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www.senat.cz

Czech Nature Photo • an exhibition of nature photography by Czech and Slovak photographers Karolinum, until 17 June

www.czechphoto.org

Ride a Steam-Powered Train • a nostalgic ride along the tracks through Prague from the Prague-Smíchov train station, 11 May and 22 June

www.cd.cz

Tourist Season Begins at Prague Castle • free access to selected buildings and a tour of ceremonial premises • Prague Castle, 11 May

www.kulturanahrade.cz

Stoves from Špaček • an exhibition of tiles and stove-making in Prague during the Renaissance House at the Golden Ring, from 15 May

www.muzeumprahy.cz

Jaroslav Róna • an exhibition of works by the important Czech artist titled Drawings from Elsewhere... Jewish Museum in Prague, until 6 October

www.jewishmuseum.cz

United Islands of Prague • a multi-genre outdoor music festival with appearances by Czech and foreign musicians various venues in the neighbourhood Prague-Karlín, from 31 May until 1 June

www.unitedislands.cz

Madame de Paris • a concert of chansons by Édith Piaf, Charles Aznavour, and Jacques Brel Studio DVA Theatre, 13, 21, and 25 June

www.studiodva.cz

The Photographer Jiří Hanke • an exhibition of photography presenting this country and the world from the 1970s until the present • House of Photography, until 18 August

www.ghmp.cz

Summer Festivities of Early Music • a music festival focusing this year on Baroque dance various venues in Prague, from 11 July until 6 August

www.letnislavnosti.cz

A Prague Picnic • a two-day festival of street cuisine in the centre of Prague Střelecký Island, 13 and 14 July

[www: Facebook Pražský piknik](https://www.facebook.com/Pražský-piknik)

Fall of the Iron Curtain • an exhibition of selected photography about 1989, a turning point in central Europe • Queen Anne's Summer Palace, from 31 May

www.kulturanahrade.cz

Behind the Door • this street theatre festival presents unique curiosities and limber artists Prague Exhibition Grounds, from 15 to 18 July

www.zadvermi.cz

Alberto Giacometti • an exhibition of one of the most important sculptors and painters of the twentieth century • National Gallery, from 19 July

www.ngprague.cz

Do you know that...



... the names of the most famous Czech travelers are **Hanzelka and Zikmund**? In post-war Czechoslovakia, their names became synonymous with adventure. Jiří Hanzelka and Miroslav Zikmund met at a business college, and they graduated after the Second World War (Czech universities had been closed during the war). Their shared passion for travel led them to set out in 1947 on their first expedition of Africa and South America. They took the trip in a Tatra vehicle that is inseparably associated with their journeys. In the course of three and a half years, they passed through 44 countries, covering 69,000 miles. They climbed Kilimanjaro, spent the night on top of the Cheops Pyramid, and encountered headhunters. During their dangerous passage through Abyssinia, they were attacked by bandits. Sharing their experiences were the people back home in Czechoslovakia, where a Communist putsch had taken place in the mean time. Hanzelka and Zikmund continuously reported on their journey on radio broadcasts, and they also wrote several books and made

documentary films. People also eagerly followed their second expedition from 1959 to 1964 around Asia and Oceania. Meanwhile, gradual changes were again taking place in Czechoslovakia, leading to what was known as the "Prague Spring", a period of considerable political relaxation. Both men took sides with the Communist reformers, so after the hardliners returned to power, they were unable to publish their works or take part in public life. Not even the publication of

accounts of their journeys could resume until after the Velvet Revolution in 1989. When the borders were opened, Miroslav Zikmund again set out on journeys. He visited Australia, New Zealand, and Siberia, but he was no longer accompanied by the ailing Jiří Hanzelka, who died in 2003. An exhibition at a museum in Zlín is devoted to these famous travelers, and the Tatra 87 car they used on their first expedition is on display at the National Technical Museum in Prague.

... there is an Infant Jesus of Prague?

