

Prague, Capital of the Czech Republic

Prague is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Its iniquely preserved historical centre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1992, reflects eleven centuries of history. This culturally rich city full of fabulous monuments charms visitors not only its impressive and diverse architecture and breath-taking views. Prague is a city of (not just classical) music and art, found here every step, a city of gardens and parks, and last but not least, a city where the best beer in the world is brewed and savored.

Basic Information About Prague

Capital of the Czech Republic (EU member since 2004): 1,243,000 residents

Currency: Czech koruna (CZK)

Airport: Václav Havel Airport Prague, 30 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

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

What You Need to Know

- The best source of information about Prague is www.prague.eu and Prague City Tourism information centres
- Prague is a city made for sightseeing by foot, but its beautiful historical cobblestones can be challenging for feet. Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes.
- Does walking tire you out or are you traveling with small children? Use the Ecotrain, take a ride in a vintage car/convertible, take the historical tram or carriage, or take a boat trip on the Vltava River. There are also guided tours of Prague on Segway or bicycle
- Prague city transport includes trams and the metro, as well as buses in the outskirts. If you plan to get around other than by foot, it pays to buy a travel pass for 1 or 3 days. Note that before your first trip, you must stamp the ticket in the ticket machine, otherwise you risk a fine.
- The Prague Card (2, 3 or 4 days) includes free access to 50 major tourist sites, as well as free use of public transport. You can buy it at any of our tourist information centres.
- It's easy to get by in Prague speaking English or German, but you can't go wrong with a sincere "Dobrý den" [doh-bree den] ("Hello!"). To say "thanks", say "děkuji" [dyeh-koo-yi].

Prague Highlights

Visitors from around the world are drawn to Prague by its unique symbiosis of carefully preserved monuments of all periods and styles, from Romanesque rotundas, Gothic cathedrals and Baroque churches, Renaissance palaces and gardens, to Art Nouveau, Cubist and purely modern buildings. The skyline is dominated by Prague Castle towering above the Vltava River, which in turn reflects the

city's landmarks, towers, church domes, palaces and houses, garden greenery and islands. Castle District (Hradčany) and Surrounding

Prague Castle (Pražský hrad) – Prague 1, www.hrad.cz

Prague Castle has been an important symbol of the Czech state for more than a thousand years. It was founded in the 9th century and became the seat of Czech rulers and later presidents. The castle, one of the largest complexes in the world, is made up of historical palaces, offices, church and fortification buildings, gardens, and picturesque spots, such as the famous Golden Lane. With the exception of the towers (Daliborka Tower, White Tower, Powder Tower, and the Great South Tower of the cathedral) and the castle ramparts in the Golden Lane, the visitor and exhibition areas are wheelchair accessible.

Cathedral of St. Vitus, St. Wenceslas and St. Adalbert (Katedrála sv. Víta, Václava a Vojtěcha). This Gothic cathedral, the spiritual symbol of the Czech state, was established in 1344 on the site of the original Romanesque rotunda. The construction took nearly 600 years and was finally completed in 1929. Its impressive interior is home to such wonders as the beauty fully decorated St. Wenceslas Chapel with the tomb of St. Wenceslas, the crypt where Czech kings are buried, and the Crown Chamber, where the Crown Jewels are kept.

Old Royal Palace (Starý královský palác) This palace was the seat of Bohemian princes and kings until the 16th century. It is built on the remains of the Romanesque Soběslav Palace. Most notable is the Gothic Vladislav Hall – the largest secular space of medieval Prague (1487–1500, Benedikt Rejt) with remarkable rib vaulting, today the venue for ceremonial state events.

St. George's Basilica (Bazilika sv. Jiří) The oldest preserved church building at Prague Castle and the bestpreserved example of Romanesque architecture in Bohemia. Built around the year 920 by Prince Vratislav I, rebuilt in the 12th century, it now has a Baroque façade from the 17th century. Of significance is the chapel of St. John of Nepomuk and the chapel of St. Ludmila, grandmother of St. Wenceslas, and the first Czech Christian martyr.

Chapel of the Holy Cross (Kaple sv. Kříže) Built from 1758 to 1763 by architect Anselmo Lurago, the chapel was rebuilt in the mid-19th century in the Classicist style. It is often also called the Treasury – in the early 1960s, it was turned into an exhibition space displaying the rarest objects of the St. Vitus treasure, which contains 139 reliquaries and liturgical objects of high historic and artistic value.

