



PRAGUE



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PRAGUE



VisitBohemia **GUIDE**



PRAGUE

Publisher: Vydavatelství MCU s.r.o.

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Maps, plans: Vydavatelství MCU s.r.o.

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Typesetting: Pavel Dvořák

Advertising: Emil Fedoš

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1st Edition, Český Krumlov 2015, (reprint 2025)

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ISBN: 978-80-7339-268-0



“PRAGA CAPUT REI PUBLICAE”

Prague, the capital city of the Czech Republic, lies along the Vltava River, in the middle of the Czech basin. Today, around **1.2 million people** live in Prague, which is about 12% of the population of our country. With its populousness and area (about 500 km²), Prague is **the largest city in the Czech Republic**. Due to the richness and beauty of its monuments, the historical heart of Prague was placed on **UNESCO's** World Heritage List in 1992. It is deservedly said that Prague is the most beautiful capital city in Europe. Apologies to Paris and Rome.

Settlement in this area began as early as in prehistoric times and was facilitated both by its location in the center of the Czech basin as well as its suitable climatic conditions and terrain. From time immemorial, the Vltava River has been making its way through the **deposits of the cretaceous sea**, and its current created today's broken terrain. This majestic sarcophagus of a vanished world, together with the hillsides of Petřín, Letná and the other hills of the Vltava valley, protected the future heart of Prague from the cold northern and intense western winds.

These parts have been **continuously populated since the 4th millennium BC**, as shown by discoveries, the most important of which mainly come from the outskirts of Prague, e.g. from Šárka or from Unětice. Even then, this was a settlement that held importance for the entire Czech basin. From the Hallstatt period (from the 6th century BC) this land formed a substantial part of the **Celtic world**. One of the oldest aristocratic Celtic graves has been documented on our lands. Bohemia was a settlement for the Boii tribe, and **gold coins** were also minted here.

The **Germanic people** took the name of this land from the Celts and, after the Boii tribe, named it Bojohémum, Bainaib, and finally **Bohemia**. Bohemia then became their home for the next five centuries. Maroboduus' Marcomanni tribe warred here with the Roman Empire, and the Lombard tribe, who so thoroughly wiped out the last remains of ancient civilization in Italy, experienced their



LIBUŠE PROPHECIES THE GLORY OF PRAGUE

“...I see a large city whose fame touches the stars ...There in the woods by the Vltava River you will find a person who is hewing the threshold (práh) of his home and in accordance with this, you will name the city Praha (Prague)...”

This is how the legends tell of the prophetic trance of the mythical princess Libuše, who is said to have founded and named our capital city. All Czechs know this tale thanks to Cosmas, who at the beginning of the 12th century wrote an account of it in his chronicle. It was the opera by Bedřich Smetana, however, that spread the tale into public awareness. Libuše was said to have made her prophecy from Vyšehrad, the oldest mythical seat of the local princes. As the wife of the mythical Přemysl the Ploughman, she became the founder of the Přemyslid dynasty which then ruled the Czech lands for more than five hundred years. Despite Cosmas and Bedřich Smetana, everything probably happened somewhat differently. However, the history of the Czech state and the history of Prague are indivisible from each other.



To this day, the Barrandov cliffs harbour the fossilised remains of trilobites and other ancient plants and animals.



Saints **Constantine** (Cyril, 827–869) and **Methodius** (813–885), referred to as the brothers from Thessaloniki or as the Slavic missionaries. As part of their mission to Great Moravia, they created the **Glagolitic script**, and **Old Church Slavonic** became established as a liturgical language.

Did you know that...

Not far from Prague, just past Kladno near **Mšecké Žehrovice**, a statue of a Celtic hero was found, which is considered to be one of the oldest works of Celtic art. On the outskirts of Prague, in **Závist nad Zbraslaví**, the ruins of a fort from the end of the 5th century BC lie at a location where in the 2nd century BC a famous opidum came into being, which wasn't one of the largest in area but of the Celtic structures known up to that point, it is believed to have the most massive fortifications. But not even this most magnificent fortress of the Celtic world was able to stop the Germanic people.

heyday here. Even when, in the year 791, Charlemagne's army was returning from its victorious war with the Avars, they became acquainted with Lombard mercenaries in the Frankish army at the memorable site of their ancestors and mourned the abandoned grave of the Lombard King Wacho. It seems they lamented in the **ruins in Závist nad Zbraslaví**.

By this time, however, the area was already home to the **Slavs**, and it is only with the Slavs that the emergence of Prague in its present location is associated. Even though our Slavic ancestors only came to these lands at the turn of the **5th and 6th centuries**, up until the 8th century they only settled on the periphery of what would later become "Old Prague": in Šárka, in Bohnice, in Butovice and at **Levý Hradec** – the oldest seat of the Přemyslid dynasty. Only the growing needs of the state, the importance of the local market, and the ford lead to the creation of Prague Castle, which served as the residence of the Czech prince only from the 9th century. This means that **Prague Castle** has been the center of the Czech state for one thousand two hundred years. Besides Papal Rome, you will not find another older center of a state in Europe that has been continually utilized up to now.

The Přemyslid Empire and Přemyslid Prague proliferated together with **Christianity**, which was made accessible to the local inhabitants in the Slavic language by Saints Cyril and Methodius.

Saints Cyril and Methodius came to us from **Byzantium**, but in Great Moravia, where they were summoned to in the year 864, they battled from the beginning with their Latin-oriented counterparts from the Frankish Empire. It was as if this encounter between the Eastern and Western world at the very dawn of the Czech state marked the later peripeteia of our modern history. The Western orientation, however, won out. **Prince Wenceslas (Václav)** († 929 or 935), the principal sacred patron and eternal ruler of the Bohemian lands, anchored the Czech state in western politics, and after the founding of the Prague bishopric (974) even

Latin culture prevailed over Old Slavic. Great Moravia's heritage still remained present, however, particularly in the popularity of an unusual type of cathedral in the shape of a **rotunda**.

Prague in the 10th century was a large and imposing metropolis. Ibrahim Ibn Jacob, the Arabian traveler and entrepreneur, described Prague as a rich "stone city". Unfortunately, not much is left from his time; the following epoch of **Romanesque art** was more generous. Monuments at Prague Castle, numerous temples, fragments of the **Judith stone bridge** and wholly unique Romanesque city houses testify to the extraordinary significance and wealth of Prague in the **11th and 12th centuries**.

Despite all this, Prague did not have the rights of a city, and its built-up area as a series of isolated courtyards stretched from Prague Castle to the Vltava River ford and further along the other side of the river all the way to the **Vyšehrad** fortification. The densest and richest built-up area was in the area that would later become the **Old Town** (Staré Město), which was then called Mezihřady (between castles). It was there that an international market blossomed, and this is also why the area became the heart of the city. King Wenceslas I, between 1230–41, enclosed it with ramparts and, with the founding of Havel town (Havelské město), laid down the foundations for the freedoms of a city. Probably from this time forward, Mezihřady came to be also known as "Prague's City" (Pražské město), after Prague Castle. At that time, the **Gothic style** also pervaded here with the construction of additional city buildings, palaces, and monasteries.

The expansion of the capital city reflected the blossom of the Czech state. After more than five hundred years on the throne, the **Přemyslid dynasty** ruled not only Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia from Prague, but had also gained the **Polish and Hungarian kingdoms**.

In 1306, the **young Wenceslas III was murdered** in Olomouc, marking the tragic end of the Přemyslid dynasty by the sword, and the associated states immediately fell apart. This remained an attractive example



St. Wenceslas (Václav) – about 907 to 28 Sept. 929 or 935).



Rotunda of Sts. George and Adalbert on Říp Mountain.

Did you know that...

In the middle of the **13th century** about **4,000 inhabitants** lived in the Prague agglomeration, which was a large city at that time. However, by the beginning of the **14th century**, the number of inhabitants of Prague rose to **10,000 people**.



Roman Emperor and King Charles IV (1316–1378), "Father of the Nation".



The silver **Prague groschen**, minted from 1300, was one of the most stable currencies in Europe for the following three centuries. Its minting was ordered by King Wenceslas II. For its time, it was a relatively large and heavy coin (weight of 3.5 to 3.7 g) with high purity of silver (933/1000).

Did you know that...

The richness of the **Kutná Hora silver mines** evoked the same kind of fever that occurred in the 19th century in the Klondike.

for central Europe, however; the Luxembourg and Jagiellonian dynasties imitated it, but it was only the Hapsburgs who finally renewed the unity of central Europe.

The **Luxembourgs** ruled us for almost one hundred and thirty years (1310–1437). **John of Luxembourg**, the "royal diplomat" and "the last knight", acquired the Czech throne with his marriage to **Eliška Přemyslovna**. He sold various privileges, and so the Old Town (Staré Město) was able to buy the right to have a town hall (1338) and thus become a true medieval city. John's son Wenceslas was raised in the Parisian court, where he assumed the name of Charles.

Charles later acquired the crown of emperor and became **Charles IV** (Karel IV). He did much for Prague as the capital city of the Czech state as well as the Holy Roman Empire. He had Prague Castle rebuilt and was credited for raising the Prague bishopric to an **archbishopric** (1344) and with his father founded the **St. Vitus Cathedral**. After the death of the builder, Matthias of Arras, he called an extraordinarily gifted young man and well-rounded artist from Gmünd, **Peter Parler** who, among other accomplishments, built the **Charles Bridge**. In 1348 Charles founded **Charles University**, the oldest university in central Europe, and in the same year he also laid the foundation for **Prague's New Town**, which displaced a number of old, scattered structures. The expansion of the fortifications under the castle, (today's Lesser Town – Malá Strana) and the construction of a number of monumental cathedrals and monasteries, together with a belt of fortifications which drew a number of vineyards, orchards and gardens, and even old Vyšehrad into the city, transformed Prague into a large metropolis, incomparable to anything existing in Europe at the time. The area of Prague reached 700 hectares while the number of its inhabitants rose to 40,000. After the death of Charles IV, even then called the Father of the Homeland, his son **Wenceslas IV** took the throne. He was as good as his father, but was beset by bad luck. The old world was collapsing and his closest relatives, including his brother Sigmund, just

complicated his situation. In Bohemia the fine art of the "beautiful style" was expanding, but Prague was the upcoming birthplace of the **first European reformation**.

The Czech reformation preceded Europe's reformation by more than one hundred years, but we paid a harsh price for this. The **burning of Jan Hus** at the Council of Constance (6 July 1415) made both his backers and opponents more radical, and the **Hussite Revolution** broke out in full force. Even though the memories of the heroic battles of the Czech Hussites and the famous victories of their leader **Jan Žižka from Trocnov** have helped Czechs to overcome difficult times and have inspired many artistic works, the critical periods of the civil wars, the abundant expunging crusades, and the Pope's anathemas tormented this land for almost the entire 15th century. Bohemia found itself isolated as heretical, Prague became destitute, and the number of its inhabitants fell to a mere 25,000. Our golden age had ended.

The rulers of the **Jagiellonian Dynasty** wished to guide the country out of crisis and had many great ambitions but unfortunately far less abilities. Even though the crafts and trade of Prague flowered and Late Gothic art adopted the innovations of the Renaissance, after **Vladislav II** became the Hungarian king and moved his seat to Budín (1490), the royal oligarchy completely ruled the state and Prague's importance again declined. The tragic death of king Louis II in the **Battle of Mohacs** (1526) not only ended the more than half-century rule of the Jagiellonians, but opened the way for the Turks into Hungary and the Habsburgs to power.

