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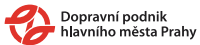


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[www.narodni-divadlo.cz](http://www.narodni-divadlo.cz)

**Vojtěch Hynais: sketches, studies, and drafts** • an exhibition of drawings by an artist mainly associated with

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

**Prague Spring** • the 72nd annual international music festival with guests including the Vienna Philharmonic and the

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

**My Country – the Path of Changes** • an outdoor exhibition on changes to neglected places and buildings in the

Czech landscape • Vyšehrad, from 20 May to 25 June

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

**Nikolaj Znaider and the Czech Philharmonic** • a concert by the Danish-Israeli violinist accompanied by the leading

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

**Czech Nature Photo** • an exhibition of the best pictures by Czech photographers who specialize in wildlife

• Czech Photo Centre, until 14 May

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

**Lemarket and Design Market** • sales exhibitions of designer goods and selected brands from toys to home

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[www.lemarket.cz](http://www.lemarket.cz), [www.dyzajmarket.com](http://www.dyzajmarket.com)

**Hans Zimmer** • a concert of music by the Hollywood film composer with an orchestra playing scores from the films

The Lion King and Pirates of the Caribbean • O2 arena, 4 June

[www.o2arena.cz](http://www.o2arena.cz)

**Miroslav Troup: Czech Parisian** • exhibition commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of an important but

rather underappreciated Prague painter, graphic artist, and illustrator • Municipal House, from 15 June

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

**Derby** • highpoint of the horseracing calendar • Prague – Velká Chuchle Racecourse, 25 June [www.velka-chuchle.cz](http://www.velka-chuchle.cz)

**Prague Proms** • mix of classical music and jazz at a festival

• Municipal House and Občanská plovárna, from 21 June to 19 July

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**Battle of Vítkov Hill** • reenactment of the battle from 1420, when followers of the reformer Jan Hus defeated the

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[www.praha3.cz](http://www.praha3.cz)

**Prague Folklore Days** • dozens of music and dance ensembles from Europe, Africa, and Asia on outdoor stages

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

## Did you know that...

► ... **the first steamboat took Prague citizens across the Vltava 200 years ago?** This unique experience was made possible for them by the Czech mechanical engineer and inventor Josef Božek. He was one of the first to experiment with steamboats and with steam power in general. The first steam engine was brought from England to Bohemia in 1811 by Count Buquoy. It had not been assembled, and its individual components were in an unfinished state. Josef Božek took on the job of putting engine into operation. In 1815 in Prague, he was able to demonstrate the first steam-powered car in the Czech Lands. In a repeated demonstration on 1 June 1817, he showed a steamboat of his own design to the people of Prague watching from one of the banks of the Vltava. Unfortunately, during the event someone stole his cash box containing the admission fees that had been collected. Now in debt, Božek destroyed his steam carriage and gave up on experiments with

the steam engine for the rest of his life. This did not, however, bring their use to a halt, although steamboats did not come into regular use on Czech rivers until two decades later. Božek also put his technological talents to work elsewhere. He came from a family of millers, but his gift as a mechanical engineer was obvious already during his studies at secondary school, by which time he is said to have designed dozens of ingenious devices. He later earned fame as a mechanical engineer at the Polytechnic Institute for devising a prosthesis with moving parts used by, among others, Prince Ypsilantis, who had lost an arm in a battle against Napoleon. He also worked on designing pumps for water plants and wagons for the first horse-drawn railway in Europe, which ran from České Budějovice to Linz, Austria. He also designed clocks, such as his pendulum clock, which served at the Institute of Astronomy in Prague until 1984.

