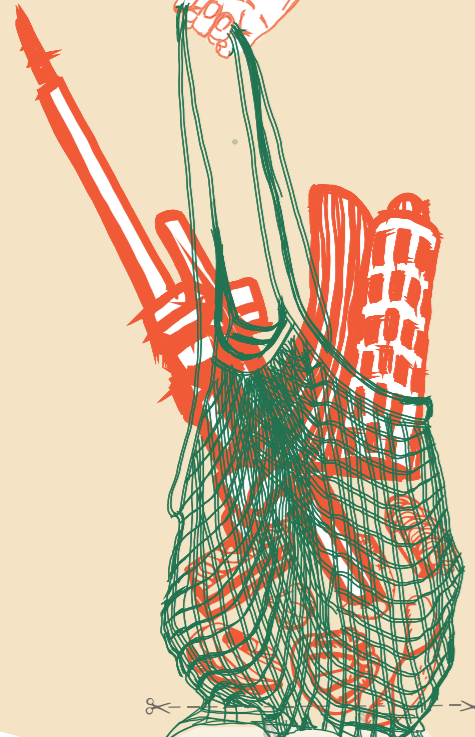


# Prague

Free map

Made by locals for young travelers



USE-IT

This is *sifovka* — a reusable net-bag, a Czech invention from the 1920s, now back on trend! Fun fact: actually, it can't tear.

Petr mad box

## Do you want to act like a local?

YES!

NO?

Would you like to avoid crowds?

YES

NO

Would you like to skip scams?

YES

NO

Martina urban biker

Would you like to show some respect too?

YES

NO

Jáchym weather expert

## Cherish localhood

EAT LIKE A LOCAL

! We don't buy street food often. If you do want to, rather popular options are local fast food chains *UGO*, *Bageterie Boulevard*, and *Burrito Loco*.

DRINK WITH LOCALS

! Have a couple of drinks and get home before midnight — many of us get up early. Drinking in public might get you into trouble. Silent hours start at 10pm.

WALK LIKE A LOCAL

! During the day, avoid the crowded city center and explore other parts of Prague. The best time to cross the Charles Bridge is 6am — it's quiet and romantic.

RIDE LIKE A LOCAL

! Buy public transport tickets using the yellow machines or the app (see [USE-IT](#)). They are valid for buses, trams, metro, cable cars, and river ferries.

INTERACT WITH LOCALS

! Not sure whether to kiss, hug, or shake hands? Just wait to see what the other person does and copy.

SPEND ON LOCAL STUFF

! We use the Czech crown (Kč, CZK). €1, \$1 = 25Kč. Most places accept cards, but carry some change with you for the few places that don't (e.g., 100Kč).

RECYCLE LIKE A LOCAL

! Buy things in secondhand shops (see our [Secondhand Tips](#)). Or get your own *sifovka*!

Tips aren't usually included. Add 5-10% of what you pay if you're satisfied. Also, most places close the kitchen at 10pm.

! Make eye contact with each person you're raising your glass with, 7 years of bad sex await you if you don't. If you are drinking beer, tap your mug on the table after clinking.

! Look for *passageways* — covered walkways between buildings. Those are not very busy.

! Public transport etiquette: offer your seat to the elderly, stand on the right side of escalators, wait for people to step out from the transport before you step in.

! When asked "How are you?", say "Yeah, okay" or "Bearable." We rarely say "fine."

! Buy groceries at *Albert*, *Tesco*, *Žabka*, or *Lidl*. The smaller grocery shops stock everything from bananas to AA batteries and can be open when supermarkets are not.

! Upcycle this map! Give it to your friend back home, keep it as a souvenir or give it to a fellow traveler.

## 5 minutes of history

1346 - 1378

**MEDIEVAL CONSTRUCTION BOOM**  
King, later Emperor, Charles IV founded the university, the stone bridge, the New Town district, and other things named after him in Prague. Eventually he made our city the seat of the Holy Roman Empire. Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Benelux were ruled from here.

1419 - 1618

**WINDOW STORIES**  
We had a peculiar way of expressing disagreement with the authorities — we threw city councilors out of town hall windows. First in 1419 (after which the Hussite wars began), then in 1483, and finally in 1618 (which kicked off the Thirty Years' War). Once it happened in the Old Town Hall, where our USE-IT team resides in 2022.

1918

**BIRTH OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA**  
After World War I, we were fed up with being a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire for 400 years. We weren't even mentioned in the name! So we declared ourselves the independent Czechoslovak Republic.