The **Habsburgs** held the states of Austria, Bohemia, and Hungary together for almost **four centuries** (until 1918). Their accession to the Czech throne was accompanied by the growing Renaissance, which was only slowly making its way through the Protestant environment, so Prague was only reached by a late wave of **Renaissance art** – mannerism, where however it shone brightly. The great fire of Prague Castle and Lesser Town (Malá



The demented but art-loving **Emperor Rudolf** surrounded himself with capable artists, scientists, and charlatans. He rebuilt Prague Castle and its gardens; he created an extraordinary collection of art works and was compelled to give sanction to **religious freedom** in his empire.

Strana) in 1541 rendered irreparable damage, but at the same time it provided a great opportunity to apply this new style. The Renaissance palaces around Prague Castle and the Summer Castle of Queen Anna Jagiellon (from the years 1537–63) were the avant-garde of this style. In 1584, Emperor **Rudolf II** brought his residence to Prague and Rudolfin Prague became the European center for **late mannerism**.

Did you know that...

In the tragic **battle of Mohacs** (29 August 1526), historians estimate that about 15,000 soldiers of the army of the Hungarian kingdom fell. Among them was the twenty-year-old King Louis Jagiello (*1506). He met with his death in the swamps around Mohacs, when he drowned with his horse while running from a losing battle.



The sculptural decorations in **Wallenstein Gardens** is the work of A. de Vries (1626–27).

The fall of Rudolf II marked the end of religious tolerance. The conflict between the Protestant majority and the Catholic Habsburgs led to the **Uprising of the Estates** which soon began the **Thirty Years' War** (1618–48). The Czech Protestants lost. The Czech state lost its rights for three hundred years, becoming a mere province, and the majority of the Czech royalty, intellectuals, and patricians emigrated. A cruel period of **recatholicization** occurred. The frenzy of war had slaughtered half of all the inhabitants of this land, and the Protestant and Catholic armies plundered the Czech kingdom and Rudolf's collections. In spite of this, **Albrecht of Wallenstein**, the ambitious emperor's general, tried to uphold Rudolf's artistic tradition even during the war. His magnificent palace in the Lesser Town (Malá Strana) ushered in the monumental constructions of Prague's Baroque period. The fall of Albrecht of Wallenstein and his subsequent murder (in Cheb, 1634) ended the patronage of this magnate, but his example was not forgotten. Prague again changed its face. A cooperation of talented artists and generous sponsors characterized the second half of the 17th and the first third of the 18th centuries.

The **Age of Enlightenment** brought the decline of artistic power and a fall into provincialism. In spite of that, the Estates Theatre (Stavovské divadlo) was able to celebrate the success of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and the house called Bertramka became a silent witness to the composers' Prague sojourn. At that time about 80,000 people lived in Prague and from that time the number of its inhabitants has been constantly rising.

The closure of the "Age of Enlightenment" is closely associated with the **national revival**. The remainder of the Czech aristocracy and the descendants of the noble White Mountain immigrants supported the emancipation of the Czech nation, its sciences and arts and its cultural and political institutions. However, the tragic method of defining a nation based on its language laid down the foundations for the national split between Czechs and German-speaking



The Estates Theatre (1781–1783).



The execution of 27 Czech Lords in the Old Town Square on 21 June 1621.

Czechs. Both nationalities competed with each other, and the reverberations of their rivalry can still be seen in Prague today: the German Rudolfinum and State Opera, as compared with the Czech National Theatre and National Museum. As we move away from that period, it is obvious that the works of both nationalities complement each other and this competition was actually quite useful.

Even though Czech literature written in German culminated at the turn of the **19th and 20th centuries** in the books of **Franz**



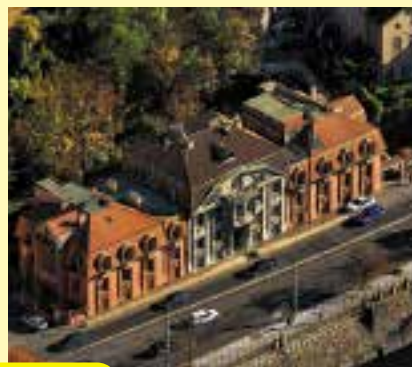
Cubist House of the Black Madonna (J. Gočár, 1911–1912).

Kafka, Gustav Meyring, and Franz Werfel, the rift between the two ethnic groups continued to widen.

The artistic works of the 19th century, including **Prague's Art Nouveau** (Secessionism), complemented the Baroque



T. G. Masaryk – the first president of Czechoslovakia.



Did you know that...

*Yes, Bohemia is the only land where cubist architecture exists, and **Prague is the capital of cubist architecture.***

(The "Trojdům" from 1913, a Cubist villa by Josef V. Chochol on the Rašínovo river embankment below Vyšehrad.).

face of medieval Prague but didn't change its character. In fact, even the modern trends of the beginning of the 20th century didn't harm the face of old Prague. Modern art did not become a heterogeneous element in this ancient municipal entity, as long as it remained sensitively aware of its surroundings; this can be seen, for instance, in the **cubist buildings** from the time before World War I.

World War I led to the fall of the Habsburg monarchy. On 28 October 1918, the **Czechoslovakian Republic** was announced, Prague became a true capital city once again, and Prague Castle welcomed the president of the Republic – **T. G. Masaryk**, who found his architect in the prudent Jože Plečnik. In the second half of the 1920's, Art Deco replaced **functionalism**. Czech functionalism and surrealism, as well as the ideas found in the writing of **Karel Čapek**, are world-renowned ideas that represent the varied mosaic of culture between the wars. The twenty-year period of the **First Republic** can be considered the second golden age in our history. The honeymoon between Prague and Paris ended, however, with the **Munich Agreement in 1938**. Great Britain and France tossed us to Hitler.

The collapse of the First Republic and the **occupation by Fascist Germany** again endangered the existence of the Czech-speaking majority in our lands. The atrocities wrought by the Nazis made the future coexistence of Czechs and Czech Germans, 98% of whom decided to become German Germans, impossible. The liberation of the republic and the **Prague Uprising in May 1945** meant the return of freedom. After the war, the **expulsion of 2.5 million Germans** ended 700 years of coexistence of both nationalities in our land.

After the disappointment of the Munich experience with our western allies and under the impression that the Soviet Union freed most of our nation State, many Czechs fell for the illusion that it would be possible to unite democracy and communism. Forty percent of the votes were enough for the Communists to take over in 1948. In the following years,



Václav Havel (1936–2011), symbol of the Velvet Revolution and the first president of the Czech Republic.

with a creative enthusiasm, the new rulers attempted to destroy everything that reminded them of the "antiquated" times and to replace it all with new symbols. One example is the gigantic statue of Stalin on Letná Plain, which was removed back in 1961.

In **1968**, the tanks of the "friendly" nations of the Soviet Bloc crushed the efforts of "Socialism with a human face". This was followed by another stage of the systematic devastation of our cultural heritage, a reminder of which is the absurdly constructed street across Wenceslas Square beneath the National Museum. In the end, probably the only useful thing that the Communist regime left behind in Prague is the Prague subway system.

The **Velvet Revolution of 17 November 1989** allowed us to return to a sort of civilization that most people in this land consider to be their own. Prague awoke to freedom once again. Free elections meant the **division of Czechoslovakia**, since the majority of Slovaks had quite a different idea of a united nation. Since 1993, Prague has been the capital of the Czech Republic, which joined **NATO** on 12 March 1999 and the **European Union** on 1 May 2004.



The castle entrance is guarded by soldiers of the castle guard; in the background is the Matthias Gate (1614).

"PRAGA MATER URBIUM"

As a city, Prague is an astonishing organism. It is not unusual to find that the Baroque façade of a building hides Gothic masonry and Romanesque basements. Old Prague is a medieval city with a Baroque overcoat, adorned with modern art like jewelry. Adjoining its **historical heart** (Prague Castle, Hradčany, Lesser Town, Old Town, and Vyšehrad) is the **inner town**, whose quarters grew from the old outskirts, and from the 18th and particularly the 19th centuries they grew together with the towns of Prague (e.g. Karlín, Smíchov, Holešovice, Vinohrady, Vršovice,

Did you know that...

*Prague Castle has been the center of the Czech state nation for twelve hundred years. With the exception of Papal Rome, this is the oldest and **only continuously utilized center of a nation** in Europe.*

Žižkov). The **outer town** is connected to them today, full of housing developments, shopping centers, family villas, forests and gardens, as well as industrial centers (e.g. Jižní Město, Jihozápadní Město, Bohnice, Prosek).

PRAGUE CASTLE,

Prague Castle has been the political center of our state for more than 1200 years. Today it is the home of the president of our Republic and includes the New Palace and the **Theresian Wings (Tereziánská křídla)**. This structure was consolidated by Niccolò Pacassi in the 18th century from individual castle palaces, mostly those from the time of Rudolf II. **Matthias' Gate (Matyášova brána)**, dating from 1614, is a memorial to Rudolf's successor Matthias II, but **the Picture Gallery of Prague Castle** still reminds us of Rudolf's passion for art.



Did you know that...

*The throne room is the work of architect **Benedikt Ried**, and it replaced three original halls of the Luxemburg Palace and, in its time (1486–1502), created in Europe the **largest vaulted area without interior supports** (62 × 16 m).*



Golden Lane.



Pleasant seating in the gardens below Prague Castle.



Did you know that...

Convent of St. George – It is the oldest convent in our country and it served as an educational institution for highborn girls of Czech nobility.

The old medieval **Royal Palace** harbors Romanesque basements from the 12th century, a Gothic ground floor with the **Columned Hall** of Wenceslas IV, and the late Gothic throne room **Vladislav Hall**. Today, the the President of the Republic is elected here and it hosts the most important political ceremonies. Benedikt Ried completed the late Gothic vaults and adjoining riding stairway with Renaissance windows, portals, and the Renaissance Ludvík Wing.

Adjoining the southern side is the **Old Provost's Building**, which was once the residence of the Prague bishops. On the adjoining side, in the year 1928, the J. Plečnik **granite monolith** was erected to honor the victims of World War I. Further on stands a bronze replica of the **horse-mounted statue of St. George** a replica of the original from the year 1373 (located in the National Gallery).

Among the oldest standing structures at Prague Castle is the Benedictine **Convent of St. George**. The Baroque façade of its chapel harbors a **basilica from the year 920**, preserved in the state it was in after its repair in the middle of the 12th century. The convent itself was founded in the year 973.

Along its southern side descends Jiřská Street, which runs along **Rožmberk Palace** (later Lobkowicz) and the Renaissance **Burgrave's Building** and heads for the **Black Tower (Černá věž)** dating from 1135. The Black Tower is part of the Renaissance gate which opens in the direction of the **Old Castle Stairs**. From Jiřská Street, you can turn off into the quaint **Golden Lane (Zlatá ulička)**. Its picturesque houses are adjoined to the castle's ramparts. The towers of the ramparts are particularly noteworthy because they served as prisons.

In the nearby surroundings of Prague castle there are various **gardens** (the Gardens on the Bastion, the Paradise Gardens, the Gardens on the Ramparts, the Deer Moat and the Royal Gardens), which have been growing here since the time of Ferdinand I (since 1534).



However, no less interesting is the Renaissance **Summer Castle of Queen Ann Jagiellons**, called Belvedere, which Ferdinand I (1535–63) had built in the Royal Garden for his wife. The building is decorated with dozens of Renaissance reliefs with historical and courtesan themes. Water tinkles in front of the Summer Castle, spouting from the bronze **Singing Fountain** dating from the year 1564.