If you go down the hill from Petřín to the Lesser Quarter, you run into Karmelitská street at the Church of Our Lady Victorious and of Saint Anthony of Padua. This early Baroque church has an adjacent convent of Discalced Carmelites, but it is better known by the shorter name "At the Infant Jesus of Prague". This little sculpture, about half a meter tall (a foot and a half), depicts Jesus Christ in his early childhood, and it attracts many visitors. People believe that it has the power to grant wishes. The Infant Jesus has been credited with miraculous healings and even with saving Prague during a siege by the Swedes in the 17th century. The Infant Jesus of Prague probably comes from Spain, and it was made around the middle of the 16th century. One of the legends about the origin of the rare sculpture says that the infant Jesus revealed himself to a certain monk, who then made the statue. According to a different version, it originally belonged to a Spanish mystic, Saint Teresa of Ávila, the founder of the Discalced Carmelites. She supposedly gave it to a friend whose daughter married a man from Prague. In fact, the Infant Jesus was brought from Spain to Bohemia by a lady of the court of Queen Maria Manrique de Lara of Spain, who married

a Czech nobleman in 1556. Her daughter donated the little statue to the Carmelite convent at the Church of Our Lady Victorious in 1628. Not only commoners have paid tribute to the Infant Jesus – Empress Maria Theresa herself embroidered vestments in which the Carmelite nuns dress the statue. Pope Benedict XVI donated a golden royal crown for it in 2009.



Concerts



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May – Španělská synagoga, Praha 1

June, July – Maiselova Synagoga, Praha 1

7:00 pm

- The Best of Gershwin
- The Best of World and Czech Music
- Bolero, Carmina Burana and Jewish songs
- Hallelujah



For the current programme, visit
www.bmart.cz

What's Going On in Prague

Concerts at the Synagogue. During the Middle Ages, the neighbourhood called the Jewish Town was an impoverished ghetto, but today it is one of the parts of the centre of Prague that is most visited by tourists. Among other things, there remain two synagogues that remind us of the former historical appearance of the ghetto, which disappeared after demolition at the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These are the Spanish Synagogue and the Maisel Synagogue. One way visitors can experience the genius loci of the synagogues is by attending concerts that take place in these houses of prayer. The only opportunity to visit the Spanish Synagogue on Dušní Street is in May, however. After that, it will be closed for several months for renovations. The name of this sacred landmark refers to the Moorish style in which it was rebuilt during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The concerts you can hear there are not limited to Spanish rhythms, however. One of the programmes is called **The Best of Czech and World Music**. From the music of Czech composers, the concert features The Moldau from the cycle My Homeland by Bedřich Smetana, and there are also two selections from the music of Antonín Dvořák: Largo from the New World Symphony and an aria from the opera Rusalka. Music from around the world is represented by Bach's composition Air, Mozart's A Little Night Music, and Vivaldi's Winter from The Four Seasons. We also hear arias from La traviata and Carmen by the great opera composers Verdi and Bizet, and there are even melodies from the musical West Side Story and George Gershwin's great compositions Rhapsody in Blue and Summertime. There is also a separate programme devoted to that American composer, whose songs were immortalised by Ella Fitzgerald, Frank

Sinatra, and Billie Holiday. That programme's title is **The Best of Gershwin**. There is also music by Gershwin's contemporaries: Jerome Kern, Frederick Loewe, and Arthur Rubinstein. The next two concert programmes can be heard not only in May at the Spanish Synagogue, but also after that building closes in June at the equally beautiful neo-Gothic Maisel Synagogue (on Maiselova Street). A programme titled **Hallelujah** will lead audiences through music history, from the music of the Baroque composer George Frederick Handel to Giacomo Puccini and Gustav Mahler and even Bohemian Rhapsody by the band Queen and the enchanting number Hallelujah by the songwriter Leonard Cohen, which gave the programme its title. The composers Carl Orff and Maurice Ravel are then linked by a concert named for their best-known compositions: the cantata **Carmina Burana** and the orchestral work **Bolero**. The programme also includes Jewish songs. All of these concerts are to be performed by the Prague chamber ensemble Czech Collegium.



Non-traditional tours during the day and at night.

