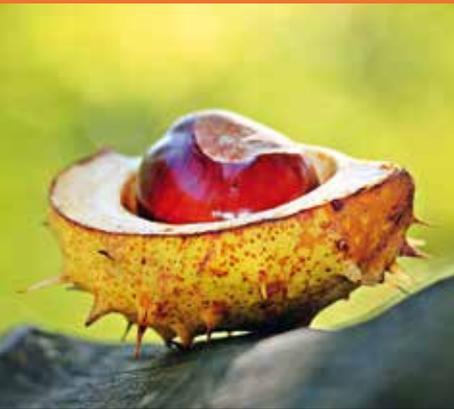


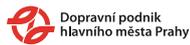
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august – october 2019



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29 September – 12 October

LEDNICE/VALTICE MUSIC FESTIVAL

4 October – 5 October

VALTICE GRAPE HARVEST 2019

[www.valtice.eu](http://www.valtice.eu)

## What's Going On in Prague

**Prague 1606** • a nine-metre animation of the City of Prague in the days of Rudolf II based on a period engraving • House at the Golden Ring, permanent exhibit

[www.muzeumprahy.cz](http://www.muzeumprahy.cz)

**Yoga at the Convent** • exercise in the garden of a Medieval convent, free admission, bring your own mat  
Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia, Tuesdays and Thursdays in August

[www.ngprague.cz/anezka-live](http://www.ngprague.cz/anezka-live)

**Ethnopnic** • a tasting of gastronomic specialties from beyond Europe with an auxiliary programme • Náprstek Museum, 17 August

[www.nm.cz](http://www.nm.cz)

**Opera Fest** • outdoor performances of the great operas Nabucco, Aida, and Carmen  
Prague Exhibition Grounds (Holešovice), from 19 to 21 August

[www.operafest.cz](http://www.operafest.cz)

**Castle Bonfire Night** • night-time tours of Prague landmarks like the Wallenstein Palace or the Prague Castle Gardens • various locations, 31 August

[www.npu.cz/hradozamecka-noc](http://www.npu.cz/hradozamecka-noc)

**The Steadfast** • an overview of Czech art from the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918 through the Velvet Revolution in 1989 • Municipal House, until 6 October

[www.obecnidum.cz](http://www.obecnidum.cz)

**Learn about Science** • this science and technology laboratory presents science to children and adults in an entertaining way • Vítězné náměstí, 4 September

[www.festival-vedy.cz](http://www.festival-vedy.cz)

**Promenade Concerts** • performance by a military band with a tradition dating back to the 19th century at the Prague Castle courtyard • Prague Castle, 7 September

[www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz)

**Night Run Prague** • 10 km and 5 km cross-country adventures, also suitable for children, headlamp required • Letenské sady, 14 September

[www.night-run.cz](http://www.night-run.cz)

**A Premonition of Shadow** • an exhibition of disquieting paintings by Josef Bolf, one of the most prominent contemporary Czech artists • Trade Fair Palace, from 20 September

[www.ngprague.cz](http://www.ngprague.cz)

**Concert of the Czech Philharmonic** • the leading Czech orchestra plays works by Leoš Janáček and Sergei Prokofiev • Concert Hall at the Rudolfinum, from 2 to 4 October

[www.ceskafilharmonie.cz](http://www.ceskafilharmonie.cz)

**Sounds, Codes, Images** • an interactive exhibition presenting audio experimentation in the visual arts • Stone Bell House, until 13 October

[www.ghmp.cz](http://www.ghmp.cz)

**Ride a Steam-Powered Train** • a nostalgic ride through Prague in a train with an historical steam locomotive • from the Prague-Smíchov railway station, 19 October

[www.cd.cz](http://www.cd.cz)

**Designblok** • an exclusive design and fashion show with Czech and foreign designers  
Prague Exhibition Grounds (Holešovice), from 17 to 21 October

[www.designblok.cz](http://www.designblok.cz)

