

# CZECH REPUBLIC

The Ultimate Survival Guide





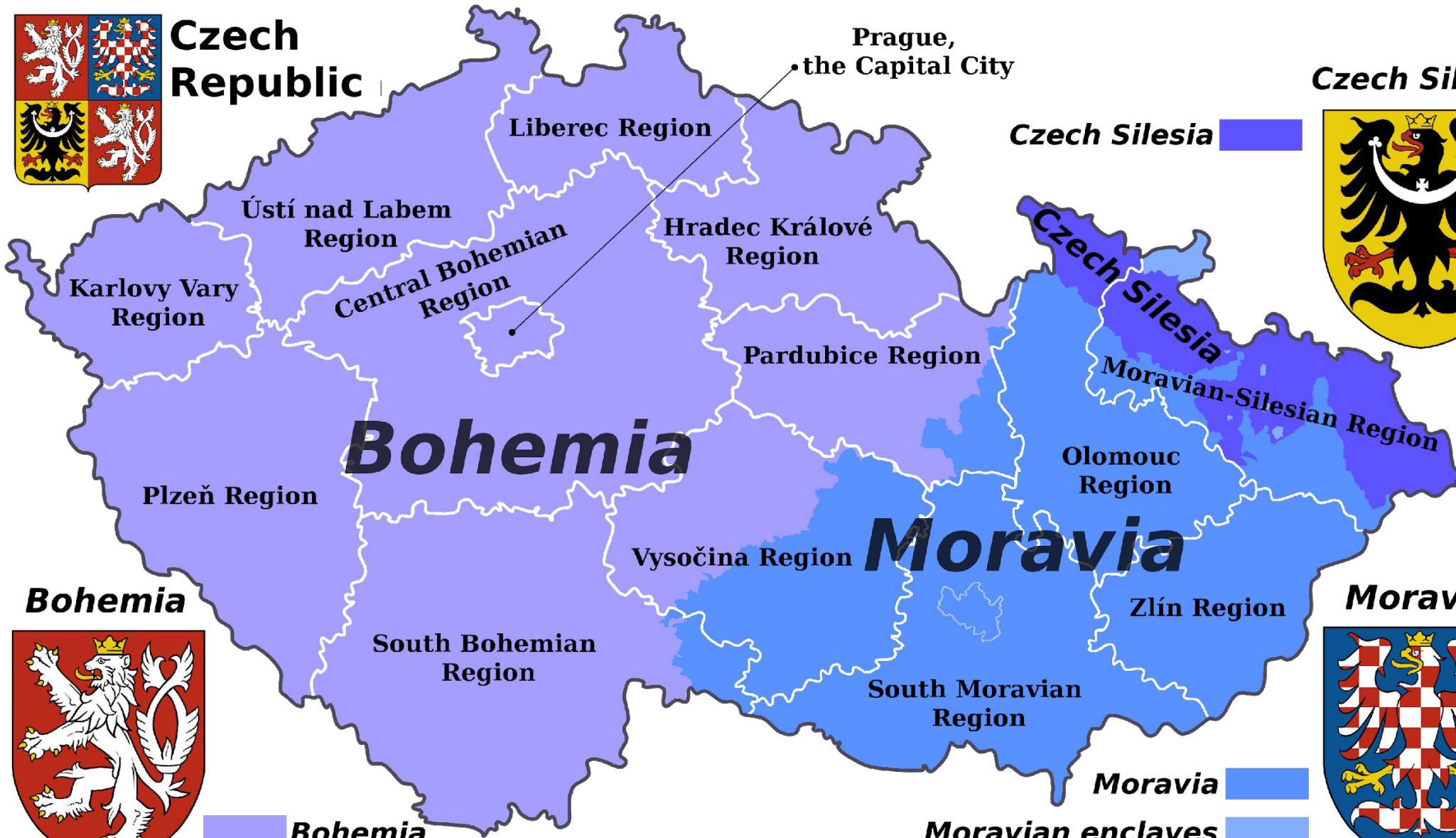
**Czech Republic**

Prague,  
the Capital City

**Czech Silesia**



**Czech Silesia**



**Bohemia**

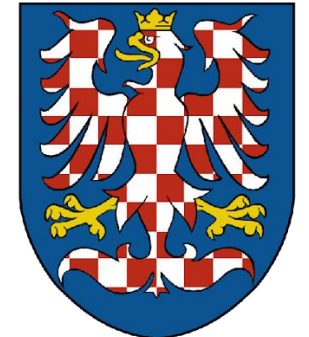


**Bohemia**

**Moravia**

**Moravian enclaves**

**Moravia**





# BASIC FACTS

- Czech Republic since 1993 (formerly Czechoslovakia)
- 10.5 million inhabitants
- Located in Central Europe
- 3 historical parts (Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia) and 14 regions (including Prague)
- Parliamentary democracy, president: Petr Pavel
- Currency- Czech Crown (1 Euro= 25 Kč)
- Official Language: Czech



A red pushpin is prominently placed on a map, with its metal point resting on the paper. In the background, several other pushpins in various colors (blue, yellow) are visible but out of focus. The map shows geographical features like roads and rivers. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a soft glow around the red pin.

# TRAVEL TIPS

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# ČESKÝ KRUMLOV

- UNESCO, one of the most picturesque towns in CR
- Historical centre is completely surrounded by Vltava river
- Medieval castle with a bear zoo, many museums