1942

**OPERATION ANTHROPOID**  
Hitler assigned Reinhard Heydrich to end the Czech resistance in Prague. The exile Czechoslovak government in England sent 7 parachutists to assassinate him in May 1942. The operation was successful but yet, it started a new wave of terror.

1948

**"VICTORIOUS FEBRUARY"**  
The communists gained full control over the government. Czechoslovakia became a single-party state for nearly 40 years. Human rights were restricted, people were imprisoned, some even sentenced to death. Many emigrated, others adapted. Empty shops and lines were a part of daily life.

1968

**PRAGUE SPRING**  
For a few months our regime got the nickname "socialism with a human face." We could even leave the country legally! Moscow didn't like it and deployed 300,000 soldiers and 2,000 tanks here, which stayed for the next 22 years.

1989

**VELVET REVOLUTION**  
Thousands of people gathered at Wenceslas Square demanding democracy by jingling keys in their hands. Finally, the communists gave up. Barbed wire was removed from the borders and the now ex-dissident Václav Havel became president. A few years later, Czechoslovakia peacefully split into Czechia and Slovakia. But we're still close friends!

2020 - 2022

**TROLLING THE RUSSIAN EMBASSY**  
To show our disrespect for Putin, we renamed the square with the Russian embassy after the Russian oppositionist Boris Nemtsov. So the embassy used the entrance on the other street to change the address. But when Putin attacked Ukraine, that street was renamed to the street of Ukrainian Heroes. We wonder what the embassy will do next as they don't have more entrances to spare.

## Act consciously

! Dine in to avoid all the packaging that goes hand in hand with take-away food. And enjoy your meal!

! We drink tap water! It's as good as bottled water. If you have a refill bottle, you can also use drinking stations (see [USE-IT](#)).

! Set yourself a challenge: 15,000 steps per day is a reasonable target for Prague.

! Use public transport! It's cheap, runs at night, and goes everywhere (including the airport). Cycling is a bit tricky as Prague is hilly, yet bike rental is popular (see [USE-IT](#)).

! Be nice to us and we'll be nice to you. Ask local guides (see [USE-IT](#)) to tell you local stories!

! Shop locally! Don't support tourist shops full of unauthentic crap. Get original souvenirs at *Bohema* [26](#) or *Koh-i-noor* [27](#).

! To separate trash for recycling in the center of Prague is challenging. Just carry it for a bit until you find the right bin.

## Czech menu

**BREAKFAST**

Don't spend much time on breakfast. Spread some butter on a *rohlík* (white bread roll) and put ham, cheese or jam on it. If you fancy something sweet, get a *koláč* or *buchta* (dough buns with various fillings), or a *bábovka* (a cake in the shape of a volcano).

**LUNCH**

Start with a soup: *česnečka* (garlic soup), *bramboráčka* (potato soup), or *kulajda* (creamy dill soup). Then stuff yourself with our traditional meals: *svíčková* (tender beef with creamy sauce and dumplings) or *vepřo-knedlo-zelo* (pork meat, dumplings, and sauerkraut).

If you are a vegetarian, try our guilty pleasure, *smažený sýr* (fried cheese). You might also find *smažený květák* (fried cauliflower). *Bramborák* (potato pancake) isn't considered a main dish, but a few of them with sauerkraut will make you full. *Ovocné knedlíky* (fruit dumplings) are often served as main dish.

**FAST SNACK**

There is no bad time for *chlebiček*. Ham, potato salad, boiled egg, tomato, and pickles on a simple slice of white bread. Grab a few!

**DESSERTS**

Get a sugar rush in any *cukrárna* (patisserie)! *Větrník* is a profiterole with cream filling and a sweet topping. *Rakvička* is a hard cookie-dough pastry that is named after its shape (little coffin) and is usually served with whipped cream. *Punčový féz* is a yellow-pink cake soaked in alcohol which proves that everything tastes better with alcohol.

**BEER SNACKS**

*Hermetin* (marinated Camembert), *utopenec* (pickled sausage) or *tlačenka* (meat in jelly) go well with beer and are often served late into the night even after the chef has gone home.

**DRINKS**

**Beer** is the #1 choice and is often the cheapest option. See our Beer Tips for more info.

If you are not into beer, we also drink **wine**, mostly from the Moravia region. Try *Veltínské zelené* (white) or *Rulandské modré* (red). **Cider** is another option, some good local ones are *Tátův sad* or *Frisco*.

