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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 just for starters. Read on for important information on schools, doctors, districts, real estate, visas, and important documents—a true Survival Guide for newcomers.

Location

The Czech Republic is located in Central (not Eastern) Europe. Approximately 10 million inhabit this space of about 78,866 sq km (roughly the size of South Carolina), 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). The Czech Republic is a landlocked country 326 km from the Baltic and 322 km from the Adriatic Sea.

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. In November 2013, the Czech government failed to elect a majority party. The current parliamentary parties in order of seats won are: Czech Social Democratic Party (ČSSD), ANO Party, Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia (KSČM), TOP 09, and the Civic Democratic Party (ODS).
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)

Culturally important days that are not public holidays:

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: 10,627,448 (July 2014 est.)
Population growth rate: 0.17% (2014 est.)
Age structure: 0-14 years: 14.9% (male 812,503/female 769,849)
15-24 years: 10.6% (male 576,304/female 547,765)
25-64 years: 43.6% (male 2,377,962/female 2,256,989)
65 years and over: 17.6% (male 766,402/female 1,097,242) (2014 est.)
Life expectancy: 78.31 years
Birth rate: 9.79 births/1,000 population (2014 est.)
Death rate: 10.29 deaths/1,000 population (2014 est.)
Infant mortality rate: 2.63 deaths/1,000 live births
Ethnic groups: Czech 64.3%, Moravian 5%, Slovak 1.4%, other 1.8%, unspecified 27.5% (2011 est.)
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) on a person's name day.

**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.
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

• Remove your shoes any time you enter someone’s house, unless the host insists otherwise. He or she may offer you some slippers to wear instead.
• When invited to dine at a Czech household, it’s customary to bring flowers. Flowers should be given in odd numbers, unless they are for a funeral: in that case give an even number. Avoid red flowers.
• Always say Dobrou chuť (Bon appétit) before eating. It is considered impolite to leave food on your plate so eat up!

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).
• When waiting for a beer, put a coaster down in front of you.
• Never mix the dregs of a beer you’re about to finish with the fresh beer you’ve been brought.
• Toasting is common. Czechs say Na zdraví (To your health!).
• Your order will be marked on a small piece of paper which is left on the table for the duration of your stay. It’s a good idea not to lose this as some pubs will charge a flat fee.
• Paying, is usually done at the table. It can be together (dohromady) or separately (zvlášť).
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.
- Never mix the dregs of a beer you’re about to finish with the fresh beer you’ve been brought. This is considered disgusting.
- 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 separate one is requested.

For parents

- Older people, especially older woman, will speak to little kids or peer into prams and comment.
- Mothers with little kids are generally treated well on public transport. People are more inclined to give up their seats and parents will give up their seats for their kids unless they have a little one to hold.
- Corporal punishment is not unheard of. Many Czechs believe that if small children are especially naughty, a spanking is necessary.

Misc.

- Watch your volume: people in the Czech Republic tend to speak quietly in public areas, and can be annoyed by foreigners who talk loudly.
- 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. Just be nice, and you will be rewarded.
On public transport

• You will be expected to give up your seat to elderly or pregnant women.
• On escalators, always stand on the right side to let people pass on the left.
• Let people exit the tram or metro before you enter.

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.
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. These affordable meals come with soup and bread and are delivered to your table in a flash. Evening reservations are highly recommended, even at more casual spots. Always double check your bill! For our handy Czech Menu Decoder, see page 187.
Czech Beer

Beer (pivo) is part of the Czech lifestyle and cuisine. Some natives even consider it a soft drink. Ten-degree beer (desítko) 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. The glorious Municipal House’s Kavárna Obecní Dům has live piano music daily. A number of new cafés are focused on locally-roasted, expertly prepared coffee. For a complete overview of restaurant, café, pub and wine bar listings visit www.expats.cz/food-and-drink
Specialty Food Shops

These days you can find stores specializing in everything from halal and kosher meats to exotic spices and candy imports for homesick expats. 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. Local butchers are also stepping up their game, offering expertly prepared fresh cuts of domestically raised pork, lamb, and beef. More and more shops are stocking imported fish and seafood due to increased demand and gourmet food shops are selling Czech-made products, dairy, and meat.

Farm Markets & Health Food Stores

The Czech word for “organic” is bio—look for the official green bio-label on the packaging. Supermarket chains and health food stores (bio potraviny) carry organic beef and chicken but the overwhelming success of farmers’ markets (farmářské trhy) has meant that many expats purchase the freshest, locally grown produce, dairy, and meat here. 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 the cold weather sets in. (The Holešovice markets continue indoors during the winter months.) Most green markets take place on Saturday. Popular locations include Jiřího z Poděbrad and Palackého náměstí. Opening hours are generally from 8am or 9am until the early afternoon. For more information visit www.farmarsketrziste.cz/en/farmarske-trhy-praha. Many expats order produce (farmářská bedýnka) for home delivery.

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restaurante
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rezervace@elbarrio.cz

Lidická 42, 150 00 Prague 5
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.

5 Expensive Prague Items (vs US/UK)
- Clothing
- Beauty products
- Household goods
- Furniture

5 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.
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. Opencard is a smart card that replaces paper tickets and can be used as an annual metro pass (opencard.praha.eu).