## KUTNÁ HORA & SEDLEC OSSUARY

- Large gothic cathedral of St. Barbara from the 13th century
- Former silver mining town- still can visit the mines
- Kostnice- contains skeletons of about 50.000 people, whose bones have been artistically arranged to form decorations and furnishings for the chapel



# KARLOVY VARY

- Czech Spa town, founded by – you guessed it- Charles the fourth
- largest spa complex in Europe, includes numerous hot springs and a large wooden colonnade
- You can walk around the town and drink from the springs- said to have many health benefits
- Hosts an annual International film festival which previously included guests such as Uma Thurman, Robert Pattinson or Scarlett Johansson



# LIBEREC

- North of CR, beautiful town hall
- Zoo is famous for white tigers
- IQ Landia science park
- Close to the Jizera mountains, can climb up to Ještěd to see the tower





# NATURE

Bohemian Switzerland, Šumava, Adršpach

# CASTLES

- Czech Republic has over 2000 castles and chateaux and is said to have the highest density of castles in the world
- usually includes a guided tour



Karlštejn

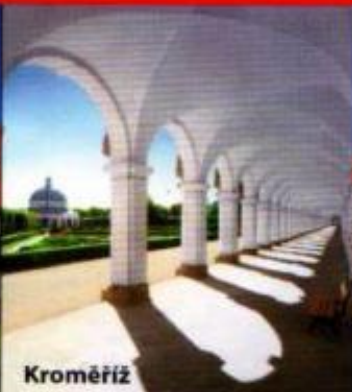
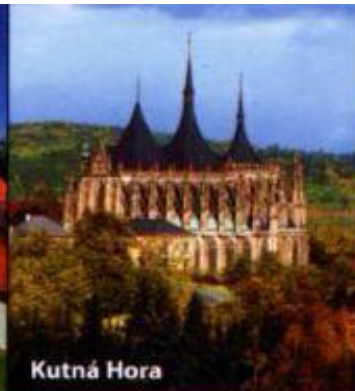
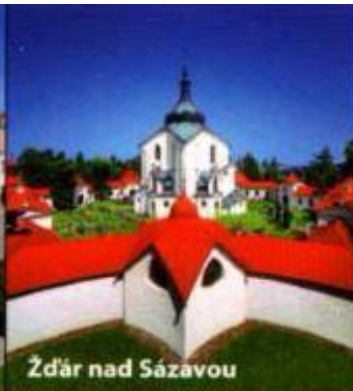
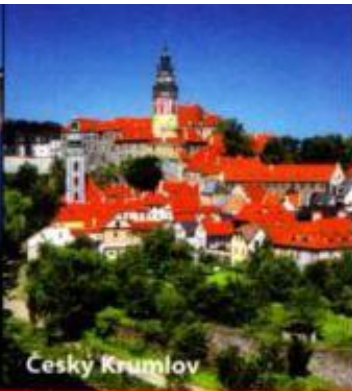
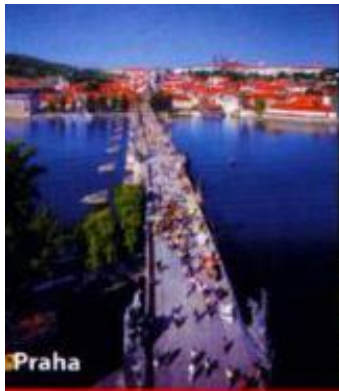


