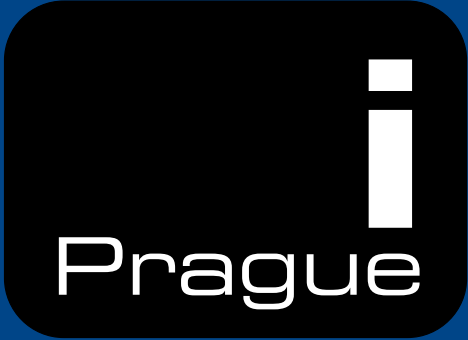




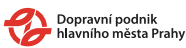
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What's Going On in Prague

Free admission to the National Gallery • a chance to see the collections on exhibit free of charge
National Gallery, 1 and 2 February, 29 March www.ngprague.cz

Holiday World • 29th annual central European tourism trade fair, presenting leisure opportunities
in the Czech Republic and at foreign destinations • PVA EXPO Prague, from 13 to 16 February www.holidayworld.cz

Luboš Andršt & Energit • an appearance by the jazz and blues guitarist with a band
Malostranská beseda, 3 March www.malostranska-beseda.cz

Observatory • daytime and evening observations of the sun, moon, planets,
and other celestial objects • Prague Planetarium, various dates www.planetum.cz

Onegin • a ballet production based on A. S. Pushkin's famed novel in verse
National Theatre, various dates www.narodni-divadlo.cz

Dan Bárta & Illustratosphere • a concert by the award-winning Czech multi-genre musician
Archa Theatre, 15 March www.divadloarcha.cz

Czech Portraits over Two Centuries • an exhibition of portrait paintings from
the period of High Classicism to the present • Prague Castle, until 22 March www.kulturanahrade.cz

Soup Festival • a tasting of soups from around the world and of soups
typical of this country • Hořejší nábřeží, 7 March www.facebook.com/foodeventcz

Stoves from Špaček • an exhibition of tiles and stove-making in Prague
during the Renaissance • House at the Golden Ring, to 29 March www.muzeumprahy.cz

I'm Here • an exhibition of works by the contemporary Czech visual
artist Jiří David • DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, until March www.dox.cz

Káťa Kabanová • a concert performance of the lyrical opera by Leoš Janáček performed
by the Czech Philharmonic • Rudolfinum Concert Hall, 9, 15, and 17 April www.ceskafilharmonie.cz

Grand Veteran • a gathering of historical cars, motorcycles, busses, bicycles,
and other vehicles • Bohnice Psychiatric Hospital Park, 25 and 26 April www.grandveteran.cz

Days of European Film • a festival of the best of contemporary European cinematography
Various cinemas in Prague, 22 through 26 April www.eurofilmfest.cz

Simply Documentary • the exhibition presents a representative selection of the work
of contemporary Czech photographers • Prague City Gallery, until 3 May www.ghmp.cz



Stabat Mater Three Times. The Stabat Mater, a liturgical hymn that tells of the sorrow of the Virgin Mary beneath Christ's cross, dates from the Middle Ages. Music composed to this sacred text about suffering is usually performed during Easter season. This Easter in Prague it can be heard in three performances of music by three different composers. On 7 April the Prague Symphony Orchestra will present the Stabat Mater by Jan Jakub Ryba. Ryba's Christmas Mass from the late eighteenth century is an essential part of Christmas in this country, but his other works are not very well known. According to the Prague Symphony Orchestra, listeners will nonetheless be thrilled by the music's beauty and spiritual depth. Ryba's Stabat Mater will also be heard at the Church of St. Simon and St. Jude in Prague's

Old Town. A day later, the same orchestra will perform a Stabat Mater at the Municipal House (at the address Náměstí Republiky 5), but this time by a different Czech composer – Antonín Dvořák. His Stabat Mater (1880) is unquestionably one of the most powerful treatments of this sacred subject. Its greatness also lies in part in the grief Dvořák was experiencing over the loss of his own young children while composing the work. Three of his offspring died in quick succession; two lost their fight with what were dangerous childhood illnesses at the time: scarlet fever and smallpox, and a third died of phosphorus poisoning, having drunk milk into which a guest visiting the Dvořák household had accidentally spilled matches without anyone noticing it. On 8 April, listeners will also be stirred by a Stabat Mater performance at the concert hall of the Rudolfinum (Alšovo nábřeží 12). Collegium 1704, an orchestra that performs early music, has chosen a setting of the text by the Italian organ and cembalo virtuoso Domenico Scarlatti. Also on the programme will be deeply moving works composed for Holy Week worship services by Scarlatti's Baroque contemporary Jan Dismas Zelenka. Collegium 1704 is gradually reacquainting the public with the music of this once famous composer, who has come to be called the "Bohemian Bach".

