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Welcome to Prague! Whether you are here for a visit or long term, this guide is designed to help you adjust from the moment you arrive. These are the basics that every expat needs—quick facts on history, politics, and culture, important etiquette, and tips for settling in. But that's not all. Read on for information on schools, doctors, districts, real estate, visas, and important documents.

Location

The Czech Republic is located in Central (not Eastern) Europe. Approximately 10 million inhabit this space of about 78,866 sq km, divided into Bohemia (Čechy) and Moravia (Morava). The capital of Bohemia, and the largest Czech city, with 1.3 million inhabitants, is Prague (Praha); the capital of Moravia is Brno. The Czech Republic borders Germany (810 km), Poland (762 km), Austria (466 km), and Slovakia (265 km). The highest point of elevation is Mt. Sněžka (1,602 m above sea level) and the lowest point is near Hřensko, where the River Labe leaves Czech territory (117 m above sea level).

History

The Great Moravian Empire of the 8th century gave way to the Duchy of Bohemia in the 9th century which proceeded the Kingdom of Bohemia. King Charles IV facilitated the Golden Age of Bohemia in the 12th century, transforming Prague into an imperial capital. Conflict between protestant Hussites and Catholic crusaders resulted in holy war until the 15th century. The 16th century brought the reign of Rudolf II who granted Protestants further religious liberty. Still unsatisfied, the group heaved two imperial governors out of a Prague Castle window. This act signified the beginning of a Thirty Years' War. Austria captured the Bohemian throne in the 17th century, suppressing Czech culture and language for 400 years. The 19th century saw the National Revival and a rejection of Germanization. The Versailles Treaty (1918) ended Austrian rule. In 1938, the Nazis occupied Bohemia and Moravia. Approx. 125,000 citizens, including 83,000 Jews, were killed and hundreds of thousands of more were sent to prisons and or camps. The Czechoslovak

Republic was restored briefly after World War II until it fell under Soviet influence. In 1968, the new hard-line government sealed the country behind the Iron Curtain until the peaceful revolt known as the Velvet Revolution (1989) led to its overthrow. Playwright Václav Havel (1936–2011) was elected president of Czechoslovakia in 1989; in 1993 the country split from Slovakia. The country joined NATO in 1999 and became a member of the EU on May 1, 2004.

Politics

The Czech government is a multi-party, parliamentary democracy with three branches: Executive, including the cabinet and president; Legislative, representing parliament and comprised of the Chamber of Deputies and Senate, and Judicial. In 2013, Czechs elected their president for the first time in history. President, Miloš Zeman can nominate judges, dismiss parliament, and veto laws. The president appoints the Prime Minister (Bohuslav Sobotka) and cabinet members at the PM's suggestion. Only those political parties that have gained at least 5% of votes via elections are represented in the Chamber of Deputies, while Senate mandates are attained by majority vote.



Czech Holiday Calendar

January 1: New Year's Day/Czech Independence Day (*Nový rok/Den obnovy samostatného českého státu*)

March/April: Easter/Good Friday/Easter Monday (*Velikonoce/Velikonoční pondělí*)
This is the only movable holiday in the Czech calendar.

May 1: Labor Day (*Svátek práce*)

May 8: Liberation Day/Commemorating the end of WWII (*Den osvobození*)

July 5: St. Cyril and St. Methodius Day (*Den slovanských věrozvěstů Cyrila a Metoděje*)

July 6: Jan Hus Day (*Den upálení mistra Jana Husa*)

September 28: St. Wenceslas Day/Czech Statehood Day (*Den české státnosti*)

October 28: Independent Czechoslovak State Day/Commemorating founding of Czechoslovakia after WWI (*Den vzniku samostatného československého státu*)

November 17: Struggle for Freedom and Democracy Day (*Den boje za svobodu a demokracii*)

December 24: Christmas Eve/Main Christmas celebration (*Štědrý den*)

December 25: Christmas Day (*1. svátek vánoční*)

December 26: Second Day of Christmas/St. Stephen's Day (*2. svátek vánoční*)

Other culturally important days:

January 27: Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust (*Den památky obětí holokaustu*)

March 8: International Women's Day (*Mezinárodní den žen*)

March 12: Czech Republic Enters NATO (*Vstup České republiky do NATO*)

May 5: May Czech Uprising (*Květnové povstání českého lidu*)

June 1: Children's Day (*Dětský den*)

June 27: Remembrance of the Victims of the Communist Regime (*Den památky obětí komunistického režimu*)

November 11: Veterans' Day (*Den válečných veteránů*)

Czech Republic Population Statistics

Population: 10,644,842 (July 2016 est.)

Major urban areas population: PRAGUE (capital) 1.314 million (2015)

Ethnic groups: Czech 64.3%, Moravian 5%, Slovak 1.4%, other 1.8%, unspecified 27.5% (2011 est.)

Languages: Czech (official) 95.4%, Slovak 1.6%, other 3% (2011 census)

Religions: Roman Catholic 10.4%, Protestant 1.1%, other and unspecified 54%, none 34.5% (2011 est.)

Age structure: 0-14 years: 15.09% (male 826,005/female 782,470)
15-24 years: 9.89% (male 542,433/female 511,941)
25-54 years: 43.79% (male 2,396,550/female 2,271,974)
55-64 years: 12.73% (male 658,784/female 698,782)
65 years and over: 18.5% (male 817,550/female 1,154,443) (2016 est.)

Birth rate: 9.5 births/1,000 population (2016 est.)

Death rate: 10.4 deaths/1,000 population (2016 est.)

Maternal mortality rate: 4 deaths/100,000 live births (2015 est.)

Life expectancy at birth:
total population: 78.6 years
male: 75.7 years
female: 81.8 years (2016 est.)

Obesity - adult prevalence rate: 29.1% (2014)

Education expenditures: 4.3% of GDP (2012)

(Source: CIA World Factbook)

Welcome

Czech Customs and Traditions

Though not official holidays, these events are celebrated annually throughout the country:

Name Days (Svátky)

Each day of the year comes with a Czech name (or names) to be celebrated. It is common practice to give flowers (or chocolate or wine).

Witch Burning (Čarodějnice)

Once a pagan ritual, this is now a fun-filled family event occurring on the last night of April that celebrates the transition from winter to spring.

St. Nicholas Day Eve (Mikuláš)

Taking place on December 5, the eve of St. Nicholas Day, this holiday for children is celebrated with visits from a costumed St. Nicholas, devil, and angel.

Carnival (Masopust)

This Czech Mardi Gras festival takes place in February.

King's Parade (Královský Průvod)

This two-day parade in early June, rooted in the medieval traditions of Charles IV, recreates the royal procession from Prague Castle to Karlštejn Castle.

St. Martin's Festival (Sv. Martin)

St. Martin's festivals are common throughout Europe and center around feasting on heavy food to keep people in good stead through the wintry months.



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Etiquette

Quiet down, get used to removing your shoes, and say goodbye to everyone when you leave a restaurant—these are just a few rules you'll want to keep in mind:

Home Visits

- When invited to dine at a Czech household, it's customary to bring flowers, a bottle of wine, or chocolates.
- Flowers should be given in odd numbers, unless they are for a funeral: in that case give an even number. Avoid red flowers.
- It is considered impolite to leave food on your plate so eat up!
- Typically cleaning up is left to the hosts so that the guests can enjoy themselves.

Dining Out

- In the Czech Republic, it is considered good manners for the man to enter a restaurant or bar before the woman does.
- Tipping 10–15% is appreciated—if you're with a large group, gratuity is often added. (Tipping in bars, restaurants, taxis, and beauty and massage parlors is customary.)
- When leaving a tip, you can give the server the bill's amount plus tip and say either *to je dobrý* or *v pořádku* (that's fine).
- Never mix the dregs of a beer you're about to finish with the fresh beer you've been brought.
- Paying, is usually done at the table. It can be together (*dohromady*) or separately (*zvlášť*).
- Making reservations for dinner in Prague is usually a must. You will always be asked if you have made a reservation. At nicer restaurants, reservations are even required for lunch. When in doubt it is much better to be safe than sorry, especially on weekends when popular spots get packed.

12 Expat Behaviors that Czechs Find Rude

- Wearing shoes inside the home. Slippers in a Czech home are a must!
- Sporting a big backpack. The best place for your bag on public transport? Off your back.
- Failing to let passengers exit. Always step outside to let other passengers out.
- Not adhering to seat hierarchy. Give up your seat for the elderly and pregnant.
- Taking up sidewalk space. Do not walk slowly, side by side, down a narrow street.
- Talking loudly. When in doubt, just don't shout!
- Calling it Eastern Europe (or Czechoslovakia). The mental Iron Curtain remains a struggle.
- Forgetting to Say “Dobrou chuť”. Or eating before everyone has their food.
- Disregarding cutlery customs. Switching hands after cutting meat is considered barbaric.
- Not learning the language...Don't expect everyone to speak English.
- Criticizing the country. Czechs may openly criticize themselves, but don't join in!
- Forgetting our “guest” status. As outsiders, the onus is on expats to adapt.

At the Pub

- When waiting for a beer, put a coaster down in front of you so the server can place your mug there. In some pubs, setting down the coaster will automatically get you a beer.
- Toasting is very common. The local ritual is to look into the other person's eyes, clink glasses, and say Na zdraví (To your health!). Never cross arms with someone else to reach a person on the other side of the table. Once glasses are touched it's customary to touch the bottom of the glass against the table, firmly but lightly.
- One great aspect of the Czech pub is table service. Your order will be marked on a small piece of paper which is left on the table for the duration of your stay. All the orders for the table will be written on to the one slip unless a separate one is requested.

For Parents

- Mothers with little kids are generally treated well in public. Public breastfeeding is widely tolerated and accepted. Many people will rush to help mothers lifting their prams on and off a tram and most people are more inclined to give up their seats to small children or women holding infants.
- Corporal punishment is not unheard of. Many Czechs believe that if small children are especially naughty, a spanking is necessary, despite the fact that this is at odds with much of the thinking throughout Western Europe.

Misc.

- Though some foreigners describe a lack of warmth or downright rudeness among locals, it is the custom here to maintain a certain amount of distance from people you don't know very well. Once you've spent some time with a person, they are likely to be much more open and friendly.

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On Public Transport

- Always walk bikes, strollers, and oversized luggage to the end carriages of the metro where there is extra room to accommodate these bulkier items.
- On escalators, always stand on the right side to let people pass on the left.
- Pets should be muzzled and leashed on public transport.

Meeting and Greeting

- When entering a shop of any kind, you should greet the salesperson by saying, Good day (*Dobrý den*) if it is before the late afternoon. After six o'clock in the evening, it is customary to say Good evening (*Dobrý večer*) instead. When exiting the shop, always say Goodbye (*Na shledanou*).
- Greet someone you've just met with a handshake. On subsequent meetings, women will often kiss each other on both cheeks to say hello.
- Foreigners have a tendency to use the informal greeting (ahoj) too quickly. Stick with *dobrý den* and *dobrý večer* until you are sure you're on an informal (first-name) basis with the other person.

Unmentionables

- You may be asked to pay to use a public toilet (usually 5–10 CZK), even in some restaurants.
- You are likely to see nudity on beaches or by swimming pools, and some topless sunbathing in parks. Nude children are considered perfectly acceptable in pool or beach areas.
- It seems that if you're young, you're given a free-pass, or pee-pass, with adults helping children relieve themselves whenever and wherever the need strikes.

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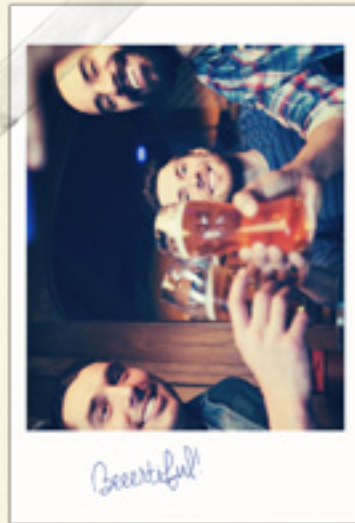
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Traditional Czech Food

Czech dishes are a mixed pedigree of influences: pork schnitzel (*Řízek*) from Vienna. Spicy beef goulash (*guláš*) from Hungary. Sauerkraut (*zelí*) from Germany. Game—rabbit, deer, and wild boar—and freshwater fish like trout round out the menu. The humble potato is given a number of tasty treatments, including roasted and spiked with garlic and bacon. Fried cheese (*Smažený sýr*) is a wedge of deep-fried edam. The national dish is *svíčková*, a beef sirloin in gravy, topped with cranberry jam and a dollop of cream. Baked goods typically utilize the season's bounty; apples, cherries, and plums turn up in *bublanina*, a yellow sponge cake, *štrůdl*, and *koláč*, pastry topped with fruit or poppy-seed (*mák*) paste.

Czech Pubs

At pubs, you typically won't be shown to a table; it's up to you to find a seat. Some may have tables for four or six and it's acceptable to slide onto the end of an occupied table if no others are free. Non-smoking pubs are becoming more common here; the EU now dictates that dining establishments indicate via a sticker on the door if smoking is allowed. It's advantageous to order from the *denní* (daily) menu at lunchtime. For our handy Czech Menu Decoder, see page 187.



Welcome

Czech Beer

Beer (*pivo*) is part of the Czech lifestyle and cuisine. Some natives even consider it a soft drink. Ten-degree beer (*desítka*) and 12-degree beer (*dvanáctka*) are the two main types. A 10-degree beer contains 10 percent (or degrees, as brewers used to say) extract of the original young beer, while 12-degree has 12 percent. Unpasteurized beer (*tankovna*) is served fresh from the tank. Experts say that the flavor is superior to that of pasteurized varieties. Most of the beer brewed in the Czech Republic is (*ležák*) of varying color, from pale (*světlý*), to amber (*jantar*), to dark (*tmavý*), to black (*černý*). Of late, microbreweries have been springing up all over Prague and beyond. Beer gardens are also an essential part of Czech beer culture.

Czech Wine

The country's wines have come into their own in recent years, with Czech vintners taking top honors at competitions around Central Europe, and glam wine bars (*vinárny*) sprouting up in Prague like vines. Some of the best Czech wine comes from the South Moravian Region; Numerous local *vinotéka* sell thin table wine (*stolní víno*) from the cask. Bring your own liter bottle or jug to fill up. *Burčák* is the grape juice that separates from the crop as it is pressed. *Burčák* season officially kicks off on August 15 and is sold through November 30. Its creation coincides with the grape harvest, giving it a short shelf-life. Try it at one of the Prague's annual wine festivals (*vinobraní*) held in September.

Czech Cafés

Prague's cafés (*kavárny*) are legendary for their associations with great thinkers, writers, and revolutionaries. You can't speak of Prague cafés without mentioning Grand Café Slavia, frequented by former president Václav Havel during his dissident years. Kafka and Einstein spent hours in the elegant Art Nouveau Café Louvre. Café Savoy with its waistcoated waiters is a throwback to the glamorous era of the First Republic. A number of new cafés are focused on locally-roasted, expertly prepared coffee.



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Specialty Food Shops

Prague's sizable Vietnamese community has given the city wonderful corner markets stocking fresh herbs and Asian staples as well as a large open-air market, Sapa, on the outskirts of town; here you can buy tofu in tubs of water and bags of frozen jumbo shrimp, along with fresh herbs and exotic produce. Go to Japa for sushi ingredients and and panko breadcrumbs. Café-shop Chez Amis is known for its cheap falafel and towering shelves of halal products.

For fresh seafood, our message boards regularly mention Rybárna Kapřík, The Seafood Store (multiple locations), Přátelé lososa, Blue Fjord, and Cerstveryby.cz. Homesick Brits and Americans gravitate toward the Candy Store chain of shops for English-breakfast staples, crisps, and biscuits, Oreos and Duncan Hines cake mixes. U Salvátora and Shalimar are fragrant emporiums of spice. Get yourself to the Greek Corner for thick yogurt, dolmades, and more. The Cheesy chain of stores brings flavorful Dutch cheese to the Czech lands. The Italian restaurants Aromi La Bottega and Wine Food Market carry fresh pasta, homemade sauces, and numerous sundries.

Local butchers are also stepping up their game, offering expertly prepared fresh cuts of domestically raised pork, lamb, and beef. Prague's favorite butcher shops are The Real Meat Society and Naše Maso.

Farm Markets & Health Food Stores

The overwhelming success of the first Prague farmers' market in March 2010 has led to a wave of farmářské trhy across the country. The season starts in mid-March and usually runs until the end of autumn. Though some locations stay open through Christmas, markets usually close before cold weather sets in. (The Holešovice Markets continue indoors during the winter months.)

Most markets take place on Saturday, though weekday farmers' markets pop up, too. Opening hours are generally from 8:00 or

9:00 until the early afternoon on Saturdays, and longer on weekdays. Shoppers can purchase local produce, much of it organic, and hopefully in compliance with quality standards. Fruit and vegetables, local cheeses, fish from South Bohemia, sausages, bakery products, and organic honey are basic offerings, but gourmet treats like ice cream made from goat's milk or ostrich pâté aren't unheard of. You can also order farmářská bedýnka (produce-boxes) for home delivery. The most popular market is Saturday along the Náplavka riverbank. For a comprehensive listing of markets, dates, and opening times, visit farmarsketrziste.cz.

The Czech word for "organic" is "bio"—look for the official green bio-label on the packaging. Country Life, the first post-revolution health food wholesaler in the Czech Republic, is still going strong. Their dry goods can be found in many supermarkets, as well as in their own health food shops, which also sell groceries and cosmetics. Sklizeno is another chain of fairly new healthfood stores offering local meat and produce. This year saw the opening of World Vegan in the Černá Labuť shopping center in downtown Prague.



Welcome

Shopping

These days it seems like there are more malls (*obchodní centrum*) than people to shop in them. Old-school department stores like Prague's Kotva, have fallen out of favor for these city-wide behemoths, the largest and most notable being Palladium, Flora, Nový Smíchov, and Chodov. A number of malls are attached to a large grocery store chain such as Tesco or Hyperalbert. Here you will find everything from clothing to cosmetics, books and electronics, home décor and bedding and bustling food courts and multiplexes.

Opening hours are typically Mon-Sun from 8am–10pm. Smaller shops outside the center tend to be closed on Sundays and have unpredictable opening hours. Secondhand stores, vintage clothing stores, flea markets, and thrift shops are plentiful. In Prague, the main shopping district can be found at “The Golden Cross” a pedestrianized zone comprised of Wenceslas Square, Na příkopě, Ulice 28.října, and Národní třída. For those with deeper pockets, Pařížská Street is home to exclusive stores like Prada and Burberry.

Expensive Prague Items (vs US/UK)

- Clothing
- Beauty products
- Household goods
- Furniture

Cheap Prague Items (vs US/UK)

- Food
- Beer
- Entertainment
- Dining out
- Medical and dental care

For more cost-of-living information see the table on page 121.

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Quick Tips

Adaptors

Electricity in the Czech Republic is 220V and AC 50Hz. All sockets have two round female contacts and round blanking/grounding protecting pin in the middle top. You can purchase an adapter at the airport, Tesco, or your home country before you leave.



Bedding

Frustration, thy name is shopping for bedding in the Czech Republic! Because beds with two single mattresses pushed together are more common than a double one, comforters, sheets, and duvet covers are oddly sized. The dimensions for bedding for a single mattress are approximately 200 x 80, 90, or 100; for two single mattresses pushed together dimensions are 200 x 160, 180, or 200.

Electronics

There are no shortage of big box electronic stores in Prague. Online stores typically offer cheaper deals, even including delivery. Shop at online stores that have non-virtual branches in tow. If you pick up the goods yourself, you save on delivery. Whether you're shopping for a new phone, TV, or computer, a great place to start is Heureka.cz. This site offers price comparisons on items from hundreds of retailers, including all the top online sites.

