital were built in a style that resembled substantially French architecture.

**Târgoviște** - formerly the Prince's residence)

**Bucharest- House of the People**  
(Palace of Parliament, today).

*Is the second largest administrative building for civilian use in the world, after the US Pentagon.*



## BANAT and CRIȘANA

The name **Banat** comes from the word *Ban*, the military leader of the region. **Crișana** is named after the three main rivers in the region: Crișul Alb, Crișul Negru and Crișul Repede. **Location:** The region bordered by the Mures rivers (to the south), Someș (to the north), the Apuseni Mountains (to the east) and the Hungarian border (to the west) became part of Romania in 1918.

The unique mix of architectural and cultural heritages in the history-rich provinces of **Crișana** and **Banat** stems from the fact that for centuries Romanians have lived here alongside *The Arad Fortress*

Germans (Swabs), Serbians and Hungarians (Magyars). The historical and folkloric regions Banat and Crișana, is remarkable through impressive historical and cultural objectives, some of them unique in the country.

The southwestern part of Romania known as **Banat** is a multi-cultural region that brings together Romanian, German, Hungarian and Serbian history in a modern EU context. **Timișoara**, the most important city in the region, was the first city in the world to adopt street lights (in 1884). Habsburg rule until 1918 introduced Art Nouveau architecture in Banat and established Timisoara as “the garden city.” Frequently referred to as “Little Vienna,” Timișoara has always been a progressive, cosmopolitan city. **In 2021, Timișoara will be the European capital of cultures** alongside the Novi Sad (Serbia) and Elefsina (Greece).

**The Bigăr waterfall,**  
named by The World Geography (2013),  
**“the most spectacular cascade in the world”**



**The Gorge of the Danube,**  
(the longest in Europe, 300 km) and  
**The bust of King Decebal,**  
(rock sculpture, 40 m. high)





## **TRANSYLVANIA**

### **Medieval History in the Heart of Romania**

*Location:* Central Romania, surrounded by the arc of the Carpathian mountain chain, Transylvania or “*the land beyond the forests*” has a tumultuous history that influenced considerably its development. Transylvania is the nucleus of the Dacian Kingdom of the past, and of Roman Dacia

after the year 106 A.D., after the administration of the Roman Empire in the north of the Danube. After the Romans abandoned the land, Transylvania witnessed various waves of migratory invasions. Starting with the 11th century its territory was gradually conquered by the neighboring Magyar tribes. Given its history, Transylvania is today a multicultural space. Transylvania's multi-ethnic heritage (including German and Hungarian) is delightfully apparent in the folk costumes, architecture, cuisine, music and festivals. Transylvania is home to some of Europe's best-preserved medieval towns. If the Hungarian influence is notable in cities like Cluj-Napoca, the Saxon heritage is dominant in the southern part of the region where the German colonists settled centuries ago, in Braşov, Sibiu, Sighişoara, Mediaş or Sebeş. Transylvania is home to nearly two hundred villages with **fortified churches** built by the

Saxons between the 13th and 15th centuries. Part of the historical cultural heritage of Transylvania is included in UNESCO World Heritage: seven medieval fortified churches of Transylvania; Historic Centre of Sighişoara.

Historical monuments of national and international value (included in the UNESCO Patrimony): “**the heart of the Dacian civilization**”–**Sarmizegetusa Regia**, the citadel of the seat of the Dacian kings. Dating from the 1st centuries B.C. and A.D the Dacian fortresses in Orăştie Mountains show an unusual fusion of military and religious architectural techniques and concepts from the classical world and the late European Iron Age.





## MARAMUREȘ

### *Wooden Architecture and Haystacks*

*Location:* Northern Romania, the area of Maramureș County. The mountainous region became part of Romania in 1918.

The abundance of wood in the surrounding Carpathian Mountains has ultimately shaped the culture of Maramures. Wood became a symbol of their life, belief and social status in the community.

The Maramureș area is considered to be the

most traditional region of Romania, as traditions and customs, as well the popular harbor, endowed with wonderful and secular wooden churches, eight of which are on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Unique in shape and ornamentation, they have characteristic high roofs and tall, narrow, pointed steeples, often collectively described as “the Gothic style of Maramures”.

Traditional houses were made of wood and the art of preparing and carving the raw material for their imposing wooden gates became an art transmitted from generation to generation. This is why only here you can admire wooden churches that still stand after centuries, rare testimonies of locals’ religious fervor.

The villages are bucolic, almost suffocated in the green landscape that surrounds them, with the tall belfries of their wooden churches and their slow-paced atmosphere.

The **Merry Cemetery** from the village of Săpânța (Maramureș), *it is famous for its colorful tombstones with naive paintings describing, in an original and poetic manner*, the people who are buried there as well as scenes from their lives. The Merry Cemetery became an open-air museum and a national tourist attraction.

