



Prague & the Czech Republic



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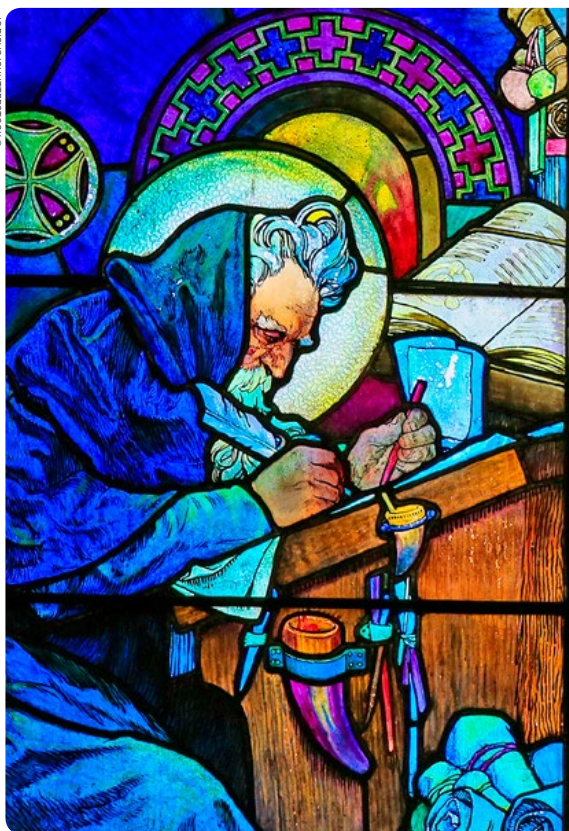
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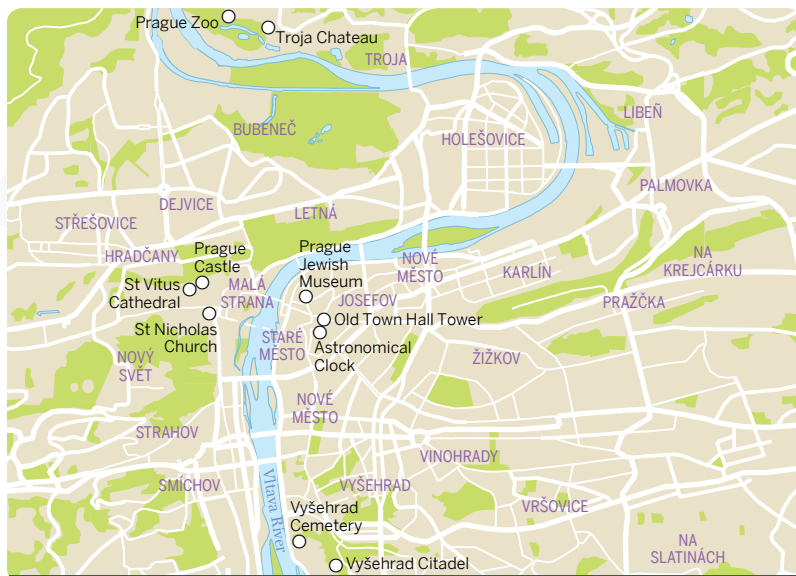
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ST. VITUS CATHEDRAL P42

Itineraries



Prague in Four Days

For the first day, wander through the courtyards of **Prague Castle**, then spend the morning visiting **St Vitus Cathedral** and the castle grounds. Descend from the castle to Malá Strana along Nerudova street, and stop to admire the baroque beauty of **St Nicholas Church**. As day fades, stroll across Charles Bridge in the evening light. Start the second day in the **Old Town Square**; after seeing the **Astronomical Clock**, climb to the top of the **Old Town Hall Tower** for a great view of the square. Dedicate the afternoon to visiting the half-dozen monuments that comprise the **Prague Jewish Museum**.

On day three, take a metro ride out to Vysehrad and explore Prague's other castle, the **Vysehrad Citadel**, with its gorgeous views along the Vltava River. Don't miss the impressive tombs of composers Dvořák and Smetana and other famous Czechs in the **Vysehrad Cemetery**. For the last day, take time to escape the city: take a boat trip along the Vltava to the rural suburb of Troja and visit the suburban delights of **Prague Zoo** and **Troja Chateau**.