Lednice-Valtice Chateau complex



Hluboká nad Vltavou

# UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SIGHTS





# TIPS FOR TRAVELLING

- Get inspiration from:
  - <https://www.instagram.com/kamnavylet.cz/?hl=cs> or <https://www.visitczechia.com/>
- While in nature, you can always follow the tourist markings (on trees, stones, to mark crossroads)

**#Visit**  
**Czechia**



# TRANSPORTATION IN CZECH REPUBLIC

- **Student discount** – all of those who purchased the ISIC card are entitled to 50% discount on intercity transportation within Czech Republic
- **Trains** - from Masarykovo or Main Station („Hlavní nádraží“, C line) – relatively comfortable (especially the long distance ones), not always on time, also go to Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest
- **Coaches** - Regio Jet (way more comfortable) or Flixbus, often leave from Černý Most or Florenc (metro line B)
- Best to purchase ticket online beforehand: <https://www.cd.cz/>, <https://regiojet.cz/>
  - It is also possible to reserve a place to seat mostly for free when buying in advance!





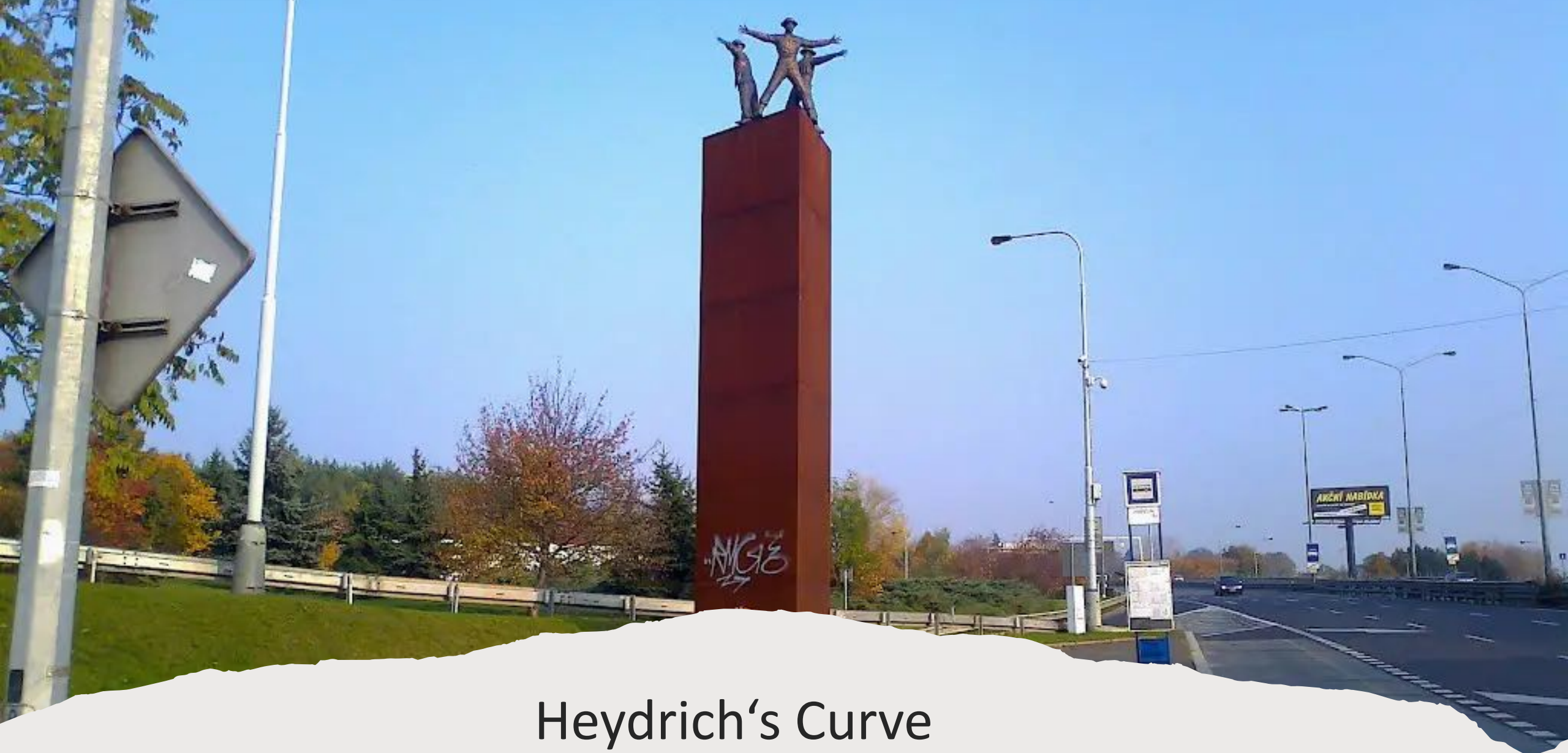
# HISTORY

- Boii Celtic tribe in the 4th century-> name Bohemia, replaced by Slavic tribes
- Přemyslid dynasty in the 9th century
- Golden age during the reign of the Holy Roman emperor Charles the Fourth
- Hussite wars in the 15th century against Catholic forces
- Part of the Austria-Hungarian empire until it was broken down at the end of WW1
