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# A BRIEF TOURIST HANDBOOK ABOUT THE CZECH REPUBLIC

## PREPARED BY THE 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

**Time zone:** GMT+1

**Area:** 78 866 km2

**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 harbours:** Děčin, Prague, Ústí nad.Labem, **Airports:** 128 (2013).

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

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

**Government:** Unitery 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 1st – Restoration Day of the Independent Czech State, New Year's Day**
**Good Friday**
**Easter Monday**
**May 1st – Labour Day**
**May 8th – Liberation Day**
**July 5th – Saints Cyril and Methodius Day**
**July 6th - Jan Hus Day**
**September 28th - St. Wenceslas Day (Czech Statehood Day)**
**October 28th - Independent Czechoslovak State Day**
**November 17th - Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day**
**December 24th - Christmas Eve**
**December 25th - Christmas Day**
**December 26th - St. Stephen's Day**

# Languages

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 Kph, on towns and villages 50 Kph, and 130 Kph 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 night time and day time**

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

## Prague Information Centre

**Prague information service is an official tourist information compa**ny that provides all the necessary tourist information such 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** in their tourist information centres, which are located in various parts of the centre: 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,** 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. Accord to Fredegar, Samo, a Frankish merchant united the smaller tribes into one, that existed between 631 and 658.

The king **Samo**

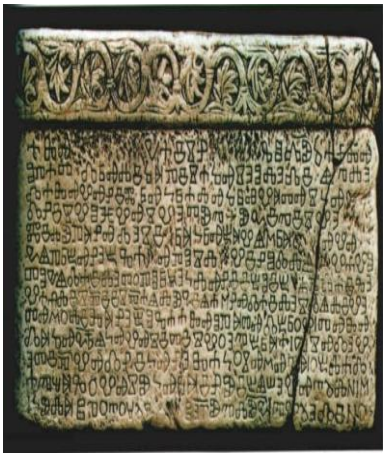
**Fredegar** (chronicle)

## Great Moravia

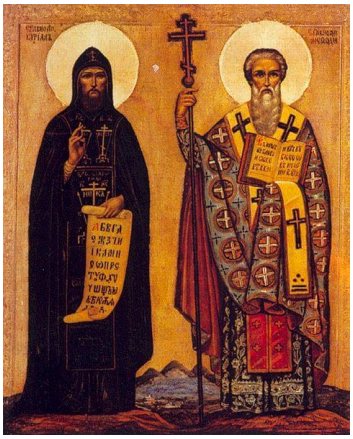
The first major state that was predominantly Slavonic occurred in the area of Central Europe. That stable state existed between 833-907

Typical **house**

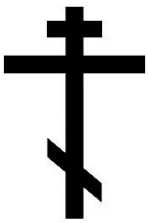
The king **Svatopluk**



**Hlaholice** (alphabet)
*



**Saints Cyril and Methodius***



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

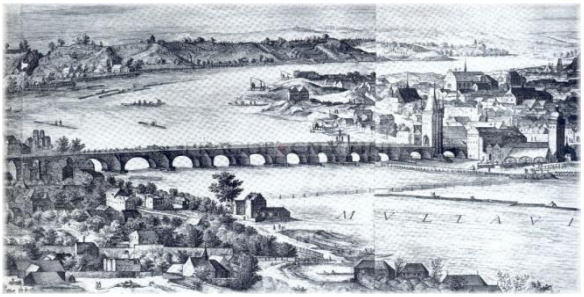
## Kingdom of Bohemia

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 then 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 it's 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 Tomáš Garrigue 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 Gottwald. In 1968, Army of the Warsaw treaty invaded 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.

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

**1)** End of the 5th and beginning of the 6th century - arrival of Slavs in present-day Moravia and Slovakia

**2)** Second half of the 9th century - arrival of Christian missionaries

**3)** 9th century - 1306 a gradual strengthening of the Czech state during the reign of the Přemyslid dynasty

**4)** 1346-1378 - the peak in the prestige and power of the kingdom of Bohemia during the reign of Charles IV

**5)** Beginning of the 15th century - a crisis of state leads to the Hussite movement

**6)** 1526 - the Habsburg dynasty succeeds to the throne of Bohemia - the formation of a multi-national empire

**7)** 1620 - the defeat of the Bohemian Estates at the Battle of White Mountain, continued centralization of the Habsburg Empire

**8)** 28.10.1918 - foundation of an independent state of Czechs and Slovaks

**9)** 15.3.1939 - 9.5.1945 - German occupation

**10)** February 1948 - Communist takeover

**11)** 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"

**12)** November 1989 - fall of the Communist regime

**13)** 1.1. 1993 Czech Republic was founded after the split of Czechoslovakia

**14)** 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 degree Celsius and continues till 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 it's 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 fuelling 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 Achengen Area

Škoda Auto is one of the largest car manufac-
turesrs 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.[84] 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.]

