

MAGIC
The Gathering
GRAND PRIX
PRAGUE
2015

Travel Guide

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The Essentials

General Information

Prague is the capital city of the Czech Republic, a country in central Europe that is a member of the European Union. There are about 2 million residents in the city.

Prague has always been an important settlement, acting as a crossroads in the center of Europe. With its long history of over 1000 years, it is a favorite tourist destination nowadays. The city's history can be felt everywhere. However, the city is not a dead museum, it pulses with life.

Regional Coördinator

Sebastian Pękala: apps.magicjudges.org/judges/Sebol/

Local contact

Milan Majerčík

+420 603 412 365

flamberg@centrum.cz

www.facebook.com/Flamberg

The venue

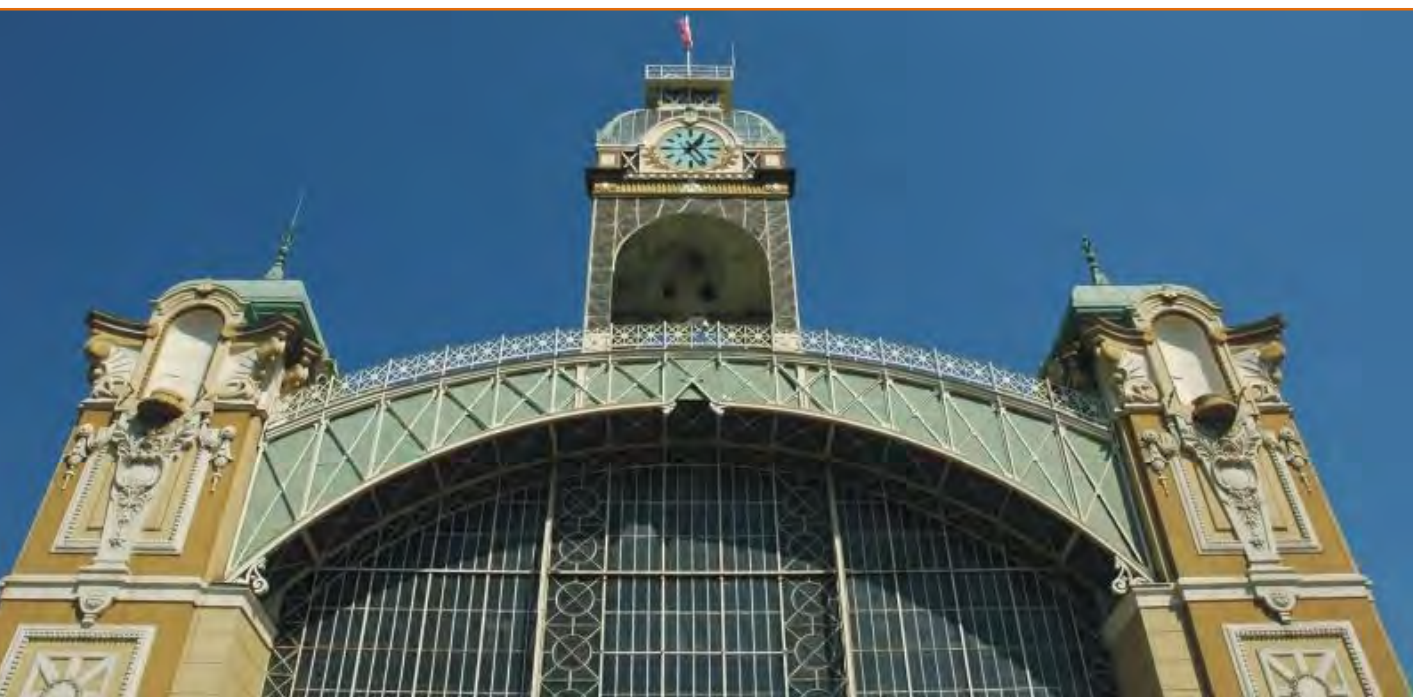
Incheba Expo

Výstaviště 67

170 00 Prague 7

Czech Republic

As was the case for the previous Grand Prix, the tournament will be held in one wing of a wonderful expo palace that was built to accommodate the World's Fair in 1891.