The unusual feature of this cemetery is that it diverges from the prevalent belief, culturally shared within European societies – a belief that views death as something indelibly solemn. Residents of the settlement considered death a beginning, not a goal, and this faith is reflected in the sculptures of the Merry Cemetery





## **DOBROGEA**

### **Seaside, History and Rich Biodiversity**

The country of Dobrotici, after the name of the first leader of the region, Prince Dobrotitsa/Dobrotici.

Location: South-East Romania, between the Danube and the Black Sea.

Dobrogea is a small area on the Black Sea coast where you will find the youngest land in Europe and the third area of biodi-

versity in the world, the Danube Delta and some of the oldest mountains on the continent. Perhaps the most popular summer destination in Romania, Dobrogea offers tourists wonderful beach days on the Black Sea coast, the chance to admire the wonderful bird world of **the Danube Delta, the only one in the world included in the UNESCO Heritage.**

All of this adds the possibility of visiting ancient cities built by powerful merchants from ancient Greece thousands of years ago:

**Histria**, founded in 657 B.C., the oldest Greek settlement in Romania, today in ruins; **Callatis** (today's Mangalia); **Tomis** (today's Constanța), when, the Latin poet *Publius Ovidius Naso* was exiled, the real reasons not being known neither today.

The Roman Empire conquered the region nearly 2,000 years ago.

After centuries of independence, often under the influence of the Byzantine Empire, the region was finally conquered by the Ottoman Empire in the fifteenth century and remained under its domination until 1877 when it became part of the young Romanian state.



## **MOLDAVIA - Religious Fervor and Traditional Villages**

*Location:* Eastern Romania, between the Eastern Carpathians and the Prut River, Moldavia offers many authentic experiences, especially if you're interested in religious monuments and of the traditional countryside.

With a landscape dominated by hills and plateaus, Moldavia has mainly an agricultural landscape with renowned vineyards in its Eastern and Southern parts. Since medieval times, religion had an essential role in the life of local communities from Moldavia.

The local princes justified their power also through divine support, materialized through religious constructions, including the painted churches that became centuries later UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Less exposed to Western influences, Moldavia remained predominantly rural with strong Orthodox values up until the second part of the 19th century when a general process of modernization started in the Romanian historical provinces.

**IAȘI-** is the most important political, economic and cultural center of the province



of Moldova, as well as one of the oldest cities in Romania. Situated in the northeastern part of the country, Iași is for centuries the crossing point of the most important commercial routes connecting Poland, Hungary, Constantinople and Russia.

Deeply rooted in history, Iași was the main center of Moldovan culture in 1408, the year of the first certification of the name Iași, as a customs point. In 1565,

Iași became the capital of Moldavia and for a short period of time, from 1859 until 1862, the capital of Romania.

**Iași-cultural breeding ground:** the beginnings of higher education in Iași date from the reign of Vasile Lupu (1634-1653), a ruler who valued the culture and the teaching of the book among the people. In 1640, Prince Vasile Lupu established the **Vasilian College** (or **Academy**), as a “higher school for Latin and Slavonic languages”, it functioned on the model of the *Mohyla Academy in Kiev*, from where some of the professors came. The *Academia Vasiliană* was the first institute of higher education that functioned on the territory of Romania.

In 1835, the **Mihăilean Academy** was founded, with three faculties: Philosophy, Law and Theology, as well as two special courses, Polytechnic and Economics. The city boasts *the first Romanian modern University founded in 1861* by Alexandru Ioan Cuza, the first prince of the United United Principalities (January 24, 1859).

## **BUCOVINA** **“The country of beeches”**

The name comes from German, a direct reference to the vast forests that once covered this part of Romania. *Location:* northwest the province of Moldova, in Suceava County. Its culture, traditions and history work well together in creating an attractive space where past and present spirituality coexist. Spirituality as a means of religious expression reaches a distinct level here.



The religious heritage that is so present in Moldavia is equally visible here, but with an added twist of Byzantine interpretation and creativity. Moreover, Bucovina is an important ethnographic area of Romania, with particular traditions such as **Easter Eggs** painting and traditional villages that stand out as authentic open-air museums, emblematic of the cultural identity of this region. The region of Bucovina, is one the most spiri-

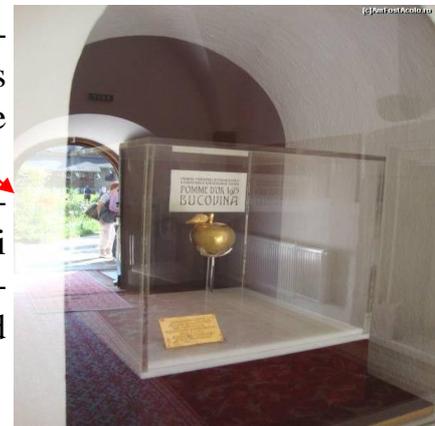
tual parts of Romania, home to one of the world's greatest art treasures: ***the UNESCO World heritage sites of the Painted Monasteries (seven)***.

