

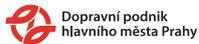
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Mysterious distances, Symbolism in the Bohemian lands • An exhibition focusing on the period from 1880 to 1914 • Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia, until 27 Sept www.ngprague.cz

Mahler – The Music of Thousands • Showcasing of classical music linked to the work of composer Gustav Mahler • Jihlava and surrounding localities, from 14 May to 17 June www.mahler2000.cz

Roger Hiorns • Sculpted installations by one of the most prominent representatives of the young artistic scene of the UK • Galerie Rudolfinum, from 28 May to do 9 Aug www.galerierudolfinum.cz

Tanec Praha 2015 • The 28th edition of the festival filled with contemporary dance and theatre of motion will present artists from the Czech Republic and abroad Prague and other Czech cities, from 25 May to 25 June www.tanecpraha.cz

TEDx Prague Woman: Momentum • A conference focused on women as the driving force of progress Kino Lucerna, 29 May www.tedxprague.cz

Zooming along on cubes • The biggest interactive display of the legendary Lego construction toy sets in the country • Amenity Resort Lipno, from 30 May to 7 Sept www.lipnoint.cz

Colours of Ostrava • One of the biggest multi-genre music festivals in the Czech Republic with a rich accompanying programme • Dolní Vítkovice, 16 to 19 June www.colours.cz

Death • A display presenting death as an integral part of life and the natural cycle of being New Building of the National Museum www.nm.cz

The Summer Shakespeare Festival • A traditional showcase of plays by the Bard, with Romeo and Juliet the new addition this year • Supreme Burgrave's House at Prague Castle, from 25 June to 5 Sept www.shakespeare.cz

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival • The festival is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, coupled with the 120th anniversary of the first screening by the Lumière brothers Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad), 3 to 11 June www.kviff.cz

Kokoschka and Prague • An exhibition of works created by the author during his stay in Czechoslovakia between 1934 and 1938, supplemented with works by painters influenced by Kokoschka Veletržní palác, until 28 June www.ngprague.cz

Towers dancing on bonnets • Photographs by Martina Kritznerová depict towers of Bohemia and further afield in Europe reflected in car • Novoměstská radnice [New Town Hall], 2 to 30 June www.nrpraha.cz

Did you know that...



... 27 June is marked in the Czech calendar as the Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Communism? It was on 27 June in 1950 when lawyer Dr Milada Horáková was executed. She was the only woman to be put to death during the period of the political processes following the communist coup d'état. Show trials, staged by the government of the period under communist leader Klement Gottwald, were used to purge

... 18 May is International Museum Day? This unique occasion has been celebrated globally since 1977 with the aim of drawing people's attention to the role of museums in the development of society. Offering a host of cultural events, Prague is certainly doing plenty to recognise this special day. For example, the National Technical Museum has announced cuts to its admission fees for 17 May (a Sunday). For a uniform admission fee of CZK 50, you will gain access to all sections of the museum, including the current Science and Technology exhibition that presents natural science, medicine as

people unwilling to collaborate with the new regime. Another 12 people were indicted together with Dr Horáková, charged with activities said to undermine the state. The whole trial process had been determined in advance. It was intended to serve as a deterrent to other people hostile to the regime. The accused were forced by violent means to confess and to learn their confession speeches by heart.

The group, named Direktorium by the state's secret police, was eventually handed four capital punishment sentences, four life imprisonments and other sentences extending to between 15 and 28 years in prison. All requests for clemency were rejected despite the fact that Gottwald was asked to pardon Dr Horáková by such prominent figures as Albert Einstein and Eleanor Roosevelt.

A memorial has been dedicated to Dr Milada Horáková and other victims of the communist regime. It was created by sculptor Olbram Zoubek and it is found on the eastern slope of Petřín Hill.

well as technical branches of science in an appealing form.

... 13 June will see the 12th edition of Prague's annual Museum Night? A record number of 80 museums and galleries will take part, opening their doors to free entry from 7pm. In addition to traditional tours, the night's programme will include various concerts, lectures and film screenings. As well as the most popular state-owned venues and other cultural institutions, smaller museums will also take part, including the Karel Zeman Museum, Václav Havel Library and Museum Montanelli.