► ... **"Amerika" is just a few kilometers from Prague?** Amerika is the name of a system of limestone quarries located in the Bohemian Karst Protected Landscape Area (Český kras) between Prague and Beroun. The largest of them is between seventy and eighty meters deep. The name was taken from the name of the nearby wilderness, but it also might refer to the American method of quarrying. The limestone was quarried there from the end of the nineteenth century in order to satisfy the constantly growing industrial demand. There are nearly twenty quarries in the area, and these are partially interconnected by underground passages. Apart from Big Amerika,

the quarry Mexico, also known as the "Penal Quarry", has one of the most interesting histories. A labor camp was built there for the political prisoners who worked at it from 1949 to 1953. Because of the cruel conditions there, it became known as the "Czech Mauthausen" or "limestone hell". Quarry operations in the Amerika region ceased in the early 1960s. Although entering the quarries is banned because of the danger, soon after quarry operations ended, the quarries became the destinations of adventurers' expeditions. They were visited by nudists and especially by spelunkers and hikers who gave several of the quarries names like Canada, the Horseshoe, and

► ... **Prague has a meridian of its own?** The Prague meridian (longitude: 14°25'17" East) is connected with the need to determine the time during an era when clocks were not yet that common or accurate. The meridian passes through Old Town Square, where it is marked in the pavement. A bronze plaque with a Latin inscription identifies the "meridian according to which time was measured in Prague in the past". The time was shown by a shadow of the no longer existing Marian Column. It was used to determine exact noon from the middle of the 17th century, but in reality the exact time was determined at the Jesuit college at the Klementinum using sundials. The difference in time between the observatory at the Klementinum and the meridian on Old Town Square is about one second, and that was a negligible deviation for everyday use. From 1824, noon in Prague was indicated by a banner flown in a tower at the Klementinum, then from the end of the nineteenth century until the 1920s, the firing of a cannon in the bastion of Prague Castle would announce noon's arrival.

the Chapel. It is possible to visit Amerika legally, viewing it from observation platforms, and marked hiking trails lead around the quarry, beginning at the nearby Karlštejn Castle.



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## What's Going On in Prague

**New Circus.** Batacchio is the name of a new production by the ensemble La Putyka, which is dedicated to the New Circus genre. The artists have taken inspiration from the poetry of the old travelling theatre companies that gave performances freely combining all kinds of human skills and creations, ranging from circus numbers, theatrical scenes, and music to miracles of the new technologies of the day and displays of the anatomical anomalies of animals and even people. You can watch the acrobatic performances from 13 to 18 May at the Jatka78 arts complex in Prague – Holešovice.

**Science Fair.** The third annual event will convince you that science is not boring. Science Fair is presented by the Czech Academy of Sciences and takes place at PVA EXPO in Prague-Letňany from 8 to 10 June. At the event, academic institutions will be presenting new discoveries from scientific research and their practical applications in everyday life. Visitors can familiarize themselves with these discoveries through interactive exhibits or through lectures and discussions. The topics will be the energy of the future, natural threats, and an expedition to Mars.

**Concerts by Linkin Park and Sting.** June in Prague will belong to four music festivals offering programmes in a wide variety of genres. Coming to the airport in Letňany for the one-day **Aerodrome Festival** (11 June) will be the prominent American hip hop artist Machine Gun Kelly and the Canadian band Simple Plan (Photo 1), but the main star will be the Californian band Linkin Park, returning to Prague after a ten-year absence. **Respect Festival** is an excursion into world music. The twentieth annual event will take place on 17 and 18 June at the Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice. Among the performers will be Radio Cos (Photo 2) from Spain. The programme will open on 1 June with a concert by the

Mandolin Sisters at the club Jazz Dock, and six days later will be an appearance at the Jerusalem Synagogue by the Bester Quartet from Poland. From 22 to 25 June, crowds will be attending the **United Islands of Prague** festival (Photo 3), the multi-genre shows. On the weekend of 23 and 24 June, the Prague Exhibition Grounds in Holešovice will again be filled with music. Among those who have accepted invitations to the **Metronome Festival** are the representative of British guitar music Kasabian and the German DJ Solomun. The biggest draw for audiences will be a concert by the British musician Sting (Photo 4), who will give the Prague public a live presentation of his album *57th & 9th*.





**Contemporary and historical Prague in photographs.** Photographs of Prague taken during the past year will be presented at an exhibition on 28 May at the Old Town Hall. **The Photographic Prague** competition exhibition will present pictures showing Prague's beauty and its problems, as well as interesting events. Another photographic exhibition can be seen in St Henry's Bell Tower (Jindřišská věž). The historical photographs there show **Nostalgic Prague** the way it looked in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. You can view the exhibition until 20 August. This exhibition at the City of Prague Museum will take visitors on a tour of Prague's history. Until 4 June, **vedutas**, i.e. vistas of Prague from the 18th century, will be on display. They depict not only the city's appearance at the time, but also what coronations, military occupations, and natural catastrophes were like.