Currency & means of payment

The local currency is the Czech Crown (CZK). Normal exchange rates are around:

1 USD = 25 CZK, 1 EUR = 27 CZK, 1 GBP = 38 CZK.

There are very few shops and services that accept a foreign currency, so you will most likely need to obtain a certain amount of Crowns, either in an exchange office or at an ATM. Most corporate establishments (McDonalds, Starbucks, etc.) will accept Euro. However, you risk getting change back in CZK. On the other hand, many shops accept credit/debit cards. VISA and MasterCard are the most used ones. You could have problems with AmEx.

Please note that tips are generally not included in a receipt. In restaurant services, it is common to add up to 10% extra, if you are satisfied with the service.

Electricity

The so-called 'French' model of wall sockets is used in the Czech Republic. Do not forget your multipurpose traveler's adaptor at home! The voltage in the Czech power grid is by norm 230V at 50Hz.



Simple dictionary

Prague = Praha

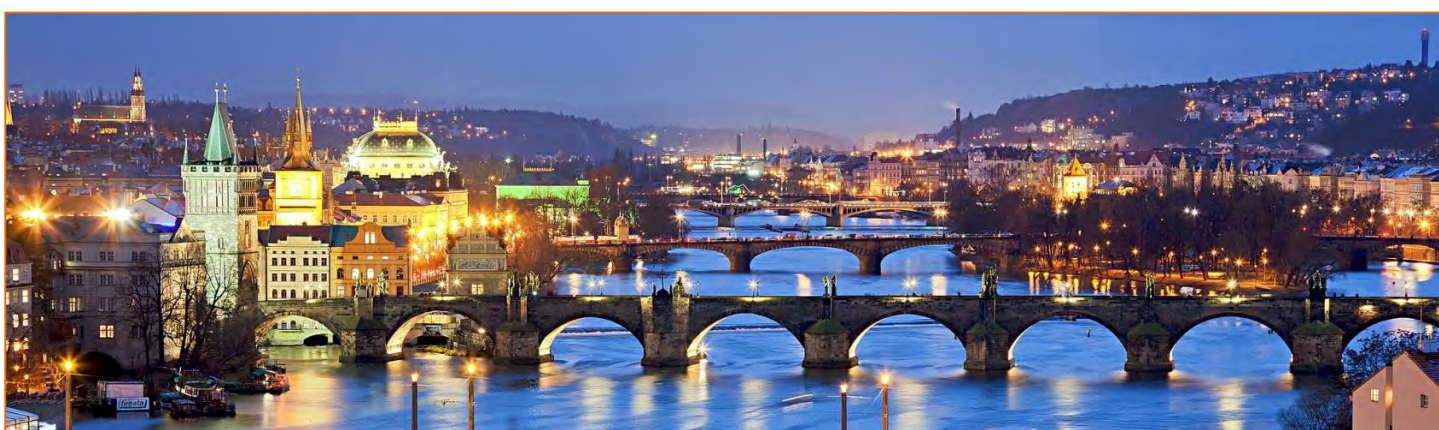
Good morning/afternoon = dobrý den (do-bree den)

Hello = ahoj (ahoy)

Subway = metro

Beer = pivo

The Czech (and European) Emergency number: **112**



Travel Advice

Airport

Prague has one airport - Václav Havel Airport (PRG), which is relatively small with only two heavily used terminals. Navigation should be quite simple within the airport, from the plane to baggage claim to a bus or taxi. To continue your journey downtown, you can either take a taxi or take the bus. There are several bus lines available that will bring you to a metro (underground) station. The taxi stands and bus stops are directly in front of the terminal buildings. Just walk out and you will see them.

Taxi

Several credible taxi services are available, including:

- AAA Taxi <http://www.aaataxi.cz/en/>
- CityTaxi <http://www.citytaxi.cz/en/praha/index/index/index/index>

A ride from the Airport to the venue and staff hotel costs approximately 500 CZK. We suggest having the addresses printed out and asking the driver about the price in advance. There are always some dishonorable 'pirate' drivers around.