**Grape harvest festivals in Prague.** Today, only a few Prague vineyards remain, but there are opportunities to taste wines from the Czech Republic including Moravian wines at several Prague wine festivals. One of Bohemia's oldest vineyards is located directly on the grounds of Prague Castle – the St Wenceslas Vineyard. It is named for an important Bohemian duke. According to legend, he personally planted grape vines here in the tenth century and harvested them for making sacramental wine. A grape harvest festival is held there on 28 September, the day when Saint Wenceslas was murdered by his brother. The day of the death of the patron saint of Bohemia is also a national holiday. Prague Castle has a grape harvest festival of its own

on 14 and 15 September at the Royal Gardens. One of the attractions is fresh grape juice squeezed using a replica of an historical hand press. In Bohemia, the growing of grapes was primarily a concern of the church, which used the wine for celebrating Mass, but the nobility and cities gradually began making wine for their own use. The golden age of Prague winemaking was the fourteenth century, the era of the reign of Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor. The ruler made Prague his home, and it was thanks to him that nearly 700 hectares of vineyards were planted around the city. He first had grape vines planted at nearby Karlštejn Castle and also on the slopes of the town Mělník, where he had grape vines brought from



France. The winemaking tradition there continues, as can be seen at the local grape harvest festival from 20 to 22 September. Among other things, a wine tasting cellar from the latter half of the fourteenth century will be open to the public. This city stands at the confluence of country's longest river, the Vltava, with the Elbe, one of Europe's important rivers. Mělník is worth a visit for more than just wine. You can travel conveniently to Mělník from Prague by train or bus, and the trip takes about an hour. There is even a neighbourhood of Prague with the word for wine as part of its name – Vinohrady. There will also be wine festivals on 13 and 14 September at Jiří z Poděbrad Square and on 20 and 21 September at the park Grébovka (also known as Havlíčkovy sady), where there is still a remnant of the once sizeable vineyard. Over the centuries, the cultivation of grapes has continued on the opposite shore of the Vltava River in the neighbourhood Troja. Guests are also welcome at the grape harvest festival on the weekend of 14 and 15 September at the St Clara Vineyard, which is part of the Botanical Garden, where you can go to see other plants besides grape vines. On Saturday, 14 September there will be a grape harvest festival with a wine tasting and other events on the programme at the nearby Troja Palace.

**Langweil's Model of Prague.** The most famous exhibit at the City of Prague Museum dates from 1826–1834. It was made by Antonín Langweil, an employee of the Prague University Library who devoted all of his free time and money to his unusual hobby. Langweil's model uniquely documents the appearance of the Old Town, the Lesser Town, and Prague Castle before renovations of Prague at the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth. It was made by hand with cardboard. The historical centre of Prague is displayed on an area of ca.

20 m<sup>2</sup> in detail showing its appearance 150 years ago, so it includes hundreds of buildings of the former Jewish Ghetto and of the Old Town that have since been demolished. The colour model depicts more than two thousand buildings at a scale of 1 : 480, with all of the details of decorated façades, courtyards, gardens, sheds, stables, and other structures within building courtyards, and the adjacent landscape. In many cases, Langweil's model is the only documentation we have of the appearance of historic buildings that have been torn down. [www.muzeumprahy.cz](http://www.muzeumprahy.cz)



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## In Franz Kafka's footsteps

He was born in Prague, was of Jewish origin, and wrote in German. Although he wanted his works to be destroyed after his death, they have appeared in dozens of translations and have earned him fame as an author all around the world. His name has become a synonym for absurdity, hopelessness, and purposelessness, often in regard to the standing of an individual vis-à-vis the system. Both English and Czech describe such a feeling with a word derived from the writer's name (*Kafkaesque* / *kafkovský*). Today, Franz Kafka is inseparably associated with the unique spirit of old Prague. Where should one go to follow in his footsteps?

**Kafka's Birthplace, Franz Kafka Square No. 27/5.** The house where Kafka was born, which was torn down during the Jewish ghetto's demolition, stood in this place. Today, a copy of the building stands there, which features the original Baroque porch with a balcony.

**U Minuty house, Old Town Square No. 3/2** Franz Kafka and his parents lived there from 1889 to 1896. The house was built in the Gothic style in the 15th century and later on was modified in the Renaissance and Baroque fashions. Nowadays, the building is protected as a Czech cultural monument.