Public Transport Guide

The Prague Integrated Transport System (*Pražská integrovaná doprava*) includes trains, trams, metro, funicular and boat transport. Single transport tickets (32 CZK) can be purchased at most newsagents, some tram stops, entrances to all metro stations, directly from bus drivers, or via SMS. Tickets must be stamped at validator boxes. The fine for riding without a validated ticket is 950 CZK.

An annual metro pass costs 4,750 CZK. Children up to 6, parent's of kids under 3 and seniors over 70 ride free. See our map of the Prague public transport system on page 197. Visit www.dpp.cz for time tables, maps, fare info, etc.

Taxis

If you are going to cab it around the city, take a taxi from the "Fair Place" stands where the rates have been set by the City Council (40 CZK boarding fee + 28 CZK per km + waiting fee). Calling a company directly can also guarantee a lower boarding fee (see our listings). SMS taxi services and apps such as Liftago and Taxify are a popular option; Uber debuted in the Czech capital in 2014 but has been slow to catch on. Still, these services offer a good alternative to taxi-scam artists. Beware of hailing a cab!

Driving

Many motorways and expressways have toll fees. You can purchase annual, monthly, or 10-day stickers at every gas station and post office in the Czech Republic and some rest stops when entering the country. See a list of motorways with fees here: www.motorway.cz. Failure to obtain a sticker can result in a penalty of 5,000 CZK. All cars must be equipped with: headlamp beam deflectors, a first-aid kit, warning triangle.

Welcome

Czech Film

Arthouse cinemas and film festivals are hallmarks of Czech culture. Czechoslovakia was nominated for the Best Foreign Film Oscar for four straight years from 1966 to 1969, winning twice. Directed by Ján Kadar and Elmar Klos, *The Shop on Main Street*

(*Obchod na korze*, 1965) is about an old Jewish widow and the "Aryan controller" given jurisdiction over her button shop during the Nazi occupation. *Closely Observed Trains* (*Ostře sledované vlaky*, 1966), directed by Jiří Menzel also brought home the Academy Award. Miloš Forman's *Loves of a Blonde* (*Lásky jedné plavovlásky*, 1965) and *The Fireman's Ball* (*Hoří, má panenko*, 1967) were both nominated for Academy Awards.

Czech Music

The Czech Republic's role in the history of music begins with its Mozart connection: the great Austrian composer debuted his opera *Don Giovanni* in Prague in 1787. The 1860s introduced two powerful musical forces to the world: Bedřich Smetana (1824–84) and Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904), unrivaled maestros in their own country, and geniuses on an international scale. Bohuslav Martinů (1890–1959) and Alois Hába (1893–1973) would compose works that examined the plight of modern man. Pop and folk music by Czech bands like the Plastic People of the Universe played a huge role in the toppling of the communist regime.



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Czech Literature

Early 19th-century romantic poet Karel Hynek Mácha's *Máj* (*May*) is considered one of the most important works of Czech literature. Mácha influenced realist author Jan Neruda, who wrote *Tales of the Little Quarter* (*Povídky malostranské*) in 1878. The late 19th-century Golden Age of Czech literature produced Božena Němcová's masterpiece *The Grandmother* (*Babička*). Czech arts and letters shined on into the early 20th century: Jaroslav Hašek wrote his war satire *The Good Soldier Švejk* (*Osudy dobrého vojáka Švejka za světové války*) in 1920; Franz Kafka was the darling of literary Prague. Science fiction writer Karel Čapek was nominated for a Nobel-prize in 1936. Milan Kundera's first novel, *The Joke* (*Žert*) appeared in 1967. Ivan Klíma and Josef Škvorecký gained worldly reputations. The plays and poems of Václav Havel were published via underground press. Jáchym Topol wrote brutally honest accounts of daily life in Czechoslovakia.

Czech Art

The story of Czech art begins with the Věstonice Venus, named after the site in Moravia where archeologists discovered the 30,000-year-old clay-and-ash sculpture. The next important piece on the timeline is the Vyšehrad Codex, a late 11th-century illuminated manuscript housed in the Czech National Library. The Romanesque tradition that followed appears in church frescoes such as the triptych of St. George's Cloister at Prague Castle. Rudolph II's Mannerist court painter Giuseppe Arcimboldo (1532–93) composed portraits of the Emperor from flowers and fruit. Baroque master Petr Brandl (1668–1735) painted large altar pictures that portrayed biblical scenes. The construction of the National Theater (1868–83) and the Rudolfinum (1885) embodied the 19th-century renaissance in Czech culture. This generation gave way to smaller modernist Painters Emil Filla and Bohumil Kubišta define the cubist era in Czech painting; František Kupka (1871–1957) pioneered Czech abstract painting. Photographer Josef Sudek's (1896–1976) haunting still lifes made him one of the first photographers to be honored by the Czech government. Sculptor David Černý (1967) embodies the spirit of the postmodern.



Recommended Reading

Non-fiction:

The Coasts of Bohemia: A Czech History by Derek Sayer: A sociologist's approach to Czech history, nationalism and culture, Sayer doesn't so much cover the "typical" historical highlights but instead discusses the formation of Czech culture through the years.

Prague Pictures: Portrait of a City by John Banville: Traces Prague's often tragic history and portrays the people who made it, the emperors and princes, geniuses and charlatans, heroes and scoundrels, and paints a portrait of the Prague of today.

Travelers' Tales Prague and the Czech Republic: True Stories edited by David Farley & Jessie Scholl: A compilation of stories by both American and Czech writers who have lived in, and something to say about, Prague and the Czech Republic.

Time's Magpie: A Walk in Prague by Myla Goldberg: Myla Goldberg lived in Prague in 1993, just as the process of Westernization was getting under way. In 2003, she returned to see what the pursuit of capitalism had wrought.

A Romantic Education by Patricia Hampfl: Golden Prague seemed mostly gray when the author first went there in quest of her Czech heritage. An exquisite memoir.

The Thing About Prague by Rachael Weiss: A tale of expat wonder and woe as the Australian author seeks love, literary fame, and a decent apartment in the land of her ancestors.

Prague 20th Century Architecture by Michael Kohout: Art Nouveau, Cubism and Functionalism are all covered in this book detailing Czech architecture from 1900 to 1997. More than 200 buildings are included, with photos and descriptions.

Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague 1941–1968 by Heda Margolius Kovaly: A memoir by a Czechoslovak exile that details her time spent in Nazi concentration camps; her return to Prague and happy marriage (before her husband was killed by the Communist regime) and her emigration to the West in 1968.

Fiction:

The Coast of Bohemia by Zdena Tomin: A beautifully told tale of dissidents in Czechoslovakia during the communist regime.

Necessary Errors by Caleb Crain: Set in the year following the Velvet Revolution, this novel portrays the struggles of a series of colorful expatriates including the protagonist Jacob, a gay English teacher.

The Russian Debutante's Handbook by Gary Shteyngart: Based in the fictional city of Prava, an uproarious account of post-Cold War Central Europe and its expat inhabitants.

The Memoirs Of A Prague Executioner by Josef Svátek: A historical novel, this book is loosely based on the writings of one Jan Mydlář, an actual executioner in the 16th century. Medieval law enforcement is of course discussed, but history fans may enjoy the inclusion of social and cultural norms of the time.

Prague: A Novel by Arthur Phillips: This is actually a novel about Budapest, not Prague. However as it tells the story of five expatriates who settle in Budapest at the beginning of the '90s, many people may be able to relate. Prague, in Phillips' story is the unattainable Mecca, where the characters would rather be living if they hadn't chosen Budapest.

Utz by Bruce Chatwin: Utz is a novel written by the British author Bruce Chatwin, first published in 1988. The novel follows the fortunes of Kaspar Utz who lives in Czechoslovakia during the Cold War.

City of Dark Magic by Magnus Flyte: When music student Sarah Weston lands a summer job at Prague Castle cataloging Beethoven's manuscripts, she has no idea how dangerous her life is about to become.

Welcome

For kids

Susie and Tom Travel the World by Karen York: This smartly-designed book stars two cartoon kids who are layered over real photos of Prague.

The Three Golden Keys by Peter Sís: Mysterious stories draw on local legends of Bruncvík, the Golem, and Master Hanuš, builder of the Orloj astronomical clock. In addition to this must-have book, Peter Sís wrote *The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain*.

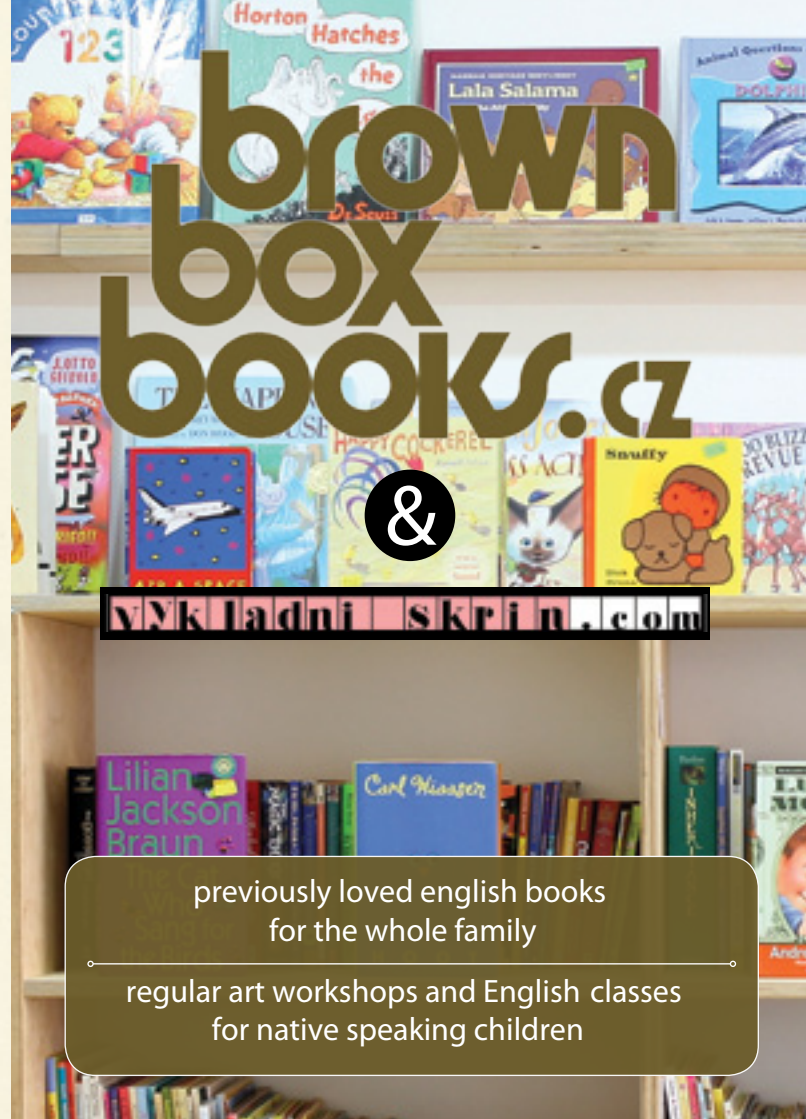
You Can Go Home Again by Jiřina Marton: A young lady grows up in Czech Republic as part of a worldly, well-educated family. During the war, it is decided she would be safer in Canada, so she leaves her family behind.

Prague Castle and its Secrets by Lucie Seifertová: What child can resist a pop-up book? Bring this book to the castle with your kids and spend a day thinking about princesses and dragons. Other books to seek out by this author include *The Mysterious Golem* and *Magical Prague*.

This Is Prague by Olga Černá and Michaela Kukovičová: A whimsically illustrated primer to the Czech capital introducing its well-known sites, lesser-known corners (Libeňský Island, Zizkov Tower), and important figures and moments in its history (Sir Winton, the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich.)

How the Dog and the Cat Baked a Cake by Josef Čapek: Czech artist and author Čapek is beloved for his series of books (available in English translation) featuring the adventures of two mischievous household pets drawn in his distinctive style.

Little Mole books by Zdeněk Miler: The Little Mole (Krtek) is probably the most famous Czech animated character and a number of books by his creator are available in a wide selection of English translation and star an adorable supporting line-up of woodland creatures.



Prague Coffee Shops

Prague's coffee craze shows no sign of cooling down. 2014-2015 saw a proliferation of new cafés percolate their way through the city, offering speciality blends and roasts to satisfy the most demanding cappuccino, latte, and flat white aficionados. A host of new hangouts, staffed with celebrity baristas, cater to the growing Czech craving for high-end coffee. But these hip haunts are no global coffee monoliths so don't bother asking for syrup or sprinkles!

Local Coffee Roasters

Prague-based coffee roasters supply a number of cafés with the beans that go into your quality cup. If you are looking for top-notch coffee, any place that makes theirs with beans from these local roasters is a good bet.

The first Fair Trade coffee game in town, with their own roaster and a series of flagship cafés across Prague, is Mamacoffee.

La Boheme café works with family-run coffee plantations throughout the world to harvest over a dozen varieties of bean. Its roasters are based in Prague; the showroom/café that opened here last year has quickly become the epicenter of the coffee movement.

Czech specialty roaster Doubleshot supplies sustainably sourced beans from Ecuador to the coffee lovers who visit its flagship cafés, Můj šálek kávy and Místo.

Prague Coffee Festival

One way of getting in on the Prague coffee moment is to attend the annual Prague Coffee Festival which brings a number of local cafés and roasters together under one roof. Debuting in 2012 and organized by the NGO Coffee Embassy, it promotes Czech coffee culture with tastings, workshops, and demonstrations of coffee gadgets in a festive atmosphere.

How to Order Coffee in Czech

While at most contemporary coffee shops you will find a menu of classic coffee preparations properly named, older Czech cafés and restaurants tend to have their own lingo. "Piccolo" is the universal term for a short coffee or what is normally referred to as espresso or ristretto. Czech espresso, sometimes called "presso" is actually café lungo (espresso with hot water). And "Turecká káva" (Turkish coffee) is made by pouring boiling water over ground coffee and drinking it with the dregs still at the bottom of the cup.

Prague Cocktail Bars

The first American-style cocktail bar opened in Prague in 1891. But years spent behind the Iron Curtain put a damper on the cocktail scene and saw a rise in the popularity of bitters like Fernet and Becherovka. Post-revolution, cocktail venues like Tretters and Bar & Books had their moment, but for many years in Prague when you ordered a rum and coke outside of the center, you would get a glass of cola with a shot of rum on the side.

In recent times the cocktail scene in Prague and beyond has gone from practically non-existent to booming. Czech barmen are winning worldwide competitions and even the traditional beer chasers like Becherovka are becoming sophisticated mixers for quality cocktails. Spirits from Czech craft distillers like Zufanek are getting a second look as are locally made absinthes and even whisky. Stylish cocktails lounges are popping up with bars devoted to a single drink like the gin and tonic, speakeasy style parlors, and even high-end appointment-only cocktail establishments serving flamboyant creations with top-shelf booze and gourmet garnishes.

A few tips when planning a night around cocktails in Prague: Forget the 3-Martini lunch – many of the city's bars don't open until 6 pm or 7pm with the party only getting started around midnight! And like pubs and restaurants here, even casual ones, reservations are a must if you want to get a table, particularly on a weekend.

Bars



Cloud 9 sky bar & lounge

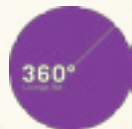
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www.cloud9.cz

info@cloud9.cz

Cloud 9 sky bar & lounge on the Hilton Prague rooftop offers stunning city views, open terraces, design interior, wide selection of innovative and classic cocktails, delicious meals, open stage live music every Thursday, DJs Fridays and Saturdays.



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www.360loungeandbar.cz

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Cafes



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www.hiltonprague.com

restaurants.prague@hilton.com

Café & Bistro on the indoor terrace with atrium lobby view is an ideal hideaway for business lunches, quick snacks or a break from sightseeing. It is open 24/7 and features international and Mediterranean cuisine focused on simplicity.



Café Lounge

Plaská 615/8, 150 00, Praha 5

+420 257 404 020

www.cafe-lounge.cz

cafe@cafe-lounge.cz

Focusing on local food, speciality coffee roasters and natural wines, this Malá Strana gem is the height of sophistication. A sure win, whether for a delicious breakfast, tasty lunch or dinner, sweet treat or for an afternoon coffee or glass of wine.

Catering & Delivery



Hilton Catering

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Our catering team can prepare a full, off-premises service ranging from small gatherings to grand banquets. A degustation menu, a set menu, a buffet menu, wine tastings, even themed menus are all possible. We can customize our services to your needs.



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4 Star Hotels



fusion hotel

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fusion hotel is a "fusion" of many things, different room types, different people, design and different ideas. Centrally located, 91 rooms, 3 restaurants, free wi-fi connection, playroom with a skypebox. Did you ever try the biggest bed in Prague?



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reservations.prague@hilton.com

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5 Star Hotels



Hilton Prague Old Town

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+420 221 822 100

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reservations.prague@hilton.com

Located in the heart of the city, Hilton Prague Old Town features 303 fully refurbished rooms, Zinc Restaurant, Lounge & Bar offering modern European cuisine with Asian flavours, 14 meeting rooms, a ballroom and a fitness centre with indoor pool.



Hotel Paris Prague

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www.hotel-paris.cz
booking@hotel-paris.cz

Hotel Paris offers luxury accommodation in Art Nouveau style with an exclusive view of Prague, gourmet "Sarah Bernhardt Restaurant", Parisian "Café de Paris", two meeting rooms "Petit and Violet" and Wellness & Spa centre with Thai massages.

Indian Restaurants



Curry House

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International Restaurants



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www.indianjewel.cz
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Epopey

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www.epopey.cz
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International Restaurants



La Loca Music Bar & Lounge

Obzorů 278/4, 120 00, Praha 2
+420 221 595 364

www.laloca.cz/en
info@laloca.cz

Stylish restaurant offering cross-over cuisine, unique cafe, inspiring space made for meetings and coworking by day. Live concerts, sizzling drinks, theme parties and exciting atmosphere every single night. Non-smoking environment in the city center.



Zinc Restaurant, Lounge & Bar

V Celnici 7, 110 00, Praha 1
+420 221 822 300

www.zinc.cz
zinc@hilton.com

Zinc Restaurant offers modern European cuisine with Asian flavours, popular Sunday brunch with children's corner. Zinc Lounge & Bar is an ideal venue for business meetings, serves large selection of coffees, cocktails and snacks.



CzechHouse Grill & Rotisserie

Pobřežní 1, 18600, Praha 8
+420 224 842 700

www.hiltonprague.com
restaurants.prague@hilton.com

CzechHouse Grill & Rotisserie with show kitchen offers prime US beef, fine Czech classics, award-winning desserts, hand selected local and international wines, Czech draught beer, all with engaged personal service. Regular themed culinary events.

Leisure



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+420 603 841 483

www.puzzleroom.cz
info@puzzleroom.cz

1 team locked in 1 room, 1 hour to escape. Have fun, use your brain, find clues and solve puzzles before time runs out. It is great activity for friends, families or small company groups. For people of all ages who like fun, thrill and mysteries.

Task Marketplace



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Tourism



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Prague Airport Transfers

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www.prague-airport-transfers.co.uk
info@prague-airport-transfers.co.uk

Prague Airport Transfers sro offers you taxi, stretched limo service and minibus transportation from and to Prague Václav Havel Airport. Our fleet comprises mostly Mercedes E class, Audi A6, VW Passat, Škoda Superb vehicles and Mercedes minibuses.



Himapan Gallery Prague

U parku 640, 252 42, Jesenice

+420 777 838 340

www.himapanprague.cz
himapan.prague@gmail.com

Himapan Gallery Prague offers an exclusive creative experience-painting on real lotus leaves. During our workshops you can paint on lotus leaves mounted on a canvas. Each canvas is unique, 60x100 cm and comes from Thailand. Relaxing, Exotic, Fun.