Among this is Moldovita monastery, in which valuable museum, among the many exhibits is ***the Golden Apple***, a prize awarded by the International Association of Journalists in all five Moldovan monasteries, in recognition of the artistic and cultural value of the frescoes on the exterior walls.

Built in the 15th and 16th centuries and featuring colorful exterior frescoes depicting dramatic religious scenes, these richly decorated houses of worships are unique in the world.

Traditions are still alive in Bucovina. In the area between the towns of Gura Humorului and Vatra Dornei we find people who go to church in the old folk costume. Here we will find those who still keep their old habits:

- the craft of the (black) ceramics from Marginea;
- the decoration of the eggs;
- the decoration of the exterior walls of the motifs from the traditional folk harbor from Ciocănești (a village museum);
- the painting of wooden icons in Rădăuți and, many others left from the ancestors.





# IASI

*The cultural capital of Romania*

In the last 610 years, history, culture and religious life have determined the uniqueness of the city. Iasi boasts an impressive number of Orthodox churches, often called the "city of 100 churches", most hovering in the so-called **Golden Plate**.

With the Palace of Culture at one end and Unirii Square at the other, the Golden Plate is the nucleus of the city, around which the entire settlement has developed over the centuries and is distinguished by churches and palaces, parts of the multi-secular history of the locality.

### \* **Palace of Culture**

This imposing palace, built between 1906-1925, in flamboyant neogothic style, on the ruins of the former Royal Court of the medieval period (mentioned in documents dating back to 1434), has 298 rooms that house four important museums for the history and culture of the city.



**The Ethnographic Museum**, is one of the oldest and largest in the country. Developed in 16 rooms, the museum space covers every aspect of traditional Moldovan life, with agricultural and hunting instruments, wood, traditional ceramics, painted eggs and a good collection of textiles and carpets embroidered with bird and plant motifs. A single room features winter customs items, including masks representing the bear, goat and other characters of the traditional New Year celebrations. The wood car collection is impressive with oil presses and nineteenth-century wines.

**The Art Museum** - The art collection began with a set of oil paintings purchased at the Parisian auction in 1845. The official opening took place in 1860 at the Palace of the Old University and in 1955 the museum moved to its current location in the Palace of Culture. The four chambers dedicated to European art include paintings by Murillo, Philippe de Champaigne, Paolo Veronese, Ruben, Caesar. There is also an excellent collection of Romanian paintings from the 19th and 20th centuries, illustrating the rural life of Moldova and its landscape.

The collection of sculptures includes pieces by national artists such as: Oscar Han, Cornel Medrea, Ion Jalea and Ion Irimescu.

**History Museum of Moldova** - opened in 1955 and held in 19 rooms on the ground floor of the Palace of Culture, the museum comprises approximately 35,000 objects that stretch through the centuries from 70,000 B.C. until 1946. The famous exhibits of the ceramics Cucuteni, the testimony of the ancient dwelling on these lands (about 7000 years ago), are particularly noticeable.

The museum also owns the Voievozilor Hall, a gallery of medallion portraits describing the Moldovan sovereigns from the year 81 AD. in the Hohenzollern kings.

**The Science and Technology Museum** - broadcasters, television, recordings and shows will enjoy the exhibits exhibited in this museum. The last section contains a superb collection of musical instruments: unique Romanian music boxes, mechanical accordions and an automatic orchestra with three violins and a piano.



\* ***The Princely Church “St. Nicholas”***, is the oldest church in Iași was founded by Prince Stephen the Great, in 1492, near the Princely Court.

For four centuries, the church was the place where, the leaders of the country of Moldavia were enslaved, thus gaining the “royal” status. It was completely renovated by the French architect Andre Lecomte du Nouy between 1885 and 1897.

\* ***The Church of the “Three Hierarchs”***, was built in 1637 - 1639, during the time of Prince Vasile Lupu. The uniqueness of the church begins with its exterior covered by delicate and complex patterns carved in stone and spread over 30 strips.

This “stone embroidery” is a mix of Gothic,

Renaissance and Oriental Western motifs.

The legend says that the exterior was covered with gold, silver and lapis lazuli, but centuries ago, when the Ottoman Empire tried to conquer Moldova, the invaders laid the church in the fire and melted all the gold.

The original interior paintings were completed by the Russian artists sent to Iasi by the Tsar. In 1882, the frescoes were removed when the French architect Lecomte de Nouy set the redesign of the interior after several fires and six earthquakes that affected the structure. Original fragments of the

frescoes are kept in the Gothic Hall museum, located in a building near to the church.