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Cubist architecture in Prague



The beginning of the last century saw several avant-garde movements emerge, mingle and affect one another. Nearly all of them strove to put some distance between themselves and the traditional styles of art while also searching for objectives in all fields of activity closely related to art. One such movement was Cubism, which emerged from the works of Pablo Picasso and Georges Braque. Visual art creation by both

artists and their followers intentionally dismantled the composition of works so as to force the beholder to visualise and analyse the perceived reality from numerous vantage points simultaneously. This innovative and revolutionary style altered the form and look of art worldwide. But there was only one city in which Cubism developed into a fully-fledged architectural style: Prague. In the early 1920s, Prague was a rapidly developing cosmopolitan hub of culture and the arts. The first Cubist building was the department store "U Černé matky boží" [House of the Black Madonna], designed by architect Josef Gočár. At the time of its creation over the years of 1911 and 1912, the building in Celetná street in Old Town was one of the most daring feats of construction. Today, the sensitively restored building still features the original Grand Café Orient, entirely designed by the building's architect (including the furniture). The ground floor of the building is home to Galerie Kubista, which serves as a platform for discovering the riches of Czech Cubism and Art Deco. The busy corner of Lazarská and Spálená streets in

Prague's centre is dominated the Diamant House, designed by the prominent architect and great proponent of Cubism Emil Králíček. Akin to the House of the Black Madonna, it brought on considerable wrath from Prague inhabitants at the time of its creation. Not just for its façade, but also because of its arcade connection to the Holy Trinity church next door. Králíček is also the creator of the only Cubist lamppost in the world, which is sited on Jungmannovo Square. It is an example of a union between the modern and the historical: the lamppost is adjacent to a Gothic gate bearing a 14th century relief. The original lamppost has been replaced with a replica, with the original now under the care of Prague City Gallery. Another jewel of Cubist architecture in the capital city is undoubtedly the complex of buildings on the Rašín Embankment close to Vyšehrad, designed by Josef Chochol. The most prominent of these buildings is the Kovařovič Villa, mainly thanks to its position on the corner of two streets. The villa has been listed and protected as a cultural monument since 1958. It is interesting to note that even the villa's garden conforms to Cubist principles. Unlike other architects, Chochol created three-dimensional façades in light hues which lacked classic décor. They continue to emphasise the play of light and shadow to this day. Even though Cubist buildings around Prague are easy to discern they are not really uniform in style and expression. Their façades and crystalline shapes deflect light in distinct ways while playing with shadows. And yet every building is an original piece of work, mainly thanks to each of the Cubist architects approaching their respective assignments with true individuality.





Alfons Mucha

Exactly 155 years will have passed since the birth of one of the most famous Czech artists when we reach 24 July. That artist is Mucha Maria Mucha, the legacy and works of whom have become one of the symbols of Czech culture as perceived by the world today. Mucha had a far from easy start to life. He was born in the hamlet of Ivančice, near Brno, into the family of a court clerk. Following his graduation from a grammar school in Brno, he applied for, and failed to obtain, a place at the Academy of Arts in Prague. He was eventually admitted to the Munich Academy of Fine Arts and he later relocated to Paris where he studied at the Académie Julian. A major milestone he achieved before his studies was a job painting theatrical scenery for a Viennese theatre. He later

put this experience to good use when creating posters for drama performances. Given the progress that was being heralded in printing, some artists turned to illustrating books and magazines, producing prints and posters, and gradually entering the realm of applied art and design. A period at the end of the 18th century gave rise to a new movement in art – Art Nouveau – one of the last internally consistent styles. In 1894, Mucha's works and personal style became one of the most recognised symbols of Art Nouveau virtually overnight when his poster created for Sarah Bernhardt appeared in the streets of Paris. Mucha was celebrated as one of the most successful artists of his time. During his stay in Paris he created an unbelievable quantity of drawings, posters, illustrations, advertising prints as well as many objects of everyday use.