What's on

Plug into the latest and greatest gigs, fests, exhibits, markets, Prague events

Going out tonight!



www.expats.cz/entertainment

healthy living



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Healthy Living

Prague offers a multitude of opportunities for making your expat life a healthy one. This section will help you navigate important decisions like choosing a physician or acquiring health insurance.

Insurance Coverage

Any third-country nationals living in the Czech Republic three months or longer must have health insurance. Proof of comprehensive health insurance with a firm registered in the country is required for a long-term visa. A permanent resident or an official employee of a Czech company can join one of the public health funds. The main provider of public health insurance in the Czech Republic is Všeobecná zdravotní pojišťovna (VZP). Public health insurance covers public hospital stays, emergency care, visits to a general practitioner, vaccines, twice yearly dental exams, and prescription meds. Health insurance payments come directly from your wages. If you have a business license, your insurance is paid at tax time. If you have neither permanent residence nor employment, you must buy commercial insurance. VZP is just one of many providers that offers private health insurance for foreigners.

Doctor Visits

Doctor visits, including lab work, should be free and prescriptions are inexpensive. Asking for recommendations or paying a visit to your local medical complex, each Prague district has one, is the best way to choose a GP. The most important factor in your decision should be whether or not a doctor will accept your insurance. GPs' offices do not usually make appointments; it's first come, first served. Your GP can provide information about specialists and arrange appointments on your behalf. If you prefer a Western approach to medicine or require an English-speaking physician, private clinics that cater to expats are an option. Many of them offer a number of medical and dental services under one roof. Basic Czech health insurance may not be accepted by private clinics and doctor visits can be costly.

You deserve the highest level of medical care

Looking for a really good new doctor, and in a new environment? Turn to us with complete confidence. For more than fifteen years we have provided the highest level of medical care for the international community in Prague – so we understand the specific needs of expats. Our doctors are not only English speakers, but they are also the leaders in their fields, with an unmatched range of medical specialisations. A doctor will be available for you on the phone 24 hours a day and, if you require, will come to you whenever you wish. Welcome to Prague. We are dedicated to providing you with the best medical care.



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Praha 6

V Parku 2308/8
Praha 4

Call center:

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Emergency service
outside of opening
hours (GP and
paediatrician):

(+420) 724 300 301

cmcpraha.cz

www.cmcpraha.cz



Healthy Living

Pediatricians

Na Homolce's (www.homolka.cz) Pediatric Department is a favorite among expat parents. The walk-in clinic is open weekdays, with emergency services available on weekdays, weekends, and public holidays. Doctors and staff speak English and basic Czech health insurance is accepted. Many expat parents seek recommendations and register with their local pediatrician when they arrive or before a child is born (if giving birth here) as many hospitals require parents to fill out a form giving pediatrician details. Immunization schedules are fairly consistent with that of Western countries.

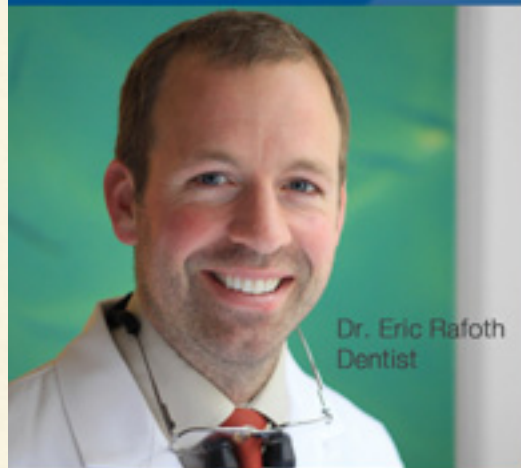


Pharmacies

Prescriptions, like doctor appointments, are fairly inexpensive. Over-the-counter medication such as aspirin, cough syrup, and medicated ointments and creams, must be purchased at a pharmacy. Some stronger over-the-counter drugs may even require a prescription in the Czech Republic. At each pharmacy you will find a counter for prescriptions (*výdej na recept*) and one for non-prescription medication (*výdej bez receptu*). Medication with a prescription is subsidized, whereas medication without a prescription is not, and the patient must pay the full cost. For a list of 24-hour pharmacies, see page 195.

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Emergencies

Hospitals usually designate one section of the hospital for “Urgent Care”. If the illness is not life-threatening, it’s often best to contact your doctor’s emergency hotline instead. Your physician can mediate between you and the hospital. The Foreigner and Private Patient Department at FNMotol (www.fnmotol.cz/en/) specializes in emergency care (for children and adults). The best facilities for burn patients are at FN Královské Vinohrady (www.fnkv.cz). For emergency numbers, 24-hour pharmacies, and more see page 194.

Dentists

Dentistry practiced in the Czech Republic is of the same high standard as in other developed countries and the prices are quite reasonable. Similar to the medical industry, if money is no object, you will find excellent private clinics in Prague that accommodate English as well as other foreign language speakers and will perform cosmetic treatments as well as standard dental care. But once you’ve paid your mandatory medical insurance, it may be more practical to go to a local dentist in your district who accepts VZP and OZP, and speaks “enough” English. A basic dental check-up in the Czech Republic does not include cleaning—if you want this service you’ll be referred to a hygienist and may pay out of pocket. You will also have to pay extra for dental anesthetic before having your teeth drilled. TIP: The international dentistry course at Charles University is always looking for patients in need of check-ups, cleaning and fillings; all for free and under the supervision of a professor.

Mental Health

Some VZP policies cover psychotherapy sessions if the patient has a psychiatric history and was referred to therapy by a psychiatrist. But it can be difficult to find a therapist who provides Czech insurance-covered services in foreign languages. These types of services are

considered by most Czech specialists to be an extra (nadstandardní) service, and doctors may even charge foreigners more than they would charge Czech self-paying patients. Some psychiatrists, however, do see clients with local insurance for medical consultations.

Helpful Vocab

Ache/pain	bolest
Allergy	alergie
Arterial bleeding	tepenné krvácení
Bleeding	krvácení
Broken	zlomený
Burn	popálenina
Burning	pálivý
Constipation	nadýmání
Cramps	křeče
Cough	kašel
Diarrhea	průjem
Dizziness	závrať
Faint (verb)	omdlit
Fever	horečka
Heat/sunstroke	úpal/úžeh
Injury	úraz
Nausea	nevolnost
Poisoning	otrava
Painful	bolestivý
Rash	vyrážka
Shock	šok
Sneezing	kýchání
Stabbing pain	bodavá bolest
Throbbing pain	pulzující bolest
Unconsciousness	bezvědomí
Vomiting	zvracení

NOTE: You can combine the word for symptom and the word for the anatomy, for example:

Bleeding + nose = krvácení + nos

Healthy Living

Sexual Health & Contraception

STD (*pohlavní nemoc*) treatment is free for the insured; otherwise it can be pricey. Buy condoms (*kondomy*) at pharmacies, drugstores, supermarkets. The pill Depo-Provera, hormonal implants, and intrauterine devices can be prescribed by gynecologists. Pharmacies sell pregnancy tests (*těhotenský test*). Doctors can prescribe the morning after pill. RU-486 (the abortion pill) is legal since 2014. Abortions are legal and performed until 12 weeks of pregnancy but only covered by insurance if the mother is at risk. Prostate cancer screening isn't standard until age 50, if you're at risk, discuss with your doctor.



Childbirth

Typically affiliated with a particular hospital or clinic, ob/gyns are unable to care for their patients anywhere else. Choosing a hospital—you must register at week 14—limits your choice of obstetricians and vice versa. Meet with your ob/gyn for prenatal check-ups once a month and, later, once a week, until week 36, when you'll visit the hospital for check-ups until delivery. VZP covers prenatal visits, ultrasounds, glucose intolerance test, the 3 test, and neonatal care. Many expats hire an English-speaking doula. Preferred expat maternity wards: Podolí, Krč, Motol, Bulovka, Apolinář. Outside of Prague: Neratovice. After a non-complicated birth, you'll stay in the hospital 3–4 days; 5–6 days following C-section.

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info@dental-office.cz www.dental-office.cz

Fitness Centers

Prague has jumped on the fit-dance bandwagon with studios everywhere offering belly dance, pole dance, cabaret dance, and other slimming moves. Yoga is ever-popular and you'll find it all here: power, Ashtanga, flow, Bikram, etc. as well as tai-chi, Thai boxing, and kickboxing. Typically you can buy a one-month, three-month, six-month, or a year-long plan. A run-of-the-mill fitness center will have a gym, pool, sauna, massage service, and tanning bed (*solarium*). Fancier gyms may have whirlpools, personal trainers, babysitting services, basketball courts, and even beauty salons. Don't overlook the Sokol or the YMCA for affordable work outs, swimming, and fitness classes.

Pools

Most public pools assign you a locker with a key on a wrist band that you can wear in the water, and many, but not all, have private changing rooms. Check opening times beforehand; pools may close for lunch. Expect to pay by how long you stay—60 or 90 minute blocks (70–90 CZK/session). Hotel pools are a popular option. For size, accessibility, facilities, and being able to swim outside in below-freezing temperatures Podolí can't be beat!

Jogging Trails

Prague hosts a number of annual races and marathons including night runs, charity runs, and an increasingly popular color run. Our recommendations for trails: Stromovka, the largest park in the city, with very few hills and a series of soft dirt trails is a paradise for runners. Letná is also a flat, pretty place to run. Vinohradská Street's inclines and declines are gradual, and if you start at Italská and head east, you can run for nearly 2k over only a few cobblestone sections. Vítkov is another nice park to run in; take tram 9, 10, or 16 to Biskupcova to avoid having to climb the hill before your run. Kunratic Forest, south of the center is ideal for running: it has loads of paths (both dirt and paved), is slightly hilly, well-shaded, and not too crowded.



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Healthy Living

Hiking Trails

The Czech tradition of hiking goes back a long way. The Czech Hiking Club (Klub Českých Turistů), or KČT, was established in 1888. One of the contributions KČT has made to hiking is the use of colored markers: red, blue, green, and yellow, on a white background. Generally, the blue and red trails are for longer main trails and the yellow and green connect them. At present there are over 40,000 km of trails, of which 200–400 km are changed annually. These changes appear in the new editions of the 98 maps of the Czech Republic available at most large book stores. If you've never been hiking before, the Beroun (map 36) area is a good place to start.

Very accessible from Prague, you can visit Karlštejn and the former quarries Velká Amerika, Malá Amerika, and Mexiko (now filled with water) all within a day. Located north of Prague, Czech Paradise/Český ráj (map 19) is synonymous with hiking. Natural attractions include the labyrinthine rock formations of Prachovské skály, and Drabské světníčky, a rock city allegedly the haunt of bandits.

Cycling in Prague

Czechs are a bicycling bunch and funding for biking infrastructure continues with the country now boasting 1,000 kilometers of safe bike paths plus 20,000 kilometers of bicycle routes which includes city streets. Prahounakole.cz is one of the most popular maps to be used for cyclists in and around Prague. It offers color-marked routes including current disruptions and construction work so characteristic of Prague's summers. An alternative can be found on Cykloserver.cz. A free paper version is available at most Municipal Offices.

Sample routes: Travel by the Vltava River north to Troja, where you can cross the river on a ferry, then continue on to Roztoky/Kralupy; travel by the Vltava River to the south, going as far down as Zbraslav. This route goes through Podolí, by the Žluté Lázně resort, and offers an amazing scenery along the way.

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Where to Buy/Service a Bike

A well-serviced bicycle is essential in terms of safety, reliability and functionality. If you are looking for an expat-friendly bicycle service company, one to consider may well be Hot Dog Cycles (find them on Facebook). It is operated by an American who is a bike enthusiast and himself an avid bicycle fan. A mention of the Auto*Mat (www.auto-mat.cz) and Bajkazyl (www.bajkazyl.cz) DIY workshops is also necessary; both are epicenters of the cycling community. Manned by experts from the world of professional cycling is Bicycle Cafe (www.bicyclecafe.cz) which provides tailor-made mountain and road bikes as well as full-service repairs. The owner of Le Bikes (lebikes.webs.com), has turned his passion for bikes like the Eska-Favorit from 1960s Czechoslovakia into a career, by restoring and customizing them in his Žižkov studio/shop. Czech company Festka (www.festka.com) offers customized bikes that begin with steel, titanium, or carbon frames.

Czech Spa Culture

Wellness spas have long been a Czech tradition, and their usage can be traced back to the medieval, and perhaps even Roman era, when health-seekers traveled to bubbling springs in search of cures for any number of ailments. Considered some of the best in the world, Czech doctors often prescribe spa stays to their patients (with a portion of the cost being paid by insurance) for numerous afflictions: gastrointestinal diseases, metabolic disorders, diabetes, gout, neurological problems, and obesity. Though it is not just the infirm who seek out wellness weekends.

Top resorts are reinventing their spa services to attract overworked, modern spa-goers who seek relaxation, pampering, and, above all, stress reduction. Some spas to visit: Karlovy Vary, Mariánské Lázně, Františkovy Lázně and Jáchymov (also known as the West Bohemian spa triangle), Luhačovice and Poděbrady also boast pleasant spa experience as do Pilsen and the medieval town of Cheb.

Homegrown Czech Cure

Many of the ingredients for these old-fashioned local remedies can be found in your kitchen or garden:

Lard

Lard (sadlo) is also recommended for scar healing due to its similarity to human fat. Go into any Czech pharmacy and ask for a scar healing substance and the first thing you will hear is: Have you tried lard?

Rose hip

Those pretty red fruit (šípek) that grow along country lanes are full of vitamin C. Dry them and drink the tea all winter to prevent colds – steep in cold water overnight then heat to 80 degrees Celsius.

Onion

After a strong dose of garlic soup (česneková polévka), Czechs swear by onion (cibule) as a cough syrup and decongestant. Layer slices of onion and sugar in a jar. Cover and let stand overnight. Take 3 tbsp of the liquid produced daily until your cold is healed.

Chamomile

It's the Czech grandmothers' panacea. Used for everything from soothing rashes to disinfectant for cuts. Steep chamomile leaves (heřmáněk) for 10 to 15 minutes and use it warm.

Nettles

Czech grandmothers drink nettle (kopřivý) tea "to cleanse the blood" and switch themselves with the freshly cut plant to treat arthritis. This tea is also a detox remedy after a long night, or if you feel a cold coming on.

Thyme

Tea made from this small-leaved plant (tymián) with purple flowers is great for acne and oily skin. Gargling with it prevents bad breath and heals sensitive gums. It also soothes the tummy after a heavy meal.

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Recycling in Prague

Recycling in Prague and in the Czech Republic has become much more of a big deal over the years, with the nation consistently ranking among the best in all of Europe for its electronic waste recycling efforts. Currently, the Czech capital offers its inhabitants thousands of recycling containers (for glass, plastic, paper, and beverage containers), and numerous collecting yards, and electronic stores that accept electronic waste.

Here are the names and colors you'll encounter at that eco-friendly cluster of recycling bins hanging out down the street:

- **Paper/Cardboard** (papír) - blue
- **Plastic** (plasty) - yellow
- **Glass** (sklo) - green bin*
- **Beverage Containers** (nápojové kartony, tetrapak) - orange

Note: Some areas have two bins for glass, green and white. This is for the separation of colored and transparent glass. Use the green for colored and the white bin for transparent glass, if encountered; otherwise, use the green bin for both types.

*You can also return beer (and even some wine) bottles at many supermarkets and receive 3 CZK in cash or as a credit toward your next store purchase.

Electrical waste (also called e-waste) is also picked up free of charge by the city trash collection service, Pražské služby, according to a regular monthly schedule in each city district. You can find the scheduled days and pick-up addresses on your city district's website.

Urban and Community Gardens

To grow food, to create community, to contribute to a more sustainable food system and environment, or to beautify urban space, urban gardening has been firmly planting its roots in cities across the world over the last few years and has recently started sprouting up in Prague.

Kokoza

www.kokoza.cz

Organize a community garden and compost initiative that is located in Prague 4 but offers a wide range of activities, guerilla gardening, and composting workshops throughout Prague. It is a socially conscious enterprise whose aim is to inspire people and companies to grow herbs, fruits, and vegetables in a small urban areas and to process organic waste from households.

Prazelenina

www.prazelenina.cz

The first community garden in Prague offers the opportunity for anyone who is interested to grow what their heart desires throughout the gardening season (April-October). For a fee, participants are provided with a grow-bag, soil, water, a wooden pallet that the bag rests on, and free admission to the garden's events.

Vršovická Zahrada

www.startvrsovice.cz

This community space near the Krymská tram stop opened this past year and is regularly packed with families and alternative types enjoying music, film screenings, shopping for organic produce and enjoying dairy items from the milk bar. At its heart is an urban garden tended by locals.

Zahrada Smetanka

www.zahradasmetanka.cz

A young community garden in Prague 2 near Riegrovy Sady park where families tend the rich soil and organizers host regular barbecues and garden parties. Also a site for public events and workshops.



Education

Our guide to education options in the Czech Republic spans the nursery years and beyond and tells you how and where to enroll your children in the right elementary and secondary schools, as well as opportunities for bilingual enrichment and educational trips. We have also included essential information on undergraduate and graduate courses in English, as well as TEFL/ESL, and continuing-education opportunities.

Daycare & Nurseries

Childcare facilities in Prague offer both drop-in care and regular care two to five days a week. Some daycares require that kids be potty-trained and self-feeding. Available care for infants (birth to six months) is limited; while collecting maternity benefits you cannot send your child to a state nursery for more than five days per calendar month. For children at least six months old, state nurseries (*jesle*), are among the few options. Contact your local town hall for more info or www.jesle.eu or www.doskolky.cz. Private daycare costs vary from 7,000 CZK per month for care a few half-days a week, to upwards of 15,000 CZK per month for full-time. At age three, you may enroll your child in preschool as well as any state nursery school (*mateřská škola*).

Playgroups & Babysitting

If you don't find a babysitter via word-of-mouth, an agency has several advantages: they're licensed and insured (as are their sitters), they'll find a replacement if the sitter's sick, and they pre-screen nannies. Some agencies charge placement fees of 2,000–6,000 CZK for helping you find a regular sitter; others charge no fees. In-home sitters range from 90–150 CZK an hour. Many expat parents consider their play group an invaluable resource for getting tips on sitters and sharing parenting advice. Visit the Facebook group Prague Activities for Cool Kids for tips for trips, kid-friendly activities, and answers to newbie parent questions from local parents who have been living in Prague (www.facebook.com/groups/praguepack).



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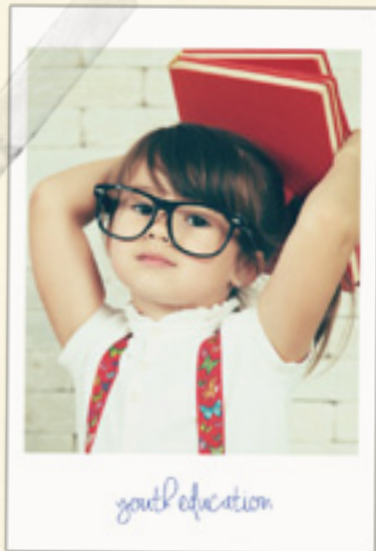
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Elementary School

Elementary schooling lasts nine years and is the country's period of compulsory schooling. The school year begins on September 1 and children start school in the new school year following their sixth birthday. Traditionally emphasis is placed on rote learning and the acquisition of facts and knowledge. One of the biggest differences is that the school day is not the same each day, so students finish at different times depending on their schedule. Parent-teacher meetings take place two to three times yearly. While Czech is the language of instruction, a handful of private schools offer bilingual programs. A great place to start your research: www.expats.cz/education-kindergarten-to-17

Secondary School

Secondary education starts with the end of compulsory education, when a child is 14 or 15. There are numerous schools to choose from and they can play a major role future university education. Schools are divided into vocational schools (*střední odborná škola*) and grammar schools (*gymnázium*). Technical schools offer practical education in technology, business, economics, health, and education. Grammar schools are oriented toward students who intend to study at university. Both schools end with the completion of a final exam (*maturita*).