***The church is a princely necropolis***, because, inside are the tombs of some historical personalities: the founder of the church **Vasile Lupu**, the ruler **Dimitrie**



**Cantemir** (the first Romanian elected member of the Berlin Academy at the beginning of the 18th century) and **Alexandru Ioan Cuza** (Prince of the United Principalities). In 1994, the church was reopened as a monastery.

**\* *The Metropolitan Cathedral***



Is a famous building erected in the XIXth century (1833-1886). Its foundations were laid on the same place where two older churches had once stood: the “White Church” (15th century) and the church of the Presentation of the Lord (17th century). Its form was inspired by the late Italian Renaissance style (Trinità dei Monti in particular), with Baroque elements dominating the interior and exterior decorative features. The cathedral was consecrated on 23 April 1887, in the presence of Carol I, the first king of Romania, and Queen Elisabeth. In 1889, the relics of **Saint Parascheva**, patron saint of Moldavia, were brought from Trei Ierarhi Monastery and continue to attract crowds of pilgrims, particularly on her feast day (October 14).

**\* *Roznovanu Palace Town Hall***

The building, built in 1832, in the Viennese neoclassical style, was built according to the plans of the architect Gustav Frey Wald. Its façade has been decorated with marble statues of mythological characters such as Diana and Apollo and is said to be larger than all the other villas in Iași. In 1891, the building,



became the headquarters of City Hall and a few years later it was transformed into a royal residence. Today, it is also the seat of the City Hall of Iași.

**\* *The National Theatre “Vasile Alecsandri”***



Built at the end of the 19th century, this is one of the most elegant buildings in Romania. The architects were Feller Viennese and Helmer, who later built the theaters in Cernăuți and Sofia. Richly decorated in French-eclectic style, the theater has one of the most splendid showrooms in the country. It has 1,000 seats and has very good acoustics.

### \* *The Old University of Iași*

The building belonged to several 18th century boyars. Gravely damaged during a fire in 1795, renovated later, it became the Ruler residence, until in 1806. The stone arch in front of the palace called *The Door of Hope*, dates back to to the period.

Today, the building, much more extensive, is the headquarters of the University of Medicine

and Pharmacy.

### \**The University* *“Alexandru Ioan Cuza”*

The main building of the university was built between 1893 and 1897 on the site of the Grand Theater in Copou, destroyed by a fire in the winter of 1888.

At the inauguration were present the crowned heads of Romania at that time, King Charles I and Queen Elisabeth.

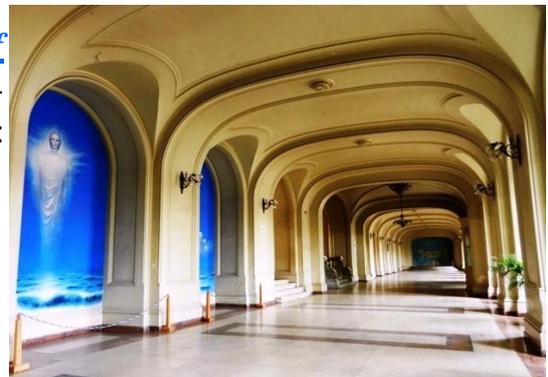
The University Hall, known as *The Hall of Lost Steps*, hosted numerous parliamentary debates between 1917 and 1918, when Iași was: ***The WAR CAPITAL OF ROMANIA.***

In the 1967 the renown painter **Sabin Bălășa** created a series of 19 extremely romantic frescoes dominated by blue for arcades.

He approaches various themes: the history of the Romanian people, the universal myths, the the Romanian legends and Eminescu’s universe, the university.

Nowadays, the University comprises 15 faculties with more than 23.000 students, almost 2000 doctoral students and 800 people in the academic staff.

The University has and a department of ***EUROPEAN STUDIES***





\* ***The Al. I. Cuza University Museum***, is the continuator of two museum traditions: *the Museum of Antiquities and the Academic Museum*, and aims to exploit its double heritage, given by academic vocation and archaeological research. Inaugurated in 2011 the museum is organized in two sections:

✓ the ***“Cucuteni Civilization Museum”***- displays the objects discovered during the archaeological researches carried out in the post-war period;

✓ the ***“Academic Museum”***- represents a significant part of the university's patrimony and various objects with special symbolic significance, the symbols of the University, decorations and various seals, such as the hammer and the trowel used at the solemnity of the foundation stone of the university palace (May 1893).

### \* ***The Copou Park***

Is the oldest public park in Iași. Its development started in 1834, under the reign of Mihail Sturdza, making the park one of the first public gardens in Romania and a Iași landmark. In its centre lies ***the Obelisk with Lions***. done according to the plans of the architect Gheorghe Asachi (respected man of culture of the 19th century in Iași), who translated in Romanian the opera "Norma" by Bellini. Exalted in 1834 (a 13.5 m), the monument was dedicated to the Organic Regulation, the first law on political, administrative and juridical organization in the Romanian Principalities.