In May and June, several events will be taking place in Prague to give visitors access to landmarks and modern buildings during unusual night-time hours or to allow them to visit premises that are otherwise closed to the public. And this is usually free of charge. The **festival Open House** will take place on the weekend of 18 and 19 May. Opening their doors are historic palaces and opulent villas as well as modern office complexes and technical and industrial buildings, in order to present to visitors their interesting history and architecture. For example, near Prague Castle you can visit the Trauttmansdorf Palace, which once served as a prison and is now undergoing renovation for use by the Foreign Ministry. A tour of the Stone Bell House on Old Town Square takes visitors to the building's Medieval cellar, and at the Trade Fair Palace, which is the home of the National Gallery, you will be able to visit the technical facilities and the roof. For a vista of the city, you can visit the water tower in nearby Letná or the tower of Troja Palace. The latter is farther from the centre of Prague, but you can even get there by a sightseeing boat. More than just sports fans might be interested in a tour of the stadium in Strahov, which is the world's largest in terms of area. There is also a special day for gardens. There will be a **Weekend of Open Gardens** on 8 and 9 June. The purpose of the event is to increase people's awareness about garden architecture and the use of public spaces. There will be guided tours of Prague's public parks and gardens, and on the same weekend you will also be able to visit private gardens. **The Night of Churches** comes on Friday, 24 May. Individual parishes and congregations all around the Czech Republic are opening up their places of worship, including areas that are not usually accessible, such as organ lofts, towers, crypts, or monastery gardens. Many of the tours are



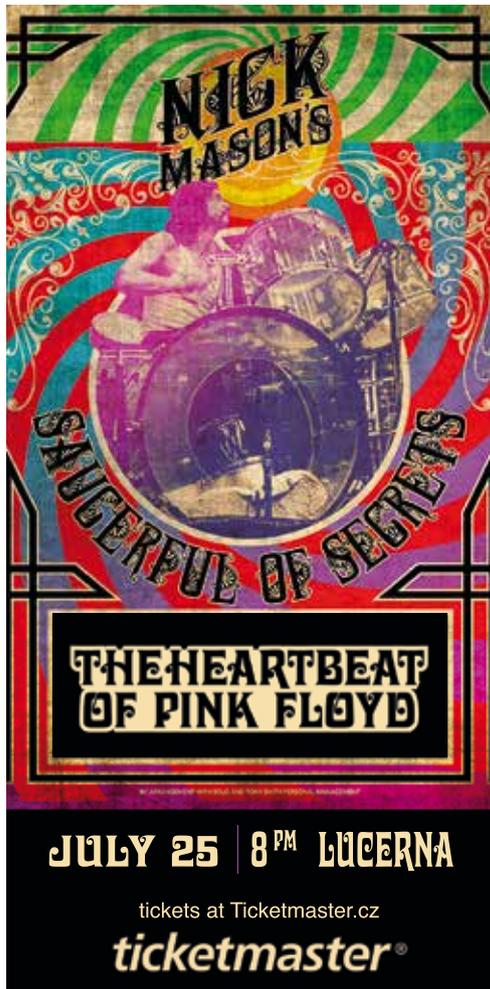
accompanied by concerts, workshops, and theatrical performances. Among the Prague churches inviting night-time visitors is one of the city's most important landmarks – St Vitus's Cathedral at Prague Castle. Prague's museums, galleries, and other institutions

are also welcoming night-time visitors during **Prague Museum Night** on Saturday, 8 June. It lasts from 7 p.m. until 1 a.m., and dozens of buildings are participating. Admission to most of them is free of charge, and they are all connected by a special "museum" bus line. For example, you can have a look at the Museum of the Institute of Anatomy (on the street U Nemocnice in Prague 2), where you can learn about the technology used for making preparations, among other things. It can be interesting to make a night-time visit to the Botanical Gardens (on Trojská Street in Prague 7). The greenhouses contain tropical and subtropical flora, and in the outdoor exhibition, you can find a 130-year-old maidenhair tree (Ginkgo bilboa), for example. You can also see a temporary exhibit of carnivorous plants. Visitors also need not be burglars to enter the Czech National Bank (Na Příkopě, Prague 1), where there will be an exhibit inside the original safe. Czech Radio (Vinohradská, Prague 2) will be presenting the history of radio broadcasting, and to learn about the history of steam locomotives, you can visit the Zličov Roundhouse (Ke Sklárně, Prague 5).

The exhibition "Praha 1606". 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. In 2019, 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) from 22 May.

www.muzeumprahy.cz





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Old Town Square

Old Town Square, formerly also called the **Great Square** or the **Ring**, covers an area of more than 9,000 m². It forms a part of the **Royal Way**, i.e. the historical route taken by Bohemia's incoming kings to their coronation.