Golden Lane (Zlatá ulička) These small houses were built into the castle's Gothic fortifications. Castle marksmen and artisans lived here during the 16th century. Franz Kafka lived and worked in house no. 22 from 1916 to 1917. In 2010, the Golden Lane underwent a comprehensive renovation.

Prague Castle Picture Gallery (Obrazárna Pražského hradu) Built in the 1960s on the site of the former stables. The collection consists of works from the remains of the "Rudolfian" collections and from later periods (old German and Dutch Renaissance masters, the Italian Renaissance and Mannerism, Baroque art).

Royal Summer Palace of Queen Anne (Letohrádek královny Anny) The purest example of Renaissance architecture in Prague, dating from 1538 to 1560, designed by Paolo della Stella, completed by the architect Bonifaz Wohlmut. In the garden, you can find the Singing Fountain, made from bell metal struck by falling drops of water, the work of Tomáš Jaroš (1564–1568). Exhibition hall.

Lobkowicz Palace (Lobkowiczký palác) – Jiřská 3, Prague 1, www.lobkowicz.cz The Lobkowicz Palace, the only privately owned building in the Prague Castle complex, houses a museum with the Lobkowicz family art collections. These are the largest and oldest family-owned art collections in the Czech Republic and contain paintings by worldfamous painters, as well as music instruments and manuscripts of important composers of the 17th–19th centuries, including Beethoven and Mozart. Classical music concerts are held in the palace's beautiful concert hall; the complex includes a café and gallery shop.

Loreto – Loretánské náměstí 7, Prague 1, www.loreta.cz A Marian pilgrimage site with a replica of the Holy House and the Baroque Church of the Nativity, surrounded by cloisters and chapels. In the tower there is a 27-bell carillon that plays the Loretan Marian song "A Thousand Times We Greet Thee" (every hour from 9:00 to 18:00). The Loreto Treasury houses a rare collection of liturgical objects from the 16th–18th centuries, the most famous of which is the "Prague Sun", a monstrance encrusted with 6,222 diamonds.

Strahov Monastery (Strahovský klášter) – Strahovské nádvoří 1, Prague 1, www.strahovskyclaster.cz This Premonstratensian monastery was founded in 1140. The complex includes the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1743–1752); the unique Strahov Library with a number of rare medieval manuscripts, maps and globes; the Baroque Theological Hall (1671–1679); the Classical Philosophy Hall (1785–1794) decorated with frescoes; and the Strahov Gallery, one of the most important collections of Gothic painting, Rudolfian arts, and Baroque and Rococo painting.

Petřín Lookout Tower (Petřínská rozhledna) – Petřín Park, Prague 1, www.muzeumprahy.cz The Petřín Lookout Tower, one of the most prominent landmarks of Prague, was built as part of the Jubilee Exhibition in 1891 as a free copy of the Eiffel Tower (at a ratio of 1:5). It is 63.5 metres high and 299 steps lead to its top, which is at the same altitude as the real Eiffel Tower. The view from it overlooks not only the whole city, but on a clear day you can see nearly all of Bohemia.

Charles Bridge (Karlův most) – Malá Strana, Staré Město, Prague 1, www.prague.eu Prague's oldest bridge was built to replace the Judith Bridge that had been badly damaged by floods in 1342. The Stone, or Prague, Bridge, called Charles Bridge since 1870, was begun in 1357 by Charles IV and was completed in 1402. The bridge is built of sandstone blocks, flanked at each end by fortified towers (Lesser Town Bridge Towers, Old Town Bridge Tower). From 1683 to 1928, thirty statues of saints were carved to decorate the bridge, the most famous of which is the statue of St. John of Nepomuk

Lesser Town Bridge Towers (Malostranské mostecké věže) – Malá Strana, Prague 1, www.muzeumprahy.cz The smaller tower is Romanesque, dating from the 12th century; its current Renaissance appearance dates to 1591. The late Gothic taller tower, from 1464, is based on the architecture of Parlář's Old Town Bridge Tower. The central gate was built in the early 15th century.

