Prague Travel Guide

Prague: The City of a Hundred Spires

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Things to do in Prague

Landmarks & Monuments

Prague's skyline is dominated by Gothic spires, Baroque towers, and medieval fortifications that have witnessed over 1,000 years of history. These architectural masterpieces showcase the city's Golden Age and remain among Europe's most spectacular monuments.



Must See Book Ahead

Prague Castle (Pražský Hrad)

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Map

The **world's largest ancient castle complex** according to Guinness World Records, Prague Castle has been the seat of Czech rulers, Holy Roman Emperors, and presidents for over 1,100 years. This vast complex encompasses palaces, churches, gardens, and courtyards showcasing architectural styles from Romanesque to Art Nouveau. The castle dominates Prague's skyline from its hilltop perch, offering spectacular panoramic views across the red-roofed city and Vltava River. Founded in the 9th century, the complex includes St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace with its magnificent Vladislav Hall, St. George's Basilica, and the charming Golden Lane with its tiny colorful houses. The ceremonial changing of the guard occurs daily at noon with full fanfare. *Essential visit:* Allocate 3-4 hours minimum to explore this UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Must See

St. Vitus Cathedral

1-1.5 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The crown jewel of Prague Castle, this **stunning Gothic masterpiece** took nearly 600 years to complete (1344-1929). The largest and most important church in the Czech Republic serves as the final resting place of Bohemian kings, Holy Roman Emperors, and patron saints. The cathedral houses the Czech coronation jewels, the magnificent St. Wenceslas Chapel adorned with over 1,300 semi-precious stones, breathtaking stained glass windows (including one by Art Nouveau master Alphonse Mucha), and the Royal Mausoleum. The Great South Tower rises 96.5 meters with 287 steps leading to spectacular 360-degree views over Prague. The cathedral's intricate spires, flying buttresses, and rose window exemplify Gothic architecture at its finest. *Don't miss:* The Mucha stained glass window and climbing the tower for unparalleled city vistas.



Must See

Charles Bridge (Karlův Most)

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Prague's most **iconic medieval bridge** and one of Europe's most beautiful heritage sites, connecting Old Town with Lesser Town (Malá Strana) across the Vltava River. Built between 1357 and 1402 by architect Peter Parler under Emperor Charles IV, the 515-meter pedestrian bridge features 30 baroque statues of saints lining its balustrades, with the statue of St. John of Nepomuk being most famous. The bridge's Gothic towers at both ends offer spectacular views the Old Town Bridge Tower ranks among the world's most beautiful Gothic gateways. Legend says touching the bronze relief of St. John brings good luck and ensures your return to Prague. The bridge buzzes with street artists, musicians, and vendors by day, while early morning and evening visits reveal its romantic, quieter character. *Photography tip:* Visit at sunrise (6-7am) for empty bridge shots and golden light.



Must See

Old Town Square (Staroměstské Náměstí)

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

The **historic heart of Prague** and one of Europe's most beautiful public squares, surrounded by pastel-colored Baroque buildings, Gothic churches, and the Old Town Hall. The square has witnessed coronations, executions, demonstrations, and celebrations for over 900 years. Dominated by the twin Gothic spires of Church of Our Lady Before Týn and the medieval Astronomical Clock, the square bustles with outdoor cafés, street performers, markets, and tourist energy. The Jan Hus Memorial stands at the center, commemorating the religious reformer burned at the stake in 1415. Christmas markets transform the square into a winter wonderland, while Easter markets celebrate spring. *Best experience:* Find a café terrace and watch the Astronomical Clock's hourly performance while soaking in the atmosphere.



Must See

Astronomical Clock (Prague Orloj)

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

The **world's oldest functioning astronomical clock**, installed on the Old Town Hall in 1410, remains one of Prague's most mesmerizing attractions. This medieval engineering marvel consists of three main components: the astronomical dial showing the position of the sun, moon, and zodiac signs; the calendar dial with medallions representing months; and the hourly Walk of the Apostles. Every hour from 8am-11pm, crowds gather to watch the animated procession of the Twelve Apostles appearing in windows above the clock, while figures representing Death (a skeleton), Vanity, Greed, and a Turk come to life. The clock displays time in four different ways: Central European, Old Bohemian, Babylonian, and Sidereal (celestial) time. The intricate astronomical dial functions as a mechanical astrolabe, considered a wonder of medieval astronomy. *Insider tip:* Climb the Old Town Hall Tower for behind-the-scenes views of the clock mechanism and panoramic city vistas.



Top Pick

Old Town Bridge Tower

45 minutes - 1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

One of the **most beautiful Gothic gateways in the world**, this 14th-century tower guards the Old Town entrance to Charles Bridge. Built by Peter Parler alongside the bridge, the tower served as a symbolic victory arch for Czech kings' coronation processions. The facade features intricate sculptural decoration with hidden solar and lunar symbolism, emblems of territories ruled by Charles IV, and statues of St. Vitus, Charles IV, and Wenceslas IV. Climbing the 138 steps rewards visitors with spectacular views of Charles Bridge, Prague Castle, and the Old Town's red rooftops. The tower sustained damage during the Swedish siege of 1648, with subsequent reconstruction adding historical layers. *Budget tip:* Visit during the first hour after opening for 50% discount on admission.

Tips for Landmarks & Monuments

- Prague Castle tickets valid for 2 days - pace your visit across multiple days if desired
- Buy Prague Castle tickets at the castle information centres or through the link on the official site, hrad.cz
- Arrive at Charles Bridge before 7am for crowd-free photography and magical atmosphere
- Watch Astronomical Clock hourly show but arrive 10 minutes early as crowds pack tight
- Security checks at Prague Castle entrance can create delays - avoid bulky luggage
- Combined tickets save money - Old Town Hall Tower + Astronomical Clock access

Museums & Galleries

Prague houses world-class collections spanning medieval art to modern masterpieces, Jewish heritage, and quirky specialized museums. The city's cultural institutions preserve centuries of Czech and European history through art, artifacts, and interactive exhibitions.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Jewish Museum Prague

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Map

One of the **world's most significant Jewish museums**, comprising six historic synagogues and the Old Jewish Cemetery. The collection documents the rich history of Prague's Jewish community from medieval times through the Holocaust. The Pinkas Synagogue serves as a Holocaust memorial with walls inscribed with names of 77,297 Czech and Moravian Holocaust victims. The Spanish Synagogue showcases Moorish Revival architecture and Jewish history exhibits. The Old-New Synagogue (Europe's oldest active synagogue dating to 1270) requires separate admission. The Old Jewish Cemetery contains over 12,000 gravestones layered in multiple burial levels due to space constraints. The museum's collections include priceless Judaica, religious textiles, and manuscripts. *Moving experience:* Allow 3-4 hours to fully absorb the emotional and historical significance.



Notable

National Gallery - Various Locations

2-3 hours per location No Booking Needed

Map

The Czech Republic's premier **art institution operates across multiple historic venues** throughout Prague. The Veletržní Palace houses 19th-21st century Czech and international modern art including French Impressionists, Cubists, and Surrealists. The Schwarzenberg Palace features Renaissance and Baroque European art. The Convent of St. Agnes displays medieval Czech art including Gothic altarpieces and panel paintings. The Sternberg Palace showcases European Old Masters from ancient times through the Baroque period. Each venue offers distinct collections in stunning historic settings. *Art lovers:* Purchase combined tickets for access to multiple galleries at reduced rates.



Notable

Museum of Communism

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A fascinating and sobering look at **Czech life under communist rule (1948-1989)**, featuring propaganda posters, secret police files, everyday artifacts, and multimedia exhibits. The museum chronicles the February 1948 communist coup, Stalinist repression, the Prague Spring of 1968, Soviet invasion, normalization period, and the 1989 Velvet Revolution that peacefully ended communist rule. Exhibits include interrogation room recreations, busts of Soviet leaders, and personal stories of resistance and survival. The museum provides essential context for understanding modern Czech identity and history. *Historical insight:* Complements castle and architectural tourism with crucial 20th-century political history.



Notable

Lobkowicz Palace Museum

1.5-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The only **privately-owned building within Prague Castle complex**, this palace houses the princely Lobkowicz family's extensive art collection. Features include works by Canaletto, Bruegel, and Velázquez; original musical manuscripts by Beethoven, Mozart, and Handel; rare weaponry and ceramics; and family portraits spanning centuries. The palace offers an intimate, less-crowded alternative to massive state museums with personal family narratives woven throughout. The rooftop café provides stunning castle views. Audio guides narrated by family members add personal touches. *Hidden gem:* Quieter than main castle attractions but equally impressive collections.



Optional

Museum of Senses & Illusion Art Museum

1-1.5 hours each No Booking Needed

Map

Interactive **optical illusion and sensory experience museums** offering Instagram-worthy photo opportunities and mind-bending exhibits. The Museum of Senses features over 50 interactive installations challenging perception through optical illusions, infinity rooms, gravity-defying spaces, and sensory experiments. The Illusion Art Museum showcases paintings and installations creating 3D effects perfect for creative photography. Both museums appeal to families and those seeking playful, contemporary experiences contrasting with Prague's historic attractions. *Fun break:* Perfect afternoon activity between castle/church visits, especially with children.

