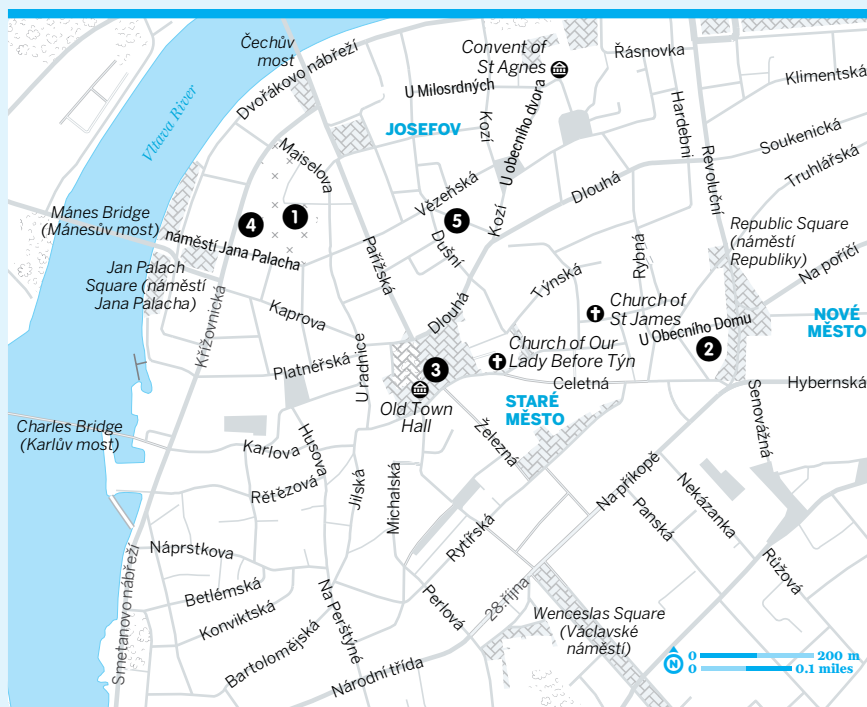



# Staré Město

OLD TOWN SQUARE & AROUND | JOSEFOV | ALONG THE ROYAL WAY | SOUTHWESTERN STARÉ MĚSTO

## Neighbourhood Top Five

- 1 Tour the half-dozen monuments that comprise the **Prague Jewish Museum** (p97), a moving memorial to the Czech capital's once-thriving Jewish community.
- 2 Check out Prague's **Municipal House** (p108) – a tour de force of art nouveau extravagance.
- 3 Join the crowds in the Old Town Square to witness the **Astronomical Clock** (p100) do its thing.
- 4 Admire the skill of master craftspeople at the **Museum of Decorative Arts** (p102).
- 5 **Shop** (p117) for art, antiques and designer fashion in the atmospheric Staré Město backstreets.



For more detail of this area, see Map p332 

## Lonely Planet's Top Tip

Get away from the Old Town Square and Karlova! Huge crowds throng the square and the narrow street that links it to Charles Bridge, but just a few blocks away – try wandering along Anenská – you can find yourself exploring backstreets almost on your own.

### Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Mistral Café (p111)
- ➔ Lokál (p111)
- ➔ Kalina (p113)
- ➔ Indian Jewel (p113)
- ➔ Chagall's (p114)

For reviews, see p111. ➔

### Best Places to Drink

- ➔ Prague Beer Museum (p114)
- ➔ Hemingway Bar (p114)
- ➔ Krásný ztráty (p114)
- ➔ U Tří růží (p114)
- ➔ Čili Bar (p115)

For reviews, see p114. ➔

### Best Museums

- ➔ Prague Jewish Museum (p97)
- ➔ Museum of Decorative Arts (p102)
- ➔ Charles Bridge Museum (p109)
- ➔ Gastronomy Museum (p107)

For reviews, see p103. ➔

## Explore: Staré Město

If the labyrinth of narrow streets around the Old Town Square can be said to have a 'main drag', it's the so-called Royal Way, the ancient coronation route to Prague Castle, running from the Powder Gate along Celetná to the Old Town Square and Little Square (Malé náměstí), then along Karlova and across Charles Bridge.

To the north of the Old Town Square, half-a-dozen historic synagogues, a town hall and the Old Jewish Cemetery are all that survive of the once-thriving Jewish quarter of Josefov – the slice of Staré Město bounded by Kaprova, Dlouhá and Kozí. Most of the district's buildings were demolished around the turn of the 20th century, when massive redevelopment saw the old slums replaced with expensive new apartments.

To the south, the meandering lanes and passageways between Karlova and Národní třída are Prague's best territory for aimless wandering. When the crowds thin out late in the day, this area can cast such a spell that it's quite a surprise to emerge from its peaceful backstreets into the bustle of the 21st century.

## Local Life

➔ **Hangouts** The clue is in the name: Lokál (p111), a modern take on the traditional *pivnice* (small beer hall), has proved a hit with Praguers looking for good Czech food and beer at reasonable prices. Meanwhile, students from Charles University hang out over coffee and magazines at Krásný ztráty (p114).

➔ **Clubs** Students flock to Vagon (p116) for live music from up-and-coming local bands, while an older crowd prefers the laid-back atmosphere and chilled tunes at Duende (p115).

➔ **Shopping** Staré Město is where Prague's fashionistas come to track down the hottest threads among the dozens of designer boutiques that proliferate in the streets around Dlouhá, Dušní and Karolíny Světlé.

## Getting There & Away

➔ **Metro** Staroměstská station is a few minutes' walk northwest of the Old Town Square, Můstek station is five minutes' walk to the south, and Náměstí Republiky is five minutes to the east.

➔ **Tram** No trams run close to the Old Town Square. Trams 17 and 18 run along the western edge of Staré Město near the river, while lines 5, 8 and 24 stop at Republic Square (náměstí Republiky), across the street from the Municipal House (Obecní dům). Trams 6, 9, 18, 21 and 22 run along Národní třída on the southern edge of Staré Město.