**U Tří králů house, Celetná Street No. 602/3.** In 1887, Franz Kafka's father opened in this house his fancy goods shop, in which besides his wife nine employees worked. The Kafka family lived in a six-room flat on the second floor, and Franz had his own room for the first time. He started writing the first texts.

**U Lodi house, Pařížská Street No. 883/36.** Between 1907 and 1912, the Kafka family lived in the U Lodi house, just off the Old Town Square. It was here that

Franz Kafka wrote his very first works, usually at night after having spent the day at his office. These include prose pieces of various genres, among them the short story *The Judgment* (1912), which marked the beginning of a fruitful period, with one work following after another in rapid succession.

**Franz Kafka's grave, New Jewish Cemetery, Izraelská Street No. 1.** Franz Kafka received treatment for tuberculosis from 1917 and died on 3 June 1924 in the sanatorium in Kierling, near Vienna and was buried on 11 June in Prague.

Admirers of Kafka's writing can visit **the Franz Kafka Museum**, which is located in the Herget Brickworks in Cihelná street in Prague's Lesser Town. The long-term exhibition displays photographs of people and places, manuscripts and books in nontraditionally conceived installations using state-of-the-art audio-visual technology. The word, image, light and music form a harmonic whole.

**The Franz Kafka Monument**, inspired by a quotation from his story *Description of a Struggle*, stands in an open space between the Spanish Synagogue

and the Church of the Holy Spirit, between Dušní and Věžeňská streets. It was created by the distinguished Czech artist Jaroslav Róna in collaboration with architect David Vávra. The monument was financed by the Franz Kafka Society and unveiled in 2003. (Source: Josef Čermák: *Práhou Franze Kafky*)



# Prague Myths and Legends

## Bruncvík

There are many legends associated with Charles Bridge. One of them is connected with a statue found when walking towards the bridge from the Lesser Town (Malá Strana). One of the statues on the right side of the bridge depicts the legendary figure Bruncvík. Bruncvík was a Bohemian prince who wanted to get his country a better heraldic emblem, so he set out into the world. On his journeys he encountered many monstrous creatures, and on one of his adventures he saved a lion's life by killing a dragon. The lion became Bruncvík's faithful companion, accompanying him on his journeys. It was thanks to Bruncvík that Bohemia took the lion as its emblem. The sculpted figure is holding a golden sword in its hand, and according to legend, it is said to be a copy of a miraculous sword that Bruncvík obtained during his travels. After a simple formula was recited, the sword was said to behead any enemies. The original sword is said to be imbedded somewhere in Charles Bridge, and when the worst of times arrives for the Czech nation, the sword will appear. Its bearer will then liberate the Czech Lands from all enemies.

## On the Construction of the Charles Bridge

You may be aware that Charles Bridge was not the first stone bridge in Prague. Its predecessor, known as the Judith Bridge, was badly damaged by a great flood in 1342, so it was decided that Prague urgently needed a new bridge across the Vltava River. Construction began in 1357. The builders supposedly decided to mix wine, milk, and eggs into the lime mortar, so Emperor Charles IV ordered eggs to be brought in from all over the country, because the supply in Prague was not

nearly sufficient to build the entire bridge. When the material was being brought in, there were supposedly some humorous incidents – sometimes the eggs would arrive cooked, or instead of milk, curds and cheese were brought. Thanks to these unorthodox construction materials, Charles Bridge became the world's sturdiest and most soundly constructed bridge.

## The Devil's Column

Vyšehrad is a place associated with myths about the origins of the Kingdom of Bohemia. When visiting this landmark, don't forget to examine the peculiar set of three stone columns, the origins of which are still yet to be clearly explained. According to a legend, they were brought there directly from Rome by the devil himself. During the construction of the Church of Saint Peter in Vyšehrad, St Peter ordered the devil to help with the work and to carry construction material. He had supposedly brought one of the columns there from Rome. When the devil accepted the task, he made a wager with a local priest that he could bring the column

before the priest finished saying Mass. What the devil didn't know was that the priest had the help of St Peter, who slowed the devil's progress on the journey several times. Once the devil returned, he realized he had lost his wager. In a rage, he hurled the column through the roof of the church, making a hole that long could not be covered. In addition, when the column struck the ground, it broke into three pieces. The columns remained in the local church until the eighteenth century, when Emperor Joseph II ordered that they be moved to their present location.