Music and theatre festivals. Although the main festival season comes in the summertime, there are all kinds of events in a variety of genres that foreign visitors can

come enjoy during the earlier months. For example, the week from 9 to 15 February belongs to Cirkopolis Fest. The new circus festival is also open to overlaps with contemporary dance and theatre. Its focus is on European stages, and Czech theatrical performers and acrobats are featured as well. You can discover Czech artists at the "movement theatre cleanup" Lavabo and in the production Nivó (Level) about the attractions and dangers of airspace. Both performances are also suitable for schoolchildren. The former



Prague 1606 – Multimedia View of Prague of Rudolf II's Era. In 1606 the prominent graphic artist and publisher, Aegidius Sadeler, portrayed the capital of the Kingdom of Bohemia to show it to the city and the world. Philip van den Bossche turned it into a drawing after which Johann Wechter produced a copperplate. We introduce a nine-metre animation that provides a view of life in Prague during the rule of Rudolf II. A new Sadeler Prospect is the outcome of joint efforts of historians and modern technology specialists. It can be seen at the House at the Golden Ring (Týnská 630/6). www.muzeumprahy.cz



takes place in former barracks in the Prague neighbourhood Karlín, while the latter can be seen at the Palác Akropolis in Prague – Žižkov. These venues are outside of the areas usually visited by tourists, but they can be reached from the city centre in about twenty minutes. You can also come to Žižkov from 26 to 28 March for the multi-genre festival Žižkovská noc (Žižkov Night). You might also find out why this formerly working-class neighbourhood was called Prague's Montmartre.

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Did you know that...

... the Czech Republic has the densest network of public libraries in the world? There is one library for every 1,971 inhabitants, which is four times more than the average for European countries and ten times more than in the USA. The Czechs come in first in this category because of a law enacted in 1919, not long after the founding of the independent state of Czechoslovakia. The legislation required every municipality to have its own library. Of course, libraries as such had already long existed in what is now the Czech Republic. Public libraries began to appear in the late eighteenth century, as monasteries were being closed. With the abolition of the Jesuit order in Prague, Maria Theresa issued a decree turning their facility into

the National Library (although under a different name at the time). Not long thereafter, book printers began to be required to send one specimen of every book to that institution. Today, the National Library holds over six million documents.



The National Library
of Technology
in Prague

... in Prague you can find a Hunger Wall and a John Lennon Wall? The Hunger Wall stretches across the Prague hill Petřín, not far from Prague Castle. Its construction was ordered by Charles IV, Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia, who chose Prague as his residence. He had it built from 1360 to 1362, and its purpose was to strengthen the city's fortifications. Originally it was as high as 4.5 meters in places, and nearly two meters wide. It was intended to protect the city from a possible attack, so it has embrasures and bastions, one of which is today a part of the observatory. The name Hunger Wall comes from an unfounded legend that the king decided to have the wall built to give the poor a way to earn a living during the plague outbreak in Prague in 1361. The Lennon Wall appeared several centuries later, of course. It is part of a wall that surrounds the Maltese Garden in Prague's Lesser Town. It served as a "bulletin board" for all kinds of messages. The inscriptions on the wall began to appear

already in the 1960s, but they were not yet connected with John Lennon, but were intended for the actor Jan Werich, who was living on nearby Kampa Island. Later, expressions of protest began to appear on it, and from the 1970s it was also nicknamed the "wailing wall". It served anonymous creators for the publication of poems, and especially love poems. After the death in 1980 of a member of the famed group the Beatles, someone painted a portrait of Lennon there – the original one disappeared long ago, but paintings of Lennon's face constantly reappear on the wall. The inscriptions and pictures, some of them with political undertones, were not to the regime's liking, of course, and the wall was painted over several times; space for posters was even put there. Today it is a part of Prague's local colour, and neither the city nor the Order of the Knights of Malta, to which the Lennon Wall and the grounds near it belong, interfere. When a group of artists painted the wall white in 2014, they called their act reverse vandalism.

A walk through Prague: Giant sculptures by David Černý

If you ask Czech people about David Černý, even those who are not interested in the fine arts will probably know his name. At fifty-two years of age, he is one of today's most celebrated and also most provocative contemporary artists. He has attracted attention by, among other things, his satirical sculpture *Entropa* displayed by the Council of the EU ten years ago. In it, he portrayed stereotypes associated with the individual EU countries. Several of his large-scale artworks enliven public places in Prague. The following route will lead you to them.