Tips for Museums & Galleries

- Prague City Pass includes many museums - calculate if it suits your itinerary
- Jewish Museum tickets include all sites except Old-New Synagogue (separate admission)
- Book Jewish Museum online to guarantee entry - limited capacity controls crowds
- Many museums closed Mondays - verify opening days before visiting
- National Gallery venues spread across city - plan transportation between locations
- Student and senior discounts widely available - bring ID

Religious Sites

Prague's churches and synagogues represent every architectural period from Romanesque to Art Nouveau, showcasing the city's deep spiritual heritage and artistic patronage spanning centuries.



Top Pick

Old-New Synagogue (Staronová Synagoga)

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Europe's **oldest active synagogue** (built around 1270) and one of Prague's most important Gothic monuments. This sacred space has served Prague's Jewish community continuously for over 750 years. Legend says the synagogue's attic contains the remains of the Golem, the mystical clay creature created by Rabbi Loew to protect the Jewish ghetto. The austere Gothic interior features vaulted ceilings, the original Ark, and bimah (raised platform). Unlike other Jewish Museum sites, this remains an active house of worship requiring modest dress and separate admission. The synagogue survived multiple pogrom attempts, Nazi occupation, and communist suppression. *Cultural significance:* Essential stop for understanding Prague's Jewish heritage spanning eight centuries.



Top Pick

Church of Our Lady Before Týn

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

The **Gothic masterpiece with twin 80-meter spires** dominating Old Town Square's skyline since the 14th century. The church served as the main Hussite church during the Protestant reformation before returning to Catholicism. The dark, atmospheric interior contains Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque art including works by Karel Škréta. Famous astronomer Tycho Brahe is buried here. The church's exterior with its dramatic black spires piercing the sky creates Prague's most recognizable silhouette. Limited opening hours make interior visits challenging. *Photography:* Best exterior shots from Old Town Square cafés and rooftop terraces.



Notable

St. Nicholas Church (Malá Strana)

45 minutes - 1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

Prague's most spectacular **Baroque church**, completed in 1755 with soaring 79-meter dome and ornate 79-meter bell tower. The interior overwhelms with frescoes, gilded altars, statues, and trompe-l'oeil ceiling paintings. The church hosted Mozart playing its organ in 1787, and today regular classical concerts fill the acoustic-rich space. During communist times, the bell tower served as a secret police observation post watching Western embassies. Climbing the tower rewards with breathtaking Lesser Town and castle views. *Music lovers:* Evening concerts showcase the church's incredible acoustics and Baroque splendor.



Notable

St. George's Basilica

30 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

Prague's second **oldest church (founded around 920 AD)** and finest example of Romanesque architecture. Located within Prague Castle, the basilica features a striking russet-red Baroque facade concealing austere Romanesque interior with original stonework and medieval frescoes. The church houses tombs of the first Přemyslid dynasty rulers. The attached former convent closed in 2012 (the National Gallery collection has moved out) and is being redeveloped as a cultural and educational centre. The simple, unadorned Romanesque nave contrasts dramatically with later Gothic and Baroque additions throughout the castle. *Architectural interest:* Rare surviving Romanesque structure amid Gothic and Baroque surroundings.

Tips for Religious Sites

- Dress modestly for religious sites - shoulders and knees covered
- Old-New Synagogue requires separate ticket from Jewish Museum
- Many churches host evening classical concerts - atmospheric way to experience interiors
- Church of Our Lady Before Týn has limited opening hours - check schedule
- Free entry to many churches outside service times, but donations appreciated
- Photography restrictions vary - observe posted rules

Neighborhoods & Districts

Prague's districts each possess distinct characters, from the romantic Lesser Town to the bohemian Žižkov, offering authentic glimpses beyond tourist crowds.



Top Pick

Malá Strana (Lesser Town)

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

The **enchanting Baroque district** nestled between Prague Castle and Charles Bridge, featuring Renaissance palaces, hidden gardens, cobblestone streets, and charming squares. This perfectly preserved neighborhood escaped the modernization that transformed other areas, maintaining its 18th-century character. Highlights include Malostranské náměstí (Lesser Town Square), Kampa Island with its waterfront parks, the Wallenstein Garden, Church of Our Lady Victorious (home to the famous Infant Jesus of Prague), and countless embassies occupying historic palaces. The area offers romantic atmosphere, excellent restaurants, and peaceful retreats from Old Town crowds. *Exploration:* Wander aimlessly through side streets discovering hidden courtyards, gardens, and architectural gems.



Top Pick

Josefov (Jewish Quarter)

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Prague's historic **Jewish ghetto**, established in the 13th century and once home to a thriving Jewish community. Despite extensive redevelopment in the late 19th century, the quarter preserves six synagogues, the Old Jewish Cemetery, and streets echoing with centuries of Jewish life. The neighborhood witnessed both persecution and cultural flourishing, producing luminaries like Franz Kafka. Today it blends Jewish heritage sites with upscale boutiques and restaurants. The narrow Pařížská Street transforms into Prague's luxury shopping boulevard. *Historical significance:* Essential destination for understanding Prague's multicultural past and Jewish contributions to Czech culture.



Notable

Vyšehrad

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

An **ancient fortress on a hill overlooking the Vltava River**, founded in the tenth century, with princely origins that belong more to legend than to record. This peaceful complex offers dramatic city views, the Neo-Gothic Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, the Vyšehrad Cemetery where Czech luminaries including composers Dvořák and Smetana rest, massive fortification walls, and expansive parks. The complex holds mythological significance in Czech founding legends. Casemates (underground tunnels) within the fortifications house original Charles Bridge statues. Less crowded than Prague Castle, Vyšehrad provides tranquil exploration and local atmosphere. *Local favorite:* Praguers' preferred alternative to tourist-packed castle areas.



Optional

Žižkov

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

Prague's **hipster, working-class district** known for gritty authenticity, alternative culture, creative bars, and communist-era architecture. Named after Hussite military leader Jan Žižka, the neighborhood avoided tourist gentrification maintaining local character. Famous for having more pubs per capita than any Prague district, Žižkov offers authentic beer halls, underground music venues, and street art. The TV Tower Prague's tallest structure dominates the skyline with David Černý's crawling baby sculptures. Parukářka Park and Vítkov Hill provide green spaces and panoramic views. *Night scene:* Excellent area for experiencing local nightlife beyond tourist Old Town venues.

Tips for Neighborhoods & Districts

- Malá Strana best explored by walking - steep hills and cobblestones make transport challenging
- Combine Josefov visit with Jewish Museum circuit for complete experience
- Žižkov comes alive at night - daytime visits can seem quiet and residential
- Vyšehrad accessible by metro Line C (Vyšehrad station) - easy escape from tourist areas
- Each neighborhood rewards slow exploration over checklist sightseeing

Parks & Gardens

Prague's green spaces offer peaceful respites from cobblestone walking, with manicured palace gardens, hilltop parks, and riverside paths showcasing the city from unique perspectives.



Top Pick

Petřín Hill & Tower

2-3 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **wooded hilltop park crowned by a miniature Eiffel Tower replica**, offering Prague's best panoramic views. The Petřín Lookout Tower (built 1891, about 59 meters high) provides 360-degree vistas after climbing 299 steps. The hill features rose gardens, orchards, the Mirror Maze (fun house with distorting mirrors), the Štefánik Observatory, and the Church of St. Lawrence. The funicular railway transports visitors from Malá Strana to the summit, though the walk up through forests and gardens offers scenic rewards. Spring brings blooming fruit trees; autumn showcases golden foliage. *Romantic spot:* Sunset views over Prague Castle and the city's spires create magical moments.



Notable

Wallenstein Garden

30-45 minutes No Booking Needed

Map

A **stunning Early Baroque garden** hidden behind Wallenstein Palace in Malá Strana, featuring geometric pathways, fountains, peacocks roaming freely, and a magnificent loggia with frescoes. The garden showcases Italian Renaissance design principles with perfectly manicured hedges, statues (copies Swedes looted originals in 1648), and a large ornamental pond with island. The palace houses the Czech Senate but the garden offers free public access during summer months. The peaceful atmosphere and architectural beauty make it Prague's most romantic garden. *Free admission:* Open April-October, perfect midday rest stop while exploring Lesser Town.



Notable

Letná Park & Beer Garden

1-2 hours No Booking Needed

Map

A **sprawling park atop Letná Plain** offering spectacular views across the Vltava River to Old Town's spires and bridges. The giant metronome installation marks the former site of the world's largest Stalin statue (destroyed 1962). The park features tree-lined paths, open lawns, skateboarding areas, and Prague's best beer garden (Letná Beer Garden) with unbeatable sunset views. Locals favor this park for jogging, picnicking, and relaxation away from tourist crowds. The views rival Petřín's but with more local atmosphere. *Budget-friendly:* Grab beer and snacks at the beer garden while watching Prague's most spectacular free sunset views.



