

10

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Prague Castle – New Municipal Board Room (after 1541)

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**the best of ...**

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*Eight million tourists from around the world visit Prague each year*

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## PRAGUE



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St. Vitus Cathedral – Chapel of St. Wenceslas

## PRAGUE, THE MOTHER OF CITIES...

The largest and most populated city in the Czech Republic is located directly in the centre of Bohemia. Its extraordinary location on the banks of the Vltava River and its unprecedented concentration of architectural and artistic monuments rightfully places it among the most beautiful cities in the world.

The city's documented history begins in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. In around 880, the Přemyslid prince **Bořivoj** and his son **Spytihněv I** founded the foundations of the future Prague Castle on a rock promontory above the river. It was from here that the Přemyslid ruling dynasty gradually created an administrative centre for the emerging Czech nation. Its increasing power grew hand in hand with the importance of the settlement below the castle, and the gradual arrival of merchants and craftsmen began to transform it into a prosperous medieval began city.

Prague experienced its period of greatest development during the reign of the Luxembourg ruler **Charles IV** (1316–1378). He raised the city's status to an imperial residence, expanded its boundaries, and increased its overall importance. The establishment of the **first university** north of the Alps made Prague, already a political focal point of Europe, a centre of education as well.

The first attempts at unifying the individual townships of Prague came in the sixteenth century and finally culminated in a single administrative unit by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In **1918**, Prague became the capital of the newly established independent **Czechoslovakia**, and in **1922**, the outlying quarters and suburbs were associated to form the new "Great Prague" which has roughly the same size and population of Prague today.

During the **Second World War**, Prague was lucky to experience only a minimal amount of damage – first during the Allied bombings in February of 1945, then during the Prague uprising at the very end of the



*The great seal of the city of Prague, in its present form since 21 March 1991*

war three months later. Even the socialist era of the latter 20<sup>th</sup> century did not leave significant architectural blemishes (with a few exceptions). Tourists and visitors today can admire Prague in its nearly untouched form from a time when "**her glory touched the stars...**"



**Did you know that...**

**Charles IV**, the king of Bohemia and Germany and Roman Emperor, was declared the "**Greatest Czech in History**" in a Czech Television poll in 2005.



## GUIDED TOURS AND EXHIBITIONS

After the purchase of a ticket, you can take the following tours. Tickets are valid for two days.

### • Prague Castle – Tour A

St. Vitus Cathedral, Old Royal Palace, St. George's Basilica, the Story of the Prague Castle Exhibition, Golden Lane, Powder Tower, Rosenberg Palace

### • Prague Castle – Tour B

St. Vitus Cathedral, Old Royal Palace, St. George's Basilica, Golden Lane

### • Prague Castle – Tour C

Crown Jewels, Prague Castle Picture Gallery

• **Individually accessible** – the Story of the Prague Castle Exhibition • Powder Tower

• Great St. Vitus Cathedral South Tower (lookout tower) • Crown Jewels • Prague Castle Picture Gallery

**All buildings except the towers have wheelchair access.**

Tour of the Castle is available with a **professional guide**. It takes approx. 1 hour. Offered in the following languages: Czech, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Russian.

OPENING TIMES	1. 4 – 31. 10	1. 11 – 31. 3
Castle complex – daily	6:00 – 22:00	6:00 – 22:00
Historical buildings in the Castle complex - daily*	9:00 – 17:00	9:00 – 16:00
Prague Castle Gardens	10:00 – 18:00	not accessible

\* except 24. 12.

[www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz)



I. courtyard II. courtyard III. courtyard IV. courtyard

- |                            |                          |                          |                  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Archbishop's Palace      | 5 Spanish Hall           | 9 Theresian Wing         | 13 Summer Palace |
| 2 Matthias Gate            | 6 Cathedral of St. Vitus | 10 St. George's Basilica | 14 Golden Lane   |
| 3 Chapel of the Holy Cross | 7 Old Provost            | 11 St. George's Convent  | 15 Dalibor Tower |
| 4 Empirical Stables        | 8 Old Royal Palace       | 12 Lobkowitz Palace      | 16 Black Tower   |

## PRAGUE CASTLE

Founded by the ruling  **Přemyslid family**  in the second half of the  **9th century** . It served administrative purposes as well as protecting the market settlements along the Vltava River. The original fortified settlement with log structures and dirt mounds gradually became a Romanesque castle whose importance and size grew with the increasing power of the Přemyslids (Czechs). Further developments took place especially during the rule of  **Přemysl Otakar II** , when new fortifications and a Gothic palace were built. The real period of growth of the royal residence began with the rule of  **Charles IV** , when the builders Matthias of Arras and Peter Parler began building the new grandiose cathedral. The castle was abandoned and fell into disrepair during the  **Hussite Wars** . At the end of the 15th century it was chosen by the  **Jagiellonians**  for their residence, who had the famous Vladislav Hall built, among others. Ferdinand I made significant changes to the castle's appearance in the middle 16th century with the

construction of the elegant Renaissance  **Queen Anne's Summer Palace** . A large part of the castle was reconstructed in Baroque style during the rule of Maria Theresa (1740–1780), and Prague Castle gained its definitive appearance with the completion of  **St. Vitus Cathedral**  in 1873–1929.



## PRAGUE CASTLE *about 3 hours*

**Getting there:** tram – Pražský hrad, Pohořelec, Malostranské náměstí; metro – Malostranská, Hradčanská

Our journey starts out from Prague Castle, a symbol of Czech statehood and our most important national cultural monument. Before passing through the **Gate of the Giants** from 1776 onto the first castle courtyard, let's enjoy one of the most beautiful panoramas in Prague – a view from the castle ramparts down to the city below us. From here, you can fully understand why Prague is known as the “**city of a thousand spires**”, even, paradoxically, because of its modern construction, especially the Žižkov TV tower from 1992, striking its permanent imprint on the Prague skyline.

In the first castle courtyard, we're welcomed by the facade of the New Palace, a monumental classicist building dating from 1762-1768. We pass under the solemn **Matthias Gate** from 1614, named after

Emperor Matthias I, to find ourselves on the second courtyard.

Continue to the next, third courtyard, to find yourself before the most precious building of the Prague Castle, the imposing **Gothic cathedral** of Sts. Vitus, Wenceslas, and Adalbert. This is the spiritual center of the Czech nation, where 26 Bohemian kings were crowned as well as other important events that took place throughout history. Several Czech rulers, as well as saints, nobles, and archbishops have found their final resting place in the cathedral's tombs. The cathedral also holds the Czech **crown jewels**.

To the right, seen from further back in the courtyard, we can admire the complex buttress system of the cathedral's choir as well as Parler's Golden Gate with its famous mosaic of the Last Judgment (behind which is the Crown Chamber) at the foot of the mighty southern **Great Tower** (height 96.5 m). Located above the mosaic, you'll see the largest window of the cathedral with its rich decorations.

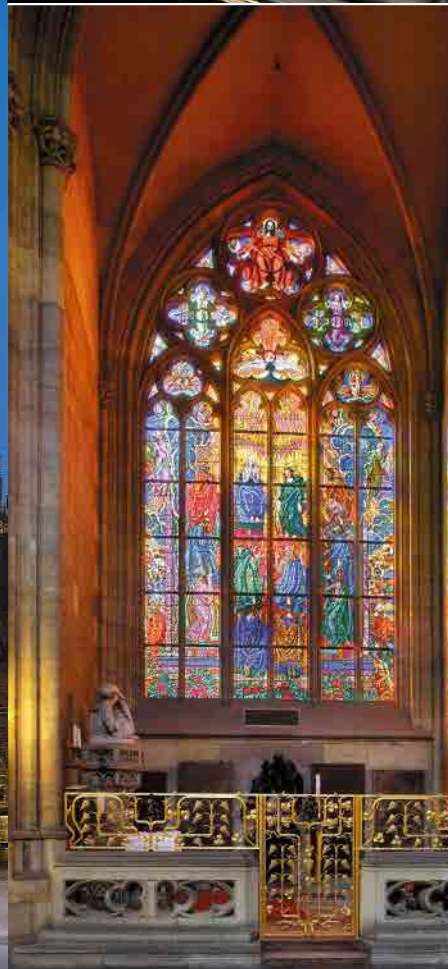
### Did you know that...

There were major problems with the installation of the obelisk **on the 3<sup>rd</sup> courtyard**? The obelisk was successfully taken from **a single piece of granite** at the Mrákotín quarry near the town of Telč, but it broke during transport to Prague. The second monolith, all **112 tons** of it, managed to make it to its location, but it broke again during erection. Luckily, it broke near the tip, so it could be “simply” shortened a little. The unsuccessful transport of the first obelisk from Mrákotín to Prague, though, had a sad ending. The officer who was responsible for the transport was so disheartened by his failure that he supposedly committed suicide later. . .



That after Prague Castle, the **crown jewels** are national cultural property No. 2? Their historical and symbolic value is immeasurable in monetary terms. They are stored in the **Crown Jewels Chamber** of the cathedral, in the most inaccessible and most highly secured and guarded location of the entire castle, perhaps in the entire country. The doors to the chamber and armoured doors of the safe are secured with **seven locks** that are opened by **seven different keys**. To open the chamber, the President of the Republic, the Prague Archbishop, the Dean of the Metropolitan Chapter of St. Vitus Cathedral, the Prime Minister, the Chairman of the House of Deputies, the Chairman of the Senate, and the Lord Mayor of Prague must all convene at the same moment. Normally, the public may view the Crown Jewels only once every five years during important state events. You can see a faithful **replica of the St. Wenceslas Crown** in the exposition “The Story of Prague Castle”.

**6** The **Cathedral of St. Vitus**, Wenceslas, and Adalbert is the most important and **the largest of all churches in Prague**. It stands on the site where two churches consecrated to **St. Vitus** used to stand long ago (you can see their foundations today at the base of the cathedral). In the beginning of the 10th century, Prince Wenceslas had a rotunda built here which was later replaced by a basilica. Construction on the Gothic cathedral began with **Charles IV in 1344** when the Prague bishopric was raised to an archbishopric. The first architect of the church was **Matthias of Arras**, replaced in 1356 by **Peter Parler**. These two architects managed to build the cathedral's choir with chapels, the Golden Gate, St. Wenceslas Chapel (consecrated in 1367), and started the construction of the great tower. Some rulers attempted to continue with the cathedral's construction in later years, but the building basically remained a torso. Even though the arcade walkway around the great tower was built in 1554, the tower was completed in 1770 with a Baroque spire. It wasn't until the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (1873–1929) that the western part of the church nave was completed and two 80 meter high pseudo-Gothic towers were built on. **The completion of the cathedral in 1929** took place on the occasion of the anniversary of 7000 years since the assassination of St. Wenceslas (probably 907 to 28. 9. 929 or 935).





### VLADISLAV HALL

This is a ceremonial and representative hall situated in the **Old Royal Palace** in the medieval part of Prague Castle. It was formed in 1490–1502 by merging three smaller halls from the time of Charles IV and is **62 by 16 meters** large and 13 meters high. The hall boasts five sections of bold ringed vaulting and is fitted with rectangular Renaissance windows that look out onto the 3<sup>rd</sup> castle courtyard. It was commissioned by King **Vladislaus Jagiellon** (1456–1516) and built by architect **Benedikt Ried**. The hall is an outstanding example of late Bohemian Gothic style, also known as Vladislav Gothic. It used to serve for coronation banquets for the Bohemian rulers and since 1918 has been used for the most important state events, primarily the **election of the President of the Republic** and bestowing state decorations. Vladislav Hall is adjacent to the Old Diet and the All Saints' Church.

Not to be overlooked, the 15.5-meter-high granite obelisk from 1928 also embellishes the third courtyard, designed by architect **Josip Plečnik** to mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of independent Czechoslovakia.

We'll continue further around the **Old Royal Palace**, whose windows marked the arrival of the Renaissance in Bohemia.

The palace is accessible as part of a paid tour that features the impressive and representative **Vladislav Hall**, the Vladislav Bedroom, the Old Chamber House, the room of the New Land Tables, and a look into the All Saints Church.

We soon arrive at St. George's Square. The side that faces the cathedral is the Baroque facade of the former Benedictine



14

### Golden Lane

*Golden Lane was built at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century thanks to Emperor **Rudolf II**, who permitted the castle archers to build small dwellings in the arches of the fortification walls. In later years, it was the extremely poor who inhabited this little corner of the Castle. The area served as residences until 1953, when the office of the president bought the homes along the street and had the entire area repaired, thus creating this now very popular tourist destination.*

*The coloured facades of the homes are the work of the favourite Czech animated film maker and designer **Jiří Trnka** (1912–1969).*



### 10 ST. GEORGE'S BASILICA

This is a **three-naved church**, founded by Prince Vratislav I (father of St. Wenceslas) in the year 921. It has retained most of its original Romanesque appearance up to the present. It was slightly reconstructed in 1142 after the great fire of Prague Castle, when the basilica completely burned out. A much younger element of the church is its Baroque facade from the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the Chapel of St. John of Nepomuk, added in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. **The Chapel of St. Ludmila** from the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century is of Romanesque origin. Two simple squared towers with pyramidal stone spires are both 41 meters tall. The more observant visitor will notice that the southern tower is slightly wider, while its northern "twin" is tilted about half a meter. The basilica is the final resting place for several Přemyslid rulers as well as the grandmother of Prince Wenceslas, **St. Ludmila** (860–921).

monastery. Behind and above it, the two whitish opaque towers that belong to the Romanesque **Basilica of St. George** [10] come from the middle of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.