You begin your excursion in the very centre of the city on Hus Street (Husova ulice). At the end of the street, not far from where it turns into the street Na Pernštýně, instead of looking at what's under your feet, look up over your head. Then you can't miss the man, more than two metres tall, **hanging from the roof by one hand** (photo 2), while the other hand is stuck casually in his pocket. It represents the founder of psychoanalysis Sigmund Freud. Černý created the sculpture in 1997, and according to him, it is about feelings of uncertainty that come with the end of one millennium about what will happen in the next one. He has also lent the suspended man to several cities abroad, where the sculpture has sometimes confused people passing by. In Grand Rapids, Michigan, for example, the police and fire brigade went out on calls because of it, when people confused the artwork with a suicide attempt. From the Old Town it takes about ten minutes to walk to Wenceslas Square. You will find a tram stop there with the same name (Václavské náměstí). Nearby there is an arcade called Lucerna, and inside it is a suspended sculpture of a horse, but the animal is depicted

as being dead, so it is suspended with its legs pointing upwards, and **sitting on its belly is the patron saint of the Czech nation** (photo 5), Saint Wenceslas. The sculpture is an ironic variation on the monumental, serious statue of the Czech saint on Wenceslas Square. It was agreed that the sculpture would hang in the arcade until the restoration of a constitutional monarchy in this country. From there, by passing through arcades and across a monastery garden, in a few minutes you can easily reach another sculpture. You will find it behind a shopping centre near the Národní třída Metro Station. (If you do not wish to risk getting lost, you can get there easily by tram or Metro). Standing on the inconspicuous square is an **eleven-metre head** (photo 1). Its other dimensions are remarkable as well: it weighs nearly 40 metric tonnes and is made of 1,500 m² of stainless steel sheet metal. It is built with panels that are constantly rotating (driven by forty motors), so it seems as if the whole head is turning. Who is it supposed to be? You will recognise it as Franz Kafka, the German-language author who lived in Prague and was one of the major writers of the twentieth century. Czechs (and others) admire above all his sense of the absurd. Once you've had enough of Kafka's head, take a short tram ride from Národní třída to the stop

called Újezd. From there, head towards the river for Kampa Island. In front of the museum in the park there, you will find three **gigantic bronze Babies** (photo 3). They have ten more laminated siblings, but to see them you would have to go to the television tower in Prague – Žižkov. The rest of the infants are "climbing" that structure, the tallest in Prague (one of the world's ugliest according to some surveys). If you still have not had enough of Černý's works, you can go see more in some of the remoter parts of the city. Ideally, go back to Národní třída so you can take the Metro to the station Jinonice without changing lines. A footbridge leads from there to sculptures that are **half horses and half engines with propellers** (photo 4). The works' title Pegasus refers not only to the mythological winged horse, but also to the Pegasus aircraft engines built at a nearby factory that is no longer in operation. At the next station, Nové Butovice, near the Metro and the gallery Czech Photo Centre is another David Černý installation. The kinetic sculpture takes the form of a twelve-metre **metal monster with giant eyes**, the head of which consists of cameras. Called Trifot, it follows those who pass by, and it displays everything it sees, including you, on big screens.





Strahov Monastery is the oldest Premonstratensian monastery in the Czech Republic



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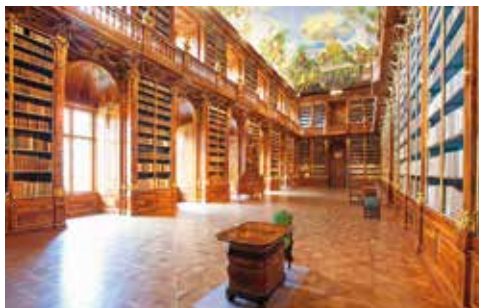
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www.strahovskyclaster.cz

The Strahov Monastery Library: Hundreds of Thousands of Books from Nine Centuries

In the immediate vicinity of Prague Castle is one of the world's oldest Premonstratensian monasteries. The monastery is in full use, and it offers visitors an unparalleled view of both the religious and the secular history of the Czech Lands. The Royal Canonry of Premonstratensians at Strahov was founded in 1143, and the monastery has served as the base of the Roman Catholic religious order for Bohemia and Moravia ever since, almost without interruption. The monastery is home to an order that manages countless vicarages and other estates across the Czech Republic, in addition to educating novices and clerics. There are more than 20 members currently living at the monastery. Worship services take place every day at 6 p.m. and on Sundays at 10 a.m. in the monastery's baroque Basilica of the Assumption of Our Lady. The basilica is exceptional not only for its ornamentation, but also for being the final resting place of the Premonstratensian order's founder