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International Schools

International schools may be chosen for style of teaching (American, British, international) or even language (French, German, Japanese). Curricula are categorized by four main approaches: exportation, in which national programs are offered abroad; adaptation, in which national programs are slightly tweaked in order to offer an environment similar to the home country; integration, in which the best practices from a number of different educational strategies are drawn upon; and creation, in which a new curriculum is developed from scratch. Prices for international schools range from 2,000–17,000 EUR/year.

School Open Days

In November and December Czech schools have open days for prospective students, or *den otevřených dveří*. The other important date is school sign-up, or *zápis do prvních tříd*, the day when you enroll your child in first grade. You are not guaranteed a place in the school of your choice. Yet you are intended to register just with your preferred school. You can also try to ask teachers about the school's "admission test" policy. This differs from school to school.



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Summer Camps

How to keep your kids amused July through August? Czech kids are pretty well-catered for in this department with a range of activities from outdoor sports to music and language. But what about the younger expat set? There are a number of English-language camps, both day camps and overnight camps, to suit the tastes of both your creatively inclined offspring as well as your budding sporting types. Day camp options exist in Prague, try a community center with a focus on family activities in English; private and international schools also host day camps and classes during the summer months.

Educational Trips

For educational outings, the National Technological Museum, the Aviation Museum, and the Lego Museum all deliver hands-on fun. Do some stargazing at Planetarium Prague. Explore life aquatic at Mořský svět, a small-scale Sea World, and do not miss the Prague ZOO.



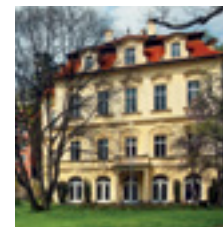
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University

Admission to a public university is based on the results of an entrance exam. Each course or faculty has its own exam, which can be written and/or oral. The more prestigious Czech universities, at least from a local point of view, are public. Today, the degree program in the Czech Republic is quite similar to elsewhere. There are three standard degrees: Bachelor (*bakalář*), Master (*magistr*) and Doctor (*doktor*). A Bachelor course runs for three to four years, a Master's from one to three and a doctorate from three to eight years.

The Czech Republic also confers the degree "Engineer" (*inženýr*), for postgraduate study in technology, economics or agriculture. It is similar to a Master's Degree. Prague's most recognizable bastion of academia is Charles University. Established in 1348 by the Bohemian king Karel IV, it's the oldest university in Central Europe. The traditions of its original faculties—theology, law, medicine, and art—have remained strong and the university offers degree programs (Bachelor, Master, and Doctor) with English-language instruction.



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Education

MBAs

Prague has a wealth of MBA programs. Although the core content of all MBA degrees is comparable, there are significant differences between the duration and emphasis of the programs in the US and in Europe. Whereas the US MBA program typically lasts two years, the average European program lasts 10–16 months. Shorter courses were specifically designed for today's executives, who are unable to take two years away from their jobs. Many of the Prague-based schools have part-time or weekend courses geared toward the working professional.

American degrees are usually heavier on theory and academics, while European MBAs are oriented more towards practical experience, are more hands-on, and provide unique international experience. The quality of an MBA program in Prague is best evaluated by the school's accreditation from respected associations. The oldest and most respected institution that provides accreditation is the "Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business" (AACSB) or "European Council for Business Education (ECBE).

TEFL Certification

Over the past twenty years Prague has been a Mecca for those who desire a good standard of living in exchange for giving a few lessons in their native language. A TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) certification certainly isn't required to achieve this but it definitely can't hurt—and most language schools nowadays require them, not to mention official diplomas and certifications are usually required to secure a work permit in the Czech Republic. TEFL certification is received following 100-plus contact hours with at least six hours of assessed teaching practice.

Well-known TEFL-course "brands" include the CELTA (AKCENT awards this certificate) and the Trinity certificate (awarded in Prague by Oxford TEFL), but there are many other TEFL courses in Prague that are also internationally recognized and accredited.



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There are also plenty of unprofessional, unscrupulous schools out there, too. A few caveats as you investigate the school or company offering that TEFL course: Be advised that it's entirely possible to find a job on your own with certification and a little initiative—though your school may guarantee employment, and that's fine, it's probably not worth paying extra for. Before choosing a course, do plenty of online research and speak to alumni.

Degrees for Expats

Though business and economics degrees have traditionally been more commonplace than degree opportunities in the arts and humanities, times are changing. Employees with information-technology (IT) training are highly sought after in the new global Czech capital and this is reflected in the increasing availability of computer-related classes in Prague, although training in international relations, journalism, law, art and design, psychology, literature, marketing and public relations are all available. Some schools go by a British crediting system (one course may equal two units as per the European Credit Transfer System), while others bestow credits the American way (three per course).

Non-degree Courses

The Pražský kulinářský institut has classes for both amateurs and professionals; The Prague Culinary Academy, endorsed by Le Cordon Bleu, runs professional-track workshops in Czech and English and organizes culinary tours of Paris and other tasty locales. All faculties of Charles University offer a variety of non-degree courses and seminars in foreign languages (English, German, French, Czech) and the school organizes summer programs in a number of areas.

Colleges & Universities



International and Diplomatic Studies at VŠE, Prague

Nám. W. Churchilla 4, 130 67, Praha 3
+420 224 098 824

ids.vse.cz
ids@vse.cz

IDS is a two-year full-time master's program taught in English at the University of Economics, Prague, Czech Republic (VŠE). As part of the program, students are sent for a mandatory semester abroad to be hosted by a partner university.



Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University in Prague

Smetanovo nábřeží 6, 110 01, Praha 1
+420 222 112 228
+420 222 112 284

www.fsv.cuni.cz
admissions@fsv.cuni.cz

FSV UK, as a part of one of the oldest universities in the world, offers some of the highest quality English-language Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degree programmes in economics, politics, international studies and other fields of study.

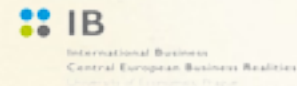


Metropolitan University Prague

Dubečská 900/10, 100 31, Praha 10
+420 274 815 044

www.mup.cz
study@mup.cz

Metropolitan University Prague provides education in Bachelor's Degree (Bc.), Master's Degree (Mgr., Ing.), and Doctoral Degree (Ph.D. and PhDr.) study programmes.



International Business Program at VŠE, Prague

Nám W. Churchilla 4, 130 67, Praha 3
+420 224 098 524

ib.vse.cz
ib@vse.cz

The IB Program is a 2-year master's degree in International Business taught in English at a top business university in Central & Eastern Europe. We have double degree partners in several other European nations & our students come from 35+ countries.

Education

Colleges & Universities



Institut Franco-Tchèque de Gestion (IFTG)

nám. W. Churchill 4, 130 67, Praha 3
+420 224 098 537

iftg.vse.cz
karetovv@vse.cz

The master programme Management et Administration des Entreprises is offered to francophone candidates and is realized in cooperation with consortium of French universities. It is accredited by the French Ministry of Education.



International School
of Business and Management
University of Economics, Prague

International Executive MBA

nám. W. Churchill 4, 130 67, Praha 3
+420 224 098 466

isbm.vse.cz/english/
ISBM@vse.cz

The MBA program is 2-year postgraduate program taught in English, ranked 3rd in MBA in Eastern Europe – Eduuniversal Ranking. This program is designed especially for managers seeking to expand their skills. The MBA program is accredited by the FIBAA.



Doctoral Programmes (PhD.)

nám. W. Churchill 4, 130 67, Praha 3
+420 224 095 790

ozs.vse.cz/english/vse-degree-programmes/phd/
susan@vse.cz

The University of Economics, Prague, the largest university of economics in the Czech Republic, offers about 14 doctoral study programmes in English in the fields of finance, international relations, management, economics, informatics and statistics.



QEA

Quantitative Economic Analysis
University of Economics, Prague

Quantitative Economic Analysis (QEA)

nám. W. Churchill 4, 130 67, Praha 3
+420 224 095 418

qea.vse.cz
qea@vse.cz

The QEA graduates are qualified for positions in strategic, analytical and research departments of government institutions, local or international consulting companies, large industrial firms, market research companies and financial institutions.

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Chemická 951, Praha 4 • Tel.: 775 731 231
E-mail: paha-chodov@thelittlegym.eu
Web: paha-chodov.thelittlegym.eu

Education

Colleges & Universities



Information Systems Management (ISM)

nám. W. Churchilla 4, 130 67, Praha 3
+420 224 095 418

ism.vse.cz
ism@vse.cz

The ISM master programme is designed to train specialists in the development and management of information systems, in business companies or the public sector, able to flexibly respond to the needs and challenges of IS/ICT and business environments.



International Management (CEMS MIM)

nám. W. Churchilla 4, 130 67, Praha 3
+420 224 098 525

cemsmim.vse.cz
klara.vitekova@vse.cz

The CEMS Master's in Management programme is a full-time two-year academic training that provides talented students with a comprehensive business education in economics, management, finance, marketing, cross-cultural communication and negotiations.



Economics of Globalisation and European Integration (EGEI)

nám. W. Churchilla 4, 130 67, Praha 3
+420 224 098 526

egei.vse.cz/english
klosova@vse.cz

The EGEI programme is a joint degree master's programme organized by consortium of 7 European and 2 non-European (China, Brazil) partner universities. Focus is on economics of globalisation, international trade and economic integration.



Finance and Accounting
for Common Europe
University of Economics, Prague

Master in Finance and Accounting (MIFA)

nám. W. Churchilla 4, 130 67, Praha 3
+420 224 095 142

mifa.vse.cz
mifa@vse.cz

The MIFA programme is a two-year full time master's degree programme taught in English. Graduates are prepared for positions of banking and financial services managers, financial analysts, chief accountants, auditors or consultants.



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Education

Colleges & Universities



BSc Economics

University of Economics, Prague

Economics (ECON)

nám. W. Churchilla 4, 130 67,

Praha 3

+420 224 095 372

econ.vse.cz

lucie.wagnerova@vse.cz

The main objective of the bachelor's degree programme is to create qualified professional economists with a strong base in economics, legal sciences and other social disciplines with a special emphasis on international economics and politics.



Business Administration

University of Economics, Prague

Business Administration (BBA)

nám. W. Churchilla 4, 130 67,

Praha 3

+420 224 098 358

bba.vse.cz

karel.pernica@vse.cz

The BBA programme is a three-year full-time bachelor's degree that educates analytically and socially responsible minded business professionals for mid-management positions with a broad economic overview focusing on managing business performance.



Bachelor of International Business

University of Economics, Prague

Bachelor of International Business (IBB)

nám. W. Churchilla 4, 130 67, Praha 3

+420 224 095 242

ibb.vse.cz

andrea.petrankova@vse.cz

The IBB programme is a three-year, full-time bachelor's degree programme taught in English. Graduates are well prepared to work in mid-level management positions. IBB provides a very solid basis for further studies at the master's level.



**UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
IN PRAGUE**

University of New York in Prague

Londýnská 41, 120 00, Praha 2

+420 224 221 261

www.unyp.cz

admission@unyp.cz

University of New York in Prague is the leading English language higher education institution in the Czech Republic. Teaching takes place in English with nearly 800 students from more than 60 countries. Bachelor's, Master's, MBA, PhD study programs.



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Education

International Schools



The Prague British School

Vlastina site, 160 00, Vlastina 19
+420 226 096 200

www.pbschool.cz
admissions@pbschool.cz

PBS is attended every day by 970 children from 60 countries. The Vlastina site is located in the west of the city, 20 minutes drive from the centre. Vlastina caters for children aged from 3 to 14 years old.



The Prague British School

Kamýk site, 140 00, K Lesu 558/2
+420 226 096 200

www.pbschool.cz
admissions@pbschool.cz

PBS is attended every day by 970 children from 60 countries. The Kamýk site is located in the south east of the city, 20 minutes drive from the centre. Kamýk caters for children aged from 3 to 18 years old.



International Montessori School of Prague

Hrudickova 2107/16, 148 00, Praha 4
+420 272 937 758

www.montessori.cz
info@montessori.cz

We are a private, English immersion Montessori school, serving children aged from 18 months to 12 years old. We pride ourselves on being a family-oriented school and a nurturing community with a dedication to educating the whole child.



Riverside School

Roztocká 9, 160 00, Praha 6
+420 224 315 336

www.riversideschool.cz
admissions@riversideschool.cz

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Primary School



Junior High



Senior High

📍 Riverside School, Roztocká 9, 160 00 Prague

☎ +420 224 315 336

✉ admissions@riversideschool.cz

🌐 www.riversideschool.cz



Education

International Schools



Townshend International School

Hradčany 1070, 373 41, Hluboká nad Vltavou
+420 387 688 111
+420 387 688 113

www.townshend.cz
contact@townshend.cz

Cambridge International curriculum, founded in 1992, co-educational, English medium, residential and day school. Courses leading to Cambridge University's IGCSE and A Levels. Class sizes are small, and run from Kindergarten to Grade 13 (A Levels).



Lycée Français de Prague

Drtinova 7,150 00, Praha 5
+420 222 550 000
+420 222 550 001

www.lfp.cz
secretariat@lfp.cz

The school "Lycée Français de Prague" provides high-quality, multi-language education based on a French educational system for children from 3 to 18 years.



German School Prague

Schwarzenberská 1, 158 00, Praha 5
+420 235 311 725

www.dsp-praha.cz
dsprag@dsp-praha.cz

German Kindergarten, Primary school, Secondary school. All German leaving exams. Native speaking teachers. German curriculum. Czech-German secondary school - German prep. course for year 5, Secondary school from year 6, German and Czech leaving exams.



The English College in Prague

Sokolovská 320, 190 00, Praha 9
+420 283 893 113

www.englishcollege.cz
office@englishcollege.cz

The English College in Prague is a selective 6-year Grammar School for students aged 13-19. We offer the highest academic quality with IGCSE, IB and Maturita programmes. We have the highest number of candidates placed on top UK or world universities.

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One School



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Education

International Schools

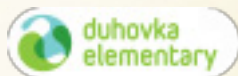


Duhovka High School

Ortenovo náměstí 34, 170 00,
Praha 7 Holešovice
+420 241 404 217

www.duhovkagymnazium.cz
info@duhovkagymnazium.cz

Eight-year Czech-English educational system for students aged 12 to 19 years. The first high school based on Montessori principles in the CR. Opportunity to be involved in international projects, foreign exchanges and various outdoor activities.



Duhovka Montessori Elementary School

Nad Kajetánkou 134/9,
169 00, Praha 6
+420 220 303 821

www.duhovkaskola.cz
info@duhovkaskola.cz

The Duhovka Elementary School (1-5 grades) offers a modern and individual approach based on The Montessori method and bilingual Czech-English teaching. A Czech and an English-native speaker in every class. Diverse extra-curricular activities.



Duhovka Institute

Cihelná 2, 118 00, Praha 1
+420 734 871 495
www.duhovkainstitut.cz
info@duhovkainstitut.cz

Duhovka Institute offers an internationally recognized Montessori Teacher Training Program for Early Childhood (2.5-6) and Lower Elementary (6-9) levels. DMTEP is affiliated by the American Montessori Society, and accredited by MACTE.



Carlsbad International School

Slovenská 477/5, 360 01,
Karlovy Vary
+420 353 227 387
+420 727 878 924

www.carlsbadschool.cz
admissions@carlsbadschool.cz

Carlsbad International School (CIS) is a private day and boarding school outside of Prague, offering IB Diploma and pre-diploma programmes in English for boys and girls, ages 14-18. As an IB World School, CIS offers a globally respected diploma.



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International Schools



International School

Park Lane International School

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+420 257 316 182

www.parklane-is.com

info@parklane-is-is.com

Park Lane International School's primary and secondary school campus offers a 21st Century learning environment in the midst of the ancient city of Prague. We prepare the young people of today for the unknown occupations of tomorrow.



International School

Park Lane International School

Norbertov 3, 162 00, Praha 6
+420 220 512 653

www.parklane-is.com

info@parklane-is-is.com

Park Lane International School's preschool and primary school campus caters for children of all nationalities. We pride ourselves on being a small, caring school where parents, children and staff work in partnership to create a friendly community.



First International Ballet School in Prague

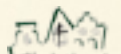
Liliová 4, 110 00, Praha 1

+420 774 194 800+420 731 148 853

www.balletschoolprague.com/en

internationalballetschool@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL BALLET SCHOOL PRAGUE, the first school of its kind in the Czech Republic, focuses on training of children and young artists and provides top-level education in classical ballet with modern dance elements.



Christian International School of Prague

Christian International School of Prague

Legerova 5, 120 00, Praha 2

+420 272 730 091

www.cisprague.org

info@cisprague.org

Centrally located in the heart of Prague, the Christian International School of Prague provides English-speaking students an affordable education that is academically excellent and practically oriented, taught within a nurturing learning environment.

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www.expats.cz/learn-czech

International Schools



Meridian International School

Frýdlantská 1350/1, 182 00, Praha 8
+420 286 581 805
+420 775 581 801

www.meridianedu.cz
info@meridianedu.cz

MIS was founded in 2004 and has a government-approved license to teach according to the approved Cambridge curriculum in the Czech Rep. We teach using the British National curr. in our Kindergarten, Primary, Secondary school and High School.



THE ENGLISH
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL PRAGUE

English International School Prague

Brunelova 960/12, 142 00, Praha 4
+420 272 181 911

www.eisp.cz
admissions@eisp.cz

For 20 years we have been providing a top quality education for 2-18 year olds in Prague. A school at the heart of the international community, our students also regularly achieve the best academic results in the city.

Music Schools



The International School of Music and Fine Arts

Příběnická 16, 130 00, Praha 3
+420 731 445 215
+420 731 445 213

www.musicschoolprague.com
info@musicschoolprague.com

The ISMFA is a part-time school of performing and visual arts. "We want to give our students a chance to enjoy their creative potential without the need of professional career; at the same time, we train future professional artists.



Thomas International School of Music & Dance

Bellušova 1855/26, 155 00, Praha 5
+420 732 866 666
+420 724 020 583

www.musicschool.cz
info@musicschool.cz

We provide instrument rental, music and dance lessons in and around Prague. From preschool to adults by experienced teachers with an individual approach. Home lessons, regular concerts, music for fun or international curriculum (ABRSM, IGCE, IB).

Preschools



Green Tree Preschool & Academy

Kafkova 42, 160 00, Praha 6
+420 723 977 084

www.greentreepreschool.cz
info@greentreepreschool.cz

Founded in 2001 by the US Embassy. This year Green Tree opens a new purpose built facility to offer its outstanding preschool programs. Our new Academy includes various classes for young families, expectant parents and parents with infants/toddlers.



Limetka Preschool

Borovská 1697, 190 16, Praha 9
+420 602 442 501
+420 605 215 054

www.skolkalimetka.cz
info@skolkalimetka.cz

Limetka" is an international Czech-English Montessori kindergarten for children from 2 years. Kindergarten Motto: We respect the individuality of each child, its individual development, interests, ways of understanding, learning.



KIDS Company Praha

Hradešinská 58, 101 00, Praha 10
+420 773 640 036

www.kidscompany-praha.eu
info@kidscompany-praha.eu

The Czech-German kindergarten offers a bilingual pre-school education, with the morning program in German and the afternoon program in Czech. We accept children from 18 months of age. The kindergarten is open from 7.30am to 8pm all year round.



