



Czech Republic

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Best Places to Stay

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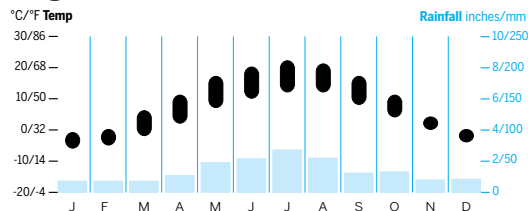
Why Go?

Since the fall of communism in 1989 and the opening up of Central and Eastern Europe, Prague has evolved into one of Europe's most popular travel destinations. The city offers an intact medieval core that transports you back 500 years. The 14th-century Charles Bridge, traversing two historic neighbourhoods, is one of the continent's most beautiful sights.

The city is not just about history. It's a vital urban centre with a rich array of cultural offerings. Outside the capital, castles and palaces abound – including the audacious hill-top chateau at Český Krumlov – which illuminate the stories of powerful dynasties whose influence was felt throughout Europe.

When to Go

Prague



May Prague comes alive with festivals from classical music to fringe arts.

Jul Karlovy Vary shows off its arty side at the sleepy spa town's annual film festival.

Dec Prague's Christmas Market draws visitors from around the world.

Czech Republic Highlights

- 1 Stroll across the **Charles Bridge** (p283) in the early morning or late evening when the crowds thin out.
- 2 Enjoy an evening in an old-school Czech pub at **U Medvídků** (p286).
- 3 Join the appreciative throngs at Prague's **Astronomical Clock** (p282) at the top of the hour.
- 4 Repair to **Český Krumlov** (p291) to see the prettiest town in Central Europe.
- 5 Tour the **Pilsner Urquell Brewery** (p289) in Plzeň to see where it all started.
- 6 Amble through the stately town of **Olomouc** (p295), the most amazing place you've never heard of.