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)

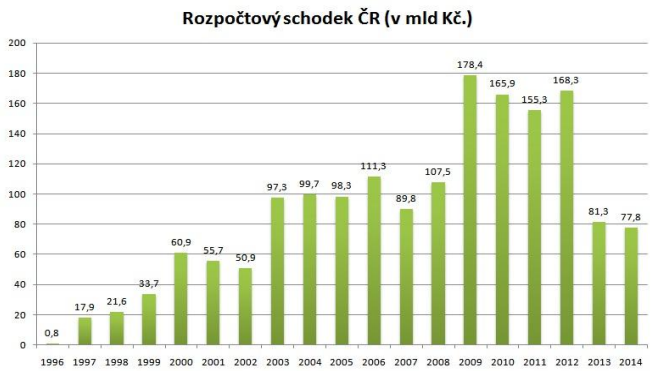
**Export partners:** Germany 31.7%, Slovakia 9%, Poland 6%, France 5%, UK 4.9%, Austria 4.6% (2013)

**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)



# 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, metal core, electronic, metal, pop, hip hop, world music and dub step. 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

### Signal fest

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

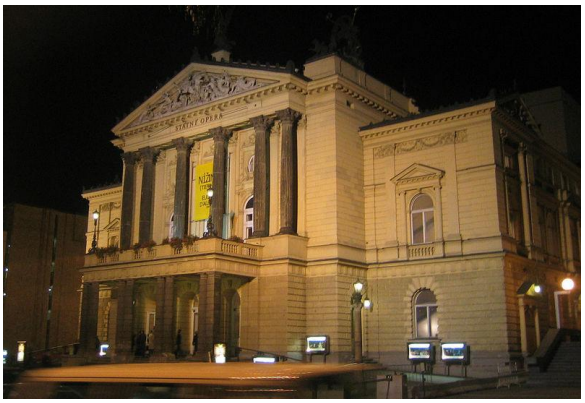
In Prague it is known as the alma mater of Czech opera, and as the national monument of Czech history and art. Nowadays the National Theater consists of tree artistic ensembles – opera, ballet and drama.

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 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 was known as the Prague State Opera. Currently it is home to approximately 300 performances a year.



# 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* provide 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 (M*aturita*) 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

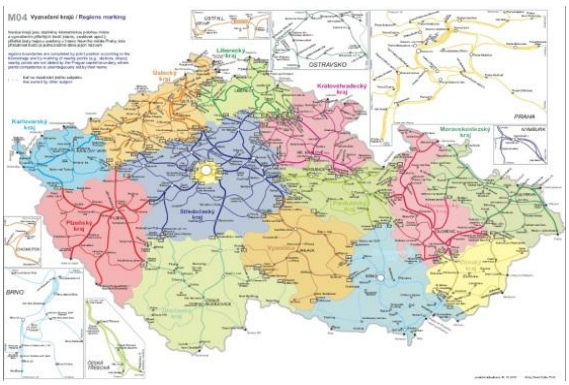
*** List of universities: http://www.agora.stm.it/university/ceco.htm**
*** Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic: http://www.cas.cz/**
*** Ministry of Education: http://www.msmt.cz/**
*** High Schools in Czech Republic: http://www.hiedu.cz/**
*** Universities:**
**- Charles University: http://www.cuni.cz/**
**- 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 kilometers of tracks for every 1,000 square kilometers 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 modernizations.

**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 of the construction of freeways, which the Czech Republic in 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 million 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.