- Czech national revival during the 19th century



# MODERN HISTORY

- Czechoslovakia founded on 28th of October 1918
- Period of first republic - major economic player, second „golden age“
- Cut short in September 1938 when the Munich agreement was signed and we came to be ruled by the third reich soon after
- Communist era, under the Soviet sphere of power from February 1948 to November 1989
- 1968 - Prague Spring
- 1989 - Velvet revolution => transition to a democratic country
- 1992/3 - dissolution of Czechoslovakia/establishment of Czech Republic
- 2004 - member of the EU



## Heydrich's Curve

Attempted assassination of the reich protector Reinhard Heydrich during the nazi occupation in June 1942

*Anthropoid- movie about the operation*



# CZECH CULTURE

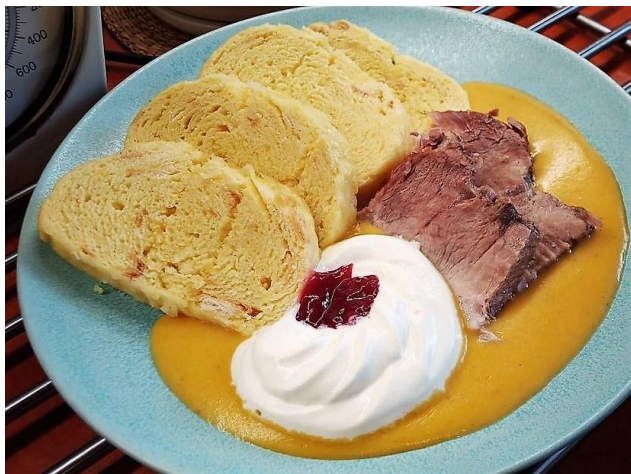
- **Cozy Dens („Pelíšky“)** – a cult movie, depicts the reality of life under communism, seen as a comedy but actually has quite dark themes (which is typical for Czech movies and humor)
- **Divadlo Jára Cimrmana** – theatre dedicated to the works of the most famous Czech author and inventor- great satire, lots of lore to get into (check out the Wikipedia page!)
- **Other movie recommendations:** Kolja, The Elementary School, Šarlatán (available on Netflix)
- **Fairy tales-** staple of Czech culture, one movie released on Christmas every year, Tři oříšky pro Popelku (1970s Cinderella), Anděl Páně