Old Town Bridge Tower (Staroměstská mostecká věž) – Staré Město, Prague 1, www.muzeumprahy.cz The entrance gate to Charles Bridge from the Old Town, the most beautiful Gothic gateway in Europe, was completed before 1380. Its rich sculptural decoration includes the symbols of the Czech Crown Lands at the time of the reign of Charles IV, statues of St. Vitus, Charles IV, Wenceslas IV, St. Adalbert and St. Sigismund.

Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí) – Staré Město, Prague 1, www.prague.eu The most significant square of historical Prague. It was founded in the 12th century and has witnessed many historic events. In addition to the Old Town Hall and the Church of Our Lady before Týn, the square is dominated by the Baroque church of St. Nicholas; the Rococo Kinský Palace (now National Gallery offices and exhibition spaces); the House at the Stone Bell (a Gothic palace from the 14th century,

today a concert and exhibition space of the City Gallery Prague); and the Jan Hus Memorial by Ladislav Šaloun (1915). In the pavement of the square there are memorial stones marking the execution of 27 Czech lords (June 21, 1621) and the Prague meridian. Old Town Hall and the Astronomical Clock (Staroměstská radnice s orlojem) – Staroměstské náměstí 1, Prague 1, www.staromestskaradnicepraha.cz The Town Hall was established in 1338 as the seat of the Old Town administration. The oldest part of the complex, consisting of Gothic towers, a bay chapel and rich symbolic décor, dates from the 2nd half of the 14th century. Every hour between 9:00 and 23:00, twelve apostles appear on the famous 15th century Astronomical Clock; below the clock is a calendar featuring the signs of the zodiac painted by Josef Mánes (1865). The eastern wing of the Town Hall was destroyed on May 8, 1945, and has not been rebuilt. Disabled access is available up to the gallery hall tower; the halls are not wheelchair accessible.

Cathedral of Our Lady before Týn (Chrám Matky Boží před Týnem) – Staroměstské náměstí 604/14, Prague 1, www.prague.eu The most impressive Gothic religious building in Prague, built from the mid-14th century to the early 16th century. At the end of the 17th century the interior was rebuilt in Baroque style. The cathedral is an extensive gallery of Gothic, Renaissance and early Baroque works, the most interesting of which are, among others, a giant altar by Karel Škréta and the tomb of astronomer Tycho Brahe. The organ, dating from 1673, is the oldest in Prague.

Powder Tower (Prašná brána) – Na Příkopě, Prague 1, www.muzeumprahy.cz Completed in 1475, this monumental entrance gate, through which coronation processions of Czech kings entered the Old Town, is one of the most significant monuments of late Gothic architecture in Prague. The Powder Tower, which formerly served as a gunpowder store, is still the starting point for the Coronation, or Royal, Route to Prague Castle.

Municipal House (Obecní dům) – náměstí Republiky 5, Prague 1, www.obecnidum.cz This Art Nouveau building, built from 1905 to 1911, is an example of unprecedented artistic and craft skills and quality. Its rich exterior and interior decorations are the work of Alfons Mucha, Max Švabinský, J. V. Myslbek, and others. The monumental Smetana Hall dominates the stunning interior, which features a plethora of charming lounges and halls; its unique Art Nouveau decorations are ubiquitous – in the café, the French and Pilsener restaurants, and the American bar, the second oldest bar in Europe. Guided tours several times a day – see www.obecnidum.cz for the current schedule.

House of the Black Madonna (Dům U Černé Matky Boží) – Ovocný trh 19, Prague 1, www.prague.eu This magnum opus of Czech Cubist architecture was built from 1911 to 1912 by Czech architect Josef Gočár. It is exceptional not only for its façade, but also for its Cubist floor plan and in particular the penetration of Cubism into the interior of the house, where you'll find the only Cubist café in the world.

Rudolfinum – Alšovo nábřeží 12, Prague 1, www.ceskafilharmonie.cz This world-famous concert hall is home of the Czech Philharmonic, which performed here for the first time in 1896 under the baton of Antonín Dvořák. The neo-Renaissance building was constructed from 1876 to 1884. The main hall – Dvořák Hall – is the venue for exceptional concerts of classical music, especially the Prague Spring music festival.

Josefov – Prague Jewish Town (Židovské Město) – Prague 1, www.prague.eu Founded in the 13th century, its present appearance is largely the result of an extensive reconstruction from 1893 to 1913 that managed to save only a few of the most important monuments from the centuries-long history of Prague Jews. Nevertheless, it is the best-preserved complex of Jewish monuments in Europe. With the exception of the Old-New Synagogue, the area is administered by the Jewish Museum.