At the end of the cluster of monastery buildings, on the left in Jiřská street, don't forget to take a peek (if you don't want to pay the entrance fee) down the picturesque **Golden Lane** [14]. Entrance is free after the closing time, but there are no tours of the houses.

If we continue a bit further, we eventually come to the eastern gate of the castle grounds. The terrace behind it offers beautiful views of the Old Town, the Lesser Town and the Gardens below the Castle. This is also a good place to relax and have a seat on the benches in what they say is the oldest vineyard in Bohemia – the **St. Wenceslas vineyard** between Klárov and the Old Castle Steps.

We return to the square and come to stand in front of the basilica. This time, we go around the Cathedral to the right, around the former restaurant Vikárka and walk back to the **second courtyard**. We leave this courtyard to the right through the north gate, around the **Prague Castle Picture Gallery**. This gallery houses the oldest collection of fine arts in Bohemia. It presents more than a hundred rare European paintings from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, including the works of Peter Paul Ruben and Tizian. Most of the paintings come from the extensive collections of Emperor **Rudolph II**.

Past the Powder Bridge and over the Deer Moat, we head to the Prague Castle **Riding School**. At the end of the 1940's, the interiors of this 1694 Baroque building were converted into a gallery. It regularly hosts exhibitions of the most important Czech artists.



### 13 QUEEN ANNE'S SUMMER PALACE

This was commissioned by Emperor **Ferdinand I** (1503–564) for his wife Anne of Jagiellon in **1538–1563** on the design of architect **Paolo della Stella**. It was completed by architect **Bonifác Wohlmut**. The Summer Palace, equipped with an arcade walkway and Ionic columns around its entire periphery, is one of the **first Renaissance buildings in Bohemia**. It wasn't intended for permanent residence but mostly served for holding various types of celebrations. Near the palace, or perhaps directly from it, the famous Danish astronomer **Tycho Brahe** (1546–1601) carried out his astronomical observations under the service of Rudolf II.

If we still have enough power and time, we shouldn't leave out a visit to the **Royal Gardens** which conceal the lovely **summerhouse of Queen Anne** [13], often called the Belvedere. This is considered to be the purest building of the Renaissance outside Italy. A **singing fountain** stands in front of it in park.

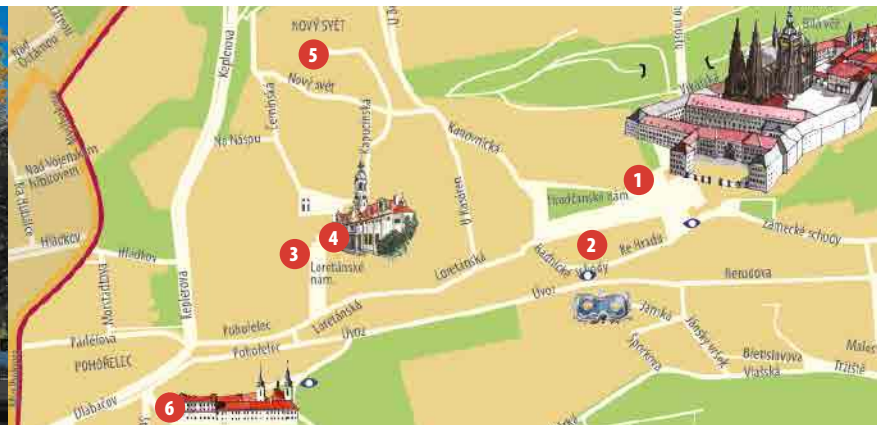


**Did you know that...**

The **Singing Fountain** in front of Queen Anne's Summer Palace is fully entitled to its name? If you press your ear to the bottom of the large bowl of the fountain, the falling water will "sing" an "A" tone. This bronze work of art weighs over 5 tons, is made of two bowls placed above each other, and was cast in **1568** by bell-maker **Tomáš Jaroš**. The sad fact of the story is that Jaroš never received the full payment for his work, and he didn't live to see the placement of the fountain in front of the palace.



The former monastery of the Benedictine nuns on the third court, the towers of Saint George's Basilica in the background



## HRADČANY about 2 hours

**Getting there:** tram — Pražský hrad, Pohořelec, Malostranské náměstí, metro — Malostranská, Hradčanská

Standing on **Hradčany Square**, there are several palaces to grab our attention. One of the most interesting is the Archbishop's Palace [1], Martinic Palace, and the Renaissance **Schwarzenberg Palace** [2], whose entire facade is richly decorated with sgraffito. The palace looks as it did after the last reconstruction in the middle 16th century and now serves for exhibitions.

Go along Loretaňská Street to reach the **Loreta** [3], whose history reaches back to 1626. Its Baroque facade from 1720–1722 is the work of builder K. I. Dienzenhofer. The entire complex of this former pilgrimage site consists of the Church of the Lord's Birth, Holy Hut (a replica of the chapel in the Italian village of Loreto; the chapel holds a replica of the house where the Virgin Mary was said to have lived in Nazareth), cloisters, and a clock tower with its famous carillon. Opposite the Loreta stands the **Černín Palace** [4] with its early Baroque monumental facade, now the office of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Just a bit further from here is the vast complex of the **Strahov Monastery** [6], the oldest Premonstratense monastery in the country. It was founded by king Vladislav II



**1** The Rococo facade of the **Archbishop's Palace**, originally Gyspek Palace from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The palace was later rebuilt in the Renaissance style and served as a **residence for the Prague archbishops**. It is not open to the public.

**Did you know that...**

**5** Outside the normal bustle of tourism but not far from Prague castle lies the "**New World**", with plenty of mysterious corners, small houses, and winding streets to create one of the most picturesque neighborhoods in Prague. Especially worth noting is the house **U Zlatého noha** (No. 76), where the Danish astronomer **Tycho Brahe** lived in about 1600, or the house **U Raka** — a wooden structure that you certainly wouldn't expect to find in Prague. Today it serves as a romantic hotel.





**3** *The Loreto Bell Tower, the work of clockmaker Peter Neumann from 1695, is the largest device of its type in Bohemia? It holds **thirty bells** (29 of them original), comes from Amsterdam and weighs a total of 1.5 tons. The iron cylinder with pins that play the bells is connected to the clock mechanism in the tower. Every hour on the hour, the tower plays for a whole minute. The bells can also be played manually using a keyboard, turning the Loreto Bell Tower into a **unique musical instrument**.*

in 1140. Its courtyard is home to the Baroque Premonstratense Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, once a Romanesque basilica. The church's two towers are an important part of the skyline to this part of Prague. There is a library adjacent to the church, which has served as a **National Literature Museum**.

From Strahov Monastery, we can head down Strahovská Street towards Petřín [p. 20], or continue with a tour of the Lesser Town, known as Malá Strana [p. 15].

**Did you know that...**

**6**

#### MUSEUM OF CZECH LITERATURE IN STRAHOV

*This museum gathers the most important historical items related to the evolution of literature in Bohemia and to important figures in Czech literature. It was founded in 1952 as a **National Cultural Monument**. The collection includes approximately six and a half million items, while the Strahov Library contains about **six hundred thousand volumes**.*



*The house signs come from the time when the houses didn't have numbers, but bore the names of the owners or actual symbols.*

### MALÁ STRANA about 3 hours

**Getting there:** tram – Malostranské náměstí, metro – Malostranská

From Strahov Monastery, we'll go down the street named Úvoz to Nerudova Street below the castle. This street used to be a part of the Royal Coronation Route and is made up of many picturesque **Baroque Houses**, typically decorated with original and imaginative house signs. The best known of them is probably the sign on the house known as **U Dvou slunců [1]** (At the Two Suns – No. 47), where the writer and poet **Jan Neruda** (1834–1891) lived and after whom the street is named.

Nerudova Street soon leads us to the **Malostranské Square**. This square is



**Did you know that...**

**2**

*During the Communist regime, the tower of **St. Nicholas Church** was an **observation point for the secret police**? Agents could spy on the US, German, and other western embassies from here. The facility is now open to the public and now hosts an exhibition documenting the spying activities of the infamous Communist State Security forces.*



Our TIP

## MYSTERIA PRAGENSIA – The two mysterious faces of Prague in two museums

You can never really get to know the mysterious face of Prague completely. You can live there your whole life, wander its winding streets every day, yet there's always something that remains secret in the hidden corners, the shadows of the gas lamps, under the arches of bridges, and beneath the roofs of the towers. There are two museums, however, that offer you at least a glance behind the shroud of Prague's secrets. Beneath the mask of Prague's mysteries.

The **Prague Ghosts and Legends Museum**, near the Charles Bridge, brings visitors into the endless world of Prague's legends and their ghosts.

Slightly younger, the **Museum of Alchemists and Magicians of Old Prague** holds an exhibition located directly in a house historically connected with the famous alchemist Master Edward Kelley while he was in Prague.

An integral part of the museums is the **Kellyxír alchemist pub**, located in the courtyard opposite the Alchemist Museum.



[www.mysteriapragensia.cz](http://www.mysteriapragensia.cz)

### ► Muzeum pražských pověstí a strašidel

Mostecká 18, Prague 1  
+420 257 221 289

### ► Muzeum alchymistů a mágů staré Prahy

Dům U Osla v kolébce  
Jánský vršek 8, Prague 1  
+420 277 016 844



## 2 ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH

Built in several stages from **1704–1755** on the site of an original Gothic church from the 13th century. It was designed by the famous architect **Christoph Dientzenhofer** and completed in **High Baroque** style by his son **Kilian Ignaz**. The church's decorations are breathtaking and particularly valuable, especially the ceiling frescoes in the nave vaulting and in the dome, as well as the canvases displaying the Passion cycle from the most important of Czech Baroque painters, **Karel Škréta** (1610–1674). The ceiling of the dome, this “crown of Baroque Prague”, is a full 50 meters from the church floor. The church organs were played on by **W. A. Mozart** himself during his sojourn in Prague.

inextricably linked to what is probably the most important Baroque architectural monument in the country, the **St. Nicholas Church [2]**.

From the square, we can continue along Mostecká Street down to Charles Bridge, or we can extend our stroll and take a left onto Tomášská Street. This gradually becomes **Valdštejnská Street** and passes along a palace bearing the same name (Wallenstein), now the site of the Czech Senate, and

ends at the entrance to the **Wallenstein Gardens [3]** [p. 18].

After a stroll through the gardens, we return to Malostranské Square. From here, we can head down towards Charles Bridge [p. 22], or we can stay on the Lesser Town side of the Vltava River and take **Karmelitská Street** to Újezd, then head up Petřín Hill [p. 20].



4 The Infant Jesus of Prague

While on Karmelitská Street, don't forget to visit the **Church of Our Lady of Victory [4]**. This is the oldest Baroque church in Prague. It was built in 1611–1613 and is mostly known for its wax sculpture of the **Infant Jesus of Prague**, given to the church in 1628 by Polyxena of Lobkowitz. The church is also partially decorated with paintings by Petr Brandl. The floor of the church conceals a crypt from 1662 which served as a Carmelite burial site. There are walled graves here as well as mummified remains of monks, some even in glass coffins. The area is closed to the public for hygienic and pious reasons.



### 3 WALLENSTEIN PALACE, GARDEN AND RIDING SCHOOL

This Early Baroque palace complex was commissioned in 1624–1630 by **Albrecht Wenzel Eusebius von Wallenstein** (1583–1634). This aristocrat, possessing great wealth and power, wanted to use his new opulent residence to compete with Prague Castle. The vast palace, **340 meters long and 172 meters wide**, required the demolition of over twenty houses and several gardens. Several architects and builders worked in succession, as well as many leading painters, sculptors, and other artists. The complex also includes the **Wallenstein Garden**, built together with the palace and composed in Italian style. On one end of the garden, the visitor will find the **sala terrena**, or garden hall, while the other side is closed by a round pond with a small island. The garden is decorated by a number of statues (mostly copies of works by Adriaen de Vries, the court painter and sculptor of Emperor Rudolf II), fountains, and ornamental horticulture. Another important part of the complex is the Winter Riding School from 1630. The building serves for exhibitions by the **National Gallery** today.



## MALOSTRANSKÁ BESEDA RESTAURANT

A cozy restaurant where every guest can feel at home. The cuisine reflects traditional Czech basics, serving dishes and smaller meals suitable for beer, classic ready meals, but even vegetarian dishes and dishes based on the foundations of rational eating. Our restaurant also serves perfectly treated Pilsner Urquell tank beer.