Notable

Kampa Island & Park

1 hour No Booking Needed

Map

A **romantic island and park** separated from Malá Strana by the narrow Devil's Channel (Čertovka), often called 'Prague's Venice.' The park offers willow-lined waterfront paths, riverside cafés, the modern art Kampa Museum, and David Černý's quirky crawling babies sculpture. The island provides peaceful retreat just steps from Charles Bridge's crowds. Renovated mill buildings house galleries and restaurants. The park hosts outdoor art installations and summer concerts. *Hidden charm:* Explore the Venice-like canals and restored mill wheels along the Čertovka channel.

Tips for Parks & Gardens

- Petřín funicular included in public transport tickets - ride up, walk down through gardens
- Wallenstein Garden only open April-October - verify schedule before visiting
- Letná Beer Garden busiest at sunset - arrive early for good seats with views
- Parks perfect for picnics with trdelník, chlebíčky (open sandwiches), and Czech beer
- Spring (April-May) showcases blooming gardens; autumn offers stunning foliage

Tours & Activities

The Vltava River flowing through Prague's heart offers unique perspectives on the city's bridges, castles, and architecture through boat cruises and waterfront activities.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Vltava River Cruises

1-2 hours Book Ahead

Scenic boat tours along Prague's lifeline showcasing the city's bridges, riverside architecture, and landmarks from water-level perspectives. Options range from 45-minute sightseeing cruises to 2-hour lunch/dinner cruises with live music. Evening cruises offer magical illuminated castle and bridge views. The traditional wooden boats and modern glass-enclosed vessels depart regularly from docks near Charles Bridge and Old Town. Cruises pass under multiple bridges including Charles Bridge, viewing Vyšehrad fortress, National Theatre, Dancing House, and castle ramparts. *Romantic experience:* Evening dinner cruises with Czech cuisine and traditional music create memorable experiences, especially in summer.



Top Pick

Free Walking Tours

2.5-3 hours No Booking Needed

Excellent introduction to Prague led by enthusiastic local guides sharing city history, legends, and insider tips. These 2-3 hour tours cover Old Town, Jewish Quarter, and major landmarks while explaining Czech culture, communist history, and Velvet Revolution. Tours operate tip-based (typically 200-400 CZK suggested), allowing flexible budgeting. Multiple companies offer tours departing from Old Town Square at various times. *Best practice:* Take walking tour on arrival day for orientation, recommendations, and historical context before independent exploration.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Czech Beer Tasting Tours

3-4 hours Book Ahead

Guided exploration of **Prague's legendary beer culture** visiting traditional pubs, microbreweries, and beer halls while learning brewing history and tasting 5-7 different Czech beers. Expert guides explain beer degrees, proper pouring techniques, food pairings, and cultural significance. Tours include behind-the-scenes brewery visits, beer garden experiences, and traditional snacks (utopenec pickled sausages, nakládaný hermelín pickled cheese). *Beer education:* Learn why Czech beer is world's finest while enjoying social atmosphere and local pub culture beyond tourist traps.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Classical Concert in Historic Venues

1-1.5 hours Book Ahead

Prague's **magnificent churches, palaces, and concert halls** host nightly classical music performances featuring works by Mozart, Vivaldi, Dvořák, and Smetana. Venues include St. Nicholas Church (Baroque acoustics), Rudolfinum (neo-Renaissance concert hall), Municipal House Smetana Hall (Art Nouveau splendor), and Mirror Chapel of the Clementinum. Concerts range from chamber music to full orchestras. Ticket prices vary (300-1,500 CZK) based on venue and performance quality. *Cultural experience:* Atmospheric way to experience Prague's musical heritage and architectural interiors while supporting classical arts.



Notable

Czech Cooking Classes

3-5 hours Book Ahead

Hands-on culinary experience learning to prepare traditional Czech dishes like svíčková, goulash, dumplings, and trdelník from scratch. Classes typically include market visits selecting fresh ingredients, step-by-step cooking instruction from local chefs, and enjoying the meal with Czech beer or wine. Participants gain insights into Czech food culture, family traditions, and cooking techniques. Classes range from 3-5 hours. *Souvenir:* Recipe book to recreate authentic Czech cuisine at home.



Notable

Prague Ghost & Legends Tour

1.5-2 hours Book Ahead

Evening walking tours exploring **Prague's dark history, legends, and ghostly tales** through atmospheric medieval streets and shadowy corners. Guides share stories of alchemists, executions, buried treasures, and supernatural occurrences while visiting haunted locations. Popular tales include the Golem of Prague, headless Templar, and Turk's execution. Tours reveal Prague's mysterious character beyond postcard-pretty facades. *Atmospheric:* Evening darkness enhances Gothic architecture and storytelling bring flashlight and sense of adventure.



Notable

Communist Walking Tour

2-2.5 hours Book Ahead

Fascinating exploration of **Prague under communist rule (1948-1989)** led by guides who often lived through the era. Tours visit communist-era buildings, metro stations featuring socialist realist art, former secret police sites, and locations significant to the Velvet Revolution. Hear personal stories of daily life, rationing, surveillance, underground culture, and peaceful revolution. Tours provide essential context for understanding modern Czech Republic. *Historical depth:* Complements castle/architecture tourism with crucial 20th-century perspective.



Optional

E-Scooter & Bike Tours

2-3 hours Book Ahead

Alternative way to **cover more ground efficiently** while exploring Prague's hills and riverside paths. E-bike and e-scooter tours visit castle, riverfront, Letná Park, Vyšehrad, and outer neighborhoods beyond walking tour reach. Electric assistance makes hills manageable. Tours typically 2-3 hours with stops at viewpoints and photo spots. *Active sightseeing:* Combines exercise with efficient sightseeing, though cobblestones can challenge bike handling.

Tips for Tours & Activities

- Book evening cruises in advance, especially summer and weekends
- Dress warmly even in summer - breezes on water can be cool
- Morning and afternoon cruises less crowded than sunset/evening options
- Bring camera with good low-light capability for evening illuminated views
- Some cruises include meals/drinks; others require purchasing onboard

- Book popular tours (beer tastings, cooking classes) 2-3 days ahead
- Free walking tours meet at Old Town Square - arrive 10 minutes early
- Evening concert tickets available day-of at venue box offices, but booking ahead guarantees seats
- Wear comfortable shoes for all walking tours - cobblestones and hills challenging
- Ghost tours best in darker months (October-March) for atmosphere
- Check tour language - most major tours available in English, German, Spanish

Day Trips & Excursions

Prague's central location provides easy access to stunning medieval towns, concentration camp memorials, romantic castles, and natural wonders all reachable within 1-3 hours.



Must See

Český Krumlov

Full day (6+ hours travel) No Booking Needed

Map

A **UNESCO World Heritage fairytale medieval town** 3 hours south of Prague, featuring the Czech Republic's second-largest castle complex, winding cobblestone streets, pastel Renaissance buildings, and the Vltava River looping through town. The perfectly preserved 13th-century town appears frozen in time with Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture. Highlights include the castle with rare Baroque theater still staging performances, castle gardens with revolving open-air theater, and breathtaking viewpoints over red-roofed town. *Overnight recommended:* Day trips feasible but staying overnight allows experiencing the town after day-trippers depart and exploring more thoroughly. *Most popular:* Czech Republic's most visited destination outside Prague.



Must See

Kutná Hora

Half to full day No Booking Needed

Map

A **UNESCO World Heritage medieval silver mining town** 1 hour east of Prague, famous for the macabre Sedlec Ossuary (Bone Church) decorated with 40,000+ human bones arranged in chandeliers, coats of arms, and artistic displays. The stunning St. Barbara's Cathedral rivals St. Vitus with soaring Gothic architecture and mining-themed frescoes. The town prospered from silver mines that once rivaled Prague's wealth. Additional attractions include the Czech Silver Museum with underground mine tours, Italian Court (royal mint), and charming medieval streets. *Half-day trip:* Easily combined with other activities or visited as relaxed full-day excursion. *Unique experience:* Bone Church creates unforgettable, if somewhat unsettling, memory.



Top Pick Book Ahead

Karlštejn Castle

Half day Book Ahead

Map

A **dramatic Gothic castle** 40 minutes southwest of Prague, perched on cliffs overlooking forests. Built by Emperor Charles IV in 1348 to safeguard royal treasures and crown jewels, the castle features fortified towers, chapel of the Holy Cross with 2,000+ semi-precious stones and 129 panel paintings, and commanding hilltop position. The castle represents Czech Gothic architecture's pinnacle. Accessible via easy train from Prague plus 20-minute uphill walk through village. *Half-day trip:* Perfect combination with Koněprusy Caves or village lunch. *Guided tours only:* Castle interior requires joining Czech or English tour (book ahead in summer).



