



Prague:culture

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Prague:emotion



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National Theatre (see p. 38)

Prague, the Cultural Capital

Destinations

Prague is among the most impressive cities of the old continent and an undeniable cultural capital of the Central European region. Just staying in the exceptional setting of the ancient city is an unforgettable cultural experience. Thanks to its ideal location in the heart of Europe, here both western and eastern artistic influences conjoin, in a splendid blend.

Plenty, together

As regards cultural offerings, in our capital there's plenty to choose from. There are 60 music and dance clubs, some 80 theatres and 30 cinemas. Classical music and more can be enjoyed in several dozen concert halls of different forms and sizes. The tally of museums and galleries exceeds 200. The programme is rich, varied and most importantly incredibly full, any time of year.

Prestige

Prague is the country's prime stage, so the capital is the focal point for top cultural events of all kinds. The vast majority of world-star mega-concerts, great international exhibitions and prestigious festivals of classical and popular music take place in the capital,

often in buildings that are themselves architectural gems of the first degree. No less significant is the fact that key national cultural institutions – the National Theatre, the National Museum and the National Gallery are in Prague.

Children and families welcome

Anything but boredom! Playful installations, imaginative interiors, kids' corners, concerts and plays for parents with children, interactive displays, virtual tours, creative workshops, game rooms, computer visualization, video-mappings – all just a small list of cultural attractions drawing visitors of all generations, even the youngest, to Prague.

Life (and art) in the streets

The summer in particular brings a whole host of outdoor projects to life, with the arts surging out of their stone edifices onto the streets. Alternative cultural events (and many more) enliven and enrich public spaces, encouraging debate, and greatly contributing to community life. Among the initiatives to enjoy in the open are sculptural installations, panel exhibitions, an outdoor cine-café with beach chairs, or a fashion show of independent designs. Why not take some friends along to the events of your choice, be they discussions, happenings, readings, major concerts, festivals or more intimate performances by local bands, dancers and DJs.

Galleries & Museums



Křištof Kintera, Washing Machine Earthquake, 2017 © Galerie Rudolfinum, photo: Martin Polák

Galleries and museums are the temples of culture and art in any modern city. Their collections are an integral part of national identity, edifying and guiding through history, beauty, and entertainment.

5+1 images worth seeing for real

At a rough estimate, Prague today has over 150 galleries and around 100 museums. To choose the most interesting works from such a plethora of institutions is a never-ending story. We chose these for being not just impressive, but accessible all-year-round. We come back to these works again and again, always invigorated by the colours and imagination of their authors.

Vincent van Gogh: Green Wheat

📍 National Gallery Prague – Trade Fair Palace (see p. 18)

The Green Wheat painting dates from Van Gogh's stay at Saint-Paul-de-Mausole sanatorium near Saint Rémy in June 1889. The painting depicts a ripening corn field against the background of distant Alpilles mountains, a small building, and a tall dark cypress dominating the composition. Unlike his other late works the painting feels calm and composed. However, Van Gogh's characteristic impasto relief style is firmly in evidence.



photo: © National Gallery Prague

Pieter Bruegel the Elder: Haymaking

📍 Lobkowicz Palace (see p. 11)

The Haymaking – by one of the most famous Flemish painters, is one of the gems in the Lobkowicz collections at Prague Castle. The painting was originally one of a series of six where Bruegel explored nature's cycle, as the everyday routines of ordinary people altered with the changing seasons. Here, the painted landscape is no longer just a backdrop for allegorical Biblical scenes, but a natural part of depicted events. Haymaking, along with the Titian's

painting Apollo and Marsyas and the Feast of the Rose Garlands by Albrecht Dürer, ranks among our most prized 16th century European paintings.



photo: © Lobkowitz Events Management

Claude Monet: Two Women among the Flowers

📍 National Gallery Prague – Trade Fair Palace (see p. 18)
Many of Monet's paintings were inspired by the garden of his house in Argenteuil. One of these, Two Women among the Flowers, depicts a blossoming bush, completely enveloping two female figures – the artist's wife, Camille and her lady friend. They are quite surrounded by the many flowers that fill the canvas. Monet captured the moment in its essence of subjects and light.



photo: © National Gallery Prague

Pierre-Auguste Renoir: The Lovers

📍 National Gallery Prague – Trade Fair Palace (see p. 18)
The Lovers, a painting of a couple restfully surrounded by nature, is rendered with dynamic brush-strokes and alternating coloured blotches capturing the shimmering of atmospheric light. Both the sitters modelled for Renoir repeatedly. They were the actress Henriette Henriot and the painter Pierre Frank-Lamy. Renoir stood out among the Impressionists, mostly landscape artists, with his predilection for figurative motifs.



photo: © National Gallery Prague

Peter Paul Rubens: The Council of the Gods

📍 The Picture Gallery at Prague Castle (see p. 10)

One of the most noted art collections in Czechia came into being over several centuries and among its admirable acquisitions are paintings by Titian, Veronese, Aachen, Brandl, Tintoretto and especially Rubens. Rubens had an ability to capture the most impressive moment of a story with lavish scenes, as typified by this impressively sized painting (204.5 cm x 379 cm) depicting the struggle between Venus and Juno.



Prague Castle Collections
© Správa Pražského hradu, photo: Jan Glöck

Master of the Třeboň Altarpiece: The Resurrection

📍 National Gallery Prague – Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia (see p. 9)

The Resurrection is one of the most impressive Czech Gothic paintings. The miracle of Christ's resurrection is underlined by the sealed coffin below the Saviour's risen spiritual body, watched by amazed guards. Artistic expression here is all about colour and light. There are also drop shadows, creating a special tension between the intangible and the real. The painting comes from the Třeboň Altar intended for the former Augustinian monastery church of St Giles in Třeboň and on the reverse we find three of the Apostles (St James the Less, St Bartholomew and St Philip).



photo: © National Gallery Prague

Galleries & Museums

National Gallery Prague

🕒 Tue–Sun 10:00–18:00, Weds to 20:00 🌐 ngprague.cz

🎫 A one-time ticket to all National Gallery Prague exhibits costs CZK 500, Free admission for young people below age 26

The second oldest gallery in Europe after the Louvre is the custodian of the largest collection of fine art in Czechia and shows foremost works from home and abroad in permanent displays and exhibitions. The National Gallery premises encompass several beautiful historical buildings.

The display in the historical setting of the **Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia** (📍 Anežská 12, Prague 1 – Old Town) specializes in medieval art from Bohemia and Central Europe between 1200–1550. Also worth a visit are the once inaccessible *convent gardens* with statues by prominent Czech artists, vivaciously filled in the summer with art, music, film, workshops, and other activities for all ages, thanks to the Anežka LIVE!! initiative. Admission to the gardens is free.



St Agnes Convent Garden

Schwarzenberg Palace (📍 Hradčanské náměstí 2, Prague 1 – Hradčany) is judged one of the most beautiful and significant Renaissance buildings in Prague. Art aficionados make their way here largely because of the extensive display of Czech Baroque art and the compact but high-quality collection of Mannerist works made for the Prague Court of Emperor Rudolf II. You can find here the works of e.g. Bartholomeus Spranger, Hans von Aachen, Roelandt Savery, Hans Mont and Adriaen de Vries. The exhibition is open until January 2019. The National Gallery is preparing a brand-new display of Old Masters and prints and drawings for September 2019.



photo: © National Gallery Prague

Until 1st Dec 2019 the neighbouring **Salm Palace** (📍 Hradčanské náměstí 1, Prague 1 – Hradčany) will host the 'Dimensions of Dialogue' exhibition featuring modern and contemporary art from the SKD collections of the Dresden Museum.

On three floors of the Baroque **Sternberg Palace** (📍 Hradčanské náměstí 15, Prague 1 – Hradčany) works of classical antiquity, icons, as well as Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish, German and Austrian master-works from the Middle Ages to the end of the 18th century will be shown (until April 2019).

The Rococo **Kinsky Palace** (📍 Old Town Square 12, Prague 1 – Old Town) in the heart of Prague is currently hosting prestigious visiting exhibitions.

Another Prague building under the National Gallery care is the **Wallenstein Riding School** (📍 Valdštejnská 3, Prague 1 – Lesser Town), hosting short-term, but illustrious exhibitions of international scope.

📍 [For more information about the Trade Fair Palace, see page 18.](#)

Prague City Gallery

📍 [ghmp.cz](#)

This, the second most important art gallery in the metropolis, focuses largely on modern and contemporary art. In addition to exhibitions it runs guided tours, meetings, lectures and other cultural events. Its exhibits are on display at several sites in Prague. For more information about the **House at the Stone Bell**, see p. 19, for the **Collaredo-Mansfeld Palace** see p. 18 and for the **House of Photography** see p. 29.

Prague Castle

📍 Prague – Hradčany 📍 [kulturanahrade.cz](#)

🕒 Prague Castle grounds – daily 6:00–22:00

🕒 The buildings – daily 9:00–17:00 (April to October) and 9:00–16:00 (November to March)

📍 [For more information about admission, go to the castle's website](#)

Prague Castle is not only a prime historical landmark and the seat of the President of the Czech Republic, but an important cultural centre, too. Exhibitions are held at the Imperial Stables, in the Riding School and even in the Royal Summer Palace. The permanent exhibit of the *Story of Prague Castle* is in the Old Royal Palace, the *Treasury of St Vitus Cathedral* is in the Chapel of the Holy Cross. Numerous concerts also take place here, whether in the Spanish Hall, in the Cathedral of Sts Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert, in summer in the castle gardens.