## The Tomb of Tycho Brahe

The famed Danish astronomer, astrologer, and alchemist Tycho Brahe is buried in the Church of Our Lady before Týn on Old Town Square. He served at the court of Emperor Rudolf II, and he was regarded as the most accurate observer of the starry heavens. There is a curious legend of unclear origins connected with his tomb. It is said that anyone who touches the stone face of the old scholar will get relief from a toothache. So whoever who has problems with their teeth should go visit this tomb.



## Do you know that five Nobel Prize laureates come from Prague?

In 1896, **Carl Ferdinand Cori and Gerty Theresa Radnitzová** were born in Prague's New Town. Although their birthplaces are separated by a walking distance of just under half an hour, they did not meet each other until several years later. What they share in common is that they grew up in an environment where education was important. Carl Ferdinand came from a family of academicians. He spent only his early childhood in Prague; when he was two years old, his family moved to Trieste, where his father became the director of the zoo and of a research station. Cori attended secondary school there, but he returned to his native Prague for his university studies. His medical studies were interrupted because he was conscripted into the military in 1917. While a university student, he met his future wife Gerty. Thanks to her parents (her father was a chemist and the director of a sugar refinery), she also received a thorough education. After graduating from medical school, she departed for Vienna with Carl Ferdinand, in part because as

a woman, she would have had difficulty gaining recognition as a scientist in Czech society in those days. She was also hindered by her Jewish origins, and the growing mood of anti-Semitism in Europe between the two world wars was ultimately one of the reasons why the Cori family soon left Austria and went overseas, where they were able to devote themselves to their profession without limitations. In 1947 they won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine together with the Argentine physiologist Bernardo Houssay. Gerty was in fact the very first woman to win the prize in that category. They won the Nobel Prize for the discovery of the function of hormones of the anterior pituitary lobe in the metabolism of sugars.

**Jaroslav Heyrovský** was yet another scientist Prague has given the world. He was a contemporary of the Coris (born in 1890), but unlike them, he spent his most of his life and career in Prague, where he died in 1967. His frequent work with mercury probably con-

tributed to the broken state of his health. He did, however, complete part of his studies in London, where he began to take an interest in electrochemistry. After the First World War began, he had to return home and enlist, and he was assigned to a medical unit. Upon his return, he devoted himself fully to his professional interests, and four years after the First World War had ended, he introduced polarography, an electrochemical analytic method that allows the identification of types and quantities of matter. For the discovery and development of this method, he won the 1959 Nobel Prize for Chemistry. He was nominated for the prestigious prize a total of eighteen times. Jaroslav Heyrovský also had detractors. When the Second World War ended, he faced charges of collaboration because he had been allowed to continue his scientific research even though the Czech universities had been shut down. Heyrovský claimed innocence, and the affair did not end until 1947, when he wrote a letter of explanation in which he apologised for his actions during the period of occupation, but he stated that he had continued with his work in the interest of Czech science and that it never occurred to him that scientific work could be understood as something objectionable.

Prague was also the birthplace of the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Countess **Bertha von Suttner** (\* 1843) was famed as a radical pacifist. She was a member of the Kinský family, one of Bohemia's oldest aristocratic houses. She received an excellent education in the arts and humanities, and in addition to Czech, she spoke four other languages. She then used the knowledge she had acquired when her family's fortunes were on the decline. Bertha took the position of tutor in the household of the industrialist Karl von Suttner. While teaching the entrepreneur's



Carl Ferdinand Cori and Gerty Cori



Jaroslav Heyrovský



Bertha von Suttner

daughters, she became close to his son Artur, whom she later married in secret. It was the experiences shared by the married couple in military infirmaries where they both assisted during the Russo-Turkish War that made her into an unwavering proponent of pacifism. She understood war as evil that had to be avoided to prevent needless suffering. She gave a summary of her views in the famous book *Die Waffen nieder!* (Lay Down Your Arms), which created a stir around the world. In a letter to Bertha, Alfred

