

instant

PRAGUE

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Spring 2007



Introducing Prague

Prague has beckoned visitors from kings and paupers to hedonists and philosophers for centuries and her diverse cultural, historical and entertainment attractions remain a draw today

Instant Prague is the perfect introduction to the city. Full of information to make travel easier, this is your one stop shop for Prague ins and outs.

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Restaurants
Bars
Clubs
Sights
Hotels
Transport

and a whole host of other useful information

This small .pdf guide has been written to aid the traveller to Prague who doesn't need or want to carry an encyclopedia-sized guidebook around in their pocket. A bold experiment in travel writing, the best (and the worst) bits of Prague have been boiled down and generally condensed into one fun-sized read for the lightweight traveller.

Prague districts

Praha 1 - Most visitors never venture further than Praha 1 which comprises of the following five famous areas. In Václavské nám. (Wenceslas Square), you are in Nové Město (New Town). If you head east towards the river you will move into Staré Město (Old Town). Directly north of this you are in Josefov (the Jewish quarter). Cross the river and you are on the west bank and Malá Strana (the lesser quarter). Continue uphill and in the north west you will be in Hradčany (the castle).

Praha 2 - Vinohrady, an area with many shops, bars and restaurants among trendy residential areas. You will also find Prague's second castle, Vyšehrad, in this district.

Praha 3 - Dominated by the TV Tower and the large horse statue, Žižkov is the old working class area of Prague, full of aging character and dingy yet fabulous pubs and clubs. Now undergoing gentrification, which means rents are rising.

Praha 4 - South down the river, this district has many paneláks, the 60's prefabricated tower blocks. It is though, a massive area and has many pleasant pockets.

Praha 5 - Another district undergoing massive construction work, Praha 5 is being gentrified in a major way. It is also home to the Czech Hollywood, Barrandov Studios.

Praha 6 - Behind the castle, an exclusive and expensive area home to many embassies and the private residence of the Czech president.

Praha 7 - Another hip and swinging part of town thanks mainly to two of the city's biggest parks, Letná and Stromovka.

Praha 8 - The northern suburbs around Karlín, hardest hit in the 2002 floods and now undergoing major, mostly commercial, reconstruction.

Praha 9 - The north-eastern outskirts, with cheaper rents and massive shopping centres.

Praha 10 - A very select residential area full of large villas.

Tourist information

Around Prague Information

Centre Praha 1, Celetná 14,
M Staroměstská, tel. 224 49 17
64/224 49 17 22, www.around-prague.cz. Tickets, accommodation, sightseeing tours, guidebooks, maps and more. ▶ Open 09:00 - 20:00.



Prague Info Praha 1, Staroměstské nám. 1, (Old Town Hall), M Staroměstské, tel. 236 00 25 62, www.prague-info.cz. This excellent official tourist information centre provides vocal and written information in various languages from helpful and knowledgeable staff, plus tickets, excursions, and accommodation. For general information in English, Czech or German call tel. 124 44. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 18:00. Also at I-3, Praha hlavní nádraží & B-2, Praha 1, Malá Strana Tower, open 10:00 - 18:00.

Learning the language

Numbers

1	jeden (m)/jedna (f)
2	dva (m)/dvě (f)
3	tři
4	čtyři
5	pět
6	šest
7	sedm
8	osm
9	devět
10	deset

Signs

Open	otevřeno
Closed	zavřeno
Entrance	vchod
Exit	východ
Push	tam
Pull	sem
Arrival	příjezd (train)
Departure	přilet (plane)
No smoking	odlet (plane)
Men's toilets	zde nekuříte
Ladies toilets	zákaz kouření
	páni/muži
	dámy/ženy

Days

Monday	pondělí	
Tuesday	úterý	Departure
Wednesday	středa	
Thursday	čtvrtek	No smoking
Friday	pátek	
Saturday	sobota	Men's toilets
Sunday	neděle	Ladies toilets

Basics

Yes	ano
No	ne
Please/you're welcome	prosím
Thank you (very much)	děkuji
Excuse me	omluvte mě
Sorry	promiňte
Hello	dobrý den
Goodbye	nashledanou
I would like...	rád/ráda bych...
Where is...	kde je...

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

Instant Prague

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V Jámě 1, Praha 1, 110 00,
Czech Republic
tel. +420 224 94 76 01
fax +420 224 94 86 51
prague@inyourpocket.com
www.inyourpocket.com

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Arriving in Prague has become rather easy, but there are still things to know. Allow us to guide you safely into town...

By plane

Prague's airport is 20km from the city centre. A **taxi** to the town centre should cost around 400Kč if you call a company rather than take one from outside the terminal - AAA have representatives in the arrival hall now. Alternatively, use the **ČEDAZ minibus** (tel. 220 11 42 96, 05:30 - 21:30) that runs every half hour between the airport and Nám. Republiky. Tickets cost 90Kč (including one piece of baggage, children under 10 free) and can be bought from the driver or from the booth in the arrival hall. For an extra fee, ČEDAZ will pick you up or drop you off at your hotel. The **cheapest** way to get into town is by **bus: N°119** (2-8 times per hour between 04:18 and 00:10 with at least one wheelchair-friendly bus per hour) runs between the airport and the **Dejvická** metro station (Line A,

green) in about 20 minutes. From Dejvická it is just five stops to Muzeum in the centre of town. **Bus N°100** whisks you to **Zličín** (Line B, yellow) from the airport in 13 minutes. There is a new **Airport Express (AE)** bus from **Holešovice** which runs every half hour, whizzing you across the city in 30 mins. Regular 20Kč tickets are valid but if you are flying ČSA or have a Czech rail ticket, you get a free ride. First and last buses from Holešovice 05:15 & 21:45, from the airport 04:40 & 21:10. A 20Kč transport ticket (plus a 10Kč one for big bags) will get you all the way into town or to the airport on any of these public transport methods. **Tickets** can be bought at the transport information desk in the arrival hall or from the coin-operated machine at the airport bus stop, but not from the driver. You need to **validate** the ticket (once for the whole trip) in the machines on board the bus. There is a 24/7 left luggage facility at the airport - 60Kč per item per day. Prague's new **Terminal North 2** will allow for at least 4 million more passengers a year to travel into Prague. New bars, restaurants, shops and services ply their trade in this terminal which accommodates flights to and from Schengen countries.

By bus

Most international buses arrive at **Florenc bus station** (Autobusové nádraží Praha Florenc, open 05:00 - 23:00), which is also the watering hole of several endemic species living solely on alcohol. For info on bus times inquire at window 8 (open 06:00 - 21:00). Alternatively, use the computer in front of it to search for your bus at **www.idos.cz**. Window 6 (open 05:30 - 20:00, Sat 07:00 - 19:00, Sun 09:00 - 19:30) sells tickets for the ever popular Czech National Express (Český Národní Expres) buses to Brno. The kiosk between window 4 and 5 (open 07:00 - 18:00, Sat 07:00 - 15:00, Sun 08:30 - 15:30) is an exchange office and also sells public transport tickets, maps and guides. The nearest ATM is at Florenc metro station, which is next to the bus station.