They harbor a number of Renaissance and Baroque statues from the premier artists of their time (including M. B. Braun) and no less noteworthy structures, such as for example the Renaissance **Ball Games Hall** by Bonifac Wohlmut.

Uniting tradition with the modernity of the day is a constant process. The architect of president T. G. Masaryk, the world renowned Jože Plečnik, carried out many alterations to the castle (1920–34) which make the castle complex unique in a sensitive and intelligent way.



Did you know that...

The **Ball Games Hall** is the oldest walled gym of its kind in Europe (completed in 1569).

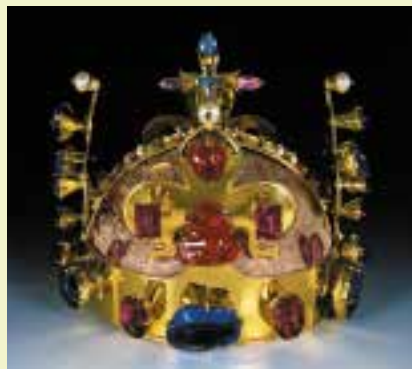
OPENING TIMES	1. 4. – 31. 10.	1. 11. – 31. 3.
Castle complex – daily	6.00 – 22.00	6.00 – 22.00
Historical buildings in the Castle complex – daily*	9.00 – 17.00	9.00 – 16.00
Prague Castle Gardens	10.00 – 18.00	not accessible

* except 24. 12.



THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. VITUS, WENCESLAS, AND ADALBERT

The true heart of the Czech state and the most sacred place in all of the Czech lands lies in the middle of the main, third courtyard. This is the **St. Vitus Cathedral (katedrála sv. Víta)**, which incorporates the **St. Wenceslas Chapel (kaple sv. Václava)**. Here rests the body of the eternal ruler and protector of this land. Above his grave the **Crown Jewels** have been placed in the crown chambers, the most valuable of which, St. Wenceslas' Crown, comes from the time of Charles IV (Karel IV). The St. Wenceslas Chapel, built during Charles IV's reign by Peter Parler (completed in 1367), demonstrates the significance



The St. Wenceslas crown once rested on the head of King Charles IV himself.

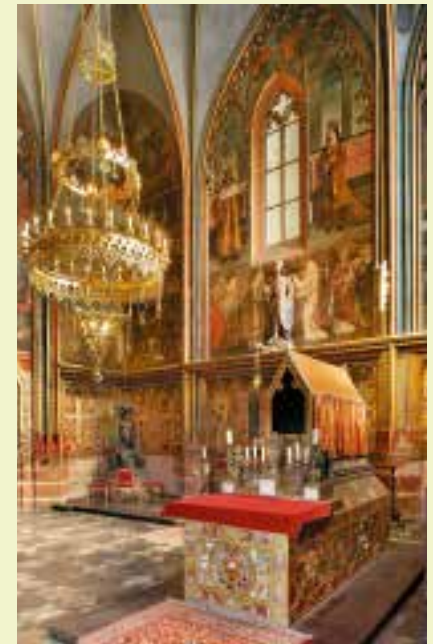
of this place. Its square ground plan goes against what was the customary design of a cathedral ground plan at that time. The walls are covered with polished semi-precious stones and frescos, of which the part making up the St. Wenceslas legend comes from the 16th century. The two-meter-high argillite statue of St. Wenceslas (completed in 1373) and the frescos with the emperor's portrait are from the period of Charles' reign, as is the extraordinary star-vaulted chapel.

The dominating feature of the southern façade of the cathedral is the **tower** topped with a Renaissance gallery and a Baroque "onion" cupola. Between the large southern tower and St. Wenceslas Chapel you will find the monumental entrance to the cathedral, called the **Golden Gate**. It is decorated with a **mosaic** from the time of Charles IV, portraying him with his fourth wife, Elizabeth of Pommern. It was created in 1371 by Venetian mosaicists based on the design of Czech painters, and even today it is considered to be the largest and oldest outdoor mosaic north of the Alps. After its recent restoration, it is again resplendent in its former beauty. In addition to the St. Wenceslas Chapel and the Golden Gate with its southern tower, Parler worked on the cathedral presbytery to the **Old Sacristy**, which has a boldly vaulted ceiling with a suspended apex stone which, for its time (1356), was quite the achievement. The **presbytery's vaulted ceiling** is also remarkable; this is one of the oldest webbed vaulted ceilings in Europe (finished in 1385).

In Prague's cathedral workshops, after the middle of the 14th century, a late Gothic architectural morphology was born which about 50 years later expanded throughout all of central Europe. The fact that statue production arose from Parler's workshops is no less noteworthy. The **tombstones** of six Přemyslid rulers and Bishop Jan Očko of Vlašim in the ground floor chapel, together with a wholly unique collection of **21 portrait busts on the lower triforium** and an additional **10 busts of saints on the outer triforium**, make the cathedral a magnificent tabernacle of medieval sculptures.



Gargoyles on the cathedral.



Chapel of St. Wenceslas, the patron and eternal ruler of the Czech lands (1367).



The interior of St. Vitus Cathedral.



Golden Gate with a mosaic from the 14th century.

After the death of Peter Parler (1399), construction significantly slowed down, stopping completely after the outbreak of the Hussite Wars (1420). Over the following one hundred years, cathedrals were simply added onto. The Jagiellons built a late Gothic **royal oratory** (1493) and during the Habsburgs a royal mausoleum was created with the graves of Ferdinand I and of Ann and Maximilian II. The Baroque cathedral was decorated with the silver **tombstone of John of Nepomuk** (1733–36). The final construction (1873–1929), which was directed by Josef Mocker (up to the year 1899) and after him Kamil Hilbert, even provided an opportunity for Czech modern artists. That time is represented in the cathedral by Myslbek's famous **tombstone of Cardinal B. Schwarzenberg** (1892–95) and the **glass case** of F. Kysela, M. Švabinský and A. Mucha.

The St. Vitus Cathedral is not only a metropolitan cathedral of Prague's archbishops, but it is also the coronation cathedral and burial place of our rulers. It was and still is a tangible **symbol of the Czech state**.



Loreta (K. I. Dientzenhofer, 1720–22).

HRADČANY AND STRAHOV

On the opposite side, west of Prague Castle, is **Hradčany Square (Hradčanské náměstí)**. There we find the magnificent courtier and church **palaces**: Lobkowitz Palace (later called Schwarzenberg) with graffiti decoration (1545–63) and the Tuscan Baroque palace (finished in 1691 by J. B. Mathey). Next to the façade of the Archbishops' Palace is a gate leading to Sternberg Palace which houses part of the collection of the **National Gallery** dedicated to old European art (You can see here. the famous image of the Rosary from the a. Dürer). In the middle of the square stands the late Baroque **Marian Column** from the workshop of F. M. Brokoff (1726) and on the edge of the square, by the corner of Salmovský Palace, the **statue of T. G. Masaryk**, our first president, which was unveiled in 2000. The square is the oldest heart of the castle, the third Prague city, which was founded around 1320, but it only became a royal city in 1598. The smaller city buildings were pushed out by the aristocrats'

stately palaces with their luxurious gardens (for example the garden of Černín Palace) and a number of cathedrals, for example the extensive **Loreta** by K. I. Dientzenhofer (1722). They particularly reflect the style of the quarter **New World (Nový svět)**. Today,



Schwarzenberg Palace.



View towards the the Strahov Monastery.



"New World" at Prague Castle.

most feature Renaissance and early Baroque façades. With their poetic enchantment, they create a humanising antipole to the stately monumental palaces.

South of Hradčany the **Strahov Premonstratensian Monastery**, founded in the middle of the 12th century, spreads out. After many reconstructions, its most distinct feature is its Baroque face. The extensive buildings serve not only for the Premonstratensian Monastery but also as the **National Literature Memorial Building** and the rich **Strahov Picture Gallery**. The **library** here is especially noteworthy; it contains **130,000 books, 2,500 manuscripts** (the oldest of which dates from the 9th century), around 1,500 incunabula, and also the legacy of 1,200 Czech writers. The Strahov complex also contains charming gardens with a beautiful view over Prague.

PETŘÍN AND MALÁ STRANA

Strahov is actually a part of the **Petřín Orchards**, which are the remains of the original layout. They were gradually pushed out by vineyards and gardens. Today, a two kilometer scenic path leads along Petřín, which will lead us through the local places of interest, for example the **Petřín Lookout Tower** – a 60m tall replica of Paris' Eiffel Tower – or the curious **Labyrinth of Mirrors**. Both were created during the Jubilee Exhibition of 1891.

Other Petřín curiosities include the Carpathian Church (Karpatský kostelík) dating from the 16th century, which was brought over to today's Kinský gardens from Carpathian Velká Lúčka, and the **Funicular Railway**. On Petřín you can find many statues and sculptures, for example, Myslbek's **monument** to the Romantic poet **K. H. Mácha** (from the year 1912) – a favorite place for couples in love.

Petřín and Prague Castle embrace, beneath, the **Lesser Town (Malá Strana)**, known earlier as Smaller (Menší) and even before that New Town (Nové Město). A mercantile settlement already existed here in the 8th century, but after Prince Břetislav moved the Jewish settlers from here to the other bank of the Vltava River (in the 11th century), it became the residence of the city's Czech aristocracy and the envoys of the surrounding rulers. Even today, there are a number of **embassies** located here. The quaint **Nerudova Street**, connecting Lesser Town with Prague Castle, however, shows that not only the aristocracy resided here. Lesser Town received the rights of a city from Přemysl Otakar II (1257). At that time its center was the **Lesser Town Square (Malostranské náměstí)** with **St. Nicholas' Church (kostel sv. Mikuláše)**, rebuilt by Christopher and Killian Ignatius Dientzenhofer (1704–52).

Not far from here, on **Karmelitská Street**, there stands a perhaps more humble but possibly more famous structure. Originally



Petřín Tower.



The House at the Red Lion in the Lesser Town.

Did you know that...

The Hunger Wall (Hladová zed') is the remains of the fortification of Lesser Town, which Charles IV had built after the year 1360, reputedly to employ Prague's poor.



St. Nicholas' Church, together with the adjoining Jesuit dormitory, is the most monumental and most representative of Prague's Baroque religious structures.

a Protestant cathedral, after the lost uprising, it was handed over to the Catholics and consecrated as **Our Lady Victorious (Panna Marie Vítězná)**. A Baroque treasure of another sort is harbored in the nearby Augustinian **Church of St. Thomas (kostel sv. Tomáše)**, for which an altar was ordered from P. P. Rubens in 1636.

The magnificence of a number of **Baroque palaces** located here (e.g. Thun-Hohenstein Palace on Nerudova Street by J. Santini from 1726) and the charm of Baroque **gardens** (e.g. Vrtbovský's Garden with statues by M. B. Braun from 1730 or Ledeburský Garden by J. Santini from 1720) build upon the example of the **palace of Albrecht of Wallenstein** (1624–30), who utilized the Protestant property confiscated after the Battle of White Mountain and built his grandiose residence on the site of 22 brick buildings

Did you know that...

*The **Church of Our Lady of Victory**, Prague's first Baroque temple, has been home to the miraculous Infant Jesus of the Church since 1628.*



The roofs of the Lesser Town.



Vrtbovská Garden (F. M. Kaňka, M. B. Braun, 1730).