Nessie English Preschool

Nad Bertramkou 10, 150 00, Praha 5
+420 251 560 531
+420 603 883 355

www.nessie.cz
info@nessie.cz

Nessie English Preschool is located in a quiet, residential area of Prague 5 in a spacious villa. As a branch of Park Lane International School, we offer the same high quality programme based on the aims and values of the National Curriculum of England.

Tips for Raising Third Culture Kids

“Third-culture kids” (TCKs), or “cross-cultural kids” (CCKs), are at ease in multiple languages, appreciate diversity, have a broad worldview, and can seemingly transition from culture to culture with ease. But many of these global nomads face big challenges as adults.

It’s enough to make first-culture parents who’ve toted their kids and their careers to the Czech Republic more than a little nervous. Is there anything you can do now to prepare your TCK to thrive as an adult later?

Here’s how to help your TCK feel at home around the world:

Don’t push the primacy of the passport culture. Children do not have to identify solely with the passport culture; identity can be made up of many layers of experience.

Anticipate and prepare for transitions. Keep things as normal as possible before, during, and after the move; an ability to roll with the punches fosters long-lasting rewards and personal growth.

Don’t let grief go unresolved. Help your child by equipping him with the necessary skills for creating closure. Still, give yourself and your kids permission and time to grieve and offer plenty of comfort.

Preserve community across time zones. Invent traditions and welcome rituals—maybe a special first lunch or dinner in your new place, or a walk past (or even through, if the campus is open) the new school—that you can use for every move.

Maintain a family retreat to which you routinely return. It doesn’t need to be in the passport country—just somewhere the entire family enjoys. Along the same lines, make sure to preserve relationships with your extended family. This is another way to build consistency in your TCK’s world.



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- 106 . The Czech School System
- 106 . Mobile Phones
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- 120 . Find a Good Tradesman
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Prague Districts

Varying systems of naming Prague districts come from different historic periods and at least three of them are in use today for different purposes. We'll adhere to the "old" system which divides Prague into ten districts and is used on street signs and house numbers. The district you choose can determine which doctor or dentist you go and where your child will attend school.

Prague 1: Crowds of tourists and lofty rents can make this area out of reach for those with families.

Prague 2: The upscale suburb of Vinohrady is an expat favorite for its proximity to the city center, easy access to public transport, and abundant green spaces.

Prague 3: Bordering Vinohrady, grittier Žižkov teems with restaurants, pubs, and its own parks.

Prague 4: Nestled on the Vltava and dominated by residential Braník and Podolí, two of the city's largest international schools are here.

Prague 5: Smíchov can feel crowded with malls, cinema complexes, and office buildings. But public transport is good, and nice neighborhoods can be found in Motol, Hlubočepy, and Radlice.

Prague 6: Dejvice is similar to Vinohrady in expat popularity. Nebužice is especially favored by expat families.

Prague 7: Appealing for Letná and Stromovka parks, great restaurants and good shopping, young international vibe.

Prague 8: Stylized living spaces, cafés, and state-of-the-art gyms continue to draw yuppies to Karlín while die-hard locals keep the mix interesting.

Prague 9: Metro line "C" extends to Letňany, an area of upscale homes and an enormous shopping center.

Prague 10: Up-and-coming Vršovice has a Vinohrady feel with lower rents.



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The Czech School System

To enroll your child in a Czech school he or she will need to obtain a Czech residence permit. If your child has completed his/her primary education at a school abroad, a certificate of attestation equality or a certificate of education featuring a recognition clause must be presented. Classes in primary schools are taught in Czech. Citizens of EU member states may receive free-of-charge tutoring including Czech classes; online resource www.inkluzivniskola.cz is an EU-sponsored initiative that helps children of foreign families' transition into the Czech school system. For information on education, see page 72.

Mobile Phones

If you're only in the Czech Republic short-term, all of the main mobile operators offer a prepaid SIM card with significantly inflated per-minute rates. SIM cards are often included in the price of a new phone and providers will generally offer special packages that include free credits with the purchase of a phone and SIM. If you're here for the long haul get a contract with one of the three major mobile networks: O2, T-Mobile, or Vodafone. You'll need proof of residence in the Czech Republic and a passport and a deposit ranging from 500 to 2,000 CZK. Non-residents may be able to get a contract in exchange for a larger deposit fee. Different rates apply for each type of service (international calling, roaming, etc.); contract plans differ in terms of requirements and what they offer. Always read the fine print and insist on an open contract in order to be able to close it when you want.

Mobile Virtual Network Operators

The first of these operators appeared in 2012 with the bulk following a year later. They use the communication networks of the existing operators. One of the most notable aspects of the MVNOs is that they are a lot cheaper than the main operators. While the list of MVNOs available is too lengthy to list here, some of them are: BLESKMobil, TescoMobil, Mobil.cz, ha-loo, Connectica, ViralMobil, GTS, GoMobil, 99 Mobile, Voocall, Relax Mobil, and Open Call.



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ondrej.marek@sbelter.cz

Stone & belter, Jungmannova 748/30 Praha 1, 110 00

Relocation

Internet Service

The three most common connections in the Czech Republic are mobile, cable, and ADSL. Cable isn't available in all areas, and the different ADSL providers have restricted availability and speed. The mobile operators (O2, T-Mobile, Vodafone, U:fon) offer wireless connections that can be used anywhere in the Czech Republic. Terms and conditions for all ISPs change almost every month and all providers typically require a 1–2 year contract to secure the best pricing plan—usually not the best long-term option since the two-year contract you signed up for might be 50% cheaper in six months. To compare prices and plans, visit www.internetprovsechny.cz, which also lists Wi-Fi networks throughout the Czech Republic.

O2's customer service department doesn't have the best reputation, but the company is probably the easiest provider to get connected with. You'll need a land line from the company first; all they require is a copy of your rental agreement and the signing of a one-year contract for the fixed phone line. Your ADSL connection then runs through the phone line, no additional paperwork is necessary. Following a change in Czech law, it's possible to get the ADSL connection from a different company (T-Mobile, for instance), despite having O2 as your telephone provider.

GTS, like O2, only requires a phone line in your name and a rental agreement from your landlord for ADSL installation. There is no limit on the volume of transferred data and GTS offers a fixed IP address free of charge, especially helpful for small-business owners.

UPC is one of the few ISPs offering a cable internet connection, which is almost always faster and more reliable than ADSL and for roughly the same price.

How to choose a provider? Location seems to be the biggest factor on the type and speed of Internet access that will be available to you. If you live in the city of Prague, for example there will be different choices available to you, but the farther from a city you go, the more the options dwindle. The historic center of Prague however can be a problem as old buildings and infrastructure is still struggling to catch up with technology.



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The Czech Post Office

Czech post offices don't just provide basic postal services. Here you can pay bills, refresh your mobile phone credit, complete a wire transfer, and more. The main post office in Prague 1 (Jindřišská 1) is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Different windows handle different services.

To post a letter queue at the window marked *listovní služby*, for parcels it's *příjem a výdej balíků*, and to make payments go to the *peněžní služby* window. In larger branches select your service from a ticket machine and take a number. Press *listovní zásilky* for letters and *balíkové zásilky* for parcels. Postage for a standard letter (14 cm x 9 cm and weighing up to 50 g) within the Czech Republic is 10 CZK. Registered mail, or *doporučená zásilka*, for the same size letter sent somewhere within the country costs 30 CZK and is insured for loss or damage up to the value of 500 CZK. When sending a letter abroad, chose *obyčejně* or *letecky*; surface or air mail, respectively. A letter sent anywhere in Europe via air mail will take 3–5 days; outside Europe it can be 5–9 days.

Sending parcels within the Czech Republic costs 43–92 CZK, depending on the weight. Sending a parcel abroad is charged by different weight classes than domestic parcel postage. There is also a maximum weight of 30 kg. The final factor in determining price is whether it is surface or air. A package to a European country can take up to six days by air mail. By the same means to non-European countries, the time varies from one to two weeks. If you are collecting registered mail or a package, take the slip that appears in your mailbox and your passport or residence card. If the word *clo*, is ticked on your slip you'll be expected pay customs duty.

You can also pay energy bills, water, phone, and tax at the post office. If a company is billing you, they will send you a pink slip, called a *poštovní poukázka*. Every time you pay by a postal order you are charged. For amounts up to 5,000 CZK the fee is 22 CZK. For amounts 5,000–50,000 CZK the fee is 33 CZK. For every 10,000 CZK above 50,000 CZK, 6 CZK is charged.

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Marriage

Foreigners must download “A Questionnaire for Entering into Marriage”, via the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic website. You’ll also need The Protocol on Contracting the Marriage form, to be filled in by the appropriate registrar together with you and your fiancé or just one of you, as well as the documents listed below. These documents must be translated into Czech by a legal translator before registration for the wedding can take place. Registration takes approximately one month. Any documents issued in your country of origin must be legalized by a governmental stamp called an apostille that certifies documents for use in the Czech Republic.

- Birth certificate
- Proof of your nationality and identity (your passport suffices).
- A Certificate of No Impediment to Marriage, certifying your capacity to marry. You may be able to make a sworn statement at your country’s embassy.
- If the bride or the groom has been widowed, the death certificate of the deceased spouse, or a notarized copy of this certificate, must be presented. If the bride or the groom is divorced, the divorce certificate, or a notarized copy, must be presented.
- Any necessary religious documents.
- For non-EU citizens who plan to reside in the Czech Republic, a certificate issued, no longer than seven days prior to the marriage by the Czech Foreign Police, that you may legally stay in the Czech Republic.

The Certificate of No Impediment to Marriage is a simple document from your home country stating that you are legally able to marry. You can obtain it in your home country or from your embassy in Prague.

The legal part of the wedding ceremony will be in Czech, but if the bride and/or groom doesn’t speak the language, law requires that an interpreter be present. Go to the matrika department of your local místní úřad (district) to file your paperwork. Here they’ll determine if you are fluent enough to participate in a Czech ceremony or if you’ll require a soudní tlumočník (court-approved interpreter).

Pets

If you’re bringing your pet from another country, you will need a veterinary certificate, with confirmation of a rabies vaccination (within the past year) for pets more than 12 weeks old. Your pet must also be equipped with a microchip or tattooed number to aid in identification. You should make sure your pet is up to date on yearly rabies vaccinations during your time in Prague, and have a certificate as proof. All dogs must be registered in your district within 15 days of ownership. Even if you have acquired your dog within the Czech Republic, dogs over six months old must be tattooed or have a microchip implant according to EU law. The procedure can be done at a veterinarian’s office. After the marking is carried out, you must register yourself as the owner of the dog by filling out a registration card and mailing it to your local City Council. You should receive confirmation of your registration by mail. Your veterinarian will automatically issue an EU pet passport during tattooing/microchipping.

Once you and Fido are settled in, you will be thrilled to discover that dogs are allowed almost everywhere in this country including some restaurants and pubs, stores, and small shops. They can be taken on public transport, though a leash and muzzle is required, but a new policy has waived the ticket requirement – a valid ticket now lets you transport one four-legged friend free of charge.

Food is widely available at pet stores and vet offices where you can also pick up anti-tick medication, a very important thing to have considering that the Czech Republic has a lot of ticks. There is a 24-hour emergency pet care service in Prague 4 that may come in handy: www.vetnemo.cz.

Another useful resource for pet-loving expats is the Facebook group Prague Pets which is a place not only for helping pets find foster or adoptive owners but also for general discussion about being a pet owner in the Czech Republic. There is also a fairly new service (www.doginni.cz) that helps you find a reliable dogsitters and walkers—kind of like Airbnb for dogs!

Residence Permits (Visas)

Going to the Ministry of Interior (www.mvcr.cz/cizinci) to pick up all forms is suggested. Submitted documents cannot be copies or internet printouts: only original and notarized copies are valid. (Note: you don't get anything back, so always provide notarized copies.) If the documents aren't in Czech, they must be officially translated. Also, no documentation can be older than six months. This applies to both EU and non-EU citizens. After having lived in the country for five years on an uninterrupted basis, EU and non-EU foreign nationals can apply for permanent residence in the Czech Republic.



EU Citizens

If you're an EU citizen (or citizen of Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, or Switzerland) you have the right to apply for a "certificate of temporary residence" at the Ministry of the Interior. The certificate is valid for an unlimited period and issued as a free-standing document. EU residents applying for residence in the Czech Republic are also assigned a *rodné číslo* (birth number). To apply submit an application and the following:

- Proof of 5-years continuous residence in CR
- Proof that you have accommodation in the Czech Republic
- Your passport
- Passport-sized photos
- Proof of non-criminal record

Non-EU Citizens

If you are from a country whose citizens do not need a visa for a short stay, such as the U.S., you can stay for no more than three months within any six-month period from the date of first entry in the Schengen Zone.

If you intend to stay in this country longer than 90 days, you should apply for a long-term visa, or a long-term residence permit, at a Czech Embassy, based on the purpose of your stay, i.e. work, study, business, etc.

You should automatically receive a *rodné číslo* (birth, or registration number) if you are applying for *dlouhodobý pobyt* (long-term residence) or *trvalý pobyt* (permanent residence).

A long-term visa is based on your legal purpose of stay. If your purpose is employment, you must be hired by an employer, who will provide you with a work permit, which thus becomes your purpose of stay. You also need the following documents:

- Passport valid for at least three months beyond the stay. Two empty pages in your passport for the visa.
- Two passport-sized photos
- Proof of accommodation
- Proof of medical insurance
- A document similar to a criminal record extract issued by your home country, as well as from any country in which you have legally resided for more than six months in the past three years.

Once you've gathered all your documentation, make an appointment at a Czech embassy or consulate abroad. If you're already in the Czech Republic, Dresden (Germany), Vienna (Austria), and Bratislava (Slovakia) are nearby. After re-entering in the Czech Republic with your long-term visa, you have three business days to register at the Foreign Police in the region where you live. Actual processing times vary.

The Schengen Zone

The Czech Republic joined the Schengen Zone (a group of European countries that have removed border controls) in 2008. Though border checks have ended among Schengen Zone members the right of member states to request documentation from travelers has not. Third state nationals must have a valid passport to enter any Schengen member state. Having a long-term visa in the Czech Republic does not grant the holder the same rights of travel and stay as a citizen of an EU or Schengen member nation. (The two are not synonymous the UK and Ireland are members of the former not the latter. For Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Iceland the reverse is true.)

Citizens of Schengen states traveling in the zone must carry either a valid passport or identity card as the Schengen agreement does not terminate the domestic policing laws of a given country and some member states reserve the right to check personal identification. Police could check passports in: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Spain, Slovakia, and the Netherlands. Photocopies of the passport information pages are acceptable in Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Romania, and Slovenia.

Whether you have Czech permanent residence or a long-term visa, the duration in another Schengen country is the same: three months within a six-month period. For a person with permanent residence in the Czech Republic, Schengen regulations allow him/her to spend three months out of every six in the territory of another Schengen state. Unlike a normal tourist, you don't have to return to your home country, you can return to the Czech Republic and your stay in the Czech Republic does not count against your stay in the rest of the Schengen Zone. You cannot legally work, and you're required to have medical insurance for the duration of your stay. If you intend to stay longer, then you will need to apply for a Schengen visa for that duration.

As the UK and Ireland are not part of the Schengen Zone they have different rules regarding stays. For the UK, people from the US,

Canada, Australia, and New Zealand are eligible for stays of up to 180 days, usually without a visa. For the Republic of Ireland, stays of up to three months are possible without a visa. There is one condition which changes the aforementioned residence requirements: if you have a family member who is an EU citizen. Family members include a spouse, a partner in a civil union, a parent who is an EU citizen, or his/her spouse or registered partner (meaning that you are a dependent under the age of 21), or a dependent parent of either the citizen or spouse or partner.

If your Czech spouse or partner moves to work in another EU member state, it is likely that you will have to apply for a "family permit." If you and your significant other are planning a move, you will require some documentation: valid and correct passport and marriage certificate or proof of partnership registration.

UPDATE: In 2015, a number of refugees from war-torn countries in the Middle East flooded Central Europe en route to destinations farther West. This put pressure on the Schengen agreement, an accord originally put in place to enable passport-free movement throughout EU States.

Due to the migration crisis a number of EU countries are reinstating border controls. Germany is temporarily enforcing border controls with Austria. Slovakia is upping controls with Austria and Hungary while France and The Netherlands have implemented spot checks. Poland, too, will consider reinstating borders.

While the Schengen accords allow for temporary controls in exceptional circumstances, the crisis has strained the agreement. It is suggested that both EU and Non-EU nationals always travel with the proper documentation.

Finding a Good Tradesman

Whether you've just moved to the Czech Republic or have been here a long time, it's a good idea, if you've not done so, to make inquiries about plumbers, heating engineers, etc., for future reference.

First of all, let's look at the vocabulary for the professions, as it can be rather confusing. Services provided by an instalatér (plural: instalatéři) can mean both a plumber and a gas fitter. Firms providing such services also offer electrical services (elektrikář) or heating (topení). In addition, they may carry out construction work (stavební práce) on a small scale. An údržbář is a handyman, and in some cases an instalatér can also do the work of a handyman. A locksmith in Czech is zámečnický (plural: zámečníci; zámečnictví is the profession).

If you live in rented accommodation, the landlord may already deal with certain companies, so when a problem arises, it may be relatively straightforward to deal with. But if you're an owner-occupier, you'll have to do a bit more shopping around.

When something goes wrong, bear in mind that in some cases it may not just be your problem but an issue that's affecting the whole neighborhood. For example, in summer you may encounter the highly irritating odstávka teplé vody, when water companies shut off hot water for a few days for maintenance reasons.

Prices for services are generally lower than what you would expect for similar services at home. The builder/plumber, etc., will often issue a receipt on the spot, or he will send you an invoice. For larger jobs, the workman may ask for a down payment, followed by installments.

Word of mouth is probably the best way to find the services you require; there is also the Facebook group CrowdSauceCZ (www.facebook.com/groups/crowdsauce/), which is essentially an online advice and review service with tips from English-speaking locals. Note that most tradesmen will not speak English and you may need a Czech friend to interpret if you should hire one.

Cost of Living

Last year the Czech National Bank devalued the Czech Crown. You might be wondering how this will affect things from the cost of groceries to a night out.

Despite these developments, Prague remains fairly inexpensive compared to most European capitals with the exception of consumer items, which are often more expensive when compared to other countries in and outside of Europe.



Restaurants	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
Large Sausage on Wenceslas Square*	50 – 70	2.05 – 2.86	1.50 – 2.10	2.49 – 3.48
Slice of Pizza	30	1.22	0.90	1.49
Lunch for one in a pub with drink	130	5.31	3.90	6.46
Combo meal in fast food restaurant	150	6.13	4.50	7.45
Medium coffee from coffee shop	70	2.86	2.10	3.48
Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught) **	35 – 40	1.43 – 1.63	1.05 – 1.20	1.74 – 1.99
Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)	60 – 70	2.45 – 2.86	1.80 – 2.10	2.98 – 3.48
A shot of vodka (20 mL)	40	1.63	1.20	1.99
Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)	40	1.63	1.20	1.99
Water (0.33 liter bottle)	35	1.43	1.05	1.74

*There are fewer stands operating than before.

