



Czech Republic

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Best Places to Eat

- U Kroka (p286)
- Field (p286)
- Buffalo Burger Bar (p291)
- Pavillon (p297)

Best Places to Stay

- Hotel 16 (p285)
- Savic Hotel (p285)
- Hotel garni Myší Díra (p294)
- Hostel Mitte (p296)

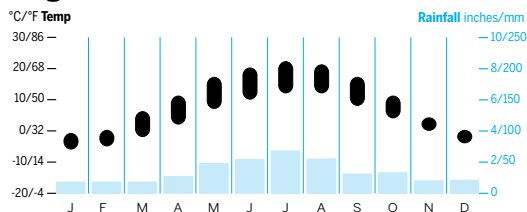
Why Go?

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 – especially when strolling the hidden streets of the Old Town – some 600 years. The 14th-century Charles Bridge, traversing two historic neighbourhoods across a slow-moving river, 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, in the provinces of Bohemia and Moravia, castles and palaces abound – including the audacious hilltop chateau at Český Krumlov – which illuminate the stories of powerful dynasties whose influence was felt throughout Europe. Olomouc, the historic capital of Moravia to the east, boasts much of the beauty of Prague without the crowds.

When to Go

Prague



May Prague Spring Festival makes this the capital's most popular month.

Sep Autumn brings lovely strolling weather to West Bohemia's spa towns.

Dec *Svařák* (mulled wine) and music at Christmas markets in towns across the country.

Czech Republic Highlights

- 1 Charles Bridge** (p280) Strolling across in the early morning or late evening when the crowds thin out.
- 2 U Kroka** (p286) Enjoying an evening in an old-school Czech pub.
- 3 Astronomical Clock** (p279) Joining the appreciative throngs at the top of the hour.
- 4 Český Krumlov** (p292) Walking the streets of one of the prettiest towns in Central Europe.
- 5 Pilsner Urquell Brewery** (p291) Touring this brewery in Pilsen to see where it all started.
- 6 Olomouc** (p298) Ambling through this stately town, the most amazing place you've never heard of.