As the night goes on, we might switch to shots. Typical options are **slivovice** (plum brandy) or **becherovka** (herbal bitter). The cheapest and the most disgusting one is **zelená**, a green mint liqueur tasting like toothpaste. You must be really drunk to be able to absorb it.

Not drinking alcohol? Some alcohol-free alternatives on tap are **malinovka** (raspberry soda) or **kolofa** — an alternative to Coca-Cola made from herbs and fruits. **Birell** is a good non-alcoholic beer with a few flavors.

Why are corner shops run by the Vietnamese? Each decade the community develops a new business area. They started with clothing and electronics, moved to nail studios and grocery stores, now they open bistros and restaurants. And we love them.

Vietnamese people came here during our socialist friendship with Vietnam and ended up staying. Now, they are a populous minority here. Older generation doesn't speak much Czech, yet the younger Vietnamese got a local education and integrated in the big city soup.

Tomáš (ex) corporate slave

Do locals still live in the touristy city center? Yes we do! But sometimes it's tough. My neighborhood needs visitors to "feel" it, not just to take a selfie at the Charles Bridge and buy a crappy souvenir.

During Covid, the place was ours. Our kids played freely outside, our dogs napped on the sidewalk. Now that's no longer possible, but at least we've got local places opened where some tourist attractions used to be. Please support this real neighborhood culture!

## Are you crazy?!

! The chimney cake (*trdelník*) is not Czech, not traditional, and not so good, which is why you'll see it in trash bins.

! Pub crawls are for losers. Absinthe wasn't created here and isn't popular among locals.

! Skip the crowded "Royal route" via the Charles Bridge to the Prague Castle.

! Scooters are noisy, useless on cobblestones, and expensive. Fake historical vehicles and hop-on hop-off buses are silly.

! Save your dignity: ignore Thai massages, Irish pubs, and Russian matryoshkas.

! Use ATMs (except Euronet) rather than money exchanges, and withdraw cash without conversion. Don't buy "weed", it's illegal — the tourist crap has 0 THC.

! Littering is uncool. Imagine us dropping trash in the streets of your city!

## Local mood walk

We rarely hang out in the center — noise and crowds kill our vibe. Prague is so much more than the Old Town — let us prove it to you!

2 hours

**CZECH-ONLY ARCHITECTURE**

Start at the *Výtoň* tram stop and walk along the Vltava river. Look at the *three cubist houses* — they are examples of cubism in architecture, a unique sight around the world.

**THE OTHER CASTLE**

The mythical princess Libuše predicted the glory of Prague from the *Vyšehrad* rock. Admire the *Ss. Peter and Paul Basilica* and visit the atmospheric cemetery nearby, where notable Czechs rest. We come to *Vyšehrad* for a romantic walk on the fortification walls, a picnic in the grass, and drinks at the beer garden *Na Hradbách*.

**POSTMODERN ADVENTURE**

The massive *Nusle bridge*, built in 1973 over the valley, was the pride of traffic engineers at that time. Note that the metro goes inside! But with its 42m height and only 1m high fence, the bridge became an infamous suicide spot. Now the fence is unclimbable. A great quiet kissing spot is the hidden park *Ztracenka* meaning "the lost garden". Star Wars fans get a chance to have a word with *R2D2*.

**DOWN THE STAIRS**

While descending the *Nusle steps*, imagine a couple cars rolling off the road and going down the stairs, due to drunk driving or faulty navigation systems. Yes, that happened. Also, look for the original *wooden house* which has been standing here for a century.

**NUSLE STYLE**

You end up at *Bratři Synků Square*, the heart of the Nusle district, which was a separate city just 100 years ago and was known for the crude manners of its people. These days it's safe, but still don't expect to see many people smiling. Nonetheless, there's a lot to do here! Depending on your mood, have a coffee in the backyard of the *Cafe v Zahradě*, a wine at *Vinný šenk* or a craft beer at the bar *Nostura*.

## Get more info here!



juzit.cz/more-info

Terka element of surprise

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## Bohemian walk

2 hours

Did you know that Bohemia is the name of a region in Czechia? This is where the term comes from. Even though the authors of the word (French) referred to Roma people, who they believed were coming from Bohemia. Despite the word's origins, we still like to relate to it, to think of ourselves as artistic, romantic and a bit wild. That's what this walk is like!