Other landmarks include ***Eminescu's Linden Tree***, the Junimea Alley, the Mihai Eminescu Museum (Eminescu "THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN ROMANIAN POETRY", is the only Romanian writer included in UNESCO Heritage).

\* ***The Botanical Gardens - founded in 1856***, by the doctor and naturalist Anastasie Fătu, a great patriot and man of culture, **it is the first botanical garden in Romania.**



During that time, it had several locations, but in 1963 was moved to its present headquarters, on Copou Hill. With 100 hectares surface, the Botanical Garden in Iași includes the sector of green-houses (with wonderful collections of tropical plants, cactuses, orchids and carnivorous

plants), the roses garden (with over 800 species from all over the world), and recreational park with a lake.



**Interior**

### *\* The Assumption of Mary Church*

Completed in the 1763, it was the first church on the site, with the same dedication, was made of wood and known as the **Franciscans' Church**.

A 1753 document, issued during the reign of Prince Matei Ghica, noted that a Catholic church had stood in Iași since the founding of Moldavia (the end of the 14th century).

The Holy Place has suffered damage over time (some caused by fires, others by earthquakes).

In the second half of the nineteenth century, the church entered an extensive process of restoration (expansion and interior painting). 3 altars of white marble are brought, along with icons VIA CRUCIS and an organ, made in Austria, unique through the 21 sound registers. Built in the Baroque style, the church has a single cylindrical spire, tall and supple, above the entrance; this is also the bell tower. The exterior is plastered with stone dust, but has no special ornamentation. Currently it is the parish church.

### *\* The Our Lady Queen Cathedral*

It is the cathedral church of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Iași.

The new cathedral was built due to the insufficient capacity of the old cathedral of St. Mary. The new place of worship was given in the use of Catholic believers in November 2005.

It is an imposing building, with a modern architecture, of circular shape with a spacious interior: 38m in diameter. and the height of 11m. The roof has the shape of the dome, equipped with 24 ogivale windows, decorated with stained glass. The capacity is 1500 seats (ground floor and balconies) To heaven it rises a tower which has plummeted a marble cross (5 m height, with support).



## The Suceava County - BUCOVINA



\* **The Water Museum “Mihai Băcescu” from Falticeni**, represents a special achievement, including an impressive collection of the biologist and oceanographer *Mihai Băcescu* (1908-1999), made of aquatic flora and fauna: fish, corals, crustaceans gathered from three oceans, the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea, aquatic birds from Romania, molluscs and corals collection from the Red Sea, a

geographic globe with the earth shell relief.

The museum reconstructs the world of Romanian researchers: *Emil Racoviță* (born in Iași, the founder of the caving school and, the first Romanian which arrived at the South Pole at the end of the 19th century), *Grigore Antipa*, *Paul Bujor*, *Ion Boreca* and *Mihai Băcescu*, the exhibits highlighting the contribution of Romanian science in the field of hydrobiology. The dowry of the museum is fully enriched with a geographic globe (made by geography teacher Isac Neculai from Vadul Moldovei), unique in the world, by rendering on scale, along with the relief of the dry land, the configuration of the underwater relief.

A point of attraction is the **carriage**, a high value exhibit, executed by **Leon Comnino for 35 years only with using a pocket knife**, and exhibited in 1937 at the Universal Exhibition in Paris.



### \* **Voroneț Monastery**



Often referred to as the “**Sistine Chapel of the East**”, Voroneț Monastery was built in 1438 by the ruler of the Land of Moldavia, Stephen the Great. The exterior painting, famous around the world, gives Voroneț Monastery uniqueness. The fresco depicts the Last Judgment, painted, as in all churches, on the exterior façade. The blue paint that has miraculously never faded is known throughout the world as “**Voroneț blue**“. The artists here worked in isolation, guarding their trade secrets

and to this day, the composition of the paint remains a mystery.

Other painted churches not to be missed include Sucevița, with its distinctive greens, and Humor, where the frescoes are predominantly red.

Near is and other famous monasteries Arbore, Dragomirna, Moldovița and Putna.

## \* *The Museum of Decorated Eggs from Vama*



It is the largest museum of this type in Romania, being unique in the way of arranging and pre-exhibiting of all the exhibits.

The initiator of this private initiative is Mrs. Letitia Orsvichi, artisan and creator of most exhibits found in the museum. She has represented Romania at many international exhibitions, as she is very appreciated in her

line of work. The exhibition comprises a collection of 7000 decorated eggs, of which about 3500, of various sizes, come from 82 countries from 5 continents.

Decorating eggs is an old Easter tradition that was developed on Romanian soil with great craftsmanship. The museum comprises 3 sections:

- \* packed eggs from Bucovina (some 50 to 100 years old);
- \* eggs decorated from different regions of Romania;
- \* from different countries / continents of the world.