Bus

Depending on the hour of the day the following buses are available (from ~05:00 to ~24:00):

- Airport Express (AE) – a bus line that specifically serves a traveler's need to get quickly to the city center. It stops at the subway station Hlavní Nadraží, (C-line) note: the bus goes further, so pay attention. This line uses a special fare (60 CZK) and the tickets are sold by the bus driver.
- Take the 119 bus to Nadraží Veleslavín (final stop). Take the metro A line from there to Muzeum station (4th to 7th stop). At Muzeum, transfer over to C line and ride to Nádraží Holešovice (4th stop). From there you can either walk a bit (ca 800 m) or take a tram going to Výstaviště Holešovice stop (tram 12,17 or 24).
- Take the 119 bus to Nadraží Veleslavín (final stop). Take the 26 tram to Strossmayerovo náměstí (13th stop) and either wait for the 12, 17 or 24 tram and take it two stops to Výstaviště Holešovice or walk ca 500 m north.

By train

Prague's main train station lies in Prague center. It is very easy to get around the city from here as there is a subway station built directly in the railway station. The subway station is named Hlavní Nadraží.

To get to the venue take the metro line C to Nádraží Holešovice (3rd stop), from there either walk or take any tram going west to Výstaviště Holešovice (12,17 or 24). It takes about 15 minutes to get from the train main station to the venue. However, if your train goes through the railway station Nadraží Holešovice, we recommend getting off there, as it is quite close to the venue.

By car

Do not leave your home without a sat-nav or you will not stand a chance in the Prague traffic chaos.

Also make sure you buy a toll sticker (at a gas station) if you want to use a highway, and stick it onto your front screen. A 10-day sticker costs 310 CZK. Otherwise you risk a huge fine if caught by police.

Generally, finding a spot to park your car is nearly impossible in the city center. Check the roadsides for a blue line, wherever there is one only residents can park. (Almost everywhere.)

There is a similar situation around the venue. There is a paid parking lot in front of it and there is another one at the Nádraží Holešovice subway station.