# CIMRMAN'S 10 RULES FOR NOVICE ACTORS

- 1. Do not drink for courage. Even the part of a drunkard is better played sober.
- 2. Remember that on the stage you generally have a different name than in real life. It is good to know the names of the other characters also.
- 3. It is best to express strong emotions with your back to the audience. You can best portray both laughter and tears by shrugging your shoulders.
- 4. Do not thank the audience for objects thrown on the stage.
- 5. After a cue do not repeat everything. Some lines are for other actors.
- 6. Go to the bathroom before the performance so that you do not slouch during the play.
- 7. If you play a devil, remember before sitting down that you have a tail.
- 8. During applause on an open stage do not bow. It is most likely for someone else.
- 9. Remember that some doors are just painted.
- 10. Do not eat during meals on the stage. Everything is rubber.

In another version, the 7th command is omitted and another command is listed as the last one:

- 10. During the final applause make bows deep enough for the audience not to notice it is you who shouts "Bravo!"



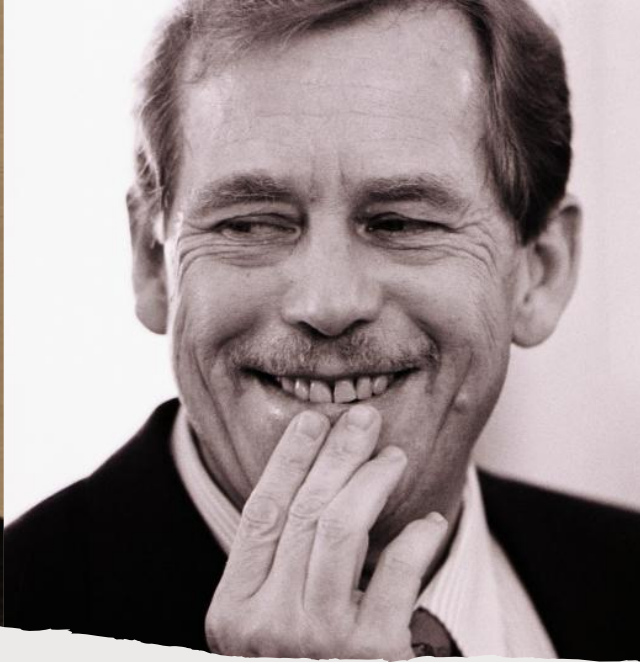
# CZECH FOOD

- Really tasty but not the healthiest option
- Trdelník/Chimney cake is actually Hungarian and kind of a tourist trap, certainly not a „medieval Czech recipe“
- Kofola- the (far superior) Czech version of Coke, best on the tap, Malinovka
- Dumplings- potato or bread roll based
- Fried cheese, Řízek (schnitzel), Svíčková (Roast Sirloin in Sour Cream Sauce), Roasted duck with dumplings and cabbage, bramboráky (potato pancakes)



## CZECH FOOD II.

- Czechs tend to have a sweet tooth:
- Fruit dumplings
- Medovník (Honey layered cake), can be bought in the supermarket
- Štrůdl (apple pie with raisins)