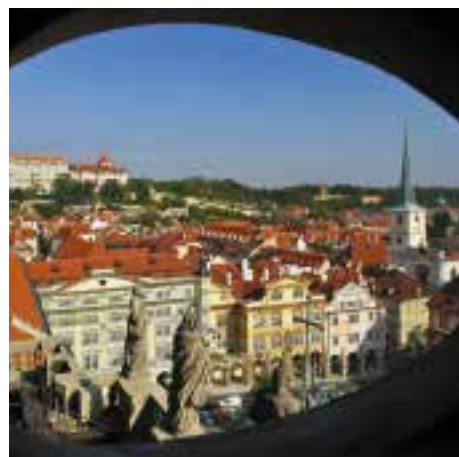
Around the Lesser Town Square.

and several gardens. He decorated the adjoining garden with bronze statues by the famous Adrien de Vries (1626–27), but you'll only find copies of them there because the originals, dating from 1648, were stolen by the Swedes. Before Albrecht of Wallenstein, these aristocratic residences were much more humble, but no less majestic, as demonstrated by **Smiřický Palace** on the Lesser Town Square, even though part of its façade was reconstructed after 1763. Incidentally, from exactly this point on 23 May 1618 a group of Czech noblemen set out for the Castle, angry because of the constant violations of religious freedom and the rights of Czech Protestants. They expressed their indignation by throwing the offending clerks out of windows. This – already the third **defenestration** in our history – started not only the **Estates Uprising**, but also the **Thirty Years' War**.

Next to Smiřický Palace stands **Sternberg Palace**, the site of a horrendous fire in 1541. The fire struck not only the Lesser Town but also Prague Castle. But Lesser Town had lain in ashes before, at the beginning of the Hussite Wars (1419), when a mob "celebrated" the death of Wenceslas IV. Of the oldest structures to have survived to today, probably the most impressive is the Knights of St. John **Church of the Virgin Mary Under the Chain (kostel Panny Marie pod řetězem)** from 1169. The Knights of St. John (after 1530 the Knights of Malta) were to have protected the stone bridge.

Did you know that...

Prague was the site of **three** "famous" **defenestrations**. Besides the mentioned window-toss of governors Slavata and Martinice, these were the defenestration of **1419**, which happened at the New Town Hall and effectively launched the Hussite revolution, then the next bureaucrats to be thrown from their office windows were during the people's uprisings in **1483**.



Smiřický Palace on the Lesser Town Square.



Charles Bridge from the riverbanks of the Old Town.

CHARLES BRIDGE, THE VLTAVA RIVER, PRAGUE'S BRIDGES AND ISLANDS

In 1357, Charles IV gave instructions to start building a new stone bridge, named the **Charles Bridge (Karlův most)**. It still stands today due to its outstanding construction, for which the genius of Peter Parler is probably responsible. It is **520 m long**, 10 m wide

Did you know that...

Prague has had its own **stone bridge** since 1169. Back then it was named **Judith Bridge**, after the wife of King Vladislav I. It stood approximately in the same location as today's Charles Bridge, but it was lower, it had more arches and it was longer, because from the Lesser Town bank it headed more along the flow of the river. Up to today, the Lesser Town Bridge Gate (Malostranská mostecká brána) indicates the axis of the Judith's Bridge, which was swept away by a flood in 1342.



Bustling tourism on the Charles Bridge.

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
+420 222 211 561; PUOR@malostranska-beseda.cz
www.facebook.com/malostranskabeseda/
www.instagram.com/malostranskabeseda/
www.malostranska-beseda.cz



THREE GRACES (TŘI GRÁCIE) – 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, 110 00 Prague 1
+420 778 961 971; info@trigracie.cz
www.facebook.com/restauranttrigracie/
www.instagram.com/restauranttrigracie/
www.trigracie.cz



FARINA RESTAURANT

Farina Restaurant was founded with the vision of bringing authentic Italian cuisine and culture to Prague. From the very beginning, we have been committed to quality and authenticity, which is reflected in every detail of our work. We firmly believe that true Italian cuisine is above all about the quality of ingredients. That's why we carefully select our suppliers and use only fresh and authentic ingredients, many of which we import directly from Italy.

Our goal is to create a place where every guest feels completely comfortable and can experience the true essence of Italy.

Leading our team is the exceptional chef and co-owner of the restaurant, Riccardo Lucque, whose passion for cooking and extensive experience ensure a unique gastronomic experience.

Opening Hours
Monday–Friday: 10:30 AM–11:30 PM
Saturday–Sunday: 11:00 AM–11:30 PM

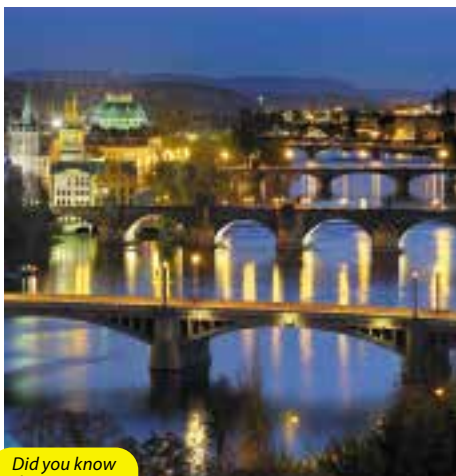
Hybernská 1033/7 110 00 Praha 1,
www.farina.cz, tel +420 778 540 330,
e-mail rezervace@farina.cz

facebook.com/people/Farina/61561018560774/
 instagram.com/farina.cz/





The area where the **Čertovka** Stream washes against the houses of Kampa is known as the Prague Venice.



Did you know that...

The riverbanks in Prague are connected by a total of **18 bridges**. The oldest and most famous, Charles Bridge, forms a part of the Royal Route (Královská cesta), while the newest, Barrandov Bridge (built in the years 1978–88) is part of Prague's south highway bypass. The highest, the Nusle Bridge extends above the Nusle Valley at a height of 43 m.

and is supported by **16 arches**. The bridge's pillars became pedestals for decorative statues. Now, the bridge is decorated by **28 statues** from the best sculptors of their time. The oldest preserved statue is St. John of Nepomuk by Jan Brokoff (1683), erected at the location from where his body was thrown into the river. A cult dedicated to this saint spread from here, as did the custom of placing his statues on bridges. Here the orders of the church and the faculties of the university competed with one another for the glorification of their saints. The artists who worked for them even included M. B. Braun (for example the statue of St. Lutigarde from 1710) and F. M. Brokoff (the most famous are the Holy Trinity from 1714). On the other side of the bridge stands the **Old Town Bridge Tower (Staroměstská mostecká věž)**, richly decorated with sculptures from the 1380's. The ruling Charles IV, his son Wenceslas IV, and the land they rule are under the symbolic protection of earthly saints.

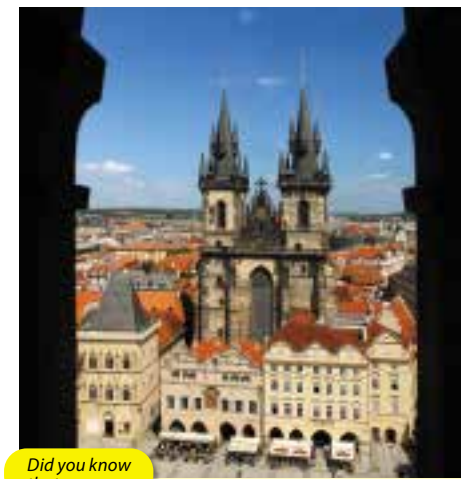
If we return to the Lesser Town bank, we can visit the small, but picturesque, **Kampa Island**. Like Lesser Town, it is also full of splendid palaces, beautiful gardens and parks, and also romantic secluded areas where ghostly spirits hide, known from old Prague fairytales.

There are eight islands on the Prague section of the Vltava River. Besides Kampa Island, **Slavonic Island (Slovanský ostrov)** (called Žofín until 1918) is another center of social life. Concerts and balls have been held in the restaurant since 1830. Among others, F. Liszt, H. Berlioz, and P. I. Tchaikovsky gave concerts here. You can soak up the atmosphere of the **Vltava River** during a cruise on a riverboat. The more able-bodied can rent a small boat and savor the romantic atmosphere between Prague's weirs up close. But be careful, the average depth of the Vltava riverbed is around 2.5 meters and the most well-known of Prague's mystical creatures, water sprites, may be lurking nearby!



THE OLD TOWN AND THE JEWISH GHETTO

Old Town (Staré Město) is the oldest and richest Prague quarter. Its inception is associated with an international market which functioned here from at least the 9th century. The adulation of Ibrahim Ibn Jacob, the Arabian merchant who passed through here in the 10th century, pertained to this part of Prague. In the area around the Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí) and along the main Old Town routes, the oldest **Romanesque stone buildings** are preserved, something wholly unique in central Europe. Today, more than seventy are known. Back when they were built, the Old Town was called Mezihřady (literally *between castles*, i.e. between Prague Castle and Vyšehrad) and an international market flourished on what is today's **Old Town Square**. In the location where the Prague meridian now passes through the square, Marian's Column once stood (from 1680), which at the same



Did you know that...

Tyn Church and the **House at the Stone Bell** (left) – this house was probably the residence of King John of Luxembourg and his wife Elisabeth of Bohemia for some time. It is therefore possible that this is where the future king and emperor Charles IV was born. (*14 May 1316).

METRO STATION ENTRANCE
MŮSTEK
M

VÁCLAVSKÉ NÁM.

NÁRODNÍ

UHELNÝ TRH

NA MŮSTKU

HAVELSKÁ

MICHALSKÁ

JILSKÁ

KARLOVA

NA PŘÍKOPĚ

RYTÍŘSKÁ

MELANTRICHOVA

MARIÁNSKÉ NÁM.

ŽELEZNÁ

PLATNĚŘSKÁ

OVOCNÝ TRH

KAPROVA

CELETNÁ

STAROMĚŠTSKÉ NÁM.

PAŘÍŽSKÁ

TÝNSKÁ

DLOUHÁ

ŠIROKÁ

Our TIP



MUZEUM ČESKÉHO GRANÁTU

MUSEUM OF THE BOHEMIAN GARNET AND SALES GALLERY

Just a few steps from Charles Bridge is the Museum of Bohemian Garnet. It offers an exhibition of jewelry and objects with this typical Czech gemstone, supported with interesting facts about mining and processing. Finally, you can visit the gallery and take home an original piece of jewelry – a stylish souvenir of Prague.

MUZEUM ČESKÉHO GRANÁTU

Karlova 8, 110 00 Praha 1

+420 222 211 561

www.granat.cz

IG: @muzeumofbohemiangarnet

FB: muzeumceskehogranatupraha





Did you know that...

In front of the town hall, on the pavement, there is a cross commemorating the **execution of 27 leaders** of the tragic Estates Uprising in the years 1618–21.

time served as the gnomon of a sundial. It was destroyed during the declaration of the Republic in 1918. However, at this time the **Monument to Jan Hus**, founder of the Czech reformation, created by Art Nouveau sculptor L. Šaloun (1915), already stood on the Old Town Square. By his side stands one of the most beautiful Prague Rococo structures – **the Goltz-Kinský Palace** by A. Lurago (1755–65), built according to the project of K. I. Dientzenhofer. Today, the **National Gallery's Graphic collections** are placed here.

On the opposite, west side of the Old Town Square stands the remainder of the **Town Hall** with a chapel and tower dating from the 14th century. The building of the local

government itself was created from several city houses that the municipality gradually connected from 1338, when it received the right to build a town hall. The southern side of the Town Hall's façade is decorated with the still functioning **Astronomical Clock (Orloj)**, which was created by Mikuláš of Kadaň (1410) and was perfected by Master Hanuš (1490). Josef Mánes created the Astronomical Clock calendar panel in 1864. From this side the Town Hall is also interesting for its Late Gothic portal by M. Rejsek (1475) and on the corner the Renaissance **Minuta House (Dům U Minuty)**.

