

EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

2015

PRAGUE









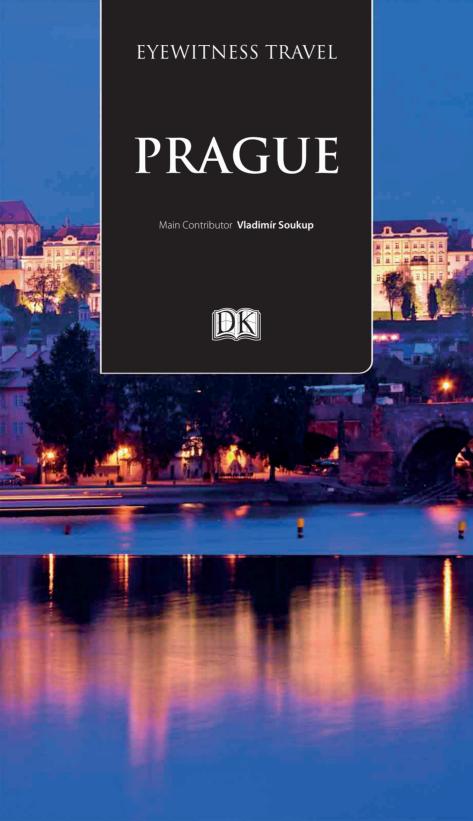
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EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

PRAGUE









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Front cover main image: City rooftops at night and Church of our Lady before Týn, Prague

Contents

How to use this Guide 6



Rudolph II (ruled 1576-1612)

Introducing Prague

Great Davs in Prague 10

Putting Prague on the Map 14

The History of Prague 18

Prague at a Glance 38

Prague Through the Year **52**

A River View of Prague 56



Outdoor café tables

Prague Area by Area

Old Town 62

Jewish Quarter 82

Prague Castle and Hradčany **96**



Church of Our Lady before Týn

Little Ouarter 122

New Town 142

Further Afield 158

Day Trips 168

Four Guided Walks 172



Wallenstein Palace and Garden in the Little Quarter

Travellers' Needs

Where to Stay 184

Where to Eat and Drink **192**

Shopping in Prague **210**

Entertainment in Prague **216**

Survival Guide

Practical Information **224**

Getting to Prague 234

Getting around Prague **238**

Street Finder 244

General Index 256

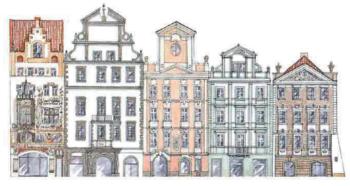
Acknowledgments 268

Phrase Book 271

Transport Map



Fiacre, Old Town Square



Baroque façades of houses at the southern end of Old Town Square

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This Eyewitness Travel Guide helps you get the most from your stay in Prague with the minimum of difficulty. The opening section, *Introducing Prague*, locates the city geographically, sets modern Prague in its historical context and describes events through the entire year. *Prague at a Glance* is an overview of the city's main attractions, including a feature on the River Vltava. Section two, *Prague Area by Area*, starts on page 60. This is the main sightseeing section,

which covers all the important sights, with photographs, maps and drawings. It also includes day trips from Prague and four guided walks around the city. Carefully researched tips for hotels, restaurants, shops and markets, cafés and bars, entertainment and sports are found in *Travellers' Needs*. The last section, the *Survival Guide*, contains useful practical advice on all you need to know, from making a telephone call to using the public transport system.

Finding Your Way Around the Sightseeing Section

Each of the five sightseeing areas in the city is colour-coded for easy reference. Every chapter opens with an introduction to the part of Prague it covers.

describing its history and character, followed by a Streetby-Street map illustrating the heart of the area. Finding your way around each chapter is made simple by the numbering system used throughout. The most important sights are covered in detail in two or more full pages.

Colour-coding on each page makes the area easy to find in the book.

Recommended restaurants in the area are listed and plotted on the map.

Numbered circles pinpoint all the listed sights on the area map.

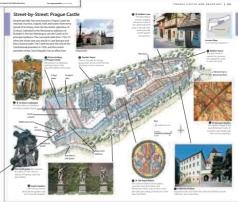
A locator map shows you where you are in relation to surrounding areas.



Introduction to the Area

For easy reference, the sights in each area are numbered and plotted on an area map. To help the visitor, this map also shows metro stations, tram stops, river boat boarding points and parking areas. The area's key sights are listed by category: Churches; Museums and Galleries; Historic Streets and Squares; Palaces; and Parks and Gardens.

A suggested route for a walk > takes in the most attractive and interesting streets in the area.

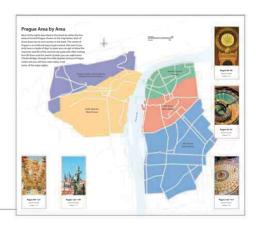


Street-by-Street Map

This gives a bird's eye view of the most important parts of each sightseeing area. The numbering of the sights ties in with the area map and the fuller descriptions on the pages that follow.

Prague Area Map

The coloured areas shown on this map (see inside front cover) are the five main sightseeing areas of Prague – each covered in a full chapter in Prague Area by Area (pp60–157). They are highlighted on other maps throughout the book. In Prague at a Glance (pp38–51), for example, they help locate the top sights. They are also used to plot the routes of the river trip (pp57–9) and the four guided walks (p173).





Practical Information

lists all the information you need to visit every sight, including a map reference to the Street Finder (pp250–55).

Numbers refer to each sight's position on the area map and its place in the chapter.

Detailed Information on each Sight

All the important sights in Prague are described individually. They are listed in order, following the numbering on the area map. Practical information

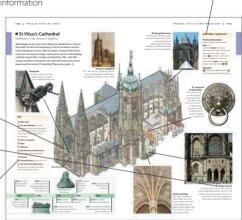
on opening hours, telephone numbers, admission charges and facilities available is given for each sight. The key to the symbols used can be found on the back flap.

The façade of each major sight is shown to help you spot it quickly.

Stars indicate the most interesting architectural details of the building, and the most important works of art or exhibits on view inside.

Numbered circles point out key / features of the sight listed in a key.

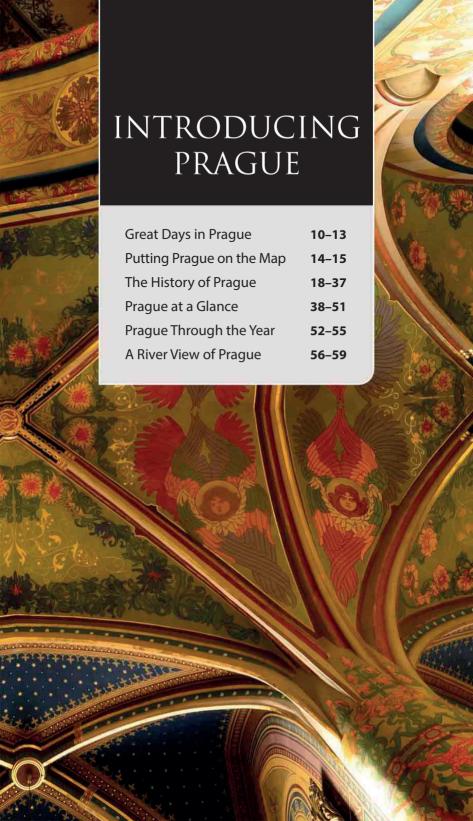




Prague's Major Sights

Historic buildings are dissected to reveal their interiors; and museums and galleries have colour-coded floorplans to help you find important exhibits.





GREAT DAYS IN PRAGUE

Few cities have as much to offer as Prague, so it can be difficult to decide how best to spend your time. The Old Town is a joy in itself, and you could amble around here admiring its old houses for days. Yet, with some planning you can see much more of what makes this historic

city special. Here are itineraries for some of the best of the attractions, arranged first by theme and then by length of stay. Price guides on pages 10–11 include travel, food and admission for two adults, while family prices are for two adults and two children.

National Treasures

Two adults

allow at least Kč2,800

- Hradčany Square guards
- Lunch in the Little Ouarter
- Cross the Charles Bridge
- Watch the Town Hall clock
- Maiestic art or church

Morning

Starting at **Hradčany Square**. admire the Prague Castle guards in their elaborate costumes then walk through První nádvoří to St Vitus's Cathedral (see pp100-103), the soul of the Castle Take a short tour around here before moving on to the "Story of Prague Castle" permanent exhibition in Old Royal Palace (see pp104–105). For souvenir shopping, go for the artisans' cottages on Golden Lane (see p99). Alternatively. head to Lobkowicz Palace, and tour the exhibition inside (see p99). Walk down U Zlaté



A little respite for visitors at an outdoor café in Old Town Square



The sumptuous interior of the Spanish synagogue

studně and Sněmovní to **Little Quarter Square**, where you can enjoy a late lunch and admire the architectural gems of the **Little Quarter** (see pp122–3).

Afternoon

It is a short walk from here to **Charles Bridge** (see pp134–7), and on to Old Town Square.

Time your arrival on the hour to see the **Old Town** Square's Astronomical Clock (see pp72-4) in action The Old Town Hall Tower (see p73) is well worth a visit for amaz ing views of Prague Castle and the Little Ouarter, Next, choose between seeing the art in the Rococo Kinský Palace (see p70) or the bare maiesty of St Nicholas' Church (see pp70-71). The narrow streets and shops of the Týn courtyard now await exploration. Enjoy dinner in the elegant surroundings of the Staroměstská restaurant (see p200).

Literary, Art and Religious Landmarks

Two adults

allow at least Kč4,900

- "Kafka's café"
- The Jewish Ouarter
- Decorative and Medieval Art collections
- Quality Shopping

Morning

Jewish Prague and Franz Kafka are inseparable, so you may want to start the day with a coffee at Grand Café Praha (see p207) in Old Town Square, Kafka lived above here and the café was once named after his journalist girlfriend, Milena, Refreshed, head along Pařížská into the Jewish Quarter (see pp80-89). Stop at the Maisel Synagogue (see p90), then cross the road to the historic Old Jewish Cemetery (see pp86-7). A good walk around here, as well as a look inside the Klausen Synagogue (see p85) sets you up for lunch. Try one of the local Jewish restaurants or La Vita è Bella (see p200).

Afternoon

Admire the Gobelin tapestries at the Museum of Decorative Arts (see p84). Stroll along to the **lewish Town Hall** (see n85) and the Old-New Synagogue (see nn88-9). The eastern side of the lewish Quarter is home to two must-see sights: the alorious Spanish Synagogue (see n90) and the medieval art in St Agnes of Rohemia Convent (see pp92-3). After a day of high cultural input, it's time for a little quality shopping on Pařížská – a large thoroughfare in the Jewish Ouarter. Eat at King Solomon, one of Praque's best lewish restaurants (see p202).

Family Day

Family of four allow at least Kč2.600

- Funicular ride and tower
- Mirror Maze
- Peacocks and caves
- Church of St James

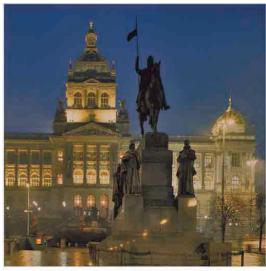
Morning

Take the funicular railway up Petřín Hill (see p139), to see Prague's mini-Eiffel Tower - the Observation Tower (see p138) which has a spiral stair- case to the top. The Mirror Maze (see p138), a short walk away, will keep youngsters happy, as will the nearby **Štefánik's** Observatory (see p138). Take the

funicular halfway back down the hill for lunch at the Nebozízek (see p203) with its outdoor patio and panoramic views.

Afternoon

Take a stroll on Střelecký Ostrov. where the swans await the remnants of your lunchtime bread. There's more wildlife to be seen at the Wallenstein Palace (see p124), home to peacocks and a bizarre replica of a limestone cave. Walk or take the metro over the river to catch the Old Town Square's Astronomical Clock (see pp72-4) in action. Eat at one of the cafés on the square. Then on to the



Wenceslas Square and monument in front of the National Museum

Church of St James (see p65). Children will be intridued by the mummified arm, which has been hanging above the church entrance for several centuries

History and Heroes

Two adults

allow at least Kč1,000

- Wenceslas Square the rise and fall of Communism
- Lunch in splendid style
- Wartime history
- Shopping for antiques

Morning

Start the day with a walk along Wenceslas Square (see pp142-3)



The Mirror Maze, great fun for young and old alike

to see where the communist regime was toppled. Walk the length of the square and imagine it lined with people as it was for weeks in 1989. Pav your respects at the

Monument to the Victims of Communism (see p.143) and to anti-communist martyr Ian Palach, who set him self alight here in 1969 in protest at the Soviet invasion. Just off the Square is the former **Gestapo HO** on Politických věznů (now the national trade office) where thousands of Czechs were imprisoned during WWII. Stop for lunch at the Art Nouveau Evropa Hotel (see p204) on Wenceslas Square.

Afternoon

Walk to the Baroque Church of St Cyril and St Methodius (see p150), where Czech resistance fighters took their own lives in 1942 Bullet holes can still be seen on the wall of the crypt, where a museum chronicles the events. End the day antique-browsing. Military Antiques in Charvátova (see n212), is a treasure-trove of relics from the Nazi and Soviet occupations, and military bric-a-brac from all periods.

2 days in Prague

- Tour Prague Castle, a Gothic gem
- Watch the Town Hall Clock strike the hour in Old Town Square
- Visit the poignant sights of the Jewish Quarter

Day 1

Morning Catch scenic tram route 22 up Hradčany hill to Prague Castle (pp98-9). Take a tour of the Gothic architectural wonder St Vitus's Cathedral (pp102-105) and the Royal Palace (pp106-107).

Afternoon Wander through the stately **Royal Garden** (n113) then make your way down picturesque Nerudova Street (n132) to cross Charles Bridge (pp136-39), lined with statues of saints. Head to Old Town Square (pp68-71) to watch the **Town Hall** Clock (p76) on the Old Town Hall (pp74-5) chime the hour. The pretty Kinský Palace (p72) features ancient art in the shadow of the spire-topped Church of Our Lady Before Týn (p72). End the day by shopping for crafts at the market on Havelská Street.

Morning Begin by exploring the Jewish Quarter (pp82-95). Visit the Old Jewish Cemetery (pp88-9), with its tilting tombstones marked by symbols for family names, the Pinkas Synagogue (pp86-7) memorial to Holocaust victims and the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue (pp90-91).

Afternoon Cross the Vltava to the Little Quarter (pp122-41), where characterful shops stand alongside cafés and beer gardens. On Little Quarter Square (p129) the Church of St Nicholas (pp128-9) is the height of High Baroque and worthy of a peek inside. Go for a leisurely stroll in Wallenstein Palace and Garden (p126) amid bronze statues and wandering peacocks, then see celebrated sculptures and paintings in the Kampa Museum of Modern Art (p135).



Aerial view of Old Town Square, with the Jan Hus Monument in its centre

3 days in Prague

- Cross fortified Charles Bridge, looking at its statues
- Explore the narrow streets and Baroque palaces of the romantic Little Ouarter

Day 1

Morning Marvel at Prague's most venerated Gothic survivor. St Agnes of Bohemia Convent (pp94-5) and its medieval art collection. Then walk to Old Town Square (pp68-71) to take in the Baroque **Kinský Palace** (p72) and the imposing Church of Our Lady before T\u00f3n (p72). Don't miss the **Old Town Hall** (pp74–5) and its crowd-pleasing astronomical clock, which strikes the hour.

Afternoon Admire the Cubist House of the Black Madonna on Celetná Street (p67) en route to the Powder Gate (n66), a former



St Vitus's Cathedral, a medieval Gothic masterpiece completed in the 20th century

city fortification. Afterwards, visit the **Estates Theatre** (n67) where Mozart conducted operas, the Church of St Gall (n73) and Havelská Street market for knickknacks. It's a short walk from here to the magnificent Charles Bridge (pp136-9).

Dav 2

Morning Devote your morning to Prague Castle (pp98-9). Survey the city from Hradčanské náměstí before venturing into St Vitus's Cathedral (pp102-105) and St George's Basilica (pp100-101). Take a tour of the Royal Palace (pp106-107) and the Royal Garden (p113), and if there's time walk along **Golden Lane** (p101) with its brightly painted cottages.

Nerudova Street (p132) to meander the narrow streets of the Little Ouarter (pp122-41) and pop into the Church of St Nicholas (pp128-9). The monumental Wallenstein Palace and Garden (p126), peaceful Kampa Island (p131) and the Kampa Museum of Modern Art (p135) are all nearby.

Afternoon Head down

Morning Visit the Jewish Quarter (pp82-95), where the Old Jewish Cemetery (pp88-9), Old-New Synagogue (pp90–91) and Pinkas Synagogue (pp86-7) honour life in the former ghetto.

Afternoon Take a half-hour train ride to Charles IV's striking summer retreat, Karlstein Castle (p171), which stands in isolation above a wooded valley.

5 days in Prague

- Admire St Agnes of Bohemia Convent
- Listen to a Mozart opera at the Estates Theatre
- Take a trip to Charles IV's breathtaking country retreat. Karlstein Castle

Day 1

Morning Tour Old Town Square (pp68–71), taking in the Gothic steeples of the Church of Our Lady Before Tvn (p72). Kinský Palace (p72) and the Old Town Hall (pp74-5), where the astronomical Town Hall Clock (n76) delights crowds on the hour with its procession of the 12 Apostles Ride the metro to the Little Ouarter (pp122-41) and ascend the Old Castle Steps to Prague Castle (pp98-9), the historic heart of Bohemia, Explore the **Royal Palace** (pp106-107) and the Royal Garden (p113). then visit Romanesque

St George's Basilica (pp100–101) and the gravity-defying St Vitus's Cathedral (pp102–105), where St Wenceslas is interred in a chapel.

Afternoon Set opposite the castle complex, the Baroque Sternberg Palace (p112–15) houses the National Gallery's Old Masters. Walk up to the opulent 17th-century shrine of The Loreto (pp118–19), then make your way to New World (p116), a charming street of cottages where royal astronomers and goldsmiths once lived. Take tram 22 to the Strahov Monastery (pp120–21), whose ornate library holds thousands of obscure tomes.

Day 2

Morning Spend your morning exploring the New Town (pp142–57). Wenceslas Square (pp144–6) showcases early 20th-century architecture and highlights include the Art Nouveau Hotel Europa (p147). The National Museum (p147) here is still marked by the scars of the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion, while the Mucha Museum (p147) features the early work of Art Nouveau avatar Alphonse Mucha.

Afternoon Head to the Gothic New Town Hall (p155), where Hussites defenestrated their Catholic overlords in 1419. Off Charles Square (pp150–51 & 152), a former medieval cattle market, is the Church of St Cyril and St Methodius (p152), where Czech partisans slugged it out with German troops in 1942. The grand National Theatre (pp156–7) is a cultural treasure where historic operas by Smetana are put on.



Neo-Classical elegance of the Estates Theatre, where *Don Giovanni* had its debut

Day 3

Morning Immerse yourself in the spirit of medieval Bohemia at St Agnes of Bohemia Convent (pp94–5), which is packed with 13th–16th-century paintings and sculptures. Next, marvel at the simplicity of the Old-New Synagogue (pp90–91) and the pseudo-Moorish style of the Spanish Synagogue (pp92–3) in the Jewish Quarter (pp82–95). Nearby, the Old Jewish Cemetery

(pp88–9) and **Pinkas Synagogue** (pp86–7) contain memorials to Prague's Holocaust victims

Afternoon Explore the back streets of the **Old Town** (pp62–81). Start at the **Powder Gate** (p66) and walk down **Celetná Street** (p67). Turn off for the **Church of St Gall** (p73) and **Bethlehem Chapel** (p77), where martyr Jan Hus preached austerity. **Charles Street** (p80), lined with Baroque and Renaissance façades, leads to the **Charles Bridge** (pp136–9).

Day 4

Morning Journey by train to Charles IV's imposing **Karlstein Castle** (*p171*). Don't miss the Chapel of St Catherine, the walls of which are decorated with gems.

Afternoon Back in the city, browse the designer shops on Národní Street, and then enjoy an evening at the **Estates Theatre** (p67) or **Rudolfinum** (p86).

Day 5

Morning Wander the Little Quarter (pp122–41) and the Wallenstein Palace and Garden (p126). On Little Quarter Square (p129) is the stunning Baroque Church of St Nicholas (pp128–9), and close by, pretty Nerudova Street (p130) is lined with intriguing house signs.

Afternoon For inspiring art, visit the **Kampa Museum of Modern Art** (*p135*). Then wind down with a stroll around **Kampa Island** (*p131*) and the **Little Quarter Riverside** (*pp132–3*).



The Little Quarter, its buildings largely unchanged since the 18th century





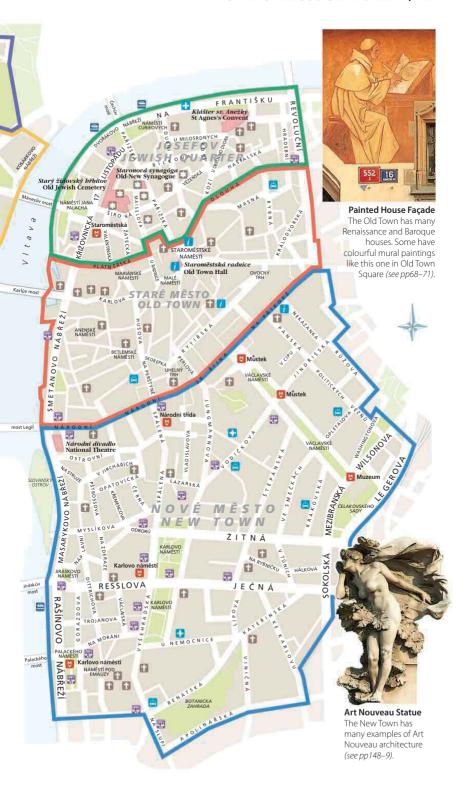




Orb and Cross

An important part of the royal coronation regalia, this orb is now kept at St Vitus's Cathedral (see pp 102–105).







THE HISTORY OF PRAGUE

Prague's position at the crossroads of Europe has made it a magnet for foreign traders since prehistoric times. By the early 10th century Prague had become a thriving town with a large market place, the Old Town Square, and two citadels, Prague Castle and Vyšehrad, from where its first rulers, the Přemyslids, conducted their many family feuds. These were often bloody: in AD 935, Prince Wenceslas was murdered by his brother Boleslav. Wenceslas was later canonized and became the Czechs' best-known patron saint.

During the Middle Ages Prague prospered, especially during the reign of the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles IV. Under the government of this wise and cultured ruler, Prague grew into a magnificent city, larger than Paris or London. Charles instigated the founding and building of many institutions in Prague, including the first university in Central Europe, Charles University. One of the University's first Czech rectors was Jan Hus, the reforming preacher whose execution for alleged heresy in 1415 led to the Hussite wars. The radical wing of the Hussites, the Taborites, were finally defeated at the Battle

of Lipany in 1434. During the 16th century, after a succession of weak kings, the Habsburgs gained control, beginning a rule that would last for almost 400 years. One of the more enlightened of all the Habsburg Emperors was Rudolph II. He brought the spirit of the Renaissance to Prague through his love of the arts and sciences. Soon after his death, in 1618, Prague was the setting for the Protestant revolt which led to the Thirty Years'War. The war's aftermath caused a serious decline in the fortunes of the city that would revive only in the 18th century. Prague's many fine Baroque churches and palaces date from this time.

The 19th century saw a period of national revival and the burgeoning of civic pride. The great public monuments – the National Museum, the National Theatre and Rudolfinum – were built. But the Habsburgs still ruled the city, and it was not until 1918 that Prague became the capital of an independent Republic. World War II brought occupation by the German army, followed by four decades of Communism. After the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989, Prague has embraced a new era.

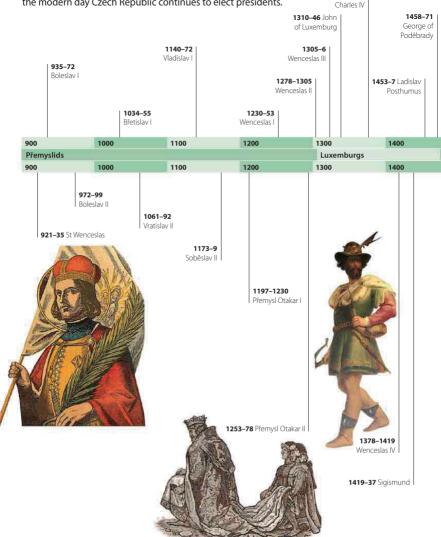


View of Prague Castle and Little Quarter, 1493

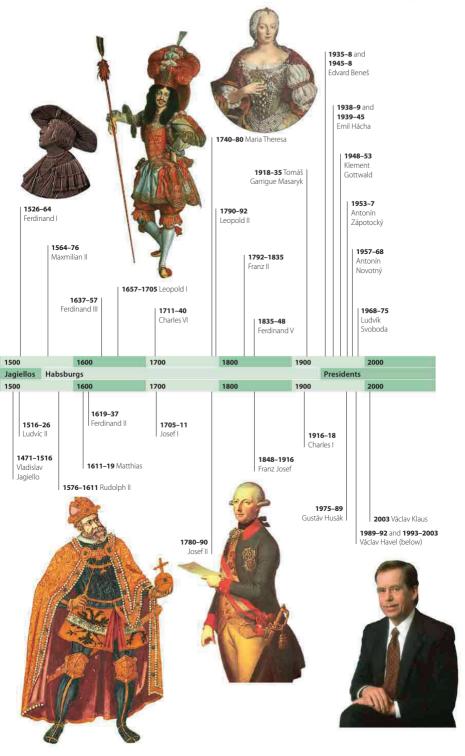
Rulers of Praque

Three great dynasties have shaped the history of Prague: the Přemyslids, the Luxemburgs and the Habsburgs. According to Slavic legend, the Přemyslids were founded by Princess Libuše (see p23). Her line included St Wenceslas and Přemysl Otakar II. whose death in battle at Marchfeld paved the way for the Luxemburgs. This family produced one of the city's greatest rulers. Charles IV, who was King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor (see pp26-7). In 1526, Prague came under the control of the Austrian House of Habsburg whose rule lasted 400 years. until after World War I, when the newly formed Czechoslovakia gained its independence and was governed by a succession of presidents. Following the dissolution of Czechoslovakia in 1993. the modern day Czech Republic continues to elect presidents.









Prague Under the Přemyslids

Early Celtic tribes, from 500 BC, were the first inhabitants of the area around the Vltava valley. The Germanic Marcomans arrived in 9-6 BC, and gradually the Celts left. The first Slavic tribes came to Bohemia in about 500 AD. Struggles for supremacy led to the emergence of a ruling dynasty, the Přemyslids, around 800 AD. They built two fortified settlements: the first at Prague Castle (see pp96-111), the second at Vyšehrad, a rocky headland on the right bank of the Vltava (see pp180-81). These remained the seats of Czech princes for hundreds of years. One prince crucial to the emerging Czech State was the pious Wenceslas. He enjoyed only a brief reign but left an important legacy in the founding of St Vitus's rotunda (see p104).







Extent of the City 1000 AD Today

Boleslay's henchman raises his sword to strike the fatal blow



Second assassin



Early Coin Silver coins like this denar were minted in the royal mint of Vyšehrad during Boleslav II's reign from 967-99.



6th century Slavs settle alongside Germanic tribes in Bohemia

623-658 Bohemia is part of an empire formed by Frankish merchant, Samo

600 AD

700

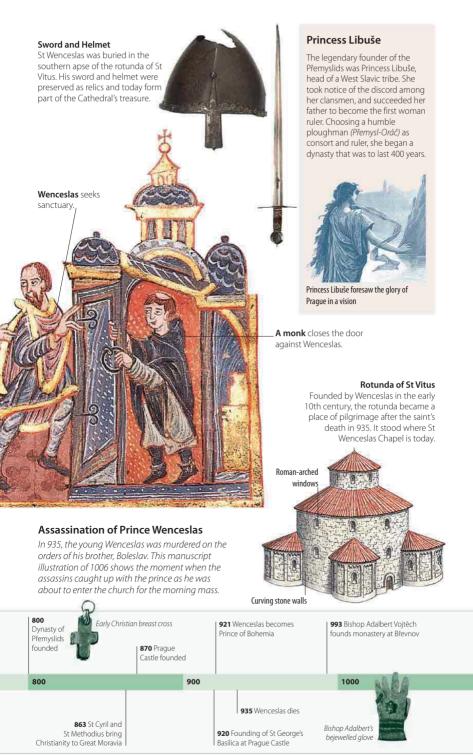
500 BC Celts in Bohemia. Joined by Germanic Marcomans in 1st century AD



8th century Tribe of Czechs settle in central Bohemia

Vyšehrad acropolis - first Czech settlement on the right bank of the Vltava



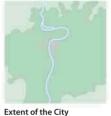


Prague Castle steadily grew in importance from the beginning of the 9th century onwards. Prone to frequent fires, its wooden buildings were gradually replaced by stone and the area developed into a sturdy Romanesque fortress with a palace and religious buildings. Clustered around the original outer bailey was an area inhabited by skilled craftsmen and German merchants. encouraged to come and stay in Prague by Vladislay II and, later, Přemysl Otakar II. This came to be known as the "Little Quarter" and achieved town status in 1257. It was joined to the Old Town by a bridge, known as the Judith Bridge.

Site of

Sauare

Hradčany



1230 Today

Decorative Comb

This ornate hone fine-toothed comb was one of the relics of St Adalhert

. pp102–105)

The White Tower gave access from the west

grew into the Royal Palace (see pp106-107). St Vitus's Basilica and Chapter House (see

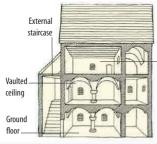
> Entrance from Old Town

The Prince's Palace

St George's Convent and Basilica (see p100)

Prague Castle In 1230

Sited on a high ridge, the Romanesaue fortress had protective stone walls and easily-quarded gates.



Romanesque Stone House These three-

Living room

storeyed houses were based around a very simple floor plan.

Stone houses were built on what is now Nerudova Street in the Little Ouarter (see p130).

1040 St Adalbert's remains brought to Prague

1092-1110 Reign of Bretislav II

1091 Old Town marketplace first mentioned by travellers

1110 Small German settlement in Prague

1100

1140 Strahov Monastery founded

1150

1050

St Adalbert with a mar-1085 Vratislav I becomes

1091 Great fire at Prague Castle 1110-20 Reign of Bořivoj II

1135 Seat of Czech princes moves from Vyšehrad to Prague Castle





The Vyšehrad

Codex, an illumi-

nated selection

pels, was made

nation in 1061.

to mark Vratislav's coro-

Little Quarter Square

from the gos-

The Black

Tower was the

second town.

Kutná Hora

(see p168).

exit to Bohemia's

St Agnes of Bohemia

Sister of Wenceslas Lithis devout woman huilt a convent for the order of the Poor Clares (the female counterparts of the Franciscans) (see pp94-5). She was not canonized until 1989

Where to see Romanesque Praque

Remains of Prague's fascinating history can be seen in the crypt of St Vitus's Cathedral (pp102-105). and the Royal Palace (pp106-107).



St George's Basilica

The vaulting in the crypt dates from the 12th century (p100).



St Martin's Rotunda

This well-preserved building is in Vvšehrad (p180).



Little Quarter Coat of Arms

Vladislav II's portrait was incorporated into this 16thcentury miniature painting.

> 1233 Founding 1182 Romanesque

of St Agnes's Convent

Přemysl Otakar II

The last great Přemyslid king was killed in battle after trying to carve out a huge empire.



construction of Prague Castle completed

1257 Little Ouarter receives town status

1258-68 Strahov Monastery rebuilt in Gothic style after fire

1200

1250

1172 Judith Bridge built (see pp136-9)

1212 Přemysl Otakar I receives the Sicilian Golden Bull, confirming the sovereignty of Bohemian kings

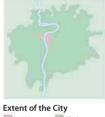


1278 Přemvsl Otakar II dies at Marchfeld

Sicilian Golden Bull

Prague's Golden Age

In the late Middle Ages, Prague attained the height of its glory. The Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV chose Prague as his Imperial residence and set out to make the city the most magnificent in Europe. He founded a university (the Carolinum) and built many fine churches and monasteries in the Gothic style. Of major importance were his town-planning schemes, such as the reconstruction of Prague Castle, the building of a new stone bridge to replace the Judith Bridge, and the foundation of a new quarter, the New Town, A devout Catholic, he owned a large collection of relics which were kept, along with the Crown Jewels, at Karlstein Castle (see pp168-9).



1350 Today

Charles IV

wears the Imperial crown, set with sapphires, rubies and pearls.



St Wenceslas Chapel

Proud of his direct descent from the Přemyslids, Charles had this shrine to St Wenceslas built in St Vitus's Cathedral (see pp102-105).



of the cross in its reliquary.



St Wenceslas Crown

Worn by Charles at his coronation in 1347, the Bohemian crown was based on early Přemyslid insignia.



1338 John of Luxemburg gives permission to Old Town to build a town hall

> 1333 Charles IV makes Prague his home

1348 Charles IV founds Charles University

1280 Old-New Synagogue completed in Gothic style

> Town Hall, Old Town Square

1305

1310 John of Luxemburg

Votive panel showing Charles, Archbishop Jan Očko and Bohemia's patron saints

1320



1344 Elevation of Prague bishopric to archbishopric

1335

1348 Charles IV founds Prague New Town



1306 Přemyslid dynasty ends

Portal of Old-New Synagogue

occupies Prague



A jewelled reliquary cross was made to house

the new relic.

St Vitus by Master Theodoric

This is one of a series of paintings of saints by the great Bohemian artist for the Holy Rood Chapel at Karlstein Castle (c1365).



University Seal, 1348

The seal depicts the Emperor offering the foundation documents to St Wenceslas.



Building the New Town

This manuscript records Charles IV supervising the building of the New Town during the 14th century.

Charles IV and his Relics

Charles collected holy relics from all over the Empire. In about 1357 he received a part of Christ's cross from the Dauphin. This mural in Karlstein Castle is thought to be the best likeness of the Emperor.

Where to see Gothic Prague

Prague's rich Gothic legacy includes three of its best-known sights – St Vitus's Cathedral (pp102–105), Charles Bridge (pp136–9) and the Old-New Synagogue (pp90–91). Another very important building from Charles IV's reign is the Carolinum (p67). Churches that have retained most of their original Gothic features include the Church of Our Lady before Tŵn (p72).



Carolinum This fine oriel window was part of the university (p67).



Old Town Bridge Tower The sculptural decoration is by Peter Parler (p139).



Sculpture of young Wenceslas IV by Peter Parler in St Vitus's Cathedral

1378 Reign of Wenceslas IV begins

Bethlehem Chapel



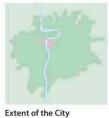
50 1365 1380 139

1361 Wenceslas IV born, oldest son of Charles 1391 Bethlehem Chapel founded

1378 Charles dies

Hussite Praque

In the early-15th-century, Europe shook in fear of an incredible fighting force – the Hussites, followers of the reformist cleric, Jan Hus. Despite simple weapons, they achieved legendary military successes against the Emperor's Catholic crusades. due largely to their religious fervour and to the discipline of their brilliant leader. Jan Žižka, who invented mobile artillery. The Hussites split into two camps, the moderate "Utraquists" (see p.77) and the radical "Taborites" who were finally defeated at the Battle of Lipany in 1434, paving the way for the moderate Hussite king, George of Poděbradv.



1500 Today

The priest held a gilded monstrance.

Jan Žižka



Nobles' Letter of Protest

Several hundred seals of the Bohemian nobility were affixed to a letter protesting about the execution of Jan Hus.

God's Warriors

The early-16th-century Codex of Jena illustrated the Hussite successes. Here the Hussites, who included artisans and barons, are shown singing their hymn, with their blind leader, Jan Žižka.

War Machine

For maximum effect farm waggons were tied together to form a shield. A chilling array of weapons were unleashed including crossbows, flails and an early forr of howitzer.

Ian Hus preaching



1420

1415 Jan Hus burned at the stake at Constance

1402-13 Jan Hus preaches at

Bethlehem Chapel (see p77)

1419 Defenestration of councillors from New Town Hall 1434 Battle of Lipan

The Taborites made lethal weapons from simple farm tools

1410 Jan Hus excommunicated, Building of Old Town Clock

1400

The chalice, symbol of the Utraquists 1424 Jan Žižka dies

1448 Prague conquered by troops of George of Poděbrady

1420 Hussites victorious under Jan Žižka at Vitkov and Vyšehrad







Reformer, Jan Hus

Born to poor parents in a small Bohemian town, Jan Hus became one of the most important religious thinkers of his day. His objections to the Catholic Church's corrupt practices, opulent style and wealth were shared by many Czechs – nobles and peasants alike. His reformist preaching in Prague's Bethlehem Chapel earned him a huge following, noticed by the Roman Papacy, and Hus was excommunicated. In 1412 Wenceslas IV. brother of the Emperor Sigismund, asked him to leave Prague. In October 1414. Hus decided to defend his teaching at the Council of Constance Even though he had the Emperor's safe conduct, he was put in prison. The following vear he was declared a heretic and burned at the stake.



Jan Hus at the Stake in 1415 After suffering death at the hands of the Church on 6 July 1415, Jan Hus became a revered martyr of the Czech people.

Wooden shields like this one that bears the arms of the city of Prague, were used to fill any gaps in the waggon fortress's tight formation.

1458 Coronation of George of Poděbrady (see p21)

of the Týn Church

denotes the Hussite cause

1485 King Vladislav Jagiello begins to rebuild Royal Palace at Prague Castle

> 1492-1502 Vladislav Hall built



Vladislav Jagiello

1460 1480 Chalice on the outside

1487 First book printed in Prague

uprising in Prague

1502 Vladislav Hall built 1485 Hussite

Vladislav Hall

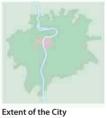
1500



The Renaissance and Rudolph II

With the accession of the Habsburgs, the Renaissance reached Prague. Art and architecture were dominated by the Italians who enjoyed the patronage of the Imperial court, especially that of Rudolph II. The eccentric Rudolph often neglected politics, preferring to indulge his passions for collecting and science. His court was a haven for artists. astrologers, astronomers and alchemists, but his erratic rule led to revolts and an attempt by his brother Matthias to usurp him. In the course of the Thirty Years' War (see pp32-3) many works of art from Rudolph's collection were looted.

Relyedere



1550 Today

Fish pond

Dalibor Tower





Pergola

A connoisseur of the bizarre. Rudolph was delighted by this vegetable portrait by Giuseppe Arcimboldo (1590).





Renaissance table tops with Florentine themes of fountains and gardens were made at Rudolph's court in semi-precious stones.



1526 Habsburg rule begins with Ferdinand I



1541 Great fire in Little Quarter. the Castle and Hradčany

1556 Ferdinand Linvites Jesuits to Praque

a Golem (see pp90-91).

1520

1540

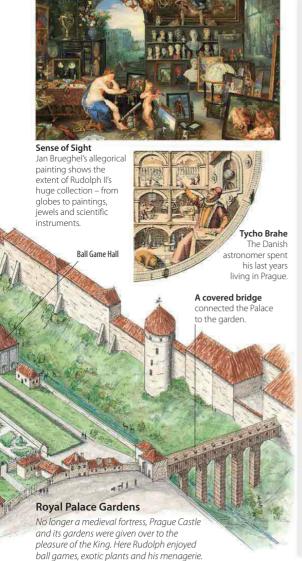
1560

1538-63 Belvedere built

1547 Unsuccessful uprising of towns of Prague against Ferdinand I

Charter for manglers and dyers





Where to see Renaissance Prague

The Royal Garden (p111) preserves much of the spirit of Renaissance Prague, Paintings and objects from Rudolph's collections can be seen in the Sternberg Palace (pp112–15), the Picture Gallery of Prague Castle (n100) and the Museum of Decorative Arts (n86)



At the Two Golden Rears Built in 1590, the house is famous for its symmetrical, carved doorway, one of the most graceful in Prague (p73).



Belvedere The palace is decorated with stone reliefs by Italian architect Paolo della Stella (p110).



Ball Game Hall Beautiful Renaissance sgraffito, heavily restored, covers the façade of this building in the Royal Garden (p111).

1583 Prague becomes seat of Imperial court of Rudolph II: great art collection begun

1609 Publication of Rudolph's Imperial Charter on religious freedom

1620 Battle of the White Mountain

1612 Rudolph II dies 1621 Execution in Old Town Square of 27 Protestant leaders

1580

1600

1614 Matthias Gate at Prague Castle built

1618 Defenestration of two royal governors from Royal Palace (see p107)





Baroque Prague

In 1619 the Czech nobles deposed Habsburg Emperor Ferdinand II as King of Bohemia and elected instead the Protestant ruler Frederick of the Palatinate. The following year they paid for their defiance at the Battle of the White Mountain, the beginning of the Thirty Years' War. There followed a period of persecution of all non-Catholics, accompanied by the Germanization of the country's institutions. The leaders in the fight against Protestantism were the Jesuits and one of their most powerful weapons was the restoration of Prague's churches in Baroque style. Many new churches also adopted this style.



Extent of the City

1750 Today

Mirror Chapel



Church of St Nicholas This outstanding High Baroque church in the Little Quarter was the work of the great Dientzenhofers (see pp128–9).





Measuring the World

Some monasteries were seats of learning. Strahov (see pp120–21) had two libraries built, decorated with Baroque painting. This fresco detail is in the Philosophical Hall.



1706–14 Decoration of Charles Bridge with statues

1704-53 Building of

1705

Holy Saviour Church

1627 Beginning of Counter-Reformation committee in Prague Old Town coat of arms – embellished with the Imperial eagle and 12 flags in recognition of the defence of the city against the Swedes

1625

1648 Swedes occupy Prague Castle. Treaty of Westphalia and end of Thirty Years' War

1634 Wallenstein killed by Irish mercenaries

/ar

Church of St Nicholas in the Little Quarter

1685

1676–8 New bastions built to fortify Vyšehrad

1631 Saxon occupation of Prague



A sculpture of Atlas (1722) adorns the top of the tower. Observatory Tower Battle of the White Mountain In 1620 the Czech army was defeated by Habsburg troops at Bild Hora (White Mountain), a hill west of Prague (see p163). After the battle, Bohemia became a de facto province of Austria.

St Clement's Church gave its name to the whole complex.

Monstrance Baroque monstrances – used to display the communion host – became increasingly elaborate and ornate (see pp118–19).

Clementinum The Jesuits exercis

The Jesuits exercised enormous power over education. Between 1653 and 1723 they built this College. It was the largest complex of buildings after Prague Castle and included three churches, smaller chapels, libraries, lecture halls and an observatory.

Where to see

The Baroque is everywhere in Prague. Almost all the churches were built or remodelled in Baroque style, the finest being St Nicholas (pp128–9). There are also the grand palaces and smaller houses of the Little Quarter (pp122–41), the façades in the Old Town (pp62–81), and statues on churches, street corners and along the parapets of Charles Bridge.



Nerudova Street At the Golden Cup, No. 16, has preserved its typical Baroque house sign *(p130)*.



Charles Bridge This statue of St Francis Borgia by Ferdinand Brokoff was added in 1710 (pp136–9).

1748 Bohemian Chancellery loses last vestiges of power

1757 Prague besieged by

1773 Jesuit | Order dissolved

1765

1782 Convents and monasteries closed

1785

1784 Four towns of Prague united to form a single city

174

1740 Accession of Empress Maria Theresa

1745

Maria Theresa



1787 Mozart stays at Bertramka preparing for the premiere of Don Bertramka Giovanni at the Estates Theatre (see p67)

The National Revival in Prague

The 19th century was one of the most glorious periods in the history of Prague, Austrian rule relaxed, allowing the Czech nation to rediscover its own history and culture. Silent for so long. Czech was re-established as an official language. Civic pride was rekindled with the building of the capital's great showpieces. such as the National Theatre, which utilized the talents of Czech architects and artists. The Jewish Quarter and New Town underwent extensive redevelopment and, with the introduction of public transport. Prague grew beyond its ancient limits.



Days of the year

December



Smetana's Libuše Written for the scheduled opening of the National Theatre in 1881, the opera drew on early Czech legend (see pp22-3).

Months and zodiac signs revolve around the centre.

Old Town coat of arms

Rudolfinum

A major concert venue beside the Vltava, the building (see p86) is richly decorated with symbols of the art of music.



orated into pictures symbolizing the months of the year.

In 1866, the revolving dial on Prague's most enduring landmark was replaced by a new one by celebrated artist, Josef Mánes. His studies of Bohemian peasant life are incorp-

> 1805 Czechs, Austrians and Russians defeated by Napoleon at Battle of Slavkov (Austerlitz)

1818 National Museum founded



Restored clock from the east face of the Town Hall Tower

> 1848 Uprising of people of Prague against Austrian troops

> > 1845 First train

arrives in Prague

1800

1820

1815 First public demonstration of a vehicle driven by a steam engine

The battle of Slavkov begins production of steam engines

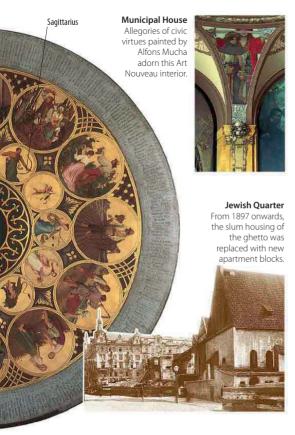
Hall undergoes reconstruction

1833 Englishman Edward Thomas

1838-45 Old Town

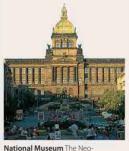


Expo 95 Poster Vojtěch Hynais designed this poster for the ethnographic exhibition of folk culture in 1895. In the Art Nouveau style, it reflected the new appreciation of regional traditions



Where to see

Many of Prague's remarkable monuments the National Museum for example, were built around this period. One fine example of Art Nouveau architecture is the Municipal House (p66), where the Mayor's Room has murals by Mucha. The Rudolfinum (n86) and the National Theatre (pp.156-7) have gloriously-decorated interiors by great artists of the day. The Prague Museum has many objects from the late 19th and early 20th centuries as well as the original painting for Mánes' Old Town Clock



National Museum The Neo-Renaissance façade dominates the skyline (p147).



National Theatre The decor has murals by Czech artists, including Aleš (pp156–7).



National Theatre

1881 Newly opened National Theatre destroyed by fire, then rebuilt

1883 Re-opening of the National Theatre

1896 Proper city transport of electric trams starts

1897–1917 Slums of Jewish Ghetto cleared

1916 Emperor Franz Josef dies

1900

1860

1868 Foundation stone for National Theatre laid



Early electric trams

1880

1891 Jubilee Exhibition

1884–91 Building of the National Museum

1912 Municipal House opens

1883 First public lighting with electric lamps

1914 World War I begins

Prague after Independence

Just 20 years after its foundation in 1918, the Czechoslovak Republic was helplessly caught up in the political manoeuvring that preceded Nazi domination of Europe, Prague emerged from World War II almost unscathed by bombings, no longer part of a Nazi protectorate but of a Socialist republic. Any resistance was brutally suppressed. Ultimately, the intellectuals spoke out, demanding observance of civil rights. Denial of such rights led these dissidents to unite and prepare for the "Velvet Revolution". In the end, it was a playwright. Václay Hayel, who was swept into power at Prague Castle to lead the country at the start of a long and often difficult return to independence.

1935 Edvard Reneš succeeds Masaryk as President Nazifunded Sudeten German Party, led by Konrad Henlein, makes election gains



Edvard Beneš

Army enters Prague on 9 May to rapturous welcome,

following four days of uprisings. In October, provisional National Assembly set up under Benes

1935

1948 Communist Party assumes power under Klement Gottwald: announces 89% support in May elections

> 1962 Statue of Stalin in Letná Park demolished (replaced in 1991 by a giant metronome)

1958 Premiere of innovative animated film. The Invention of Destruction directed by Karel Zeman

1950

1966 Jiří Menzel's Closely Observed Trains wins Oscar for Best Foreign Film, drawing the world's attention to Czach cinama

1967 First Secretary and President Antonín Novotný imprisons dissident writers

> 1968 Moderate Alexander Dubček adonts the programme of liberal reforms known as "Prague Spring" On 21 August, Warsaw Pact occupies Czechoslovakia and over 100 protesters are killed as troops enter Praque

1977 Human rights manifesto Charter 77 drawn up after arrest of hand Plastic People

1965

1920 1935 1950 1965

1924 Death

Café

1920

Kafka author of The Trial

1932 Traditional gymnastic rally or slet takes place at Strahov stadium

1918 Foundation of Czechoslovak Republic, Tomáš Masarvk first democratically elected President

1938 Munich Agreement hands over parts of Republic to Hitler, Beneš flees country



Welcome Home poster, to mark the President's return on 21 December 1918

1942 Tyrannical Nazi "Protector" for only eight months, Reinhard Hevdrich accaccinated by Czech resistance

1952 Most famous of many show trials under Gottwald, Slánský Trial sends 11 senior politicians to gallows as Trotskvites and traitors

> 1955 Largest statue of Stalin in the world unveiled in Letná Park, overlooking city

> > 1960 Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (ČSSR) proclaimed



1939 German troops march into Prague; city declared capital of Nazi Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Emil Hácha is President under the German protectorate



1968 Alexander Dubček elected to post of First Secretary



1969 Jan Palach burns to death in protest at Soviet occupation

1979 Playwright Václav Havel founds Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted and is sent to prison 1989 The "Velvet Revolution": growing civil discontent prompts demonstrations and strikes Havel unites opposition groups to form Civic Forum Temporary Government promises free elections: President Husák resigns and Václav Havel is sworn in by popular demand



1990 First democratic elections for 60 years produce 99% turnout with 60% of vote going to alliance of Civic Forum and People Against Violence

The coat of arms of the President of the Czech Republic has the inscription "truth victorious" and the arms for Bohemia (top left, hottom right) Moravia (top. right) and Silesia (bottom left)

1993 The splitting of Czechoslovakia. Prague becomes capital of new Czech Republic

1999 Czech Republic ioins NATO

2002 Prague suffers its worst flooding in 150 years

2004 Czech Republic joins the EU

1980 1995 2010 2025 1980 2010 2025 1995

> 1989 Canonization of St Agnes of Bohemia (see pp94-5) takes place on 4 November. Vatican commissions painting by dissident Pragueborn artist Gustav Makarius Tauc for the occasion. Czech legend that miraculous events will accompany her elevation to sainthood prove correct when the . "Velvet Revolution" begins on 17 November



1984 Jaroslav Seifert, signatory of Charter 77, wins Nobel Prize for Literature but cannot collect prize in person

2013 Milos Zeman, a former prime minsiter, wins the Czech Republic's first direct presidential election

2012 Government corruption, spending cuts and tax rises lead to huge antigovernment protests in April

2009 Czech Republic holds presidency of the European Union

2008 Václav Klaus sworn into second five-year term as President



2001 The biggest street protests since the end of communism force Jiři Hodač to resign as directorgeneral of state television





PRAGUE AT A GLANCE

There are almost 150 places of interest described in the Area by Area section of this book. A broad range of sights is covered: from the ancient Royal Palace, which was the site of the Defenestration of 1618 (see p107), to cubist houses built in the Jewish Quarter in the 1920s (see p93); from the peaceful pasis of Petřín Park (see p141), to the bustle of Wenceslas

Square (see pp144-5). To help you make the most of your stay, the following 12 pages are a time-saving guide to the best Prague has to offer visitors. Museums and galleries, churches and synagogues, palaces and gardens all have their own sections. Each sight has a cross reference to its own full entry. Below are the attractions that no visitor should miss.

Prague's Top Ten Sights



Old Town Square See pp68-71.



Old Town Hall See pp74-6.



Old Jewish Cemetery See pp88-9.



St Agnes's Convent See pp94–5.



Prague Castle See pp98-9.



St Vitus's Cathedral See pp102-105.



Wallenstein Palace and Garden



See pp128-9.



Charles Bridge See pp136-9.



National Theatre See pp156-7.

Prague's Best: Museums and Galleries

With more than 20 museums and almost 100 galleries and exhibition halls. Prague is a city of unexpected and rare delights. Religious masterpieces of the Middle Ages vie with the more recent opulence of Art Nouveau and the giants of modern art. Several galleries have opened since 1989 with many more temporary exhibitions. There are museums devoted to the history of the state, the city of Prague and its people, many of them housed in buildings that are historical landmarks and works of art in themselves. This map gives some of the highlights, with a detailed overview on pages 42-3.



Picture Gallery of Prague Castle Among the art on display are paintings from the famous collection of Emperor Rudolph II, as well as over 100 works by Titian, Aachen and Rubens



Sternberg Palace

The collection of European art here is outstanding, represented in works such as The Feast of the Rosary by Albrecht Dürer (1506).



Little

Ouarter



to the treasury by Countess Wallenstein.



Schwarzenberg **Palace**

The ornate Renaissance palace, formerly the home of the Museum of Military History, is now a gallery exhibiting Baroque art.



Smetana Museum

The life and work of this 19th-century Czech composer are remembered beside the river that inspired one of his most famous pieces - the Vltava.



Museum of Decorative Arts

Jewish

Quarter

Five centuries of arts and crafts are represented here, with particularly impressive collections of Bohemian glass. graphic art and furniture. This carved and painted chest dates from 1612

St Agnes of Bohemia Convent

This collection includes the 14th-century Resurrection of Christ by the Master of the Třeboň Altar.



Maisel Synagogue

One of the most important collections of Judaica in the world is housed in the Maisel Synagogue and other buildings of the State Jewish Museum. The displays include religious artefacts, furnishings and books. This illuminated page is from the manuscript of the Pesach Haggadah of 1728.

יבן אתפתבואת רונמסס רפונכהוכה ויך אתרכב

אן זין עשע קבה שמאבר לכינו שני

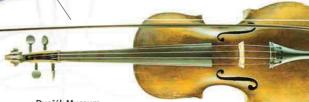
Old Town 0 metres 0 vards

Town

National Museum The vast skeleton of a

whale dominates the other exhibits in one of seven grand halls devoted to zoology. The museum will be closed until 2015 while it undergoes extensive renovation.





Dvořák Museum

This viola, which belonged to the influential 19th-century Czech composer, is among the personal effects and musical scores on display in the charming Michna Summer Palace.

Exploring the Museums and Galleries

The city's museums give a fascinating insight into the history of the Czechs and of Prague's Jewish population. Also a revelation to visitors unfamiliar with the culture is the art of the Gothic and Baroque periods and of the 19th-century Czech National Revival. The National Gallery's plans to show more collections are underway, with Salmovský Palace the home of temporary exhibitions.

Czech Painting and Sculpture

The most important and wideranging collection in Prague is that of the National Gallery Its holdings of Czech art are shown at two venues: medieval art is housed at St Agnes's Convent and 20th- to 21st-century art is on display at at the Trade Fair Palace

The Picture Gallery of Prague Castle is a reminder of Emperor Rudolph II's once-great art collection. Alongside the paintings are documents and other evidence of just how splendid the original collection

must have been

Commerce by Otto Gutfreund (1923), Trade Fair Palace

For some of the hest Bohemian art, you must visit the Baroque works at the Schwarzenberg Palace, just

outside the main gate of the Castle These include examples by Baroque masters Karel Škréta and Petr Brandl. On permanent display within the Castle is the St Vitus Treasure, a collection of religious pieces including a Madonna from the School of Master Theodoric

Centuries of Czech sculpture are housed in the Lapidarium at the Exhibition Ground. Among its exhibits is statuary formerly found on the Charles Bridge and the Marian pillar that used to stand in the Old Town Square.

The collection at the **St** Agnes of Bohemia Convent includes Bohemian and central European Gothic painting and sculpture, including panels painted for Charles IV by Master Theodoric. Works by 19th- and 20th-century Prague artists can be seen at the Prague Gallery, Its branches include the Baroque **Troja**

Palace, where the architecture makes a great backdrop. Exhibitions are drawn from the gallery's 3,000 paintings, 1,000 statues and 4,000 prints. The superb museum of 20th- and 21st-century art at the Trade Fair Palace represents almost every 20th-century artistic

movement, Cubism and Art Nouveau are both represented, as are the 1920s figures of Otto Gutfreund. The development of such ground breaking



14th-century Madonna Aracoeli, St Vitus Treasure, Prague Castle

groups as Osma, Devětsil, Skupina 42 and the 12.15 group is also well documented

European Painting and Sculpture

On view at Sternberg Palace is an exceptional range of masterpieces by Europe's finest artists from antiquity to the 18th century

The most treasured work in the collection is the Feast of the Rosarv by Albrecht Dürer, Works by 17th-century Dutch masters such as Rubens and Rembrandt also feature

The museum of 20th- and 21st-century art at the Trade Fair Palace has a fine collection of Picassos and Rodin bronzes. as well as works from almost every Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Fauvist. Three notable self-portraits are those of Paul Gauguin (Bonjour Monsieur Gauquin, 1889), Henri Rousseau (1890) and Pablo Picasso (1907), Modern German and Austrian painting is also on show, with works by Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele. The Dance of Life, by Norwegian Edvard Munch, is considered greatly influential upon Czech avant-garde art.

The other main venue for European art is the Picture Gallery of Prague Castle,

which focuses on European painters of the 16th to 18th centuries As well as Titian's superh The Tailet of a Young I adv. there are also works in the collection by Rubens and Tintoretto The exquisite building of Schwarzenberg Palace now houses a gallery of Baroque art.

Music

Two Czech composers merit their own museums. The Smetana Museum is a memorial to the father of Czech music Bedřich Smetana, whose musical style became closely linked to the national revival The Dvořák Museum housed in the Michna Summer Palace, explores the life and work of Antonín Dvořák Both museums contain personal memorabilia, musical scores and correspondence

The Museum of Music has many rare and historic instruments, and a number of scores by famous composers.

History

The historical collections of the National Museum are held at the main Wenceslas Square building. The Prague Museum centres on the history of the city. with period rooms, historical prints and a model of Prague in the 19th century, made of paper and wood by the lithographer Antonín Langweil.



Bohemian Baroque glass goblet (1730), Museum of Decorative Arts

A branch of the museum at Witoň, on the banks of the Vltava denicts the way of life of a former settlement Another at Vyšehrad records the history of this royal seat.

The Museum of Military History. housed in the Schwarzenberg Palace since 1945 but now on U Památníku 3. displavs battle charts, weaponry. uniforms and other military regalia. The Lobkowicz Collection, housed in the 16th century Lobkowicz Palace at Prague Castle, includes rare books and manuscripts

The Jewish Museum is made up of various sites in the Jewish Ouarter, including the Spanish Synagogue, Maisel Synagogue and the Old Jewish Cemetery Among its collections are holy artifacts taken from other lewish communities and brought to Prague by the Nazis as part of a chilling plan for a museum of "an extinct race" Another moving display is of drawings made by children from the Terezín concentration camp.



With glassware spanning centuries, from medieval to modern, porcelain and pewterware, furniture and textiles, books and posters, the

Museum of Decorative Arts in the Jewish Ouarter is one of Prague's best, but only a small selection of its holdings is on show. Look out for specialized temporary exhibitions mounted either at the museum itself or at other venues in Prague.

Many other museums have examples of the decorative arts, ranging from grandiose monstrances - including one with 6.222 diamonds - in the treasury of The Loreto to simple everyday furnishings in the Prague Museum. There is also a fascinating collection of pre-Columbian artefacts from Central America in the Náprstek Museum.



16th-century astrolabe from the National Technical Museum

Science and Technology

A vast exhibition hall holds the transport section of the

National Technical Museum Ranks of vintage cars.

motorcycles and steam engines fill the space, and over them hang examples of early flying machines. Other sections in the museum trace the progress of sciences such as electronics. The museum's many other fascinating exhibits include displays on architecture, astronomy and printing and communications

Finding the Museums and Galleries

Dvořák Museum p154 Exhibition Ground n162 Kampa Museum of Modern Art p135 Lobkowicz Palace p101 The Loreto pp118-19 Maisel Synagogue p92 Mozart Museum p160 Museum of Decorative Arts p86 Museum of Music p141 Náprstek Museum p77 National Museum p147 National Technical

Museum n162 Old Jewish Cemetery pp88-9 Picture Gallery of Prague Castle p100 Prague Museum p161 St Agnes of Bohemia pp94-5 Schwarzenberg Palace p116 Smetana Museum p81

Spanish Synagogue pp92-3 Sternberg Palace pp112-15 Trade Fair Palace pp164-5 Troja Palace pp166-7

The religious buildings of Prague vividly record the city's changing architectural styles, and many are treasure houses of religious art. But they also reflect Prague's

times of religious and political strife, the lives of its people, its setbacks and growth as a city. This map features highlights of their architecture and art, with a more detailed overview on pages 46–7.



St George's Basilica

St George, sword raised to slay the dragon, is portrayed in this late-Gothic relief, set above the doorway of the magnificent early Renaissance south portal.

St Vitus's Cathedral

The jewel of the cathedral is the Chapel of St Wenceslas. Its walls are decorated with semi-precious stones, gilding and frescoes. Elizabeth of Pomerania, the fourth and last wife of Charles IV, is shown at prayer in the fresco above the Gothic altar.



The Loreto

This shrine to the Virgin Mary has been a place of pilgrimage since 1626. Each hour, its Baroque clock tower chimes a hymn on the carillon of 27 bells.





The skeleton of the martyr St Just rests in a glass coffin below a Crucifixion by Antonín Stevens, one of several superb works of religious art in this church.



Church of St Nicholas

In the heart of the Little Quarter, this is Prague's finest example of High Baroque. The dome over the high altar is so lofty that early worshippers feared it would collapse.



Little Ouarter



Old-New Synagogue

Praque's oldest synagogue dates from the 13th century. Its Gothic main portal is carved with a vine which bears twelve bunches of grapes symbolizing the tribes of Israel.



Set back behind a row of arcaded buildings, the manyspired twin towers of the church dominate the eastern end of Old Town Square The Gothic Renaissance and Baroque features of the interior create striking contrasts.



Jewish Ouarter

Old Town

Church of St James

Consecrated in 1374 this church was restored to new Baroque glory after a fire in 1689. Typical of its grandeur is this 18th-century monument to chancellor Jan Vratislav of Mitrovice Fine acoustics and a superb organ make the church a popular venue for concerts.

Slavonic Monastery Emauzy

These cloisters hold a series of precious frescoes from three Gothic masters depicting scenes from the Old and New Testaments.



New Town

0 metres	500
0 vards	500



Church of St Peter and St Paul

Remodelled many times since the 11th century, the design of this church is now 1890s Neo-Gothic. This striking relief of the Last Judgment marks the main entrance.



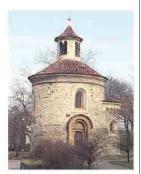
Exploring Churches and Synagogues

Religious building began in Prague in the 9th century, reaching its zenith during the reign of Charles IV (see pp26–7). The remains of an 11th-century synagogue have been found, but during the 19th-century clearance of the overcrowded Jewish ghetto three synagogues were lost. Many churches were damaged during the Hussite rebellions (see pp28–9). The political regime of the 20th century also took its toll, but now churches and synagogues have been reclaimed and restored, with many open to visitors.

Romanesque

Three reasonably well-preserved Romanesque rotundas, dating from the 11th and 12th centuries, still exist in Prague. The oldest is the **St Martin's Rotunda**; the others are the rotundas of the Holy Rood and of St Longinus. All three are tiny, with naves only 6 m (20 ft) in diameter.

By far the best-preserved and most important Romanesque church is **St George's Basilica**, founded in 920 by Prince Vratislay I Extensive



11th-century Romanesque Rotunda of St Martin in Vyšehrad

reconstruction was carried out after a fire in 1142, but its chancel, with some exquisite frescoes on its vaulting, is a Late-Romanesoue gem.

The **Strahov Monastery**, founded in 1142 by Prince Vladislav II (*see pp24–5*), has retained its Romanesque core in spite of fire, wars and extensive renovation.

Gothic

Gothic architecture, with its ribbed vaulting, flying buttresses and pointed arches, reached Bohemia in about 1230 and was soon adopted into religious architecture.

The first religious building in Gothic style was the **St Agnes** of **Bohemia Convent**, founded in 1233 by Wenceslas I's sister, Agnes. Prague's oldest synagogue, the **Old-New Synagogue**, built in 1270, is rather different in style to the churches but is still a suberb example of Farly Gothic

The best example of Prague Gothic is **St Vitus's Cathedral**. Its fine tracery and towering nave



High, Gothic windows at the east end of

epitomize the style. Other notable Gothic churches are **Our Lady before Týn** and **Our Lady of the Snows**.

Important for its historical significance is the reconstructed Gothic **Bethlehem Chapel** where Jan Hus (see p29) preached for 10 years.

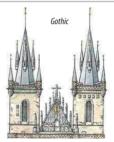
The superb Gothic frescoes found in abundance at the **Slavonic Monastery Emauzy**, were badly damaged in World War II, but have been restored.

Renaissance

In the 1530s the influence of Italian artists living in Prague sparked the city's Renaissance movement. The style is more clearly seen in secular than religious building. The Late-Renaissance period, under Rudolph II (1576–1611), offers the best remaining examples.

Domes and Spires

The domes and spires of Prague's churches are the city's main landmarks, as the view from the many vantage points will confirm. You will see a variety of spires, towers and domes: Gothic and Neo-Gothic soar skywards, while Baroque often have rounded cupolas and onion domes. The modern top of the 14th-century Slavonic Monastery, added after the church was struck in a World War II air raid, is a rare example of modernist religious architecture in Prague. Its sweeping, intersecting twin spires are a bold reinterpretation of Gothic themes, and a striking addition to the city's skyline.



Church of Our Lady before Týn (1350–1511)



Church of St Nicholas in the Little Quarter (1750)

The **High Synagogue** and the Pinkas Synagogue retain strong elements of the style the former in its 1586 exterior, the latter in the reworking of an original Gothic building

The Church of St Roch in the Strahov Monastery is probably the best example of Late-Renaissance "Mannerism".



Renaissance-influenced vaulting, Pinkas Synagogue (1535)

Baroque

The Counter-Reformation (see pp32-3) inspired the building of new churches and the revamping of existing ones for a period of 150 years, Prague's first Baroque church was Our Lady Victorious built in 1611–13

St Nicholas in the Little Quarter took almost 60 years to build. Its lush interior and frescoed vault make it Praque's most important Baroque building, followed by The Loreto (1626–1750)

adjoining the Capuchin Monastery. The father-and-son. team, Christoph and Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer designed both buildings, and St John on the

Rock and St Nicholas in the Old Town

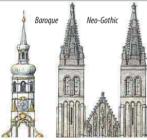
A special place in Prague's history was occupied by the Jesuit Clementinum. This influential university's church was the Holv Saviour. The Baroque style is closely linked with Jesuit teachings: Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer was educated here.

Klausen Synagogue (now the lewish Museum) was built in 1689 with Baroque stuccoed harrel vaults

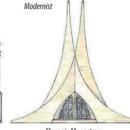
Many early buildings were given Baroque facelifts. The Gothic nave of **St Thomas** has Baroque vaulting, and the once-Gothic St James went Baroque after a fire in 1689



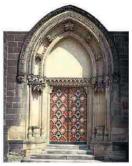
Nave ceiling of the Church of St Nicholas in the Little Quarter



Loreto St Peter and (1725)St Paul (1903)



Slavonic Monastery Emauzy (1967)



19th-century Neo-Gothic portal, Church of St Peter and St Paul

Neo-Gothic

During the height of the 19th-century Gothic Revival (see nn 34-5) St Vitus's Cathedral was completed, in

accordance with the original Gothic plan. Work by Josef Mocker the movement's leader aroused controversy but his

St Peter and St Paul at Vvšehrad is a well-loved landmark. The triple-payed hasilica of St Ludmilla in Náměstí Míru was also designed by Mocker.

Finding the Churches

and Synagogues St Agnes of Bohemia pp94-5 Bethlehem Chapel p77

Capuchin Monastery pp116-17 Clementinum p81 (see also History of Prague p33)

St George's Basilica p100 High Synagogue p87 Holy Saviour (see Knights of the

Cross Square p81) St James p67

St John on the Rock p153 Klausen Synagogue p87 The Loreto pp118-19

St Ludmilla (see Náměstí Míru p161)

St Martin's Rotunda (see Vyšehrad Walk p180)

St Nicholas in the Little Quarter pp128-9

St Nicholas in the Old Town n72 Old-New Synagogue pp90-91 Our Lady before Týn p72

Our Lady of the Snows p146 Our Lady Victorious p130

St Peter and St Paul (see Vvšehrad Walk p181) Pinkas Synagogue p86 Slavonic Monastery Emauzy p150 Strahov Monastery pp120-21

St Thomas p127 St Vitus's Cathedral pp102-105

Prague's Best: Palaces and Gardens

Prague's palaces and gardens are among the most important historical and architectural monuments in the city. Many palaces house museums or galleries (see pp40-43), and some are concert venues. The gardens range from formal, walled oases with fountains and grand statuary, to



open spaces beyond the city centre. This map features some of the best palaces and gardens, with a detailed overview on pages 50-51.



Belvedere

The Singing Fountain (1568) stands in front of the exquisite Renaissance summer palace.

> Prague Castle and , Hradčanv

> > Little Quarter



South Gardens

Starting life as the Castle's defensive bastions, these gardens afford a wonderful view of Prague, First laid out as a park in 1891, their present design was landscaped by Josip Plečnik 40 years later.



Wallenstein Palace

Built in 1624-30 for Duke Albrecht of Wallenstein, this vast Baroque palace was intended to outshine Prague Castle. Over 20 houses and a town gate were demolished to make room for the palace and garden. This Fountain of Venus (1599), stands in front of the arches of the sala terrena.



Wallenstein Garden

The garden statues are copies of 17th-century bronzes. The originals were plundered by the Swedes in 1648.



Jewish Quarter

Old Town

Palace Gardens In the Baroque

period, five palace gardens with spectacular terraces were laid out on the hillside helow Prague Castle.



Kinský Palace

The Kinský coat of arms adorns the pink and white stuccoed facade designed by Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer. The Rococo palace is part of the National Gallery.



Clam-Gallas Palace

Four giant statues of Hercules (c.1715) by Matthias Bernard Braun show the hero straining to support the weight of the massive Baroque front portals of the palace.



New Town

0 metres	500
0 yards	500



Kampa Island

A tranquil waterside park was created on the island after the destruction of its original gardens in World War II.



Villa Amerika

This charming villa was designed by Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer in 1712. It now houses the Dvořák Museum. The garden's sculptural decorations are from the workshop of Antonín Braun.

Exploring the Palaces and Gardens

Prague boasts an amazing number of palaces and gardens, spanning centuries. Comparatively few palaces were lost to the ravages of war. Instead, they tended to evolve in style during restoration or enlargement. Palace gardens became fashionable in the 17th century, but could only be laid out where there was space, such as below Prague Castle. More vulnerable to change, most have been relandscaped several times. In the 19th century, and again after 1989, many of the larger parks and private gardens were opened up to the public.

Medieval Palaces

The oldest palace in Prague is the **Old Royal Palace** at Prague Castle. In the basement is the Romanesque ground floor, started in about 1135. It has been rebuilt many times, particularly between the 14th and 16th centuries. The heart of the Palace, Vladislav Hall, dates from the 1490s and is late Gothic in structure. Less well known is the early Baroque

Tuscany Palace, which has a number of Baroque statues in its attic. Several 17th-century frescoes were unearthed during its reconstruction in the 1990s.

Renaissance Palaces

One of the most beautiful Renaissance buildings in Prague is the 16th-century **Schwarzenberg Palace**. The work of Italian architects, its facade is entirely covered with



Southern façade of Troja Palace and its formal gardens

Decorative Portals and Gates

The elaborate gates and portals of Prague's palaces are among the most beautiful and impressive architectural features in the city. Gothic and Renaissance portals have often survived, even where the buildings themselves have been destroyed or modified by renovations in a later architectural style. The period of most prolific building was the Baroque, and distinctive portals from this time can be seen framing many a grand entrance around the city. Statues of giants, heroes and mythological figures are often depicted holding up the doorways. These were not merely decorative but acted as an integral element of support.



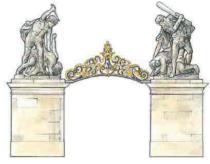
Bronze Singing Fountain in the Royal Garden by the Belvedere

geometric, two-tone saraffito designs. Italians also worked on the **Belvedere** Its graceful. arcades and columns all covered with rich reliefs. make this one of the finest Renaissance buildings north of the Alps. The Martinic Palace. built in 1563, was the first example of late-Renaissance building in Prague, Soon after came the Lobkowicz Palace Its terracotta relief-decorated windows and plaster saraffito have survived later Baroque modifications. The huge Archbishop's Palace was given a later Rococo facade over its

Baroque Palaces

Renaissance structure.

Many palaces were built in the Baroque style, and examples of all its phases still exist in Prague. A handsome, if ostentatious, early Baroque example is the



Gateway to Court of Honour of Prague Castle (1768)

Wallenstein Palace Similar ostentation is evident in the Černín Palace one of Prague's most monumental buildings. The mid-Baroque had two strands one onulent and Italianate the other formal and French or Viennese in influence

Troia Palace and Michna Summer Palace are in Italian villa style while the Sternberg Palace on Hradčanské náměstí is more Viennese in style. Troja was designed in 1679 by Jean-Baptiste Mathey, who, like the Dientzenhofers (see p.129), was a master of the Baroque. The pairs of giants on the portals of the Clam-Gallas Palace, and the Morzin Palace in Nerudova Street are a popular Baroque motif. The Kinský Palace is a superb Rococo design by Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer.



The Royal Garden of Prague Castle, planted with spring flowers



The finest of Prague's palace gardens, such as the Wallenstein Garden, are in the Little Quarter Though the style of Wallenstein Palace is Early Baroque, the garden still displays the geometric formality of the Renaissance. also preserved in the Royal Garden behind Prague Castle The South Gardens on the Castle's old ramparts were redesigned in the 1920s

Many more gardens were laid out in the 17th and 18th centuries when noble families vied with each other to have fine winter residences in the Little Quarter below the Castle. Many are now the grounds of embassies, but others have been opened

> to the public. The Ledebour Garden has been combined with several neighbouring gardens. Laid out on a steep hillside, the Palace Gardens in particular make ingenious use of pavilions, stairs and terraces from which there are wonderful views of the city. The Vrtba Garden, landscaped on the site of former vinevards, is a similar Baroque creation with statues and splendid views. Former palace gardens were also used to create a park on Kampa Island.



Ancient trees in Stromovka

The many old gardens and orchards on Petřín Hill have been transformed into the large public area of Petřín Park. Another former orchard is **Voian** Park, laid out by archbishops in the 13th century. The Botanical Gardens is one of the few areas of green open to the public in the New Town.

Generally, the larger parks are situated further out of the city. Stromovka was a royal deer park, while Letná Park was developed in 1858 on the open space of Letná Plain.

Where to Find the Palaces and Gardens

Archbishop's Palace n111 Belvedere pp110-11 Botanical Gardens p153 Černín Palace p117 Clam-Gallas Palace p80 Kampa Island p131 Kinský Palace n72 Letná Park p161 Lobkowicz Palace p101 Martinic Palace p116 Morzin Palace see Nerudova Street p130 Palace Gardens p135 Petřín Park p141 Royal Garden p111 Royal Palace pp 106-107 Schwarzenberg Palace p116 South Gardens p110 Sternberg Palace pp112-13 Stromovka p162 Troja Palace pp166-7 Villa Amerika see Dvořák Museum p154

Vojan Park p135 Vrtba Garden p130 Wallenstein Palace and Garden p126



Troja Palace (c.1703)



Clam-Gallas Palace (c.1714)

PRAGUE THROUGH THE YEAR

Springtime in Prague sees the city burst into colour as its gardens start to bloom. Celebrations begin with the Prague Spring Music Festival. In summer, visitors are entertained by street performers and the city's alorious gardens come into their own. When the weather begins to turn cooler. Prague hosts the Musica International Music Fair.

The year often draws to a close with snow on the streets. The hall season starts in December. and in the coldest months, most events are held indoors. At Prague Castle, an all-yearround attraction is the changing of the guard around midday. For details of activities, check the listings magazines (see p217) or the Prague Information Service (see p216).



Concert at Wallenstein Palace during the Prague Spring Music Festival

Spring

As Prague sees its first rays of spring sunshine, the city comes alive. A mass of colours, blooms and cultural events makes this one of the most exciting times of the year to visit. The city's blossoming parks and gardens open their gates again, after the colder months of winter. During April the temperatures rise and an entertainment programme begins - dominated by the Prague International Spring Music Festival.

Easter

Easter Monday (dates vary) is a public holiday. Easter is observed as a religious holiday but it is also associated with a bizarre pagan ritual in which Czech men beat their women with willow sticks in order to keep them fertile during the coming year. The women retaliate by throwing water over their male tormentors. Peace is finally restored when the women present the men with a painted egg. Church services are held during the entire Easter period (see p233).

March

Young Prague (end of March) International festival which celebrates young musicians choirs and orchestras perform and compete

April

Boat trips (1 April). A number of boats begin trips up and down the Vltava

Witch-burning (30 April), at the Exhibition Ground (see p164). Concerts accompany this 500-year-old tradition where

old brooms are burnt on bonfires in a symbolic act to rid nature of evil spirits.

Labour Day (1 May), Public holiday celebrated with numerous cultural events Mozart's Prague (early May). Celebration of Mozart International orchestras perform in music halls and churches

Anniversary of Prague **Uprising** (5 May). At noon sirens are sounded for one minute Flowers are laid at the commemorative plagues of those who died (see n36)

Day of Liberation from Fascism (8 May). Public holiday for VE day. Wreaths are laid on the graves of soldiers at Olšany cemeteries.

Prague International Book Fair (third week in May). Industrial Palace (see p162). The best of Czech and international authors.

Prague International Marathon (dates varv).

The Prague Spring International Music Festival

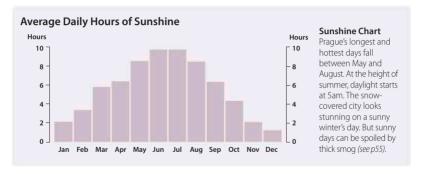
This international festival presents a busy programme of

concerts, ballet and opera from 12 May to 3 June. Music lovers can hear a huge selection of music played by some of the best musicians in the world. The main venue is the Rudolfinum (see p86) but others include churches and palaces - some of which are only open to the public on these occasions. The festival begins on the anniversary of Bedřich Smetana's death (see p81). A service is held at his grave in Vyšehrad (see p180), and in the evening there is a concert at the Municipal House (see p66) where musicians perform his most famous work, Má Vlast (My

Country), Municipal House is also

where the festival ends.

