

Travelers' Information: Czech Republic

Czech Republic has an advantageous geographical location in the centre of Europe. It is made up of three historical territories - Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. Life in the Czech Republic has been influenced throughout history by many events in Europe which have left us with a rich cultural heritage. A pleasant climate and varied scenery, coupled with its rich culture and historical monuments, make the Czech Republic one of the most popular destinations in Europe today.

Principal Data

Area:	78,866 sq km
Neighbouring countries:	Germany, Poland, Austria, Slovakia
Population:	10,300,000 inhabitants
Density:	131 inhabitants/sq km
Capital:	Prague (496 sq km; 1.3 million inhabitants)
Geographical position:	North latitude 50° 05', east longitude 14° 27', average height above sea level 235 m. The Vltava river flows through the city in the length of 30 km, its maximum width being 330 m.
Official language:	Czech
Member of European Union:	from 1 st May 2004
Member of NATO:	from 12 th March 1999
Religions:	Roman Catholic - 39.2 %, Protestants - 4.1 %, atheists and non-believers – 39.7 %, others - 17 %
Political system:	Parliamentary democracy
Climate:	Mild, with four seasons. A mixture of oceanic and continental climates. Winters are changeable, summers warm. The average daily temperatures in the coldest month of winter - January - around minus 1 centigrade, in the hottest month - July - around 20 centigrade.
Time:	Central European (GMT+1), from April to October summer time
Voltage:	220 V

Arrival

Thanks to the location in Central Europe, the Czech Republic has a good connection with the other European countries. There are a number of non-stop border crossings available with excellent connections by car, bus, train or plane.

From 21st December 2007, Czech Republic is a member of the Schengen area. Citizens of European Union and Schengen area can use a valid passport or a valid identity card.

A valid passport, which does not expire at least for six months, is required from inhabitants from the 3rd countries.

There is no need of an entry visa for most European countries, USA and Canada. In case of necessity you can obtain visa at the Czech Embassy in your country.

Insurance

Visitors from abroad are recommended to take out insurance at their own insurance office before travelling to Czech Republic. In the Czech Republic the health care for visitors from abroad might be provided as follows:

- without payment in cash if a travel insurance is provided
- against payment in cash
- free of charge if there is an international agreement on co-operation in medical care

Customs Requirements

Import and export of duty free goods

You are allowed to import into Czech Republic on noncommercial reasons the following goods duty free:

EU states

- 800 cigarettes
- 400 thin cigars or 50 cigars
- 1 kg other tobacco goods
- 10 l spirits
- 90 l wine

Other states

- 200 cigarettes
- 100 thin cigars or 50 cigars
- 250 g other tobacco goods
- 1 l spirits
- 2 l wine

Without permission foreign visitors are allowed to export goods for their personal use only or as a gift. It is not allowed to export goods which are considered to be part of national cultural heritage. For antiques and other artworks a special legal permission is required. This permission should prove that the exported goods are not part of national cultural heritage.

Currency

Česká koruna - (Czech crown - CZK), 1 crown = 100 hellers

1 EUR = approx. 25,50 CZK

1 USD = approx. 18,00 CZK

You can pay by EUR (sometimes also by USD) in almost all restaurants and shops in Prague.

Money exchange

Banks are generally opened from Monday to Friday, from 9 am to 5 pm.

There are many exchange offices, mostly located in the historical city centre and hotels. Commission is from 1 to 10 %, and therefore we suggest you to pay attention to the commission.

Credit Cards

All major types of travel cheques (Eurochecks, Amexco, Thomas Cook) as well as credit cards (AMEX, VISA, EUROCARD, MASTERCARD, DINNER'S CLUB) are accepted. Please, ask in advance if the shop/restaurant accepts payments by credit card or cheques.