**If you visit pubs outside the center you will find cheaper beers.

Relocation

The Supermarket	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
Milk*	22	0.90	0.66	1.09
Loaf of Fresh Bread (Šumavský)	22	0.90	0.66	1.09
Loaf of White Sliced Bread	30	1.22	0.90	1.49
French Baguette (Large)	25	1.01	0.75	1.24
Butter (250g)	38	1.55	1.14	1.89
Flour	15	0.61	0.45	0.74
Rice (parboiled small packet)	20	0.81	0.60	0.99
Packet of Spaghetti **	15 - 40	0.61 – 1.63	0.45 – 1.20	0.74 – 1.99
Eggs (10)	30	1.22	0.90	1.49
Cheese (100g) - Eidam	20	0.81	0.60	0.99
Whole Chicken	70	2.86	2.10	3.48
Chicken breasts (1 kg)	145	5.92	4.35	7.21
Beef rumpsteak (1kg)	270	11.03	8.11	13.42
Pork cutlet (1 kg)	150	6.13	4.50	7.46
1 kg Apples (Granny Smith)	45	1.84	1.35	2.24
Water (1.5 liter bottle)	10	0.40	0.30	0.49
Tea (Small box)	35	1.43	2.05	1.74
Coffee – instant 200g	160	6.54	4.80	7.95
Bottle of Czech Wine	85	3.47	2.55	4.22
Domestic Beer *** (0.5 liter bottle)	15	0.61	0.45	0.74
Imported Beer (0.5 liter bottle)	25	1.01	0.75	1.24
Pack of Cigarettes (Czech Brand)****	80	3.26	2.40	3.98
Pack of Cigarettes (Imported)	85	3.47	2.79	2.55

Transport†	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
Limited Ticket (30 mon.)	24	0.98	0.72	1.19
90-Minute Ticket	32	1.31	0.96	1.59
24-Hour Pass	110	4.49	3.30	5.47
3-Day Pass	310	12.67	9.31	15.41
Monthly Pass	550	22.47	16.52	27.34
Monthly Pass, Student	260	10.62	7.81	12.92
Monthly Pass, Senior	250	10.21	7.51	12.43
Quarterly Pass	1,480	60.47	44.45	73.57
5-Month Pass	2,450	100.10	73.58	121.79
Annual Pass	3,650	134.99	94.56	144.28
Taxi (airport to center) ††	350 - 500	14.30 – 20.43	10.51 – 15.01	17.40 – 24.85
Taxi (within center)	130 - 170	5.31 – 6.95	3.90 – 5.10	6.46 – 8.45
Liter Petrol †††	35 - 40	1.43 – 1.63	1.05 – 1.20	1.74 – 1.99

Relocation

Flights‡	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
London (All Airports)	From 2,500 Return	102.14	75.08	124.27
Paris (All Airports)	From 2, 700 Return	110.31	81.09	134.21
New York (All Airports)	From 13,000 Return	646.22	390.41	646.22

Accommodation (Per Month)	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
Room in Flatshare Prague 1 or 2	7,500	306.43	225.24	372.82
Room in Flatshare, Outside Center	6,000	245.15	180.19	298.25
Studio Flat, Prague 1 or 2	8,500	347.29	255.27	422.53
Studio Flat, Outside Center	6,500	265.57	195.21	323.22
Flat (1+1) in Prague 1 or 2	11,500	469.87	345.37	571.65
Flat (1+1) Outside Center	8,500	347.30	255.27	422.53
Flat (2+1) in Prague 1 or 2	18,000	735.44	540.57	894.76
Flat (2+1) Outside Center	12,000	490.30	360.38	596.51
4 Star Hotel, Dbl Room (Per Night)	3,000	122.57	90.10	149.13
Bed in a Hostel Dorm (Per Night)	200	8.17	6.00	9.94
These prices are an average of the market rent as of 27th January.				

Utilities (Per Month)\$	CZK	EUR	GBP	USD
Electricity	460	18.79	13.81	22.87
Gas	1830	74.77	54.96	90.87
Phone (Land line)	500	20.43	1.50	24.85
Mobile phone (unlimited calls within provider network)	500	20.43	1.50	24.85
Internet	500	20.43	1.50	24.85

*The price for milk is a rough average. Prices vary depending on whether the milk is UHT, fresh or bio. Specials can also bring the price below the average.

**There seemed such a broad range of prices it made no sense to average it. The lower price represents the generic brands; the higher price is for the "better quality".

***Again a rough average. Some beers can be as low as 7 CZK with Pilsner Urquell selling for over 20 CZK. The price does not include the 3 CZK refundable deposit for beer bottles.

****An average of the prices in the category.

†Prices as given on the Prague Mass Transit webpage on 27th January 2014.

†† Prices depend on the taxi company.

††† Prices given on 27th January 2014.

\$Prices vary depending on time of year and deals that the table shows the lowest prices found for 2014 on 27th January.

§This figure is based on the average of the main providers. The price was calculated for a one person apartment with electricity for cooking and gas for heating and hot water.

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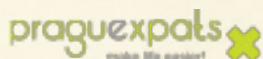
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Becoming a Czech Citizen

The Citizenship Law of the Czech Republic requires foreigners wishing to obtain Czech citizenship to demonstrate, on top of their knowledge of the Czech language at a B1 level—although a proposal by the government is currently in motion to toughen up the language test—and knowledge of basic facts about the Czech Republic via a Czech Life and Institutions Exam (traditions, famous people, and landmarks, functions of government bodies, and more general questions concerning the Czech Republic are covered.)

If you can follow short texts in Czech and have the background knowledge, you would have a fair chance of understanding the questions.

According to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, 99% of candidates who sat the actual test have been successful. Those who do not pass have unlimited opportunities to try again. The same spokesperson said the actual test is drawn from the same database of questions, which the sample test comes from.

The database has 300 questions in all, broadly divided into Basic Civics, Geography, and History and Culture. The Integration Center Prague or IC Praha occasionally organizes seminars that help individuals prep for the exam. Find out how, when, and where to take the test here: obcanstvi.cestina-pro-cizince.cz.

Czech Culture Quiz

Do you know your Czech Life and Institutions? Here are some sample questions, translated from the databank:

1. Mr Novotný is an entrepreneur and he has a legal obligation to pay tax. Which government office checks what tax he pays?
 - A. The municipal office
 - B. The financial office
 - C. The land registry
 - D. The trade license office



Relocation

2. Lipno is the largest reservoir dam in the Czech Republic. In which part of the Czech Republic does it lie?

- A. In South Moravia
- B. In South Bohemia
- C. In North Moravia
- D. In North Bohemia

3. Into which institution can't citizens of the Czech Republic vote for their representatives?

- A. Into the Government
- B. Into the Senate
- C. Into the Chamber of Deputies
- D. Into a municipal council

4. When is the Day of Fight for Freedom and Democracy celebrated in the Czech Republic?

- A. October 28
- B. May 8
- C. July 6
- D. November 17

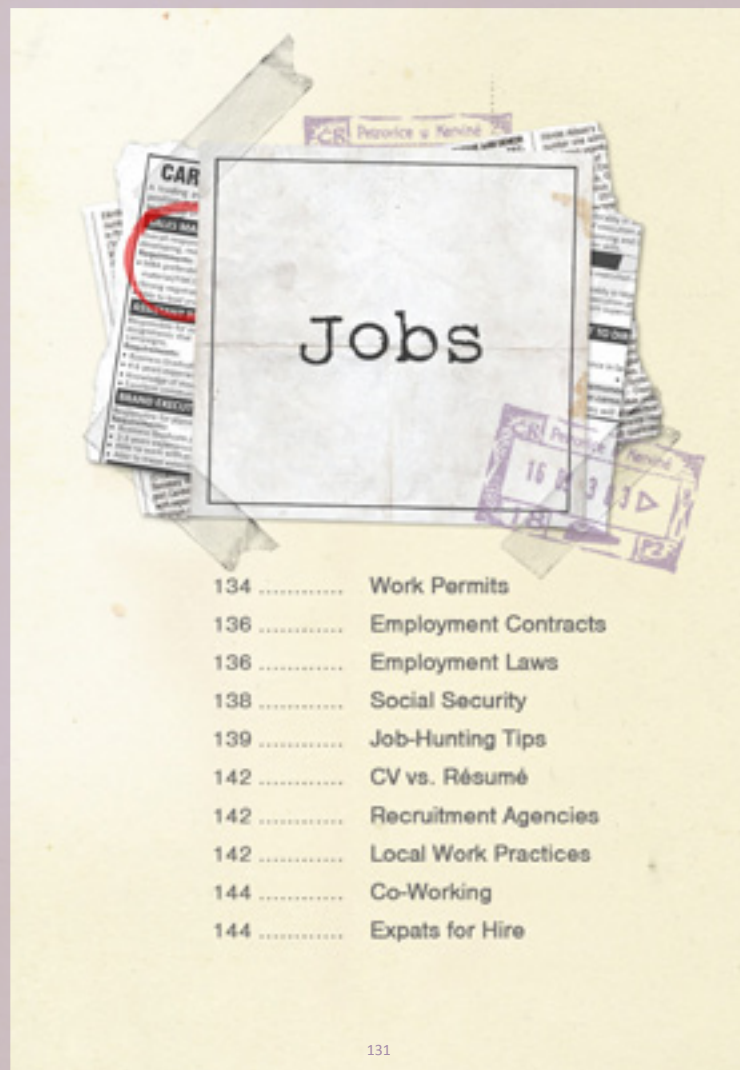
5. According to tradition who brings the Christmas presents in the Czech Republic?

- A. Grandfather Frost
- B. Baby Jesus
- C. St. Nicholas
- D. Santa Claus

6. Which food is usually eaten in the Czech Republic Christmas Eve dinner?

- A) Pudding
- B) Roast goose
- C) Fried carp
- D) Cooked eggs

(Answers: 1. Financial office, 2. South Bohemia, 3. Into the Government 4. November 17, 5. Baby Jesus; 6. Fried carp)





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Besides the relocation package, Accenture has created a set of internal guidelines which are sent by email to a new member of staff prior to his/her arrival. This handbook contains some useful information about the company and work within Accenture and also up-to-date information regarding practical matters related to living in Prague. In addition, each new team member is assisted by the Foreigner Office Coordinator (FOC), a person fully focused on the support of Accenture's foreigners working in Prague.

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Jobs

Plentiful job opportunities exist for expats in the Czech Republic: creative senior and executive roles, language teaching jobs, IT, HR, sales, finance and accounting, customer service, pharmaceutical, automotive, engineering, and hospitality. Our guide to employment in Prague covers everything from work permits to tips for touching up your CV.

Work Permits

To legally conduct business in the Czech Republic, you must own a company, work on a *živnostenský list* (trade license), or be an employee. In order to work as an employee, non-EU citizens must first obtain *povolení k zaměstnání* (a work permit) and visa issued for employment purposes, or a long-term residence permit. EU citizens and their families don't require a work permit to become legally employed in the Czech Republic.

Apply for a work permit at the relevant regional branch office of the Labor Office of the Czech Republic (LOCR). The application may be submitted by a third party with power of attorney (an employer will often take care of this) and costs 500 CZK. Employer, job position, place of work, and validity period must be specified.

The work permit is only valid for a maximum of two years, after which time it can be extended. Visit the employment section of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs Web site at portal.mpsv.cz/sz for further information in English as well as a searchable job database.

Employment Contracts

Employment typically begins with a contract, which may include a three-month trial period. The employment contract should clearly detail all aspects of employment, must be in written form and must include the type of work, the location of work, and the start date. The contract may be ended by the employer or the employee under any of the

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Jobs

following conditions: Expiration of the employment contract, mutual agreement between the two parties, a termination notice submitted by either party, immediate termination by either party, which can only be used in certain circumstances, termination during the trial period (in which case a reason for termination doesn't officially have to be given).

Employment Laws

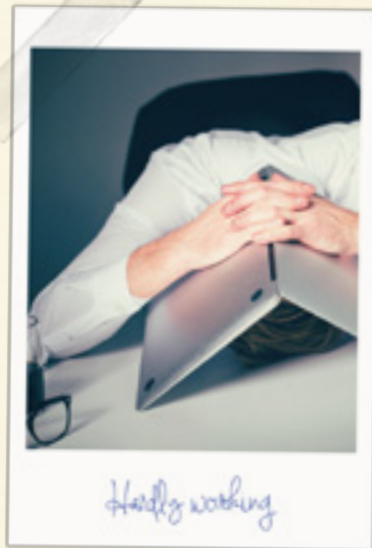
Employers must treat all employees equally, and follow anti-discrimination laws and guidelines detailed in the Labor Code. Any type of discrimination based on race, sex, beliefs, etc., is illegal.

Working Hours: 40 maximum.

Vacation Time: Minimum 4 weeks/year of paid vacation

Minimum Wage: In 2016 minimum monthly wage in the Czech Republic was 9,900 CZK/month; 58.70 CZK/hour.

Maternity Leave: A female employee is entitled to 28 weeks' maternity leave coinciding with the birth of a child. The maternity leave can never be less than 14 weeks, and can never end less than six weeks after the birth of a child. During the maternity leave, the employee receives financial support from the government.



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Illegal Employment: A foreigner found to be employed without a work permit or performing jobs inconsistent with their work permit is subject to a fine of up to 100,000 CZK.

Quitting: First, you obtain a *výpověď dohodou* (termination by agreement). This written agreement made by you and your employer states explicitly the day your employment finishes. If you are quitting it does not need to include the reason why. Remember, it must be in writing or the termination is not valid. If you work under a business license you also only have to give the company/individual you're contracted to 15 days' notice.

Getting Fired: Mutual agreement to end employment can be initiated by the employer. The conditions are similar to a termination by agreement requested by an employee. One difference is that a reason must be stated in the notice. Otherwise, an employer must give you two months' notice starting on the first day of the month after the notice is served. Severance pay is covered in section 67 of the Labor Code.

Social Security

The Czech Republic assesses social security on income from wages and self-employment earned in the Czech Republic. Social security, consisting of pension, disability and unemployment fund insurance, totaling 25.0%, is paid by employers as a percentage of gross wages. Social security is withheld from employee wages at a rate of 6.5% of "super gross" wages. Both employer and employee taxes max out at 1,809,864 CZK of taxable compensation.

Social security is levied on earned income, that is, income from employment and self-employment carried out in the Czech Republic. Employees sent to the Czech Republic and paid by their foreign employers must obtain certificates of social security coverage from their home country to avoid penalties.

Job-Hunting Tips

- Consider working outside the city limits. There are certain spots on the outskirts of Prague, where fewer expats are willing to commute for work, thus creating a higher demand in those areas. Also, some language agencies will pay you extra for the longer commute to end-of-the-line lessons.
- Start as a volunteer or intern. If earning a full-time salary is not a pressing matter, contact local businesses, NGOs or schools that interest you, and offer your skills to them for free. If you're good at what you do and they like you, you might soon earn yourself a position as a paid staff member.
- Run through your CV and remind yourself of the kind of work you've done before, and how you can do it again with a "Prague twist." Language skills are a huge asset here, so brush up on any languages that you are half decent at.



- Join a professional association like a chamber of commerce or expat business association or a regional, national, or even international professional association for your profession
- Think about getting your independent trade license or starting an s.r.o. Even if you continue teaching, you can do it directly for companies and make much more money while still charging a very competitive price.
- Update your CV with your local contact info only. Don't call it a "résumé" when you email it to a prospective employer—here it's a CV. Also, be prepared to send a recent, clean, professional-looking head shot of yourself along with your CV.
- Check bulletin boards around town. Start with Charles University Arts and Philosophy Faculty at Staroměstská, then check out every level at the FAMU building across from Národní Divadlo.
- Hotels and hostels are always looking for dedicated workers, especially those with multilingual abilities and the flexibility to work various shifts.
- Go to your home country's embassy. Make an appointment first if necessary, but there's no harm in dressing presentably and speaking to someone on the embassy staff, who can at least point you in the right direction, even if the embassy has no vacancies.
- Be willing to try new things. If you don't land a full-time job immediately, you can still earn decent money by replying to ads for one-time gigs, such as doing voice-overs for video games, being an extra in a film (which there are plenty chances for in Prague), or walking someone's dog.
- Become a tour guide. If nothing seems to be open, consider working the free tours in town, where you are paid by the generosity of the tourists' tips.



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CV vs. Résumé

If you're from the US, it's likely you're familiar with a résumé, but you may not be so familiar with a CV (curriculum vitae); the two mainly differ in length, content and purpose. In the US a CV is used mainly for academic or research positions. In Europe, the Middle East and Asia, employers will expect to see a CV. This will typically run two or more pages. The CV's goal is to give prospective employers a brief sample of your education, skills, and professional experience. Your CV should include the same basic details as a résumé (your name, contact information, etc.) plus information on your education, any academic experience or publishing credits, awards, honors, and professional organizations you are a member of. You'll also want to give a more detailed summary when listing your professional qualifications and job history.

Recruitment Agencies

The recruitment market in the Czech Republic is competitive, and there are many local and large international recruitment firms operating. Job hunters can receive help in finding a job from a temporary position to executive levels, from a large number of recruitment firms. Service levels differ greatly; if job hunters are expats, use an internationally renowned agency as they have access to the expat and senior-level roles. Local agencies generally provide a local service for local people. IT recruitment is a strong sector, and the number of shared service centers is increasing. Companies are now looking for more creative marketeers, PR professionals, and designers.

Local Work Practices

Addressing Superiors: Czech distinguishes between formal and informal ways of addressing people. In the Czech Republic employees, particularly those of the older generation, often refer to each other formally.

Timekeeping: It has been noted that Czechs do their work and then leave more or less on the dot at 17:00 or 18:00, regardless of their workloads.



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Dress Code: When it comes to multinational firms, dress codes are the same as elsewhere, although non-client facing staff at large multinationals dress more casually.

Inappropriate language: When it comes to language used between employees, jokes, etc., Czech work culture is regarded as less “inclusive” than in the United States or Western Europe.

Co-Working

Co-working is sweeping the globe, recently arriving in Prague in the form of shared workspaces and co-working “jellies”: freelancer meet-ups at a local café for a full day of work. You can rent a desk or a meeting room for a few hours or a few weeks, or just join a jelly from time to time to mix and mingle with others who know what it means to be a freelancer. Some co-working organizations in Prague include Hub Prague, Locus Workspace, The Works, Coffice, and Creators.

Expats for Hire

Translator

What special skills are required?

Mastery of the languages that you translate from/to; research skills, good writing and proofreading skills.

Who gets the most work?

There’s a real gap in the market for native-English speakers who translate from Czech, especially for clients who want more natural translations.

Who is hiring?

Financial, legal, and academic sectors, non-profit organizations, schools, and hospitals.

How much to charge?

From CZ into EN, GE, IT, SP, RU, FR – 430 CZK per standard page
From EN, GE, IT, SP, RU, FR into CZ – 390 CZK per standard page



Proofreader

What special skills are needed?

Top-notch English language skills and absolute attention to detail. Professional certifications can't hurt either.

How does one become certified?

Proofreading and copy-editing training centers around the world offer both in-house and distance learning.

What is the difference between proofreading and copy-editing?

Proofreading is done when you check a document for spelling and grammatical accuracy. Copy editing often involves several revisions of the text.

Who is hiring?

Company catalogues, official letters, student theses, texts for company websites, restaurant menus, academic essays for publication.

How much to charge?

Some proofreaders charge hourly (300-350 CZK is standard), but some set a fee for each completed page, for example, 150 CZK per normal page.

English Teacher

What special skills are required?

Native speaking skills still count for a lot and will almost guarantee you a job; there's an increase in demand for teaching English at preschools and teaching Business English.

How important are qualifications and how do you obtain them?

Most schools require a TEFL certificate as well as a BA degree.

What can you earn?

Schools typically offer 200-320 CZK per hour. If you work for a salary, you could earn from 25,000 CZK-30,000 CZK a month. The average pay is 350 CZK/hour.

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If you're living and/or working in Prague, at some point you're going to want to open a bank account with a local bank. It may appear like a daunting task at first; thankfully, opening a bank account in the Czech Republic is fairly easy, especially compared to some of the other bureaucratic procedures one encounters.

