

Experience PRAGUE like a local

Prague is not just about the Prague Castle and the Charles Bridge. It is a city full of culture with rich history, which emanates from every building in the Old Town. After some time, you will maybe get bored by all those touristy and expensive places, so here are a few tips for places and activities which are not that touristy, but definitely worth seeing!

A few quick tips:

As I have said, Prague is a very touristy city, so be careful with **pickpockets** or **scammers**. When you want to **change your money**, always check how much Czech crowns you will get for 1 euro! Usually **1 euro** is between **25 and 27 Czech crowns**. Especially near the Old Town Square you will only get around 15 crowns for 1 euro, so please check the exchange rate (and commission)!



On Youtube, you can find very useful videos by the [Honest Guide](#). These guys will show you some non-touristy places around Prague, tell you what you should be aware of in the city or where to get a cheap lunch. They also published a book this year which is, in my opinion, a great guide for tourists with amazing photos and illustrations from the Czech artist Eliška Podzimková.

Sights

- **Prague Castle** is full of tourists, but it is a must see anyhow! The castle complex is huge, so make sure to have enough time to visit all of it. There is an entrance fee if you want to go inside all of the buildings, but entrance to the castle complex is free. At the main entrance is usually a huge queue, but you can go from entrance of **Letohrádek královny Anny**, which not many tourists know about. Also, Letohrádek is a beautiful place with an amazing park, so it is better to go from this direction. In front of the entrance to Letohrádek are **Chotkovy sady** – it is also a very beautiful park, where there are no tourists and in hot days it is amazing. On the way from Letohrádek to the Prague Castle you will also see **Míčovna**, which is something like an old king's gym – you can't go in, but it is really beautiful from the outside as well. Inside the castle complex you can also visit the **Golden Street** (with an entrance fee), which is not that expensive and it is really cute. And also, there is free entrance into half of the St. Vítus Cathedral. There are many gardens and parks in the castle complex, but many of them are quite hidden, so it might take you a while to find the entrance, but especially **Zahrada na Valech** is amazing, with a breathtaking view of the whole city.

(1 – Mičovna, 2 – Letohrádek Královny Anny, 3 – zahrada na Valech)



- Another really good place to visit is the **Jewish town**. It is a beautiful area where you can pay for a guide, or just the entrance fee with which you can visit all of the synagogues as well as the Jewish cemetery and museum. It is not so expensive and this part of Prague is truly beautiful. For example Pinkas Synagogue is really interesting – there are names on the walls of Jewish people killed in WW2 and it is a really strong experience.
 - <https://www.jewishmuseum.cz/en/info/visit/admission/>
- **Vyšehrad** is a castle not so far from the city centre, you can walk there by the Vltava river, or you can take the metro (line C, station Vyšehrad). There is a beautiful park, church and cemetery and not many tourists know about it, so you will not meet a lot of people, but the view from there is breathtaking and you can have a picnic as well! And it is really worth visiting in the evening with all the city lights!
- **Clementinum** used to be a Jesuit college in the past, but nowadays it is part of the Czech national library. It is one of the most beautiful libraries in Europe, and also the oldest, and in my opinion you can really feel the atmosphere of the old Prague there. You have to pay for a ticket if you want to go in.



- **Dancing house** – Very beautiful and weird building, which is kind of a symbol of “modern Prague”. You can go inside, usually there are some exhibitions taking place. Besides that, you can go all the way up, where there is a beautiful view of the Vltava river and the Prague Castle.

Art

- **David Černý** – famous Czech sculptor, who is making bizarre statues and Prague is full of them! (1 – St. Wenceslav in Galerie Lucerna, 2 – babies at Kampa park , 3 – Franz Kafka museum, 4 – head of Franz Kafka in front of the Quadrio shopping centre)
 - <http://www.praguego.com/tips/david-cerny-tour/>



- **John Lennon Wall** – very famous wall, where you can draw something or just take a picture because it is colourful and there are always some musicians, who create a perfect atmosphere. It is near the Charles Bridge, in the area called “Kampa”, where are lots of parks and galleries. It is well-known as Prague centre



of art. This area of Prague is really calm and quiet, so it is amazing for having a rest in the park.

- **Dox** is the centre of modern art. It is a gallery with modern art exhibition, but besides art, the whole building is worth visiting because of their airship, **Gulliver**, which you can go inside too!

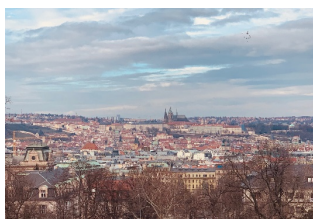


Gardens and Parks



- **Franciscan Garden** is located next to the Wenceslas Square. There is usually a lot of people inside, but it is beautiful and maybe in the morning you can find a free bench and have a coffee there. It is part of a former monastery which is right next to it and it is really worth seeing.

- **Letná** is one of the biggest park in Prague. It is on a hill, so the journey there is quite difficult, but you can see the whole of Prague from there and when you will be there you will understand why Prague is called the “*City of hundred spires*”. On the hill, there used to be the Stalin memorial which was one of the biggest statues of Stalin in the Soviet Union, but today there is a “metronome” statue. In the mornings, it is a favourite place of all runners living in the city centre, so there are some outdoor work-out areas. From this park you can find your way to the Prague Castle, which is really close (especially to Chotkovy sady and Letohrádek královny Anny) you might have to use google maps, but it is not so difficult, and the journey is very nice!
- **Střelecký ostrov** is an island with a park in the middle of the Vltava river. You can get there from Most Legií. In the hot summer days there is a lot of people, but mostly locals, because there are many concerts taking place there.



