

PRAGUE

BASIC FACTS

Prague has been **the capital** of the Czech Republic for **MORE THAN 1100 YEARS** (1 thousand 1 hundred years).

It's one of the **best-looking cities** in the world. People call it **HUNDRED TOWER MOTHER OF TOWNS**.

It a place where **a thousand years of ARCHITECTURE** [á-ky-tek-č] has been perfectly **PRESERVED** [pri-z@'vt] (zachovaná) Tourists can see argitecture from gothic to modern styles.

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. No surprise, it is a **big HIT FOR TOURISTS..**

SIGHTS

1. CHARLES BRIDGE

is a glorious **14TH CENTURY sight** (památká). It connects the Old Town and the Castle hill.

Tourists stop in the middle of the bridge and they **can buy souvenirs, listen to buskers, folk musicians, have a caricature** [ka-ri-ka-č] **or portrait made, you can take photos of the river Vltava**, the National Theatre with it's golden roof, or the famous **view of the Prague Castle** or you can just walk and **enjoy** the atmosphere and **the BAROQUE STATUES** [ste-tjús](sochy) created at the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries. Most of them were created by **MATYÁŠ BRAUN**, a famous Czech architect.

People touch the polished **bronze relieves** [re-li-jefs] on the statue of **Saint Jan Nepomucký** as they believe it will bring them **good luck**. As people touch them, they are shiny and golden. Old legends say builders added some eggs, flour, milk and wine into the cement to make some organic material to hold the stones well.

2. THE ASTRONOMICAL CLOCK can be No 2 in popularity.

You can find it in the Old Town Square.

The clock **shows the time** as well as **the positions of the sun and the Moon** and the astrological / **zodiac signs**

The clock is situated in **THE OLD TOWN SQUARE**, the city's **historic heart**, where people can **have a meal** in one of the



local restaurants, buy some souvenirs or walk to the top of the tower. You can visit **Týnský chrám** – the church in the square. Crowds of tourists **wait by the clock every hour** [aur]to hear a **skeleton ringing** (kostlivec) by pulling a rope (tahat za lano) and see a **golden rooster** (kohout) on the top of the clock and **12 Apostols** moving around.

Some of the restaurants are very, very expensive, there are too many tourists in the square and the sidewalks, it's crowded [kraudyt](plné lidí) and full of drunk people in the evenings. If you want to eat for cheaper, walk somewhere further from the center to the outskirts of the town.

3. THE WENCESLAS SQUARE

No 3, a shopping area in the New Town is called which took a very **important part in the history of the Czech Republic**.

On 17th November 1989 over 250.000 people gathered (shromáždili se) **in** (came to) **the Wenceslas Square to protest against the communist regime** [režim]. After the 2nd world war, the Communist Party and Russia took power. **In 1989 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.**

17th November is celebrated as the **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DAY** in the Czech Republic, but **after 1989 the Czech Republic continues to celebrate also the event of the Velvet revolution and INDEPENDENCE DAY** on 17th Nov., independence from the Russian communist regime.

4. PRAGUE CASTLE

Above **THE VLTAVA RIVER**, which inspired the Czech's favourite composer **Bedřich Smetana** to write his most memorable **symphonic poem** called **Vltava**, (**My country** is a set of **6 symphonic poems** that end with the famous memorable tune of the Vltava. You can visit **Smetana's museum** by the river Vltava.), you can see **THE PRAGUE CASTLE**, the **official home of the Czech President**. The city's **Cathedral** is dedicated to **SAINT VITUS**. From the top of the cathedral you can see the whole town, the river, Petřín view tower, Charles Bridge, Saint Nicholas Church and other buildings and places.



5. **VYŠEHRAĐ** is **THE OLDEST CASTLE** in the Czech Republic. It was built probably in the 10th century and there are many legends connected to the castle and the mythical rulers **Přemysl and Libuše**, who according to the legends ruled in Prague in the 8th century.

In the **Vyšehrad CEMETERY** you can see the remains of many famous people from Czech history, among them **Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana, Karel Čapek, and Alphonse Mucha**.



6. **THE LESSER TOWN**

In Prague there are many different parts, where you can feel different atmosphere, feel as in the old times. For example the Lesser town, the Jewish town or modern Prague. You can walk down from the Castle to Charles Bridge through **THE LESSER TOWN** (Malá Strana), where you can feel the old town atmosphere, have a meal in some of the old restaurants or buy a souvenir.

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.(SAINT) NICHOLAS CHURCH** (kostel sv. Mikuláše), built in baroque style.



7. **THE JEWISH QUARTER**

THE JEWISH TOWN [džu-iš](židovské) is a part of the historical Prague. It is the largest Jewish ghetto in Europe. There are **synagogues, cemeteries, more than 12000 gravestones**, used between the 15th and 18th centuries. The Jewish quarter had several **Rabbis of Prague** - rabíni, one of them Rabbi Loew is connected to the famous **Golem legend**. During WW2 (the second world war) the Jewish Town was destroyed a lot, **the Jewish killed by Hitler**. Today you can visit the Jewish Museum. 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**.



Prague is full of **BEAUTIFUL STUNNING BUILDINGS** (ohromné, úchvatné budovy) that represent **ARCHITECTURE of ALL STYLES** [á-ky-tek-č]. There were not many wars that would destroy the buildings like in other capital cities.



8. **THE DANCING BUILDING** was built in 1990s. It represents the modern times. Foreign people call it the **Fred and Ginger**, after two famous dancers Fred Astor and Ginger Rogers.



CZECH CUISINE

One of popular modern buildings is **Tourists absolutely love not only the sights in Prague, but also THE FOOD.**

The Czech cuisine [KU-ZÍN] is a lot of **MEAT and SAUCES.**

You have to **cook** the meat for several hours. It's very **heavy, caloric meals**. Tourists as well as Czech people like **ROASTED DUCK** (pečená kachna) with **CABBAGE** (zelí) and **DUMPLINGS** (knedlíky), **SIRLOIN** [s@'loin](svíčková) in cream sauce (smetanová omáčka), with lemon and cranberries (brusinky), and **dumplings**. And **BEER** of course. There are over 450 kind of beer in our country.



MEANS OF TRANSPORT

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



CULTURE

Prague is a cultural place, where you can go to many concerts, festivals, open air theatres.. The largest **multicultural place** to go to when you want to see a concert, hockey championship, basketball or tennis for example is **O2 arena**. It has capacity of **18 thousand people**. In the past we could see Madona or Celine Dion there.



MY FAVOURITE PLACE IN PRAGUE is.. (for example.. **In December both the Old Town Square and St. Wenceslas Square host Christmas markets**, with lots of gifts, souvenirs, food, drinks and entertainment. I go there (how often) .. It is my favourite place because..

Task I Watch a video – Write down a list of 5 things tourists like and 5 things tourists hate in Prague

Task II Translate into English - Sochy, Václavské náměstí, česká kuchyně, Malá Strana, Sametová revoluce, rozdělit se, Katedrála Svatého Víta, kachna se zelím, shromáždit se, stověžatá, židovská čtvrť, knedlíky se zelím, svíčková, svíčková, Orloj, zlatý kohout, kostlivec..