Public Holidays

1 st January	New Year's Day
variable	Easter Monday
1 st May	Labour Day
8 th May	Statutory holiday – Day of Liberation (1945)
5 th July	Statutory holiday – Day of the Slavonic prophets of Catholic faith - Cyril and Methodius
6 th July	Statutory holiday - Master Jan Hus martyrdom (1415)
28 th September	Czech Statehood Day – St. Wenceslas
28 th October	Independent Czechoslovak state Proclamation Day (1918)
17 th November	Day of Fight for Freedom and Democracy
24 th - 26 th December	Christmas

Opening Hours at Places of Interest

Some of the museums, galleries, castles and chateaux are closed on Mondays.

General opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday; 10 am - 5 pm

Most castles are closed from November till April.

Telephone

Telephone cards of the value of 200,- CZK and 300,- CZK are available at newsagents', tobacconists', department stores, hotels, travel agencies, etc.

The international country code for Czech Republic is +420.

Important Telephone Numbers

Emergency call	112
Ambulance service	155
Police	158
Fire emergency	150
Municipal police	156
Emergency road service phone	1230, 1240
Helpsystem - Tourist in need	1222
General information phone	12444
Directory inquiries:	
- for Prague and the whole Czech Republic	1180
- international - both telephone and fax numbers	1181

International Dialing Codes

Australia	0061
Austria	0043
Belgium	0032
Canada	001
Denmark	0045
France	0033
Germany	0049
Great Britain	0044
Greece	0030
Italy	0039
Japan	0081
Netherlands	0031
Norway	0047
Poland	0048
Russia	007
Slovakia	00421
Sweden	0046
Spain	0034
Switzerland	0041
USA	001

Czech Republic **00420**

Embassies

Austria - Victora Huga 10, 151 15 Praha 5, phone +420 257 090 511, fax +420 257 316 045,
e-mail prag-ob@bmeia.gv.at

Belgium - Valdstejska 6, 118 01 Praha 1, phone +420 257 533 524, fax +420 257 533 750,
e-mail prague@diplobel.be

Brazil – Panska 5, 110 00 Praha 1, phone +420 224 321 910, fax +420 224 312 901,
e-mail brazil@brazil.cz

Canada - Muchova 6, 160 00 Praha 6, phone +420 272 101 800, fax +420 272 101 890,
e-mail canada@canada.cz

Croatia – V Pruhledu 9, 162 00 Praha 6, phone +420 233 340 479, fax +420 233 343 464
e-mail velrhprag@vol.cz

Cyprus – Pod Hradbami 9, 160 00 Praha 6, phone +420 224 316 833, fax +420 224 317 529,
e-mail embassy@kypros.cz

Denmark - Maltezske nam. 5, 118 01 Praha 1, phone +420 257 531 600, fax +420 257 531 410,
e-mail prgamb@um.dk

Estonia - Na Kampe 1, 118 00 Praha 1, tel. +420 257 011 180, fax +420 257 001 181,
e-mail embassy.prague@estemb.cz

Finland - Hellichova 1, 118 00 Praha 1, phone +420 251 177 251, fax +420 251 177 241,
e-mail sanomat.pra@formin.fi

France - Velkoprevorske nam. 2, 118 01 Praha 1, phone +420 251 171 711, fax +420 251 171 720,
e-mail ambafrcz@france.cz

Germany - Vlasska 19, 118 01 Praha 1, phone +420 257 113 111, fax +420 257 534 056,
e-mail ZReg@Prag.auswaertiges-amt.de

Great Britain - Thunovska 14, 118 00 Praha 1, phone +420 257 402 111, fax +420 257 402 296

Greece – Pod Orechovkou 19, 160 00 Praha 6, phone +420 222 250 943, fax +420 222 253 686,
e-mail grembpra@mfa.gr

Hungary – Pod Hradbami 17, 160 00 Praha 6, phone +420 233 324 454, fax +420 233 322 104,
e-mail huembprg@vol.cz

Italy - Nerudova 20, 118 00 Praha 1, phone +420 233 080 111, fax +420 257 531 522,
e-mail ambasciata.praga@esteri.it

Ireland - Trziste 13, 118 00 Praha 1, phone +420 257 530 061, fax +420 257 531 387,
e-mail pragueembassy@dfa.ie