Top Pick

Terezín (Theresienstadt)

Half to full day No Booking Needed

Map

A **sobering WWII concentration camp memorial** 1 hour north of Prague, preserving the Nazi ghetto-camp where 150,000 Jews were imprisoned and 33,000 died. The site includes the Small Fortress (Gestapo prison), ghetto museum, Magdeburg Barracks with recreated dormitories, and Jewish cemetery. Terezín served as propaganda "model camp" shown to Red Cross while simultaneously functioning as transit point to Auschwitz. The museum documents cultural life maintained by prisoners including art, music, and theater despite horrors. *Important history:* Essential visit for understanding Holocaust in Czech lands. *Emotional impact:* Allow time for reflection this is heavy but crucial historical education.



Notable

Dresden, Germany

Full day No Booking Needed

Map

The **Baroque jewel of Saxony** 2 hours north of Prague, rebuilt after WWII destruction. Dresden offers the spectacular Zwinger Palace, reconstructed Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), Semperoper opera house, riverside Brühl's Terrace, and world-class Old Masters Gallery. The city showcases German Baroque architecture, Saxon history, and cultural renaissance. *Full day trip:* Early trains allow 6-8 hours exploration time. *International excursion:* Requires passport cross into Germany. *Alternative:* Overnight stay allows experiencing Dresden's evening atmosphere and reducing travel rush.



Notable

Bohemian Switzerland National Park

Full day No Booking Needed

Map

A **stunning natural landscape** 2 hours north of Prague featuring dramatic sandstone formations, deep forests, and the iconic Pravčická Brána (largest natural sandstone arch in Europe). Popular hiking destinations include Bastei Bridge viewpoints, Kamenice River gorge boat tours, and Edmund's Gorge. The park inspired Chronicles of Narnia film locations. *Nature escape:* Complete contrast to Prague's urban intensity. *Hiking required:* Attractions require walking/hiking bring appropriate shoes and water. *Full day:* Drive or join organized tour for efficient access to scattered viewpoints.

Tips for Day Trips & Excursions

- Book day trip transport early popular destinations like Český Krumlov sell out summer weekends
- Consider organized tours vs independent travel tours handle logistics but reduce flexibility
- Train travel comfortable and scenic RegioJet and Leo Express offer premium services
- Český Krumlov deserves overnight stay if schedule allows magical after day-trippers leave
- Bring passport for Dresden cross international border to Germany
- Karlštejn castle tours require advance booking in summer limited English tour times
- Terezín visit emotionally heavy prepare appropriately and allow reflection time

Food & Dining

Real, highly-rated Restaurants in Prague, sourced from Google Places (rating above 4★).



Bockem★★★★★ 4.8 (663)

1-2 hours

Map

Bockem is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.8★ from 663 reviews. Located at Elišky Peškové 1095/5, Smíchov, 150 00 Praha-Praha 5, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: Closed
- Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM



Restaurant Mlýnec★★★★★ 4.7 (5,180)

1-2 hours

Map

Restaurant Mlýnec is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.7★ from 5180 reviews. Located at Novotného lávka 9, Staré Město, 110 00 Praha-Praha 1, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM, 5:00 – 10:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 10:00 PM



Le Grill Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (1,114)

1-2 hours

Map

Le Grill Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.7★ from 1114 reviews. Located at 12, Hybernská 1002, 110 00 Praha 1-Nové Město, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Tuesday: 7:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Wednesday: 7:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Friday: 7:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Saturday: 7:00 AM – 10:30 PM
- Sunday: 7:00 AM – 10:30 PM



Restaurant Alma Prague★★★★★ 4.7 (1,147)

1-2 hours

Map

Restaurant Alma Prague is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.7★ from 1147 reviews. Located at V Jirchářích 150/8, Nové Město 110 00, 1 Praha 1, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 5:30 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 5:30 – 10:00 PM



U Kroka★★★★★ 4.7 (8,468)

1-2 hours

Map

U Kroka is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.7★ from 8468 reviews. Located at Vratislavova 28/12, 128 00 Praha 2, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM



FAT CAT Downtown★★★★★ 4.7 (3,842)

1-2 hours

Map

FAT CAT Downtown is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.7★ from 3842 reviews. Located at Václavské nám. 818/45, 110 00 Praha 1-Nové Město, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 7:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 7:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM



SOVA★★★★★ 4.7 (1,795)

1-2 hours

Map

SOVA | Modern Czech Cuisine is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.7★ from 1795 reviews. Located at Veleslavínova 10, Staré Město, 110 00 Praha-Praha 1, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 12:00 – 11:00 PM



SenSa Restaurant★★★★★ 4.7 (604)

1-2 hours

Map

SenSa Restaurant is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.7★ from 604 reviews. Located at vedlejší vchod, Senovážná 1394/8, 110 00 Praha 1-Nové Město, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 4:00 PM



Terasa U Zlaté studně★★★★★ 4.7 (1,025)

1-2 hours

Map

Terasa U Zlaté studně is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.7★ from 1025 reviews. Located at U Zlaté studně 166 /4, 118 00 Praha 1-Hradčany, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 7:30 – 10:30 AM, 12:00 – 4:00 PM, 6:00 – 11:00 PM



SUN.DAY Terrace - Georgian Kitchen★★★★★ 4.7 (2,133)

1-2 hours

Map

SUN.DAY Terrace - Georgian Kitchen is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.7★ from 2133 reviews. Located at Lublaňská 59, Nové Město, 120 00 Praha-Praha 2, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: Closed
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM



FAT CAT Old Town★★★★★ 4.6 (12,107)

1-2 hours

Map

FAT CAT Old Town is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.6★ from 12107 reviews. Located at Karlova 44, Staré Město, 110 00 Praha-Praha 1, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM



Husinec restaurace★★★★★ 4.6 (3,618)

1-2 hours

Map

Husinec restaurace is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.6★ from 3618 reviews. Located at Mezibranská 1450/13, 110 00 Praha 1-Nové Město, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM



Kantýna★★★★★ 4.6 (13,588)

1-2 hours

Map

Kantýna is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.6★ from 13588 reviews. Located at Politických vězňů 1511/5, Nové Město, 110 00 Praha-Praha 1, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 10:00 PM



La Degustation★★★★★ 4.6 (1,682)

1-2 hours

Map

La Degustation is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.6★ from 1682 reviews. Located at Haštalská 18, 110 00 Praha 1-Staré Město, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Tuesday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Wednesday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Thursday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Friday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Saturday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM
- Sunday: 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM – 12:00 AM



GamberoRosso □□★★★★★ 4.6 (5,179)

1-2 hours

Map

GamberoRosso □□ is a highly-rated restaurant in Prague, rated 4.6★ from 5179 reviews. Located at Jakubská 744/4, Staré Město, 110 00 Praha-Praha 1, Czechia.

Opening Hours

- Monday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Tuesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Wednesday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Thursday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Friday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Saturday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM
- Sunday: 11:00 AM – 11:00 PM

Practical Information

Seasonal Guide to Prague

Spring (March-May): One of the best times to visit with pleasant temperatures (10-18°C), blooming gardens, Easter festivities, and manageable crowds before peak summer season. May showcases Prague at its greenest with parks and castle gardens in full bloom. The Prague Spring International Music Festival (May-June) draws classical music enthusiasts worldwide. Occasional rain requires light jacket. *Highlight:* April-May offers ideal balance of good weather and moderate tourist numbers.

Summer (June-August): Peak season with warm weather (20-26°C), longest daylight hours, outdoor festivals, and vibrant street life. Expect large crowds at major attractions, higher accommodation prices, and advance booking requirements. July-August can be hot and humid. Prague's beer gardens thrive, riverside cafés bustle, and evening concerts fill church interiors. *Crowding note:* Charles Bridge and Prague Castle extremely busy midday visit early morning or late evening.

Autumn (September-November): Excellent visiting season with comfortable temperatures (10-18°C), golden foliage, wine harvest festivals, and thinning crowds after school resumption. September offers summer weather with fewer tourists. October brings Czech beer festivals and Signal Light Festival. November can be gray and rainy but atmospheric with Christmas market preparations beginning. *Value season:* Lower prices and authentic local experiences increase.

Winter (December-February): Magical atmosphere with Christmas markets (late November-early January), snow-dusted Gothic architecture, festive illuminations, and New Year celebrations. Cold weather (-5 to 5°C) requires warm clothing but creates postcard-perfect scenes. Christmas markets at Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square transform Prague into winter wonderland. January-February offer lowest prices and smallest crowds but shortest daylight and coldest temperatures. *Holiday magic:* December is enchanting but book accommodations months ahead for Christmas/New Year periods.