Old-New Synagogue (Staronová synagoga) – Červená 2, Prague 1, www.synagogue.cz One of the oldest and most valuable European and world Jewish monuments, and the oldest synagogue in Central Europe. The early Gothic building dates from the end of the 13th century with rich stonework and antique furnishings (wrought iron Gothic grille and chandeliers). Today it is the main synagogue of the Jewish community in Prague.

The Jewish Museum – booking centre – U Starého hřbitova 3a, Prague 1, www.jewishmuseum.cz Old Jewish Cemetery (Starý židovský hřbitov) – Široká 3, Prague 1 Built in the first half of the 15th century, it served as a burial ground until 1787. Among the 12,000 Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque tombstones are the tombs of Rabbi Judah Loew (1609) and Mordechai Maisel (1601). Synagogues maintained by the Jewish Museum: Spanish (Španělská, Věžeňská 1), Klausen (Klausová, U Starého hřbitova 3a), Maisel (Maiselova, Maiselova 10), Pinkas (Pinkasova, Široká 3), and the Ceremonial Hall (Obřadní síň, U Starého hřbitova 3a). Exhibitions in these buildings offer insight into Jewish history and tradition.

Jerusalem (Jubilee) Synagogue (Jeruzalémská (Jubilejní) synagoga) – Jeruzalémská 1310/7, Prague 1, www.synagogue.cz The newest and largest synagogue of the Jewish community in Prague is an interesting example of Art Nouveau melded with Moorish style. Its interior is richly painted in Art Nouveau style, and is unlike any other synagogue in the world.

Wenceslas Square (Václavské náměstí) – Prague 1, www.prague.eu The commercial and administrative centre of the city and the site of important social and historic events. It was created during the founding of New Town by Charles IV in 1348. Today the square is dominated by the National Museum (1885–1891) and the statue of St. Wenceslas from 1912, the work of J. V. Myslbek.

New Town Hall (Novoměstská radnice) – Karlovo náměstí 23, Prague 2, www.novomestskaradnice.cz A complex of Gothic buildings from the turn of the 15th century, rebuilt in Renaissance style in the 16th century. It includes a tower with a chapel of the Virgin Mary, two Gothic halls with ribbed vaults, and a Renaissance hall. Seat of the New Town administration from 1377 to 1784. Site of the defenestration of Prague Hussites by Catholic aldermen on July 30, 1419, which started the Hussite Revolution.

Jindřišská Tower (Jindřišská věž) – Jindřišská St., Prague 1, www.jindrisskavez.cz This tower from the Gothic period (1472–1476) was built as a separate bell tower modelled after an Italian campanile. The tallest freestanding bell tower in Prague, it is 66 m high and has a total of ten floors. In addition to the views of the city from the small corner towers, the tower itself features a café, a restaurant, and the Museum of Prague Towers.

Vyšehrad – V Pevnosti 159/5b, Prague 2, www.praha-vysehrad.cz According to ancient legends, Vyšehrad is the oldest seat of Bohemian princes, but in fact, the local settlement was established later than Prague Castle – about the mid-10th century. Situated on a rocky promontory above the Vltava River, it offers unique views of the city, and the park area is home to hidden architectural treasures including the rare Romanesque rotunda of St. Martin from the 11th century, the neo-Gothic Church of Sts. Peter and Paul, built on medieval foundations; the national cemetery, where Antonín Dvořák and other notable personalities were laid to rest; and underground casemates housing the originals of some Baroque statues from the Charles Bridge. The grounds of Vyšehrad are open throughout the day.

The Dancing Building (Tančící dům) – Jiráskovo náměstí 6 / Rašínovo nábřeží 80, Prague 2, www.tancici-dum.cz This pillar of modern architecture in Prague “danced” onto the Rašínovo Embankment in 1996. The project comes from the drawing board of world-renowned architects

Vlado Milunić and Frank O. Gehry. Its concept was inspired by the dance skills of the famous film couple – the stone tower symbolizes Fred Astaire and the glass tower, his partner Ginger Rogers.