Opening an Account

To open an account at a bank here you'll need identification and a deposit and in many cases an e-mail account. Some banks require a visa or that you carry a Czech mobile phone provider. But in most banks a passport and one other form of ID (such as a driver's license) will suffice, though there are always exceptions to the rule and some institutions require a third document. The initial deposit varies from bank to bank, typically between 500 CZK and 2,000 CZK.

Choosing a Bank

Which bank to choose? The first thing you're likely to notice about the banks here are the steep monthly fees for basic services like ATM withdrawals. So finding a bank with low rates is key. A note about debit or ATM cards: if you want one, make sure to inquire before opening an account; you'll need to be 'approved' by most banks.

Komerční banka, Česká spořitelna (Expat Center), and Citibank are message-board favorites for English-speaking tellers, customer service, and low-monthly fees. Poštovní spořitelna (the post-office bank) may have the cheapest ATM fee at 5 CZK per withdrawal, but beyond that their services are limited.

TIP: Many supermarkets like Albert and Globus will let you ask for "cashback" amount beyond your total purchase. For ease of transaction, contactless cards are on the rise in the Czech Republic.

Czech Currency

Since 1993 when the Czech Republic split with Slovakia, the currency of the Czech Republic has been the Česká (Czech) Koruna or Czech Crown (sign: Kč; code: CZK). The sign "Kč" is written after the numerical value. Banknotes have denominations of 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000, and 5000 crowns; coins consist of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 crown pieces. Modern security features can be found on all banknotes.

Although the Czech Republic is well positioned for euro adaptation, there is great opposition to the move within the country. According to a survey conducted in 2014 only 16 percent of the population were in favor of replacing the crown with the euro. The Czech Republic is predicted to make the conversion by 2020.

That said, restaurants, hotels, and attractions that cater to tourists and even most grocery stores in and out of the center (especially in larger cities like Prague) tend to accept euros as a form of payment, but be forewarned that exchange rates at these establishments can be poor.

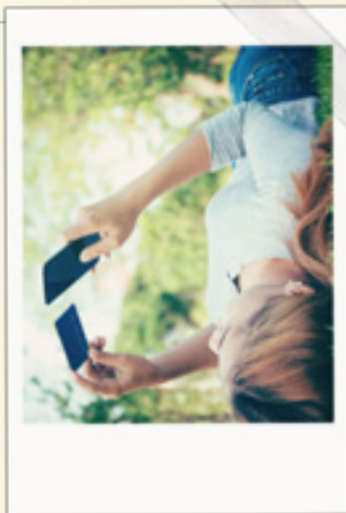
Banking Hours & ATMs

Bank opening hours are typically Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm. The Czech word for ATM is bankomat. Foreign debit cards and credit cards work in the Czech Republic but some businesses still only accept cash; if you are visiting or still need to withdraw money from foreign accounts, using your debit card may be the wisest choice despite the fees.



Online Banking

Online banking is an increasingly popular option among expats. Many of the e-banking operations offer lower fees and cheaper withdrawals, and rates tend to decrease the more monthly cashless transactions you make. One complaint about these banks, however, is that communication in English may be non-existent or challenging. Try mBank, Air Bank, Fio, and Equa Bank—though due to new US tax legislation, American applicants may have difficulties opening accounts.



Transferring Money

How to transfer money into a Czech account or to a foreign one is another common question on our message boards. Czech banks charge a commission on foreign transfers (usually right around 1%), their exchange rates aren't always the best, and they're known to take a longer time than necessary to actually get the money into the account.

Many of our users recommend Transferwise (transferwise.com) for fast, cheap transfers with no hidden fees for beating bank fees. PayPal is another popular option for sending money abroad, and for transferring foreign funds to a Czech account, many expats take money out of the ATM and deposit it in their Czech bank in lieu of transferring. Citibank comes recommended for its transfer services.

For larger transfers The Fx Firm is one possibility (www.thefxfirm.com). To compare rates visit www.mycurrencytransfer.com or www.exchange.cz. To see more options for money transfers visit our directory category Money Transfer, www.expats.cz/prague/directory/money-transfer

One rather new financial service in the Czech Republic that is worth mentioning is ChytryHonza.cz (which translates in English into “Smart John”). It is a Czech site that, like its US counterpart Mint.com, specializes in financial comparison shopping and advice. The downside is that the site is not in English but you can search everything from the best no-fee banks to insurance companies on the Czech market with its handy online grader which analyzes thousands of financial institutions, offering bids from numerous companies.

CZK/EUR Exchange Rate



The Facts about FATCA

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) was signed into law in 2010, but its full impact has only recently been felt over the past couple of years when a number of banks began sending out letters to all account holders who are American citizens, and asking them for permission to share information about their accounts with the IRS and issuing reports much like the U.S.-based 1099 system.

Why are foreign financial institutions agreeing to disclose information about their American clients?

FATCA was enacted in 2010 by Congress to target non-compliance by U.S. taxpayers using foreign accounts. FATCA requires foreign financial institutions (FFIs) to report to the IRS information about financial accounts held by U.S. taxpayers, or by foreign entities in which U.S. taxpayers hold a substantial ownership interest.

FATCA legislation basically says to foreign financial institutions, that if they do not participate in the program then any transfers to them from a U.S. bank or from any other foreign bank that is participating in the program will be subjected to a non-creditable, 30-percent withholding tax, essentially saying to foreign financial institutions that if you do not comply then you cannot participate in the U.S. market at all.

This raises all kinds of challenges for American expats living in the Czech Republic and other foreign countries because it means that many smaller banks in the Czech Republic are reluctant to offer accounts to American clients who require this sort of special service (additional paperwork, etc.).

For access to the FATCA regulations and administrative guidance related to FATCA and to learn about you own taxpayer obligations as a US citizen abroad, visit IRS.gov or contact a tax professional from our listings to discuss your filing obligation.



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Our guide to business know-how in the Czech Republic covers the legalities of company formation and taxation, as well as important business terminology in the Czech Republic.

Trade Licenses

One of the common routes to doing business in the Czech Republic is through a sole proprietorship, often called a “trade license”. A sole proprietor (osoba samostatně výdělečně činná or OSVČ) is a physical person who has income from carrying out a business and/or self-employment (a “freelancer” or “entrepreneur”). Accounting records must reflect these relationships.

To be self-employed, you must be 18 years of age, do business on your own account and have a clean criminal record. Accounting records may be kept using either the cash-basis or accrual accounting method. There are significant tax advantages to working as a sole proprietor.

An entrepreneur may be a tradesperson registered with the Commercial Court (obchodní soud), trade license office (živnostenský úřad), or someone who is self-employed and regulated under a special law, e.g. notary, tax adviser, journalist, or farmer. Here we'll focus primarily on tradespersons registered with the trade license office.

Forming a Sole Proprietorship

Sole proprietorships can be formed in 1–3 days after filing papers with the trade license office. You will need to file the application on a Monday or Wednesday, as other days are by appointment only. Preparing forms in advance (downloadable from the Internet) is also advised.

Generally, the applications will be processed while you wait. Comprehensive services in this area are provided by accounting and business services firms, as well as many legal offices, but with patience and determination you can do it on your own. Fees for formation vary with 5,000–10,000 CZK being representative. Unlike an s.r.o., there is no need to pay in any capital.

To form a sole proprietorship, the entrepreneur files with the trade license office a registration form providing personal details, a residential and work address, and a list of selected trade license fields.

Also required:

- Photo identification
- Proof of citizenship or legal residence (usually long-term or permanent residence)
- An extract from the foreign criminal record or affidavit confirming you have no criminal record, depending on your country of origin
- A deed (výpis z katastru nemovitostí) and permission of the owner (souhlas vlastníka) to carry out business at your work address
- A stamp tax of 1,000 CZK.

The trade license office is entitled to obtain a criminal record extract on your behalf from the Czech criminal register. Sole proprietors will need to obtain the same extract, or a corresponding document from their home countries or any other country where they have lived for more than three years.

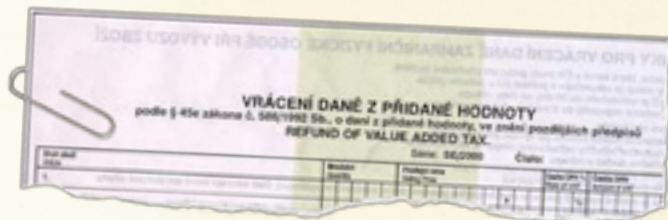
If such a document is not issued by their home country or country of last residence, an affidavit declaring that they have no criminal record, made at their embassy in Prague, or in front of a notary in their home country. These documents cannot be older than three months.

If the owner of the address where your sole proprietorship will be registered is a company, it will be necessary to provide an extract from the Commercial Register. The permission agreement must be signed by the director, or a representative with a power of attorney from the director.

Taxes & Regulation

A sole proprietorship is regulated by a great number of government entities, including the trade license office, tax authority, social security authority, and a health insurance company. Employees of sole proprietors are taxed in the same way as employees of an s.r.o.

Sole proprietors generally must file an income tax return (*daňové přiznání*) each year by March 31, and health insurance and social security returns (*Přehled o příjmech a výdajích OSVČ*) by April 30.



Direct taxes are calculated from the taxable income base, which will be either revenues less deductible expenses, or, under the percentage of revenue option, generally 60% of revenues. You can keep accrual or cash-basis tax evidence accounts and use the percentage of revenue method.

Health and social security, representation expenses (meals and entertainment), or poorly-documented expenses are not deductible. Both health and social security contributions max out at 1,242,432 CZK of the taxable base.

The self-employed will need to register for income tax with the tax authority within 30 days of obtaining a trade license. You may also register for VAT if you want to be able to reclaim VAT on eligible business expenses and road tax if you plan to operate a car as part of the business. Income tax: 15% of the taxable base.

Sole proprietors must pay monthly advances on social security and health insurance, which are netted against the annual liability due in April. Each February the social security administration and health insurance company provide a summary of advances received by the payer.

In the first year of business, the advance will be set to the minimum amount; in subsequent years, to the amount of tax paid in the previous year. The amount of social security advances paid depends on whether self-employment is your main or secondary source of earned income (see health and social security section).

Social Security Administration

You will most likely need to register for social security if you are self-employed. If you are not subject to the Trade License Act (e.g., a journalist) or if you are covered by a certificate of coverage under a foreign program, you may not be required to do so. For example, American citizens who are self-employed are permitted to continue to pay into the US system, even if they work in the Czech Republic, for up to five years. Most entrepreneurs will be considered to have self-employment as the main source of income.

If you are an employee or receive any number of government entitlements, your self-employment may be considered a secondary source of income. This will impact especially the amount of the advance that you need to pay. Social security: 29.2% of the taxable base; 2013 minimum monthly advance: 1,890 CZK (main); 756 CZK (secondary).

Health Insurance Company

If you are a citizen, permanent resident, or an employee in a company based in the Czech Republic, you are obligated to register for public health insurance. If you are not one of these, you are required under the terms of your visa to obtain health insurance that meets certain minimum conditions. Health Insurance: 6.75% of the taxable base; 2013 minimum monthly advance: 1,748 CZK.

S.R.O.s

A typical way of doing business in the Czech Republic is through a limited liability company (*společnost s ručením omezeným*, or “S.R.O.”). Owners manage the business via shareholdings in the company through annual or more frequent shareholder meetings (*valná hromada*). Either physical persons or legal entities (companies) may own 100% of an s.r.o. Decisions of the shareholder meeting are executed on a day-to-day basis by the s.r.o.’s director (*jednatel*) or directors, who serve at the will of the shareholders.

The primary source of legal guidance on S.R.O.s can be found in the Commercial Code, Part II (*Zákon č. 513/1991 Sb., obchodní zákoník část II*). The relationships of both shareholders and directors are subject to scrutiny by the regulatory authorities, and shareholder-director interactions are subject to arm’s-length rules intended to avoid misuse of the company’s assets and to support taxation of income. The accounting records of the company must reflect these relationships. The accounting records must also be entered using the accrual principle, practically forcing a company to engage an accountant.

Directors

The Commercial Code, in particular Sections 133–136, sets out several requirements for directors. They can be shareholders or other physical persons. They must keep accrual-basis accounting records and avoid conflicts of interest not excused in the articles of association or bylaws of the s.r.o. In particular, they cannot be directors of other companies in the same industry.

Directors are generally liable as a result of their functions only to the shareholders of the s.r.o., and not to third parties. However, they can be held criminally liable for failing to remit employment taxes to the government and other crimes. Directors may be resident or non-resident in the Czech Republic. They may be paid or unpaid. If they are paid and they are 1) non-resident, their payments are not deductible to the company; 2) resident, their payments are subject to most of the same rules as employees. The company will be required to pay health and social security on directors’ fees.

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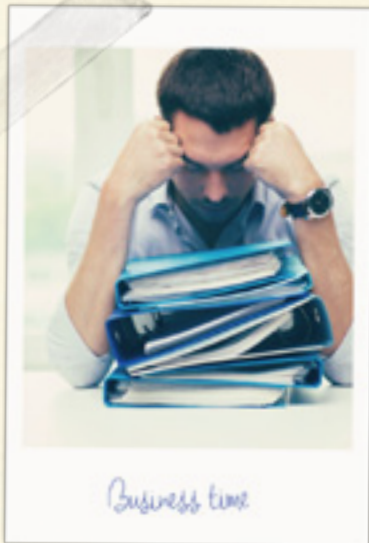
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Forming or Acquiring an S.R.O.

S.R.O.s can be formed from scratch, which can take 5–15 or more days from filing papers with the Commercial Court (*obchodní soud*), or be purchased “off the shelf”, i.e. already formed (within five days of filing papers with the court). Comprehensive services in this area are provided by accounting and business services firms, as well as many legal offices. The cost of formation and purchase is generally very similar, with fees ranging 15,000–35,000 CZK including notarial, court and professional fees.

Forming a company from scratch requires the founder(s) to invest a nominal amount (1 CZK) in capital, which is temporarily frozen during the incorporation process. The process of forming a company is as follows:

Shareholders or their representatives sign a foundation deed/articles of association at a notary that shows the company name (*obchodní jméno*), registered address (*sídlo*), lists of trade licenses (*živnostenský list*), the amount of foundation capital (*základní kapitál*), administrator of founding deposit (*správce vkladu*), details of the first directors and their decision-making powers (usually independent, sometimes joint).



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The director or representative files a petition with the Commercial Court to issue an identification number (*identifikační číslo*, or IČ). The petition contains the notarized foundation deed/articles of association, proof of deposit of foundation capital, trade license certification, deed and owner permission of registered address (document cannot be older than three months), director's criminal record extracts from the Czech Republic and home country or corresponding documents (not older than three months), director's affidavit of eligibility and a specimen signature, powers of attorney enabling representatives to act on behalf of principals.

If a founder includes a foreign corporation, the petition must also contain that corporation's certificate of incorporation and power of attorney for its representative, both apostilled or super-legalized in those countries. There is a 5,000 CZK stamp tax on incorporating a new s.r.o.

Documents must be in Czech or translated into Czech. If the original language of the document is that of an EU member state, it does not need to be court-certified (but the underlying document might need to be!).

As soon as the Commercial Court approves the petition and issues the identification number, taking about 5–15 days, the director normally opens commercial accounts with a bank, transfers the foundation capital to current accounts, and registers the company with the tax authority, a health insurance company and the social security administration.

The process of purchasing an off-the-shelf company requires the new director to file a petition with the court to change the company's certificate that contains a notarially-certified foundation deed or articles of association approving the changes of commercial name, trade licenses, shareholders and directors, plus the original or notarially-certified documents supporting those changes.

There is a 2,000 CZK stamp tax on filing changes to an s.r.o. certificate. Depending on circumstances, the director may also need to open new bank accounts, register a change of address with regulatory agencies, or add to trade authorizations.

Employees

It is possible that you intend to hire employees to carry out the work of the company. If this is the case, be aware that this activity is highly regulated in the Czech Republic. The issues to consider are worthy of a book (the regulations are themselves a very long book!), but bear these issues in mind:

Employees who will work in the Czech Republic must have permanent or temporary residence (employees and their family members, who are citizens of most European countries) or special work permission (third countries).

There are multiple types of employment and work contracts: full, part-time, agreements on the performance of work and work activities, each with special legal and tax conditions.

Employees need to be registered with government agencies within eight days of commencing work; with foreign employees, the documentation requires the process be started well in advance.

Income Taxes

The Czech Republic assesses income tax based on residence, personal characteristics of the payer, and the nature of the income. The primary sources of authority for taxation are the Act on Income Tax and the many international treaties on the avoidance of double taxation to which the Czech Republic is a signatory. The Czech Republic taxes residents (that is, citizens and foreigners who spend more than 183 days in a calendar year in the Czech Republic) on their worldwide income. Worldwide income includes foreign interest, dividends, capital gains, rental, and other income. Residents must use foreign-tax credits or re-source income on their returns to avoid double taxation. Non-residents are taxable on Czech source income only. This means that persons who are present and earn income in the Republic for even part of a year are subject to taxation.

The income tax rate is 15% for all sources of income. There is no separate capital gains tax. Tax may be withheld at source (employment, interest and dividends) or via the submission of tax returns (self-employment, rental income, foreign income, and other income). Taxpayers with income solely from employment may settle their tax obligations through their employers and without filing a return.

Employees pay a 15% advance tax (*zálohová daň*) of “super gross” wages (134% of gross wages), resulting in an effective tax rate of 20.1%. Self-employed persons pay 15% of taxable income. Employees on special work contracts such as a *dohoda o provedení práce* are subject to income tax withholding (*srážková daň*).

Taxable income from self-employment is generally revenues minus deductible expenses, or, if the payer is using the percentage of revenue method of calculating tax, 40% of revenues, resulting in a tax base of 60% of a self-employed person’s income.

Meals and entertainment, social security and health insurance expenses are not deductible. Taxable rental income is generally revenues minus deductible expenses, or, if the payer is using the percentage of revenue method of calculating tax, 70% of revenues, resulting in an effective tax rate of 10.5%.

In order to use the percentage of revenue method of taxation, self-employed taxpayers must be licensed to practice a trade with the trade license office (*živnostenský úřad*). If income is generated from joint property (i.e. rental revenue owned by two or more persons), all owners must use the same method of calculating tax.

Income tax returns are due on March 31 for the previous calendar year. Every taxpayer can request the tax authority to extend the filing and payment deadline to 30 June by paying an administrative fee of 300 CZK. It is not necessary to engage a tax adviser. The late filing of an income tax return from January 1, 2013 will subject the filer to a daily penalty of 0.05% of the due tax, beginning on the 6th day after the due date, amounting to no less than 500 CZK and no more than 300,000 CZK. In addition, the filer will be assessed penalty interest of 0.0005% per day – equal to 18.25% p.a.

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Real Estate

Our guide to renting and buying a house or flat will help you get a foot in the door of the perplexing world of home ownership and tenant's rights abroad. We also encourage you to utilize our real estate server www.expat.cz/praguerealestate/ for holiday rentals, apartment and home rentals and sales, mortgage providers, as well as listings for commercial and retail property. Happy hunting!

Flat-Finding Tips

Whether you plan to share (5,000–10,000 CZK/per person, per month) or go it alone (9,000–30,000 CZK/month), keep these tips in mind as you search:

- The owner may be willing to furnish an unfurnished flat for higher rent.
- Note any damage in the lease and agree to live with it or give the landlord a deadline for repairs.
- Beware hidden fees; you may be charged a maintenance fee for common areas (garage, garden, staircase, elevator).
- Transfer all the utilities into your name from the beginning to avoid headaches from the landlord later.
- Negotiating the price of rent is a must!
- Insist on a written lease agreement in your own language.
- Make sure that the person renting you the flat is the legal owner (contact the Land Registry office, or Katastrální úřad).
- Always clarify: How much notice is required before moving? How large is the deposit? How much cleaning is required before you can get it back? Is there a hand-over protocol/checklist to safeguard your deposit?