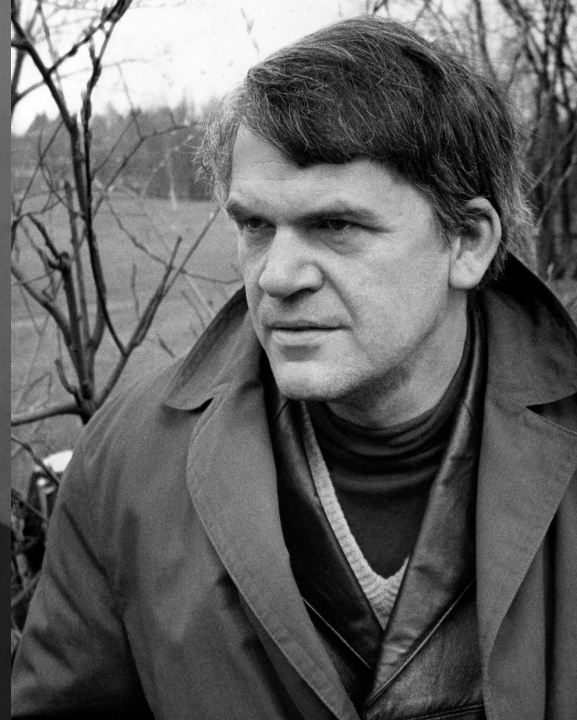


# FAMOUS CZECHS

- **Miloš Forman**- Academy Award winning director, famous for *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Amadeus*
- **Otto Wichterle**- scientist, improved contact lenses
- **Václav Havel**- playwright and the first Czech president, leading figure of the Velvet revolution
- **Martina Navrátilová**- one of the world's best female tennis players

# FAMOUS CZECHS II.

- **Bedřich Smetana** – composer, author of Vltava
- **Alfons Mucha** - art nouveau painter, poster designer
- **Franz Kafka** – wrote in German- Metamorphosis, The Trial
- **Milan Kundera** - writer, famous for Unbearable Lightness of Being



# Czech discoveries and inventions



## Electron microscope

Czech physicist Armin Delong introduced the first Czech electron microscope into production in 1949, which later led to the fact that the city of Brno is considered to be the global centre of electron microscopy.



## Beer

The first pilsner-style beer was produced in Pilsen in 1842.



## Sugar cubes

This common form of sugar was first produced at a sugar mill in the town of Dačice in 1843.



## Robot

The word "robot" was coined by Czech writer Karel Capek.



## Lightning rod

The lightning rod was invented by Czech inventor Václav Prokop Diviš in 1754.



## Blood types

Czech neurologist Jan Jánský discovered the four basic blood types in 1907.



## Laws of heredity

Moravian scientist Gregor Mendel discovered the basic laws of heredity and was the first to use biostatic methods in his work, the results of which were initially presented in 1865.



## Polarography

Physical chemist Jaroslav Heyrovský invented polarography in 1922 and is considered to be the father of electroanalytical chemistry. He received the Nobel Prize for chemistry in 1959.



## AIDS drugs

Drugs developed by Czech chemist Antonín Holý are part of the most effective available medications for fighting AIDS, as well as shingles, viral infections of the ocular mucous membranes and hepatitis B.



## Semtex

The plastic explosive is named after Semtín, where it was first manufactured in 1964. The plant was later renamed as Explosia, a subsidiary of Synthesia. Semtex was invented by Czech chemist Stanislav Brebera.



## Soft contact lenses

Czech inventor Otto Wichterle designed and produced the first soft contact lenses in 1961.



## Tatra

Established in 1850, the Czech company Tatra is the third-oldest car manufacturer in the world. One of the world's oldest factory-made cars is the Tatra Präsident, which was first produced in Kopřivnice in 1897.