Picture Gallery at Prague Castle

📍 Prague Castle – II. courtyard, Prague 1 – Hradčany

📍 [kulturanahrade.cz](#)

🕒 daily 9:00–17:00 (April to October) and 9:00–16:00 (November to March)

🕒 100 CZK regular | 50 CZK reduced | 200 CZK family

The oldest continuously held existing collection of paintings in the country, on a par with the best European art collections. Come and enjoy the excellent works of courtly painters, Old Masters of the German, Flemish, Italian and Dutch Renaissance as well as Central

European and Dutch Baroque painters (like Titian, Tintoretto, Rubens, Hans von Aachen). Czech art of the last three centuries is represented by the likes of Petr Brandl, Jan Kupecký, Josef Mánes, Mikoláš Aleš, Vojtěch Hynais, Antonín Chitussi, Antonín Slavíček and others.



Tiziano Vecellio – Woman with a Mirror, 1512–1515 © Správa Pražského hradu, photo: Jan Glöc

Prague Castle – Lobkowicz Palace

📍 Jiřská 3, Prague 1 – Hradčany 📍 [lobkowicz.com](#)

🕒 daily 10:00–18:00

🕒 295 CZK regular | 200 CZK reduced | 690 CZK family

The only private building in the Prague Castle complex is a museum housing the art collections of the Lobkowicz Family, considered the largest and oldest – still retained by its original owners – of all art collections in Czechia. It comprises rare works by famous painters (such as Pieter Brueghel the Elder, Lucas Cranach the Elder, Canaletto and Diego Velázquez), collections of ceramics, weapons, musical instruments and manuscripts by significant 17th to 19th century composers like Ludwig van Beethoven or Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The Palace also has a magnificent Concert Hall, a regular venue for classical music concerts.



View of Prague Castle with Lobkowicz Palace at night, photo: David Sedivy

Strahov Picture Gallery

📍 **Strahov Monastery – Strahovské nádvoří 1, Prague 1 – Hradčany** 🗺️ strahovskyclaster.cz

🕒 **daily 9:30–11:30 and 12:00–17:00**

💰 **120 CZK regular | 60 CZK reduced | 200 CZK family**

One of the great Central European collections of Gothic painting, Rudolfine art and Baroque and Rococo art is to be found in the Premonstratensian Monastery in Strahov. The chronologically ordered display contains two hundred works from the 14th to the mid-19th century. Here you will find art treasures from truly renowned artists (like the Master of the Litoměřice Altar, Hans von Aachen, Anthony van Dyck, Peter Brandl, Václav Vavřinec Reiner etc). You can also enjoy short-term exhibitions in the cloister and ambits of the monastery.

National Museum

📍 **Wenceslas Square 68, Prague 1 – New Town** 🗺️ nm.cz

📄 **For more information on opening hours and entrance fees, visit the museum website**

The most important and the largest Czech Museum institution, whose extensive exhibitions are located in several buildings (not only) in Prague. It collects, protects and presents a wealth of material documenting the natural, historical and prehistoric developments in Czechia and abroad. In addition, it organizes many cultural, educational and awareness-raising programmes and exhibitions.



August 1968 Commemorative Event,
photo: © National Museum

The core of the Museum is a freshly renovated neo-Renaissance **Historical Building** spanning the top of Wenceslas Square. Currently in preparation are its new permanent exhibitions – with some 80,000 exhibits. Over the years 2019–2020 a number of exhibitions will open e.g. *Nature, the Wonders of Evolution, History, People, Treasures and the Coin cabinet*.

From November 2019 a connecting corridor between the Historical and the New Building of the National Museum will open. The **New Building** (📍 Vinohradská 1, Prague 1 – Vinohrady) is currently used for short term exhibitions and lectures; in 2019 it will also host the *20th Century* and the *Children's Museum* permanent exhibitions.

The seat of the **Czech Museum of Music** (📍 Karmelitská 4, Prague 1 – Lesser Town) is in an exceptional setting – in the 17th century for-

mer Baroque church of St Mary Magdalene. The unusual symbiosis of Church architecture and its Museum refurbishment captivate the visitor with both impressive monumentality and detail. The exhibits on show comprise some 400 historical musical instruments of extraordinary value. Also held here are time-limited exhibitions and regular concerts.

The National Memorial on Vítkov Hill (📍 U Památníku 1900, Prague 3 – Žižkov) is a prominent landmark and symbol of the Žižkov district, with grand vistas of Prague. This Functionalist monument was built to honour Czechoslovak Legionnaires and currently features two permanent exhibitions – (*Crossroads of Czech and Czechoslovak Statehood* and *The Laboratory of Power*) highlighting watershed events in Czech 20th century history. Outside the museum stands a monumental statue of the Hussite military leader Jan Žižka – one of the largest equestrian sculptures in the world.



photo: © National Museum

The City of Prague Museum

📍 **Na Poříčí 52, Prague 8 – Karlín** 🗺️ muzeumprahy.cz

🕒 **Tue–Sun 9:00–18:00 (every last Wednesday of the month to 20:00)**

💰 **150 CZK regular | 60 CZK reduced | 350 CZK family**

Prague from A to Z. The City Of Prague Museum is a cultural institution with a rich collection dedicated to Prague history. Currently in its care are fourteen different buildings housing both permanent and temporary exhibitions. At the heart of the museum is the **Main neo-Renaissance building**, whose exhibitions map greater Prague from prehistoric times until the end of the 18th century. The most singular and arguably most attractive exhibit is the Langweil cardboard model of Prague dating from 1826–1837. It makes for an exceptional document of the Old Town, Lesser Town and Prague Castle at the turn of the 19th and 20th century.



photo: The City of Prague Museum

A key building in the Museum's portfolio is the originally Gothic **House at the Golden Ring** (📍 Týnska 630/6, Prague 1 – Old Town), whose modern, part-interactive exhibition depicts Prague's medieval urbanism especially during the reign of Charles IV and the Luxembourg dynasty. The current exhibition *Prague of Charles IV – The Medieval Town* builds on the successful *'Charles IV – A Grandiose Building Site in Europe'* exhibition. You will become acquainted with the building scheme for the Czech capital in the latter 14th century, the daily joys and sorrows of its medieval residents and the intimacies of life in a medieval house. Contributing to the exhibition's appeal are a variety of models (physical and virtual), computer visualizations, and the ever-popular video-mapping.



photo: The City of Prague Museum

Jewish Museum in Prague

📍 U Staré školy 1, Prague 1 – Old Town 🌐 jewishmuseum.cz
 🕒 Mon–Fri & Sun 9:00–18:00 (April to October) and 9:00–16:30 (November to March); closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays

📌 [For more information and pricing, see the museum website](#)
 One of the oldest and continuously run Jewish museums in the world, founded in 1906. Its mission is to document the history, traditions and customs of the Jewish population in the Czech Lands and preserve valuable art objects from the synagogues lost during the redevelopment of Prague's Jewish ghetto. In addition to the permanent exhibitions, some of the buildings host concerts and short-term thematic exhibitions, Prague's Jewish Museum currently comprises the following sites: the **Maisel Synagogue**, **Spanish Synagogue**, **Klausen Synagogue**, **Ceremonial Hall**, **Pinkas Synagogue**, **Old Jewish Cemetery** and the **Robert Guttmann gallery**.



Inside the Spanish Synagogue

National Technical Museum

📍 Kostelní 42, Prague 7 – Holešovice 🌐 ntm.cz

🕒 Tue–Sun, 9:00–18:00

🎫 220 CZK regular | 100 CZK reduced | 420 CZK family

The seat of the institution is the monumental Functionalist building near Letná Park. In over one hundred years the Museum has built up an extensive collection documenting the development of many technical disciplines, natural sciences and engineering. There are one-of-a-kind collectors' items as well as impressive interactive elements to look at, in 14 permanent and short-term exhibitions. The most popular part of the Museum is the transport hall, displaying cars, motorcycles, aircraft, and locomotives – where, it must be said, bygone times speak to us particularly eloquently. Another triumph is the showpiece on mining history with a flawless exhibit of a 370m long model of an ore- and coal mine from the 1950s.



photo: National Technical Museum

National Museum of Agriculture

📍 Kostelní 44, Prague 7 – Holešovice 🌐 nzm.cz

🕒 Tue–Sun 9:00–17:00

🎫 110 CZK regular | 70 CZK reduced | 200 CZK family

The building is an important monument of Czech Functionalism, located right next to the National Technical Museum. As the name suggests, its exhibitions bring a unique perspective on agriculture and associated topics. While the ground floor is aimed at lovers of agricultural technology, the 1st floor takes a look at natural resources (*Hunting and Fishing*). The 2nd floor portrays agriculture as one of the greatest discoveries of mankind, and the 3rd floor is devoted to nutrition. All topped off by the *Life* exhibit on the Museum roof garden.



Water in the Landscape exhibition,
 photo: National Museum of Agriculture



photo: Karel Zeman Museum

Karel Zeman Museum

📍 **Saská 3, Prague 1 – Lesser Town** 📍 muzeumkarlazemana.cz

🕒 **daily 10:00–19:00 (last entry at 18:00)**

💰 **250 CZK regular | 160 CZK reduced | 490 CZK family**

The Museum covers the life work of this world-renowned film maker and his amazing cinematic tricks, which made Czech 20th century cinema justly acclaimed. The exhibition is daring in its playful concept of movie sets and small studios for you to browse through and literally put yourself in the frame – lights, action, camera! Go up in a flying machine, walk on the moon or pilot the submarine from *The Fabulous World of Jules Verne* movie.