Open daily: 11:00–23:00  
60 seats inside + 48 seats outside

Malostranské náměstí 35/21  
Prague 1 – Malá Strana  
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[www.malostranska-beseda.cz](http://www.malostranska-beseda.cz)

## THREE GRACES RESTAURANT

The legendary Three Graces (Tři Grácie) Wine Bar has hosted prestigious Great Tastings of Moravian wines since the 1970s and was one of Prague's most popular venues for the most important personalities of its time until its temporary demise in 2010. The wine bar's former glory was restored after a long and difficult reconstruction in the 2020s. The Three Graces is now back in all its glory and once again offers its warm embrace, unique atmosphere, and breathtaking views.

Open daily: 11:00–23:00  
54 seats inside + 40 seats outside

Novotného lávka 200/3  
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[www.trigracie.cz](http://www.trigracie.cz)



## PETŘÍN *about 2 hours*

**Getting there:** tram – Újezd, Helichova, funicular – Úvoz, Nebozízek

This **327 meter high hill** is part of Malá Strana and creates an imposing natural dominant of the left bank of the Vltava. You can easily get to the top using the funicular railway [p. 21].

The top of Petřín is adorned with an iron lookout tower [1] which was built in 1891 for the occasion of the Land Centennial Exhibition. Its elegant lightweight construction consists of riveted L-shaped profiles, is 63.5 meters tall, and makes no effort to deny its inspiration from the Eiffel Tower in Paris, although it's actually about five times smaller in size.

Directly next to the lookout tower, there is a popular **mirror maze** [2] with a **diorama** of the battle between the Prague citizens and the Swedes on the Charles Bridge during the Thirty Years War. At the edge of the charming Rose Garden, the Petřín vegetation is highlighted by three light domes of the **Štefánik Observatory** [3] from 1928, which now focuses on popularizing astronomy.

There is an extensive structural and historical monument that will accompany us on nearly every step of our stroll on Petřín – the **Hunger Wall**. The “Hunger Wall”



- 1 Petřín Hill, with the Petřín observation tower in the background (63 m) – the „Prague Eiffel Tower“ of 1891

was commissioned from 1360 to 1362 by **Charles IV**. This fortification wall, several kilometers long with battlements stretching from Újezd to Hradčany, was supposed to strengthen the city fortifications on the southern and western side. Tradition holds that the work was intended to provide **work to the poor**.

Petřín is known for its **many gardens** – we might mention the Lobkowitz, Kinský, Strahov, and Seminary Gardens, just as examples. The atmosphere here is perfect for romantic strolls and decorated with plenty of **statues**. The best known is probably the bronze memorial [4] to the poet Karel Hynek Mácha (1810–1922) from J. V. Myslbek (1848–1922).



- 4 The bronze memorial to the poet Karel Hynek Mácha

From the lowest **funicular station**, we can take either Říční or Všeňrdová Street onto the riverside area of Malostranské nábřeží and turn left.

At the navigational locks of Legion Bridge on Dětský Island, notice the bronze collection of female statues – they were created in 1916 and represent allegories of the Vltava River and its 4 tributaries [5] – Lužnice, Otava, Sázava and Berounka.

Soon we find ourselves on **Kampa**, a park on a man-made island, divided from Malá Strana by the Čertovka mill run. From here, we can continue onwards to Charles Bridge.



Did you know that...

7

**Petřín Hill Funicular** is **510 meters long** and can be entered at the bottom of the hill at the station Újezd, reachable by tram. The first cars were pulled by a rope along the route **Újezd – Nebozízek – Petřín** to a height of 130 meters in **1891**. The funicular operates seasonally, from March to November. [www.dpp.cz](http://www.dpp.cz)

## CHARLES BRIDGE *about 1 hour*

**Getting there:** tram – Staroměstská, Karlovy lázně, metro – Staroměstská

Take the gate between the Malá Strana bridge towers, or walk up the steps from Kampa (see chapter on Petřín, [p. 20–21]) to find yourself on the stone Charles Bridge, one of the best known symbols of Prague.

On the other side of the river, the bridge ends with the **Old Town Bridge Tower [III]**, a true jewel of European Gothic

architecture. It stands on the bridge's last pillar and is rich with sculpted detail. This detail has given the tower the reputation of being the most beautiful Gothic fortification tower in Central Europe. It was built at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century from the plans of Petr Parler, the first architect of both the bridge and St. Vitus Cathedral.



**Did you know that...**

**V**

The spot behind the Charles Bridge, where the **Čertovka** Creek washes the walls and footings of the Kampa houses, is aptly called "**Prague's Venice**". The picture shows the millwheel of the former **Velkopřevorský mill**, with the "**bridge of love**" in the background, its metal railings hung with perhaps thousands of locks, each hung by lovers to "lock" their relationship forever.

St. Nicholas Cathedral

Malá Strana Bridge Towers

St. Vitus Cathedral

Castle

Vltava

The **sixteen arches of Charles Bridge** have joined both banks of the Vltava River **since 1402**. Work began in 1357 under the patronage of Emperor **Charles IV**. Even though the bridge was originally named "Prague" and "Stone" bridge, it has born the name of its founder since 1870. This was the only bridge in Prague until 1841. It spans a length of over half a kilo-meter (**516 meters** between the bridge towers) and is decorated by a unique ensemble of **30 Baroque statues and sculptors** from the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. There are 75 figures adorning the bridge. The best-known statue is perhaps the sculpture



### STATUES AND SCULPTURES ENSEMBLES ON CHARLES BRIDGE

**1** Holy Saviour, Cosmas, and Damian, **2** St. Wenceslas, **3** St. Vitus, **4** Saints John of Matha, Felix of Valois, and Ivan, **5** St. Philip Benetius, **6** St. Adalbert, **7** St. Cajetan, **8** Dream of St. Luthgard, **9** St. Augustine, **10** St. Nicholas of Tolentino, **11** St. Jude Thaddeus, **12** Saints Vincent Ferrer and Procopius, **13** St. Anthony of Padua, **14** St. Francis of Assisi, **15** St. John of Nepomuk, **16** Saints Ludmila and Wenceslas, **17** Saints Norbert, Wenceslas, and Sigismund, **18** St. Francis Borgia, **19** St. John the Baptist, **20** St. Christopher, **21** Saints Cyril and Methodius, **22** St. Francis Xavier, **23** St. Anne, **24** St. Joseph, **25** Holy Cross and Calvary, **26** Lamentation of Christ, **27** Madonna, Saints Dominic and Thomas Aquinas, **28** Saints Barbara, Margaret, and Elizabeth, **29** Madonna attending to St. Bernard, **30** St. Ivo; **I**. Malá Strana bridge towers, **II**. Liechtenstein Palace, **III**. Old Town bridge tower, **IV**. Church of St. Francis of Assisi, **V**. Čertovka



of a pagan Turk guarding imprisoned Christians. This is the work of the famous **F. M. Brokof**. The most valuable artistic work on the bridge is considered the sculpture ensemble of the Dream of St. Luthgard from 1710 from **Matthias Bernard Braun**. When seen from above, it becomes clear that the bridge actually changes direction three times. Its deck runs **13 meters above the Vltava River** (during regular currents), and its width averages around **9.5 meters**. The bridge stands in roughly the same place as its predecessor, the Judith Bridge, which was destroyed by a flood in 1342.



## STARÉ MĚSTO OLD TOWN

about 3 hours

**Getting there:** tram – Staroměstská, Karlova lázně, metro – Staroměstská

Just beyond the Old Town Bridge Tower [1], we find ourselves on the small but picturesque **Křižovnické Square**. On the left side it's bordered by the **Church of St. Francis of Assisi** which boasts a massive dominant 40 meter high Baroque dome. The bronze **statue of Charles IV** bears allegories of the four university sciences and was placed there in 1848 to commemorate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Charles University.

Opposite the tower bridge, the facade of the **Clementinum** [2] [p. 24], the former Jesuit College, faces the square.

After a few turns, Karlova Street takes us to Malé Náměstí, unusual in its triangular layout. This area, originally known as the **Little Market Square**, is mostly known for its Rott House which bears rich fresco decorations designed by Mikoláš Aleš. Most visitors are also taken in by the **fountain** with its magnificently-wrought Renaissance grating from 1560.

Just a bit further and the **Old Town Square** opens up in front of you, the natural centre of this part of Prague. It covers

### 2 CLEMENTINUM

This is the **second largest complex of buildings in Prague** after Prague Castle. It covers about 2 hectares and was built by the Jesuits in **1653–1730** on the site of the former Dominican monastery. During the period of the counter-reformation, the Clementinum was the main headquarters of the Jesuits in Bohemia. There are several towers rising from the complex, the most renowned of which is the 68 meter **Astronomical Tower** from 1723, bearing a 2.5 meter tall lead statue of Atlantis holding a metal model of the solar system. The greatest pride of the Clementinum is the **Chapel of Mirrors** and **Baroque Library Hall** with its unique fresco decorations and several large valuable globes. The complex has been used by the **National Library** for over 200 years. [www.klementinum.com](http://www.klementinum.com)

about 9,000m<sup>2</sup> and was already laid out in the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. The entire area is dominated by the **Old Town Hall Tower** [3] with its renowned and admired **Orloj** Astronomical Clock and two towers of the Gothic **Church of Our Lady before Týn** [4].

The northern side of the square features the secessionist Jan Hus Memorial from 1915. It was installed to commemorate the





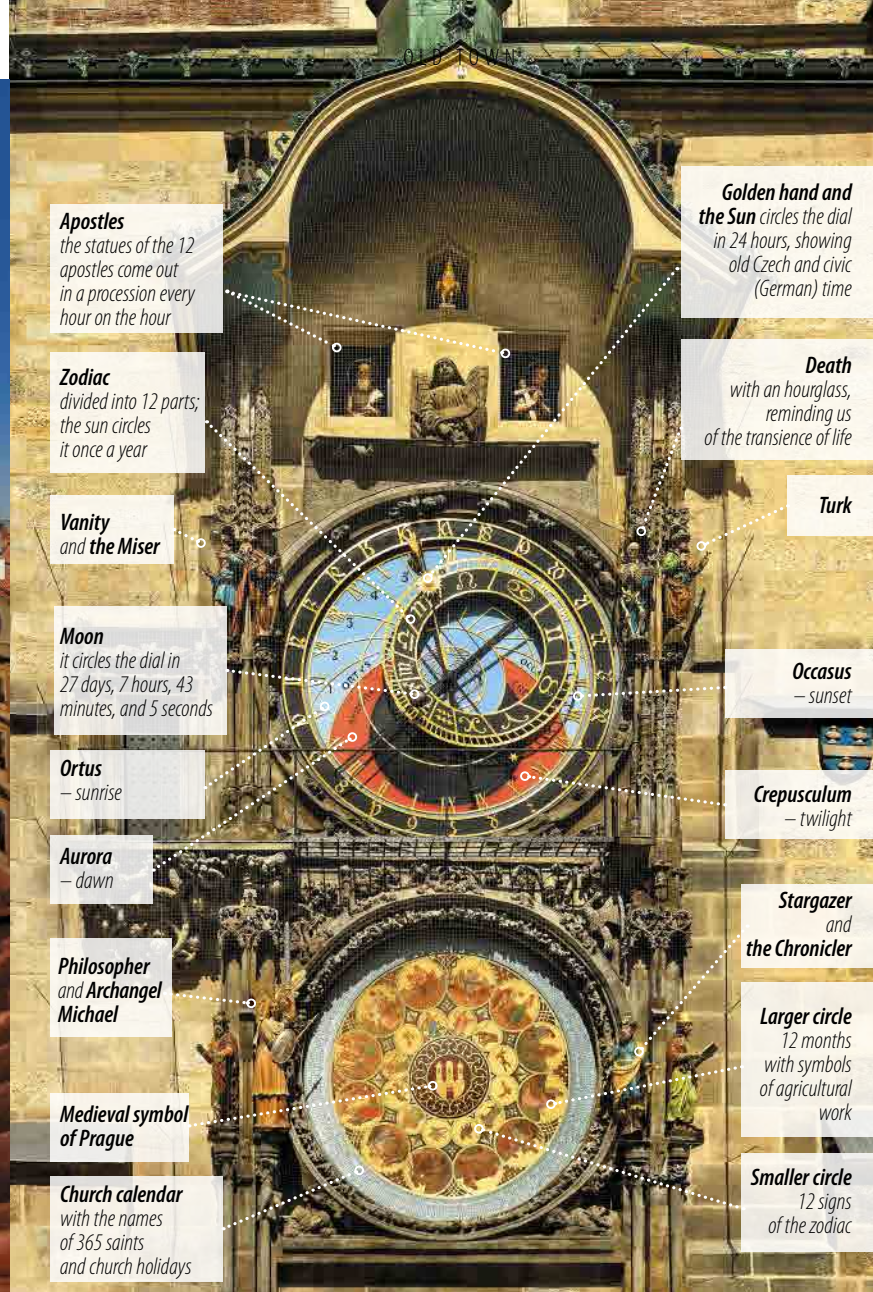
Old Town Hall Tower

Stone  
Bell House

Týn Church

Marian column

Orloj

**Apostles**  
the statues of the 12  
apostles come out  
in a procession every  
hour on the hour**Zodiac**  
divided into 12 parts;  
the sun circles  
it once a year**Vanity  
and the Miser****Moon**  
it circles the dial in  
27 days, 7 hours, 43  
minutes, and 5 seconds**Ortus**  
– sunrise**Aurora**  
– dawn**Philosopher  
and Archangel  
Michael****Medieval symbol  
of Prague****Church calendar**  
with the names  
of 365 saints  
and church holidays**Golden hand and  
the Sun** circles the dial  
in 24 hours, showing  
old Czech and civic  
(German) time**Death**  
with an hourglass,  
reminding us  
of the transience of life**Turk****Occasus**  
– sunset**Crepusculum**  
– twilight**Stargazer  
and  
the Chronicler****Larger circle**  
12 months  
with symbols  
of agricultural  
work**Smaller circle**  
12 signs  
of the zodiac**3 OLD TOWN HALL**

This was founded in 1338 as the **first town hall in Bohemia**. The core of the town hall is the corner Gothic house with its decorated portal. A **69.5 meter rectangular tower was added in 1364**. In 1458, a memorable assembly convened at the town hall and elected **George of Poděbrady** (1420–1471) the first “Hussite” king of Bohemia. The town hall burned down during the **Prague Uprising** of May 1945 due to cannon fire from German tanks, and it survived only miraculously. The tower and astronomical clock were damaged, however, and the fire completely destroyed the Neo-Gothic wing of the town hall, which was never repaired again.