In 1906, Mucha and his wife embarked on a journey across the US, where he teamed up with a backer of art, Charles R. Crane. Crane enabled Mucha to create his greatest work, the Slav Epic. Mucha and his family returned to Czechoslovakia in 1910. He rented part of the Zbiroh chateau where he began working on a series of 20 large-format paintings of the Slav Epic that in his distinctive style depict major events in Bohemian and Slavic history.

Eighteen years later the epic was completed and Crane gifted it to the city of Prague.

After Mucha's death in 1939, the Slav Epic canvases had to be hidden from the Nazis at several locations around Prague. After the end of the war, the paintings were moved to Český Krumlov where they were eventually conserved. The Slav Epic has been on display in its unrestrained beauty in the National Gallery of Prague's Veletržní Palace since 2012.



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Book World Prague

The Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice will host the 21st Book World (Svět knihy) trade fair from 14 to 17 May. The fair is the biggest event of its kind in Central Europe. Visitors to Book World Prague 2015 will be able to browse through displays by several hundred exhibitors from more than 30 countries and regions of the world. There will also be a rich accompanying programme featuring more than 400 events. The first day of the festival, Thursday 14 May, will be dedicated mainly to professionals from among translators, literary scientists and educators. Book World's Friday to Sunday programme will follow several themes. The guest of honour at this year's fair is Egypt and representatives from the country will present not only contemporary Egyptian literature but also an overview of the dramatic political and social developments that have been taking place in the country in recent years.

Other international themes of the fair will include the "Literary Diaspora" and "Czechs around the World". In the words of the fair's Programme Director Dana Kalinová: "Our programme is intended to draw attention to those who have lived outside the Czech Republic yet have not forgotten their homeland." Prominent Czechs living and working abroad will return to their native country for Book World to present not only their work but also their take on the way of life in another country. Another extensive section of the fair's programme will focus on prominent domestic and foreign titles for children and young people. An important part of the fair is the awarding of prizes for noteworthy editorial and creative achievements. The dominant prize is the Jiří Theiner Award. This prestigious accolade, awarded in recognition of the



promotion and propagation of Czech literature, will be bestowed for the fifth time this year. Starting as early as April, selected theatres around the city will participate in a "Book World on stage". This supplementary programme feature will provide audiences with the opportunity to enjoy theatrical adaptations of the most famous Czech literary works. Book World has also expanded into the world of film: Prague cinemas Atlas and NFA Ponrepo will screen films with book themes and connections. The fair will also include a project named Das Buch, presenting German-speaking authors amid discussions conducted in German. Visitors will be able to learn about the participants from their profiles written in English and make use of an English version of the supplementary programme catalogue.

What's on in Prague

Metropolis of food

The Prague Food Festival is probably the Czech Republic's most important culinary festival. Its ninth incarnation will take place in the Prague Castle Royal Gardens over the last week of May. Visitors will be treated to a rich offering: tastings of meals from prominent restaurants, presentations by makers of selected foods and delicatessen ranges as well as workshops held by leading chefs. A long table will be

installed in the historical Ball Game Hall where festival visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy three courses prepared by winning chefs of Pavel Maurer's Grand Restaurant selection. Several world gastronomy stars will also appear at the festival. Anyone with a passion for discovering new meals, beverages or delicatessen will certainly leave the Prague Food Festival satisfied to their heart's content.

www.praguefoodfestival.cz

Beyond the boundaries of art

The DOX Centre for Contemporary Art is holding the ART BRUT LIVE exhibition which presents "art in its raw state". Art brut is said to be a highly specific artistic expression which describes intuitive creative activity bordering on madness. According to one exhibition curator, Terezie Zemánková, art brut is an authentic art form that enables people without an institutional arts education to express themselves without the need for any emphasis on established principles of art. The display is divided into two parts. The first will remain open until 17 August, presenting a selection of 300 works from the collections of Bruno Decharme. He has been following this field for more than 30 years. Decharme's unique "abcd" collection contains around 3,500 items. The selection on display contains paintings, prints, collages, short films and sculptures. The second, follow-up part, open until 6 July, offers a chance to peek into the lives of art brut creators through the photographs of Mario Del Curto. Besides the artists themselves, the images show the environs in which they live. They enable visitors to become thoroughly acquainted with the unrestrained style of the art form.