Weather Considerations

- **Rain:** Possible year-round, especially spring and autumn. Pack waterproof jacket and comfortable walking shoes
- **Peak crowds:** July-August, Easter week, Christmas/New Year
- **Best value:** January-February, November (excluding Christmas markets)
- **Photography:** Spring and autumn provide best natural lighting; winter snow creates dramatic Gothic architecture contrasts
- **River flooding:** Rare but possible during heavy spring rains Vltava has flooded historically

Getting to Prague

By Air: Václav Havel Airport Prague (PRG) is located 17km west of city center. International hub with connections throughout Europe and beyond. From airport to center: **Airport Express (AE) bus** runs directly to Main Train Station (about 40-45 minutes, 200 CZK); **Trolleybus 59** to Nádraží Veleslavín metro station (about 15 min, standard 90-minute ticket); **Bus 100** to Zličín metro station (20 min, standard 90-minute ticket); **Trolleybus 59** (new electric option); or **taxi** (400-600 CZK, 25-35 minutes use official taxi stands or Bolt/Uber apps to avoid scams).

By Train: Praha Hlavní nádraží (Main Train Station) connects to Vienna (4 hours), Budapest (7 hours), Berlin (4.5 hours), Munich (6 hours), and other European cities. The station is centrally located with metro connection (Line C). Praha-Holešovice serves as secondary international station.

By Bus: International buses (FlixBus, RegioJet, LEO Express) arrive at Florenc Bus Station with metro connection (Lines B and C). Budget-friendly option for reaching Prague from neighboring countries.

Getting Around Prague

Public Transportation System: Prague boasts one of Europe's most efficient, affordable integrated transport systems covering metro, trams, buses, funicular, and ferries. *Key advantage:* Single ticket valid across all transport types.

Metro: Three lines serve the city **Line A (Green)** runs through tourist areas including Malostranská (castle), Staroměstská (Old Town), Můstek (Wenceslas Square); **Line B (Yellow)** connects central stations; **Line C (Red)** reaches Main Train Station and Vyšehrad. Metro operates 5:00am-midnight, trains every 2-4 minutes during peak hours. Clean, safe, and fast. *Tourist essential:* Metro accesses most major attractions efficiently.

Trams: Prague's extensive tram network is the most scenic way to explore. Historic **Tram 22** ("The Castle Tram") passes through key tourist areas including National Theatre, Lesser Town, Prague Castle, and Strahov Monastery. **Tram 23** features vintage Tatra cars. **Night trams** (lines 91-99) operate midnight-5:00am every 20-30 minutes. Trams run 4:30am-midnight. *Scenic route:* Riding trams offers moving views of Prague's beautiful streets.

Buses: Serve suburbs and areas without metro/tram coverage. Most tourists rarely need buses except for airport transfers. **Night buses** (lines 901-915) supplement night trams.

Petřín Funicular: Runs from Újezd (Lesser Town) to Petřín Hill summit. A single ride costs 100 CZK (90 CZK in Lítačka), and 24/72-hour passes are valid. Operates daily, year-round, about 7:00am-10:15pm, every 10 minutes.

Ticket Types & Prices (2025)

- **30-minute ticket:** 30 CZK (adult), 15 CZK (child 6-15, student, senior 65+). Limited metro transfers.
- **90-minute ticket:** 50 CZK on paper, 46 CZK in Lítačka (30-minute ticket 39/36 CZK). Unlimited transfers across all transport types.
- **24-hour pass:** 150 CZK on paper, 140 CZK in Lítačka. Unlimited travel including Petřín funicular. *Best for tourists.*
- **72-hour pass:** 350 CZK on paper, 340 CZK in Lítačka. Excellent value for 2-3 day visits.
- **Luggage/dog:** 20 CZK (free with 24/72-hour passes)
- **Free travel:** Children under 15 and seniors 65+ (carry proof of age)

Purchasing Tickets

- **Yellow ticket machines:** At metro stations and major tram stops (accept coins, notes, cards)
- **Contactless terminals:** On trams and buses (middle door on trams). Tickets auto-validated.
- **PID Lítačka mobile app:** Digital tickets via smartphone. *Important:* Activate 2 minutes before boarding!
- **Tourist information centers:** Staffed locations sell all ticket types
- **Tabák/Trafika shops:** Newsstand convenience stores throughout city

Validation & Inspections

CRITICAL: Paper tickets MUST be validated once in yellow machines at metro entrances or on trams/buses immediately after boarding. Contactless terminal and app tickets are pre-validated. Travelling without a valid ticket costs 2,000 CZK (1,200 CZK if paid immediately) inspectors show no mercy to tourists. Never validate tickets twice (invalidates them).

Walking

Best Transportation Method: Prague's historic center is compact and walkable. Old Town to Charles Bridge to Lesser Town to Prague Castle forms natural walking circuit (2-3 hours). Cobblestone streets and hills require comfortable shoes. Most tourists walk 10,000+ steps daily exploring.

Taxis & Ride-Sharing

Taxis: Official yellow AAA taxis and Taxi Praha relatively reliable. Avoid taxis near tourist spots notorious for overcharging. **Better option:** Use **Bolt** or **Uber** apps for transparent pricing and tracking. Typical journey within center: 100-200 CZK.

Bicycle Rentals

Bike-sharing services (Rekola, Nextbike) and rental shops available. Cobblestones and hills make cycling challenging in historic center. Better for riverside paths and parks.

✈ Airport Transfer

Václav Havel Airport Prague (PRG) to city center:

- **Trolleybus 59 + Metro A:** Take trolleybus 59 to Nádraží Veleslavín, then Metro Line A into the center, about 35-45 minutes, 90-minute ticket (50 CZK paper, 46 CZK in the Lítačka app)
- **Airport Express Bus:** Direct coach to Praha hlavní nádraží (main train station) in about 40-45 minutes, 200 CZK
- **Taxi:** Official airport taxi to city center in about 25 minutes, fixed rate around 750 CZK
- **Private Transfer:** Pre-booked car service direct to your hotel in 20-30 minutes, around 850 CZK

What to Buy in Prague

Bohemian Crystal & Glassware: Czech Republic's most famous export, renowned for exceptional quality and craftsmanship. Purchase from reputable shops like Moser (established 1857, luxury crystal), Crystalex, or Český Granát. Prices range from affordable ornaments (500-1,000 CZK) to investment pieces (10,000+ CZK). *Warning:* Avoid cheap tourist shops selling Asian imports labeled "Bohemian crystal." Seek certificates of authenticity.

Garnets: Czech garnets (pyrope type) are unique deep-red gemstones found only in Bohemia. Traditional settings combine garnets with silver or gold. Prices: earrings 2,000-5,000 CZK, necklaces 5,000-20,000+ CZK. *Authenticity:* Purchase from Český Granát stores with certificates, never from street vendors.

Marionettes: Hand-crafted wooden puppets represent Czech puppet theater tradition dating to 18th century. Quality marionettes cost 1,500-5,000+ CZK. Look for traditional characters: knights, jesters, devils, witches. *Shopping:* Speciality puppet shops in Lesser Town and Old Town sell authentic handmade versions.

Beer & Spirits: Czech beer culture extends beyond consumption beer-themed gifts include beer spa products, brewery souvenirs, and bottled craft beers. **Becherovka** (herbal liqueur from Karlovy Vary) is essential Czech spirit (€10-15 per bottle). Absinthe distilleries produce quality versions. Slivovice (plum brandy) represents traditional Czech spirit. *Where:* Bottle shops near Wenceslas Square or airport duty-free.

Trdelník Cinnamon: While trdelník itself is tourist food, the cinnamon-sugar mix makes authentic souvenir for recreating the experience at home.

Kubista Cubist Design: Reproductions of Czech Cubist furniture, ceramics, and decorative objects. The House of the Black Madonna museum shop sells quality items.

Botanicus Natural Cosmetics: Czech brand producing handmade soaps, oils, and beauty products using traditional recipes. Prices reasonable (soap 50-150 CZK). Multiple locations throughout Prague.

Antiques & Vintage: Prague offers excellent antique markets and shops selling Art Nouveau items, communist-era memorabilia, vintage books, and curiosities. *Bargaining acceptable* at flea markets.

Shopping Areas

- **Pařížská Street:** Luxury avenue with international designer boutiques (Louis Vuitton, Hermès, Prada)
- **Wenceslas Square & Na Příkopě:** Mainstream shopping with international chains, department stores (Palladium, Kotva), and Czech brands
- **Havelská Market:** Daily outdoor market near Old Town Square selling fruits, vegetables, flowers, souvenirs, and crafts
- **Old Town & Lesser Town side streets:** Small boutiques, art galleries, antique shops, puppet workshops
- **Karlín & Vinohrady:** Trendy neighborhoods with independent designers, vintage shops, and creative studios

Markets

- **Havelská Market:** Daily (Monday-Saturday 7:00am-7:00pm) near Old Town Square. Produce, flowers, wooden toys, souvenirs
- **Prague Christmas Markets:** Late November-early January at Old Town Square, Wenceslas Square, Republic Square. Handicrafts, ornaments, mulled wine
- **Náplavka Farmers Market:** Saturdays along Vltava riverbank. Organic produce, artisanal foods, vintage items. Local favorite

Shopping Tips

- Shops open Monday-Saturday 9:00am-6:00pm; malls until 9:00pm. Limited Sunday opening
- Credit cards widely accepted; markets prefer cash
- VAT refund available for purchases over 2,001 CZK (non-EU residents). Obtain Tax Free form at shops displaying Global Blue logo
- Avoid crystal/garnet shops on main tourist routes often overpriced with questionable quality
- Bargaining acceptable at flea markets and some antique shops; fixed prices in regular stores
- Tourist trap indicators: aggressive touts, no price tags, pressure sales tactics

Annual Festivals & Events

Prague Spring International Music Festival (Pražské jaro) - May-June: The Czech Republic's most prestigious **classical music festival** since 1946, opening on anniversary of composer Bedřich Smetana's death (May 12) with performance of his Má vlast (My Country) at Municipal House. Three weeks of concerts feature world-renowned orchestras, soloists, and conductors performing in stunning venues including Rudolfinum, Municipal House, and historic churches. *Classical music essential:* Book tickets months ahead for famous performances.