New Jewish Cemetery (Nový židovský hřbitov) – Izraelská 1, Prague 3, www.synagogue.cz This cemetery, with countless artistically valuable tombstones, was founded in 1890. Of greatest interest is the 1985 Memorial of Czechoslovak Jews who perished in the Shoah and the Resistance. Another popular sight is the tomb of writer Franz Kafka and his parents.

Prague Gardens and Scenic Views

Right in the centre of busy Prague, you can find peaceful oases of greenery – beautifully cultivated, architecturally interesting gardens that not only offer beautiful views of the city, but also quiet places to relax and unwind.

The Botanical Gardens and the **zoo** are also popular places for walks in unique natural settings.

Prague Castle Gardens (Zahrady Pražského hradu) – Prague Castle, Prague 1, www.hrad.cz

The Royal Gardens are historically the most valuable of all the castle gardens. Founded in 1534 by Ferdinand I Habsburg, they were inspired by Italian designs; the gardens' current appearance is the result of their adaptation in the English style in the 19th century. One of the most beautiful fountains in Renaissance Europe, the Singing Fountain, can be found here. The southern gardens (Rajská, Na Valech and Hartigovská) spreading along the southern façade of Prague Castle offer striking views of the Lesser Town, Old Town and nearby Petřín.

Palatial Gardens below Prague Castle (Palácové zahrady pod Pražským hradem) – Valdštejnská 12–14, Prague 1, www.palacove-zahrady.cz This complex of interconnected historical gardens (Ledeburská, Malá and Velká Pálffyovská, Kolovratská and Malá Fürstenberská) is situated on the southern slopes below Prague Castle. You can admire balustraded terraces adorned with sculptures, secret staircases and passages, numerous fountains, and impressive Baroque flowerbeds.

Wallenstein Garden (Valdštejnská zahrada) – Letenská St., Prague 1, www.senat.cz This strictly geometrically designed early Baroque garden was created in parallel with the construction of the Wallenstein Palace from 1623 to 1629. Upon entering, your gaze will immediately be drawn to the colossal sala terrena, which at the time of its construction was unmatched, and an artificial cave with stalactites. During the summer, the garden is the venue for concerts and theatrical performances.

Vrtba Garden (Vrtbovská zahrada) – Karmelitská 25, Prague 1, www.vrtbovska.cz One of the most important and most beautiful Baroque gardens thanks to a clever solution by František Maximilián Kaňka around 1720. It's one of the city's smaller gardens, but its unique architectural design on an irregular slope as well as the artistic and historical value of its decoration ranks it high in importance in Europe.

Petřín Hill is one of the largest urban green areas and its slopes are an oasis of calm in the centre of Prague. The Rose Garden, or rosarium, at the top of Petřín Hill, the Kinský Garden and the Seminary Garden with more than 2,100 fruit trees are particularly magical. The Carpathian wooden Church of the Archangel Michael is a local architectural rarity.

City Views Prague towers and other points of interest offer unforgettable views of the city:

Smetanovo Embankment – Novotného lávka • Old Town Hall Tower • Powder Tower • Clementinum Tower • Old Town Bridge Tower • Prague Castle ramp at Hradčanské Square • Petřín Lookout Tower • Letná Parks • Belfry of St. Nicholas Church • Žižkov TV Tower • Vyšehrad • South Gardens of Prague Castle

Culture in Prague

The inspirational contemporary atmosphere of Prague has undoubtedly imprinted itself onto its cultural life. You can enjoy world-famous as well as completely new artwork in a multitude of galleries, rare museum exhibits, ear-pleasing operatic arias and the spontaneous mood of jazz evenings ... or simply dance the night away in one of Prague's clubs. We have concocted a blend of cultural tips that will reliably satisfy even the most refined artistic expectations.

Important Contacts and Information

Prague is not a dangerous city, but it's better to be safe than sorry. The security situation in Prague is at the standard level of other European cities. Nevertheless, please take heed of the following:

- store valuables and larger amounts of cash in your hotel safe
- change money in banks, never on the street
- to get cash, use bank machines with a bank logo or the Travelex logo
- in tourist hotspots and on public transport, pay close attention to your documents, credit cards, handbags, cameras, etc.
- park your car in secure parking lots and never leave valuables in your car
- note: in public places it is forbidden to consume alcoholic beverages

Emergency calls in the Czech Republic:

150 – Fire Department

155 – Ambulance

156 – Metropolitan Police

158 – Czech Police

112 – Universal European emergency number Access to these telephone numbers is free.