The oldest municipal and monarchical structures are located in the eastern part of the square. Next to the Romanesque stone **House at the Bell (dům U Zvonu)**, which was rebuilt in the Gothic style and in which many medieval monarchs resided, stands the quaint **Týn School** with an arcade from the 13th century. Behind it stands the city's



Old Town Hall – Astronomical Clock.



The Municipal House (Obecní dům) and Powder Tower.

main cathedral, the **Cathedral of Our Lady before Týn (chrám Panny Marie před Týnem)**, a large part of which was created in the 14th century by the workshop of Peter Parler. The extraordinary medieval sculptor's ornamentation was preserved along with the **tombstone** of Rudolf's **astronomer Tycho Brahe** and a collection of painters' works.

Memorable **Celetná Street** leads through this part of the Old Town, featuring the most noteworthy Old Town palaces; on the corner of the Old Town Square you'll find the **Štorch House (Štorchův dům)**, with frescos of Mikoláš Aleš in a style uniting Art Nouveau with the New Renaissance tradition of national revival. In the middle of Celetná Street, on the corner of the Fruit Market (Ovocný trh), stands the majestic jewel of modern architecture – the cubist **House of the Black Madonna (dům U Černé Matky Boží)** by Josef Gočár (1909–11), while the Fruit Market is dominated by the classicist **Estates Theatre (Stavovské divadlo)** building,



The Karolinum – Gothic oriel window.



Powder Tower (1475) and Secessionist Municipal House (1906–1911).

which was, among other things, witness to the famous premier of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* (1787).

Adjoining the theatre is the **Karolinum**, a mixed complex of university buildings and a block of houses that go all the way to Celetná Street. They are mostly covered by Baroque and 19th century façades, but many interiors are Gothic. The heart of the entire complex is the Rothlév House (Rothlévův dům), which Wenceslas IV donated to the university in 1383. The university **rector's office** has been based here since 1611. Even the latest renovations have not destroyed the mixed nature of this metropolitan organism.

Celetná Street connects the main square with the late Gothic **Powder Gate** by M. Rejsek (after 1475). The King's Court, a favourite private residence of Czech rulers, was closely adjacent to the Powder Gate. It has not survived, but was rebuilt into the **Municipal House**, today Prague's most representative Art Nouveau building (1906–11). The history



Did you know that...

Between 20 000 and the tombs of the old Jewish cemetery is the grave of the famous **rabbi Loew**, who had *rudolfinských* times to create the mythical **Golem**, an artificial man, but makers of his somewhat out of hand, and so he had to be "turned off" and buried at an unknown location.

Our TIP



MUNICIPAL HOUSE (OBEČNÍ DŮM)

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.



ČNSO
& PRAGUE
PROMS

Program

June 15, 2025 — Mnozil Brass
June 21, 2025 — Hollywood Night
June 25, 2025 — Hundred Voices
October 15, 2025 — 3rd Subscription Concert
November 19, 2025 — Jan Hasenöhrl & Lots of Friends
December 17, 2025 — Three Wishes for Cinderella
March 11, 2026 — 1st Subscription Concert
April 21, 2026 — 2nd Subscription Concert
June 23, 2026 — Hollywood Night
June 25, 2026 — Burt Bacharach Night
June 29, 2026 — James Bond Night
October 14, 2026 — 3rd Subscription Concert

Tickets at www.cnso.cz
(Subject to change.)



The Old-New Synagogue.

of the area where both monuments are located, today's Republic Square, dates back to the **12th century**, when a number of Romanesque houses were built here. These remains are visible today in the **Palladium shopping center**.

From the northern side of the Old Town square, the view opens up onto the **St. Nicholas Cathedral (chrám sv. Mikuláše)**, which was built by K. I. Dientzenhofer (1732–35). Behind the cathedral, the **Jewish ghetto** spreads out, demolished since 1896. The features that were preserved include the **Old-New Synagogue (Staronová synagoga)** from the 13th century, which is the oldest preserved and still functioning synagogue in central Europe, and the wholly extraordinary **Old Jewish Cemetery**, used from the 15th to the 18th centuries.

However, most of the Jewish city was subject to Art Nouveau reconstruction. **Pařížská ulice (Paris Street)**, in particular, became a manifestation of the new style, but the riverbank outskirts of the ghetto were rebuilt even sooner. Proof of this is,

for example, the **Rudolfinum**. It has been a sanctuary of music and artistic creation from the year 1883. It was built for the German inhabitants of Prague by the main architects of the Czech National Theatre – Josef Zitek and Josef Schulz.

The Jewish Quarter was then enclosed on the eastern side by monasteries and parish churches. From the beginning of the 13th century, a total of about thirty were built in the Old Town, the most famous of which is probably the **St. Agnes Convent**, founded by Anežka Přemyslova (1234) for the Franciscans and Poor Clare nuns. Today the convent is used to display the **National Gallery's** collection of medieval art.

Saint Agnes of Bohemia also founded **the only Czech church order, the Order of the Cross with the Red Star**, which had its headquarters alongside the Old Town Bridge Tower at the foot of Charles Bridge. The order's **St. Francis Cathedral** was rebuilt in Baroque style by Jean-Baptiste Mathey (1689), thus creating one of the most beautiful Prague Baroque churches. This area, west



The Klementinum is built on an area covering 2 hectares, making it the second largest building complex in Prague, after the castle.

and southwest from the Old Town Square, harbors many treasures. Through here leads the coronation route of Czech kings, which connected Vyšehrad with Prague castle; here one can find (on Karolina Světlá Street) the **Holy Cross Romanesque Rotunda (rotunda sv. Kříže)** from the 11th century, and even the famous **Bethlehem chapel (Betlémská kaple)** stood here, a place where the reformer Master Jan Hus preached. It was reconstructed (1950–53) according to the demolished original from the year 1391.

But this part of town was also the focal point of Catholicism, because on the Cross Square (Křižovnické náměstí) the Jesuit Hall was in operation here from 1556, which, particularly after the Thirty Years War, grew into an extensive complex. Named after St. Clement's Cathedral, it is called the **Klementinum**. Part of it consists of **St. Salvador's Church (kostel sv. Salvatora)**, which is connected to the so-called **Italian Chapel (Vlašská kaple)**. This is the oldest European cathedral built with an elliptical

ground plan. It dates from 1590–97, but its creator is unknown. What the architects in Italy only dreamed of, their Italian colleagues realized on the Prague courtyard of Rudolf II. The Klementinum harbors other treasures. The Baroque-fashioned interior of the cathedral, the **Mirrored Chapel (Zrcadlová kaple)** (1724) and the **Library and Mathematical Hall** (1727–30) illustrate the development of Baroque art in Bohemia. Besides this, the Klementinum also served as a **university library**. Today's National Library builds on this tradition, holding about **six million volumes** with a yearly growth of around 80,000 titles and many magnificent medieval manuscripts.

To the south of Old Town Square, Wenceslas I founded (1232–34) **Havel Town (Havelské město)**. This was supposed to be an isolated new market, but its privileges soon extended to the old settlements. Havel Town became the **main city market** (from the Coal to the Fruit market) and it functions as a market to this day.



Did you know that...

*From 1 January 1775, consistent meteorological measurements have been carried out in the Klementinum. They began with the Jesuit Josef Stepling, and a completely continuous series of measurements have been taken from 1784 to the present day with not a single day missing. Today the Klementinum measures **temperature, pressure, humidity**, and other values three times a day. The maximum and minimum temperatures are measured using two special horizontally-placed mercury thermometers.*



The Old Town.

Our TIP



WORLD OF FRANZ KAFKA

This exhibit is neither a museum, a biography, nor an archive of the works of a particular writer – Franz Kafka. The scope of this exhibit reaches far beyond Kafka.



You can discover paradoxes in **architecture**, see absurd **paintings** and a projection of bizarre **events** that actually occurred in Prague.

World of Franz Kafka

Franz Kafka Square, 110 00 Prague 1



franzkafkaworld.com



NEW TOWN AND VYŠEHRAĐ

The **New Town (Nové Město)** was founded by Charles IV in the year 1348, but many of its sections had been settled from as early as the 10th century, for example, Poříčí, Chudobice, Opatovice, Rybníček, Zderaz, Podskalí and Psáře. Compared to the cosmopolitan, university, and business oriented Old Town, the New Town was settled by the Czech middle class, **mostly craftsmen**. In fact, some crafts were relocated from Old Town to New Town so that they wouldn't disturb its luxurious character.

On the northern side, a new development was built upon the old settlement of German merchants in the area around the Romanesque **Church of St. Peter (kostel sv. Petra)** from the 12th century, which was rebuilt into the Gothic style in the 14th and 15th centuries, and after that even a Renaissance bell tower was added. Peter's settlement (Petrská osada) was called Poříčí from ancient times, and the main street was named after it – **Na Poříčí**. Today it is

*A dominant feature of Národní třída (National Avenue) and the riverbank is the famous **National Theatre**. It was built using money collected from generous citizens of the city and common people. The building was created by Josef Zítěk and after the fire in 1881 it was repaired by Josef Schulz. The ornamentation was done mainly by artists of the then upcoming generation, which was even named after the National Theatre. The most famous of which was notably the sculptor J. V. Myslbek, and painters M. Aleš, V. Brožík and V. Hynais. The neo-Renaissance style gradually transformed into Art Nouveau. From the very beginning, the National Theatre was built as an expression of something that represented the nation.*

ornamented by, for example, the cubist **Legiobank Building** by Josef Gočár (1921–1923). You can also find the functionalist **Brouk and Babka department store** here, dating from the end of the 1930's (later renamed White Swan [*Bílá labuť*]). After the Old Town's ramparts were torn down in the 1780s, an encircling representative avenue was built on the location of the filled-in rampart moats (divided into three streets, now Revoluční, Na Příkopě and Národní), which at **Republic Square (náměstí Republiky)** connects with Na Poříčí Street. The dominant features of

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.

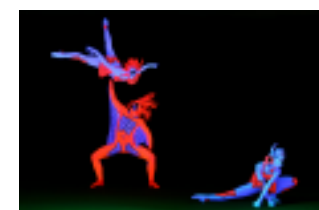
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Národní 25, Prague 1

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Our TIP



FLY VISTA

- The **most beautiful view** in Prague
- The longest **marble bar** in Europe
- World-class **gastronomy**
- **Champagne** bar with over 100 types of champagne
- The best **rooftop bar** in Prague
- **Live shows & DJ performances**
- The largest **ice bucket** in the world
- Private events and corporate parties
- An exceptional experience from morning till night
- The **highest viewpoint** in the heart of Prague

BACK IN TIME

- An **immersive history museum** in the heart of Prague
- A unique **5D cinema** experience
- **1,200 years** of entertaining history in just 50 minutes
- Become part of the stories that shaped Prague's past
- **1,000 m²** of interactive exhibits
- Meet **Charles IV** as he builds the Charles Bridge
- Find us on the 6th floor of

MÁJ – HOUSE OF FUN, Národní třída



MÁJ (6:30–24:00)
Národní 63/26
110 00 Nové Město, Praha 1
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Our TIP



LEVELS

- **Over 200 arcade games**
— from retro classics to modern hits
- Up to 18-hole **mini golf**
- **Darts, billiards, and table football** for fun with friends
- **Stylish bars and great food** right in the gaming zone
- Perfect for **kids, adults, couples, and corporate events**
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- **The world's largest crystal skeleton** — a unique visual experience



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Republic Square are not only the Municipal House and the Powder Tower, but also **dům U Hybernů (Hybernia House)** – an empire style customs house structure, named after the local monastery and the Irish Franciscans).

