

Prague

- Location, population, history, boroughs...
- Famous sites, sightseeing tour guide
- Important institutions
- City transport
- Culture, leisure facilities

Prague is the capital and largest city in the Czech Republic. It is located in central Bohemia, the western half of the country, on both banks of the Vltava River. About 1.2 million people live here and they come from all over the Czech Republic, as well as abroad.

Prague's history goes back 11 centuries. In the past, it used to be the seat of Czech kings and for some time even the capital of the Holy Roman Empire. Today it is still an important political, cultural, and economic centre. There are many educational institutions in Prague, including Charles University, as well as international companies, the government and the parliament, and many tourist attractions.

Prague is known for its beautiful architecture with many styles. Gothic, Baroque, Art Nouveau, Cubism and more can all be found here. The seat of the Czech president is located in Prague Castle, the largest castle complex in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records. Also at Prague Castle is one of the country's most important churches, St. Vitus Cathedral, which holds the nation's crown jewels. The Czech national cemetery, where many of the country's most important cultural figures are buried, is at Vyšehrad. Other popular tourist attractions include Charles Bridge, the Old Town Square and the Astronomical Clock, the Lesser Quarter with its narrow streets, Wenceslas Square, and the Jewish Quarter with its old cemetery and synagogues. The Dancing House, built in the 1990s, is a fine example of modern architecture.

The city is very cultural. Some of the most important institutions for theatre, ballet and opera include the National Theatre, the State Opera House and the Estates Theatre. There are also many museums such as the National Museum, the Czech Museum of Music, the Mucha Museum and the Jewish Museum.

Sport is also popular in Prague, especially ice hockey and football.

You can get around the city using a dense network of public transport including the underground, buses, trams and even a funicular railway going up Petřín hill.