St. Norbert (Norbert of Xanten), who is interred in the northern aisle. At the time of the monastery's founding, a library was established. It currently contains more than 300,000 volumes of books and academic papers. This makes it one of only a handful of historical libraries still in operation. Having survived wars and fires, the original collections were given a new, dignified place in the 17th century in the baroque Theological Hall. This monumental space lined by original bookshelves is dominated by its painted ceiling framed with stucco ornaments. Another unique feature of the Theological Hall is the collection of globes from the 16th and 17th centuries, while there is a preserved compilation wheel made around 1678 for use in assembling texts. As the library collection expanded, an additional room, the Philosophical Hall, was added. This vast auditorium is famous mainly for its ceiling painted by the Viennese artist Anton Maulbertsch, depicting saints and numerous allegories. The library also includes a Cabinet of Curiosities which could be described as a predecessor of modern-day museums of natural history. In addition to the Premonstratensian monks, the library is also used by the Museum of National Literature. Besides the monastery itself, visitors to Strahov can also view the picture gallery featuring a permanent collection of paintings from the 14th to the 19th centuries. The entire monastery complex is open to the public every day, and the Strahov Monastery Library is open daily throughout the year, except for the 24th and the 25th of December and Easter Sunday.



Easter and Witch-burning

Easter is celebrated as an important holiday in the Czech Republic. Many historical traditions, both religious and non-religious, link up to it. Christians commemorate the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, while non-believers celebrate the coming of spring. Easter falls on the Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox, hence its date differs from year to year. In 2020, Easter falls on 13 April. The individual days of Easter week are known in the Czech lands as Blue Monday, Grey Tuesday, Ugly Wednesday, Green Thursday, Good Friday, White (Holy) Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday and each of these days has its own specific customs. Ancient Czech and Moravian folk customs culminate on Easter Monday, “thrashing” day, on which men and boys go from house to house singing carols and beating women with braided whips made from pussywillow twigs and decorated with ribbons. The women reward them with painted eggs and alcohol. This ritual serves to celebrate fertility. Easter Monday customs differ in individual regions, while the thrashing is often accompanied by pouring water over the women. There are also traditional Easter foods. A lamb-shaped cake to commemorate Jesus Christ, Agnus Dei, is baked from sweet dough. The cross-buns known as “Judases” are pastries whose shape is reminiscent of the rope on which Judas Iscariot hanged himself after his betrayal of Jesus. People in the Czech Republic also adorn their homes with various Easter decorations – coloured eggs, twigs in bloom, figures of lambs, hares, chickens, etc. In large towns you will find bustling Easter markets, where you can encounter examples of a number of traditional crafts, buy everything you need to set you up for the holidays and sample traditional Czech delicacies.



The [annual] event of mock **witch-burning** (alternatively called Philip and Jacob Night, Walpurgis Night or Beltane Eve) is an extremely popular tradition in the Czech lands. The custom, manifesting its decidedly pagan roots, takes place on the night from 30 April to 1 May. In the past, people often believed that on this night witches gather at a coven and that caves and underground caverns up and down the country open to reveal treasures hidden in them. To protect their livelihoods against evil, people would build bonfires on hills, and this gradually developed into “witch-burning” (pitch-covered broomsticks were set on fire and thrown upwards). The ashes left behind by these bonfires were traditionally said to have magical powers and boost the crop. In the past, cattle were led through the ashes so as to make them fertile.

Today, girls dress up as witches and jump over the fire. On 30 April, in every Czech town and village people gather around bonfires, sing songs and burn an effigy of a witch to shrieks of delight. This custom symbolises the end of winter, purification, protection against evil, new beginnings. People welcome the coming of the month of May and the spring itself. The forty-day fast that prepares Christians for Easter is preceded by **Carnival**, a season of feasting between two periods of fast (Advent and Lent). The roots of Carnival go back to ancient Slavic celebrations of the end of winter. In this country, in connection with Carnival there are pig slaughters or at least pork feasts, and also parades of people in costumes. The Carnival parades in the Czech region Hlinecko are even registered on the UNESCO Cultural Heritage List.

Current events. To celebrate Carnival, on 8 February you can join in the procession of masked figures with live music on the way to Prague’s historical centre: from Loreta Square (Loretánské náměstí) across the Lesser Town to Kampa Island. On 30 April you can also join in celebrations of Walpurgis Night on Kampa Island. Those who are more interested in the history of Carnival will enjoy the intimate exhibition at the Czech Museum of Music (Karmelitská 4), which will be on display until 2 March. You will find goods and treats associated with spring and Easter at the spring markets at the Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice (from 20 to 22 March), at Prague Castle (from 28 March to 27 April), or at Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí, from 28 March to 19 April).