Nobel called it a masterpiece. Bertha had shared the bond of friendship with the inventor of dynamite ever since having worked briefly as his secretary. And it is to her that credit is given for Nobel's decision that after his death, his estate would be used to fund prizes for those who benefit mankind. Bertha von Suttner received a Nobel Prize in 1905. This tireless champion of peace died nine years later, just a few days before the assassination in Sarajevo and the subsequent outbreak of the First World War.

The Czech Republic can boast a winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature – the poet **Jaroslav Seifert** (\* 1901). Of course, in 1984, when he was awarded the prestigious prize, it was an embarrassment to the Communist regime in power at the time. The Czechoslovak media reported his success quite laconically. Seifert's relationship with the Communist Party, like that of many other authors, moved gradually from support to disillusionment. The young man from a poor family joined the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia in 1921, the year when the party was founded in this country, but he was expelled eight years later. He disliked the excessive subordination of the Czechoslovak Communists to Soviet influence. He openly criticised the regime during the harshest repressions of the 1950s and again after August 1968, when he publicly condemned the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops. This resulted in a ban on publication of his works, but he did not compromise when the regime offered him concessions in an attempt to deal with the popularity of the uncooperative artist. To the contrary, in 1977 he signed the document Charter 77 drafted by opponents of the regime. The country's political leadership was therefore none too



Jaroslav Seifert

pleased by the Nobel Prize for the poet, but after an initial lukewarm reaction to the honour, the regime decided to take advantage of it for propaganda. For this reason, when Seifert died in 1986, a state funeral was prepared for him without the participation of his family and under police surveillance in order to keep the memorial event from turning into an anti-Communist demonstration. With Seifert, as founder of poetism, an avant-garde movement of the Czech arts that eschewed politics and focused on the ordinary, it is rather paradoxical that his life was still most profoundly influenced by politics.

## Prague places associated with Nobel Prize laureates

Where should you go in Prague if you wish to visit a specific place associated with one of the Nobel Prize laureates mentioned above? Most of those places are devoted to Jaroslav Seifert. The poet is commemorated by, among other things, a plaque on the building where he was born on Bořivojova Street. On it, you can read that he was born there on 23 September at 7:33 a.m. At the nearby Lipanská tram stop, there is a concrete sculpture in the shape of a ribbon turned towards the sky. It refers to verses from a poem by Seifert. You can also visit the Basilica of St Margaret, where a memorial service was held for the poet. It is located on the grounds of the Břevnov Monastery, the oldest Czech monastery for men. Other areas of this historic landmark, established in the tenth century, are open to the public. If you are interested in Bertha von Suttner, go to the Kinský Palace on Old Town Square, where the famous pacifist spent her childhood. Today, the building is used by the National Gallery. Until 13 October you can admire a collection of French Impressionism there, then from 22 November there will be an additional exhibit of engravings by the important Czech Baroque graphic artist Václav Hollar. There are also plaques for the other Nobel Prize laureates. They can be found when taking a tour of the centre of Prague: on Vlašská Street on the building of the Academy of Sciences where Jaroslav Heyrovský worked, on Salmovská Street, where Carl Ferdinand Cori was born, and also on Peterská Street on the building where his wife Gerta was born.



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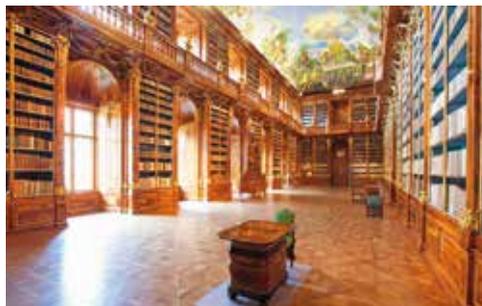
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## The Strahov Monastery Library: Hundreds of Thousands of Books from Nine Centuries

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.