Franz Kafka Museum

📍 **Cihelná 2b, Prague 1 – Lesser Town** 📍 kafkamuseum.cz

🕒 **daily 10:00–18:00**

💰 **200 CZK regular | 120 CZK reduced | 540 CZK family**

The captivating Herget Brickworks building on the Lesser Town bank of the Vltava houses the Museum, whose displays offer a glimpse into the world of the famous Prague native Franz Kafka (1883–1924), one of the most important figures of 20th century world literature. Among the exhibits you will see the first editions of Kafka's original works, correspondence, diaries, manuscripts, photographs and drawings.

Mucha Museum

📍 **Panská 7, Prague 1 – New Town** 📍 mucha.cz

🕒 **daily 10:00–18:00**

💰 **240 CZK regular | 160 CZK reduced | 600 CZK family**

Inside the Baroque Kaunický Palace are spaces devoted to the life and work of the world-famous Art Nouveau exponent Alphonse Mucha. Some 100 works comprising oil paintings, drawings, pastels,

sculptures, photos and personal memorabilia gives a rare insight into the world of the man who made Sarah Bernhardt a poster icon. Numerous exhibits here are being shown publicly for the first time, from the private collection of the artist's family.

Museum of Communism

📍 **V Celnici 4, Prague 1 – Old Town** 📍 muzeumkomunismu.cz

🕒 **daily 9:00–20:00**

💰 **290 CZK regular | 270 CZK reduced | 600 CZK family**

Not all that long ago, Prague was one big open-air museum of Communism. And because people tend to forget too quickly, we need to remind of the past. The Museum offers a suggestive view of the era of Communism in Czechoslovakia in many fields and from different perspectives. The authentic atmosphere of the time is augmented by period set pieces – the workshop of a heroic worker, a classroom, an interrogation room or a faithful replica of the galleries.

Charles Bridge Museum

📍 **Křižovnické náměstí 3, Prague 1 – Old Town**

📍 muzeumkarlovamostu.cz

🕒 **daily 10:00–19:00 (May–September) and 10:00–18:00 (October–April)**

💰 **170 CZK basic | 70 CZK reduced | 320 CZK family**

Coronation processions and wars, festivities and floods, the everyday and special occasions – find out everything there is about the medieval construction of Charles Bridge in the eponymous Museum. In what was once the Knights of the Cross' hospital, and in the Church of St Francis, an interactive exhibition with illustrative models brings you the history of this exceptional construction and of the Bridge-building itself. One highlight is the chance to see a uniquely preserved part of Judith's bridge, the Romanesque predecessor of Charles Bridge.

Modern & Contemporary art

Trade Fair Palace

- 📍 Dukelských hrdinů 47, Prague 7 – Holešovice 📍 ngprague.cz
- 🕒 Tue–Sun 10:00–18:00, Weds to 20:00
- 💰 150 CZK regular | 80 CZK reduced, a one-time ticket to all National Gallery Prague exhibits costs 500 CZK, free admission for young people below age 26

The National Gallery Prague manages the largest collection of fine art in Czechia, with Czech and international art on regular or exhibition-only display. One of its core buildings is the Trade Fair Palace – a gem of Czech Functionalist architecture. Within its walls are major artworks of Czech (Antonín Slavíček, Max Švabinský, Toyen, etc.) or world modern art (Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró, Vincent van Gogh, etc.).



photo: © National Gallery Prague

Colloredo-Mansfeld Palace

- 📍 Karlova 2, Prague 1 – Old Town 📍 ghmp.cz
- 🕒 Tue–Sun 10:00–18:00
- 💰 60 CZK regular | 30 CZK reduced

A splendid Baroque edifice with later Rococo adaptations, this is an impressive building managed by the Prague City Gallery. The guided tour route highlights primarily the building's art-historical and architectural qualities; the exhibition spaces on the 3rd floor are reserved for short presentations of contemporary art. The combination of historical monumental space and imaginative exhibition projects showcasing contemporary artists creates a contrast between bygone times and the present day.



photo: Prague City Gallery archives

House at the Stone Bell

- 📍 Old Town Square 13, Prague 1 – Old Town 📍 ghmp.cz
- 🕒 Tue–Sun 10:00–20:00
- 💰 120 CZK regular | 60 CZK reduced

The original exhibition space of the Prague City Gallery is itself an extraordinary showpiece – a prized example of preserved Gothic palace architecture with a beautifully ornate façade, of pan-European significance. Over time, such luminaries as Santiago Calatrava, Zhang Xiaogang & Wang Guangyi or Eduard Steinberg have exhibited here. There is also a bookstore and a café.



photo: Prague City Gallery archives

DOX Centre for Contemporary Art

- 📍 Poupětova 1, Prague 7 – Holešovice 📍 dox.cz
- 🕒 Mon, Sat, Sun 10:00–18:00 Wed, Fri 11:00–19:00, Thu 11:00–21:00
- 💰 180 CZK regular | 90 CZK reduced | 300 CZK family

A multifunctional space for the presentation of international and Czech art, dedicated to a wide range of disciplines – from the visual and performance arts, through literature and architecture to film. DOX is regarded as a dynamic cultural platform and space where different approaches and artistic trends meet. In addition to its diverse exhibition programme, one local attraction and a refreshing architectural element of the building is the elegant wooden 'airship' Gulliver, a haven for literary gatherings, above all. The Centre also houses a café, a bookstore, a design store and the DOX+ multifunctional hall.



© DOX, photo: Jan Slavík

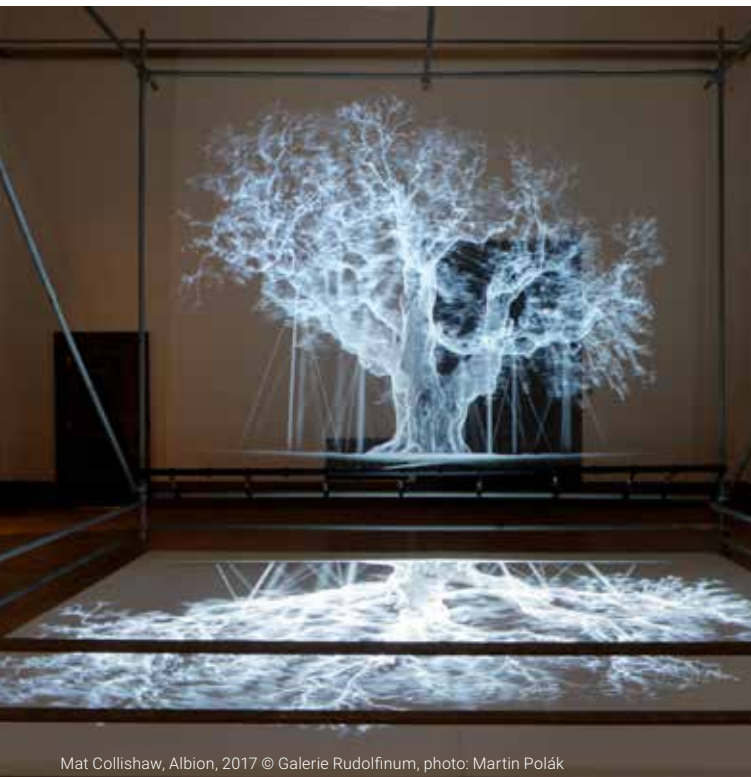
Galerie Rudolfinum

📍 Alšovo nábřeží 12, Prague 1 – Old Town 📍 galerierudolfinum.cz

🕒 Tue–Sun 10:00–18:00, Thu to 20:00

💰 130 CZK regular | 80 CZK reduced (may vary by exhibition type and scope)

One of the leading art galleries in Prague, located in the neo-Renaissance Rudolfinum building. The institution has no collections of its own but works on the principle of a 'Kunsthalle' with major exhibition projects that focus mainly on contemporary art with occasional excursions into the past. The generous exhibition halls of the great gallery are complemented by three good sized spaces, well-suited for smaller-scale occasions.



Mat Collishaw, Albion, 2017 © Galerie Rudolfinum, photo: Martin Polák

Museum Kampa

📍 U Sovových mlýnů 2, Prague 1 – Lesser Town 📍 museumkampa.cz

🕒 daily 10:00–18:00

💰 individually priced specific exhibitions. Museum-wide admission 350 CZK regular | 200 CZK reduced | 600 CZK family

A phenomenal collection of contemporary Central European art managed by the Jan and Meda Mládek Foundation for you to enjoy in the former Sova's Mills on the Kampa island riverbank. On display are primarily works by the pioneer of abstract art, František Kupka, Czech Cubist sculptor Otto Gutfreund and other major artists of the old continent. Prestigious transient exhibitions are also hosted here.

Trafo Gallery

📍 Bubenské nábřeží 13, Prague 7 – Holešovice 📍 trafogallery.cz

🕒 Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun 15:00–19:00 & Sat 10:00–19:00

💰 30 CZK (unified)

The private studio and exhibition spaces of the "Trafačka" artistic grouping are in Hall 14 of Prague's Holešovice market. The exhibition space has a large ceiling skylight, which gives the place unparalleled ambience. The Trafo Gallery exhibits the works of artists from their own ranks and other Czech and leading international figures.



