

THE USEFUL FACTS

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Religious affiliation: Roman Catholic 27%, agnostic 59%

System of government: Republic.

Accession to the EU: 1 May 2004

Integration to the Schengen Area: 21 December 2007

Currency

Czech crown - CZK (Kč)

1 EURO = 27.7 CZK // 1 US DOLLAR = 21 CZK

The updated exchange rates can be found at the webpage of the Czech National Bank:

<http://www.cnb.cz/en/index.html>

Country dialling prefix: +420

Important telephone numbers

Police 158

Fire Brigade 150

Ambulance 155

Emergency number 112

Voltage

220 v/50 hz

Here are the shapes of the sockets and plugs used in the Czech Republic:



type C



type E



type F

Climate

The climate in Prague, as well as in the whole Czech Republic is temperate, a mixture of oceanic and continental. The average winter temperature is 5 degrees C, average summer temperature is 20 Celsius degrees.

Weather Forecast:

http://www.chmi.cz/portal/dt?portal_lang=en&menu=JSPTabContainer/P1_0_Home

Tipping

Tipping is an usual practice in the Czech Republic. The international standards (10-12%) are of course welcomed, no waiter will look weird at you if for example you round off a bill of 285 CZK to 300 CZK.

Smoking in restaurants is allowed. Usually, there are stickers on the doors that indicate smoking/non-smoking or whether the restaurant has separated smoking/non-smoking parts.

Postal service

Postal service is well represented. The orange post office boxes in Prague are emptied every day. Biggest post office is Main Post Office, Prague 1 (Ceská posta – Posta Prague 1 – Hlavní posta) Jindrišská 909/14, Prague 1 – New Town 110 00, open from 2:00 to 24:00 hrs.

Postal fee – international: 25 CZK, Web: www.cpost.cz

THE BASIC INFORMATIONS ABOUT PRAGUE

Population

1,173,000 people

Public transport

There is a good network of trams, buses and underground including night service.

Basic fare for adults:

90 minutes 32 CZK

30 minutes 24 CZK

24 hours 110 CZK

3 days 310 CZK

Ticket vending machines are installed in all metro stations and at selected surface transit stops. Selected tobacconists and wholesalers sell individual tickets.

More information here: <http://www.dpp.cz/en/>

Medical care

National ambulance service phone No.: 155 or 112

Medical emergencies

Prague 1 Palackeho 5 (Poliklinika), phone +420 224 949 181 (adults) +420 224 947 717 (children)

Prague 4 Videnska 800 (Thomayerova hospital), phone +420 261 082 520 (adults), +420 261 083 783 (children)

Prague 5 V Uvalu 84 (Motol hospital), phone +420 224 438 590 (adults), +420 224 433 659 (children)

Dental emergencies

Prague 1 Palackeho 5, phone +420 224 946 981 (Mon to Fri 7 p.m. - 6 a.m., Sat + Sun non-stop; adults and children)

Nonstop service pharmacies

Prague 1 Palackeho pharmacy, Palackeho 5, phone +420 224 946 982

Prague 2 Pharmacy U Svate Ludmily, Belgicka 37, phone +420 222 519 731

Prague 4 Modranska pharmacy, Soukalova 3355, phone +420 244 402 270

Prague 5 Pharmacy U Andela, Stefanikova 6, phone +420 257 320 918

Shopping

There is a number of grocery stores/supermarkets downtown in Prague, usually opened at least until 8.p.m.

Tesco Národní Národní (stop Národní)

Tesco Nový Smíchov (stop Anděl)

Albert Palladium, Billa V Celnici (stop Náměstí Republiky)

Also there are plenty of small vendors usually operating non-stop, but some of these might be significantly overpriced. There are also street markets, check for instance at Náměstí Republiky.

THE SIGHTSEEING TIPS - NOT TO MISS IN PRAGUE

Old Town

Centre of the Old Town is Old Town square. Being Prague's heart since the 10th century and its main market place until the beginning of the 20th century, the spacious 1.7 hectare Old Town Square has been the scene of great events, both glorious and tragic. There are beautiful pastel-coloured buildings of Romanesque or Gothic origin with fascinating house signs. Some of the most prominent examples include the Kinský Palace, the House of the Stone Bell and the Štorch House. Today, the Old Town Square offers visitors a tourist information office, number of restaurants, cafés, shops and galleries. Square is dominated by the Church of Our Lady of Týn and the Town Hall with famous Astronomical Clock.

Charles Bridge

Across the river Vltava connects Old Town with Lesser Quarter.

Named after the Emperor Charles IV in 19th century the Charles Bridge is Prague's most familiar monument. Designed by Petr Parler, it was completed in 1400 and it connects the Lesser Town with the Old Town. Although it is now pedestrianised, it withstood wheeled traffic for 600 years. There are thirty statues on the bridge, many of them have been replaced with copies. Originals are kept in the Lapidarium of the National Museum and at Vyšehrad. The magnificent Gothic Old Town Bridge Tower was designed by Petr Parler and built at the end of the 14th century. It is considered the finest Gothic tower in central Europe, mainly for its decoration. There are marvellous views of the Vltava River Valley, the Žofín, Střelecký Island, the Old Town and the Lesser Town.

Lesser Town

The Lesser Town was founded in 1257 on the slopes below the Prague castle and it is the part of Prague least affected by recent history. Lesser Town Square started as a market place it has always been the centre of life in the Lesser Town. Today, there are official buildings and restaurants. The important buildings include the St Nicholas Church, the Town Hall, the Sternberg Palace, the Smiřický Palace. On the facade of the Baroque Kaiserstein Palace there is a bust of the great Czech soprano Emma Destinn who lived there between 1908 and 1914. Nerudova Street is named after the poet and journalist Jan Neruda, who lived at No 47 in the House of Two Suns. It is the picturesque narrow street that leads up to Prague castle as a part of Royal Way. There is a splendid selection of heraldic beasts and emblems on the houses, for example the Red Eagle, the Three Fiddles, the Golden Horseshoe, the Green lobster and the White Swan. There are also a number of grand Baroque buildings, such as the Thun-Hohenstein Palace, the Morzin Palace, the Church of Our Lady of Unceasing Succor. Vrtba Garden (Vrtbovská zahrada) beautiful Baroque garden was designed by František Maxmilián Kaňka in about 1720. Statues and vases are by Mathias Brown. There is a good view of Prague Castle and the Lesser Town from the terrace

The Prague Castle

It is the largest ancient castle in the world (570 m long, on average 128 m wide, area 7.28 hectares). Constructed in the 9th century by Prince Bořivoj, the castle transformed itself from a wooden fortress surrounded by earthen bulwarks to the imposing form it has today. Rulers made their own additions so there is a mixture of styles. Prague castle has had four major reconstructions, but it keeps its classical facelift it took on in the 18th century during the reign of Maria Theresa. The castle has three courtyards and it has always been the seat of Czech rulers as well as the official residence. There are number of places to visits (museums and galleries).