The exhibits are arranged on subjects such as:

- religious, floral, abstract, perforated eggs, egg with applications, etc.);
- various eggs: porcelain (Meissen, Sevres, Rosenthal, Bavaria, Reuter of Germany, Kutahya and Iznik from Turkey, Japanese Satsuma porcelain, porcelain Dutch of Delft, the English porcelain of Jasper, but also eggs worked in the Cloisonee technique);
- ceramics; • glass; • wood (teak, sandal, cork, ebony, olive, eucalyptus);
- stone and semiprecious stones (jade eggs, quartz of different colors, lapis lazuli, malachite, labradorite, azurite, etc.).

The collection comprises rare eggs, various decorations (emu, nandu, tinamu, turtle, crocodile, flamingo, but also very small eggs: gecko, partridge, sparrow, doves, doves, quail). Also it has eggs from pheasant, peacock, duck, goose, turkey, ostrich etc.



## \* *The Wood Art Museum*

Wood art is important in the Câmpulung Moldovenesc region, being a trade taught from ancient times and transmitted from generation to generation.

Inaugurated in 1936, it initially worked as an ethnography and natural science museum. In 1967 it became a wood art museum, with 20 exhibition halls and an open air section.

The Museum represents an evolution of wood working, from the simplest forms to the most complex ones, the objects fully showing the talent, but also the emotion and sentiments of the artists who were capable to create such beautiful objects.

The Wood Art Museum displays a large collection of wooden objects for daily use in a rural society. All objects show the love and care that went into making them. Some are real works of art.

The museum has over 15,000 wood items in its collection, most of them from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

It includes interior objects made of wood (furniture, tools and utensils for occupations and handicrafts), technical (manual and mechanical) equipment: oil presses, grape and other fruit hand press, hammer for baize, manual and water mills, cup wheels which transmit the force of water for gold stamp, as well as other complex installations.



Their most important piece is a wooden cart used for the transport of wine, an item that is over 400 years old.

The yard of the museum hosts a permanent exhibition – small open-air section highlighting two traditional houses from the 17th and 18th centuries, gates and household ancillary buildings made of wood, specific to the area. Generally, the exhibits date from the 18th – 19th centuries, creating an universe of the

tradition and making you proud to belong to such a talented, creative, innovating and sensitive people their.



# Romania's UnEsCo HERitagE



## 1. Churches of Moldavia (Bucovina)

The eight churches have external walls covered in authentic and particularly well preserved fresco paintings, representing complete cycles of religious themes, and being considered “master pieces inspired by Byzantine art”.

## 2. Dacian Fortresses of the Orăştie Mountains

An unusual fusion of military and religious architectural techniques and concepts.

Including:

- **Sarmizegetusa Regia**, the capital of the ancient province, Dacia;
- Costeşti-Blidaru Dacian fortress, the strongest of the Dacian Fortresses;
- Costeşti-Cetăuie Dacian fortress;
- Piatra Roşie Dacian fortress;
- Dacian fortress of Căpâlna.