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- For information in English about all utilities services in Prague, including how to sign up for service and make payments, visit www.spoluproprahu.cz.
- Compare your rent to the market rent by looking at other properties in your area or checking with the Ministry of Regional Development (www.mmr.cz).

Renter's Insurance

Typical renter's insurance (pojištění nájmu) allows the policyholder 960,000 CZK of coverage without any deductible payment for less than 3,700 CZK per year. It covers damage caused by fire, explosion, lightning, floods, hailstorm, snow, falling objects, vandalism, robbery, or getting mugged. Renter's insurance does not cover damage caused by an individual to their own goods. But a cheap general liability policy does. As a holder of both renter's insurance and liability insurance, you are covered financially in most occurrences of damage.

Things to Know About Your Contract

All contracts require you to include your name, passport number, and date of birth. It's very important that the information you provide matches your passport exactly, so make sure you double check your contract! If you're planning to relocate with your family, make sure to include their details as well, since they'll need to be on your contract when you announce your address to the Foreign Police.

You should also be aware the Civil Code allows for the automatic renewal of a rental contract if a tenant continues living in an apartment 3 months after the contract ends, and the landlord fails to give proper notice. If you don't want to have an automatic renewal, make sure to have it stated clearly in your contract.

If your contract requests a rent increase according to the inflation rate, you should try to negotiate having it removed. This isn't common for

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the Czech rental market, but every once in while you may come across a landlord who tries to include it.

One last important detail: Be sure that the proof of ownership of the property is attached to the contract before you sign it.

Pets Allowed?

Since January 1, 2014 there is a new Civil Code in force. This Code prohibits landlords of apartments to anyhow restrict rights of the tenants which he has according to the Civil Code. In accordance to Section 2258 of the Civil Code the tenant has the right to have animals in the apartment, if the breed does not cause disproportionate difficulties to the landlord or other residents with regard to circumstances in the house. In case the breed cause need of extra maintenance costs for common areas of the house, the tenant has to pay such costs the landlord. The new Civil Code is also applicable to rental agreements concluded before January 1, 2014.

Real Estate Agencies

Real estate agencies can streamline the flat-hunting process. Tell them how much you want to pay and any other important criteria and send you listings, photos, and even drive you to viewings. When working with a real estate agent, list all of your non-negotiable requirements for potential flats (rent, elevator, parking, number of rooms, etc.) and keep the realtor on task. You'd be surprised to find that no matter how clearly you have given your specifications the first time around, the realtor may still take you to view a flat that's missing one or more of these essentials (and if you encounter landlord trouble, don't expect a helping hand!) Real estate agencies usually charge a fee of about one month's rent. Add this to a security deposit of first and last month's rent and any additional costs and you're looking at a lot of money. If you can't afford to hire an agency, don't rule out their usefulness: you can still search their sites for listings.

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Tenant's Rights

Regarding deposits, the Civil Code states that the landlord is required to return the deposit no later than one month after the apartment has been "returned". If you wish to break the lease early, you must give your landlord three months' notice. The Civil Code expressly states this period must be at least three months and finish on the last day of a calendar month. The same section states that the termination period must start on the first day of a calendar month, and be given in writing. Repairs are the responsibility of the landlord, but reporting the damage is the responsibility of the tenant. If the tenant doesn't inform the landlord in time and it causes further damage, the tenant can be liable for the full cost of repairs. If you do inform your landlord and you're forced to make the repairs at your own expense, you can deduct those costs from your rent. Generally, a landlord does not have the right to enter your flat or house.

Paying Your Landlord

You're expected to pay your landlord in full every month. If you're making international payments, plan to transfer more than the total amount of your rent to cover the exchange rate and any bank fees. You can find the total amount of your rent and utilities in your contract. It's also a good idea to ask your landlord for a record of the full amount received and request that overpayments be deducted from your next payment.

Keep Good Records

When it's time to move in, make sure you write down all of the defects that are found during the handover meeting. If it's a problem that can be fixed, set a due date with your landlord. You should also send photos of the problems to avoid any possible disputes later on down the road. By the same token, you should go over your apartment again with your landlord before you move out. If you agree there aren't any problems, make sure you get a statement of "no claims to the apartment/house."

Tips for Buying Property in the Czech Republic

Looking to buy a home or property? You should start by checking www.mortgages.cz where you can get some of the best rates in the Czech Republic for mortgages. You can also find thousands of properties for rent and sale in the Expats.cz Real Estate Server.

There are a number of websites you can visit to find a plot of land, a house, or a flat: the main servers are Reality.cz and Sreality.cz both of which have an English language version; however, some of the descriptions can be difficult, so it pays off to learn some of the basic Czech terminology.

The advantage of using Czech search terms is that you net companies for the Czech market.

The process is quite straight forward, the main issue being the language gap and unfamiliarity with a different system, but all of the information that you need is easily accessible:

- Use Czech search terms as you search for a property, the advantage of this is that you net companies for the Czech market.
- Deduct 15% from the advertised price to arrive at an acceptable market value. Most advertised prices will be above the actual market value, with the lower advertised prices just above market value.
- Secure the services of an advisor who is aware of your concerns and can guide you through the mass of information on the web; it will save you time and money in the long run.
- As for which location will give you the best return for your investment, if you buy a classic Prague property in an area dominated by other classic Prague buildings, you are buying in to the fabric of Prague. It is safe to say the value will at least hold its own in comparison to other locations.

- Outside of the historical city center, the presence of international schools, clean air and parks, or even plain old snobbishness can affect value.
- When it comes time to pay for the property, the handover of money should happen through a third party. The simple reason is that the entry of the new owner into the Land Register can take up to 30 days.

Mortgages

Foreign buyers in the Czech Republic can either apply directly at a bank or use a mortgage broker. If you chose the former, you should be able to find English-speaking bank employees in the main branches.

If you are a non-EU citizen, you'll need long-term or permanent residence in the Czech Republic, or an s.r.o. For EU nationals you'll just need a temporary or permanent residence permit. For mied couples, only one of you needs to meet these requirements. Expats employed in a Czech company need to show confirmation from your employer and bank statements for the last three months which show your salary. If you are self-employed you will have to show your last two tax returns and the bank can only accept the net profit.

If you are self-employed, you will need to show your recent salaries and the bank also checks your company statements. Typically, you should be able to get an 80–100% mortgage over a period of 30–40 years. This means that the bank will lend you 80–100% of the total cost of the real estate you are purchasing.

Mortgages in the Czech Republic are generally blended repayment mortgages, meaning that the monthly mortgage payments are fixed, and they partly cover interest and partly principal repayment. The interest rate is fixed for a number of years at a time.

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See page 148, for further information about banks in the Czech Republic.

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PHRASES

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VOCAB

- 186 Helpful Vocab
- 187 Emergency Words & Phrases
- 187 Czech Menu Decoder
- 190 At the Supermarket

Helpful Vocab

English	Czech	Phonetic
Yes	Ano	Ah-no
No	Ne	Neh
Good morning	Dobré ráno	Do-bre rah-no
Good day (formal hello)	Dobrý den	Do-bree Dehn
Hello (informal)	Ahoj	Ahoy
Good evening	Dobrý večer	Do-bree veh-chehr
Goodbye (formal)	Na shledanou	Nah skledah-noh
Goodbye (informal)	Čau	Chow
Good night	Dobrou noc	Do-brooh nots
Nice to meet you	Těší mě	Tye-shee Mye
How are you? (formal)	Jak se máte?	Yak seh mah-te
How are you? (informal)	Jak se máš?	Yak seh mahsh
I'm well	Mám se dobře	Mahm se do-bre
What is your name?	Jak se jmenujete?	Yak seh ymenooyete
My name is...	Jmenuji se...	Ymen-oo-ye seh
Do you speak English?	Mluvíte anglicky?	Mloo-veeteh ahngleetskee
I don't speak Czech	Nemluvim česky	Neh-mloo-veem cheskee
I don't understand	Nerozumím	Neh-rozoo-meem
Excuse me; forgive me	Promiňte	Promeenjuh teh
Thank you	Děkuji	Dyekooyee
Please; you're welcome	Prosím	Proseem
How much is it?	Kolik to stojí?	Koleek toh stoyee
Bill, please	Účet, prosím	Oocheht, proseem
Bon appetite	Dobrou chuť	Do-brooh khutye
To your health (cheers)	Na zdraví	Nah zdrah-vee
Do you have...?	Máte...?	Mah-teh
Where is the...?	Kde je...?	Gdeh ye
Restroom	Toaleta	Toh-ah-lehta
Restaurant	Restaurace	Rehs-tau-rahtseh
Shop	Obchod	Ob-khod
Street	Ulice	Oo-leetseh
Police	Police	Poleetsee-eh
Hospital	Nemocnice	Neh-mots-nitseh
Train station	Nádraží	Nah-drazhyee
Airport	Letiště	Leh-teesh-tyeh
I want to speak Czech	Chci mluvit česky	Kh-tsee mloo-veet cheskee

Emergency Words & Phrases

Help!	Pomoc!
Fire!	Hoří!
Thief!	Zloděj!
Call an ambulance/a doctor!	Zavolejte sanitku/doktora!
Call the police!	Zavolejte policii!
I'm not feeling well	Není mi dobře
Where is the police station?	Kde je policejní stanice?
My bag has been stolen	Ukradli mi tašku
I have been robbed	Byl jsem okraden
I have lost my passport/bag	Ztratil jsem pas/tašku
I want to call my embassy	Chci si zavolat na ambasádu
I need a doctor	Potřebuji lékaře
Take me to the hospital, please	Chci do nemocnice, prosím
I'm allergic to ...	Jsem alergický na ...
I'm having a heart attack	Mám infarkt
She/he has stopped breathing	Nedýchá
I want a lawyer	Chci právníka
There's a gas leak	Uniká plyn

Czech Menu Decoder

Food	Jídlo
warm starters	teplé předkrmy
cold starters	studené předkrmy
salads	saláty
mixed salad	šopský salát
Greek salad	řecký salát
tomato salad	rajčatový salát
soup	polévka
meat	Maso
chicken	kuře
ham	šunka
beefsteak	bífeť
bacon	slanina
beef	hovězí
lamb	jehněčí
pork	vepřové

fish	ryby
salmon	losos
trout	pstruh
goulash	guláš
beef filet/sirloin in sauce	svíčková
steak tartare	tatarský biftek

Vegetarian/without meat

cheese	sýr
brie cheese	hermelín
blue cheese	niva
fried cheese	smažený sýr/smažák
broccoli	brokolice
mushrooms	žampiony
cauliflower	květák
spinach	špenát
risotto	rizoto
pasta	těstoviny

Preparation

roasted	opékané
fried	smažený
skewered	špíz
sautéed	soté
stuffed	plněné
grilled	grilované
stewed	dušené
baked	pečené
smoked	uzené
boiled	vařené
with/without	s/bez

Garnishes

onion	cibule
garlic	česnek
red pepper	paprika
leek	pórek

Vegetariánské/bezmasá

Příprava

Oblohy

cabbage	zelí
ginger	zázvor
asparagus	chřest
almonds	mandle
corn	kukuřice
butter	máslo
pineapple	ananas
cream	smetana
ketchup	kečup

Side dishes

potatoes	brambory
French fries	hranolky
potato croquettes	krokety
rice	rýže
vegetables	zelenina
dumplings	knedlíky
bread	chléb
baked goods	pečivo
fried bread	topinky

Přílohy

Drinks

beer	pivo
bottle	láhev
white wine	bílá vína
red wine	červená vína
liquors	likéry
soft drinks	nealko
juice	džus
water	voda
sparkling water	voda perlivá
still water	voda neperlivá
carbonated water	soda
hot drinks	teplé nápoje
coffee	káva
tea	čaj
spiced (mulled) wine	svažené víno
grog (tea with rum)	grog

Nápoje

Desserts

honey cake
ice cream
pancakes/crêpes
chocolate
fruit

Dezerty

medovník
zmrzlina
palačinky
čokoláda
ovoce

At the Supermarket

Bread

baked goods
baguette
bread roll
crescent roll
rye-wheat loaf
sliced toast bread
french bread
breadcrumbs

Pečivo

pečivo
bageta
houska
rohlík
chléb
toustový chléb
veka
strouhanka

Meat

beef
filet mignon
chuck roast
ground beef
prime rib roast
chicken
turkey
thighs
breast
legs
pork
chops
loin
tenderloin
ham
English bacon
salami
baloney
hot dogs

Maso

hovězí
svíčková
z předního bez kostí
mleté maso
vysoký roštěnec kostí
kuře
krůta
stehno
prsá
křídla
vepřové
vepřové kotlety
vepřová panenka
svíčková
šunka
Anglická slanina
salám
junior
párky

Eggs and dairy

eggs
butter
cream
whipped cream/for whipping
sour cream
milk low-fat/skim/whole
quark/Curd
feta
sheep cheese
edam
swiss cheese
camembert
processed cheese triangles

Mléčné produkty a vajíčka

vajíčka
máslo
smetana
šlehačka/na šlehání
zakysaná smetana
mléko nízkotučné/polotučné/plnotučné
tvaroh
balkánský sýr
brynza/jadel
eidam
Ementál
hermelín
tavený sýr

Czech for Foreigners

Translators



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Legal Issues

Pick-pocketing and car theft: Crimes must be reported at the main police station of the district in which the crime occurred. The police are obliged by law to provide you with an interpreter, but your best bet is to go to the station at Jungmannovo Náměstí 9, where an in-house interpreter will escort you to the appropriate district station. For crimes specifically involving stolen property such as passports and wallets, you'll need to go to the Malá Strana police station at Vlášská 3. They are open 24 hours and have English-speaking officers on hand. Any police report should be filed within 24 hours of the crime's occurrence.

Car Accidents: If you're in a car accident, you must not move your vehicle until there's been a police inspection, only if another person has been harmed/killed or if the damage is over 100,000 CZK. In case of emergency, motorists can call road traffic assistance (UAMK) at phone number 1240. They operate 24 hours a day and can be called from highway telephones. You can also flag down a UAMK van: they're yellow and say road assistance (silniční služba).

Getting Arrested: As a foreigner you have the right to the presence of an interpreter during any interrogation. You also have the right to speak privately with a lawyer and to have him or her present during any questioning. Make sure that proper protocol is being followed by the police: they must note the time and place of your arrest, and if they do not have a court-issued warrant, they are obliged to release you after 48 hours.

Czech Hospitals

Even if you do not have Czech health insurance, in emergency situations, a hospital will not turn you away—but your insurance company may not want to foot the bill. If you have Czech insurance or a European Health Insurance Card, you will have to pay 60 CZK per day in hospital. If you do not have either of these you are exempt from the 60 CZK fee. Health insurers often prefer that you be treated in a state hospital as it is cheaper. In case of a non-urgent emergency, doctors and/or hospitals can be contacted directly. Na Homolce and Motol are the most expatriate-friendly hospitals, with special departments for foreigners and English-speakers. Motol is able to provide translators and information in English.

Emergency Numbers & Contacts

112 General Emergency Number: This is the general emergency line throughout the European Union. It should be used for large-scale emergencies, especially for those who don't speak Czech—operators speak English and German as well. The number can be dialed from any phone and the call is free. The 112 number may be used for urgent help from Police, Fire, or Emergency Medical Assistance, though these numbers can also be dialed directly:

Fire 150
 Medical Emergency (Ambulance/First Aid) 155
 Prague City Police 156
 Police 158
 24/7 Crisis, rape, suicide intervention +420 775 248 363

Important numbers for car trouble or road services:

Emergency Road Service (ABA) 1240
 Emergency Road Service (UAMK) 1230

First Aid & Hospitals

In case of a non-urgent emergency, doctors and/or hospitals can be contacted directly. The hospitals at Na Homolce and Motol are the most expatriate-friendly, with special departments for foreigners and English-speakers. Motol Hospital also has a department dedicated to care for children with short- and long-term medical needs, and is able to provide translators and information in English. Here are some of the 24-hour doctors and hospitals:

Prague 1 & 2 (children)	+420 224 947 717
Prague 1 & 2 (adults)	+420 224 949 181
Prague 3 (children)	+420 284 861 979
Prague 3 (adults)	+420 284 862 149
Prague 4, 11, & 12 (children)	+420 241 733 916
Prague 4, 11, & 12 (adults)	+420 241 733 917
Prague 5 (children)	+420 224 433 654

Prague 5 (adults)	+420 224 438 590
Prague 6 (children)	+420 233 358 944
Prague 6 (adults)	+420 233 340 912
Prague 7 (children & adults)	+420 233 370 391
Prague 8 (children)	+420 283 842 224
Prague 8 (adults)	+420 266 083 301
Prague 9 (children)	+420 286 881 517
Prague 9 (adults)	+420 286 881 518
Prague 10 (children)	+420 281 019 213
Prague 10 (adults)	+420 274 810 990

NOTE: The above hospitals and doctors operate non-stop on weekends and 19:00–7:00 on weekdays.

Hospitals

Nemocnice na Homolce (Prague 5)	+420 257 271 111
Nemocnice na Františku (Prague 1)	+420 222 801 111
Poliklinika Palackého (Prague 1)	+420 222 928 111
Všeobecná fakultní nemocnice Praze (Prague 2)	+420 224 961 111
Fakultní Thomayerova nemocnice s poliklinikou (Prague 4)	+420 261 081 111
Nemocnice Podolí gynekologie a porodnice	
Fakultní nemocnice v Motole s poliklinikou (Prague 5)	+420 296 511 111
Fakultní s poliklinikou (Prague 5)	+420 224 431 111
Fakultní nemocnice Královské Vinohrady (Prague 10)	+420 267 161 111

24-Hour Pharmacies

Prague 1, Palackého 5	+420 224 946 982
Prague 2, Belgická 37	+420 222 519 731
Prague 4, Thomayerova hospital, Vídeňská 800	+420 261 084 001
Prague 5, Štefánikova 6	+420 257 320 918
Prague 5, Hospital Motol, V Úvalu 84	+420 224 435 736
Prague 6 Vítězné nám. 997/13	+420 224 325 520
Prague 7, Fr. Křížka 22	+420 233 375 599
Prague 8, Bulovka Hospital, Budínova 2	+420 266 082 017
Prague 10 Plaňanská 573/1	+420 281 019 258

Poison

The Czech Republic does not have a centralized Poison Control Center number to contact. However, Charles University does have a Poison Information Center that can be contacted for general information, and also in emergencies:

Poison Information Center

Clinic for Occupational Medicine, 1st Medical Faculty: +420 224 964 234
Charles University Na Bojišti 1, Prague 2
Emergency telephone: +420 224 919 293 or +420 224 915 402

Repair Services

Problems with the (O2) phone line	+420 800 184 084
Urgent gas leak	1239
Water, pipes, or sewer system problems	+420 840 111 112
Electrical problems	+420 224 915 151
Problems with roads	+420 224 231 856
Problems with street lighting	+420 244 470 800

Dental Emergencies

Dental Clinic (Zubní), Prague 1, Palackého 5	+420 224 946 981
Dental Clinic (Zubní), Prague 4, Pacovská 31	+420 241 733 918

EMS Mobile App

A newly launched mobile app developed by Czech emergency medical services this year helps ambulances hone in on a patient's location while speeding up response time and offering first aid assistance. Patients simply install the app and push its large red-cross button when in trouble. English-friendly.

To download it visit www.zachrankaapp.cz.





Publisher: Martin D. Howlings **Editor:** Elizabeth Haas **Designer:** Lucas Galeta **Writers:** Lisette Allen, Jacy Meyer, Ryan Scott, Eva Howlings, Craig Monts, Jason Pirodsky, Elizabeth Haas, Sue Legro **Advertising enquiries:** sales@expats.cz

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