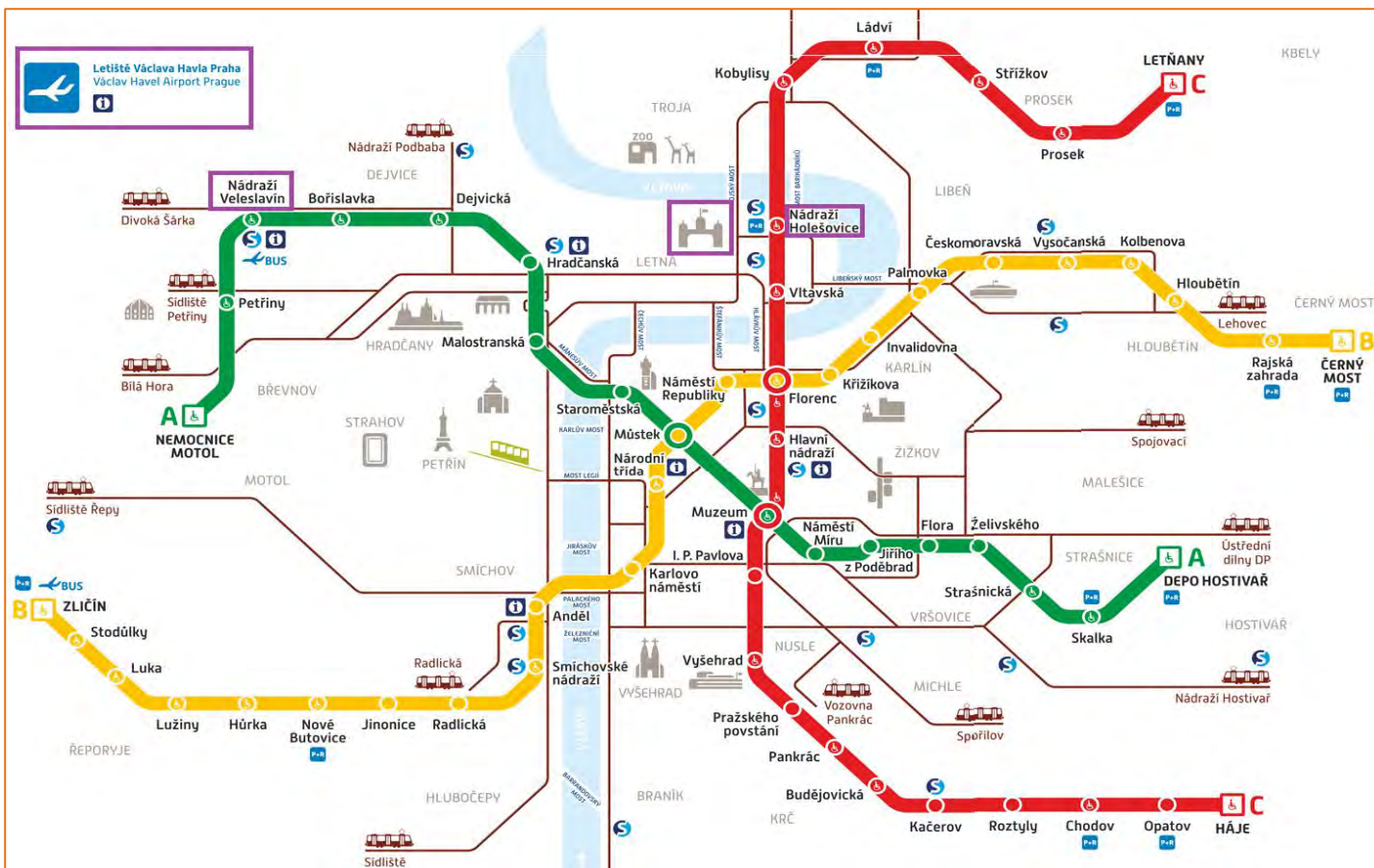
Public Transportation System

A wide and swift public transport system is available in Prague. There are three lines of metro (A, B, C) which are supported by a network of tramway (2-digit numbers) and bus lines (3-digit numbers). Most lines stop operation around midnight. There is a special net of night buses and trams operating at nights (their numbers start with 5).

The following websites may be useful when planning your route and for other info:

<http://www.dpp.cz/en/>

<http://spojeni.dpp.cz/ConnForm.aspx?tt=PID&cl=E5>



Tickets

The tickets for the public transport can be obtained in ticketing machines. The machines can be found at all subway stations and other stops. The machines only accept coins. Other options for buying tickets are newsstand shops and Public Transport Infocenters (<http://www.dpp.cz/en/list-of-info-centres/>).

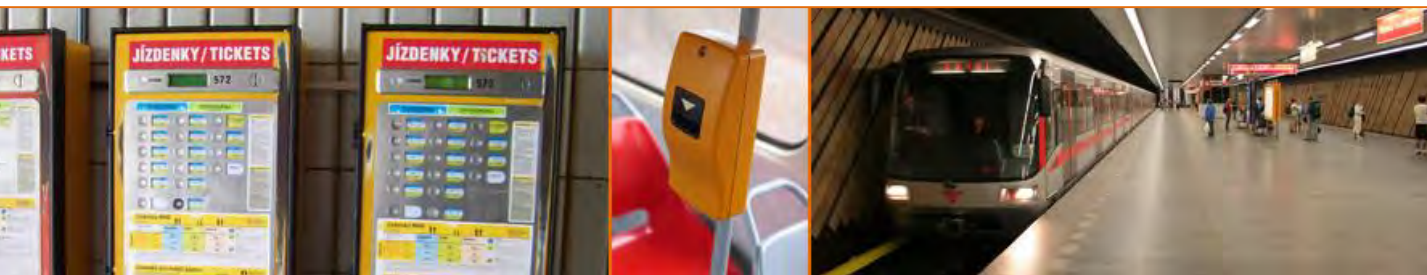
There are several ticketing options:

- 30 minutes - 24 CZK
- 90 minutes - 32 CZK
- 24 hours - 110 CZK
- 72 hours - 310 CZK

The time limit starts counting from the moment when you mark the ticket in a validating machine.