Essential Czech Republic

Begin in **Prague** and take your time enjoying one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Three nights is the minimum, but allow five so you can make a couple of day trips – one to the photogenic cluster of turrets at **Karlštejn Castle**, and one to evocative and heart-rending **Terezín**, a former concentration camp for European Jews during the Holocaust.

Now, head west to the gorgeous spa town of **Karlovy Vary** to sample the sulphurous spring waters and stroll among its elegant colonnades. Plan on a day trip from here to picture-postcard **Loket** with its riverside castle. Allow a morning to explore the smaller but arguably prettier spa town of **Mariánské Lázně** before continuing southeast to **Plzeň**. The capital of West Bohemia deserves an overnight stop followed by a tour of the famous brewery where Pilsner Urquell is made.

Continue the beer theme at **České Budějovice**, home of the Budvar brewery and also one of Central Europe's largest and most attractive town squares. From here, it's an easy 50-minute drive to the Unesco-recognised beauty of **Český Krumlov**; spend one day wandering around its picturesque streets and castle, and a second taking a boat trip along the Vltava River.

Now you enter Moravia and arrive in the gorgeous Renaissance town of **Telč**, where you can stroll over narrow bridges spanning ancient fish ponds and tour the ornate chateau before settling into a sidewalk cafe for the evening. Move on to **Brno**, the buzzing capital of Moravia and the country's second city, and spend a day exploring its museums and cafe culture before continuing to **Mikulov**, in the heart of South Moravian wine country. Allow a day here to visit a local winery, and rent a bicycle to explore the surrounding hills.

Afterwards, move on to **Olomouc**, one of the Czech Republic's most underrated destinations. It has a lovely old town square, some good museums, several microbreweries and lots of good places to eat. From here it's a straight cut east back towards Prague, but allow one more full day to visit the medieval town of **Kutná Hora**. The magnificent cathedral of St Barbara here is almost a match for Prague's St Vitus, and the weird 'bone church' at Sedlec ossuary is one of the Czech Republic's oddest sights.

Map Legend

Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



Mark Baker

Curator, Prague, Moravia Mark is a freelance travel writer with a penchant for offbeat stories and forgotten places. He's originally from the United States, but now makes his home in the Czech capital, Prague.

He writes mainly travel guides on Eastern and Central Europe for Lonely Planet as well as several other leading travel publishers, but finds real satisfaction in digging up stories in places that are too remote or too quirky for the guides. He also contributes to publications like the *Wall Street Journal* and *National Geographic Traveler*. Prior to becoming an author, he worked as a journalist for the *Economist*, Bloomberg News and *Radio Free Europe*, among other organisations.

When he's not travelling, these days he's teaching Central European history and journalism at Anglo-American University in Prague or out riding his bike. He has a master's degree in International Affairs from Columbia University in New York.



Neil Wilson

Prague, Bohemia Neil was born in Scotland and has lived there most of his life. Based in Perthshire, he has been a full-time writer since 1988, working on more than 80 guidebooks for various publishers, including the Lonely Planet guides to Scotland, England, Ireland and Prague. An outdoors enthusiast since childhood, Neil is an active hill-walker, mountain-biker, sailor, snowboarder, fly-fisher and rock-climber, and has climbed and tramped in four continents, including ascents

of Jebel Toubkal in Morocco, Mount Kinabalu in Borneo, the Old Man of Hoy in Scotland's Orkney Islands and the Northwest Face of Half Dome in California's Yosemite Valley.

Like most Lonely Planet authors, Neil fell into the guidebook-writing business by accident. Having fled the rat race of the oil industry soon after graduating as a geologist, he returned to university to do postgraduate research. But academia turned out to be just as dull as industry, so like any sane person he gave it all up to be a penniless writer. The penniless bit was easy. On the writing side, he began by producing articles for a Scottish magazine, but was soon off to photograph Corfu for a guidebook. Since then Neil has written and photographed dozens of guidebooks for several publishers.

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