By car

If you plan to travel on the main highways then you'll need to buy a road stamp, available from border crossings, filling stations and post offices, and stick it to your windscreen. Without the stamp you may be fined up to 5,000Kč.

By train

Praha Hlavní nádraží (the main station, tel. 224 61 52 49) is architecturally fabulous although you won't know it until you exit its underground nightmare. There is a tourist office (open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 16:00) in the centre of the lower hall of the two levels. Currency exchange offices abound, but for a better deal, use the ATM on the far left of the lower hall. Left luggage (úschova) requirements are filled by coin-operated lockers (10Kč/24hrs) and a guarded luggage depository opposite (closed for 30 minutes from 05:30, 12:00 and 17:30). Getting to town involves one stop on the metro to Muzeum or a dangerous walk up busy Wilsonova. **Praha Holešovice** (tel. 224 61 58 65), is used by trains on the main Berlin - Prague - Vienna/Bratislava route. The small hall holds the ticket office (open 09:00 - 17:00, closed Sat, Sun), left luggage lockers, an internet café and several exchange and accommodation offices (open 06:00 - 23:00). It is three stops on the metro to Muzeum. There are two classes on international trains, and prices vary according to length of journey and class; expect to pay one third more for first class tickets. For multilingual, quick and friendly service, avoid the queues at the main railway station counters and buy your ticket at Wasteels or at the Czech Railways agency (Praha 1, V Celnici, open 09:00 - 17:00).

Tipping is expected, and 10% seems like a fair cut. Figures in brackets indicate the average cost of a main dish only. Here's a list of our favourites.

Czech

Beograd Praha 1, Vodičková 5/12, MÚstek, tel. 224 94 60 63. Beograd serves up delicious Czech staples, plus a list of specials that illustrate beautifully the art of culinary fusion. Krušovice tmavé sits in copper tanks in the midst of diners. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (130 - 280Kč). ☺☺☺

Kamenný most Praha 1, Smetanova nábř. 195, MÚstarmětská, tel. 224 09 71 00, www.kamennymost.cz. A breezy, ambient Czech establishment with a truly adventurous and creative menu. Every evening until 04:00 you can also enjoy drinks and dancing in the fashionable music bar. ▶ Open 11:30 - 24:00. (180 - 500Kč). ☺☺☺

Sovovy Mlýny Praha 1, U Sovových mlýnů 2, MÚmalostranská, tel. 257 53 59 00, www.sovovymlyny.com. Especially recommended for its riverside terrace. The menu includes many decent dishes but don't let that distract you from fantastic views. Bring something warm and mosquito repellent. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00. ☺☺☺☺☺

U Kalicha Praha 2, Na Bojišti 12, MÚI.P. Pavlova, tel. 296 18 96 00, www.ukalicha.cz. The pub that features at the beginning of the Czech literary classic 'The Good Soldier Švejk' as the planned location of the never-to-be meeting "...at six in the evening after the war." An ompah band keeps the atmosphere rolling. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (150 - 300Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

U Modré růže Praha 1, Rytířská 16, MÚMústek, tel. 224 22 58 73, www.umodreruze.cz. The Blue Rose serves refined Czech dishes in an antique setting to make you feel like a lord or lady. The candle-lit 15th century brick cellar is an ideal place for a romantic dinner with your sweetheart. ▶ Open 11:30 - 23:30. (350 - 750Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

U Provaznice Praha 1, Provaznická 3, MÚMústek, tel. 224 23 25 28. An unbelievable deal so close to tourist central and the beer-drinking ethos is prime in this atmospheric, busy and friendly spot where the food is good and large. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (75 - 333Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

French

Brasserie La Provence Praha 1, Štupartská 9, MÚNám. Republiky, tel. 257 53 50 50, www.kampagroup.com. The Kampa people went to great lengths to create a genuine brasserie in Prague. The sommelier has selected several uncomplicated wines that go wonderfully with the cuisine. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (130 - 600Kč). ☺☺☺

Brasserie M Praha 1, Vladislavova 17, MÚNárodní třída, tel. 224 05 40 70, www.brasseriem.cz. A stunning, authentic French brasserie from ex-Marriott Executive chef, Jean-Paul Manzac. Dishes from the open kitchen are simple, delicious and classically Gallic. Sublime. ▶ Open 12:00 - 22:00. (200 - 650Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

Francouzská restaurace Praha 1, Náměstí Republiky 5, MÚNám. Republiky, tel. 222 00 27 70, www.francouzskarestaurace.cz. Superb French gourmet dishes from this beautiful art nouveau restaurant's award winning chefs. ▶ Open 12:00 - 16:00 & 18:00 - 23:00. (600 - 2,000Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

U Závaje Praha 1, Havelská 25, MÚMústek, tel. 226 00 61 20, www.uzavoje.cz. This house of wine consists of a restaurant, café, wine bar and dell. Fabulously decadent, this is an outstanding rare treat. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. Café open 10:00 - 22:00. (550 - 1,300Kč). ☺☺☺

International

Alchymist Praha 1, Hellichova 4, MÚStaroměstská, tel. 257 31 25 18, www.alchymist.cz. Fabulous decor, service and menu in this opulent restaurant with faintly oriental leanings in the decor region, plus a few zebra stripes. Extensive and expensive wine list. ▶ (300 - 650Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

Allegro Praha 1, Veleslavínova 2a, MÚStaroměstská, tel. 221 42 70 00, www.fourseasons.com. The quality of the Four Seasons hotel chain is obvious in the classic, oak-panelled line of Allegro's interior as well as by the range of delicious Italian and Bohemian specialties on offer. ▶ Open 06:30 - 24:00. (950 - 1,150Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

Barock Praha 1, Pařížská 24, MÚStaroměstská, tel. 222 32 92 21. Fabulous decor, succulent sushi and varied European menu from chef Jana Janatová. Beautiful people in a beautiful space from Jimmy Sjö. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00. (250 - 850Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

Dinitz Praha 1, Bilkova 12, MÚStaroměstská, tel. 222 31 33 08, www.dinitz.cz. Fresh ingredients lovingly prepared and served with knowledge and grace, and all in sublime surroundings. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. Closed Sun. (150 - 380Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

Fluidum Praha 3, Lucemburská 1497/6, MÚJiřího z Poděbrad, tel. 222 221 702, www.fluidumrestaurant.cz. Good wine list complements the small yet varied menu. Subtle lighting, comfortable seating and service. Delicious. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (200 - 450Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

Mlýnské Praha 1, Novotného lávka 9, MÚStaroměstská, tel. 221 08 22 08. With views of Charles Bridge and Chef Marek Purkart, the first man to receive the Michelin Bibendum twice, the terrace is full of Prague A-listers. ▶ Open 12:00 - 15:00; 17:30 - 23:00. (600 - 1,500Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

Beer

U Fleků H-5, Praha 1, Křemencova 11, MÚNárodní třída, tel. 224 93 40 19, www.ufleku.cz. A tourist trap since they started brewing their dark, rich aromatic beer on this spot in 1499. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00. (85 - 320Kč). ☺☺☺

U Pinkasů E-4, Praha 1, Jungmannovo nám. 16, MÚMústek, tel. 221 11 11 50, www.upinkasu.cz. The first *pivnice* in Prague to have Pilsner Urquell on tap. Two floors of beer swilling and elegant no-smoking rooms are available for dining. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. (150 - 200Kč). ☺☺☺

Potrefená husa Praha 1, Bilkova 5, MÚStaroměstská, tel. 222 32 66 26, www.potrefenahusa.wz.cz. TVs, long bar and very good, large food although the onus remains on the 'culture of drinking'. ▶ Open 11:30 - 01:00. (50 - 350Kč). ☺☺☺☺☺

Na Verandách Praha 5, Nádražní 84, MÚAnděl, tel. 257 19 11 11, www.ppiovary.cz. Enjoy Czech and regional specialties with the freshest Staropramen in town at the brewery restaurant. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (80 - 200Kč).

Editor's picks

Olympos Praha 3, Kubelíkova 9, [M] Jiřího z Poděbrad, tel. 222 72 22 39, www.tavernaolympoz.cz. Excellent Grecian starters, a haul of fresh seafood, and friendly, hard working staff. Superb. A great garden with a playground to keep the kids happy. ▶ Open 11:30 - 24:00, Sun 11:30 - 23:00. (200 - 500Kč). [C][F][S]

Zahrada v Opeře Praha 1, Legerova 75, [M] Muzeum, tel. 224 23 96 85, www.zahradavopere.cz. Inventive dishes and proximity to the opera ensure a loyal dinner crowd each night. The multilingual staff doesn't stop pampering until the fat lady has sung. ▶ Open 11:30 - 01:00. (150 - 400Kč). [C][F][S]

Dinitz Café Praha 1, Na Poříčí 12, tel. 222 31 33 08, www.dinitz.cz. Fabulous space with a great menu comprised of the freshest ingredients and all served until 02:00. Groove with the cool folk and stave off the hangover with some late munchies. ▶ Open 10:00 - 03:00. [C][F][S]

Good Reason Praha 2, Americká 29, [M] Nám. Míru, tel. 222 51 87 94, www.goodreason.cz. Russian specialities and other delicacies to the soundtrack of cheesy but entertaining music creating a raucous night out. ▶ Open 11:30 - 24:00, Sat 18:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun. (40 - 250Kč). [C][F][S]

Rybí trh Praha 1, Týnský dvůr 5, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 224 89 54 47, www.rybitrh.cz. Without a doubt, this restaurant is a fish-lover's paradise. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (190 - 890Kč). [C][S]

Clear Head (Lehká hlava) Praha 1, Boršov 2, [M] Národní třída, tel. 222 22 06 65, www.lehkahlava.cz. Healthy and delicious, this veggie place doesn't take itself too seriously and despite the name, does serve alcohol. ▶ Open 11:30 - 24:00. (80 - 150Kč). [S]

Italian

Cicala Praha 1, Žitná 43, [M] Karlovo nám., tel. 222 21 03 75. The entrance is nondescript, but once down inside the cellar restaurant all doubts fade away. The great and the good have dined here. ▶ Open 11:30 - 22:30. Closed Sun. (120 - 250Kč). [C][S]

Divinis Praha 1, Týnská 23, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 224 80 83 18, www.divinis.cz. Classy little wine bar and Italian bistro in the heart of Old Town. We love the atmosphere, we love the food and we love the wine list. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. Closed Sun. (150 - 400Kč). [C][S]

Don Giovanni Praha 1, Karolíny Světlé 34/208, [M] Národní třída, tel. 222 22 20 60, www.dongiovanni.cz. This place has a fantastic view of Charles Bridge and the castle. As with all Italian restaurants, the food is the thing, and this is arguably the best in town. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. (250 - 450Kč). [C][F][S][A][B][C][D][E]

Isabella Praha 1, U Milosrdných 2, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 224 81 99 57. Swedish chef Lars Sjöstrand made his name as a founder of Kampa Park and has now introduced his imaginative twists to Isabella's pasta, steak and seafood staples. Delicious desserts and impressive wine list. ▶ Open 18:00 - 23:00. (200 - 500Kč). [C]

Roca Praha 2, Vinohradská 32, [M] Nám. Míru, tel. 222 52 00 60. The best service we've ever had and exceptional food for these prices; no wonder it's booked full every night. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:30. (100 - 800Kč). [C]

Japanese

Nagoya Praha 5, Stroupežnického 23, [M] Anděl, tel. 251 51 17 24, www.nagoya.cz. Nagoya comes complete with its Japanese chef and food that has quickly become very popular with all. ▶ Open 12:00 - 15:00, 17:00 - 23:00. Closed Tue. (140 - 440Kč). [C][S][B]

YAMI Praha 1, Masná 3, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 222 31 27 56. A new venue touted by many as the best sushi in town plus awesome bibimbap, saki and kimchi that brings tears to eye, although their prices might also. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:30. (150 - 600Kč). [C]

Mexican

Banditos Praha 2, Melounová 2, [M] I.P. Pavlova, tel. 224 94 10 96, www.banditos.cz. More than just a Mexican as their copy rightly claims and an amazing all-day full breakfast. Cool barkeeps, clientele and tunes. ▶ Open 09:00 - 01:00. (100 - 300Kč). [C][F]

Cantina Praha 1, Újezd 38, [M] Malostranská, tel. 257 31 71 73. A warm and atmospheric Mexican, serving Texan-sized portions of decent grub and small swimming pool sized margaritas that slip down far too easily. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (120 - 300Kč). [C][F][A]

Pakistani

Mailsi Praha 3, Lipanská 1, tel. 222 71 77 83. Prague's best Pakistani restaurant is a leading light for authentic flavour. The service is light yet deliciously attentive. ▶ Open 12:00 - 15:00, 18:00 - 24:00. (150 - 400Kč).

Spanish

Don Pedro Praha 2, Masarykovo nábř. 2, [M] Karlovo nám., tel. 224 923 505, www.donpedro.cz. Fabulous food from Columbian fried yuca and cola guisada, to excellent steak and Mexican favourites. And then there are the tropical cocktails, native coffee and South American wine. ▶ Open 11:30 - 23:00. (130 - 280Kč). [C][S][F]

El Centro Praha 1, Maltézské nám. 9, [M] Malostranská, tel. 257 53 33 43, www.elcentro.czrb.cz. The paella is savoury and fresh, the tortilla espanola is piquant, and the gazpacho is delectable. It's a spicy change from the routine. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (120 - 300Kč). [C][F][S][B]

La Bodeguita del Medio Praha 1, Kaprova 5, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 224 81 39 22, www.bodeguita.cz. Piles of ripe fruit and coconuts for cocktails, Latin beats, Creole cooking and seafood galore. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. (100 - 1,000Kč). [C][F][A][B][C][D][E][S]

Thai

Arzenal Praha 1, Valentinská 11, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 224 81 40 99, www.arzenal.cz. Unusual and delicious mix of Thai restaurant and glass design shop hosts as varied menu. ▶ Open 10:00 - 24:00. (150 - 600Kč). [C][S]

Siam Orchid Praha 1, Na Poříčí 21, [M] Nám. Republiky, tel. 222 31 94 10, www.siamorchid.cz. While the authenticity of the place is not added to by the décor, the Thai massage next door, Singha beer and mention of farangs on the menu point to a real Thai dining experience. And the food doesn't disappoint. A delicious slice of Siam in a very Czech courtyard. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00. (120 - 200Kč). [F]

Prague is known for its beer and its nightlife and for good reason. Bars tend to keep pouring the drinks as long as you keep drinking them...

Alcohol Bar Praha 1, Dušní 6, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 224 81 17 44, www.alcoholbar.cz. Some refreshingly original mixes introduce themselves in their veritable book of cocktails. ▶ Open 19:00 - 03:00.

Bar & Books Praha 1, Týnská 19, [M] Nám. Republiky, tel. 224 80 82 50, www.barandbooks.net. Deep red walls and ceilings, leather benches, dark wood, books and impeccable service typify Bar & Books. ▶ Open 14:00 - 04:00, Sat 18:00 - 04:00, Sun 18:00 - 03:00. (105 - 295Kč). [C][S]

Blind Eye K-4, Praha 3, Vlkova 26, [M] Jiřího z Poděbrad, www.blindeye.cz. Friendly folk on both sides of the bar keep the vibe going late with help from well mixed drinks (try their signature McFly) and cool tunes. ▶ Open 19:00 - 04:00. [F][A]

Bombay Cocktail Bar Praha 1, Dlouhá 13, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 721 882 557, www.rasoi.cz. Bombay seldom disappoints with a wide range of cocktails, DJs who actually play what the diverse crowd wants to hear. ▶ Open 12:00 - 04:00. [C][F][S]

Chateau Praha 1, Jakubská 2, [M] Nám. Republiky, tel. 222 31 63 28, www.chateau-bar.cz. The local legend continues now with a club downstairs. ▶ Open 12:00 - 05:00.

Duende Praha 1, Karolíny Světlé 30, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 604 26 97 31, www.duende.cz. A small split-level bar containing casually sophisticated folks who sip and do not gulp their drinks. The odd snack occasionally makes an appearance to liven things up. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00, Sun 17:00 - 01:00. [S]

Fraktal Praha 7, Šmeralova 1, [M] Hradčanská, tel. 777 79 40 94, www.fraktalbar.com. Fraktal has grown up into Mexican-leaning eatery with massive portions and a night time onus is definitely still into drinking. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 11:30 - 01:00. (60 - 200Kč). [F][B]

Harley's Praha 1, Dlouhá 18, tel. 227 19 51 95, www.harleys.cz. Interesting mix of clientele and talented barkeeps, this long, long bar opened with little fanfare but has attracted a dedicated crowd ▶ Open 18:00 - 03:00. (120 - 350Kč). [C]

K.U.Bar.Cafe Praha 1, Rytířská 13, [M] Můstek, tel. 221 18 10 81. If you are trendy, cool, beautiful, wear the right labels and want to hang out with like-minded folk, head on down for higher than average prices, DJ tunes and small bar menu. ▶ Open 17:00 - 03:00, Sat, Sun 17:00 - 04:00.

Marquis de Sade Praha 1, Templová 8, [M] Nám. Republiky. New owners have made some changes - a lick of paint, new furniture and spruced up toilets make the Marquis experience less shambolic now. ▶ Open 16:00 - 03:00. [F]

Medúza Praha 2, Belgická 17, [M] Nám. Míru, tel. 222 51 51 07, www.meduza.cz. Decked out with myriad bits and bobs from the twenties and thirties, come to sink in the soft furnishings and relax. Fantastic pierogí too. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00.

St. Nicholas Café Praha 1, Tržiště 10, [M] Malostranská. Dedicated drinkers keep the vibe going late and jazzy live music adds to the cellar ambience. Snacks available. ▶ Open 12:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 16:00 - 01:00.

Tretters Praha 1, V Kolkovně 3, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 224 81 11 65, www.tretters.cz. Committed barmen rattle up seriously decent cocktails and serve excellent Bloody Marys. Best be suited and booted. ▶ Open 19:00 - 03:00. [C][S]

Zero Praha 1, Dušní 8, [M] Staroměstská. A long bar, private room at the rear and limited seating in order to keep feet tapping in time to the usually cool tunes played by the ever-changing roster of DJs. ▶ Open 19:00 - 04:00. [S]

Zvonařka Praha 2, Šafaříkova 1, [M] I.P. Pavlova, tel. 224 25 19 90. Zvonařka's amazing terrace hosts a BBQ and booze. What more do you need? ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00.

Pubs

J.J.Murphy's Praha 1, Tržiště 4, [M] Malostranská, tel. 257 53 55 75, www.jjmurphys.cz. Watch live sport from one of the sofas in the attic lounge or have a proper breakfast or a real American burger on the ground floor. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00. [C]

U Sadu Praha 3, Škroupovo nám., [M] Jiřího z Poděbrad, tel. 222 72 70 72. U Sadu is a Czech legend with a wonderful summer terrace and they serve beer till dawn and food till 04:00. ▶ Open 10:00 - 06:00. (60 - 300Kč).

Sport bars

The Pack Praha 1, Ve Smečkách 21, [M] Muzeum, tel. 222 01 02 80, www.thepack.cz. Tailor made for fans with scantily clad waitresses, flat screen TVs, Guinness and Strongbow on tap, English breakfast, etc. ▶ Open Mon & Fri 09:00 - 02:00; Tue - Thu 12:00 - 02:00; Sat, Sun 06:30 - 02:00. [C][B]

Three Lions Praha 1, Krakovská 19, [M] Muzeum, tel. 222 21 09 56, www.threelionsprague.com. New huge Brit pub with 15 plasma screens and 2 big screens. ▶ Open 11:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 03:00. (200 - 350Kč). [C][B]

Zlatá hvězda Praha 1, Ve Smečkách 12, [M] Muzeum, tel. 296 22 22 92, www.sportbar.cz. Dedicated sports bar remains open until the final whistle blows. 21Kč Gambrianus, plus pizza and wings, etc. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00, Mon 11:00 - 24:00, Fri 11:00 - 04:30, Sat 12:00 - 04:30, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. [C][F][A][B][C][S]

Jazz bars

U Malého Glenu Praha 1, Karmelitská 23, [M] Malostranská, tel. 257 53 17 17, www.malyglen.cz. A tiny venue that hosts a wide spectrum of local bands. ▶ Open 10:00 - 02:00. Admission Sun 70Kč - 120Kč. [C][F][S]

Agharta Jazz Club Praha 1, Železná 16, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 222 21 12 75, www.agharta.cz. This beautiful arched medieval cellar hosts fine bands on the Prague jazz circuit, cut with the odd night of blues. ▶ Open 21:00 - 23:30. Concerts daily at 21:00. Admission 150Kč.

Jazz Boat Praha 1, Čechův most, Kotva boat, [M] Staroměstská, tel. 603 55 16 80, www.jazzboat.cz. Take a musical journey on the low seas of the Vltava. 590Kč 2.5 hour cruise to the accompaniment of excellent jazz. ▶ Open 20:30 - 23:00. [C][F][S][B]

Reduta Praha 1, Národní 20, [M] Národní třída, tel. 224 93 34 87, www.redutajazzclub.cz. Still brings in quality performers and even attracts a president or two. Havel has brought Clinton here twice now. ▶ Open 21:00 - 24:00. [S]

Prague has no problem providing nightlife. The town is small enough to cover on foot, though as the night gets longer, so does the distance between places.

Akropolis Praha 3, Kubelíkova 27, [M] Jiřího z Poděbrad, tel. 296 33 09 11, www.palacakropolis.cz. A sprawling den of scruffy delights; two bars with DJ in each, adjoining café, plus the excellent gig space with some of the most intriguing music in Prague. ▶ Open 16:00 - 04:00. Admission 30 - 400Kč.

Batalion Praha 1, 28. října 3, [M] Můstek, tel. 220 10 81 47, www.batalion.cz. Sometime live music venue that also provides rock videos, drinking, dancing, foosball, and copious amounts of drunken debauchery. ▶ Open 24hrs. [F]

Celnice Praha 1, V Celnici 4, [M] Nám. Republiky, tel. 224 21 22 40, www.celnice.com. Trendy designer club decked out with plastic and stainless steel furniture plus ultra-fashionable girls, boys and bartenders. ▶ Open 11:00 - 04:00, Mon, Tue, Sun 11:00 - 02:00. [C][F][S][B]

Futurum Praha 5, Zborovská 7, [M] Anděl, tel. 257 32 85 71, www.musicbar.cz. CD launch parties for Czech bands, the odd festival and half-decent DJs. Fridays host their popular 80s & 90s night. ▶ Open 20:00 - 03:00. Admission 100Kč.

Klub 007 Strahov Praha 6, Vaníčková 7, Koleje ČVUT blok 7, tel. 257 21 14 39, www.klub007strahov.cz. Skulking in the basement of student accommodation, this hardcore/punk hip-hop club has been keeping study results bad for years. ▶ Open 19:30 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 19:30 - 02:00. [F]

Le Clan Praha 2, Balbínova 23, [M] Nám. Míru, tel. 222 25 12 26. The shape-throwing in-crowd of Prague ebb and flow here on the weekend, depending on what's happening at the other clubs in town. ▶ Open 22:00 - 03:00, Sat 22:00 - 06:00. Closed Mon. 100Kč admission for men.

Lucerna Music Bar Praha 1, Vodičkova 36, [M] Můstek, tel. 224 21 71 08, www.musicbar.cz. Local bands & international live music plus the disarmingly popular 80s night on Sat. ▶ Open 19:00 - 06:00. Admission 50 - 150Kč.

Mecca Praha 7, U Průhonu 3, [M] Nádraží Holešovice, tel. 283 87 05 22, www.mecca.cz. The clubbing star of Prague full of dedicated dancers, supermodels and you. ▶ Open 11:00 - 22:00, Fri 11:00 - 06:00, Sat 12:00 - 06:00. Closed Sun. Admission 150 - 200Kč. [C][F][S][B]

Nebe Praha 1, Křemencova 10, [M] Národní třída, tel. 224 93 03 43. A dedicated crew of staff is on hand to dole out cheap drinks to get the party started and keep it going in what was Nebe. ▶ Open 19:00 - 05:00. Admission 70Kč.

Punto Azul Praha 5, Kroftova 1, [M] Anděl, tel. 257 32 85 94, www.puntoazul.cz. A lengthy night of scruffy local ragamuffins playing tunes ranging from drum'n'bass, underground techno to deep house. ▶ Open 17:00 - 01:00, Sat, Sun 19:00 - 03:00. Admission 50 - 100Kč. [F]

RadostFX Praha 2, Bělehradská 120, [M] I.P. Pavlova, tel. 603 18 15 00, www.radostfx.cz. RadostFX seems to be attempting to be more of a brand name entertainment centre than merely a club. Downstairs in the large housey club, lounge and veg restaurant upstairs. ▶ Café open 11:00 - 04:00. Closed Mon. Lounge open 11:00 - 04:00; club 22:00 - 06:00. [S]

Retro Praha 2, Franzouzská 4, [M] Nám. Míru, www.kavarnaretro.cz. Opened by Czech stars Support Lesbiens, it will host more industry launches and while the DJ currently plays chart-topping standards, the vibe is fairly cool and everyone is there for fun. ▶ Open Thu - Sat 17:00 - 05:00.

Rock Café Praha 1, Národní 20, [M] Národní třída, tel. 224 93 39 47, www.rockcafe.cz. Music club, internet café and psychedelic bar. Worth visiting for cheap drinks and interesting characters. ▶ Open 10:00 - 03:00, Sat, Sun 19:00 - 03:00. Admission 50 - 100Kč. [F]

Roxy Praha 1, Dlouhá 33, [M] Nám. Republiky, tel. 224 82 62 96, www.roxy.cz. Roxy is back with live gigs, kicking club night & Free Mondays. ▶ Box office open 16:00. Club open for concerts 19:00, for club nights 22:00. [F][S]

Solidní nejistota Praha 1, Pštrossova 21, [M] Národní třída, tel. 224 93 30 86, www.solidninejistota.cz. Beautiful people past and present, if you know what we mean, throng to this meat market of a club in more ways than one: juicy steaks cooked to order until 03:00. ▶ Open 19:00 - 06:00. [C][F][S][B]

Studio 54 Praha 1, Hyberská 38, www.studio54.cz. Where the crowds go for the after party, things often don't kick off here till well into the morning. Don't forget your sunglasses. ▶ Open 05:00 - 15:00. Admission 100Kč.

Újezd Praha 1, Újezd 18, [M] Národní třída, tel. 257 31 65 37. Young, shabby and hedonistic. The cellar is punk, and upstairs is a more eclectic chill zone. Don't bring your posh frock, do bring some energy. ▶ Open 11:00 - 04:00. [F]

Vagon Praha 1, Národní 25, [M] Národní třída, tel. 221 08 55 99, www.vagon.cz. Excellent live venue renowned for quality cover bands, local and international acts plus an open mic night on select Mondays. ▶ Open 18:00 - 05:00, Sun 18:00 - 01:00.

Vertigo Praha 1, Havelská 4, [M] Můstek, tel. 774 74 42 56, www.vertigo-club.cz. With a café upstairs and slap bang in the middle of tourist town, this newly opened hot spot has claimed a crowd already. Café open from 08:00 - 21:00 except club nights when it is open to 04:00. ▶ Open 21:00 - 04:00. Admission free. [S]

Gay Prague

Drake's Praha 5, Zborovská 50, [M] Anděl, tel. 257 32 68 28, www.drakes.cz. THE place for tourists to discover Prague's gay scene. Non stop fun and games in the dark rooms, bar or dungeon. ▶ Open 24hrs. Admission 500Kč.

Friends Praha 1, Bartolomějská 11, [M] Národní třída, tel. 224 23 67 72, www.friends-prague.cz. Friends is often the first and last place visitors to Prague go to because, as they say, friends make better lovers. ▶ Open 16:00 - 05:00.

Valentino Praha 2, Vinohradská 40, [M] Nám. Míru, tel. 222 51 34 91, www.club-valentino.cz. A new star on the Prague gay scene, three floors of good atmosphere, lovely staff and kicking nights, with weekends attracting a huge, pumping crowd. ▶ Open 14:00 - 05:00. [S]

The Saints Praha 2, Polská 32, [M] Jiřího z Poděbrad, tel. 222 25 03 26, www.saintsbar.cz. Young and good looking, like their staff, the Saints bar adds a chilled but sinful option to Prague's gay scene. ▶ Open 17:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 04:00, Sun 17:00 - 01:00.

You haven't really been to Prague unless you've seen these sights. It sounds harsh, but that's just so you'll actually go. These are worth visiting above all else.

Prague Castle Praha 1, Hradčany, tel. 224 37 33 68, www.hrad.cz. From the almost pastoral serenity of St. George's Basilica, to the awe-inspiring Gothic power of St. Vitus Cathedral, the castle has attractions for all: history, architecture plus marching soldiers and entertainment. There's an **information centre** in the second courtyard, where you can find out what time the changing of the guard takes place, buy tickets and get audio guides. There are four ways to approach the castle. By far the best way is to take **tram N°22 or 23** to the **Pohořelec** stop, where you start with breathtaking views of Prague from Strahov Monastery; then walk down through beautiful Hradčanská district along Loretánská towards the main castle entrance on Hradčanské náměstí. You can skip the **Hradčanská** walk by getting off the tram earlier, at the **Pražský hrad** stop, from where you enter the second courtyard. Alternatively, walk up **Nerudova** and the steep hill from Malostranské náměstí. The worst approach is up the **Staré zámecké schody** steps near Malostranská metro station; these are best kept for the way down. Buildings and information open 09:00 - 17:00. Courtyards and grounds (admission free) open 05:00 - 24:00. Admission to the Cathedral, Old King's Palace, St. George's, Powder Tower and Golden Lane: 350Kč. Cathedral, Old King's Palace & Golden Lane: 220Kč. Reductions for families.

Jewish Prague Here, the story goes, Rabbi Loew created the Golem nearly half a millennium ago. The community was confined to a ghetto until 1781 when Josef II issued the Edict of Tolerance, which permitted the free exercise of religion and the secularisation of education, science and art. The Jewish town is called **Josefov** to this day his honour. From the 1880s, in the name of slum-clearing, most of Josefov was razed to the ground and only a few synagogues, the cemetery and the Josefov town hall remained. The starting point for to explore is the **Jewish Museum** (Praha 1, U Staré školy 1, tel. 221 71 15 62, www.jewishmuseum.cz). Unfortunately, the idea for a museum encompassing the Jewish Quarter is not new. The reason that the main buildings, synagogues and cemetery in the Jewish Quarter are still intact, is that Hitler intended to transform the quarter into an epitaph to a vanished culture. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat. Admission 300/200Kč for all sights.

Charles Bridge (Karlův most) Praha 1, [M] Staroměstská. One of the world's most beautiful bridges. Go at dawn to be alone and witness the saints emerging from the mist. Some closures are expected for repair work.

Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí) Praha 1, [M] Staroměstská. The indisputable heart of Prague. Jan Hus, markets and wonderful surrounding architecture all steeped in centuries of history.

Town Hall & Astronomical clock (Staroměstská radnice) Praha 1, Staroměstské nám. The 14th century Town Hall complex features a tower with the astronomical clock added in the 15th century. The climb or lift up the tower is rewarded by the stunning views. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00, Mon 11:00 - 18:00. Admission 50/40/10Kč.

Municipal House (Obecní dům) Praha 1, nám. Republiky 5, [M] Nám. Republiky, tel. 222 00 21 27, www.obecnidum.cz. The magnificent Obecní dům building holds two restaurants, a super café, an American bar, a gallery, shop, classical music venue and years of history.

Editor's picks

Veletřní Palace Praha 7, Dukelských hrdinů 47, [M] Vitavská, tel. 222 32 14 59, www.ngprague.cz.

The stunning modernist Veletřní Palace houses the National Gallery's collection of modern and contemporary art, including works by Klimt and Frank Gehry. The building is so big that they split entrance fees by how many of its three floors you wish to visit. Tram N°5,12,17 to Veletřní. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission 50 - 300Kč.

Charles University Botanical Gardens H-6, Praha 2, Na Slupi 16, [M] Karlovo nám. Outside it's all rockeries, winding paths leading nowhere and benches for contemplation. Inside, the warmth of the glasshouse can get uncomfortable but the musty, moistly lush aroma is alluring. The Cactus Room is home now to a clone of the **Methuselah tree**, the world's oldest documented living organism at 4,789 years old. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Admission 15Kč.

Botanical gardens (Botanická zahrada) Praha 7, Nádvoří 134, [M] Nádraží Holešovice, tel. 234 14 81 11, www.botgarden.cz. Outdoor vineyard, chapel, bonsai, a Japanese Zen garden, greenhouses and wonderful views. The Fata Morgana greenhouse exhibits desert, high sierra and tropical plants in a realistic setting. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00. Fata Morgana closed Mon. Admission 40Kč, Fata Morgana 90 Kč.

National Theatre (Národní divadlo) Národní 2, [M] Národní třída, tel. 224 90 16 68. A lavish neo-renaissance building with golden crown of chariot-driving women, is Prague's National Theatre. The building was completed in 1881 and was almost immediately destroyed by fire. It reopened in 1883.

Wenceslas Square (Václavské náměstí) Praha 1, Václavské nám., [M] Můstek. This is where crowds traditionally come to demonstrate against their incompetent rulers. There are plans to rid the square of cars, bury the highway in front of the museum in a tunnel and have tram N°11 make a comeback. Czech patron St. Václav sits astride the horse.

Vyšehrad Praha 2, Soběslavova 1, [M] Vyšehrad. The rocky cliff-top boasts Prague's second castle. In the hearts and minds of many Czechs, Vyšehrad symbolises the birth of the Czech nation and is shrouded in legend and myth. The cemetery holds the graves of some of the nation's great and good citizens. ▶ Open 09:30 - 17:30.

Museums & Galleries

Cubism Museum Praha 1, Ovocný trh 19, [M] Nám. Republiky, tel. 224 21 17 46, www.ngprague.cz. The angular grace of 1920s cubism is apparent in the minimalist and abstract lines of the sculptures, paintings, furniture, ceramics and the building itself at this small but delightful museum. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. Admission 100/50Kč.

Decorative Arts Museum (UpM) Praha 1, 17. listopadu 2, tel. 251 09 31 35, www.upm.cz. Its permanent exhibit showcases what normal articles (clocks, ceramics, glass, clothing, photographs, furniture) from the 19th-20th century. Built in 1989 in commemoration of Franz Josef becoming emperor, the building itself is impressive too. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Admission 80/30Kč. [C]

Mid-Range

Adalbert Praha 6, Markétská 1, tel. 220 40 61 80, www.hoteladalbert.cz. Serenely nestled in the calm buildings and gardens of the Břevnov monastery. ▶ 23 rooms (7 singles €75 - 105, 12 doubles €97 - 132, 2 triples €134 - 167, 1 suite €140 - 170, 1 apartment €169 - 202)  ★★★

Archibald City Praha 1, Žitná 33,  Karlovo nám., tel. 234 65 28 00, www.archibald.cz. Seven floors of identikit rooms, but the new Archibald is good in its class. ▶ 80 rooms (80 doubles €68 - 104, extra bed €17)  ★★★

Claris Praha 2, Slezská 26,  Nám. Míru, tel. 222 51 31 11, fax 242 44 61 12, www.hotel-claris.cz. Set in the coveted Vinohrady district, Claris offers two floors of light, spacious and affordable rooms. ▶ 24 rooms (2 singles €66 - 79, 22 doubles €86 - 106)  ★★★


Cloister Inn Praha 1, Konviktská 14,  Národní třída, tel. 224 21 10 20, www.cloister-inn.com. A perfectly reasonable, modern hotel, just a few minutes walk from Karlův most. ▶ 75 rooms (3 singles €100 - 143, 62 doubles €110 - 150, 10 triples €127 - 167)  ★★★

Dalimil Praha 3, Prokopovo nám. 2-3,  Flora, tel. 222 78 26 66, www.euroagentur.cz. Set in two old houses overlooking a square in Prague 3, the hotel has fresh-looking rooms. ▶ 53 rooms (singles €48 - 90, doubles €64 - 125, 20 triples €86 - 150)  ★★★



Haštál Hotel Praha 1, Haštalská 16, tel. 222 31 43 35, www.hastal.com. Refurbished but retaining its charm, the rooms are simple and comfortable with satellite TV, phone, minibar and hairdryer. ▶  ★★★

Ibis Praha Smíchov Praha 5, Píseňská 14,  Anděl, tel. 221 70 17 00, www.ibishotel.com. Hard working staff keep smiling and converse freely in a number of languages. An excellent choice for a comfortable stay across the river. ▶ 228 rooms (singles €64 - 84, 214 doubles €76 - 96, 12 triples €88 - 108, 2 suites €154)  ★★★

Kavalír Praha 5, Píseňská 177,  Anděl, tel. 257 21 65 65, www.hotel-kavalir.cz. A completely refurbished three star hotel on the main street of Praha 5 with quick and easy access to the city centre, the Kavalír has lovely rooms. ▶ 50 rooms (2 singles €46 - 80, 39 doubles €60 - 106, 9 triples €77 - 133)  ★★★

Tchaikovsky Praha 1, Ke Karlovu 19,  I. P. Pavlova, tel. 224 91 21 21, www.hotelitchaikovsky.com. On a quiet street, this hotel has friendly staff and stylishly-furnished, spacious rooms. ▶ 19 rooms (singles €55 - 106, 15 doubles €73 - 119, 4 triples €88 - 143)  ★★★

Triska Praha 3, Vinohradská 105,  Jiřího z Poděbrad, tel. 222 72 73 13, www.hotel-triska.cz. The décor is a bit rich for some tastes, but the rooms are comfortable and the staff friendly. ▶ 57 rooms (singles €43 - 63, 4 doubles €57 - 77, 12 triples €82 - 105, 5 quads €99 - 133)  ★★★

U Klenotníka Praha 1, Rytřská 3,  Mústek, tel. 224 21 16 99, fax 224 22 10 25, info@uklenotnika.cz, www.uklenotnika.cz. Modern(ish) rooms in an old house are a bargain at this price because this is as central as one can possibly get in Prague. ▶ 11 rooms (3 singles €70 - 100, 3 doubles €85 - 130, 5 triples €100 - 160)  ★★★

Apartments

Accome Julis Praha 1, Václavské nám. 22,  Mústek, tel. 234 69 96 99, www.accome.com. Compact but beautifully appointed apartments with elegant and modern style. ▶ 72 rooms (11 singles €66 - 137, 43 doubles €79 - 198, 18 triples €100 - 250)  ★★★

Apartments Oasis CITY Wenceslas Square 36,  Mústek, tel. 224 210 146, www.oasiscity.cz. Several with balconies facing the sunset, and all with kitchen, bathroom and washing machine. ▶ (1-8 person apartments €50 - 220)  ★★★

Old Town Apartments Praha 5, Zubatého 11,  Anděl, tel. 257 31 66 62, fax 257 31 34 41, booking@prague-hotel.co.uk, www.prague-hotel.co.uk. Well-priced, clean apartments with equipped kitchens across the city. ▶ 80 rooms (80 apartments €119 - 249)  ★★★


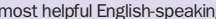
Pensions

Březina Praha 2, Legerova 41,  I. P. Pavlova, tel. 224 26 67 79, www.brezina.cz. Select floors in two buildings comprise this friendly, clean and comfortable pension. ▶ 35 rooms (1 single €37 - 67, 28 doubles €43 - 73, 9 triples €58 - 88)  ★★★

City Penzion Praha 2, Záhřebská 16,  Nám. Míru, tel. 222 52 24 22, www.citypenzion.cz. Spacious, simple yet comfortable rooms and apartments. ▶ 21 rooms (singles €47 - 78, 10 doubles €57 - 103, 5 triples €67 - 114, 2 quads €95 - 124, 4 apartments €103 - 137)  ★★★

Mušketýr I-5, Praha 1, Mezibranská 13,  Muzeum, tel. 296 22 00 00, www.umusketyra.com. Rooms and apartments have been renovated, all are comfortable and sleek. ▶ 40 rooms (1 single €54 - 63, 30 doubles €70 - 83, 3 triples €96 - 123, 6 quads €124 - 160)  ★★★

Hostels

Advantage Praha 2, Sokolská 11,  I. P. Pavlova, tel. 224 91 40 62, www.advantagehostel.cz. Good location, comfortable, basic but clean rooms and with some of the most helpful English-speaking staff around. ▶ 26 rooms (2 doubles €13 - 20, 4 triples €12 - 17, 6 quads €12 - 17, 2 apartments €15 - 22)  ★★★

Clown & Bard Praha 3, Bořivojova 102,  Jiřího z Poděbrad, tel. 222 71 64 53, www.clownandbard.com. In the heart of Žižkov is this colourfully-named and busy hostel. Breakfast not included. ▶ Beds 250 - 450Kč.  **Golden Sickle Praha 1, Vodičkova 10,  Mústek, tel. 222 23 07 73, www.goldensickle.com.** A huge labyrinth of dorms, rooms and rather nice apartments around a picturesque courtyard. ▶ 19 rooms (1 double 1400 - 1700Kč, 2 triples 1500 - 2400Kč, 3 quads 2000 - 3000Kč, dorm beds 350 - 550Kč)  ★★★

Old Prague Hostel Praha 1, Benediktská 2,  Nám. Republiky, tel. 224 82 90 58, www.oldpraguehostel.com. Award-winning hostel slap bang in the thick of Prague's nightlife. ▶ 20 rooms. Doubles €36 - 48, Triples €45 - 57, Quads €60 - 70. Dorms €16 for bed.  **Sir Toby's Praha 7, Dělňnická 24,  Nádraží Holešovice, tel. 283 87 06 35, www.sirtobys.com.** A friendly, excellently-run independent hostel. ▶ 27 rooms (1 single €33, 4 doubles €40, 4 triples €50, 6 quads €60, 5 quint €75, dorms €13)  ★★★

Useful information

24-hour pharmacies

Lékárna Modřany Praha 4, Soukalova 3355. Lékárna Palackého Praha 1, Palackého 5. Lékárna U Anděla Praha 5, Štefánikova 6. Lékárna U Svaté Ludmily Praha 2, Belgická 37.

Dentists

American Dental Associates Praha 1, V Celnici 4, tel. 221 18 11 21. Dental Emergencies Praha 1, Palackého 5, tel. 224 94 69 81. Dental Surgery and Laboratory Praha 4, U družstev 10/1668, tel. 241 40 39 70. Dr. Žižková Praha 6, Evropská 32, tel. 233 33 37 08. European Dental Center Praha 1, Václavské nám. 33, tel. 224 22 89 84.

Help

AIDS Help Line, tel. 224 91 55 64. Alcoholics Anonymous I-3, Na Poříčí 16, tel. 272 16 17 25. Crisis Center Prague I-6, Praha 2, Ke Karlovu 11, tel. 284 01 66 66.

Medical centres

Canadian Medical Care Praha 6, Velešlavinská 1, tel. 235 36 01 33. Health Centre Prague Praha 1, Vodičkova 28, tel. 224 22 00 40. International Medical Services Praha 7, Jankovcova 16, tel. 266 77 37 11. Medicover Praha 2, Tylovo nám. 3/15, tel. 234 63 01 11. Pediatric Health Centre Prague Praha 4, Ke Společ 7, tel. 244 40 31 14.

Opticians

Eiffel Optics F-3, Praha 1, Celetná 38, tel. 221 61 33 02. Grand Optical F-3, Praha 1, Na příkopě 19/21, tel. 224 23 83 71.

Cultural institutes

British Council Praha 1, Bredovský dvůr, tel. 222 99 11 11. Cervantes Institute Praha 2, Na Rybníčku 6, tel. 221 53 92 11. Goethe Institut G-5, Praha 1, Masarykovo nám. 32, tel. 221 96 21 11. Institut Français I-5, Praha 1, Štěpánská 35, tel. 221 40 10 11.

Emergency numbers

Ambulance, tel. 155. City Police, tel. 156. Fire, tel. 150. Police, tel. 158.

Car rental

Alimex Praha 7, Tusarova 39,  Vitavská, tel. 233 35 00 01/800 15 01 70, www.alimexcr.cz. The best-value car rental company in Prague. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 17:00. **Avis Praha 1, Klimentská 46, tel. 221 85 12 25, www.avis.cz.** ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun. **Budget Praha 1, nám. Curierových 5 (Intercontinental Hotel), tel. 224 88 99 95, www.budget.cz.** ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Airport office, tel. 220 11 32 53, open 08:00 - 22:00. Reservation centre tel. 235 32 57 13. **Czechocar CS Praha 4, 5. května 65 (Congress Centre), tel. 261 22 20 79, www.czechocar.cz.** One-way rental to certain foreign destinations is also possible. ▶ Open 08:00 - 18:00, Sat, Sun 08:30 - 16:00. Also at (F-3) Na příkopě 23, tel. 222 28 81 41, open 10:00 - 18:00, closed Sat, Sun. **Dvorak Rent a Car Praha 1, Revoluční 25, tel. 224 82 62 60, www.dvorak-rentacar.cz.** Limousines and chauffeurs also available. ▶ Open 08:00 - 16:30. Closed Sat, Sun. Airport office, tel. 220 11 36 76, open 08:00 - 21:00. **Hertz Praha 2, Karlovo nám. 28, tel. 222 23 10 10, www.hertz.cz.** ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Also at Praha 6, Evropská 15 (Diplomat Hotel), tel. 224 39 41 74, open 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Airport office tel. 233 32 67 14, open 08:00 - 22:00. **JS Car Praha 4, Pod Krčským lesem 36, tel. 602 21 64 15, www.js-car.cz.** Not much English spoken, but service and price are excellent. **National Car Rental Praha 2, Masarykovo nám. 4, tel. 224 92 37 19, www.nationalcar.cz.** ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00. Airport office tel. 220 11 45 54, open 08:00 - 22:00, closed Sat, Sun. **Sixt Praha 8, Pobrežní 1 (Hilton Hotel), tel. 224 84 24 07, www.e-sixt.cz.** Book online for some of good rental rates. And check out their even more budget version at www.sixt.com. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. Airport office tel. 220 11 53 46, open 08:00 - 22:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 20:00. **Smart, tel. 724 32 23 22, www.e-autopujcovna.com.** Get Smart cars and others for some good weekend deals.

Taxis

AAA - Radiotaxi tel. 14 0 14/222 33 32 22, www.aaa.radiotaxi.cz. The most reputable company in town. Ordering by SMS is possible at tel. 606 999 069 but requires preregistration. **Airport Cars tel. 220 11 38 92, www.airport-cars.cz.** The silver cars with AVIS stickers waiting outside the airport arrivals hall charge 650Kč for a ride to the city centre. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. **City Taxi tel. 257 257 257, www.citytaxi.cz.** SMS to tel. 777 25 72 57 with your name and location and they will SMS you the ETA of your taxi, plus its make, colour and plate number. Now with a van for cargo transport. **Halotaxi Praha 3, Vinohradská 160, tel. 244 11 44 11, www.halotaxi.cz.** **Prague Airport Shuttle www.prague-airport-shuttle.com.** A family-run business with some superlative customer feedback. They wait if your flight is delayed, they give info on sights and transport on the way into the city, and if there's more than one of you, it's a steal. 1-3 pax 650Kč, 4-5 pax 950Kč, 6-8 pax 1,200Kč. Contact them if you need a limo or have more passengers. **Sedop Praha 10, Švehlova 25, tel. 271 72 22 22, www.sedop.cz.** **Taxi Praha Praha 5, Vrchlického 9, tel. 222 11 10 00, www.taxi-praha.cz.**