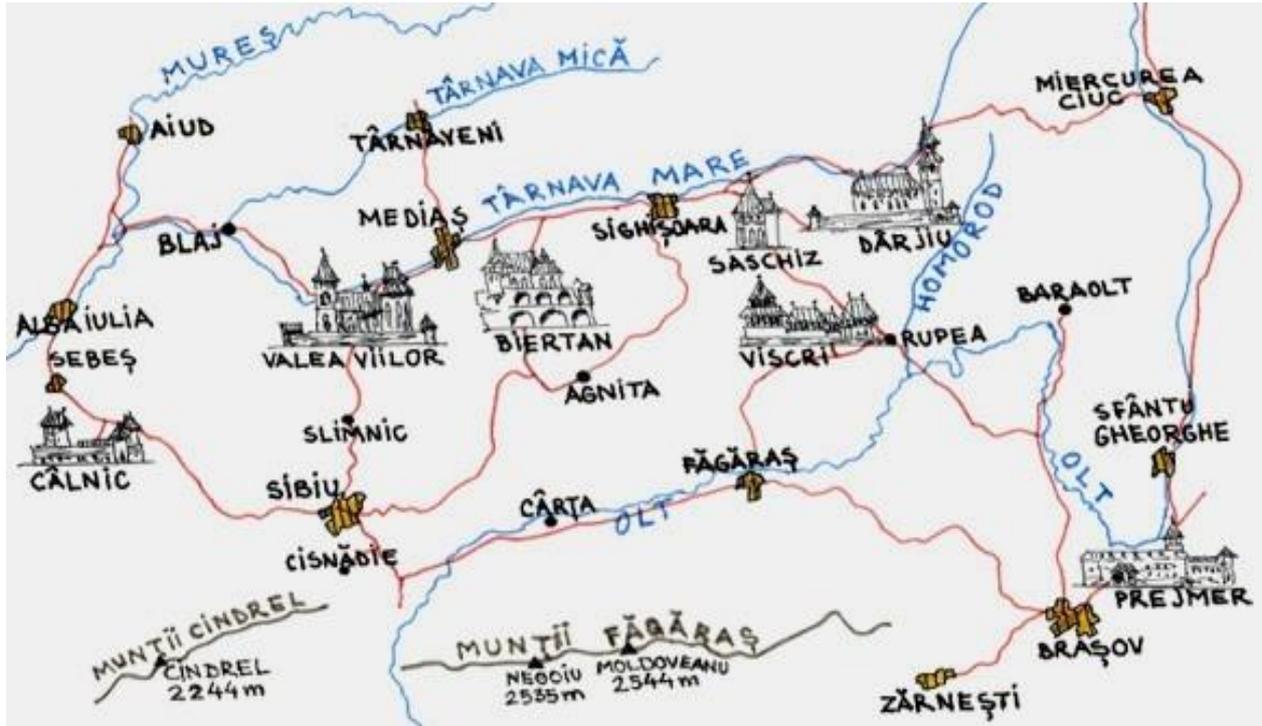
## 3. Historic Centre of Sighişoara



The old historic center of the town, built in the 12th century by Saxon colonists under the Latin name *Castrum Sex*. It is an inhabited medieval citadel that, in 1999, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its 850-year-old testament to the history and culture of the Transylvanian Saxons.

*Sighişoara* is a fine example: - of a small, **fortified medieval town** which played an important strategic and commercial role on the fringes of central Europe for several centuries; - a city in the border region between the Latin-oriented culture of central Europe and the Byzantine-Orthodox culture of south-eastern Europe, is outstanding testimony to the fast-disappearing culture of the Transylvanian Saxons.

#### 4. Villages with fortified churches in Transylvania



In the center of Romania, the south-east Transylvanian historical province, in the seven villages with Szekler and Saxon inhabitants, mainly, have the highest density of fortified churches, dating back to the 13th-16th centuries, well preserved, with a wide variety of architectural styles (from one original fortified church). Saxons are a population of German origin, colonized since the 12th century on the "royal lands" of Transylvania.

The fortified churches played both a religious role and a military role for more than five centuries. Today, there are 150 of the old number, forming one of the densest and best preserved medieval fortification systems on the European continent.



## 5. *Wooden churches of Maramureș*



Maramureș, the historical-geographic region of northern Romania, on the border with Ukraine, is one of the most famous areas of the Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic space, in terms of the unaltered traditions and customs of the Middle Ages.

The well-preserved wooden villages and churches, the traditional lifestyle and the popular costume, especially the female one, which is distinguished by the variety of colors, make Maramureș a special geographic space, looking like a live museum, well individualized at a European level.

The wooden churches in the region, which resisted over time, were built during the 17th-19th centuries, some of which were built on the site of older churches. The worship places were built of thick logs; the inside of many is small and dark, but there are many impressive measures.

Inside biblical scenes are painted, quite "naive", especially by local painters. The common feature of these churches is the high tower above the entrance and the massive roof that seems to lose the main body of the church.

On the UNESCO list there are eight Maramureș churches registered since 1999: Bârsana, Budești, Desești, Ieud, Plopiș, Poienile Izei, Rogoz, Șurdești.

## 6. *Horezu Monastery*

Horezu Monastery was founded in 1690, by Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu in the Horezu town of Wallachia. It is considered to be a masterpiece of the "Brâncovenesc style" known for its architectural purity and balance, the richness of its sculpted detail, its treatment of religious compositions, its votive portraits, and its painted decorative works.

*The Brâncovenesc style*, which can be found



at several other churches and monasteries in Wallachia, is the only true and original Romanian style and is called "Brancoveanu art" after the name of the ruler who, during a period of constant battles between the world powers of that time, put the cultural development of the country above everything and made it the goal of his life.



## 7. Danube Delta

“*the land of emerald*” from Romania

The Danube is the second river from Europe after the Volga (Russia), but the most important in Central-South-Eastern Europe. It is the only river in the world that crosses 10 countries and 4 capitals (Germany, Austria-Vienna, Slovakia-Bratislava, Hungary-Budapest, Croatia, Serbia-Belgrad, Romania, Bulgaria,

Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

When spilling into the Black Sea, the waters split and form the picturesque delta; its the second largest river delta in Europe, after the Volga Delta, and it’s the best preserved on the continent.

Surface area: approximate 4,152 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 3,446 km<sup>2</sup> in Romania.

In the shedding area in the Black Sea, the Danube waters split into three arms: (Chilia, Sulina and Sf. Gheorghe).