It already existed in the eleventh century, when it served as a marketplace. Nearly every building surrounding the square is important or interesting in some way. **Old Town Hall** attracts the most attention. John, Count of Luxembourg and King of Bohemia, granted the Old Town a permit for its construction in 1338 – the burghers of Prague were the first in Bohemia to gain this privilege. It consists of a complex of several buildings, but visitors to Prague are most interested in the tower with the medieval astronomical clock. It is activated every hour on the hour during the day. At the end of the Second World War, the Prague Uprising caused severe damage to the Old Town Hall. At the time, the building was serving as one of the centers of the antifascist resistance, and during the fighting between the insurgents and the German Wehrmacht, a fire was set that completely destroyed the building's neo-gothic wing. All that remained were the perimeter walls, and these were subsequently demolished, and although there were several competitions for designs for its restoration, that wing was never rebuilt. In front of the Old Town Hall tower, **27 white crosses** are marked in the pavement to commemorate an event from more remote history. They remind us of the 27 Czech noblemen who were executed to make an example in 1621 after the Battle of White Mountain, which brought to a definitive end the revolt of the Bohemian Estates against the House of Habsburg. The Bohemian rebellion did, however, trigger a far more serious conflict – the

Thirty Years' War. At the very end of the war, Prague was besieged by Swedish troops. The Swedes were unable to conquer Prague's Old Town, so in thanks to the Virgin Mary for the city's successful defense, Prague's citizens erected a Marian Column on Old Town Square. In 1918, after the breakup of Austria-Hungary and the establishment of an independent Czechoslovak state, the column was torn down by an angry mob that saw it as a symbol of the overthrown Habsburgs. For three years, the column shared space with the **Jan Hus Memorial**, which is still standing on the square. It was unveiled in 1915 on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the burning of the medieval church reformer at the stake. Hus stands at the middle of a group of figures, and his gaze is directed towards the Týn Church, which was a center for members of the Hussite movement in the fifteenth century.



Museums for Lovers of Technology and History

If you would like to visit a local museum while in Prague, there is more to choose from than just art galleries. For example, you can see exhibitions on the history of transportation, the police, or aircraft.

The **Museum of the Police of the Czech Republic** (Ke Karlovu Street) follows the activities of Czech security forces from their founding until the present. You can learn details about the history of the police at the large permanent exhibit. The beginnings of the police are presented in a section devoted to the history of the gendarmerie and police from 1850 to 1938. You can see the old uniforms and weapons that officers of the peace were using at the time. The exhibit also includes a fully equipped gendarmerie station and even an original border marker from the period just before the beginning of the Second World War. Another area of the museum is devoted to wartime, when Czech territory was under the administration of the Third Reich as a protectorate. The exhibition also commemorates Prague's police officers who were killed during the war, or were executed or murdered. After the era of the Protectorate, the museum presents the period of Socialist Czechoslovakia, including a chapter covering border guards from the days when the border to the West was closed, and also exhibits about the feared secret police. There are displays of technology used for surveillance. There is also a section devoted to the present-day police including officers of the peace, mounted police, the bomb squad, and special weapons and tactics teams. A separate room documents the development of the traffic police. It is interesting, for example, to compare devices used for measuring speed or to examine the bicycles used by gendarmes a hundred years ago. There is also a special



exhibit about the history of criminology, where visitors are informed about the most famous cases and can even try out the work of detectives. Along with the permanent exhibition, there are temporary exhibits. Until the end of June, you can come here to see an exhibition titled *The Beauty of Buttons*, which surveys 250 years of manufacturing of buttons for uniforms.

Prague's **Military Museum** focuses on the military and related matters. The main building is closed because of ongoing renovations. The affiliated **Museum of Aviation** in Prague – Kbely, the location of the historic military airbase, is worth a visit. Due to both the quantity and quality of its collections, it is one of the largest air museums in Europe. Currently on display in hangars and outdoors are 128 aircraft – fighters, military and civilian planes. In addition to Czech or Czechoslovak aircraft, one also finds a German Messerschmitt, a Soviet Yakovlev, and an American Lockheed. Besides the planes and other technical equipment, there are also displays of gear, banners, and medals relating to the century-long history of military aviation in particular.