Transportation Public transport Prague has an extensive, well-functioning public transportation network; its central axis is formed of three underground lines (color-coded and labelled A, B and C), plus trams, buses, ferries and the Petřín funicular. The metro operates daily from 5:00 to 24:00. Night service is provided by trams and buses.

Prague Public Transport Fares Travelling by public transport is only possible with a valid ticket. Passengers must obtain a ticket prior to boarding the vehicle or before entering the paid area of the metro station.

FARES

Single tickets ticket for 90 minutes (basic) – 32 CZK, children (6–15 years) 16 CZK ticket for 30 minutes (short-term) – 24 CZK, children (6–15 years) 12 CZK

Travel passes ticket for 24 hours – 110 CZK, children (6–15 years) 55 CZK ticket for 72 hours – 310 CZK, children not discounted fares

Luggage transport Baggage, dog without a crate, or pram without a child: 16 CZK. No ticket required for: small luggage, animals in a carrier, child in a stroller and bicycles (bicycles only in the metro, on ferries, on the funicular to Petřín Hill and at specified time periods on selected sections of the tram). Transport free of charge Children under 6 years of age and persons older than 70 years (for more information about the conditions for free transport, see www.dpp.cz)

For more information on fares, schedules, etc., contact tel. 296 19 18 17 (daily 7:00–21:00), www.dpp.cz or

Transport Information Centres (Muzeum, Hlavní nádraží, Anděl, Hradčanská, Prague City Hall, Václav Havel Airport Prague Terminals 1 and 2).

Airport Shuttle Airport Express Line – Special bus service provides a direct connection to air, rail and public transport daily from 5:30 to 22:30. Route: Main Train Station (Hlavní nádraží) (metro line C, trains) – Dejvická (metro line A, only boarding) – Terminal 1 – Terminal 2 Interval: every 30 minutes; duration: 33 minutes

Smoking – In the Czech Republic, there is a law restricting smoking. Smoking is prohibited in public areas (covered transportation platforms/stops – bus/tram stops, train stations, inside vehicles, cultural facilities, health care facilities). In restaurants, smoking is restricted, but not strictly prohibited. Smoking and non-smoking areas are marked and separated.

Pharmacies and emergency medical services Prague 1 – Palackého 5, tel. 224 946 982 Prague 2 – Belgická 37, tel. 222 513 396, www.lekarnabelgicka.cz Prague 4 – Vídeňská 800 (Thomayerova Hospital), tel. 261 084 019 Prague 5 – V Úvalu 84 (Motol Hospital), tel. 224 435 736 Prague 7 – Františka Křížka 22, tel. 731 638 010 Prague 8 – Budínova 2 (Bulovka Hospital), tel. 266 082 017

Currency – legal tender – Czech koruna (CZK) Coins: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 CZK Banknotes: 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000 CZK (One euro equals approx. 27 CZK)

Post Office – Main Post Office (Hlavní pošta) – Jindřišská 14, Prague 1, tel. 221 131 111, www.ceskaposta.cz, open daily 2:00–24:00

Tipping – If you are satisfied with the service in a restaurant, feel free to leave a tip. If you decide to tip, the amount is usually 10% of the bill.

Taxi Fair Place – taxi stands are marked with a yellow sign with the word TAXI and an orange hand with a raised thumb with the word FAIR PLACE. Administrators of these stands guarantee a fair price; safe, professional drivers; and high quality of service.

International Calling Code to the Czech Republic – +420 Embassies – a complete list of embassies based in the Czech Republic can be found on www.mzv.cz.

Health Services University Hospital Motol – Foreigner Care Centre – V Úvalu 84, Prague 5, www.fnmotol.cz Medical care for foreigners. Opening hours: Mon–Fri 7:00–21:00, Sat, Sun and public holidays 8:00–21:00

Tourist Information Tourist Information Centres Prague City Tourism Need to find your way around Prague? Need to book tours and tickets for cultural events? Stop by one of our information centres. We can provide you with all kinds of tourist information and arrange various, high-quality tourist services. Or just come tell us how much you like it in Prague... Among other things, we: — provide information about Prague (getting around the city, transport, culture, monuments, important contacts ...)

