



# Czech Republic

## Includes »

Prague .....	305
Karlštejn .....	314
Kutná Hora .....	315
Bohemia .....	315
Karlovy Vary .....	315
Plzeň .....	317
České Budějovice .....	318
Český Krumlov .....	319
Moravia .....	320
Brno .....	320
Telč .....	321
Olomouc .....	322
Understand Czech Republic .....	322
Survival Guide .....	323

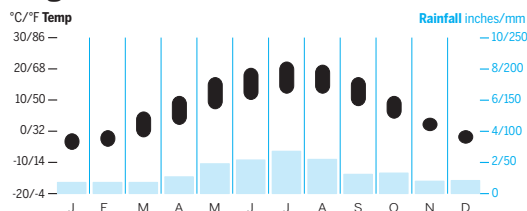
## Why Go?

Located in the centre of Europe, the Czech Republic is likely to feature as a through road in your travels. Try not to rush your visit though, and be sure to venture beyond the obvious attractions. Definitely spend time exploring the beauty, culture and energy of Prague, and a lazy sojourn on the Vltava River around Český Krumlov is also mandatory.

But once you've ticked off these 'Must Do' destinations, venture off the beaten path to fully understand the Czech Republic's thrilling history. Castles and palaces abound, bringing the past to life and illuminating the stories of families and individuals whose influence was felt well beyond the nation's current borders. The pristine Old Towns of Loket, Telč and Olomouc provide your best chance to ease off the travel accelerator, and in quickly changing cities such as Plzeň, Brno and České Budějovice you'll soon discover 21st-century Czech life beyond Prague's tourist bustle.

## When to Go

### Prague



## Best Places to Eat

- » Pivovarský Klub, Prague (p312)
- » U kašny, Olomouc (p322)
- » Laibon, Český Krumlov (p320)
- » Rebio, Brno (p321)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Dahlia Inn, Prague (p309)
- » Little Town Budget Hotel, Prague (p309)
- » Poet's Corner, Olomouc (p322)

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

**Jul** The sleepy spa town of Karlovy Vary is energised during its annual film festival.

**May & Sep** Enjoy a (relative) lack of tourists and cheaper accommodation.

## Connections

The Czech Republic is a convenient hub for exploring neighbouring countries. Prague is well connected to Berlin, Dresden, Nuremberg and Hamburg, and Plzeň is on the main train line from Nuremberg to Munich. From Český Krumlov it's a short distance to Linz or Salzburg in Austria, with connections to Vienna and to Budapest in Hungary. For travel to Poland, Olomouc is a key transit point for trains to Warsaw and Kraków, and the eastern Czech city of Brno has regular bus and train services to Vienna and the Slovakian capital, Bratislava.

## ITINERARIES

### One Week

Experience Prague's exciting combination of a tumultuous past and an energetic present. Invest in day trips to Karlštejn and Kutná Hora, and then head south to Český Krumlov for a few days of riverside R&R.

### Two Weeks

Begin in Prague before heading west for the spa scene at Karlovy Vary. Balance the virtue-and-vice ledger with a few Bohemian brews in Plzeň before heading south for relaxation and rigour around Český Krumlov. Head east through České Budějovice en route to the Renaissance grandeur of Telč and Brno's cosmopolitan galleries and museums. Continue to Olomouc to admire the Holy Trinity Column. From Olomouc it's an easy trip back to Prague or on to Poland.

## Essential Food & Drink

- » **Beer** Make it your mission to search out excellent *pivo* (beer) from smaller, local microbreweries. Look for the hand-drawn blackboards outside pubs
- » **The perfect bramboráčky** Forget French fries – always order authentic Czech fried potato pancakes as a side dish
- » **Meaty treats** *Pečená kachna* (roast duck) in a restaurant setting or *klobása* (sausage) as a boozy late night/early morning option in Prague's Wenceslas Sq
- » **Cola meets cough medicine** The uniquely Czech soft drink Kofola is worth sampling; you may even grow to like it

## AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Crown (Kč)
- » **Language** Czech
- » **Money** ATMs are all over
- » **Visas** Schengen rules apply; see p1319

## Fast Facts

- » **Area** 78,864 sq km
- » **Capital** Prague
- » **Country code** 2420
- » **Emergency** 2112; Ambulance 2155; Municipal Police 2156

## Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	17.73Kč
Canada	C\$1	17.49Kč
Euro Zone	€1	24.22Kč
Japan	¥100	20.19Kč
New Zealand	NZ\$1	13.42Kč
UK	UK£1	27.40Kč
USA	US\$1	16.78Kč

## Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** 1300Kč
- » **Two-course evening meal** 200Kč
- » **Museum entrance** 150Kč
- » **Beer** (glass) 40Kč
- » **Prague metro/tram ticket** 26Kč

## Resources

- » **Czech Tourism** ([www.czechtourism.com](http://www.czechtourism.com)) Official tourist information.
- » **Prague Information Service** ([www.prague.welcome.cz](http://www.prague.welcome.cz)) Prague.
- » **IDOS** ([www.idos.cz](http://www.idos.cz)) Train and bus timetables.