Exhibitions on the development of technical fields, the natural sciences, and the applied sciences and industry are all found at one place, the **National Technical**



Museum (on Kostelní Street). You can choose from among fourteen permanent exhibits. For example, in the Architecture, Construction, and Design section, you can examine an architect's study from the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries or try to orient yourself using historical maps. In the collections of the astronomy exhibit, you will find a meteorite that is nearly five thousand years old, which was found in Argentina in 2005. The transportation section is especially popular with visitors. It concerns ground, water, and air transport and the pioneers of the field. For example, one finds here the first car made in this country in 1898 and the plane used by Jan Kašpar to make the first long-distance flight in the history of Czech aviation. In the section devoted to Printing, you can admire the manual press for book printing used by the Jesuits at the turn of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and you can even try your hand at the printing trade. The Mining exhibit includes a coal and iron mine. A section devoted to Household Technology evokes nostalgia and amazement among visitors. For example, there is a short-term exhibition until the end of September commemorating the technical and industrial products bearing the Made in Czechoslovakia label, ranging from irons to aircraft.

Two modern operas about Mozart

The Estates Theatre in Prague is the only theatrical stage now in existence where Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart performed. For this reason, the Estates Theatre focuses on Mozartean repertoire. In the spring, Mozart's classic operas **The Marriage of Figaro** and **Don Giovanni** will be joined by something new: two contemporary operas written about the great composer. The Estates Theatre is presenting them jointly on a programme titled Mozart and the Others. The opera **Letters, Riddles and Writs** by the English composer Michael Nyman is a musical setting of Mozart's letters as well as of bizarre riddles that he wrote for Carnival season in Vienna. The American Steven Stucky was inspired by the book **The Classical Style** by the musicologist Charles Rosen, from which Stucky also took the title of his ironic grotesque. In both works, the character Mozart is conceived as a "breeches role", meaning that the famous composer is played on stage by a woman. The Estates Theatre is performing both operas in the original English with Czech and English supertitles.



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From Czech History: Patron Saints of Bohemia

Several saints have been chosen as patrons, to intercede for and protect the Czech Lands and its people.

Saint Ludmila was born in ca. 860. At the age of fourteen or fifteen, she married Duke Bořivoj I, the first historically documented Bohemian ruler. They had at least six children together, but the names are known for only two of them, who later ascended to the throne as dukes. Responsibility for the Christianization of Bohemia is attributed to Ludmila. She and her husband Bořivoj received their baptism directly from the hand of the Slavic apostle Methodius. Their baptism also had a political meaning – it enabled them to achieve supremacy over other principalities. Ludmila did not distance herself from politics; after Bořivoj's death, she did not step out of the limelight as was customary for widows, but instead remained involved in public matters. This proved to be her undoing, because her daughter-in-law Drahomíra had the same ambition. Personal and political disagreements led to the murder of Ludmila on orders from Drahomíra. According to legend, she had her mother-in-law strangled with her own veil. Her grandson, Duke Wenceslas, had her remains buried at the Church of St George at

Prague Castle. Ludmila was canonized in the 12th century. Drahomíra survived the death of not only her mother-in-law, but also her son – she is known to have been present when Wenceslas was murdered. After his death, she fled Prague in fear for her life, and nothing is known about what became of her.

Saint Zdislava came from a family with ties to the royal court. Almost nothing is known about Zdislava's youth (she was born sometime after 1220 in Křižanov); she may have been raised in one of Moravia's convents. Although she came from a wealthy family, she is said to have been modest and to have had a friendly attitude towards the clergy. At about the age of fifteen, she married Havel of Lemberk in northern Bohemia. Together with him, she instigated the construction of Dominican monasteries in Turnov and Jablonné v Podještědí. She is primarily associated with the latter of these locations – she is even said to have helped with construction of the monastery there and to have come in person to the local hospital, where she aided the infirm. She died at about the age of thirty, supposedly of tuberculosis, and she is buried at the Church of Saint Lawrence in Jablonné. In 1995 Pope John Paul II canonized her as a saint.