Bedřich Smetana





Czechs and tourists enjoying the beauty of Vvšehrad Park on a sunny afternoon

Summer

Summer arrives with high temperatures, frequent, sometimes heavy, showers and thousands of visitors. This is a beautiful, if busy, time to visit. Every weekend, Czechs set out for the country to go hiking in the surrounding hills or stav in country cottages. Those remaining in Prague visit the reservoirs and lakes (see p221). iust outside the city to try and escape the heat. There is a wealth of entertainment on offer as culture moves into the open air taking over the squares, streets and gardens. Street performers, buskers and classical orchestras all help to keep visitors entertained. Many cafés have tables outside allowing you to guench your thirst while watching the fun.

June

Mayoral Boat Race (first weekend in June), Primátorky. Rowing races are held on the river Vltava, | Changing of the Guard at Prague Castle

elow Vvšehrad. Summer erts (throughout the er). Praque's gardens 48-51) are the attractive opular setting for a large er of free classical and band concerts. One most famous and cular outdoor classical rts is held by Křižík ain at the Exhibition d (see p162). Full orchestras to the stunning backdrop bured lights and water. ronized to the music by computer.

Prague Museum Night (second Saturday in June). From 7pm until midnight buses take visitors from Staroměstská metro station to various museums and galleries, with free entry.

Anniversary of the Murder of Reinhard Heydrich's Assassins (18 June). A mass is held in remembrance at

the Church of St Cyril and St Methodius (see p152) for those who died there Battle Re-enactments (throughout summer) held in Prague's palaces and gardens. Dance Prague (end of May to last week of June). An international festival. of contemporary dance at the Ponec Theatre (see n219).

July

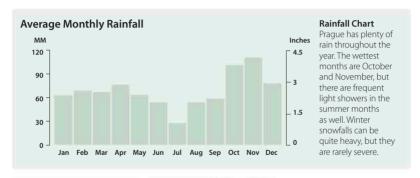
Remembrance of the Slavonic Missionaries (5 July). Public holiday in honour of St Cyril and St Methodius (see p.152).

Anniversary of Jan Hus's Death (6 July). A public holiday when flowers are laid at the the memorial of 15th-centruv religious reformer and martyr Jan Hus (see p28).

August

Fortuna Czech Open (third week of August). International youth sports festival.





Autumn

When the gardens below Prague Castle take on the shades of red and gold, and visitors start to leave, the city gets ready for the cold winter months This is also the traditional mushroom-gathering season when you encounter neonle with baskets full of freshly picked mushrooms. Market places are flooded with fruit and vegetables. The treelined slopes above the Vltava take on the beautiful colours of autumn September and October still have a fair number of warm and sunny days, although November often sees the first snowfalls. Football fans fill the stadiums and the popular steeplechase course at Pardubice reverberates to the cheers of fans



Jazz musicians playing at the International lazz Festival

September

Prague Grand Prix (second Saturday in September). Running competition in the centre of Prague

Dvořákova Praha (dates vary). International music festival in the Rudolfinum (see p86).

Kite competitions (third Sunday in September), on Letná Plain in front of Sparta Stadium, Verv popular competition for

children but open to anyone. with a kite, young or old.

St Wenceslas (28 September). A sacred music festival is held for the feast of the natron saint **Běchovice-Praha** (last Sunday in September). This 10-km (6-mile) road race has been run since 1897 The race starts from Běchovice, a suburb of Prague. and ends in Žižkov

October

Golden Prague (time varies). Žofín Palace, International TV festival of prize-winning programmes

The Great Pardubice Steeplechase (second Sunday in October), held at Pardubice. east of Prague. This horse race has been run since 1874 and is considered to be the most difficult in Europe.

Tina B (mid-October-mid-November). Contemporary themed art festival featuring international artists and introducing new techniques and the latest trends in new media.

The Day of the Republic

(28 October). Despite the splitting up of Czechoslovakia into two separate republics, the founding of the country in 1918 is still a public holiday.

November

Velká Kunratická (second Sunday in November). Popular. but gruelling, cross-country race in Kunratice forest. Anyone can enter

Celebration of the Velvet Revolution (17 November). Peaceful demonstrations take place around Wenceslas Square (see pp 144-5).



A view of St Vitus's Cathedral through autumn trees



Temperature Chart

Temperature Chart
The chart shows the
average minimum and
maximum temperatures
for each month in
Prague. The summer
usually remains
comfortably warm, while
the winter months can
get bitterly cold and
temperatures often drop
below freezing

Winter

If you are lucky enough to catch Prague the morning after a snowfall with the sun shining the effect is magical. The view over the Little Quarter rooftops with their pristine white covering is a memorable sight. Unfortunately Prague is rarely at its best during the winter months. The weather is changeable. Foggy days with temperatures just above freezing can quickly go down to -5° C (23° F). Pollution and Prague's geographical position in the Vltava basin, lead to smog being trapped just above the city.

As if to try and make up for the winter weather's shortcomings, the theatre season reaches its climax and there are a number of premieres. Balls and dances are held in these cold months. Just before Christmas Eve large barrels containing live carp – which is the traditional Czech Christmas delicacy – appear on the streets. Christmas trees adorn the city, and carol singers



Barrels of the traditional Christmas delicacy, carp, on sale in Prague



View of the Little Quarter rooftops covered in snow

can be heard on street corners. Christmas mass is held in most churches and New Year's Eve is celebrated, in time-honoured style, throughout the entire city.

December

Christmas markets (throughout December), Müstek and Anděl metro stations, Náměstí Miru, Palackého náměstí, Old Town Square. Stalls sell Christmas decorations, gifts, hot wine, punch and the traditional Czech carp (see p211).

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day (24, 25 and 26 December). Public holidays. Mass is held in churches throughout the city.

Swimming competitions in the Vltava (26 December). Hundreds of hardened and determined swimmers gather at the Vltava to swim in temperatures of around 3° C (37° F).

New Year celebrations (31 December). Crowds of people congregate around Wenceslas and Old Town Square.

January

New Year's Day (1 January). Public holiday.

February

Dances and Balls (early February).

Bohemian Carnevale Praha

(second and third weeks of February). Museums, schools and shops host performances of traditional Czech festivities.

Public Holidays

New Year's Day (1 Jan)
Easter Monday
Labour Day (1 May)
Day of Liberation from
Fascism (8 May)
Remembrance of the Slavonic
Missionaries (5 July)
Anniversary of Jan Hus's
death (6 July)
St Wenceslas (28 Sep)
Foundation of
Czechoslovakia (28 Oct)
Fall of Communism (17 Nov)
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day,
Boxing Day (24–26 Dec).

A RIVER VIEW OF PRAGUE

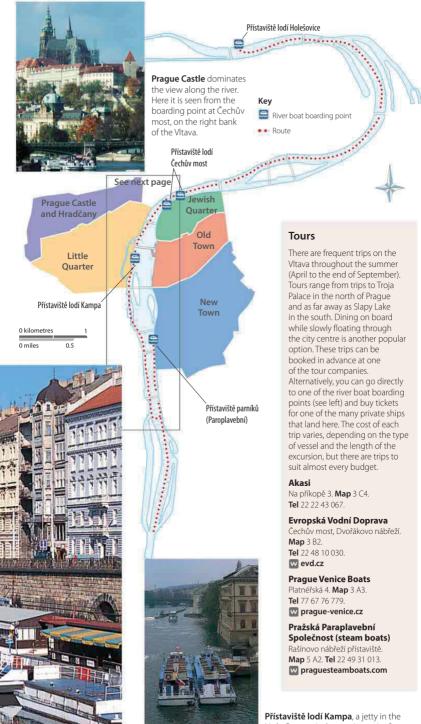
The VItava river has played a vital part in the city's history (see pp22-3) and has provided inspiration for artists, poets and musicians throughout the centuries.

Up until the 19th century, parts of the city were exposed to the danger of heavy flooding. To try and alleviate the problem. the river's embankments have been strengthened and raised many times, in order to try to prevent the water penetrating too far (the foundations of today's embankments are made of stone or concrete). During the Middle Ages, year after year of disastrous flooding led to the decision to bury the areas affected under 2 m (6 ft) of earth to try to minimize the damage. Although this strategy was only partially effective, it meant that the ground floors of many Romanesque and Gothic buildings were preserved and can still be seen today (see pp80-81). In 2002 however, a state of

emergency was declared as flooding devastated large parts of the city. Despite its destructive side, the VItava has provided a vital method of transport for the city, as well as a source of income. As technology improved, the river became increasingly important: water mills, weirs and water towers were built. In 1912 a large hydroelectric power plant was built on Štvanice Island, supplying almost a third of Prague's electricity. To make the river navigable, eight dams, a large canal and weirs were constructed along the Slapy-Prague-Mělník stretch, where the Vltava flows into the river Flhe. For the visitor, an excursion on one of the many boats and paddle steamers that travel up and down the river is worthwhile. There are trips to Troia (see pp166-7) and as far as Slapy Lake, Catching a boat from one of the piers on the river is one of the best ways of seeing the city.



A view of the steamboat landing stage (přístaviště parníků) on Rašínovo nábřeží



Little Quarter, is the starting point for some of the organized boat trips along the Vltava.

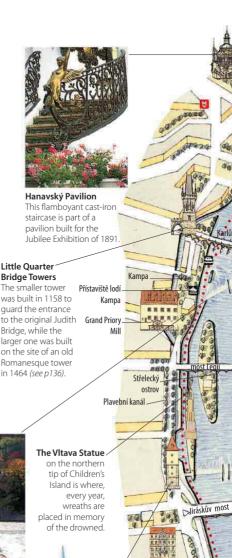
Prague River Trip

Taking a trip on the Vltava gives you a unique view of many of the city's historic monuments. Although the left bank was the site of the first Slavonic settlement in the 9th century, it was the right bank. heavily populated by merchants and traders, that developed into a thriving and bustling commercial centre, and the tradition continues today. The left bank was never developed as intensively and much of it is still an easis of parks and gardens. The river's beauty is enhanced by the numbers of swans which have made it their home.



Little Ouarter

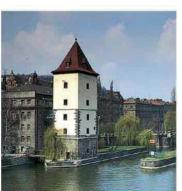
The smaller tower was built in 1158 to quard the entrance to the original Judith Bridge, while the larger one was built on the site of an old Romanesque tower in 1464 (see p136).



Vltava Weir

The thickly wooded slopes of Petřín Hill tower above one of several weirs on the Vltava, During the 19th century this weir, along with others on this stretch, were built to make the river navigable to ships.





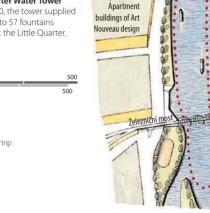
Little Quarter Water Tower

Built in 1560, the tower supplied river water to 57 fountains throughout the Little Quarter.

0 metres	500
0 yards	500

Key

Boat trip

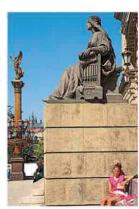


Palackého m



Rudolfinum

This allegorical statue of music by Antonín Wagner is one of two which decorate the imposing entrance to the Neo-Renaissance .concert hall (see n86).



Charles Bridge

The Clementinum

a former Jesuit college, is one of the largest buildings in the city (see p81).

The Old Town **Bridge Tower** was built as part of the city's 14th-century

fortifications

(see p139).

Přístaviště

lodí

National Theatre

This symbol of the Czech revival, with its spectacularly decorated roof, has dominated the skyline of the right bank since the .1860s (see pp156–7).

a a a a a



The Šítka Water Tower, with its late-18th-century Baroque roof was originally built in 1495 and pumped water to the New Town.

THE PERSON



The Dancing House

This charming, quirky office building has become a symbol of post-Velvet Revolution modern architecture.



The Memorial to František

Palacký commemorates the life of this eminent 19th-century Czech historian and was built in 1905.

The Na Slovanech Monastery

was built in 1347 by Charles IV. Its two modern steeples are easily recognizable from the river.



The coat of arms on this 16th-century house built to collect duty on timber transpored along the river – is of the New Town from 1671.



The Neo-Gothic steeples on this much-rebuilt church were designed by František Mikeš and erected in 1903. They are the dominant feature of Vyšehrad rock (see pp180-81).









OLD TOWN

STARÉ MĚSTO

The heart of the city is the Old Town and its central square. In the 11th century the settlements around the Castle spread to the right bank of the Vltava. A market-place in what is now Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí) was mentioned for the first time in 1091. Houses and churches sprang up around the square, determining the random network of streets, many of which survive. The area gained the privileges of a town in the 13th century, and, in 1338, a Town Hall. This and other great buildings, such as Clam-Gallas Palace and the Municipal House, reflect the importance of the Old Town

Sights at a Glance

Churches

- 4 Church of St. James
- Church of Our Ladv before Týn
- Church of St Nicholas
- 14 Church of St Gall
- (B) Church of St Martin in the Wall
- Church of St Giles
- 18 Bethlehem Chapel
- 22 Church of St Francis

Museums and Galleries

- Mánrstek Museum
- Smetana Museum

Historic Streets and Squares

- Celetná Street
- Old Town Square pp68–71
- 20 Mariánské Square
- Charles Street
- 23 Knights of the Cross Square

Historic Monuments and Buildings

- Powder Gate
- Municipal House
- 6 Carolinum
- Jan Hus Monument

12 Old Town Hall pp74-6

- 13 House at the Two Golden Bears
- (Iementinum

Theatres

■ Estates Theatre

Dalacoc

- Kinský Palace
- Clam-Gallas Palace

Restaurants see pp198-9

- 1 Las Adelitas
- Ambiente Brasileiro
- 3 Bellevue
- 4 Rohemia Bagel
- 5 Buddha Bar
- 6 Caffrev's

Country Life

- Divinis Francouzská Restaurace
- 10 Kabul
- Kogo
- 12 Lehká hlava
- 13 Maitrea
- 14 Mlýnec

- 15 Parnac 16 Dhaniy

 - 17 Pizza Nuova
 - 18 Platina
 - 19 Plzeňská
 - 20 Red Pif
 - 21 Le Saint-Tropez 22 Sarah Bernhardt

 - 23 Století
 - 24 Le terroir
 - 25 La Truffe
 - 26 U Provaznice
 - 27 U Tří růží
 - 28 U Závoie 29 V 7átiší
 - 30 VinodiVino
 - 31 Zdenek's Ovster Bar





Street-by-Street: Old Town (East)

Free of traffic (except for a few horse-drawn carriages) and ringed with historic buildings, Prague's Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí) ranks among the finest public spaces in any city. Streets like Celetná and Ovocný trh are also pedestrianized. In summer, café tables spill out onto the cobbles, and though the area draws tourists by the thousands, the unique atmosphere has not vet been destroyed.



Kinský Palace

This stunning Rococo palace now serves as an art gallery.



Church of Our Lady before Týn

The church's Gothic steeples are the Old Town's most distinctive landmark



Church of St Nicholas

This Baroque church's imposing façade dominates a corner of the square.



STAROMESTSK NAMĚSTÍ



★ Old Town Square

This late-19th-century watercolour by Václav Jansa shows how little the Square has changed in over a century.



1 Jan Hus Monument

MALÉ NÁMĚST

Religious reformer Hus is a symbol of integrity, and the monument brings together the highest and lowest points in Czech history.





The carved Renaissance portal is the finest of its kind in Praque.

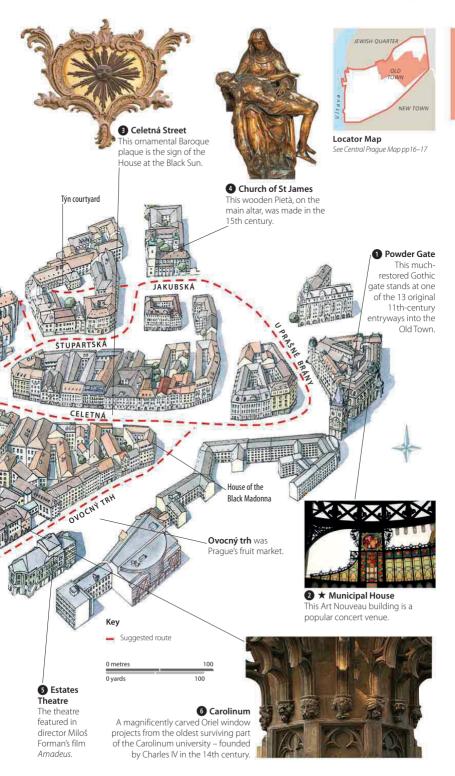


U Rotta is a former ironmonger's shop, decorated with colourful paintings by the 19th-century artist Mikuláš Aleš.

★ Old Town Hall

The famous astronomical clock draws a crowd of visitors every hour.





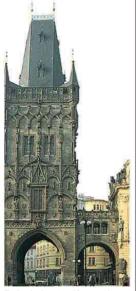
Powder Gate

Prašná Brána

Náměstí Republiky, Map 4 D3, Tel 72 58 47 875. M Náměstí Republiky. 5, 8, 24, 26, **Open** 10am-6pm daily (to 8pm Mar & Oct; to 10pm Apr-Sep). muzeumprahv.cz

There has been a gate here since the 11th century, when it formed one of the 13 entrances to the Old Town In 1475 King Vladislay II laid the foundation stone of the New Tower as it was to be known. A coronation gift from the city council, the gate was modelled on Peter Parler's Old Town bridge tower built a century earlier. The gate had little defensive value: its rich sculptural decoration was intended to add prestige to the adjacent palace of the Roval Court, Building was halted eight vears later when the king had to flee because of riots. On his return in 1485 he opted for the safety of the Castle. Kings never again occupied the Royal Court.

The gate acquired its present name when it was used to store aunpowder in the 17th century. The sculptural decoration, badly damaged during the Prussian occupation in 1757, was replaced in 1876.



The Powder Gate viewed from outside the Old Town



Karel Špillar's mosaic Homaae to Prague on Municipal House's facade

Municipal House

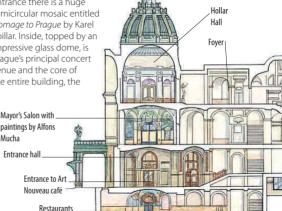
Ohecní Dům

Náměstí Republiky 5. Map 4 D3. Tel 22 20 02 101. V Náměstí Republiky. 15, 8, 24, 26. Gallery Open for guided visits only. 10am-8pm daily. 3 obligatory.

Prague's most prominent Art Nouveau building stands on the site of the former Royal Court palace, the King's residence between 1383 and 1485 Abandoned for centuries what remained was used as a seminarv and later as a military college. It was demolished in the early 1900s to be replaced by the present cultural centre (1905-11) with its exhibition halls and auditorium, designed by Antonín Balšánek assisted by Ósvald Polívka.

The exterior is embellished with stucco and allegorical statuary. Above the main entrance there is a huge semicircular mosaic entitled Homage to Prague by Karel Špillar. Inside, topped by an impressive glass dome, is Prague's principal concert venue and the core of the entire building, the

Mucha



Smetana Hall, sometimes also used as a hallroom. The interior of the building is decorated with works by leading Czech artists of the first decade of the century, including Alfons Mucha (see p149).

There are numerous smaller halls conference rooms and offices that are normally closed but for which you can arrange a guided tour, or you can simply relax in one of the cafés or restaurants.

On 28 October 1918. Praque's Municipal House was the scene of the momentous proclamation of the new independent state of Czechoslovakia.



Decorative detail by Alfons Mucha

Celetná Street

Calatná I Ilica

Man 3 C3 M Náměstí Renubliky Mistek

One of the oldest streets in Prague Celetná follows an old trading route from eastern Rohemia Its name comes from the plaited bread rolls that were first baked here in the Middle Ages It gained prestige in the 14th century as a section of the Royal Route (see n172) used for coronation processions

Foundations of Romanesque and Gothic buildings can be seen in some of the cellars, but most of the houses with their picturesque signs are Baroque remodellings.

At No. 34, the House of the Black Madonna is a fine example of Cubist architecture. The building was designed by Josef Gočár in 1911 and is home to the historic Grand Café Orient. the only surviving Cubist café in the world. The building also hosts temporary exhibitions.

4 Church of St James

Kostel Sv. Jakuba

Malá Štupartská 6. Map 3 C3 Můstek, Náměstí Republiky. Tel 22 48 28 816. Open 9:30amnoon, 2-4pm Mon-Sat (to 3:30pm Fri), 2-4pm Sun. 6:45am Mon-Fri. 5pm Thu-Fri, 8am Sat, 8:30am & 10:30am Sun

This church was originally the Gothic presbytery of a Minorite monastery. The order (a branch of the Franciscans) was invited



Baroque organ loft in the Church of St James

to Prague by King Wenceslas I in 1232 The church was rebuilt in the Baroque style after a fire in 1689, allegedly started by agents of Louis XIV Over 20 side altars were added, decorated with works by painters such as Jan Jiří Heinsch Petr Brandl and Václav Vavřinec Reiner. The tomb of Count Vratislay of Mitrovice (1714–16), designed by Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach and executed by sculptor Ferdinand Brokoff, is the most beautiful Baroque tomb in Bohemia. The count is said to have been accidentally buried alive - his corpse was later found sitting. up in the tomb. Hanging on the right of the entrance is a mummified forearm. It has been there for several centuries, ever since a thief tried to steal the jewels from the Madonna on the high altar. The Virgin grabbed his arm and held on so tightly it had to be cut off.

Because of its long nave, the church has excellent acoustics. and many concerts and recitals are given here. There is also a magnificent organ built in 1702.

6 Estates Theatre

Stavovské Divadlo

Ovocný trh 1. Map 3 C4. Tel 22 49 01 448 (tickets), 22 49 02 231 (auided tours: call between 9am-5pm Mon-Fri). Mustek. Open for guided tours and performances only. w narodni-divadlo cz

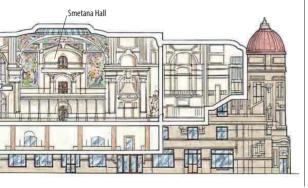
Built by Count Nostitz in 1783. this opera theatre is one of Prague's finest examples of Neo-Classical elegance. It is a mecca for Mozart fans (see p218). On 29 October 1787, Mozart's opera, Don Giovanni had its debut here with Mozart conducting. In 1834 the musical *Fidlovačka* premiered here; one of the songs, "Where is my Home?", became the Czech national anthem

6 Carolinum

Karolinum

Ovocný trh 3. Map 3 C4. Tel 22 44 91 251. Mustek. Closed to the public. Open for special exhibitions.

At the core of the university founded by Charles IV in 1348 is the Carolinum. The chanel arcade and walls still survive, together with a fine oriel window, but in 1945 the courtvard was reconstructed in Gothic style. In the 15th and 16th centuries the university played a leading role in the movement to reform the church. After the Battle of the White Mountain (see pp32-3), the university was taken over by the Jesuits.



Old Town Square: East and North Sides

Staroměstské náměstí

Some of Prague's colourful history is preserved around the Old Town Square in the form of its buildings. On the north side of the Square, the Pauline Monastery is the only surviving piece of original architecture. The east side boasts two superb examples of the architecture of their times; the House at the Stone Bell, restored to its former appearance as a Gothic town palace, and the Rococo Kinský Palace, An

> array of pastel-coloured buildings completes the Square.

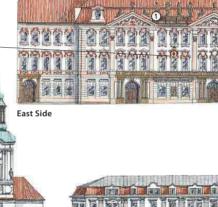


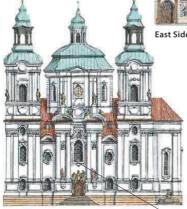
★ House at the Stone Bell At the corner of the building, the bell is the sign of this medieval town palace.



Kinský Palace

C G Bossi created the elaborate stucco decoration on the facade of this Rococo palace (see p72).





North Side



KEY

- 1 Statues by Ignaz Platzer from 1760-65
- (2) Rococo stucco work
- 3 Entrance to Týn Church
- 4 A solid gold effigy of the Virgin Mary
- (5) Romanesque arcaded house with 18th-century façade
- (6) Restaurant U Sv. Salvatora façade dates from 1696

★ Church of St Nicholas

Besides its original purpose as a parish church and, later, a Benedictine monastery church, this has served as a garrison church and a concert hall (see p72).



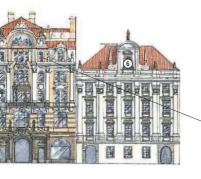




East and north sideJan Hus Monument



Týn SchoolGothic rib vaulting is a primary feature of this building, which was a school from the 14th to the mid-19th century.





Architect Osvald Polívka designed this Art Nouveau building in 1898, with figures of firefighters on the upper façade. It houses the

upper façade. It houses the Ministry of Local Development.

Staroměstské náměstí, 1793

The engraving by Filip and František Heger shows the Old Town Square teeming with people and carriages. The Old Town Hall is on the left.

Old Town Square: South Side

Staroměstské náměstí

A colourful array of houses of Romanesque or Gothic origin, with fascinating house signs, graces the south side of the Old Town Square. The block between Celetná Street and Železná Street is especially attractive. The Square has always been a busy focal point, and today offers visitors a tourist information centre, as well as a number of restaurants, cafés, shops, and galleries.



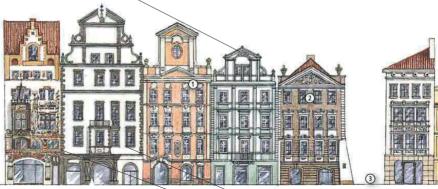
U Lazara (At Lazarus's)

Romanesque barrel vaulting testifies to the house's early origins, though it was rebuilt during the Renaissance. The ground floor houses the Staroměstská restaurace.

Franz Kafka (1883-1924)



Palace (see p72), where his father later had a shop. He worked as an insurance clerk, but frequented Berta Fanta's literary salon at the Stone Ram, Old Town Square, along with others who wrote in German. Hardly any of his work was published in his lifetime.



South Side

★ Štorch House

The late-19th-century painting of St Wenceslas on horseback by Mikuláš Aleš appears on this ornate Neo-Renaissance building, also known as At the Stone Madonna.

KFY

- 1 At the Stone Table
- ② At the Golden Unicorn
- ③ Železná Street
- (4) At the Storks
- (5) The arcade houses the Grand Café Praha.
- 6 At the Blue Star
- ① U Orloje restaurant
- ® Melantrichova Passage





* At the Stone Ram

The early 16th-century house sign shows a young maiden with a ram. The house has been referred to as At the Unicorn due to the similarity between the one-horned ram and a unicorn.

Melantrichova Passage

Václav Jansa's painting (1898) shows the narrow passageway leading to the Old Town Square.







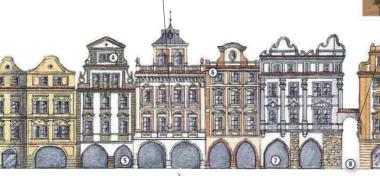
South side

Jan Hus Monument



At the Red Fox

A golden Madonna and Child look down from the Baroque façade of an originally Romanesque building.





1338 Old Town becomes municipality Leopold II's Royal Procession through the Old Town Square in 1791

1735 Church of St Nicholas completed 1948 Klement Gottwald proclaims Communist state from balcony of Golz-Kinský Palace

 1150
 1300
 1450
 1600
 1750
 1900
 2050

 1200 Square is
 1365
 1621 Execution of 27
 1784

meeting point of trade routes and important market **1365** Building of present Týn Church **1621** Execution of 27 anti-Habsburg leaders in square (see p33)

1689 Fire destroys large part of Old Town

1784 Unification of Prague towns

1915 Unveiling of Jan Hus Monument (de

Hus Monument (detail)



Statue of the Madonna on Our Lady before Týn

Church of Our Lady before Týn

Kostel Matky Boží Před Týnem

Týnská, Štupartská, **Map** 3 C3 Tel 60 24 57 200. M Staroměstská, Müstek Open 10am-1pm 3-5pm Tue-Sat. 10:30am-noon Sun. 6pm Tue-Thu. 8am Sat. 9:30am & 9pm Sun. 🔀 👿 tvn.cz

Dominating the Old Town Square are the magnificent multiple steeples of this historic church The present Gothic church was started in 1365 and soon became associated with the reform movement in Bohemia. From the early 15th century until 1620 Týn wás the main Hussite church in Prague. The Hussite king,

George of Poděbrady, took Utraquist communion (see Church of St Martin in the Wall

p75) here and had a gold chalice - the Utraquist symbol mounted on the facade. After 1621 the chalice was melted down to become part of the statue of the Madonna that replaced it

On the northern side of the church is a beautiful entrance portal (1390) decorated with scenes of Christ's passion. The dark interior has some notable features, including Gothic sculptures of Calvary, a pewter font (1414) and a 15th-century Gothic pulpit. Behind the church is the Týn Courtyard, with its numerous architectural styles.

Kinský Palace

Palác Kinských

Staroměstské náměstí 12. Map 3 C3. Tel 22 48 10 758. Staroměstská. Open 10am-6pm Tue-Sun. 🔊 🔀 M ngprague.cz

This lovely Rococo palace. designed by Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer, has a pretty pink and white stucco facade crowned with statues of the four elements by Ignaz Franz

Platzer It was bought from the Golz family in 1768 by Štépán Kinský, an Imperial

> diplomat. In 1948 Communist leader Klement Gottwald. used the balcony to address a huge crowd of party members – a key event in the crisis that led up to his coup d'état. The



Kinský arms on

Golz-Kinský Palace



Pomník Jana Husa

Staroměstské náměstí, Map 3 B3. ■ Staroměstská

At one end of the Old Town Square stands the massive monument to the religious reformer and Czech hero. Jan Hus (see nn28-9). Hus was hurnt at the stake after being pronounced a heretic by the Council of Constance in 1415. The monument by Ladislay Šaloun was unveiled in 1915 on the 500th anniversary of his death. It shows two groups of neonle one of victorious Hussite warriors the other of Protestants forced into exile 200 years later. and a young mother symbolizing national rebirth. The dominant figure of Hus emphasizes the moral authority of the man who gave up life rather than his beliefs.

O Church of St Nicholas

Kostel Sv. Mikuláše

Staroměstské náměstí. Map 3 B3. Tel 60 29 58 927. Staroměstská. Open10am-5pm Mon (to 4pm Tue-Sat, from 11:30am Sun). 10am Sun. w symikulas.cz

There has been a church here since the 12th century. It was the Old Town's parish church and meeting place until Týn Church was completed in the 14th century. After the Battle of the



Defiant Hussites on the Jan Hus Monument in Old Town Square



Church of St Nicholas in the Old Town

closed all monasteries not engaged in socially useful activities, the church was stripped bare. In World War I the church was used by the troops of Prague's garrison. The colonel in charge took the opportunity to restore the church with the help of artists who might otherwise have been sent to the front. The dome has frescoes of the lives of St Nicholas and St Benedict by Kosmas Damian Asam. In the nave is a huge crown-shaped chandelier. At the end of the war. the church of St Nicholas was given to the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. The church is now a popular concert venue.

Old Town Hall

Staroměstská Radnice

See pp74-5.

House at the Two Golden Bears

Dům U Dvou Zlatých Medvědů

Kožná 1. **Map** 3 B4. Můstek. Closed to the public.

If you leave the Old Town Square by the narrow Melantrichova Street, make a point of turning into the first allevway on the left to see the portal of the house called "At the Two Golden Bears" The nresent Renaissance building was constructed from two earlier houses in 1567 The portal was added in 1590, when a wealthy merchant. Lorenc Štork secured the services of court architect Bonifaz Wohlmut who had designed the spire on the tower of St Vitus's Cathedral (see pp102-105). His ornate portal with reliefs of two hears is one of the most beautiful Renaissance portals in Prague. Magnificent arcades. also dating from the 16th century, have

been preserved in the inner courtyard. In 1885 Egon Erwin Kisch, known as the "Furious Reporter", was born here. He was a German-speaking Jewish writer and journalist, feared for the force of his left-wing rhetoric.

© Church of St Gall

Kostel Sv. Havla

Havelská. **Map** 3 C4. ☑ Můstek. **Tel** 60 24 57 200. **Open** 11:30am–1pm daily. 👚 12:15pm Mon–Fri, 8am Sun. 🔀 👢 ☑ **tyn.cz**

Dating from around 1280, this church was built to serve an autonomous German community in the area known as Gall's Town (Havelské Město). In the 14th century this was merged with the Old Town. In the 18th century the church was given a Baroque facelift by Giovanni Santini-Aichel, who created a bold façade decorated with statues of saints by Ferdinand Brokoff. Rich

Ferdinand Brokoff. Rich interior furnishings include

leading
Baroque artist
Karel Škréta,
who is buried
here. Prague's
best-known
market has been
held in Havelská
Street since the
middle ages,
selling flowers,
vegetables, toys,
and cluthes



One of nine statues on façade of St Gall's



Carved Renaissance portal of the House at the Two Golden Bears

@ Old Town Hall

Staroměstská Radnice

One of the most striking buildings in Prague is the Old Town Hall, established in 1338 after King John of Luxembourg agreed to set up a town council. Over the centuries a number of old houses were knocked together as the Old Town Hall expanded, and it now consists of a row of colourful Gothic and Renaissance buildings, most of which have been carefully restored after heavy damage inflicted by the Nazis in the 1945 Prague Uprising. The tower is 69.5 m (228 ft) high and offers a spectacular view of the city.



Old Town Coat of Arms Above the inscription,

"Prague, Head of the Kingdom", is the coat of arms of the Old Town, which was adopted in 1784 for the whole city.



Gothic Door

This late Gothic main entrance to the Town Hall and Tower was carved by Matthias Rejsek. The entrance hall is filled with wall mosaics after designs by the Czech painter Mikuláš Aleš.



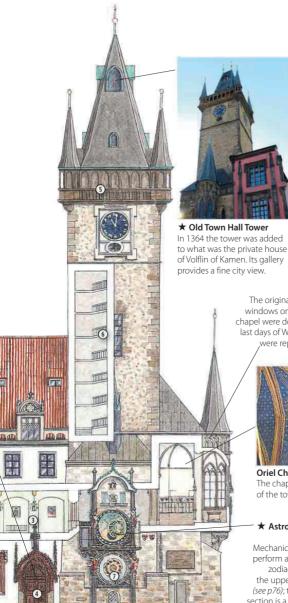
KEY

- ① Temporary art exhibitions
- ② Tourist information and entrance to Tower
- ③ Former house of Volflin of Kamen
- 4 Entrance hall decorated with mosaics
- S Viewing gallery
- **6** Steps to gallery
- (7) Calendar (see pp34-5).

Old Council Hall

This 19th-century engraving features the well-preserved 15th-century ceiling.





VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Staroměstské náměstí 1. Map 3 C3. Tel 77 54 43 438. W staro

mestskaradnicepraha.cz Tower: Open 11am-10pm Mon.

9am-10nm Tue-Sun Halls: Open 9am-6pm daily (both from 11am Mon), 🔊 🔠

Transport

Staroměstská (line A), Můstek (A & B), III 17, 18,



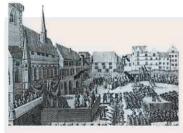
Oriel Chapel The original stained-glass windows on the five-sided chapel were destroyed in the last days of World War II, but were replaced in 1987.

Oriel Chapel Ceiling

The chapel, which was built on the first floor of the tower in 1381, has an ornate ceiling.

★ Astronomical Clock Mechanical figures perform above the zodiac signs in the upper section (see p76); the lower section is a calendar.





Executions in the Old Town Square

A bronze tablet below the Old Town Hall chapel records the names of the 27 Protestant leaders executed here by order of the Catholic Emperor Ferdinand on 21 June 1621. This was the humiliating aftermath of the Battle of the White Mountain (see pp32-3). This defeat led to the emigration of Protestants unwilling to give up their faith, a Counter-Reformation drive and Germanization.

Town Hall Clock

Orloj

The Town Hall acquired its first clock at the beginning of the 15th century. According to legend, in 1490, when it was rebuilt by a master clockmaker called Hanuš (real name Jan Z Růže), the councillors were so anxious to prevent him from recreating his masterpiece elsewhere, that they blinded the poor man. Though the clock has been repaired many times since, the mechanism was perfected by Jan Táborský between 1552 and 1572.

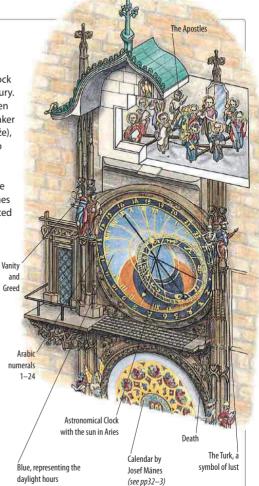


Vojtěch Sucharda's Apostles, sculpted after the last set was burnt in 1945

Apostles

The centrepiece of the show that draws a crowd of spectators every time the clock strikes the hour is the procession of the 12 Apostles. First the figure of Death, the skeleton on the right of the clock, gives a pull on the rope that he holds in his right hand. In his left hand is an hourglass. which he raises and inverts. Two windows then open and the clockwork Apostles (or to be precise 11 of the Apostles plus St Paul) move slowly round, led by St Peter.

At the end of this part of the display, a cock crows and the clock chimes the hour. The other moving figures are a Turk, who shakes his head from side to side, Vanity, who looks at himself in a mirror and Greed, adapted from the original medieval stereotype of a Jewish moneylender.



Astronomical Clock

The clockmaker's view of the universe had the Farth fixed firmly at the centre. The purpose of the clock was not to tell you the exact time but to imitate the supposed orbits of the sun and moon about the Earth. The hand with the sun, which points to the hour in fact records three different kinds of time. The outer ring of medieval Arabic numerals measures Old Bohemian time, in which a day of 24 hours was reckoned from the setting of the sun. The ring of Roman numerals indicates time as we know it. The blue part of the dial represents the visible part of the sky. This is

divided into 12 parts. In so-called Babylonian time, the period of daylight was divided into 12 hours, which would vary in length from summer to

summer winter.

The clock also shows the movement of the sun and moon through the 12 signs of the zodiac, which were of great importance in 16th-century Praque.



The figures of Death and the Turk

© Church of St Martin in the Wall

Kostel Sv. Martina Ve 7di

Martinská 8. **Map** 3 B5. **Tel** 602 766 643. ☑ Národní třída, Můstek. ☑ 6, 9, 17, 18, 21, 22. **Open** 2–4pm daily (except Sun). ☑ 7:30pm Sun. ☑ martinvezdi.eu

This 12th-century church became part of the city wall during the fortification of the Old Town in the 13th century, hence its name. It was the first church where blessed wine usually reserved for the clergy, was offered to the congregation as well as bread. This was a basic tenet of belief of the moderate Hussites (see nn 28-9) the Utraquists who took their name from the Latin sub utraque specie, "in both kinds". In 1787 the church was converted into workshops, but rebuilt in its original form in the early years of this century.

Náprstek Museum

Náprstkovo Muzeum

Betlémské náměstí 1. Map 3 B4.
Tel 22 44 97 511. Národní třída,
Staroměstská. 6, 9, 17, 18, 22.
Open 10am–6pm Tue–Sun.

Voita Náprstek, art patron and philanthropist, created this museum as a tribute to modern industry following a decade of exile in America after the 1848 revolution (see pp34-5). On his return in 1862, inspired by London's Victorian museums, he began his collection. He created the Czech Industrial Museum by ioinina five older buildinas together, and in the process virtually destroyed the family brewery and home - an 18th-century house called At the Haláneks (U Halánků). He later turned to ethnography and the collection now consists of artefacts from Asian, African and Native American cultures. including weapons and ritual objects from the Aztecs. Toltecs and Mayas. The museum is part of the National Museum. Regular temporary exhibitions on a range of subjects are also staged here.



Ceiling fresco by Václav Vavřinec Reiner in Church of St Giles

© Church of St Giles

Kostel Sv. Jilií

Husova 8. Map 3 B4. Tel 22 42 20 235.

Národní třída. 📆 6, 9, 18, 22.

Open 4–6pm Mon, Wed, Fri.

Tam & 6:30pm Mon–Fri, 6:30pm Sat, 9:30am, noon & 6:30pm Sun.

Nostel-braha.cz

Despite the Gothic portal on the southern side, this church is essentially Baroque. Founded in 1371 on the site of a Romanesque church, it became a Hussite parish church in 1420. Following the

Protestant defeat in 1620 (see pp32–3), Ferdinand II presented the church to the Dominicans, who built a huge friary on its southern side. It has now been returned to the Dominicans, religious orders having been abolished under the Communists.

The vaults of the church are decorated with frescoes by the painter Václav Vavřinec Reiner, who is buried in the nave before the altar of St Vincent. The main fresco, a glorification of the Dominicans, shows St Dominic and his friars helping the pope defend the Catholic Church from non-believers.

Bethlehem Chapel

Betlémská Kanle

Betlémské náměsti 4. Map 3 B4.
Tel 22 42 48 595. ☑ Národní třída,
Staroměstská. 6, 9, 17, 18, 22.
Open Apr-mid-Oct 10am-6pm daily,
mid-Oct-Mar 10am-5pm daily.
Closed 24, 31 Dec. № ☑ ☑

The present "chapel" is a reconstruction of a hall built by the followers of the radical preacher Jan Milíč z Kroměříže in 1391–4 The hall was used for preaching in Czech, Between 1402 and 1413 Jan Hus (see pp28-9) preached in the Chapel, Influenced by the teachings of the English religious reformer John Wycliffe, Hus condemned the corrupt practices of the Church. arguing that the Scriptures should be the sole source of doctrine. After the Battle of the White Mountain in 1620 (see nn32-3), when Protestant worship was outlawed, the building was handed over to the Jesuits, who rebuilt it with six naves. In 1786 it was almost demolished After World War II the Chapel was reconstructed following the design shown in old illustrations



16th-century illustration showing Jan Hus preaching in Bethlehem Chapel

Street-by-Street: Old Town (West)

The narrow streets near Charles Bridge follow Prague's medieval street plan. For centuries Charles Street (Karlova) was the main route across the Old Town. The picturesque. twisting street is lined with shops and houses displaying Renaissance and Baroque facades. In the 17th century the Jesuits bought up a vast area of land to the north of the street to house the complex of the Clementinum university.

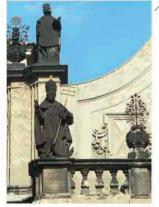


The Old Town Bridge Tower dates from 1380. The Gothic sculptural decoration on the eastern façade was from Peter Parler's workshop. The kingfisher was the favourite personal symbol of Wenceslas IV (son of Charles IV) in whose reign the tower was completed (see n139).



⚠ ★ Smetana Museum

A museum devoted to the life and work of composer Bedřich Smetana is housed in this Neo-Renaissance building set on the riverfront, which was once an old waterworks.



cupola and its underground corridors. which are all that remains of the original

noteworthy for its huge Church of St Francis

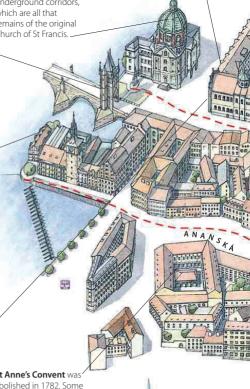
22 Church of St Francis

This Baroque church is



★ Clementinum

This plaque records the founding in 1783 of a statesupervised seminary in place of the old Jesuit university.



St Anne's Convent was abolished in 1782. Some of its buildings are now used by the National Theatre (see pp156-7).

45 Knights of the **Cross Square**

From the façade of the Church of the Holv Saviour, blackened statues overlook the small square.

0 metres	10
0 yards	100

Suggested route

For key to symbols see back flap

In this spacious chapel, rebuilt in the 1950s, Hus and other reformers preached to huge congregations.

© Clam-Gallas

Clam-Gallasův Palác

Husova 20. **Map** 3 B4.

Staroměstská. **Open** for concerts and temporary exhibitions only; usually 10am–6pm Tue–Sun.

The interior of this magnificent Baroque palace suffered during its use as a store for the city archives but it has been restored to its former glory. The palace, designed by Viennese court architect Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach, was built in 1713-30 for the Supreme Marshal of Bohemia, Jan Gallas de Campo. Its grand portals, each flanked by two pairs of Hercules sculpted by Matthias Braun, give a taste of what lies within The main staircase is also decorated with Braun statues, set off by a ceiling fresco. The Triumph of Apollo by Carlo Carlone, Clam-Gallas Palace also has a theatre. where Beethoven performed

@ Mariánské Square

Mariánské Náměstí

Map 3 B3. ♥ Staroměstská, Můstek.

Two statues dominate the square from the corners of the forbidding Town Hall, built in 1912. One illustrates the story of the long-lived Rabbi Löw (see p90) finally being caught by the Angel of Death. The other is the Iron Man, a local ghost condemned to roam the Old Town after murdering his mistress. A niche in the garden wall of the Clam-Gallas Palace houses a statue of the River Vltava, depicted as a nymph pouring water from a jug. There is a story that an old soldier once made the nymph sole beneficiary of his will.

The square is a popular meeting point and often attracts visitors in the winter months with a Christmas market.



A 19th-century sign on the House at the Golden Snake

Ocharles Street

Karlova Ulice

Map 3 A4. Staroměstská.

Dating back to the 12th century, this narrow, winding street was part of the Royal Route (see pp174–5), along which coronation processions passed on the way to Prague Castle. Many original Gothic and Renaissance houses remain, most converted into shops to attract tourists.

A café at the House at the Golden Snake (No. 18) was established in 1714 by an Armenian, Deodatus Damajan, who handed out slanderous pamphlets from here. It is now a restaurant. Look out for At the Golden Well (No. 3), which has a magnificent Baroque façade and stucco reliefs of saints including St Roch and St Sebastian, who are believed to offer protection against plagues.

Matthias Braun's statues on a portal of the Clam-Gallas Palace (c.1714)

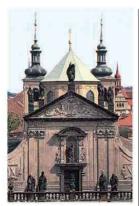
© Church of St Francis

Kostel Sv. Františka

Křižovnické náměstí 3. **Map** 3 A4. **Tel** 22 11 08 289.

Staroměstská. # 17, 18. 207. Open 10am–7pm daily.

The Baroque Church of St Francis was constructed between 1679 and 1685 by architects Gaudenzio Casanova and Domenico Canevalle, and was built on the remains of the original church of St Francis of Assisi of 1270. The church has a striking 40m-(130ft-) high cupola. Statues of Bohemian patrons stand in alcoves in the façade. The interior is richly appointed with frescoes and important artwork.



Former Jesuit Church of the Holy Saviour in the Clementinum

Underground corridors contain tombstones and fragments of the former church.

@ Clementinum

Klementinum

Křižovnická 190, Karlova 1, Mariánské náměstí 5. **Map** 3 A4. **Tel** 22 22 20 879 (tours). ☑ Staroměstská. 17, 18. Library **Open** 9am–10pm Mon–Sat (to 7pm Sat). Church of the Holy Saviour **Open** for services and events.

† 7pm Tue, 2pm & 8pm Sun.

E every half hour from 10am—

5pm daily.

Klementinum.com

In 1556 Emperor Ferdinand I invited the Jesuits to Prague to help bring the Czechs back into the Catholic fold. They established their headquarters in the former Dominican monastery of St Clement, hence the name Clementinum This soon became an effective rival to the Carolinum (see p67), the Utraquist university. Prague's first Jesuit church, the Church of the Holy Saviour (Kostel sv. Salvátora) was built here in 1601. Its façade, with seven large statues of saints by Jan Bendl (1659), is dramatically lit up at night. Expelled in 1618, the Jesuits were back two years later more determined than ever to stamp out heresy. In 1622 the two universities were merged. resulting in the Jesuits gaining a virtual monopoly on higher education in Prague. They searched for books in Czech and then burnt them by the

thousand Between 1653 and 1723 the Clementinum expanded eastwards Over 30 houses and three churches were pulled down to make way for the new complex. When in 1773. the none dissolved their order the lesuits had to leave Prague and education was secularized The Clementinum became the Prague University library, today the National Library Look out for classical concerts performed in the beautiful Mirror Chapel (Zrcadlová kaple) You can also take a tour of the library and Mirror Chapel.

3 Smetana Museum

Muzeum Bedřicha Smetany

Novotného lávka 1. **Map** 3 A4.

Tel 22 22 20 082. Staroměstská.

17, 18. **Open** 10am–5pm Wed–
Mon. for a fee. **™ nm.cz**

A former Neo-Renaissance waterworks beside the Vltava has been turned into a memorial to Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884) the father of Czech music The museum contains documents, letters, scores and instruments detailing the composer's life and work. Smetana was a fervent patriot. and his music helped inspire the Czech national revival. Deaf towards the end of his life, he never heard his cycle of symphonic poems Má Vlast (My Country), being performed.



Statue of Charles IV (1848) in Knights of the Cross Square

Strights of the Cross Square

Křižovnické Náměstí

Map 3 A4. Tel 22 11 08 259.

Staroměstská. 17, 18. 207.
Church of St Francis: Open 10am7pm for services and concerts.

7 am Mon-Fri, 9am Sun. 2

This small square in front of the Old Town Bridge Tower offers fine views across the Vltava. On the north side is the Church of St Francis (kostel sv Františka see p80), once part of the monastery of the crusading Knights of the Cross with the Red Star, In summer, concerts of popular Classical and Baroque music take place in this beautiful Baroque church most evenings at 8pm. To the east is the Church of the Holy Saviour, part of the huge Clementinum complex. In the square stands a large bronze Neo-Gothic statue of Charles IV.



Sgraffito façade of the Smetana Museum



JEWISH QUARTER ÍOSEFOV

In the Middle Ages there were two distinct Jewish communities in Prague's Old Town: lews from the west had settled around the Old-New Synagogue, Jews from the Byzantine Empire around the Old Shul (on the site of today's Spanish Synagogue). The two settlements gradually merged and were confined in an enclosed ghetto. For centuries Prague's Jews suffered from oppressive laws – in the 16th century they had to wear a yellow circle as a mark of shame. Rudolph II's more

enlightened reign saw the Jewish Mayor Mordechai Maisel (see n92) appointed chief financial advisor Discrimination was further relaxed by Joseph II, and the Jewish Quarter was named Josefov after him. In 1850 the area was officially incorporated as part of Prague. In the 1890s the city authorities decided to raze the ghetto slum because the lack of sanitation made it a health hazard. However the Town Hall, a number of synagogues and the Old Jewish Cemetery were saved.

Sights at a Glance

Synagogues and Churches

- 4 Pinkas Synagogue
- 6 Klausen Synagogue
- 6 Old-New Synagogue pp90-91
- High Synagogue
- Maisel Synagogue
- (I) Church of the Holy Ghost
- Spanish Synagogue Church of St Simon and St Jude
- (A) Church of St Castullus

Concert Hall

Museums and Galleries

- Museum of Decorative Arts
- St Aanes of Bohemia Convent pp94-5

Historic Buildings

- 8 Jewish Town Hall
- Cubist Houses

Comptarios

3 Old Jewish Cemetery pp88-9

- 3 La Belle Epoque
- 4 Bílkova 13
- 5 Cartouche
- 6 La Casa Argentina
- Chagall's
- 8 CottoCrudo
- La Degustation
- 10 La Finestra in Cucina
- 11 Grosseto Marina
- 12 King Solomon
- 13 Lokál
- 14 Mistral Café



Street-by-Street: Jewish Quarter

Though the old ghetto has disappeared, much of the area's fascinating history is preserved in the synagogues around the Old Jewish Cemetery, while the newer streets are lined with many delightful Art Nouveau buildings. The old lanes to

the east of the former ghetto lead to the quiet haven of St Agnes's

Convent, beautifully restored as a branch of the National Gallery.

★ Old Jewish Cemetery

Thousands of gravestones

are crammed into the



6 ★ Old-New Synagogue

The Gothic hall with its distinctive crenellated gable has been a house of prayer for over 700 years.

ancient cemetery. Cubist Houses One of the new architectural

has splendid

Renaissance

vaulting.

BŘEHOVA

styles used in the rebuilding M High of the old Jewish Quarter was Synagogue based on the ideas of Cubism. The interior

6 Klausen Synagogue The exhibits of the lewish Museum include this alms

box dating from about 800



2 ★ Museum of Decorative

Stained glass panels on the staircase depict the crafts represented in the museum's wide-ranging collection.

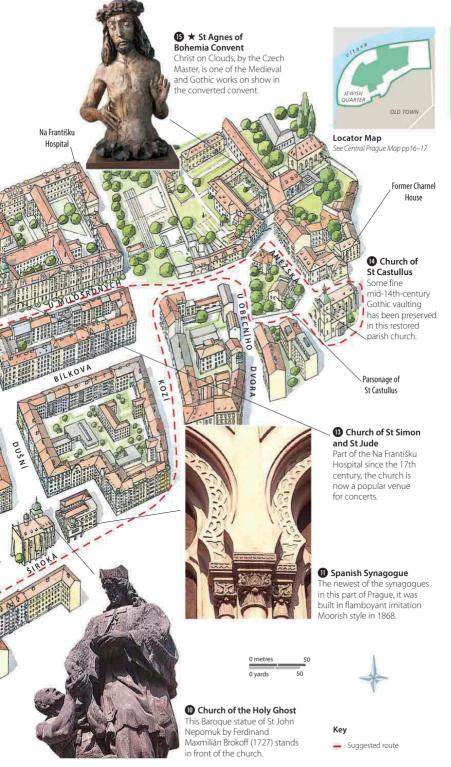


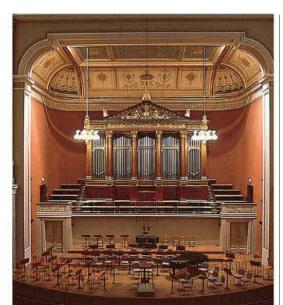
The walls are now a moving memorial to the Czech Jews killed in the Holocaust.

3 Jewish Town Hall The 16th-century building still serves the Czech Jewish community.

Maisel Synagogue The original synagogue

was built for Mayor Mordechai Maisel in 1591





Stage of the Dyořák Hall in the Rudolfinum

• Rudolfinum

Alšovo nábřeží 12. **Map** 3 A3.

☑ Staroměstská. ﷺ 17, 18. ﷺ 207.
Philharmonic: **Tel** 22 70 59 227. Galerie
Rudolphinum: **Tel** 22 70 59 205. **Open**10am–6pm Tue–Sun (to 8pm Thu).

☑ 【3 ☑ ☑ Ceskafilharmonie.cz

Now the home of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, the Rudolfinum is one of the most impressive landmarks on the Old Town bank of the Vltava. Many of the major concerts of the Prague Spring International Music Festival (see p52) are held here. There are several concert halls, and the sumptuous Dvořák Hall is one of the finest creations of 19th-century Czech architecture.

The Rudolfinum was built between 1876 and 1884 to a design by Josef Zítek and Josef Schulz and named in honour of Crown Prince Rudolph of Habsburg. Like the National Theatre (see pp.156–7), it is an outstanding example of Czech Neo-Renaissance style. The curving balustrade is decorated with statues of distinguished Czech, Austrian and German composers and artists.

Also known as the House of Artists (Dům umělců), the

building houses the Galerie Rudolphinum, a collection of modern art. Between 1918 and 1939, and for a brief period after World War II, the Rudolfinum was the seat of the Czechoslovak parliament.

Museum of Decorative Arts

Uměleckoprůmyslové Muzeum

17. listopadu 2. **Map** 3 B3. **Tel** 25 10 93 111. Staroměstská. 17, 18. 207. **Open** 10am–6pm Tue–Sun (to 7pm Tue). 27 S. 28 S. 29 S. 29 S. 20 S.

w upm.cz

For some years after its foundation in 1885, the museum's collections were housed in the Rudolfinum. The present building, designed by Josef Schulz in French Neo-Renaissance style, was completed in 1901. The museum's glass collection is one of the largest in the world, but only a fraction of it is ever on display. Pride of place goes to the Bohemian glass, of which there are many fine Baroque and 19th - and 20th-century pieces. Medieval and Venetian Renaissance glass are also well represented

Among the permanent exhibitions of other crafts are Meissen porcelain, the Gobelin tapestries and displays covering fashion, textiles, photography and printing. The furniture collection has exquisitely carved escritoires and bureaux from the Renaissance. On the mezzanine floor are halls for temporary exhibitions and an extensive art library housing more than 100,000 publications.

Old Jewish Cemetery

Starý Židovský Hřbitov

See pp88-9.

Pinkas Synagogue

Pinkasova Synagóga

Široká 3. **Map** 3 B3. **Tel** 22 23 17 191.

☑ Staroměstská. 17, 18.

☑ 207. **Open** 9am–6pm Sun–Fri
(Nov–Mar: to 4:30pm). ② ☑ ⑤

w jewishmuseum.cz

The synagogue was founded in 1479 by Rabbi Pinkas and enlarged in 1535 by his greatnephew Aaron Meshulam Horowitz. It has been rebuilt many times over the centuries. Excavations have turned up fascinating relics of life in the medieval ghetto, including a

ICHARDISXII1890#ALVINA.8V1790016.NT
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ZVII1904-18XII1943**ILADIAIRSVII190827
A15.V11873-19X1942**ARNOSTIVA.21XI1901
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MILESIII1913-12X1944 EVASXII919 AMA29.V17959-118 [OAM\$16.IV19
18XI1921**ICVI1942**HERMINA10.IV1877-10XI1942**DA29.V1864-2ZXII19
18XI1921**ICVI1942**HERMINA10.IV1877-10XI1942**DA29.V1864-2ZXII19
18XI1942**MELANIET.VII1909-26-XXI92**MIRZA18XI1877-17XV1942**
AVXI1942***MELANIET.VII1909-26-XXI92**MIRZA18XI1877-17XV1942**
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AVXI1942***MELANIET.VII1909-26-XXI92**
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AVXI1943***ANIB

mikva or ritual bath. The core of the present building is a hall with Gothic vaulting. The gallery for women was added in the early 17th century.

The synagogue now serves as a memorial to all the Jewish Czechoslovak citizens who were imprisoned in Terezín concentration camp and later deported to various Nazi extermination camps. The names of the 77,297 who did not return are inscribed on the synagogue walls. The building now houses an exhibition of children's drawings from the Terezín concentration camp.

6 Klausen Synagogue

Klausová Synagóga

U starého hřbitova 3a. **Map** 3 B3.

Tel 22 23 17 191. ☑ Staroměstská.

☐ 17, 18. ☐ 207. **Open** 9am–6pm
Sun–Fri (Nov–Mar: to 4:30pm). ☑ ☑

w jewishmuseum.cz

Before the fire of 1689. this site was occupied by a number of small Jewish schools and prayer houses known as klausen. The name was preserved in the Klausen Synagogue, built on the ruins and completed in 1694. The High Baroque structure has a fine barrel-vaulted interior with rich stucco decorations. It now houses Hebrew prints and manuscripts and an exhibition of lewish traditions

19th-century Torah pointer in Klausen Synagogue

and customs, tracing the history of the Jews in Central Europe back to lle Ages. Many

the early Middle Ages. Many exhibits relate to famous figures in the city's Jewish community including the 16th-century Rabbi Löw (see p90), who, according to legend, created an artificial man out of clay.

Adjoining the synagogue is a building that looks like a tiny medieval castle. It was built in 1906 as the ceremonial hall



18th-century silver-gilt Torah shield in the High Synagogue

of the Jewish Burial Society. In 1944 an exhibition was put on here detailing the history of the Prague ghetto.

Old-New Synagogue Staronová Synagóga

See pp90–91.

High Synagogue

Vvsoká Svnaaóaa

Červená 2. Map 3 B3. Tel 22 48 00 849.

Staroměstská 17, 18 207.

Open for services only: 8:30am–2pm

Mon–Fri. W kehilaprag.cz

Like the Jewish Town Hall, the building of the High Synagogue was financed by Mordechai Maisel, mayor of the Jewish Town, in the 1570s. Originally the two buildings formed a single complex and to facilitate communication with the Town Hall, the main hall of the synagogue was on the first floor.

It was not until the 19th century that the two buildings were separated and the synagogue was given a staircase and street entrance. You can still see the original Renaissance vaulting and stucco decoration.

Jewish Town Hall

Židovská Radnice

Maiselova 18. **Map** 3 B3. **Tel** 22 48 00 849. ♥ Staroměstská. ∰ 17, 18. 207. **Closed** to the public.

The core of this attractive blue and white building is the original Jewish Town Hall, built in 1570–77 by architect Panacius Roder at the expense of the immensely rich mayor, Mordechai Maisel. In 1763 it acquired a new appearance in the flowery style of the Late Baroque. The last alterations date from 1908, when the southern wing was enlarged.

The building is one of the few monuments that survived far-reaching sanitation of this medieval part of Prague at the beginning of the 20th century. On the roof stands a small wooden clock tower with a distinctive green steeple. The right to build the tower was originally granted to the Jewish community after their part in the defence of Charles Bridge against the Swedes in 1648 (see nn 32-5). On one of the gables there is another clock This one has Hebrew figures and. because Hebrew reads from right to left, hands that turn in an anti-clockwise direction. The

Town Hall is now the

seat of the Council



Façade and clock tower of the Jewish Town Hall

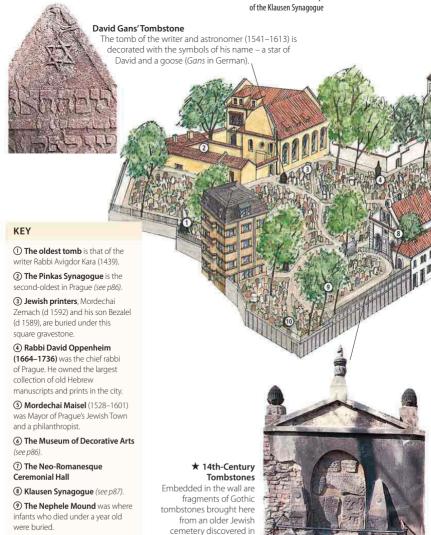
o Old Jewish Cemetery

Starý Židovský Hřbitov

(10) The gravestone of Moses Beck

This remarkable site was, for over 300 years, the only burial ground permitted to Jews. Founded in 1478, it was slightly enlarged over the years but still basically corresponds to its medieval size. Because of the lack of space people had to be buried on top of each other. up to 12 layers deep. Today you can see over 12,000 gravestones crammed into the tiny space, but several times that number are thought to have been buried here The last burial was of Moses Reck in 1787





1866 in Vladislavova Street in the New Town



Prague Burial Society

Founded in 1564, the group carried out ritual burials and performed charitable work in the community. Members of the society wash their hands after leaving the cemetery.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Široká 3 (main entrance) Map 3 B3.

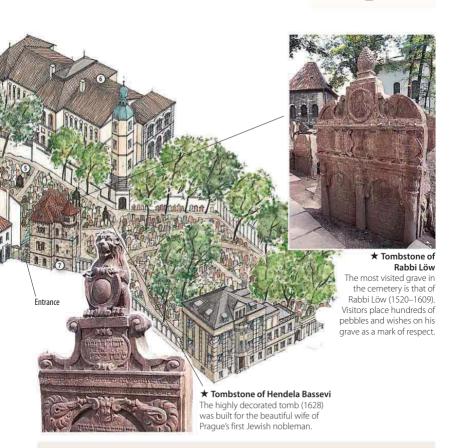
Tel 22 23 17 191 (bookings). 22 27 49 211 (Jewish Museum)

w iewishmuseum.cz

Open Apr-Oct: 9am-6pm Sun-Fri: Nov-Mar: 9am-4:30pm Sun-Fri (last adm 30 mins before closing). Closed Jewish holidays. DE.

Transport

Staroměstská, 🕮 17, 18 to Staroměstská, 📼 207.



Understanding the Gravestones

From the late 16th century onwards, tombstones in the Jewish cemetery were decorated with symbols denoting the background, family name or profession of the deceased person.



Blessing hands: Cohen family



A pair of scissors: tailor



A stag: Hirsch or Zvi family



Grapes: blessing or abundance

Old-New Synagogue

Staronová Synagoga

Built around 1270, this is the oldest synagogue in Europe and one of the earliest Gothic buildings in Prague. The synagogue has survived fires, the slum clearances of the 19th century and many Jewish pogroms. Residents of the Jewish Quarter have often had to seek refuge within its walls and today it is still the religious centre for Prague's Jews. It was originally called the New Synagogue until another synagogue was built nearby – this was later destroyed.

Rabbi Löw and the Golem

The scholar and philosophical writer Rabbi Löw, director of the Talmudic school (which studied the Torah) in the late 16th century, was also thought to possess magical powers. He was supposed to have created a figure, the Golem, from clay and then brought it to life by placing a magic stone tablet in its mouth.



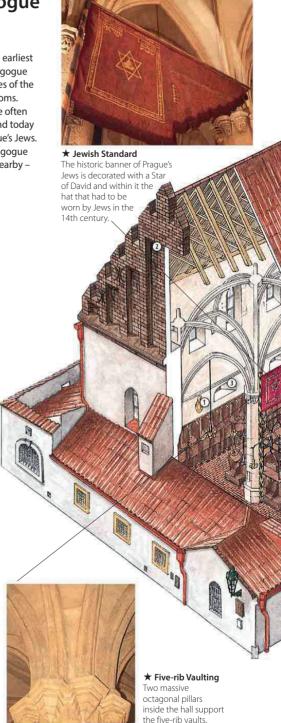
went berserk and the Rabbi had to remove the tablet. He hid the creature among the Old-New Synagogue's

The Golem

Rahhi Löw and the Golem rafters

KEY

- (1) Candlestick holder.
- ② 14th-century stepped brick gable.
- **3 These windows** formed part of the 18th-century extensions built to allow women a view of the service.
- **① The tympanum** above the Ark is decorated with 13th-century leaf carvings.
- **(3)** The cantor's platform and its lectern is surrounded by a wroughtiron Gothic grille.





leaves growing on

twisted branches.

This shrine is the holiest place in the synagogue and holds the sacred scrolls of the Torah.



18th-century silver Torah crown in the Maisel Synagogue

Maisel Synagogue

Maiselova Synagóga

Maiselova 10. Map 3 B3. Tel 22 23 17
191. Staroměstská. 17, 18.
207. Open Apr–Oct: 9am–6pm
Sun–Fri; Nov–Mar: 9am–4:30pm Sun–Fri.
3 Sw. jewishmuseum.cz

When it was first built, at the end of the 16th century this was a private house of prayer for the use of mayor Mordechai Maisel and his family. Maisel had made a fortune lending money to Emperor Rudolph II to finance wars against the Turks. and his synagogue was the most richly decorated in the city. The original building was a victim of the fire that devastated the Jewish Town in 1689 and a new synagogue was built in its place. Its present crenellated. Gothic appearance dates from the start of the 20th century. Since the 1960s the Maisel Synagogue has housed a fascinating collection of Jewish silver and other metalwork dating from Renaissance times to the 20th century. It includes many Torah crowns, shields and finials. Crowns and finials were used to decorate the rollers on which the text of the Torah (the five books of Moses) was kept. The shields were hung

over the mantle that was

draped over the Torah and the

pointers were used to follow the text so that it was not touched by readers' hands. There are also objects such as wedding plates, lamps and candlesticks. By a tragic irony, nearly all these Jewish treasures were brought to Prague by the Nazis from synagogues throughout Bohemia and Moravia with the intention of founding a museum of a vanished people.

© Church of the Holy Ghost

Kostel Sv. Ducha

Elišky Krásnohorské. **Map** 3 B3. **Tel** 602 301 639. Staroměstská. 17, 18. 207. **Open** only for services.

This church stands on the narrow strip of Christian soil that once separated the two Jewish communities of the Middle Ages – the Jews of the eastern and western rites. Built in the mid-14th century, the singlenaved Gothic church was originally part of a convent of Benedictine nuns. The convent was destroyed in 1420 during the Hussite Wars (see pp28–9) and not rebuilt

The church was badly damaged in the Old Town fire of 1689. The exterior preserves the original Gothic buttresses and high windows, but the vault of the nave was rebuilt in Baroque style after the fire. The furnishings

too are mainly Baroque. The high altar dates from 1760, and there is an altar painting of St Joseph by Jan Jiří Heintsch (c1647-1712) In front of the church stands a stone statue of St. John Nenomuk (see n85) distributing alms (1727) by the Baroque sculptor Ferdinand Maxmilián Brokoff, Inside the church there are a few earlier statues including a 14thcentury Pietà (the heads of the figures are later, dating from 1628), a Late Gothic statue of St Ann and busts of St Wenceslas and St Adalbert from the early 16th century.



Church of the Holy Ghost

SpanishSynagogue

Španělská Synagóga

Vězeňská 1, Dušní 12. **Map** 3 B2. **Tel** 22 23 17 191. **Y** Staroměstská. **1** 17, 18. 207. **Open** Apr–Oct: 9am–6om Sun–Fri: Nov–Mar:

9am–4:30pm Sun–Fri. 🄊 👢

Prague's first synagogue, known as the Old School

(Stará škola), once stood on this site. In the 11th century the Old School was the centre of the community of Jews of the eastern rite, who lived strictly apart from Jews of the western rite, who were concentrated round

the Old-New Synagogue. The present building dates from the second half of the 19th century. The exterior and



Motif of the Ten Commandments on the Spanish Synagogue's façade

interior are both pseudo-Moorish in appearance. The rich stucco decorations on the walls and vaults are reminiscent of the Alhambra in Spain, hence the name. Once closed to the public the Spanish Synagogue now houses a nermanent exhibition dedicated to the history of the Jews of Bohemia.

@ Cubist Houses

Kuhistické Domy

Flišky Krásnohorské, 10–14. Map 3 B2. Staroměstská. 17. 18. 207. Closed to the public

The rebuilding of the old Jewish Quarter at the turn of the 20th century gave Prague's architects scope to experiment with many new styles. Most of the blocks in this area are covered with flowing Art Nouveau decoration, but on the corner of Bílkova and Elišky Krásnohorské there is a plain facade with a few simple repeated geometrical shapes. This is an example of Cubist architecture. a fashion that did not really catch on in the rest of Europe but was very popular with the avant-garde in Bohemia and Austria before and after World War I. This block was built for a cooperative of teachers in 1919-21.

At No. 7 Elišky Krásnohorské you can see the influence of Cubism in the curiously geometric figures supporting the windows. Another interesting Cubist building is the House of the Black Madonna in Celetná (see pp174-5).

Church of St. Simon and St Jude

Kostel Sv. Šimona A Judv

Dušní/U milosrdných. Map 3 B2. Tel 22 23 21 068. M Staroměstská 17, 18. 207. **Open** for concerts. ₭ w fok.cz

Members of the Bohemia Brethren built this church with high Late Gothic windows in 1615-20. Founded in the mid-15th century, the Brethren agreed with the Utraguists (see p77) in directing the



Cubist-style figures framing a window in Elišky Krásnohorské Street

congregation to receive both bread and wine at Holy Communion In other respects they were more conservative than other Protestant sects, continuing to practise celibacy and Catholic sacraments such as confession. After the Battle of the White Mountain (see nn 32-3), the Brethren were expelled from the Empire.

The church was then given to a Catholic order, the Brothers of Mercy, becoming part of a monastery and hospital. Tradition has it that the monastery's wooden steps were built from the scaffold on which 27 Czechs were executed in 1621 (see n74). In the 18th century the city's first anatomy lecture hall was



Detail of Baroque façade of Church of St Simon and St Jude

established here and the complex continues to serve as a hospital – the Na Františku The church is now used as a venue for concerts.

© Church of St Castullus

Kostel Sv. Haštala

Haštalské náměstí, Map 3 C2. 5, 8, 14, 26. 207. **Open** times vary. 11am 1st Sun of month; other times vary. 22 &

This peaceful little corner of Prague takes its name – Haštal – from the parish church of St Castullus. One of the finest Gothic buildings in Prague. the church was erected on the site of an older Romanesque structure in the second quarter of the 14th century. Much of the church had to be rebuilt after the fire of 1689, but the double nave on the north side survived. It has slender pillars supporting a delicate ribbed vault

The interior furnishings are mainly Baroque, though there are remains of wall paintings of about 1375 in the sacristy and a metal font decorated with figures dating from about 1550. Standing in the Gothic nave is an impressive sculptural group depicting Calvary (1716) from the workshop of Ferdinand Maxmilián Brokoff.

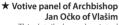
® St Agnes of Bohemia Convent

Klášter Sv. Anežkv České

In 1234 a convent of the Poor Clares was founded here by Agnes, sister of King Wenceslas I. She was not canonized until 1989. The convent, one of the very first Gothic buildings in Bohemia, was abolished in 1782 and used to house the poor and as storage space, later falling into disrepair. Following painstaking restoration in the 1960s, it has recovered much of its original appearance and is now used by the National Gallery to display a large collection of medieval painting and sculpture from Bohemia and Central Europe, dating from 13th–16th centuries.

Gallery Guide

The permanent exhibition is housed on the first floor of the old convent in a long gallery and smaller rooms around the cloister. The works are arranged chronologically.



This detailed panel, painted around 1370 by an anonymous artist, shows Charles IV kneeling before the Virgin in Heaven.



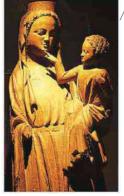
★ The Annunciation of Our Lady

Painted around 1350 by the renowned Master of the Vyšší Brod Altar, this panel is one of the oldest and finest works in the museum.



★ Strakonice Madonna

This 700-year-old statue evokes the Classical French sculpture found in such places as Reims Cathedral.



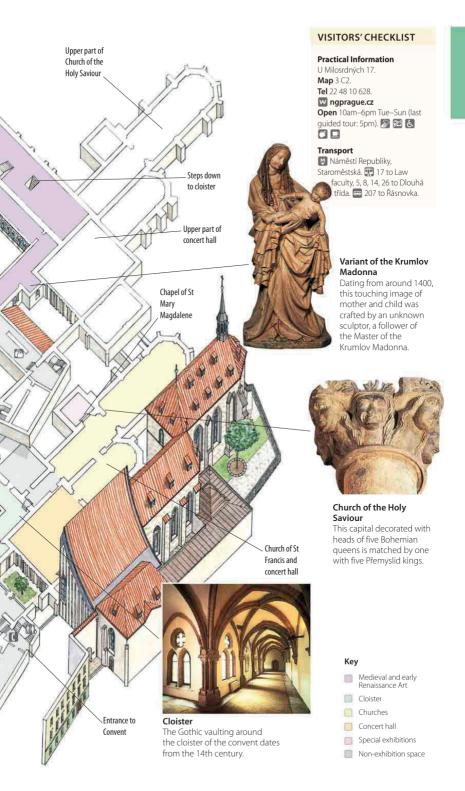




First floor

Ground floor

Terrace café





PRAGUE CASTLE AND HRADČANY

PRAŽSKÝ HRAD A HRADČANY

The history of Prague begins with the Castle. founded in the 9th century by Prince Bořivoi. Its commanding position high above the river Vltava soon made it the centre of the lands ruled by the Přemyslids. The buildings enclosed by the Castle walls included a palace. three churches and a monastery. In about 1320 a town called Hradčany was founded in part of the Castle's outer bailey. The Castle has

been rebuilt many times, most notably in the reigns of Charles IV and Vladislay Jagiello. After a fire in 1541, the badly damaged buildings were rebuilt in Renaissance style and the Castle enjoyed its cultural heyday under Rudolph II. Since 1918 it has been the seat of the president of the Republic. The Changing of the Guard takes place every hour. At noon the ceremony includes a fanfare.

Sights at a Glance

Churches and Monasterie

- St Vitus's Cathedral pp 102-105
- St George's Basilica and Convent
- Capuchin Monastery
- 19 The Loreto pp118-19
- 22 Strahov Monastery pp122-4

- Royal Palace pp106-107
- Relvedere
- Archbishop's Palace
- Martinic Palace
- Černín Palace

Historic Buildings

- Powder Tower
- Dalibor Tower

Museums and Galleries

- 1 Picture Gallery of Prague Castle
- 1 Lobkowicz Palace
- Riding School
- 1 Sternberg Palace pp112-15
- 16 Schwarzenberg Palace

Historic Streets

- 6 Golden Lane
- New World
- 2 Pohořelec

Parks and Gardens

Restaurants see p201

Host

2 Villa Richter

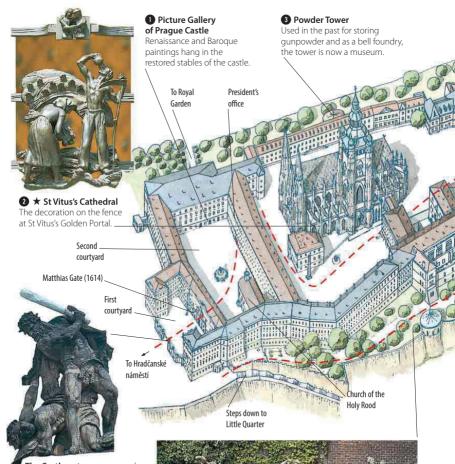


Street-by-Street: Prague Castle

Despite periodic fires and invasions, Prague Castle has retained churches, chapels, halls and towers from every period of its history, from the the Gothic splendour of St Vitus's Cathedral to the Renaissance additions of Rudolph II, the last Habsburg to use the Castle as his principal residence. The courtyards date from 1753–75 when the whole area was rebuilt in Late Baroque and Neo-Classical styles. The Castle became the seat of the Czechoslovak president in 1918, and the current president of the Czech Republic has an office here.



View of Prague Castle



The Castle gates are crowned by copies of 18th-century statues of Fighting Giants by Ignaz Platzer.

> South Gardens 18th-century statues decorate the gardens laid out in the old ramparts.

★ Golden Lane
 The picturesque
 artisans' cottages
 along the inside of
 the castle wall were
 built in the late 16th
 century for the
 Castle's guards
 and gunners.





Locator Map See Central Prague Map pp 16–17



3 Dalibor Tower This grim tower is named for a prisoner who played his violin in return for food.

> → Old Castle steps to Malostranská Metro



5 St George's Basilica
The vaulted chapel of the
royal Bohemian martyr St
Ludmilla is decorated with
16th-century paintings.





◆ Old Royal Palace

The uniform exterior of the palace conceals many fine Gothic and Renaissance halls. Coats of arms cover the walls and ceiling of the Room of the New Land Rolls.



1 Lobkowicz Palace

Exquisite works of art from the Lobkowicz family's private collection are housed here.

• Picture Gallery of Prague Castle

Obrazárna Pražského Hradu

Prague Castle, the second courtyard. **Map** 2 D2. **Tel** 22 43 73 531.

Malostranská, Hradčanská.
22. Open 9am–5pm daily (to 4pm in winter).

The gallery was created in 1965 to hold works of art collected since the reign of Rudolph II (see pp30-31). Though most of the collection was looted by the Swedes in 1648 many interesting paintings remain. Paintings from the 16th-18th centuries form the bulk of the collection, but there are also sculptures, among them a copy of a bust of Rudolph by Adriaen de Vries, Highlights include Titian's The Toilet of a Youna Ladv. Rubens' The Assembly of the Olympic Gods and Guido Reni's The Centaur Nessus Abductina Deianeira. Master Theodoric Paolo Veronese. Tintoretto and the Czech Baroque artists Jan Kupecký and Petr Brandl are among other artists represented The Picture Gallery houses many of Rudolph's best paintings.

You can also see the remains of the Castle's first church, the 9th-century Church of our Lady, thought to have been built by Prince Bořivoj, the first Přemyslid prince to be baptized a Christian (*see pp22–3*). The site was discovered during reconstruction.