In sight of the National Theatre, on the opposite bank of **Slavonic Island (Slovanský ostrov)**, stands the **Waterworks Tower** dating from the end of the 15th century, which was drawn into the modern building of artistic associations known as **Mánes**. This original joining of Late Gothic and functionalism was carried out by O. Novotný (1927–30).

Today, this riverbank avenue is frequented by traffic; however, the main routes of traffic lead elsewhere. But even today, this street is very alive. The main traffic route leads from Peter's Quarter (Petrská čtvrť) to the newly built parochial **Church of St. Henry (kostel sv. Jindřicha)**. This noteworthy three-nave church, typical for the time of Charles IV, was partially redone in the Gothic style in the 19th century.

The parochial church gave its name to Jindřišská Street, which leads to the Horse Market (Koňský trh), known as **Wenceslas Square (Václavské náměstí)** from 1848. Wenceslas Square became the main **center of modern Prague** from the second half of the 19th century. Its magnificent medieval dimensions (the occupied **area is 41,400 m²**) fully satisfy even today's needs.

The exemplary buildings and palaces of Wenceslas Square can serve as an illustration of the development of our New Age architecture, but its dominant feature is the **National Museum** building. It was built by Josef Schulz between the years 1885–90, and the sculptural ornamentation (with an



Did you know that...

*At the **Quadrio** commercial complex (subway National Avenue) there is a **giant silver moving head**. This statue of Franz Kafka was created by the renowned contemporary Czech artist **David Černý**.*



National Museum and the equestrian statue of St. Wenceslas

Did you know that...

*In 1990–1996, the noteworthy "**Dancing House**" was built on the waterfront by **Vlado Milunić** and **Frank O. Gehry**, bringing a breath of contemporary and creative architectural thinking into Prague. Artistic refreshment in the building is available in the **Salon S Art Gallery**, focused on works by young authors.*





Wenceslas Square – the center of modern Prague.

emblem of Bohemia and the Bohemian rivers at its entranceway) was created by Antonín Wagner. Even at the time of its creation, this atypical Prague Neo-Renaissance structure was not supposed to be only a museum but also a center for Czech sciences and a representation of the cultural and political ambitions of Czech society.

The spectacular interior not only harbors rich collections but also the Pantheon – a hall devoted to the commemoration of extraordinary Czech individuals. The **Horse-Mounted Statue of St. Wenceslas** the year was 1912, in front of the National Theatre on Wenceslas Square. His Baroque predecessor, now in the Lapidarium, stood here from 1680. The founder of modern Czech sculpture, **J. V. Myslbek**, created the present-day statue. The main guardian of our land and our eternal leader is accompanied by the national patrons **St. Ludmila**, **St. Procopius**, **St. Agnes of Bohemia**, and **St. Adalbert (Vojtěch)**. The residents of Prague use this monument as a meeting point. It doesn't





Did you know that...

matter if the meeting is a lovers' rendezvous or a political demonstration, the monument to St. Wenceslas on Wenceslas Square acts as a magnet. Our most recent history also unfolded here, since all of the most important demonstrations against communism took place here.

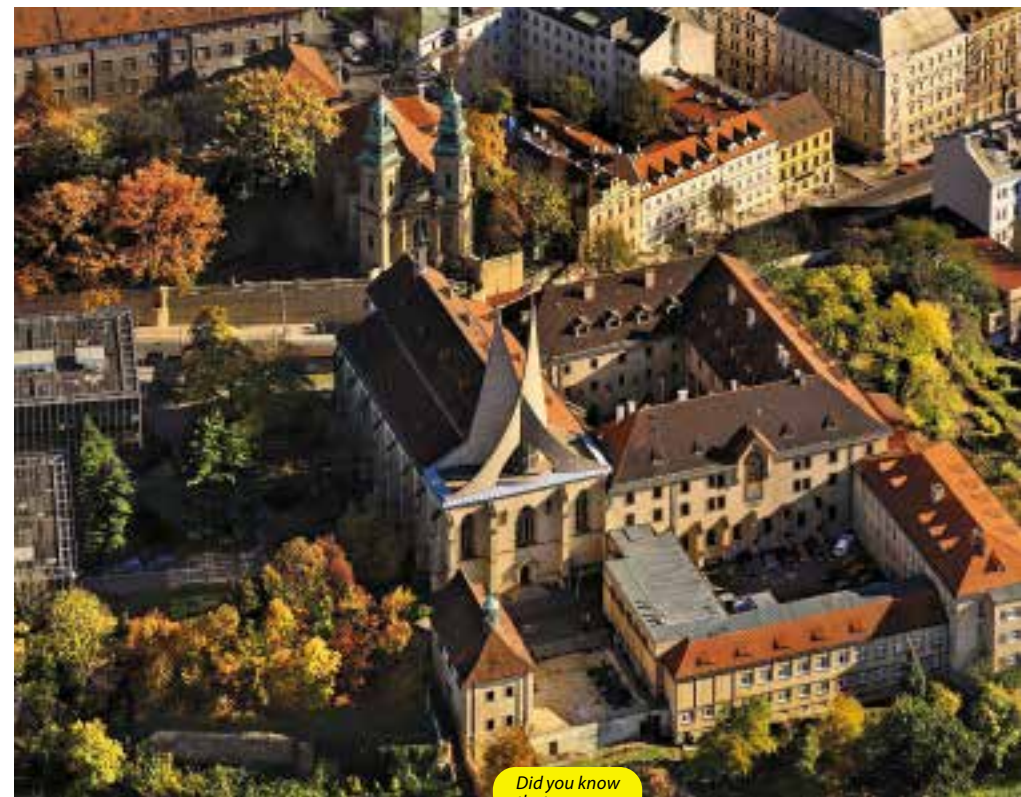
From Wenceslas Square we will walk down Vodičkova Street directly to the former livestock market, now **Charles Square (Karlovo náměstí)**, the second main focal point of New Town.

Charles IV founded Charles Square as the main center of Prague's new side. This is why it has an unbelievable area (80,500 m²) and is also why the **New Town Hall**, which served its purpose up until 1784, is located here. The Town Hall building was built between 1377–1418, and the corner tower in 1452–56. These walls were witness to the **first Czech defenestration** (1419), which released the avalanche of the Hussite Wars. In about the middle of the east side of the square we can find the monumental Baroque **Cathedral of St. Ignatius (chrám sv. Ignáce)** (completed

*The **New Town**, as outlined by the fortification of Charles IV, encompassed **360 hectares**. In places, its up to 27-metre-wide streets were suitable for transportation up to the second half of the 20th century and they impressed order on the previously chaotic scattering of settlements.*



New Town Hall – tossing some councilors from its windows in 1419 sparked the Hussite Revolution.



Did you know that...

in 1670 by Carlo Lurago). Further to the east, on the corner of Štěpánská Street and Na Rybníčku Street, there stands the Romanesque **Rotunda of St. Longin** from the 11th century, which was the parochial church of the then-settlement of Rybníček.

Many noteworthy monuments can be found south of **Charles Square (Karlovo náměstí)** in the New Town. On the square stands an astonishing eight-sided cathedral of Augustinian canons, the sacred **Virgin Mary and Charlemagne**. Charles IV wanted to remind people of the Aachen chapel of Charlemagne, whose successor he considered himself to be. Today, however, the cupola is in Renaissance style (1575). Its massive star vaults are purposely reminiscent of the distant past. The Historicism of Gothic continued into the historicism of Renaissance.

Vyšehrad, the mythical seat of the Přemyslid principedom, dates from the 10th century. It may be younger than Prague

*The **Emauz Monastery** (Emauzský klášter), founded in the year 1347, is the only new structure whose completion (1372) Charles IV lived to see. He paid careful attention to its ornamentation. The beautiful three-nave hall is complemented by an extraordinary series of frescos in the cloister. This is the largest preserved collection of medieval wall paintings outside of Italy. The cloister was damaged during bombing at the close of World War II, and so its rebuilding was conducted by F. M. Černý (1967). The bold structure became the new dominant feature of this part of the riverbank.*

Castle, but that takes nothing away from its significance. It reached its greatest splendor in the 2nd half of the 11th century. At that time, the castle often hosted king Vratislav II, who founded the local **Capitular Church of Ss. Peter and Paul (kapitulní kostel sv. Petra a Pavla)**. Its contemporary appearance is due to its remodeling into Gothic style in the 19th century. Not far



The Vyšehrad cliffs with remnants of the original fortification; the tunnel at its base dates from the early 20th century.

from here stands a monument to Vratislav II – **The Rotunda of St. Martin (rotunda sv. Martina)**. This is the oldest preserved rotunda of Prague.

After the death of Vratislav II, Vyšehrad was transformed into mainly a ruler's fortress above Prague and remained so for 800 years. But in the 14th century Charles IV gave Vyšehrad a special sparkle when he placed it in his coronation series. From here, the ruler would set out on a ceremonial and symbolic pilgrimage through the city, and only then could he be crowned in the cathedral with St. Wenceslas' Crown and become the Czech king.



The Rotunda of St. Martin is Vyšehrad's oldest building.

Did you know that...

Vratislav II is also known in Czech history as **Vratislav I** – as a prince, Vratislav was the second ranked with this name, but as the first Czech king, he was naturally Vratislav I.



Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul at Vyšehrad.

When, in the year 1866, Vyšehrad even lost its function as a fortress, the local **Vyšehrad Cemetery** began to expand and change to **Slavín Cemetery**, which was, between 1890–1902, architecturally reorganized by Antonín Wiehl. Thus the famous cemetery and memorial for the most noteworthy individuals of our land came into being. Those buried here include, for example, the **authors** J. Zeyer, J. Vrchlický, and K. Čapek, **painters** A. Mucha, and V. Špála, **sculptors** J. V. Myslbek and L. Šaloun, **architect** Josef Gočár and K. Hilbert, the **composer** Dvořák and the **singer** E. Destinn, the **politician** F. L. Rieger, and many others. The **Vyšehrad Gardens** were created from the ruins. To this day, one can see **the remains of the Gothic Luxembourg Palace**. After the year 1947, the Myslbek sculpture from Palacký Bridge was placed here. The mythical personalities of our

For over 110 years, the two towers of the capitulary **church of Apostles St. Peter and Paul** have been the symbol of Vyšehrad. The church was founded in **1070** by Prince **Vratislav II**. During the following centuries, the original basilica was modified many times; its Romanesque appearance disappeared after a reconstruction in the mid 13th century. In 1903, the church was reconstructed in **Neo-Gothic style** by architect Josef Mocker, when the two towers on the sides of the façade were erected. The towers now form the unmistakable silhouette of Vyšehrad, visible from afar. Architecturally speaking, the church is a **tri-nave pseudobasilica** with chapels in the side naves. Also notable are the complex Neo-Gothic finish on its façades. Inside the church, the rich paintings in the major and minor naves, presbytery, and the side chapels are remarkable.
www.praha-vysehrad.cz



Smíchov district on the left bank of the Vltava River.