Michal Škapa – Illiterate, photo: Anna Pleslová © Trafo Gallery

DSC Gallery

📍 Dlouhá 5, Prague 1 – Old Town 📍 dscgallery.com

🕒 Mon–Sat 13:00–19:00

💰 free

One of the leading private galleries in Prague, aimed at landmark works of modern art, especially in support of the younger, emerging generation of artists. During its existence it has put on dozens of exhibitions and projects combined with social and educative events.



photo: DSC Gallery

Lucie Drdova Gallery

📍 Křížkovského 10, Prague 3 – Žižkov 📍 drdovagallery.com

🕒 Tue–Fri 13:00–18:00, Sat 14:00–18:00 🆓 free

The gallery space is located at the boundary of Žižkov and Vihrady and presents noteworthy artists of the young and middle generation. It promotes the development of recognized artists and the potential of emerging artists, regularly organizes exhibitions on its own premises, while also helping to put on presentations in its partner galleries.



Václav Magid, photo: Lucie Drdova Gallery

Jiri Svestka Gallery

📍 Janáčkovo nábřeží 5, Prague 5 – Smíchov 📍 jirisvestkagallery.com

🕒 Wed–Fri 14:00–19:00, Sat 11:00–19:00 🆓 free

A notable Prague Gallery that organizes exhibitions presenting high-quality Czech and foreign artists in creative dialogues, showing them in a new and mutually enriching contexts. There are also lectures and various cultural gatherings. The gallery is complemented by a small depository and showroom, accessible by arrangement, to view many more interesting works of domestic and foreign authorship across several generations.

hunt kastner

📍 Bořivojova 85, Prague 3 – Žižkov 📍 huntkastner.com

🕒 Tue–Fri 13:00–18:00 & Sat 14:00–18:00 🆓 free

The gallery was founded in 2005 by Katherine Kastner and Camille Hunt to professionally present contemporary, especially Czech art, and to promote mid-career and young artists, developing their relations with the art world abroad. The exhibition programme focuses on bespoke exhibitions by artists who express themselves in different media – painting, photography, video or installations.



Dominik Lang: Bone Collector, photo: Ondřej Polak © hunt kastner

Museum Montanelli

📍 Nerudova 13, Prague 1 – Lesser Town 📍 museummontanelli.com

🕒 Tue–Fri 14:00–18:00 and Sat–Sun 13:00–18:00

🎫 50 CZK regular | free reduced

In one of the few private museums of fine art in Czechia we find history fusing with modern artistic styles. The programme focuses on presenting contemporary Czech and international artists, often overarching into “art experience” or varied performances. The accompanying events cater for the youngest visitors too, with fun workshops. Guided tours are conducted in English or German as well as in Czech.

Tour de David Černý

David Černý (born 1967) is one of the most closely watched Czech artists, whose installations in Prague streets still stir up emotions. Some laud him for being a socially committed and original ‘enfant terrible’, others criticize him for needless controversy often accompanied by caustic views. His works are, however – undeniably quirky, often ironically pungent and thought-provoking.

A graduate of the Kurt Gebauer sculpture studio at the Prague Academy of Arts, Architecture & Design, he gained recognition with his sculpture of a walking Trabant called **Quo Vadis**. It symbolized the mass exodus of thousands of former East Germans to West Germany through its embassy during the summer and autumn of 1989. In 1990 the sculpture was shown on Old Town Square, and today its bronze casting is a fixture at the German Embassy in the Lesser Town, readily accessible to the public.

The otherwise inconspicuous Husova street in the Old Town features an over 2m high statue of Sigmund Freud, suspended from the roof of one of the houses. This, called **Hanging Out**, depicts the artist’s sense of entering into the new millennium and the odd end of the last one.





Probably the most photographed of Černý's works is the dead **Horse** hanging from the Lucerna mall ceiling, just a few dozen yards from the iconic Statue of St Wenceslas by Myslbek, which it complements. Černý has his St Wenceslas sitting astride the horse's belly. The dead horse hanging tied up by the hooves with his tongue out is a highly popular tourist draw, though the artist himself admits to avoiding it.

The Žižkov Television Tower has since 2001 faced its invasion of so-called **Babies**. 10 monstrous fibreglass figural sculptures are mischievously scaling up and down the façade, defying gravity. Currently, the Babies are having a little restorative R&R but should be back up the tower soon enough. Visually matching toddlers can be seen by Museum Kampa (see p. 20).



In the courtyard of the Herget Brickworks are two **Peeing Figures** – a pair of naked male statues peeing into a Czechia-shaped pond. If you take a good look at their genitalia, you'll observe the statues are controlled by an electronic device that moves the hips and penises to write letters by directing water onto the pond surface. Černý views our Republic as the metropolis of Eastern Europe, noted for the sight of adult (often drunk) men urinating outdoors in the streets regardless of decorum. As the artist says: *"Western European capitals boast fountains with cute little boys peeing, while ours are grown-up, living men."*



Latterly grabbing attention the most is a kinetic **sculpture of Franz Kafka**, composed of 42 moving tiers that rotate independently of each other and constantly transform Kafka's face, or the **Horse Power** piece in the Waltrovka residential area. These are half horse and half propeller-aircraft engines, evoking the original factory that made aviation engines here.

📍 For more about David Černý, go to 📍 davidcerny.cz.



Quo Vadis

📍 German Embassy – Vlašská 19, Prague 1 – Lesser Town

Hanging Out

📍 Husova street, Prague 1 – Old Town

Horse

📍 Lucerna Palace – Štěpánská 61, Prague 1 – New Town

Babies

📍 Žižkov Television Tower – Mahlerovy sady 1, Prague 3 – Žižkov

Peeing Figures

📍 Herget Brickworks – Cihelná 2b, Prague 1 – Lesser Town

Franz Kafka

📍 Quadrio – Spálená 22, Prague 1 – Lesser Town

Horse Power

📍 Waltrovka – U Trezorky, Prague 5 – Jinonice

Applied art, design, architecture

Museum of Decorative Arts

📍 17. listopadu 2, Prague 1 – Old Town 📍 upm.cz

🕒 Wed–Sun 10:00–18:00 Tues to 20:00

🎟️ individually priced specific exhibitions. Admission to all exhibitions – 300 CZK regular | 160 CZK reduced | 480 CZK family

The main building of the Museum of Decorative Arts, built at the end of the 19th century in the style of the Italian Renaissance has reopened to the public after a complete overhaul. Inside its beautiful interiors visitors can look forward to unrivalled exhibits, from furniture and glass to fashion, jewellery, toys or photos.

Lovers of modern architecture simply must not miss the other significant museum building – **The House at the Black Madonna** (📍 Ovocný trh 19, Prague 1 – Old Town). This crowning achievement of Czech Cubism was built in 1911–1912 by the architect Josef Gočár. The house gets its name from a Baroque statuette in its corner recess. After complete reconstruction it came to house a permanent exhibition of Cubism, the avant-garde art movement of the turn of the 19th and 20th century. The 4th floor also hosts short-term topical exhibitions. Don't forget to visit the café and taste the particularly fine Cubist crème puffs.



photo: Museum of Decorative Arts

Villa Müller & Villa Rothmayer

📍 Villa Müller – Nad Hradním vodojemem 14, Prague 6 – Štřešovice

📍 Villa Rothmayer – U Páté baterie 50, Prague 6 – Břevnov

📍 muzeumprahy.cz

🕒 Visits to the Villas require prior booking

🎟️ 300 CZK regular | 200 CZK reduced (Villa Müller) and 180 CZK regular | 120 CZK reduced (Villa Rothmayer)

The City of Prague Museum (see p. 13) manages, among others, two architectural gems from the early 20th century. The first of these is the Functionalist Villa Müller – the brilliant work of legendary architect Adolf Loos, ahead of its time in many ways. A permanent exhibition presents the interior of the luxury villa as marking the lifestyle of Prague's erstwhile high society. The nearby Villa Rothmayer, with a similar exhibition inside, does not hide the influence of Mediter-

anean architectural tradition, with its dominant simple cuboid and cylindrical shapes, so imposingly inseparable from its porch and picturesque garden.



Villa Müller, photo: The City of Prague Museum

Jaroslav Fragner Gallery

📍 Betlémské náměstí 5, Prague 1 – Old Town 📍 gjf.cz

🕒 Tue–Sun 11:00–19:00

🎟️ 40 CZK regular | 20 CZK reduced | 60 CZK family

The exhibition space was created in the adjacent dorm house during the reconstruction of the Bethlehem Chapel by Jaroslav Fragner in the 1950s. The Gallery is devoted exclusively to current and historic architecture and applied art. The exhibitions it hosts feature known artists and creative teams from Czechia and abroad. The exhibits are complemented by lectures, workshops, seminars and other 'live' get-togethers for fans of architecture.

Old Waste-Water Treatment Plant in Bubeneč

📍 Papírenská 6, Prague 6 – Bubeneč 📍 stara-cistirna.cz

🕒 Mon–Fri 11:00–15:00 and Sat–Sun 10:00–18:00 (September–June); Mon–Fri 10:00–16:00 and Sat–Sun 10:00–18:00 (July and August)

🎟️ 180 CZK basic | 90 CZK reduced | 450 CZK family

This one-of-a-kind architectural monument is an exceptionally preserved industrial building with unmatched underground spaces and original technological facilities. During the tour you will see a still functioning steam engine room from the year 1903, photos, period documents and historical sanitary-ware exhibits. Spice up your visit by climbing up the chimney or punting underground along a 90-metre-long sedimentation tank. The waste-water treatment plant has its own stylish 'Factory Café'.