Signal Light Festival - October: Four-day **contemporary light art festival** transforming Prague's architecture, bridges, and public spaces into illuminated canvases. International and Czech artists create projections, installations, and interactive displays. The festival attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors. Most installations free; some ticketed. *Photography heaven:* Stunning nighttime images of illuminated Gothic and Baroque monuments.

Christmas Markets (Vánoční trhy) - Late November to Early January: Prague's **magical winter transformation** with traditional Christmas markets at Old Town Square (main market with massive Christmas tree), Wenceslas Square, Republic Square, and smaller locations throughout the city. Stalls sell handicrafts, ornaments, traditional foods (trdelník, klobása sausages, potato pancakes), and svařák (mulled wine). Live music, Nativity scenes, and festive atmosphere. *Peak tourist season:* Book accommodations far in advance.

Czech Beer Festival - May: 17-day **celebration of Czech brewing culture** featuring over 70 breweries, 150+ beers, live music, and traditional food. Held at Exhibition Grounds (Výstaviště). While Prague offers year-round beer experiences, this festival consolidates tastings in one venue. *Beer enthusiasts:* Opportunity to sample regional breweries rarely found in Prague pubs.

Prague Fringe Festival - Late May/Early June: Week-long **alternative theater, comedy, and performance art festival** featuring international and local artists. Multiple venues across city host diverse shows from stand-up comedy to experimental theater. Affordable tickets and eclectic programming.

United Islands of Prague (spring; 30 April-2 May in 2026): Free **multi-genre music festival** on Vltava River islands featuring rock, electronic, world music, and hip-hop. Multiple stages, family-friendly atmosphere, and no admission fees make it popular with locals and visitors.

Dvořák Prague Festival - September: Classical music festival honoring Czech composer Antonín Dvořák with concerts in historic venues. Smaller scale than Prague Spring but excellent quality performances.

Czech National Holidays

- **New Year's Day / Czech Republic Restoration Day:** January 1 - Most attractions closed
- **Easter Monday:** Moveable - Traditional whipping of girls with willow branches (playful custom), many closures
- **Labour Day:** May 1 - Public holiday
- **Liberation Day:** May 8 - WWII liberation commemoration
- **Saints Cyril and Methodius Day:** July 5 - Religious holiday
- **Jan Hus Day:** July 6 - Religious reformer commemoration
- **Czech Statehood Day:** September 28 - St. Wenceslas Day
- **Independent Czechoslovak State Day:** October 28 - Independence from Austria-Hungary (1918)
- **Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day:** November 17 - Velvet Revolution anniversary (1989)
- **Christmas Eve:** December 24 - Major celebration, most businesses close afternoon
- **Christmas Day:** December 25
- **St. Stephen's Day:** December 26

Planning note: Major attractions often closed on national holidays. Restaurants may close or have limited hours. Book accommodations early for holiday periods.

5 Detailed Day-by-Day Sample Itineraries

Day 1: Prague Castle & Lesser Town

Morning (8:00-12:30):

- 8:00 - Early start to **Prague Castle** before crowds (pre-booked tickets). Enter via main gate for Changing of Guard photo ops
- 9:00 - Tour **St. Vitus Cathedral** (opens 9:00 Mon-Sat, noon on Sundays) - explore chapels, Mucha stained glass, consider tower climb (287 steps) for early views
- 10:00 - Walk **Golden Lane** - tiny colorful houses where castle guards once lived (Kafka lived at #22)
- 10:45 - Visit **Old Royal Palace** including magnificent Vladislav Hall and castle viewing terrace

- 11:30 - Explore **St. George's Basilica** - Prague's oldest surviving church
- 12:00 - **Lobkowicz Palace Museum** for private art collection and stunning café views

Afternoon (13:30-17:30):

- 13:30 - Lunch at castle café or descend to **Malá Strana** (Lesser Town) for traditional Czech restaurant
- 15:00 - Walk through **Wallenstein Garden** (free, peacocks roaming)
- 15:45 - Explore **Lesser Town Square** and **St. Nicholas Church** (Baroque masterpiece)
- 16:45 - Walk **Nerudova Street** (steep cobblestone lane with house signs) toward castle
- 17:15 - Visit **Kampa Island** and park along Čertovka channel (Prague's Venice)

Evening (18:00-21:00):

- 18:00 - Cross **Charles Bridge** toward Old Town during golden hour (less crowded than midday)
- 19:00 - Dinner in **Old Town** - try svíčková or vepřo knedlo zelo
- 20:30 - Evening walk through illuminated **Old Town Square** - Astronomical Clock lit dramatically

Day 2: Old Town, Jewish Quarter & Vltava River

Morning (8:00-12:30):

- 8:00 - Visit **Old Town Square** before crowds - photograph Church of Our Lady Before Týn
- 8:45 - Watch **Astronomical Clock** hourly show (9:00am performance)
- 9:15 - Climb **Old Town Hall Tower** for panoramic views and clock mechanism behind-the-scenes
- 10:00 - Explore **Josefov (Jewish Quarter)** with pre-booked Jewish Museum ticket circuit
- 10:15 - Visit **Pinkas Synagogue** Holocaust memorial (77,297 names inscribed on walls)
- 11:00 - Tour **Old Jewish Cemetery** (12,000+ gravestones in layers)
- 11:45 - See **Spanish Synagogue** (Moorish interior) and other synagogues on ticket

Afternoon (13:00-17:00):

- 13:00 - Lunch in Josefov or Old Town
- 14:30 - Visit **Old-New Synagogue** (separate ticket) - Europe's oldest active synagogue
- 15:15 - Walk **Pařížská Street** (luxury shopping) to Čech Bridge
- 15:45 - Explore **Old Town narrow streets** - discover hidden courtyards, cafés
- 16:30 - Visit **Municipal House** (Art Nouveau masterpiece) - optional guided tour or café visit

Evening (17:30-21:00):

- 17:30 - Board **Vltava River cruise** (pre-booked) for sunset/evening illuminated city views
- 19:30 - Dinner at riverside restaurant or return to Old Town
- 21:00 - Drink at rooftop bar for nighttime castle/city views

Day 3: Vyšehrad, New Town & Local Experiences

Morning (9:00-12:30):

- 9:00 - Metro to **Vyšehrad** fortress (Line C to Vyšehrad station)
- 9:15 - Explore **Vyšehrad fortifications**, walk ramparts with stunning Vltava River views
- 10:00 - Visit **Church of St. Peter and St. Paul** (Neo-Gothic)
- 10:45 - Tour **Vyšehrad Cemetery** where Czech luminaries rest (Dvořák, Smetana, Mucha, Čapek)
- 11:30 - Explore **casemates** (underground tunnels) with original Charles Bridge statues
- 12:15 - Walk through peaceful Vyšehrad parks - local favorite for picnics

Afternoon (13:30-17:30):

- 13:30 - Lunch at Vyšehrad café or metro to **New Town**
- 15:00 - Walk **Wenceslas Square** - historic site of Velvet Revolution protests
- 15:45 - Visit **Museum of Communism** for essential 20th-century Czech history context

- 17:00 - Explore **Náplavka riverfront** - farmers market (if Saturday) or riverside cafés/bars

Evening (18:00-21:30):

- 18:00 - Dinner in **Karlín** or **Vinohrady** neighborhoods (local dining beyond tourist areas)
- 20:00 - Experience Prague's beer culture at traditional pub like **U Fleků** (brewing since 1499) or hipster bar in **Žižkov**
- 21:30 - Optional: Jazz club (Reduta, AghaRTA) or classical concert in historic church

Day 4: Petřín Hill, Modern Prague & Hidden Gems

Morning (9:00-12:30):

- 9:00 - Take **Petřín Funicular** from Újezd to hilltop (included in transport passes)
- 9:15 - Climb **Petřín Lookout Tower** (299 steps) for Prague's best panoramic views
- 10:15 - Explore **Petřín Hill** rose gardens, orchards, and forest paths
- 11:00 - Visit **Mirror Maze** (fun house with distorting mirrors) nearby
- 11:45 - Walk down through **Strahov Monastery** - visit Baroque libraries (stunning frescoed halls)

Afternoon (13:00-17:00):

