



My Drift

Title: Prague

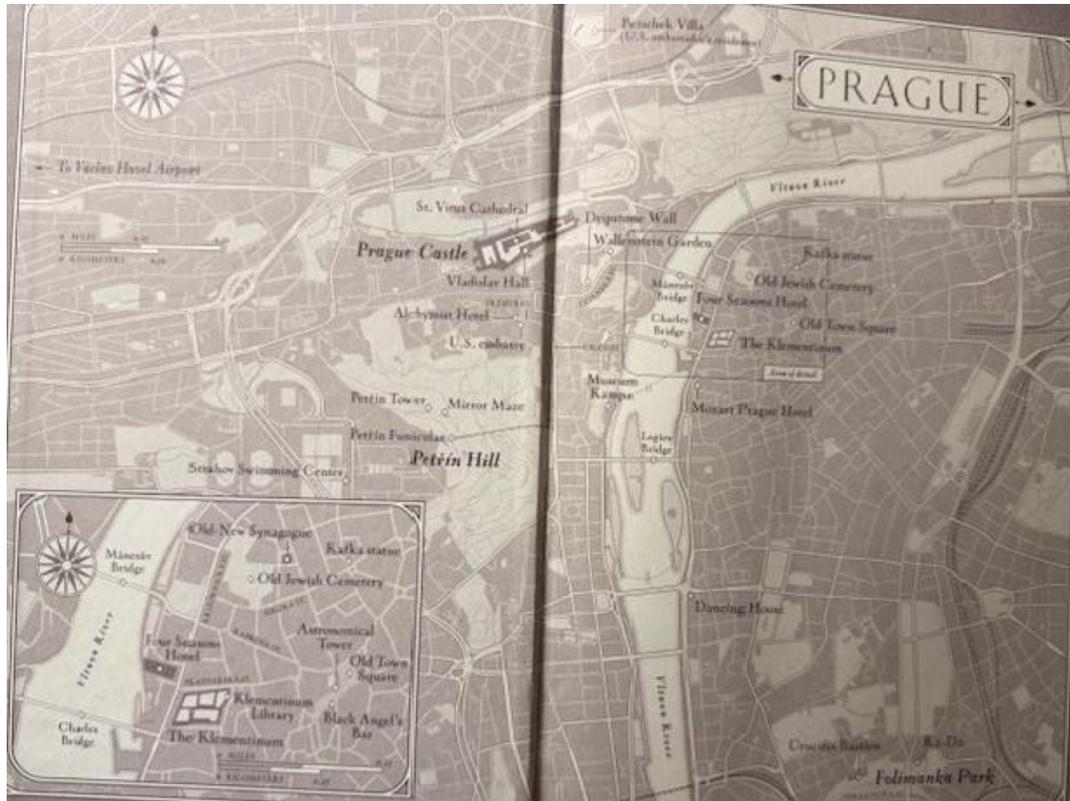
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Just in case you are having trouble reading the names of these tourist attractions in Prague, most of these pictures will be explained below.



General Overview and History

Prague is the capital and largest city of the Czech Republic and the historical capital of Bohemia. Prague, located on the Vltava River, has a population of about 1.4 million, while its metropolitan area is home to approximately 2.3 million people.

Prague is a historical city with Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architecture. It was the capital of the Kingdom of Bohemia and residence of several Holy Roman Emperors, most notably Charles IV (r. 1346–1378) and Rudolf II (r. 1575–1611). It was an important city to the Habsburg monarchy and Austria-Hungary. The city played major roles in the Bohemian and Protestant Reformations, the Thirty Years' War, and in 20th-century history as the capital of Czechoslovakia between the World Wars and the post-war Communist era.

Czechoslovakia was founded in 1918 from the Austro-Hungarian Empire as a democratic state and, after being occupied by Nazi Germany (1938–1945) and falling under Soviet rule (1948–1989), peacefully dissolved into the Czech Republic and Slovakia on January 1, 1993, following the "Velvet Divorce". The nation, established after WWI, served as a parliamentary republic before becoming a communist state and later returning to democracy.

Prague is home to a number of cultural attractions including Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, Old Town Square with the Prague astronomical clock, the Jewish Quarter, Petřín hill, and Vyšehrad. Since 1992, the historic center of Prague has been included in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

The city has more than ten major museums, along with numerous theatres, galleries, cinemas, and other historical exhibits. An extensive modern public transportation system connects the city. It is home to a wide range of public and private schools, including Charles University, the oldest university in Central Europe.

Prague is classified as a "Beta+" global city and is ranked as the 13th most livable city in the world. Its rich history makes it a popular tourist destination with more than 8.5 million international visitors annually. Prague is the fifth most visited European city after London, Paris, Rome, and Istanbul.

Prague is nicknamed the "City of a Hundred Spires," based on a count by 19th-century mathematician Bernard Bolzano but today's count is estimated by the Prague Information Service at about 500. Other nicknames for Prague also include the Golden City, the Mother of Cities and the Heart of Europe.