**EAT & PRAY**

This *farmers' market* started the open market trend in Prague. Enjoy the food and view of the Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord built in 1928-1932 by the Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik. He said the building was inspired by Noah's Ark.

**LOVE IT OR HATE IT**

The *Žižkov TV Tower* was built in 1985-1992 on the grounds of a former Jewish cemetery. The giant babies crawling the tower are an addition by the controversial artist David Černý. Opinions on the tower's appearance heavily differ. The tower has an observation point, a restaurant, and even a 1-room hotel with a city view from the bath.

**THE DEMONSTRATION SQUARE**

Can you imagine 3,000 people at *Škroupovo square*? In 1988, it hosted the first legal demonstration against socialism. All those people were listening to the oppressed dissident and future president Václav Havel.

**CHILL GARDENS**

At *Riegrový gardens*, people spend time sunbathing, running, or just trying to decide if they want another beer at *Miláčna*. You can also enjoy the view of the Prague Castle.

**TREE ARCHES**

*Lužická street* is full of 19th century architecture and in the summer has extra charm thanks to the hackberry trees growing on both sides. For this, it was even nominated for the Czech Avenue of the year!

**MYSTERIOUS VILLA**

*Saloun villa* is a gem of Art Nouveau style. This was a meeting point of the Prague art scene in the 1910s. The Greek sign at the entrance says "The seal The seal" referring to Greek history. There are other inscriptions and signs on the walls — the folks gathering in the villa held "occult practices" in the cellar.

**HIPSTER STREET**

*Krymská street* is the heart of alternative culture in Prague, hipsterizing the city since 2005. It just keeps producing new bars, pubs, and cafes. The beard parade takes place every day. Great place for hanging out.

**ROMANTIC CAVE**

At *Havičkovy gardens*, you can drink wine on the terrace of the pavilion above the vineyards while overlooking the city. Take a walk in the park and end the evening in a hidden antique-style *artificial cave*. Feeling in-love? This is the perfect spot for a kiss.

## Tourist classic walk

2 hours

Being in Prague and not seeing THE Bridge, THE Clock, and THE Castle seems ridiculous, right? So let us show you an alternative path without (much) chalking in the crowds. Take a deep breath while looking at the *panorama*, our starting point, and let the discovery begin!

**CHAPEL OF A BURNED PRIEST**

Creep around the alleyways to appear in front of the *Bethlehem chapel*. Here, in the 15th century (before Martin Luther!), the priest Jan Hus preached against the greedy Church. He did so in Czech instead of Latin, which was revolutionary, so he was burned at the stake for heresy in 1415. The sanctuary where he preached is now a memorial and a graduation hall.

**OLD TOURIST SQUARE**

Our medieval astronomical clock is on the wall of the *Old Town Hall*. Tourists adore it and take photos of the moving figures as if they were rock stars. And we love its folklore: the mythical clockmaker Hanuš was blinded by authorities so that he couldn't build a similar clock for another city. As revenge, he disabled the machine for 100 years.

**JEWISH TOWN**

Most of Prague's former Jewish ghetto was demolished during the urban renewal in the 1950s. But you can still see the *town hall*, and you can buy a ticket to visit the *Old New Synagogue* — it was new one day but became old after newer ones were built.

**OBSERVING THE CROWDED BRIDGE**

During the day, looking at the *Charles Bridge* is a better idea than crossing it. We stay away. It is beautiful and historic, but you won't appreciate it due to the crowds. The only time to visit it and feel the magical atmosphere of the past is at night or early in the morning.

**PICTURESQUE ISLAND**

The island *Kampa* is an artificial one — it's cut from the mainland by the *Certovka* canal. Hence the nickname "Prague Venice", and it's indeed a romantic place. Enjoy the watermelons in operation and then head uphill for a wonderful view.

**OLD NEW WORLD**

Once you pass the *Loreta* complex with bells (chiming every hour), you'll enter the neighborhood of *Nový Svět* ("New World"). It's another example of an old place which happens to have the prefix *new*. The district is full of narrow crooked streets with small houses from the 14th century.

**PRAGUE CASTLE**

This castle is an icon of the Czech lands, and the *seat of the president*. Also better to visit in the evening. Walking through the Castle complex is free, but you'll need to pay to see certain parts. The front of part of the St. Vitus Cathedral is free.

- chill
- infocenter
- modern sculpture
- important landmark
- beer garden
- tram
- metro
- train station
- cable car
- ferry

350m / 5 min walk