- 13:00 - Lunch at monastery brewery restaurant or Lesser Town eatery
- 14:30 - Visit **Dancing House** (Frank Gehry architecture) - rooftop gallery and bar
- 15:30 - Explore **National Gallery** location of choice (Veletržní Palace for modern art recommended)
- 17:00 - Walk through **Letná Park** to **Letná Beer Garden** for sunset preparations

Evening (18:00-21:00):

- 18:00 - Watch **sunset from Letná Beer Garden** with Prague's best views over Vltava bridges and Old Town spires
- 19:30 - Dinner in **Holešovice** (creative food scene) or return to favorite neighborhood
- 21:00 - Evening walk across **Charles Bridge** for nighttime photography without crowds

Day 5: Day Trip to Český Krumlov OR Kutná Hora

Option A: Český Krumlov (Full Day)

- 7:00 - Early bus/train departure from Prague (3 hours)
- 10:00 - Arrive **Český Krumlov** - UNESCO World Heritage medieval town
- 10:30 - Tour **Český Krumlov Castle** (second-largest in Czech Republic) with Baroque theater
- 12:30 - Lunch at traditional Czech tavern
- 14:00 - Explore **medieval old town** - winding streets, pastel buildings, Vltava River views
- 15:30 - Walk **castle gardens** and revolving theater
- 16:30 - Depart Český Krumlov
- 19:30 - Return to Prague

Option B: Kutná Hora (Half/Full Day)

- 9:00 - Train from Prague Main Station (1 hour)
- 10:00 - Visit **Sedlec Ossuary (Bone Church)** - chapel decorated with 40,000+ human bones arranged in chandeliers, coats of arms
- 11:30 - Tour **St. Barbara's Cathedral** - Gothic masterpiece rivaling St. Vitus
- 13:00 - Lunch in Kutná Hora town center
- 14:30 - Explore **historic silver mining town** - former rival to Prague's wealth
- 15:30 - Optional: Czech Silver Museum and medieval mine tour
- 16:30 - Return train to Prague (or stay longer if desired)
- 18:00 - Back in Prague - relaxed evening, final dinner at favorite discovered restaurant

Itinerary Customization Tips:

- Book Prague Castle and Jewish Museum tickets online days in advance

- Most museums closed Mondays - plan accordingly
- Build flexibility for weather - have indoor backup plans ready
- Mix major sights with wandering - Prague rewards aimless exploration
- Consider classical music concerts in churches - atmospheric and affordable (300-500 CZK)
- Day trips require early departures - book transport tickets ahead

Best Instagram & Photography Locations with Timing Tips

1. Charles Bridge at Sunrise - THE Iconic Shot

What: Empty medieval bridge with Gothic towers, baroque statues, and Prague Castle rising behind in golden morning light.

Best Time: Sunrise (6:00-7:00am summer, 7:00-8:00am winter) before tour groups arrive. Completely empty bridge creates magical, timeless atmosphere.

Location: Letná Park has its own Metronome viewpoint and beer garden (a separate place from Charles Bridge).

Tips: This is Prague locals' favorite sunset spot. Arrive 30 minutes early for good position. Free public space no admission. Telephoto lens compresses bridges beautifully.

5. Lesser Town (Malá Strana) from Charles Bridge Tower

What: Bird's-eye view down Charles Bridge toward Lesser Town with St. Nicholas Church dome and castle ramparts.

Best Time: Morning (9:00-11:00am) for light illuminating bridge and Lesser Town. Less crowded than afternoon.

Location: Old Town Bridge Tower observation level (138 steps).

Tips: Shoot both directions toward castle and toward Old Town. Wide-angle captures full bridge. Combine with Astronomical Clock tower visit (separate tickets).

6. Golden Lane at Prague Castle

What: Tiny colorful houses built into castle fortifications creating fairytale medieval street scene.

Best Time: Early morning (immediately at castle opening) or late afternoon for soft light and fewer tourists.

Location: Inside Prague Castle complex near eastern end.

Tips: Shoot doorways, window details, and full street vista. Color contrast against gray castle walls creates vibrant images. Very narrow lane crowds make photography difficult midday.

7. Kampa Island & Čertovka (Devil's Channel)

What: Venice-like narrow water channel with old mill wheel, willow trees, and picturesque Lesser Town architecture.

Best Time: Any time less crowded than main attractions. Morning provides gentle light.

Location: Steps down from Charles Bridge south side to Kampa Island.

Tips: Look for red mill wheel still turning in channel. Willow reflections in calm water create romantic scenes. David Černý's crawling babies sculpture nearby offers quirky contrast.

8. Vyšehrad Fortress - Alternative Castle Views

What: Dramatic Vltava River bends with bridges, city skyline, and Gothic castle silhouette from southern vantage.

Best Time: Afternoon-evening for light hitting city from west. Sunset creates silhouettes.

Location: Vyšehrad ramparts and viewpoints along fortification walls.

Tips: Far fewer tourists than Prague Castle viewpoints. Local atmosphere. Cemetery offers architectural photography. Combine with fortress exploration.

9. St. Vitus Cathedral Interior

What: Soaring Gothic vaults, Alfons Mucha stained glass window, and intricate architectural details.

Best Time: Midday when sunlight streams through stained glass creating colorful light beams. Afternoon for Mucha window illumination.

Location: Inside Prague Castle complex included in castle tickets.

Tips: Tripod not allowed use high ISO and stabilization. Mucha window is on left side of nave (north aisle). Wide-angle lens essential for vaulted ceiling shots. Be respectful this is active place of worship.

10. Dancing House Rooftop

What: Frank Gehry's deconstructivist architecture with 360-degree views over Prague including castle.

Best Time: Late afternoon-sunset for warm light across city.

Location: Rooftop gallery and bar (admission €5-10).

Tips: Modern architecture contrasts dramatically with historic Prague. Combines contemporary building photography with traditional cityscape views.

General Photography Tips for Prague:

- **Golden Hour Magic:** Prague's Gothic architecture glows beautifully in early morning and evening light
- **Blue Hour Drama:** 30 minutes after sunset when illuminated monuments shine against deep blue sky
- **Weather:** Overcast days create soft even light perfect for architecture. After rain, cobblestones reflect dramatically.
- **Equipment:** Wide-angle (16-35mm) for squares and interiors; 50mm for street scenes; telephoto (70-200mm) for castle/tower details and compressed perspectives
- **Crowds:** Summer midday (10am-6pm) brings impossible crowds at major sites. Early morning/evening essential for empty shots.
- **Seasons:** Spring blooms, summer greenery, autumn golden foliage, winter snow each offers unique character. Winter provides dramatic contrast with Gothic architecture.
- **Respect:** Churches and synagogues may restrict photography observe posted rules. Use discretion photographing people.
- **Night Photography:** Prague illuminates beautifully. Bring tripod for long exposures of bridges, castles, and squares.

Electricity & Adapters

Voltage: 230V at 50Hz - standard throughout Czech Republic and European Union.

Plug Types: Czech Republic uses **Type E plugs** (two round pins with female earth contact in socket) and **Type C plugs** (two round pins without earth). Both types compatible with Czech sockets.

For Travelers:

- **UK visitors:** Need adapter for three-pin UK plugs (Type G). UK devices work with adapter as they support 230V.
- **US/Canada visitors:** Need adapter AND potentially voltage converter. Most modern electronics (phones, laptops, cameras, tablets) support 110-240V (check device label "INPUT: 100-240V" means adapter only needed). Hair dryers, straighteners, curling irons typically require voltage converter OR purchase dual-voltage versions. Using 110V device on 230V without converter damages/destroys device.

- **European visitors:** Most European plugs (Type C) work directly in Czech sockets. German, French, Spanish, Italian plugs compatible.
- **Australian/Asian visitors:** Need Type C or E adapter. Check voltage compatibility.

Where to Buy Adapters: Prague Airport shops, electronics stores in city center (Alza, Datart), hotels often loan adapters (ask reception). *Best value:* Purchase universal travel adapter before trip.

USB Charging: Most hotels provide USB ports or adapters. Many newer accommodations have USB outlets built into walls. Public transport and modern cafés increasingly offer USB charging.

Power Strips: Useful if traveling with multiple devices. Bring one from home and add single adapter.

Pro Tips:

- Universal travel adapters with multiple plug types most versatile investment
- Always verify voltage before plugging in look for "100-240V" on device labels
- Czech sockets sometimes recessed some bulky adapters may not fit flush
- Hotels charge devices at reception if you forget adapters

Must-Try Czech Dishes & Dining Tips

Essential Czech Specialties

Svíčková na Smetaně (Marinated Sirloin with Cream Sauce): The Czech Republic's **national dish** beef sirloin marinated in vegetables and vinegar, slow-cooked until tender, served with rich cream sauce made from root vegetables, cranberry compote, whipped cream, and knedlíky (bread dumplings). The sweet-sour-creamy combination defines Czech cuisine. Traditional Sunday lunch dish found in every restaurant. *Must-order:* Essential Czech culinary experience.