Validators are located in metro entrances and in each tram and bus. The ticket must be validated before the ride. Once validated, it is valid for the paid time and it applies for all means of transport (metro, tram, bus, funicular, ferry).

It is possible to encounter a ticket inspector, especially in metro, so do ride with a valid ticket to prevent any unpleasant moments. The penalty is 800 CZK at minimum.

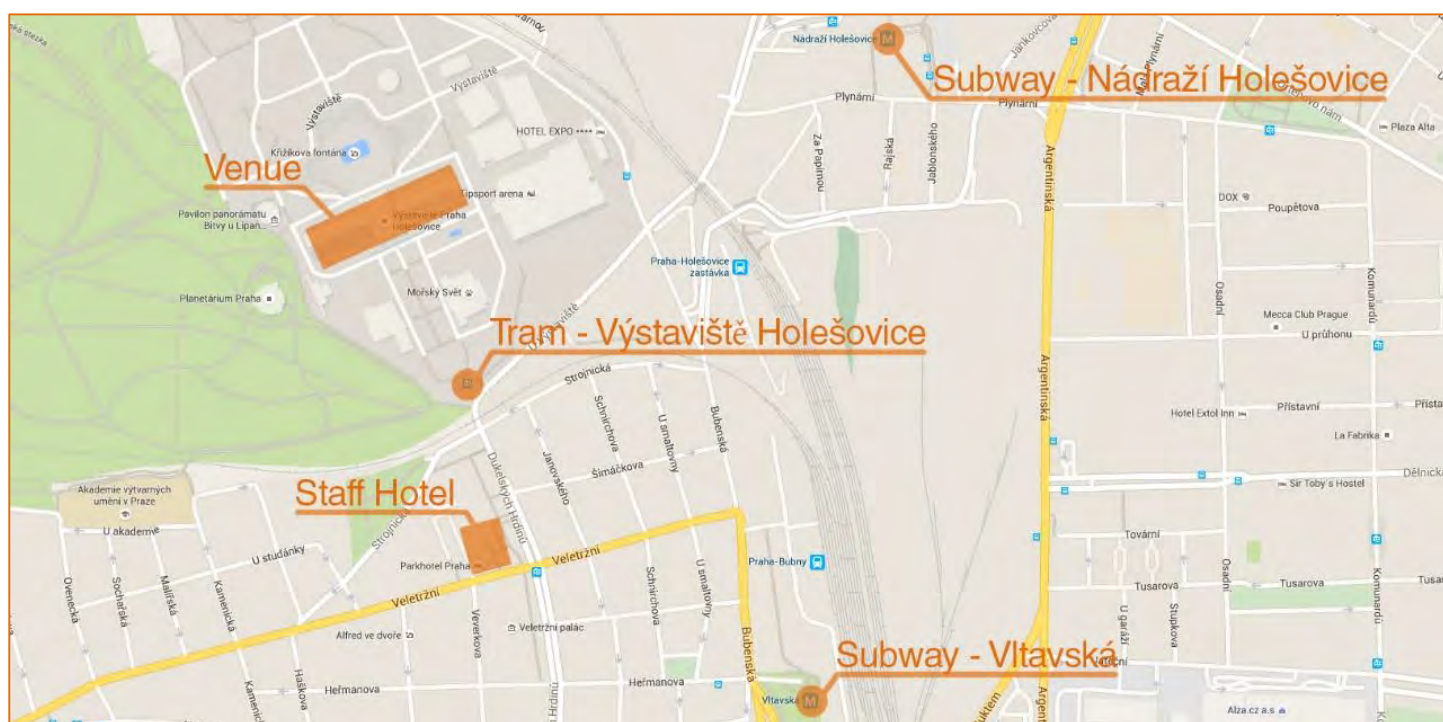


Travelling to the Venue

The subway station closest to the venue is Nadraží Holešovice of the C line. There is also a tram stop directly in front of the venue. The name of the tram stop is Vystaviště Holešovice and the trams that stop there are 12, 17, 24 (and night lines 53, 54).