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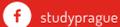


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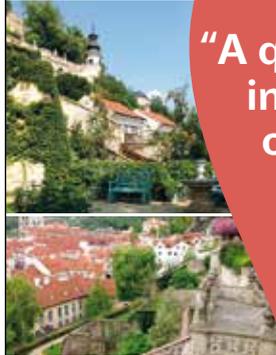
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## From Czech History: The Crown Jewels



The crown jewels of Bohemia exist thanks to Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor. He wanted them to be kept permanently at Prague Castle, but this was not done. They were not returned permanently to their rightful place until a hundred and fifty two years ago. Their history thus also reflects a part of Czech history.

Emperor Charles IV had his golden crown decorated with precious stones and pearls in 1347 on the occasion of his coronation. He dedicated it to the first patron saint of the Czech Lands, St Wenceslas. Together with the crown, there are also a royal orb and scepter. The set, which is a national cultural treasure, also includes the coronation vestments, which are kept in a specialized depository in the Collections of Prague Castle. The crown, scepter, and orb are permanently kept in the Crown Jewels Chamber at St Vitus's Cathedral in the most inaccessible part of Prague Castle. The seven locks on the door can be unlocked only by seven different keys held by seven different persons, including the President of the Republic and the Mayor of Prague.

During their long history, the crown jewels have not always been kept in Prague. Emperor Charles IV had

decided that they should never leave the Bohemian capital, but his son, Wenceslas IV, had them taken to Karlštejn Castle. They remained there, with brief interruptions, until 1619, then they were moved back to Prague Castle, because Karlštejn Castle ceased to be regarded as a sufficiently secure place for their safe-keeping. During the Thirty Years' War that followed, they were again moved several times for the same reason, and finally, in advance of the attack by the Swedes, they were taken to the Imperial Treasury in Vienna. There, the original, more austere Gothic scepter and orb were replaced with more lavishly decorated ones, which Ferdinand I, the first Habsburg on the Bohemian throne, probably had made during the first half of the 16th century. The crown jewels remained in Vienna until 1791, when the decision was made to return them to Prague. It was also at this time that the tradition of the seven keys was established. The tradition was interrupted during the Second World War, when all of the keys had to be turned over to Nazi Germany, which had occupied Czechoslovakia. This was probably the origin of the unverified story about the Deputy Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich, who is said to have put the crown on his own head and on the head of his young son. Both died not long afterwards – Heydrich was assassinated, and his son Klaus was killed in an automobile accident. According to legend, any usurper who places the crown on his head is doomed to die within a year. In fact, the Germans tried to protect the jewels from being damaged by Allied bombing by having them immured in the royal palace. After the liberation of Prague, the crown jewels were returned to the Crown Jewels Chamber.

They are only seldom taken from there to be put on public display, and the president must make the decision on

exhibiting them. They were exhibited for example in 2016, when the Czech Republic commemorated the seven-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charles IV. A golden reliquary cross and a ceremonial coronation sword are usually displayed together with the crown jewels, but those items can also be seen at other times, because they are part of the permanent exhibition at the Treasury of Saint Vitus in the Second Courtyard of Prague Castle.

### The Crown Jewels by the Numbers

**The Crown of Saint Wenceslas** is made of 21–22 karat gold; it is decorated with 19 sapphires, 44 spinels, 1 ruby, 30 emeralds, and 20 pearls; it weighs nearly 2.5 kilograms; it is 19 centimeters tall; its diameter is also 19 centimeters.

**The royal orb** is made of 18 karat gold and is decorated with precious stones and pearls; it weighs 780 grams and is 22 centimeters tall.

**The royal scepter** is made of 18 karat gold, is decorated with 4 sapphires, 5 spinels, and 62 pearls, is 67 cm long, and weighs 1013 grams.

**The coronation vestments** decorated with royal ermine are 312 centimeters long and 236 centimeters long from the collar to the end of the train.



## Czech UNESCO Heritage Sites

2017 was the 25th anniversary of the registering of Prague's historic center on the UNESCO list of world-wide cultural heritage, but Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, and Vyšehrad in the heart of Prague are not the only landmarks that can boast this title. Get to know some of the other Czech sites listed by UNESCO that are perhaps less well known to tourists.