St Vitus's Cathedral

Chrám Sv. Víta

See pp102-105.

Powder Tower

Prašná Věž

Prague Castle, Vikářská. **Map** 2 D2. **Tel** 22 43 71 111. Malostranská, Hradčanská. 2 2. **Open** Apr-Oct: 9am-6pm daily; Nov-Mar: 9am-4pm daily. 2 & &

A tower was built here in about 1496 by the King Vladislav II's architect Benedikt Ried as a cannon bastion overlooking the Stag Moat. The original was destroyed in the fire of 1541, but it was rebuilt as the home and workshop of gunsmith and bell founder Tomáš Jaroš. In 1549 he made Prague's largest bell, the 18-tonne Sigismund, for the bell tower of St Vitus's Cathedral

During Rudolph II's reign (1576–1612), the tower became a laboratory for alchemists. It was here that adventurers such as Edward Kellev performed



View of the Powder Tower from across the Stag Moat

experiments that convinced the emperor they could turn lead into gold.

In 1649, when the Swedish army was occupying the Castle, gunpowder exploded in the tower, causing serious damage. Nevertheless it was used as a gunpowder store until 1754, when it was converted into flats for the sacristans of St Vitus's Cathedral. Today, the tower houses a permanent exhibition of Czech military history.

Old Royal Palace

Královský Palác

See pp106-107.

St George's Basilica and Convent

Bazilika Sv. Jiří

Jiřské náměstí. **Map** 2 E2. **Tel** 22 43 71 1111. ☑ Malostranská, Hradčanská. ፲፱ 22. **Open** Apr-Oct: 9am-6pm daily; Nov-Mar: 9am-4pm daily.



Founded by Prince Vratislav (915–21), the basilica pre-dates St Vitus's Cathedral and is the best-preserved Romanesque



Titian's The Toilet of a Young Lady in the Castle Picture Gallery

church in Prague. It was enlarged in 973 when the adjoining St George's Convent was established here, and rebuilt following a fire in 1142. The massive twin towers and austere interior have been scrupulously restored to give a good idea of the church's original appearance. However, the rusty red façade was a 17th-century Baroque addition

Buried in the church is St Ludmila, widow of the 9th-century ruler Prince Bořivoi (see nn22-3). She became Bohemia's first female Christian martyr when she was strangled as she knelt at prayer. Other members of the Přemyslid dynasty buried here include Vratislay. His austere tomb stands on the right-hand side of the nave at the foot of the curving steps that lead up to the choir. The impressive Baroque grille opposite en-closes the tomb of Roleslav II (973–99). The adjacent former Benedictine nunnery is the oldest convent building in Bohemia. It was founded in 973. by Princess Mlada, sister of Boleslav II. Throughout the Middle Ages the convent, together with the basilica, formed the heart of the castle complex.

o Golden Lane

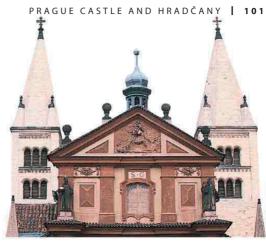
Zlatá Ulička

Map 2 E2. ♥ Malostranská, Hradčanská. ♥ 22.

Named after the goldsmiths who lived here in the 17th century, this short, narrow street is one of the most picturesque in Prague. One side of the lane is lined with tiny, brightly



One of the tiny houses in Golden Lane



Façade and towers of St George's Basilica

painted houses which were built right into the arches of the Castle walls. They were constructed in the late 1500s for Rudolph II's 24 Castle quards. A century later the goldsmiths moved in and modified the buildings. But by the 19th century the area had degenerated into a slum and was populated by Prague's poor and the criminal community. In the 1950s all the remaining tenants were moved out and the area restored to something like its original state. The house at number 20 is the oldest and the least altered in appearance. Most of the houses were converted into shops selling books, Bohemian glass and other souvenirs for tourists, who flock to the narrow lane

Golden Lane has been home to some well-known writers, including the Nobel prize-winning poet Jaroslav Seifert, and Franz Kafka (see p70) who stayed at No. 22 with his sister for a few months in 1916–17.

Because of its name, legends have spread about the street being filled with alchemists huddled over their bubbling alembics trying to produce gold for Rudolph II. In fact the alchemists had laboratories in Vikářská, the lane between St Vitus's Cathedral and the Powder Tower.

Description Lobkowicz Palace

Lobkovický Palác

Open 9:30am–5:30pm daily.

w ivansteiger.com

Dating from 1570, this is one of the palaces that sprang up after the fire of 1541, when Hradčany was largely destroyed. Some original saraffito on the facade has been preserved, but most of the present palace is Carlo Lurago's 17th-century reconstruction for the Lobkowicz family, who had inherited it in 1627. The most splendid room is the 17th-century banqueting hall with mythological frescoes by Fabian Harovník

The palace once formed part of Prague's National Museum but has since been returned to the Lobkowicz family. It now houses the valuable Princely Collections, an exhibition of paintings, decorative arts, original music scores annotated by Beethoven and Haydn, and musical instruments.

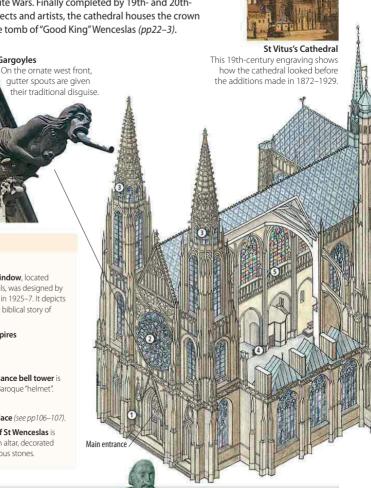
Opposite the palace, at No. 6, is a delightful toy museum claiming to be the world's second largest, with toys from ancient Greece to the present. The collection includes toys made from wood and tin, dolls and teddy bears.

St Vitus's Cathedral

Katedrála Sv. Víta, Václava A Vojtécha

Gargovles

Work began on the city's most distinctive landmark in 1344 on the orders of John of Luxembourg. The first architect was the French Matthew of Arras, After his death, Swabian Peter Parler took over. His masons' lodge continued to work on the building until the Hussite Wars. Finally completed by 19th- and 20thcentury architects and artists, the cathedral houses the crown iewels and the tomb of "Good King" Wenceslas (pp22-3).



KFY

- ① West front
- 2 The Rose Window, located above the portals, was designed by František Kysela in 1925-7. It depicts scenes from the biblical story of the creation.
- (3) Twin west spires
- (4) Nave
- (5) Triforium
- (6) The Renaissance bell tower is capped with a Baroque "helmet".
- (7) Chancel
- (8) To Royal Palace (see pp106-107).
- (9) The tomb of St Wenceslas is connected to an altar, decorated with semi-precious stones.

926 Rotunda of St Vitus built by St Wenceslas

1344 King John of Luxembourg founds Gothic cathedral. French architect Matthew of Arras begins work

1200

1000 triple-naved basilica

begins on orders of Prince Spytihněv

Tomb of Přemvsl Otakar I 1060 Building of



Bust of Peter Parler on triforium

take over cathedral as house of prayer

1619 Calvinists

1872 Joseph Mocker begins work on west nave

1400 1600

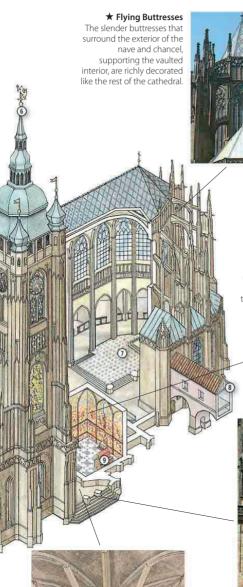
1421 Hussites 1589 Royal tomb occupy St Vitus's completed

1356 Masterbuilder Peter Parler summoned to continue work on the cathedral

1770 New steeple added to tower after fire

1800

1929 Consecration of completed cathedral, nearly 1,000 years after death of St Wenceslas



VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Prague Castle, third courtyard. **Map** 2 D2.

Cathedral: Open 9am-6pm Mon-Sat, noon-5pm Sun (except during services) (Nov-Mar: to 4pm). 1 7am Mon-Sat & 6pm Fri; 8am, 9:30am & 11am Sun. South Tower: Open 10am-6pm daily (to 7pm Apr-Oct).

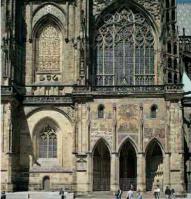
Transport

Hradčanská, Malostranská. ## 22 to Prague Castle (Pražský hrad).

★ Chapel of St Wenceslas

The bronze ring on the chapel's north portal was thought to be the one to which St Wenceslas clung as he was murdered by his brother Boleslav (see pp.22–3).





★ Golden Portal

Until the 19th century this was the main cathedral entrance, and it is still used on special occasions. Above it is a mosaic of *The Last Judgment* by 14th-century Venetian craftsmen.

Gothic Vaulting

The skills of architect Peter Parler are never more clearly seen than in the delicate fans of ribbing that support the three Gothic arches of the Golden Portal.

A Guided Tour of St Vitus's Cathedral

A walk around St Vitus's takes you back through a thousand years of history. Go in through the west portal to see some of the best elements of the modern. Neo-Gothic style and continue past a succession of side chapels to catch alimpses of religious artifacts. saintly relics and works of art from Renaissance paintings to modern statuary. Allow plenty of time to visit the richly decorated, iewel-encrusted St Wenceslas Chapel before you leave.



(2) Chancel The chancel was huilt by Peter Parler from 1372. It is remarkable for the soaring height of its vault. counter-pointed by the intricacy of the webbed Gothic tracery.

> Cathedral organ (1757)

New sacristy



The Four Fras of St Vitus's

1 Alfons Mucha Window The cathedral contains many superb examples of 20thcentury Czech stained glass, notably St Cyril and St Methodius.

Main entrance (West Portal)

Excavations have revealed sections of the northern apse of St Wenceslas's original rotunda, and architectural and sculptural remains of the later basilica, beneath the existing cathedral. The western. Neo-Gothic end is a faithful completion of the 14th-century plan. Kev Rotunda, 10th century Basilica, 11th century Gothic cathedral. 14th century 19th- and 20th-century additions to cathedral

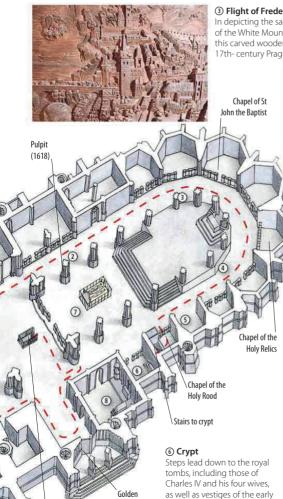
Leopold II is shown in a contemporary engraving being crowned Kina of Bohemia at the cathedral in September 1791. Mozart composed an opera, La Clemenza di Tito. in honour of



Thun

Chapel

Chapel of St Ludmilla



③ Flight of Frederick of the Palatinate In depicting the sad aftermath of the Battle of the White Mountain in 1620 (see p33), this carved wooden panel shows 17th-century Prague in fascinating detail.

Tomb of St John Nepomuk
Crafted from solid silver in 1736, this
elaborate tomb honours the saint
who became the focus of a CounterReformation cult (see p139).

(5) Royal Oratory

The vault of the 15th-century Late-Gothic oratory is carved with branches instead of ribs.

(ev

Tour route

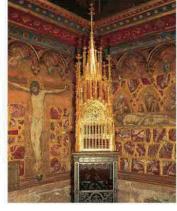
® St Wenceslas Chapel

Portal

Exit from

crypt

Gothic frescoes with scenes from the Bible and the life of the saint cover the walls, interspersed with a patchwork of polished gemstones and fine gilding. Every object is a work of art – this golden steeple held the wafers and wine for Holy Communion.



rotunda and basilica.



Royal Mausoleum Ferdinand I died in 1564. His beloved wife and son, Maximilian II, are buried alongside him in the mausoleum.

Old Royal Palace

Královský Palác

From the time Prague Castle was first fortified in stone in the 11th century (see pp24-5), the palace was the seat of Bohemian princes. The building consists of three different architectural layers. A Romanesque palace built by Soběslav I around 1135 forms the cellars of the present building. Přemysl Otakar II and Charles IV then added their own palaces above this, while the top floor, built for Vladislav Jagiello, contains the massive Gothic Vladislav Hall. During the period of Habsburg rule the palace housed government offices, courts and the old Bohemian Diet (parliament). In 1924 it was extensively restored.



Riders' Staircase These wide and gently sloping stens with their Gothic rib vault were used hy knights on horseback to get to Vladislav Hall for indoor ioustina competitions



The Diet, the medieval narliament was also the throne room. Destroyed by fire in 1541, it was rebuilt by Bonifaz Wohlmut in 1563

An overhead passage

from the palace leads to the Royal Oratory in St Vitus's Cathedral (see p105).

Vladislav Hall

The 17th-century painting by Aegidius Sadeler shows that the Royal Court was very like a public market. The hall's magnificent rib vaulting was designed by Benedikt Ried in the 1490s.



1253 Palace reconstructed by Přemysl Otakar II

> 1541 Fire destroys large part of Castle

1618 Defenestration from Bohemian Chancellery

> 1766-8 Building of Theresian Wing

> > 1900

Late 9th century

Founding of Prague Castle by Prince Bořivoj

1135 Rebuilding undertaken by Soběslav I 1340 Charles IV rebuilds palace

1370s Peter Parler rebuilds All Saints' Chapel

1502 Completion of Vladislav Hall by Benedikt Ried after nine years

Entrance

Decorated door of office in Royal Palace

> 1924 Palace undergoes extensive restoration



All Saints' Chapel was built by Peter Parler for Charles IV. After the 1541 fire. its vault had to be rebuilt and it was redecorated in the Baroque style.

Plan and Cross Section of Royal Palace

The cross section of the palace shows the three distinct levels of the building. all constructed at different times. The plan shows how Vladislav Hall dominates the entire palace structure

Key to Old Royal Palace

- Romanesque and Early Gothic
- Rebuilt after 1541 fire
- Eagle Fountain
- 2 Vestibule
- Green Chamber

- 8 Imperial Council
- Room steps

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Prague Castle third courtyard Map 2 D2

Tel 22 43 73 102.

Open Apr-Oct: 9am-6pm daily: Nov-Mar: 9am-4pm daily: last adm: 1hr before closing

2 21 E

Transport

Hradčanská, up K Brusce, then through the Royal Garden Malostranská, left up Klárov, then up Old Castle Steps. 1 22 to Prague Castle (Pražský hrad).

- 10 All Saint's Chanel
- 11 Diet Hall
- 12 Rider's staircase
- 13 Court of Appeal
- 14 Palace courtyard 15 Hall of the
- Romanesque palace
- 16 Old Land Rolls
- 17 Palace of Charles IV 18 New Land Rolls

- Late Gothic
- Baroque and later

- King's Bedchamber
- 5 Romanesque tower
- 6 Vladislav Hall
- 7 Rohemian Chancellery
- O Terrace

The Theresian Wav was built to

house the office registers.

Rohemian Chancellery

This 17th-century Dutch-style stove decorates the former roval offices of the Habsburgs. The chancellery is the site of the 1618 defenestration.

Defenestration of 1618



Painting by Václav Brožík, 1889

On 23 May, 1618, more than 100 Protestant nobles, led by Count Thurn, marched into the palace to protest against the succession to the throne of the intolerant Habsburg Archduke Ferdinand. The two Catholic Governors appointed by Ferdinand, Jaroslav Martinic and Vilém Slavata, were confronted and, after a row, the Protestants threw both the Governors and their secretary, Philipp Fabricius, out of the eastern window. Falling some 15 m (50 ft), they survived by landing in a dung heap. This event signalled the beginning of the Thirty Years' War. The Catholics attributed the survival of the Governors to the intervention of angels.

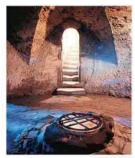


The New Land Rolls

These rooms are decorated with the crests of clerks who worked here from 1561 to 1774.







Old prison in the Dalibor Tower

Open Tower Open Tower

Dalihorka

Prague Castle, Zlatá ulička. Map 2 E2.

Malostranská. 12, 18, 20, 22.

Open 9am–5pm daily. 2

Mhrad.cz

This 15th-century tower with a conical roof was part of the fortifications built by King Vladislav Jagiello (see pp.28–9). His coat of arms can be seen on the outer wall. The tower also served as a prison and is named after its first inmate, Dalibor of Kozojedy, a young knight sentenced to death for harbouring some outlawed serfs. While awaiting execution, he was kept in an underground dungeon, into which he had to be lowered throuch a hole in the floor.

According to legend, while in prison he learnt to play the violin. People sympathetic to his plight came to listen to his playing and provided him with food and drink, which they lowered on a

rope from a window – prisoners were often left to starve to death. The story was used by Bedřich Smetana in his opera *Dalibor*. The tower ceased to serve as a prison in 1781. Visitors can see part of the old prison.

South Gardens

Jižní Zahrady

Prague Castle (access from Hradčanské náměstí). **Map** 2 D3. ☑ Malostranská. ፫ 12, 18, 20, 22. **Open** Apr—Oct: 10am—ópm daily (May & Sep: to 7pm; Jun & Jul: to 9pm; Aug: to 8pm). ☑ **hrad.cz**

The gardens occupy the long narrow hand of land below the Castle overlooking the Little Quarter, Several small gardens have been linked to form what is now known as the South Gardens. The oldest, the Paradise Garden (Raiská zahrada), laid out in 1562. contains a circular pavilion built for Emperor Matthias in 1617. Its carved wooden ceiling shows the coloured emblems of the 39 countries of the Habsburg Empire The Garden on the Ramparts (Zahrada Na valech) dates from the 19th century. It occupies a former vegetable patch and is famous as the site of the defenestration of 1618 (see p107), when two Imperial governors were thrown from a first-floor window. Two obelisks were subsequently erected by Ferdinand II to mark the spots

where they landed. Modifications were carried out in the 1920s by Josip Plečnik, who built the Bull Staircase leading to the Paradise Garden and the observation terrace. Below the terrace, in the former Hartig Garden, is a Baroque music pavilion designed by Giovanni Battista Alliprandi. Beside it stand four statues of Classical gods by Antonín Braun.



Alliprandi's music pavilion in the South Gardens

Relvedere

Relvedér

Prague Castle, Royal Garden.

Map 2 E1. ☑ Malostranská,

Hradčanská. ፫ 22 to Královský

Letohrádek. Open 10am–6pm Tue–
Sun during exhibitions only. 🏖 &

Built by Ferdinand I for his beloved wife Anne, the Belvedere is one of the finest Italian Renaissance buildings north of the Alps. Also known as



The Belvedere, Emperor Ferdinand I's summer palace in the Royal Garden beside Prague Castle



Antonín Braun's statue of *The Allegory of Night* in front of the *sgraffito* decoration of the Ball Game Hall in the Royal Garden

Queen Anne's Summerhouse (Letohrádek Královny Anny), it is an arcaded building with slender lonic columns topped by a roof shaped like an inverted ship's hull clad in blue-green copper. The main architect was Paolo della Stella, who was also responsible for the ornate reliefs inside the arcade. Work began in 1538 but was interrupted by the great Castle fire of 1541 and not completed until 1564.

In the middle of the small geometrical garden in front of the palace stands the Singing Fountain. Dating from 1568, it owes its name to the musical sound the water makes as it hits the bronze bowl, though you have to listen closely to appreciate the effect. The fountain was cast by Tomáš Jaroš, the famous bell founder, who lived and worked in the Powder Tower (see p 100).

Many of the Belvedere's works of art were plundered by the Swedish army in 1648. The statues stolen included Adriaen de Vries's 16th- century bronze of Mercury and Psyche, now in the Louvre in Paris. Today, the Belvedere is used as an art gallery.

Royal Garden

Královská Zahrada

Prague Castle, U Prašného mostu.

Map 2 D2. Malostranská,
Hradčanská. 22. Open May-Oct:
10am-6pm daily (May & Sep: to 7pm;
Jun & Jul: to 9pm; Aug: to 8pm).

The garden was created in 1535 for Ferdinand I. Its appearance has been altered over time, but some examples of 16th-century garden architecture have survived, notably the Belvedere and the Ball Game Hall (Mičovna), built by Ronifaz

Game Hall (Míčovna), built by Bonifaz Wohlmut in 1569. The building is covered in beautiful, though much restored, Renaissance sgraffito, a form of decoration created by cutting a

design through the wet top layer of plaster on to a contrasting undercoat. The garden is beautiful in spring when thousands of tulips bloom. This is where tulips were first acclimatized to Europe.

Riding School

Jízdárna

Prague Castle. **Map** 2 D2. **Tel** 22 43 73 232. Malostranská, Hradčanská. 22. **Open** 10am–6pm during exhibitions.

The 17th-century Riding School forms one side of U Prašného mostu, a road which runs to the northern side of Prague Castle via Deer Moat. In the 1920s it was converted into an exhibition hall, which now holds important exhibitions of painting and sculpture. A garden provides excellent views of St. Vitus's Cathedral and the northern fortifications of the castle.

Archbishop's Palace

Arcibiskupský Palác

Hradčanské náměstí 16. **Map** 2 D3.

Malostranská, Hradčanská.

Closed to the public.

Ferdinand I bought this sumptuous palace in 1562 for the first Catholic Archbishop since the Hussite Wars (see pp28–9). An imposing building, it has four wings and four courtyards. It replaced the old Archbishop's Palace in the Little Quarter, which had been destroyed during the wars, and has remained the Archbishop's seat in Prague ever since. In the period after the Battle of the White Mountain (see pp32–3), it was a powerful symbol of Catholic domination of the

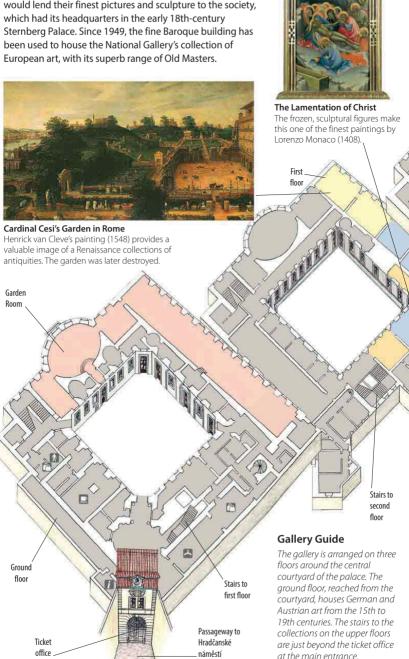
city and the Czech lands.
Its spectacular
cream-coloured
Rococo façade was
designed by
Johann Joseph
Wirch in the
1760s for Archbishop
Antonín Příchovský,
whose coat of arms
sits proudly above
the portal.

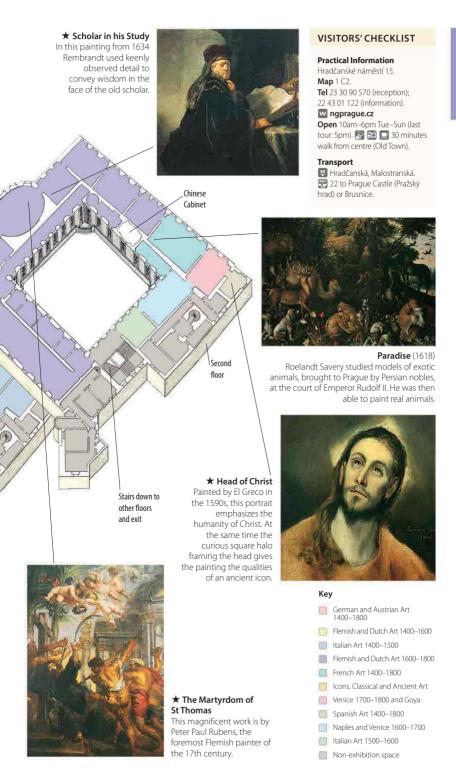
Příchovský coat of arms

Sternberg Palace

Šternberský Palác

Franz Josef Sternberg founded the Society of Patriotic Friends of the Arts in Bohemia in 1796. Fellow noblemen would lend their finest pictures and sculpture to the society.





Exploring the Sternberg Collections

The National Gallery's collection of European art at the Sternberg Palace ranks among the country's best collections. The museum is divided into three separate viewing areas. Its extensive holdings of German and Austrian art of the 15th-19th centuries are exhibited just off the courtvard on the ground floor. A small collection of art from antiquity and religious icons, as well as a larger display of early Italian and Dutch art, occupy the first floor. Most of the real treasures are on the second floor, where the museum displays works of Italian, Spanish, French and Dutch masters from the 16th-18th centuries

Icons, Classical and Ancient Art

Two small rooms on the first floor are occupied by an odd assortment of paintings that do not quite fit in with the rest of the collection. These include a Portrait of a Young Woman dating from the 2nd century AD, which was discovered during excavations at Fayoum in Egypt in the 19th century.

The second room, on the left as you enter the main viewing area, holds icons of the Orthodox church - some are Byzantine some Italo-Greek and some Russian. A fine example on show here is a later 16th-century work. Christ's Entry Into Jerusalem from Russia. The collection of icons on display offers examples from a variety of the most important Mediterranean and Eastern European centres



Christ's Entry into Jerusalem, a 16th-century Russian icon

German and Austrian Art (1400 - 1800)

This collection is massive and it could take half a day to see everything. One of the most celebrated paintings in the Sternbera's collection is Albrecht Dürer's The Feast of the Rosary, painted during the artist's stay in Venice in 1506. The work has a particular



The Feast of the Rosary by Dürer (1506)

significance for Prague since it was bought by Emperor Rudolph II. The two figures in front of the Virgin and Child are Maximilian I (Rudolph's great-great-grandfather) and Pone Julius II

The collection also includes works by several other important German painters of the Renaissance, including Hans Holbein the Elder and the Younger and Lucas Cranach the Flder, Cranach is represented by a striking Adam and Eve whose nudes show the spirit of the Renaissance, tempered by Lutheran Reform

Italian Art (1400-1700)

When you enter the gallery of early Italian art on the first floor you are greeted by a splendid array of richly gilded early diptychs and triptychs from the churches of Tuscany and northern Italy. Most came originally from the d'Este collection at Konopiště Castle (see p169). Of particularly high quality are the two triangular panels of saints by the 14th-century Sienese painter Pietro Lorenzetti and a moving Lamentation of Christ by Lorenzo Monaco.

A fascinating element of the collection is the display of Renaissance bronze statuettes. Fashionable amongst Italian nobility of the 15th century, these little bronzes were at first cast from famous or newly discovered works of antiquity. Later, sculptors began to use the medium more freely -Padua, for example, specialized in the depiction of small animals - and producers also adapted items for use as decorative household goods such as oil lamps, ink pots and door knockers. This small collection has representative works from all the major Italian producers except Mantua and, while many variations can be found in other museums throughout the world, there are some pieces here that are both unique and outstanding examples of the craft. On the second floor, among the



Don Miauel de Lardízábal (1815) by Francisco Gova

16th-century Italian works on display, are some delightful surprises. These include *St Jerome* by the Venetian painter, Tintoretto, and *The Annunciation to the Shepherds* and *Portrait of an Elderly Man* by another Venetian, Jacopo Bassano. There is also an expressive portrait by the Florentine mannerist, Bronzino, of *Eleanor of Toledo*, the wife of Cosimo de' Medici.

Flemish and Dutch Art (1400–1800)

The collections of Flemish and Dutch art on the first and second floors are rich and varied, ranging from rural scenes by Pieter Brueghel the Elder to portraits by Rubens and Rembrandt, Highlights of the former include an altarpiece showing the Adoration of the Maai by Geertgen tot Sint Jans, Other early works of great interest include St Luke Drawina the Virain by Jan Gossaert (c1515). one of the first works of art from the Netherlands to show the clear influence of the Italian Renaissance. The

collection from the 17th century on the second floor includes several major works, notably by Peter Paul Rubens who, in 1639, sent two paintings to the Augustinians of the Church of St Thomas (see p127) in the Little Quarter. The originals were lent to the gallery in 1896 and replaced by copies. The violence and drama of The Martyrdom of St Thomas is in complete contrast



Eleanor of Toledo (1540s) by the Florentine Mannerist painter Agnolo Bronzino

to the spiritual calm of St Augustine. Two other fine portraits are those of Rembrandt's Scholar in His Study and Frans Hals' Portrait of Jasper Schade.

Also on display is a wide assortment of paintings by other, less-prominent, artists who nonetheless represent the enormous range and quality of this period.

Spanish and French Art (1400–1800)

French art on the second floor is represented chiefly by the 17th-century painters Simon Vouet (The Suicide of Lucretia) Séhastien Rourdon and Charles Le Brun, Spanish painting is even less well represented but two of the collection's finest works are a haunting Head of Christ by El Greco. which is the only work by this important artist on display in the Czech Republic, and a noble half-length portrait of the politician Don Miquel de Lardizábal by Gova

The Chinese Cabinet

After several years of difficult restoration work, this curiosity on the second floor is once again open to the public. The richly decorated little chamber was part of the original furnishings of the Sternberg Palace, and was designed as an

intimate withdrawing room away from the bustle of the grand state rooms. In its plethora of decorative styles. Baroque mingles with Far Eastern motifs and techniques, which were fashionable at the turn of the 18th century. The vaulted ceiling features the Star of the Sternbergs among its geometric decorations. Black lacquered walls are embellished with cobalt blue and white medallions in golden frames, while gilded shelves once held rare Oriental porcelain.

Martinic Palace

Martinický Palác

Hradčanské náměstí 8. Map 1 C2. Tel 77 77 98 040. Malostranská. Hradčanská. III 22. 7 only (call ahead to arrange) w martinickypalac.cz

In the course of the palace's restoration in the early 1970s. workmen uncovered the original 16th-century facade decorated with ornate cream and brown saraffito (see p.1.1.1). It denicts Old Testament scenes including the story of Joseph and Potiphar's wife. More saraffito in the courtvard shows the story of Samson and the Labours of Hercules

Martinic Palace was enlarged by Jaroslav Bořita of Martinice. who was one of the imperial governors thrown from a window of the Royal Palace in 1618 (see p107).

According to an old legend. between 11pm and midnight the ghost of a fiery black dog appears at the palace and accompanies walkers as far as the Loreto (see pp.118-19). You can tour the palace or visit a small museum of musical machines such as gramophones.

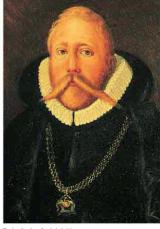


The Carmelite monastery next to the Schwarzenberg Palace

for the Lohkowicz family by the Italian architect Agostino Galli in 1545-76, the gabled nalace is Florentine rather than Bohemian in style. It passed through several hands hefore the Schwarzenbergs, a leading family in the Habsburg Empire bought it in 1719 Much of the interior decoration has survived including four painted ceilings on the second floor dating from 1580. The palace once housed the Museum of Military History, now at

U Památníku 3. Following renovation, the palace became home to the National Gallery's collection of Baroque art.

In the square outside is the statue of Tomáš G Masarvk. Czechoslovakia's first president.



Tycho Brahe, Rudolph II's astronomer

Hradčany. In defiance of their poverty, the inhabitants chose golden house signs to identify their modest houses - you will see a Golden Pear, a Grape, a Foot, a Bush and an Acorn. Plaques identify No. 1 as the former home of Rudolph II's brilliant court astronomer, Tycho Brahe, and No. 25 as the 1857 birthplace of the great Czech violinist František Ondříček

Capuchin Monastery

Kapucínský Klášter

Loretánské náměstí 6. Map 1 B3. 22, 25. Closed to the public except the church. 1 6pm Mon-Sat, 8:30am Sun.

Bohemia's first Capuchin monastery was founded here in 1600. It is connected to the neighbouring Loreto (see pp118-19) by an overhead roofed passage. Attached to the monastery is the Church of Our Lady Oueen of Angels, a singlenaved building with plain furnishings, typical of the ascetic Capuchin order.

The church is famous for its miraculous statue of the Madonna and Child, Emperor Rudolph II liked the statue so much he asked the Capuchins to give it to him to place in his private chapel. The monks agreed, but then the statue



The ornate altar, Church of the

somehow found its way back to the church. Three times Rudolph had the Madonna brought back, but each time she returned to her original position. The Emperor eventually gave up, left her where she was and presented her with a gold crown and a robe.

Each year, at Christmas, crowds of visitors come to see the church's Baroque nativity scene of life-sized figures dressed in period costumes.

The Loreto

Loreta

See pp118-19.

@ Černín Palace

Černínský Palác

Loretánské náměstí 5. **Map** 1 B3. 22, 25. **Closed** to the public. **mzv.cz**

Built in 1668 for Count Černín of Chudenice, the Imperial Ambassador to Venice, the Černín Palace is 150 m (500 ft) long with a row of 30 massive Corinthian half-columns running the length of its upper storeys. The palace towers over the attractive, small, grassy square that lies between it and the Loreto.

The huge building suffered as a result of its prominent position on one of Prague's highest hills. It was looted by the French in 1742 and badly damaged in the Prussian bombardment of

the city in 1757. In

erished Černín family

1851 the impov-

sold the palace to the state and it became a barracks. After the creation of Czechoslovakia in 1918 the palace was restored to its original design and became the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A few days after the Communist Coup in 1948 the Foreign Minister, Jan Masaryk, the popular son of Czechoslovakia's

first President. Tomáš Masarvk.

died as the result of a fall from a

top-floor window of the Palace. He was the only non-Communist in the government that had just been formed. No-one really knows whether he was pushed or jumped, but he is still widely mourned.

2 Pohořelec

Map 1 B3. 1 22, 25.

First settled in 1375, this is one of the oldest parts of Prague. The name is of more recent origin: Pohořelec means "place destroyed by fire", a fate the area has suffered three times in the course of its history – the last time being in 1741. It is now a large open square on a hill high over the city and part of the main access route to Prague

centre stands a large monument to St John
Nepomuk (1752) (see p137), thought to be by Johann
Anton Quitainer.
The houses around the square are mainly
Baroque and Rococo.

grammar school stands a monument to Kepler and his predecessor as astronomer at the court of Rudolph II, Tycho Brahe, who died in a house on

the school site in 1601



Capital on Cernin Palace



Černín Palace, with its Corinthian half-columns

@ The Loreto

Loreta

Ever since its construction in 1626, the Loreto has been an important place of pilgrimage. It was commissioned by Kateřina of Lobkowicz, a Czech aristocrat who was very keen to promote the legend of the Santa Casa of Loreto (see opposite). The heart of the complex is a copy of the house believed to be the Virgin Mary's. The Santa Casa was enclosed by cloisters in 1661, and a Baroque facade 60 years later by Christoph and Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer. The grandiose design and miraculous stories about the Loreto were part of Ferdinand II's campaign to recatholicize the Czechs (see pp32-3).

Rell Tower Enclosed in this large Baroque tower is a set of 30 bells cast 1683-





★ Loreto Treasury

This gold-plated, diamondencrusted monstrance, for displaying the host, is one of the valuable liturgical items in the Loreto treasury, most of which originated in the 16th-18th centuries

KFY

- (1) Chapel of St Ann
- (2) Chapel of St Francis Seraphim
- (3) Fountain decorated with a sculpture of the Resurrection
- 4 Chapel of St Joseph
- (5) Chapel of the Holy Rood
- (6) Chapel of St Anthony of Padua
- ① Chapel of Our Lady of Sorrows
- This fountain sculpture is a copy of The Ascension of the Virgin Mary, taken from Jan Brüderle's 1739 sandstone statue, now in the Lapidarium (see p162).



Entrance from Loretánské náměstí

Baroque Entrance

The balustrade above the Loreto's front entrance is decorated with statues of St Joseph and St John the Baptist by Ondřej Quitainer.

★ Santa Casa Stucco figures of many of the Old Testament prophets and reliefs from the life of the Virgin Mary by Italian artists decorate the chanel



VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Loretánské náměstí 7. Hradčany Map 1 C3.

Tel 22 05 16 740.

W loreta.cz

Open 9am-12:15pm, 1-5pm daily (to 4pm winter). 7:30am Sat, 10am & 6pm Sun.

Transport

22, 25 to Pohořelec



★ Church of the Nativity

Gruesome relics, including fully clothed skeletons with death masks made of wax. line the walls of this 18th-century church. The frescoes are by Václay Vavřinec Reiner

Legend of the Santa Casa

The original house, said to be where the Archangel Gabriel told Mary about the future birth of Jesus, is in the small Italian town of Loreto. It was believed that angels transported the house from Nazareth to Loreto in 1278 following threats by infidels. After the Protestants' defeat in 1620 (see pp32-3), Catholics promoted the legend, and 50 replicas of the Loreto were built in Bohemia and Moravia. This, the grandest, became the most important in Bohemia. and received many visitors.



The stuccoed Santa Casa



17th-Century Cloister

Built originally as a shelter for the many pilgrims who visited the shrine, the cloister is covered with frescoes.

Strahov Monastery

Strahovský Klášter

When it was founded in 1140 by an austere religious order, the Pre-monstratensians, Strahov rivalled the seat of the Czech sovereign in size. Destroyed by fire in 1258, it was rebuilt in the Gothic style, with later Baroque additions, Its famous library, in the theological and philosophical halls, is over 800 years old and despite being ransacked by many invading armies, is one of the finest in Bohemia. Strahov also escaped Joseph II's 1783 dissolution of the monasteries by changing its library into a research institute. It is now a working monastery and museum.

> Entrance to main courtvard of the monastery



★ Church of Our Ladv

The interior of this Baroque church is highly decorated. Above the arcades of the side naves, there are 12 paintings with scenes from the life of St Norbert, founder of the Premonstratensian order, by Jiří Neunhertz.

KEY

- 1 Baroque organ on which Mozart played
- 2 The Museum of National Literature is devoted to Czech literature.
- (3) Refectory
- 4 Baroque tower
- (5) The façade of the Philosophical Hall is decorated with vases and a gilded medallion of Joseph II by Ignaz Platzer.



Entrance to Church of Our Lady

Church Facade

Statue of St John A Late-Gothic, painted

statue of St. John the Evangelist situated in the

Theological Hall, has the

saint's praver book

held in a small pouch.

The elaborate statues, by Johann Anton Quitainer, were added to the western façade of the church when it was remodelled by the architect Anselmo Lurago in the 1750s.



View from Petřín Hill

A gate at the eastern end of the first courtvard leads to Petřín Hill. part of which was once the monastery's orchards.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Královská Kanonie Premonstrátů na Strahově. Strahovské nádvoří 1. **Map** 1 B4.

Tel 23 31 07 711

w strahovskyklaster.cz

Open 9am-noon, 12:30-5pm daily. Philosophical Hall. Theological Hall, Church of Our Lady, Picture Gallery: Open 9amnoon, 1–5pm daily, **Closed** Easter Sun, 24 & 25 Dec. 2

Transport 22, 25,







★ Philosophical Hall The ceiling fresco depicts

the Struggle of Mankind to Know Real History by Franz Maulbertsch. It was built in 1782 to hold the Baroque bookcases and their valuable books from a dissolved monastery near Louka, in Moravia.

Strahov Gospel Book

A facsimile of this superb and precious 9th-century volume, is now on display in the Theological Hall.





LITTLE QUARTER

MAIÁ STRANA

The Little Quarter is the part of Prague least affected by recent history. Hardly any new building has taken place here since the late 18th century and the quarter is rich in splendid Baroque palaces and old houses with attractive signs. Founded in 1257, it is built on the slopes below the Castle hill with magnificent views across the river to the Old Town

The centre of the Little Quarter has always been Little Quarter Square (Malostranské náměstí), dominated by the Church of St. Nicholas, The Grand Prior's millwheel at Kampa Island still turns, pilgrims still kneel before the Holy Infant of Prague in the Church of Our Lady Victorious, and music rings out from churches and palaces as it did when Mozart staved here.

Sights at a Glance

Churches

- Church of St Thomas
- Church of St Nicholas nn128-9
- Church of Our Ladv
- Victorious Church of Our Lady beneath
- the Chain Church of St Lawrence

Parks and Gardens

- Vrtha Garden
- Voian Park
- Palace Garden
- Observation Tower
- Mirror Maze
- Stefánik's Observatory
- 23 Petřín Park

Bridge Street Bridges and Islands

 Kampa Island 1 Charles Bridge pp 136-9

Historic Restaurants

At the Three Ostriches

3 Little Ouarter Square

12 Grand Priory Square

6 Nerudova Street

Maltese Square

Italian Street

Historic Streets and Squares

and Reer Halls

Palaces

- Wallenstein Palace and Garden

- 3 Café Lounge
- 4 Café de Paris 5 Café Savov
- Coda
- Cowbovs
- R Essensia
- 9 Gitanes
- 10 Kočár z Vídně
- 11 Konírna
- 12 Lukalu
- 13 II Malého Glena
- 14 II Malířů
- 15 Malostranská beseda 16 Nebozízek
- 17 The Sushi Bar
- 18 Terasa U Zlaté Studně



0 vards

The Little Quarter, most of whose grand Baroque palaces now house embassies, has preserved much of its traditional character. The steep, narrow streets and steps have an air of romantic mystery, and you will find fascinating buildings adorned with statues and house signs at every turn. Some of the old buildings now house smart restaurants



Museum Montanelli This contemporary museum

hosts international exhibitions of modern art.

Thun-Hohenstein

Palace (1721-6) has a doorway crowned with two sculpted eagles by Matthias Braun. The palace is now the seat of the Italian embassy



At the Three Little Fiddles, now a restaurant, acquired its house sign when it was the home of a family of violin makers around 1700



 ★ Nerudova Street This historic street leading

up to Prague Castle is named after the 19th-century writer Jan Neruda.

Morzin Palace has a striking Baroque façade with a pair of sculpted moors.



Italian Street

From the 16th to the 18th century, houses in the street, like the House at the Golden Scales, were occupied by Italian craftsmen.

1/		

Suggested route

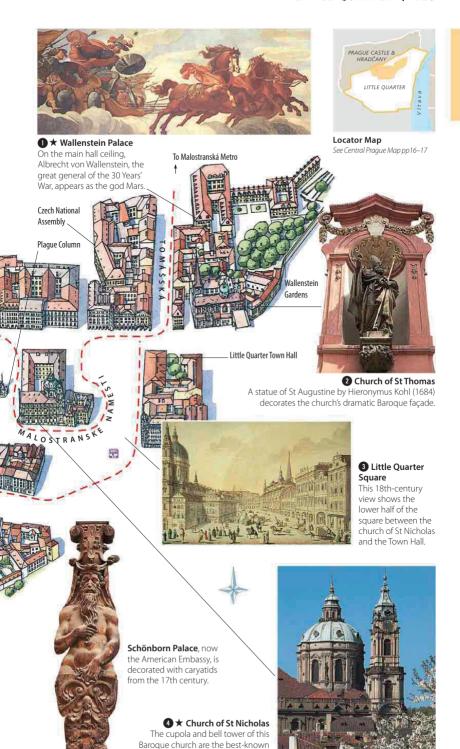
0 metres	100	
0 vards	100	

8 Vrtba Garden

Schonborn Palace

Laid out in about 1725 by František Maximilián Kaňka, these fine Baroque terraces provide good views over the rooftops of the Little Quarter.

For key to symbols see back flap



landmarks of the Little Quarter.

Wallenstein Palace and Garden

Valdšteinský Palác

Valdštejnské náměstí 4. Map 2 E3.

② Malostranská. Tel 25 70 75 707.

③ 12, 18, 20, 22, Palace: Open 10am-5pm Sat & Sun. ② call in advance to arrange. ② ⑤ from Valdštejnská.

Garden: Open Apr-Oct: 10am-6pm daily (Jun-Sep: 10am-7pm). Riding school: Open for exhibitions 10am-6pm Tue-Sun ⑥ from Valdštejnské náměstí. ② ⑤ senat.cz

The first large secular building of the Baroque era in Prague, the palace stands as a monument to the fatal ambition of military commander Albrecht von Wallenstein (1581–1634) His string of victories over the Protestants in the 30 Years' War (see nn 32-3) made him vital to Emperor Ferdinand II. Already showered with titles. Wallenstein started to covet the crown of Bohemia When he dared to negotiate independently with the enemy, he was killed on the emperor's orders by mercenaries in 1634.

Wallenstein's intention was to overshadow even Prague Castle with his palace, built between 1624 and 1630. To obtain a suitable site, he had to purchase 23 houses, three gardens and



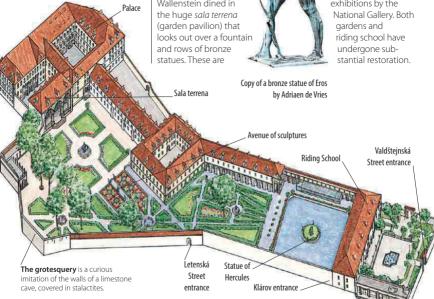
The main hall of Wallenstein Palace

the municipal brick kiln. The magnificent main hall rises to a height of two storeys with a ceiling fresco of Wallenstein himself portrayed as Mars, the god of war, riding in a triumphal chariot. The architect, Andrea Spezza, and nearly all the artists employed in the decoration of the palace were Italians

Today the palace is used as the home of the Czech Senate, and following restoration is now open to the public. The gardens are laid out as they were when Wallenstein dined in the huge sala terrena (garden pavilion) that looks out over a fountain and rows of bronze statues. These are

copies of works by Adriaen de Vries that were stolen by the Swedes in 1648 (see pp32–3). There is also a pavilion with fine frescoes showing scenes from the legend of the Argonauts and the Golden Fleece. Wallenstein was a holder of the Order of the Golden Fleece, the highest order of chivalry

of the Holy Roman
Empire. At the far end of
the garden is a
large ornamental
pond with a central
statue. Behind this
stands the old Riding
School, now used to
house special
exhibitions by the
National Gallery. Both
gardens and
riding school have



2 Church of St Thomas

Kostel sv Tomáše

Josefská 8. Map 2 F3. Tel 25 75 30 556. Malostranská. 12, 20, 22. Open 9am-4pm daily. 12:15pm Mon-Sat (and 6pm Sat in English): 7pm Mon=Wed: 9:30am (Czech) 11am (English), 12:30pm (Spanish), 6pm (Czech) in summer and 5pm (Czech) in winter Sun. 2

Founded by Wenceslas II in 1285 as the monastery church of the Augustinians, the original Gothic church was completed in 1379. In the Hussite period (see pp28-9) this was one of the few churches to remain Catholic. As a result, it suffered serious fire damage. During the reign of Rudolph II (see pp30-31). St Thomas's developed strong links with the Imperial court. Several members of Rudolph's entourage were buried here. such as court architect Ottavio Aostalli and the sculptor Adriaen de Vries.

In 1723 the church was struck by lightning and Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer was called in to rebuild it. The shape of the original church was preserved in the Baroque reconstruction but, apart from the spire, the church today betrays little of its Gothic origins. The interior of the dome and the curving ceiling frescoes in the nave were painted by Václav Vavřinec Reiner, Above the altar are copies of paintings by Rubens - The Martyrdom of St Thomas and a picture of St Augustine. The originals are in



Baroque ceiling in the nave of the Church of St Thomas



Arcade in front of buildings on the north side of Little Quarter Square

the Sternberg Palace (see pp112-15). The English-speaking Catholic community of Prague meets in this church

• Little Ouarter Square

Malostranské Ráměstí

Map 2 F3. Malostranská. 12, 20, 22,

The square has been the centre of life in the Little Quarter since its foundation in 1257 It had started life as a large marketplace in the outer bailey of Prague Castle, Buildings sprang up in the middle of the square dividing it in half - a gallows and pillory stood in its lower part.

Most of the houses around the square have a medieval core. but all were rebuilt in the Renaissance and Baroque periods. The centre of the square is dominated by the splendid Baroque church of St Nicholas. The large building beside it was a Jesuit college. Along the upper side of the square, facing the church runs the vast Neo-Classical facade of Lichtenstein Palace. In front of it stands a column raised in honour of the Holy Trinity to mark the end of a plaque epidemic in 1713.

Other important buildings include the Little Ouarter Town Hall with its splendid Renaissance façade and the Sternberg Palace, built on the site of the outbreak of the fire of

1541 which destroyed most of the Little Ouarter. Beside it stands the Smiřický: Palace. Its turrets and hexagonal towers make it an unmistakable landmark on the northern side of the lower square. The Baroque Kaiserstein Palace is situated at the eastern side. On the facade is a bust of the great Czech soprano Emmy Destinn, who lived there between 1908 and 1914. She often sang with the famous Italian tenor Enrico Caruso

Ohurch of St Nicholas

Kostel sv. Mikuláše

See pp128-9.

6 Montanelli Museum

Muzeum Montanelli

Nerudova 13. Map 2 D3. Tel 72 42 11 584. Malostranská. 🕮 12, 20, 22. Open noon-6pm Tue-Sat, noon-4pm Sun. 🔊 🌠 👢 🚹 🗖 muzeummontanelli.com

The Montanelli Museum (MuMo) is one of a handful of small private museums in the Czech Republic, MuMo's aim is to present imaginative, modern art in a historical setting, while maintaining the DrAK Foundation's collection. There is an impressive selection of educational programmes for children, including weekend workshops.

Kostel sy Mikuláše

The Church of St Nicholas divides and dominates the two sections of Little Quarter Square, Building began in 1703, and the last touches were put to the glorious frescoed nave in 1761. It is the acknowledged masterpiece of father-and-son architects Christoph and Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer, Prague's greatest exponents of High Baroque (see opposite), although neither lived to see the completion of the church. The statues, frescoes and paintings inside the church are by leading artists of the day, and include a fine Crucifixion of 1646 by Karel Škréta. Extensive renovation in the 1950s reversed the damage caused by 200 years of leaky cladding and condensation.



The side chapels hold many works of art. This painting of St Michael is by Francesco Solimena.

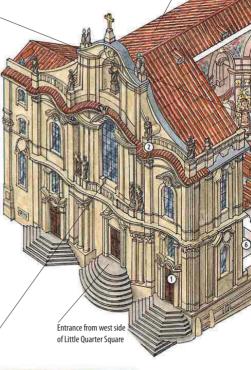


★ Pulpit

Dating from 1765, the ornate pulpit is by Richard and Peter Prachner. It is lavishly adorned with golden cherubs.

KFY

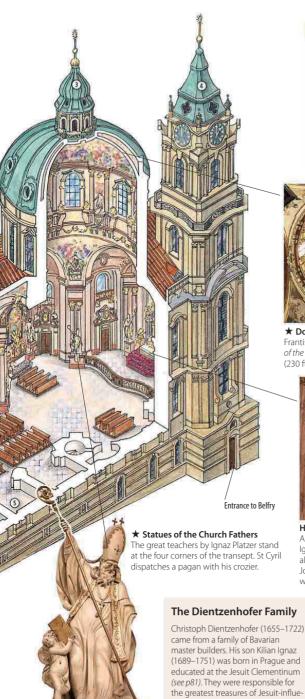
- 1 Chapel of St Ann
- (2) The curving facade has a number of statues, one of which is St Paul, by John Frederick Kohl, The façade was completed in 1710 by Christoph Dientzenhofer, who was influenced by Italian architects Borromini and Guarini.
- 3 The dome was completed by Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer in 1751, shortly before his death.
- 4) The belfry, added in 1751-6, was the last part to be built. It houses a museum of musical instruments.
- (5) Chapel of St Francis Xavier
- 6 Chapel of St Catherine





Baroque Organ

A fresco of St Cecilia, patron saint of music, watches over the superb organ. Built in 1746, the instrument was played by Mozart in 1787.



VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Malostranské náměstí

Map 2 F3.

Tel 25 75 34 215.

Open 9am-5pm daily (Nov-Mar: to 4pm: last tour:

15 mins before closing).

T 22 6

Transport

Malostranská, 12, 20, 22.



★ Dome Fresco

František Palko's fresco. The Celebration of the Holy Trinity (1753-4), fills the 70 m (230 ft) high dome.



High Altar

A copper statue of St Nicholas by Ignaz Platzer surmounts the high altar. Below it, the painting of St Joseph is by Johann Lukas Kracker, who also painted the nave fresco.

The Dientzenhofer Family

came from a family of Bavarian master builders. His son Kilian Ignaz (1689–1751) was born in Prague and educated at the Jesuit Clementinum (see p81). They were responsible for the greatest treasures of Jesuit-influe nced Prague Baroque architecture. The Church of St Nicholas, their last work, was completed by Kilian's sonin-law, Anselmo Lurago.



Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer

Nerudova Street

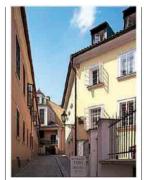
Nerudova I Ilice

Map 2 D3. ♥ Malostranská. ‡ 12, 20, 22. ₩ 292.

A picturesque narrow street leading up to Prague Castle, Nerudova is named after the poet and journalist Jan Neruda, who wrote many short stories set in this part of Prague. He lived in the house called At the Two Suns (No. 47) between 1845 and 1857.

Up until the introduction of house numbers in 1770. Prague's houses were distinquished by signs. Nerudova's houses have a splendid selection of heraldic heasts and emblems. As you make your way up Nerudova's steep slope, look out in particular for the Red Eagle (No. 6), the Three Fiddles (No. 12), the Golden Horseshoe (No. 34). the Green Lobster (No. 43) and the White Swan (No. 49) as well as the Old Pharmacy museum (No. 32)

There are also a number of grand Baroque buildings in the street including the Thun-Hohenstein Palace (No. 20, now the Italian embassy) and the Morzin Palace (No. 5, the Rumanian embassy). The latter has a facade with two massive statues of moors (a pun on the name Morzin) supporting the semicircular balcony on the first floor. Another impressive façade is that of the Church of Our Lady of Unceasing Succour, the church of the Theatines, an order founded during the Counter-Reformation.



Italian Street, heart of the former colony of Italian craftsmen

Italian Street

Vlašská Ulice

Map 1 C4. ₩ Malostranská. 12, 20, 22, 292.

Italian immigrants started to settle here in the 16th century. Many were artists or craftsmen employed to rebuild and redecorate the Castle. If you approach the street from Petřín, on the left you will see the former Italian Hospital, a Baroque building with an arcaded courtyard. Today it maintains its traditional allegiance as the cultural section of the Italian embassy.

The grandest building in the street is the former Lobkowicz Palace, now the German embassy. One of the finest Baroque palaces in Prague, it has a large oval hall on the ground floor leading out onto a magnificent garden. Look out too for the pretty stucco sign on the house called At the Three Red Roses, dating from the early 18th century.



Sign at Jan Neruda's house, At the Two Suns, 47 Nerudova Street

Vrtba Garden

Vrthovská Zahrada

Karmelitská 25. **Map** 2 D4. **Tel** 27 20 88 350. ☑ Malostranská. 12, 20, 22. **Open** Apr–Oct: 10am–6pm daily.

vrtbovska.cz

Behind Vrtba Palace lies a beautiful Baroque garden with balustraded terraces. From the highest part of the garden there are magnificent views of Prague Castle and the Little Quarter. The Vrtba Garden was designed by František Maximilián Kaňka in about 1720. The statues of Classical gods and stone vases are the work of Matthias Braun and the paintings in the *sala terrena* (garden pavilion) in the lower part of the garden are by Václav Vavřinec Reiner.



View of the Little Quarter from the terrace of the Vrtba Garden

O Church of Our Lady Victorious

Kostel Panny Marie Vítězné

Karmelitská 9. **Map** 2 E4. **Tel** 25 75 33 646. ∰ 12, 20, 22. **Open** 8:30am–7pm Mon–Sat, 8:30am–8pm Sun. ∰ 9am & 6pm (Czech) Mon–Fri, 5pm (English) Thu, 9am & 6pm (Czech), 5pm (Spanish) Sat, 10am & 7pm (Czech), noon (English), 5pm (French), 6pm (Italian) Sun. **W pragjesu.info**

The first Baroque building in Prague was the Church of the Holy Trinity, built for the German Lutherans by Giovanni Maria Filippi. It was finished in 1613 but after the Battle of the White Mountain (see p33) the Catholic authorities gave the church to the Carmelites, who rebuilt it

and renamed it in honour of the victory. The fabric has survived including the portal Enshrined on a marble altar in the right aisle is a glass case containing the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague (hetter known by its Italian name – il Rambino di Praga). This wax effigy has a record of miracle cures and is one of the most revered images in the Catholic world It was brought from Spain and presented to the Carmelites in 1628 by Polyxena of Lobkowicz Á small museum adjacent to the church traces its history.

Maltese Square

Maltézské Náměstí

Man 2 F4 🕮 12 20 22

The square takes its name from the Priory of the Knights of Malta, which used to occupy this part of the Little Ouarter. At the northern end stands a group of sculptures featuring St John the Baptist by Ferdinand Brokoff - part of a fountain erected in 1715 to mark the end of a plaque epidemic.

Most of the buildings were originally Renaissance houses belonging to prosperous townspeople, but in the 17th and 18th centuries the Little Ouarter was taken over by the Catholic nobility and many were converted to flambovant Baroque palaces. The largest, Nostitz Palace, stands on the southern side. It was built in the mid-17th century, then in about 1720 a balustrade was added with Classical vases and statues of emperors. The palace now houses the Ministry of Culture and in summer. concerts are held

here The Japanese embassy is housed in the Turba Palace (1767). an attractive pink Rococo building designed by Joseph Jäger.





Mampa Island

Kampa

Map 2 F4, 1 6, 9, 12, 20, 22,

Kampa, an island formed by a branch of the Vltava known as the Devil's Stream (Čertovka), is a delightfully peaceful corner of the Little Quarter. The stream got its name in the 19th century, allegedly after the diabolical temper of a lady who owned a house nearby in Maltese Square. For centuries the stream was used as a millrace and from Kampa vou can see the remains of three old mills. Beyond the Grand Prior's Mill the stream disappears under a small bridge below the piers of Charles Bridge, From here it flows between rows of houses. Predictably, the area has become known as "the Venice of Prague", but instead of gondolas you will see

canoes. For most of the Middle Ages there were only gardens on Kampa, though the island

was also used for washing clothes and

bleaching linen. In the 17th century the island became well-known for its pottery markets. There are some enchanting houses from this period around

Na Kampě Square, Most of the land from here to the southern tip of the island is a park. created from several old palace gardens

The island all but vanished beneath the Vltava during the floods of 2002, which caused widespread devastation to homes, businesses and historic buildings many of which needed to be restored

@ Grand Priory Sauare

Velkonřevorské Náměstí

Map 2 F4. Malostranská. 12, 20, 22,

On the northern side of this small leafy square stands the former seat of the Grand Prior of the Knights of Malta. In its present form the palace dates from the 1720s. The doorways. windows and decorative vases were made at the workshop of Matthias Braun. On the opposite side of the square is the Buquov Palace, now the French embassy, a delightful Baroque building roughly contemporary with the Grand Prior's Palace.

The only incongruous feature is a painting of John Lennon with "give peace a chance" graffitied alongside. The "Lennon Peace Wall" has graced the Grand Prior's garden since Lennon's death.

Street-by-Street: Little Quarter Riverside

On either side of Bridge Street lies a delightful half-hidden world of gently decaying squares, picturesque palaces, churches and gardens. When you have run the gauntlet of the trinket-sellers on Charles Bridge, escape to Kampa Island to enjoy a stroll in its informal park, the views across the Vltava weir to the Old Town and the flocks of swans gliding along the river.



The House at the Golden Unicorn

in Lázeňská Street has a plaque commemorating the fact that Beethoven stayed here in 1796.

16 Bridge Street

A major thoroughfare for 750 years, the narrow street leads to Little Quarter Square.

12 Grand Priory Square

The Grand Prior's Palace is the former seat of the Knights of Malta and dates from the 1720s. Its street wall features colourful murals and graffiti.

(3) Church of Our Lady beneath the Chain Two massive towers survive from when this was a fortified priory.

Museum of Music

This museum houses a vast collection of beautifully hand-crafted musical instruments.

Church of Our Lady Victorious

This Baroque church houses the famous effigy, the Holy Infant of Prague.



Maltese Square

Grand palaces surround the oddly shaped square. This coat of arms decorates the 17th-century Nostitz Palace, a popular venue for concerts.

The Jos th

The Church of St Joseph dates from the late 17th century. The painting of The Holy Family (1702) on the gilded high altar is by the leading Baroque artist

Petr Brandl

To Little Quarter

* Square



0 metres 100 0 yards 100

Key

Suggested route

For key to symbols see back flap





Locator Map See Central Prague Map pp 16–17



★ Charles Bridge
 The approach to this magnificent
 14th-century bridge, with its
 Baroque statues, passes under an
 arch below a Gothic tower.



The Grand Priory Mill
has had its wheel
meticulously restored,
though it now turns very
slowly in the sluggish
water of the Čertovka,
the former millrace.

1 ★ Kampa Island

This 19th-century painting by Soběslav Pinkas shows boys playing on Kampa. The island's park is still a popular place for children.

@ Church of Our Lady beneath the Chain

Kostel Panny Marie Pod Řetězem

Lázeňská/Velkopřevorské náměstí 4

Man 2 F4 Tel 25 75 30 876 Malostranská. 12. 20. 22. Open for concerts and services.

5:30pm Wed, 10am Sun, &

This church the oldest in the Little Quarter was founded in the 12th century. King Vladislay Il presented it to the Knights of St John, the order which later became known as the Knights of Malta. It stood in the centre of the Knights' heavily fortified monastery that guarded the approach to the old Judith Bridge. The church's name refers to the chain used in the Middle Ages to close the monastery gatehouse.

A Gothic presbytery was added in the 13th century, but a century later the original Romanesque church was demolished. Although a new portico was built with a pair of massive square towers, work was then abandoned and the old nave became a courtvard between the towers and the church. This was given a Baroque facelift in 1640 by Carlo Lurago. The painting by Karel Škréta on the high altar shows the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist coming to the aid of the Knights of Malta in the naval victory over the Turks at Lepanto in 1571.

Charles Bridge

Karlův Most

See pp136-9.



Fresco that gave At the Three Ostriches its name



View along Bridge Street through the tower on Charles Bridge

6 At the Three Ostriches

I I Tří Pštrosů

Dražického náměstí 12

Map 2 F3. Tel 25 72 88 888.

Malostranská. 12, 20, 22.

Many of Prague's colourful house signs indicated the trade carried on in the premises. In 1597 Jan Fux, an ostrich-feather merchant, bought this house by Charles Bridge. At the time ostrich plumes were verv fashionable as decoration for hats among courtiers and officers at Prague Castle. Fux even supplied feathers to foreign armies. So successful was his business that in 1606 he had the house rebuilt and decorated with a large fresco. of ostriches. The building is now an expensive hotel and restaurant.

Bridge Street

Mostecká Ulice

Map 2 F3. Malostranská. 12, 20, 22,

Since the Middle Ages this street has linked Charles Bridge with the Little Quarter Square. Crossing the bridge from the Old Town you can see the doorway of the old customs house built in 1591 in front of the Judith Tower On the first floor of the tower there is a 12th-century relief of a king and a kneeling man.

Throughout the 13th and 14th centuries the area to the north of the street was the Court of the Bishop of Prague. This was destroyed during the Hussite Wars (see pp28-9), but one of its Gothic towers is preserved in the courtvard of the house called At the Three Golden Bells, It can be seen from the higher of the two bridge towers. The street is lined with a mixture of Renaissance and Baroque houses. As you walk up to Little Quarter Square, look out for the house called At the Black Eagle on the left. It has rich sculptural decoration and a splendid Baroque wrought-iron grille, Kaunic Palace, also on the left, was built in the 1770s. Its Rococo façade has striking stucco decoration and sculptures by Ignaz Platzer.

Kafka Museum

Kafkovo Muzeum

Cihelná 2b. **Map** 2 F3. Malostranská. **Tel** 25 75 35 373. 12, 18, 20, 22. **Open** 10am–6pm daily. **Mafkamuseum.cz**

This museum houses the longterm exhibition "The City of Franz Kafka and Prague". The author Franz Kafka was born in Prague in 1883. He wrote visionary works that are considered some of the most important of the 20th century, including The Trial, The Metamorphosis and The Castle.

The exhibition has two sections. Existential Space imagines Prague as a mystical space and explores how the city shaped Kafka's life, while Imaginary Topography examines how Kafka turned Prague into a fantastical place in his works, transcending reality.

10 Vojan Park

Vojanovy Sady

U lužického semináře 17. **Map** 2 F3. **Tel** 25 75 31 839. Malostranská. 12, 18, 20, 22. **Open** 8am–5pm daily (to 7om in summer).

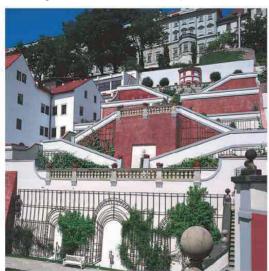
A tranquil spot hidden behind high white walls, the park dates back to the 17th century, when it was the garden of the Convent of Barefooted Carmelites. Two chapels erected by the Order have survived among the park's lawns and fruit trees. One is the Chapel of Flijah who because of his Old Testament associations with Mount Carmel is regarded as the founder of the Order His chapel takes the form of a stalagmite and stalactite cave. The other chanel, dedicated to St Theresa, was built in the 18th century as an expression of gratitude for the convent's preservation during the Prussian siege of Prague in 1757.

Kampa Museum of Modern Art

Мигеит Катра

U Sovových mlýnů2. **Map** 2 F4. **Tel** 25 72 86 147. ∰ 6, 9, 12, 20, 22. **Open** 10am–6pm daily. **②** 🔭 **③ ™ museumkampa.cz**

Housed in the historic Sova mill, the Kampa Museum of Modern Art has an impressive collection of Central European art. The museum was founded by the Czech-American couple Jan and Meda Mládek to house their private collection of drawings, paintings and sculptures. Among the artists on display are abstract painter Frantisek Kupka and Czech cubist sculptor Otto Gutfreund.



The foot of the Palace Gardens



18th-century statue of Hercules located in the Palace Gardens

Palace Gardens

Palácové Zahrady

Valdštejnské 14. Map 2 F3.

Tel 25 72 14 817.

Malostranská.

12, 18, 20, 22. Open Apr & Oct:

9am-6pm; May & Sep: 9am-7pm; Jun & Jul: 9am-9pm; Aug: 9am-8pm daily.

Magalacove-zahrady.cz

The steep southern slope below Prague Castle was covered with vineyards and gardens during the Middle Ages. But in the 16th century, nobles laid out formal terraced gardens based on Italian Renaissance models. Most of these gardens were rebuilt during the 18th century and decorated with Baroque statuary and fountains. Five of the gardens – including those belonging to the former Ledebour, Černín and Pálffy Palaces – have been linked together.

From their terraces, the gardens boast magnificent views of Prague. The Ledebour Garden, designed in the early 18th century, has a fine sala terrena (garden pavilion) by Giovanni Battista Alliprandi. The Pálffy Garden was laid out in the mid-18th century with terraces and loggias. The most beautiful of the five, and architecturally the richest, is the Kolowrat-Černín Garden, created in 1784 by Ignaz Palliardi. The highest terrace has a sala terrena with statues and Classical urns. Below this is an assortment of staircases and archways, and the remains of Classical statuary.

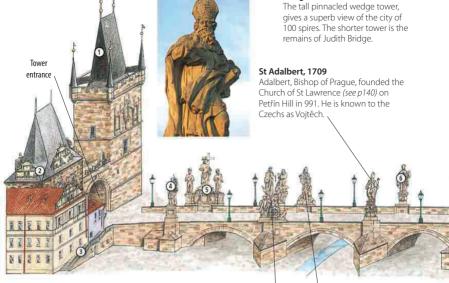
Charles Bridge (Little Quarter Side)

Karlův Most

Prague's most familiar monument, Charles Bridge, was founded by Charles IV in 1357, and connects the Old Town with the Little Quarter. It is now pedestrianized but at one time could take four carriages abreast. Many of the statues on the bridge are copies; the originals are kept in the Lapidarium of the National Museum (see p162) and at Vyšehrad (see p181). The Gothic Old Town Bridge Tower (see p139) is one of the finest buildings of its kind.



★ View from Little Quarter Bridge Tower



KEY

- 1 Little Quarter Bridge Tower
- ② Judith Bridge Tower, 1158
- ③ Steps to Saská Street
- 4 St Wenceslas, 1859
- (3) Christ between St Cosmas and St Damian, 1709
- 6 St Philip Benizi, 1714
- 7 St Cajetan, 1709
- (8) Steps to Kampa Island
- St Nicholas Tolentino, 1708
- 1708 St Augustine, 1708
- (1) St Jude Thaddaeus, 1708
- (2) St Francis of Assisi, with two angels, 1855
- 3 St Anthony of Padua, 1707
- (4) St Ludmilla with Little Václav. 1720

St John de Matha, St Felix de Valois and the Blessed Ivan, 1714

These saints, sculpted by Ferdinand
Brokoff, founded the
Trinitarian Order
of mendicants to
collect money to
buy the freedom
of Christians
enslaved by
the infidels
(represented at
the foot of the





St Vitus, 1714

This engraving of the statue shows the 3rd-century martyr with the lions which were supposed to maul him, but licked him instead. St Vitus is the patron saint of dancers and often invoked against convulsive disorders.

★ St Luitgard, 1710

This statue, regarded as the most artistically remarkable on the bridge, was sculpted by Matthias Braun when he was only 26. It is hased on the blind Cistercian nun's celebrated vision when Christ appeared and she kissed his wounds

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Map 2 F4 Little Quarter Bridge Tower: Open 10am-6pm daily (later Mar–Oct).

Transport

12. 20. 22 to Malostranské náměstí then walk down Mostecká



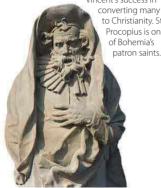
* St John Nepomuk, 1683

Reliefs on the bridge depict the martyrdom of St John Nepomuk. Here the saint is polished bright from people touching it for good luck.



St Vincent Ferrer and St Procopius, 1712

This detail shows a rabbi saddened by St Vincent's success in converting many Jews to Christianity. St Procopius is one of Bohemia's



St John Nepomuk

The cult of St John Nepomuk, canonized in 1729, was promoted by the Jesuits to rival the revered Jan Hus (see p29). Jan Nepomucký, vicar-general of the Archdiocese of Prague, was arrested in 1393 by Wenceslas IV along with the archbishop and others who had displeased him. The king had St John thrown off Charles Bridge, where he drowned. Statues modelled on the one placed here in 1683 are seen throughout central Europe, especially on bridges. Catholics would later argue that St John was killed for failing to reveal the confessions of the gueen.



Charles Bridge (Old Town Side)

Karlı'ıv most

Until 1741, Charles Bridge was the only crossing over the Vltava. It is 520 m (1.706 ft) long and is built of sandstone blocks, rumoured to be strengthened by mixing mortar with eggs. The bridge was commissioned by Charles IV in 1357 to replace the Judith Bridge and built by Peter Parler.

The bridge's original decoration was a simple cross. The first statue - of St John Nepomuk - was added in 1683, inspired by Bernini's

sculptures on Rome's Ponte Sant'Angelo.



For 200 years, the wooden crucifix stood alone on the bridge. The gilded Christ dates from 1629 and the Hebrew words "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord", were paid for by a lew as punishment for blasphemy

St Francis Xavier, 1711

The Jesuit missionary is supported by one Moorish, one Tartar and two Oriental converts, plus a pagan prince awaiting baptism.

- 1 St Norbert, St Wenceslas and St Sigismund, 1853
- 2) St Francis Borgia, 1710
- 3 St John the Baptist, 1855
- 4) St Christopher, 1857
- (5) St Cyril and St Methodius.
- 6) St Ann. 1707
- (7) St Joseph with Jesus, 1854
- (8) Pietà. 1859
- (9) St Barbara, St Margaret and
- St Elizabeth, 1707
- (ii) St Ivo. 1711
- (1) Old Town Bridge Tower

Thirty Years' War

In the last hours of this war, the Old Town was saved from the Swedish army. The truce was signed in the middle of the bridge in 1648.

1357 Charles IV commissions new bridge

1342 Judith Bridge

destroyed by floods

1621 Heads of ten Protestant nobles exhibited on the Old Town Bridge Tower

1648 Swedes damage part of the bridge and Old Town Bridge Tower

1700



1890 flood damage

1100

1300

1158 Europe's second medieval stone bridge, Judith Bridge, is built

1500

1393 St John Nepomuk thrown off Bridge on the orders of Wenceslas IV

1890 Three arches destroyed by flood

1938 Karel Dvořák's sculpture of

1900

1713 Bridge decorated with 21 statues by Braun, Brokoff and others

St Cyril and St Methodius

Sculptor Matthias Braun (1684-1738)



The Madonna, St Dominic and St Thomas, 1708

The Dominicans, (known in a Latin pun as Domini canes, the dogs of God), are shown with the Madonna and their emblem, a dog.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information Map 3 A4

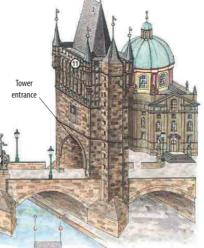
Old Town Bridge Tower: Open 10am-6pm daily (Apr-Sep: to 10pm: Mar & Oct; to 8pm), 2

Transport

17, 18 to Karlovy lázně.

Madonna and St Bernard, 1709

Cherubs and symbols of the Passion, including the dice, the cock and the centurion's gauntlet, form part of the statue.



★ Old Town Bridge Tower

This magnificent Gothic tower, designed by Peter Parler, was built at the end of the 14th century. An integral part of the Old Town's fortifications, it was badly damaged in 1648 and the west side still bears the scars.



Bridge Tower sculptures by Peter Parler include St Vitus, the bridge's patron saint, Charles IV (left) and Wenceslas IV





The viewing gallery is a rib-vaulted room, on the tower's first floor. It provides a wonderful view of Prague Castle and the Little Quarter.

Observation Tower

Petřínská rozhledna

Petřín Man 1 C4 Tel 72 58 31 633 Fig. 6 9 12 20 22 then take funicular railway 📟 143 176 Open 10am-10pm daily (Mar. Oct: to 8pm: Nov-Feb: to 6pm), 2 & 📮 w muzeumprahv.cz

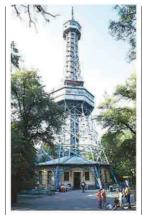
The most conspicuous landmark in Petřín Park is an imitation of the Fiffel Tower built for the Jubilee Exhibition of 1891. The octagonally shaped tower is only 60 m (200 ft), a guarter the height of the Eiffel Tower, A spiral staircase of 299 steps leads up to the viewing platform A lift is also available On a clear day, you can see as far as Bohemia's highest peak. Sněžka in the Krkonoše (Giant) Mountains 150 km (100 miles) to the northeast

Mirror Maze

Zrcadlové hludiště

Petřín. **Map** 1 C4. **Tel** 72 58 31 634. 1 6. 9. 12. 20. 22. then take funicular railway 📼 143 149 176 217 Open 10am-10pm daily (Mar. Oct: to 8pm: Nov-Feb: to 6pm), 2 2 5 w muzeumprahv.cz

With its distorting mirrors. the maze (also known as The Labvrinth) is a relic of the Exhibition of 1891, like the Observation Tower. It is in a house moved to Petřín at the end of the exhibition



The 100-year-old Observation Tower overlooking the city

When you have navigated your way through the maze, your reward is to view the vivid diorama of The Defence of Prague against the Swedes. which took place on Charles Bridge (see p.138) in 1648, badly damaging the tower.

@ Church of St Lawrence

Kostel Sv. Vavřince

Petřín, Map 1 C5, 12, 20, 22, 69 then take funicular railway. = 176. T Easter-Oct: 5pm Fri. &

According to legend, the church was founded in the 10th century by the pious on the site of a pagan shrine. The ceiling of the sacristy is decorated with a painting illustrating this legend. The painting dates from the 18th



Diorama of The Defence of Prague against the Swedes in the Mirror Maze

century, when the Romanesque church was swallowed up by a large new Baroque structure featuring a cupola flanked by two onion-domed towers. The small Calvary Chanel dating from 1735, is situated to the left of the church

Štefánik's Observatory

Štefánikova hvězdárna

Petřín 205. **Map** 2 D5. **Tel** 25 73 20. 540. 🛅 6. 9. 12. 20. 22. then funicular railway. Open Tue-Sun; opening hours vary monthly, so phone ahead or check the website Closed Mon and Oct-Dec. 20 20 &

w observatory.cz

Since 1930, Prague's amateur astronomers have been able to enjoy the facilities of this observatory on Petřín Hill. You can use its telescopes to view the craters of the moon or unfamiliar distant galaxies. There is an exhibition of old astronomical instruments and various special events for kids are held on Saturdays and Sundays

Hunger Wall

Hladová zeď

Újezd, Petřín, Strahovská. Map 2 D5, 12, 20, 22, then funicular railway. = 143, 176, 217.

The fortifications built around the southern edge of the Little Quarter on the orders of Charles IV in 1360-62 have been known for centuries as the Hunger Wall, Nearly 1,200 m (1,300 vards) of the wall survive. complete with crenellated battlements and a platform for marksmen on its inner side. It runs from Újezd across Petřín Park to Strahov The story behind the name is that Charles commissioned its construction with the aim of providing employment to the poor during a period of famine. It is true that a great famine did break out in Bohemia in the 1360s, and the two events. the famine and the building of the wall, became permanently associated.



Nebozízek, the station halfway up Petřín's funicular railway

Petřín Park

Petřínské sadv

Map 2 D5. 1 6. 9. 12. 20. 22. then take funicular railway. See Four Guided Walks nn 176-7

To the west of the Little Quarter Petřín hill rises above the city to a height of 318 m (960 ft) The name derives either from the Slavonic god Perun, to whom sacrifices were made on the hill or from the Latin name Mons Petrinus meaning "rocky hill" A forest used to stretch from here as far as the White Mountain (see p33). In the 12th century the southern side of the hill was

planted with vineyards, but by the 18th century most of these had been transformed into gardens and orchards.

Today a path winds up the slopes of Petřín, offering fine views of Prague. In the park is the Monument to the Victims of Communism (2002) by the sculptor Olbram Zoubek and a monument to Romantic poet Karel Hynek Mácha.

Funicular Railway

Lanová Dráha

Újezd. Map 2 D5. 1 6, 9, 12, 20, 22. In operation 9am-11:30pm daily (winter: to 11:20pm). (also valid for public transport). 👃 w dpp.cz

Built to carry visitors to the 1891 Jubilee Exhibition up to the Observation Tower at the top of Petřín hill, the funicular was

originally powered by water. In this form it remained in operation until 1914, then hetween the wars was converted to electricity. In 1965

> it had to be shut down because part of the hillside collapsed - coal had been mined here during the 19th century. Shoring up the slope and rebuilding the railway took 20 years, but since its reopening in 1985 it has proved a reliable way of aettina up Petřín Hill At the halfway station Nehozízek there is a restaurant (see p201) with fine views of the Castle and the city.