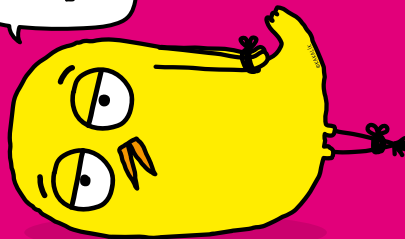
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An Excursion to the Regions: Ostrava

The third-largest city of the Czech Republic lies to the northeast, not far from the Slovak and Polish borders. Ostrava, as a centre of the mining and metallurgy industries, was formerly known as the “steel heart of the republic”. Today it is unique for its industrial landmarks. What are the landmarks and curiosities that you should not miss when visiting Ostrava?

Vítkovice mining region. Coal mining and iron smelting went on in this vast area for a hundred and seventy years. The blast furnaces and coke ovens are now an educational, social, and cultural center. For example, the former gas tank serves as a place for holding international conferences or concerts. Adults and their children can be entertained and learn something at the same time by visiting the Little and the Big World of Technology. And anyone who wants to find out how tall a blast furnace is can ride a lift to the top of one of them.

The Michal Mine. In this former mine, visitors cannot go underground, but they can follow the route that the miners took every day. A part of the tour is a still functional

steam locomotive from the early twentieth century. The exhibit has been preserved in a condition that makes the impression that the last shift just ended not long ago.

Landek Park. The biggest Czech mining museum is located at the foot of the hill from which it takes its name. This is the only place in Ostrava where visitors can ride down into a mine shaft. Specifically, they can enter the former mine Anselm, which was the very oldest mine in the city.

Halda Ema. Halda Ema is a hill made by the piling up of tons of waste rock. It reaches the height of 1,033 feet. You are allowed to climb it at your own risk, but if you go for a walk in this direction, you will be interested to know that waste is constantly burning inside the heap.

Lookout Tower and the Silesian Ostrava Castle. Anyone who has had enough of industrial landmarks can visit the Silesian Ostrava Castle. It was built in the thirteenth century. Through the influence of mining, its position is now 53 feet lower than when it was a noble residence. On the other hand, you get very high up when visiting the Ostrava New Town Hall. The largest

town hall complex in the Czech Republic can also boast the tallest town hall tower in this country, measuring 281 feet. At a height of 240 feet, there is an observation terrace with a view all the way to neighboring Poland.

Cultural events in Ostrava

Concerts of the Janáček Philharmonic Orchestra in Ostrava. Ostrava's orchestra is named for the composer Leoš Janáček, but its repertoire is much broader, of course. For example, on 20 February it will be performing an autographical work by Gustav Mahler – his Sixth Symphony, subtitled the “Tragic”. Then the programme on 26 March is an evening of Mozart. Besides arias from the opera The Marriage of Figaro and one of Mozart's best known concertos, the programme will feature compositions by Pavel Haas, a Czech composer who died in Auschwitz, and by the French percussionist Emmanuel Séjourné, who writes for percussion solo. And on 2 April you can hear yet another famous symphony, the Lenin-grad Symphony, which Dmitri Shostakovich wrote during the Second World War in Leningrad (Saint Petersburg) while that city was under siege.

Exhibitions at the Gallery of Fine Arts. Until the second half of March, you can come here to discover the works of two contemporary Czech female artists. Marta Kolářová takes direct inspiration from the Ostrava region's industrial landscape, revealing hidden beauty in its rawness. The conceptual artist Kateřina Šedá is represented by a project she originally created for the Tate Modern. She brought residents of a small Czech town to the front of the London gallery to “show off” their Saturday routine. The Ostrava interactive exhibition based on this concept is no less interesting.

From History

The first mentions of Ostrava date from the latter half of the thirteenth century. It was established on what was known as the Amber Road, an ancient trade route joining the Baltic and the Mediterranean. Of major importance for the city's development was the discovery of coal in the eighteenth century and the accompanying construction of ironworks. Mining ended there in 1994, and since then, the industrial area has been transforming itself into a place sought out by lovers of industrial architecture.



From Czech History: (In)Famous Executions



Jan Mydlář, apparently the most famous Czech executioner, died 356 years ago. He made Czech history with the mass execution of 27 noblemen, knights, and burghers. There have been a number of famous and infamous executions in this country's history, of course.