**The park at Průhonice Castle** is located ca. 15 kilometers southeast of the center of Prague. The former owner of the manor, Count Arnošt Emanuel SilvaTarouca, is responsible for its present form. In the latter half of the nineteenth century, he began to create a natural landscaping park. On an area of 220 hectares, visitors will find ponds, an extensive alpine garden, and above all, a collection of plants that are of scientific value. The founder took advantage of the changeability of seasons, highlighting the colors of buds, blossoms, and autumn leaves.

**The Holašovice Historical Village Reservation** is extraordinary in part because it is still inhabited. Lying in southern Bohemia near České Budějovice, the village was founded in the mid-thirteenth century. The Medieval system of arrangement of the individual settlements has been preserved to this day. It is also striking for the preserved "rustic Baroque" stucco décor, a style of folk architecture used in the nineteenth century mainly in southern Bohemia.

**The Holy Trinity Column** in Olomouc is regarded as one of the masterpieces of the Baroque era in central Europe. It was built from 1716 to 1754 as a spectacular celebration of the Catholic church and faith and in part out of gratitude for the end of a plague epidemic. Empress Maria Theresa took part in person at its dedication. At a height of 35 meters, it is the tallest sculpture in the

Czech Republic. It also incorporates a small chapel and a secret entrance to a passage connecting it to the Olomouc city fortifications.

**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. The fate of this unique building and its inhabitants was rather dramatic. The Tugendhats abandoned the villa in



**There are also Czech cultural phenomena on the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage. What are they?**

**Verbuňk.** The beginnings of the traditional dance from Slovácko (Moravian Slovakia), a region of south-eastern Moravia, go back to the eighteenth century. It was with this dance that young men said their goodbyes before leaving to join the army.

**Shrovetide processions with masks in the Hlinecko area.** The roots of this folk tradition from eastern Bohemia trace back to the pre-Christian era. The Shrovetide procession, which is intended to ensure a good harvest and fertility and to welcome spring, has strict rules that are passed on from father to son.

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. 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.

**Falconry.** This traditional hunting method with the use of trained birds of prey was invented in the second millennium BC in the Middle East. From there it spread to both the east and west. The Huns brought the practice to the territory of the present-day Czech Republic in the first half of the fifth century.

**Ride of the Kings.** The origins of the Ride of the Kings are unclear. According to ethnographers, it is probably connected with pagan rites of initiation for adolescent boys. The ride of a king accompanied by an entourage dressed in women's clothing has been taking place continuously each Pentecost since 1808.

**Puppetry.** Traditional puppetry flourished during the period of the National Revival. Puppets also play an important role in Czech cinematography.

## 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 27.5. 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 m<sup>2</sup> 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](http://www.transport-in-prague.com)





## Fare

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

○ For children from 6 to 15 years <sup>(note)</sup> of age N.B. and seniors from 65 to 70 years <sup>(note)</sup> 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 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 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](http://www.czech.cz)

official website of the Czech Republic

[www.praha.eu](http://www.praha.eu)

web portal of the City of Prague

[www.prague.eu](http://www.prague.eu)

Prague tourist web portal

[www.czechtourism.com](http://www.czechtourism.com)

official travel site of the Czech Republic

[www.kudyznudy.cz](http://www.kudyznudy.cz)

ideas for trips

[www.florenc.cz](http://www.florenc.cz)

website of the Florenc coach terminal

[www.cd.cz](http://www.cd.cz)

Czech Railways website

[www.prg.aero](http://www.prg.aero)

Prague Airport website

[www.dpp.cz](http://www.dpp.cz)

website of the Prague public transport operator

[www.idos.cz](http://www.idos.cz)

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

[www.chmi.cz](http://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:
- Můstek • Hlavní nádraží • Anděl
  - Hradčanská • Nádraží Veveslavín



## i-Prague 3/19

Quarterly journal

75,000 copies in English and

75,000 copies in German

The cutoff date for this issue was 17. July 2019.  
We are publishing the information available at that time.