Statue of Karel Hynek Mácha in , Petřín Park

@ Museum of Music

České Muzeum Hudby

Karmelitská 2. Praha 1. Malá Strana. Map 2 E4. Tel 25 72 57 777. Malostranská, 🕮 12, 20, 22. Open 10am-6pm Mon, Wed-Sun.

Housed in the former 17thcentury Baroque Church of St Magdalene, the Museum of Music seeks to present musical instruments not only as fine specimens of craftsmanship and artistry but also as mediators between man and music.

The museum is run by the National Museum (see p147). Exhibits include a look at the diversity of popular 20thcentury music as preserved in film, television, photographs and sound recordings. Also examined is the production of handcrafted instruments, the history of musical notation and the social occasions linked to certain instruments. Farnhones offer high-quality sound reproduction of original recordings made on the instruments displayed The museum's collections can be accessed via the study room, and there is a listening studio for the library of recordings.

Michna Palace

Michnův palác

Újezd 40. **Map** 2 F4. **Tel** 25 70 07 111. m 12 20 22

In about 1580 Ottavio Aostalli built a summer palace here for the Kinský family on the site of an old Dominican convent. In 1623 the building was bought by Pavel Michna of Vacínov, a supply officer in the Imperial Army who had grown rich after the Battle of the White Mountain He commissioned a new Baroque building that he hoped would rival the palace of his late commander. Wallenstein (see n126)

In 1767 the Michna Palace was sold to the army and over the years it became a crumbling ruin. After 1918 it was bought by Sokol (a physical culture association) and converted into a gym and sports centre with a training ground in the old palace garden. The restored palace was renamed Tyrš House in honour of Sokol's founder.



Restored Baroque façade of the Michna Palace (Tyrš House)



NEW TOWN

NOVÉ MĚSTO

The New Town, founded in 1348 by Charles IV. was carefully planned and laid out around three large central marketplaces; the Hay Market (Senovážné Square), the Cattle Market (Charles Square) and the Horse Market (Wenceslas Square). Twice as large as the Old

Town, the area was mainly inhabited by tradesmen and craftsmen such as blacksmiths. wheelwrights and brewers. During the late 19th century, much of the New Town was demolished and completely redeveloped. giving it the appearance it has today.

Sights at a Glance



For map symbols see back flap

leading to shops, clubs, theatres and cinemas.

Hotels and restaurants occupy many of the buildings around Wenceslas Square, though it remains an important commercial centre – the square began life as a medieval horse market. As you walk along, look up at the buildings, most of which date from the turn of last century, when the square was redeveloped. There are fine examples of the decorative styles used by Czech architects of the period. Many blocks have dark covered arcades.

Koruna Palace (1914) is an ornate block of shops and offices. Its corner turret is topped with a crown (koruna)

To Powder

Gate

U Pinkasů (see p203) became one of Prague's most popular beer halls when it started serving Pilsner Urquell (see pp196–7) in 1843.

Church of Our Lady of the Snows

The towering Gothic building is only part of a vast church planned during the 14th century.



Můstek 🔯

Jungmann Square is named after Josef Jungmann (1773–1847), an influential scholar of language and lexicographer, and there is a statue of him in the middle. The Adria Palace (1925) used to be the Laterna Magika Theatre (see p218), which was where Václav Havel's Civic Forum worked in the early days of the 1989 Velvet Revolution.





Wiehl House, named after its architect Antonín Wiehl, was completed in 1896. The five-storey building is in striking Neo-Renaissance style, with aloggia and colourful sgraffito. Mikuláš Aleš designed some of the Art Nouveau figures.

Lucerna

Palace



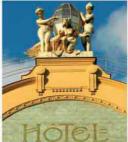
The Assicurazioni Generali Building was where Franz Kafka (see p70) worked as an insurance clerk for 10 months in 1906–7

★ Wenceslas Square

The dominant features of the square are the bronze, equestrian statue of St Wenceslas (1912) and the National Museum behind it. St Wenceslas, a former prince who was murdered by his brother Boleslav, is the patron saint of Rohemia.

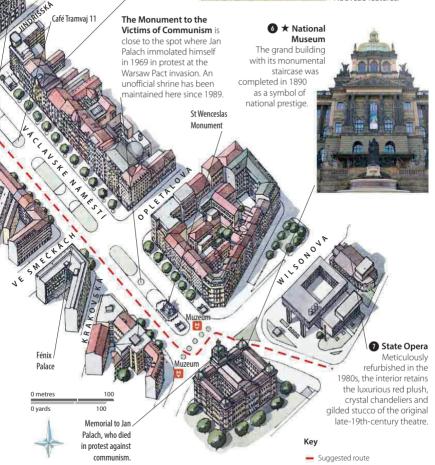


Locator Map
See Central Prague Map pp 16–17



5 ★ Hotel Europa

Both the façade and the interior of the hotel (1906) preserve most of their original Art Nouveau features.





Wenceslas Monument in Wenceslas Square

Wenceslas Square

Václavské Náměstí

The square has witnessed many key events in Czech history. It was here that the student Jan Palach burnt himself to death in 1969, and in November 1989 a protest rally in the square against police brutality led to the Velvet Revolution and the overthrow of Communism

Wenceslas "Square" is something of a misnomer, for it is some 750 m (825 vd) long and only 60 m (65 vd) wide. Originally a horse market, today it is lined with hotels. restaurants, clubs and shops, reflecting the seamier side of global consumerism. The huge equestrian statue of St Wenceslas that looks the length of the square from in front of the National Museum was erected in 1912. Cast in bronze, it is the work of Josef Myslbek, the leading Czech sculptor of the late 19th century. At the foot of the pedestal there are several other statues of Czech patron saints. A memorial near the statue commemorates the victims of the former regime.

Church of Our Lady of the Snows

Kostel Panny Marie Sněžné

Charles IV founded this church to mark his coronation in 1347. The name refers to a 4th-century miracle in Rome, when the

Virgin Mary appeared to the pope in a dream telling him to build a church to her on the spot where snow fell in August. Charles's church was never completed, and the building we see today was just the presbytery of the projected church. Over 33 m (110 ft) high, it was finished in 1397, and was

originally part of a Carmelite monastery. On the northern side there is a gateway with a 14th-century pediment that marked the entrance to the church graveyard.

A steeple was added in the early 1400s, but further building was halted by the Hussite Wars (see pp28-9). The Hussite firebrand Jan Želivský preached at the church and was buried here after his execution in 1422. The church suffered damage in the wars, and in 1434 the steeple was destroyed. For a long time the church was left to decay. In 1603 Franciscans restored the building. The intricate net vaulting of the ceiling dates from this period, the original roof having collapsed. Most of the interior decoration, apart from the 1450s pewter font,

is Baroque. The monumental three-tiered altar is crowded with statues of saints, and is crowned with a crucifix

Franciscan Garden

Františkánská Zahrada

Map 3 C5. ☑ Můstek.

Open Apr–Sep: 7am–10pm (Oct: to 8pm: Nov–Mar: 8am–7pm). હ

Originally the garden of a Franciscan monastery, the area was opened to the public in 1950 as a tranquil oasis close to Wenceslas Square. By the entrance is a Gothic portal leading down to a cellar restaurant – U Františkánů (At the Franciscans). In the 1980s several of the beds were replanted with herbs, cultivated by the Franciscans in the 17th century.

• Museum of Communism

Národní Muzeum

Na Příkopě 10. **Map** 3 C4. **Tel** 22 42 12 966. Můstek. **Open** 9am–9pm daily. **w muzeumkomunismu.cz**

This museum explores how Communism affected various areas of Prague society, such as politics, sports and everyday life, during the totalitarian regime of 1948 to 1989.

On display are original artifacts, gathered from the museum's archive, along with other rare items acquired from public and private collections. These include photos, propaganda material and film footage. There is also a recreation of an interrogation room, complete with a spotlight and a typewriter.



A view of the Church of Our lady of the Snows from the Franciscan gardens



Façade of the State Opera, formerly the New German Theatre

6 Hotel Europa

Hotel Evropa

Though a trifle shabby in places, the Europa Hotel is a wonderfully preserved reminder of the golden age of hotels. It was built in highly decorated Art Nouveau style between 1903 and 1906. Not only has its splendid façade crowned with gilded nymphs survived, but many of the interiors on the ground floor have remained virtually intact, including all the original bars, large mirrors, panelling and light fittings.

nearby building formerly known as Radio Free Europe. The collections are mainly devoted to mineralogy, archaeology, anthropology, numismatics and natural history. A Pantheon also contains busts and statues of Czech scholars, writers and artists.

exhibitions are housed in a

State Opera

Státní Opera

Wilsonova 4/Legerova 75. **Map** 4 E5. **Tel** 22 49 01 866/448. ☑ Muzeum. ☑ 3, 9, 14, 24. **Open** for performances only. See Entertainment p218 & p220. ☑ **opera.cz**

The first theatre built here, the New Town Theatre, was

nulled down in 1885 to make way for the present building This was originally known as the New German Theatre built to rival the Czechs' National Theatre (see nn156-7) A Neo-Classical frieze decorates the pediment above the columned loggia at the front of the theatre. The figures include Dionysus and Thalia, the muse of comedy. The interior is stuccoed, and original paintings in the auditorium and on the curtain have been preserved. In 1945 the theatre became the city's main opera house.

Mucha Museum

Muchovo Muzeum

Panská 7. **Map** 4 D4. **Tel** 22 42 16 415.

Můstek, Náměstí Republiky.

3, 9, 14, 24, 26. **Open** 10am–6pm daily.

The 18th-century Kaunicky Palace is home to the first museum dedicated to this Czech master of Art Nouveau. A selection of more than 100 exhibits include paintings and drawings, sculptures, photographs and personal memorabilia. The central courtyard becomes a terrace for the café in the summer, and there is a museum shop offering exclusive gifts with Mucha motifs.

Mational Museum

Národní Muzeum

Václavské náměstí 68. **Map** 6 E1. **Tel** 22 44 97 111. Muzeum. **Closed** until 2015; visit building at Vinohradská 1 from 10am–6pm daily until then. Mnccz

The vast Neo-Renaissance building at one end of Wenceslas Square houses the National Museum. Designed by Josef Schulz as a triumphal affirmation of the Czech national revival, it was completed in 1890. The entrance is reached by a ramp decorated with allegorical statues. Seated by the door are History and Natural History.

The building is undergoing extensive restoration, which is expected to be complete in 2015. Until then, temporary



Main staircase of the National Museum

Art Nouveau in Prague

The decorative style known as Art Nouveau originated in Paris in the 1890s. It quickly became international as most of the major European cities quickly responded to its graceful, flowing forms. In Prague it was called "Secese" and at its height in the first decade of the 20th century. dving out during World War I, when it seemed frivolous and even decadent. There is a wealth of Art Nouveau in Prague, both in the fine and decorative arts and in architecture. In the New Town and the Jewish Quarter (see pp82-95), entire streets were demolished at the turn of the century and built in the new style.

Architecture

Art Nouveau made its first appearance in Prague at the Jubilee exhibition of 1891. Architecturally, the new style was a deliberate attempt to break with the 19th-century tradition of monumental buildings. In Art Nouveau the important aspect was ornament, either painted or sculpted, often in the form of a female figure, applied to a fairly plain surface. This technique was ideally suited to wrought iron and glass. popular at the turn of the century. These materials were light but strong. The effect of this, together with Art Nouveau decoration, created buildings of lasting beauty.



Built by Alois Dryák and Bedřich Bendelmaver in 1900, the facade of this hotel has plasterwork

shaped like tree branches.



This house was built in 1903 for the Prague Insurance Company. Its name is in ailt Art Nouveau letters at the top.

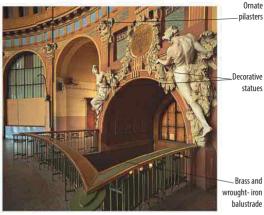


Hlahol Choir Building, 1905 The architect Josef Fanta embellished this building with mosaics and sculptures by Karl Mottl and Josef Pekárek (see also p142).



Hotel Meran

Finished in 1904, this grand Art Nouveau building is notable for its fine detailing inside and out.



Hlavní nádraží

Prague's main railway station was completed in 1901. With its huge interior glazed dome and elegant sculptural decoration, it shows many Art Nouveau features.

Many painters, sculptors and graphic artists were influenced by Art Nouveau. One of the most successful exponents of the style was the artist Alfons Mucha (1860-1939) He is celebrated chiefly for his posters. Yet he designed stained glass (see p104), furniture, iewellery, even postage stamps. It is perhaps here, in the decorative and applied arts. that Art Nouveau had its fullest expression in Prague Artists adorned every type of object doorknobs curtain ornaments vases and cutlery - with tentacleand plant-like forms in imitation of the natural world from which they drew their inspiration.



Postage Stamp, 1918
A bold stamp design by Alfons

A bold stamp design by Alfons Mucha marked the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic.



Poster for Sokol Movement

Mucha's colour lithograph for the sixth national meeting of the Sokol gymnastic movement (1912) is in Tyrš's Museum (Physical Culture and Sports).

Záboj and Slavoj





Glass Vase

This iridescent green vase made of Bohemian glass has relief decoration of intertwined threads. It is in the Museum of Decorative Arts.



Curtain Ornament and Candlestick

The silver and silk ornament adorns the Mayor's room of the Municipal House. The candlestick by Emanuel Novák with fine leaf design is in the Museum of Decorative Arts.

Where to See Art Nouveau in Prague



Detail of doorway, Široká 9, Jewish Quarter

Architecture

Apartment Building. Na příkopě 7 Hanavský Pavilion p161 Hlahol Choir Building. Masarvkovo nábřeží 10 Hlavní nádraží. Wilsonova Hotel Central, Hybernská 10 Hotel Evropa p146 Industrial Palace p160 and Four Guided Walks nn178-9 Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj p69 Municipal House p66 Palacký Bridge (Palackého most) Praha House, Národní třída 7 Wiehl House p144

Painting

Trades Fair Palace pp164-5

Sculpture

Jan Hus Monument p72 Vyšehrad Garden and Cemetery p160 and Four Guided Walks pp180–81 Zbraslav Monastery p163

Decorative Arts

Mucha Museum *p147*Museum of Decorative Arts *p86*Prague Museum *p161*

Street-by-Street: Charles Square

The southern part of the New Town resounds to the rattle of trams. as many routes converge in this part of Prague, Fortunately, the park in Charles Square (Karlovo náměstí) offers a peaceful and welcome retreat. Some of the buildings around the Square belong to the University and the statues in the centre represent writers and scientists, reflecting the academic environment. There are several Baroque buildings and towards the river stands the historic 14th-century Slavonic Monastery.

♠ ★ Church of St Cyril and St Methodius A plague and a bullet-scarred wall are reminders of a siege in 1942, when German troops attacked Czech and Slovak paratroopers hiding here after assassinating Nazi Reinhard Hevdrich.



★ Charles Square

The centre of the square is a pleasant 19th-century park with lawns, formal flowerbeds fountains and statues -

> Church of St Cosmas and St Damian

(B) Slavonic Monastery Emauzy

In 1965 a pair of modern concrete spires by František Černý were added to the church of the 14th-century monastery.



14 Church of St John on the Rock

This view of the organ and ceiling shows the dynamic Baroque design of Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer.



The Czech Technical University was

founded here in 1867

Renaissance building.

Charles Square

Centre

in a grand Neo-





Locator Map See Central Prague Map pp16-17

A statue of Jan Purkyně

(1787-1869), an eminent physiologist and pioneer of cell theory, was erected in 1961. It is the most recent of the many memorials in _ the square.



Jesuit College

Founded in the mid-17th century, this imposing building has been a hospital since the suppression of the Jesuits in 1773 (see pp32-3).







B Faust House

In the 18th century this house was owned by Count Ferdinand Mladota of Solopysky. The chemical experiments he performed reinforced the associations that gave the building its name.



0 yards 100

Kev

Suggested route



16 Botanical Gardens

Though part of the Charles University, the gardens are open to the public and are known for their profusion of rare plants. They make a pleasant place to relax.



Sculptures on the facade of the Jesuit College by Tomasso Soldati

Church of St Ignatius

Kostel Sv. lanáce

lečná 2. **Map** 5 C2. **Tel** 22 19 90 200. Karlovo náměstí, 3. 4. 6. 10. 16. 18. 21. 22. 24. **Open** 6am–6:30pm daily. 6:30am, 7:30am, 5:30pm Mon-Sat. 7am. 9am. 11am. 5:30pm Sun.

With its wealth of gilding and flambovant stucco decoration. St Ignatius is typical of the Baroque churches built by the Jesuits to impress people with the glamour of their faith. The architects - Carlo Lurago, who started work on the church in 1665, and Paul Ignaz Baver, who added the tower in 1687 were also responsible for the adioining Jesuit College.

The painting on the high altar of The Glory of St Ignatius (St Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order) is by Jan liří Hainsch

The Jesuits continued to embellish the interior right up until the suppression of their order in 1773, adding stuccowork and statues of Jesuit and Czech saints.

O Jesuit College

Jezuitská Kolei

Karlovo náměstí 36. Map 5 B2 Marlovo náměstí. 3, 4, 6, 10, 14, 16, 18, 21, 22, 24, **Closed** to the public.

Half the eastern side of Charles Square is occupied by the former college of the Jesuit order in the New Town. As in other parts of Prague, the Jesuits were able to demolish huge swathes of the city to put up another bastion of their formidable education system. The college was built between 1656 and 1702 by Carlo Lurago and Paul Ignaz Baver. The two sculptured portals are the work of Johann Georg Wirch who extended the building in 1770. After the suppression of the lesuit order in 1773 the college was converted into a military hospital. It is now part of Charles University.

© Charles Square

Karlovo Náměstí

Map 5 B2. M Karlovo náměstí. 3, 4, 6, 10, 16, 18, 21, 22, 24.

Since the mid-19th century the square has been a park. Though surrounded by busy roads, it is a pleasant place to sit and read or watch people exercising their dachshunds.

The square began life as a vast cattle market, when Charles IV founded the New Town in 1348. Other goods sold in the square included firewood, coal and pickled herring from barrels. In the centre of the market Charles had a wooden

tower built, where the coronation iewels were put on display once a year In 1382 the tower was replaced by a chapel, from which, in 1437. concessions made to the Hussites by the none at the Council of Basle were read out to the populace.

© Church of St Cyril and St Methodius

Kostel Sv. Cvrila A Metoděje

Resslova 9. Map 5 B2. Tel 22 49 20 686. Karlovo náměstí, 3. 4. 6. 10. 16. 18 22 24 **Open** 9am=5pm Tue=Sun (Nov-Mar: Tue-Sat). 1 8am Wed. 8am, 5pm Sat, 9:30am Sun. 🔊 🔀 👢 w pravoslavnacirkev.cz

This Baroque church, with a pilastered facade and a small central tower was built in the 1730s. It was dedicated to St. Charles Borromeo and served as the church of a community of retired priests, but both were closed in 1783. In the 1930s the church was restored and given to the Czechoslovak Orthodox Church and rededicated to St Cyril and St Methodius, the 9th-century "Apostles to the Slavs" (see pp22–3). In May 1942 parachutists who assassinated . Reinhard Heydrich, the Nazi governor of Czechoslovakia. hid in the crypt along with members of the Czech Resistance. Surrounded by German troops, they took their own lives rather than surrender.

Bullet holes made by German machine guns during the siege can still be seen below the memorial plaque on the outer wall of the crypt, which now houses a museum of these times

Main altar in the Church of St Cyril and St Methodius

Faust House

Faustův Dům

Karlovo náměstí 40, 41, Map 5, B3 M Karlovo náměstí. 1 3. 4. 10. 16. 18, 21, 24. Closed to the public.

Prague thrives on legends of alchemy and pacts with the devil. and this Baroque mansion. has attracted many. There has been a house here since the 14th century when it belonged to Prince Václay of Opava, an alchemist and natural historian. In the 16th century it was owned by the alchemist Edward Kelley. The chemical experiments of Count Ferdinand Mladota of Solopysky, who owned the house in the mid-18th century. gave rise to its association with the legend of Faust.



Baroque façade of Faust House

Church of St John on the Rock

Kostel Sv. Jana Na Skalce

Vvšehradská 49. Map 5 B3. Tel 22 19 79 325. 3, 4, 10, 16, 18, 22, 24. Open for services only. 11am Sun. 🔀

One of Prague's smaller Baroque churches. St John on the Rock is one of Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer's most daring designs. Its twin square towers are set at a sharp angle to the church's narrow façade and the interior is based on an octagonal floorplan. The church was completed in 1738, but the double staircase leading up to the west front was not added

until the 1770s On the high altar there is a wooden version of Jan Brokof's statue of St. John Nepomuk (see p137) which stands on the Charles Bridge.

@ Slavonic Monastery Emauzy

Klášter Na Slovanech-Emauzv

Wyšehradská 49 Man 5 R3 Tel 22 49 17 662 1 3 4 10 16 18 21, 24. Monastery church: Open 11am-5pm Mon-Fri (also Sat in summer). Cloisters: Open by appt. 10am daily. 2 2 & w emauzy.cz

Both the monastery and its church were almost destroyed in an American air raid in 1945 During their reconstruction. the church was given a pair of modern reinforced concrete spires.

The monastery was founded in 1347 for the Croatian Benedictines, whose services were held in the Old Slavonic language, hence its name "Na Slovanech". In the course of Praque's tumultuous religious history it has since changed hands many times. In 1446 a Hussite order was formed here. then in 1635 the monastery was acquired by Spanish Benedictines. In the 18th century the complex was given a thorough Baroque treatment. but in 1880 it was taken over by some German Benedictines. who rebuilt almost everything in Neo-Gothic style. The monastery has managed to preserve some historically important 14th-century wall paintings in the cloister, though many were damaged in World War II



Remains of 14th-century wall paintings in the Slavonic Monastery

@ Botanical Gardens

Rotanická Zahrada

Na slupi 16 Map 5 B3 Tel 22 19 51 879 18. 24. Glasshouses: Open 10am-5pm daily (Feb. Mar: to 4pm: Nov-Jan: to 3:30pm), Gardens: Open 10am-7:30pm daily (Feb. Mar: to 5pm: Sep, Oct: to 6pm; Nov-Jan: to 4pm).

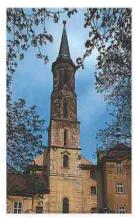
Charles IV founded Prague's first botanical garden in the 14th

century. This is a much later institution. The university garden was founded in the Smíchov district in 1775 but moved here in 1897. The huge greenhouses date from 1938.

Special botanical exhibitions and shows of exotic birds and tropical fish are often held here. One star attraction of the gardens is the giant water lilv. Victoria cruziana, whose huge leaves can support a small child. During the summer it produces dozens of flowers that only survive for a day.



Entrance to the university's Botanical Gardens



Octagonal steeple of St Catherine's

© Church of St Catherine

Kostel Sv. Kateřiny

Kateřinská 30. **Map** 5 C3. 🕮 4. 6. 10. 16 22 Closed to the public

St Catherine's stands in the garden of a former convent. founded in 1354 by Charles IV to commemorate his victory at the Battle of San Felice in Italy in 1332 In 1420 during the Hussite revolution (see nn 28-9) the convent was demolished but in the following century it was rebuilt by Kilian Ignáz Dientzenhofer as an Augustinian monastery. The monks remained here until 1787, when the monastery closed. Since 1822 it has been used as a hospital. In 1737 a new Baroque church was built, but the slender steeple of the old Gothic church was retained. Its octagonal shape has gained it the nickname of "the Prague minaret".

Chalice Restaurant

Restaurace I I Kalicha

Na bojišti 12-14. Map 6 D3. Tel 22 49 12 557. P IP Pavlova. 4, 6, 10, 16, 22. Open 11am-11pm daily (book ahead). 👃 w ukalicha.cz

This Pilsner Urquell beer hall owes its fame to the novel The Good Soldier Šveik by Jaroslav Hašek. It was Švejk's favourite drinking place and the establishment trades on the popularity of the best-known

character in 20th-century Czech literature The staff dress in period costume from World War I the era of this novel. If you receive something you didn't order return it immediately to avoid having to pay for it

Dvořák Museum

Muzeum Antonína Dvořáka

Ke Karlovu 20. **Map** 6 D2. **Tel** 22 49 23 363. P Pavlova. 4, 6, 10, 22, 23. 291. Open 10am-1:30pm, 2-5pm Tue-Sun and for concerts, 20 20 w nm.cz

One of the most enchanting secular buildings of the Prague Raroque now houses the Antonín Dvořák Museum On display are Dyořák scores and editions of his works plus photos and memorabilia of the 19thcentury Czech composer, including his piano, viola and desk.

The building is by the great Baroque architect Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer (see p129). Just two storevs high with an elegant tiered mansard roof, the house was completed in 1720. for the Michnas of Vacinov and was originally known as the Michna Summer Palace It later became known as Villa Amerika after a nearby inn called Amerika, Between the two pavilions flanking the house

a replica of the Baroque original. In the 19th century the villa and garden fell into decay The garden statues and vases, from the workshop of Matthias Braun. date from about 1735. They are original but heavily restored, as is the interior of the palace. The ceiling and walls of the large room on the first floor are decorated with 18th-century frescoes by Jan Ferdinand Schor

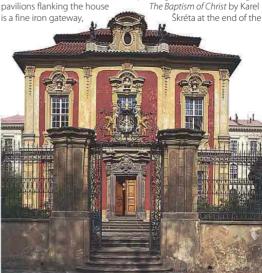
@ Church of St Stephen

Kostel Sv. Štěnána

Štěnánská **Man** 5 C2 **Tel** 22 19 90. 224. 10, 16, 22. Open only for services. 11am Sun. 2

Founded by Charles IV in 1351 as the parish church of the upper New Town St Stephen's was finished in 1401 with the completion of the multi-spired steeple. In the late 1600s the Branberg Chapel was built on to the north side of the church. It contains the tomb of the prolific Baroque sculptor Matthias Braun.

Most of the subsequent Baroque additions were removed when the church was scrupulously re-Gothicized in the 1870s by Josef Mocker. There are several fine Baroque paintings, however, including



Villa Amerika, home of the Dvořák Museum



Gothic pulpit in St Stephen's

left hand aisle and a picture of St John Nepomuk (see p137) by Jan Jiří Heinsch to the left of the 15th-century pulpit. The church's greatest treasure is undoubtedly a beautiful Gothic panel painting of the Madonna, known as Our Lady of St Stephen's, which dates from 1472



Impressive facade of the New Town Hall

10 New Town Hall

Novoměstská Radnice

Karlovo náměstí 23. **Map** 5 B1. ☑ Karlovo náměstí. ፴ 3, 4, 6, 10, 16, 18, 21, 22, 24. **Tel** 22 49 48 229. Tower: **Open** 10am– 6pm daily. ☑ **nrpraha.cz**

In 1960 a statue of Hussite preacher Jan Želivský was unveiled in front of the New Town Hall. It commemorates the first and bloodiest of many defenestrations. On 30 July 1419 Želivský led a crowd of demonstrators to the Town Hall to demand the release of some prisoners. When they were refused, they stormed the building and threw the Catholic councillors out of the windows. Those who survived the fall were finished off with pikes.

The Town Hall already existed in the 1300s; the Gothic tower was added in the mid-15th century and contains an 18th-century chapel. In the 16th century it acquired an arcaded courtyard. After the joining-up of the four towns of Prague in 1784, the Town Hall ceased to be the seat of the municipal administration and became a courthouse and a prison. It is now used for cultural and social events.

② U Fleků

Křemencova 11. Map 5 B1. Tel 22 49 34 019. ☑ Národní třída, Karlovo náměstí (closed till 2015). ጪ 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 16 18, 22, 24. Museum: Open 10am-4pm Mon–Fri. ☑ ☑ ☑ આ ufleku.cz

Records indicate that beer was brewed here as early as 1459. This archetypal Prague beer hall has been fortunate in its owners, who have kept up the tradition of brewing as an art rather than just a means of

making money. In 1762 the brewery was purchased by Jakub Flekovský, who named it U Fleků (At the Fleks). The present brewery, the smallest in Prague, makes a special strong, dark beer. There is also a small museum of Czech brewing history and a restaurant, which is popular with tourists. Note, any welcome drinks will be added to your bill.



U Fleků, beer hall exterior, clock

Church of St Ursula

Kostel Sv. Voršilv

Národní 8. **Map** 3 A5. **Tel** 22 49 30 577. Márodní třída (closed till 2015). 6, 9, 18, 22. 5 5pm daily (8am for schools). For tours, call 22 49 30 511. **Concerts**

The delightful Baroque church of St Ursula was built as part of an Ursuline convent founded in 1672. The original sculptures still decorate the façade and in front of the church stands a group of statues featuring St John Nepomuk (1747) by Ignaz Platzer the Elder. The light airy interior has a frescoed, stuccoed ceiling and on the various altars there are lively Baroque paintings. The main altar has one of St Ursula.

The adjoining convent has been returned to the Ursuline order and is now a Catholic school. In the building on the right-hand side of the church is the entrance to the Institute of Endocrinology.

National Theatre

Národní Divadlo

Karel Prager.

This gold-crested theatre has always been an important symbol of the Czech cultural revival. Work started in 1868, funded largely by voluntary contributions. The original Neo-Renaissance design was by the Czech architect Josef Zítek. After its destruction by fire (see opposite). Josef Schulz was given the job of rebuilding the theatre and all the best Czech artists of the period contributed towards its lavish and spectacular decoration. During the late 1970s and early 1980s the theatre was restored and the New Stage was built by architect



The theatre from Marksmen's Island



The elaborately painted ceiling is adorned with allegorical figures representing the arts

by František Ženíšek.

* Auditorium

KFY

- 1) The five arcades of the loggia are decorated with lunette paintings by Josef Tulka, entitled Five Songs.
- ② The New Stage auditorium
- (3) Laterna Magika
- (4) A bronze three-horse chariot. designed by Bohuslav Schnirch, carries the Goddess of Victory.
- (5) The startling sky-blue roof covered with stars, is said to symbolize the summit all artists should aim for.



★ Lobby Ceiling

This ceiling fresco is the final part of a triptych painted by František Ženíšek in 1878 depicting the Golden Age of Czech Art.



★ Stage Curtain

This sumptuous gold and red stage curtain, showing the origin of the theatre, is the work of Vojtěch Hynais.

VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

Národní 2, Nové Město. **Map** 3 A5.

Tel 22 49 01 448.

Box office: **Open** 8am–4pm daily. Auditorium: **Open** only during

performances.

Transport

Márodní třída, line B. 🏥 6, 9, 17, 18, 21, 22 to Národní divadlo.

Façade Decoration This standing figure on the attic of the western façade is one of many figures representing the Arts sculpted by Antonín Wagner in 1883.

National Theatre Fire



On 12 August, 1881, just days before the official opening, the National Theatre was completely gutted by fire. It was thought to have been started by metalworkers on the roof. But just six weeks later, enough money had been collected to rebuild the theatre. It was finally opened two years late in 1883 with a performance of Czech composer Bedřich Smetana's opera Libuše (see p81).

The President's Box

The former royal box, lined in red velvet, is decorated with famous historical figures from Czech history by Václav Brožík.



FURTHER AFIELD

Visitors to Prague, finding the old centre packed with sights, tend to ignore the suburbs. It is true that once you start exploring away from the centre, the language can become more of a problem. However, it is well worth the effort, first to escape the crowds of tourists milling around the Castle and the Old Town Square, and second to realize that Prague is a living city as well as a picturesque time capsule. Most of the museums and other sights in the first

part of this section are easily reached by Metro, tram or even on foot. If you are prepared to venture a little further, do not miss the grand palace at Troja or the monastery at Břevnov – which was the first in Bohemia, founded in 993, and later rebuilt in Baroque style. The Day Trips (pp.168–71) include visits to castles close to Prague and the historic spa towns of Marienbad and Karlsbad, which attracted the first tourists to Bohemia during the 19th century.

Sights at a Glance

Museums and Galleries

- Praque Museum
- National Technical Musaum
- Trade Fair Palace
- pp164-5 Villa Müller

Monasteries

- Břevnov Monastery
- Cemeteries
- Olšany Cemeteries

Historic Districts

- Vvšehrad
- 3 7ižkov
- 4 Náměstí Míru

Historic Sites

 White Mountain and Star Hunting Lodge

Historic Buildings

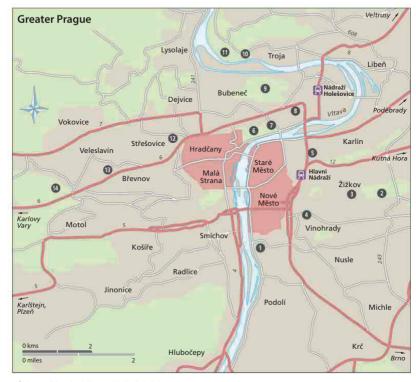
₱ Troia Palace pp166-7

Parks and Gardens

- 6 Letná Park
- Exhibition Ground and Stromovka Park
- Prague Zoo
- 12 Prague Botanical Gardens



Minor road





Vyšehrad Cemetery, where some of Prague's most famous figures are buried

• Vyšehrad

Map 5 B5. ♥ Vyšehrad. ♠ 3, 6, 7, 17, 18, 24.

A rocky outcrop above the Vltava, Vvšehrad means "castle on the heights" (see pp180-81). It was fortified in the 10th century and, at times, used as the seat of the Přemyslid princes (see p22-23). The area has great historical and mythological significance, and in the 1870s it became the site of a national cemetery. Many luminaries of Czech culture are buried here including the composers Antonín Dvořák (see p154) and Bedřich Smetana (see p81), who paid tribute to the second seat of the Přemyslid dynasty in his opera Libuše (see p34). Each year.

Well-tended grave in the eastern part of the Olšany Cemeteries

a service is held at Smetana's grave to mark the beginning of the Prague Spring International Music Festival (see p.52).

Within the walls of Vyšehrad are many fascinating sights, such as the huge twin-spired Church of St Peter and St Paul, the 11th-century Rotunda of St Martin, the mysterious Devil's Column and the castle walls themselves (see pp 180–81). From these walls, there are superb views over the Vltava river and across to Prague, which can be particulary lovely at sunset. Vyšehrad Park, with its tree-lined paths, is ideal for a relaxing stroll.

The streets around the fortress are also worth exploring. There are some fine examples of Cubist houses, built by Josef Chochol, on Rašínovo nábřeží, Libušina and the corner of Přemyslova and Neklanova.

Olšany Cemeteries

Olšanské Hřhitovy

Vinohradská 153, Jana Želivského. **Tel** 26 73 10 652. Ž Želivského.

5, 10, 11, 16, 26. **Open** Mar, Apr,
Oct: 8am–6pm daily; May–Sep: 8am–7pm daily; Nov–Feb: 8am–5pm daily.

At the northwest corner of the main cemetery stands the small Church of St Roch (1682), protector against the plague – the first cemetery was founded here in 1679 specifically for the burial of plague victims. In the course of the 19th century, the old cemetery was enlarged and new ones developed, including a Russian cemetery, distinguished

by its old-fashioned Orthodox church (1924–5), and a Jewish cemetery, where Franz Kafka (see p70) is buried. Tombs include those of painter Josef Mánes (1820–71) who worked during the Czech Revival movement (see pp34–5), and Josef Jungmann (1773–1847), compiler of a five-volume Czech–German dictionary.



Equestrian statue of Jan Žižka

6 Žižkov

■ Florenc. National Memorial Vitkov,
U památníku 1900. **Tel** 22 27 81 676.
■ 133, 175. Open 10am–6pm Wed–
Sun.
■ □ W nm.cz

This quarter of Prague was the scene of a historic victory for the Hussites (see pp28–9) over Crusaders sent by the Emperor Sigismund to destroy them. On 14 July 1420 on Vitkov hill, a tiny force of Hussites defeated an army of several thousand wellarmed men. The determined, hymn-singing Hussites were led by the one-eved Jan Žižka.

In 1877 the area around Vitkov was renamed Žižkov in honour of Žižka's victory, and in 1950 a bronze equestrian statue of Žižka by Bohumil Kafka was erected on the hill. About 9m (30 ft) high, this is the largest equestrian statue in the world. It stands in front of the National Memorial, built in 1928-38 in honour of the Czechoslovak legionaries, and rebuilt and extended after World War II. The Memorial later served as a mausoleum for Klement Gottwald and other Communist leaders. Their remains have since been removed and the building was given to the National Museum (see p147), which has a permanent exhibition on Czechoslovak history.



Relief by Josef Myslbek on portal of St Ludmilla in Náměstí Míru

Nearby is a giant television transmitter, 216 m (709 ft) high. Locals are suspicious of the rays emanating from this great tube of reinforced concrete, built in 1985_92

Náměstí Míru

Map 6 F2. Maměstí Míru. 4. 10. 16, 22. = 135. Church of St Ludmila: Open Mar-Oct: 9am-4pm Mon-Sat. noon-4pm Sun. 4:30pm daily. 9am. 11am & 4:30pm Sun. W ludmilavinohradv.cz

This attractive square, with a well-kept central garden, is the focal point of the mostly residential Vinohrady quarter. At the top of its sloping lawns stands the attractive, brick Neo-Gothic Church of St Ludmila (1888-93), designed by Josef Mocker, architect of the west end of St Vitus's Cathedral (see pp102-105). Its twin octagonal spires are 60 m (200 ft) high. On the tympanum of the main portal is a relief of Christ with St Wenceslas and St Ludmila by the great 19th-century sculptor Josef Myslbek, Leading artists also contributed designs for the stained-glass windows.

The outside of the square is lined with attractive buildings. including the Vinohrady Theatre, a spirited Art Nouveau building completed in 1907. The façade is crowned by two huge winged figures sculpted by Milan Havlíček, symbolizing Drama and Opera.

Prague Museum

Muzeum Hlavního Města Prahv

Na Poříčí 52. **Map** 4 F3. **Tel** 22 48 16 773. Florenc. 3, 8, 24. Open 9am-6pm Tue-Sun. w muzeumprahv.cz

The collection records the history of Prague from primeval times. A new museum was built to house the exhibits in the 1890s. Its Neo-Renaissance facade is rich with stucco and sculptures, and the interior walls are painted with historic views of the city. Some of the impressive items on display include examples of Praque china and furniture, relics of the medieval guilds and paintings of Prague through the ages. The most remarkable

exhibit is the paper and wood model of Prague by Antonín Langweil, Completed in 1834, it covers 20 sq m (25 sq vards). The scale of the extraordinarily accurate model is 1.500

O Letná Park

Letenské Sady

Map 3 A1. Malostranská. Hradčanská. 1. 5. 8. 12. 17. 18. 20. 22 25 26

Across the river from the Jewish Quarter, a large plateau overlooks the city. It was here that armies gathered before attacking Prague Castle, Since the mid-19th century it has been a wooded park

On the terrace at the top of the granite steps that lead up from the embankment stands a curious monument – a giant metronome built in 1991. It was installed after the Velvet Revolution on the pedestal formerly occupied by the gigantic stone statue of Stalin leading the people, which was blown up in 1962. A far more durable monument is the Hanavský Pavilion, a Neo-Baroque cast iron structure built for the 1891 Exhibition It was later dismantled and erected on its present site in the park, where it houses a popular restaurant and café. The park has a popular beer garden in summer at its eastern end.



View of the VItava and bridges from Letná Park

Mational Technical Museum

Národní Technické Muzeum

Kostelní 42 Tel 22 03 99 111 🕮 1 5 18 25 26 **Open** 10am=6pm Tue=Sun ₽ Ø € W ntm.cz

Though it tries to keep abreast of all scientific developments. the museum's strenath is its collection of machines from the Industrial Revolution to the present day, the largest of its kind in Europe. The History of Transportation section, in the vast central hall, is filled with locomotives, railway carriages. bicycles, veteran motorcars and motorcycles, with aeroplanes and a hot-air balloon suspended overhead.

The photography and cinematography section is well worth a visit, as is the collection of astronomical instruments. The section on measuring time is also popular, especially on the hour, when everything starts to chime at once. In the basement there is a huge reconstruction of a coal mine, with tools tracing the development of mining from the 15th to the 19th century. The museum also features exhibitions on the history of printing, architecture and civil engineering.

Trade Fair Palace

Veletržní Palác

See pp164-5.

Exhibition Ground and Stromovka Park

Výstaviště A Stromovka

5, 12, 17. Exhibition Ground: Open 10am-11pm daily. Stromovka Park: Open 24hrs daily. Lapidarium Tel 70 20 13 372. Open 10am-4pm Wed, noon-6pm Thu-Sun. w nm.cz

Laid out for the Jubilee of 1891, the Exhibition Ground has a lively funfair and is great for a day out with children. All kinds of exhibitions, sporting events, spectacles and concerts are staged in summer. The large



The Industrial Palace, centrepiece of the 1891 Exhibition Ground

park to the west was the former roval hunting enclosure and deer park, first established in the late 16th century. The name Stromovka means "place of trees". Opened to the public in 1804, the park is still a pleasant wooded area and an ideal place for a walk. The Lapidarium holds an exhibition of 11thto 19th-century sculpture. including some originals from Charles Bridge (see pp 136-9). On display are decorated windows. spouts, fountains, groups of statues and memorials.

Troia Palace

Troiský Zámek

See pp166-7.

Prague Zoo

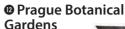
Zoologická Zahrada

U trojského zámku 3/120. **Tel** 29 61 12 111. 💆 Holešovice, then 📼 112 Open Jun-Aug: 9am-7pm daily; Apr May, Sep, Oct: 9am-6pm daily; Nov-Feb: 9am-4pm daily; Mar: 9am-5pm daily. 🔊 👃 🥢 w zoopraha.cz

Attractively situated on a rocky slope overlooking the right bank of the Vltava, the zoo was founded in 1924. It now covers an area of 64 hectares (160

acres) and there is a chair lift to take visitors to the upper part.

The zoo's 2.500 animals represent 500 species, 50 of them extremely rare in the wild It is best known for its breeding. programme of Przewalski's horses, the only species of wild horse in the world. It has also enjoyed success in breeding big cats, gorillas and orangutans. In addition there are two pavilions, one for lions, tigers and other beasts of prey and one for elephants. The zoo also works on reintroducing endangered species to the wild.





is also a National Heritage vineyard and chapel on-site.

Willa Müller

Müllarova Vila

Nad Hradním vodojemem 14 **Tel** 22 43 12 012. M Hradčanská, then 🛅 1. 2. 18 to Ořechovka. Open Apr-Oct: 9am-6nm Tue Thu Sat & Sun: Nov-Mar: 10am-5pm Tue. Thu. Sat & Sun. Apr-Oct: 9am. 11am. 1pm. 3pm, 5pm; Nov–Mar; 10am, noon, 2pm, 4pm. & w mullerovavila.cz

A severe white concrete facade asymmetric windows and a flat roof characterize the Villa Müller. It was designed by Modernist architect Adolf Loos and built in 1928-30 by construction entrepreneur František Müller for himself and his wife Milada. who were leading lights of Czech society at that time. Loos used his innovative spatial theory known as "Raumplan" in the design of both the outside and the inside of the building, so that all the spaces look and feel interconnected. The roof terrace at the top of the house provides a "framed" view of Prague cathedral in the distance.

In contrast to the building's functional exterior, the interiors combine traditional furnishings with vibrant use of marble, wood and silk. The villa fell into disrepair during the 1950s, and in 1995 ownership passed to the city of Prague. A programme of restoration took place between 1997 and 2000, when it was opened to the public as a National Cultural Monument.

Břevnov Monastery

Břevnovský Klášter

Markétská 28 **Tel** 22 04 06 111 🗰 22 25. Only On request Mon-Fri (call 22 04 06 270): 10am 2nm Sat & Sun: also 4pm Apr-Oct. 2

W brevnov cz

From the surrounding suburban housing, you would never guess that Břevnov is one of the oldest parts of Prague, A flourishing community grew up here around the Benedictine abbey founded in 993 by Prince Boleslay II (see n22) and Bishop Adalbert (Voitěch) - the first monastery in Bohemia. An ancient well called Voitěška marks the spot where prince and bishop are said to have met and decided to found the monastery.

The gateway, courtyard and most of the present monastery buildings are by the great Baroque architects Christoph and Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer (see p129). The monastery Church of St Margaret was completed in 1715, and is based on a floorplan of overlapping ovals as ingenious as any of Remini's churches in Rome In 1964 the crypt of the original 10th-century church was discovered below the choir and is open to the public. Of the other buildings, the most interesting is the Theresian Hall, with a painted ceiling dating from 1727.



Star Hunting Lodge in peaceful surroundings

White Mountain and Star Hunting Lodae

Rílá Hora A Hvězda

Obora Hvězda. 🕮 1, 22, 25, Obora Hvězda (game park): Open 24hrs dailv. Summer House Hvězda: Tel 23 53 57 938. Open Apr & Oct: 10am-5pm Tue-Sun: May-Sep: 10am-6pm Tue-Sun. 🔊 🔀

The Battle of the White Mountain (see p33), fought on 8 November 1620, had a very different impact for the two main communities of Prague. For the Protestants it was a disaster that led to 300 years of Habsburg domination: for the Catholic supporters of the Habsburgs it was a triumph, so they built a memorial chapel on the hill. In the early 1700s this chapel was converted into the grander Church of Our Ladv Victorious and decorated by leading Baroque artists, including Václav Vavřinec Reiner.

In the 16th century the woodland around the battle site had been a royal game park. The hunting lodge. completed in 1556, survives today. This fascinating building is shaped as a six-pointed star – hvězda means star. On site is a small exhibition about the building and its history. Also on show are exhibits relating to the Battle of the White Mountain and temporary exhibitions about Czech culture.



Modernist Villa Müller, seen from the garden

© Trade Fair Palace

Veletržní nalác

The National Gallery in Prague opened its museum of 20th- and 21st-century art in 1995, housed in a reconstruction of a former Trade Fair building of 1929. Since 2000 it has also housed a 19th-century collection. Its vast, skylit spaces make an ideal backdrop for the paintings, which range from French 19th-century art and superb examples of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism, to works by Munch, Klimt, Picasso and Miró, as well as a splendid collection of Czech modern art. The collection is subject to rearrangment so

Grand Meal (1951-5) Mikuláš Medek's works range from post-war Surrealism to 1960s Abstraction.



the location of artworks may change.

Cubist Bust (1913-14) Otto Gutfreund was one of the first artists to apply the principles of Cubism to sculpture, and this work marks his move towards abstract art



Cleopatra (1942-57) This painting by Jan Zrzavý, a major representative of Czech modern art, took the artist 45 years to complete and is his best-known piece.



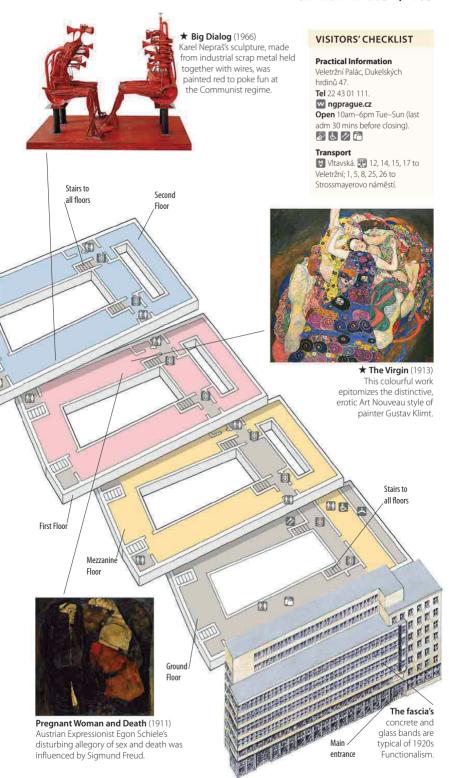




St Sebastian (1912) This self-portrait by Bohumil Kubišta takes its inspiration from the martyrdom of St Sebastian, who was persecuted by being bound to a tree and shot with arrows.



Non-exhibition space



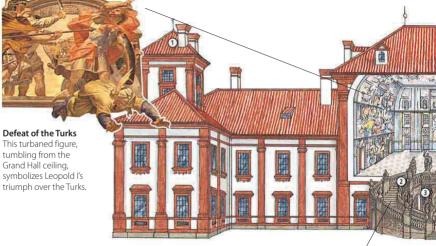
[®] Troja Palace

Trojský Zámek

One of the most striking summer palaces in Prague, Troja was built in the late 17th century by Jean-Baptiste Mathey for Count Sternberg, a member of a leading Bohemian aristocratic family. Situated at the foot of the Vltava Heights, the exterior of the palace was modelled on a Classical Italian villa, while its garden was laid out in formal French style. The magnificent interior took over 20 years to complete and is full of extravagant frescoes expressing the Sternberg family's loyalty to the Habsburg dynasty. Troja houses a good collection of 19th-century art.



Terracotta urn on the garden balustrade of Troja Palace



★ Garden Staircase

The two sons of Mother Earth which adorn the sweeping oval staircase (1685–1703) are part of a group of sculptures by Johann Georg Heermann and his nephew Paul, depicting the struggle of the Olympian Gods with the Titans.

KEY

- 1 Belvedere turret
- ② Statue of Olympian God
- 3 Statues of sons of Mother Earth
- (4) Chinese Rooms feature 18th-century murals of Chinese scenes. This room makes a perfect backdrop for a ceramics display.
- (5) Stucco decoration





VISITORS' CHECKLIST

Practical Information

U troiského zámku 1. Prague 7. Tel 28 38 51 614

w ahmp.cz

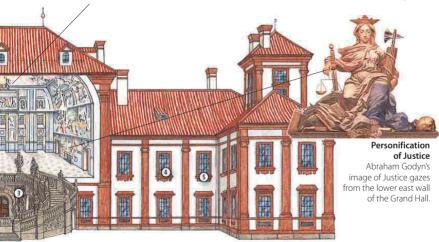
Open Apr-Oct: 10am-6pm Tue-Thu, Sat & Sun, 1–6pm Fri.

Transport

see p.55. M Holešovice. then 📟 112.

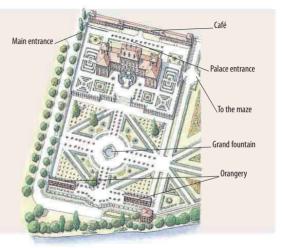
★ Grand Hall Fresco

The frescoes in the Grand Hall (1691-7), by Abraham Godyn, depict the story of the first Habsburg Emperor, Rudolph I, and the victories of Leopold I over the archenemy of Christianity, the Sublime Porte (Ottoman Empire).



★ Landscaped Gardens

Sloping vineyards were levelled. hillsides excavated and terraces built to fulfil the elaborate and grandiose plans of French architect, Jean-Baptiste Mathey, for the first Baroque French-style formal gardens in Bohemia. The palace and its geometric network of paths, terracing, fountains, statuary and beautiful terracotta vases, is best viewed from the south of the garden between the two orangeries. The gardens have been carefully restored according to Mathey's original plans.



Day Trips from Prague

The sights that attract most visitors away from the city are Bohemia's picturesque medieval castles, Karlstein, for example, stands in splendid isolation above wooded valleys that have changed little since the Emperor Charles IV hunted there in the 14th century. We have chosen four castles, very varied in character. There are regular organized tours (see p225) to the major sights around Prague, to the historic mining town of Kutná Hora and. if you have more time to spare, to the famous spa towns of Karlshad and Marienhad in western Rohemia

Sights at a Glance

Castles Historic Towns

Veltrusv Kutná Hora Karlstein Karlshad

Konopiště Marienbad

Kev - Motorway Major road

M Křivoklát

Minor road



Veltrusy Château

Veltruský Zámek

20 km (12 miles) N of Prague. Tel 31 57 81 146. 🖪 from Masarvkovo to Kralupy nad Vltavou, then bus. Open Apr-Oct: 9am-5pm Tue-Sun (last tour 4pm): Nov-Mar: tours can be arranged by calling 602 494 466. Z w zamek-veltrusy.cz Park: Open dawn to nightfall daily. Nelahozeves Castle: Tel 31 57 09 111. 💂 from Masarykovo to Nelahozeves – zámek. Open Apr-Oct: 9am-5pm Tue-Sun. 🔊 🏉 🥢 🖺 w zamek-nelahozeves.cz

Veltrusy is a small town beside the Vltava, famous for the 18th-century château built by the aristocratic Chotek family. The building is in the shape of a cross, with a central dome and a staircase adorned with statues representing the months of the year and the seasons.

The estate was laid out as an English-style landscaped deer park, covering an area of 300 hectares (750 acres). Near the entrance there is still an enclosure with a herd of deer. The Vltava flows along one side and dotted around the grounds are summer houses

The Doric and Maria Theresa pavilions, the orangery and the grotto date from the late 18th century. The park is planted with some 100 different kinds of tree. The castle was damaged by floods in 2002 and ongoing repairs mean that some rooms may remain closed to the public.

Across the river, and accessible from Veltrusv by bus or train, is

Nelahozeves Castle This Renaissance castle houses an exhibition entitled "Private Spaces: A Noble Family At Home", depicting the life of the Lobkowicz family over five centuries. Some 12 rooms have been fitted out with period furnishings. On display in the library are the family archives. The family's art treasures are housed in Lobkowicz Palace (see p101). The birthplace of Czech composer Antonín Dvořák is nearby.



Karlstein Castle, built by Emperor Charles IV in the 14th century

A Karlstein Castle

Karlštein

25 km (16 miles) SW of Prague, **Tel** 31 16.81.617. from Smíchov or Hlavní nádraží to Karlštein (1.5 km/ 1 mile from castle The unhill walk takes around 40 minutes) Onen Mar-Oct 9am=3pm Tue=Sun (to 5:30pm May Jun & Sen: to 6:30nm Jul & Aug) compulsory (book in advance). m hradkarlstejn.cz

The castle was founded by Charles IV as a country retreat. a treasury for the crown iewels and a symbol of his divine right to rule the Holy Roman Empire. It stands on a crag above the River Berounka. The castle is largely a 19th-century reconstruction by Josef Mocker. The original building work (1348–67) was supervised by French master mason Matthew of Arras, and then by Peter Parler You can still see the audience hall and the hedchamber of Charles IV in the Royal Palace. On the third floor, the Emperor's quarters are below those of the Empress.

The central tower houses the Church of Our Lady decorated with faded 14th-century wall paintings. A narrow passage leads to the tiny Chapel of St Catherine, the walls of which are adorned with semiprecious stones set into the plaster.

Sonopiště Castle

40 km (25 miles) SE of Prague. Tel 31 77 21 366. 🗐 from Hlavní nádraží to Benešov, then local bus. Open Apr, May, Sep: 10am-noon, 1-4pm Tue-Sun (Jun-Aug: to 5pm: Oct & Nov: to 3pm). R 2 P w zamek-konopiste.cz

Though it dates back to the 13th century, this moated castle is essentially a late 19th-century creation. In between, Konopiště had been rebuilt by Baroque architect František Kaňka and in front of the bridge across the moat is a gate (1725) by Kaňka and sculptor Matthias Braun.

In 1887 Konopiště was bought by Archduke Franz Ferdinand. who later became heir to the Austrian throne. It was his assassination in 1914 in Sarajevo



View of the castle at Křivoklát, dominated by the Great Tower

that triggered off World War I. To escape the Habsburg court's disapproval of his wife he spent much of his time at Kononiště and amassed arms, armour and Meissen porcelain, all on display in the fine furnished interiors. However, the abiding memory of the castle is of the hundreds of stags' heads lining the walls



Hunting trophies at Konopiště

Křivoklát Castle

45 km (28 miles) W of Prague, Tel 31 35 58 440. 🖪 from Hlavní nádraží via Beroun or from Masarvkovo nádraží via Rakovník (1 km/0.6 miles) from castle). Open Apr-Sep: 9am-5pm Tue-Sun (Apr: to 4pm; Jul & Aug: to 6pm): Oct: 10am-4pm Tue-Sun: Nov & Dec: 10am-3pm Sat & Sun; Jan-Mar: 10am-3pm Mon-Sat. 🔊 🌌 💷

w krivoklat.cz

This castle, like Karlstein, owes its appearance to the restoration work of Josef

Mocker. It was originally a hunting lodge belonging to the early Přemyslid princes and the seat of the royal master of hounds. In the 13th century King Wenceslas I built a stone castle here which remained in the hands of Bohemia's kings and the Habsburg emperors until the 17th century.

Charles IV spent some of his childhood here and returned from France in 1334 with his first wife Blanche de Valois. Their daughter Margaret was born in the castle. To amuse his gueen and young princess, Charles ordered the local villagers to trap nightingales and set them free in a wooded area just below the castle. Today you can still walk along the "Nightingale Path".

The royal palace is on the eastern side of the triangular castle. This corner is dominated by the Great Tower, 42 m (130 ft) high. You can still see some 13th-century stonework, but most of the palace dates from the reign of Vladislav Jagiello. On the first floor there is a vaulted Gothic hall, reminiscent of the Vladislav Hall in the Royal Palace at Prague Castle (see pp106-7). It has an oriel window and a beautiful loggia, and the chapel has a finely carved Gothic altar. Below the chapel, the Augusta Prison is named for Bishop Jan Augusta of the Bohemian Brethren, imprisoned here in the mid-16th century. The dungeon now houses a grim assortment of torture instruments.

6 Kutná Hora

70 km (45 miles) E of Prague. Tel 32 75 12 378 (tourist information). from Hlavní nádraží, to Kutná Hora, then bus 1 to Kutná Hora-Město. from Florenc. Cathedral of St Barbara: Open May–Sep: 9am–5:30pm daily (to 4pm Mon); Oct–Apr: 10am–4pm daily. lalian Court: Open Mar & Oct: 10am–5pm; Apr–Sep: 9am–6pm; Nov–Feb: 10am–4pm daily. Hrádek: Open Apr & Oct: 9am–5pm Tue–Sun; May, Jun & Sep: 9am–6pm Tue–Sun; Sul & Aug: 10am–6pm Tue–Sun. Sul

The town originated as a small mining community in the second half of the 13th century. When rich deposits of silver were found, the king took over the licensing of the mines and Kutná Hora became the second most important town in Robemia

In the 14th century five to six tonnes of pure silver were extracted here each year, making the king the richest ruler in Central Europe. The Prague groschen, a silver coin that circulated all over Europe, was minted here in the Italian Court (Vlašský; dvůr), so-called because Florentine experts were employed to set up the mint. Strongly fortified, it was also the ruler's seat in the town. In the late 14th century a superb palace with reception

halls and the Chapel of St Wenceslas and St Ladislav, below which lay the royal treasury, were constructed.

When the silver started to run out in the 16th century, the town began to lose its importance: the mint finally closed in 1727. The Italian Court later became the town hall. On the ground floor you can still see a row of forges, Since 1947 a mining museum has been housed in another building, the Hrádek, which was originally a fort. A visit includes a tour of a medieval mine There is museum in the Stone House (Kamenný dům), a restored Gothic building of the late 15th century.

To the southwest of the town stands the Cathedral of St Barbara, begun in 1380 by the workshop of Peter Parler, also the architect of St Vitus's Cathedral (see pp102–105). The presbytery (1499) has a fine net vault and windows with intricate tracery. The slightly later nave vault is by royal architect Benedikt Ried. The murals show mining scenes. The cathedral, with its three massive and tent-shaped spires rising above a forest of flying



The Italian Court, Kutná Hora's first mint

buttresses, is a wonderful example of Bohemian Gothic

In Sedlec, a suburb of Kutná Hora, is the Ossuary of All Saints church, where thousands of human bones have been fashioned into furnishings and decorative objects.

6 Karlsbad

Karlovv Varv

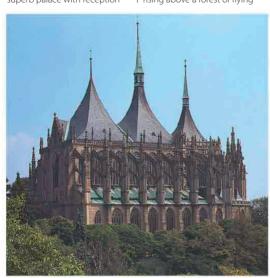
140 km (85 miles) W of Prague.

Tel 77 33 78 559. from Hlavní nádraží. from Florenc. Husovo náměstí 2 (35 53 21 171).

w karlovyvarv.cz

Legend has it that Charles IV (see pp26-7) discovered one of the sources of mineral water that would make the town's fortune when one of his staghounds fell into a hot spring. In 1522 a medical description of the springs was published and by the end of the 16th century over 200 spa buildings had been built there. Today there are 12 hot mineral springs - varv means hot springs. The bestknown is the Vřídlo (Sprudel), which rises to a height of 12 m (40 ft), At 72°C, it is also the hottest. The water is good for digestive disorders, but you do not have to drink it: you can take the minerals in the form of salts.

The town is also known for its Karlovy Vary china and Moser glass, and for summer concerts



The three steeples of Kutná Hora's great Church of St Barbara

and other cultural events. including an international film festival in early July. The race course is popular with the more sporting invalids taking the waters

Outstanding among the local historic monuments is the Baroque parish church of Mary Magdalene by Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer (1732-6), More modern churches built for foreign visitors include a Russian church (1896) and an Anglican one (1877). The 19th-century Mill Colonnade (Mlýnská kolonáda) is by Josef Zítek, architect of the National Theatre (see pp 156-7) in Prague.

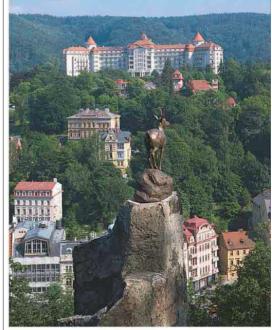
Marienbad

Mariánské Lázně

170 km (105 miles) W of Prague. 🗐 from Hlavní nádraží, 📟 from Florenc. 7 Hlavní 47 (35 46 22 474). w marianskelazne.cz

The elegance of Marienbad's hotels, parks and gardens has faded considerably since it was the playground of kings and princes at the turn of the century. The area's health-giving waters lázně means bath (or spa) – have been known since the 16th century, but the spa was not founded until the beginning of the 19th century. The waters are used to treat all kinds of disorders: mud baths are also popular.

Most of the spa buildings date from the latter half of the 19th century. The great cast-iron colonnade with frescoes by Josef



Bronze statue of a chamois at Jeleni skok (Stag's Leap), with a view across the valley to the Imperial Sanatorium, Karlsbad

Vvletăl is still an impressive sight. In front of it is a "singing fountain", its iets of water now controlled by computer. Churches were provided for visitors of all denominations. including an Evangelical church (1857), an Anglican church (1879) and the Russian Orthodox church of St Vladimír (1902). Visitors can learn the history of the spa in the house called At the Golden Grape (U zlatého

hroznu), where the German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe stayed in 1823. Musical visitors during the 19th century included the composers Weber, Wagner and Bruckner, while writers such as Ibsen, Gogol, Mark Twain and Rudvard Kipling also found its treatments beneficial. King Edward VII also came here and in 1905 he agreed to open the golf course (Bohemia's first), despite hating the game.



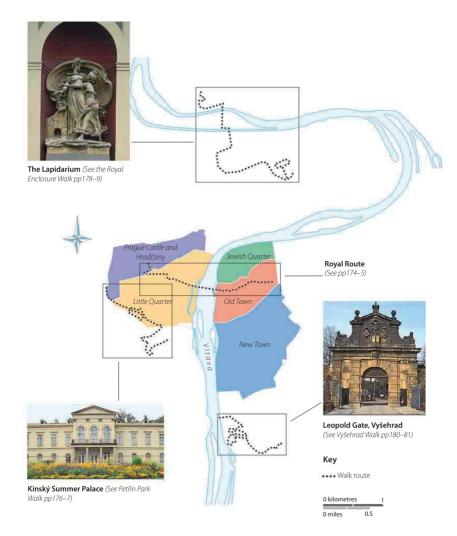
The cast-iron colonnade at Marienbad, completed in 1889



FOUR GUIDED WALKS

Prague offers some good opportunities for walking. In the centre of the city, many streets are pedestrianized and the most important sights are confined to guite a small area (see pp16-17). Here are four guided walks of varied character. The first passes through a main artery of the city. from the Powder Gate on the outskirts of the Old Town to St Vitus's Cathedral in Prague Castle, crossing Charles Bridge at its mid-point. This is the Royal Coronation Route, followed for centuries by Bohemian

kings. Away from the busy centre, the second and third of the walks take in the peace and tranquillity of two of Praque's loveliest parks – Petřín and the Royal Enclosure, Petřín Park is rewarding for its spectacular views of the city. The Royal Enclosure is outside the centre in the old roval hunting park. The final walk is in Vyšehrad – an ancient fortress which is steeped in history and atmosphere. The views from Vvšehrad of the Vltava and Prague Castle are unparalleled.



A 90-Minute Walk along the Royal Route

The Royal Route originally linked two important royal seats: the Royal Court - on the site of the Municipal House and where the walk starts – and Prague Castle, where the walk finishes. The name of this walk derives from the coronation processions of the Bohemian kings and queens who passed along it. Today, these narrow streets offer a wealth of historical and architecturally interesting sights. shops and cafés, making the walk one of Prague's most enjoyable. For more details on the Old Town, the Little Ouarter and Hradčanv turn to pages 62-81.

122-41 and 96-121 respectively.

History of the Royal Route

The first major coronation procession to travel along this route was for George of Poděbrady (see p28) in 1458. The next large procession took place in 1743 when Maria Theresa was crowned with great pomp - three Turkish pavilions were erected iust outside the Powder Gate. September 1791 saw the coronation of Leopold II. This procession was led by cavalry. followed by mounted drummers, trumpeters and soldiers and Bohemian lords Some 80 carriages came next, carrying princes and bishops. The most splendid were each drawn by six pairs of horses, flanked by servants with red coats and white leather



11) The distinct Baroque façade of the House at the Golden Well in Karlova Street.



Renaissance House at the Minute

MALOSTRANSKÉ NÁMĚSTÍ 12, 20, 22

HIINOVSK

NERUDOVA

Malostranská M

3 House of

the Black

Madonna.

RZISTE trousers, and carried the ladiesin-waiting. The last great coronation procession along the Royal Route - for Ferdinand V - was in 1836 with over 3 391 horses and four camels

AMECKÉ SCHODY

From the Powder Gate to **Old Town Square**

At Náměstí Republiky turn

towards the Municipal House (see p66) and walk under the Gothic Powder Gate 1 (see p66). Here, at the city gates, the monarch and a large retinue of church dianitaries. aristocrats, and foreign ambassadors were warmly welcomed by leading city representatives. The gate leads into one of Prague's oldest streets. Celetná (see p67). It was here the Jewish community and the crafts guilds, carrying their insignia, areeted their kina. The street is lined with Baroque and Rococo houses. At house No. 36 was the Mint ②. It moved here after the

mint at Kutná Hora (see p170) was occupied by Catholic troops in the Hussite Wars (see pp28-9). It minted coins from 1420 to 1784 The House of the Black Madonna 3 contains a museum of Czech Cubist art (see p67). Revellers would watch processions from the taverns At the Spider (4) and At the Vulture 3.

At the end of Celetná Street is the Old Town Square (6) (see pp68-71). Here, the processions halted beside Týn Church ① (see p72) for pledges of loyalty

from the university. Keep to the left of the square, past No. 17, At the Unicorn ③, then No. 20, Smetana House, where the composer began a music school in 1848. Proceed to the Old Town Hall ④ (see pp74–6). Here, the municipal guard and a band waited for the royal procession and city dignitaries cheered from the temporary balcony around the hall.

Along Karlova Street and across Charles Bridge

Walk past the sgraffitoed façade of the House at the Minute and into Malé náměstí (1), where merchants waited with members of the various religious orders. Bear left off the square, then turn right into gallery-filled Karlova Street.

considered to be a good omen. But only a few months later he died. Walk under the Old Town Bridge Tower @ and over Charles Bridge @ and then under the Little Quarter Towers @ (see po 136–9).

The Little Quarter

The walk now follows Mostecká Street. On entering the Little Quarter the mayor handed the city keys to the king and the artillery fired a salute. At the end of this street is Little Quarter Square (§ (see p124) and the Baroque church St Nicholas's (see pp128–9). The procession passed the church to the sound of its bells.

Leave this picturesque square by Nerudova Street ①

ends at the Castle's Matthias Gate (see p50) (9). The procession ended with the coronation held at St Vitus's Cathedral



A decorative house sign in Celetná Street



Beyond Husova Street is an attractive Baroque house, At the Golden Well ①. Further on is the 16th-century Clementinum (see p81), where the clergy stood. You then pass into Knights of the Cross Square (see p81). When Leopold II's procession passed through here the clouds lifted. which was

(see p130). Poet and writer Jan Neruda, who immortalized hundreds of Little Quarter characters in books like Mala Strana Tales, grew up and worked at No. 47, The Two Suns (B). Cross the street, turn sharp right and walk up the Castle ramp, which leads you to Hradčanské Square. The route

Key

Walk route
City wall

0 metres	30
0 yards	300



Coronation procession passing through the Knights of the Cross Square

Tips for Walkers

Starting point: Náměstí Republiky

Length: 2.4 km (1.5 miles).

Getting there: Line B goes to Náměstí Republiky metro station. At Hradčany you can get tram 22 back into town.

Stopping off points: Rest beneath the sunshades of the outdoor cafés on Old Town Square or Karlova Street in the summer. There are plenty of cafés and restaurants on Malostranské náměstí, as well as along Nerudova Street.

A Two-Hour Walk through Petřín Park

Part of the charm of this walk around this large and peaceful hillside park are the many spectacular views over the different areas of Prague. The Little Quarter. Hradčany and the Old Town all take on a totally different aspect when viewed from above. The treecovered gardens are dotted with châteaux, pavilions and statues and crisscrossed by winding paths leading you to secret and unexpected corners. For more on the sights of Petřín Hill see pages 140–41.



(5) One of the gateways in the Hunger Wall.



(3) Interior of the Church of St Michael

Kinský Square to **Hunger Wall**

The walk starts at náměstí Kinských in Smíchov, Enter Kinský Garden through a large enclosed gateway. This Englishstyle garden was founded in 1827 and named after the wealthy Kinský family, supporters of Czech culture in the 19th century.

Take the wide cobbled and asphalt path on your left to the Kinský Summer Palace ①. This 1830s pseudo-classical building was designed by Jindřich Koch and its façade features Ionic columns terminating in a triangular tympanum. Inside the building is a large hall of columns with a triple-branched staircase beautifully decorated with statues. The Ethnographical Museum, housed here. holds a permanent exhibition of folk art.

Next to the museum is a 1913 statue of the actress Hana Kvapilová.



about 20 m (60 ft), then go to the top of the steps to a wide asphalt path known as the Observation Path for its beautiful views of the city. Turn right and further on your left is the small upper lake 4 with a



Sunbathers on Petřín Hill

its centre. Keep following the Observation Path: ahead of you stands a Neo-Gothic gate. This allows you to pass through the city's old Baroque fortifications.

Hunger Wall to Observation Tower

Continue along the path to the Hunger Wall (5) (see pp 140-41). This was a major part of the Little Quarter's fortifications; the wall still runs from Újezd Street across Petřín Hill and up to

Strahov Monastery, Passing through the gate in the wall brings you to Petřín Park Take the wide path to the left below the wall and walk up the hill beside the wall until you cross the bridge which spans the funicular railway (see p141). Below on your right you can see the Nebozízek restaurant (see p201) famed for its views. On either side of the path are small sandstone rockeries. Most are entrances to reservoirs, built in the 18th and 19th centuries to bring water to Strahov Monastery; others are left over from the unsuccessful attempts at mining the area. Walk up to the summit of the hill. On your right is the Mirror Maze (6) (see n140). Facing the maze is the 12th-century St Lawrence's Church (7) (see p140), renovated in 1740 in the Baroque style.



Observation Tower to

A little further on stands the Observation Tower (§ (see p140). This steel replica of the Eiffel Tower in Paris is 60 m (200 ft) high. Opposite the tower is the main gate of the Hunger Wall. Pass through, turn left and follow the path to the Rose Garden (§).

The garden was planted by the city of Prague in 1932, and features a number of attractive sculptures. When you look down to the far end of the garden you can see Štefánik's Observatory (see p140). This was rebuilt from a municipal building in 1928 by the Czech Astronomical Society and was then modernized in the 1970s. It now houses a huge telescope and is open in the evenings to the public.

Returning to the Observation Tower, follow the wall on the left, passing some chapels of the Stations of the Cross dating from 1834. Then pass through a gap in the Hunger Wall, turn right, and walk past a charming Baroque house. About 50 m (150 ft) beyond this, you pass through another gap in the Hunger Wall on your right. Turn left into a large orchard above Strahov Monastery (10) (see pp120-21) for spectacular views of the city. Leave by the same hole in the wall that you came in by, turn right, and walk downhill along the wall. through the orchard and past tennis courts to the Strahov



3 Sgraffitoed façade of the Calvary Chapel next to the Church of St Lawrence.

Monastery courtyard. You can catch tram 22 from here, or linger in the peaceful monastery grounds. If you feel energetic you can walk back down the hill.

Tips for Walkers

Starting point: náměstí Kinských in Smíchov.

Length: 2.7 km (1.7 miles). The walk includes steep hills.

Getting there: The nearest metro station to the starting point is Anděl. Trams 6, 9, 12 and 20 go to náměstí Kinských (Kinský Square).

Stopping off points: There is a restaurant, Nebozizek, half way up Petřín Hill and in the summer a few snack bars are open at the summit of the Hill near the Observation Tower.



Hradčany and the Little Quarter from the summit of Petřín Hill

A 90-Minute Walk in the Royal Enclosure

ZODLOGICKÁ

The royal enclosure, more popularly called Stromovka, is one of the largest parks in Prague. It was created around 1266 during the reign of Přemysl Otakar II, who fenced the area in and built a small hunting château in the grounds. In 1804 it was opened to the public and became Prague's most popular recreational area. The large park of Troja Palace and the zoological garden are on the opposite river bank.



OSTROV

6 A bust on the Academy of Fine Arts.

CÍSAŘSKÝ

(14)

OVLTAVSK

The Exhibition Ground (Výstaviště)

From U Výstaviště ① pass through the gate to the old Exhibition Ground. This was created for the 1891 Jubilee Exhibition. Since the late 19th century it has been used for exhibitions and entertainment.

The large Lapidarium of the National Museum ② is on your right. This Neo-Renaissance exhibition pavilion was rebuilt in 1907 in the Art Nouveau style. and decorated with reliefs of figures from Czech history, Many architectural monuments and sculptures from the 11th to the 19th centuries are also (2) The Art Nouveau Lapidarium. housed here.

Facing you is the Industrial Palace ③, a vast Neo-Renaissance building constructed of iron which was partially destroyed by fire in 2008. Walk to the right of the building and you

will come to Křižík's Fountain 4. This was restored in 1991 in honour of the Czechoslovakia Exhibition. It was designed by the great inventor František Křižík (1847-1941), who established Prague's first public electric lighting system. During summer the fountain is illuminated at night by computercontrolled lights which synchronize with the music (see p53). Behind the fountain there is a permanent fairground.



500

0 metres

0 vards

Kev

••• Walk route

= Railway line

VItava

prúplav



① The summer palace created from a medieval Hunting Cháteau.

On the left of the Industrial Palace is a circular building which houses Marold's Panorama 3. This was painted by Luděk Marold in 1898 and denicts the Battle of Lipany, As you walk back to the Exhibition Ground entrance, you pass the Academy of Fine Arts 6. decorated with 18 busts of artists. On leaving the Exhibition Ground turn sharp right Following the outer edge of the Ground you will pass the Planetarium (7) on your left. which has interactive exhibitions; walk straight ahead. take the road down the slope. then turn left into a wide avenue of chestnut trees

The Royal Enclosure

Continue for some way along the avenue until you reach a simple building among trees, on your left. Behind this is the Rudolph Water Tunnel ①, a grand monument of the age of Rudolph II (see pp30–31). Hewn into rock, the aqueduct is over 1,000 m (3,000 ft) long. Now



(4) The grand facade of Troia Palace (see pp 166–7).

sadly defaced by graffiti, it was built in 1584 to carry water from the Vltava to Rudolph's newly constructed lakes in the Royal Park

Continue along the path until you reach the derelict Royal Hall (a). Built in the late 17th century, it was converted into a restaurant, then rebuilt in 1855 in Neo-Gothic style. Beyond the Royal Hall, at the bend in the main path, take a steep left fork up through woods to the former Hunting Château (iii). This medieval building was built for the Bohemian kings who used

the park as a hunting reserve.

The Château was then later enlarged, and in 1805 was changed again by Jiří Fischer into a Neo-Gothic summer palace. Until 1918, this was a residence of the Governor of Bohemia. Today it is used to house the extensive library of newspapers and magazines of the National Museum. Retrace your steps to the main path, walk

ahead and take the first small path on the right which will lead you into a pleasant late-16th-century formal garden ①. Return to the main path and turn right. At the fork, take the path which bends to the right along the railway embankment then turn left under the railway line to a canal ②.

Walk over the bridge, turnleft along the canal, then right across the island. Cross the Vltava (a) and turn left into Povltavská Street where a wall marks the boundary of Troja Park. Carry along to the south entrance of the gardens of Troja Palace (a) (see pp 166–7), and then wander through them up to the palace itself.

Tips for Walkers

Starting point: U Výstaviště

in Holešovice.

Length: 5 km (3 miles). The walk goes up a very steep inc line to the former Hunting Château.

Getting there: Trams 5, 12, 14, 15 and 17 run to the starting point.

The nearest metro stations are Vltavská or Nádraží Holešovice on line C, ten minutes walk away. At the end of the walk you can get on bus No. 112 at Troja to Nádraží Holešovice metro station.

Stopping off points: There are a number of restaurants and kiosks in the Exhibition Ground. All the gardens are tranquil spots in which to rest. If you feel like a boat trip down the Vltava, there are often trips starting from the bridge over the canal to Palacký Bridge (see p57).



Prague Planetarium, the largest in the Czech Republic.

A 60-Minute Walk in Vvšehrad

According to ancient legend, Vyšehrad was the first seat of Czech royalty. It was from this spot that Princess Libuše is said to have prophesied the future glory of the city of Prague (see pp22-3). However, archaeological research indicates that the first castle on Vyšehrad was not built until the 10th century. The fortress suffered a turbulent history and was rebuilt many times. Today, it is above all a peaceful place with parks and unrivalled views of the Vltava valley and Prague. The fascinating cemetery is the last resting place of many famous Czech writers, actors, artists and musicians.



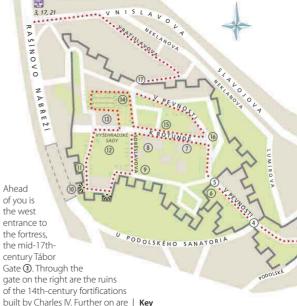
Baroque Leopold Gate.



(10) The ruin of Libuše's Baths on the cliff face of Vyšehrad Rock

V Pevnosti

From Vyšehrad metro 1 take the exit for the Congress Centre Prague ②, walk up the steps and continue straight ahead with views of Prague Castle to your right. Go down the incline and straight ahead into the quiet street Na Bučance. Cross the road, turn right at the end, and you find yourself on V Pevnosti, facing the brick walls of the original Vyšehrad Citadel.



gate, Špička 4). Past that is the sculpture-adorned Leopold Gate (5), one of the most impressive parts of these 17th-century fortifications. It adjoins the brick walls 6 that were widened during the French occupation

the ruins of the original Gothic



18th-century engraving by I G Ringle, showing Vyšehrad and the VItava

K rotundě to Soběslavova Street

of 1742.