Israel - Badeniho 2, 170 01 Praha 7, phone +420 233 097 500, fax +420 233 097 519,
e-mail info@prague.mfa.gov.il

Japan - Maltezske nam. 6, 118 01 Praha 1, phone +420 257 533 546, fax +420 257 532 377, e-mail info@japanembassy.cz
Latvia - Hradesinska 3, 101 00 Praha 10, phone +420 255 700 881, fax +420 255 700 880, e-mail embassy.czech@mfa.gov.lv
Lithuania - Pod Klikovkou 1916/2, 150 00 Praha 5, phone +420 257 210 122, fax +420 257 210 124, e-mail ambasada-litva@iol.cz
Luxembourg – Apolinarska 439/9, 128 00 Praha 2, phone +420 257 181 800, fax +420 257 532 537, e-mail prague.amb@mae.etat.lu
Netherlands - Gotthardska 6/27, 160 00 Praha 6, phone +420 233 015 200, fax +420 233 015 254, e-mail nlgovpra@ti.cz
Norway - Hellichova 1/458, 118 00 Praha 1, phone +420 257 323 737, fax +420 257 326 827, e-mail emb.prague@mfa.no
Poland - Valdstejska 8, 118 01 Praha 1, phone +420 257 099 500, fax +420 257 530 399, e-mail ambrpczechy@mbox.vol.cz
Portugal – Pevnostni 9, 160 00, Praha 6, phone +420 257 311 230, fax +420 257 311 234, e-mail embport@mbox.vol.cz
Russia - Pod Kastany 1, 160 00 Praha 6, phone +420 233 374 100, fax +420 233 377 235, e-mail embrus@tiscali.cz
Slovakia - Pod Hradbami 1, 160 00 Praha 6, phone +420 233 113 051, fax +420 233 113 054, e-mail emb.prague@mzv.sk
Slovenia - Pod Hradbami 15, 160 00 Praha 6, phone +420 233 081 211, fax +420 224 314 106, e-mail vpr@gov.si
Spain - Badeniho 4/401, 170 00 Praha 7, phone +420 233 097 211, fax +420 233 341 770, e-mail emb.praga@maec.es
Sweden - Úvoz 13, 160 12 Praha 6, phone +420 220 313 200, fax +420 220 313 240, e-mail ambassaden.prag@foreign.ministry.se
Switzerland - Pevnostni 7/588, 162 01 Praha 6, phone +420 220 400 611, fax +420 224 311 312, e-mail pra.vertretung@eda.admin.ch
Ukraine - Charlese de Gaulla 29, 160 00 Praha 6, phone +420 233 342 000, fax +420 233 344 366, e-mail emb_cz@mfa.gov.ua
USA - Trziste 15, 118 01 Praha 1, phone +420 257 022 000, fax +420 257 530 583

Tourist information centers

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- Staromestska radnice (the Old Town Hall) – on the Old Town Square
 - Rytirska 31, near Wenceslas Square
 - The Main Railway Station lobby
 - Lesser Town Bridge Tower (summer season only)
 - General information in Czech, English and German languages - phone **12 444**: Mo - Fr 8 am - 7 pm

Tourist information and services

Offices of the Prague Information Service offer, all under one roof, the following information: all necessary details concerning Prague (culture, tourism, orientation, traffic, accommodation and gastronomy, trade and services, nature, sports, important addresses etc.)

- basic information for tourists concerning the whole Czech Republic (historical monuments, castles and chateaux, museums, etc.)
 - accommodation on spot in different price categories
 - survey of Prague cultural events in Czech and in English
 - tickets for concerts, theatres and other cultural events
 - several kinds of city tours including Vltava steamboat cruises
 - one-day and half-day excursions to castles and other interesting places in the Prague surroundings
 - booklets in foreign languages providing essential information on Prague, city guides, street maps, etc.
 - tourist tickets for the city transport
- telephone cards

Prague Tourist Card (Prague Card)

Four-day admission card to over 50 monuments and museums throughout Prague.

It is possible to complete this card by buying a tourist travel permit for the city public transport.

