

WHY SHOULD I GO TO PRAGUE



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PRAGUE

THE CITY YOU DEFINITELY NEED TO
VISIT BEFORE YOU TURN 30 (OR 130)





THIS IS WHY!

Prague, also known as the 'Golden City' or 'City of a Hundred Spires', is a historic gem in the heart of Europe, with the Vltava River winding right through it. The Czech capital is an exciting blend of old and new, with architectural masterpieces from different eras, lively squares, cobble streets, nostalgic arcades, parks, a vibrant nightlife, and an amazing – and amazingly affordable – public transport network.

Visiting Prague is like travelling back in time. Here, history is not just preserved behind glass; you're surrounded by it with every step you take. And its tumultuous past serves as an inspiration for younger Czechs to create a better life. They love to venture out into the world to return with fresh, innovative ideas. They open boutiques, vegan cafés, and galleries, and are no longer stuck on goulash and dumplings. Czech cuisine is being reinvented with vegan interpretations of classics like *svíčková* (beef in cream sauce), and emerging Prague designers are shaping the streetscape with industrial design, signage, fashion, and street art.

Prague is also still one of the more affordable cities to explore in Europe. Walk, cycle, or hop on a tram or the metro. You don't need to spend a lot to enjoy yourself since the best Prague has to offer is Prague itself! Grab a bottle and some fruit at a *potraviny* (corner shop) and have a picnic in the park, taking in the view of Prague Castle. You won't need anything else.

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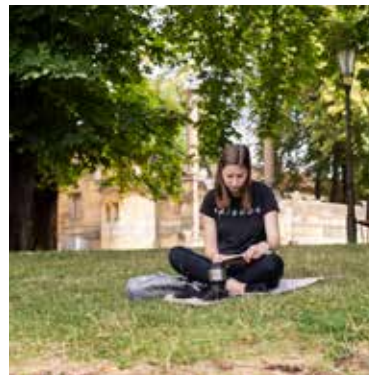
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NEIGHBOURHOODS

Prague is divided into districts numbered 1 to 22. The lower the number, the closer you are to the city centre. Within the districts, you'll find different neighbourhoods. For instance, the Old Town, the Jewish Quarter, part of the New Town, Malá Strana, and Hradčany, are all part of Prague 1. In this book, we'll cover the following neighbourhoods.

Old Town (Staré Město)

The medieval, touristy heart of Prague, famous for the astronomical clock and its Gothic churches, but also for its cutting-edge clubs.

Jewish Quarter (Josefov)

Combine a visit to no fewer than six historic, well-preserved synagogues with some serious



window shopping at Pařížská, Prague's most expensive shopping street.

New Town (Nové Město)

The bustling, more modern part of town with Wenceslas Square at its centre. Cafés, theatres, nostalgic shopping arcades, trendy boutiques, and bars make it an exciting area to explore.

Vyšehrad

Perched on a hill along the Vltava River, Vyšehrad is the mythical birthplace of Prague. A popular escape for locals who venture to the fortress on weekends for a beer or a picnic, enjoying its breathtaking views.

Malá Strana

A fairylike maze of winding cobbled streets. The main road, Nerudova, leads uphill to Prague Castle and is lined with colourful façades containing eye-catching signs that predate house numbers.

Hradčany

Home to the legendary Prague Castle, surrounded by lush, green gardens and parks with stunning views. The perfect place for a relaxing walk and a breath of fresh air.

Vršovice

Once a working-class neighbourhood, now buzzing with a youthful, creative vibe, it is nicknamed the 'Montmartre of Prague'. A hub with cool cafés, an art-house cinema, and one of the most popular hostels in town.

Vinohrady

Popular residential neighbourhood with stately, early 20th century façades. Blend in with the locals and expats. Visit the farmers' market and have a coffee in one of the many cafés, or a beer in one of the parks.

Žižkov

Prague's former wild child, jokingly nicknamed the 'Bronx of Prague', remains a bit rough around the edges. Popular with students and young professionals, it offers an authentic, non-touristy nightlife. Beacon of the neighbourhood is the iconic television tower, which offers a stunning 360-degree view.

Karlín

A formerly gritty working-class neighbourhood that underwent a complete facelift after the 2002 flood. Today, renovated industrial buildings, such as the former military barracks of Kasárna Karlín, house trendy restaurants and cultural spaces.

Holešovice

Once an industrial quarter, Holešovice is now one of the trendiest parts of town with hip eateries, concept stores, cultural spaces, a bustling marketplace, and DOX, a leading museum for contemporary art.

An illustration featuring a stylized castle with several dark grey spires topped with yellow spheres. The main tower is yellow with a dark archway. To the left, a yellow cross sits atop a dark grey cone. In the foreground, a monk in a black habit and cap holds a large Czech flag on a black pole. The background is a textured teal color with a white circular shape behind the monk. The text 'PRACTICAL INFO' is written in bold black letters on the white part of the flag.

**PRACTICAL
INFO**

TRAVEL

Walking is a great way to explore Prague: the historic centre is quite compact and most of the major sights, especially those in the Old Town and Jewish Quarter, are just a stone's throw from each other. But even if you want to venture further, simply crossing the Charles Bridge will take you up to Malá Strana in a matter of minutes. There you can wander endlessly through the vibrant labyrinth of cobbled streets, soaking up the atmosphere at your own pace.

If you want to quickly jump from one part of town to another, or rush to your bed after a night on the town, Prague has a very convenient and affordable public transport network which is easy to navigate.

The metro is the fastest way to get around, with stops near

almost every important sight. Three colour-coded lines (green A, yellow B, and red C) efficiently connect the most centrally located areas, and from there stretch as far as the suburbs. During weekdays, roughly from 5am to midnight, you'll never wait longer than four minutes for a train. On weekends and off-peak, they run slightly less frequently.

The tram network is just as reliable and efficient. Trams run regularly at intervals of 5, 10, or 20 minutes. Each tram stop has a timetable showing all of a line's stops, with the current location underlined. After midnight, a handful of night trams run on specific routes. Once you start using the trams and understand their itineraries, you will very quickly get orientated in Prague.