([www.stranomestskaradnice.cz](http://www.stranomestskaradnice.cz))

**OLD TOWN (PRAGUE) ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK – ORLOJ**

This is evidently the best preserved **medieval astronomical clock in Europe**. It was very likely put into operation in 1410. It is based on a Medieval astronomical clock; the dial shows the date and time, but information on the motion and position of heavenly bodies can also be deduced, for example the phases of the month, **which constellation the sun is presently in**, and so on. There were probably several engineers who built the clock, the best known of whom is the clockmaker **Mikuláš of Kadaň** who constructed the clock mechanism. The entire machinery was designed by mathematician and astronomer **Jan Ondřejův from Hradec Králové**. Part of the sculpted decorations comes from the school of **Petr Parléř**.



#### 4 CHURCH OF OUR LADY BEFORE TÝN (Týn Church)

One of the most important churches in Prague. This is a **Gothic three-nave building** on the site of an earlier smaller Romanesque church recorded as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The church was built from the middle 14<sup>th</sup> century and completed about 160 years later. The dominant feature of the church and the entire **Old Town Square** is the twin 80 meter tall towers with their eight-sided domes with walkways. A first glance will already tell you that the southern tower is a bit wider. Each tower is decorated with four corner and four installed ornamental turrets which give the church its particular appearance. Another element is the triangular Gothic gable with pinnacles and a **Baroque relief of the Madonna**. The interior furnishings of the church are largely Baroque, and there are several interesting tombstones, the best known of which is of **Tycho Brahe** (1546–1601). This famous Danish astronomer served the court of Emperor Rudolf II and is buried directly in the Týn Church.

500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the burning of Jan Hus at the stake.

On the corner of the square and Týnská Street, notice house No. 605, known as the **Stone Bell House**, originally from the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The name comes from an actual stone bell set into its corner. Old photographs show the house with a pseudo-baroque facade, but reconstruction work completed in 1988 restored its Gothic appearance.

The Old Town Square was witness to a number of important events in Czech history, one of the most striking being the **execution of 27 Czech aristocrats** which took place on June 21, 1621. This

bloody revenge wrought by the Habsburgs is commemorated by 27 crosses, marked in white in the cobblestones as well as a memorial plaque on the wall of the Town Hall.

The **Marian Column** on the Old Town Square is a replica (renovation was carried out in 2020) of the original 16-metre high Baroque column that stood there from 1652 until 1918, when it was pulled down by a riotous crowd.



## ŽIDOVSKÉ MĚSTO

### JEWISH QUARTER *about 2 hours*

**Getting there:** tram – Staroměstská, Právnická fakulta, metro – Staroměstská

From the Old Town Square [1], we continue on our tour of Prague down the street called **Pařížská třída**. This luxurious boulevard leads to the Vitava River, but we turn earlier onto Široká Street towards the left. The next perpendicular street, **Maiselova Street** will lead us to the most important monuments of the Prague Jewish settlement.

The most important of them is the former **Jewish Town Hall [2]** from the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century with its 27.5 meter high tower. The clock above the Town Hall's main facade is a rarity, bearing a dial with Hebrew numbers and which rotates in the opposite direction.

Another building which survived the reconstruction of the Jewish Quarter at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is the **Old New Synagogue [3]**. It comes from the later 13<sup>th</sup> century and is the oldest architectural monument of its type not only in Prague, but in all of Europe.



2 **Jewish Town Hall** on the corner of Maiselova and Červená Streets





The Great Hall at the Jewish cemetery



3 Old New Synagogue – its attic was supposedly where the mythical Golem was stored



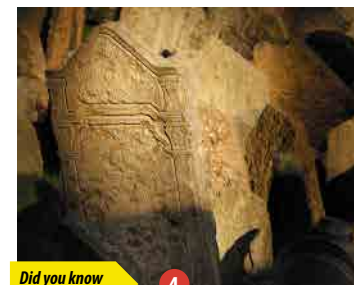
6 Rudolfinum was the headquarters of the Czechoslovakian parliament in 1919–1941

A world-unique location is the **Old Jewish Cemetery [4]** which holds roughly 12 thousand sandstone tombstones in a relatively small area. It was probably founded sometime in the early-middle 15<sup>th</sup> century and served for burials until 1787.

The Old Jewish Cemetery is directly next to the **Industrial Art Museum [5]**, which is located on the street named Trída 17. listopadu, or November 17<sup>th</sup>. This area on the banks of the Vltava, known as the Rejdiště, is dominated by the **Rudolfinum [6]** (House of Artists). This impressive Neo-Renaissance building from the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century is the work of architects Josef Zitek and Josef Schulz. Its facade creates the dominant edge of Jan Palach Square, and inside we can find the famous Dvořák Concert Hall and other concert and exhibition spaces. This is also the home of the Czech Philharmonic and Rudolfinum Gallery.

Leaving the busy traffic of November 17<sup>th</sup> Street, we reach Alšovo nábřeží, or the **Aleš embankment**. This is a good place to relax

on one of the benches for a while and enjoy the view of the river with the arches of Charles Bridge and the castle panorama on the other embankment.



Did you know that...

4

Given the limited space of the cemetery, **the dead were placed in layers above each other over the centuries**. The previous tombstones were not removed, but were always raised and placed on the surface of the new site. This explains the clustered tombstones, **the oldest of which is from 1439**. The best known historical figure buried here is undoubtedly **Jehuda Löw ben Becalel**, known as **Rabbi Löw** († 1609), who is said to be the **creator of the legendary Golem**.



## NOVÉ MĚSTO NEW TOWN *about 3 hours*

**Getting there:** tram – Karlovy lázně, Národní divadlo, Jiráskovo nám., Palackého nám., Moráň, Myslíkova, Výtoň, Albertov, metro – Staroměstská, Karlovo nám.

From Křižovnické Square, we set off upstream along the Vltava to Smetanovo nábřeží. This soon opens up new **brehtaking views** onto the towers and roofs of Malá Strana and the majestic Castle above it. This view from Novotný Footbridge [1] is said to be one of the most beautiful of Prague's motifs.

The next destination on our walk along the Vltava River, visible from far away, is **the National Theatre** [2]. By the way, we can enjoy the river

“from up close” – in the summer months on a romantic boat ride on boats rented on the way to the theatre. The boat rental is where Národní Street meets the embankment. On the south, Národní Street borders the Old Town, while Prague New Town established by King Charles IV in 1348 is on the other side.

Národní třída would normally lead us to Wenceslas Square, but we'll save a tour of the embankment, now called Masarykovo. We'll eventually pass **Slovanský Island** [3], originally named Barvířský (Dyer's) Island, then named Žofín until 1918. The island formed

sometime at the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and gradually became larger with the growing sediments.

We'll gradually come to a striking white building standing on pillars in the Vltava River. This is one of the masterpieces of modern Czech architecture, the **Mánes building** of the Association of Fine Artists [4] from 1930. This stark functionalist block, reminiscent of a bridge or a boat, is a pleasant display of the fortunate symbiosis of historical and modern architecture. Directly adjacent to Mánes is the square stone tower with a dome – this is the former **New Town waterworks** [4], also known as Šitkova Tower. It was built in 1489 and provided the fountains and homes in the Prague New and Old Towns with water.

At Jiráskovo Square we leave the river-side and go slightly uphill onto **Resslová**





## 2 NATIONAL THEATRE

This is one of the **most important buildings** in the Czech Republic from a cultural-historical and architectural perspective. A major part of its construction was **financed from private collections**. The cornerstone was ceremonially laid in 1868, and the theatre was opened thirteen years later in 1881. Its doors closed after 12 performances so that the work could be completed. During this work, however, the **building caught fire on 12 August 1881**, evidently the work of arsonists who nearly completely destroyed the theatre. The event gave rise to another nation-wide collection, so the necessary money was soon gathered. The theatre was ceremonially **re-opened on 18 November 1883** with Smetana's opera "Libuše".

The Neo-Renaissance National Theatre building was designed by architect **Josef Zitek** and finished after the fire by **Josef Schulz**. The interior decorations are the work of the most important Czech artists of the time – **Mikoláš Aleš, František Ženíšek, Bohuslav Schnirch, Josef Václav Myslbek, Josef Brožík and Julius Mařák**. The efforts and sacrifice of the Czech nation in building the theatre are captured on the curtain, painted by **Vojtěch Hynais**. This sentiment is also expressed in the words "Národ sobě" above the curtain, or "The Nation unto Itself".



Did you know that...

8

The famous **U Fleků brewery** on Křemencová Street is first mentioned in writing in 1499 – it is consequently the only brewery in Central Europe where beer has been brewed without interruption for over 500 years. You can sit in one of the eight halls or in the outdoor garden in the shade of the chestnut tree.



3 **Žofín – concert venue and restaurant** on Slovanský Island; since it was formed in 1837, it has been an important part of Czech cultural and social life.



Our TIP

## NATIONAL MEMORIAL TO THE HEROES OF THE HEYDRICH TERROR

Orthodox church of Ss. Cyril and Methodius  
Resslova 9a, Prague 2

In the crypt of the church and in the room in front of it you will find an extremely impressive exhibition describing the fate of the Czechoslovak soldiers who assassinated the Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich on 27 May 1942. They found refuge in the crypt of the church thanks to brave resistance fighters. However, the hiding place was traced thanks to treachery. On 18 June 1942, all seven paratroopers, Adolf Opálka, Josef Valčík, Jan Kubiš, Josef Gabčík, Jaroslav Švarc, Jan Hrubý and Josef Bublík, were killed in a battle with more than 100 times their number.

### Opening times:

daily except Monday:  
from 9 am to 5 pm,  
free entry.

### Public transport access:

metro B «Karlovo náměstí»  
tram: «Karlovo náměstí»  
tram: «Jiráskovo náměstí»





Did you know that...

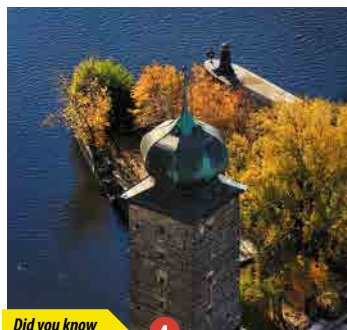
5

**Dancing House** – inspired by the two dancers **Fred Astor** and **Ginger Rogers**

**Street.** Here we can enjoy a view of another important work of modern architecture, the **Dancing House [5]** by architects Vlado Milunič and Frank O. Gehry from 1996.

Resslova Street soon takes us to the Orthodox **Church of Saints Cyril and Methodius**. This Baroque building from 1730–1736 is the work of K. I. Dienzenhofer and P. I. Bayer. Let's stop for a moment at the window to the church crypt. The bullet marks, still visible today, are reminiscent of the events of June 18, 1942, when 7 brave Czech parachutists fell to German gunfire. They were hiding in the crypt after two members of this group (J. Kubiš and J. Gabčík) had assassinated the prominent Nazi officer R. Heydrich nearly a month early as part of the **Anthropoid** military operation.

A bit further on, Resslova Street ends on



Did you know that...

4

The **water tower of the New Town**, although it's always full of water, was one of the structures in Prague to be most often damaged by fire? This paradox has a simple explanation: in the winter, the water in the tower's wooden pipes was always frozen. The only way to thaw it out was with open fire, so the chance of burning was actually very high.



Our TIP

## BREWERY AND RESTAURANT U FLEKŮ

Brewery and restaurant U Fleků. U Fleků has brewed beer since **1499** and is **the oldest classic restaurant brewery** to have been preserved to date. The entire complex consists of ancient buildings whose walls are decorated with colored frescoes. The restaurant offers its guests 1,200 seats in eight halls and gardens. The brewery has unique brewing areas (see photo) where beer is still produced under the original medieval beams painted with bull's blood.

### Portfolio

Only **unfiltered dark Bavarian-type beer** has been brewed here since 1843. Its production consists of barley malt, hops, water, and yeast. It contains 4.6% alcohol. The pub U Fleků has also been brewing **light lager** since autumn 2020. Annual production is around 2,500 hl.