Turn right out of the gate and just after St Martin's Rotunda, turn left into K rotundě. A

Key	
• • • Walk route	
— Castle wall	
0 metres	20

few metres on your left, almost concealed behind high walls, is the New Deanery 7. Situated at the corner of K rotundě and Soběslavova streets is the Canon's House (8). Turn left down Soběslavova to see the excavations of the foundations of the Basilica of St Lawrence 9. This was built by Vratislav II, the first Bohemian king, in the late 11th century, but was destroyed by the Hussites (see pp28-9) in

1420 About 20 m (65 ft) past the basilica, turn right on to the fortified walls for a stunning view of Prague

Vvšehrad Rock

The wooded outcrop of rock on which Vvšehrad was built drops in the west to form a steep rock wall to the river - a vital defensive position. On the summit of the rock are the Gothic ruins of the so-called Libuše's Baths 🔞 This was a defence hastion of the medieval castle To the left of the bastion is a grassy patch where the remains of a 14th-century Gothic palace 11) have been found.

ČIKLOVA

in outance



(14) The elaborate memorial to the composer Antonín Dvořák in Vvšehrad Cemetery

Vvšehrad Park

The western part of Vyšehrad has been transformed into a park. Standing on the lawn south of the Church of St Peter and St Paul are four groups of statues 19th-century sculptor Josef Myslbek The works represent figures from early Czech history – including the legendary Přemysl and

Libuše (see pp22-3). The statues were originally on Palacký Bridge, but were damaged during the US bombardment of February 1945. After being restored, they were taken to Vvšehrad Park, The park was the site of a Romanesque palace, which was connected to the neighbouring church by a bridge. Another palace was built here in the reign of Charles IV (see pp26-7).

The Church of St Peter and St Paul

This twin-spired church 🔞 dominates Vvšehrad. It was founded in the latter half of the 11th century by Vratislay II and was enlarged in 1129. In the mid-13th century it burned down and was

replaced by an Early

Gothic church Since then it has been redecorated and restored many times in a variety of styles. In 1885, it was finally rebuilt in Neo-Gothic style the twin steenles heing added in 1902 Note the early 12th-century stone coffin, thought to be of St Longinus, and a mid-14thcentury Gothic panel painting Our Lady of the Rains on the altar in the third chanel on the right.

Vvšehrad Cemetery and the Pantheon

The cemetery (14) was founded in 1869 as the burial place for some of the country's most famous figures, such as Bedřich Smetana (see p81). Access is through a gate at the front. On the east side of the cemetery is the Slavin (Pantheon) - built in 1890 for the most honoured citizens of the Czech nation. including the sculptor Josef Myslbek.

Leave the cemetery by the same gate and return down K rotundě On vour left is the Devil's Columafadn (5), said to be left by the devil after losing a wager with a priest. At the end is St Martin's Rotunda (see p46) (6), a small Romanesque church built in the late 11th century and restored in 1878. Turn left, walk down hill to Cihelná (Brick) Gate @, built in 1741 and home to a small museum that houses six of the original statues from Charles Bridge. Go down Vratislavova Street to Výtoň tram stop on the Vltava Embankment.

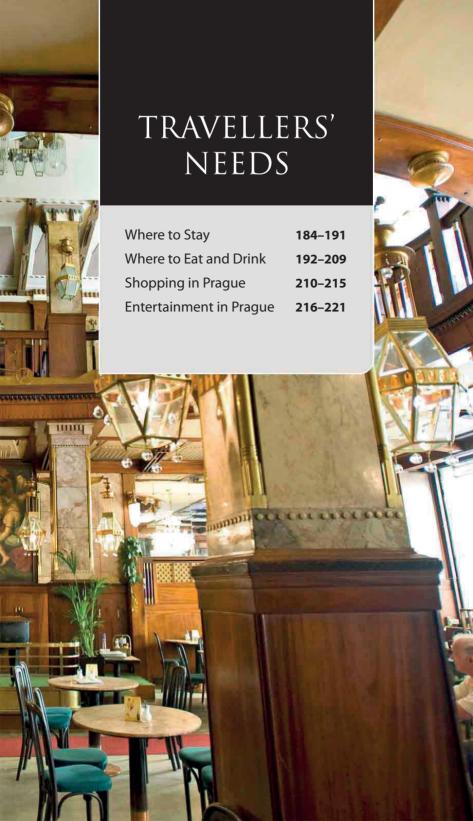
Tips for Walkers

Starting point: Vyšehrad metro station, line C

Length: 1.5 km (1 mile). Getting there: The walk starts at Vyšehrad metro station and ends at Výtoň tram stop. Trams 3, 7, 17 and 21 go back to the city centre. Stopping-off points: Relax in the park next to the church of St Peter and St Paul. There is a café in front of the Basilica of St Lawrence and more outdoor cafés in the summer.







WHERE TO STAY

Since the "Velvet Revolution" of 1989, Prague has become one of the most visited cities in Furone Thanks to investment in new hotels helped by huge injections of foreign capital, Prague has developed enough accommodation to meet every tourist need. Many old hotels have been rebuilt, while others have been fully refurbished. It may be hard to find inexpensive accommodation in the city, however, there are a good number of hotels offering surprisingly reasonable

rates as competition grows intense. Several are centrally located and even feature designer touches, as well as good service. Cheaper hotels tend to be old-fashioned places in the centre of the city, or smaller. pension-type hotels located in the suburbs. Staving in a flat or a room in a private home can also save you money. This type of accommodation is usually booked through an agency (see p186). Hostels and campsites offer other budget options (see p187).



The Ungelt hotel (see p189)

Where to Look

As Prague is such a small city, it is best to stay near the centre, close to all the main sights, restaurants and shops. Many hotels are found around Wenceslas Square. Here you are at the hub of everything, and the prices of some (but not all) of the hotels reflect this. Other popular areas include the nearby Náměstí Republiky, and the area around Old Town Square, a few minutes' walk from Charles Bridge. Hotels here include large, international establishments, old-fashioned Czech places, and some small. much more exclusive hotels

To the south, in the New Town, there are several cheaper hotels only a few metro stops from Old Town Square. But the area is less picturesque, and some of the streets suffer from heavy volumes of traffic. For a view of the river Vltava, stay in the Jewish Quarter, although most hotels here are expensive. There are also a few botels (floating hotels) Interior, Riverside Praha (see p 190)

moored along the embankments away from the city centre. These can be a good option for budget travellers and make for an unusual stav.

Over Charles Bridge, in the Little Ouarter, you will find a handful of interesting hotels in delightful surroundings, but there are far fewer by Prague Castle in Hradčany, Further north of this area, there are some large and particularly unappealing hotels.

Two areas close to the centre worth considering are Vinohrady and Anděl. Quality facilities, plus a variety of restaurants makes these neighbourhoods interesting options. The city's suburbs too, have a number of rather nondescript places. These may have good facilities, but they can be as expensive as their equivalents in the centre with the added inconvenience of travelling time and cost bear in mind that the metro stops at midnight, and taxis can become costly. Parking can be difficult: if you have a car make sure the hotel you book has parking places available. It's usually better to find a hotel slightly out of the centre if you you plan to drive, as these are more likely to have available parking.

How to Book

To reserve a room you can telephone, email or book online (the best deals are often



found online). It is advisable to get confirmation of your booking in writing or via email and bring it with you when you check in as it can save you some time on arrival Most hotel receptionists speak English, so you can always ring them for advice: otherwise ask your tour operator for help. A number of UK operators specialize in Prague (see n187)

Facilities

Following the large investment in many of Prague's hotels, most rooms now have en suite WC and shower or bath. Internet. telephone and TV which may also offer movie and satellite channels. Many hotels offer a reasonably priced laundry service, and the larger hotels usually have 24-hour room service and mini bars. Guests are expected to vacate rooms by midday, but most hotels are happy to keep luggage safe if vou are leaving later.

Czech staff generally speak good English so you should encounter few communication problems (see p224).

Discount Rates

The price structure for hotels in Prague is fairly flexible. One way to get a cheap rate is to check the hotel's website for Internetonly deals and special rates for weekends, which are quite common. The popular seasons are Christmas New Year and Faster, as well as summer, when rooms are often hard to find and more expensive.

Hidden Extras

All hotels include tax (currently at 20%) and service charges in their tariff, but do check these details when you book. Telephone charges can be a shock when you receive your bill, so be aware of the mark-up rate. A few surviving telephone boxes in the city take phone cards and some take credit cards but it may be more practical to use roaming facilities on your mobile phone



Hotel Paříž is a protected monument (see p191)

if your plan is affordable (see n232) Some expensive hotels charge an extra fee for breakfast others include a continental breakfast, but hot dishes cost extra Buffet-style continental breakfasts are popular, and usually offer fresh fruit, cereals, vogurt, cold meat and cheese, juice and jugs of coffee and tea



The modern Hilton Prague hotel dominates the area (see p191)

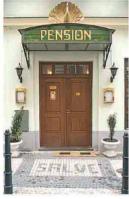
Tipping is common and is expected in many hotels. As in most countries single travellers receive no favours. There are few single rooms, particularly in newer hotels, and a supplement is charged for single occupancy of a double room: vou'll pay about 70-80% of the standard rate.

Disabled Travellers

Most of the newer hotels in Prague have wheelchair access (see p228). For information on accommodation suitable for the disabled. contact Accessible Prague or the Embassy of the Czech Republic in your country.

Travelling with Children

Children are accommodated by most hotels, either in family rooms or with extra beds. Reliable baby-sitting services are sometimes available in highend establishments or small inns. Highchairs are readily available. It is worth asking if there are discounts, or if children can stay free in parents' rooms.



Hotel in a quiet street of a historic neiahbourhood

Private Rooms and Self-Catering Apartments

Over the past few years, the number of private rooms to rent in Prague has grown enormously. Although cheap and popular, they may be some distance from the city centre. Private rooms in homes start at about Kč1.000 per person per night, usually with breakfast. There are also self-contained apartments = a fairly central one-bedroom apartment costs about Kč2.000 per night. Most agencies that offer private rooms also rent out apartments (see Directory opposite).

To book a room or apartment. tell the agency exactly what you want, for how many, when and in which area. The agency will then suggest places. Find out the exact location and the

nearest metro before accepting: if you are in Prague, see it vourself Make sure vou receive written or emailed confirmation of a booking to take with you. On arrival in Prague, pay the agency in cash: they give you a voucher to take to the room or apartment (sometimes you can pay the owner directly). If the agency requires advance payment by banker's draft go direct to the accommodation with your receipt. Agencies may ask for a deposit on bookings from abroad, or charge a registratration fee payable in Prague.

Hostels

There are many hostels in Prague offering cheap beds vear-round Useful websites include www.hostels.com. www. hostelbookers.com www.bed.cz and www.hostelprague.com.

A few hostels operate curfews, so it's worth checking this before you book. It is rarely necessary to bring your own sleeping bag as most hostels tend to provide bed sheets and hlankets for free Sometimes it can be better value to choose a hostel further away from the city centre, as even with the addition of transport costs. these can be cheaper than some of the more central establishments which can cost just as much as a cheap hotel.

If you are visiting between June and mid-September.

it's worth investigating the thousand or so very basic student rooms available to the nublic in the summer holidays at Charles University's dormitories (Tel: 22 49 30 010) These are an excellent ontion for the hudget traveller Locations do vary: some are in the city centre. while others are on the outskirts. However, all have good public transport links Some other Czech colleges also offer a similar service

Camping

Most campsites in or near Prague are closed from November to the start of April They are very cheap with basic facilities, but are well served by transport. The largest site is at Camp Dana Troja, 3 km (1.5 miles) north of the city centre Aritma Džbán 4 km (2.5 miles) west, is open all year for tents, and Intercamp Hostel Kotva is 6 km (4 miles) south of the city on the banks of the Vltava.

Pensions

In the Czech Republic. pensions, or questhouses, are a cosy, inexpensive type of accommodation. They offer quests reasonably priced standard rooms with en suite bathrooms, and most include breakfast in the price. Look out for their signs along the roads approaching Prague - the word pension is usually in green. Pensions tend to be located outside the city centre and are therefore most convenient for visitors who are arriving by car.

Luxury

Prague has many luxury hotels, including well known international chains such as Four Seasons, Hilton, Intercontinental and Radisson Blu. These establishments are known for the quality of their services and amenities.

Most upmarket hotels have a concierge who can help quests with theatre tickets and dinner



Hotel entrance on a Little Quarter street

reservations. A concierge with connections may be able to find you good seats for a show or secure a reservation at one of the best restaurants in Prague. You can also turn to your hotel concierae for help when making travel arrangements and sightseeing plans, and if you need to make use of local services or deal with an emergency. It is polite to tip a

concierge who has helped during your stav.

Recommended Hotals

Our accommodation is divided up into five categories: Luxury. Boutique/Design, Hotels with Character, Budget and Apartments. The list should satisfy all budgets and combines location with

amenities and service The descriptions highlight the unique aspects of the property to help narrow down your decision. Any establishment highlighted as a DK Choice offers a special experience – either superlative service heautiful interiors and rooms, top-notch amenities, an excellent on-site restaurant. superb views, or a combination of these

DIRECTORY

Disabled Travellers

Accessible Prague

Moravanů 51 Praha 6 Tel 608 531 753.

w accessible prague.com

Embassy of the Czech Republic

26-30 Kensington Palace Gardens London

Tel 020 7243 1115.

w mzv.cz/london

UK and Czech Agencies

Cresta Holidays

Thomas Cook Business Park, Conningsby. Peterborough PE3 8SB. Tel 0844 879 8036.

w crestaholidays.co.uk

ČSA Holidays

V Celnici 5. Map 4 D3. Tel 22 01 04 704.

w holidayscsa.cz

Czech Tourist Authority

13 Harley Street. London W1G 9OG. Tel 020 7631 0427.

w czechtourism.com

Osprey City

5 Thistle Street, Edinburgh EH2 1DF.

Holidays

Tel 0131 243 8098. w osprey

holidays.com

Page & Mov Ltd

Compass House, Rockingham Rd, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, LE16 7OD. Tel 0844 567 6633.

w pageandmoy.co.uk

Prospect Cultural **Tours Ltd**

79 William St. Herne Ray Vant CT6 END

Tel 01227 743 307 w prospecttours.com

Thomson

Pre Travel Services TULUK Columbus House Westwood Business Park Westwood Way Coventry CV4 8TT. Tel 0871 231 4691.

w thomson.co.uk

US Agencies

Czech Tourist Authority

1109 Madison Avenue. NY 10028 Tel 212 288 0830

w usa.czechtourism. com

Private Rooms and Self-Catering **Apartments**

IN UK

Regent Holidays

Mezzanine Suite, Froomsgate House, Rupert Street, Bristol BS1 2QJ.

Tel 0117 921 1711. w regent-

holidays.co.uk

IN PRAGUE

Akasi

Jungmannovo náměstí 771/9. Map 3 C5. Tel 22 22 43 067.

American Express Business Travel Centre

Na Příkopě 19. Map 3 C4. Tel 22 28 00 100.

w american express.cz

Apartmentplan.cz U Demartinky 1347/3.

Tel 60 66 88 970

w apartmentplan.cz

Autoturist

Na Strži 1837/9 Tel 26 11 04 401

AVE Ltd

Pod Barvířkou 6 Tel 25 15 51 011. w praguehotel

locator.com Čedok

Na Příkopě 18. Map 4 D4.

Tel 800 112 112. w cedok.com

Estec

Vaníčkova 5 Prague 6 Tel 23 31 07 511.

w praha-hotel-

operator.cz hotel.cz

Žitná 52 Map 6 D2. Tel 22 25 39 539.

w hotel.cz

PCA (Prague City Apartments)

Divadelní 24. Tel 800 800 722 (C7): 0808 120 2320 (UK): 1 877 744 1222 (US).

w praguecityapartments.cz

Prague Information Service (PIS)

Staroměstské náměstí 1. Map 3 B3. Tel 22 17 14 444.

Rytířská 31.

Map 3 C4. Hlavní nádraží

(main station). Map 4 E5

w praguewelcome.cz

Travel Agency of Czech Railways

Na Příkoně 31 Map 3 C4

Tel 97 22 43 053 w cdtravel.cz

Hostels

Hostel Jednota Onletalova 38

Map 4 D5 Tel 22 42 30 038.

w alfatourist.cz

Traveller's Hostel

Dloubá 33 Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 48 26 662.

w travellers.cz

Camping

Aritma Džbán Nad Lávkou 5, Praha 6.

Tel 23 53 58 554 w campdzban.eu

Camp Dana Troia Troiská 129, Troia.

Tel 28 38 50 482

w campdana.cz

Intercamp Hostel Kotva

U ledáren 55 Braník Praha 4 Tel 24 44 61 712

w kotvacamp.cz

Where to Stay

Apartments Little Quarter

Hunger Wall Residence (K) Plaská 615/8. Praha 5 Tel 25 74 04 040 Man 2 F5 w prague-rentals.com

Well-furnished apartments and exemplary service.

Appia Hotel Residence (A)(A) Šporkova 3/322 Praha 1 Tel 25 72 15 819 Map 2 D3 w appiaresidencesprague.cz A historic hotel with apartments

for up to four people.

Armour Hotel Residence Malostranské nám. 5. Praha 1 Tel 25 75 35 578 **Map** 2 F3 w amourresidencesprague.cz Gorgeous rooms with kitchenettes and helpful staff.

New Town

Elysee Apartments Václavské náměstí 43. Praha 1 Tel 22 14 55 111 Map 4 D5 w elvseeapartmentsprague.cz Compact, well-equipped apartments. On-site parking.

Further Afield

Prague Classic Rental Záhřebská 37. Praha 2 Tel 22 25 16 466 w pragueclassicrental.cz Eight buildings with a range of apartments. Opt to stay here for a taste of true Prague living.

Boutique/Design Old Town

Rarcelo Celetná 29. Praha 1 Tel 22 23 37 111



Map 4 D3

Charming exterior of Hotel Hoffmeister, near Prague Castle

w harcelo com

Housed in a restored 17th-century building. Comfortable airconditioned rooms and free Wi-Fi

Prague Castle and Hradčany

Domus Henrici

Loretánska 11 Praha 1 Tel 22.05.11.369 Map 1 C3 W domus-henrici cz

A good value, quiet historic hotel equipped with modern amenities.

Hotel Hoffmeister Pod Bruskou 7 Praha 1 Tel 25 10 17 111

Map 2 F2 w hoffmeister.cz

The imposing Hoffmeister has airy rooms, lovely outdoor spaces and an excellent spa.

Little Quarter

Domus Balthasar Mostecká 5. Praha 1 Tel 25 71 99 499

w domus-balthasar.cz

Bright, cosy rooms combine stylish design with traditional touches at the Domus Balthasar.

New Town

Hotel Pay

Kremencova 13, Praha 1 Tel 22 15 02 111 **Map** 5 B1

w hotel-pay.cz

A reliable hotel with elegantly furnished rooms, good service and free Wi-Fi access.

Hotel Sovereign

(K)(K) Politických vězňů 16. Praha 1 Tel 22 11 11 000 **Map** 4 D5

w sovereignhotel.cz

Rooms are simple and clean at this relaxing hotel. There is an on-site sauna, steam bath and gym.

Price Guide

Prices are based on one night's stay in high season for a standard double room linclusive of service charges and taxes.

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Map 2 F3

up to Kč3000 K\$3000_6000 over Kč6000

Maiestic Plaza Štěpánská 33. Praha 1 Tel 22 14 86 100

Map 5 C1

(A) (A)

(K)(K)

w hotel-majestic.cz

Both Art Deco and Biedermeierstyle rooms feature at this popular hotel. Great views from the seventh floor

Maria Prague Onletalova 21. Praha 1 Tel 22 22 11 229

Map 4 F5

w falkensteiner.com

A mix of Neo-Classical style and innovatively decorated rooms. Wellness spa in the basement.

Metropol

Národní 33, Praha 1 Tel 24 60 22 100

Map 3 B5

w metropolhotel.cz

Sleek hotel with nine floors of glass-walled design. Rooms are comfortable, though small.

Legerova 35, Praha 2 Tel 22 41 04 111

Map 6 D3

w hotelnoir.cz

Black and white designer rooms. There is also a cosy garden café.

Further Afield

Ametyst

Jana Masaryka 11, Praha 2 Tel 22 29 21 921

w hotelametyst.com

Townhouse-style hotel with comfortable rooms featuring wall art that is up for sale.

Andel's Hotel

Stroupežnického 21, Praha 5 Tel 29 68 89 688

w andelshotel.com

Well-equipped rooms featuring contemporary designs. Offers a great breakfast buffet.

Angelo

Radlická 1. Praha 5 Tel 23 48 01 111

w angelohotel.com

A colourful design concept dominates the rooms, which offer additional work space.

Art Hotel Praha

Nad Královskou oborou 53, Praha Tel 23 31 01 331

w arthotel.cz





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(K)

Rooms feature contemporary art. The lobby area is as impressive as the private garden.

Mövenpick

(A) (A)

(A) (A)

Mozartova 1. Praha 5 Tel 25 71 51 111

w movenpick-prague.com Spacious rooms. Take a cable car

to the popular on-site restaurant which offers heautiful views

Red and Blue Design Hotel

Holečkova 13, Praha 5 Tel 22.09.90.100 w redandbluehotels.com

Good-sized rooms with hathrooms decorated in either red or blue.



Černý Slon

Týnská 1. Praha 1 Map 3 C3

Tel 22 23 21 521 w hotelcernyslon.cz

Luxurious and historic hotel. Individually designed rooms with great views. Welcoming staff.

Prague Square Hostel

Melantrichova 10, Praha 1 Tel 22 42 40 859 Map 3 B4

w praguesquarehostel.com This hostel is clean, offers free breakfast and has attentive staff. Excellent location

U Červené Židle

(K2) Liliová 4. Praha 1 Tel 2961.80.018 Map 3 B4

w redchairhotel.com

Rooms are modern and roomy, with charming touches. Beautiful lobby and great staff.

Modrá Růže Rytířská 403/16, Praha 1 (K)(K)

(K)(K)

(K)

Tel 22 44 04 100 **Map** 3 C4 w hotelmodraruze.cz

Basic rooms, including a few romantic attic rooms with views.

U Medvídků

(K)(K) Na Perštýně 7, Praha 1 Tel 22 42 11 916 **Map** 3 B5

w umedvidku.cz

Connected to a historic brewery, this hotel has charming rooms with Gothic rafters and Renaissance painted ceilings.

Ungelt Štupartská 646/7, Praha 1

Tel 22 27 45 900 **Map** 3 C3

w ungelt.cz A mix of apartments and spacious suites with all the latest conveniences



Imposing mosaic-tiled facade of the Mosaic House

Jewish Quarter

Travellers' Hostel Dlouhá 33. Praha 1

Map 3 C2 Tel 22 48 26 662 w travellers.cz

Popular hostel and pension. Great place to meet other travellers and located close to several pubs and clubs.

Little Quarter

Little Town Hotel

Malostranské náměstí 11. Praha 1 Tel 24 24 06 964 Map 2 F3

w littletownhotel.cz

Stark but modern: a great budget option for the Little Quarter.

Pension Dientzenhofer

Nosticova 2, Praha 1 Tel 25 73 11 319 Man 2 F4

w dientzenhofer.cz A famous pension, with large, shabby chic rooms. Garden

Dům u Velké Botv Vlašská 30/333, Praha 1

offers river views.

Tel 25 75 32 088 Map 2 D3

w dumuvelkeboty.cz

Homey charm, period furnishings and friendly owners make for a personalized stay.

Hotel Kampa Všehrdova 16, Praha 1

Tel 25 74 04 444 Map 2 F5

w praguekampahotel.com Hidden location close to Kampa Park; the rooms feature historical touches.

New Town

Jerome House

V Jirchařích 13, Praha 1 Tel 22 49 33 207 **Map** 5 B1 w hoteljeromehouse.cz

Good value for the location, with basic but comfortable rooms; the Jerome House is a little stark but convenient.

DK Choice

Mosaic House Odborů 4. Praha 2 Tel 22 15 95 350

Map 5 B1

w mosaichouse com An environmentally conscious hotel with trendy rooms ranging from dorms to fourstar. A bustling bar and restaurant with friendly and attentive staff make this a welcoming place for travellers of all ages.

Pension Museum Mezihranská 15 Praha 1 (Kè)

(K2)

(K2)

(K2)

(K2)

(K)

Tel 29 63 25 186 w pension-museum.cz

Map 6 D1

Large rooms, simply but tastefully furnished. An in-room fridge and a delicious breakfast are extra bonuses.

987 Prague Hotel (K)(K) Senovážné náměstí 15. Praha 1 Tel 25 57 37 200 Map 4 F4

w 987-praguehotel.com This great-value hotel has well-decorated rooms and suites.

Further Afield

Anna

(K)

(K)(K)

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(K)

Budečská 17. Praha 2 Tel 22 25 13 111

w hotelanna.cz

Rooms have Art Nouveau interiors at this excellent value hotel, with a beautiful breakfast room. Lovely quiet location.

Czech Inn

Francouzská 76. Praha 2 Tel 26 72 67 612

w czech-inn.com

A hip hostel with private rooms. a good bar and lots of events.

Dahlia Inn

Lípová 1444/20, Praha 2 Tel 22 25 17 518 w dahliainn.com

A small hotel with charming and comfortable rooms. Friendly staff.

Diplomat Evropská 15, Praha 6

Tel 2965 59111 w diplomathotel.cz

Close to the airport and town

centre, Diplomat has two restaurants and a café. Plaza Alta

Ortenovo nám. 22, Praha 7 Tel 22 04 07 082

w plazahotelalta.com

An eco-friendly hotel, with an on-site Mexican restaurant.

Hotels with Character Old Town

Hotel Aurus

(K)

Karlova 3, Praha 1 Tel 22 22 20 262 W hoteltaurus cz

Map 3 A4

Small family hotel exuding oldworld charm. Rooms are distinctive and have antique furnishings.

U Zlatého Stromu Karlova 6, Praha 1

(Kè)

Tel 22 22 20 441 w zlatystrom.com Map 3 A4

Impressive 18th-century decor. Individually designed rooms equipped with updated amenities.

Unitas

Bartoloměiská 9. Praha 1 Tel 22 42 30 533 Map 3 B5

w unitas.cz

A former convent with enormous rooms and splendid bathrooms.

DK Choice

Hotel Josef

(K)(K)

Rybná 20, Praha 1 Tel 22 17 00 11 i w hoteljosef.com

Map 3 C3

This all-white and glass designer hotel with bright touches and great service has an interesting layout. Two buildings are connected by a courtyard and offer unique design elements. The lobby is a showpiece in itself. Enroll for a morning sightseeing jog through the city.

Jewish Quarter

Mavimilian

(K)(K) Haštalská 14. Praha 1

Tel 22 53 03 118

Map 3 C2

w maximilianhotel.com

A designer hotel decorated with muted colours and Art Deco touches. Try the superb breakfast.

Prague Castle and Hradčany

Lindner Hotel Prague Castle

(K)(K)

Straĥovská 128, Praha 1 Tel 22 60 80 000

Map 1 B4

w lindner.de/en/hotel prague castle Located behind Prague Castle, this beautifully reconstructed former stable is a must-visit.

Little Ouarter

Charles Hotel Josefská 1, Praha 1 Tel 21 11 51 300 w hotel-charles.cz



Map 2 E3



Just off Charles Bridge, this hotel has charming and historic rooms

DK Choice

V Jámě 6. Praha 1

(A) (A)

Tel 22 16 34 100 w iconhotel.eu Map 5 C1

Hip hotel with efficient staff and wonderful rooms in a bustling location. Facilities include a spa, a fashionable lounge and a bar. In-room iPod connections and all-day breakfast are just a few of the bonuses.

Palace Road Hotel Nerudova 7. Praha 1

(K)(K)

Tel 25 75 31 941 w palaceroad.com Map 2 D3

Conveniently located near many attractions, this hotel has uniquely decorated rooms in a number of buildings.

Jánský vršek 328/3, Praha 1 Tel 25 75 31 268

Map 2 D3

(K)(K)

w hotelsax.cz

Decked out in 50s, 60s, and 70s decor, this colourful hotel makes for a memorable stay. Simple yet cosy rooms.

DK Choice

U Zlaté Studně Zlaté studně 166/4, Praha 1

(K)(K) Map 2 E2

Tel 25 70 11 213 w goldenwell.cz

Situated beneath Prague Castle, in the maze of the Little Quarter streets, the "Golden Well" offers lovely rooms with interesting views. The hotel also houses one of the city's top restaurants.

Augustine Hotel Letenská 12/33, Praha 1



Tel 26 61 12 233

Map 2 F3 w theaugustine.com

A former monastery with Cubiststyle rooms and a cellar brewery.

New Town

DK Choice

Eucion

Panská 9. Praha 1 Tel 22 62 22 800 **Map** 4 D4

w fusionhotels.com

The stripped down, industrial chic-style rooms here feature contemporary decor. A sixperson bed is just one of its unique features. There is a bar and a restaurant and staff are committed to ensuring that guests have a good time.

Hotel Yasmin

(K)(K) Politických vězňů 12, Praha 1

(K2)

(K) (K)

Tel 23 41 00 100 Map 4 D5 w hotel-vasmin.cz

Close to Wenceslas Square, Yasmin offers comfortable rooms with fresh, contemporary decor.

Further Afield

U Blaženky

U Blaženky 1. Praha 5 Tel 25 15 64 532 w ublazenkv.cz

Delightful, cosy villa with a wonderful ambience and attentive staff.

Monds

Klimentská 28. Praha 1

Tel 420 222 330 100 w hotelmoods.com

A Czech children's story painted on the rooms' walls, a moss

wall in the lobby and all-day breakfast make staying here an enjoyable and whimsical experience.

Riverside Praha Janáčkovo nábřeží 15, Praha 5



Tel 22 59 94 611 w mamaison.com

A historic hotel with a fairytale exterior and an exquisite location on the banks of the Vltava. The rooms are sophisticated, with touches of elegance, and feature modern amenities.

Luxurv Old Town

Grand Hotel Praha (A) (A) Staroměstské náměstí 22. Praha 1 Tel 420 221 632 556 Man 3 (3

w grandhotelpraha.cz

Located opposite the Astronomical Clock, this Baroque palace has rooms decorated with murals and antique furnishings.

Ventana

Celetná 7 Praha 1 Tel 420 221 776 600 Map 3 C3

w ventana-hotel.net Experience Art Nouveau luxury in

(K)(K)

enormous rooms and suites with amazing Old Town views.

Hotel Paříž (K)(K)(K) U Obecního domu 1, Praha i

Tel 420 222 195 195 **Map** 4 D2 w hotel-paris.cz

Beautiful rooms and excellent decor make for a luxurious stay. Don't miss the stunning staircase.

Pachtuv Palace (A) (A) (A) Karolíny Světlé 34. Praha 1 Tel 420 234 705 111 Map 3 A4 w mamaison.com/pachtuvpalace Frescoes, chapel ceilings and architectural gems dominate the interiors of this palace.

Jewish Quarter

Four Seasons (A) (A) (A) Veleslavínova 2a/1098, Praha i

Map 3 A3 Tel 22 14 27 000 w fourseasons.com

Superbly located on the banks of the Vltava river, this hotel offers classic Four Seasons luxury.

Intercontinental Pařížská 30. Praha 1 (R) (R) (R)

Tel 29 66 31 111 Map 3 B2

w icpraque.com

Comfortable rooms and a variety of dining options are available at the Intercontinental.

President (R)(R)(R) Nám. Curieových 100, Praha

Tel 23 46 14 111 Map 3 B2

w hotelpresident.cz Bright, fabulously furnished rooms and a well-regarded restaurant.

Prague Castle and Hradčany

Savoy (K)(K) Keplerova 6, Praha 1 Tel 420 224 302 430 Map 1 B3

w goldentulipsavoyprague.com A bit dated, but still lovely, this place offers a complimentary minibar.

Little Quarter

Alchymist Tržiště 19 Praha 1

Tel 420 257 286 011

w alchymisthotel.com

Royally furnished rooms. individually decorated and distinct from one another. Facilities include a great spa.

(3)(3)(3) Tržiště 9. Praha 1

Tel 420 225 334 111

W ariahotel net Musically themed rooms

dedicated to a style of music or a famous composer, such as Mozart or Puccini Guests have private access to Prague Castle's garden.

Mandarin Oriental Nehovidska 459/1 Praha 1

(3)(3)(3)

(R) (R) (R)

Map 2 D3

Map 2 F3

Tel 420 233 088 888 **Map** 2 F4 w mandarinoriental.com

Reconstructed from parts of a former monastery, each of this hotel's rooms boasts a distinct design.

New Town

Boscolo Prague (R)(R)(R) Senovážné náměstí 13. Praha 1

Map 4 F4 Tel 22 45 93 111 w prague.boscolohotels.com Close to the main train station. this hotel boasts Italian opulence and an impressive spa.

Hotel Christie Vladislavova 20. Praha 1

(R)(R)(R) **Map** 3 C5

Tel 24 60 91 700 w hotelchristie.cz

Just a few steps from Wenceslas Square, traditional luxury is offered here. Caters to business travellers and families with kids.

Prague Inn

28. října 378/15, Praha 1 Tel 22 60 14 444

Map 3 C4

(R)(R)(R)

w hotelpragueinn.cz

Spacious rooms with stylish furnishings and comfortable beds.

DK Choice

Radisson Rlu Alcron (R)(R)(R) Štěnánská 40 Praha 1 Tel 22 28 20 000 Map 6 D1

w radissonblu.com/hotel-prague A historic Art Deco hotel with high ceilings and period furnishings combined with excellent amenities and good service. Its Alcron restaurant boasts one of the country's top chefs, and there is a lobby

Sheraton Prague Charles Square Hotel (R)(R)(R)

cocktail har as well

Žitná 8 Praha 2 Tel 22 59 99 999

Map 5 C1

(K) (K)

(R) (R) (R)

(R) (R) (R)

(R) (R) (R)

w sheratonprague.com

A hip lobby, sleek rooms and sophisticated dining venues.

Further Afield

Hilton Prague Pobřežní 1. Praha 8

Tel 22 48 41 111

w hiltonprague.com All Rooms are modern and

spacious: some have views over the river. Classic Hilton service.

Kempinski Hotel Hybernska

Hybernská 12. Praha 1 Tel 22 62 26 111

w kempinski-prague.com Beautifully reconstructed hotel with a gorgeous garden.

U Zvonarky 1, Praha 2 Tel 420 234 634 111

w palaishotel.cz

A belle époque hotel with brightly coloured rooms. Great spa.

Prague Marriott V celnici 8. Praha 1

Tel 420 222 888 888

w marriott.com

Spacious and well-equipped rooms and a good onsite restaurant.



Homey yet elegant interiors of Kempinski Hotel Hybernska

WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

Restaurants in Prague, just like the tourist economy, have improved in recent years. For decades, state-licensed eating and drinking establishments had little incentive to experiment or progress. But attitudes have changed. New restaurants are opening constantly, many of them foreign-owned. offering the discerning eater ever-increasing choice. The restaurants described in this section reflect the change, though many

only serve a limited range of standard Western dishes in addition to the staple Czech meals, Recommended Restaurants on pages 198–205 summarizes the key features of the restaurants and cafés listed in this guide, which are organized by area. Information on pubs, beer halls and bars appears on pages 206–7. Compared to Western European prices, eating out in Prague is still cheap.

Tips on Eating Out

Because of the huge influx of tourists, eating out has changed in character. The lunch hour can be any time from 11am to 3pm and for most Czechs the normal time for the evening meal is around 7pm. However, many of the restaurants stay open late and it is possible to get a meal at anytime from 10am until 11pm. Kitchens close 30 minutes to one hour earlier than stated closina times.

During spring and summer, the large numbers of visitors tend to nut a strain on many of Prague's more popular restaurants. To be certain of a table, especially in the very well-known restaurants. it is advisable to book in advance.

The city centre is full of restaurants, and there are several off the normal tourist track. Prices also tend to be lower the further you go from the centre.

Places to Fat

The importance of a stylish vet comfortable setting, and food

which is inspired rather than just prepared, is slowly beginning to trickle down to Prague's better and more innovative restaurants. The places which follow this maxim are generally the best.

One of the simplest places to eat is the sausage stand a utilitarian establishment that is very common in Central Furone. The sausages can either be eaten standing at the counter or taken away cold. For a latenight meal your best bet is often a avros (kebab) or pizza served from a street stand.

For greater comfort, head for a café (kavárna). Cafés range from loud, busy main street locations to quieter bookstore establishments. All have fully stocked bars and many serve a variety of food from simple pastries and sandwiches to fullblown meals. Opening hours differ widely, but many open early in the morning and are good for a quick, if not quite a Western-style, breakfast,

Brunch buffets, complete with champagne and jazz, are



Outside dining in a pretty coutyard

available at a number of the city's fine-dining establishments Brunch costs no more than Kč600, so it is a great option for those who want to experience high quality food without breaking the bank.

A restaurant is called a restaurace: a vinárna specializes in wine and may have small snacks to match the drinks

Plain Czech food is normally available at the local beer hall (pivnice) or pub (hospoda). though the emphasis at this type of place is normally on drinking rather than eating.

Reading the Menu

Never judge a restaurant by the standard of its menu translations - mistakes are common in every class of restaurant. Many menus still list the weight of meat served. Typically, you'll need to order main meal accompaniments like potatoes, rice or dumplings separately, unless the menu specifically includes it. The same applies to salads and other side dishes (see pp194–5 for The Flavours of Prague).



La Truffe (see p199)



Tourists eating at the outdoor cafés in the Old Town Square

Fytra Costs

In some restaurants or hars the waiter may bring nuts to your table. Yes, they are for you to eat. but at a price equal to, or higher than, an appetizer, You will not insult anybody by telling the waiter to take them away. The same applies to appetizers brought round by the waiter.

You may notice extra charges vou don't recognize when you check your bill. But they may well be legitimate as cover charges (usually Kč10-25) might include such items as milk ketchun bread and butter might be charged for, Finally, a 17.5% tax is normally included in the menu.

Etiquette

You don't have to wait to be seated in snack bars and smaller eateries. It is also quite normal



Fine dining amid stained-glass Art Deco splendour

for others to join your table if there is any room. No restaurant has an official dress code but people tend to dress up when dining in upmarket restaurants

Payment and Tipping

The average price for a full meal in the centre of Prague ranges from about Kč250 to Kč1.100 per person and more. depending on the type of establishment. In some restaurants the waiter may write your order on a piece of paper and then leave it on your table for the person who comes around when you are ready to pay. Generally a 10 per cent tip is appropriate. Add the tip to the bill. do not leave the money on the table. Most restaurants accept major credit cards. but ask before the meal to make sure. Travellers' cheques are not accepted.

Vegetarians

The situation for vegetarians in Prague is improving as awareness increases. Fresh vegetables are available throughout the year. and numerous restaurants offer vegetarian and vegan options. Nevertheless, even when a dish is described as meatless, it's always worth double-checking. Vegetarians should particularly beware of menu sections called bez masa as, whilst the literal translation of this word is "without meat", its actual meaning is that meat is not the main ingredient in the dishes listed.

Disabled Travellers

Many restaurants still do not cater specifically for the disabled. The staff will almost always try and help, but Prague's ubiquitous stairs and hasements will defeat all but the most determined

Reservations

There is generally no need to reserve a table at lunchtime or on weekday evenings in Prague. If you are planning to eat dinner on a Friday or Saturday evening, however, particularly in Prague's better known restaurants, it is advisable to book in advance Reservations can be done in person, by telephone or online. Alternatively, online booking companies will make a free reservation for you. Your booking is confirmed by email and you pay as usual at the restaurant

Recommended Restaurants

Prague offers an astonishing array of cuisines, from French and Asian to traditional and modern Czech fare (see Flavours of Prague pp 194-5). Traditional Czech involves dishes with lots of meat, potatoes or dumplings. while modern Czech is where enterprising chefs are taking the old recipes and making them fresher and lighter.

Our restaurants are divided into six geographical areas: Old Town, Jewish Quarter. Prague Castle and Hradčany. Little Ouarter, New Town and Further Afield, We've selected the best from across the city. and encourage you to move out of the centre and explore some other neighbourhoods for more variety and cheaper prices. The specially recommended restaurants, marked as DK Choice, have been chosen because they offer a special experience either for the superb cuisine. for enjoying a traditional Czech dining night out, for the excellent value, or a combination of these.

The Flavours of Prague

While few visitors come to Prague for the food, there is far more to contemporary Czech cuisine than the Central European norm of meat, potatoes and rice. Czech food remains based on seasonally available ingredients, while a simple, no-fuss approach allows natural flavours to dominate most dishes. The staples of Czech cooking are pork, beef, game and carp, which tend to be served grilled or roasted, accompanied by a light sauce and vegetables. They are also used in sour soups, known as *polévky*. It is unlikely that you will leave Prague without tasting knedlíky (dumplings), either savoury or sweet.



Blueberries



Atmospheric U Pinkasů cellar bar and restaurant (see n203)

Meat

The Czech favourite is pork (vepřové). It appears in countless dishes, including soups, goulash and sausages, or can be served on its own, either arilled or (more commonly) roasted and served with sliced dumplings and sweet-sour cabbage (Vepřoknedlozelo). It also appears in other forms, notably as Prague ham (Pražska šunka), a succulent. Selection of typical Czech cakes and pastries

lightly smoked meat usually eaten with bread at breakfast or with horseradish as a starter at supportime

Veal, occasionally served in the form of breadcrumbed. fried Wiener schnitzel (smažený řízek), is popular.

Beef in the region has never been up to international standards, and needs to be prepared well to be edible. The

Prague favourite is Svičková, sliced, roast sirloin, served in a cream sauce with dumplings and sliced lemon. If cooked well it can be tender and delicious Beef is also used in goulash and stews. Most of the beef served in top restaurants is likely to be imported. Czech lamb (iehněčí) is not the best in the world, either. though for a short period from mid-March to mid-May there is



Local Dishes and Specialities

Stuffed eggs

Knedlíky (dumplings), either savoury (špekové) in soups or sweet (ovocné) with fruits and berries, are perhaps Bohemia's bestknown delicacy. Once a mere side dish they have now become a central feature of Czech cuisine, as Postmodern chefs rediscover their charms and experiment with new

and different ways of cooking and serving them. Other specialities of the region include Drštková polévka, a remarkably good tripe soup, which although an acquired taste - has also seen something of a revival in recent years as better restaurants add it to their menus. Duck and pheasant remain popular in Prague and, with the city surrounded by fine hunting grounds, such game is always of top quality. Pork, though, is the city's (and the nation's)

most popular food, served roasted on the bone, with red cabbage.



Polévka s játrovými knedlíčky Soup with liver dumplings is a common dish in the Czech Republic.



Wild chanterelle mushrooms from the forests around the city

good lamb available in Prague's markets, where it is usually sold whole complete with the head which is used to make soun

Game

There is a wide variety of game to be found in the forests around Prague, Depending on the season (the best time is autumn) vou will find duck. pheasant, goose, boar, venison, rabbit and hare on many menus. Duck is probably the most popular game dish. usually roasted with fruits, berries or sometimes with chestnuts and served with red cabbage. Small pheasants. roasted whole with juniper and blueberries or cranberries. are also popular, while venison is often served grilled with mushrooms. Rabbit and hare are usually presented in spicy, goulash-style sauces.

Vegetables

Fresh vegetables are becoming more popular as an accompaniment to meals. Note however that Czechs tend to boil their vegetables into oblivion. While more and more imported, outof-season produce is finding its way into supermarkets, many



Fresh vegetables on a Prague market stall

Czechs are unwilling to pay the higher prices these goods demand. As a result, the hardy cabbage remains the country's top vegetable, used in numerous different ways, such as raw as a salad or hoiled as an accompaniment to roast meats The Czech version of sauerkraut. kvselé zelí, is ubiquitous. Mushrooms too are well liked, and find their way in to many sauces, especially those served with game

Rest Local Spacks

Sausages Street stalls and snack bars all over the city sell traditional sausages (klobásy and utopence), frankfurters (párky) or bratwurst served in a soft roll with mustard

Chlebíčky Open sandwiches on sliced baquette are found in any delicatessen or snack bar in Prague. Toppings are usually ham, salami or cheese, always accompanied by a gherkin (nakládaná okurka)

Pivní sýr Beer cheese is soaked in ale until it becomes soft. It is served spread on bread and eaten with pickles or onions.

Nakládaný hermelín This whole round cheese is pickled in oil with onions and paprika. A firm favourite in pubs.

Palačinky Pancakes are filled with ice cream and/or fruits and jam, and are topped with lashings of sugar.



Pečený kapr s kyselou omáčkou Carp with sour cream and lemon is popular, especially at Christmas.



Vepřové s křenem Pork is served roasted, on the bone, with red cabbage and either sauerkraut or horseradish.



Ovocné knedlíky Sweet dumplings are filled with fruits or berries, usually blueberries or plums.

What to Drink in Prague

Czech beers are famous around the world but nowhere are they drunk with such appreciation. as in Prague. The Czechs take their beer (pivo) seriously and are very proud of it. Pilsner and its various relations originate in Bohemia. It is generally agreed that the best Pilsners are produced close to Pilsen – and all the top producers are not far from Prague. Beers can be bought in cans, in bottles, and best of all, on draught. Canned beer is made mostly for export. and no connoisseur would ever drink it. The Czech Republic also produces considerable quantities of wine, both red and white, mainly in Southern Moravia, Little of it is bottled for export. Mineral water can be found in most restaurants: Mattoni and Dobrá voda (meaning good water) are the two most widely available brands.



Gambrinus, Jegendary King of Beer, and trademark of a popular brand of Pilsner



Traditional copper brew-kettles in Plzeň

Pilsner and Rudweiser

The best-known Czech beer is Pilsner Urquell. Clear and golden, with a strong flavour of hops. Pilsner is made by the lager method: bottom-fermented and slowly matured at low temperatures. The word "Pilsner" (now a

generic term for similar lagers brewed all over the world) is derived from Plzeň (in German Pilsen) a town 80 km (50 miles) southwest of Prague, where this type of beer was first made in 1842. The brewery that developed the beer still makes it under the name Plzeňský prazdroi (original source), better known abroad as Pilsner Urquell. A slightly sweeter beer, Budweiser Budvar is brewed 150 km (100 miles) south of Prague in the town of České Buděiovice (in German. Budweis) The American Budweiser's first brewer adopted the name after a visit to Bohemia in the 19th century.



Budweiser logo



Pilsner Urquell logo

Types of Czech Beer

Originally, Czech beers were divided into draft, lager and special beers, according to the concentration of malt they contained (known as original gravity). However, in 1997 a new system was introduced that is more in line with EU practices. Czech beer now falls into one of four main groups according to colour – light (světlé), semi-dark (polotmavé), dark (tmavé) and cut (rězané). Within these groups are a further 11 sub-groups categorized by measures of alcohol, sugar, wheat and yeast content, as well as the method of final adjustment of the beer. Confusingly, pubs still use the old system of categorization by original gravity.



Kozel beer label

Beer and Beer Halls







Gambrinus



Velkopopovický



Budveiser Budvar



Plzeňský prazdroj (Pilsner Urguell)

The real place to enjoy Czech beer is a pub or beer hall (pivnice). Each pub is usually supplied by a single brewery (pivovar), so only one brand of beer is available, but several different types are on offer. The major brands include Pilsner Urquell and Gambrinus from Plzeň.

Staropramen from Prague, and Velkopopovický Kozel from Velké Popovice, south of Prague. The usual drink is draught light beer (světlé), but a number of beer halls, including U Fleků (see p155) and U Kalicha (see p154) also serve special, strong dark lagers (ask for tmayé).

A half litre of beer (equivalent to just under a pint) is called a *velké* (large), and a third of a litre (larger than a half pint) is called a *malé* (small). The waiters bring beers and snacks to your table and mark everything you eat and drink on a tab. You should be aware that in some pubs there is a tacit

assumption that all the customers want to go on drinking until closing time, so don't be surprised if more beers arrive without you having ordered them. If you don't want them, just say no. The bill is only totted up when you are ready to leave.



People enjoying a drink in one of Prague's beer gardens

Wines

Czech wine producers have not yet emulated the success of other East European wine-makers. The main wine-growing region is in Moravia, where

most of the best wine is produced for local consumption. Some wine is also made in Bohemia, around Mělník, just north of Prague. The whites are made mostly from Riesling, Müller-Thurgau or Veltliner grapes (polosuché is demi-sec and suché is sec). Rulandské (Pinot) is an acceptable dry white. The reds are slightly better, the main choices being Frankovka and

Vavřinecké. In the autumn, a semi-fermented young, sweet white or red wine called *burčák* is sold and drunk across the capital.

Czech Spirits and Liqueurs

In every restaurant and pub you'll find Becherovka, a bitter-sweet, amber herbal drink served both as an aperitif and a liqueur. It can also be diluted with tonic (called Beton). Other local drinks include Borovička, a juniper-flavoured spirit, and plum brandy or Slivovice. The latter is clear, strong and an acquired taste. Imported spirits and cocktails are more expensive.



Becherovka

Rulandské, white and red

RULANDS

BILE

Where to Fat and Drink

Old Town

Rohemia Ragel American Masná 2. Praha 1 Tel 22 48 12 560

Man 3 R4

Great breakfast place, but also has wholesome sandwiches and burgers. Free refills of coffee make this a popular spot. High-speed Internet at reasonable rates throughout the day.

Country Life Vegetarian Melantrichova 15. Praha 1

Tel 22 42 13 366 Closed Sat Best bargain lunch in town. The self-serve buffet has freshly made hot and cold vegetarian dishes; pay by weight. Also try the excellent sandwiches, salads. soups and desserts.

Kahul Map 3 A Afghan Karolíny Světlé 14. Praha 1

Tel 22 42 35 452 An eclectic menu, welcoming staff and a local feel - Kabul offers reasonable, but hearty Afghan dishes and pizza. Expect crowds at lunchtime

Las Adelitas Map 3 B4 Movican

Malé náměstí 13 Praha 1 Tel 22 22 33 247

Go around the corner from the Astronomical Clock to savour authentic Mexican food at this neighbourhood eatery. Try the freshly prepared burritos, enchiladas and auesadillas. Also check out the interesting array of Mexican beers and tequilas.

DK Choice

Lohká Hlava Vegetarian

Man 3 A4 Boršov 2/280, Praha 1 Tel 22 22 20 665

The best vegetarian restaurant in Prague has a creative take on international cuisine and trippy, cool interiors. The extensive menu ranges from Asian to Mexican to Lebanese. The Thai red curry with tofu is a treat and the burrito will force you to skip dessert. There are many vegan offerings as well.

Maitrea Vegetarian Týnská ulička 6/1064, Praha 1

Tel 22 17 11 631 Beautiful restaurant with a well-designed menu that includes Asian and Mexican dishes. Great lunch specials are also available.

Století Map 3 International Karolíny Světlé 21/320, Praha 1

Tel 22 22 20 008 Prompt service and delicious food is offered at this often missed, though centrally located. restaurant. The Czech dishes on the menu are creatively named and prepared.

U Provaznice Czech

Map 3 (4 Provaznická 3 Praha 1

Tel 22 42 32 528 Cheerful pub in an excellent location with a reasonably priced menu. Be prepared to find it packed with locals at lunchtimes.



Elegantly designed interiors at Lehká Hlava, Prague's finest vegetarian restaurant

Price Guide

Prices are based on a three-course meal ner nerson, with a half-hottle of house wine, including tax and service

ത്ത (A) (A) (A)

under Kč500 Kč500_800 over Kč800

II Tří růží Czech

Husova 10/232 Praha 1 Tel 60 15 88 287/2 This brew house makes its own beer and serves classic Czech dishes. Six fresh beers

Caffrev's Irish

are always on tap.

Man 3

Staroměstské nám. 10. Praha i Tel 22 48 28 031

This Pub on Old Town Square has amazing food and plenty of TVs all around. A great place to meet travellers and expats.

Divinis Italian

(K)(K) Map 3

Týnská 21. Praha 1 Tel 22 23 25 440 Closed Sun This wine bar serves typical northern Italian favourites in a private and elegant space. The top-notch wine selection is primarily from Italy.

Kogo Italian

(K)(K) Map 3 (4

Havelská 499/27, Praha 1 Tel 22 42 14 543

A good location makes this eatery an ideal spot for lunch or dinner. Savour solid Italian cuisine in spacious and lovely surroundings.

Le Saint-Tropez Franch

Map 3 C3

Týnska ulička 606/3. Praha 1 Tel 22 48 10 750 Sample well-presented regional French cuisine and exquisite wine in this pretty cellar space. There's a summer garden as well.

Darnac

Czech-International Smetanovo nábřeží 1012/2, Praha 1 Tel 22 42 39 604

Art Deco-style restaurant next to the Vltava river, and close to Charles Bridge, with a fresh take on Czech cuisine. Be sure to check out the list of creative international dishes.

Pizza Nuova Italian



Revoluční 1/655, Praha 1 Tel 22 18 03 308



Onulent Art Nouveau decor with colourful tile mosaics at Plzeňská

One of the best pizzerias in town, this place is known for its thin-crust pizza. Fresh fish, pasta and other Italian specialities are also on the menu, and there's an antipasto bar.

Distina Czach

Map 3 A5 Karolíny Světlé 323/27, Praha 1 Tel 23 90 09 244

Relish modern Czech cuisine with an inventive touch at this eatery. The menu changes seasonally and the focus is on using local ingredients. Barbeque on the terrace in summer.

Plzeňská

(K)(K) **Map** 4 D3

Czech Náměstí republiky 5. Praha 1 Tel 22 20 02 770 A fun evening is in store at Plzeňská, with its fabulous Art Nouveau interiors, friendly staff and extensive menu of

Czech dishes. Red Pif International



Retlémská 9 Praha 1 Tel 22 22 32 086

Closed Sun

This industrial-chic restaurant and wine shop offers a small but delicious menu and a great wine list. Beautifully designed interiors.

School Restaurant & Lounge

(K)(K) **Map** 3 A4

Czech-International Smetanovo nábř. 22, Praha 1 Tel 22 22 22 173

Well-prepared modern Czech and international cuisine is served in a large, modern dining space with views across the Vltava. Efficient staff.

U Závoje International



Havelská 500/25, Praha 1 Tel 60 22 57 640 The menu here is designed to complement the extensive list of French wines. The cellar space is cosy and inviting.

VinodiVino



Štupartská 769/18. Praha 1

Tel 22 23 11 791 This restaurant and wine bar features specialities from southern Italy. The small menu is welldesigned, with signature offerings.

Ambiente Brasileiro Brazilian



U Radnice 8, Praha 1 Tel 22 42 34 474

Choose from a variety of dishes at this all-vou-can-eat buffet. Brazilian churrasco is paraded around the restaurant on skewers.

Rellevue International



Smetanovo nábř. 18, Praha 1 Tel 22 22 21 443 Come here for a unique dining

experience, where you design your own multi-course meal. Íngredients are carefully chosen and staff will suggest suitable wines. Excellent views of Prague Castle.

Buddha Bar Asian



Jakubská 8. Praha 1 Tel 22 17 76 400 & Mon

Closed Sun Over-the-top dining room

overlooked by a massive Buddha. Imaginative Asian cuisine. There's also a separate bar/lounge.

Francouzská Restaurace



French Náměstí republiky 5, Praha 1 Tel 22 20 02 784 Delicious dishes almost over-

shadowed by the Art Nouveau interiors. They also serve Czech and international cuisine. Strong wine list.

La Truffe French



Týnská 633/12 Praha 1 Tel 60.83.08.574

Closed Sun Beautiful interiors with lots of cosv nooks and frescoed walls. The menu is dedicated to the truffle

Le terroir French-International



Veivodova 1. Praha 1 Tel 60 28 89 118 Closed Sun & Mon

One of Prague's top gastronomic experiences, and the best place for wine lovers. The food is equally good and well prepared.

Mlýnec Czech



Novotného lávka 9. Praha 1 Tel 27 70 00 77

Focuses on using locally sourced meat and fish and serves a nice selection of meals. Roast lunch every Sunday.

Sarah Bernhardt



French-Czech U Obecního domu 1, Praha 1 Tel 22 21 95 900 Fresh and light Czech and French dishes in a beautiful setting; this place serves an

V Zátiší International

eniovable meal.



Liliová 1. Praha 1 Tel 22 22 21 155 For a memorable dining

experience with excellent food and service, reserve a table at V Zátiší. Expert staff add to the pleasure.

Zdenek's Oyster Bar Seafood



Malá Štupartská 636/5. Praha 1 Tel 72 59 46 250 Serious seafood restaurant

with an intriguing oyster bar. Try the generous platters of ovsters and clams. Don't miss the lobster roll, the most authentic example in Prague.



Entrance to the upscale La Truffe, great for authentic French fare

Jewish Quarter

DK Choice

Map 3 C2 املاغا Czech

Dlouhá 33. Praha 1 Tel 22 23 16 265

Fun. old-style Czech pub with well-done Czech classics and lots of fresh Pilsner Urquell beer. Modern lighting, long tables and wooden chairs create a cosy ambience. Service is excellent and the food is tasty.

Mistral Café Map 3 R3 International Valentinská 56/11. Praha 1

Tel 22 23 17 737 A casual place near the Old Town, Mistral offers good food in a bright and welcoming setting.

(K)(K) Aldente Trattoria Vineria Italian Map 3 (2)

Vězeňská 4. Praha 1 Tel 22 23 13 185

Try the fresh seasonal dishes at this casual and calming trattoria. Specials change weekly. Good selection of Italian wines and spirits.

Bílkova 13

Map 3 B2 Italian-International Bílkova 13. Praha 1 Tel 22 48 29 254

Simple but creative Italian fare served in a lovely open dining space. There's also a café with a smaller snack menu

Cartouche French-International Map 3 (2) Bílkova 14. Praha 1

Tel 22 23 17 103 This place specializes in grilled meats, but the ambience dominates the dining experience. Romantic, with a 16thcentury vibe.



Sophisticated interiors at Barock, known for its excellent Asian cuisine



Understated elegance at the highly praised La Degustation

DK Choice

Grosseto Marina Italian

(K)(K) Map 3 A3

(K)(K)

(A)(A)

Alšovo náhřeží Praha i Tel 60 54 54 020

Enjoy superb service, beautiful river views over Prague Castle and excellent Italian food - on a boat. The top deck is a great place to have a drink, with or without descending below deck for a lovely dinner of pasta, fish, meat, or even pizza. An early evening visit is best to watch the sun set and the city lights glow.

La Belle Epoque American

Map 3 A3 Křížovnická 8. Praha 1 Tel 22 23 21 926

Tex-Mex specialities, with an emphasis on steak, served in a rustic setting. Argentinian beef and New Zealand lamb feature prominently on the menu.

La Veranda Italian-French

Map 3 B2 Flišky Krásnohorské 10/2. Praha 1 Tel 22 48 14 733 Closed Sun

Bright and homey interiors greet guests at La Veranda. Chefs use a variety of organic and locally sourced products in their dishes.

La Vita è Bella Italian

as the food.

Tel 22 23 29 221

Map 3 B2 Elišky Krásnohorské 5, Praha 1 Tel 22 23 10 039 Closed Sun Trendy restaurant with fresh fish and seafood. Homemade pastas and gnocchi are also on offer. The dining space is as beautiful

Barock (R)(R)(R) Japanese-International Map 3 B2 Pařížská 24, Praha 1

Casual but modern interiors are a backdrop to a tasty menu of international dishes. Japanese and Thai food feature heavily.

Chagall's International Kozí 5 Praha 1 Tel 73 90 02 347

(R) (R) (R) **Map** 3 C2

A well-regarded, modern take on Central Furopean cuisine, great service and welcoming interiors. Chagall's convenient location is great for lunch or dinner.

CottoCrudo Italian

(R) (R) (R) Map 3 A3

(R)(R)(R)

Map 3 B3

Veleslavinova 1098/2a. Praha 1 Tel 22 14 26 880 Browse the meat and cheese

bars or feast on excellent Italian cuisine at your table. Great interiors and a fun concept. Indecisive diners may be challenged here.

King Solomon lewish

Široká 8. Praha 1 Tel 22 48 18 752

Traditional Kosher Jewish cooking with a Czech touch, Veal. deer and lamb are sourced locally. Bread is made on site and offered alongside hummus and tahini.

La Casa Argentina Argentinian Dlouhá 35/730, Praha 1

(R)(R)(R) Map 3 C

Tel 22 23 11 512 The swinging seats at the bar are just one feature of the jungle-like interiors at this eatery, which is usually full with quests enjoying dinner or drinks.

DK Choice

La Degustation (R)(R)(R) Czech-International Map 3 C Haštalská 18. Praha 1

Tel 22 23 11 234 For the ultimate Czech dining experience step, into La

Degustation. Six or 11 courses of fresh, flavourful food are paired with wines. Chefs prepare each tiny dish with considerable care for ingredients and design, and are supported by knowledgeable and pleasant staff.

La Finestra in Cucina Italian

(R) (R) (R) **Map** 3 B3

Platnéřská 90/13 Praha 1 Tel 22 23 25 325

La Finestra in Cucina's small menu offers Italian favourites cooked to perfection. Beautiful surroundings and delicious food. Great service and wine list.

7latá Draha Czech-International



Pařížská 30. Praha 1 Tel 29 66 30 914

Sit at the top of the Old Town and munch on locally sourced seasonal specialities. Don't miss the popular Sunday brunch.

Prague Castle and Hradčany



Czech-International Loretánská 15 Praha 1 Tel 60 38 17 633

Good, fair-priced food in a major tourist hub. Classic Czech food is well done at this eatery. Modern interiors with great views.

Villa Richter International



Staré zámecké schody 6/251, Praha 1 Tel 25 72 19 079

Two restaurants in one. Terra offers well-priced Czech cuisine, while Piano Noble serves Central European dishes with a modern touch

Little Ouarter

Bar Bar

Map 2 F5

International Všehrdova 17, Praha 1 Tel 25 73 12 246

Fun, casual neighbourhood place with an intriguing interior. Large selection of dishes on the menu and a good choice of wines.

DK Choice

Café Lounge International Plaská 615/8, Praha 1 Tel 25 74 04 020



Beautiful interiors with a secret courtyard, delicious fresh soup, great coffee and a creative evening menu make this a goto place from morning till night. There's a special coffee and wine each week, and the pastry chefs are extremely talented at making imaginative desserts.

The ambience is relaxed thanks to the restful interiors and welcoming staff.

Café Savov Czech-French

Map 2 F5

Vítězná 5. Praha 1 Tel 25 73 11 562

This charming and bustling spot serves lovely coffee, light lunches and gourmet meals.

Kočár z Vídně Austrian Saská 520/3. Praha 1

Map 2 F4

Tel 77 70 43 793 For authentic Austrian food in Prague, stop by this eatery. Try the well done wiener schnitzel (veal coated in breadcrumbs). Extensive Austrian wine list.

Luka Lu

Ralkan

Újezd 33. Praha 1 Tel 25 72 12 388

Unique interiors, friendly service and well-prepared fish, pasta and barbeque specialities. There is streetside and outdoor seating in the courtvard.

Malostranská beseda Czech-International Map 2 F3

Malostranské náměstí 21. Praha 1 Tel 25 74 09 112

Traditional Czech food and beer served in an elegant building in the heart of the Little Quarter. A buzzing place for lunch.

Nebozízek

Map 2 D5 International Petřínské sady 411. Praha 1 Tel 25 73 15 329

One of the city's best park restaurants, offering indoor and outdoor dining with a view. Standard fare at decent prices.

U Malého Glena International

Karmelitská 23 Praha 1 Tel 25 75 31 717

Well-executed burgers, ribs, Tex-Mex and a small selection of Czech dishes at this casual eatery Tiny jazz club in the cellar.

Café de Paris French

(K)(K) Map 2 F4

Maltézské náměstí 4 Praha Tel 60 31 60 718

Considered one of the best French brasseries in Prague. Family-run, small dining room with an excellent menu featuring their speciality "Entrecôte Café de Paris" - a steak served with a special sauce made from a secret recipe.

Cowbovs Steakhouse



Nerudova 40. Praha 1 Tel 29 68 26 107

A modern restaurant with tasty beef specialities. Cowboys "favourite combinations" are a good choice. Unforgettable view from the garden.

Gitanes Mediterranean



Tržiště 7, Praha 1 Tel 25 75 30 163

With meals from a number of regional countries, as well as a top-notch wine list. Gitanes is a welcome find in the Little Quarter find

Konírna Czech



Map 2 Maltézské náměstí 10. Praha

Tel 25 75 34 121 Traditional Czech cooking with a modern twist. Konírna's menu has old recipes not found in many restaurants.



Vibrant and cheerful dining room at Luka Lu



Outstanding view from the rooftop terrace, Terasa U Zlaté Studně

U Malířů (K)(K) Czech-International Map 2 E4 Maltézské náměstí 11. Praha Tel 25 75 30 318 Gorgeous historic interiors

and an interesting menu featuring modern Czech cuisine. An excellent place for a quiet dinner. Friendly and helpful staff.

Alchymist (R) (R) (R) International Map 2 F4 Nosticova 1. Praha 1 Tel 25 73 12 518 Closed Sun & Mon

A wild interior and a menu featuring French and Lebanese touches. The summer garden is a delightful bonus.

Coda International Tržiště 9. Praha 1

Tel 22 5334 761

Elegant, musically themed interiors and a rich menu featuring unique flavours and a special Czech section. The rooftop terrace is ideal for an afternoon drink.

Essensia (R) (R) (R) Czech-Asian Map 2 E4 Nebovidská 459/1. Praha 1

Tel 23 30 88 888

This place offers classic Asian and local Czech dishes. Try the Kulaida (creamy Czech soup), or the salmon poached in orange oil. The Oriental themed interior has vaulted ceilings.

Terasa U Zlaté Studně

(R)(R)(R) Map 2 E2

(K)(K)(K)

Map 2 F3

International U Zlaté studně 4, Praha 1 Tel 25 75 33 322

Also known as "At the Golden Well", this neighbourhood restaurant offers a beautiful interior and stunning views. The menu is perfectly prepared and served. In the summer, dine on the rooftop terrace

The Sushi Bar Japanese Zhorovská 49. Praha 5

Tel 60 32 44 882 Modern interiors and a huge menu of well-prepared sushi. This was the first sushi bar in Prague and it's still one of the best.

New Town

(€) **Map** 3 ○1 French-Italian Štěnánská 31. Praha 1

Tel 22 22 12 810 Closed Sun

Creative cooking and a great wine list. Wide choice of coffees, Perfect. for a full meal or a snack break.

Café Louvre Map 3 R5 Czech-International Národní 22 Praha 1

Tel 22 49 30 949 A Czech institution, Café Louvre offers a good variety and quality of food, including an excellent selection of cakes, pastries and coffees. Play a game of pool in the on-site hilliards room

Café Slavia Czech-International Map 3 Smetanovo nábřeži 2. Praha Tel 22 42 18 493

Traditional Prague café with a full menu, lovely Art Deco interiors and pretty windows. The wonderful cake selection makes for a lovely afternoon break. There is often live music in the evenings.

Dvnamo Map 5 A International Pštrossova 29, Praha 1 Tel 22 49 32 020

Dynamo is a design gem with good vegetarian options, a few Czech dishes and a pasta selection.

Fama Czech

Map 3

Vladislavova 18 Praha 1 Tel 22 49 49 305 Closed Sun Creative, well-presented dishes on a diverse menu served in a modern dining room. Lots of Pilsner Urquell to accompany the food.

Home Kitchen International Junamannova 8. Praha 1

Tel 73 47 14 227 Closed Sun Casual, homey place that's great for a quick lunch. The menu changes seasonally and features daily soups, small salads and sandwiches

Klub Cestovatelů Lahanasa

(3)(3)(3)

Map 2 F5

Masarvkovo nábřeží 22. Praha 1 Tel 22 49 30 390

Tasty food, good service and relaxing interiors – this is an enjoyable spot for lunch or dinner with a convenient New Town riverside location.

Miss Saigon Vietnamese-Japanese Myslíkova 26. Praha 2

Tel 22 25 60 328 Great sushi and pho (noodle soup) along with a wide range of other specialities - all wellprepared and served in a relaxed dining space.

DK Choice

Nota Rene Czech

Mikovcova 4. Praha 2 Tel 72 12 99 131 Closed Sun A fascinating, rotating beer list and locally sourced Czech specialities make Nota Bene one of the hottest places around. There is also a beer hall in the basement that only serves beer and snacks. Book in advance

Novoměstský Pivovar Czech-International Vodičkova 20. Praha 1

Tel 22 22 32 448 Classic Czech dishes served in a working brewery. Novoměstský Pivovar is a great place to expand your knowledge of beer.

Renommé Czech-French

Map 5 A

Na sturze 1, Praha 1 Tel 22 49 34 109

Around the corner from the National Theatre, this small and elegant family-run restaurant serves seasonal meals with an emphasis on foie gras and fish.

Solidní listota Man 5 A1 International Pštrossova 21. Praha 1 Tel 72 59 84 964 Closed Mon

Hearty fare including burgers. steak and chicken wings are served at this casual place, which also has an on-site night club. Prices are good and the food is satisfying. Open till late.

U Pinkasů Map 3 C Czech

Junamannovo nám. 15/16. Praha 1 Tel 22 11 11 150 Beloved beer hall with typical interiors, food and beer, U Pinkasů could be considered a tourist trap, but it still attracts the locals

Universal French-International V Jirchářích 6. Praha 1 Tel 22 49 34 416

Casual French bistro with a classic menu and interiors that match the relaxed vibe

Žofín International Map 5 A1 Slovanský Ostrov, Praha 1 **Tel** 77 47 74 774

Lovely garden restaurant located on one of the Vltava river's islands. Excellent family spot with eniovable food.

Alcron (K)(K) International **Map** 6 D1 Štěpánská 40. Praha 1

Tel 22 28 20 410 Closed Sun This intimate. Michelin-starred restaurant has a small fascinating menu with some of the most creative dishes in Prague.

Čestr (K)(K) Czech Map 6 E1

Legerova 75/57, Praha 1 Tel 22 27 27 851

The specialty here is beef cooked in a variety of ways. The meat is locally sourced and the menu

lists over 20 different cuts. The heer list is extensive. An excellent nlace for meat lovers

Cicala Italian Map 6 D1 Žitná 43. Praha 1

(A)(A)

Tel 22 22 10 375 Closed Sun This trattoria offers a taste of Italy in its brick-lined cellar space and modern ground floor restaurant. Bucatini all'amatriciana (pasta with a tomato and pancetta sauce) is one of the house specialties. Service is friendly.

Como Mediterranean

Man 4 D5 Václavské náměstí 818/45 Praha 1 Tel 22 22 47 240

A good dining option on Wenceslas Square is hard to find, but this place offers tasty dishes. served by friendly staff. Try the beautifully cooked leg of lamb.

El Emir Lahanaca Map 3 C4 Václavské náměstí 1. Praha 1

Tel 22 42 81 099 Extensive, flavourful menu featuring fresh fish and lots of mezze. Oriental-style decor and a pleasant atmosphere.

Le Patio Asian

Map 3 B5 Národní 22. Praha 1 Tel 77 45 39 301

Creative. Asian dishes are served by cheerful staff. Try the Jungle duck (roasted duck in a Thai curry sauce), or the Indonesian beef. The interior is beautiful. Live music is performed on weekends.

Miyabi Japanese

Navrátilova 10. Praha 1 Tel 29.62 33 102

Closed Sun

Miyabi is one of the oldest Japanese restaurants in town and offers



Cream-coloured walls with an array of unusual objects, Universal



The wood-panelled interiors of Le Patio

delicious and expert cooking. Excellent sushi and stylish interiors.

Pagana Italian

(K) (K)

Spálená 14. Praha 1 Tel 22 40 56 300 Closed Sat & Sun Pagana serves classic Italian dishes to discerning diners. Fabulous interiors decorated with hand-painted images. Reservations are recommended.

Rotisserie Czech

(K)(K)

Map 5 C

Map 3 B5

Mikulandská 121/6. Praha 1 Tel 73 42 09 228 Classic and contemporary Czech food is served, with seasonal changes to the menu. Their motto is "good taste counts." Pretty dining space.

Suterén

Czech-Central European Map 5 A1 Masarykovo nábřeží 26, Praha 1 Tel 22 49 33 657 Closed Sun

Housed in an Art Nouveau building, this place specializes in game and poultry. It also has a good seafood selection.

Ultramarin Thai-International Ostrovní 32, Praha 1

(K) (K) **Map** 3 B5

Tel 22 49 32 249 Stylish restaurant with a good selection of dishes including grilled meats. There's an on-site night club, which serves cocktails.

Celeste French

(K)(K)(K)

Rašínovo nábř. 80, Praha 2 Tel 22 19 84 160 Closed Sun Located atop the famed Dancing House. Modern French food is served in gorgeous interiors. Amazing views.



Cosy and comfortable dining area, U Emy Destinnové

DK Choice

U Emy Destinnové (R)(R)(R) International Map 5

Kateřinská 7, Praha 2 Tel 22 49 18 425 Closed Sun Well-cooked, creative food is served here, along with excellent wine and service. U Emy Destinnové does Black Angus beef and seafood expertly well. Table-side cooking and a tank from which to choose your own lobster and crab add to the entertainment value. Staff are passionate about what

Zvonice Czech-International Jindřišská věž. Praha 1

they are doing.

Tel 22 42 20 009

A wide variety of dishes are served here. The specialities are boar and venison. Located in an old Gothic belfry, this restaurant is hard to beat for atmosphere.

Kofein Czech-International Nitranská 9. Praha 3

Tel 27 31 32 145 Czech-inspired tapas and a range of internationally leaning mains; their daily specials are always recommended. Cosy non-

smoking dining area.

Mash Hana lananese

Badeniho 3, Praha 6 Tel 22 43 24 034 Closed Sun & Mon. Excellent Japanese food in a warm, welcoming ambience. The chef is the first person quests see on entering this bright restaurant.

Olympus Greek

(R) (R) (R)

Man 4 D4

Kubelíkova 9. Praha 3 Tel 22 27 22 239

A large variety of well-prepared Greek dishes are served at this eatery. Don't miss the special Greek cheeses. The relaxed atmosphere makes it easy to while away an afternoon or evening here.

Pho Vietnam Tuan & Lan Vietnamese

Slavíkova 1657/1 Praha 2 Tel 77 36 88 689

For authentic Vietnamese cuisine stop by this eatery, which is constantly overflowing with folks crazy for its quality dishes and great prices. Try the spring rolls.

Aromi Italian

(K)

(A) (A)

(K)

Mánesova 1442/78 Praha 2 Tel 22 27 13 222

The Italian chef here creates a small but tasty menu of classic favourites. Daily specials based on fresh seasonal ingredients.

Café Imperial Czech-International

(A) (A)

Na Poříčí 15. Praha 1 Tel 24 60 11 440

Creative cooking is served at this eatery, which also offers a special Czech menu selection, breakfast and daily lunch specials.

Červená tabulka International



Lodecká 4. Praha 1 Tel 22 48 10 401

The homey interior belies the high quality of the dishes, most of which have Italian leanings.

Kolkovna Czach



V Kolkovně 8. Praha 1 Tel 22 48 19 701

Popular Pilsner brewery restaurant. Guests will find fresh beer, speedy service and big plates of Czech cooking.

La Boca



International Truhlářská 10. Praha 1 Tel 22 23 12 073 Cosy restaurant in a busy

Further Afield

Hanil Japanese

Slavíkova 24. Praha 3 Tel 420 222 715 867

Excellent sushi and friendly service make Hanil a place to seek out. The house speciality is the popular Korean dish, bulgogi. Portions are hearty.

Hybernia Czech-International

Hybernská 7/1033, Praha 1 Tel 22 42 26 004

Traditional Czech cuisine with a modern twist is served here. The Hybernia is very popular throughout the day. There is a large bar area and outdoor terrace seating.



Art Noveau ceramic wall tiling and mosaic ceiling, Café Imperial



Sumptuous dining room in one of Prague's most stylish restaurants, SaSaZu

neighbourhood. The menu includes tapas, fresh pasta, and savoury desserts. There is also a children's menu.

DK Choice

La Terrassa

(K)(K)

Spanish Janáčkovo nábřeží - Dětský ostrov. Praha 5

Tel 60 43 00 300 Enjoy tapas and other freshly made Spanish specialities on a beautifully renovated boat on the Vltava. The staff are perfectly attentive and knowledgable about the wine list. The food and service are so good that quests will want to come again, even if they have to sit below deck. Highly recommended for summer dining.

Mailci Pakistani



Lipanská 1, Praha 3 Tel 22 27 17 783

A one-of-a-kind restaurant in Prague, Mailsi's simple interior belies the authentic and flavourful food coming out of the kitchen.

Mozaika



International Nitranská 13, Praha 3 Tel 22 42 53 011

With a mixed-up menu of flavours, leaning towards Asian, Mozaika offers solid cooking in a trendy setting.

Na Kopci International



K Závěrce 2774/20, Praha 5 Tel 25 15 53 102

Modern Czech cuisine plus some French dishes are on the menu

here. They are particularly proud of their beef tartar and seasonal specialities. Service is friendly.

Občanská Plovárna



Thai

U Plovárny 8. Praha 1 Tel 25 75 31 451

Set on the banks of the VItava this restaurant has a modern interior and excellent Thai food. especially the spicy curries.

Olivia



Mediterranean Playecká 404/4, Praha 2

Tel 22 25 20 288 Closed Sun Lovely, family-run restaurant with a focus on fresh, creative cooking. Dishes are carefully sourced and

expertly prepared and served.

Osteria De Clara Italian



Mexicka 7. Praha 10 Tel 27 17 26 548

Closed Sun Out of the way, but worth the trip. Serves excellent, simply prepared dishes and has a good wine list.

DK Choice

Sansho



International Petrská 25, Praha 1 Tel 22 23 17 425

Closed Sun & Mon With no set menu, Sansho prepares everything daily, based on what they source from local farmers. The dining room is family-style, and the casual approach includes an open kitchen and friendly staff. Chefs place a premium on the quality of their meat cuts, but there's always something on

the menu for vegetarians.

The Pind Indian



Korunní 1151/67 Praha 3 Tel 22 25 16 085

Customers head to The Pind for excellent Indian food with a spicy kick. The dining area is particularly lovely, and the staff are welcoming.

U Krále Brabantského International



Thunovská 15. Praha 1 Tel 72 41 44 192

Situated underneath Prague Castle, this is one of the city's oldest pubs. It has a good-sized, varied menu, and there is also a medieval show to entertain

Aureole



Asian-fusion

Hvězdova 1716/2b. Praha 4 Tel 22 27 55 380

evening diners (Tue-Sat).