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Scenography in the city centre

The 13th Prague Quadrennial takes place from 18 to 28 June. The first international exhibition of contemporary art and scenography was held back in 1967 and over the years the event has become a customary celebration of dramatic art. The main theme of this year's festival edition is "Shared Space", with "Music, Weather and Politics" as a sub-heading. The chosen theme aims to point out those aspects of scenography that surround and affect us without actually being tangible.

The most extensive part of the Quadrennial programme is the section dedicated to countries and regions. It will feature presentations from 68 countries by means of displays and interactive installations. Another prominent festival section is devoted to students and their productions, including plays, school presentations and diverse workshops. One of the most attractive aspects of this year's Quadrennial is the selection of the venues: for the first time in its history, the festival will occupy Prague city centre and public spaces in general. For example, the piazza between the historical National Theatre building and the New Stage will witness a homage to Czech director and scenographer Jan Nebesky. www.pq.cz



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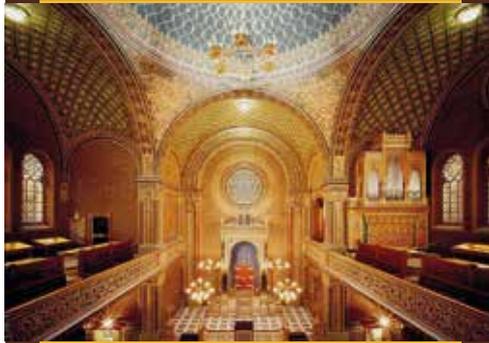
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Jiří Sozanský - EXTREME SITUATIONS

An exhibition held at the GASK Gallery (Jesuit College). The content and symbolism of Sozanský's exhibition 'Extreme Situations' is determined by two important anniversaries: the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the 20th anniversary of the end of the war in the Balkans.

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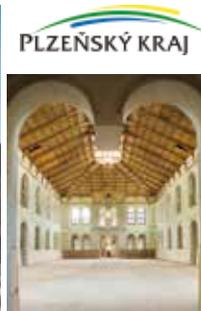
9 Weeks of Baroque of western Bohemia

The Czech Republic is brimming over with architectural jewels that represent all the major movements that have taken hold in Europe over past centuries. Probably the most prominent footprint left in western and southern Bohemia is that of the Baroque period of the 16th to 18th centuries. Western Bohemia became the location, and to an extent even the “jousting place”, for the work of two leading architects of the period: Santini and Dienzenhofer. Buildings erected by the two greats and their followers transformed western Bohemia into a unique exhibiting ground of Baroque architecture. Pilsen, one of the three European Capitals of Culture for 2015, is striving to offer visitors a cultural programme presenting all the region’s essential qualities. Baroque architecture will be showcased to the public by means of an extensive summertime festival, 9 Weeks of Baroque.

The festival will take place over nine weeks from June to August. Each week will be dedicated to a different prominent location with a rich cultural programme put on for visitors and spanning the seven days. Nature lovers should take note of Mondays as they will be dedicated

to landscapes. Tuesdays will focus on historical monuments. Wednesdays will present the beauty of rural areas while Thursdays are reserved for museums and galleries that have prepared various events, viewings and presentations. Fridays and Saturdays will be dedicated to the main part of the festival’s programme offering visitors two days of Baroque period scents, tastes and music. Sundays, in line with the word of the Bible, will be dedicated to resting the body and the mind. The first week of the festival – 26 June to 5 July – will take place in **Nepomuk**, just under 20 miles south of Pilsen. This beautiful historical town is the birthplace of Saint John of Nepomuk, one of the patron saints of Bohemia. The 9 Weeks of Baroque festival will then move on to the **Klatovy** area where the history and legacy of the Jesuit order will be presented, along with the Miraculous Madonna of Klatovy. Water castle **Švihov** nearby will put on diverse folklore and gastronomic events. The festival will also visit the only spa town in the Pilsen Region, **Konstantinovy Lázně**, located in the midst of beautiful nature as well as several chateaux.

www.turisturaj.cz



PLZEŇSKÝ KRAJ

Enjoy the beauty of a border town a Cheb



The town of Cheb lies both in the heart of Europe and in the immediate vicinity of the border with Germany. The town's strategic position on the river Ohře, where the town's history began in the 11th century on the site of a previous Slavic stronghold, determined its dramatic history. If you visit Cheb you will be able to visit numerous places and buildings that have been witness to the town's fate through the centuries since its mediaeval origins.

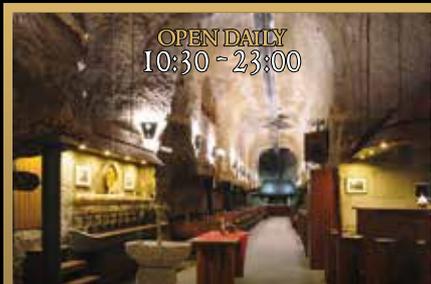
Just about any major war that has taken place within the territory of Bohemia involved Cheb. Given its position on the country's border, the town alternated between being Czech and German. In 1196, the Cheb region was devolved to Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I (aka Frederick Barbarossa). He had the original fort replaced with a pfalz (castle), the remains of which have been preserved to this day. The remains include in particular a part of the original palace, the Black Tower, which offers splendid views of the town below, and the unique Romanesque-Gothic chapel of St Martina, Erhard and Ursula.

The town's centre, dominated by a well-preserved square with a group of eleven medieval merchants' houses (known as Špalíček) and the castle, has been rightfully converted into an urban conservation area. The house behind the Špalíček, currently home to the Municipal Museum, was witness in 1634 to the assassi-

nation of Albrecht von Wallenstein whose prowess as a military commander had had fateful consequences for the whole of the Cheb region. During the Thirty Years' War, Cheb suffered not only from being overrun by the Austrian imperial army commanded by Wallenstein, but also by the Saxons and Swedes. Following the protracted conflict, Cheb was rebuilt by leading architects of the time, including Dientzenhofer, Leuthner and Bayer. The town thus obtained a new town hall, the Church of St Clara and a new Dominican monastery.

At the time of the creation of independent Czechoslovakia in 1918, the population of Cheb was 80-percent German-speaking and it was refusing to become part of the Czechoslovak state. However, Czech legionnaires returning from the Italian front swiftly dealt with the revolt and Cheb remained part of the country until it found itself on the other side of the border following the Munich Agreement of 1938. After WWII, the application of the Beneš Decrees meant Sudeten Germans were forcibly expelled and the town became virtually empty. Today, Cheb is one of the most beautiful places in the Karlovarský (Carlsbad) Region and its development continues. The Czech-German Fund for the Future is supporting a current exhibition in the town's museum of large-scale historical finds from all over the region.

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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, 24 January – 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.
- ▶ **Popular souvenirs** purchased in the Czech Republic include Czech cut glass, porcelain, traditional liquors Becherovka (herbal bitters), mead,

Slivovice (plum brandy), Bohemian garnets, amber, wooden marionettes, art and design pieces, folk art pieces, spa wafers and typical spa drinking cups, etc.

- ▶ **The majority of shops open** from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on workdays. It is, however, easy to do one's shopping at weekends as well, primarily thanks to numerous shopping centres (e.g. Palladium near metro station "Náměstí Republiky", Nový Smíchov near metro station "Anděl", or Centrum Chodov at metro station "Chodov").
- ▶ **Currency exchange rates**
One US dollar buys approximately CZK 26, one Euro approximately CZK 28, and one pound sterling approximately CZK 38.
- ▶ **Banks**
Most banks in Prague are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.
- ▶ **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.

Public transport information

- ▶ **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. After midnight, public transport is ensured by night tram and bus lines.