The Card is accompanied by a color six-language brochure with information on buildings and with

coupons (in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Russian).

Validity

The period of validity is four days; the Card must bear the name of the holder and is non-transferable.

Price

790 CZK (cca 33 EUR) adults

530 CZK (cca 22 EUR) students

Transport – road traffic

The Highway Code in the Czech Republic is basically the same as in other European countries. However, the following should be kept in mind:

- drive on the right side
- safety belts must be worn both in and outside towns and villages
- maximum speed for passenger vehicles is 90 km/h, in towns and villages 50 km/h, and 130 km/h on motorways

For driving on the motorway in the Czech Republic it is required to have a motorway toll coupon. It must be stuck on a windscreen.

Fees:	up to 3.5 t (car)
Annual coupon	1200 CZK
1 month	350 CZK
10 days	250 CZK

Vehicles over 3,5t has to pay extra road toll

Motorway toll coupons can be bought on the border crossings, at filling stations and all Czech Post branch offices.

Public Transport in Prague

The metro network has 57 stops with a full length 54 km. It consists of 3 lines designated by letters and differentiated in color: line A (green) Dejvická – Depo Hostivař, line B (yellow) Černý Most – Zličín, line C (red) Letňany – Háje, with transfers possible at Museum station (lines A and C), Mustek station (lines A and B), Florenc station (lines B and C).

The metro operates 7 days a week from 5 a.m. to midnight with intervals of 2 - 3 min. during the workday rush hours and 4 – 10 min. during off-peak hours.

Trams & Buses – run from 4.30 a.m. to 24.00 a.m. On holidays and weekends they have 10 – 15 min. intervals, after midnight night trams and buses run at 30 - 40 minutes intervals.

Transport - taxi

You will find them in front of hotels (more expensive) and at all the important places. You can command the taxi at the reception desk.

The maximum prices for taxi services in the district of the capital city of Prague:

- ride in the district of the capital city of Prague 25-28 CZK / 1 km
- boarding fee 30-40 CZK
- waiting 5 CZK / 1min.

The prices can increase within a year.

The maximum prices are valid for all the vehicles offering the taxi services in the district of the capital city of Prague. The price for waiting includes waiting in a traffic jam (slow traffic) as well as waiting on

customer's request. Fare outside the district of the capital city of Prague is not limited.

Selected Nonstop Taxi Dispatching Offices

Speed Cars – phone +420 224 234 234

AAA Radio Taxi - phone +420 140 14

City taxi - phone +420 257 257 257

Halotaxi - phone +420 244 114 411

Profitaxi – phone +420 844 700 800

International Postage

	Europe	Overseas priority	Overseas Economic
letter up to 50 g	21 CZK	24 CZK	21 CZK
registered mail up to 50g	54 CZK	57 CZK	54 CZK
Postcard	17 CZK	18 CZK	17 CZK

Ticket agencies

Ticketpro - Prague Information Service

- Old Town Hall, Staromestske nam. 1, Praha 1

- Rytirska 31, Praha

- Lesser Town Bridge Tower, Praha 1 (during summer season)

Reservations by phone: +420 234 704 234

Reservations by mail: 110 00 Praha 1, Klimentska 22, fax +420 234 704 204

Reservations by internet: ticketpro@ticketpro.cz, <http://www.ticketpro.cz>

Bohemia Ticket International (BTI), Na Prikope 16 or Václavské náměstí 27

Reservations by phone: +420 224 227 832

Reservations by mail: Male nam 457-13, Praha 1, fax +420 224 218 167

Reservations by internet: order@bohemiaticket.cz, www.ticketsbti.cz

Prague listing of cultural programs in Czech, English and German languages

<http://www.prague-info.cz>

Typical Products and Souvenirs

Glass, porcelain, folk ceramics, czech garnet (gem type mineral), jewellery, costume jewellery, footwear, lace, wooden handicrafts; Pilsner Urquell Beer, Budweiser Beer, Moravian and Bohemian wines, Becherovka liqueur and other specialties such as Prague Ham, Znojmo cucumbers etc.