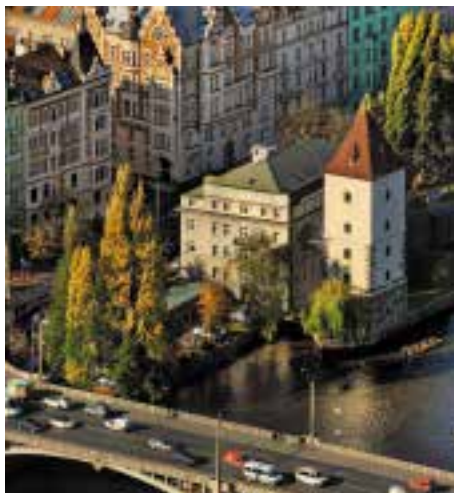
past allegorically come to life here: Lumír and Píseň (1888), Přemysl and Libuše (1889), Ctirad and Šárka (1895), and Záboj and Slavoj (1892).

SMÍCHOV AND ZBRASLAV

On the opposite bank of the Vltava River lies **Smíchov**, which runs along the river all the way to Petřín and Lesser Town.

Did you know that...

Smíchov entered into history as a suburb of Prague during the reign of Wenceslas II, who, in the year 1297, held a magnificent **coronation banquet** for, according to the chronicles of that time, **190,000 noble guests** and their entourage.



Jiráskův Bridge and the Lesser Town's (Petržilkovský) water tower.



Barrandov film studios.



Joachim Barrande (1799–1883).

Up to the 19th century, it was only sparsely settled along the route leading to Zbraslav and Pilsen. Bourgeoisie and noble farmsteads (Bertramka, Šmukýřka) came into being here and later even summer castles. The Renaissance **Lesser Town Waterworks Tower** (1562) is one of the older preserved monuments on the banks of the Vltava River, on Petržilkovský Island. Today, the local park is arranged as a children's playground. Not far away, but farther from the riverbank,

Did you know that...

Above Smíchov, which is an industrial, workers and business district, one can find Barrandov Cliffs, in which at the beginning of the 19th century, **Joachim Barrande** found a number of noteworthy animal fossils. The illustrious **film studios** are located there and in 1927 the lookout restaurant came into being.

the Baroque summer castle known as **Portheimka** or **Buquoyka** still stands. It was built in 1725 by K. I. Dientzenhofer and its interiors were frescoed by V. V. Reiner. The cooperation of these two outstanding artists created one of the most beautiful Late Baroque monuments in Bohemia. The gardens that once belonged to the estate reached all the way to the Vltava River and in 1775 became the basis for today's botanical gardens. Nearby at Portheimka, after 1884, Antonín Barvitie built the neo-Renaissance **Church of St. Wenceslas (kostel sv. Václava)**. This illustrates the rise of Smíchov in the 19th century, when it became an industrial sector. Today, its center is **the crossroads Anděl (Angel)**, where the most modern buildings are now being built and are meeting with the remains of classicist structures. The crossroads are dominated by the business and administrative **Center Zlatý anděl (Golden Angel)**, which was created from glass and aluminum by Jean Nouvelle from 1996–2000.

One can find the famous **Bertramka** in these parts – a 17th century residence that was rebuilt in the middle of the 18th century and even hosted **W. A. Mozart**. He lived here with his friends, the pianists F. X. Dušek and his wife Josefina, and even composed some of his works. Today in Bertramka, one can find the museum of W. A. Mozart and the Dušeks. Concerts are held in the building and adjoining garden.

Farther south, on the left bank of the Vltava River, lies **Zbraslav**. The famous Gothic **Cistercian Monastery**, which was supposed to function as the burial place for Czech kings, stood here. It was completely destroyed at the beginning of the Hussite Wars. The current Baroque version of the monastery was worked on by J. Santini, K. I. Dientzenhofer and V. V. Reiner. Today, the complex, with its adjoining park, is an oasis of calm and houses the **Asian Art collections of the National Gallery**. Above Zbraslav, on the other bank of the Vltava River – **Na Závisti** there is evidence of an ancient **Celtic Oppidum**, whose 170 hectares were surrounded by 9 km of complex ramparts.



W. A. Mozart (1756–1791).



Baroque chateau Zbraslav.



The Hvězda (Star) summer palace near White Mountain.

BŘEVNOV AND BÍLÁ HORA (WHITE MOUNTAIN)

Forested and later agriculturally worked land spreads out to the west and northeast of Prague Castle. To the west of Hradčany, **Břevnov** was the first to be settled. The Bishop St. Adalbert founded the oldest Benedictine monastery in Bohemia here in 993. All that was preserved from the original structure is the impressive **Romanesque crypt** from the 11th century; however, most of the monastery buildings were remodeled at the beginning of the 18th century in the Baroque style. The **Convent Church of St. Margaret (klášterní kostel sv. Markéty)** and the **convent complex** as a whole preserved many Baroque art treasures. West of Břevnov, the remains of the local game preserve can be found. The **Hvězda Game Reserve** was founded by Ferdinand I (1534) and forest animals were kept here up until the beginning of the 19th century; after that the reserve was



BATTLE OF WHITE MOUNTAIN

Date: 8 November 1620

Duration: about 2 hours

Warring parties: the imperial army of Ferdinand II against the army of the Czech estates

Numbers of troops: 30,000 men against 20,000 men

Losses: 300 to 2000 losses on one side against an alleged 1,000 to 5,000 on the other on the Czech side.



The Baroque Brevnov Monastery.

transformed into a park. The name of the reserve determined the appearance of the current version of the local **Hvězda (Star) Summer Castle**. It was designed in 1555 by Ferdinand of Tirolen and the structure is actually built on the groundplan of a six-pointed star.

Not far from Hvězda, we find **Bílá hora (White Mountain)**, a symbol of tragedy for most Czechs. The **Monument** is a reminder of the place where on the 8th of November 1620, the better paid emperor's Catholic League mercenary army met with the poorly paid Czech Protestant mercenaries. Confusion, chaos, and an embarrassing stampede became an apt characterization of the professional army. For the next 300 years, the Czech lands was merely a Habsburg province. The elite of the land emigrated, and most of the Czech nobles, the richest from the city and the intellectuals, including the famous "teacher of the nation"

J. A. Komenský (Comenius) disappeared. 90% of the inhabitants of Bohemia were Protestants; those who refused to convert to Catholicism had to leave, and their property was confiscated. **By the end of the Thirty Years' War the Czech kingdom had lost half its population.** However, White Mountain

Did you know that...

***Benedictine monks** are Christians who pray and work in a common community. The Benedictines consider a certain kind of prayer as work. Benedictine monks take four vows: vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and the vow of stability (constancy of life in a certain monastery or community. The motto of the Order is "**Ora et labora**" – "pray and work".*

*The cemetery at the church of St. Margaret in Břevnov is the final resting place of the songwriter and poet **Karel Kryl** (1944–1994).*



National Technical Library in Dejvice.

became a place of pilgrimage for Catholics. The **Cathedral of the Virgin Mary (chrám Panny Marie)**, located here, was built at the beginning of the 18th century and is decorated with the rich frescos of K. D. Asam and V. V. Reiner.

DEJVICE, LETNÁ, HOLEŠOVICE AND TROJA

Dejvice lies to the north of Hradčany and Prague Castle itself. It was mentioned in references as early as in 1088 and for a long time retained its rural character. The agricultural yards were replaced by a residential suburb. In the 1930s, the **Baba villa residential colony** came into being here. It was organized according to the regulatory project of Pavel Janák. The treasures of functionalist architecture come from an



Did you know that...

*The Planetarium and small pavilion adjoin the Exhibition Grounds and harbour the astonishing **Panorama of the Battle at Lipany**, which was painted by Luděk Marold (1898). The tableau and props take the viewer right into the middle of the turmoil of war in 1434.*



Trade Fair Palace and Stromovka Park.

entire parade of the foremost architects of the First Republic (J. Gočár, J. Krejcar, A. Beneš, J. Gillar, and others.).

Bubeneč adjoins Dejvice in the east. The **Stromovka Royal Game Reserve** extends from here. John of Luxembourg used it as a game reserve in 1320. Rudolf II, at the beginning of the 17th century, had ponds and galleries built here. From 1804, the vice-regent count Chotek made it accessible to the public and the game hunting castle of Vladislav Jagiellon and Rudolf II was converted by Jiří Fischer into the neo-Gothic **Vice-regent's Summer Castle**. After 1845, the game reserve began its transformation into an English park. Today, this romantic oasis is a protected natural monument. The **Prague Exhibition Grounds (Výstaviště Praha)** adjoin Stromovka to the east. From



Port of Holešovice.



Troja Baroque castle.

the end of the 19th century, these grounds served not only as a location for exhibitions and fairs but also as an entertainment center. The famous Matthew's Fair was relocated here, but one can also find a covered pool, stadiums, theatres, cinemas, the **National Museum's Lapidarium** and many other sport and entertainment attractions. The local structures that came into being for the **Jubilee Exhibition of 1891** are noteworthy. The combination of the historical style of iron and glass is an interesting display of 19th century art. On the other hand, **Křížík's Fountain**, renewed for the Jubilee Exhibition of 1991, is a contemporary creation.

Stromovka is bordered by the Vltava River to the north, Holešovice to the east, and from the south by a narrow band of blocks of houses which separate it from



The National Technical Museum (www.ntm.cz).

Letná Plain. On its outskirts stands the **National Technical Museum**, whose rich collections entice lovers of antique vehicles and technical achievements from all time periods. The **Letná Gardens** lie on Letná Plain, which directly connect to the Chotek Orchards under the Royal Gardens under Prague Castle. Today, they are connected by the Footbridge across the Chotek Road (Lávka nad Chotkovou silnicí), reconfigured in 1995 by the architect Bořek Šípek. So, Prague Castle actually retained a significant part of its original character. Besides the calming greenery, sports grounds and garden restaurants, one can find artistic works here, e.g. the Art Nouveau **Hanavský Pavilion** from the Jubilee Exhibition of 1891, which was moved here after 1898 or the beautiful **Prague Lookout Restaurant (Vyhlídková restaurace Praha)** from the famous Expo 1958 international exposition in Brussels. The restaurant, for its time a pre-eminent work (of J. Hrubý, Z. Pokorný and F. Cubr), has recently undergone reconstruction.

The communist regime had serious plans for Letná. In the 1950's, the **Letná Tunnel** was built under Letná Plain, connecting Letná with the Old Town, and above it, a colossal statue of J. V. Stalin and his co-fighters. Soon after its completion, the no less difficult task of demolition began, as time revealed the contemptible practices of the acclaimed. Eventually, time even swept away the socialist era. During the Velvet Revolution, there was a general strike demonstration in which half a million people participated. That was the final straw that brought down the old regime. The **Chronometer** was placed where Stalin once stood – a symbol of new times.

The boundary dividing Letná and **Holešovice** runs between the exhibition grounds and the east end of Letná Gardens. Formerly a fishing settlement, Bubny grew together with royal Holešovice and from the 19th century turned into an industrial



Hanavský Pavilion from the Jubilee Exhibition of 1891

sector. Modern times saw it flourishing. The factories here receded to the other bank of the Vltava River and Holešovice became primarily a residential area. Neo-Renaissance and Art Nouveau structures complement functionalist gems, such as, for instance, the famous **Veletržní palác (Trade Fair Palace)**, built between 1925–28.

Holešovice, Letná, and Stromovka are encircled by the Vltava River, so they form a sort of peninsula. North of this peninsula lies **Troja**. Originally, this orchard was named Ovenec, but the magnificent **Sternberg Castle of Troja** signalled the renaming of this area. Jean-Baptiste Mathey built this summer retreat for Václav Vojtěch of Sternberg between the years of 1679–85. Today, the Baroque interiors and gardens serve the **Gallery of Prague**.

Below the castle lie the **Botanical Gardens**, founded in 1969 and, next to the castle, are the 45-hectare **Zoological Gardens** which opened to visitors in 1931. Their uniqueness lies not only in their copious utilization of the richness and contours of the local countryside, but also in the successful husbandry of **Przewalski's horses**. This type of horse can no longer be found in the wild and is actually an animal from ancient times.