This is the highest restaurant in Prague and it has a stunning interior. The menu is heavily inspired by the Orient and includes sushi and curry.

DK Choice

SaSaZu Asian



Bubenské nábřeží 306. Praha 7 Tel 28 40 97 455

This restaurant, awarded a Michelin Bib Gourmand, offers excellent food from Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. The opportunity to experiment with a variety of flavours does not happen often, but quests will be rewarded throughout with innovative dishes. Don't rush - this is a meal to savour.

Pubs, Beer Halls and Bars

Prague has somewhere to suit practically everyone's taste, from sophisticated cocktail bars to traditional Czech cellar pubs. One particular breed of pub, the themed Irish, English or sports bar, caters mainly to the large number of young English men who travel to Prague on stag weekends. The real charm of drinking in Prague is that it's possible to stroll around the Old Town and find places to drink and fraternize with Czechs and expatriates alike. If you sit at an empty table, don't be surprised if others ioin you. In some traditional Czech pubs a waiter will automatically bring more beer as soon as you appear close to finishing. unless you indicate otherwise. It pays to expect the unexpected in Prague – in some supposedly upmarket places, the waiters' attitude can be surly and unhelpful, while in the humblest pub you may find service to be efficient and courteous.

Traditional Pubs and Reer Halls

Traditionally, Czech pubs either serve food or are large beer halls dedicated to the mass consumption of beer The words hostinec and hospoda used to indicate a pub with food. whereas a pivnice served only beer, but over time the distinctions have faded.

Recommended for the brave U Zlatého tygra (The Golden Tiger) is a loud Czech literati pub, wall-to-wall with mostly male regulars. (This is where the Czech president, Vaclay Havel took Bill Clinton to show him local beer culture.) U Fleků has brewed its unique beer. Flekovské, since 1499. For authenticity, and Budvar, try U Medvídků which is not far away from the National Theatre (see pp156-7) and the Old Town Square. U Vejvodů is a former traditional Czech pub which has embraced tourism, with large tables and waiters who understand English. You lose something in authenticity but the beer is good, the food decent and there's usually a place to sit. The traditional hospoda scarcely comes more so than **U Pinkasů**, hidden behind Wenceslas Square in a quaint courtyard.

Cocktail Bars

Prague now has almost more cocktail bars than you could shake a swizzle stick at, but

there are some that stand out On Pařížská, Prague's Fifth Avenue, you'll find **Buasv's**. This bar has even printed their own cocktail bible, though towards the end of the week it does become somewhat overtaken by burly men in long coats. That fate has vet to befall the neighbouring Barock, a cocktail bar and restaurant with a noticeably chic clientele. In Reer Factory you can tap your own beer, sample cocktails or just listen or dance to music.

Irish Pubs and Theme Bars

Prague now has theme bars in all shapes and sizes, with still the most common being the ubiquitous Irish pub. Caffreys is one of Prague's most popular and pricier – Irish bars, located off the Old Town Square, Rocky O'Reilly's is the biggest Irish pub in town, and a rowdy place, packed to the rafters if there is a big football match on the television. Jáma is a lively pub with great bar food that serves Praque's best burger, among other attributes. Just a stone's throw away from Charles Bridge is possibly the only Irish-Cuban hybrid pub anywhere, the noisy and fun O'Che's.

There is karaoke at Molotow Cocktail Bar, while La Casa Blu is a South American bar where the Chilean Peruvian Mexican and Czech staff create a carnivaltype atmosphere.

Bohemian Hangouts

Not only in the geographical heart of Bohemia, these bars also represent the unconventional side of Prague city-life. Al Capone's is one of the most famous not to say notorious drinking dens in the Old Town. host to a parade of visitors and locals. Chapeau Rouge is a rowdy college joint that is a quaranteed all-nighter with a street-level har that's loads of fun and a downstairs club that's hopping most of the night Over the Vltava in the Castle district you'll find U Malého Glena which translates roughly to "at Little Glen's", and is one of the longest surviving expatriate bars in the city. Not far away is Jo's Bar & Garáž, which has also stood the test of time as an expat hangout. It's a small. cavernous pub. Mexican eatery and disco, and becomes quickly packed. Jet Set embodies the winning combination of a great bar and a delicious eatery.

Sports Bars

Sports bars have taken off in Prague, with places like **Zlatá** Hvězda, with its deck of TV screens. Two popular sports bars further from the city centre are Abvss Bar in Michle and Club Velbloud in Žižkov

Café Society

The city is embedded in café society, ranging from oldfashioned smoky joints to cafés within bookstores. boutiques and billiard halls. Some are restaurants, others focus on drinking, but all serve alcohol. Located inside the Cubist House of the Black Madonna (see p67) is Grand Café Orient. Other places to see and be seen are Ebel in the Old Town and Slavia, by the river opposite the National Theatre. For a perfect meeting place, try the Grand Café Praha opposite the clock tower in Old Town Square. Globe café and bookstore is a legend among Prague's expatriate community and is said to serve the best cappuccino.

Traditional Pubs and Reer Halls

Kolkovna-Olympia

Vítězná 7.

Map 2 F5.

Tel 25 15 11 080 w kolkovna.cz

Monastery **Brewery Strahov**

Strahovské nádvoří 301/10 **Man** 1 B4

Tel 23 33 53 155. w klasterni-piyovar.cz

The Beer House

Pivovarský Dům

Lípová 15

Map 5 C2

Tel 29 62 16 666

w gastroinfo.cz/ pivodum

The Black Bull

U Černého Vola Loretánské nám 1

Map 1 B3 Tel 60 66 26 929.

The Golden Tiger

U Zlatého Tygra Husova 17. Map 3 B4.

Tel 22 22 21 111.

w uzlatehotygra.cz

The Shot Out Eve

U Vystřelenýho Oka U Božích bojovníků 3.

Tel 22 25 40 465.

w uvoka.cz

U Fleků

Křemencova 11. Map 5 B1.

Tel 22 49 34 019

w ufleku.cz

U Kalicha

Na Boiišti 12-14.

Map 6 D3.

Tel 29 61 89 600.

w ukalicha.cz

U Medvídků

Na Perštýně 7.

Map 3 B5.

Tel 22 42 11 916.

w umedvidku.cz

U Pinkasů

Jungmannovo náměstí 15/16. Map 3 C5.

Tel 22 11 11 150.

w upinkasu.cz

U Vejvodů

Jilská 4. Map 3 B4. Tel 22 42 19 999.

w restauraceu

vejvodu.cz

DIRECTORY

Cocktail Bars

Day Huch

Lublaňská 39. Map 6 E3.

Tel 22 42 41 448

w hushcafe.cz

Rarock

Pařížská 24 **Man** 3 R2

Tel 22 23 29 221

w barockrestaurant.cz

Beer Factory

Václavské náměstí 58

Map 6 D1 Tel 23 41 01

117. w beer-factory.cz

Buasv's

Pařížská 10. Map 3 B2.

Tel 840 284 797.

w bugsysbar.com

Coyotes Prague Malé náměstí 2.

Map 3 B4

Tel 22 42 16 000.

w coyotesprague.cz

Sherlock's Pub

Bartoloměiská 11.

Map 3 B5.

Tel 22 42 40 588.

w sherlockspub.cz

7anzihar

Lázeňská 6. Map 2 E4.

Tel 25 75 30 762.

w zanzi.cz

Irish Pubs and **Theme Bars**

Black Angels

Staroměstské nám. 29.

Map 3 B3.

Tel 22 42 13 807.

w blackangels

bar.cz

Caffrevs

Staroměstské nám. 10.

Map 3 B3. Tel 22 48 28

031. w caffreys.cz

George & Dragon

Staroměstské nám. 11.

Map 3 B3

w georgeanddragon

prague.com Jáma (The Hollow)

V jámě 7. Map 5 C1.

Tel 22 29 67 081.

w jamapub.cz

James Joyce U Obecního dvora 4.

Map 4 D3. Tel 22 48 18 851.

w jamesjoyceprague.cz

J.J. Murphy's

Tržiště 4

Man 2 F3 Tel 25 75 35 575

w iimurphys.cz

La Casa Blu

Kozí 15. **Map** 3 C2.

Tel 22 48 18 270.

w lacasablu.cz

Merlin

Rělehradská 68A

Map 6 F2 Tel 22 25 22 054

w merlin-pub.cz

Molotow Cocktail Bar

Karlovo náměstí 31

Map 5 B2

Liliová 14. Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 22 21 178 w oches.com

Rocky O'Reilly's

Štěpánská 32.

O'Che's

Map 3 A5.

Tel 22 22 31 060. w rockvoreillys.cz

Bohemian Hangouts

Al Capone's

Bartolomějská 3.

Map 3 B5.

Tel 22 42 41 040. w alcapone.cz

Chapeau Rouge

Jakubská 2.

Man 3 C3 Tel 22 23 16 328.

w chapeaurouge.cz

Duende

Karolíny Svêtlé 30.

Map 3 A4.

Tel 77 51 86 077. w barduende.cz

let Set

Radlická 1c, Prague 5. Tel 25 73 27 251.

w jetset.cz

Jo's Bar & Garáž Malostranské nám 7.

Map 2 E3.

Tel 25 75 31 422. w josbar.cz

U Malého Glena

Karmelitská 23. Map 2 E4

Tel 25 75 31 717.

w malyglen.cz

Sports Bars

Ahvss Rar

Michelská 2. Praha 4. Tal 73 15 10 612

Club Velbloud

Hraniční 3 Praha 3 Map 6 D1. Tel 73 99 36 696

Zlatá Hvězda

Ve smečkách 12

Map 6 D1

Tel 29 62 22 292.

w sportbar.cz

Café Society

Café Imperial Na Poříčí 15

Map 4 D3

Tel 24 60 11 440. w cafeimperial.cz

Fhel Coffee

Řetězová 9.

Man 3 B4

Tel 603 823 665. w ebelcoffee.cz

Globe

Pštrossova 6 Map 5 A1.

Tel 22 49 34 203.

w alobebookstore.cz

Grand Café Orient Dům U Černé Matky Boží

Ovocný trh 19.

Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 42 24 240. w grandcafeorient.cz

Grand Café Praha

Staroměstské nám. 22.

Man 3 B3

Tel 22 16 32 522.

w grandcafe.cz

Hotel Evropa Cafá

Václavské náměstí 25.

Map 3 C5. Tel 22 42 15 387.

w evropahotel.cz Neo Palladium

Palladium, Náměstí

Republiky 1. Map 4 D3

Tel 22 23 14 638. w neopalladiumcafe.cz

Slavia

Café

Smetanovo nábř 2. Map 3 A5.

Tel 22 42 18 493. w cafeslavia.cz

Niahtlife

Nightlife in Prague is as lively as in other European cities. A constant stream of visitors and a spirited local crowd has seen to that. Cheap drink, cutting-edge performers, liberal gambling and prostitution laws all help pull in the crowds. Prague is also now firmly established as a tour-stop for major American and UK pop and rock acts, with venues such as the Tipsport and O2 arenas playing host to big names at least once a month

On a more local level, Praque's club scene is a proven testing ground for up-and-coming bands, and its dance/music events, which are heavily influenced by nearby Berlin, are renowned for being experimental. Prague's gay and lesbian scene is buzzing, and the local population is among the most tolerant in mainland Furone

Discos and Nightclubs

The biggest club in the city is the Lucerna Music Bar which offers a varied programme - either live local bands or a DJ plaving classic hits - in an unusual basement hallroom in the heautiful but run down, Lucerna building. It fills up quickly however, so make sure you get there early Karlovy I ázně is another large club, which sometimes has live hands Zlatý Strom offers techno/ house together with 1970s. 1980s and 1990s dance tunes until 5am in a spectacular medieval cellar setting.

The trendier clubs, more likely to be playing cuttingedge music, include Nebe and Radost FX, where the city's most affluent are attracted by a constant diet of house music and plush decor, together with XT3 and SaSaZu. The Double Trouble is popular with visiting stag parties, which means it can get quite rowdy. For enthusiasts looking for genuinely experimental and original hardcore house and techno music, the best place to go is Roxy, where sets are often accompanied by art-house video projections. Roxy regularly hosts live rock bands, including a number of bigname bands.

If it is cabaret you are after, try Tingl Tangl, a club well known for its lively transvestite shows.

Rock and Pop Clubs

Lovers of live rock music are well served in Prague One school of thought feels that the anarchic influence of Prague's pioneering 1980s rock bands helped – however inadvertently - bring down the communist regime. There are today a large number of popular rock venues – generally small clubs and cafés – which host a variety of different groups. The indigenous scene continues to thrive – Prague's own rock bands play both their own compositions as well as cover versions of more famous numbers, many singing in English. Higher-profile, more internationally renowned Western bands play in Prague regularly, usually at the

Tipsport Arena or O₂ Arena. The Rock Café and the UZI Rock Bar, both very popular venues, offer regular concerts followed by discos. Other venues include the Futurum Music Bar, open till the early hours. Palác Akropolis in Žižkov is great for visiting foreign bands. The Lucerna Music Bar and Roxy also host regular bands.

Jazz

The roots of jazz in Prague can be traced not only to the American tradition but also to the pre-war heyday of Prague's famous jazz players, such as Jaroslav Ježek. Even during the communist period, Praque was an internationally renowned centre of iazz, never failing to attract the biggest names. Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Getz, Duke Fllington and Buddy Rich all played in Prague during the 1960s and 1970s.

Today, Praque's many jazz clubs play all forms, from Dixieland to swing. One of the leading and most popular iazz venues in the city is the Jazz Club Reduta, which has daily jazz concerts at around 9pm. When former US President Bill Clinton asked his Czech counterpart Vaclay Havel if he could play some jazz during a state visit to Prague in January 1994, the Czech president took him to the Jazz Club Reduta. The Jazz Boat is a great way to see the sights from the river and relax to local iazz. At the AghaRTA Jazz Centrum, you can hear a high standard of playing. U Malého Glena has regular live blues. iazz and funk, as does Jazz Republic, with performances every night from 9pm. For serious enthusiasts, the International Jazz Festival (various venues) and the Bohemia Jazzfest in Old Town Square, both held every few vears, attract talent from all over the world. Blues Sklep is a relative newcomer to Prague's iazz scene and offers an inventive schedule, showcasing acts from jazz, blues and other genres.

Gay and Lesbian Venues

With even mainstream clubs such as Radost FX holding regular gay nights, it is no wonder that Prague is considered one of Europe's hottest gay destinations. The scene is liberal and diverse. Clubs are split into various categories, with Termix being a loud and lively disco, and always packed. Drake's Club is a less in-your-face venue, and popular with visitors, while the city's most famous gay venue, Friends, is a cocktail bar. Friends has a steady following among

expat and local men who are less interested in cruising than in just having a drink with likeminded folks. Temple, a gav centre, features a bar, disco. sex shop and hotel on the same premises

The website www.prague. gavguide.net is a valuable resource for all things gay in Prague, including gay-friendly hotels, questhouses and groups and associations

Adult Prague

Like it or not. Prague has seen itself become the sex tourism. capital of Europe since 1989. partly thanks to ubiquitous cheap beer and the mistaken

assumption that prostitution is legal in the Czech Republic. The law is in fact deliberately opaque. While locals may seem fairly tolerant towards the sex industry and associated nightlife and some clubs and venues hosting prostitution have a veneer of respectability, visitors are well advised to steer clear.

DIRECTORY

Discos and **Niahtclubs**

Double Trouble

Melantrichova 17 Man 3 R4

Tel 22 16 32 414 w doubletrouble.cz

Karlovy Lázně

Novotného lávka

Smetanovo nábřeží 198 Map 3 A4.

Tel 22 22 20 502.

w karlovylazne.cz

Lucerna Music Bar

Vodičkova 36. Map 3 C5.

Tel 22 42 17 108.

w musicbar.cz

Misch Masch

Veletržní 61, Praha 7.

w mischmasch.cz

Naha

V Celnici 4. Map 4 D3.

Tel 777 662 081

Václavské Náměstí 56.

Map 6 D1.

Tel 608 129 535.

Křemencova 10.

Map 5 B1.

w nebepraha.cz

Radost FX

Bělehradská 120. Map 6 E2.

Tel 22 42 54 776.

w radostfx.cz

Roxy

Dlouhá 33. Map 3 C3.

w roxy.cz

SaSaZu

Bubenské náměstí 13. Praha 7. Tel 28 40 97 455.

w sasazu.com

Tingl Tangl

Karolíny Světlé 12.

Map 3 A5.

Tel 22 42 38 278.

w tingltangl.cz

Úiezd Úliezd 18

Map 2 F5

Tel 25 15 10 873.

w klubujezd.cz

Rokycanova 29 Praha 3

Tel 22 27 83 463

w xt3.cz

Zlatý Strom

Karlova 6.

Map 3 A4.

Tel 22 22 20 441.

w zlatvstrom.cz

Rock and Pop Clubs

Futurum Music Bar

Zborovská Z Praha 5 Map 2 F5

Tel 25 73 28 571.

w futurum.musicbar.cz

Klub Lávka

Novotného lávka 1.

Map 3 A4.

Tel 22 10 82 299.

w lavka.cz

O₂ Arena

See p221.

Palác Akropolis

Kubelíkova 27. Tel 29 63 30 911.

w palacakropolis.cz

Rock Café Národní 20.

Map 3 B5.

Tel 22 49 33 947.

w rockcafe.cz

Tipsport Arena

See p221.

UZI Rock Bar

Legerova 44.

Map 6 D3.

Tel 777 637 989.

w demon.barr.cz/uzi

Jazz Clubs

AghaRTA Jazz Centrum

Železná 16. **Map** 3 C4.

Tel 22 22 11 275.

w agharta.cz

Blues Sklep

Liliová 10

Map 3 B4

Tel 22 14 66 138. w bluesklep.cz

Jazz Boat

Roat: Kotva Gate No. 5 under Čechův Bridge

Dvořákovo Nábřeží. Map 3 B2

Tel 73 11 83 180.

w jazzboat.cz

Jazz Club U Staré Paní

Michalská 9.

Map 3 B4. Tel 602 148 377.

w jazzstarapani.cz

Jazz Club Reduta

Národní 20.

Map 3 B5.

Tel 22 49 33 487. w redutajazzclub.cz

Jazz Republic 28. října 1. **Map** 3 C5.

Tel 22 42 82 235 w jazzrepublic.cz

U Malého Glena

Karmelitská 23.

Map 2 F4.

Tel 25 75 31 717.

w malyglen.cz

Gay and Lesbian Venues

Drake's Club

Zborovská 50, Praha 5.

Map 2 F5

Tel 25 73 26 828. w drakes.cz

w escapeprague.eu Fenoman Club Belgická 28. Praha 2. Man 6 F3 Tel 22 27 11 458 w fenomanclub.cz

Escape

V jámě 8.

Map 5 C1.

Friends

Bartolomějská 11.

Map 3 B5. Tel 22 62 11 920.

w friendsprague.cz

Heaven

Gorazdova 11

Map 5 A3.

Tel 22 49 21 282. w heaven.cz

ON Club Vinohradská 40.

Map 6 F1.

Tel 724 384 464. w onclub.cz

Temple

Seifertova 3, Praha 3.

Tel 22 27 10 773.

Termix

Třehízského 4a Tel 22 27 10 462.

SHOPPING IN PRAGUE

With its wide, pedestrianized streets, classy shopping malls, souvenir shops and antiques bazars, Prague is established as one of Europe's leading shopping destinations. Almost all of the major US and Western European retailers have established outlets in the city. The quality of goods manufactured in the Czech Republic is always of a high standard. Most of Prague's best shopping areas are in the centre of the city, and you can

spend a whole day just diving in and out of small speciality shops and large department stores. For a different shopping experience, the few traditional markets in the city offer everything from vegetables and fresh fruit to imported Russian caviar, toys, clothes, furniture, Czech crafts and electrical parts. Large malls are dispersed further out on the outskirts of Prague but are easily accessible by car or metro.

Opening Hours

Most of Prague's shops open from 10am to 6pm Monday to Friday and from 9am to 1pm on Saturdays, although supermarkets are open for much longer, from 7am until 9 or 10pm.

Food stores open earlier too. most of them at 7am reflecting the early working day of many locals - and close at around 9pm, Some Chinese, Vietnamese and Pakistani supermarkets are open 24 hours (you can find one at Národní and two close to LP Pavlova metro station). Department stores and the big shopping centres and malls are open daily between 8am and 9pm, with their supermarkets starting an hour earlier and closing an hour later. All are open on Sundays. Some Tesco supermarkets (Skalka, Novodvorská Plaza and Nový Smíchov) open at 6 or 7am and close at midnight, while three others (at Avion Shopping Park, OC Letňany and NC Eden) are open round the clock.

In the centre, around Old Town Square and Celetná and Karlova streets, many shops rely almost entirely on tourists for their trade, so have adapted their opening hours accordingly. They are usually open daily from 10am until late evening. Some close at 11pm. All the shops are at their most crowded on Saturdays, and for stress-free shopping, it's often better to wander around them during the week. Praque's



The antique shop in Bridge Street in the Little Quarter

market in Havelská is open daily, while River Town market is open Monday to Saturday. Opening times for both are from 7am until the evening.

How to Pay

Most staple goods, such as food, are cheaper than comparable items in the West,as long as they do not need to be imported. However, with more and more multinationals, such as Boss and Pierre Cardin, moving into the city, prices are slowly starting to rise.

The total price of goods should always include Value Added Tax (this is 20 per cent of the total price, depending on what is being sold). Cash payments can usually only be made in Czech crowns, though some shops now take euros. The exchange rate in

supermarkets such as Tesco, Billa and Albert can sometimes be even better than in the exchange offices. Smaller shops appreciate it if you pay the exact amount and at times may refuse to accept banknotes of Kč1,000 and above. All major credit and charge cards are widely accepted (see p.230).

Global Refund is a programme for non-EU residents that allows tax-free shopping for purchases exceeding Kč2,000. When you make a purchase at a shop displaying the Global Refund sign, ask at the cash till for a tax-free cheque. On leaving the country, show your items, receipts and cheques to customs officials, who will stamp the cheques, and you will get your VAT back. For more details, go to the Global Refund website (www. globalrefund.com).

Sales and Bargains

Following the examples of the Western stores sales are becoming more popular. As a result, it is now quite normal for clothes to be sold off cheaper at the end of each season There is also an increasing number of post-Christmas sales in the shops found around Old Town Square, Wenceslas Square Na Příkopě and 28 října

If you want vegetables, fruit. meat or other perishable produce buy them at the beginning of the day, when the best quality goods are still on sale. There is no point in waiting till the end of the day in the hope of getting bargains, as is the case in Western shops that reduce prices to get rid of perishable items.

Where to Shop

Most of Prague's best shops are conveniently located in the city centre, especially in and around Wenceslas Square, though the souvenir shops lining Nerudova on the way up to the castle are also well worth your time. Many of these shopping areas have been pedestrianized. making for leisurely windowshopping, although they can get rather crowded. There are a number of department stores which sell an eclectic range of Czech and Western items, with more opening all the time. The well-known department store Kotva (The Anchor), lies in the centre of the city. It was built in

1975 and its four storeys offer a wide range of Western goods. particularly fashion and electronics, with the bonus of an underground car park. But compared to Western denartment stores. Kotva has a smaller selection of goods than vou may be accustomed to. and is now struggling to compete with the newer and more glamorous Palladium shonning mall across the square Prices for some of the more luxurious items on sale such as perfumes, can often be equivalent to the Western ones.

Another popular store is Tesco. This has a good selection of Czech and Western products in a bland 1970s building on Národní třída The city's oldest department store is Bílá Labut' (The White Swan) in Na Poříčí It was opened shortly before the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1939 and was the first building in Prague to have an escalator. It has since fallen on hard times and its future as a department store is uncertain

Debenhams, another famous name from Western Furone has opened an enormous store on Wenceslas Square, and its home furnishings department on the third floor is very popular with locals

. The outskirts of Praque are now home to massive shopping parks, with large hypermarkets. Tesco has several hypermarkets, including in



A second-hand bookshop in Prague

DIRECTORY

Department Stores

Rílá Labut'

Na Poříčí 23 Man 4 F3

Tel 22 48 11 364 Dehenhams

Václavské náměstí 21 Man 4 D5

Tel 22 10 15 047.

Kotva

Náměstí Republiky 8. Man 4 D3

Tel 22 48 01 111

Palladium

Náměstí Republiky 1. Map 4 D3.

Tel 22 57 70 250.

w palladiumpraha.cz

Tocco

Národní 26

Map 3 B5.

Tel 22 20 03 111

Nový Smíchov, in OC Letňany and at Zličín, next to the equally enormous IKEA.

Markets and Malls

Prague city centre is not blessed with a great market for most of the year, though the Christmas Gift Market in Old Town Square is worth visiting. The city's major central market, Havelská tržnice (see p215), sells mainly fresh produce and cheap souvenirs. Another large market is **Pražská** tržnice in Holešovice (take the metro to Vltavská). The best of Praque's flea markets is Buštěhrad Collector's Market (see n215), a glorified car-boot sale close to Lidice. Various markets – farmer's. Christmas and Faster – are organized in front of Arkády Pankrác building (see p215).

are common in Prague Na Příkopě – between Náměsti Republiky and Václavské námestí - is home to five: Palladium. Slovanský dům, Myslbek, Černá růže and Koruna Palace (see p215). Further out, but close to metro stations, are Arkády Pankrác, Nový Smíchov and Flora (see p215). There are also other malls on the outskirts of

Prague, all with huge car parks.

Western-style shopping malls

What to Buy in Prague

There is a huge selection of goods available in Prague's shops. Prague's more traditional products, such as Bohemian crystal, china, wooden toys and antiques, make great souvenirs, and there are still some real bargains to be picked up, though you will need to shop around. Increasingly popular are the more unusual, though less authentic, goods which are sold by many of Prague's street shops. These include Soviet army medals, Red Army uniforms and Russian dolls. Lovely Czech gems are also worth investigating, particularly garnets.

Glass and China

Bohemian glass and china have always been ranked among the finest in the world. From huge, decorative vases to delicate glass figurines, the vast selection of glass and china items for sale is daunting. Crystal, glass and china can be quite different depending on where they are made. Lead crystal ranges in lead content from 14 to 24 per cent, for example. Always make sure you are fully aware of what you are buying.

Some of the best glass and china in Bohemia is produced at the Moser glassworks at Karlovy Vary and sold at **Moser**.

The blood-red Bohemian garnet, the national stone of the Bohemian people, is highly popular and can be purchased as jewellery in many stores, including Crystal Direct, Celetná Crystal and Erpet

Bohemia Crystal. Another great store to visit is Artěl, which sells mouth-blown glassware designed by Karen Feldman.

However, prices for certain goods, especially classically designed vases, decanters and bowls are starting to reflect the increasing popularity of Bohemian crystal. The days when such goods could be purchased in Prague for half the Western European price are over. Yet, value for money remains high, and you can still pick up bargains if you shop around carefully. Remember that many of the modern pieces are just as lovely and much cheaper.

Bohemian porcelain, while not as celebrated as Bohemian

crystal, also makes an excellent gift or souvenir. Český Porcelán, the country's most famous factory, is in Dubí, close to the town of Teplice, an hour's drive towards the German border from Prague, and its factory shop offers wonderful bargains. Český Porcelán also has a shop in Prague. Other names worth looking out for include Royal Dux Bohemia, Haas & Czjzek, A. Ruckl & Sons and Toner.

Because of the fragile nature of the goods, many shops will pack anything you buy there. But if you go for a more expensive piece, it is worth looking into insurance before you leave Prague.

Antique Shops

Given its history as a major city in the Hapsburg empire, Prague is a great place to hunt for antiques. Hidden treasures seemingly lurk around every corner, and prices are still generally lower than in the West. Most of the city's shopping districts have a large number of antique shops: Old Town is full of them, as is the Royal Route from the castle. Look out for Bohemian furniture, glass and porcelain, as well as military and Soviet

memorabilia.
Antique shops that are well worth exploring include
Dorotheum, Starožitnosti pod Kinskou and Pražské
Starožitnosti. Military
Antiques is a haven for all army fanatics. For goods over Kč1,000, check with the shop whether you will need a licence to export them. You should

watch out for an increasing number of fakes which are now appearing in the market.

Prague also has several bazar shops which stock a range of items at cheaper prices. Items are often unusual and good bargains can be found. **Bazar Nekázanka** is a small, popular shop full of second-hand goods. For furniture bargains, **Antik Bazar** is well worth a visit

Traditional Crafts

The traditional manufacture of high-quality, hand-crafted goods still survives in modernday Prague. The variety of the merchandise available in the shops – hand-woven carnets wooden tovs, table mats. beautifully painted Easter eggs, baskets figurines in folk costumes and ceramics = are all hased on Czech and Moravian folk crafts and then enriched with modern elements. You can buy traditional craft items from many market stalls as well as a fair number of shops.

Making items from clay is an ancient craft in the Czech Republic. Česká Keramika has a long tradition of manufacturing ceramics.

A jewellery shop known for using only the best Czech garnets mounted in stylish, contemporary settings is Studio Šperk. You should also look out for a chain of shops called Manufaktura (Handmade), which sells goods made only in the Czech Republic and has a huge choice of hand-carved decorative items, as well as original cosmetics.

A number of street vendors around Old Town Square also sell handmade items including jewellery and puppets. Czech wooden items are of the highest quality (see Speciality Shops, pp214–15).

Books

There are numerous bookshops in Prague, reflecting its literary heritage, and many sell

English-language books. One of the main bookshops is **Big** Ben Bookshop, where you'll find a range of Englishlanguage books (including quite a few Czech works which have been translated into English). Palác knih-Neo Luxor offers a great selection of books on its three floors. There are several branches scattered around the city

Maps and guides to Prague in English can be bought at

Knihkupectví Academia, Other

specialist bookshops include Fišer's Bookshop and

Kanzelsberger, with locations around the city. Franz Kafka Bookshop sells editions of the author's works in a variety of languages Prague also has second-hand bookshops

Antikvariát Dlážděná is one of the best and has a vast selection. Antikvariát Ztichlá Klika deals in antiquarian books as well as 20th-century avant-garde works.

The legendary Globe café and bookstore has been a good

place to find second-hand Fnglish books and enjoy the city's best cappuccino since 1993, when the shop was opened in a poorer part of the capital by five entrepreneurial Americans Now relocated to the city centre, the Globe hosts regular literary events and art exhibitions, as does the newer **Shakespeare**

& Sons another great English bookstore, which also holds film nights and poetry readings

DIRECTORY

Glass and China

Artěl

Celetná 29 (entrance at Rybná 1).

Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 48 15 085.

U lužického semináře. Map 2 F3

Tel 25 15 54 008. w artelshop.com

Celetná Crystal

Celetná 15. Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 23 27 987. w czechcrystal.com

Český Porcelán

Perlová 1.

Map 3 B4. Tel 22 42 10 955.

w cesky.porcelan.cz

Crystal Direct

Karlova 24. Map 3 A4. Tel 22 22 20 126.

Dana-Bohemia

Glass, China, Crystal Národní 43.

Map 3 A5.

Tel 22 42 14 655.

w danabohemia.cz

Erpet Bohemia Crystal

Staroměstské náměstí 27. Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 42 29 755. w erpetcrystal.cz

Moser

Na příkopě 12.

Map 3 C4. Tel 22 42 11 293.

Staroměstské náměstí 15. Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 18 90 891. w moser-glass.com

Antik Razar

Pobřežní 42. Praha 8. Tel 60 34 80 904.

Antique Shops

w antik-bazar.cz

Bazar Nekázanka

Nekázanka 17. Map 4 D4.

Tel 22 42 10 550. w nekazanka.cz

Dorotheum

Ovocný trh 2. Map 3 C4. Tel 22 42 22 001.

w dorotheum.cz

Military Antiques

Charvátova 11. Map 3 C5. Tel 22 53 79 724.

Pražské Starožitnosti 7deněk Uhlí

Mikulandská 8. Map 3 B5

Tel 22 49 30 572.

Starožitnosti pod Kinskou

Náměstí Kinských 7. Tel 25 73 11 245.

w antique-shop.cz

Gifts and Souvenirs

Česká Keramika

Celetná 4. Map 3 C3. Tel 22 42 11 896.

Manufaktura

Karlova 26. Map 3 A4. Tel 22 16 32 480.

Melantrichova 17. Map 3 B4

Tel 22 16 32 480.

w manufaktura.biz Two of several branches.

Studio Šperk

Dlouhá 19. Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 48 15 161. w drahonovsky.cz

Books

Antikvariát Dlážděná

Dlážděná 7

Map 4 E4. Tel 22 22 43 911.

w adplus.cz

Antikvariát Ztichlá

Klika Retlémská 10–14

Map 3 A5. Tel 22 22 21 561.

w ztichlaklika.cz

Big Ben Bookshop

Malá Štupartská 5. Map 3 C3 Tel 22 48 26 565.

w biaben bookshop.com

Fišer's Bookshop Fišer Knihkupectví

Kaprova 10. Map 3 B3. Tel 22 23 20 730

Franz Kafka Bookshop

Staroměstské náměstí 12. Map 3 B3.

Tel 22 23 21 454. Globe

Pštrossova 6

Map 5 A1. Tel 22 49 34 203.

w globebookstore.cz

Kanzelsberger

Václavské náměstí 42. Map 4 D5.

Tel 22 42 17 335. w dumknihy.cz

Knihkupectví Academia

Václavské náměstí 34. Map 4 D5

Tel 22 42 23 511. w academia.cz

Palác knih -Neo Luxor

Václavské náměstí 41 Map 4 D5. Tel 29 61 10 370 One of several branches.

Shakespeare & Sons

w shakes.cz

U Lužického semináře 10. Map 2 F3. Tel 25 75 31 894.

Markets, Malls and Speciality Shops

Take your pick – super-modern mall or traditional market. Prague has them both, although do remember that Prague's main market is at some distance from the city centre at Holešovice. Malls are springing up everywhere in the city, and Prague has made a name for itself as a leading place to find all sorts of odd bits and pieces in any number of speciality stores. From Fabergé eggs to Jewish *yarmulkas*, you'll find it in Prague.

Markets

Prague's markets offer a vast range of goods, although most are aimed at locals, offering fruit and vegetables, cheap clothing and electronics. The largest market in the city. River Town (Holešovická tržnice) was converted from a former slaughter-house. The market now sells fresh fruit and vegetables, and all kinds of poultry, as well as fish, textiles, flowers, electronics, antiques, tovs and furniture. These are all sold in several large halls and in outdoor stalls. The market is generally open from Monday to Saturday, 7am to 8pm.

In Havelská, right in the centre of the city, is **Havelská tržnice**, which mainly sells fruit, vegetables and cheap souvenirs. It is open daily, 7am–7om).

You will also enjoy foraging through the junk, antiques, furniture and military memorabilia (none of which comes with a promise of a refund or quarantee) at the outof-town Buštěhrad Collectors Market, allegedly the thirdlargest market of its kind in Europe. You can get there by public transport, taking a bus from Dejvická or Zličín metro stations. The market is only open on the second and fourth Friday and Saturday of the month from 6am to noon Another flea market worth visiting, Bleší trhy Praha, is at Kolbenova metro station. and is open 6am-1:30pm at weekends.

Old Town Square plays host to an excellent and very popular Christmas Market from the end of November through the New Year's holiday. Besides the stalls selling gifts and toys, there are others selling hot wine and sausages, and there is also a small children's play area. The Square also hosts the city's Christmas tree and a number of open-air winter concerts.

Malls

There is an increasing number of Western-style shopping malls in Prague which are more popular and often much better than the old department stores, offering better value and a greater range of high-quality goods. In the verv centre of town on Náměstí Republiky (on metro B). Palladium has hundreds of shops and restaurants on five levels Just down the street on Na příkopě the upmarket Myslbek, Černá růže and Koruna Palace (metro A and B) are home to a great number of chic boutiques and jewellery stores. In addition, at Slovanský dům, there is a multiplex cinema as well as a fabulous Kogo restaurant. You can also take the metro to visit three-storey galleries Arkády Pankrác (metro C) and Palác Flora (metro B). Nový Smíchov at Anděl (metro B) is home to a two-storey Tesco, as well as multiplex Palace Cinemas and Cinestar (see p219) nearby.

(see p219) nearby.
Very popular is the huge
Centrum Chodov (metro C),
with 200 shops. Galerie Harfa,
close to the O2 Arena, has an
ice-skating rink on the roof,
which is free for public use
(Českomoravská, metro B). At
the furthest outskirts of the city,
at both ends of metro line B,
there are many hypermarkets
and malls, including Metropole
Zličín, which also has a multiplex
cinema. The largest mall in the
country, OC Letňany (metro line
C and shuttle bus) is close to the

D8 motorway. **Šestka** can be useful for last-minute shopping, as it is situated just next to the airport and served by bus Number 119 between Dejvická and Ruzvně Airport.

Street Stalls

Street stalls and wandering vendors are not officially allowed to operate in most areas of Prague, though a number of vendors are permitted to sell souvenirs around Charles Bridge. Street stalls are allowed near the entrance to the Old Jewish Cemetery in the Jewish Quarter, and they also line the Old Castle Steps from Malostranská metro station up to the castle's eastern gate

As most of these sellers are well vetted, the goods on sale tend to be reasonably good quality, though you are unlikely to find any real bargains, and much of what is on sale can be bought cheaper in souvenir stores.

Bohemia and Moravia have long

Speciality Shops

been known for their fine

wooden tovs. You will find a number of shops selling them throughout the city, especially in Old Town, but beware cheap imports. You can be sure of the genuine article at Hračky Traditional Tovs near the castle. Beruška in New Town and Sparky's House of Toys, just off Na Příkopě, a treasure trove for children of all ages. Older children might also like Games & Puzzles on Wenceslas Square, which specializes in all sorts of mind teasers, including handmade wooden labvrinths.

If you are looking for something a little quirky, but very Czech, try **Botanicus** near Old Town Square, which sells allnatural and all-Czech health and beauty products, from soap to massage oil. Another popular store is **Qubus**, which sells anything and everything, as long as it is the height of modern design.

Most of the weird and wonderful things on sale were designed by voung Czechs There are a number of other weird and wonderful stores in Prague. The Spanish Synagogue Gift Shop sells torah pointers, varmulkas, watches and other Jewish gifts. Le Patio on Národní is a shop specializing in original illuminations and candelabra, as well as top-quality restored furniture imported from India. and tables and chairs made by some outstanding Czech blacksmiths. Another favourite for design fans is de.fakto, an upmarket version of IKEA, in the

centre of the city. Art Deco Galerie is an upmarket junk shop with agraeous period-pieces. glass, accessories, home furnishings and second-hand clothing. The prize for most bizarre shop in Prague must go to Original Stoves by Trakal. a store specializing in the restoration of historic stoves.

Food and Delicatessens

Praque's supermarkets are well stocked with the basic foodstuffs Delicacies-lahůdky is a small shop with meat and fish counters. A specialist food shop.

selling smoked sausage, cheeses and other local delicacies, is Jan Paukert For freshly baked bread visit the bakers around Wenceslas Square and Karmelitská Street.

Paneria Pekařství shops sell a annud selection of natisseries and sandwiches

For the best selection of local and international delicacies. however, try Bakeshop on Kozí just off Old Town Square You'll find excellent breads and baked goods, as well as brownies. conkies and delicious sandwiches and salads. It's great for a snack, an informal lunch or to pick up supplies for a picnic.

DIRECTORY

Markets and Malls

Arkády Pankrác

Na Pankráci 86 Pankrác Map 6 F1

Tel 22 51 11 100.

w arkady-pankrac.cz

Buštěhrad Collectors Market

Bleší trhv. Buštěhrad.

Tel 602 335 834.

w bustehradantik.cz

Centrum Chodov

Roztvíská 19. Chodov. Tel 27 21 73 600.

w centrumchodov.cz

Černá růže

Na příkopě 12. Map 3 C4.

Tel 22 10 14 111.

w cernaruze.cz

Galerie Harfa

Českomoravská 2420.

Praha 9. Tel 26 60 55 600. w galerieharfa.cz

Havelská tržnice

Havelský trh. Map 3 C3.

Koruna Palace

Václavské náměstí 1. Map 3 C5.

Tel 22 42 19 526.

w koruna-palace.cz

Metropole Zličín

Zličín. Tel 22 60 81 540. w metropole.cz

Myslbek Na příkopě 19-21 &

Ovocný trh 8. Map 3 C4

Tel 22 42 39 550.

w ngmyslbek.cz

Nový Smíchov Plzeňská 8.

Tel 25 15 11 151.

w novysmichov.eu

OC Letňany

Veselská 663, Praha 9.

Tel 22 17 41 111

w oc-letnany.cz

Palac Flora

Vinohradská 151 Map 6 F1.

Tel 25 57 41 712.

w palacflora.com

Palladium

Náměstí Republiky 1. Map 4 D3.

Tel 22 57 70 250.

w palladiumpraha.cz

River Town

(Hološovická tržnica) Bubenské nábřeží 13. Praha 7.

Tel 22 08 00 592.

w holesovicka

trznice.cz

Slovanský dům Na přikopě 22.

Map 3 C4.

w slovanskydum.com

Šestka

Faitlova 1090/1, Praha 6. Tel 22 50 23 100.

w sestka.cz

Speciality Shops

Art Deco Galerie

Michalská 21

Map 3 B4

Tel 22 42 23 076. w artdecogalerie-

mili.com

Botanicus

Týn 3.

Map 3 C3.

Tel 23 47 67 446. w botanicus.cz

de.fakto Veivodova 3.

Man 3 B4

Tel 22 42 33 815

w defakto.cz

Games & Puzzles

Václavské náměstí 38.

Map 6 D1

Tel 22 49 46 506 w hras.cz

Hračky Traditional Tovs

Loretánské náměsti 3.

Map 1 B3. Tel 60 35 15 745

Le Patio

Národní 22.

Map 3 A5.

Tel 22 49 34 402.

w lepatiolifestyle.com

Original Stoves by Trakal (Stará Kamna)

Karmelitská 21.

Map 2 E4.

Tel 25 75 34 203.

w starakamna.cz

Oubus

Rámová 3. Map 3 C2.

Tel 22 23 13 151.

w qubus.cz

Spanish Synagogue Gift Shop

Věžeňská 1. Map 3 B2.

Sparky's House of Tovs

Havířská 2.

Map 3 C4. Tel 22 42 39 309

(one of several branches.)

w sparkys.cz

Foods and

Delicatessens

Kozí 1

Bakeshop Map 3 (2)

Tel 22 23 16 823 w bakeshop.cz

Delicacies-lahůdky

Zlatý Kříž

Jungmannovo náměstí

Map 3 C5.

Tel 22 25 19 451.

Jan Paukert

Národní 17

Man 3 R5

Tel 22 42 22 615.

w janpaukert.cz

Paneria Pekařství

Kaprova 3. Tel 23 50 10 101.

w paneria.cz

Also at: Nekázanka 19. Map 4 D4; Vodičkova 33.

Map 3 C5.

(several branches.)

ENTERTAINMENT IN PRAGUE

Prague offers a wide variety of entertainment for its visitors, with something for every taste and interest. Whether you prefer opera to jazz or mini-golf to a football match, there is plenty to choose from. Movie buffs can choose from many of the latest Hollywood blockbusters, a lot of them in English with subtitles. For the adventurous, mime and fringe theatre are both thriving. Prague has a superb musical tradition, which includes

symphony orchestras, opera, musicals, jazz and folk music. Concerts are performed throughout the year, in venues which range from Baroque palaces to public parks and gardens. Even if you don't speak Czech, you can still enjoy the city's cultural offerings. Some plays can be seen in English, and for many types of entertainment, music, dance and sport, a knowledge of the language isn't necessary at all.

Practical Information

The best place to look for information about what's on and where in Prague is in the English-language newspaper The Prague Post (see p.233). This provides details of the best entertainment and cultural events which will be of interest to an English-speaking audience. Those events that are in English or have translation facilities are marked. Other sources of information are the leaflets and City Guides given out at the ticket agencies in the city, such as **Ticketpro** or Ticketportal. In addition, there are two online bulletin boards in English, www.expats.cz and http://prague.tv, aimed at expats and visitors. You can also buy a booklet called Přehled. printed in English and available from any PIS office. For a comprehensive rundown of events, buy Culture in Prague, a detailed monthly publication listing information on a variety



A performance of Cosi Fan Tutte at the Mozart Festival

of local exhibitions, concerts and theatre.

Booking Tickets

Tickets can be bought in advance from the box office at most venues. You can also writing to, or ringing, the venue. Remember that many of the city's box offices may not have any English speakers available. Tickets for the opera or for any of the performances at the National Theatre can also be booked online. The more popular events tend to become heavily booked up in advance by tour groups particularly during the summer and by season-ticket holders. However, standby tickets are usually available about an hour before the show. If this isn't practical and you want to be sure of a ticket on a particular day, it is better to buy them at a booking agency. The drawback to using agencies, however, is that commission. on these tickets can be high, sometimes doubling the

original price. Your hotel

book tickets in advance by

Puppet Theatre

Check listings (see pp224-5).

Puppetry has a long tradition in Prague and is still strongly represented. The most famous puppet show in the city is held at the **Spejbl and Hurvinek Theatre** (see p219). The show revolves around Daddy Spejbl and his reprobate son Hurvinek. Other puppet theatres include the **National Marionette Theatre** (see p219), known for its entertaining puppet rendition of Mozart's Don Giovanni. The Theatre in the Old Town (see p219) and the **Puppet Empire** (see p219) also put on puppet shows ccasionally.

Theatre puppets

receptionist may also be able to get you tickets.

Ticket Prices

Ticket prices are cheap compared to Western prices. except for certain performances, most notably during the Prague Spring International Music Festival (see n52) Prices range from around Kč100 for a small fringe production to up to Kč3.000 for a performance by an internationally famous orchestra. Paying by credit card is usually only acceptable at ticket agencies.



A view of the Rudolfinum auditorium (see p221)

Ticket Touts

There has been a spate of counterfeit tickets on sale. especially for the larger rock concerts. To be safe, always buy your tickets at reputable agencies or at the venue itself.

Late-night Transport

Prague's metro (see pp242-3) stops running shortly after midnight, while the normal bus and tram service also ends around midnight. Then the city's extensive night bus and tram service takes over. Timetables are displayed at each stop. Night trams and buses are regular and efficient and it is likely that there will be a tram or bus stop near your



The Neo-Classical Estates Theatre (Stavovské divadlo)

hotel. Taxis provide the most certain form of late-night transportation, but beware of unscrupulous drivers trying to overcharge you (see p240). It is often a good idea to try to walk a little way from the theatre before you hail a cab; the fare will probably be a lot cheaper. Ask at your hotel before you go out to find out what the best transport options are.

Music Festivals

The most famous music festival of all is the Prague Spring International Music Festival. held between May and June (see p52). Hundreds of international musicians come to Prague to take part in the celebrations. Other music festivals include the Mozart Festival (see p52), held in the summer, and the Musica International Music Fair (see p54) that takes place in the autumn.



Sparta Stadium (see p221)

DIRECTORY

Booking Agents

Bohemia Ticket

Malé náměstí 13.

Map 3 B4. Tel 22 42 27 832.

Also at: Na Příkopě 16.

Map 4 D4.

Tel 22 42 15 031.

w ticketsbti.cz

National Theatre tickets

Tel 22 49 01 448.

w narodni-divadlo.cz

Prague Information Service (PIS)

Staroměstské náměstí 1.

Map 3 B3.

Tel 22 17 14 444.

w praguewelcome.cz

Ticket Art

Politických vězňů 9.

Map 4 D5.

Tel 22 28 97 552.

w ticket-art.cz

Ticketpro Štěpánská 61.

Map 5 C1.

Tel 23 47 04 204.

w ticketpro.cz

Ticket Portal

Politických vězňů 15. Map 4 D5.

Tel 22 22 46 283.

w ticketportal.cz

Ticket Stream

Koubková 8.

Map 6 E3. Tel 22 42 63 049.

w ticketstream.cz

The Performing Arts and Film

Prague has always been known for its artistic heritage. Theatre has played an important role in the city's cultural development, and in recent decades the range of entertainment has expanded considerably. Even during the communist period Prague remained a centre of experimental theatre, not least with the emergence of Black Light Theatre in the 1960s. Today, this tradition continues, with new theatre groups emerging all the time, ever more experimental. In general, the theatre season runs from September to June. During the summer, open-air performances are given in Prague's gardens and parks. For those who prefer to dance till dawn, relax to the sound of jazz or take in a movie – you will find plenty to entertain you in this city.

English-language Performances

Many theatres in Prague have started to stage a number of English-language productions, especially in the summer months. Even if the play is not performed in English, some venues use supertitles to provide a translation. For details, check the listings (see Listings and Tickets pp224–5).

Major Theatres

Prague's first permanent theatre was built in 1738, but the city's theatrical tradition dates from the Baroque and Renaissance periods.

The National Theatre (see pp156–7) is Prague's main venue for opera, ballet and plays. The neighbouring New Stage is another important venue. It is also the main stage for the multimedia **Laterna Magika** company, which is one of Prague's best-known theatre groups as well as being at the forefront of European improvisational theatre.

Other major theatres in the city include the **Comedy Theatre** and the "stone theatres." These gained importance during the 19th century and include the **Vinohrady Theatre** and the **Estates Theatre** (*see p67*) – one of the most respected in Prague. The Prague Municipal Theatre is an acting company whose plays appear in turn at the **ABC Theatre** and the **Rokoko Studio of Drama**. The **Kolowrat Theatre**

is based in the Kolowrat Palace.

Fringe Theatres

These originated during the 1960s and won renown for their fight against the status quo. The groups are still very innovative and largely experimental. They perform in small theatres, and many of Prague's best actors and actresses have developed their skills while working for some of these companies.

Fringe theatres include the Dramatic Club well known for its supporting ensemble: the Ypsilon Studio, with one of the finest acting companies in the city: Theatre Na Fidlovacce. which stages a mix of musicals and straight drama: the large Theatre Below Palmovka renowned for its mix of classical and modern plays; and the Theatre in Celetná. One of Prague's most spectacular theatrical and music venues is Křižík's Fountain at the Exhibition Ground, where classical concerts are held and full orchestras perform to stunning lightshows. The Semafor Theatre is the home of the tremendously popular comedian. Jiří Suchý.

Pantomime, Mime and Black Light Theatre

Some of the most popular theatre entertainment in Prague is Black Light Theatre, where black-clad actors move objects against a dark stage without being seen – a stunning visual spectacle, pantomime and mime. None of

the three requires any understanding of Czech and all are strongly represented

Jiří Srnec's Black Light Theatre is one of the major venues for Black Light Theatre performance. Ta Fantastika is another. These and others are listed in the directory (see p219).

Dance

In Prague, opera and ballet companies traditionally share the National Theatre, where the Czech Republic's best permanent ballet company is based. The Prague State Opera also has a resident hallet ensemble that is keen to usurp the reputation of the National Theatre company as the city's best. The tickets for the ballet at both major venues are even lower than for opera performances. You can also watch ballet performances at the Estates Theatre. Ponec is an experimental performance dance space dedicated to modern dance and hosts the annual Tanec Praha international festival of contemporary dance and movement theatre in June.

Cinemas

Although Prague doesn't show all the latest Hollywood blockbusters, more than 80 per cent of the films shown are recent US productions, most of them in English with Czech subtitles. Multiplex cinemas are now big business. The largest of these multiplexes - the Cinema Cities, which can be found in Flóra, Zličin, Háie, Anděl, Letňany, Hostivař, and one in the centre in Slovanský Dům - boast eight to ten screens. Světozor is great for catching Czech films with English subtitles. Bio Oko is an art house cinema with a great café and an ambitious repertoire of contemporary Czech films as well as classics. Lucerna is a lovely cinema to

visit, with a beautiful interior.

in the directory.

Other cinema options are listed

DIRECTORY

Theatres

ARC Theatre

Divadlo Abc Vodičkova 28

Map 3 C5. Tel 22 42 15 943

w mestskadiyadla

prazska.cz

Animato Black Light Theatre

Černe Divadlo Animato Na příkopě 10.

Map 3 C4.

Tel 22 51 13 311.

w blacklighttheatre praque.cz

Broadway

Na příkopě 31. Map 3 C4

Tel 22 51 13 311

w divadlobroadway.cz

Comedy Theatre

Divadlo Komedie Jungmannova 1.

Map 5 B1. Tel 22 42 22 734

w divadlokomedie.cz

Dramatic Club

Činnhorní Kluh Ve Smečkách 26.

Map 6 D1.

Tel 29 62 22 128. w cinoherniklub.cz

Estates Theatre

Stavovské Divadlo

Ovocný trh 6. Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 49 01 448.

w narodni-divadlo.cz

Jiří Srnec's Black Theatre

Černé Divadlo Jiřího Srnce

U Lékárny 597, 15600 Praha 5.

Tel 25 79 21 835.

w blacktheatresrnec.cz

Kolowrat Theatre

Divadlo Kolowrat

Ovocný trh 6 Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 49 01 448.

m narodni-divadlo.cz

Křižík's Fountain Křižíkova Fontána

Výstaviště, Praha 7. Tel 723 665 694.

w krizikovafontana.cz

Laterna Magika

Národní 4 Man 3 A5 Tel 224 931 482

w laterna.cz

National Marionette Theatre

Národní Divadlo Marionet Žatecká 1

Map 3 B3

Tel 22 48 19 322 w mozart.cz

National Theatre

Národní Divadlo Národní 2.

Map 3 A5

Tel 22 49 01 448.

w narodni-divadlo.cz

Puppet Empire

Říse Loutek Žatecká 1

Map 3 B3. Tel 22 23 24 565.

w riseloutek.cz

Reduta Theatre

Divadlo Reduta Národní 20 Man 3 B5

Tel 22 49 33 487.

w redutajazzclub.cz Rokoko Studio

of Drama Divadlo Rokoko Václavské náměstí 38.

Map 4 D5. Tel 22 42 17 113.

w mestskadivadla prazska.cz

Semafor Theatre

Divadlo Semafor, Deivická 27.

Tel 23 39 01 384.

w semafor.cz

Speibl and Hurvínek Theatre

Divadlo Spejbla A Hurvínka

Dejvická 38, Praha 6.

Tel 22 43 16 784.

w spejbl-hurvinek.cz

Ta Fantastika

Karlova 8

Map 3 A4

Tel 22 22 21 366.

w tafantastika.cz

Theatre Below

Palmovka Divadlo Pod Palmovkou Zenklova 34, Praha 8.

Tel 283 011 127. w divadlopod

palmovkou.cz

Theatre in Celetná

Divadlo V Celetne Celetná 17

Map 3 C3

Tel 22 23 26 843

w divadlovceletne.cz

Theatre in the Old Town

Divadlo V Dlouhê

Dlouhá 30

Map 3 C3

Tel 22 17 78 629

w divadlovdlouhe.cz

Theatre Na Fidlovačce

Divadlo Na Fidlovačce Křesomyslova 625.

Map 6 F5

Tel 24 14 04 040.

w fidlovacka.cz

Vinohrady Theatre

Divadlo Na Vinohradech Náměstí Míru 7

Map 6 F2.

WOW

Tel 22 42 57 601.

w dnv-praha.cz

Václavské náměstí 56. Map 3 C5.

Tel 22 40 32 172.

w wow-wow.com

Ypsilon Studio Studio Ypsilon

Spálená 16.

Map 3 B5. Tel 22 49 47 119.

w ypsilonka.cz

Dance

National Theatre

Národní Divadlo Balet Národní 2.

Map 3 A5.

Tel 22 49 01 448.

w narodni-divadlo.cz

Ponec

Husitská 24a/899, Praha 3. Tel 22 48 17 886.

w divadloponec.cz

Prague State Opera Státní Opera Praha

Wilsonova 4. Map 6 E1.

Tel 22 42 27 266.

w opera.cz

Cinemas

Rio Oko

Františká Křížka 15 Praha 7

Tel 23 33 82 606

w biooko.cz

Cinema City Flóra Vinohradská 151

Praha 3

Tel 25 57 42 021

Cinema City Galaxie

Arkalycká 3/951, Háie. Praha 4.

Tel 26 79 00 567 w cinemacity.cz

Cinema City Nový Smíchov

Plzeňská 8 Tel 25 57 42 021

w palacecinemas.cz

Cinema City Slovanský Dům

Na Příkopě 22.

Map 3 C4. Tel 25 57 42 021.

w palacecinemas.cz

Cinema City Zličín

Řevnická 1. Praha 5.

Tel 25 79 51 966. w cinemacity.cz

Cinestar Anděl

Radlická 1. Praha 5. Tel 25 11 15 111

Cinestar Černý Most

Chlumecká 8, Praha 9,

Tel 26 67 90 999. w cinestar.cz

Evald

Národní 28.

Map 3 B5.

Tel 22 11 05 225.

w evald.cz

Lucerna Vodičkova 36.

Map 3 C5.

Tel 22 42 16 972. w lucerna.cz

Mat

Karlovo náměstí 19. Map 5 B2.

Tel 22 49 15 765.

w mat.cz Světozor

Vodičkova 41. Map 3 C5.

Tel 22 49 46 824.

w kinosvetozor.cz

Music and Sport

Prague may not match the vibrancy of Vienna or Budapest, but it certainly can hold its own among Europe's leading cultural destinations. During the holiday season, concerts of classical and Baroque music are held in churches and palaces around the city. Another great attraction for music lovers are Prague's music festivials (see pp52–4).

Sports fans are well served too, with top-class ice hockey and Champions League football.

Opera

Since Richard Wagner's The Mastersingers of Nurnburg officially opened Prague's State Opera House on 5 January 1888. Prague has been a centre of operatic excellence. Today, two highly competitive world-class opera companies give opera top billing on Prague's cultural calendar And while the low Soviet-era prices of vore are now long gone, top-price seats range from Kč1.000 to 1.200. which makes opera in Prague more accessible than most cities in Europe.

The two major companies. the National and the State both perform exclusively in their own theatres - the National Opera Company in the National Theatre (see pp156-7); the State Opera Company at the Prague State Opera. The latter presents a predominantly classical Italian repertoire, always in the orginal language, and performances are always popular. Tickets should be bought in advance. The National Opera Company has a more experimental repertoire. and most of its operas are performed in Czech.

To view a Czech opera, by Czech composers such as Smetana or Dvořák, the National Theatre is your best opportunity. A branch of the National Theatre, the **Estates Theatre** (see p219), performs mainly classical, Italian operas in the original language.

Classical Music

The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra (CPO) has been based at the magnificent **Rudolfinum** (see p86) since giving its first concert there in January 1896, when it was conducted by no less a personality than Anton Dvořák, whose name the Rudolfinum's grand hall now carries. Finding immediate success with the public in Prague and abroad (the Philharmonic travelled to London on tour as early as 1902), the orchestra is today recognised by music lovers as one of the finest in the world.

The post of chief conductor of the CPO is one of the most revered appointments in classical music; currently the post is filled by Eliahu Inbal. Almost all contemporary Czech music, including the celebrated 2000 work Requiem by Milan Slavický, premiered at the Rudolfinum. The programme is varied, however, and the works of Czech composers share the limelight with those of their foreign counterparts.

Besides the Rudolfinum, the main concert venue for classical music is the Smetana Hall, found in the Municipal House (see p66). Other permanent concert halls include the Atrium in Žižkov, a converted chapel, the Clementinum and the imposing Congress Centre Prague. With 20 halls and 50 rooms, as well as exhibition space covering 13,000 sq m (140,000 sq ft), the Congress Centre can host all kinds of events, with up to 9,300 participants and visitors.

Music in Churches and Palaces

Concerts performed in the numerous churches and palaces around Prague are extremely popular. Many of these buildings are normally closed to the public, so this is the only chance to see them from inside. Major churches include the **Church of St James** (see p67);

the Church of St Giles (see n77): the Church of St Nicholas (see nn128-9) in the Little Quarter: the Church of St Nicholas (see n72) in the Old Town: the Church of St Francis in Knights of the Cross Square (see p81): St Vitus's Cathedral (see p100) and St George's Basilica (see n100) Other important venues are the Lobkowicz Palace (see p101) and the Sternberg Palace (see pp112-13). It's worth checking the listings magazines (pp224-5) for the specific dates and timings of concerts.

World Music

A small number of clubs and bars in Prague offer ethnic music. The Palác Akropolis hosts diverse performances daily in an atmospheric converted 1920s-theatre building. The Akropolis has hosted the likes of Ani Difranco, Apollo 440 and Transglobal Underground, A variety of bands can be seen from around the world in an unusual setting, at the House of Culture. Some of the better jazz clubs (see pp208-9) also feature world musicians and bands on a regular basis. Another place worth checking out is La Bodequita del Medio, a Cuban restaurant that features Cuban performers some weekend evenings.

Sports

Czechs are crazy about most sports, and given their habit of winning international competitions in any number of events on a regular basis, it is not surprising. The biggest spectator sports are ice hockey and football, in that order of importance.

The main Czech ice hockey league is the best in Europe after the Russian league (KHL), and both US NHL and KHL rosters are filled with Czech players. Prague has two teams in the top division, Sparta and Slavia. Sparta plays its home games at the Tipsport Arena, where tickets cost from Kč80

onwards. Slavia play at the O2 Arena, built for the 2004 Ice Hockey World Championship held in, but surprisinaly not won by the Czech Republic. Tickets here cost Kč100 and up There are three games a week throughout the season, from September to May, so you should be able to catch a game.

Czech football has long been admired throughout the world and the national team has been among the world's best for some time The domestic league is less admired, as many of the country's top stars play in richer leagues elsewhere in Europe. The country's leading team, Sparta Prague, however, is a perennial

qualifier for the European Champions League, which quarantees a procession of higname opponents. Tickets for Champions League games (played September to December depending on Sparta's progress) sell out quickly. Home matches of the Czech Republic are also played at Generali Arena, also known as the Sparta Stadium.

If you want to get active vourself, you may have to travel a little further out of town, as sports facilities are not extensive in central Prague, Squash. however, is very popular, and there are a number of courts in the city centre, including ASB on Wenceslas Square. Mini-golf is on offer at the Motel The Czech Lawn Tennis Club on Štvanice Island also offers 14 clay courts and six indoor courts that can be rented by the general public all day at the weekends and until 3nm on weekdays Aguapalace Praha is the

largest water park in Central Furope, with many pools, a health centre and the large Sauna World which has a wide range of Finnish saunas and a Roman spa. During the summer. various sports can be performed on two beaches at Vltava River -Smíchov Beach and Žluté lazně

Fun Island is a sports and relaxation centre at Císařská louka (Imperial Meadow) island

DIRECTORY

Music Venues

Academy of Music

Hudební Fakulta Amu Malostranské náměstí 13.

Map 2 E3.

Tel 23 42 44 111.

w hamu.cz

Atrium in Žižkov

Atrium Na Žižkově Čaikovského 12, Praha 3

Tel 22 27 21 838.

w atriumzizkov.cz

Church of St Francis

Kostel Sv. Františka Křižovnické náměstí. Map 3 A4.

Church of St Giles

Kostel Sv. Jilii Husova 8.

Map 3 B4. Tel 22 42 20 235.

w kostel-praha.cz

Church of St James

Kostel Sv. Jakuba Malá Štupartská

Map 3 C3.

Church of St Nicholas (Old Town)

Kostel Sv. Mikuláše Staroměstské náměstí. Map 3 B3.

Church of St Nicholas Kostel Sv. Mikuláše Malostranské náměstí.

Map 2 E3.

Church of Sts Simon and luda

Kostel Sv. Šimona A Judy Dušní ulice

Map 3 B2 w fok.cz

Clementinum

7rcadlová Síň Klementina Mariánské náměstí 5.

Map 3 B3.

Congress Centre Prague

Kongresové Centrum Praha 5. května 65. Prague 4.

Tel 26 11 71 111.

w kcp.cz

Lobkowicz Palace

Lobkovický Palác Jiřská 3, Pražský hrad.

Map 2 E2

Tel 23 33 12 925.

w lobkowicz.cz

Music Theatre in Karlín

Hudební Divadlo Karlín Křižíkova 10. Map 4 F3.

Tel 22 18 68 666.

W hdk.cz

Prague State Opera

Státní Opera Praha Wilsonova 4. Map 6 E1. Tel 22 42 27 266.

w opera.cz

Rudolfinum - Dvořák Hall

Rudolfinum -Dvořákova Síň Alšovo nábřeží 12. Map 3 A3. Tel 22 70 59 227.

w ceskafilharmonie.cz

St George's Basilica

Razilika Sv. liří Jiřské náměstí. Pražský hrad. Map 2 F2.

St Vitus's Cathedral

Katedrála Víta Pražský hrad.

Map 2 D2.

Sternberg Palace Šternberský Palac

Hradčanské náměstí 15. **Map** 1 C3.

Tel 23 30 90 570.

World Music

House of Culture

Kulturní Dúm Vltavská Rubenská 1 Praha 7

Tel 22 08 78 455.

w vltavska.cz

La Bodequita del Medio

Kaprova 5. Map 3 B3. Tel 22 48 13 922.

w bodequita.cz

Palác Akropolis Kubelíkova 27

Tel 29 63 30 911.

w palacakropolis.cz

Sporting Venues

Aquapalace Praha

Commercial Zone Průhonice. Tel 27 11 04 111.

w aquapalace.cz

ASB Squash

Václavské náměstí 13–15. Tel 22 42 32 752

Czech Lawn Tennis Club

Štvanice 38. Praha 7 Tel 22 23 33 444

Fun Island

Císařská louka Praha 5 Tel 72 41 09 198.

w fun-island.cz

Generali Arena

Milady Horákové 98. Praha 7

Tel 29 61 11 400.

w sparta.cz

Minigolf Motol

Nad Hliníkem. Praha 5

Tel 77 72 94 668.

O2 Arena

Českomoravská 17 Praha 9 Tel 26 61 21 122.

W O2arena.cz Smíchov Beach

Smíchov Pláž

Smíchov, Praha 3.

Tipsport Arena Za Flektrárnou 419.

Praha 7

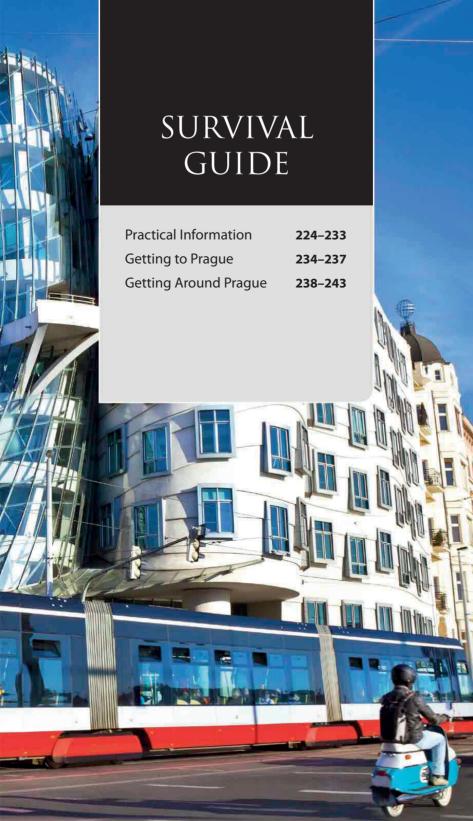
Tel 26 67 27 443.

w hcsparta.cz

Žluté lázně

Podolské nábřeží. Praha 4. Tel 22 44 63 777.





PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Since the fall of the Iron Curtain in the late 1980s, the Czech Republic has not only joined the European Union, but has also held its presidency. In that time, Prague has transformed into a true European capital city, and today all facilities – hotels, banks, restaurants and information centres – are of a high standard. Even so, a little forward planning remains worthwhile.

Researching a sight to check when it is open and how best to get there can save a lot of

time and inconvenience. Prague's transport system is straightforward, and most of the city's sights are located within walking distance of one another. In general, prices are not as low as they once were, making hunting out bargains in the less touristy parts of the city a worthwhile exercise. Prague is a safe city for tourists, but pick-pocketing is rife, as are scams involving taxis, restaurants in the city centre and money changers.

When to Go

One of the best times to visit Prague is during the summer when the weather is warm. although the city can be rather crowded then. Other busy times of the year for the Czech capital are Faster and major Catholic festivals (see pp52-5). The main sights, such as the Old Town Square, are always packed during these periods, but the crowds give Prague a carnival atmosphere. Street entertainers. buskers and stalls spring up around the most popular attractions

Be sure to bring a raincoat in the summer, warm clothes in winter when temperatues regularly drop below freezing, and sturdy shoes all year round. Climate and rainfall charts can be found on *pages 53–5*.

Visas and Passports

A valid passport or, where applicable, an ID card is needed when entering the Czech Republic from countries outside the Schengen Zone.

British nationals must have a valid passport, but visas are not required. Visitors from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand need a valid passport with a minimum of 90 days remaining on it, and they can stay for up to three months without a visa. As visa requirements do change, visitors are advised to contact the Czech embassy or consulate, or check details with their travel agent to confirm what is required before travelling. If you require a

visa, you can obtain one from your nearest Czech embassy or consulate.

Customs Information

For non-EU visitors, customs allowances per person are 2 litres (3.6 pints) of wine, as well as 1 litre (1.8 pints) of spirits and 200 cigarettes. The maximum value of currency that can be brought into or taken out of the Czech Republic is €10,000. Sums in excess of this must be declared to the customs authority. To export authentic antiques, you need to obtain a special licence (see Shoppina p 212).

VAT (value added tax) can be claimed back on items totalling Kč1,000 or more that are taken out of the country within 30 days of the date of purchase.



in Staroměstské náměstí

Tourist Information

There are a number of tourist information offices and specialized agencies in Prague that provide advice on anything from accommodation and travel to restaurants and guided tours.

The efficient **Prague Information Service (PIS)** is the city's best source of tourist information. It has three offices in the city centre and one at the airport, and provides visitors with advice, maps and listings (see pp216–17) in English, German, Russian, French, Czech, Spanish, Italian, Japanese and Chinese. If you want similar information on the rest of the country, visit the **Czech**

Republic Information Centre or **Čedok**, the country's largest tour operator.

Language

Czechs are now as likely to speak Italian, Spanish and French as English and German, so booking a room, ordering a meal or buying a ticket has become much easier. However, be aware that the level of customer service does vary.

Listings and Tickets

There are hundreds of galleries, museums, clubs and theatres scattered throughout the city, and to find out what's on it is best to consult a listings paper. The English-language newspaper *The Prague Post* gives detailed listings of most events and exhibitions. Available from



Entry tickets for some of Prague's major tourist sights

newsstands in the city centre, it also gives tips for the visitor and has informative articles on Prague, its politics and its people. Online listings can be found on the PIS website and at www expats.cz and www.prague.tv. The comprehensive Czechlanguage listings book Přehled is best explained by a friendly PIS worker

The price of admission to museums varies widely, from Kč30 to around Kč300. Most churches are free, with a collection box for donations at the door Tickets for entertainment events can be bought from booking agencies or at the venue itself (see pp216-17). Some hotels can also book tickets for you; alternatively, try a large travel agent in the city centre.

Opening Hours

This guide lists the opening hours for individual museums. galleries and churches. Most of the city's major sights can be

visited throughout the year. but many of Prague's gardens and the castles outside the city are open only from 1 April to 31 October, Visiting hours are normally from 9am to 5pm daily but during the summer months opening times are extended to 6pm. Note that final admission times can often be as much as an hour earlier Gardens stay open until 8pm in July and August. Most museums and several castles are closed on Monday The National Museum is closed on the first Tuesday of the month and the lewish Museum is closed on Saturday. Museum Night in June is an opportunity to visit collections for free between 7pm and 1am. A free transport service between the museums also operates.

Opening hours of Prague's shops vary widely. Many businesses are open between 7am and 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to noon on Saturday. Department stores generally stay open until be-tween 7 and 9pm on Saturday and Sunday, Prague does not have a standard day for late-night shopping, although many of the more expensive tourist shops stay open until around 10pm on most nights.

Banks are open from 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Restaurants, cafés and bars all have varied opening hours (see pp193-3). Most bars open from 10am and, with no licensing laws, often stay open until everyone leaves.



A person taking photographs of one of Prague's many picturesque sights

DIRECTORY

Embassies and Consulates

Australian Consulate

Klimentská 10. 6th floor, Map 4 D2 Tel 22 17 29 371 Open 9amnoon Mon-Thu, also 2-5pm Wed.

Canadian Embassy

Muchova 6 **Tel** 27 21 01 800 Open 8:30am-12:30pm Mon-Fri

w canada.cz

New Zealand Consulate

Václavské náměstí 11.

Map 3 C5 Tel 23 47 84 777

Open 9am-5pm Mon-Fri (Can be unattended. In an emergency:

call the NZ Embassy in Berlin: 0049 172 720 6992).

United Kingdom Embassy

Thunovská 14. Map 2 F3.

Tel 25 74 02 111.

Open 9am-noon daily; also 2-4:30pm Mon-Thu.

w britain.cz

United States Embassy

Tržiště 15. Map 2 F3. Tel 25 70 22 000.

Open 8am-4:30pm Mon-Fri.

w usembassv.cz

Information Centres and Tour Operators

Čedok

Main Office: Na Příkopě 18. Map 3 C4. Tel 800 112 112.

w cedok.com

Czech Republic Information Centre

Staroměstské náměstí 5. Map 3 B3. Tel 22 48 61 476.

w czechtourism.cz

Prague Information Service (PIS)

Staroměstské náměstí 1.

Map 3 B3.

Tel 22 17 14 444.

Rytířská 31. Map 3 C4. Tel 22 17 14 444.

Praha hlavní nádraží.

Wilsonova 8. Map 4 E5.

Tel 22 17 14 444.

Airport Praha Ruzyně, Terminal 2.

Tel 22 17 14 444

w praguewelcome.cz



Children riding the miniature train at Prague Zoo

Travellers with Special Needs

Facilities for the disabled are slowly increasing in Prague The prevalence of parrow streets and uneven paving, especially in the centre do contribute to problems, but ramps are being added to allow easier access into buildings. Hotels are introducing facilities for travellers with special needs. and transport options have also improved, with low access on Prague's trams and lifts installed in many metro stations Visit the Prague Public Transport Company website at www.dpp.cz to plan vour iournev using wheelchairaccessible metro stations, trams and buses, and three special bus lines for wheelchair-users. Timetables at tram stops indicate which services are wheelchair-accessible.

The PIS (see p225) distributes a superb booklet, Accessibility Atlas for People with Impaired Mobility. Published by the

Prague Organization for Wheelchair Users, it contains all the information you need to make the most out of your stay in Prague. The PIS also provides maps and guides in Braille in various languages.

Between the PIS office and the Astronomical Clock is a 24-hour wheelchair-accessible toilet. Press the buzzer by the wheelchair logo for access.

Travelling with Children

Czechs are tremendously family-oriented and love well-behaved children. When

travelling on public transport, it is not unusual for strangers to offer to help – for example by vacating seats for parents with young children. If you have a pram, indicate this clearly to tram drivers, and they will allow extra time for you to get on board. Children are welcome in bars and restaurants, but remember that the Czech Republic has not introduced a smoking ban yet. However,

there are a number of non-smoking restaurants with kids' areas, and Pizza Nuova (see p201) even offers on-site babysitting at weekends.

Bohemia Bagel is another restaurant with a dedicated kids' area. Baby-changing facilities are free in any branch of McDonald's, Mothercare and Marks & Spencer, while public toilets often cost Kč5–10. Breastfeeding in public is not very common but perfectly acceptable. Staying in an apartment may be a better option than a hotel if you have children.

Modern playgrounds abound in Prague – try the ones at Letná (Map 3 A1) and Riegrovy Sady (Map 6 F1). The zoo (see p162) and the adjacent Botanical Garden make an excellent day out, as do the bobsleigh track at Bobsled Prague, The Museum of Miniatures, Choco Story Museum and, in the summer, Aquapalace Praha (see p221) or Podolí Pool. For more ideas visit www.kidsinprague.com.

Senior Travellers

Many international hotels, carhire firms and airlines offer discounts for seniors with proof of pensioner status. Důchodce/ Důchodkyně means "pensioner" in Czech, so keep an eye out for this word at ticket offices although museums, concert halls and sights may offer a discount only to Czech pensioners. The public transport system allows discounts only to Czech seniors. However, public transport in Prague is among the cheapest in Furone.

Student Travellers

If you are entitled to an International Student Identity Card (ISIC), it is worth getting one before travelling to Prague. Admission charges to most of Prague's major attractions, such as museums, galleries, castles and other historic buildings, are up to

50 per cent cheaper on production of a valid ISIC card (for example, admission to Prague Castle is half the price of the full entrance

fee). Students can also get cheaper coach and train travel. If you are looking for somewhere low-cost to stay, many youth hostels in the centre of the city offer student discounts (see Where to Stay, pp 186–7). Some restaurants, such as Pizzeria Einstein, offer discounts as well

Time

Prague is on Central European time, which is Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) plus 1 hour. Summer time runs effectively from the end of March up until the end of October – this is GMT plus 2 hours. New York is 6 hours behind Prague, and Los Angeles is 9 hours behind. Sydney is 9 hours ahead (10 in summer), while Moscow and Johannesburg are 2 and 1 hours ahead respectively.



International Student Identity Card

Electricity

The electricity supply in Prague is 230V AC and two-pin plugs are used. For British or US plugs. an adaptor is needed. Adaptors can be purchased in any large electrical shop such as Dat Art or Electro World in malls (see n215)

Conversion Chart

Imperial to Metric

1 inch = 2.54 centimetres1 foot = 30 centimetres

1 mile = 1.6 kilometres 1 ounce = 28 grams

1 pound = 454 grams

1 pint = 0.6 litre

1 gallon = 4.6 litres

Metric to Imperial

1 millimetre = 0.04 inch 1 centimetre = 0.4 inch

1 metre = 3 feet 3 inches 1 kilometre = 0.6 mile

1 gram = 0.04 ounce1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds

1 litre = 1.8 pints

Responsible Tourism

Czechs are great nature-lovers and therefore fairly green Large municipal recycling bins are prevalent across the city. encouraging the recycling of hooks clothes furniture and other items. Organic food and clothing are becoming popular. Country Life operates an organic farm and bakery to supply its own and others' shops and restaurants, while Evergreen Butik is Prague's first organic fashion store, with clothes designed in London and handmade in Kathmandu Manufaktura sells handmade wooden ornaments toys and utensils, recycled paper and more. In supermarkets try to buy Czech products to support the local economy, Look out for Kubík juices. Kofola (the CzechCoca-Cola) Mattoni Dobrá voda and Korunní still and sparkling water and Orion and Onavia hiscuits and sweets Seasonal markets are also good for local produce

Look out for the ELL Ecolabel flower logo on various products and services Adria

Hotel and Hotel Adalbert have earned this endorsement by conserving water and energy, and recycling and

decreasing waste.