- **Riegrový sady** is one of my favourite parks in Prague. It is near the main train station and you can see the whole Old Town from there. You have to go to the top of the park to see it though. And the best thing? No tourists! Only during the summer evenings, many people are having picnics on the top because of the amazing view!
- **Vítkov** is one of the highest hill in Prague, but again, you can see all of Prague from there. There is also a statue of Žižka (Czech warrior) and it is one of the highest “riding” statues in Europe. On that hill is very nice park, again nearly without tourists (just full of runners in the mornings) and memorial of WW1, with a lookout tower on the top and a café. Next to this hill is a very nice neighbourhood called **Vinohrady**, there are located some of the most expensive flats in Prague and it is full of typical Prague houses. In that area of Prague is **Žižkovský vysílač** (transmitter), many people say that it is ugliest

building in the Czech Republic, but I don't think so. There is a restaurant on the top with a beautiful view. On that transmitter are statues by David Černý – crawling babies.

- **Grébovka (Havlíčkovy sady)** – this is a park with vineyard so in autumn there is a wine celebration. But you can go there to a restaurant or just have a nice walk in the park. Inside of it, there is also something very special and unusual for Prague – grotto. It is an artificial cave and it is really strange to go inside, but I loved that! It is not exactly in the city centre, but by tram it is about 10 minute ride.



Restaurants & cafés

- **Ambiente restaurants** – it is a company which owns many restaurants, which are in my opinion the best in Prague – you can choose from Brazilian, Italian, Czech, etc.... One of them is next to the Prague Castle – It is called **Kuchyň** (“Kitchen” in Czech) and you can go inside, and you will choose a meal which you want to eat in their kitchen – they don't have a menu. They have only Czech food and the best Czech beer. Maybe it is better to make a reservation beforehand, because these restaurants are very good and for that reason well known, so they are usually full. Unfortunately, it is not really vegetarian-friendly, because Czech cuisine is full of meat.
 - Another one is **Lokál** and it is a must in Prague – it is just “beer” restaurant, but you can have some typical Czech meals to go along with that. The waiters are very nice, so they can help you with your choice. You should make a reservation as it is always full. They have the best “svíčková” or “tatarák” (Czech meals).
 - Some of these Ambiente restaurants are cafés as well – **Myšák** or **Café Savoy**. Myšák is café from the Czech “First Republic” – 1920's so it is very simple building, but they have the best desserts in Prague (these desserts are the same in both these cafés, but Savoy is more pretty). Savoy is neo-renaissance café and it is beautiful! But again, you should make a reservation.



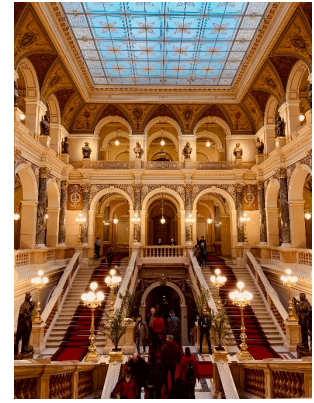
- Last fancy café is in the house of cubism – it is the first cubist house in the Czech Republic and it was designed by Josef Gočár – very famous Czech architect. Inside, there are two cafés – Café Orient and **Černá Madona** (Black Madona), which is better in my opinion. It is quite expensive, but they have the most beautiful desserts in Prague! It is located on the Celetná street which connects Powder tower with the Old Town square.

- If you would like to visit cheap but good café as the locals do, you can go to **mamacoffee**, they have very good coffee and there is a couple of them all around Prague.

- Last restaurant tip is **Terasa U Prince**. This is restaurant in the Old town square. It is really touristy and expensive (!!), but you can see all of the Old town square from there and take some cute pictures.



Besides all these tips there are amazing tourist places, which are well known and which you should visit. Like the Charles bridge, National theatre, Wenceslas square, or the Old town square with famous clock tower. Underneath the Prague Castle is beautiful area called Malá Strana full of old painted houses and secret parks and gardens, so you should go there as well. And last Autumn, the National museum re-opened, which is also worth visiting. There is a Czechoslovak exhibition, which is a good idea for internationals, and the building of the museum (in the picture) is beautiful! Besides the National Museum, there are many galleries all around the city, where you can use your student discount.



Useful Links:

Guides:

- Use it Guide: <https://www.use-it.travel/cities/detail/prague/>
- Honest Guide Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCt7oj318jVQi7vRbc1bNjJA>
- Honest Blog: <https://honest.blog>
- Pragulic: <https://pragulic.cz/tours/?lang=en>
- Like a Local Guide: <https://www.likealocalguide.com/prague>
- Green Map: <http://zelenamapa.cz>

Culture:

- Go Out: <https://goout.net/cs/praha/>
- National Gallery: <https://www.ngprague.cz/en/>

Food & Coffee:

- Foodie Map: <https://www.tasteofprague.com/prague-foodie-map>
- Prague cafés: <https://www.tasteofprague.com/pragueblog/best-cafes-in-prague-cafes-2017>
- Ambiente restaurants: <https://www.ambi.cz/en/our-concepts/>
- Gastromapa: <https://gastromapa.hejlik.cz>