### Guided tours

**Brewery:** brewing room, ellar, video, tasting. Mon–Sat, 10:00–16:00

**Museum:** Exhibition of malting and barrel-making. Mon–Sat, 10:00–16:00.

**At least every first Friday of the month, shows by the Flek Cabaret.**



Křemencova 11, 110 00 Prague 1  
+420 224 934 019-20  
+420 602 660 290  
fb: Pivovar a restaurace U Fleků  
[en.ufleku.cz](http://en.ufleku.cz)



Did you know that...

6

The facade of the eastern wing of the town hall (facing Vodičkova Street) holds the standard length known as the “Prague elbow”? This Medieval measurement was established in 1268 and measures exactly 59.14 cm.

**Karlovo náměstí**, or Charles Square. This was formed as part of the establishment of the New Town in 1348 and used for cattle markets, from where its original name of Cattle Market comes. There are several architecturally and historically valuable buildings around the square which soon catch our attention. The first is the **New Town Hall [6]** from the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century with its square tower on the corner. The dominant feature of the eastern side (the

#### NEW TOWN HALL

This is one of the most valuable works of architecture in **Prague's New Town**.

Work began on its construction in 1377, but its 70 meter tower is younger – it was built in 1452–1456. It was here that in 1419, the first Prague Defenestration set off the **Hussite Revolution**. The first floor of the tower used to serve as a prison. The town hall served administrative purposes until 1784.

longer upper side) of the square is the facade of the Baroque **Church of St. Ignatius** from 1655–1677. The building of the former Jesuit College next to the church serves as a hospital today.

There are many stories associated with the **Faust House [7]** on the southern side of the square (on the right when looking up the square). This is a Renaissance palace, much older than the other buildings of the New Town. It used to be owned by a number of **alchemists** (the renowned Edward Kelley, for one) who were brought to Prague during the reign of Emperor Rudolf II. Their pseudo-scientific activities were reminiscent of the famous German alchemist Dr. Johann Georg Faust (probably 1480 to 1540) and are responsible for the house's name today.



Did you know that...

7

One of the legends associated with **Faust's House** tells of how **Mephistopheles** flew directly through the ceiling after **Dr. Faust had sold him his soul**. The resulting hole could not be patched for many years after. The ironic thing is that after several centuries, the hole appeared again – this time, from an Allied bomb that fell directly on Faust's House on **14 February 1945**. The bomb didn't explode; it just broke through the roof and ceiling...





Our TIP

## IDEAL BEER DAY IN PRAGUE

### The best beer experience in Prague.

Do you want to indulge in a unique beer experience you won't find anywhere else? Then we have the perfect offer for you for a day spent in establishments that are worth it! Your day will start with a treatment in the **Original Beer Spa**, a private room where you will be introduced to one of our helpful staff members – you will start with a unique whirlpool hot beer bath with beer ingredients, followed by a hoppy bio sauna and cooling down with buckets of cold water. Afterwards, you can relax on a straw bed by the cosy fireplace. All the time you can enjoy **unlimited consumption** of light and dark delicious Krušovice beer. Consumption can continue at the reception, where you can buy natural beer cosmetics and other souvenirs. You will continue to the Beer Point **interactive beer tap**, where you can taste **14 different craft beers** on a pre-loaded card. You can also order something from the menu, designed to flatter the taste of the beer and complement it perfectly. If you're craving an experience you'll remember for a long time, take yourself and your loved



ones, friends, and family on a beer adventure. We look forward to seeing you.

**Cheers!**

### ORIGINAL BEER SPA PRAGUE

Žitná 568/9; Rybná 3;  
Vladislavova 1477/20  
Praha 1

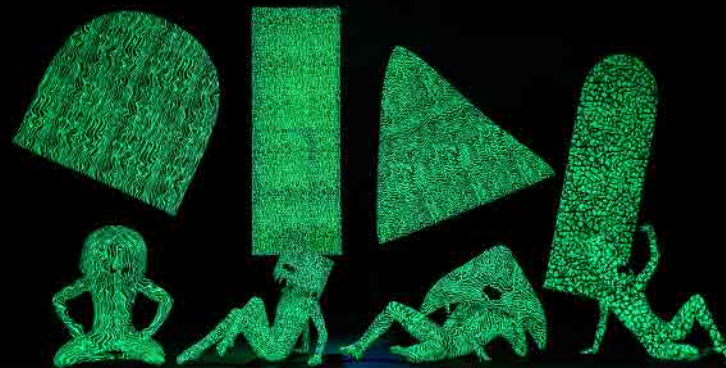
[www.beerspa.com](http://www.beerspa.com)

[www.facebook.com/originalbeerspa/](https://www.facebook.com/originalbeerspa/)

### BEER POINT PRAGUE

Mezibranská 19  
Praha 1  
[beerpointprague@seznam.cz](mailto:beerpointprague@seznam.cz)  
[www.beerpointprague.com](http://www.beerpointprague.com)

[www.facebook.com/beer.point.prague/](https://www.facebook.com/beer.point.prague/)



Our TIP

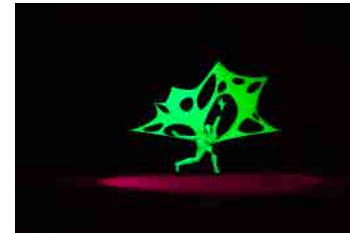
## IMAGE BLACK LIGHT THEATRE

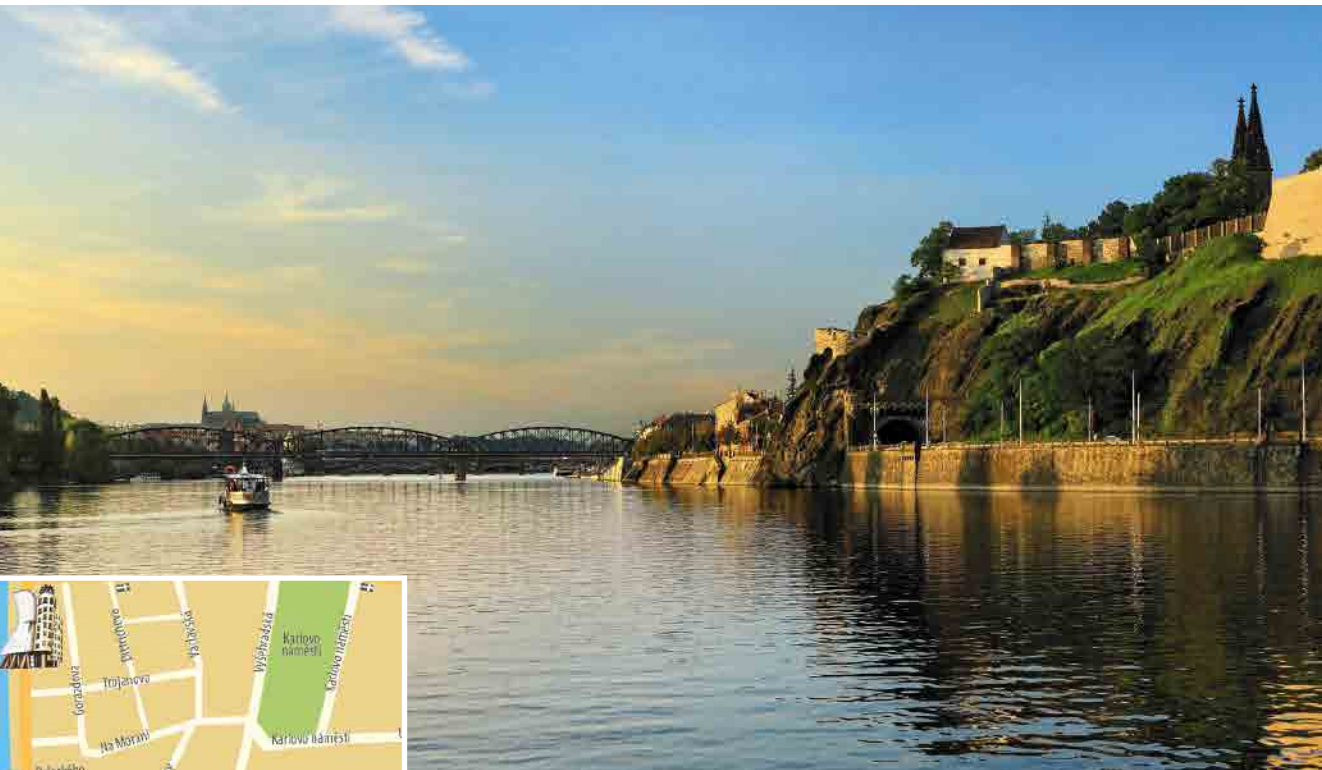
Image Theatre has been a permanent platform member of a unique Czech genre of black theatre. It combines precise technique of black theatre, dance and pantomime in its own, unique way. During its more than 30 years long existence it has entertained millions of viewers on its Prague stages and with the same success performed thousands of shows at international festivals and tours throughout the world.



### Image Theatre

Národní 25, Prague 1  
tel: 732 156 343, 222 314 448  
[image@imagetheatre.cz](mailto:image@imagetheatre.cz)  
[www.imagetheatre.cz/en/](http://www.imagetheatre.cz/en/)





## VYŠEHRAĐ *about 3 hours*

**Getting there:** tram – Výtoň, Albertov, Ostrčilovo nám., metro – Vyšehrad

From Charles Square, it's not a long walk to the memorable Vyšehrad. There are several interesting stops along the way, however.

We'll set off down Vyšehradská Street, immediately turning right and coming to the former monastery of the **Na Slovanech Church**. This is part of the Benedictine Monastery, also known as Emauzy [1], founded in 1347 by Charles IV. The church originally had two squared towers, but they were heavily **damaged on 14 February of 1945** during Allied bombings of Prague (certainly not intentionally). During reconstruction work in 1953–1945, the vaulting of the nave of the church was repaired and the destroyed towers were replaced with the modern facade consisting of two narrow **concrete wings** with gilded tips.



Take Podskalská Street or Pod Slovany, and we come to a place known as **Na Výtoni**. This is where a town quarter known as Podskalí used to be, a distinctive part of Prague. It spread out along the right bank of the Vltava River roughly between the site of today's bridges named Železniční (Railway) and Palackého. The residents of Podskalí were "**water people**" – woodcutters, ice-men, and people who lived from rafting. At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the quarter was mostly demolished and a high flood wall was built to protect this part of Prague from high water. One of the buildings that escaped demolition is the **former customs house**. Today this building houses an exhibition of the Museum of the City of Prague [2] devoted to the history of Podskalí and wood rafting.

**půjčovna  
lodiček**



**BOAT RENTAL**

Prague Smíchov  
Tel.: +420 739 000 022  
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Pujcovna lodicek

**Rent a boat right in Prague...**

*...fishing boats, motor boats, even a cruise ship with a grill. The boats are waiting here for you every day.*



**VYŠEHRAD** was originally a princely fortified settlement founded in the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century. It protected the town from the south side as well as watching over the Vltava as an important transportation route. Its greatest period of prosperity and importance was in the third quarter of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, when the prince and later first **king of Bohemia Vratislav II** chose it for his residence and the center of the Bohemian nation. Even in later years, when the rulers of Bohemia were already living in Prague Castle, the importance of Vyšehrad remained. Charles IV in particular was responsible for developing it. During the turbulent period of the Hussite Revolution, Vyšehrad was seized and destroyed by the Hussites. It was rebuilt as a **Baroque fortress** in the middle 17<sup>th</sup> century, and became part of Prague in 1883 as its sixth quarter. This was also when its church cemetery was transformed into the **national cemetery** of the most important figures in Czech history.

**3 CHURCH ST. PETER AND PAUL** – for over a hundred years now, the symbol of Vyšehrad has been the church of the apostolic saints Peter and Paul. It was **founded in 1070** by Prince Vratislav II. The original **basilica** was modified many times over the following centuries, and it lost its Romanesque appearance in a 13<sup>th</sup> century reconstruction. In 1903 the church was **reconstructed in Neo-Gothic style** by architect Josef Mocker, resulting in the two towers in the facade. Today, these towers form the unmistakable and visible silhouette of Vyšehrad. From an architectural perspective, the church is three-nave pseudo-basilica with chapels on its side naves. The complex Neo-Gothic design of its facade is also noteworthy. The church interior is richly painted and also holds adjacent naves, a presbytery, and side chapels.



Now we come to the destination of our stroll. This is Vyšehrad **[3]**, a national cultural monument, as well as a mythical place associated with the dawn of the history of the Czech nation and **many myths and legends**.

The former Vyšehrad **acropolis** is accessible from many directions through one of many gates. The oldest such gate is known as Táborská and was built in 1655–1656. A bit further stands an inner gate, the Leopold Gate. This Baroque classicist structure

by architect Carlo Luraga was probably built in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Heading towards it, we pass the remnants of the former medieval gate called Špička, once a dominant feature of this fortress. It was built in the middle 14<sup>th</sup> century and demolished at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Today it houses the information centre.