There are many possibilities for getting to the site. The two options we recommend are:

1. The most simple option, if you do not want to bother with tramways too much, is to use the subway and ride to the station Nadraží Holešovice. From there, take tram 12 or 24 and ride just one stop to Vystaviště Holešovice.
2. Or, if you would like to see some Prague streets from a tram's window, you can ride any tram line that goes through the stop Vystaviště Holešovice.



Hotels

We suggest using your favorite booking website as usual (booking.com, trivago.com).

This is just a basic sample below.

Staff hotel

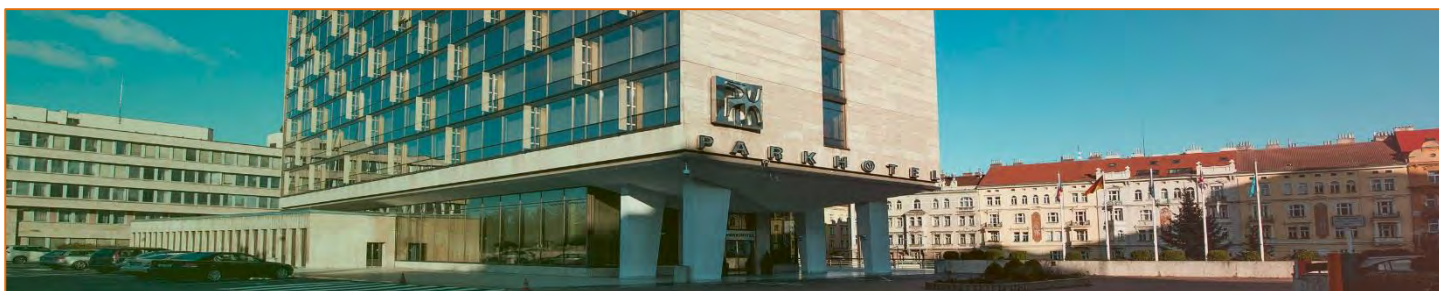
Parkhotel Prague

Veletržní 20

17000 Prague 7

<https://www.parkhotel-praha.cz/en/home/>

The staff hotel is only a few hundred meters from the venue.



Comfy options

Hotel Olga

Janovského 50

Prague 7

www.hotelolga.cz/en/

Hotel Belvedere

Milady Horákové 19

Prague 7

www.hotelbelvedereprague.cz/?lang=en

Absolutum

Jablonského 639/4

Prague 7

www.absolutumhotel.cz/en/

Plaza Alta Hotel

Ortenovo náměstí 1086/22

Prague 7

www.plazahotelalta.com

Low-cost options

Hotel Dobrá Ubytovna

Bubenská 43

Prague 7

www.dobraubytovna.cz (in Czech only)