Museum Portheimka

📍 Štefánikova 12, Prague 5 – Smíchov 📍 museumportheimka.cz

🕒 Tue–Sun 10:00–18:00

🎟️ 120 CZK regular | 60 CZK reduced | 200 CZK family

The permanent exhibition devoted to modern and contemporary

glass is in the Portheimka summer house. This Baroque pearl of Prague's Smíchov district was built in the 1720s by the renowned architect Kilian Ignaz Dientzenhofer, for himself and family. Exhibitions make use of the representative rooms on the first floor – the oval marble hall, two large rooms with frescoes, a fireplace hall and a coffered ceiling hall. On the ground floor is a stylish café and summer garden.



photo: Museum Portheimka

Photography

House of Photography

📍 **Revoluční 5, Prague 1 – Old Town** 📍 ghmp.cz

🕒 **Tue–Sun 10:00–18:00, Thu to 20:00**

💰 **120 CZK regular | 60 CZK reduced**

Close to Republic Square is a gallery specializing in photography, showing works by local and international photographers, known and unknown. Although not long on the cultural map of Prague, the gallery's well honed exhibition concept has given it an excellent name.



photo: Prague City Gallery archives

Leica Gallery Prague

📍 **Školská 28, Prague 1 – New Town** 📍 lgp.cz

🕒 **Mon–Fri 10:00–21:00 and Sat–Sun 14:00–20:00**

💰 **70 CZK regular | 40 CZK reduced | 140 CZK family**

The gallery has been promoting the arts since 2002. It focuses mainly on promoting current Czech, Slovak and world photography. In addition to exhibitions there are thematic discussions, photography workshops, and programmes for children. The exhibition spaces also include a café and a bookstore.

Josef Sudek's Studio

📍 **Újezd 30, Prague 1 – Lesser Town** 📍 sudek-atelier.cz

🕒 **Tue–Sun 12:00–18:00**

💰 **10 CZK (unified)**

The gallery has a faithful replica of the original garden studio of the world-renowned Czech photographer Josef Sudek, as built at the end of the 19th century and destroyed by fire in 1985. The compact gallery is devoted to photography and its role in contemporary art. It deals largely with works by Czech photographers of the younger and middle generations; yet its exhibition schedule regularly features photos by this doyen of Czech photography. In the summer period the schedule includes at least one exhibition directly or indirectly related to the work of Josef Sudek, his peers or pupils.

Contemporary art in public spaces

You can venture beyond galleries and museums to find the visual arts. Prague is itself one big open-air gallery, with monuments and statues practically 'at every turn'. Think of the Baroque statues on Charles Bridge, the statue of St Wenceslas (1912) on Wenceslas Square, the monumental statue of Jan Hus (1915) on Old Town Square or the equestrian statue of Jan Žižka (1950) on Vítkov Hill.

Allow us to draw your attention to a few interesting contemporary things to see: **Memorial to the Victims of Communism** – at the foot of Petřín slope opposite Vítězná street is one of the most unusual memorials in Prague, by sculptor Olbram Zoubek. The Memorial consists of a narrow stairway, with seven bronze male figures ascending. The first statue is intact, each behind progressively less so. The sculptor thus depicted the escalating suffering of political prisoners in 1950s Communist Czechoslovakia.



Memorial to the Victims of Communism

The **Metronome on Letná** (by Vratislav Novák), aka the Time Machine, stands atop Prague in a symbolic place. It was here that a gigantic statue of Stalin once towered into the sky, dynamited away in 1962. The Metronome symbolizes the unstoppable passage of time and its location also warns against a repeat of our tragic past. From the Metronome you'll get breath-taking views of the Old Town and the Vltava river and its bridges. The **Václav Havel Bench** (by Bořek Šípek) – two chairs and a bench around the trunk of a Linden tree on Maltézské square are dedicated to former Czech President Václav Havel. The site is intended not only for relaxation but also to commemorate this important figure of Czech and international history. There are benches just like it in Washington and Dublin. The **Equestrian statue of Jaroslav Hašek** (by Karel Nepraš) – 2005 gave Žižkov a fascinating and original artwork. A massive stone plinth bears a horse surrounded by a bar counter and on its back a bust of the writer. **Statue of Franz Kafka in Dušní Street** (by Jaroslav Róna) – a two-figure sculpture consisting of two bodies – the lower



Prague Metronome on Letná

massive figure is a hollow suit (jacket and trousers), and on its shoulders sits Franz Kafka himself. The memorial is inspired by Kafka's short story *Description of a Struggle*. The **Sculpture Garden of the Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia** following its recent revitalization is teeming with sculptures by contemporary Czech artists such as Jaroslav Róna, Stefan Milkov, Stanislav Kolíbal or originals by František Skála. Admission is free. The **Lennon Wall** –



Lennon Wall

a brightly painted wall symbolizes the tomb of the legendary Beatle and peaceful resistance to violence worldwide. It was created just after the death of Lennon at the end of 1980, when people began spontaneously adding graffiti to mark his life and thoughts, laying flowers and candles. To this day the wall attracts new graffiti, the original painting with the portrait of John Lennon lost beneath layers of paint.

The outdoor installations by **David Černý** are described on p. 23.

Music



The Municipal House – Smetana Hall

'Every Czech a musician' – this old folk adage bears out how the Czechs have been and are a musical nation. The land that gave the world names like Bedřich Smetana, Antonín Dvořák, Leoš Janáček and Gustav Mahler could hardly be otherwise. You'll find varied genres of music in Prague at every step.

Major Prague orchestras

Czech Philharmonic

★ ceskafilharmonie.cz

The Czech Philharmonic is the most prominent Czech symphonic orchestra. The distinctive quality of their playing brings much listening pleasure. They opened in 1896 with Symphony No. 9, *From the New World* by Antonín Dvořák, who was the Orchestra's first conductor. Taking turns on the conductor's podium over time have been numerous celebrities, well known to music lovers. To name but a few: Václav Talich, Rafael Kubelík, Karel Ančerl, Václav Neumann and Jiří Bělohlávek. The current conductor is Semyon Bychkov, their home stage is the Prague Rudolfinum. The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra comprises 120 musicians in 16 sections.



Czech Philharmonic, photo: © Petra Hajska

Prague Symphony Orchestra FOK

📍 fok.cz

The official orchestra of the capital city of Prague is among top music ensembles with a venerable tradition and international renown. The acronym FOK stands for the original focus of the Orchestra (Film – Opera – Concert). The musical skill of the Orchestra enriches the concert-going life of the Czech capital while also representing Czech culture abroad at the highest level. The Orchestra is based at and performs in the Municipal House.



Pietari Inkinen and FOK, photo: Jan Slavík

Czech National Symphony Orchestra

📍 cnso.cz

25 years have firmly established it among leading Czech ensembles. It has earned a reputation for versatile renditions in a wide range of genres, whether classical music, jazz, film or musicals. Artists repeatedly heard with the Orchestra have included Andrea Bocelli, Rolando Villazón, José Carreras, Jonas Kaufmann or Piotr Beczala, in popular music leading vocalists like Sting, George Michael, or Natalie Cole and many more. The Orchestra's chief conductor is Libor Pešek, their home stage the Smetana Hall of the Municipal House.

PKF – Prague Philharmonia

📍 pkf.cz

PKF – Prague Philharmonia was founded in 1994 on the initiative of conductor Jiří Bělohlávek. Today it ranks among the most respected Czech and world orchestras, as confirmed by regular foreign tours and recording projects for renowned world music labels. The Orchestra is famous for its freshness, energy and perfectionism, and not least for its distinctive sound.

Prague Chamber Orchestra

📍 pko.cz

One of the oldest European chamber orchestras. In its early days it concentrated on older Czech music, but their repertoire now includes 20th century works, including brand new works by contemporary composers.

Collegium Marianum

📍 collegiummarianum.cz

The ensemble focuses on mainly 17th and 18th century music by Czech and Central European composers. As one of the few professional ensembles of its kind in the Czech Republic its repertoire covers not only concert pieces, but periodically also stage projects. The Collegium Marianum is the resident ensemble of the Summer Festivities of Early Music (see p. 51).

Collegium 1704 & Collegium Vocale 1704

📍 collegium1704.com

A leading Czech Baroque ensemble is engaged in the interpretation of early music, in particular by Jan Dismas Zelenka, Josef Mysliveček and their contemporaries. Many of their recordings have been warmly received by the domestic and international professional public and have won numerous awards.

Concert halls & spaces

Rudolfinum

📍 **Alšovo nábřeží 12, Prague 1 – Old Town** 📍 rudolfinum.cz

This impressive neo-Renaissance building on the banks of the Vltava is famous for its main concert hall – the Dvořák Hall. Throughout the year there are prestigious classical music concerts and major festivals, e.g. the Prague Spring, or Dvořák's Prague.

The Prague Spring



This international music festival is the most prestigious of its kind in the Czech Republic. It always starts on 12th May, with the *My Country* symphonic poem cycle by Bedřich Smetana. At the Festivals inception in 1946 stood its first conductor, the legendary Rafael Kubelík, later the conductor of the Metropolitan Opera in New York, or the Music Director of the Royal Opera House in London. *Tickets for the next Festival season normally go on pre-sale in mid-December.*

Municipal House

📍 **náměstí Republiky 5, Prague 1 – Old Town** 📍 obecnidum.cz

This Art Nouveau gem is a traditional venue for many cultural and social events. It is favoured by classical music lovers mainly for its Smetana Hall as well as a great range of concerts of classical music, exceptionally also of other musical genres.

