

## Maturita card: Prague

### BASIC FACTS

Prague is **the capital of / the largest city** in the Czech Republic. **There are about 1.2 million people** in Prague. It is the fourteenth largest city in the European Union. It is **the political centre, an important business / economic / cultural centre** for the Czech Republic

### THE HISTORY

Prague was an **important centre in the past, too. During the reign of Charles IV, it was the capital of the Holy Roman Empire.** King



Charles IV **founded** the New Town and **promoted** construction of Charles Bridge and St. Vitus Cathedral, which was completed in 1299, nearly six hundred years after its founding. King Charles IV also **established** Charles University in the 14th century.

**Under the reign of Rudolf II, it was the centre of the Hapsburg monarchy.** As it was not **seriously damaged in either the First or Second World Wars**, it is a beautiful city that **has an amazing variety of architecture / building styles** ranging from Gothic to modern.

### IMPORTANT LANDMARKS/SIGHTS

Prague has many historical and cultural landmarks / monuments. One of the most famous buildings is **Prague Castle.** The castle **was built in the ninth century.** It has been **redesigned** many times. The castle **has been both the main and holiday residence for various monarchs.** Today, it is **the seat of the Czech president.** **Vyšehrad** is the location of **the first settlement** in the city. *Vyšehrad* is **the oldest castle in Prague.** It was also the seat of the kings in the past.

**Charles Bridge** was built in 1357 and later decorated with baroque statues. **The astronomical clock in the Old Town Square** is also famous / world-renowned. **The clock shows the time as well as the positions of the sun and moon** relative to the astrological / **zodiac signs.** For nature lovers Prague has many **green spaces with walking / biking paths**, like Divoká Šárka and Stromovka.

**The National Museum displays / exhibits / has natural, scientific and historical collections.** It has / owns almost 14 million items. **The Rudolfinum** was opened in 1885 and is **home to the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra.** It is also

one of the main venues for the Prague Spring international music festival. **The building is named in honour of / after Rudolf, the Crown Prince of Austria,** and also houses the Rudolfinum Gallery, which exhibits mainly / mostly contemporary art. **The National Gallery is a state-owned art gallery.** **The National Technical Museum in Prague** has a large collection of artifacts related to / that show the history of technology in the Czech Republic. **Wenceslas square is a commercial centre of Prague.** People also like **Petřín tower.**

### OTHER INTERESTING SPOTS

**The Lesser town/ Malá strana** is one of the most beautiful parts of Prague. It is **the oldest part of the town.** **When you walk downhill from Prague Castle to Charles Bridge, you can go through Neruda street,** where one of the biggest Czech writers – **Jan Neruda** – was born. Near this street there's **St. Nicholas Church, built in baroque style.** **The Jewish town** is a part of historical Prague. **On the walls of Pinkas Synagogue there are names of victims from the Nazi terror written.** There's also an *old Jewish cemetery and a Jewish museum.*

**There are many popular festivals and events all year round /** throughout the year in Prague. **United Islands** is a three-day, open-air / outdoor music festival that

takes place in June. Music for every taste can be heard in cultural centres / clubs / open spaces and parks. **The Prague Spring international music festival** is an **annual** showcase / outlet for **extraordinary** local and international performing artists, symphony orchestras and chamber music groups. **The Prague Marathon takes place** in May and has runners / competitors from 55 different countries. **It covers 42.195 kilometres** and takes participants through the historical centre of the city. **In December both the Old Town Square and St. Wenceslas Square host Christmas markets,** with lots of gifts, food, drink and entertainment.

### MEANS OF TRANSPORT

People in Prague can **travel by the Underground (the tube),** cars, by trolley buses, by buses or they can walk. There's a large railway station and an airport called **Vaclav Havel Airport Prague.**

### MY FAVOURITE PLACE IN PRAGUE

My favourite place in Prague is..  
I go there (how often) ..It is my favourite place because..