**Photos:** Pixabay (Pixabay License – pixel 2013; WolfBlur; JillWellington; katyandgeorge; Vined); The City of Prague Museum; Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 3.0 – Ben Škal/Benfoto; CC BY-SA 4.0 – Petr1888); Prague Castle Administration (Hynek Glos); Flickr (CC 0 1.0 – Lyndsay Bratton); busses and advertising partners.

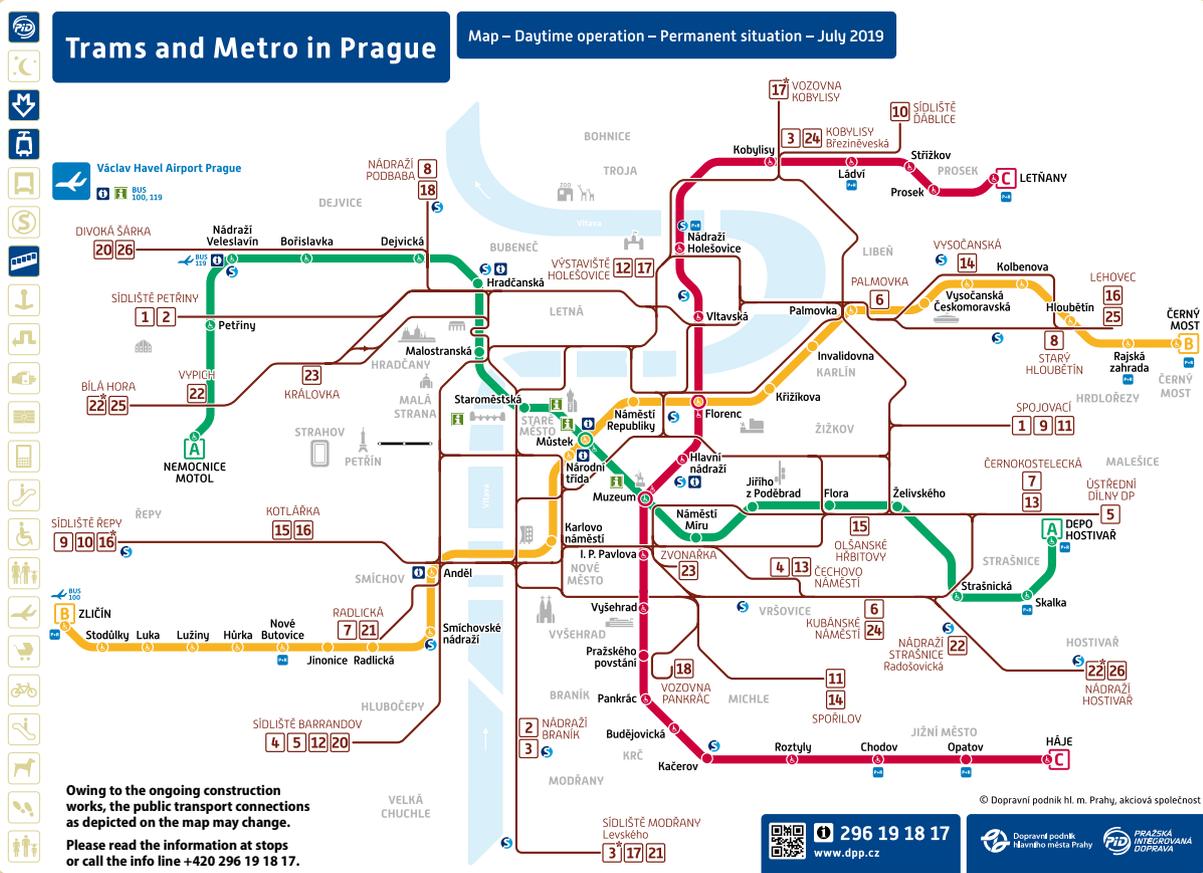
**Design:** AlineaPrint

MK ČR E 20878

vydavatel: Ing. Klára Vurbová

# Trams and Metro in Prague

Map – Daytime operation – Permanent situation – July 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

www.i-prague.info

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