Ecotourism is another aspect of the Czech Republic's commitment to environmental sustainability. Greenways, a

local NGO, publishes maps and guides for cycling to and around the country, while the



EU Ecolabel logo

Furopean Centre for Eco Agro Tourism offers a Green Holiday Guidehook to the Czech Republic in various languages.

DIRFCTORY

Slovak alternative to

Travellers with Special Needs

Czech Association of Persons with Disabilities

Karlínské náměstí 12.

Map 5 B2. Tel 22 23 17 489.

Prague Organization for Wheelchair Users

Renediktská 6 Man 4 D3 Tel 22 48 27 210

Travelling with Children

Bobsled Prague

Prosecká 34b. Tel 28 48 40 520.

w bobovadraha.cz

Bohemia Bagel

Masná 2. Tel 22 48 12 560.

Botanical Garden Nádvorní 134

Tel 23 41 48 111.

w botanicka.cz

Choco Story Museum Celetná 10. Map 3 C3.

Tel 22 42 42 953.

w choco-story-praha.cz

Mothercare

Na Příkopě 19–21. Map 3 C4. w mothercare.com

The Museum of Miniatures

Strahov Monastery Map 1 B4. Tel 23 33 52 371.

w muzeumminiatur.com

Podolí Pool

Podolská 74 Tel 24 14 33 952.

Public Transport Museum

Patočkova 4. Praha 6. Tel 29 61 28 900. W dpp.cz

Student Travellers

Pizzeria Einstein

Rumunská 25. Map 6 D3. Tel 22 25 22 635.

Responsible Tourism

Adria Hotel

Václavské náměsti 26. Map 4 D5. Tel 22 10 81 111.

w adria.cz

Country Life

Melantrichova 15. Map 3 B3. Tel 22 42 13 366.

European Centre for Eco Agro Tourism

w eceat.org

Evergreen Butik Uruguayská 6, Praha 2. Tel 72 57 40 615.

w etique.cz

Greenways w greenways.cz

Hotel Adalbert Břevnovský klášter. Markétská 1. Tel 22 04 06

170. w hoteladalbert.cz

Manufaktura Melantrichova 17

Map 3 B4.

Religious Services

Anglican

St. Clement's, Klimentská 5. Map 4 D2. Tel 23 33 10 266. w anglican.cz

Baptist

International Baptist Church of Prague, Vinohradská 68. Map 6 F1.

Tel 731 778 735. w ibcp.cz

Hussite Church

Church of St Nicholas, Staroměstské náměstí.

Map 3 C3. Tel 23 47 60 058. W husiti.cz

Interdenominational International Church. Peroutkova 57. Tel 29 63

92 338. w icprague.cz Jewish Various synagogues.

Tel 22 48 00 849 w kehilaprag.cz

Old-New Synagogue (see pp88-9).

Jerusalem Synagogue, Jeruzalémská 7. Map 4 E4.

Methodist-Evangelical Malostranské náměstí.

Map 2 F3.

w praguefellowship.cz

Muslim

Islamic Foundation Praha. Blatská 1491. Map 5 C2. Tel 28 19 18 876.

w praha.muslim.cz

Roman Catholic Various churches.

w apha.cz

Church of the Infant Jesus of Prague, Karmelitská 9. Map 2 E4. Tel 25 75 33 646. w pragjesu.info

Personal Security and Health

Compared to many Western cities, Prague is relatively safe. Even if you do not need emergency help from the police, you should feel free to approach them at any time for advice of any kind – they are generally helpful to the tourist population. If you should need emergency medical care during your stay in Prague, it will be given free. An increasing number of English-speaking services are available, including health centres, pharmacies and dentists (see n229).

Municipal police badge

State police badge

The Police and Security Services

In Prague you will come across several kinds of policemen and -women and members of various security services.

Report any problems to a uniformed state police officer at a police station. The main stations are marked on the Street Finder mans (see pp244-55). The state police carry guns and can arrest a suspect. They patrol the streets on foot or drive arey blue and vellow patrol cars. The municipal police, the other main security

force, is divided into different sections. Special mobile police stations are set up during tourist high season in locations such as the Old Town Square. They are staffed by multilingual officers to enable tourists to

report crimes and seek on-thesnot advice The Tourist Police Station is where you should go to report any losses and thefts. The office is manned 24 hours a

> day, seven days a week. For lost property, it is worth trying the

Ztráty a nálezy (lostand-found office) on Karolíny Světlé. The traffic police regulate parking. including clamping and issuing fines (see p241), speeding and drink-drivina. It is illegal to drive with anv alcohol in vour bloodstream, and if you are caught the

penalties are severe.

If you have a serious traffic accident, you must immediately ring the state police. It is against the law to move anything before the police get there. You will also see private security guards. These are called



sekuriťaći, or "black sheriffs" (many actually wear black uniforms) and tend to quard banks and be used as security at football matches. They are armed with truncheons

What to be Aware of

Prague is a safe and unthreatening city to walk around Violence and robberies are rare in the city centre. Crimes against tourists are usually limited to petty pilfering from cars and hotels, and the only really prevalent issue pickpockets. Using your common sense should help you to avoid trouble. Always remember to keep your bag in sight and avoid carrying your passport, wallet and valuables in your back pocket or in an open bag. Thieves tend to operate in busy areas such as crowded trams, metro cars and popular sights. Be careful when watching the hourly movements of the Astronomical Clock, for instance. Pickpockets are skilled and use very clever diversionary tactics. Be aware and keep everything safe and close. It is very unlikely that anything stolen will ever be recovered. Never leave anything of value in your car and try to park in an underground car park.

It is always advisable to take out adequate insurance before you arrive in Prague since it is difficult to arrange once there. Report any thefts to the state or municipal police for future insurance claims.

Prague is generally safe for women travelling on their own. However, one place that is advisable to avoid at night if you are a woman alone is



A male state police officer

A municipal police officer

A female state police officer

A "black sheriff"

Wenceslas Square, because local men might assume that you are one of the

city's prostitutes.

Prague has some less-thanreputable bars and cafés that stay open into the early hours. Bars with the words "non-stop" and "herna" are synonymous with shady characters gambling on slot machines. See the bars and cafés listings on pp206-7 for recommended venues to visit. Be aware that the more touristy restaurants and many taxi drivers have a tendency to

overcharge. It is best to

take a taxi from a Fair

all of your receipts. Before you travel, take photocopies of all essential documents, including your passport. Place your passport in vour hotel safe and carry the photocopy with you when you are out and about. You are expected to have your passport with you only when driving.

Place taxi rank (see p240). Keep

In an Emergency

Your hotel should be able to put you in touch with a local doctor if necessary, but if you need immediate help, Prague's emergency services are available 24 hours a day. Non-Czech speakers should call 112: an English-speaking operator will translate via a three-way conversation to the service you need. Hospitals with casualty units are marked on the Street Finder mans (see nn244-55)

Hoalth Caro and Pharmacies

All FLI nationals are entitled to free health care in the Czech Republic, To claim medical

> treatment, visitors must have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC

> > card), which should be presented to the physician along with a valid form of identification. Not all treatments

are covered by the card, so additional medical insurance is definitely advisable

Medical tourism is increasingly popular; Health Centre Prague offers cheaper procedures than

Pharmacy sign

in the rest of Furone There are also 24-hour pharmacies (lékárna) with staff who are qualified to give advice and administer simple remedies If you want an English-speaking

doctor, visit the Diplomatic Health Centre for foreigners at Na Homolce, Alternatively, try the privately run Canadian

Medical Center or, for dental care. Elite Dental Prague. You will need to take a passport and a means of payment with you.

Those with respiratory problems should be aware that hetween October and March sulphur dioxide levels in Praque occasionally exceed the World Health Organization's accepted

levels. With increasing car ownership in the city and a lack of funding for alternative fuels this situation seems unlikely to improve, so if you think you may be affected by fumes, be sure to take any medication you might need with you on your trip.





Ambulance

DIRECTORY

Emergency Numbers

Emergency Operator

Tel 112 (in English).

Ambulance

Tel 155

Tel 158 (state)/156 (municipal)

Tel 150

Police

Tourist Police Station

Jungmannovo náměstí 9. Map 3 C5

Lost Property Bureau

Lost and Found (Ztráty a nálezy)

Karoliny Světlé 5.

Map 3 A5. Tel 22 42 35 085.

Open 8am-4pm Mon-Fri (to 5:30pm Mon & Wed; to 2pm Fri).

Medical Centres

Canadian Medical Center

Veleslavínská 1 Tel 72 43 00 301 (24 hours)

Open 8am-6pm Mon-Fri (to 8pm Tue & Thu), 9am-2pm Sat.

w cmcpraha.cz

Diplomatic Health Centre (Nemocnice Na Homolce)

Roentgenova 2 Tel 25 72 71 111.

Open 24 hours a day.

w homolka.cz

Elite Dental Prague

Vodičkova 5. Map 3 C3. Tel 22 25 10 888.

Open 8am-8pm Mon-Thu. 8am-4pm Fri.

w elitedental.cz

Health Centre Prague

Vodičkova 28. 3rd entrance. 2nd floor.

Map 3 C5.

Tel 60 34 33 833 (24 hrs).

Open 8am-5pm Mon-Fri. w doctor-prague.cz

24-Hour Pharmacies

Lékárna Palackého

Palackého 5. Map 3 C5. Tel 22 49 46 982.

Lékárna u Sv. Ludmily

Belgická 37. Map 6 F3.

Tel 22 25 13 396.

Banking and Local Currency

With its increasingly international profile, Prague is becoming more expensive, although residential sections of the city remain cheaper than the tourist centre. Banks now have international desks staffed by multilingual cashiers, and ATMs dot the city streets. Credit cards are widely accepted, although in smaller outlets it is wise to ask first, while traveller's cheques can be changed only in banks. It is worth bearing in mind that bureaux de change usually take some commission regardless of their "zero" claims.

Banks and Bureaux de Change

The large, modern banks generally found in the city centre all open between 9am and 5pm or 6pm Monday to Friday, Hundreds of bureaux de change are found in tiny shops throughout the city. However, despite sometimes offering better exchange rates than the banks their commission charges (often hidden in the small print) are huge, often as high as 12%. Compare this to the 1-5% charged by banks. along with a minimum commission of Kč20-50. The only advantage of these exchange offices is their convenience. Many are open late every day, some offer a 24-hour service and gueues are rare

Most of the larger hotels will also change foreign currency for you, but again commission rates may be very high. If you have some Czech currency left over from your stay, you can reconvert your money. All banks will reconvert your extra crowns for a small commission. Finally, never change your money on the black market. As well as being illegal, the rate is not any higher than banks or

Façade of the Česká Spořitelna bank

exchanges, and it is guaranteed you will be given notes that are not legal tender.

Traveller's cheques are a safe alternative to carrying cash. It is recommended that you take well-known brands – such as American Express or Thomas Cook for example – although it is unlikely that the major banks will refuse any. Traveller's cheques are not accepted as currency by any shops or restaurants, and they must be changed at banks or bureaux de change.



An automatic teller machine (ATM) for dispensing cash

ATMs

There are ATMs (bankomats) all over the centre of Prague, and this is the easiest method to get your Czech currency. Many ATMs are in the entrance to banks, but they are accessible even if the

branch is closed. They accept most major credit and debit cards, and information is available in English, German, French and Czech. Be aware that you will probably be charged an overseas transaction fee each time you use your card so check with your bank how much this fee is.

Credit Cards

Paving by credit card is becoming more popular in Prague - not only in hotels and restaurants but also in supermarkets and shops Even if an outlet displays a credit card sign, do not assume they will accept all types of card as payment. In a restaurant it is better to ask before ordering your meal to avoid difficulties later. The cards most often accepted are American Express, VISA and MasterCard Most banks will allow cash advances (up to your limit) on your card.

DIRECTORY

Banks

Česká Národní Banka Na příkopě 28. Map 3 C4. Tel 22 44 11 111. w cnb.cz

Česká Spořitelna Rytířská 29. **Map** 3 C4.

Tel 800 207 207. w csas.cz Československá

Obchodní Banka Na příkopě 18. Map 3 C4. Tel 800 300 300. w csob.cz

GE Money Bank Hybernská 20. Map 4 D3.

Tel 22 14 90 611.

Komerční Banka Václavské náměstí 42.

Map 4 D5. Tel 955 545 111. w kb.cz

UniCredit Bank Revoluční 7. Map 4 D2. Tel 844 11 33 55. w unicreditbank.cz

Bureaux de change

Eurochange

Opletalova 30. **Map** 4 E5. **Tel** 22 42 43 614.

Exchange

Náměstí Franze Kafky 2. **Map** 3 B3. **Tel** 800 225 588.

Inter Change

Rytířská 26. **Map** 3 C4. **Tel** 22 42 21 757. One of several branches. **w interchange.cz**

Currency

The currency in Prague and the Czech Republic is the Czech crown (koruna), which is abbreviated as Kč (the international abbreviation is (7K) Hellers (of which there are 100 to the crown) have been phased out.

The Czech crown is the best and usually the only possible currency to use when making payments in cash. Some hotels and shops accept payment in

euros, but the exchange rate may not always be favourable. Tesco accepts euros and gives change in Czech crowns at the going bank rate, as does Marks & Spencer, where they accept pounds sterling as well.

Banknotes

Czech hanknotes are available in the denominations Kč100 Kč200. Kč500. Kč1.000. Kč2.000 and Kč5 000



Kč1.000 note

Kč2.000 note



Kč500 note





Kč100 note







2 crowns (Kč2)

Coins

Coins come in the following denominations: Kč1, Kč2, Kč5, Kč10, Kč20 and Kč50. All the coins have the Czech emblem, a lion rampant, on one side.













20 crowns (Kč20) 50 crowns (Kč50)

Communications and Media

The main Czech telephone service is called Telefónica O2 Czech Republic. O2 provides a comprehensive digital network of phones across the country and, along with Vodafone and T-Mobile, constitutes the Czech mobile market. Wi-Fi zones and Internet cafés can be found all over Prague; the latter are often in courtyards or on the first floor of buildings. Česká Pošta remains an efficient postal service within the Czech Republic and overseas.



02 phone boxes in Prague

Public Telephones

Despite the growing use of mobile phones, there are still many public phones in the Czech Republic; indeed, there are more phone boxes here than in most European countries.

O2 public phones accept cash (euros and Czech crowns), credit cards and phonecards. Depending on which phone you find, you can send a text message and an email as well as make a call. In hotels, you can usually get a direct line, but commission charges on the

calls are often exorbitant. Remember also that international calls can be extremely expensive, no matter what time of day you phone. The cheapest way to call abroad is via an international call office, such as the Call Point Internet. You can buy

phonecards (telefonni karta) from tobacconists (tabáks) and newsstands, and from post offices, supermarkets and petrol stations. Two

popular cards are Karta X, a pre-paid calling card that allows you to make national and international calls from any phone; and Trick, a multifunctional card that can be used to pay for telephone calls and Internet services.

On all phones in the country, the dialling tone is a short note followed by a long one; the ringing tone consists of long regular notes, and the engaged signal has short and rapid notes. All Czech phone numbers have nine digits, and Prague numbers start with a 2.

Mobile Phones

Czech mobile phones operate on a GSM band of 900/ 1800 MHz the same standard in use throughout Europe, but different from that used in the United States, US cell phones will work provided they are triband phones and that the service provider allows for international roaming. To avoid high roaming fees you can obtain local pay-as-you-go SIM cards, which give you a temporary telephone number and allow you to make calls and send text messages on the local network

Pay-as-you-go cards are very well priced. You pay for credit but the SIM card is free. The three main mobile-phone operators are Telefónica O2 (www.cz.o2.com), Vodafone (www.vodafone.cz) and T-Mobile (www.t-mobile.cz). Czech mobile numbers start with a 6 or 7

Internet Access

Most hotels offer quests some form of in-room Internet access through either a wireless or a LAN connection. Wireless connections may not be reliable, depending on how far vour room is from the router. If Internet access is important to you, it's best to mention this at the hotel reception when checking in and request a room with a strong wireless signal. Most hotels will usually also have a public computer terminal for quests to surf the Internet or, failing that, they will allow quests to quickly check their emails on the hotel computer. The receptionist should know the location of the nearest Internet café.

Internet cafés are relatively common in Prague. Rates are reasonable, at Kč1–2 per minute. Just because the word "café" is part of the name, do not assume they will serve coffee or that the coffee will be drinkable if they do. It is also worth bearing in mind that more and more cafés, bars and restaurants are offering customers with laptops free wireless access;

Reaching the Right Number

Czech directory enquiries and operator
 International directory enquiries and to make a collect call
 International call followed by the country code
 In case of emergencies (Police)
 Emergency operator (English)

If you have problems getting through to a number in Prague, it is likely that the number has changed due to the modernization of the phone system. To check, ring the directory enquiries number and ask for an English-speaker.

look for the Wi-Fi sticker Connections are usually straightforward and pretty fast. If there's a password, the staff will tell you what it is.



Post office sign

Postal Services

There are a number of post offices in Prague (see Street Finder Mans on pp244-55). The best and largest one is the Main Post Office in Jindřišská, just off Wenceslas Square. It has a huge variety of services, including a large phone room where you can make international calls This service operates from 7am to 11pm. The Main Post Office offers easy-access information in English, and swift and efficient service. Take a ticket when you enter the building, then wait until the electronic display indicates which booth you should go to. If you want to buy some of the Czech Republic's attractive stamps, go to window 29 (no ticket required).

The Main Post Office on Jindřišská is open from 2am to midnight. Most other post offices offer more regular business hours, from 8am to 6pm or 7pm Monday to Friday. and from 8am until noon on Saturday.

There is no first- or secondclass mail in the Czech Republic. but the majority of letters usually arrive at their destination within a few days. If you want to send something more valuable through the post, use the

registered mail service which is reliable and efficient

Postcards and letters can be posted in the many orange post boxes scattered around Prague. Both take around five working days to arrive in the UK and about a week to get to the USA. Stamps can be bought from post offices, newsagents or tabáks – they will also tell you what stamps you need. All parcels and registered letters need to be handed in at a nost office

For emergency parcels and packages that need to arrive guickly, you can use an international courier service. such as **DHI** rather than the nost office

Post restante letters are delivered to the Main Post Office in lindřišská Street Go to window 1 or 2 (open 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 7am to noon Saturday) with your passport or other official identification

Newspapers

Prague has a number of newspapers, including an English-language one, The Prague Post. This provides informative pieces on Prague, its people and politics, and it also includes a good leisure supplement, Night & Day, For a Czech daily newspaper translated into English, go to www.ceskenoviny.cz/news. Other online resources on Prague are www.expats.cz. www.prague.tv and www. praguemonitor.com.

Most of the newsstands located around Wenceslas Square and other popular tourist spots sell the main quality European newspapers such as The Times. The Guardian. FI País and Die Zeit as well as US papers such as the International Herald Tribune.

Tobacconist's, where you can also buy stamps and phonecards

TV and Radio

Czech television dubs everything. so local TV is not much use to non-Czech sneakers However most hotels have freeview news channels, and the larger chains have nackages that include film channels

You can listen to the BBC World Service on 101.1FM: it is also possible to listen to the BBC online by logging on to www bhc couk One of the most popular local stations is Radio 1 . . (91 9MHz) which has an English-language show, High Fidelity (8-11pm Fri). Another weekly English-language show. The Friday Ripple (5-7pm Fri), is on Radio Wave (www.wave.cz)



Copy of The Prague Post

DIRECTORY

Internet Cafés and Call Shops

Bohemia Bagel

Holešovice, Dukelských hrdinů 48. (across from Parkhotel). Tel 22 08 06 541

Open 10am-midnight daily.

Call Point Internet

Myšák Gallery, Vodičkova 31. Map 3 C5.

Open 10am-8pm daily.

Káva Káva Káva

Národní 37. Map 3 B5. Tel 22 42 28 862.

Open 7am-10pm daily (from 9am Sat & Sun).

w kava-coffee.cz

Postal Services

Václavské náměstí 47. Map 4 D5. Tel 840 103 000/ 22 03 00 111.

w dhl.cz

Main Post Office

Jindřišská 14. Map 4 D5. Tel 84 01 11 244/22 11 31 111.

w cpost.cz

GETTING TO PRAGUE

Prague is located right at the heart of Furope and enjoys good transport connections with the rest of the continent There are direct flights every day from most of Furope's major cities and, via Delta Airlines and ČSA from selected cities in the USA. There are no direct flights from Australia, however, International coach transport is efficient and inexpensive, but

journey times can be off-putting. Prague is well served by international railways, but as this is a popular means of getting to Prague trains tend to get booked up early. especially in the summer. The main train station (Hlavní nádraží) is close to Wenceslas Square and the city centre and, except for the airport, other major points of arrival are also fairly central.

Travelling by Air

Prague has good flight connections to most major European cities, More than 40 international airlines fly to Prague Airport (Letiště Praha Ruzvně). If vou are travelling from the United States, Delta Airlines operates a limited number of non-stop flights from Atlanta and New York. There are no Australian or New Zealand carriers flying direct to Prague. although you can fly British Airways with a stop in London. Other major airlines include KLM. Air France, Lufthansa. **Emirates** and **Czech Airlines** (ČSA) It takes about 1 hour and 50 minutes to fly from London to Prague, and about 9 hours from the east coast of North America

Tickets and Fares

Prague has become increasingly popular with budget carriers, both as a hub and a destination. Both easyJet and Jet2.com fly regularly between Prague and several cities in the UK: Rvanair also flies direct to Brno, the Czech Republic's second city. Smart Wings Wizz Air and German Wings are popular budget carriers that connect Prague to destinations in the rest of Europe, Booking online or by phone as early as possible will get you the best prices from these budget airlines, and taking only cabin luggage keeps the price down too.

APEX (advanced purchase) tickets can be a cheap option. but they have stringent conditions attached to them These include having to book vour ticket at least a month in advance and severe penalties if you cancel your flight.

If you ring well in advance. airlines will quote you the standard fare, but the price may be lowered nearer the time if seats remain unsold - this is rarely the case in the summer months, however, as Prague is



Sign for passport control

such a popular destination. You may get a better deal in winter (except over the Christmas and New Year period when prices rise again). Students and regular business travellers may be able to get discounts at any time of vear. Children under two who do not occupy a separate seat usually pay 10 per cent of the adult fare. If you do get a chean deal, ensure that you will get a refund if your travel agent goes out of business

Prague Airport

Praque's only international airport is at Ruzvně. 15 km. (9 miles) northwest of the city centre. The airport is modern. clean, efficient and functional. It offers all that you would expect from an international airport: ATMs and 24-hour exchange facilities: car rental offices; a duty-free shop; a post office and a leftluggage office.

The airport was thoroughly modernized at the start of the millennium, including the addition of a new terminal Terminal 1 is used for inter-continental flights. including those to the UK. North America, the Middle East, Africa and Asia, All domestic flights and flights to destinations within the FU and other Schengen countries are served by Terminal 2. The two terminals are connected and



Departures board in Terminal 2 at Prague Airport

are only a short walk apart. There is also a business- class lounge and catering facility as well as a shopping centre within the Marriott Courtvard Hotel just across the airport forecourt

Terminal 3 also known as the South Terminal is further away and used only for general aviation and private planes

Transport from the Airport to the City

Getting to and from Prague airport is easy, relatively fast and economical, unless you fall victim to one of Prague's infamous taxi scams (see n240) Allow at least 60 minutes to reach the airport by road from the city centre at rush hour. though on a good day it could take as little as 30 minutes. Travelling by a combination of the metro and standard hus takes about 45 minutes depending on connections.

The airport is linked to the city centre by a regular minibus service run by CEDAZ. For the return trip to the airport, there is a bus stop at V Celnici street a short distance from Náměstí Republiky. Buses leave every 30 minutes from 7:30am to 7pm, and tickets cost Kč130 per person.

For a service on demand to and from the airport, AAA Radiotaxi are a reliable option



CEDAZ bus operating between the airport and the city

and offer a 47 per cent discount on a return trip. They can take you to addresses outside the city, and they can even be used to tour the rest of the Czech Republic

A regular public bus service runs to the airport from Deivická metro (bus 119) and from Zličín metro (bus 100) Between midnight and 5am. the 510 night bus will take you into the city every half hour for the standard Kč32 public transport ticket. The Airport Express bus stops at Dejvická, Masarykovo nádraží. Náměstí Republiky and Hlavní nádraží: it runs every half-hour between 5:45am and 9:15pm and costs Kč60.

Alternatively, there are always taxis waiting in front of the terminal. Taxis provided by AAA and 1.1.1 Radiocab Taxi offer a fixed price. The prices are comparable, but it should not cost more than Kč600 to get to the city centre.

DIRECTORY

Airport Information

Airport Praha Ruzvně Tel 22 01 11 888. w prg.aero

Main Airline Offices

Air France

Tel 23 30 90 933

w airfrance.com

British Airways

Tel 23 90 00 299. w ba.com

Czech Airlines (ČSA)

V Celnici 5. Map 4 D3. Tel 23 90 07 007. W csa.cz

Delta Airlines

Tel 23 30 90 933. w delta.com

EasyJet w easyjet.com

Emirates

w emirates.com

German Wings

w germanwings.com

Jet2.com

w jet2.com

KI M

Tel 23 30 90 933. w klm.com

Lufthansa Tel 23 40 08 234

W lufthansa.com

Ryanair

w ryanair.com

Smart Wings

w smartwings.com

Wizz Air

w wizzair.com

Airport Bus

CFDA7

Tel 22 01 16 758. w cedaz.cz

Taxi Transfers

AAA Radiotaxi

Tel 22 11 11 111. w aaataxi.cz



The airport forecourt, from which buses and taxis can be taken into town



The facade of Hlavní nádraží

Travelling by Train

Rail travel is an eniovable and environmentally friendly way to travel to and from Prague. Prague is connected by rail to all the major capitals of Furope, International trains have dining cars and couchettes but tickets are often more expensive than budget air fares. Buy well in advance to ensure a seat and get the best possible deal

The railways in the Czech Republic are run by České Dráhy (ČD). There are several types of train run by ČD These include the rychlik (express) trains: the osobní (passenger) trains, which form a local service and stop at all stations; the EX, or national express, for longer distances: the SC (Supercity), which is the fastest and most comfortable train service between Prague, Brno and Ostrava; and the EC (Eurocity), or international express. Alternatively, Regioiet makes for a cheaper and more comfortable option to Pardubice and Ostrava. More lines are expected in the near future.

Tickets can be bought in advance. If you want to buy a ticket just before your train leaves, be warned that queues at ticket booths can be long, especially on Fridays and Sundays. First-class carriages exist on most trains and guarantee you a seat. In the timetable, an "R" in a box by a train number means you must have a seat reserved on that train. An "R" without a box means a reservation is

recommended. If you are caught in the wrong carriage, you have to pay an on-the-spot fine

Train Stations

The biggest and busiest railway station in Prague is Hlavní nádraží. which is only a 5-minute walk from Wenceslas Square. The thorough renovation of the Art Nouveau station is progressing well, and the gleaming interior now has shops, restaurants, a pub and even a jeweller's As well as shops, the lower ground floor has an inexpensive left-luggage facility, a tourist office (open 9am-7pm Mon-Sat and 9am-5nm Sun) and the central ticket office (open 3:30am-00:30am). In this ticket hall there is also a

ČD Travel Agency.

where all international rail tickets, including those for Eurostar, are sold by multilingual station staff, Many international trains also stop at Nádraží Holešovice.

Praque's oldest train terminal, Masarvkovo nádraží, serves mainly Prague's suburbs and a few other domestic routes. Similarly, many domestic routes are served from Smíchov

Travelling by Coach

Coach connections from Prague to many of the major European cities have improved

immeasurably, and tickets tend to sell out quickly. Some Czech towns = such as Karlovy Vary Hradec Králové. Český Krumlov and Terezín – are much easier to reach by coach than train

The city's main hus terminal is Florenc, on the northeastern edge of the New Town There is also a smaller station at Anděl called Na Knížecí. The Florenc terminal stays open from 4am until midnight and offers food outlets, information kiosks. inexpensive left-luggage facilities and tickets sales from such companies as Furolines and **Student Agency** to

name just two. During the summer months there are hundreds of coach trips to all the major coastal. resorts in southern Europe These get booked up guickly by Czechs, so buv vour ticket well in advance and be sure to reserve a seat

Travelling by Car

To drive a car in the Czech Republic you must be at least 18 years of age. A uniformed railway Most foreign driving licences, including Canadian, US and EU

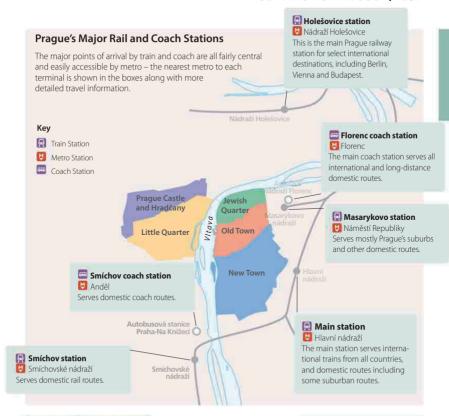
> ones, are recognized. New Zealand and Australian drivers. however, should get an International Driving Licence before leaving home.

If you bring your own car to Prague, by law you must carry the following with you at all times: a



emplovee

A Eurolines long-haul coach





A Czech motorway sign

valid driver's licence; vehicle registration card; a hire certificate or, if you are borrowing the car, a letter signed by the owner and authorized by a recognized body, such as the AA or RAC, giving you permission to drive it; and a Green Card (an international motoring certificate for insurance).

If you drive on the motorway, you will also need to display a special highway sticker available at the border, petrol stations and post offices. Other items you have to carry at all times are a set of replacement bulbs, red warning

triangles, a first-aid kit and a safety vest. You also have to display a national identification sticker. Headlights must be used at all times, even during daylight hours. It is compulsory to wear seat belts if fitted, and children under 12 years of age are not allowed in the front seat. When you are driving, it is strictly forbidden to have any alcohol in your blood or to use a mobile phone.

There are good motorway connections to all the major cities in the Czech Republic, including Plzeň and Brno, and many more are under construction.

The speed limit on motorways is 130 km/h (81 mph); on dual and single carriageways, 90 km/h (56 mph); and in urban areas, 50 km/h (31 mph). The traffic police patrolling the roads are very vigilant, and any infringements are dealt with harshly. There are also occasional road blocks to catch drunken drivers. Visit www. motorway.cz for more details on driving on Czech motorways.

DIRECTORY

Train Travel

ČD Travel Agency

Plaha Hlavní nádraži, Wilsonova 8. **Map** 4 F5. **Tel** 840 112 113.

w cd.cz

Coach Travel

Eurolines

Florenc Coach Station. Map 4 F3.

w elines.cz

Student Agency

Florenc Coach Station. **Map** 4 F3. **Tel** 841 101 101.

w studentagency.cz

Car Travel

Budget

Prague Airport, main station.

Map 4 E5. Tel 23 53 25 713.

w budget.cz

Car Breakdown/Service/ Accidents

Tel 1230/1240.

GETTING AROUND PRAGUE

The centre of Prague is conveniently small, and most of the sights can be reached comfortably on foot. However, to cross the city quickly, or to visit a more remote sight, the public transport is efficient, clean and cheap. It is based on trams, buses and the underground (metro) system, all of which are run by the Prague Public Transport Company (Dopravní podnik hlavního města Prahy). Throughout this guide, the best

method of transport is given for each sight. The metro and trams serve the city centre, while buses are used to reach the suburbs. The entire system is simple to use – only one ticket is needed for all three forms of transport. Bus, tram and metro routes are found on city maps, available at most city centre tabáks, bookshops and newsagents; or refer to the map on the inside back cover of this guide.

Green Travel

Prague has a fantastic public transport system. Buses serve the outer suburbs, thereby decreasing congestion on central streets, where trams, cars, bikes, pedestrians and even horses jostle for space. Comprehensive and 24-hour public transport means that driving a car is unnecessary.

Prague is also wonderfully compact, so walking between sights is not just possible but preferable. Cycling is another good way of getting around.

Renting a bike is easy (see p.241).

The World Carfree Network (www.worldcarfree.net) has its headquarters in Prague. The group is responsible for organizing World Carfree Day (22 September), which usually involves a mass bike ride in many cities worldwide. The last Thursday of each month sees the Auto*Mat Critical Mass bike ride, which sets off from Jirího z Podebrad square at 6pm.



Cycling around the city

The Transport System

The best way of getting around the city centre by public transport is by tram or metro. Prague's rush hours are between 6am and 8am and 3pm and 5pm, Monday to Friday. However, more trains, trams and buses run at these times, so crowding is not usually a problem. Some bus routes to the suburbs only run during peak hours.



Prague's transport network relies on the honour system. Be aware that periodic checks are carried out by plain-clothes ticket inspectors who levy a large on-the-spot fine if you don't have a valid ticket. Transfer tickets cover the entire system and allow 30 or 90 minutes of travel after validation. Buy the ticket before you travel and validate it in the machines provided, or you will be travelling illegally.

Tickets are available for Kč24 (for 30 minutes of travel including transfers) or Kč32 (for 90 minutes), and can be used on all forms of public transport, including the funicular railway that runs from Újezd up Petřín Hill; the boat service (lines P1–6); and the railway network (lines R and S). For shorter journeys around the city centre, the 30-minute transfer ticket will usually suffice.

Longer-term tickets are often more convenient and a good idea if you are planning on seeing many tourist sights





24-hour ticket

30-minute ticket

around the city. They offer unlimited rides for a number of days – a one-day ticket costs Kč110 and a three-day ticket is Kč310.

Children aged between 6 and 15 pay reduced prices – they pay half the fare on Kč24, Kč32 and Kč110 tickets.

Tickets may be purchased from the automatic machines at the entrance of all metro stations, at some tram or bus stops, and at *tabáks* (tobacconists), newsagents and some shops. For more information on transport routes, maps and tickets, visit the Prague Transport Information website or one of the information offices listed below.

DIRFCTORY

Prague Public Transport Information Centres

Muzeum metro station. **Open** 7am–9pm daily.

Ruzyně Airport, Terminals 1 & 2. **Open** 7am–9pm daily.

Holešovice train station, Anděl.

Open 7am–9pm Mon–Fri,
9:30am–5pm Sat.

Prague Transport

Tel 29 61 91 817. w dpp.cz

Travelling by Tram

Trams are Prague's oldest method of public transport Horse-drawn trams appeared on the streets in 1879, but by 1891 the first electric tram was in operation. The metro may be faster in terms of travelling distances, but when you factor in descending to and ascending from stations, the tram system is actually the most efficient not to mention pleasant, way of getting around the city. Some lines operate only in the rush hour, and there are several night trams, all of which pass by Lazarská in the New Town

The tram system is run by the **Prague Public Transport** Company. Tram tickets are also valid for the metro and buses (see Tickets opposite). You have to buy your ticket before you board a tram. Once you have entered, you will see a small, vellow punching machine on

two or three metal poles just inside the doors. Insert your ticket and it will be validated automatically. If you do not punch your ticket, it is not valid. and if you are caught by a ticket inspector, you will have to pay an on-the-spot fine. Make sure vou buy the correct ticket for your desired journey. Fach tram stop has a timetable – the stop underlined is where you are standing. The stops below that line indicate where that tram is heading

Trams run every 4 to 20 minutes. Doors either open and close automatically or by pushing a button. The current stop and the next stop are announced in Czech. The metro closes shortly after midnight. A small number of night trams run every 30 minutes. These trams (numbers 51-59) are marked by white numbers on a dark background at the stop.

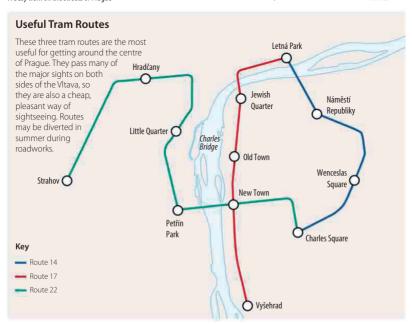
Tram Signs

These are found at every tram stop and tell you which trams stop there, and in what direction each tram is aoina.





A busy tram on the streets of Prague





A typical public bus in Prague

Travelling by Bus

Most visitors to Prague are likely to use a bus only to travel to and from the airport (see p235) and the zoo. By law, buses are not allowed in the city centre because they produce noxious fumes and the streets are too narrow Instead they are used to transport people from the suburbs to tram and metro stops outside the centre

Unless you have enough small change, you must purchase a ticket before you board a bus. Tickets are available from the vending machines at the entrance of metro stations tabáks (tobacconists) and all the usual agents (see p238).

You must validate your ticket in the punching machine on the bus. When buying a ticket, choose either a Kč24 transfer ticket allowing 30 minutes of travel, or a Kč32 ticket, which is valid for 90 minutes. You have to push a button to open the doors on most buses, though some open automatically. There is a high-pitched warning signal when doors are about to close. You are expected to give up your seat for the elderly, the disabled and people with small children.

Bus timetables are located at every stop. They have the numbers of all the buses that stop there and the timetable for each route. The frequency of buses varies considerably. In the rush hour there may be 12 to 15 buses an hour: at other times. as few as three.

There are more than 25 buses that run during the night. serving the outer areas not covered by the tram and metro system. These buses are numbered in the 500s and 600s. Yellow AAA taxis at a Fair Place taxi rank

Travelling by Taxi

Taxis in Prague are a useful but frustrating form of transport All taxis are privately owned, and there are many unscrupulous drivers who are out to charge as much as they can get away with Nevertake a taxi from outside a hotel or tourist sight as these are most likely to be operated by drivers who fall into this category: the only taxis safe to hail on the street are Fair Place taxis (www.prague-taxi. co.uk/taxi-fair-place.htm) Drivers in the Fair Place scheme quarantee a fair price, a safe ride, a professional approach and high standards. There are around 50 Fair Place taxi ranks across Praque

Official taxis have a roof lamp and the company name. registration number and basic price list must be displayed on both front doors, Prices currently are Kč40 boarding fee, Kč28/km travel and Kč6/ minute waiting. After the iourney, the driver is obliged to print an official receipt. To get an idea of taxi prices in Prague look at one of the Fair Place price leaflets available for free in hotels and train stations

If you think you have been scammed by a taxi driver, take their name and number so you can report them to the police (see pp228-9). The best way not to be taken advantage of is to use a Fair Place taxi or have your hotel or restaurant call another reputable firm

. Unless your Czech pronunciation is good, always have vour destination written down in Czech.





Pedestrian 70na

Pedestrian crossina

Street or square name and Prague district



number

Walking

Walking around Prague is the most enjoyable way to see the city. Some pedestrian crossings are controlled by traffic lights. but be sure to cross only when the green man is showing, and even then, check the road carefully before you do so. It is now illegal for drivers to ignore pedestrian crossings, but for vears they were allowed to do so, and old habits die hard. Be especially careful at crossings that do not have traffic lights.

Bear in mind that trams do have priority at pedestrian crossings, which can be confusing. They also travel at high speeds, occasionally coming upon you with little warning, Considering the uneven cobbled streets. the steep hills and the mass of tram lines, flat, comfortable shoes for walking are strongly recommended.



Cvclina

One of the greenest and best ways of getting around Prague is by bike. First-timers will benefit from taking a tour first to get the lay of the land since hike lanes are rare Renting a bike is easy, and most rental places, such as Praha Bike. also arrange good tours. Bike paths line both sides of the VItava and there is a series of biking/hiking trails linking Prague to Vienna (www. pragueviennagreenways.org).

Driving

Most visitors are better off not driving around the centre of Prague. The city's complex web

of one-way streets, the nedestrianized areas around the historic core of the city and a severe shortage of parking spaces make driving very difficult. Praque's public transport system is a much more efficient way of travelling around the city

If you do decide to drive, be aware that on-the-spot fines for traffic violations are common. You must drive on the right. and the law states that both driver and

front- and back-seat passengers should wear seat belts. The speed limit in the city is 50 km/h (31 mph) unless a sign indicates otherwise

Parking spaces in the centre are scarce, and the penalties for illegal parking are harsh. Meter parking from 8am to 6pm costs Kč30-40 per hour. Orange zones allow parking for two hours and green zones for six: blue zones are reserved for residents. To use the meter. insert coins for the amount of time you need and display your receipt prominently on the dashboard.

Unfortunately, car theft is rife. and expensive Western cars are a favourite target. Try to park in an official - preferably underground - car park (see the Street Finder maps pp244-55).



A boat tour on the Vltava run by Prague Venice Boats

Better yet, park at one of the guarded car parks (look for the "P+R" symbol) at the edge of the city and use public transport to get in.

> If you are towed, call the police (Tel 156) to locate your car The maximum fine is Kč1.300 (Kč850 if you stop them in the process), plus Kč150 parking fee, and

Kč200 for each subsequent day. If you get clamped, a sticker lists the number to call to have the clamp removed.



MIMO ZÁSOBOVÁNÍ

One-way traffic and No stonning except for supply lorries

Siahtseeina Tours

Many firms offer trips around Praque's

major sights, as well as outings to castles such as Karlstein and Konopiště (see pp168-9). Tours usually start from Náměstí Republiky (Republic Square) and from the upper part of Wenceslas Square. These trips can be expensive, but prices vary, so check what's on offer before you make a booking. The Jewish Museum (see p89) organizes trips around the Jewish Ouarter. For those on a tight budget, the PIS (see p225) offers some of the cheapest tours in town. Tours can also be booked through Čedok (see p227).

A trip on tram 91, run by the Museum of Municipal Mass Transport, is one of the cheapest and best city-centre tours. It starts off at the Exhibition Ground (see pp178-9) and travels around the Old

Town, the New Town and the lewish Quarter This service runs from Faster to the middle of November every weekend and public holiday. Tickets can be bought on board. Tram 22 will take you from the city up to the castle

Sightseeing tours in horsedrawn carriages are run from the Old Town Square, Walking and bike tours give a level of detail to Prague unseen from speedier modes of transport. while boat tours (see also pp56-9) allow for fantastic views of major sights.

DIRFCTORY

Sightseeing Tour Operators

Martin Tour Praha

Main Office: Štěpánská 61. Map 5 C1. **Tel** 22 42 12 473. w martintour.cz

Prague Walking Tours Dlouhá 37. Map 4 D2.

Tel 77 53 69 121.

w praguer.com

Praha Bike

Dlouhá 24. Map 3 C3. Tel 73 23 88 880.

w prahabike.cz

Precious Legacy Kaprova 13. Map 3 B3.

Tel 22 23 21 954. w legacytours.net

Premiant City Tour

Na Příkopě 23. Map 4 D4. Tel 60 66 00 123.

w premiant.cz

Private Prague Guide

Blanická St. 922/25.

Map 6 F2. Tel 73 10 31 02. w private-prague-guide.com

Travelling by Metro

The underground railway, known as the metro, is the quickest (for longer journeys) and most comfortable form of transport in Prague. It is managed by the Prague Public Transport Company, and its construction began in 1967. It has three lines, A, B and C. The straightforward layout and clear signs make finding your way around the system very easy. Trains run between 5am and midnight.

Finding your way around the Metro

Metro entrances are not always easy to spot. Look for a sign displaying the letter "M" within an upside-down triangle (see right). The colour of the sign (green, yellow or red) indicates which line the station is on. The street entrance will normally lead you down a flight of steps.

Once you have purchased your ticket and passed through the unmanned ticket barriers – you must validate your ticket here – continue down the escalators to the trains. At the bottom of each escalator is a long central corridor with a platform on either side for trains travelling in either direction. Signs suspended from the ceiling



The spacious interior of Mustek metro station



The metro sign for

indicate the direction of the trains (see opposite page). The edges of the platforms are marked with a white, broken line that should not be crossed until the train stops. You may have to push a button to open the train doors, which play a recorded warning message when they are about to close. During the journey the name of the next station is announced in Czech.

Line A (green) is the most useful for tourists, because it covers all the main areas of the city centre – Prague Castle, the Little Quarter, the Old Town and the New Town – as well as the main shopping area around Wenceslas Square.

Displayed above some seats are disabled signs. These seats should be given up for the elderly, the disabled and those with small children.

Automatic Ticket Machines

You can buy transport tickets at designated ticket sellers (see p238) or at the yellow automatic ticket machines in the metro station. The ticket machines, and tickets themselves, may vary in design and colour, but they are still applicable to all forms of transport. The machines offer a choice of tickets at varying prices - for adults and children as well as a choice of languages (either Czech or English).

- Check which price band is the right one to meet your requirements, then press the appropriately labelled button. Once validated, a transfer ticket is valid for 30 or 90 minutes (Kč24 or Kč32 respectively).
- 2 If you want more/ than one ticket - whether of the same price band or another press the relevant buttons; the total amount owed will be displayed on screen.



- If you are sure of your choice of ticket, insert coins into this slot. Most machines give change.
- Collect your ticket, plus any change that may be due to you, from the large slot at the base of the machine.

Making a Journey by Metro

To decide which line to take, find your destination and its nearest metro station on the Street Finder (see pp.246–57), then plot your route on a metro map. The Prague metro is fairly straightforward to use: Line A is green, line B is vellow and line C is red. Metro maps can be obtained free of charge at most metro stations. A metro map has also been included at the end of this book.



The central corridor with platforms either side and signs indicating the direction of trains

Two types of standard metro transfer tickets are available (right). Choose between a 24Kč ticket for 30 minutes or a 32Kč ticket for 90 minutes. You can also buy tickets for unlimited travel within a 24-hour period (right) or for periods of 1, 3 or 5 days.





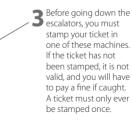
"Směr" means direction



This sign, hanging from the ceiling, is visible when you come down the escalator. It shows the direction of the trains on each platform. This one says that the train's final station (Stanice) on the left is Háje, so from the metro map you know the train is travelling south.

"Stanice" means

station



Name of station

This sign along the central platform indicates the station on line C where you are (red circle) and those stations where you can transfer to the other lines (A and B). For stations to the left of the red circle, follow the arrow to the left.

and vice-versa

for stations to

the right.



The red circle indicates which station you are in

6 Once you are at your stop, follow the exit signs (Výstup) leading out of the metro system. Some metro stations have numerous exits. Local street maps at the exit should help you decide which is

best for you.

STREET FINDER

The map references given for all the sights, hotels, restaurants, bars, shops and entertainment venues described in this book refer to the maps in this section only. A complete index of street names and all the places of interest marked, can be found on the following pages. The key map (right) shows the area of Prague covered by the *Street Finder*. This map includes sightseeing areas, as well as districts for hotels, restaurants, pubs and

entertainment venues. In keeping with Czech maps, none of the street names in the index or on the Street Finder have the Czech word for street, *ulice*, included (though you may see it on the city's street signs). For instance, Celetná ulice appears as Celetná in both the index and the Street Finder. The numbers preceding some street names are dates. In our index we ignore the numbers, so that 17. listopadu (17 November), is listed under "L".

Key



Place of interest

Other building

Metro station

Train station

Coach station

Tram stop

Funicular railway

River boat boarding point

Tourist information office

Hospital with casualty unit

Police station

Church

Synagogue

Railway line

Pedestrian street

Prague Castle and Hradčany NERUDOVA Little Quarter

Scale of Map Pages

	200
	200
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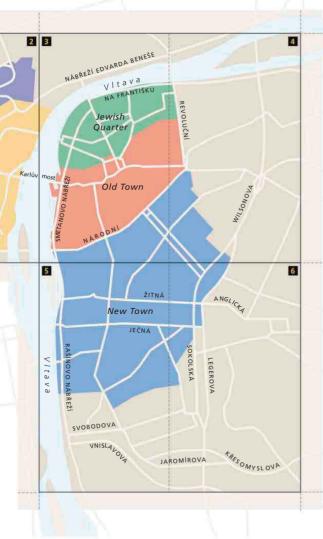


Aerial view of the Baroque Church of St Nicholas in the Old Town Square



The imposing twin towers of the Church of St Peter and St Paul on top of Vyšehrad rock





0 metres 500 0 yards 500

Street Finder Index

The order of the names in the index is affected by the $h\acute{a} \acute{c} e k$, the accent like an inverted circumflex ($h\acute{a} \acute{c} e k$ means "little hook"). In the Czech alphabet, \breve{c} , \breve{r} , \breve{s} and \breve{z} are treated as separate letters. Street names beginning with \breve{r} , for example, are listed after those beginning with r without an accent.

Churches, buildings, museums and monuments are marked on the Street Finder maps with their English and Czech names. In the index, both forms are listed. However, English names for streets and squares, such as Wenceslas Square, do not appear on the maps. Where they are listed in the index, the Czech name is given in brackets in the form that appears on the map.

Useful Words dům hrad castlo kostel church klášter convent, monastery most bridge nábřeží embankment nádraží station náměstí square sadv schody steps třída avenue ulice street ulička lane

garden

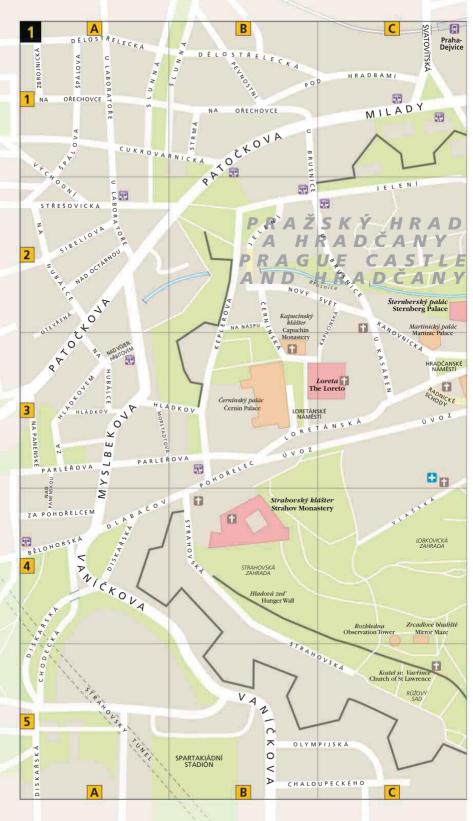
zahrada

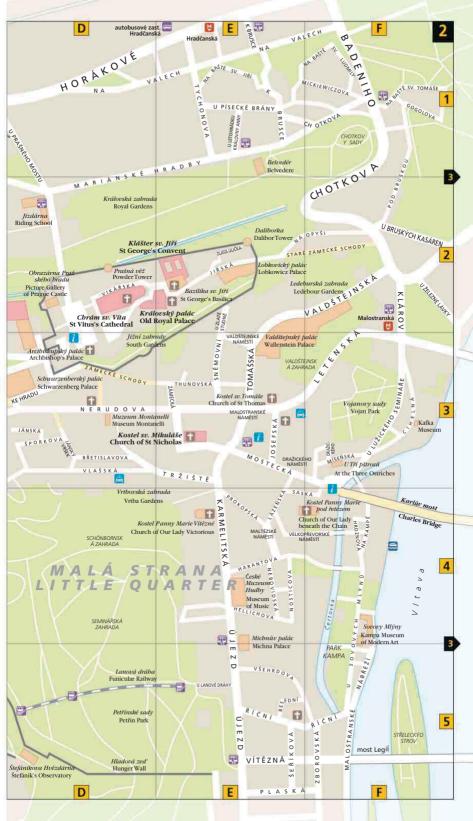
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		Botanical Gardens	5 B3	St Catherine	5 C3		
Albertov	5 C4	Botanická zahrada	5 B3	Church of St Cyril		Dalibor Tower	2 E2
Alšovo nábřeží Americká	3 A3 6 F3	Botič	6 D5	and St Methodius	5 B2	Daliborka	2 E2
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Anenská Anenské náměstí	3 A4 3 A4	Boženy Němcové	6 D4	Church of St Giles	3 B4	Diskařská	1 A5
Anežská	3 C2	Bridge Street		Church of		Dittrichova	5 A2
Anglická	6 E2	(Mostecká)	2 E3	St Ignatius	5 C2	Divadelní	3 A5
Anny Letenské	6 F1	Bruselská	6 E3	Church of St James	3 C3	Dlabačov	1 A4
Apolinářská	5 C4	Brusnice	1 C2	Church of St John		Dlážděná	4 E4
Archbishop's Palace	2 D3	Břehová	3 A2	on the Rock	5 B3	Dlouhá	3 C3
Arcibiskupský	203	Břetislavova	2 D3	Church of		Dražického	2 F3
palác	2 D3			St Lawrence	1 C5	Dražického náměstí	2 E3
At St Thomas's	2 E3	C		Church of St Martin		Dřevná	5 A3
At the Three	2 23	•		in the Wall	3 B5	Dům pánů z Kunštátu	3 B4
Ostriches	2 F3	Capuchin		Church of St Nicholas		Dům U Dvou	
autobusové nádraži	2.5	Monastery	1 B2	(Little Quarter)	2 D3	zlatých medvědů	3 B4
Praha, Florenc	4 F3	Carolinum	3 C4	Church of St Nicholas		Dušní	3 B2
autobusová zast.		Celetná	3 C3	(Old Town)	3 B3	Dvořák Museum	6 D2
Hradčanská	2 D1	Chaloupeckého	1 B5	Church of St Simon		Dvořákovo nábřeží	3 A2
		Chalice Restaurant	6 D3	and St Jude	3 B2	_	
В		Charles Bridge		Church of St Stephen	5 C2	E	
		(Karlův most)	2 F4	Church of St Thomas	2 E3	Elišky Krásnohorské	3 B2
Badeniho	2 F1	continues	3 A4	Church of St Ursula	3 A5	Estates Theatre	3 C4
Balbínova	6 E2	Charles Square		Church of the Holy			
Bartolomějská	3 B5	(Karlovo náměstí)	5 B2	Ghost	3 B3	F	
Barvířská	4 E2	Charles Street		Cihelná	2 F3	•	
Bazilika sv. Jiří Bělehradská	2 E2	(Karlova)	2 A4	Clam-Gallas Palace	3 B4	Faust House	5 B3
	6 E2	continues	3 B4	Clam-Gallasův		Faustův dům	5 B3
Belgická Bělohorská	6 F3 1 A4	Charvátova	3 B5	palác	3 B4	Florenc (metro)	4 F3
Belonorska Belvedér	1 A4 2 E1	Chodecká	1 A5	Clementinum	3 A4	Franciscan Garden	3 C5
Belveder Belvedere	2 E I	Chotkova	2 E1	Cubist Houses	3 B2	Francouzská	6 F2
Benátská	5 B3	Chotkovy sady	2 F1	Cukrovarnická	1 A1	Františkánská	
Benediktská	4 D3	Chrám sv. Víta	2 D2			zahrada	3 C5
Besední	2 E5	Church of Our Lady		Č		Fričova	6 E5
Bethlehem Chapel	3 B4	before Týn	3 C3	Čechův most	3 B2	Fügnerovo náměstí	6 D3
Betlémská	3 A5	Church of Our Lady		Čelakovského sady	6 E1	Funicular Railway	2 D5
Betlémská kaple	3 B4	beneath the Chain	2 E4	continues	6 D1		
Betlémské náměstí	3 B4	Church of Our Lady		Černá	5 B1	G	
Bílkova	3 B2	of the Snows	3 C5	Černín Palace	1 B3	Gogolova	2 F1
Biskupská	4 E2	Church of Our Lady	,	Černínská	1 B2	Golden Lane	211
Biskupský dvůr	4 E2	Victorious	2 D4	Černínský palác	1 B2	(Zlatá ulička	2 E2
Blanická	6 F2	Church of	207	Čertovka	2 F4	Golz-Kinský Palace	3 C3
Bolzanova	4 E4	St Castullus	3 C2	Červená	2 F4 3 B3	Gorazdova	5 A3
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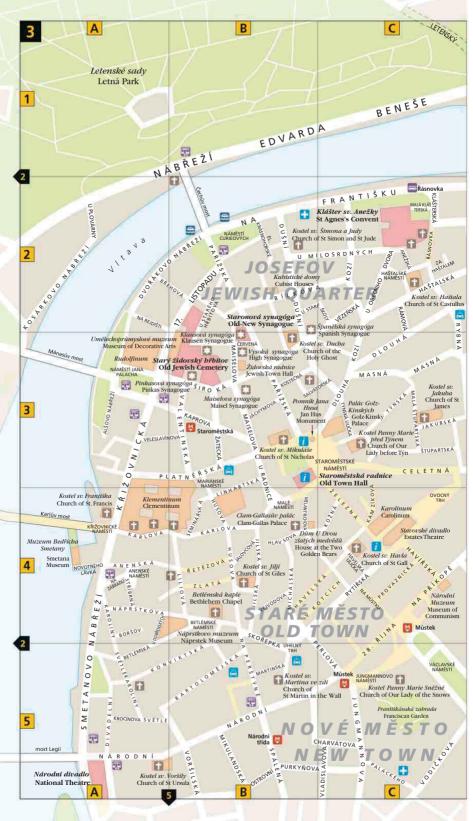
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Havličkova			continues	5 C1	Kostel sv. Jiljí	3 B4	-	5 B1
Helénchova			Jungmannovo		Kostel sv. Kateřiny	5 C3		1 A1
Hellichova			náměstí	3 C5	Kostel sv. Martina			6 F3
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Horská							Malostranské	
Hotel Europa				-			náměstí	2 E3
House at the Two Golden Bears 3 B4 Karlův most 2 F4 Kraídovský palác 2 D2 náměstí 2 F4 Kraídovský palác 3 A4 Krocínova 3 A5 Kraídovský palác 2 D2 náměstí 2 E4 Kraídovský palác 2 D2 Maltezské náměstí 2 E4 Krocínova 3 A5 Krocínova 3 A5 Krocínova 4 E3 Maltezské Maltezské Maltezské Maltezské Maltezské Maltezské Manesova 6 E5 Křižovnická 4 E3 Mariánské Křižovnická 4 E3 Mariánské Ma					Králodvorská		Maltese Square	
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náměstí 1 C3 Karoliny Světlé 3 A4 Krížíkova 4 F3 Máriánské 3 A4 Hradební 4 D2 Kateďrála Sv. Víta 2 D2 Křížovnická 3 A4 Mariánské Husova 2 F4 Kateřínská 5 C3 Křížovnické náměstí 3 A4 Mariánské Husova 3 B4 Ke Kardovu 6 D2 Hybernská 4 F3 Mariánské Husova 3 B4 Ke Štvanici 4 F2 L L Husova 3 B4 Ke Štvanici 4 F2 Ladova 5 A4 Hybernská 4 D3 continues 1 B3 Ladova 5 A4 Hybernská 4 D3 continues 1 B3 Ladova 5 A4 Klášter sv. Anežky 3 C2 Lazarská 5 B1 Ibsenova 6 F2 Klášter sv. Jiří 2 E2 Ledebour Garden 2 E4 Italian Street (Vlašská) 4 F5 Klašter sv. Jiří 2 E2 Ledebour Garden 2 E2 Italian Street (Vlašská) 4 F5 Klašte		2 6 1			Křesomyslova	6 E5	Mánesova	6 E1
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Hroznová 2 F4 Hunger Wall 1 B4 Ke Hradu 2 D3 Ke Hradu 2 D3 Husitská 4 F4 Ke Karlovu 6 D2 Kunětická 3 B2 Kunětická 4 F5 Hvězdárna 2 D5 Keplerova 1 B2 Ladova 5 A4 Martinický palác 1 Martinický palác 2 E2 Morstadtova 1 Martinický palác 2				-		-	Mariánské	
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Hybernská	Husova	3 B4	Ke Štvanici	4 F2				1 C2
Klárov 2F2 Lanová dráha 2D5 Masarykovo nádreží Lazorská 5B1 Lázorská 2F4 Ladová Vaská) 2D3 Klášter sv. Jiří 2E2 Italian Street (Vlašská) 2D3 Klášter sv. Jiří 2E2 Klausen Synagogu 3B2 Ledebour Garden 2E2 Klausen Synagogu 3B2 Ledeburská zahrada 2E2 Klausen Synagogu 3B2 Ledeburská zahrada 2E2 Klausen Synagogu 3B2 Ledeburská zahrada 2E2 Klausen Synagogu 3B2 Ledeburská 2ahrada 2E2 Klausen Synagogu 3B2 Ledeburská 2ahrada 2E2 Klausen Synagogu 3B2 Ledeburská 2ahrada 2E2 Klausen Synagogu 3B2 Ledenská 2F3 Melantrichova 3A4 Letenská 2F3 Melounová 6A Klimentinum 3A4 Letenská 2F3 Melantrichova 3A1 Letenský tunel 3C1 Ledenský tunel 3C1 Libušina 5A5 Michalská 3I Square (Křižovnické náměstí) 3A4 Lichnická 4F5 Libušina 5A5 Michalská 3I Square (Křižovnické 1Lihová 3B4 Michalská 3A5 Lilliová 3B4 Michalská 3A5 Lilliová 3B4 Michalská 3A5 Lilliová 3B4 Michalská 3B4	Hvězdárna	2 D5	Keplerova	1 B2	L .		,	
Ibsenova 6F2 Italian Street (Vlašská) 2D3 Italská 4F5 continues 6E2 Idalian Street (Vlašská) 4F5 Idalian Street (Vlašská) 4F5 Continues 6E2 Idalian Street (Vlašská) 4F5 Idalian Street (Vlašská) 4F5 Idalian Street (Vlašská) 4F5 Idalian Street (Vlašská) 4F5 Idalian Street (Vlašská) 4E2 Idalenská 4E3 Idalenská 4E6 Idalenská 5B1 Idalenská 4E6 Idalenská 2E6 Idalenská 2E6 Idalenská 2E6 Id	Hybernská	4 D3	continues	1 B3	Ladova	5 A4	·	1 C2
Ibsenova 6 F2 Italian Street (Vlašská) 2 D3 Italská 4 F5 continues 6 E2 Jáchymova 3 B3 Jáchymova 4 D2 Letenská 2 F3 Letenská 2 F3 Melontrichova Melonunová 6 Mezibranská 6 Michalská 3 Michnalská 3 Michna Palace 2 Mikovcova 6 Mezibranská 3 Melonnová 6 Mezibranská 6 Mez			Klárov	2 F2	Lanová dráha	2 D5		3 B5
Ibsenova 6F2 Italian Street (Vlašská) 2 D3 Italská 4F5 continues 6E2 Klassen Synagogue 3 B2 Klausen Synagogue 3 B2 Ledeborská zahrada 2 E2 Legerova 6 D2 Klausen Klimentská 4 D2 Klimentská 4 D2 Knights of the Cross Square (Křižovnické Jakubská 3 C3 Jakubská 3 C3 Jalovcová 3 B4 Jan Hus Monument 3 B3 Koperníkova 6 F4 Jan Hus Monument 3 B3 Koperníkova 6 F4 Linhartská 3 B4 Jan Masaryka 6 F4 Korunní 6 F2 Lípová 5 C2 Mikovcova 6 Mezibranská 3 B4 Michna Palace 2 Mikovcova 6 Mikovcova	I			3 C2				5 A2
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Italská continues 6 E2 Klausová synagóga 3 B2 Klausová synagóga 3 B2 Legerova 6 D2 Klementinum 3 A4 Letenská 2 F3 Melantrichova 3 B4 Klimentská 4 D2 Knights of the Cross Jakubská 3 C3 Jakubská 3 C3 Jalovcová 3 B4 Konviktská 3 A5 Lilovišna Jan Hus Monument 3 B3 Koperníkova 6 F4 Linhartská 3 B4 Jinhartská 2 D3 Kosárkovo nábřeží 3 A2 Litenské sady Lichnická 4 F5 Libušina 5 A5 Lilovišna 3 B4 Michalská 3 B4 Michalská 3 B4 Michnůr palác Lípová 3 B4 Michnůr palác Lípová 5 C2 Mikovcova 6 M								4 E3
Continues 6 E2 Klementinum 3 A4 Klementinum 3 A4 Klementská 4 D2 Knights of the Cross Jakubská 3 C3 Jakubská 3 C3 Jalovcová Jan Hus Monument Jan Koperníkova Jan Hus Monument Jan Koperníkova Jan Hus Monument Jan Koperníkova Jan Hus Monument Jenská 2 D3 Kosárkovo nábřeží Jan S 2 Kosárkovo nábřeží Janeká 2 D3 Kosárkovo nábřeží Jaromírova 6 D5 Kostel Panny Marie Ječná Ječná 5 C2 Jedení 1 B2 Kostel Panny Marie Jelení 1 B2 Kostel Panny Marie Jenštejnská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Jenštejnská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Jenštejnská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Jeruzalémská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Jeruzalémská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Jeruzalémská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Jenštejnská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie	Italská	4 F5						3 C3
Melounová Mezibranská Mickiewiczova Libušina Jakubská Jalovcová Jakubská Jalovcová Jalovcová Jah Hus Monument Michna Palace Lihová Jana Masaryka Jana Masaryka Michna Palace Libová Jana Masaryka Michna Palace Libová Jana Masaryka Michna Palace Mikohov palác Libušina Michna Palace Mikohov palác Libová Jana Mickiewiczova Michna Palace Mikohov palác Libová Jana Michnův palác Libová Jana Mikovcova Mikovcova Mikovcova Mikovcova Mikovcova Mikovcova Mikovcova Mikovcova Mikolandská Jaromírova Jaromírova Ječná SC2 pod řetězem Libušina Jana Masaryka Jenské Michna Palace Mikolandská Michnův palác Mikovcova Little Quarter Square Milady Horákové Mirror Maze Mirror Maze Lobkovická zahrada Lobkovická zahrada Lobkovický palác Lobkovicz Palace Lobkovicz Palace Lobkovicz Palace Lobkovicz Palace Lobkovicz Palace Libušina Mickiewiczova Mickiewiczo	continues	6 E2	, , ,					3 B4
Knights of the Cross Jachymova 3 B3 Square (Křižovnické Jakubská 3 C3 Jalovcová Jalovcová Jan Hus Monument Jana Masaryka Jan Hus Monument Jana Masaryka Janská 2 D3 Jánská 3 B3 Jánská 3 B3 Jánská 3 B4 Jánimova Jánská 3 B4 Jánimova Ján				-				6 D2
Jáchymova 3 B3 Square (Křižovnícké Libušína 5 A5 Mickiewiczova Jakubská 3 C3 náměstí) 3 A4 Lichnícká 4 F5 Michalská 3 B4 Jalovcová 3 B4 Konviktská 3 A5 Liliová 3 B4 Michna Palace 2 D3 Jan Hus Monument 3 B3 Koperníkova 6 F4 Linhartská 3 B4 Michna Palace 2 Mikovcova 6 F4 Jánská 2 D3 Kosárkovo nábřeží 3 A2 Lípová 5 C2 Mikovcova 6 Mikovcova 6 D3 Jaromírova 6 D5 Kostečná 3 B3 Little Quarter Square Milady Horákové 1 Milady Horákové 1 Miror Maze 1 Miror Maze 1 Miror Maze 1 Miřeňská 1 Miřeňská 2 E3 Míšeňská 2 E3 Míšeňská 2 E3 Mišeňská 2 E3 Mišeňská 2 E3 Lobkovická zahrada 1 C4 Mlynářská 4 E4 Lobkovický palác 2 E2 Morstadtova 1	J			4 D2	,		Mezibranská	6 D1
Jakubská 3 C3 náměstí) 3 A4 Lichnická 4 F5 Michalská 3 B4 Jalovcová 3 B4 Konviktská 3 A5 Liliová 3 B4 Michna Palace 2 Michalská 2 D Jan Hus Monument 3 B3 Koperníkova 6 F4 Linhartská 3 B4 Michnův palác 2 D Jana Masaryka 6 F4 Korunní 6 F2 Lípová 5 C2 Mikovcova 6 Mikovcova 6 D Jánský vřšek 2 D3 Kosterčná 3 B3 Little Quarter Square Milady Horákové 1 Milady Horákové 1 Milady Horákové 1 Milady Horákové 1 Miror Maze 1 Miseňská 1 Miseňská 2 E3 Míšeňská 2 E3 Míšeňská 4 Miseňská	láchymova	3 B3	-		,		Mickiewiczova	2 F1
Jalovcová 3 B4 Konviktská 3 A5 Liliová 3 B4 Michna Palace 2 Jan Hus Monument 3 B3 Koperníkova 6 F4 Linhartská 3 B4 Michnův palác 2 Jana Masaryka 6 F4 Korunní 6 F2 Lípová 5 C2 Mikovcova 6 Jánská 2 D3 Kostérkovo nábřeží 3 A2 listopadu, 17. 3 B2 Mikulandská 3 Jaromírova 6 D5 Kostečná 3 B3 Little Quarter Square Milady Horákové 1 Ječná 5 C2 pod řetězem 2 E4 náměstí) 2 E3 Mišeňská 2 Jelení 1 B2 Kostel Panny Marie Lobkovická zahrada 1 C4 Mlynářská 4 Jenstejnská 5 A2 před Týnem 3 C3 Lobkovický palác 2 E2 Morstadtova 1 Jeruzalémská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Lobkovicz Palace 2 E2 most Legií 2				3 44			Michalská	3 B4
Jan Hus Monument 3 B3 Koperníkova 6 F4 Linhartská 3 B4 Michnův palác 2 D3 Jánská 2 D3 Kosárkovo nábřeží 3 A2 Lípová 5 C2 Mikovcova 6 B3 Jánský vřšek 2 D3 Kostečná 3 B3 Little Quarter Square Milady Horákové 1 Miror Maze Miror Maze 1 Mišeňská 2 E3 Mišeňská 2 E3 Mišeňská 2 E4 náměstí) 2 E3 Mišeňská 2 E4 Jenštejnská 5 A2 před Týnem 3 C3 Lobkovický palác 2 E2 Morstadtova 1 Jeruzalémská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Lobkowicz Palace 2 E2 most Legií 2								2 E4
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Jánský vršek2 D3Kostečná3 B3Little Quarter SquareMilady Horákové1Jaromírova6 D5Kostel Panny Marie(MalostranskéMírror Maze1Ječná5 C2pod řetězem2 E4náměstí)2 E3Míšeňská2Jelení1 B2Kostel Panny MarieLobkovická zahrada1 C4Mlynářská4Jenštejnská5 A2před Týnem3 C3Lobkovický palác2 E2Morstadtova1Jeruzalémská4 E4Kostel Panny MarieLobkowicz Palace2 E2most Legií2	,						Mikulandská	3 B5
Ječná 5 C2 pod řetězem 2 E4 náměstí) 2 E3 Míšeňská 2 Jelení 1 B2 Kostel Panny Marie Lobkovická zahrada 1 C4 Mlynářská 4 Jenštejnská 5 A2 před Týnem 3 C3 Lobkovický palác 2 E2 Morstadtova 1 Jeruzalémská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Lobkowicz Palace 2 E2 most Legií 2			Kostečná				Milady Horákové	1 C1
Jelení 1 B2 Kostel Panny Marie Lobkovická zahrada 1 C4 Mlynářská 4 Jenštejnská 5 A2 před Týnem 3 C3 Lobkovický palác 2 E2 Morstadtova 1 Jeruzalémská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Lobkowicz Palace 2 E2 most Legií 2	Jaromírova	6 D5	Kostel Panny Marie		(Malostranské		Mirror Maze	1 C4
Jenštejnská 5 A2 před Týnem 3 C3 Lobkovický palác 2 E2 Morstadtova 1 Jeruzalémská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Lobkowicz Palace 2 E2 most Legií 2	Ječná	5 C2	pod řetězem	2 E4	náměstí)	2 E3		2 F3
Jeruzalémská 4 E4 Kostel Panny Marie Lobkowicz Palace 2 E2 most Legií 2			,					4 E2
,				3 C3				1 A3
			*					2 F5
Jesuit College 5 B2 Sněžné 3 C5 Lodecká 4 E2 continues 3	Jesuit College	5 B2	Snezne	3 C5	Lodecka	4 E2	continues	3 A5

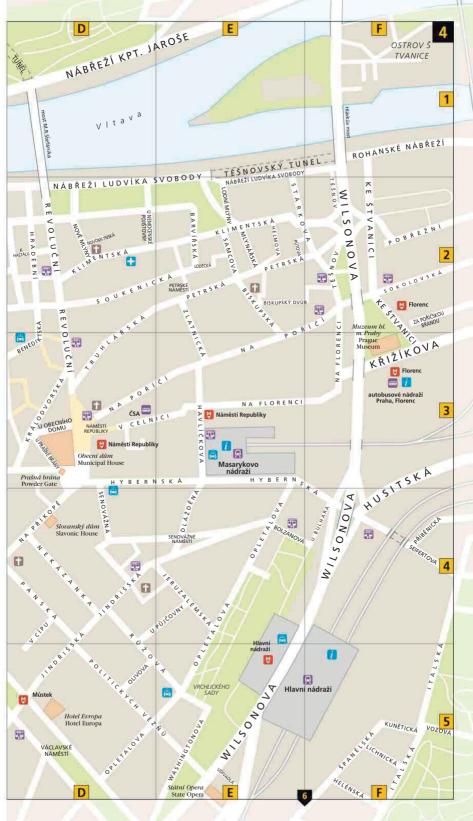
most M. R.	1	Nábřeží Ludvíka		Old Town Square		Powder Tower	2 D2
Štefánika	4 D1	Svobody	4 D2	(Staroměstské		Prašná brána	4 D3
Mostecká	2 E3	Nad Octárnou	1 A2	náměstí)	3 B3	Prašná věž	2 D2
Municipal House	4 D3	Nad Panenskou	1 A4	Old-New Synagogue	3 B2	Prokopská	2 E4
Museum of		Nad Petruskou	6 F4	Oldřichova	6 D5	Provaznická	3 C4
Decorative Arts	3 A3	Nad Vojenským		Olivova	4 D5	Průchodní	3 B5
Můstek (metro)	3 C4	hřbitovem	1 A3	Olympijská	1 B5	Přemyslova	5 B5
continues	4 D5	Náměstí Bratří Synků	6 F5	Omladinářů	5 B1	Příběnická	4 F4
Muzeum (metro)	6 D1	Náměstí Curieových	3 B2	Opatovická	5 B1	Příčná	5 C1
Muzeum Antonína		Náměstí F. Kafky	3 B3	Opletalova	4 D5	Pštrossova	5 A1
Dvořáka	6 D2	Náměstí		Ostrčilovo náměstí	5 C5	Purkyňova	3 B5
Muzeum Bedřicha		I. P. Pavlova	6 D2	Ostrov Štvanice	4 F1	Půtova	4 E2
Smetany	3 A4	Náměstí Jana		Ostrovní	3 B5		
Myslbekova	1 A3	Palacha	3 A3	continues	5 A1	R	
Myslíkova	5 A1	Náměstí Míru	6 F2	Otakarova	6 F5	R Street NE	4E1
,		Náměstí Míru		Otevřená	1 A2	R Street NW	
N		(metro)	6 F2	Ovocný trh	3 C3		1B1 3A1
		Náměstí Pod	0.2			R Street NW	
Na baště sv. Jiří	2 E1	Emauzy	5 B3	P		Randolph Place NW	4D1
Na baště		Náměstí Republiky	4 D3	514 5 1 10 14 1		Reservoir Road NW	1A1
sv. Ludmily	2 F1	Náměstí	4 D3	Palác Golz-Kinských	3 C3	Rhode Island	242
Na baště sv.		Republiky (metro)	4 E3	Palace of the Lords		Avenue NW	3A2
Tomáše	2 F1	Náplavní	5 A2	of Kunštát	3 A4	Ridge Place NW	4D2
Na bojišti	6 D3			Palackého	3 C5	Riggs Place NW	2F1
Na Děkance	5 B4	Náprstek museum	3 B4 3 A4	Palackého most	5 A3	Riggs Place NW	3A1
Na Fidlovačce	6 F5	Náprstkova		Palackého náměstí	5 A3	Riggs Street NW	2F1
Na Florenci	4 E3	Náprstkovo Muzeum	3 B4	Panská	4 D4	Rock Creek and	2D3
Na Folimance	6 E5	Národní	3 A5	Parléřova	1 A3	Rolfe Street	1A3
Na Františku	3 B2	Národní divadlo	3 A5	Pařížská	3 B2	Radnické schody	1 C3
Na Hrádku	5 B3	continues	5 A1	Patočkova	1 A3	Rámová	3 C2
Na Hrobci	5 A4	Národní muzeum	6 E1	Pavlova, I. P.		Rašínovo nábřeží	5 A2
Na Hubálce	1 A2	Národní třída		(metro)	6 D2	Rejskova	6 E5
Na Kampě	2 F4	(metro)	3 B5	Pelclova	2 E4	Resslova	5 B2
Na Kleovce	6 F4	National Museum	6 E1	Perlová	3 B4	Restaurace	
Na Libušince	5 A5	National Theatre	3 A5	Perucká	6 F4	U Kalicha	6 D3
Na Moráni	5 A3	continues	5 A1	Petrská	4 E2	Revoluční	4 D2
Na Můstku	3 C4	Navrátilova	5 C1	Petrské náměstí	4 E2	Riegrovy sady	6 F1
Na náspu	1 B2	Nebovidská	2 E4	Petřín Park	2 D5	Rohanské nábřeží	4 F1
Na Opyši	2 E2	Nekázanka	4 D4	Petřínské sady	2 D5	Royal Garden	2 D2
Na Ořechovce	1 A1	Neklanova	5 B5	Pevnostní	1 B1	Royal Palace	2 D2
Na ostrůvku	6 F 5	Nerudova	2 D3	Picture Gallery of		Rozhledna	1 C4
Na Panenské	1 A3	New Town Hall	5 B1	Prague Castle	2 D2	Rubešova	6 E1
Na Perštýně	3 B5	New World		Pinkas Synagogue	3 A3	Rudolfinum	3 A3
Na poříčí	4 D3	(Nový Svět)	1 B2	Pinkasova		Rumunská	6 E2
Na poříčním	703	Nezamyslova	6 D5	synagóga	3 A3	Růžová	4 D4
právu	5 A3	Nosticova	2 E4	Plaská	2 E5	Růžový sad	1 C5
Na Příkopě	3 C4	Nové mlýny	4 D2	Platnéřská	3 B3	Rybná	3 C2
Na rejdišti	3 A2	Novoměstská		Plavecká	5 A4	Rytířská	3 B4
,	5 C2	radnice	5 B1	Pobřežní	4 F2	*	
Na Rybníčku Na Salvátorská	3 B3	Novomlýnská	4 D2	Pod baštami	2 E1	Ř	
	5 B3	Novotného lávka	3 A4	Pod Bruskou	2 F2	Řásnovka	3 C2
Na Slovanech		Nový Svět	1 B2	Pod hradbami	1 B1	Řetězová	3 B4
Na slupi	5 B4	Nuselská	6 F5	Pod Karlovem	6 E4	Řeznická	5 C1
Na Smetance	6 F1	Nuselský most	6 D5	Pod Nuselskými		Říční	2 E5
Na struze	5 A1			schody	6 E4	října, 28.	3 C5
Na valech	2 D1	0		Pod Slovany	5 B4	Římská	6 E1
Na výtoni	5 B4			Pod Větrovem	5 C3		
Na zábradlí	3 A4	Odborů	5 B1	Pod Zvonařkou	6 E4	S	
Na zbořenci	5 B2	Obecní dům	4 D3	Podskalská	5 A3		
Na Zderaze	5 B2	Obrazárna Pražského		Pohořelec	1 B3	St Agnes's Convent	3 C2
Nábřeží Edvarda		hradu	2 D2	Politických vězňů	4 D5	St George's Basilica	2 E2
Beneše	3 A2	Observation Tower	1 C4	Polská	6 F1	St George's Convent	2 E2
Nábřeží kpt.		Old Jewish Cemetery	3 A2	Pomník Jana Husa	3 B3	St Vitus's Cathedral	
Jaroše	4 D1	Old Town Hall	3 C3	Powder Gate	4 D3	(Katedrála Sv. Víta)	2 D2