Jan Mydlář was born in the latter half of the sixteenth century, apparently to the family of a town scribe. He, too, was highly educated, having become a Master of Medicine at Prague's university, but his hopes of a career as a physician were dashed by his ill-fated love for the wife of a miller. Doubly ill-fated, in fact: firstly, his love was unrequited, and secondly it ended tragically. The woman named Dorotka was sentenced to death by being buried alive for having poisoned her husband. Still in love with her and wishing to prevent her death, Jan took a job as an assistant executioner despite knowing that such a profession meant falling to the very bottom of society. An executioner was basically a pariah and was forced to bear various humiliations: he had to live outside the city walls, he sat in a special place in church, and an undignified place was reserved for him in the

tavern, where he even had to drink from a cup without a handle. The stigma even affected his family. Mydlář submitted to all of this out of love, but he was unable to save Dorotka from execution. Nonetheless, he had to remain an executioner. And by all accounts he was a capable master of the executioner's sword, because the Old Town executioner took him as an apprentice, and Mydlář later took over the position. It was in this capacity that in 1621 he was ordered to execute the leaders of the Bohemian Revolt. The executions were to serve as an example after the sequence of events that had begun with the Defenestration of Prague, which triggered the Thirty Years' War in 1618 and ended two years later at the Battle of White Mountain near Prague. The Catholic army crushed the Czech protestant troops, and this influenced the history of the Czech lands for three hundred years to come. The crushing victory solidified the Habsburgs' power, and these executions were meant as the first demonstration of that fact. The severed heads were displayed publicly as a warning for another ten years. The executions are now commemorated by crosses in the pavement of Old Town Square. Among those executed was Jan Jessenius, a physician, who did the first public autopsy and who became a friend of Jan Mydlář. Mydlář himself lived more than ninety years, a very respectable age in those days. He worked as an executioner until 1632, when he passed on the executioner's trade to his son, from whom it was in turn inherited by the next generation. Paradoxically, one of Mydlář's grandsons, also an executioner, was himself executed. He was sentenced to death for his role in one of the worst Prague fires, which occurred in 1689. More than eight hundred houses were reduced to ashes. Like Jan Mydlář before him, his grandson was also motivated by love.

Over the centuries, the story of the executioner Mydlář has acquired an air of the romantic, but there have been executions in Czech history that are still chilling, in part, of course, because they involve recent history. The list of names of prisoners sentenced to death in post-war history includes two women. Both were put to death by hanging, but their lives were absolutely different. **Milada Horáková** became the victim of judicial murder in 1950. During the post-war period, the communist regime in Czechoslovakia followed the example of Stalinist Russia and took vengeance on its "enemies". During the Second World War, the lawyer and politician Milada Horáková had been imprisoned for participating in the anti-fascist resistance, and after the war she warned of the dangers of communist totalitarianism. In a rigged trial, she was convicted of

espionage and treason. **Olga Hepnarová** was put to death fifteen years later as the last woman executed in Czechoslovakia. She was convicted of mass murder. In cold blood, Hepnarová deliberately drove a lorry over a tram stop, killing eight people. Her act was supposedly revenge on a heartless society. The tragedy occurred on a street that is now coincidentally named after Milada Horáková. The death penalty was abolished in this country in 1990. The last Czech to be executed was **Vladimír Lulek**, who was executed in February 1989 for the brutal murder of his wife and four children.



Points of interest

- There are numerous beautiful parks and gardens in Prague, occupying approximately 5% of the total urban area. The most beautiful include the former Royal Preserve, now more frequently referred to by its popular name "Stromovka", the complex of gardens on the Petřín Hill, the Vrtbovská Garden (from November to March closed), the gardens at Letná, the Wallenstein Garden (Valdštejnská zahrada), and the Prague Castle gardens.
- There are ten islands on the Vltava (Moldau) River running through Prague (e.g. Střelecký, Císařský, Dětský). A few years ago, the prestigious traveler's server VirtualTourist.com declared the Prague island of Kampa the second most rewarding urban island in the world.
- Prague's astronomical clock (Pražský orloj), one of the best-preserved medieval astronomical clocks in the world, is a feature of the tower of the Old Town Hall. It was created by Mikuláš z Kadaně, a clockmaker to the royal court, in 1410.
- The Jan Žižka Monument on Vítkov Hill is one of the world's largest bronze equestrian statues. It weighs 16.5 metric tons and is 9 meters tall and 9.6 meters long.
- Charles Bridge was the only bridge in Prague right up until the 19th century. It is the second oldest bridge in use in the Czech Republic.