On the right, not far from Leopold Gate, we can see evidence of the times of Vyšehrad's greatest prosperity in the Romanesque **Rotunda of St. Martin [4]**. Even though it's been reconstructed several times, it's still the most important remnant of the era of the rule of Vratislav II (1061 to 1092), the first king of Bohemia. There are a total of three rotundas to be found in all of Prague (the others are the Romanesque Churches of the Holy Cross and St. Longin), while the St. Martin's Rotunda is the oldest of them.

An almost "obligatory" part of a visit to Vyšehrad is its **cemetery**. It is flanked on three sides by arcades, built in 1890–1898 by architect Antonín Wiehl. The cemetery holds the tombs of the most important personages of Czech cultural, artistic, and political life. Architect Wiehl and sculptor Josef Mauder are also the authors of the Vyšehrad **Slavín** – the joint tomb of a wide array of Czech poets, painters, sculptors, composers, and other famous artists. Since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Vyšehrad has gradually become the final resting place for nearly **600 important Czech personages**.



**4 The Rotunda of St. Martin** is Vyšehrad's oldest structure





## VÁCLAVSKÉ SQUARE [1] AND SURROUNDINGS

about 3 hours

**Getting there:** tram – Václavské nám., Jindřišská, Náměstí Republiky, metro – Muzeum, Můstek, Náměstí Republiky

After looking around the square, this **commercial and cultural centre of Prague**, we can turn off onto **Jindřišská Street**. At the end of this street stands a magnificent **tower [2]** with the same name, built in 1472–1476 and reconstructed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century by Josef


Mocker. Its interiors serve as a gallery while there is a luxurious restaurant in the upper floor which offers a nice view onto parts of Prague. From **Jindřišská Tower**, we continue along Senovážná Street and eventually walk through the **passage of the Czech National Bank [3]**. This will bring us to Republic Square (Náměstí Republiky), where the first thing to catch our attention is surely the imposing 65-meter tall **Powder Gate [4]**.

Directly adjacent to the Powder Gate is the **Municipal House [5]**, the most important Secessionist monument in Prague. It stands on the site of the former royal residence



Sculptor J. V. Myslbek (1848–1922) worked on the statue of St. Wenceslas for more than 30 years



 Metro transfer stations on Wenceslas Square – Můstek (A, B) and Muzeum (A, C)

### 1 VÁCLAVSKÉ SQUARE

Rather than a town square, this is more like the largest and liveliest **boulevard in Prague at 60 meters wide, 682 meters long**, and rising slightly uphill from **Můstek to the National Museum**. It is lined with shopping centers, modern palaces, banks, and luxurious hotels, but was originally a horse market established by Emperor Charles IV in 1348. The name Václav, or Wenceslas (originally St. Václav), was first used in the revolutionary year of 1848. **A rider statue of St. Wenceslas** stood here from 1860 but was later moved to Vyšehrad. The new rider statue of this patron of the Czech lands was placed in the upper part of the square in 1912, created by the sculptor **J. V. Myslbek** (1848–1922). The most important events that Václavské Square has witnessed include the **proclamation of independent Czechoslovakia in 1918** as well as the demonstrations accompanying the **Velvet Revolution** (which toppled the communist government) of November **1989**, formed by hundreds of thousands of people.



**NATIONAL MUSEUM** – the unmistakable dominant feature of the upper part of **Václavské Square** is the monumental Neo-Renaissance building which houses the most important Czech museum. The building's author, inspired by French Classicism, was architect Josef Schulz. The facade is dominated by a **Pantheon** with a dome – a monument dedicated to the important figures of the Czech nation. The museum was also decorated by leading Czech artists whom we also find associated with the National Theatre building – **Bohuslav Schnirch, Antonín Wagner, Václav Brožík, František Ženíšek, Julius Mařák**, and more. The collection of the National Museum also contains an extensive library. [www.nm.cz](http://www.nm.cz)

from 1380. It was built in 1905–1912, and its rich decorations are the work of leading Czech artists from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The pride of the Municipal House is the Smetana Concert Hall which seats over 1200 listeners.



**2** **Jindřišská Street** – in the foreground the church of St. Henry and St. Kunhuta

Behind the **U Hybernů house** is the Square of the Republic. In its eastern part, a modern shopping center with a broad range of shops, restaurants, and services in the center of historic Prague – **the Palladium** – was built (2007) on the land



**4** **5** The Gothic **Powder Tower** and the Secessionist **Municipal House**



**Our TIP**

**5**

## MUNICIPAL HOUSE

The Secessionist **Municipal House** and the Gothic **Powder Tower** both next to each other look like old friends in an embrace that arches over Celetná Street, spanning the centuries that divide their birth. As if this magical place was destined to become a crossroads of Czech history.

Presently, the Municipal House hosts a number of exhibitions by leading artists, but most of all, it is an oasis of music performed in one of Prague's largest halls, the **Smetana Hall**. The sophisticated elevation “lifts” the listener to an even better view of the orchestra as well as creating a pleasant acoustic effect.

**The Czech National Symphony Orchestra** was founded in 1993 by trumpeter Jan Hasenöhrl. In addition to concerts of its own subscriber series held in the Smetana Hall of the Municipal House, the orchestra also records in its studio in Hostivař and accompanies world stars of classical music and jazz on tours around the world.

Since 2005, the CNSO has also organized the **Prague Proms International Music Festival** which introduces Prague audiences to important Czech and international classical and jazz artists. Among the many who have shone at the festival in past years are the phenomenal Ennio Morricone, film music composer Danny Elfman, and pianist Chick Corea.



In 2022, the CNSO won the prestigious **Grammy Award** for “Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals”. The award was given for the composition “To The Edge of Longing from Vince Mendoza’s Freedom Over Everything”. Vince Mendoza received two nominations for two tracks from this record, which he recorded together with the orchestra directly in the CNSO studio. Jan Hasenöhrl was also the producer of the record and the initiator of the project.

### Classics

20 September 2023 – *The Beatles Night*  
11 October 2023 – 3rd Subscription Concert  
22 November 2023 – 4th Subscription Concert

### Film Music

15 November 2023 – Great film music composers Vol. 2

**Tickets at [www.cnso.cz](http://www.cnso.cz)** (Subject to change.)



**Our TIP**

## RETRO MUSEUM PRAGUE

**Experience the Czechoslovakia of the 1970s and 1980s.** Older Czechs still remember C-clip toys, tape recorders, soda bottles, the portable Tesla radio, cassette tapes, and furniture from UP Rousínov in a prefabricated apartment. “Husák’s kids” and their parents know what this is, but what about the younger generation? The atmosphere of this era is recalled by the exhibits collected in the Retro Museum Prague, which has been operating since 2022 on the fourth floor of the **Kotva department store**. Covering an area of 2,500 m<sup>2</sup>, the museum displays objects from a unique collection of 12,000 items.

The exhibition is divided into **thematic areas** that give visitors a glimpse into everyday life at the time. You will learn what was fashionable, how people lived, ate, and spent their leisure time. How an office or a prefabricated apartment was furnished. There are also examples of communist propaganda and how dissent worked. **Curiosities** include listening devices, popular toys, costumes of popular singers, and even a fully furnished living room with a demonstration of what a prefab core looked like. You’ll even learn which tape recorder was the best to play a favorite children’s song, “The Girls from Our Kindergarten”.



**Open daily 9:00–20:00**

### Retro Museum Prague

Kotva Shopping Center – 4th floor  
náměstí Republiky 656/8, 110 00 Prague 1  
+ 420 702 130 101

[www.retromuzeumpraha.cz](http://www.retromuzeumpraha.cz)

### National Museum

[www.nm.cz](http://www.nm.cz)

Václavské náměstí 68, Prague 1  
(temporarily at Vinohradská 1)

### Náprstek Museum

[www.nm.cz](http://www.nm.cz)

Betlémské náměstí 1, Prague 1

### National Technical Museum

[www.ntm.cz](http://www.ntm.cz)

Kostelní 42, Prague 7

### Military History Institut

[www.vhu.cz](http://www.vhu.cz)

### Museum of Czech Literature

[pamatniknarodnihopisemnictvi.cz](http://pamatniknarodnihopisemnictvi.cz)

Strahovské nádvoří 1/132, Prague 1

### Prague City Museum

[www.muzeumprahy.cz](http://www.muzeumprahy.cz)

### Prague Jewish Museum

[www.jewishmuseum.cz](http://www.jewishmuseum.cz)

U Staré školy 1, Prague 1

### Museum of Decorative Arts

[www.upm.cz](http://www.upm.cz)

17. listopadu 2, Prague 1

### House at the Black Mother of God (p. 50, 51)

[www.czukubismus.cz](http://www.czukubismus.cz)

Ovocný trh 19, Prague 1

(Museum of Cubism)

### Railroad Kingdom

[www.kralovstvi-zeleznic.cz](http://www.kralovstvi-zeleznic.cz)

Stroupežnického 23, Prague 5

(Centrum Anděl City)

### National Gallery

[www.ngprague.cz](http://www.ngprague.cz)

Individual exhibitions:

Convent of St. Agnes of Bohemia

U Milosrdných 17, Prague 1

Sternberg Palace

Hradčanské náměstí 15, Prague 1

Schwarzenberg Palace

Hradčanské náměstí 2, Prague 1

Salm Palace

Hradčanské náměstí 2, Prague 1

Trade Fair Palace

Dukelských hrdinů 47, Prague 7

Kinský Palace

Staroměstské náměstí 12, Prague 1

### Rudolfinum Gallery

[www.galerierudolfinum.cz](http://www.galerierudolfinum.cz)

Alšovo nábřeží 12, Prague 1

### Prague Castle Picture Gallery

[www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz)

Pražský hrad, Prague 1

(Pictures from the collection of Emperor Rudolf II)

### Prague Castle Riding School

[www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz)

Pražský hrad, Prague 1

### Marold's Panorama Battle of Lipany

[www.vystavistepraha.eu](http://www.vystavistepraha.eu)

Výstaviště Praha Holešovice, Prague 7

### Botanical Gardens

[www.botanicka.cz](http://www.botanicka.cz)

Trojská 800/196, Prague 7

### Botanical Garden UK

[www.bz-uk.cz](http://www.bz-uk.cz)

Na Slupi 16, Prague 2

### The Prague zoological garden

[www.zoopraha.cz](http://www.zoopraha.cz)

U Trojského zámku 120/3, Prague 7



**Antonín Dvořák Museum**  
(Villa America), Ke Karlovu 120, Prague 2



**6** *The House at the Black Mother of God (U Černé Matky Boží) was built in 1911–1912 on the design of architect **Josef Gočár**. It bears its name from the small Baroque statue in the corner of the building. It has housed a **Museum of Czech Cubism** since 1994.*

of the former barracks. Our walk continues beyond the Powder Gate to **Celetná Street**, where the **Royal Route** begins.

We'll also take Celetná Street, but we immediately turn left onto **Ovocný trh**,



**Did you know that...**

*The words of the **Czech national anthem** "Where is my home" were composed on the very spot where the **PALLADIUM shopping center** stands today? In 1834 there was a military barracks on the Square of the Republic. The 28th Infantry Regiment, which was stationed here at that time, was collectively known as "The Children of Prague" and their quartermaster was **Josef Kajetán Tyl**. He was in charge of the regiment's supplies, but this did not prevent him from being an active theatre critic and writer.*

a small square which used to serve for fruit and vegetable markets. There are several remarkable buildings to be noted on the side of this triangular square. Immediately on the edge, we can see a good example of Czech Cubist architecture, the **House at the Black Mother of God [6]**.

On the other side of the square stands the oldest university dormitory in Central Europe, the **Karolinum [7]**. It consists of several buildings joined together in various architectural styles. The Karolinum houses the administration of Charles University, and its auditorium serves for ceremonies today, mostly for graduation ceremonies.

Immediately next to the Karolinum stands a theatre known today as the **Stavovské** or Estates Theatre **[8]**, previously named Hraběcí Nosticovo (Tylovo, before 1989). Its classicist building comes from 1781–1783 and was commissioned by the Czech patriot Count Nostic-Rieneck. In 1878, this was where **W. A. Mozart** personally conducted his operas, the Marriage of Figaro and Don Giovanni.