Vepřo-Knedlo-Zelo (Pork-Dumplings-Cabbage): Quintessential Czech pub food roasted pork with bread dumplings and braised sauerkraut or red cabbage. Simple, hearty, and beloved by locals. The dumplings soak up meat juices. Portions are enormous. *Where:* Traditional pubs and hospody (Czech taverns).

Guláš (Goulash): Rich beef or pork stew with paprika, onions, and spices, served with bread dumplings or houskový knedlík. Czech version differs from Hungarian thicker, more bread-like consistency. Comfort food perfect for cold days. Wild boar and venison goulash variations available. *Beer pairing:* Dark Czech lager complements goulash perfectly.

Smažený Sýr (Fried Cheese): Thick slice of Edam or Hermelín cheese breaded and deep-fried, served with tartar sauce and fries or potato salad. Indulgent vegetarian option found everywhere. Crispy outside, molten inside. Popular late-night food and beer garden staple.

Kulajda: Creamy mushroom soup with potatoes, dill, sour cream, and poached egg. Traditional Bohemian specialty, especially in South Bohemia. Earthy, comforting, and distinctly Czech. *Starter:* Often ordered before main course.

Bramboráky (Potato Pancakes): Crispy fried potato pancakes with garlic, marjoram, served with sour cream. Street food and restaurant appetizer. Simple but addictive. Found at Christmas markets and food stalls.

Česnečka (Garlic Soup): Strong garlic soup with potatoes, croutons, and sometimes egg or bacon. Traditional hangover cure and winter warmer. Not for the garlic-averse! Surprisingly delicious despite intense flavor.

Czech Desserts

Trdelník: Controversial! This **spiral pastry** cooked on rotating spit, coated in cinnamon sugar, is actually Slovak/Hungarian origin NOT traditional Czech despite ubiquity in tourist areas. Modern versions stuffed with ice cream or Nutella. Locals consider it tourist trap food. If trying, avoid overpriced Old Town spots (50-100 CZK is reasonable; 150+ CZK is tourist ripoff).

Koláče: Authentic Czech pastries sweet yeast dough rounds with fruit preserves (plum, poppy seed, apricot, cheese) filling dimpled center. Found in proper bakeries, not tourist traps. Traditional and genuinely Czech.

Větrník (Wind Cake/Cream Puff): Choux pastry filled with vanilla cream, topped with caramel. Classic Czech bakery treat. Light, sweet, and popular with locals.

Palačinky (Czech Crepes): Thin pancakes filled with jam, chocolate, fruit, or ice cream, often topped with whipped cream. Dessert or sweet lunch option.

Czech Beer Culture

Beer Capital: Czech Republic has **world's highest beer consumption per capita** and arguably invented modern lager. Beer (pivo) is cheaper than water, integral to Czech culture, and exceptional quality.

Must-Try Czech Beers:

- **Pilsner Urquell:** The original pilsner (1842), from Plzeň. Crisp, golden, hoppy. Served in traditional tankards.
- **Budweiser Budvar:** The REAL Budweiser (Czech town Budweis), superior to American namesake. Smooth, balanced lager.
- **Kozel:** Popular brand with dark and light varieties. Affordable, quality everyday beer.
- **Staropramen:** Prague's own brewery. Widely available local option.
- **Bernard:** Craft brewery with unpasteurized varieties. Beer enthusiast favorite.
- **Únětické Pivo:** Small batch, unfiltered, exceptional quality. Harder to find but worth seeking.

Beer Types:

- **Světlé (Light/Pale Lager):** Most common golden, hoppy, refreshing
- **Tmavé (Dark Lager):** Rich, malty, caramel notes. Not heavy despite color.
- **Polotmavé (Amber/Semi-Dark):** Hybrid style
- **Řezané (Mixed):** Light and dark mixed popular with locals
- **Nefiltrované (Unfiltered):** Cloudy, more flavorful, fresher

Beer Degrees (°): Czech system measures original gravity/strength 10° is standard (around 4% alcohol), 12° is premium/stronger (around 5% alcohol). Higher degrees = stronger, fuller-bodied beer.

Dining Customs & Tips

- **Reservations:** Recommended for popular restaurants, especially weekends. Walk-ins often possible at pubs.
- **Meal Times:** Lunch 11:30am-2:00pm, Dinner 6:00pm-10:00pm. Kitchens may close between services.
- **Beer Etiquette:** Beer served immediately upon sitting unless you decline. Empty glass signals server to bring another (sometimes automatic). Place coaster over glass when finished. Don't pour your own beer from bottles servers do this.
- **Bread/Appetizers:** Brought automatically but NOT free charged per piece. You can refuse if unwanted.
- **Tipping:** Round up bill or add 10% for good service. Not mandatory but appreciated. Service charge rarely included check bill. Tell server total including tip when paying.
- **Payment:** Many places cash-only, especially traditional pubs. Always ask "Platit, prosím" (pay, please) to get bill servers won't rush you.
- **Water:** Tap water safe but restaurants expect you to order bottled water, beer, or soft drinks. Asking for tap water acceptable but may get attitude.
- **Portions:** HUGE. Czech cuisine is heavy, filling comfort food. Consider sharing or ordering appetizer portions.

Restaurant Recommendations by Category

Traditional Czech:

- **Lokál:** Chain offering quality traditional food, excellent Pilsner Urquell, reasonable prices, authentic atmosphere. Multiple locations.
- **U Fleků:** Historic brewery (since 1499) serving dark lager and traditional food. Touristy but genuinely historic. Live traditional music.
- **Café Louvre:** Historic café (1902) where Einstein and Kafka dined. Traditional Czech and international dishes, elegant atmosphere.

Beer Halls & Pubs:

- **U Zlatého Tygra (The Golden Tiger):** Legendary pub where Václav Havel brought Bill Clinton. Authentic, no-frills, excellent Pilsner. Can be brusque to tourists.
- **Pivovarský Dům:** Craft brewery with unique flavored beers (nettle, banana, cherry). Creative brewing experiments alongside traditional varieties.
- **Dva Kohouti:** Traditional pivnice (beer hall) serving Únětice beer. Local atmosphere, quality food.

Modern Czech Cuisine:

- **Eska:** Contemporary Czech ingredients and techniques. Creative takes on traditional dishes. Hipster vibe, excellent bakery.
- **Sansho:** Asian-inspired modern Czech fusion. Innovative, sharing plates, excellent cocktails.
- **Field:** Farm-to-table Czech ingredients, seasonal menus, Michelin-recognized quality.

Budget-Friendly:

- **Kantýna:** Cafeteria-style traditional Czech food. Rock-bottom prices, authentic workers' canteen atmosphere. Multiple locations.
- **Havelská Koruna:** Self-service Czech buffet near Old Town Square. Fast, cheap, surprisingly good quality.
- **Street food markets:** Náplavka Farmers Market (Saturdays), Manifesto Market, food trucks

Tourist trap warning: Avoid restaurants with photos on menus, aggressive touts, locations directly on Old Town Square or Wenceslas Square main drag. Walk 2-3 streets away for better value and authenticity.

Tourist Passes

Prague City Pass

The **Prague City Pass** is valid for 30 days and bundles sights and tours; the official **Prague Visitor Pass** is a separate product with 48-, 72- and 120-hour versions (adults 2,700, 3,300 and 3,900 CZK). Compare it with the sights you actually plan to visit before buying.

www.praguepass.com

Prague Castle Tickets

The **Main Circuit (450 CZK adult)** covers St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, St. George's Basilica and Golden Lane. Buy tickets at the castle information centres or through the link on hrad.cz. Check the castle's closure notices: the Old Royal Palace is closed on 30 September and 1 October 2026 and reopens on 2 October.

www.hrad.cz

Jewish Museum Prague Combined Ticket

The Jewish Museum ticket costs **600 CZK for adults, 400 CZK for students under 26** and 200 CZK for children 7-15, valid for three opening days. It covers the Maisel, Pinkas, Spanish and Old-New synagogues and the Old Jewish Cemetery (the Old-New Synagogue has been included since 1 January 2024; the Klausen Synagogue has limited access). The sites are closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays (including 4 October 2026).

www.jewishmuseum.cz

Prague Public Transport Passes

Integrated transport system tickets covering metro, trams, buses, funicular, and ferries. **24-hour pass (150 CZK)** or **72-hour pass (350 CZK)** offer unlimited travel and best value for tourists. The Petřín funicular takes a single ride ticket (100 CZK, 90 CZK in Lítačka) or a 24/72-hour pass. *Alternative:* 90-minute tickets (50 CZK) work for occasional trips; a 30-minute ticket (39 CZK) also allows unlimited transfers within its time. *Purchase:* Yellow machines at metro stations (English available), PID Lítačka mobile app, tourist centers, or contactless terminals on trams/buses. *Validation critical:* Paper tickets MUST be validated once in yellow machines or face 1,000 CZK fines. *Children:* Under 15 and seniors 65+ travel free on Prague urban transport (carry proof of age).

pid.cz