Useful information

- Prague is the capital city** of the Czech Republic. It has approximately 1.3 million inhabitants on an area of some 500 sq km (193 sq mi). It originated around 1000 A.D. and for many years remained a group of independent villages. Under the rule of Charles IV (14th century) medieval Prague experienced its greatest development. At the turn of the 17th century the city gained further renown owing to Emperor Rudolf II. Between 1918 and 1992 Prague was the capital city of Czechoslovakia, and since January 1993 it has been the capital of the independent Czech Republic. Since 1 May 2004 the Czech Republic has been a member of the European Union, and on 21 December 2007 it became part of the Schengen Area.
- Bank holidays** in the Czech Republic: 1 January – New Year, 10 April – Good Friday, 13 April – Easter Monday, 1 May – Labour Day, 8 May – Liberation Day, 5 July – The Day of Missionaries and Saints Cyril and Methodius, 6 July – Jan Hus Day, 28 September – Czech Statehood Day, 28 October – Independence Day, 17 November – Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day, 24 December – Christmas Eve, 25 December – Christmas Day, 26 December – Boxing Day.
- Traditional Czech dishes** are a meal of braised beef with cream sauce and bread dumplings and roast pork with dumplings and cabbage, while the traditional Christmas meal is carp. Main courses in restaurants usually cost (depending on the location) from CZK 150 to CZK 300.
- Banks and Currency exchange rates**
Most banks in Prague are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. One Euro buys approximately CZK 24,

one US dollar approximately CZK 21.5, and one pound sterling approximately CZK 28.5. We recommend not changing money on the street with strangers; use banks, money exchange offices and hotels. Listed exchange rates are for the purchase of hard currency.

- Most shops are open** from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, but business hours are limited on holidays. Stores with sales space in excess of 200 m² are closed on 1 January, Easter Monday, 8 May, 28 September, 28 October, and 25 and 26 December. There are exceptions for pharmacies, filling stations, shops on hospital grounds, and at airports and train stations.
- Popular souvenirs** purchased in the Czech Republic include Czech cut glass, porcelain, Becherovka (a traditional bitter herbal liquor), mead, Slivovice (plum brandy), Bohemian garnets, amber, wooden marionettes, art and design pieces, folk art pieces, spa wafers and typical spa drinking cups.
- Postal services**
The main post office is open daily from 2 a.m. until midnight. It is located at 14 Jindřišská Street in the very centre of the city, near metro station "Můstek", the interchange Metro station for the A and B lines.
- There are three underground (Metro) lines** operating in Prague – green (A), yellow (B) and red (C). The metro system interconnects all the important places around the city, with tram and bus connections to destinations where the metro does not reach. The public transport network is reliable and covers the city thoroughly. The metro operates daily from 5 a.m. to midnight. Night tram and bus lines provide public transportation after midnight.

**Taxi to
the airport
for €18**



www.transport-in-prague.com



Public transport information



Fare

Tickets		Adult		Child		Senior	
Basic	90 min.	CZK 32	CZK 16	CZK 16	CZK 16		
Short-term	30 min.	CZK 24	CZK 12	CZK 12	CZK 12		
1 day	24 hrs	CZK 110	CZK 55	CZK 55	CZK 55		
3 days	72 hrs	CZK 310	•	•	•		

◦ For children from 6 to 15 years ^(note) of age N.B. and seniors from 65 to 70 years ^(note) of age N.B. that have an *Lítačka Card* with a „Special fare endorsement“ (endorsement price is 120 CZK), the fare for travel in Prague (tariff zones P, 0 and B) is 0 CZK. Children from 6 to 10 years of age N.B. require only an identification card certified by its issuer (a corporate entity) with name, surname, date of birth and a photograph.

Public transport links to Václav Havel Airport Prague (Letiště)

Bus 119 – “Nádraží Veleslavín” (metro line A) – “Letiště” – 17 min.

Bus 100 – “Zličín” (metro line B) – “Letiště” – 16 min.

Airport Express Bus – Prague main railway station “Hlavní nádraží” (metro line C, with SČ, EC, IC and EN type rail links) – “Letiště” – 33 min.

Important telephone numbers:

The EU universal emergency telephone number

112

Fire brigade emergency number

150

Emergency medical service number

155

Municipal police emergency number

156

State police emergency number

158

Information (tel. numbers, information on traffic, cultural events, etc.)