## KUBISTA GALLERY

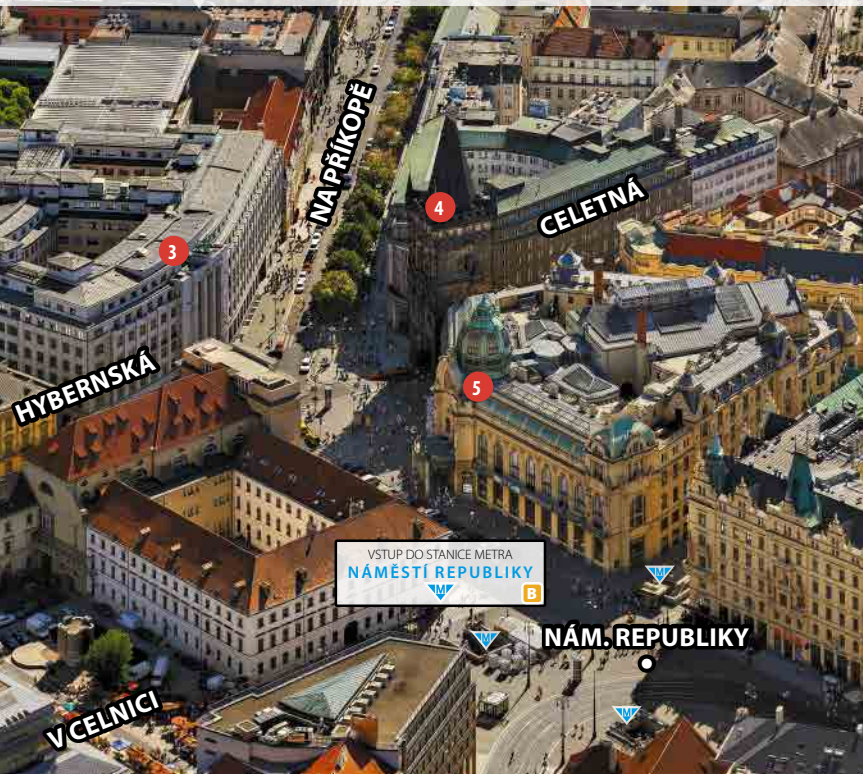
*The Kubista Gallery was opened at the end of 2002 at an exclusive address – on the ground floor of the **House at the Black Mother of God** (p. 50) in the historical center of the metropolis. The gallery is the only specialized shop of its kind in Prague and the Czech Republic, and in the short time of its existence it has gained not only a wide range of domestic customers, but an extensive foreign clientele as well.*

*All of them appreciate the fact that in this architecturally exceptional building, whose upper floors house the **Museum of Czech Cubism** and the faithfully reconstructed **Grand Café Orient**, this is the only place in Prague where they can purchase originals, replicas, and unique pieces inspired by **classic Czech design**, mostly from the period of Czech Cubism and Art Deco.*



**Kubista Gallery**  
Prague, Ovocný trh 569/19  
+420 224 236 378  
+420 727 963 540  
kubista@kubista.cz  
@kubistagallery  
[www.kubista.cz](http://www.kubista.cz)





#### 4 POWDER GATE

This high architectural work of **Late Bohemian Gothic** was built at the end of the 15th century by the builder and mason **Matthias Rejsek**. The gate was part of the old town fortifications, but it probably served more of a representative function than for defense – it formed a kind of counterbalance to the **Old Town Bridge Tower**. The designation “powder” comes from the turn of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, when gunpowder was stored here. There is a **walkway at 44 meters which is accessible** and offers a nice view onto parts of Prague, while the inside of the tower is used for exhibitions.

#### Did you know that...

Construction of the **PALLADIUM** complex on the Square of the Republic (náměstí Republiky) revealed unique archaeological findings? During archaeological research, the remains of three **Romanesque palaces** were discovered here. These have been preserved in the building, and visitors can admire the oldest preserved Prague **toilet from the 12th century** in the premises of the **LUXOR** bookshop, the remains of the masonry of the second palace in the “Page” café in front of the Luxor bookshop, and the preserved part of the third palace on the lowest floor of the shopping center by the escalators in front of the Albert grocery store. [www.palladiumpraha.cz/historie](http://www.palladiumpraha.cz/historie)



- 7 The core structure of the **Karolinum** is the **Rothlev House**, the oldest part of which is a bay of the chapel from roughly the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the 14<sup>th</sup> century



#### Did you know that...

The house known as the “**Three Golden Lions**” (U Tří zlatých lvů, No. 420) on nearby Uhlý Trh is associated with **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**? The house belonged to the composer **F. X. Dušek** and his wife, the singer **Josefina Dušková**. Mozart lived here in 1787.

The street named **Skořepka** then leads us to **Bethlehem Square [9]**. Before we get there, however, we can walk down **Martinská Street** to the original Romanesque **Church of St. Martin in**

**the wall**. Its interesting name reflects the fact that the church, originally dating back to the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, was built against the walls of the former Old Town fortifications.



- 8 **The Estates Theatre** (Stavovské divadlo) is the second scene of the National Theatre

9

## BETHLEHEM CHAPEL

Bethlehem Square bears its name from the chapel, built in **1391** by Jan Kříž and Hanuš from Mühlheim. The chapel was not designed for religious services (it lacked a choir), but was only supposed to serve for sermons, exclusively in the Czech language. It was conceived as a bare and simple building of irregular layout, with the main requirement being functionality and the possibility of holding as many attendees as possible. It was reconstructed in 1548, then **demolished in 1786** under Josef II. In **1950–1953**, the chapel was **rebuilt** according to its original plans by the architect **Jaroslav Fragner**. Today the building is used by the **Czech Technical University** in Prague for ceremonial occasions. The Bethlehem Chapel is closely associated with the figure of the church reformer **John Huss** (Jan Hus, ca. 1370 – 6. 7. 1415), who preached here from 1402 to 1413.



Not far from the Uhelný trh (Coal Market) and right next to Wenceslas Square, the Gothic **Church of Our Lady of the Snow** [10] rises above the surrounding buildings. In the proper sense of the word, this is only a presbytery of an originally planned church which was founded together with the Carmelite Monastery in

1347 by Charles IV. The church is decorated with a number of artistic works, most by anonymous painters, however. One exception is the valuable painting by Wenzel Lorenz Reiner from 1725 on the side altar of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary.



Did you know that...

10

**The Church of Our Lady of the Snow**, with its 39 meter high nave, is **the highest shrine in Prague?** It's even bigger than the vaults of the St. Vitus Cathedral. The church was supposed to be 100 meters long, but **it was never completed**, mostly due to the Hussite Wars. It finally dilapidated so badly that the vaulting collapsed in 1566. It was finally repaired in the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century due to the efforts of the Discalced Franciscan Order. The church is also home to **the highest altar in Prague** – it's **29 meters tall** and comes from 1651.

## Our TIP



## PIVOVAR U SUPA

The U Supa Brewery is the oldest brewery and pub in Prague, with its roots going all the way back to the 15th century. It's located in the oldest and busiest street of the Old Town, roughly in the middle of the Royal Route, where Charles University is located, in the former malt house and brewery that supplied beer to all of Prague. Today you can enjoy modern Czech cuisine and honest Czech beer.



## OFFER

**Domestic beer "SUP" 12°, aka King of Prague.** The premium pale SUP lager is a bottom-fermented pale beer with a higher bitterness, full flavor and subtle hop aroma, made from four types of malt. It is hopped with three types of Czech hops. SUP is the flagship beer of the U Supa Brewery, having earned first place in the King of Prague competition for the best beer of 2017. You can also enjoy beers from the brewery Cvikov.

## BEER TASTING, EVENTS

True beer connoisseurs should definitely not miss this affair. Brewmaster Aleš has selected **6 types of beers**, served on a massive wooden board with a detailed description, and they're all

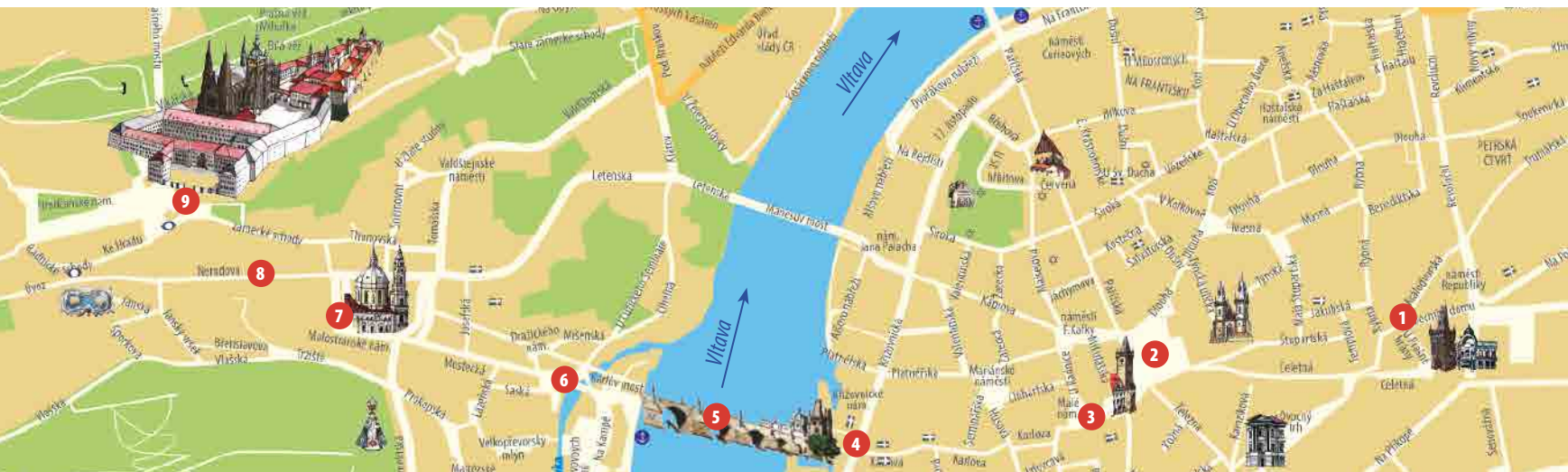
waiting for you to taste them. Let yourself be carried away by the taste of honesty, compare the differences between each drink, and soak up the atmosphere of the oldest brewery in Prague. Throughout the year, the brewery organizes **various gastronomic events**; these are notified well ahead of time on their website and social media.

## PIVOVAR U SUPA

Celetná 22, Praha 1  
Tel.: +420 733 534 383  
info@pivovarusupa.cz  
www.pivovarusupa.cz

f pivovarusupa  
i pivovarusupa





**4** Křižovnické Square with Old Town bridge tower (1380–1420)

## ROYAL WAY 3 hours

*The greatest treasures of old Prague during a single stroll.*

You'd have a hard time finding this road on a modern map of Prague – **it was formed by a route travelled by soon-to-be Czech rulers just before their coronation** in the Cathedral

of St. Vitus in Prague Castle. The route was first travelled in 1438 by the coronation procession of Albrecht II of Habsburg, and the last ruler was Ferdinand V. Dobrotivý in 1836.

Processions began on the site of today's **Republic Square [1]** in the Old Town. This site was not chosen by accident – it was the site of the former Charles Court (the site of today's Municipal House [p.48],

which from the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century served as the residence of the Czech kings instead of the cold and uncomfortable castle. The only truly historical object that Republic Square has preserved today is the Powder Gate [p.53] from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Behind the Powder Gate, we find ourselves on **Celetná Street**, one of the oldest streets in Prague. Note the decorative facades of a number of aristocratic palaces and burgher houses here. Modern architecture is represented by the cubist House at the Black Mother of God [p.50] on the corner of Celetná Street and Ovocný trh.

After a while, Celetná Street leads us to the **Old Town Square [2]** [p.24], the imaginary centre of all of Prague and the site of many important events in Czech history. The dominant features of the Old Town Square are the Old Town Hall with astronomical clock [p.26, 27] and the twin towers of the Church of Our Lady before Týn [p.28]. An important monument is the Stone Bell House, and the Jan Hus Monument in the centre of the square is impossible to miss.

Following the block of houses that create the town hall and around the house

U Minuty, we eventually come to Malé náměstí, or **Small Square [3]**. Notice the well with the Renaissance wrought-iron grating from 1560, evidently the oldest iron grating in Prague, and the Rott House from 1890 with decorated facade.

From Malé náměstí (also known as Small Market Square), the Royal Way continues along **Karlova Street** to the embankment of the Vltava River. Before we get there, we pass a number of outstanding burgher and aristocratic houses (Three pomegranates, Three angels, Golden fruit, Golden well, and Blue pike, to name a few). Before **Křižovnické Square [4]** [p.24], Karlova Street is bordered on one side by a block of buildings joined to the Clementinum [p.24] and on the other side by other splendid buildings and palaces (Pötting, Collredo-Mansfeld).

Křižovnické Square is dominated by the facade and dome of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi and the richly decorated Gothic Old Town Bridge Tower [p.24, 27]. We'll pass through it, just like the Czech rulers did, onto **Charles Bridge [5]** [p.22] which connects the Old Town with **Malá Strana**. The Charles Bridge is one of Prague's most important

architectural monuments and bears an extraordinary decorative set of 30 Baroque sculptures and sculpture arrangements. On the other side, Charles Bridge ends with the **Malá Strana Twin Bridge Towers** [6]. The smaller one used to be part of the former Judith Bridge which was built from 1172 to 1342 just a few dozen meters downstream from Charles Bridge.

In Malá Strana, the Royal Way leads up Mostecká Street to **Malostranské Square** [7] [p. 15]. This

sloping area is divided into an upper and lower part, with the Church of St. Nicholas [p. 17] and its adjacent former Jesuit College dominating the centre. The Church of St. Nicholas, built gradually from 1704 to 1756, is one of the most important Baroque structures not only in the Czech Republic, but in all of Europe.

From Malostranské Square, we continue uphill along picturesque **Nerudova Street** [8]. This used to be the main route through Malá Strana and connected Prague



Did you know that...

5

It was a well-known legend that when the masons were building **Charles Bridge**, they added **fresh eggs** into the mortar mix? Analyses of the original mortar carried out during the general reconstruction of the bridge between 2007 and 2010 did not support this nice legend, however.



