



Czech Republic

Includes »

Prague	297
Karlštejn	307
Kutná Hora	308
Bohemia	308
Karlovy Vary	308
Plzeň	310
Český Krumlov	311
Moravia	312
Brno	312
Telč	315
Understand Czech Republic	315
Survival Guide	316

Best Places to Eat

- » Sansho (p304)
- » Moritz (p313)
- » Koishi (p314)
- » Cukrávalimonáda (p304)

Best Places to Stay

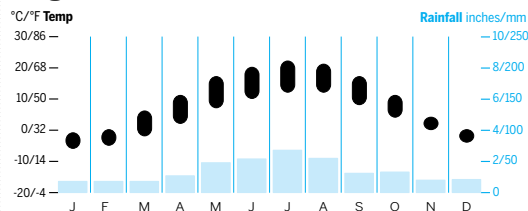
- » Mosaic House (p303)
- » Fusion Hotel (p303)
- » Hostel Mitte (p314)
- » Savic Hotel (p304)

Why Go?

Since the fall of communism in 1989 and the opening 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 families and individuals 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.

Connections

The Czech Republic lies along major European road and rail lines and is a convenient hub for exploring neighbouring countries. Prague has excellent rail connections to Berlin as well as to Kraków, Bratislava, Budapest and Vienna.

ITINERARIES

One Week

Experience Prague's exciting combination of its tumultuous past and energetic present. Top experiences include the grandeur of Prague Castle, Josefov's Jewish Museum, and getting lost amid the bewildering labyrinth of the Old Town. Take an essential day trip to Karlštejn, 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 to the Renaissance grandeur of Telč and Brno's cosmopolitan galleries and museums. From the Moravian capital, it's just a skip to stately Olomouc.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Beer** Czechs claim to have the best beer (*pivo*) in the world.
- » **Dumplings** Every culture has its starchy side dish; for Czechs it's *knedliky* – big bread dumplings.
- » **Pork** Move over beef, pork (*vepřové maso*) is king here.
- » **Becherovka** A shot of this sweetish herbal liqueur from Karlovy Vary is a popular way to start (or end) a big meal.
- » **Carp** This lowly fish is given pride of place every Christmas at the centre of the family meal.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Crown (Kč)
- » **Language** Czech
- » **Money** ATMs all over; banks open Monday to Friday
- » **Visas** Schengen rules apply; visas not required for most nationalities

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 78,864 sq km
- » **Capital** Prague
- » **Country code** ☎420
- » **Emergency** ☎112

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	21.06Kč
Canada	C\$1	19.84Kč
Euro Zone	€1	25.77Kč
Japan	¥100	21.37Kč
New Zealand	NZ\$1	16.88Kč
UK	UK£1	30.51Kč
USA	US\$1	20.17Kč

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** 1500Kč
- » **Two-course meal** 300Kč
- » **Museum entrance** 150Kč
- » **Beer** 40Kč
- » **Prague metro-tram ticket** 32Kč

Resources

- » **Czech Tourism**
(www.czechtourism.com)
- » **Prague Welcome**
(www.praguewelcome.cz)