## Screw propeller

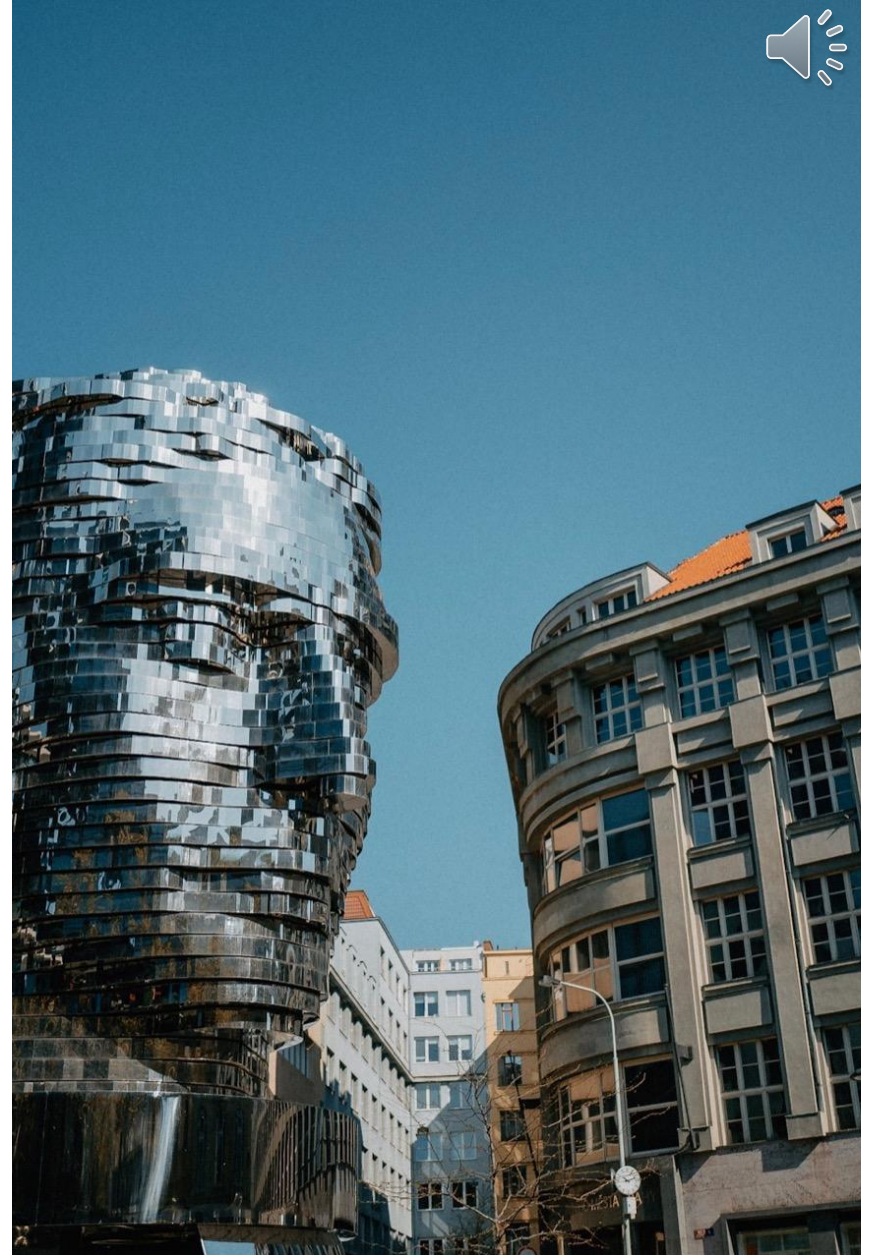
The inventor of the maritime screw propeller, Josef Ressel, was from the Czech lands. Ressel had a ship-propulsion system comprising a steam engine and screw of his own design patented in 1827.



## Kaplan turbine

In 1910-1912, Czech scientist Viktor Kaplan invented the Kaplan turbine, which became the most significant type of turbine used in large hydropower plants around the world.

Czech inventions include the word „robot“ (Karel Čapek), sugar cubes, discovery of blood types and laws of heredity as well as soft contact lenses



# CZECH PEOPLE

- Some stereotypes include socks in sandals, hunting for bargains in shops, liking beer, being too reserved/off-hand
- One of the most atheistic countries
- Only really patriotic when it comes to sports (ice-hockey, football)
- Pub culture – not just about the drinking, key role in socialising
- Food is also a huge part of our culture-cooking, baking, lunches are treated as social events
- Connection with nature - camping, „chaty“, scout movement and „trampové“
- Canoeing trips in the summer, skiing in winter



# CZECH LANGUAGE

- Western Slavic language, a lot of tricky letters (including Ř)

Hello: **Ahoj!** (informal) **Dobrý den** (formal)

Yes= **ano** (f) **jo** (i), No= **ne**

Goodbye: **Na shledanou!** (formal)