- **From the 4th century BC** – the oldest evidence of an ancient settlement in the area around Prague
- **5th/4th century BC** – Celtic fortified settlement at Závist u Zbraslavi; from the 2nd century BC the local oppidum was the center of Celts living in the Czech basin
- **After 9 BC** – Maroboduus brought the Marcomanni into the Czech lands (royal seat in Bubenec)
- **539** – the Lombard king Wacho dies
- **5th–6th century** – arrival of the Slavs
- **6th century** – a Slavic culture of Prague type with its center at Roztoky u Prahy
- **8th century** – the oldest settlement in the future Old Prague (settlement in Lesser Town)
- **8th-9th century** – establishment of Prague Castle (founded as the seat of the principdom before 880, the beginning of Přemyslid rule)
- **926** – the Rotunda of St. Vitus founded in Prague Castle
- **973** – the Prague bishopric founded
- **11th century** – the rise of stone Romanesque buildings in Prague
- **1135–82** – the Romanesque reconstruction of Prague Castle
- **1169** – the beginning of the construction of the Judith stone bridge
- **1232–34** – Old Town receives the rights of a city and fortifications
- **1257** – New Town founded, later called Smaller and now Lesser Town
- **1310** – the beginning of Luxembourg rule
- **1316** – the last great fire of Old Town
- **1338** – Old Town receives the right to a town hall
- **1344** – the Prague bishopric is raised to an archbishopric; the reconstruction of St. Vitus Cathedral begins
- **1348** – Charles IV founds a university and New Town
- **1357** – the construction of the stone Charles Bridge begins
- **1402–13** – the reformer, Jan Hus, preaches at Bethlehem Chapel
- **1419** – the first defenestration of aldermen and the beginning of the Hussite Wars
- **1471** – the beginning of Jagiellonian rule
- **1483** – the second defenestration of Prague aldermen and the beginning of religious tolerance
- **1486–1502** – the late Gothic reconstruction of Prague Castle
- **1526** – the beginning of Habsburg rule
- **1541** – the fire of Lesser Town, Hradčany and Prague Castle
- **1584–1612** – Prague is the residence of Emperor Rudolf II
- **1618** – the third Prague defenestration and the beginning of the Thirty Years' War
- **1620** – the battle at Bílá hora (White Mountain)

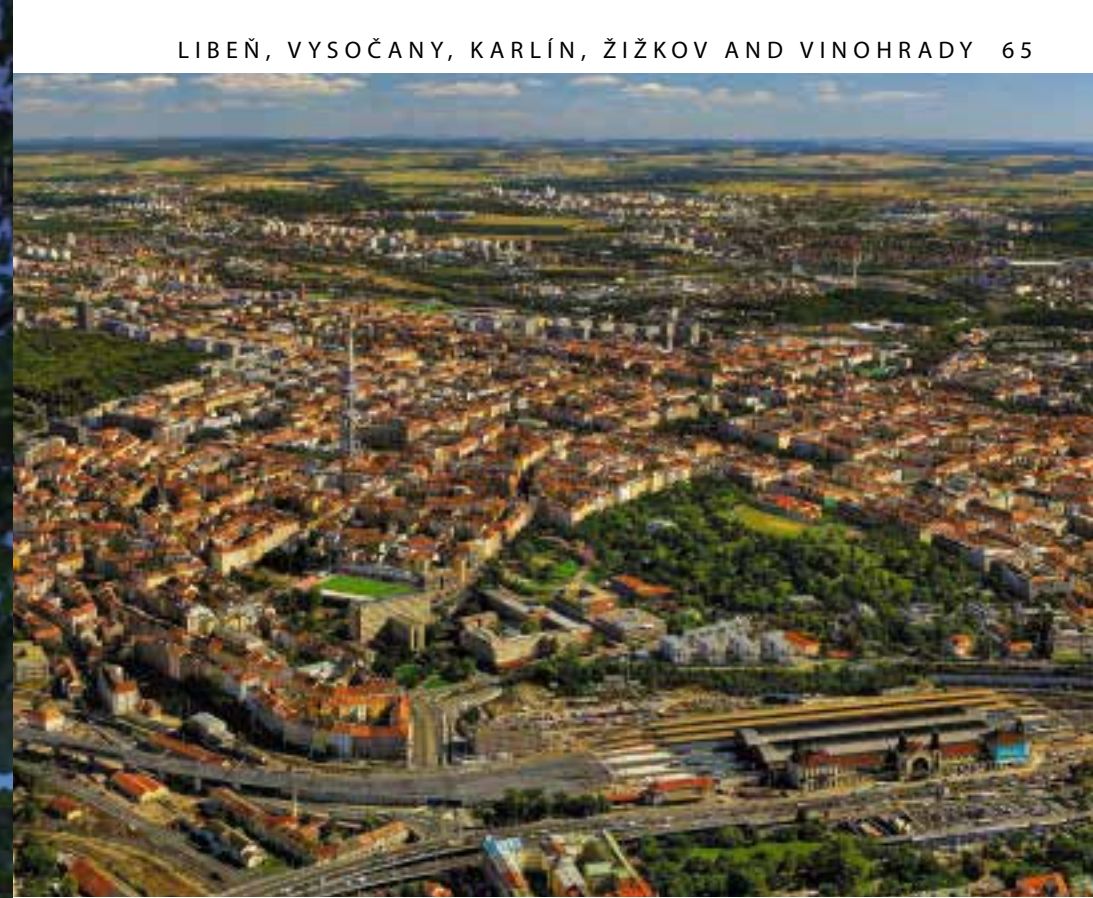


The Fire at the National Theatre (12 August 1881).

- and the defeat of the Estates Uprising
- **1648** – The Swedes plunder Rudolf's collections, Prague Castle and Lesser Town
- **1784** – the unification of Prague's towns into the single city of Prague
- **1787** – the premiere of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*
- **1818** – the founding of the National Museum
- **1848** – the Slovak meeting in Prague; revolution
- **1868** – the ceremonial laying of the first stone of the National Theatre
- **1891** – Jubilee Exhibition and the flourishing of Art Nouveau in Prague
- **1909–11** – the cubist House of the Black Madonna is built
- **1918** – the Czechoslovak Republic is declared
- **1939** – Hitler occupies Prague and the protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia is announced
- **1945** – May's Prague uprising and liberation
- **1948** – the Communist coup
- **1965** – the decision to build the underground metro (operation begins in 1974)
- **1968** – occupation by the Warsaw Pact countries
- **1989** – the "Velvet" Revolution and the renewal of democracy
- **1992** – Prague added to UNESCO's World Heritage List
- **1993** – the division of Czechoslovakia
- **1999** – The Czech Republic becomes a member of NATO
- **2002** – devastating floods hit most of the Czech Republic
- **2004** – the Czech Republic becomes a member of the European Union
- **2007** – the Czech Republic enters the Schengen area
- **2009** – Czech presidency of the EU Council
- **2012** – Ruzyně Airport is renamed the Václav Havel Airport
- **2015** – Opened a new part of Metro line A
- **2015** – Opened the Blanka tunnel complex



The building named Mainpoint Karlín won several global awards for architecture and technology



Žižkov district with its television transmitter.

LIBEŇ, VYSOČANY, KARLÍN, ŽIŽKOV AND VINOHRADY

On the right bank of the Vltava River and south from Troja along New Town lie the city quarters of Libeň, Vysočany and Karlín, which gradually changed from Romanesque and Gothic settlements to summer castles and agricultural farmsteads on the outskirts of the city, until the 19th century fully drew them in as industrial and residential suburbs.

Karlín is a slightly different case. Up until 1817, vegetable gardens prospered here, along with the renowned Schönfeld Summer Castle of Růžodol, in which theatre was conducted in Czech from the 18th century. **Invalidovna** was a former structure that was preserved. The year 1817 changed everything, when the spirit of classicist urban planning

of the outskirts of Karlín was laid, named after Caroline Augusta, the wife of František I. Soon the **Empire style Apartment Buildings** sprang up here, part of which is preserved to this day.

The buildings of the local manufacturers and factories, which no longer function, were threatened with demolition, threatening the demise of the entire character of the area, but in 1999 **Karlín Palace** and in 2001 **Corso**

Did you know that...

Karlín was the most modern part of Prague. The first gas works arose here; they provided public lighting, which spread throughout Prague and the **first Prague trams** ran here too.

Karlín were completed. The famed Riccardo Beaufil hung the current structure of glass and steel on old factory walls and an object by David Černý has brought the building to life in an original way. Thus in the old center, Karlín Square, was renewed.

On the southern side of Karlín lies the forested hillside of **Žižkov** and under its southern slope lies the city quarter of the same name, which further to the south changes into **Vinohrady**. In the middle ages, this area was covered with vineyards, among which later arose estates and summer castles. But all was not always peaceful.

On the **top of Žižkov**, formerly Vítkov, the siege of Hussite Prague was broken in 1420, and the vast one-hundred-thousand-strong crusade army of King Sigmund of Luxembourg panicked and fled. This great triumph of the Hussite Wars is commemorated by the **National Liberation Monument at Vítkov** (1929–32). In 1931–41, B. Kafka created the monumental **Bronze Statue of Jan Žižka**, the victorious leader of the Hussites, for Vítkov.

During the horrendous plague in the year 1680, the Plague Cemetery came into being under the Vítkov memorial. From 1784, it became the main Prague cemetery (**the Jewish, Olšany, and Vinohrady cemeteries**). Franz Kafka, among others, is buried in the Jewish Cemetery. The Olšany Cemetery is the final resting place of many famous people of modern Prague. In the 19th century, Žižkov was separated from Vinohrady, since Žižkov became a working class part of town while Vinohrady became a luxurious residential area.

In this part of Prague, we also find the current **Television Broadcasting Tower of Prague** in the Mahler Orchards; built during 1987–90, it became the new dominant feature of the town (216 m). The artist **David Černý** decorated it with enormous crawling infants.



The Žižkov TV Tower is the tallest structure in Prague (216 m).

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 **Mimino restaurant**, and an ice rink with real ice in the winter months.

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

TowerPark Praha

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The Žižka monument on Vítkov.

NEW PRAGUE AND PRAGUE'S UNDERGROUND METRO

In the recent past a number of current Prague suburbs have become part of the city. To the east of Vyšehrad and the south of Vinohrady lies **Nusle**, which may attract those interested in modern architecture. For instance, the monumental Palace of Culture was built in 1976–81 at the foot of the Nusle Bridge, and is known today as the **Congress Center**. This is a multi-functional, five-storey building harboring 2,300 rooms and 5 large halls, restaurants, and an underground garage. The largest hall holds 2,800 people. Housing developments lie to the south and southeast.

The **Prague Metro** is one of the newest structures to bring attention to itself. From the year 1965, when the decision to build

Did you know that...

At its time, this was the **largest bronze equestrian statue in the world** (a height and length of over 9 m and weighing almost 17 tons). Besides serving as a reminder of the Hussite victory, it was supposed to commemorate the Czechoslovakian legion from the 1st World War, similarly to today's Museum of Military Resistance beneath Vítkov. Visitors here can enjoy unforgettable views onto the city.

it was made, Prague's underground metro gradually grew and today already measures 62,5 km. Communists built it as a monument of its time. Newer stations are less flashy, but are well equipped with access for the disabled and other amenities. The need for grandeur was replaced by practicality.





MAP OF THE PRAGUE METRO

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