Sir Toby's Hostel

Dělnická 1155/24

Prague 7

www.sirtobys.com

Hostel Argentinská 15

Argentinská 1097/15

Prague 7

www.argentinska15.cz/hostel-in-prague

Hotel Leon

Ortenovo náměstí 1026/26

Prague 7

www.leonhotel.eu/index.php?nid=7854&lid=en&oid=1395273

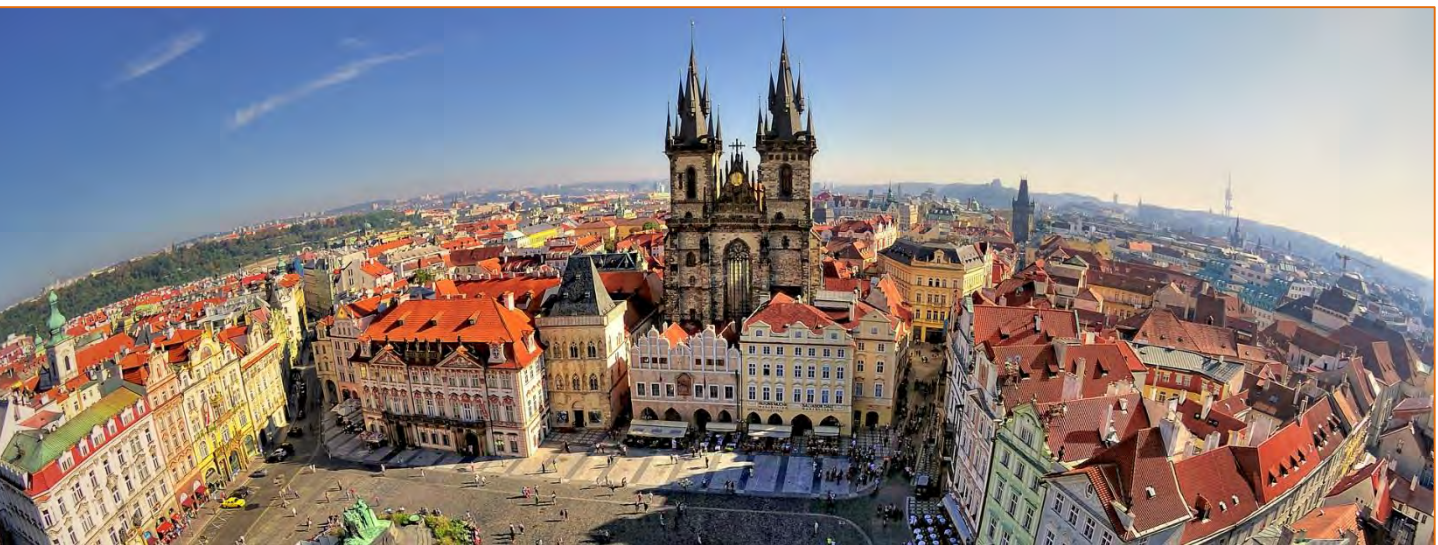
Places to Visit

Tourist Hotspots

The city of Prague has always been one of the most beautiful cities in the world, ranked next to giants such as Paris and Rome. The capital of the Czech Republic has had the benefit of avoiding large scale violent political conflict and thus has allowed its ancient architecture to mature very gracefully. Built between the 11th and 18th century, the historic center of Prague is part of the world heritage UNESCO sites and has several key areas to visit.

The Old Town Square

One of the most iconic places to visit in Prague, is a large place of gathering where you will always see people. It houses Prague's astronomical clock, a working mechanical contraption dating back over 600 years, a relic of this country's history. In the center is Prague's meridian by which Prague time was measured before standardization. Also near the Old Town Square is a building believed to be the birthplace of King Charles IV, can you spot it?



Charles Bridge

Built in 1357 under the orders of King Charles IV in order to replace the badly damaged Judith Bridge built in 1158. Until 1841 this has been the only means in crossing the Vltava River, making it an important point in trade routes between eastern and western Europe. Today, this gothic stone bridge is for pedestrian use only. With a guard tower at each end of the bridge, this strategic choke point in the city's defense is a living masterpiece as the bridge is littered by baroque statues. From here you have a fantastic view of both castles, city walls and their surrounding areas.



Prague Castle

The world record holder for the largest ancient castle in the world, this 70000 square meter structure (or 18 acres) dates it's oldest walls to the year 870. This colossal structure was the seat of power for Bohemian kings, Roman emperors and today Czech presidents. This castle can not only be found on 50 CZK coins but also in the center of the city along the river bend leading up from Charles Bridge.



Vyšehrad

The location of the other castle in Prague and rumored to be the location of the first settlements which later would become the city of Prague. The castle isn't around anymore, but the basilica still remains as well as fortifications and Prague's oldest standing building.