**The painter Emil Filla and surrealism.** The name of the pre-war painter Emil Filla is mainly associated with cubism, but the Museum Kampa will be presenting the artist as a surrealist. The exhibition titled **Man with Burning Hair** focused on Filla's works in the 1930s. At the time, he was influenced by a new artistic movement, which manifested itself in his artworks through motifs from classical mythology and fighting animals. His best known cycle from that period – Fights and Struggles – reflects the tense political situation. His works, like those of many other artists, were a reaction against the threat of Nazism. In the spring of 1939, the group of surrealists he belonged to went underground. On the first day of the Second World War, Filla was arrested and was imprisoned at the concentration camp in Dachau and later at Buchenwald. He survived his imprisonment and died in 1953 in Prague. Until



**New productions at the National Theatre.** The National Theatre in Prague has expanded its music drama repertoire with two new productions. The first is **Lohengrin**, Richard Wagner's romantic opera about the struggle between good and evil. It is one of the operas in which the German composer dealt with the legend of the Holy Grail. The same theme also appears in his last, supreme opera *Parsifal*, which deals with Lohengrin's father, and in *Tannhäuser*, the opera that preceded *Lohengrin*. It was after the failure of *Tannhäuser* in the mid-1840s that Wagner was recuperating in Marienbad, where he also started work on *Lohengrin*. The opera

the end of July, Museum Kampa will be exhibiting his paintings along with the works of other surrealists, including artists who are celebrated abroad, such as Jindřich Štyrský and Toyen.

**Summer Festivities of Early Music.** The 18th annual festival is taking its inspiration from the Palace of Versailles. It will take place from 11 July to 7 August. Programs will feature music played at the seat of the kings of France in the late seventeenth

had its premiere at the court theatre in Weimar in August of 1850 with Wagner's father-in-law Franz Liszt conducting. The Prague production will be based on the staging designed by the composer's grandson Wolfgang Wagner. *Lohengrin* will be played at the National Theatre on 14 and 17 June with the Czech singer Aleš Briscein in the title role. A second new production is another work from the mid-nineteenth century, one of the best known works by the famed operetta composer Jacques Offenbach. His **Orpheus in the Underworld** is a parody of contemporary French politics and society set against the background of a story from mythology. In this comedy full of Greek gods, he turns inside out the Greek legend of love going beyond the grave. Orpheus and Eurydice live in a non-functional relationship, and Eurydice flees from it to join her lover Hades in the underworld. Orpheus, however, is compelled by the gods on Olympus to set out after his wife. You can come to the National Theatre to hear the operetta with one of the most famous "can-can" melodies on 8 and 9 July. The singers Josef Moravec and Richard Samek will alternate in the role of Orpheus.

century and throughout the eighteenth. The opening concert titled King of the Heavens consists of works composed for the church under the reign of Louis XIV. The concert will be on 11 July at the Church of St Simon and St Jude in the Old Town. The festival will conclude at the nearby Rudolfinum with Music for the Sun King. The ensemble Collegium Marianum will play the loveliest opera arias and ballet suites written for Louis XIV on copies of instruments used by the court orchestra.



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## Important Prague squares

In Prague, there are dozens of squares of all sizes. Some of them are not only tourist attractions, but also places connected with events of importance for Czech history. They also have interesting histories of their own, as is the case with the two most important squares.

### Old Town Square

Old Town Square, formerly also called the Great Square or the Ring, covers an area of more than 9,000 m<sup>2</sup>. 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 Bohemia 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.