The Spanish Hall at Prague Castle

📍 **Prague Castle, Prague 1 – Hradčany** 📍 kulturanahrade.cz

Only occasionally open to the public, typically on open days in May

and October, or as part of cultural and social events, including classical and jazz concerts.

Concerts in churches

The sacred atmosphere of Prague's churches heightens musical experience, particularly of organ and church music. Concerts are held in many of them, for example:

St Nicholas Church on Malostranské náměstí

📍 stnicholas.cz

St Nicholas Church on Old Town Square

📍 concertsinprague.eu

Sts Simon and Jude Church

📍 Dušní street, Prague 1 – Old Town 📍 fok.cz

St Jacob's Basilica

📍 Malá Štupartská 6, Prague 1 – Old Town 📍 auditeorganum.cz

St Francis of Assisi Church

📍 Křižovnické náměstí 3, Prague 1 – Old Town 📍 jchart.cz

Žofín Palace

📍 Slovanský ostrov 226, Prague 1 – New Town 📍 zofin.cz

Within sight of the National Theatre is the neo-Renaissance palace



Žofín, a significant cultural and social centre. Its large hall hosts concerts of classical and modern music, but social events and international interferences, too. It was here in 1882 that the *My Country* cycle of symphonic poems by Bedřich Smetana had its première.

Lucerna Palace

📍 Štěpánská 61, Prague 1 – New Town 📍 lucerna.cz

The centre of the palazzo is filled with the Great Hall, spanning three underground floors, with a capacity of up to 4000 seats. This venue is especially suitable for pop, jazz and rock concerts. Lucerna is the go-to stage for Czech popular singers.

A little about Lucerna



When the palazzo was built in 1921 it soon became the most visited cultural centre in the city and its popularity continues today. Lucerna was built by Václav Havel the grandfather of the late president Václav Havel. These days it encompasses a cinema, banquet halls, the Lucerna Music Bar as well as a variety of places to eat, and offices.

The Great Hall has hosted legendary names of world jazz and popular music, such as Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles, Gilbert Bécaud and the Duke Ellington and Benny Goodman bands.

Forum Karlín

📍 Pernerova 53, Prague 8 – Karlín 📍 forumkarlin.cz

Revamping the old industrial buildings from the 19th century has created a distinctive multifunctional space with a large concert hall for 3000 people, known for more than just excellent acoustics.

Concert Halls

Prague is a frequent touring stop-off for world stars. Magnificent productions and crowds in the thousands require apt space, so such events are held in multi-purpose halls and other venues, such as:

O2 arena

📍 Českomoravská 17, Prague 9 – Vysočany 📍 o2arena.cz

Tipsport arena

📍 Za Elektrárnou 419, Prague 7 – Holešovice
📍 tipsportarena-praha.cz

Sinobo Stadium

📍 U Slavie 2a, Prague 10 – Vršovice 📍 edenarena.cz

Prague Exhibition Grounds

📍 Areál Výstaviště, Prague 7 – Holešovice 📍 vystavistepraha.eu

Prague Letňany Airport

📍 Letňany, Hůlkova 35, Prague 9 – Letňany 📍 letnany-airport.cz

📍 For information about other venues of concerts, programmes, tickets, etc. see 📍 prague.eu.

Opera & Ballet

National Theatre

📍 **Národní 2, Prague 1 – New Town** 📍 narodni-divadlo.cz

Czechia's foremost theatre was built using nationwide donations in the late 19th century and housed in a palatial building by the Vltava. Its interior and exterior decoration is eye-catching, richly gilded, painted by Czech master artists of the time – Mikoláš Aleš, František Ženíšek, Vojtěch Hynais, Josef Václav Myslbek, etc. The sumptuous building makes visiting any play, opera or ballet performance an unforgettable experience.



The Adventures of Mr. Brouček,
photo: Patrik Borecky

📌 *If you would like to get to know the National Theatre more closely, take up the offer of weekend tours with Prague City Tourism. More information on eshop.prague.eu/en. For weekday tours with foreign language commentary organized by the National Theatre see narodni-divadlo.cz.*

– The Estates Theatre

📍 **Železná, Prague 1 – Old Town** 📍 narodni-divadlo.cz

This Classicist theatre building (1783) has survived to this day in almost its original condition. Inherently intertwined with the history of the theatre is Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with his operatic works. Audiences are more than impressed by the spectacular interior which has played many a part in films, not least the eight Oscar winning film Amadeus, directed by Miloš Forman. The Estates Theatre is a regular stage for drama, opera and ballet troupes.



photo: © National Theatre

– The State Opera

📍 **Wilsonova 4, Prague 1 – New Town** 📍 narodni-divadlo.cz

This leading European opera house is undergoing general repair. It will reopen in the 2019/2020 season. During the renovation, opera performances take place on the stage of the Historical National Theatre building or the Karlín Music Theatre.

Music & Dance clubs

Lucerna Music Bar

📍 [Vodičkova 36, Prague 1 – New Town](#) 🌐 [musicbar.cz](#)

One of the most visited and renowned music clubs in Prague. This unusually designed space gives visitors the chance to experience performances by their favourite artists literally 'face to face'. Stars who have played here include Earth, Wind & Fire, Brand New Heavies, Incognito, Hiram Bullock, Laco Deczi, the Robben Ford Band, The Holmes Brothers, and many more. Lucerna Music Bar regularly hosts almost all major domestic bands; its 80s and 90s themed parties are also quite something.



photo: Petr Klapper

Roxy

📍 [Dlouhá 33, Prague 1 – Old Town](#) 🌐 [roxy.cz](#)

The vaulted historical cellar ceilings, stylish Art-Deco architecture, a passion for music and a feel for art characterize the now legendary Roxy. For more than twenty years, numerous well-known visiting bands and musicians as well as highly rated domestic names have graced the scene. Many of these concerts have gone down as cult experiences. The club makes an ideal setting for unfettered dance parties or social events.



photo: Roxy

Reduta Jazz Club

📍 [Národní 20, Prague 1 – New Town](#) 🌐 [redutajazzclub.cz](#)

Reduta was founded in 1958, making it one of the oldest jazz clubs in the world. In 2016 The Guardian newspaper ranked it among the Top Ten Jazz Clubs in Europe. This legendary stage can boast a long tradition of hosting the world's best jazz musicians. Contemporary stage management is betting on all genres of jazz production – from trad-jazz through mainstream, contemporary jazz, funk, blues, soul right up to gospel music.

Le Valmont

📍 [Uhelný trh 9, Prague 1 – Old Town](#) 🌐 [levalmont.cz](#)

'We revere good fun, enthuse about life and celebrate love. Care to be enticed?' The motto of this bohemian place with an aesthetic touch and somewhat decadent atmosphere says it all. This stylish dance club crossed with a cocktail bar has taken its inspiration from Miloš Forman's famous film, Valmont, and the quirky ambience of 18th century France. From Tuesday to Saturday there are themed parties with refined live performances.

Klubovna 2. patro

📍 [Dlouhá 37, Prague 1 – Old Town](#)

Should you want to get to know a local club that has quite an alternative musical slant and unusual spaces, where they dance until they drop, it might be hard to find at first. This clubhouse is hidden from the eyes of pedestrians, giving it the aura of a private club. Yet if you venture along the building passage into a drab courtyard and up to the 2nd floor, an unforgettable novel experience awaits you.

Epic

📍 [Revoluční 1003/3, Prague 1 – Old Town](#) 🌐 [epicprague.com](#)

One of the newer ventures focused on electronic club music. Smaller parties are held in a separate Lounge zone, while the most popular DJs can bring to the boil a large main hall for up to 1000 guests, teeming to fill-up at four bars.



photo: Epic

Rock Café

📍 [Národní 20, Prague 1 – New Town](#) 📍 [rockcafe.cz](#)

Rock Café, dating from the 1990s, is still the shining star and mainstay on the club map of Prague. It is quite the hatchery of new bands on the domestic music scene, but this great space is rife with seasoned music icons too, like Waltari, Sepultura, Die Happy, Stereo MCs, etc. Lately, you can enjoy theatre performances, art films or thematic exhibitions here.

Jazz Dock

📍 [Janáčkovo nábřeží 2, Prague 5 – Smíchov](#) 📍 [jazzdock.cz](#)

You'll find it right on the Vltava River Bank below the Janáčkovo embankment. The configurable interior allows for hosting more intimate concerts as well as large-scale productions and so the organizers emphasize the diversity of genres, from classical to new music streams of jazz and blues. The most popular events at the club include the international jazz festivals Jazz ON5, 'American Spring' or 'Jazz of Four continents'.



photo: Jazz Dock

Chapeau Rouge

📍 [Jakubská 2, Prague 1 – Old Town](#) 📍 [chapeaurouge.cz](#)

Chapeau Rouge brings together visitors and artists from around the world. There are often music productions on all floors at once, so while you listen to a funky DJ in the bar, one floor below there's modern house, and in the basement an indie-rock or a hardcore band. The establishment is known for its unusual design features, apart from its laid-back atmosphere and great bars.