Salmovská	5 C2	Strahovská zahrada	1 B4	U nemocnice	5 B3	Vojan Park	2 F3
Samcova	4 E2	Strahovský klášter	1 B4	U Obecního domu	4 D3	Vojanovy sady	2 F3
Sarajevská	6 E5	Strmá	1 B1	U obecního dvora	3 C2	Vojtěšská	5 A1
Saská	2 E4	Střelecký ostrov	2 F5	U Písecké brány	2 E1	Voršilská	3 B5
Sázavská	6 F3	Střešovická	1 A2	U plovárny	3 A2	Votočkova	5 C4
Schönbornská		Stříbrná	3 A4	U Prašné brány	4 D3	Vozová	4 F5
zahrada	2 D4	Studničkova	5 C4	U Prašného mostu	2 D1	Vratislavova	5 B5
Schwarzenberg		Svatoplukova	6 D5	U půjčovny	4 D4	Vrchlického sady	4 E4
Palace	2 D3	Svatovítská	1 C1	U radnice	3 B3	Vrtba Garden	2 D4
Schwarzenberský		Svobodova	5 A4	U Sovových	2.55	Vrtbovská zahrada Všehrdova	2 D4
palác	2 D3	Š		mlýnů	2 F5	Východní	2 E5
Seifertova	4 F4	3		U staré školy	3 B2	· /	1 A1 3 B3
Sekaninova	6 D5	Šafaříkova	6 E3	U starého hřbitova	3 B2	Vysoká synagóga	3 D3
Seminářská	3 B4	Šeříková	2 E5	U Sv. Tomáše	2 E3	Vyšehradský hřbitov	5 B5
Seminářská		Široká	3 B3	U Tří pštrosů	2 F3	TITDILOV	2 03
zahrada	2 D4	Šítkova	5 A 1	U Zlaté studně	2 E2	w	
Senovážná	4 D4	Školská	5 C1	U Zvonařky	6 E4	VV	
Senovážné náměstí	4 E4	Škrétova	6 E1	U železné lávky	2 F2 3 B5	Wallenstein Palace	2 E3
Sezimova	6 F5	Špálova	1 A1	Uhelný trh	2 E4	Washingtonova	4 E5
Sibeliova	1 A2	Španělská	4 F5	Újezd		continues	6 D1
Skořepka	3 B4	continues	6 E1	Uměleckoprůmyslové muzeum	3 A2	Wenceslas Square	
Slavojova	5 C5	Španělská		Uruguayská	6 F3	(Václavské	
Slavonic House	4 D4	synagóga	3 C2	Úvoz	1 B3	náměstí)	3 C5
Slavonic Monastery	5 B3	Šporkova	2 D3	0002	1 03	continues	6 D1
Slezská	6 F2	Štěpánská	5 C1	v		Wenzigova	6 D4
Slovanský dům	4 D4	Šternberský palác	1 C2	•		Wilsonova	4 E5
Slovanský ostrov	5 A1	Štupartská	3 C3	V celnici	4 D3	continues	6 E1
Slunná	1 A1	Šubertova	6 F2	V cípu	4 D4	_	
Smetana Museum	3 A4			V jámě	5 C1	Z	
Smetanovo nábřeží	3 A5	Т		V jirchářích	5 B1	Za Haštalem	3 C2
Sněmovní Sokolovská	2 E3	Templová	3 C3	V kotcích	3 B4	Za Hládkovem	1 A3
Sokolovska Sokolská	4 F2 6 D2	Těšnov	4 F2	V pevnosti	5 B5	Za Pohořelcem	1 A4
Soukenická	4 D2	Těšnovský tunel	4 E1	V tůních	6 D2	Za Poříčskou bránou	4 F2
	4 D2 2 D3	Thunovská	2 E3	Václavská	5 B2	Záhořanského	5 A2
South Gardens	2 D3 3 B5	Tomášská	2 E3	Václavské náměstí	3 C5	Záhřebská	6 F3
Spálená continues	5 B1	Trojanova	5 A2	continues	6 D1	Zámecká	2 E3
Spanish Synagogue	3 C2	Trojická	5 B3	Valdštejnská	2 E2	Zámecké schody	2 D3
Spartakiadní	3 C2	Truhlářská	4 D3	Valdštejnská zahrada	2 E3	Závišova	6 E5
Stadion	1 B5	Tržiště	2 E3	Valdštejnské náměstí	2 E3	Zborovská	2 F5
Spytihněvova	6 E5	Tychonova	2 E1	Valdštejnský palác	2 E3	Zbrojnická	1 A1
Staré zámecké	0 23	Tylovo náměstí	6 E2	Valentinská	3 B3	Zítkovy sady	5 A3
schody	2 E2	Týnská	3 C3	Vaníčkova	1 A4	Zlatá	3 B4
Stárkova	4 E2	Týnská ulička	3 C3	Varšavská	6 F3	Zlatá ulička	2 E2
Staroměstská	762	Tyršova	6 D3	Ve Smečkách	6 D1	Zlatnická	4 E2
(metro)	3 B3			Vejvodova	3 B4 3 A3	Zrcadlové bludiště	1 C4
Staroměstská	5 55	U		Veleslavínova Velkopřevorské	3 A3		
radnice	3 C3	U Bruských kasáren	2 F2	náměstí	2 E4	Ž	
Staroměstské	5 - 5	U Brusnice	2 F2 1 B2	Vězeňská	3 C2	Žatecká	3 B3
náměstí	3 B3	U Bulhara	4 F4	Vikářská	2 D2	Železná	3 C4
Staronová		U divadla	4 E5	Vinařického	5 B4	Železnični most	5 A5
synagóga	3 B2	U Dobřenských	3 A4	Viničná	5 C3	Židovská radnice	3 B3
Starý židovský		U Fleků	5 B1	Vinohradská	6 E1	Žitná	5 C1
hřbitov	3 A2	U kasáren	1 C3	Vítězná	2 E5		
State Opera	4 E5	U laboratoře	1 A1	Vladislavova	3 C5		
continues	6 E1	U lanové dráhy	2 E5	continues	5 C1		
Státní opera	4 E5	U letohrádku		Vlašská	1 C4		
continues	6 E1	královny Anny	2 E1	Vltava	3 A2		
Stavovské divadlo	3 C4	U lužického		continues	5 A3		
Štefánik's Observatory	2 D5	semináře	2 F3	Vnislavova	5 A5		
Sternberg Palace	1 C2	U milosrdných	3 B2	Vocelova	6 E2		
Strahov Monastery	1 B4	U nemocenské		Vodičkova	3 C5		
Strahovská	1 B4	pojištovny	4 D2	continues	5 C1		

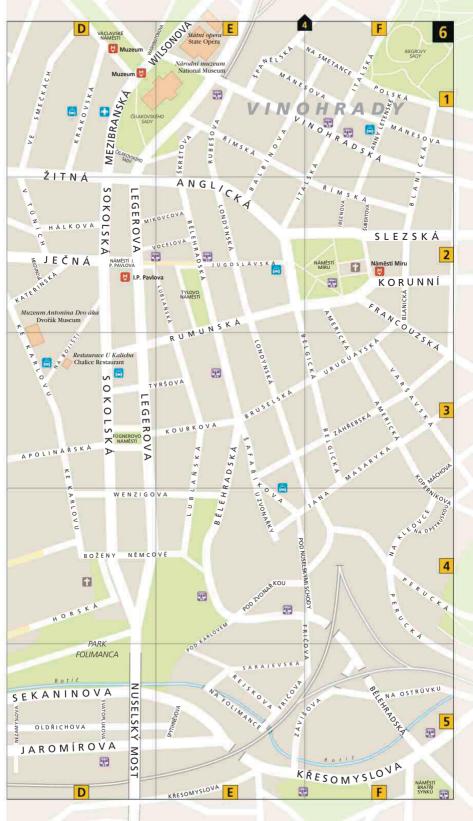












General Index

Page numbers in **bold** type refer to main entries

Academy of Fine Arts 179 Adalbert St 23 24 136 140 163 Adam and Eve (Cranach) 114 Adria Palace 144 Agencies (accommodation) 187 Agnes, St 25, 37, 46, 94 Air pollution 229 Air travel 234–5 Airport (Ruzvn.) 234-5 ΔΙρέ Mikuláč National Theatre murals 35 Old Town Hall decorations 75 Štorch house 64, 70 U Rotta decorations 64 Wiehl House 144 All Saints' Chapel (Royal Palace) 106, 107 The Allegory of Night (Braun) 111 Alliprandi, Giovanni Battista 110 135 American Express 230 Anglican Church 227 Ann, St 138 Anne, Empress 110 The Annunciation of Our Ladv (Master of the Vvšší Brod Altarpiece) 94 Anthony of Padua, St 71, 137 Antiques customs regulations 224 shops 212, 213 Aostalli, Ottavio 127, 141 Apartments (self-catering) 186, 187, 188 Apostles (Sucharda) 76 Archbishop's Palace 48. 111 Arcibiskupský Palác 111 Arcimboldo, Giuseppe Rudolph II 30 Art Nouveau 42 148-9 Asam, Kosmas Damian 73 Assicurazioni Generali Building 145 At the Black Sun 65 At the Fleks 155 At the Golden Grape (Marienbad) At the Golden Horseshoe 123 At the Golden Scales 124 At the Golden Snake 80 At the Golden Unicorn (Little Ouarter) 132 At the Golden Unicorn (Old

Town) 70

At the Haláneks 77

At the Minute 175

At the Golden Well 80, 175

At the Ox 71 At the Poor Wretch's 70 At the Red Fox 71 At the Spider 174 At the Stone Rell 68 At the Stone Madonna 70 At the Stone Ram 70 At the Three Golden Bells 134 At the Three Little Fiddles 124 At the Three Ostriches 133 12/ At the Three Red Roses 130 At the Two Golden Bears 31, 73 Street-by-Street map 64 At the Two Suns 130 At the Unicorn 175 At the Vulture 174 ATMs 230 Augusta Bishon lan 169 Augusta Prison (Křivoklát Castle) Augustine, St 137 Augustinians 115 127 154 Austerlitz, Battle of (1805) 34 Australian Consulate 225 Ball Game Hall 31, 111 Balšánek, Antonín 66 Bambino di Praga 131 Banknotes 231 Banks 230 Baptist Church of Prague 227 Barbara, St 139 Baroque architecture 32-3, 46. 47.50-51 Bars 206-7, 225 Basle, Council of 152 Bassano, Jacopo 115 Bassevi, Hendela 89 Bayer, Paul Ignaz Church of St Ignatius 152 Jesuit College 152 Bazilika sv. Jilí 100-101 BBC World Service 233 B chovice 54 Beck, Moses 88 Beer 196-7 Beer halls 192, 197, 206-7 Beethoven, Ludwig van 52, 80, Belvedér 110-11 Belvedere 30, 31, 110-11 Prague's Best 48, 50 Bendelmayer, Bedlich 148 Bendl, Jan 81 Benedictines 72, 92, 153, 163 Beneš, Edvard 21, 36 Benzi, St Philip 136

Bernard, St 139

Bernini Gian Lorenzo 138 163 Rethlehem Chanel 13 77 history 27, 28, 29 Praque's Best 46 Street-by-Street map 79 Betlémská kaple 77 Bia Dialoa (Nepraš) 165 Bílá Hora a Hy zda 163 Black Light Theatre 218 "Black sheriffs" 228 Blaeu William 121 Blanche de Valois 169 Posts Vltava river trips 52 Bohemia Brethren 93 Bohemian Chancellery 107 Rohemian Diet 106 Roleslav I Prince 19 20 22 Roleslav II Prince 20, 22 Břevnov Monastery 163 Church of St Lawrence 140 tomb of 101 Book shops 212-13 Borgia, St Francis 138 Bořiat, Jaroslav 116 Bořivoi, Prince 22, 97, 100, 106 Bořívoi II. Prince 24 Borromeo, St Charles 152 Borromini Francesco 128 Bossi CG 68 **Botanical Gardens** in New Town 153 Prague's Best 51 Street-by-Street map 149 at Troja 162 Botanická zahrada 153 Botanická Zahrada Troia 162 Botels (floating hotels) 184 Bourdon, Sébastien 115 Brahe, Tycho 31, 43, 116, 117 tomb of 69, 72 Brandl, Petr 42, 67, 100 The Holy Family 132 Braque, Georges 115 Braun, Antonín 49, 110 The Allegory of Night 111 St Nicholas (Old Town) 72 Braun, Matthias 169 Dvořák Museum 154 Grand Priory 131 Hercules statues 49, 80 Konopišt Castle gate 169 portrait 138 St Luitaard 137 Schönborn Palace caryatids 125 Thun-Hohenstein Palace 124 tomb of 154 Vrtba Garden statues 130 Breakfast, in hotels 185 Břetislav I, Prince 20

Rřetislav II. Prince 24 Cathedral see St Vitus's Cathedral China shops 212 213 Cathedral Čechův Bridge 56 Rřevnov Monastery 23 163 Chrám sv. Víta 102-5 Christ on Clouds (Czech Master) 85 Břevnovský Klášter 163 Čedok 224, 225 Brick Gate 181 Celebration of the Holy Trinity Christopher St 138 Bridge Street 12 134 (Palko) 129 Christ's Entry into Jerusalem 114 Street-by-Street map 132 Celetná Street 13. 67. 174 Churches (general) Brokoff, Ferdinand Maxmilián Street-by-Street map 65 Baroque architecture 32-3 Calvary 93 music in 220 Cemeteries Charles Bridge statues 136 Old lewish 12 13 43 83 84 Prague's Rest 44-7 Church of St Gall statues 73 88_9 services 227 St Francis Boraia 33 Olšany 160 Churches (individual) St John the Bantist 131 Vvšehrad 181 Holy Ghost 85. 92 St John Nepomuk 85, 92, 153 Černín Palace 51, **117**, 135 Holy Rood 98 statue of 138 Černínský Palác 117 Holy Rood Rotunda 46 tomb of Count Vratislay of Černý, František 148 Holy Saviour (Clementinum) 47. Mitrovice 67 Čertovka 58, 131, 133 78 81 Bronzino, Agnolo České Budějovice 196 Holy Saviour (St Agnes's Fleanor of Toledo 115 České Dráhy (ČD) 236 Convent) 95 Brothers of Mercy 93 Chalice Restaurant 154 Holy Trinity 130 Broñík Václav 147 157 Chapel of Flijah 135 of the Infant Jesus 227 Defenestration (of 1618) 107 Chapel of St Catherine 169 Loreto, The 44, 47, 118-19 Bruckner, Anton 171 Chapel of St Theresa 135 of the Nativity 119 Brüderle Jan 119 Chapel of St Wenceslas, St Vitus's Our Lady (Capuchin) 116 Brueghel, Jan 31 Cathedral 26, 44 Our Lady (Karlstein) 169 Brueghel, Pieter the Flder 42 Charles I Emperor 21 Our Lady (Prague Castle) 100 Budweiser Budvar 196 Charles IV. Emperor 19, 20, 153, 154 Our Lady (Strahov) 120 Buguov Palace 131 art collection 42 Our Lady before Tvn 12, 13, 45. Bureaux de change 230 Carolinum 65, 67 46, 64, 69, 71, **72**, 174 Buses 240 Charles Square 152 Our Lady beneath the Chain 132. **134** Church of Our Lady of the C Snows 48, 146 Our Lady of the Snows 46, 144, Cafés 192 churches 46 opening hours 225 Hunger Wall 140-41 Our Lady of Unceasing Succour Caietan, St 137 Karlshad 170 Call shops 233 Karlstein Castle 169 Our Lady Victorious 47, 130-31. Calvary Chapel 177 Křivoklát Castle 169 132, 163 Calvinists 102 Na Slovanech Monastery 59 St Barbara (Kutná Hora) 159, 170 Camping 186, 187 New Town 143 St Castullus 85. 93 Prague Castle 97 Canadian Embassy 225 St Catherine 154 Royal Palace 106, 107 St Clement 33, 227 Canaletto 115 Canon's House 180 St Vitus's Cathedral 102 St Cosmas and St Damian 150 Capuchin Monastery 46, 47, statue of 81 139 St Cvril and St Methodius 13, 53. 116-17 tomb of 105 148 152 Cardinal Cesi's Garden (van Cleve) Vyšehrad 180 St Francis 80-81 Charles VI. Emperor 21 St Gall 12. 73 Carlone, Carlo 80 Charles Bridge 12, 13, 123, 175 St George's Basilica 12, 13, 44, Carmelites 51, 130-31, 135, 146 history 27, 87 46, 99, **100-101** Carolinum 12, 13, 67 Little Quarter Side 136-7 St Giles 77, 79 history 26, 27 Old Town Side 138-9 St Ignatius 149, **152** Street-by-Street map 65 statues 33, 42, 136-9 St James 45, 65, 67 Street-by-Street map 133 St John on the Rock 47, 148, 153 driving in Prague 236-7, 241 Visitors' Checklist 139 St Joseph 132 Caruso, Enrico 127 Charles Square 13, 152 St Lawrence (Petřín) 16, 140, 177 Castles Street-by-Street map 148-9 St Lawrence (Vvšehrad) 180 Karlstein Castle 12, 26, 27, 168-9 Charles Street 12 13 80 St Longinus's Rotunda 46 St Ludmilla 47, 161 Konopišt Castle 114, 169 Charnel House 85 Křivoklát Castle 169 Charter flights 234 St Margaret (Břevnov Nelahozeves Castle 168 Charter 77 37 Monastery) 163

Chemists see Pharmacies

Children 185, 226, 227, 234

St Martin in the Wall 77

St Martin's Rotunda 46, 180

Veltrusy Château 168

see also Prague Castle

Churches (cont.) St Nicholas (Little Quarter) 12 13 125 127 **128_0** St Nicholas (Old Town) 68, 71. **72-3** 175 227 St Peter and St Paul 45, 47, 59 160 181 St Roch (Olšany Cemeteries) 160 St Roch (Strahov Monastery) 47 St Simon and St Jude 85 93 St Stephen 154-5 St Thomas 44, 47, 115, 125, **127** St Ursula 155 St Vladimír (Marienhad) 171 St Wenceslas 150 Cihelná Gate 181 Cinemas 218 219 Civic Forum 37, 144 Clam-Gallas Palace 80 Prague's Best 49, 51 Street-by-Street map 79 Clementinum 81, 175 architectural features 33 Prague's Best 47 Street-by-Street map 78 Cleonatra (7rzavý) 164 Closely Observed Trains (film) 37 Coach travel 236 Codex of Jena 28 Commerce (Gutfreund) 42 Committee for the Defence of the Unjustly Persecuted 37 Communications and media 232-3 Communism 19, 36 Museum of Communism 146 Concerts see Music Concierges 187 Congress Centre Prague Vyšehrad Walk 180 Constance, Council of (1415) 29, 72 Consulates 225 Convents of the Barefooted Carmelites St Agnes's 12, 13, 25, 41, 42, 46, 85. **94-5** St Anne's 78 St George's 42, 99, 100-101 Conversion chart 227 Cook, Thomas 57 Corot, Jean Baptiste Camille 115 Cosmas, St 136 Counter-Reformation 32, 47, 74 Courbet, Gustave 115 Court of the Bishop of Prague Crafts shops 212, 213 Cranach, Lucas the Elder 114 Adam and Eve 114 St Christine 94

Croatian Renedictines 153 Crown jewels 26, 101 Crowns (currency) 231 Crucifizion (Stevens) 44 Cuhism 42 Cubist Houses 93, 160, 174 Street-by-Street map 84 Currency 231 Currency exchange 230 Customs and immigration 224 Cycling 241 Cvril. St 22, 23, 53, 138 Czech Airlines (ČSA) 234, 235 Czech Association of Persons with Disabilities 185, 187, 227 Czech Astronomical Society 177 Czech Industrial Museum 77 Czech Master Christ on Clouds 85 Czech Republic Information Centre 225 Czech Technical University 148 Czechoslovak Orthodox Church Czechoslovak Republic 20, 36 Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (ČSSR) 37 D Dalibor of Kozoiedv 110 Dalibor Tower 110 Street-by-Street map 99 Daliborka 110 Damaian, Deodatus 80 Damian, St 136 Dance 218, 219 The Dancing House 59 Day of Liberation from Fascism Day of the Republic 54 Decorative Arts Museum of 86 Art Nouveau 149 Prague's Best 41, 43 Street-by-Street map 84 Defenestrations of Prague 28, 31, 107, 155 Degas, Edgar 115 Delacroix, Fugène 115 Delicatessens 215 Della Stella, Paolo 31, 111 Dentists 229 D'Este collection 114

Destinn, Emmy 127

Devětsil movement 36

Devil's Column 160, 181

Devil's Stream 131, 133 Dientzenhofer, Christoph 47, 129

Loreto, The 47, 118

Břevnov Monastery 163

St Nicholas (Little Quarter) 47,

Credit cards 230

Dientzenhofer, Kilian Ignaz 47. 129 Břevnov Monastery 163 Church of Mary Magdalene (Karlshad) 171 Church of St. John on the Rock 148 153 Church of St Thomas 127 Dvořák Museum 154 Golz-Kinský Palace 49 51 72 The Loreto 47, 118 St Nicholas (Little Quarter) 47. 128_9 St Nicholas (Old Town) 72 Villa Amerika 49 Diplomatic Health Centre 229 Disabled travellers 226, 227 hotels 185, 187 restaurants 193 Discos 208 209 Discounts, in hotels 185 Dominic, St 139 Dominicans 77 139 Don Miauel de Lardizábal (Gova) Dopravní podnik hlavního města Prahv 238 Drahomíra 101 Drinks 196-7 Drvák, Alois 148 Dubček, Alexander 37 Dům u Dvou Zlatých Medvědů Dům umělců 86 Dürer Albrecht 42 The Feast of the Rosary 40, 114 Duty-free allowances 224 Dvořák, Antonín 41, 43, 154, 168 Dvořák, Karel 138, 163 Dvořák Hall (Rudolfinum) 86 Dvořák Museum 154 Prague's Best 41, 43

Elbe, River 56
Eleanor of Toledo (Bronzino) 115
Electricity 227
Elizabeth, St 139
Elizabeth of Pomerania 44
Emauzy (Slavonic Monastery) 153
Embassies 225
Embassy of the Czech Republic
187
Emergency telephone numbers
229

Edward VII, King of England 171

Fcotourism 227

English-language performances 218 Entertainment 216–21 Equestrienne (Chagall) 115

Ernst, Max 115

Fros (de Vries) 126 Františkánská zahrada 146 Estates Theatre 12 13 67 Franz II Emperor 21 121 Franz Ferdinand Archduke Street-by-Street map 65 Ethnographical Museum 176 Franz Josef Emperor 21 34 35 Ftiquette, in restaurants 193 Furona Hotel see Hotel Furona Franz Kafka Gallery 71 Frederick of the Palatinate 32, 74. Events (seasonal) 52–5 Exhibition Ground 162, 178 Prague's Best 42 Freud, Siamund 165 Fringe theatres 218 Funicular railway 11, 141 Fux Jan 134 Fabricius, Philipp 107 Fanta, Josef 148 Faust House 153 Street-by-Street map 149 Galerie Rudolphinum 86 Faustův dům 153 Gallas de Campo Jan 80 Fauves 42 Gallery Křižovníků 81 Feast of the Rosary (Dürer) 114 Galli, Agostino 116 Felix de Valois, St 136 Gall's Town 73 Gambrinus, King of Beer 196 Fénix Palace 145 Ferdinand I, Emperor 21, 30, 81 Gans David 88 Archbishop's Palace 111 Garden on the Ramparts 110 Relyedere 110 Gardens Loreto The 118 Prague's Best 48-51 Mausoleum 105 see also Parks and gardens Prague Castle 97 Gauguin, Paul 42, 115 Royal Garden 111 Gav and lesbian venues 208-9 Ferdinand II, Emperor 21, 32, George, St 98 George of Poděbrady 21, 28, 29, Church of St Giles 77 defenestration (of 1618) 107. Church of Our Lady before Týn Ferdinand III. Emperor 21 Ghetto see Jewish Quarter Ferdinand V. Emperor 21. Glace Bohemian 43 174 Ferrer, St Vincent 137 Museum of Decorative Arts 86 Festivals 52-5 shopping 212, 213 music 217 Godyn, Abraham 167 Fiala, Zden k 58 Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von Fighting Giants (Platzer) 98 Filippi, Giovanni Maria 130 Gogol, Maxim 171 Films 218, 219 Golden Age of Czech Art (Ženíšek) Fire services 229 Fischer, Jilí 179 Golden Horseshoe 130 Fischer von Erlach, Johann Golden Lane 101 Street-by-Street map 99 Bernhard 67, 80 Five Sonas (Tulka) 156 Golem 90 Flekovský, Jakub 155 The Good Soldier Švejk (Hašek) 35, Food and drink 194-7 154 shopping 215 Gossaert, Jan 114 see also Restaurants Gothic architecture 46 Forman, Miloš 65 Gottwald, Klement 21, 36, 160 Fortuna Czech Open 53 proclaims Communist state Fountains 71.72 Křižík 53, 178 Goya, Francisco de Sinaina 48, 50, 111 Don Miauel de Lardizábal 115 Venus 48 Grand Meal (Medek) 164 Francis of Assisi, St 137 Grand Priory of the Knights of Francis Xavier, St 138 Malta 131, 133 Franciscan Garden 146 Grand Priory Mill 58

Grand Priory Square 12, 131

Street-by-Street map 132

Street-by-Street map 144

Franciscans 67, 146

Greco, El
Head of Christ 112, 115
Green Lobster 130
Green travel 238
The Guardian 233
Guarini, Guarino 128
Gutfreund, Otto 42, 135, 164

Н

Habermel Frasmus 86 Habsburg dynasty 19, 20, 110 Hanavský Pavilion 58 161 Hanuš (clockmaker) 76 Harovník Fabian 101 Hartig Garden 110 Hašek Jaroslav 154 Havel Václav 21 98 Civic Forum 144 Velvet Revolution 36, 37 Havelské Město 73 Havlíček Milan 161 Havdn, Josef 43 Head of Christ (El Greco) 112, 115 Health care 220 Health Centre Prague 229 Heermann, Johann Georg 166 Heermann, Paul 166 Heger, Filip 69 Heger, František 69 Heinsch, Jan Jiří 92, 152, 155 Heinsch, Josef 67 Henlein, Konrad 36 Hercules (Braun) 49, 80 Heydrich, Reinhard 36, 53, 152 High Synagogue 87 Prague's Best 47 Street-by-Street map 84 History of Prague 19-37, 43 Hitler, Adolf 36 Hladová zeď 140-41 Hlahol Choir Building 143, 148 Hlavní nádraží 148. 236 Holbein, Hans the Flder 114 Holešovice Station 236 Holidays, public 55 Holocaust 84, 86 Holy Family (Brandl) 132 Holy Ghost, Church of the 92 Street-by-Street map 85 Holy Infant of Prague 131, 132 Holy Rood, Church of the 98 Holy Rood Chapel (Karlstein Castle) 27 Holy Rood Rotunda 46 Holy Saviour, Church of the (Clementinum) 81 Street-by-Street map 78 Holy Saviour, Church of the (St Agnes's Convent) 95 Holy Trinity, Church of the 130 Homage to Prague (Spillar) 66 Horowitz, Aaron Meshulam 86

Horse-drawn carriages 241 Hospitals 229 Hostels 186 187 Hotel Central 148 Hotel Furona 13 147 Street-by-Street map 145 Hotels 184-91 Hradčany 188, 190, 191 Jewish Ouarter 189, 190, 191 Little Quarter 188, 189, 190, 191 New Town 188, 189, 190, 191 Old Town 188 189 190 191 Prague Castle 188 190 191 House at the see At the House of Artists 86 House of the Black Madonna 12 65 67 93 174 Hradčany 96-119 area map 97 hotels 188 190 191 restaurants 201 Street Finder maps 1-2 Hunger Wall 140, 176-7 Hunting Château 179 Hus, Jan 19, 28, 29, 46, 137 anniversary 53 Rethlehem Chanel 77 79 Monument 64, 71, 72 Husák, Gustáv 21, 37 Hussite Church 227 Hussites 19, 28-9, 46, 160 Church of Our Lady before Týn Council of Basle 152 Jan Hus Monument 72 occupy St Vitus's Cathedral 102 Utraquists 77 Hvězdárna 140 Hynais, Vojtěch 35, 147, 157 Ibsen, Hendrik 171 Ignatius Loyola, St 152

Imperial Sanatorium (Karlsbad) 171 Impressionism 42, 115 Industrial Palace 162, 178 Information centres 225 Institute of Gentlewomen 151 Insurance 228, 229, 237 Interdenominational church services 227 International Church 227 International Herald Tribune 233 International Student Identity Cards (ISIC) 226 Internet access 232-3 Internet cafés 232-3 The Invention of Destruction (film) 36 Iron Man 80 Italian Court (Kutná Hora) 170 Italian Hospital 130

Italian Street **130**

J

Jäger, Joseph 131 lan Hus Monument 71 72 Street-by-Street map 64 Ian Vratislay of Mitrovice 45 Jansa, Václav Melantrichova Passaae 71 Old Town Square 64 Jaroš Tomáš 100 111 Jazz 52 54 **208** 209 Jelení skok 171 Jerusalem Synagogue 227 Jesuit College 152 Street-by-Street map 149 Jesuits 30 Baroque architecture 32 Bethlehem Chanel 77 Carolinum 67 Church of St Ignatius 149, 152 Clementinum 33, 47, 59, 78, 81 cult of St. John Nepomuk 137 Jewish Burial Society 87 Jewish Museum 43 lewish Quarter 12 82-95 area map 83 history 34, 35 hotels 189, 190, 191 restaurants 200-201 sightseeing tours 241 Street-by-Street map 84-5 Street Finder map 3 svnagogues 46 Jewish Town Hall 87 Street-by-Street map 84 Jews see Jewish Quarter; Old Jewish Cemetery; Synagogues Jezuitská kolej 152 Jizdáma 111 Jižní Zahrady 110 John the Baptist, St 138 John of Luxemburg 20, 26, 74 John de Matha, St 136 John Nepomuk, St 117, 137 Charles Bridge 137, 138 statues of 85, 92, 153, 155 tomb of 105 Josef I. Emperor 21 Josef II, Emperor 21, 73, 120 Jewish Ouarter 83 Josefov 82-95 Joseph, St 138 Jubilee Exhibition (1891) 35, 58, 148, 178 Exhibition Ground 161, 162 Petřín Park 140, 141 Jude Thaddaeus, St 137 Judith Bridge 24-6, 58, 136, 138 Judith Tower 134 Julius II, Pope 114

Jungmann, Josef 144, 160 Jungmannovo Square 144 Just St 44

K

Kafka Bohumil statue of Žižka 160 Kafka, Franz 10, 36, 70, 145 Golden Lane 101 Kafka Museum 135 tomb of 160 Kafka Museum 135 Kafkovo Muzeum 135 Kaiserstein Palace 53 127 Kampa Island 12, 13, 131 Prague's Best 49 50 51 Street-by-Street map 133 Kampa Island (Pinkas) 133 Kampa Museum of Modern Art 12 135 Kaňka František Maximilián 130 160 Kapucínský klášter 116–17 Kara, Rabbi Aviador 88 Karlova Street 175 Karlove ulice 80 Karlovo náměstí 148-9, 152 Karlovv Varv 170-71 Karlsbad 170-71 Karlstein Castle 12, 26, 27. 168-9 Karlštein 169 Karlův most 136–9 Kellev, Edward 100, 153 Kepler, Johannes 43, 117 Kinský, Štépán 72 Kinský family 49, 141. 176 Kinský Garden 176 Kinský Palace 12, 68, 72, 176 Prague's Best 49, 51 Street-by-Street map 64 Kipling, Rudvard 171 Kisch, Faon Frwin 73 Klášter na Slovanech 153 Klášter sv. Anežky České 94-5 Klausen Synagogue 87, 88 Prague's Best 47 Street-by-Street map 84 Klausová svnagóga 87 Klementinum 81 Klimt, Gustav 42, 115 The Virain 165 Knights of the Cross Square **81**. 175 Street-by-Street map 78 Knights of Malta 131, 134 Knights of St John 134 Koch, Jindřich 176 Kohl, Hieronymus St Augustine 125 Kohl, John Frederick

St Paul 128

Kolowrat-Černín Garden 135 Late-night transport 217 Luitgard, St 137 Kononiště Castle 114 169 Laterna Magika 144 Lurado Anselmo 120 129 Le Brun Charles 115 Koruna Palace 144 Lurago Carlo Kostel Matky Boží před Týnem Ledebour Garden 135 Church of St Ignatius 152 Lennon John 131 132 Jesuit College 152 Kostel Panny Marie pod řetězem Leopold L Emperor 166, 167 Lobkowicz Palace 101 Leopold II Emperor 21 Our Lady beneath the Chain Kostel Panny Marie Sněžné coronation 104 Royal Route 71, 174, 175 Luxemburg dynasty 20 Kostel sv. Cvrila a Metoděie Leopold Gate 180 152 Letná Park 161 Kostel sv Ducha 92 Prague's Best 51 Mácha, Karel Hynek 141 Kostel sv. František 81 Library, National 81 Madonna Aracoeli 42 Kostel sv. Halva 73 Libuše Princess 20 23 180 Maillol Aristide Kostel sv. Haštala 93 statues of 78 181 Pomona 164 Kostel sv. lanáce 152 Libuše (Smetana) 34, 157 Main Post Office 233 Kostel sv. lakuba 67 Libuše's Baths 181 Maisel Mordechai Kostel sv. Jana Na skalce 153 Lichtenstein Palace 53, 127 High Synagogue 87 Kostel sv. Jilií 77 Lipany, Battle of (1434) 19, 28, Maisel Synagogue 84, 92 Kostel sv. Kateřiny 154 tomb of 80 Kostel sv. Martina ve zdi 77 Liqueurs 197 Maisel Synagogue 92 Kostel sv. Mikuláše (Little Quarter) Literature Museum of National Prague's Best 41, 43 Street-by-Street man 84 Kostel sv. Mikuláše (Old Town) Little Quarter 12, 13, 19, 122-41, Maiselova svnagóga 92 72_3 175 Malá Strana 122-41 Kostel sv. Šimona a Judy 93 area man 123 Malls 214 215 Kostel sv. Štěpána 154 history 24, 25 Malostranské náměstí 127 Kostel sv. Tomáše 127 hotels 188, 189, 190, 191 Maltese Square 131 Kostel sv. Vavřince 140 restaurants 201-202 Street-by-Street map 132 Kostel sv. Voršilv 155 Street-by-Street map 132-3 Maltézské náměstí 131 Kracker, Johann Lukas Street Finder maps 1-2 Mánes Josef 34 St Joseph 129 Little Quarter Bridge Towers 58, Old Town Hall Clock 76 Královská zahrada 111 123 136 175 tomb of 160 Královský letohrádek 110 Manet, Edouard 114, 115 Street-by-Street map 124-5 Královský palác 106-7 Little Quarter Riverside 13 Mannerism 47 Kramář Vincenc 42 Little Quarter Square 12, 13, 127. Marchfeld, Battle of (1278) 20 Krásnohorská, Fliška 149 175 Marcomans 22 Křivoklát Castle 169 Little Quarter Town Hall 127 Marcu, Jan Marek 63 Křižík František 178 Little Quarter Water Tower 58 Margaret, St 139 Křižík Fountain 178 Lobkovický palác 101 Maria Theresa, Empress 21, 33, Křižovnické náměstí 81 Lobkowicz, Kateřina of 118 Krkonoše (Giant) Mountains Lobkowicz, Polyxena of 131 Marian pillar 42 140 Lobkowicz family 168 Mariánské Lázně 171 Kroměříže, Jan Milíč z 77 Lobkowicz Palace 101, 130 Mariánské náměstí 80 Kubistické domy 93 Prague's Best 43, 50 Mariánské Square 80 Kunratice forest 54 Street-by-Street map 99 Street-by-Street map 79 Kupecký, Jan 100 Longinus, St 181 Marienbad 171 Kupka, Frantisek 135 Lorenzetti, Pietro 114 Markets 214-15 Kutná Hora 13, 170 Lorenzo Monaco Marold's Panorama 179 Kvapilová, Hana Lamentation of Christ 113, 114 Martinic, Jaroslav 107 statue of 176 Loreto, The 13, 118-19 Martinic Palace 50, 116 Kysela, František 102 Prague's Best 40, 43, 44, 47 Martinický palác 116 Lost and found 229 Martyrdom of St Thomas (Rubens) Louis XIV, King of France 67 Löw, Rabbi 30, 80, 87, 91 Mary, Virgin 44, 118, 119, 146 Ladislav Posthumus 20 and the Golem 90 Mary Magdalene, Church of Lamentation of Christ (Lorenzo tomb of 89 (Karlsbad) 171 Monaco) 112 Lucerna Palace 54, 144 Masaryk, Jan 117 Language 224

Ludmilla, St 22, 99

statue of 137

tomb of 101

Ludvíc II, King 21

Langweil, Antonín 43, 161 Lapidarium, National Museum

Last Judgment (mosaic) 103

178

Masaryk, Tomáš Garrigue 21, 36

The Resurrection of Christ 41

Masarvkovo nádraží 236

Master of the Třeboň Altar

Zbraslav 42, 163

Master of the Vvšší Brod Altarpiece Monet, Claude 115 Museums and galleries (cont.) The Annunciation of Our Ladv Money 230-31 National Museum 13 41 43 customs regulations 224 145 **147** 160 178 225 Mathey, Jean-Baptiste 51, 166-7 Montanelli Museum (MuMo) 127 National Technical Museum 43 Matisse Henri 114 Monuments Matthew of Arras 102 169 lan Hus 64 71 **72** Nelahozeves Castle 168 Matthias Emperor 21, 30, 110 Letná Park metronome 36, 161 Picture Gallery of Prague Castle Matthias Gate 31, 97 National Memorial 160 Maulbertsch, Franz St John Nepomuk 117 Prague Museum 43 161 Struggle of Mankind to Know St Wenceslas 145 146 Prague's Best 40-43 Real History 121 to Victims of Communism Riding School 111 Maximilian I. Emperor 114 (2002) 141 145 Schwarzenberg Palace 40, 43 Maximilian II, Emperor 21, 105 see also Statues Smetana Museum 40, 43, 59, Medek Mikuláš Monuments of the Nation's Past 78 **81** Grand Meal 164 Star Hunting Lodge 163 Medical centres 229 Morzin Palace 51 130 State Jewish Museum 41, 43, 225 Medical tourism 229 Street-by-Street map 124 Sternberg Palace 13, 112-15 Medici Cosimo de' 115 Mostecká ulice 134–5 Toy Museum 101 Medieval architecture 24-5. Mozart Wolfgang Amadeus 120 Trade Fair Palace 164–5 46 50 La Clemenza di Tito 104 Troja Palace 166-7 Melantrichova Passage 71 Don Giovanni 33, 67 Music 43. 220-21 Memorial to František Palacký 59 plays organ in St Nicholas's 128 festivals 217 Menzel, Jiří 37 Mucha Alfons 35 149 iazz 208, 209 Merciful Brethren 85 Allegory of Vigilance 39 . Museum of Music 43 132 **141** Methodist-Evangelical church Municipal House 66 rock and pop clubs 208, 209 services 227 Mucha Museum 13 147 Myslbek, Josef 163, 181 Methodius, St 22, 23, 53, 138 St Cvril and St Methodius 104 Přemysl and Libuše 181 Metro 238, 242-3 Mucha Museum 13. 147 St Agnes 94 Metronome (Letná Park) 36, 161 Munch, Edvard 42, 43, 115 St Ludmilla portal 161 Michna Pavel 141 Munich Agreement (1938) 36 St Wenceslas 146 Michna Palace 141 Municipal House 13, 35, 52, 66-7, Záboj and Slavoj 149 Michnův palác 141 Míčovna 111 Mayor's Room 39 Na Františku Hospital 85, 93 Mikeš, František 59 Street-by-Street map 65 Na Slovanech Monastery 59 Military History, Museum of 116 Museums and galleries Náměstí Míru 161 Prague's Best 40, 43 Choco Story Museum 227 Napoleon I. Emperor 34 Mill Colonnade (Karlsbad) 171 Czech Industrial Museum 77 Náprstek, Vojta 77 Mime 218 Dvořák Museum 41, 43, 154 Náprstek Museum 43. 77 Ministerstvo pro místní rozvoj Ethnographical Museum 176 Náprstkovo Muzeum 77 Kafka Museum 135 Národní divadlo 156-7 Minorite Order 67 Kampa Museum of Modern Art Národní Muzeum 147 Mint 174 12. 135 Národní technické muzeum 162 Mirror Chapel 81 Loreto, The 40, 43, 118 National anthem 67 Mirror Maze 140, 177 Montanelli Museum (MuMo) National Gallery Mládek, Jan and Meda 135 Golz-Kinský Palace 49, 72 Mladota, Count Ferdinand 151, Mucha Museum 13, 147 Prague's Best 42 Municipal Mass Transport 241 St Agnes's Convent 94-5 Mlýnská kolonáda 171 Museum of Communism 146 Sternberg Palace 112-15 Mocker, Josef 47, 169 Museum of Decorative Arts 41. Church of St Stephen 154 43 86 149 Trade Fair Palace 164-5 Wallenstein Palace 126 St Ludmilla 161 Museum of Military History 40, St Vitus's Cathedral 102 Zbraslav Monastery 163 43, 116 Modern and Contemporary Art. Museum of Miniatures 226. National Library 81 Centre for see Trade Fair Palace National Memorial 160 227 National Museum 13, 147, 160 Monasteries Museum of Music 43, 132, 141 Břevnov 23, 163 Museum of National Literature history 19, 34, 35 Capuchin 46, 47, 116-17 120 Hunting Château 179 Na Slovanech 59 Muzeum Antonína Dvořáka 154 Lapidarium 178 Slavonic 45, 46, 47, 148, 153 Náprstek Museum 77 Muzeum Bedřicha Smetany 81 Strahov 13, 24-5, 32, 46-7, Muzeum Hlavního Města Prahy Prague's Best 41, 43 **120-21**, 177 Street-by-Street map 145

Náprstek Museum 43, 77

National Revival 34-5

National Technical Museum 43,	Old Royal Palace 106–7	Palaces
162	Prague's Best 50	music in 220
National Theatre 13, 59, 156–7	Street-by-Street map 99	Prague's Best 48–51
history 19, 34, 35	Old School 92	Palach, Jan 37, 146
Nativity, Church of the 119	Old Town 13, 24, 62–81	Palacký, František (Memorial to)
Nazis 36, 43, 74, 87, 92	area map 63	59
Nebozízek station 141	hotels 188, 189, 190, 191	Palacký Bridge 149, 181
Nelahozeves Castle 168	restaurants 198–9	Pálffy Garden 135
Neo-Gothic architecture 47	Royal Enclosure Walk 178–9	Palko, František
Nephele Mound 88	Royal Route Walk 174	The Celebration of the Holy Trinity
Nepraš, Karel	sightseeing tours 241	129
Big Dialog 165	Street-by-Street maps 64–5,	Palliardi, Ignaz 135
Neruda, Jan 130, 175	78–9	Panorama, Marold's 179
Nerudova Street 12, 13, 33, 130	Street Finder maps 3–4	Pantheon 181
Royal Route Walk 175	Old Town Bridge Tower 27, 139,	Pantomime 218
Street-by-Street map 124	175	Paradise (Savery) 113
Nerudova ulice 33, 124, 130	Street-by-Street map 78	Paradise Garden 110
Neunhertz, Jiří 120	Old Town Hall 12, 13, 74–6	Paříž (hotel) 84
New Deanery 180	Clock 12, 13, 28, 34, 75, 76	Parking 241
New Land Rolls (Royal Palace) 107	Street-by-Street map 64	Parks and gardens
New Town 13, 142–57	Tower 75	Botanical Gardens 51, 151, 153
area map 143	Old Town Square 12, 13, 52, 63,	Charles Square 148, 152
history 26, 27, 34	68–71 , 174	Franciscan Garden 144, 146
hotels 188, 189, 190, 191	East and North sides 68–9	Garden on the Ramparts 110
restaurants 202–204	South side 70–71	Hartig Garden 110
sightseeing tours 241	Street-by-Street map 64	Kampa Island 49, 50, 51, 131,
Street-by-Street maps 144–5,	Old Town Square (Jans) 64	133
150–51	Olšanské hřbitovy 160	Kinský Garden 176
Street Finder maps 3–6	Olšany cemeteries 52, 160	Kolowrat-Černín Garden 135
New Town Hall 13, 28, 155	Ondříček, František 116	Letná Park 36, 37, 51, 161
New World 13, 116	Opening hours 225	Palace Gardens 49, 51, 135
New Zealand Consulate 225	shops 210	Pálffy Garden 135
Newspapers 233	Opera 145, 147, 220	Paradise Garden 110
Nicholas Tolentino, St 137	Oppenheim, Rabbi David 88	Petřín Park 51, 140, 141,
Night buses 240	Order of the Golden Fleece	176–7
Nightclubs 208 , 209	126	Prague's Best 48–51
Nightlife 208–9	Oriel Chapel 75	Rose Garden (Petřín Park) 177
Norbert, St 120, 138	Orloj 76	Royal Garden 12, 48, 51, 111
Nostitz, Count 67	Orthodox Church 152	South Gardens 12, 48, 51, 98,
Nostitz Palace 131, 132	Our Lady before Týn, Church of	110
Novák, Emanuel 149	12, 13, 69, 72 , 174	Stromovka 51, 162
Nové Město 142–57	history 29, 71	Troja Palace 167, 179
Novoměstská radnice 155	Prague's Best 45, 46	Veltrusy Château 168
Novotný, Antonín 21, 37	Street-by-Street map 65	Vojan Park 51, 133, 135
Nový Svět 116	Our Lady beneath the Chain,	Vrtba Garden 51, 130
,	Church of 134	Vyšehrad Park 53, 181
0	Street-by-Street map 132	Wallenstein Palace and Garden
Obrazárna Pražkého Hradu 100	Our Lady of the Snows, Church of	12, 13, 48, 51, 126
Observation Path (Kinský Garden)	146	Parler, Peter 169
176	Prague's Best 46	All Saints' Chapel 106, 107
Observation Tower 140 , 177	Street-by-Street map 144	Charles Bridge 138
Street-by-Street map 79	Our Lady of Unceasing Succour,	Karlstein Castle 169
Očko, Jan, Archbishop 26, 94	Church of 130	Old Town Bridge Tower 27, 66,
Old Jewish Cemetery 12, 13, 83,	Our Lady Victorious, Church of	78, 139
88–9	130–31 , 163	St Barbara (Kutná Hora) 170
Prague's Best 43	Prague's Best 47	St Vitus's Cathedral 102, 103,
Street-by-Street map 84	Street-by-Street map 132	105
Old-New Synagogue 12, 13,	Ovocný trh 65	Wenceslas IV 27
90–91 , 227	a coordinate of	Passports 224
history 26	P	Pensions 187
Prague's Best 45, 46	Palác Kinských 72	People Against Violence 37
Street-by-Street map 84	Palace Gardens 49, 51, 135	Performing arts 218–19
		. 5

Picture Gallery 40, 42, 43, 98, **100**

Pesach Haggadah (manuscript) Prague Castle (cont.) Red Army 36 Powder Tower 100 Red Fagle 130 Petřín Hill 51 121 140 Royal Garden 48 51 Reiner Václav Vavřinec Church of the Nativity frescoes Datřín Dark 1/1 Royal Palace 12, 13, 99, 106-7 Petřín Park walk 176-7 Royal Route 80 Petřínská rozhledna 140 South Gardens 48 51 98 110 Church of Our Lady Victorious Pharmacies 229 "Story of Prague Castle" exhibition 10 Church of St Giles frescoes 77 Phonecards 232 Physical Culture and Sport. Street-by-Street map 98-9 Church of St. James frescoes 67 Church of St Thomas frescoes Museum of 141 Street Finder man 2 Picasso Pablo 42 Prague City Insurance Company 127 Picture Gallery of Prague Castle Vrtha Garden 130 40 100 Prague Gallery 42 Reisek, Matthias 75 Praque's Best 40 Prague Information Service (PIS) Religious services 227 224, 225 Street-by-Street map 98 Rembrandt 42 114 115 Pilsner 196 Prague Insurance Company 148 Scholar in his Study 112 Pinkas Rahhi 86 Prague Integrated Transport 226 Renaissance 19, 30-31 Pinkas Soběslav 133 Prague Museum 43, 161 architecture 46-7, 50 Pinkas Synagogue 12, 13, Prague Organization for Reni. Guido 100 Wheelchair Users 226, 227 **86-7**.88 Responsible tourism 227 Prague's Best 46. 47 The Prague Post 224, 233 Restaurace u Kalicha 154 Prague Public Transport Street-by-Street map 84 Restaurants 192-205 Pinkasova synagóga 86-7 Company 238 Hradčany 201 Pissarro Camille 115 Prague Public Transport Jewish Quarter 200-201 Planetarium 179 Information Centres 238 l ittle Ouarter 201–202 "Prague Spring" (1968) 37 Plastic People (rock band) 37 New Town 202-204 Prague Spring International Platzer, Ignaz Old Town 198-200 Music Festival 52 Fiahtina Giants 98 Prague Castle 201 Prague Uprising (1945) 36, 52, 74 Golz-Kinský Palace statues Resurrection of Christ (Master of 68 72 Prague Zoo 162 the Tlebo Altar) 41 Praha House 148 Ridina School 111 St John Nepomuk 155 Prašná hrána 66 statues in St Nicholas's 129 Ried, Benedikt Strahov Monastery 121 Prašná věž 100 Powder Tower 100 Pražská Paraplavební Společnost Plečnik, Josip 48, 110 St Barbara (Kutná Hora) 170 Plzeň 196 Vladislav Hall 106 Poholelec 117 Pražský hrad 96-119 Rock and pop clubs 208, 209 Police 228 237 Prčice 52 Rodin, Auguste 42, 115 Polívka, Osvald 66, 69 Preanant Woman and Death Romanesque architecture 24–5. Pollution 55, 229 (Schiele) 165 16 Premonstratensians 120 Romanticism 42 Pomona (Maillol) 164 Přemvsl 23, 181 Rose Garden (Petřín Park) 177 Poor Clares 25, 94 Post-Impressionism 42, 115 Přemysl Otakar I, King 20, 25 Rotunda of St Martin 25, 46, 160, Přemysl Otakar II, King 20, 24, 25, Post offices 233 Poste restante 233 Rotunda of St Vitus 22, 23 Powder Gate 12, 13, 66, 174 Přemyslid dynasty 19, 20, 22-3, Rotundas, Romanesque 46 26, 169 Rousseau, Henri "le Douanier" Street-by-Street map 65 Přichovský, Archbishop Antonín Powder Tower 100 Street-by-Street map 98 Royal Court 66 Private rooms 186, 187 Prachner, Peter 128 Prague's Best 48, 51 Procopius, St 137 Prachner, Richard 128 Royal Enclosure Walk 178-9 Public holidays 55 Prager, Karel 156 Royal Garden 12, 111 Pubs 192, 197, **206-7** Prague Botanical Gardens 162 Roval Hall 179 Prague Burial Society 89 Purkyně, Jan (statue) 151 Royal Palace 12, 13, 99, 106-7 Prague Castle 12, 13, 19, 50, Royal Route Walk 174-5 96-119 Rubens, Peter Paul 42, 43, 100, area map 97 Ouitainer, Johann Anton 117, 120 113, 114-15, 127 Dalibor Tower 110 Quitainer, Ondřej 118 Martyrdom of St Thomas 113 history 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, Rudolfinum 13, 34, 59, 86 30-31,32 concerts 52, 54 Lobkowicz Palace 43, 50 Radio 233 Galerie 86 Matthias Gate 31, 97 Rail travel 236 history 19

Rajská zahrada 110

Rudolph, Crown Prince 86

Rudolph I, Emperor 167 Rudolph II, Emperor 19, 21, 86, 92 art collection 42, 100, 114 history 30–31, 46 miraculous statue of Madonna and Child 116–17 Prague Castle 97, 98 Rudolph Water Tunnel 179 Ruzy Airport 234–5

S Sadeler, Aegidius Vladislav Hall 106 Safety 228-9 St Agnes of Bohemia Convent 12 13. 25. **94-5** Prague's Best 41, 42, 46 Street-by-Street map 85 St Anne's Convent 78 St Augustine (Kohl) 125 St Barbara, Church of (Kutná Hora) 159 170 St Castullus, Church of 93 Street-by-Street map 85 St Catherine Church of 95 154 St Clement, Church of 33, 37 St Cosmas and St Damian. Church of 150 St Cyril and St Methodius, Church of 13, 148, 152 St Cvril and St Methodius (Mucha) 104 St Francis, Church of 78, 80-81 St Francis Boraia (Brokoff) 33 St Gall, Church of 12, 73 St George's Basilica 12, 13, 23, 25, 99.100-101 Prague's Best 44, 46 St George's Convent 99 Prague's Best 40, 42 St Giles, Church of 77 Street-by-Street map 79 St Ignatius, Church of 152 Street-by-Street map 149 St James, Church of 67 Prague's Best 45 Street-by-Street map 65 St John the Baptist (Brokoff) 131 St John the Baptist (Rodin) 114 St John Nepomuk (Brokoff) 85, 92 Charles Bridge 153 St John on the Rock, Church of 47, 153 Street-by-Street map 148 St Joseph, Church of Street-by-Street map 132

St Joseph (Kracker) 129

Petřín Park Walk 177

St Longinus's Rotunda 46

St Ludmilla, Church of 47, 161

St Lawrence, Basilica of 180

St Lawrence, Church of 16, 140

St Margaret, Church of 163 St Martin in the Wall Church of 77 St Martin's Rotunda 25, 46, 160, 181 Prague's Rest 46 Wyšehrad Walk 180 181 St Michael (Solimena) 128 St Nicholas, Church of (Little Ouarter) 12, 13, 32, 127, 128-9 Prague's Best 44, 46, 47 Street-by-Street map 125 St Nicholas, Church of (Old Town) 68. **72-3**. 175, 227 history 71 Praque's Best 47 Street-by-Street map 64 St Nicholas (Platzer) 129 St Paul (Kohl) 128 St Peter and St Paul, Church of 59, 160 Prague's Best 45, 47 Vvšehrad Walk 181 St Roch, Church of (Olšanv Cemeteries) 160 St Roch, Church of (Strahov Monastery) 47 St Simon and St Jude. Church of Street-by-Street map 85 St Stephen, Church of 154-5 St Thomas, Church of 115, 127 Prague's Best 44, 47 Street-by-Street map 125 St Ursula Church of 155 St Vitus (Master Theodoric) 27 St Vitus Treasure 42 St Vitus's Cathedral 12, 13, 54, 102-5 Chapel of St Wenceslas 44 Prague's Best 44, 46, 47 St Wenceslas Chapel 26, 103, 104, 105 stained glass 97 Street-by-Street map 98 St Vladimír Church of (Marienbad) 171 St Wenceslas, Church of 150 St Wenceslas (Feast of) 54 St Wenceslas and St Vitus (Spränger) 19 St Wenceslas Chapel (St Vitus's Cathedral) 26, 103, 104, 105 St Wenceslas Crown 26 Sales 211 Šaloun, Ladislav Jan Hus Monument 72 Zbraslav Monasterv 163 Samo 22 Santa Casa 118, 119

Santini-Aichel, Giovanni 73

Sausages 192

Savery, Roelant

Paradise 113

Saxons 32 Schiele Faon 42 115 Preanant Woman and Death 165 Schnirch Bohuslay 156 Scholar in his Study (Rembrandt) Schönborn Palace 125 Schor, Jan Ferdinand 154 Schulz, Josef 86, 147, 156 Schwarzenberg Palace 116 Prague's Best 40, 43, 50 Schwarzenberský palác 116 Science museums 43 Seifert Jaroslav 37 101 Self-catering apartments 186, 187 Self-portrait (Rousseau) 112, 115 Senior travellers 226 Seurat, Georges 115 Saraffito Ball Game Hall 111 Calvary Chanel 177 House at the Minute 175 Lobkowicz Palace 101 Martinic Palace 116 Royal Palace 106 Schwarzenberg Palace 50, 116 Smetana Museum 81 Štorch House 64 Wiehl House 144 Shoppina 210-15 Sicilian Golden Bull 25 Sightseeing tours 241 Sigismund, Emperor 160 Siaismund, Kina 20 Siaismund, St 138 Singing Fountain 48, 50, 111 Sisley, Alfred 115 Šítka Water Tower 59 Škréta, Karel 42. 73 Church of Our Lady beneath the Chain paintings 134 Church of St Gall paintings 73 Crucifixion 128 Slánský Trial 36 Slavata, Vilém 107 Slavic tribes 22 Slavín 181 Slavkov, Battle of (1805) 34 Slavonic House 147 Slavonic Monastery Emauzy 153 Prague's Best 45, 46, 47 Street-by-Street map 148 Slovanský dům 147 Smetana, Bedlich 52, 149, 175 Dalibor 110 Libuše 34, 157 tomb of 181 Smetana Museum 81 Prague's Best 40, 43 Street-by-Street map 78 Smíchov Station 236 Smiřický Palace 127

Sněžka (mountain) 140	
Soběslav I, King 106	
Soběslav II, King 20	
Sokol 141, 149	
Soldati, Tomasso	
St Ignatius sculptures 152	
Solimena, Francesco	
St Michael 128	
South Gardens 12, 110	
Prague's Best 48, 51	
Street-by-Street map 98	
Špála, Václav 42	
Španělská synagóga 92–3	
Spanish Synagogue 13, 92–3	
Street-by-Street map 85	
Spas 170, 171	
Speciality shops 214–15 Spezza, Andrea 126	
Špička Gate 140, 180 Špillar, Karel	
Homage to Prague 66	
Spires 46–7	
Spirits 197, 224	
Sports 220–21	
Spränger, Bartholomeus	
St Wenceslas and St Vitus 19	
Spytihněv, Prince 102	
Stag's Leap 171	
Stalin, Joseph	
statue of 36, 37, 161	
Stamps, postage 233	
Star Hunting Lodge 163	
Stará Škola 92	
Staré Město 62–81	
Staroměstská radnice 74–5	
Staroměstské náměstí 68–71 Staronová synagoga 90–91	
Starý židovský hřbitov 88–9	
State Jewish Museum 225	
Prague's Best 41, 43	
State Opera 147	
Street-by-Street map 145	
Státní opera Praha 147	
Statues	
Charles IV 81	
on Charles Bridge 136–9	
Hana Kvapilová 176	
Hercules 49	
Jan Hus 71, 72	
Jan Purkyn 151	
Jan Žižka 160	
Přemysl and Princess Libuše 181 Princess Libuše 78	
on Rudolfinum 59	
St John the Baptist 131	
St John Nepomuk 85, 92	
St Joseph and St John 118	
St Wenceslas 145, 146	
Vltava 58	
Stavovské divadlo 67	
Štefánik's Observatory 140 , 177	
Sternberg, Count 166	

Sternberg, Franz Josef 112
Sternberg Palace 13, 112–15 , 127
Prague's Best 40, 42–3, 51
Visitors' Checklist 113
Šternberský palác 112–15
Stevens, Antonín
Crucifixion 44
Štorch House 70
Street-by-Street map 64
Štork, Lorenc 73
"Story of Prague Castle" exhibition
10
Strahov Gospel (book) 121
Strahov Monastery 13, 120–21 ,
177
history 24, 25
Philosophical Hall 32, 120
Prague's Best 46, 47
Strahov stadium 36
Strahovský klášter 120–21
Street signs 241
Street stalls 214
Střelecký Island 53
Stromovka 51
Stromovka Park 162
Struggle of Mankind to Know Real
History (Maulbertsch) 121
Students 226, 227
Štvanice Island 56
Sucharda, Stanislav
New Town Hall sculpture 79
Sucharda, Vojtěch
Apostles 76
Sudeten German Party 36
Svoboda, Ludvík 21
Synagogues
High 47, 84, 87
Jerusalem 227
Klausen 47, 84, 87 , 88
Maisel 41, 43, 84, 92
Old-New 12, 13, 26, 45, 46, 84,
90–91 , 227
Pinkas 12, 13, 46, 47, 84, 86–7 , 88
Prague's Best 44–7
Spanish 13, 85, 92–3
_
Т
Tábor Gate 180
Taborites 19, 28
Táborský, Jan 76
Tauc, Gustav Makarius 37
Taxes

in hotels 185 in restaurants 193 in shops 210 Taxis 240 Technology museums 43 Telephones 232 in hotels 185 Television 233 Temperature chart 55 Terezín 43, 87

Theatines 130 Theatres 218 219 Theodoric, Master 100 St Vitus 27 Theresian Way (Royal Palace) 107 Thirty Years' War (1618-48) 19, 30, 32 107 138 Thomas, St 139 Thomas, Edward 34 Thun-Hohenstein Palace 130 Street-by-Street map 124 Thurn, Count 107 Tickets entertainment 216-17 travel 234 Tina B 54 Tintoretto 43, 100, 115 Tippina in hotels 185 in restaurants 193 Titian 43 Toilet of a Young Lady 100 Tobacconists 233 Toilet of a Young Lady (Titian) 100 Torah 87, 92 Toulouse-Lautrec Henri de 115 Tour operators 225 Tourist information offices 71. 224, 225 Town Halls Jewish 84. **87** Little Quarter 127 New Town 13 155 Old Town 12, 13, 28, 34, 64, **74-5**. 76. 175 Tov Museum 101 Trade Fair Palace 42, 164-5 Trains 236 Trams 239 Transport 234-43 air 234-5 arriving in Prague 236-7 buses 240 cars 236-7, 241 coaches 236 late-night 217 metro 238, 242-3 trains 236 trams 239 Traveller's cheques 230 Trinitarian Order 136 Troja Palace **166–7**, 179 Prague's Best 42, 50, 51 Trojský zámek 166-7 Tulka, Josef Five Sonas 156 Turba Palace 131 Tuscany Palace 50 Twain, Mark 171 The Two Suns 175 Týn School 69 Tyrš House 141

u I I Fleků 155 I I Halánků 77 LI Kalicha 154 U Lazara 70 U Pinkasů Street-by-Street map 144 LI Rotta 64 U Tří pštrosů 134 Street-by-Street map 133 U Zlatého hroznu 171 Uměleckoprůmyslové muzeum 86 Union Café 36 United Kingdom Embassy United States Embassy 225 Universities Carolinum 12, 13, 19, 26, 27, 65, 67 Clementinum 33, 47, 59, 78, 81 175 Czech Technical University 1/10 Urban V Pope 26 Ursuline Order 155 Utraquists 28, 72, 77 Václav, Prince of Opava 153 Václava A Voitécha 102 Václavské náměstí 146 Valdštejnský palác 126 Van Cleve Cardinal Cesi's Garden 112 Van Gogh, Vincent 115 Variant of the Krumlov Madonna Vegetarians 193 Veletržní Palác 164 Velká Kunratická 54 Velkopřevorské náměstí 131 Veltrusy Château 168 Velvet Revolution (1989) 19. 36.37 celebration of 54 Civic Forum 144 Letná Park 161 Monument to the Victims of Communism 145 Wenceslas Square rally 146 Veronese, Paolo 100 Villa Amerika 154 Dvořák Museum 41, 154 Prague's Best 49, 51 Villa Müller 163 Vinohrady Theatre 161

The Virgin (Klimt) 165

Vitus, St 27, 136, 139

Vladislav I, King 20

Visas 224

Vítkov Hill 160

Church of Our Lady beneath the Chain 134 Dalibor Tower 110 Powder Gate 66 Prague Castle 97 Royal Palace 29, 106 Strahov Monastery 46 Vladislav Hall (Royal Palace) 107 history 29, 30, 106 Prague's Best 50 Vladislav Hall (Sadeler) 106 Vlašská ulice 130 Vltava River 40, 53, 54, **56–9** Vltava Statue 58 Voian Park 135 Prague's Best 51 Street-by-Street map 133 Vojanovy sady 135 Volflin of Kamen 75 Votive panel of Archbishop Ian Očko of Vlašim 94 Vouet, Simon 115 Vratislay Count of Mitrovice 67 Vratislav I. Prince 24, 46, 100, 101 Vratislav II, Prince 20, 25, 180, Vries, Adriaen de 100, 111 statue of Fros 126 tomb of 127 Vrtha Garden 51 130 Vrtbovská zahrada 130 Vvletăl, Josef 171 Vvšehrad 12, **160** history 22, 32 Šnička Gate 140 Walk 180-81 Vyšehrad Cemetery 160, 181 Vvšehrad Codex 24, 25 Vvšehrad Park 53, 160, 181 Vysoká synagóga 87 Výstaviště 162 Výtoň 43 Výtoň Excise House 59

Vladislav II. Jagiello, King 21, 24

Wagner, Antonín 59, 157 Wagner, Richard 171 Walks 172-81, 240 Petřín Park 176-7 Royal Enclosure 178-9 Royal Route 174-5 Vyšehrad 180-81 Wallenstein, Count Albrecht von 32, 48, 125, 126, 141 Wallenstein Palace and Garden 12, 13, 48, 51, 125, 126 Prague's Best 48, 51 Warsaw Pact 37 Weather in Prague 52-5 Weber, Carl Maria von 171 Weiss, František 79

Wenceslas I, King 20, 67, 169 Wenceslas II King 20 127 163 Wenceslas III King 20 Wenceslas IV. King 20, 27, 29, 137 statue of 139 7braslav Monastery 163 Wenceslas St 19 20 Monument 145, 146 murder 22-3, 103, 104 paintings of 70 St Vitus's Cathedral 102 shrine 26 statues of 136-138 Štorch House decorations 64 tomb of 13 103 Wenceslas Square 13, 146 Street-by-Street map 144-5 Street Finder maps 3–6 Westphalia, Treaty of (1648) 32 Wheelchair access see Disabled travellers White Mountain Battle of the (1620) 67, 74, 77, 93, 105 history 31, 32-3 site of 163 White Swan 130 Wiehl Antonín 144 Wiehl House Street-by-Street map 144 Wine 197 duty-free allowances 224 Wirch, Johann Georg 152 Wirch, Johann Joseph 111 Wohlmut, Bonifaz 73, 106, 111 Women, safety 228-9 World music 220 World War I 35 World War II 19, 36 Wycliffe, John 77

Záboj and Slavoj (Myslbek) 149 Zahrada Na valech 110 Zápotocký, Antonín 21 Zbraslavský klášter 163 Želivský, Jan 146, 155 Zemach Bezalel 88 7emach, Mordechai 88 Zeman, Karel 36 Ženíšek. František 147 Golden Age of Czech Art 156 Židovská radnice 87 Zítek, Josef 86, 156, 171 Žižka, Jan 28, 29, 160 statue of 160 Žižkov 54. 160-61 Zlatá ulička 101 700 162 Zoologická zahrada 162 Zrcadlová kaple 81 Zrcadlové bludiště 140 Zrzavý, Jan 42 Cleopatra 164

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Phrase Rook

In Fmergency

Helpl Pomoci Zastavte! Call a Zavoleite doctor doktoral Callan 7avoloito ambulancel canitkul Call the 7avoloito policii! policel Call the fire brigadel hasiče Where is the Kde ie telefón? talanhana the nearest neihližší hospital? nemocnice?

no-mots za-stav-te za-vo-lev-te dok-to-ral 72-10-lay-ta ca-nit-kul 72-VO-lev-te noli-tsi-vil 73-101-01-10 ha-si-che ade ve tele-fohn? nev-blish-ee ne-mots-nvitse?

Making a Telephone Call Chtěl(a)* bych

I'd like to place a I'd like to make a Chtěl(a)* bych reverse-charge call volanáho I'll try again later 7kusím to

Can Hoavo a message? Hold on Could you speak up a little, please? local call

volat na účet pozděií. Mohu nechat zprávu? Počkojto Mohl(a)* byste mluvit hlasitěii? míctní hovor

khtvel(a) hikh khtvel(a) bikh volat na oo-chet volan-eh-ho ckus-gam to poz-dvev mo-hu ne-khat sprah-vu? noch-key-te ma bl (a) bic to mluvit hla-si-tvev? meest-nyee hov-or

Communication Essentials

Voc/No Ano/No Please Prosím Thank you Děkuji vám Excuse me Prosím vás مالم Dohrý den Goodhye Na shledanou Good evening Dobrý večer morning ráno odpoledne afternoon evening vočo vesterday včera today dnas tomorrow zítra tady there tam What Col When Kdy? Whv? Proč7 Where? Kda

ano/no pro-seer dye-ku-ji vahm pro-seem vahs do-bree den na s-hle-da-no doh-ree vech-e rah-no od-no-led-ne ve-che vche-ra dnas 700t-ra ta-di tam tso? gdi? proch? nde?

Sightseeing

art gallery galerie hus ston autobucová zastávka church kostel garden zahrada library knihovna museum muzeum railway station nádraží tourist turistické information informace closed for the ctátní nublic holiday svátek

ga-ler-rive au-to-bus-o-vab 73-stah-yka kos-tel za hra-da knvi-hov-na muz-e-um nah-dra-zhee tooristi-tske in-for-ma-tse staht-nvee

Useful Phrases

How are you? Jak se máte? Very well. Velmi dobře thank you. děkuji. Pleased to meet you Těší mě See you soon Uvidíme se brzy. That's fine To je v poŕádku. Where is/are...? Kde je/jsou ...? lak dlouho to trvá How long does it take to get to"? se dostat do 7 How do I get to...? Jak se dostanu k..? Do vou speak Mluvíto Fnalish? anglicky I don't understand Nerozumím. Could you speak Mohl(a)* byste more slowly7 mluvit trochu pomaleii? Pardon? Prosim? I'm lost Ztratil(a)* isem se.

vak-se mah-te? vel-mi dob-rzhe dye kuyi tyesh-ee mye u-vi-dyee-me-sebr-zi to ye vporzhahdku qde ye/yso ...? yak dlo ho to tr-va se do-stat do vak se do-sta-nuk 2 mlu-voo-to an-alits-ki7 ne-ro-zu-meem mohl- (a) bis-te mlu-vit tro-khu po-maley

pro-seem

vsem se

stra-tyil (a)

Shopping

Do vou take

credit cards7

What time do

vou onen/

close?

this one

that one

chean

white

black

vellow

areen

hrown

chemist

agency

hlue

red

cizo

evnensive

How much does Co to stoií? this cost? Chtěl(a)* bych Lwould like Do you have ...? Máte ...? I'm just looking. lenom se dívám

Roroto kraditní karty? V kolik otovíráto/ zavíráte? tento tamten drahý levný velikost bílý černý červený žlutý zelený

modrý

hnědý

svah-tek

tso to sto-vee?

khtvel(a) hikh maa-te ...? ve-nom co dvee-vahm be-re-te kred-it nuee karti v ka-lik n-ta-vaa-rah-ta/ za vee rah-te? ten-to tam-ten dra-hoo lov-nee vel-ik-ost bee-lee cher-nee cher-ven-ee zhlu-tee zel-en-ee mod-ree hnved-00

Useful Words

big velký malý smal horký hot cold studený good dobrý bad špatný well dobře open otevřeno closed zavřeno left do leva right do prava straight on rovně near hlízko far dalako un nahoru ىرامل down early brzy pozdě late entrance vchod východ exit toilets toalety volný free, unoccupied free, no charge zdarma

val-koo mal-00 hor-koo stu-den-ee dob-ree shpat-nee dob-rzhe ot-ev-rzhe-no zav-rzhe-no do le-va do pra-va rov-nye blee-sko da-le-ko na-ho-ru do-loo br-zi poz-dve vkhod vee-khod toa-leti vol-nee

zdar-mo

Types of Shop

antique shop starožitnictví hanka hank haken pekárna hookstore knihkupectví hutcher řeznictví camera shon ahchad s fotoaparáty chemist (prescriptions etc.) lékárna

drogerie (cosmetics toiletries etc) lahůdky delicatessen obchodní dům department store arocery notraviny alass sklo hairdresse kadeřnictví (ladies) holič (mens)

market trh novinový newsstand stánek pošta post office supermarket samoobsluha tobacconist tahák travel cestovní

kancelář

sta-ro zhit-nyits-tvee hank a pe-kahr-na knih-kunets-tvee rzhez-nvits-tvee op-khot sfoto-anarahti

leh-kah-rna drog-erye

la-hoo-dki on-khod-nyee doom not-ra-vini sklo

ka-derzh-nyits-tvee ho-lich trkh no-vi-novee stah-nek posh-ta sa-mo-ob-slu-ha ta-bahk tses-tov-nyi kantse-laarzh

Staving in a Hotel

Máte volný Do you have a vacant room? double room with double hed twin room

pokoi? dvoulůžkový pokoj s dvojitou postelí pokoj s dvěma nostelemi pokoi s

koupelnou vrátný ---: blíč I have a reconvation Mám rocorvaci

Máte

mah-te vol-nee po-kovi dvo-loozh-kovee po-kov sdvoy-to pos-telee po-kov sdvve-ma nos-tel-em po-kov s ko-nal-na vraht-nee

Eating Out

room with a

hall porter

hath

norte

kev

Have you got a table for ... I'd like to reserve a table hraakfact lunch dinne The bill, please. I am a vegetarian waitroccl waiter fived price menu dish of the day ctartor main course vegetables dessert cover charge wine list

rare (steak) medium wall dana dobře alass hottle láhov nůž knifo fork lžíce snoon

stůl pro ...? stool pro .. khtvel(a) bikh Chtěl(a)* bych rezervovat stůl rez-er-vov-at stool snídaně snvee-danve ohěd ob-ved večere vech e-rzhe pro-seem oo-chet Prosím, účet. vsem veahe-Jsem vegetarián(ka)*. tariahn(ka) slečno slech-no pane vrchníl pane vrkh-nveel standardni stan-dard-nyee menu mennabídka dne nab-eed-ka dne předkrm przhed-krm hlavní jídlo hlav-nyee yeed-lo zelenina zel-en-vin-a zákusok zah-kusek poplatek nápojový lístek krvavý středně udělaný

pop-la-tek nah-po-yo-vee lee-stek kr-va-ve strzhed-nye ud-vel-an-ee dobrzhe udělaní ud-yel-an-ee sklen-yitse sklenice lah-hai noozh vidlička vid-lich-ka Izhee-tse

Menu Decoder

biftek

bílé víno bramborové knedlíky brambory chláh cihula citrónový džus cukr čai čerstvé ovoce červené víno česnek dort fazole grilované houby houska houskové knedlíky hovězí hranolky husa jablko iahody iehněčí kachna kapr káva krevety kuře kvselé zelí maso máslo minerálka

perliva/

neperliva

mléko

purl-i-vah/ ne-purl-i-vah

mleh-ko

bee-leh vee-no white wine bram-bo-ro-veh notato kne-dleeki dumplinas bram-ho-ri potatoes khlehh bread tci-hu-le onion tsi-tron-o-vee dzhiiis lemon juice tenkr sugar chav tea cher-styph-n-vn-ce fresh fruit cher-ven-eh vee-no red wine ches-nek garlic dort cake fa-zo-le beans gril-ov-a-neh grilled mushrooms ho-bi hous-ka ho-sko-veh bread kna-dlooki dumplings hov-ye-zee beef hran-ol-ki chips hu-sa aoose ya-bl-ko apple strawberries ya-ho-di ye-hnye-chee lamb kakh-na duck ka-nr carn kah-va coffee krev-et-i nrawns ku-rzhe chicken kis-el-eh zel-ee sauerkraut ma-so meat mah-s/o hutter min-er-ahl-ka mineral water

still

milk

nos-ich klooch mahm raz-anvatci

mah-te

nárek nečené pečené pepŕ nolévka nomoraně nomorančovi džuc nivo raiské rvha rýže calát sůl sýr šunka vařoná /uzorá tolocí tuna vaiíčko vařoná

mořská jídla

ocet

olei

okurka

venťové voda vývar zelí zelenina zmrzlina morzh-skah-veed-laots-et o-ku-rka olev paa-rek netsh-en-eh pech-en-eh penrzh nol-oh-uka no-me-ranch no-mo-ran-cho-voo dzhijis ni-vo ravskeh rib-a ree-zhe cal_at sool seer chun-ka varzh-eneh u-zanah to-la-traa tu-na

va-vee-chko varzh-an-ah von-rzho-vah vo-da Vee- var 701-00 zel-envina zmrz-lin-a

seafood vinegar cucumber sausage/frankfurter hakad roast pepper soun orango orange juice

hoor tomato fich rice calad salt chooso ham cooked a ma milen al voal tuna egg hoiled pork water hroth cabbade vegetables ice cream

Numbers

3

1

5

6

8

13

14

16

18

19

20

23

24

30

40

50

60

70

80

an

iedna dvě +61 čtvŕi pět šest sedm osm devět deset iedenáct dvanáct tŕináct čtrnáct patnáct šestnáct sedmnáct ocmnáct devatenáct dvacet dvacet iedna dvacet dva dvacet tri dvacet čtvŕi dvacet pět tricet čtyřicet padesát šedesát sedmdesát osmdesát dovadosát 100 cto 1.000 ticíc 2,000 dva tisíce 5,000 nět tisíc 1.000.000 milión

ved-na dvye chti-rzhi pyet shest sedm osm dev-vet des-et ye-de-nahtst dva-nahtst trzhi-nahtst chtr-nahtst pat-nahtst shest-nahtst sedm-nahtst ocm-nahtet de-va-te-nahtst dva-tset dva-tset ved-no dva-tset dva dva-tset-trzh dva-tset chti-rzhi dva-tset pyet trzhi-tset chti-rzhi-tset pa-de-saht sha-de-sahi sedm-de-saht osm-do-saht da-va-de-saht ctn tvi-seets dva tvi-spo-tsp pyet tyi-seets

Time

one minute one hour half an hour day Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

iedna minuta jedna hodina půl hodiny den týden pondělí úterý středa čtvrtok

pátek

sobota

neděle

ved-na min-uta yed-na hod-yin-a pool hod-yin-i . den tee-den pon-dye-lee oo-ter-ee strzhe-da chtvr-tok pah-tek so-bo-ta ned-yel-e

mi-li-ohn