Demographics

Even though the official population of Prague hovers around 1.4 million, the city's real population is much higher due to only 65% of its residents having registered in the city. The real population of Prague is closer to 2 million, with an additional 300,000 to 400,000 commuters coming to the city on weekdays for work, education, or commerce.

About 14% of the city's residents were born outside the Czech Republic. However, 64.8% of the city's population self-identified as ethnically Czech, which is slightly higher than the national average of 63.7%. Almost 29% of respondents declined to answer the question on ethnicity at all, so it may be assumed that the real percentage of ethnic Czechs in Prague is considerably higher. The largest ethnic minority are Slovaks, followed by Ukrainians and Russians.

Prague's population is the oldest and best educated in the country. It has the lowest proportion of children. Only 10.8% of census respondents claimed adherence to a religion; the majority of these were Roman Catholics.

Geography

Prague is situated on the Vltava River. The Berounka flows into the Vltava in the suburbs of Lahovice. There are 99 streams in Prague with a total length of 220 miles. The longest streams are Rokytká and Botič.

There are 4 reservoirs, 47 fishponds and 33 retention reservoirs in the city. The largest pond is Velký Počernický rybník with 103 acres. The largest body of water is Hostivař Reservoir with 104 acres.

Most of Prague is on the Prague Plateau. In the south, the city's territory extends into the Hořovice Uplands, in the north it extends into the Central Elbe Table lowland. The highest point is the top of the hill Telečec on the western border of Prague, at 1,309 feet above sea level. Notable hills in the center of Prague are Petřín with 1,073 feet and Vítkov with 890 feet. The lowest point is the Vltava in Suchbátka at the place where it leaves the city, at 564 feet.

Climate

The winters are relatively cold with average temperatures at about freezing point (32°F), and with very little sunshine. Snow cover can be common between mid-November and late March, although snow accumulations of more than 8 inches are infrequent. Summers usually bring plenty of sunshine and temperatures around 77°F, but there has been a considerable increase in days with over 86°F in later years. Nights can be quite cool even in summer, though. rain in Prague is low by Czech standards (about 20 inches per year) since it is located in the rain shadow of the Sudetes and other mountain ranges.

Transportation



Václav Havel Airport Prague

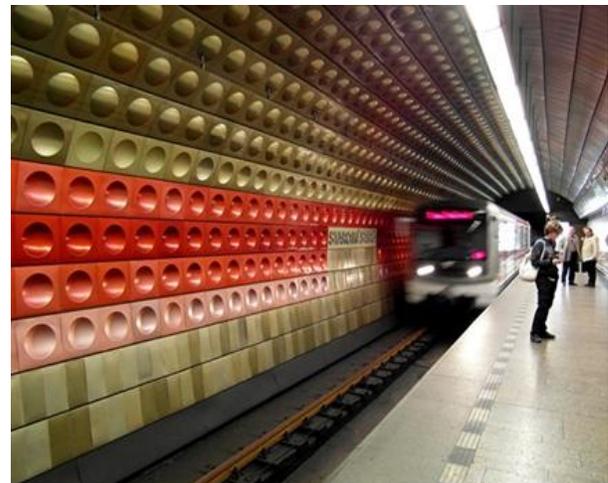
Václav Havel Airport Prague, formerly Prague Ruzyně International Airport, is an international airport of Prague. It serves around 18 million passengers a year.



Prague Railroad Train System



Tram Trains



Subway

Prague's train system comprises a deeply integrated, efficient city network (metro, trams) and a central national rail hub for domestic and international travel. The metro features three lines (A, B, C) operating 5:00 AM–midnight, while regional trains connect suburbs and neighboring cities.



Buses

Prague's bus system is an extensive, integrated, and low-floor network (PID) connecting the city center to outer districts, running daily with 10-30 minute frequencies. Tickets are valid on all transport (metro, trams, buses), cost 30-40 CZK for short-term, and are purchased via PID Lítačka app or machines. Validation is required on boarding.

Main Attractions

❖ Prague Castle



Prague Castle is famous for being the world's largest ancient castle complex, a historical seat of power for Czech rulers for over 1,000 years, and a stunning blend of architectural styles (Gothic, Romanesque, Baroque) centered around the iconic St. Vitus Cathedral.

❖ Charles Bridge



Charles Bridge is famous for being Prague's iconic medieval stone bridge, historically the only way to cross the Vltava River, connecting important areas and trade routes, and for its stunning, statuesque Baroque alley, offering breathtaking views of Prague Castle and the city skyline, making it a historical landmark, architectural masterpiece, and a major tourist attraction.

❖ Petřín Hill and Lookout Tower



The Petřín Lookout Tower is a steel-framework tower 208 feet tall on Petřín Hill in Prague, built in 1891. It resembles the Eiffel Tower and is used as an observation tower as well as a transmission tower.

❖ Old Town Square



In addition to the Old Town Hall and the Church of Our Lady before Týn, the square is dominated by the Baroque Church of St Nicholas, the Rococo Kinsky Palace, the Gothic House at the Stone Bell and the monument to Jan Hus.