6 Charles Bridge and Lesser Town Bridge Towers

Castle [p. 8] with the fords across the Vltava River and later with the stone bridge – first Judith, then Charles Bridge. Nerudova Street is sought out among visitors for its specific atmosphere, and the preserved house signs on a number of houses here are very popular. The best known among them is the house At the Two Suns, where the poet and writer Jan Neruda (1834–1891) lived, after whom the street is named.

At **Hradčany** [p. 13], Nerudova Street changes names and becomes **Úvoz**. This is where we turn onto the street named Ke Hradu and walk up the Town Hall Steps, or Radnické schody. Taking either the street or the steps will lead you to **Hradčanské Square** (the square before the castle) and to **Prague Castle** [9] itself, the destination of both the coronation processions and our stroll through Prague.



Our TIP



Did you know that...



## Ebel Coffee

Ebel Coffee (founded 1996) is a **Czech brand of Select Coffee** that offers the world's top coffees **from forest farms**, a rarity in the coffee community today. The small shop of Cafe Ebel is just a few steps from the Old Town Square. Having a coffee there is a real coffee treat. The friendly Baristas will advise you on what coffee to buy for moments of comfort at home or to take with you, how to grind it, and how to prepare it. The founder of Ebel Coffee, **Mrs. Ebel**, has been working for years in Direct Trade with the **natural farm Finca Jerusalén**, which represents Specialty Coffee from the Santa Barbara region of **Honduras**. "We are proud to support a farm in pure nature," says Ms. Ebel. Farmer José of Finca Jerusalén grows coffee trees in a 150-year-old forest with a myriad of trees, plants, animals, birds, and forest insects. Geisha coffee and other rare, **delicate arabicas** are grown in this salubrious environment in the mountains. Geisha has been one of the most popular coffees under the Ebel Coffee brand for years.

What's more? Try **Ebel Chocolate's artisan chocolate**. And if you need a gift for someone, you've come to the right place!

- ... Mrs. Ebel has been traveling the world for 20 years looking for farms that work in harmony with nature?
- ... Farmer José from the Honduran farm is a frequent visitor to Cafe Ebel, especially when a container of new harvest arrives – and if you're lucky you can meet him in person. :)
- ... Geisha Coffee won the World Cup of Excellence 2 times?
- ... Ebel Coffee is Kosher certified?
- ... Mrs. Ebel founded the first Coffee Museum in Prague?
- ... A new branch of Ebel Coffee is being established in the Prague 6 district of Suchbát?
- ... Ebel Coffee roasts its coffee every week and also offers green beans to other roasters?
- ... Robusta coffee cultivation is prohibited by law in Honduras?
- ... Ristretto has less caffeine than espresso?
- ... Coffee processed using the Honey method does not contain honey?



### CAFE EBEL

Kaprova 11, Prague 1  
+420 604 265 125  
go@ebelcoffee.cz

#### Open:

Mo-Fr: 8:30 – 17:00  
Sa-Su: 10:00 – 17:00

### EBEL COFFEE

Suchbátské náměstí 12  
165 00, Prague 6  
+420 603 441 434

#### Open:

Mo-Fr: 9:00 – 17:00  
Sa: 11:00 – 18:00  
closed on Sundays





Žižkov TV transmitter (216 m)

## NEW PRAGUE

**Several more Prague districts have become part of the capital city during the recent past.**

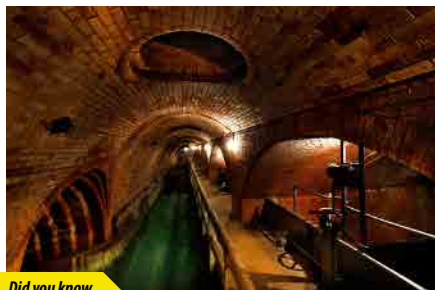
North of Hradčany and Prague Castle lies the **Dejvice** district. Towards the east, Dejvice connects to **Bubeneč**. From here, the large royal game park Stromovka stretches out. The eastern side of **Stromovka** Park is closed in by the **Prague Exhibition Grounds**. From the north, Stromovka is closed in by the Vltava River, by Holešovice from the east, and by a narrow strip of house blocks from the south that separate it from **Letná**. In the 1950's, the Letná Tunnel was built beneath Letná, now connecting it with the Old Town. Between the Exhibition Grounds and the eastern edge of Letná Park, a boundary separates Letná from Holešovice. The Neo-Renaissance and Art Nouveau buildings here are complemented by such functionalist pearls such as the **Trade Fair Palace**.

Holešovice, Letná, and Stromovka are encircled by the Vltava, making them a bit of a peninsula. To the north of this peninsula lies **Troja**. In the hillside above the Troja castle, the **Botanical Garden** spreads out, while next to the castle lies the 58-hectare area of Prague's **Zoological Garden**. In 1817, the suburb of Karlín was founded quite



Inner block in Holešovice – industrial spaces find a new use

deliberately. The wooded hill of **Žižkov** runs along the south side of **Karlín**, and a neighborhood of the same name lies beneath its southern slopes and spreads southwards into **Vinohrady**. In 1680, a plague cemetery was built under the memorable Vítkov cemetery, which became the main Prague cemetery from 1784.



Did you know that...

*The former sewage treatment plant in Prague-Bubeneč is on the list of monuments nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The sewage treatment plant was built in 1901–1906.*



### Our TIP

## TOWERPARK PRAHA

The Žižkov Tower, at 216 meters high, is the tallest structure in Prague and is guaranteed to impress. Its observatory deck offers visitors a **360° view** of the beauty of Prague at **93 meters** above the ground. Just a few meters below, at 66 meters, is the **Oblaca restaurant**, the luxurious Sky Suite, and the Oblaca cocktail bar. The park below the tower is home to a mini golf course, a summer theatre, the **Miminoo restaurant**, and an **ice rink with real ice** in the winter months.

We are open **every day from 9 am to midnight**.



@TOWERPARKPRAHA

### TowerPark Praha

Mahlerovy sady 1  
130 00 Praha 3  
info@towerpark.cz  
**www.towerpark.cz**  
Tel.: +420 210 320 086

📷 towerparkpraha [www.instagram.com/towerparkpraha/](https://www.instagram.com/towerparkpraha/)

📘 Žižkovská televizní věž - Tower Park Prague [www.facebook.com/TowerParkPraha](https://www.facebook.com/TowerParkPraha)



**Our TIP**

## DOX CENTRE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

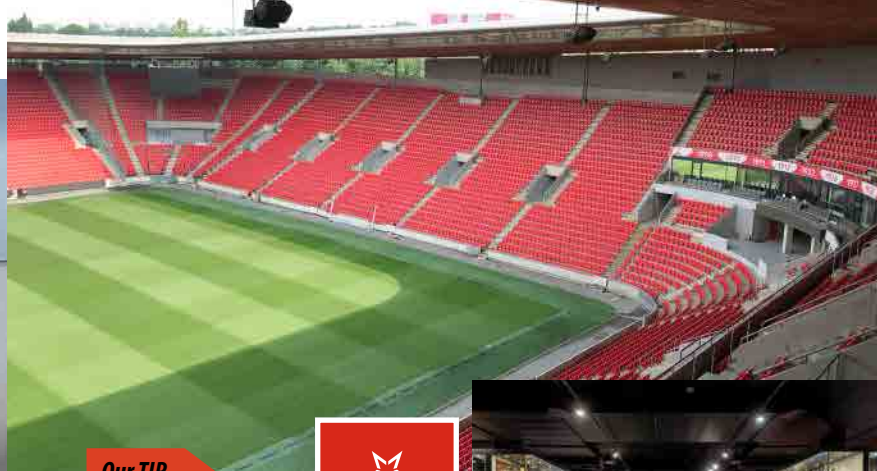
Visit Holešovice, ranked by the Guardian as one of the ten coolest neighborhoods in Europe and known as the SoHo of Prague. The year 2008 saw the creation of something unexpected in a former aircraft parts factory – DOX, the largest independent contemporary art institution in the Czech Republic. Behind its cutting-edge contemporary architecture stand three internationally renowned architects, Ivan Kroupa, Martin Rajniš, and Petr Hájek. Explore this labyrinth of buildings with an exhibition area of more than 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>, immerse yourself in cutting-edge sound in the DOX+ hall, and float above the ground in a unique architectural intervention, the Gulliver airship. Discover the cultural Prague of the 21st century, a program with an idea and an impact. Discover DOX.

**exhibitions and program for all generations — Gulliver airship — DOX+ hall for dance, theatre, music — summer cinema and Evergreen terrace — café and bistro — bookshop and shop with Czech design**



**Poupětova 1, Prague 7**  
**www.dox.cz — tel. 295 568 123**

HOW TO REACH US —  
metro C, Nádraží Holešovice  
(10 minutes from the city centre)  
tram 6, 12, Ortenovo náměstí

**Our TIP**

## SLAVIA MUSEUM A STADIUM TOUR



We invite you on **a tour of the legendary Eden** – the home of the football club **SK Slavia Prague**. Take a peek into the players' dressing room, where the stars of Barcelona, Borussia Dortmund, Chelsea, Arsenal, and Leicester used to change. Experience the view of the field from the bench as a Slavia player, discover the areas for press conferences and interviews with the media, and see the playing field and facilities from the top floor of the stadium.

The Stadium Tour also includes a tour of **the largest football museum in the Czech Republic** (more than 1,200 m<sup>2</sup> with more than 1,200 artefacts). The gallery of unique football jerseys extends up to the fourth floor of the stadium. The exhibits are constantly being added to and renewed. Historical gems include the soccer cleats and jersey of legendary goalkeeper František Plánička, the Central European Cup that Slavia won in 1938, and a ball from a match against Brazil signed by stars including Pelé.

Visitors walk around the stadium on their own. Signs are placed all along the route, pointing the direction of the tour so that no one gets lost in Eden. Allow at least 45 minutes to explore the museum and the stadium in peace.

For more information, including opening times, visit [www.slavia.cz/museum](http://www.slavia.cz/museum) and social media.



### STADIUM TOUR ROUTE

- Entrance to the stadium and Slavia Museum on the ground floor
- TV lane on the 4th floor
- Family Room – facilities for players' families
- Press Center on the 3rd floor
- Presidential Box on the 2nd floor
- Slavia Museum on the 1st floor
- VIP Box
- Grandstand and Club Floor
- Pitch by the dugouts
- Presidential Corridor
- Guest Dressing Room and Mix Zone



**STADIUM TOUR  
AND SLAVIA MUSEUM**  
U Slavie 1540/2a  
100 00 Prague 10–Višovice



 Pilsner Urquell



## PLZEŇSKÝ PRAZDROJ BREWERY

Meet the **legendary Pilsner Urquell**, the beer that inspired more than two-thirds of all the world's beers, still referred to today as pils, pilsner, or pilsener. Taste Pilsner beer in one of Prague's restaurants or go directly to the city of Plzeň for a tour of the brewery.

### AVAILABILITY

Pilsner beer can be enjoyed throughout the Czech Republic. In **Prague** it is tapped in approximately 200 establishments awarded the prestigious "**Star of Brewers**". The current list can be found at:

[www.prazdroj.cz/nase-pivo/hvezda-sladku](http://www.prazdroj.cz/nase-pivo/hvezda-sladku)

### TOURS

Tours of the brewery are available every day throughout the year. You will get to know the entire production process of the famous lager and visit authentic places of the brewery, including the historic cellars. During the tour, you can taste unfiltered and unpasteurized Pilsner Urquell beer.

### EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

**Summer at Prazdroj** – concerts in the brewery courtyard (July-August), **Pilsner Fest** (October).

## PIVOVAR PLZEŇSKÝ PRAZDROJ

U Prazdroje 64/7, 301 00 Plzeň  
Tel.: +420 377 062 888  
[reservations@asahibeer.cz](mailto:reservations@asahibeer.cz)  
[www.prazdrojvisit.cz](http://www.prazdrojvisit.cz)



 Kozel



## VELKÉ POPOVICE BREWERY

The picturesque **Velké Popovice** brewery is located less than 30 km from Prague. It was founded by **František Ringhoffer** in 1871. A tour of the brewery will show you how honest beer is still brewed today. You can also book the brewery's experience program: the "Goat School of Beer Tapping" and the "Goat Expedition to the Brewery".

### AVAILABILITY

You can enjoy Velkopopovický Kozel beer throughout the Czech Republic. In Prague it is tapped in many restaurants. The "Star of Brewers" label is a guarantee that the beer is perfectly cared for. The current list of these award-winning establishments can be found at: [www.kozel.cz/hvezda-sladku](http://www.kozel.cz/hvezda-sladku)

### TOURS

The tour includes a visit to the historic and contemporary brewhouse, the cellars where the beer is fermented and matured, and finally a taste of the unfiltered special.



### EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

**Day of the Goat** in June, **Klobáskofest** in September.

## PIVOVAR VELKÉ POPOVICE

Ringhofferova 1, 251 69 Velké Popovice  
Tel.: +420 323 683 425  
[exkurze@kozel.cz](mailto:exkurze@kozel.cz)  
[www.kozel.cz](http://www.kozel.cz)







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