Saint Adalbert was the second Bishop of Prague, and he is also regarded as the author of the oldest Czech and Polish sacred songs. The Czechs share Saint Adalbert with the Poles – he is perceived not only as the second patron of the Czech Lands, but also as the chief patron of the Polish church. He was probably born between 955 and 957 in Libice nad Cidlinou, a town about 65 kilometers from Prague. His life was on course for a career in the church from his childhood. After his studies in Magdeburg, Germany, in 982 he became the second Bishop of Prague. In his position, he was determined to spread the Christian faith and to eradicate such heathen vices as polygamy and alcoholism, but his sometimes radical efforts were not always received enthusiastically, so he left for Rome. At the request of a Bohemian duke, he returned in 992 together with a group of Italian monks, for whom he founded the Břevnov Monastery. This was the very first monastery for males in Bohemia (the area has now been incorporated into Prague). The situation had not changed much during Adalbert's absence, and in addition, the Czech state was in a crisis, so he left the country for a second time two years later. His departure saved his life. Only he and his brother Soběslav escaped the slaughter of the Slavniks, the important Bohemian family to which both belonged. Instead of returning to Bohemia, Adalbert left for Poland, and from there he headed to Prussia with the goal of converting the pagans there to the Christian faith. Not even death threats could get him to back down from his incendiary mission work, and on 23 April 997, at one of the holy sites of the pagans, he was captured and ritualistically killed.



An Excursion to the Regions: Brno



Brno is the second-largest city in the Czech Republic. It is located in a part of Moravia that is mainly associated with fine wine. It is a good idea to combine a visit to a Moravian wine cellar with a tour of one of the local landmarks or an excursion into the surrounding wilderness.

Like Prague, Brno also has a castle of its own. **Špilberk** was built in the latter half of the thirteenth century by Přemysl Ottokar II, the future King of Bohemia, and it has undergone many changes over the centuries. The most important change was its renovation as a massive baroque fortress, which was besieged several times, but without success. In part because of its formidable defenses, a feared civilian prison was built there for the most hardened criminals. The first prisoners were transferred there in 1784. In addition, the lower halls were divided into cells where shackled criminals served life sentences. Relatively quickly, however, Emperor Leopold II closed the portion of the prison for life sentences and also introduced some improvements of the conditions for the other convicts. Špilberk nonetheless continued to serve as a prison, and it began to be a place where political prisoners were kept behind bars, including the

French revolutionary Jean-Baptiste Drouet, the Hungarian Jacobin and author Ferenc Kazinczy, and the Italian patriot and poet Silvio Pellico, who would later write a description of his experiences as a prisoner in Špilberk in a book. To Czechs, the best known prisoner there was Václav Babinský, a bandit who served time in Špilberk from 1841 until 1855, when the prison there was closed. He seems to have been reformed, because after his release, he worked for the rest of his life as a gardener at a monastery, but after banquets, he enjoyed telling frightening an largely invented stories about banditry, and those tales made him famous.

On the other hand, visitors to Freedom Square will find a contemporary curiosity. The unveiling of an **original astronomical clock** there in 2010 stirred up some controversy. Its interesting shape reminds people of various things, but it is intended to represent a projectile, referring to the city's courage during the siege of the Swedish troops during the Thirty Years' War. The individual parts of this clock turn to show the time, but passersby will not be able to read the time without instructions. A different peculiarity of the clock tends to attract attention: every day at 11 a.m. after the playing of the carillon, a glass marble falls from one of four openings. If you are lucky, you can catch it and take it home.

Villa Tugendhat is a functionalist building in Brno designed by the German architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. It was built in 1929–1930 on commission for the couple Greta and Fritz Tugendhat. Mies van der Rohe used modern technologies and materials and even designed the furnishings. The fate of this unique building and its inhabitants was rather dramatic. The Tugendhats abandoned the villa in 1938 out of fear of the rise of Nazism, and they never returned to their home. The

building was occupied by the German authorities, and at the end of the war it was partially damaged during an air raid. In 1945 the Soviets used it to house their soldiers and as stalls for horses. After the war, it served for instruction in gymnastic dancing and later as a rehabilitation center. It was not recognized as a landmark of modern architecture until 1969. In the 1980s it underwent somewhat careless renovations, but the building was returned to its original condition by renovations in 2010–2012. The villa is now open to the public.