Lesser Known Sightseeing

Stromovka

A fairly large park located right next to the venue. This place is an ideal location for the sporting type if you like to go for a jog with several kilometers of various paths crossing each other allowing you to make a fully customized trip. Of course, you could just go and visit this old hunting ground, once used by the ruling families of the area. Their hunting lodge is still located at the south west corner of the park right on top of the hill, feel free to check it out.

Divoká Šárka

A rocky valley named after a legendary female warrior from Slavic tales, or simply a geological wonder. This area was used as a hunting ground for as long as people have inhabited these regions due to its ambush locations within. Located at the final stop of the 26 tram, a 5 min walk from the tram stop completely separates you from any city noises as you walk past cliffs and streams which fill the area. Also located there is a large water basin with beaches (including clothing optional ones). A sheep herd sometimes grazes there.



Petřín orchards

For the romantics or if you just want a panoramic view of Prague's city center this is the place to go. A hillside with paths going around various elevations starts at Prague castle with orchards and follows through with a wooded area spanning an area of 500x700m. On top of the hill is also a structure which everyone calls a mini Eiffel Tower which gives you an even better view of the city. You can ride the funicular up the Petřín hill, visit the Petřín lookout tower and then go down through these soothing gardens in the center of the city.



Zoo and Botanical Garden

The Prague Zoo is considered the World's 7th best Zoo. Good thing is that it is not far away from the staff hotel. Just get yourself to Nádraží Holešovice, take bus 112 and ride to the final stop. Close to the Zoo is also Prague's Botanical Garden.

Kutná Hora

The home of another UNESCO site. This place holds several churches with varying styles and the possibly famous Sedlec Ossuary. This last chapel has been on the grounds of an overused graveyard where the bones of the deceased have been exhumed in order to make room for fresher bodies. Not knowing what to do with some 40000-70000 skeletons, the decision was made to decorate the chapel with the remains of the deceased.

Food and Drinks

Delicacies

Generally, the Czech cuisine is not known for being the healthiest and light one. It is full of meat (beef, pork), cream sauces and dumplings.

If you want to taste some classic Czech dishes, try these (from left to right):

Svíčková na smetaně: marinated sirloin with creamy spiced sauce and dumplings.

Guláš: pork or beef stewed together with onions and various spices and dumplings.

Vepřo-knedlo-zelo: roasted pork with dumplings and stewed cabbage.



Luckily, if you do not feel like troubling your stomach with this heavy load, it is usually not difficult to find some lighter dishes for your menu. Pasta and various sorts of fish are the most common ones.

Beer

The Czech Republic is well known for its beers, especially lagers. Apart from the big mass product breweries, there are also many small ones. If you prefer other ways to get “cheerful” you may also try Moravian vines or traditional Carlsbad Becher liqueur.



Cool Places

Restaurants in the city's center are generally overpriced, meant to make a normal tourist go bankrupt. Still, if you feel like eating on the weekend (recommended), you can find some decent places, for example the Potrefená husa restaurant chain (<http://www.potrefena-husa.eu/en>).

Crossclub

Located 200m from the Nádraží Holešovice station, there is this very detailed steampunk themed electronic music playing club. With an outside patio, several floors inside and constantly something to look at, this place is a must see.



Hard Rock Café Prague

Don't feel like local cuisine? There's always the Hard Rock Café! Good burgers or other sandwiches like the Pulled Pork are a staple here. Plus you get the American style service with a smile!

Dům U Rotta

Malé náměstí 3

<http://www.hardrock.com/cafes/prague/>



Cafe Imperial

For a special lunch.

Na Poříčí 15

<http://www.cafeimperial.cz/en/>

Local Game Stores

Najāda
Ondříčková 2166/14
Prague 3

Černý Rytíř
Za Poříčskou branou 21
Prague 8

Temný Střelec
Donovalská 1661
Prague 4

Mephit
Arbesovo náměstí 14
150 00 Prague 5

Dračí Jeskyně
Křivoklátská 285
Prague 9

Warboss
Mečislavova 11
Prague 4



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