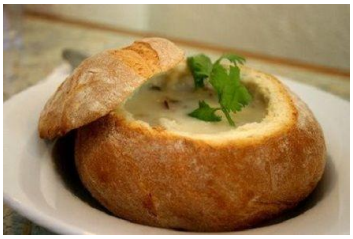
**Subway-** Subway is the rapid transit network of Prague. It was founded in 1974. Prague has three mutually linked subway lines (A – green, B – yellow, C – red), serving 61 stations (predominantly with island platform), and consists of a transit network 65.2 kilometres (40.5 mi) long. The Prague subway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

**Trams-** Prague's first horse car 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 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 is 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 Karlštějn is 30 kilometres away from Prague. It was established by the most famous Czech king and Roman emperor Charles IV in 14th 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 is a small city in the South Bohemian region of the Czech Republic. The historic centre of Český Krumlov is a UNESCO Wolrd 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 Herritage. 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 Trinty 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 Parkis 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
- **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 dialling 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 nubers :**

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, Ruzynì, 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.

**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 Mùstek or Muzeum). The trip takes about 45 minutes.

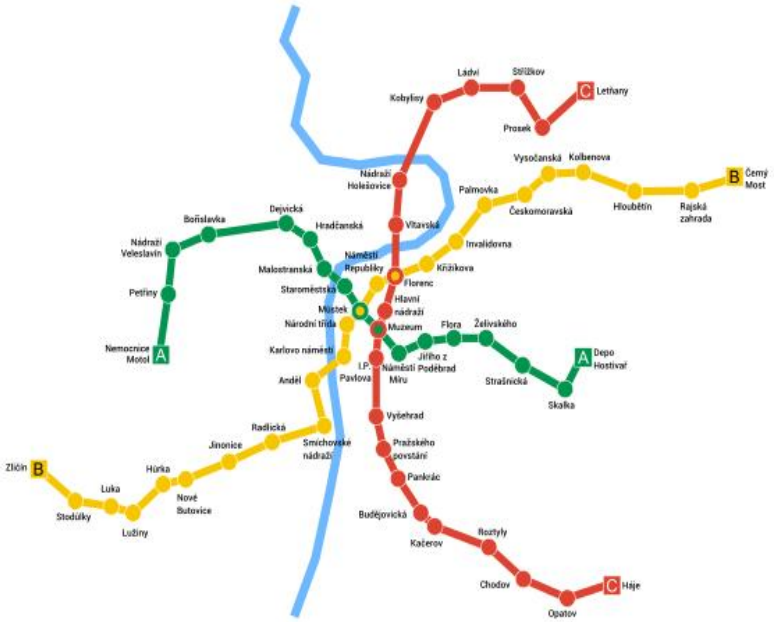
**Bus & Tram**
Bus No 100 will take you from the airport to Zličín – the underground terminal stop of the yellow line (B) that leads to the town centre (Mùstek station).
Catch night bus No 510 (between midnight and 3.30) to the tram-bound at Divoká Šárka, then go by tram No 51 to Dejvická metro station or further to the city centre (Námìstí Republiky, Wenceslas Square).

**Minibus**
There are Vans  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 except 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 transports 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 Dějvická. 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 or prague-spot.com or prague-hotels-site.com or prague-hotel.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

## 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.

## Camping's

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 newsstands, 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.

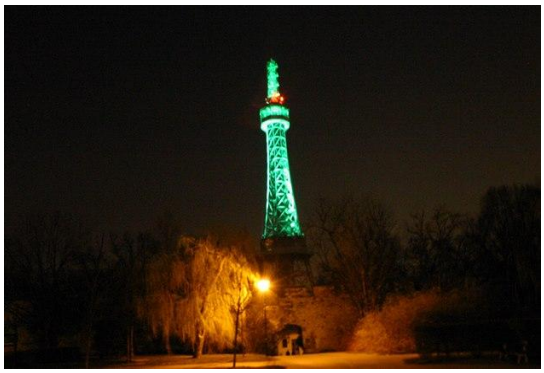
## International calls

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 are a huge number of different calling cards available. These allow you to make relatively cheap phone calls to a 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 H**orse-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 90s music)
- **Popo café petl** 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 Theatre** (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 neighbourhood 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 centre 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 centre 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.

# 8) 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 trying 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.

- **Novoměstký 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 Rudolfina** – 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
- **Druhej svět**/The Second World – Mezibranská, close to Wenceslas Square, „modern“ Czech meals
- **BarBar –** Všehrdova 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 –** life 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!