Retro Music Hall

📍 [Francouzská 75/4, Prague 2 – Vinohrady](#) 📍 [retropraha.cz](#)

One of the most modern dance and music clubs in Prague. This multifunctional building can hold up to 1500 people. It regularly hosts excellent singers and bands, DJs or plays, and so provides quality concerts, discos and parties. Make sure you also visit the stylish Restaurant Retro.

Futurum Music Bar

📍 [Zborovská 7, Prague 5 – Smíchov](#) 📍 [futurum.musicbar.cz](#)

A well-known music venue hidden deep within the National House Smíchov. In addition to the regular 80s & 90s parties every Friday, this is a club mainly dedicated to rock music. It is often the chosen refuge of lesser known Czech and foreign bands.

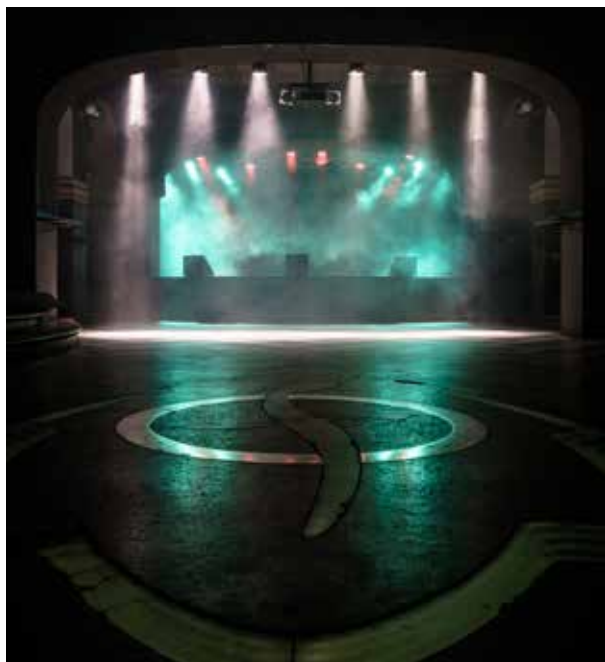


photo: Futurum Music Bar

Akropolis Palace

📍 [Kubelíkova 27, Prague 3 – Žižkov](#) 📍 [palacakropolis.cz](#)

The cultural centrepiece of Žižkov and independent culture, offering offbeat community, music, theatre and visual arts projects. It hosts domestic and visiting artists at the pinnacle of their various genres and trends. This inter-war building, with elements of Art-Deco and innovatively designed rooms, a restaurant, bar and café, is impressive in itself.



photo: Palác Akropolis

Theatre, dance & new circus



National Theatre Ballet – Marta Dráštíková, photo: Youn Sik Kim

Of the dozens of Prague theatres we've selected a few whose significance or popularity goes beyond Prague and the Czech Republic or which are significant instances of their kind. We've also focused on theatres without language barriers.

📍 For information about our leading stages – The National Theatre, The Estates Theatre, the State Opera, see [Opera & Ballet](#) on p. 38.

New Stage / Laterna Magika

📍 [Národní 4, Prague 1 – New Town](#) 📍 [narodni-divadlo.cz](#)

This modern theatre building from the 1980s is still one of the most controversial buildings in Prague. Its characteristic form is made up of nearly four thousand glass blocks. The New Stage belongs to the National Theatre, a venue for original projects, and the home stage of several ensembles including the Laterna Magika, whose basic tenet is the interactive linking of film projections with choreography and drama.



Sternenhoch, photo: Patrik Borecký

Karlín Music Theatre

📍 [Křižíkova 10, Prague 8 – Karlín](#) 📍 [hdk.cz](#)

One of the oldest and most beautiful theatres, specializing in operas and musicals. The auditorium holds up to 1000 spectators. They also host major social events.

Archa Theatre

📍 [Na Poříčí 26, Prague 1 – New Town](#) 📍 [divadloarcha.cz](#)

This alternative theatre scene for discerning audiences is at the epicentre of the scenic arts across genres. With its range of innovative projects, Archa has earned the reputation of a significant and progressive cultural institution.

Jatka78

📍 [Bubenské nábřeží 13, Prague 7 – Holešovice](#) 📍 [jatka78.cz](#)

This singular multifunctional space on the site of a former slaughterhouse has very quickly got onto the cultural map of Prague. Jatka78 has become the home stage of the Cirk La Putyka professional new circus ensemble; the genre is a fusion of acrobatics, modern dance, and sports.



photo: Jatka78

La Fabrika

📍 [Komonardů 30, Prague 7 – Holešovice](#) 📍 [lafabrika.cz](#)

This multi-purpose cultural space located in Prague's Holešovice district is made up of two buildings from the early 1900s linked together. Its industrial origin gives the interior a special charm and originality. In addition to concerts there are film screenings, acrobatic performances, and last but not least high-quality theatre.

Ponec Theatre

📍 [Husitská 24a, Prague 3 – Žižkov](#) 📍 [divadloponec.cz](#)

An open space for independent artistic work focusing on contemporary dance and movement theatre. The programme consists of a varied range of contemporary small and large, domestic and international projects and dance productions.



Alfred ve dvoře – Dance of the magnetic ballerina, photo: Kryštof Kalina

Alfred in the courtyard / Alfred ve dvoře

📍 [Františka Křížka 36, Prague 7 – Holešovice](#) 📍 [alfredvedvore.cz](#)

One of the few 'green field' Prague theatres to have sprung up. Their progressive staging rests on notable artists and alternative ensembles. Alfred portrays itself as the venue of choice for independent creation, kinetic, visual and experimental theatre.

Black Light Theatre Srnec

📍 [Na Příkopě 10, Prague 1 – New Town](#) 📍 [srnectheatre.com](#)

The first black-light theatre in the world, seen by audiences across the continents. Since 1961 it has repeatedly performed in over 78 countries. This puts the theatre among the most important representatives of Czech art worldwide.

The black-light theatre concept,



created by Jiří Srnec, is based on the creative use of a simple trick, the so-called 'black cabinet' where the spectator cannot see the actors handling the props since they are dressed entirely in black against a black background. The props, items or objects thus acquire the semblance of their own movement and their own independent life.

Top cultural events



... to be seen, heard, and lived. We have picked a few of the countless events that our capital city hosts on a regular basis each year, in witness of their utmost quality. For an overview of other cultural offerings of all genres see prague.eu.

International Film Festival Prague – Febiofest

 **March** febiofest.cz

The Festival brings a wide-angle take of the best and latest in the world of film, with fine screenings and famous guests.

Prague Spring – International Music Festival

 **12 May–3 June** festival.cz

The most prestigious classical music festival in the Czech Republic. Ever since its first season in 1946 it has been bringing world famous music ensembles and soloists to Prague.



photo: © Prague Spring – Ivan Malý

Prague Museum Night

📅 June 📍 prazskamuzejninoc.cz

This event, also traditionally held in other European cities, is an opportunity to explore the wealth of museums and galleries most memorably, at an unusual time.



photo: Prague Museum Night

Tanec Praha

📅 June 📍 tanecpraha.org

The biggest show of contemporary dance and kinetic theatre represents the variety and the quality of current international and domestic dancing, with room for experiment and overlap into other genres.

Metronome Festival Prague

📅 June/July 📍 metronomefestival.cz

The greatest musical event of the summer in Prague, featuring the brightest stars of the modern music world. Also in June, the organizers run a super music festival called the United Islands of Prague.



photo: © Metronome Festival Prague

Sculpture Line

📅 June/September 📍 sculptureline.cz

A promenade of statues and art objects by leading domestic and international artists out in the streets of the city.



photo: © Archiv Sculpture Line, Tony Cragg - Mixed feelings

Bohemia Jazz Fest

📅 July 📍 bohemiajazzfest.cz

One of the most highly regarded jazz festivals in Europe, essentially all about promoting top-class Jazz. It takes place outdoors on Old Town Square, and admission is free.

Summer Festivities of Early Music

📅 July/August 📍 letnislavnosti.cz

An international festival of historical artistic and musical trends; performing on historical instruments, complete with characteristic period costume, original choreography, gesture, rhetoric and make-up.



Summer Festivities of Early Music,
photo: Martin Divišek

Letní Letná

📅 August/September 🌐 letniletna.cz

An unparalleled showcase of the world's New Circus stars, a music programme, workshops, film screenings as well as programmes for children – Letní Letná covers it all.



Letní Letná 2018, photo: Akoreacro - Dans ton cœur

Dvořák's Prague

📅 September 🌐 dvorakovapraha.cz

The main idea of this prestigious Music Festival is to promote the good name of Czech culture by referencing the legacy of Antonín Dvořák, his contemporaries and pupils.

Signal Festival of Lights

📅 October 🌐 signal.cz

The Festival brings together new technologies and art. The streets, public spaces and landmark historical monuments turn into art-objects for several evenings, in the hands of leading Czech and international artistic lighting wizards.



Signal 2017, photo: Dušan Yondra

Designblok – Prague International Design Festival

📅 October/November 🌐 designblok.cz

The largest design and fashion show in Central Europe presents garment styling and production from all over Europe, novelty items by prestigious brands and prototypes from young designers and design studios.



Designblok 2017, photo: Lucy Creative Agency

'Strings of Autumn'

📅 October/November 🌐 strunypodzimu.cz

An innovative, daring and multi-genre musical festival, offering its listeners a mix of jazz, classics, tradition and experiment.