Hus is far from being the only important person to have passed through the square. For example, the writer Franz Kafka lived with his parents in the house **"At the Minute" (U Minuty)**, and all of his sisters were born there. The building, striking for its sgraffito décor depicting Bible scenes and life during the Renaissance, was built at the turn of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Bertha von Suttner was born in the nearby rococo **Kinský Palace**. She worked as a secretary for the inventor of dynamite Alfred Nobel, and in 1905 she became the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

### Wenceslas Square

Wenceslas Square is called a "square", but in reality it is more of a boulevard, measuring 750 meters from the bottom to the top and 60 meters across. Its origins are



connected with the enormous project for the construction of Prague's New Town, which began to emerge during the reign of Charles IV in the mid-fourteenth century. Wenceslas Square served as one of the two main marketplaces, and it was originally called the Horse Market. A stream ran down the middle of it, leading into a pond at the lower end at the intersection now called "na Můstku" ("At the Little Bridge"). The Horse Gate of the former city fortifications bordered the square at one end. The National Museum was built in its place at the end of the nineteenth century. It is separated from the square by a busy thoroughfare. There were streetcars running down the square from the museum until 1980. Interestingly, the square became the first place in the country with electronic traffic signals installed before the Second World War.

Wenceslas Square has been the site of gatherings and protests. Among the happenings associated with it have been two major events: the declaration of the independent state of Czechoslovakia in 1918, and the massive demonstrations in 1989 that helped topple the Communist regime.

The name Wenceslas Square first came into use in the mid-nineteenth century. Today, its dominant feature is the equestrian **statue of Saint Wenceslas**. There has been a sculpture there commemorating the patron saint of the Czech Lands since 1678. The current statue was unveiled in 1913. It was created by the sculptor Josef Václav Myslbek. His likeness was captured in the face of Saint Wenceslas Adalbert, one of the four saints surrounding the equestrian statue. The entire sculpture is 7.2 meters tall including Wenceslas's spear. The bronze sculpture of Saint Wenceslas himself weighs 5.5 metric tons. The citizens of Prague often use the equestrian statue as a meeting place, saying they have a rendezvous "beneath the tail". Wenceslas Square is also a popular place for shopping.

**Ai Weiwei in Prague.** After New York, Vienna, and London, the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei is introducing himself in the Czech capital. Already last year, he exhibited an installation here titled Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads, and this time he has created a work especially for the premises of the National Gallery. Weiwei is the "enfant terrible" of China's regime, which he has repeatedly irritated with his provocative works. During the last two years, he has been focusing his attention on the refugee crisis, which he understands as a crisis of humanity. He is also drawing attention to the rights of migrants through a project at the Trade Fair Palace, the home of the National Gallery. From 1939 to 1941, the building served as a place of assembly for Jews before their deportation to the ghetto in Theresienstadt. Ai Weiwei has now put a seventy-meter inflatable boat with 258 larger-than-life figures in the gallery. The work titled Law of the Journey will be on public display until next January. There are also exhibits of older works and installations by the artist. For example, the memorial Snake Ceiling is dedicated to the more than five thousand children who perished during the devastating 2008 earthquake in Sichuan province.







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# From Czech history: the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich

On 27 May 1942, the resistance carried out a unique mission in Prague. Czechoslovak paratroopers assassinated Reinhard Heydrich, one of the highest ranking Nazi representatives in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. The impetus for Operation Anthropoid came from the Czechoslovak government-in-exile in London. It wanted to help the Czechoslovak resistance to become more active, while also attracting Britain's attention for supporting Czechoslovak political interests. For this reason, the decision was made to assassinate the man who had held the position of Deputy Reich-Protector.

The members of the Czechoslovak foreign resistance selected for the mission were the Czech Jan Kubiš and the Slovak Jozef Gabčík. They received training in Scotland, and they were parachuted into the territory of the protectorate a few months before the assassination. Originally, they were to have struck against Heydrich not far from Prague, near his home in the palace at Panenské Břežany, but because the place was too heavily guarded, the assassins chose an alternate site in the Prague neighborhood Libeň that Heydrich had to pass through on the way to Prague Castle. They were waiting at a curve, where the Protector's driver would have to slow down. Aiding their success was the fact that the site was far from any police stations, and in addition, Heydrich rode in an open car that was not armored. Another paratrooper, Josef

Valčík, gave the signal that the car was approaching the blind curve. Gabčík attempted to fire, but his automatic weapon jammed, so Kubiš threw a hand grenade, which exploded in front of the car's back wheel. Heydrich was wounded by the explosion and was taken to a nearby hospital, where he died of systemic sepsis on 4 June.