Fare

Tickets	Adult	Child	Senior
Basic 90 min.	CZK 32	CZK 16	CZK 16
Short-term 30 min.	CZK 24	CZK 12	CZK 12
1 day 24 hrs	CZK 110	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 opencard with a „Special fare endorsement“ (endorsement price is 120 CZK), the fare for travel in Prague (tariff zones P, O 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 Veveslavín” (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 SC, 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

Emergency number of the Police

158

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

1188

Useful Czech telephone numbers

1180

Prague contact centre

12444

Roadside assistance

1230

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.praguewelcome.cz

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.jizdnirady.idnes.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



PRAGUE CITY TOURISM

- Old-Town Hall • Rytiřská 31
- Wenceslas Square
- Václav Havel Airport Prague
- Lesser Town Bridge Tower



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

- Václav Havel Airport Prague, Terminal 1 and 2
 - Prague City Hall, Jungmannova 29/35, Prague 1
- Metro stations:
- Anděl
 - Hlavní nádraží
 - Hradčanská
 - Nádraží Veveřslavin



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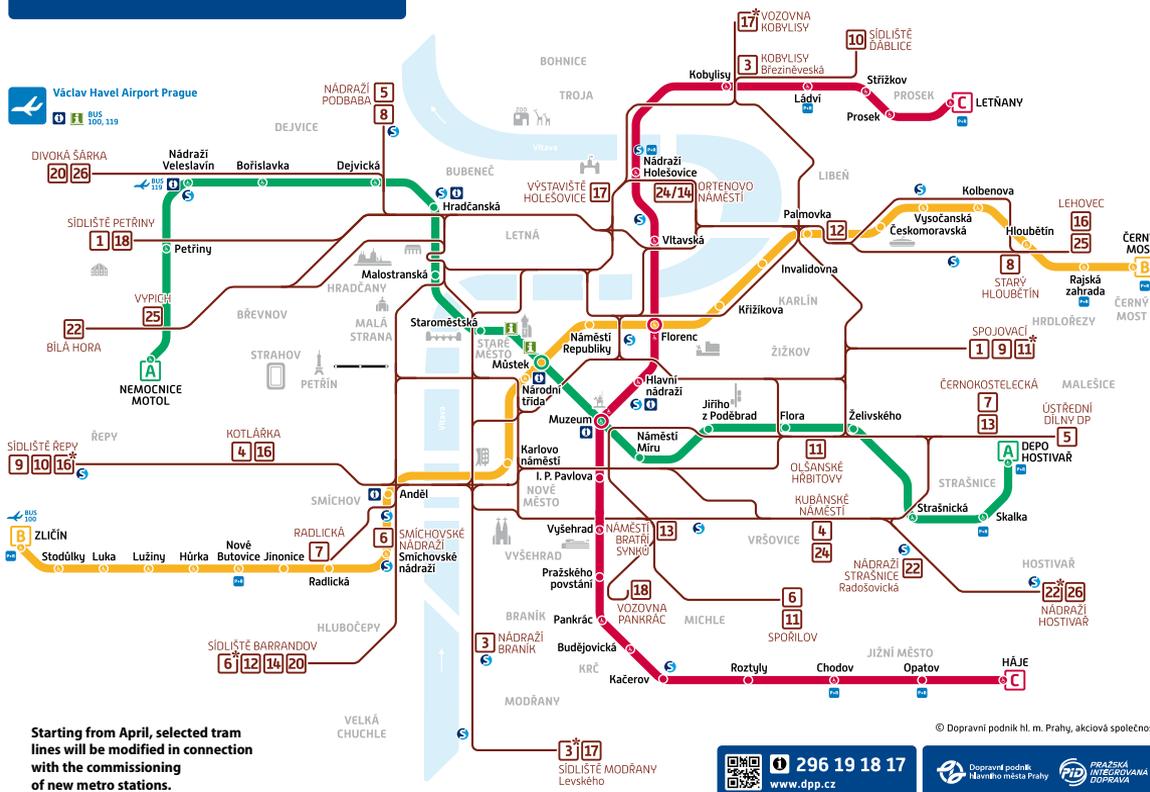
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Trams and Metro in Prague

Map – Daytime operation – Permanent situation – April 2015



Starting from April, selected tram lines will be modified in connection with the commissioning of new metro stations.

- Tram line with terminus
- Metro lines with and without barrier-free access stops
- Metro transfer station
- 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

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