The Danube Delta falls within the Pannonian steppe ecosystem of Eastern Europe, with Mediterranean influences. As a young region in full process of consolidation, the Danube Delta represents a very favorable place for the development of highly diverse flora and fauna, unique in Europe, with numerous rare species.

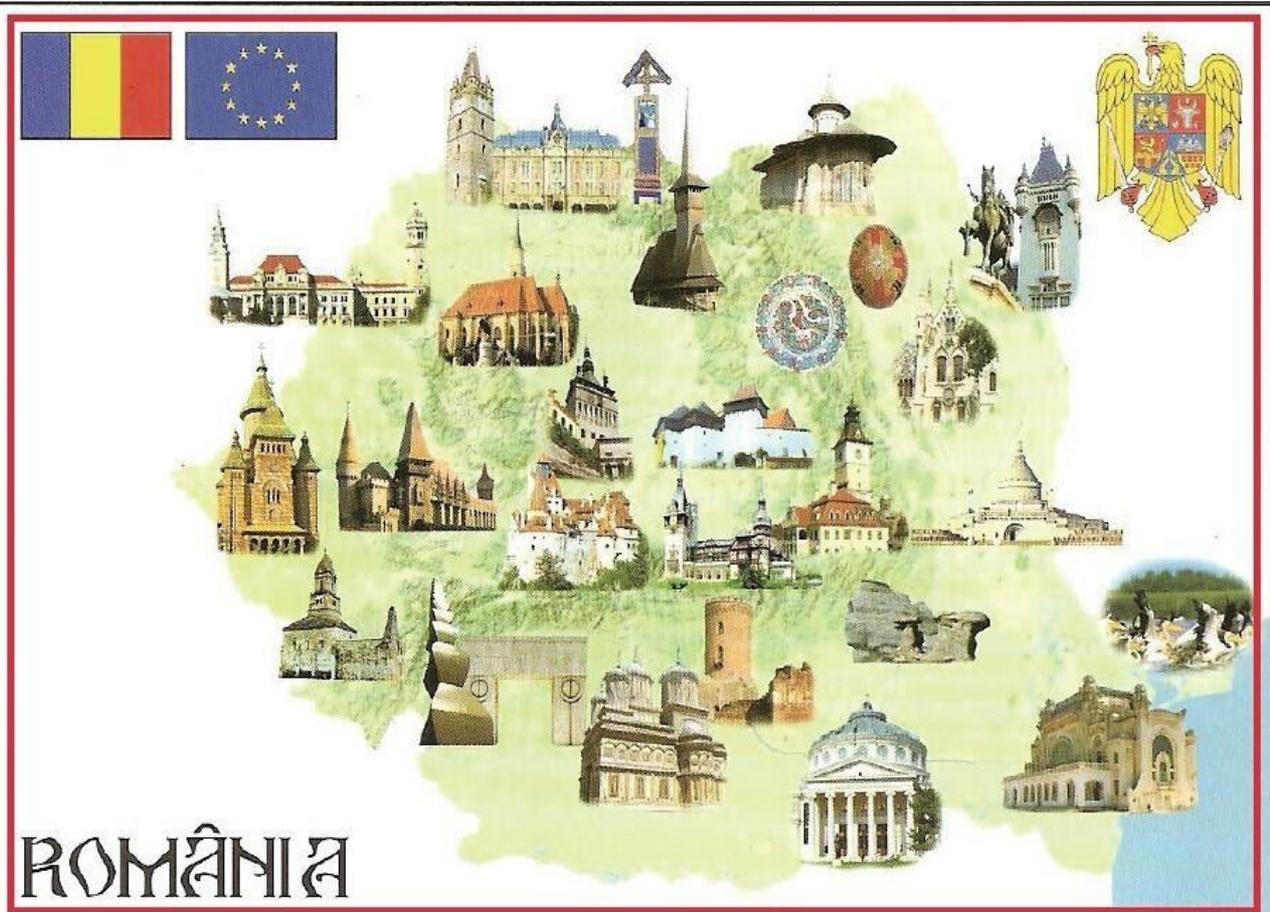
It hosts 23 natural ecosystems, but due to the extent of wetlands, an aquatic environment is prevalent; a terrestrial environment is also present on the higher grounds of the continental levees, where xerophile ecosystems have developed.

Situated on major migratory routes, and providing adequate conditions for nesting and hatching, the Danube Delta is a magnet for birds from six major ecoregions of the world, including the Mongolian, Arctic and Siberian regions. There are over 320 species of birds found in the delta during summer, of which 166 are hatching species and 159 are migratory. Over one million individual birds (swans, wild ducks, coots, etc.) winter here.

The vast stretch of water in the delta (87% of the total area, the rest being dry, 13%), offers favorable habitat and for 45 freshwater fish species in its numerous lakes and marshes.



# România



*I love  
Romania!*

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