❖ The Astronomical Clock

The clock is mounted on the southern wall of the city's Old Town Square. The clock mechanism has three main components – the astronomical dial, representing the position of the Sun and Moon in the sky; statues of various Catholic saints stand on either side of the clock; "The Walk of the Apostles", an hourly show of moving Apostle figures and other sculptures, notably a figure of a skeleton that represents Death, striking the time; and a calendar dial with medallions representing the months. According to local legend, the city will suffer if the clock is neglected and its good operation is placed in jeopardy; a ghost, mounted on the clock, was supposed to nod its head in confirmation.



❖ Old Jewish Quarter



The Jewish Quarter in Prague is located between Old Town Square and the Vltava River. While there is evidence for early 10th century settlement of the area, the torrid history of the former Jewish Ghetto began in the 13th century, when Jewish people were ordered to vacate their disparate homes and settle in this one part of town. Over the centuries, with Jews banned from living elsewhere in Prague, and with new arrivals expelled from Moravia, Germany, Austria and Spain joining them, ever more people crowded in to the quarter.

❖ St. Clement's Cathedral



The St. Clement's Cathedral on the premises of the Clementinum was commissioned by the Jesuits and built by the architect Antonio Lurago between 1711 and 1715. The simple exterior opens to reveal an elaborate interior. Of special value are the sculptures by Matthias Braun on the six side altars, and a painting by Petr Brandl. The Greek Catholic Church uses the church for masses in Old Church Slavonic and Ukrainian.

❖ St. Vitus Cathedral



The Metropolitan Cathedral of Saints Vitus, Wenceslaus and Adalbert is the seat of the Archbishop of Prague. This cathedral is a prominent example of Gothic architecture and is the largest and most important church in the country. Located within Prague Castle and containing the tombs of many Bohemian kings and Holy Roman Emperors, the cathedral is under the ownership of the Czech government as part of the Prague Castle complex.

❖ The Dancing House



The Dancing House (Named such because the house resembles a pair of dancers) is the nickname given to the Nationale-Nederlanden building.

❖ Vyšehrad Castle



Vyšehrad is a historic fort and castle in Prague about 2 miles southeast of the Prague Castle, on the east bank of the Vltava River. It was likely constructed in the 10th century. Inside the fort are the Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul and the Vyšehrad Cemetery, containing the remains of many famous Czechs, such as Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana, Karel Čapek, and Alphonse Mucha. It also contains Prague's oldest Rotunda of St. Martin, from the 11th century.

❖ Dripstone Wall



One of Prague's surreal sights, the Dripstone Wall rises over 40 feet in Wallenstein Garden. Built in the 17th century, it mimics a cascade of molten rock, its surface dotted with grotesque faces that visitors often swear shift before their eyes.

❖ Prague National Museum



The National Museum houses nearly 14 million items from the areas of natural history, history, arts, music and librarianship, which are located in dozens of museum buildings. The main hall of the National Museum is located on Wenceslas Square in downtown Prague.

❖ Prague Zoo in Troja



Located in the scenic Troja basin, Prague Zoo is consistently ranked among the world's best, featuring over 670 species across 150 acres of diverse, naturalistic landscapes. Highlights include the Indonesian Jungle, African Savanna, and the Bororo Reserve, with most visitors spending 4 to 5 hours exploring the extensive grounds and hilly terrain.

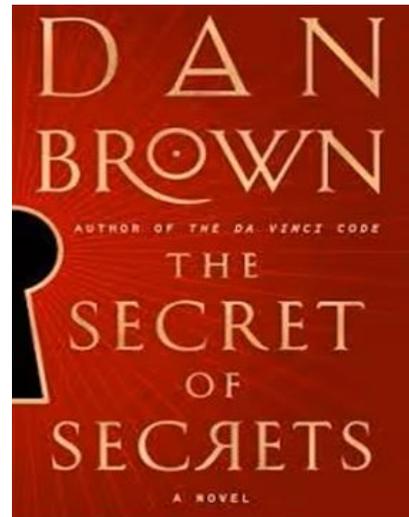
Prague – City of Secrets and Mysteries

Prague is hailed as the "City of Secrets" and is steeped in mysticism, alchemy, and intrigue. It serves as the atmospheric setting for Dan Brown's 2025 novel, "The Secret of Secrets", featuring Professor Robert Langdon uncovering, hidden symbols, secret passageways, and, notably, a door with seven locks at St. Vitus Cathedral.

Prague has a mystical heritage and is known as the center of European esotericism, largely due to Emperor Rudolph II hosting mystics, and the home of the Golem legend.

Prague mystery tours offer engaging, after-dark walking experiences focusing on the city's dark history, legends, and esoteric tales. Popular options include ghost tours of the Old Town, alchemy-focused walks near Prague Castle, and investigations of medieval underground dungeons.

Note: I just finished reading the above-mentioned book that takes place in the city of Prague. It is a very interesting book that perked my interest in learning more about this city. If you read the book to the end, you will learn the answer to what is the Secret of Secrets?



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