Thank you: **Děkuji, díky**

Please: **Prosím**

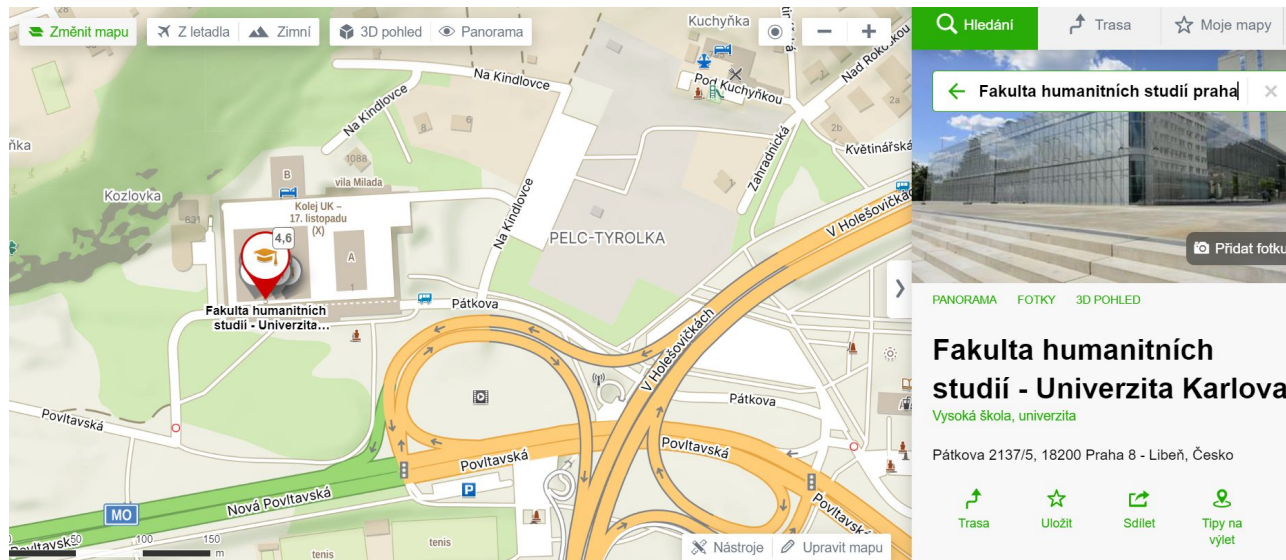
How Are you? **Jak se máš?**

Excuse me: **Promiňte**



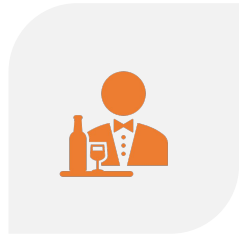
*„Tři sta třicet tři stříbrných stříkaček  
stříkalo přes tři sta třicet tři stříbrných  
střech.“*

# MAPY.CZ

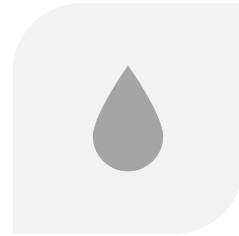


- <https://mapy.cz/> or the Mapy App in Google Play – sometimes works better than Google Maps in CR

# USEFUL TIPS



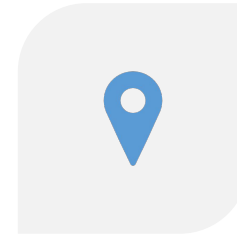
IT IS APPROPRIATE TO TIP  
AROUND 10 % OF THE PRICE  
LISTED ON THE BILL IN  
RESTAURANTS



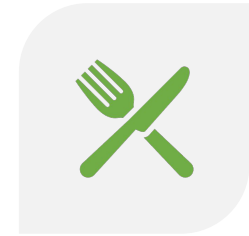
TAP WATER IS ALWAYS  
DRINKABLE



THERE IS A DEPOSIT ON  
NEARLY ALL BEER BOTTLES



USE THE IDOS APP TO FIND  
OUT THE QUICKEST ROUTE  
(ALSO WORKS OUTSIDE OF  
PRAGUE)



MOST VIETNAMESE SHOPS  
AND KEBAB PLACES ARE  
OPEN UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT