

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

BASIC FACTS

It lies in the middle / centre / heart of Europe.

Its neighbours are Germany to the west, Poland to the north, Slovakia to the east and Austria to the south.

The population is about 10 million people/inhabitants.

The capital city is Prague.

The local currency is the Czech Crown.

The head of the country is the president, it is a republic, with its parliament.

The current president is Miloš Zeman, the Prime Minister is (quite controversial)

Andrej Babiš.



GEOGRAPHY

The Czech Republic has a continental climate / four different seasons.

There are hills & mountains around the borders / the Giant's mountains, The Orlické mountains, Jeseníky, Šumava.. and lowlands in the centre.



A number of rivers such as the Labe(the Elbe), the Vltava and the Morava rivers flow through the country. There are many ponds in South Bohemia. The country often suffers from floods and droughts in the summer. The land is quite heavily forested. There are a lot of woods. Šumava in the south has some of the oldest forests in the country. Český ráj (Bohemian Paradise) is a popular area for hiking and has many interesting rocks. Moravian Karst is famous for its cave systems.

THE THREE PARTS of the Czech Republic

The country / nation can be divided into 3 broad historical / cultural regions:

BOHEMIA (in the west), **MORAVIA** (in the east) and **SILESIA** [silesia](Slezsko) (in the north-east). Traditionally / typically,

- **Bohemia** the central part is more cosmopolitan / industrial, Prague is its capital
- **Moravia** in the south is more traditional / rural / religious, in the south of Moravia there are famous vineyards(vinice) in Valtice, Lednice, Mikulov. **Brno** is the second largest city and unofficial capital of



Moravia. Moravia is known for its wines. Brno is famous for the Tugendhat Villa protected by Unesco.

- **Silesia** in the north together with Moravia are areas full of UNESCO monuments, castles and chateaux, wine, folklore traditions and unique technical monuments

Ostrava is known for its mining (hornictví) history. Plzeň and České Budějovice are internationally famous for their beers. Karlovy Vary is a famous spa town (lázně).



THE NAME OF THE COUNTRY

- The country has had a lot of names -

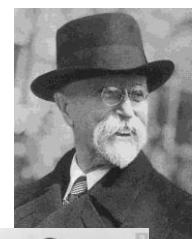
the **Czech lands**, the **Kingdom of Bohemia**. (Království české), the **lands of the Bohemian crown**, it was a part of the **Holy Roman Empire** [empajr], **Czechoslovakia** or the **Czech Republic**.

(The Holy Roman Empire [impajr] (Svatá říše římská) included present-day Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, parts of eastern France, northern Italy, Slovenia, western Poland and the Czech and Slovak Republics.)

IMPORTANT CZECH KINGS, PRESIDENTS

There have been many important kings and presidents in the history of the Czech Republic.

14th CENTURY - Charles IV has been the most popular king of all times, the **Holy Roman Emperor** (svatý římský císař) crowned in 1355/ in the **14th century**. His rule/ the times he was on the throne/ is known as **"the Golden Age"** of the Czech history. He established **Charles University**, the first university in Central Europe, in 1348.



October 28, 1918

AFTER the 1st WORLD WAR on October 28, 1918 an independent Czechoslovakia was formed

Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk was the first president of **Czechoslovakia**. He is quite famous for his enlightened [enlaj-t@nt] (osvícený – moudrý/calm and clever) view of the European world of his time. He used to wear a black hat, glasses and a well-kept (dobře udržovaný) white moustache [mustaš] and a beard [bird] vousy. Masaryk was an excellent rider, he was often seen on a horse.



AFTER the 2nd WORLD WAR, in 1948, the Communist Party and Russia took power in our country.

In 1939 Germany invaded [invejdyd] Czechoslovakia, the 2nd world war started.

After the 2nd world war, in 1948, the Communist Party and Russia took power.

In August 1968 Russian army – 2000 tanks invaded our country.

Jan Palach was a Czech student of history and political economy at Charles University who burnt himself in January 1969 protesting against the Russian invasion. He was 20 years old.



On 17th November 1989 over 250.000 people gathered (shromázdili se) in the Wenceslas Square to protest against the communist regime [režim]. The 'VELVET REVOLUTION' ENDED THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN A PEACEFUL WAY. VÁCLAV HAVEL became the first president of the new democratic Czechoslovakia in 1989.

In 1993 Czechoslovakia separated [sep@- rejtyd](rozdělit se) into the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Vaclav Havel became the president of the Czech Republic.

THE POLITICAL SYSTEM

- The Czech Republic has a parliament. The parliament has two parts - **the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate**.
- There are elections for the Chamber of Deputies **every 4 years**.
- **The parliament creates the government**.
- **The head of the government is the prime minister – Andrey Babiš**.
- **The head of state is the president, who is elected every 5 years and can only be elected twice**. The current president is Miloš Zeman

FAMOUS CZECH PEOPLE

Charles IV is famous for being the **only Czech to be Holy Roman Emperor**. Jan Hus was an important religious leader of the 14th and 15th centuries. Jan Komenský was an important teacher and reformer in the 17th century. Karel Čapek, Milan Kundera, Franz Kafka and Jaroslav Hašek are famous Czech writers. Miloš Forman is an Oscar-winning director. Antonín Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana are significant composers. Two Czechs have won the Nobel Prize: Professor Jaroslav Heyrovský for chemistry and Jaroslav Seifert for literature. Contact lenses are the invention of / were invented by the chemist Otto Wichterle. Some famous athletes are Jaromír Jágr for ice-hockey, Petra Kvitová -tennis

Další použitelná téma: Means of transport People travel **by** cars, buses, trains, on bikes, in Hradec they can **walk** because the town is flat

Popular sports People like playing/ watching football, tennis, icehockey, biathlon,

snowboarding and anything when our team or sportsman is winning on TV

Popular food Popular meals in the CR are řízek which is fried meat dipped in roll crumbs, dumplings, chlebíčky which is a kind of open sandwich, carp and potato salad at Xmas etc. Public holidays, Prague, Hradec Králové, My hometown, My favourite places/ towns/ landmarks

<3 Ali



UNESCO protected areas:

Holy Trinity Column in Olomouc		Landscape for Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at <u>Kladuby nad Labem</u>	
Jewish Quarter and St Procopius' Basilica in Třebíč		<u>Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region</u>	
Kutná Hora: Historical Town Centre with the Church of St Barbara and the Cathedral of Our Lady at Sedlec		Gardens and Castle at Kroměříž	
Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape		<u>Historic Centre of Český Krumlov</u>	
Litomyšl Castle		<u>Historic Centre of Prague</u>	
Pilgrimage Church of St John of Nepomuk at Zelená Hora		<u>Historic Centre of Telč</u>	
Tugendhat Villa in Brno		Holašovice Historical Village Reservation	