

Entering the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic has adopted the EU migration and visa policy principles and is about to complete the harmonization of its policies with the law of the European Communities.

A list of countries, whose citizens need no visa to the Czech Republic, is available here: http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/information_for aliens/list_of_states_whose_citizens_are_exempt/index.html. For more detailed information please contact the diplomatic mission of the relevant country – their list sorted in the alphabetical order is available at http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/information_for aliens/local_competency_of_dm_in_processing/index.html.

Since December 21, 2007 the Czech Republic has been part of the Schengen area, and border checks at international airports for flights within the expanded Schengen area are to be discontinued as of March 30, 2008.

Arriving by Air

The Prague – Ruzyně international airport (for details please visit <http://www.prg.aero/cs/>) is the biggest airport in the Czech Republic and in the whole Central and Eastern Europe. Over fifty air carriers provide direct flights between Prague and more than a hundred of destinations worldwide.

Arriving by Train

The Czech Republic is very well connected with the rest of the European rail network, and trains run daily between Prague and most major European cities. For more information please visit <http://en.cd.cz/>.

Arriving by Car or Bus

You can use your own means of transport to get to the Czech Republic, there are over 90 border crossings along the Czech border. The Czech Republic has a very dense network of quality motorways and roads and several thousand additional kilometers of local and regional roads.

Traveling Within Prague

Apart from taxi cabs, you may also use the municipal public transportation system, which offers a high quality of service; it is easy to use, safe, punctual and affordable. The system consists of three subway lines, streetcars, trains and city bus lines. Selected lines also operate at night. You can find all the information necessary at <http://www.dpp.cz/en/>.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

TAXI: about 35 – 45 minutes to the downtown (depending on traffic) from Terminal 2 on the Ruzyň airport. Reservations can be made in advance for example over the web: <http://www.prague-airport-transfers.co.uk/transfers-price.htm>. There you will also find details about the carrier. Prices range between 22 - 30 EUR (650 - 870 CZK).

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM:

From the airport to city centrum (Wenceslas Square):

Take Bus 119 or the special shuttle bus (signed as “AE”) to the terminal station at the subway station of Line A (marked in gree), “Dejvická”. The bus as well as shuttle stop is right in front of the Diplomat Hotel. Take the subway to the station of “Můstek” or “Muzeum”.

For more details about the public transportation system in Prague, visit <http://www.dp-praha.cz/en/>. The timetable of the special shuttle from Airport Ruzyne you can find on [http://www.dpp.cz/Obrazky/PDF/790/20061210/790_\(628_3\)Z.pdf](http://www.dpp.cz/Obrazky/PDF/790/20061210/790_(628_3)Z.pdf).

There you will find a plan of the Prague transportation system, including subway lines: <http://www.dp-praha.cz/en/di-trasy.htm#>.

The public transportation system in Prague is of high quality, safe, and the subway, buses and trams usually come according to timetables. You can buy tickets at all news stands, vending machines at subway entrance points (only for coins, change is returned), and at selected subway stations you can also buy them at the station supervisor’s booth. For a longer stay it is better to purchase a 24-hour ticket (CZK 80) or a 72-hour ticket (CZK 220). Tickets need to be validated upon entry to the vehicle or at subway entrance turnpikes. Tickets are inspected by the staff of the public transportation company, who sometimes wear blue uniforms and have to identify themselves with an official badge and, upon request, with their official card as well.

For more details on ticket options available, refer to <http://www.dp-praha.cz/en/tc-jizd.htm>

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Information about Czech visa:

<http://www.mzv.cz/wwwo/mzv/default.asp?id=25931&ido=7306&idj=2&amb=1>

<http://www.mzv.cz/wwwo/mzv/default.asp?id=31744&ido=7306&idj=2&amb=1>

List of diplomatic missions of the Czech Republic abroad:

<http://www.mzv.cz/wwwo/mzv/default.asp?ido=7904&idj=2&amb=1&ikony=False&trid=2&prsl=False&poc1=>

Information about the Czech Republic (general, tourism, culture)

<http://www.czech.cz/Default.aspx?&language=en-US>

Currency

The basic tender unit is 1 crown (Kč, CZK). 1 Kč = 100 hellers. There are coins in circulation worth 50 hellers and then 1, 5, 10, 20 and 50 CZK. Available banknotes are worth 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000 and 5000 CZK.

Images of banknotes: http://www.cnb.cz/en/czech_legal_tender/banknotes/

Images of coins: http://www.cnb.cz/en/czech_legal_tender/coins/

Exchange rates:

1 EUR = approx. 24 CZK

Current exchange rates:

http://www.cnb.cz/www.cnb.cz/en/financial_markets/foreign_exchange_market/other_currencies_fx_rates/fx_rates.jsp

Conversion calculator: <http://www.xe.com/>

We recommend that you exchange money in banks or brick-and-mortar exchange bureaus, but definitely not in the street. Most shops accept common types of cards, incl. American Express. There are also numerous ATM machines available.

INFORMATION ABOUT PRAGUE

Weather in Prague - Forecast

<http://www.praha.cz/?page=weather>

In early March the temperatures in Prague range between 2 – 9°C, if the sky is clear and the sun shining, temperatures may get up to 12°C. There is usually not much snow, yet occasional heavy snowfall may occur.

Official, current and very detailed information about Prague (sights, transportation, galleries, museums, clubs, theaters, cinemas, restaurants, medical centers).

Prague Information Service: <http://www.pis.cz/en>

Prague Castle

The best known sight in Prague, to date used as the seat of the Czech President. The following sights are definitely worth seeing: St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle Gallery with permanent expositions, Golden Lane, Lobkowitz Palace with an exposition on the long-past periods of Czech history.

http://www.hrad.cz/en/prazsky_hrad/navsteva_hradu.shtml

Petřín View Tower

The Petřín view tower is a smaller copy of the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Illuminated at night, it can be very well observed from the banks of the Vltava. Senior and disabled people can also access it using an elevator. You can get to the view tower using a funicular or by walking up the hill through a park.

http://www.pis.cz/en/prague/addresses/petrin_view_tower

Old Town Hall and Old Town Square

The former seat of administration of the Old Town of Prague is located in the very heart of the city. The actual Town Hall complex shows signs of several architectural styles. The horologue with an astronomical clock on the southern front of the Town Hall tower is in particular worth seeing. You should also see the Gallery in the House at the Bell, which you will find to the right of the Master Jan Hus monument.

http://www.pis.cz/en/prague/addresses/old_town_hall

Charles Bridge

The oldest bridge in Prague, whose foundation stone was laid in 1357. There are 30 statues and statue groups along both sides of the bridge. At one place, a small brass 5-arm cross is inset in the stone railing - if you place a finger on each of the cross arms and wish something in your mind, the wish will come true.

http://www.pis.cz/en/prague/monuments/charles_bridge/searchresult=Charles+bridge#searchres

Jewish Community in Prague

<http://www.pis.cz/en/prague/addresses/?nazev=synagoga&ulice=&cast=&x=0&y=0&popis=>

Wenceslas Square

The real center of the city with many shops, restaurants, and cinemas. The upper part is dominated by the equestrian statue of St. Wenceslas, the patron of the Czech land.

National Museum in Prague

The biggest museum of the Czech Republic, situated in the top part of the Wenceslas Square.

<http://www.nm.cz/english/>

Zoological Garden of Prague

http://www.pis.cz/en/prague/addresses/zoological_garden

Sazka Arena (a modern multi-purpose hall for sports and concerts)

<http://www.sazkaarena.com/pg.php?lang=2>