## Revenge and betrayal

A state of emergency was declared in the protectorate that very evening. A bounty of a million Reichsmarks was placed on the head of the assassins. Nazi repression increased: already on 28 May, more than 200 people were sentenced to death for approving the assassination. The Nazis also had the towns Lidice and Ležáky literally eradicated. The houses were burned and leveled to the ground, and the inhabitants were shot or sent to concentration camps.

Together with other paratroopers, Kubiš, Gabčík, and Valčík found refuge in the Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Cyril and Saint Methodius in the center of Prague. Originally, the men were only supposed to have hidden there for a short time, but their hiding place was betrayed. Karel Čurda, another of the paratroopers dropped into the protectorate from British planes, informed the Gestapo about them. He apparently succumbed to worries about the fate of his family. After the war, he was executed for

treason. The paratroopers in hiding were surrounded in the church by hundreds of Germans on 18 June 1942. The Gestapo had intended to capture them alive, but the men refused to surrender. Those who were not killed during the fighting saved their last bullets for themselves.

Abroad, the assassination achieved the desired political reverberations – on its basis, the British revoked the Munich Agreement, under which Czech border areas had been ceded to Nazi Germany in 1938. Furthermore, the government-in-exile was promised the post-war restoration of Czechoslovakia with the borders it had before that agreement between the Western countries and Hitler.

## Reminders of an assassination

At the Cathedral of St Cyril and St Methodius, there is a public memorial with an exhibition, and the bullet holes made by German weapons can still be seen, but the site of the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich has not been preserved in its original form. The site was changed with the construction of a major thoroughfare. The event itself is commemorated only by a monument that was first unveiled 67 years after the event. Nearby streets are named after the resistance fighters. The car in which Heydrich is said to have been sitting during the assassination is on display at the Military History Institute in Prague – Žižkov. The event has also been portrayed in several films. This was done for the first time back in 1943 by the famous German director Fritz Lang, who made a propaganda film about it. Most recently, it became the subject matter of the 2016 British drama *Anthropoid*. Jan Kubiš was played by Jamie Dornan, and in the role of Jozef Gabčík was Cillian Murphy.



Heydrich



Heydrich's car



Gabčík



Kubiš

## Open house events in the day and at night

Several nationwide events will be taking place in May and June to make otherwise inaccessible landmarks and sites open to the public and to give visitors to places that are ordinarily accessible a chance to see them at a special time or in an unusual way. You will be able to visit churches or museums at night, enter gardens during the day, or tour the Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Parliament. Additionally, most places will offer admission free of charge or at a reduced price. Because of the great public interest, expect there to be lines, especially to enter buildings in the center of Prague.

### A Night of Towers and Observation Decks (7 May)

The usual reward for climbing to the top of a tower is the view of the surroundings from a bird's eye perspective. The event, which is a continuation of October's Month of Towers and Observation Decks, offers views at a time when you can't really see very far into the distance, but it still promises to be an unusual experience.

### Open House at the seat of the Government, Senate, and Chamber of Deputies (8 May)

On the occasion of the anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the public has traditionally been permitted to visit the areas commonly used by parliamentary deputies, senators, and government ministers. The Cabinet Office will be opening Liechtenstein Palace to the public. The building is used for ceremonial functions. Among those who have attended events there have been Queen Elizabeth II and Emperor Akihito of Japan. The senators are opening Wallenstein Palace and Kolowrat Palace to the public as well, and if the weather is good, it is also possible to take a walk in the adjacent gardens. The



Museum Nights Festival



Liechtenstein Palace



Museum Nights Festival

Chamber of Deputies will be welcoming the public in the Smiřický, Sternberg, and Thun Palaces. The curious can take hour-long tours into areas including meeting rooms.

### Night of Churches (9 June)

In 2009, the Czech Republic has carried over from Germany and Austria a tradition that offers the opportunity to experience Christian structures in an evening and nighttime atmosphere. More than a thousand churches from various Christian denominations will have their premises open to the public after sunset. It will even be possible to visit the sacristies, towers, and crypts. There will also be an auxiliary program in the form of concerts.

### Open Garden & Squares Weekend (10 and 11 June)

Abroad there are more private gardens and parks participating in this weekend, but in the Czech Republic it is mostly the public ones. The purpose of the event, however, remains the same – to increase people's awareness of the appearance of public spaces and garden architecture. All around the country, the public will get an introduction to gardens that offer something interesting, such as an unusual arrangement or a rare dendrological collection. It is possible to visit various

areas with greenery, such as fruit orchards, botanical gardens, or historical cemeteries.