1188

Useful Czech telephone numbers

1180

Prague contact centre

12444

Roadside assistance

261 104 123

Airport information – nonstop line

220 111 888

International country calling code for the Czech Republic

+420 (00420)

Useful links:

www.czech.cz

official website of the Czech Republic

www.praha.eu

web portal of the City of Prague

www.prague.eu

Prague tourist web portal

www.czechtourism.com

official travel site of the Czech Republic

www.kudyznudy.cz

ideas for trips

www.florenc.cz

website of the Florenc coach terminal

www.cd.cz

Czech Railways website

www.prg.aero

Prague Airport website

www.dpp.cz

website of the Prague public transport operator

www.idos.cz

website timetables of trains, buses and public transport in the Czech Republic and Europe

www.chmi.cz

website of the Czech Institute of Hydrometeorology – information on weather in the Czech Republic



- Old-Town Hall
- Rytířská 12
- Wenceslas Square
- Václav Havel Airport Prague



- Václav Havel Airport Prague, Terminal 1 and 2
- Prague City Hall, Jungmannova 35/29, Prague 1

Metro stations:

- Můstek • Hlavní nádraží • Anděl
• Hradčanská • Nádraží Veveslavín



i-Prague 1/20

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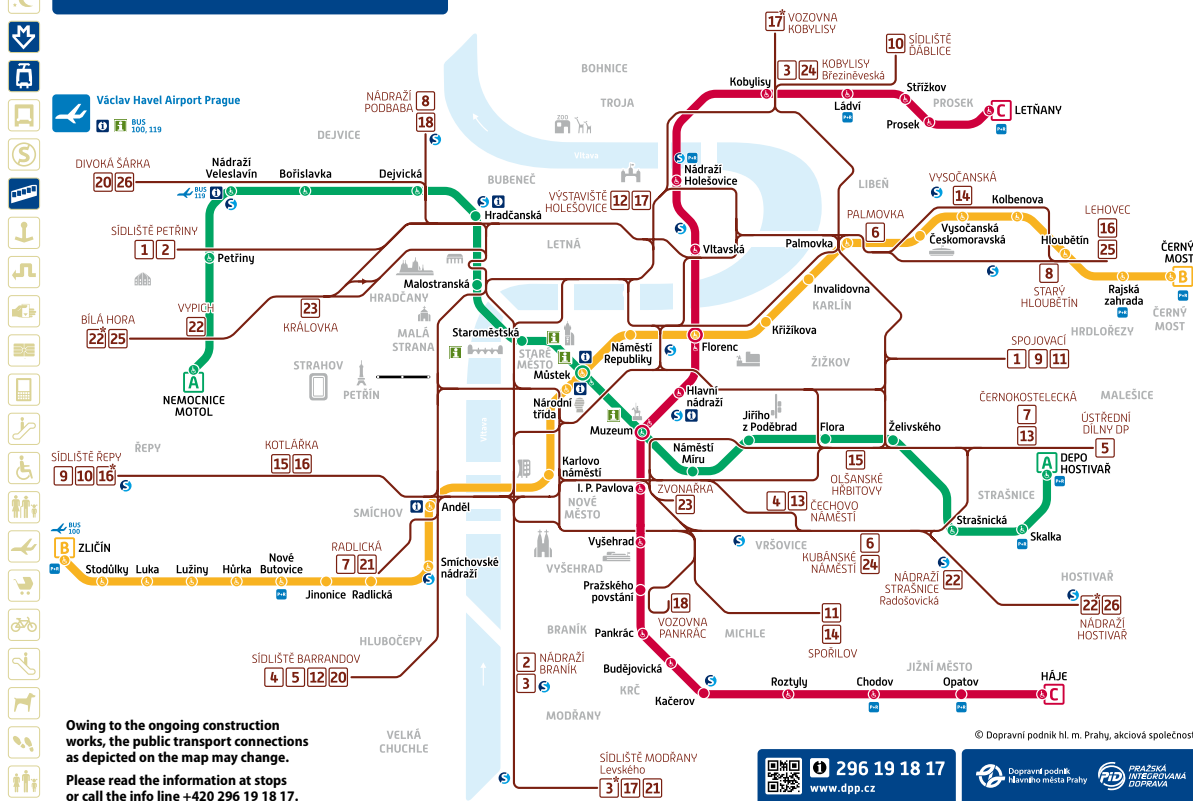
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Trams and Metro in Prague

Map – Daytime operation – Permanent situation – January 2020



Owing to the ongoing construction works, the public transport connections as depicted on the map may change.

**Please read the information at stops
or call the info line +420 296 19 18 17.**



Metro lines with and without



Metro transfer station



Tram line with terminus



Only selected connections run to these final stops

Public transport buses to
Václav Havel Airport Prague

Funicular



Park and Ride



Public transport information;
Tourist information centre



Transfer to lines S and other railway lines

www.i-prague.info

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