Alternative venues



photo: Karlín Barracks / Kasárna Karlín

Charting the alternative scene in Prague can be a little tricky. Some venues come blazing out of the blue only to wane a couple of weeks later. That's why we've picked time-proven establishments and places with growth potential. Simply put, the very places where we love to go to have fun and meet new people.

MeetFactory

📍 Ke Sklárně 3213/15, Prague 5 – Smíchov 📍 meetfactory.cz

Snug between an eight-track railway line and a motorway is a seemingly grungy industrial building with two red cars hanging off its façade like meat. MeetFactory is the brainchild project of Czech artist David Černý, whose evocative art installations are found scattered all over Prague. In its more than 15-year existence, MeetFactory has made its name as an independent centre for contemporary art, where the visual arts meet theatre, music, as well as interdisciplinary and experimental platforms.



photo: Tomáš Souček

Cross Club

📍 Plynární 1096/23, Prague 7 – Holešovice 📍 crossclub.cz

Cross Club is today somewhat of an alternative legend, attracting both local and out-of-town guests to enjoy the best of the domestic and global electronic scene. On two stages here you'll find a real mishmash of musical styles from dnb, reggae, ska, through dub, to tekno sound systems. Not to be overlooked is the futuristic decor by František 'Plaster' Chmelík that permeates through the labyrinth of corridors and corners and quizzically captivates, increasingly so into the small hours.



photo: Cross Club

Containall – Stromovka

📍 Stromovka – Royal Game Reserve, Prague 7 – Bubeneč

📌 containall.cz

Sometimes all it takes is an unconventional idea, a little determination to persevere to the end, and a little bit of money to begin with. The same is true of the Containall – a sheet-metal container parked in the summer season in the beautiful surroundings of Stromovka Royal Game Reserve. The programme, in addition to summer film screenings, comprises theatre performances, live music, workshops and sporting events. You can play football, beach volleyball, table tennis, pétanque, Swedish kubb or partake in regular yoga classes. It is just the place to spend a summer (early) evening, what with all the rustling trees and starry sky overhead.

Embankments

📌 prazskenalpavky.cz

Downtown Prague's embankments become the liveliest social gathering places along the Vltava river during the summer months. And there are plenty of reasons. Some are attracted to the plethora of goings-on throughout the year – from farmers' markets to a palette of cultural, sports and gastronomic events. Others are drawn here by the views of Hradčany, Vyšehrad and other Prague sights or by romantic walks at dusk along the nearby islands.



The Embankment at the Railway Bridge

Karlín Barracks / Kasárna Karlín

📍 Prvního pluku 2, Prague 8 – Karlín 📌 kasarnakarlin.cz

Where troops once marched by the hundred, many now go to have fun. Thanks to its prime location and multifunctional use made of the building, the barracks draw in visitors across the generations. The central courtyard is where the action is; a giant sandbox, a summer cinema, a mini lookout tower, a fire-pit, a bar and a beach volleyball pitch. The original military pool has become a stylish café, the garages have morphed into a music club, and there's also a great gallery. Don't hesitate for too long before you visit. The barracks are to become the Palace of Justice, but should keep going as they are until 2020.



photo: Karlín Barracks / Kasárna Karlín

Pragovka

📍 Kolbenova 923/34a, Prague 9 – Vysočany 📌 pragovka.com

Pragovka is the perfect example of how of an unsightly and unused industrial building can be reborn and repurposed. In what is literally the art district are dozens of artists of all disciplines – painters, sculptors, photographers, fashion designers and more. The proprietors' contagious enthusiasm means there's constantly something going on here, though never a yawn. Currently there are several galleries, a great café, the Prague's largest craft beer garden etc, etc

Campus Hybernská

📍 Hybernská 4, Prague 1 – New Town 📌 kampushybernska.cz

Prague's art campus, simply without equal. This project, jointly run by Charles University and Prague City Council aims to connect the public with the university's activities. You'll find an end-to-end sequence of exhibitions, diverse gastro events, festivals, foreign lan-

guage publishers' sales, and other gatherings. The campus includes a cosy quadrangle with a community garden, a cinema hall and the student-friendly 'Café Hlína'.



photo: Campus Hybernská

Vnitroblok

📍 [Tusarova 31, Prague 7 – Holešovice](#) 🌐 [vnitroblok.cz](#)

The creative centrepiece of Holešovice, an industrial feast for the eyes and a place that's always buzzing. That's one way to sum up this multifunctional retreat with its excellent central café, galleries, mini-cinema, diverse shops and event hall. A small town within a city, so to speak.



photo: Vnitroblok

Krymská

📍 [Krymská ulice, Prague 10 – Vršovice](#) 🌐 [prague.eu](#)

Spoilsports might say this street is past its heyday, but Krymská street has even quite recently been dubbed the epicentre of the alternative scene and editors were falling over themselves to compare it to New York's East Village, the Kreuzberg in Berlin or Camden in London. So, maybe the crowds have waned, but this street has kept its pizzazz. Its centrepiece remains the retro café 'Café V lese' with a music club below, an underground watering hole aka 'Sběrné suroviny' or the annual Krymská Korso major event.



Krymská Korso 2017, photo: Jan Hromádko

Altenburg 1964

📍 [Partyzánská 18/23, Prague 7 – Holešovice](#)

🌐 [altenburg1964](#)

This ship used to rock lazily along the Elbe River full of gravel and sand. Nowadays, from April to late October it lies at anchor in Holešovice near the Troja bridge, far from the madding crowd of the city. The ship's raw industrial looks might make you a little uneasy, but having withstood dozens of parties and concerts its poise and stability are quite assured. In essence, this is a venue for music of all sorts of subtypes, as well as an occasional bit of theatre or a flea-market.

Art bookstores



photo: K-A-V-K-A – 'book and art culture'

The Czechs are a nation of readers, as borne out by the wide range of published titles across literary genres. Since we find the redolence of printed paper catchy, and a book often gives more joy than nondescript souvenirs, we've picked out some art bookstores you can leaf through with us.

PageFive

📍 **Veverkova 5, Prague 7 – Holešovice** 🌐 pagefive.com

A young bookstore and publishing house specializing in the sale and production of fine art publications, prints and art periodicals. Evident all around you is a fascination for paper, books and various forms of eye-candy. In addition to international art publications, you can also browse through some of the best Czech books and magazines.



photo: PageFive

Koenig Books

📍 **Dukelských hrdinů 47, Prague 7 – Holešovice**

📌 [f NGknihkupectviKOENIGBOOKS](https://www.facebook.com/ngknihkupectviKOENIGBOOKS)

If you go in search of treasures to the National Gallery in Prague at the Trade Fair Palace (and you should), don't forget to stop by at the bookstore. It offers a wide range of international titles on contemporary art, architecture, design, typography, photography, and children's books. The store's main supplier is the esteemed Walter Koenig Books, one of the largest independent art bookstores in Europe.



photo: Barbara Meijer



photo: K-A-V-K-A – 'book and art culture'

BENDOX

📍 Poupětova 1, Prague 7 – Holešovice 📌 dox.cz

Even the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art has its book sanctuary. BENDOX can amaze with its extensive range of books on contemporary art, architecture and design. And if by chance you won't find the book you're looking for, they'll gladly order it for you.

K-A-V-K-A – 'book and art culture'

📍 Krocínova 5, Prague 1 – Old Town 📌 kavkaartbooks.com

This specialized bookshop and art gallery focuses primarily on Czech and Slovak art, architecture, design and photography. In addition to publications on current release they also do antique books on art, prints or beautiful (and rare) collectors' items. You can also acquire prints or drawings by contemporary Czech artists here.

Globe Bookstore & Café

📍 Pštrossova 6, Prague 1 – New Town 📌 globebookstore.cz

The first English-language bookstore in Prague, while not solely devoted to art literature, carries 10,000 English titles of all genres. It also boasts the largest local collection of children's books in English and every Sunday a reading of children's fairy-tales. The informal atmosphere is underscored by the café, popular with expats, artists, students and, well, globetrotters.

ArtMap Bookstore

📍 Vojtěšská 196/18, Prague 1 – New Town 📌 bookstore.artmap.cz

As the name suggests, this place is first and foremost about art. Here, you'll find offbeat books – publications on art, catalogues,

monographs, self-published books, but also DVDs, comics or original books for children.



photo: Knihkupectví ArtMap

Book Therapy

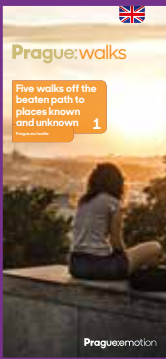
📍 Římská 35, Prague 2 – Vinohrady 📌 booktherapy.cz

A restfully therapeutic place, with a wide range of international and Czech books about design, architecture, fashion and lifestyle. The proprietors pride themselves on their hand-picked selection and careful personal review of every title. If you value your privacy, you can book a personal tour of the bookstore. Not only will they take you round outside normal hours but will often even help you choose your books with an opened bottle of great wine.



Prague.eu

Don't forget to check our website for the most up-to-date information on what's going on in Prague.



With Prague City Tourism maps and guides, you'll feel right at home in Prague.

Pick up these and other titles free of charge at one of our tourist information centres, where we'll also be happy to assist.

Old Town Hall

📍 Old Town Square No. 1, Prague 1
🕒 daily 9:00-19:00

Na Můstku

📍 Rytířská No. 12, Prague 1
🕒 daily 9:00-19:00

Discover the magic of Prague's neighbourhoods with our professional guides! Book your private tour via eshop.prague.eu.

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