### Museum Nights Festival (from 19 May to 10 June)

Hundreds of Czech museums and art galleries are inviting the public to nighttime tours, concerts, walks, and other programmes. The event climaxes with Prague Museum Night on 10 June. Between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m., the public will be admitted to such sites as the studios at Czech Radio, the Anatomical Museum, where they can try out providing first aid, and the Czech National Library of Technology, where they can have a portrait of themselves made. A special bus line will provide transportation between the dozens of participating institutions.



Prague Castle Gardens

## 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, 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 the 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, 14 April – Good Friday, 17 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 27,

one US dollar approximately CZK 24, and one pound sterling approximately CZK 32. We recommend not changing money on the street with strangers; use banks, money exchange offices and hotels.

- 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	
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 <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, 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 Buss** – 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

1230

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 29/35, Prague 1

### Metro stations:

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



## i-Prague 2/17

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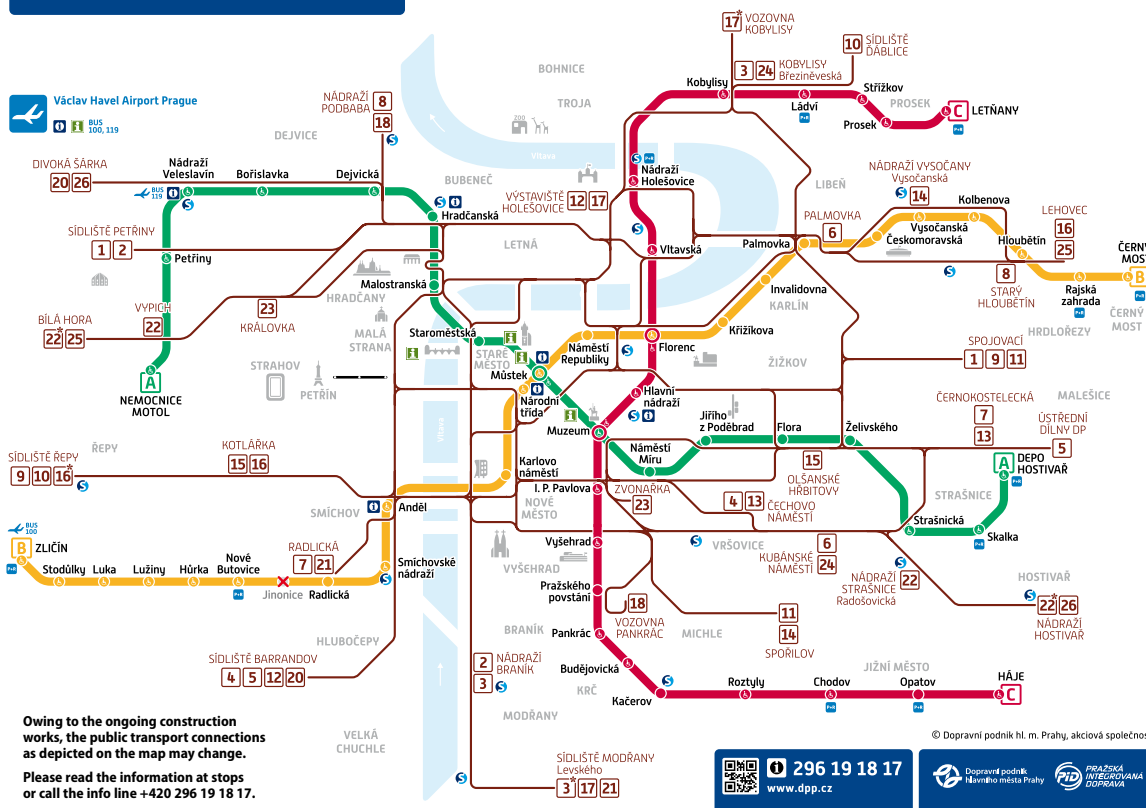
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# Trams and Metro in Prague

Map – Daytime operation – Permanent situation – March 2017



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

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

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

- 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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