Tour guide services Our qualified guides introduce you to the Czech metropolis with walking tours or sightseeing bus excursions. We offer basic and specialized routes. You can rely on our guides' expertise, foreign language skills, and professionalism. E-mail: guides@prague.eu or phone +420 775 855 037. www.prague.eu www.facebook.com/prague.eu www.twitter.com/pragueEU

Prague Card This great value tourist card offers free entry to 50 major tourist attractions in Prague and complimentary use of Prague public transport. The card also includes a city sightseeing tour, a boat trip, airport connections via Airport Express buses, and discounts on other entrance fees, excursions and cultural performances. If you want to see the best of Prague, the Prague Card is for you. Two-, three- or four-day cards can be purchased online at www.praguecard.com or at our tourist information centres.

Life in the City

Prague is a city full of greenery and unexpectedly charming places made for taking walks, sitting in the shade of mature trees or taking a refreshing cruise on the Vltava River, from which the city unfolds in a different, but no less fascinating form. You can also spend pleasant hours looking for treasures and trying local specialities at flea or farmers' markets. Nor is it possible to visit Prague and miss out on the luxury stores, shopping centres and quirky shops featuring original Czech designs, which are gaining popularity not only in our own country but also around the world.

Natural Areas and Parks

Kampa – Prague 1 – Malá Strana, www.prague.eu This island, sandwiched between the Vltava River and one of its branches (Čertovka), is one of the most romantic and picturesque places in the city. Not surprisingly, the prestigious travel server Virtual - Tourist declared it the second most beautiful urban island in the world.

Slovanský Island (Slovanský ostrov) – Žofín – Prague 1 – Nové Město, www.prague.eu The only fully landscaped island on the Vltava River is dominated by a spectacular neo-Renaissance palace – a traditional venue for balls and concerts. There are several places to rent rowboats and pedal boats, a toy train for children, and a playground.

Střelecký Island (Střelecký ostrov) – Prague 1 – Staré Město, www.prague.eu A romantic place hidden in the shade of mature trees in the heart of the city under the Legií Bridge. It enchants visitors with its old-time atmosphere and exceptional views of the city from river level.

Havlíčkovy Parks (Havlíčkovy sady) (Grébovka Park) – Prague 2 – Vinohrady, www.prague.eu This park, inspired by the Italian Renaissance, has fountains and water cascades, lakes, pavilions, statues and a charming grotto, as well as a unique view of the city. The charming Viniční altán, surrounded by large vineyards, and the Grébovka Pavilion garden café offer pleasant places to sit.

Riegrový Parks (Riegrový sady) – Prague 2 – Vinohrady, www.prague.eu This park, over a century old, shelters intimate nooks and places with trees, open grassy areas, unusual vistas of the city and a large garden restaurant with comfortable seating in the shade of old chestnut trees.

Royal Game Reserve (Královská obora) – Stromovka – Prague 7 – Bubeneč, www.prague.eu A large green oasis in the middle of town with mature trees, water and grassy areas – a perfect place for picnics, walks and relaxation for all ages.

Letná Parks (Letenské sady) – Letná – Prague 7 – Holešovice, www.prague.eu This extensive park with grassy areas, mature trees, colourful bushes planted on the hillsides, and a long plane tree-lined avenue provides not only a pleasant place to sit and relax, but also unparalleled views of the city, especially from the Hanavský Pavilion.

Ladronka – Tomanova 1/1028, Prague 6, www.ladronka.com This large grassy park is a popular place for people of all ages. It's criss-crossed with bike trails and the longest illuminated in-line skating track in Prague.

Žluté lázně – Podolské nábřeží 3/1184, Prague 4, www.zlutelazne.cz Natural area on the banks of the Vltava River, covering an area of three and a half hectares – with multifunctional sports, entertainment and relaxation facilities. Opening hours: daily 9:00–2:00

Shopping

Pařížská Street (Pařížská ulice) – Prague 1 Prague's most prestigious shopping street is a symbol of luxury, exclusive merchandise and famous brands (Louis Vuitton, Prada, Christian Dior, Escada, Jimmy Choo, Cartier, Rolex, etc.).

Palladium – náměstí Republiky 1, Prague 1, www.palladiumpraha.cz This temple of shopaholics is located near Wenceslas Square and Old Town Square. A modern shopping centre on five floors offering nearly 200 stores.