If you visit Brno, it would be a shame not to go into the surrounding countryside as well, in part because Moravia is a winemaking region known for its wine cellars. A wine tasting trip can be combined, for example, with a journey into ancient times: Moravia is also the site of important archeological excavations. For example, in the **Pálava region** you can visit an archeological part at a settlement of mammoth hunters. The world's oldest ceramic art object was discovered not far from there. The Venus of Dolní Věstonice is a depiction of a woman that dates from the early stone age. From Brno, it also is not far to the **Moravian Karst** nature reserve, with its many beautiful rock formations, abysses, and especially caves. The Punkva Caves, which are accessible by boat, are one of the most frequently visited sites. The underground river also runs through Mačocha Abyss, which is over 138 meters deep. It got its name from the legend of a mother who cast her stepson into the abyss.



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, 19 April – Good Friday, 22 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 24.5,

one US dollar approximately CZK 22, 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.

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. Night tram and bus lines provide public transportation after midnight.

**Taxi to
the airport
for €18**



www.transport-in-prague.com





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 opencard 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 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

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



PRAGUE CITY TOURISM INFORMATION CENTRES

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



PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

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



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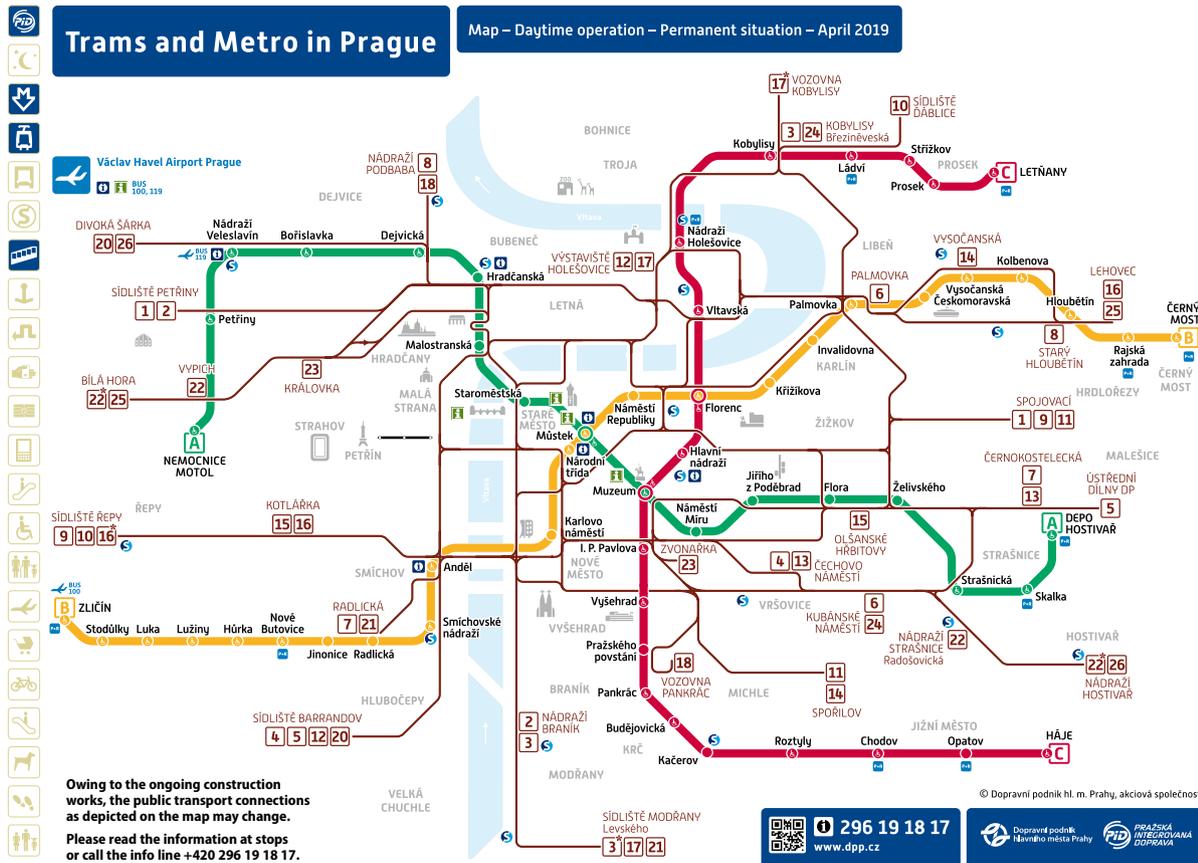
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Trams and Metro in Prague

Map – Daytime operation – Permanent situation – April 2019



- Metro lines with and without barrier-free access stops
- 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

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