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 205. Visit www.dpp.cz for time tables, maps, fare info, etc.

Taxis

For many expats, the first need for a taxi is from the airport. Insisting on a taxi with a meter would seem to guarantee the best price, providing the journey is smooth and direct. The flip side is that a flat rate means you know what you’re paying regardless of traffic conditions. 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 are a popular option.

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. To learn more about Czech road signs, see page 198.
Essential Czech Viewing/Listening/Reading

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 Kadár 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 panenka, 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. Michael Viewegh is a familiar name in contemporary fiction; Petra Hůlová, took the literary scene by storm with her novel, All This Belongs to Me (Paměť mojí babičce).

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.
More 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.
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.
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

Piccolo Neexistuje (Piccolo Does Not Exist!) is the name of a movement that aims to correct Czech coffee terminology. 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 both in the center and beyond 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
Pobřežní 1, 186 00, Praha 8
+420 224 842 999
www.cloud9.cz  |  info@cloud9.cz
The first true sky bar in Prague on the rooftop of Hilton Prague, stunning views of the city, open terraces, newly redesigned luxurious interior, wide selection of classic and signature cocktails, delicious meals, live DJs Fridays and Saturdays.

Zest Bar
Pobřežní 1, 186 00, Praha 8
+420 224 842 700
www.hiltonprague.com  |  restaurants.prague@hilton.com
Sports bar serving cocktails and wide choice of Czech and international beers and snacks, Hilton Classics such as Hilton Club Sandwich or Hilton Burger. Live sports broadcasts on 3:2 meter screen and LCD screens, billiard table.

360 Lounge Bar
Panská 1308/9, 110 00, Praha 1
+420 226 222 996
www.360loungeandbar.cz  |  360bar@fusionrestaurants.cz
Chillax on the pillows with shisha or spin at the bar while you are sipping the cocktails. It’s perfect venue for your private parties, conferences, Djs nights and much more. City centre, air conditioned, free wifi, skypebox, Xbox kinect to enjoy.

Cafés

EMA espresso bar
Na Florenci 1420/3, 110 00  Praha 1 - New Town
+420 730 156 933
www.emaespressobar.cz  |  ema@emaespressobar.cz
An easy-going espresso bar with top Czech baristas behind the counter presenting specialty coffee from the best European roasters. Stop by for tasty sandwiches, cakes or buns from its own bakery, or try any of the delicious natural wines or teas.

Café Bistro
Pobřežní 1, 186 00, Praha 8
+420 224 842 700
www.hiltonprague.com  |  restaurants.prague@hilton.com
Café & Bistro situated in the hotel mezzanine with views of the atrium, open 24/7, is a hideaway for business lunches or quick snacks. The menu is all about simplicity, respecting the ingredients and knowing how to pair different flavours.

Café Lounge
Plaská 615/8, 150 00 Praha 5 - Lesser Quarter
+420 257 404 020
www.cafe-lounge.cz  |  cafe@cafe-lounge.cz
Focusing on local food, specialty 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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+420 224 842 931
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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.

Damejidlo.cz
+420 840 111 666
www.damejidlo.cz  |  zakaznici@damejidlo.cz
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4* Hotels

Fusion Hotel
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+420 226 222 800
www.fusionhotels.com | info@fusionhotels.com

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?

5* Hotels

Hilton Prague
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www.hiltonprague.com | reservations.prague@hilton.com

Hilton Prague, the largest upscale hotel in the Czech Republic, features 791 fully refurbished rooms, 3 restaurants, 2 bars, and almost 5,000 m² meeting space including Congress Hall for up to 1500 guests and Cybex health club & spa with indoor pool.

Hilton Prague Old Town
V Celnici 7, 110 00, Praha 1
+420 221 822 100
www.hiltonpragueoldtown.com | 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
U Obecního domu 1, 110 00 Praha 1
+420 222 195 195
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

Indian Jewel
Týn 6, Praha 1, 110 00
+420 222 310 156
www.indianjewel.cz | info@indianjewel.cz

An Exquisite Indian & Mughlai Restaurant with visual preparation of Tandoori Food! Try our 2 course SPECIAL LUNCH menu for 109,- CZK!

Indian by Nature
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+420 601 200 198
www.ibn-restaurant.cz | info@ibn-restaurant.cz

Come to Indian by Nature and enjoy an unforgettable meal, along with a warm and friendly atmosphere. This exceptional dining experience is a unique gastronomical journey, featuring intense flavours and simple, yet masterfully combined ingredients.

Curry House
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+420 775 109 056
www.curryhouse.cz | curryhouse@seznam.cz

We are proud to announce that we won the award of best “Curry” in Prague poll by Expats.cz.Try our chef specialties & Tandoori dishes. We make our dishes with fresh ingredients after we receive your order. We also do delivery & take away service.
International Restaurants

**Meze Restaurant**  
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+420 223 000 665, +420727976970  
www.mezerestaurant.cz | info@mezerestaurant.cz  
Our philosophy at MEZE Restaurant is to offer the guests high quality Mediterranean-style dishes prepared from the finest ingredients and let them enjoy a variety of tastes, aromas and textures.

**Zinc Restaurant, Lounge & Bar**  
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+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.czechhouse.cz | czechhouse@hilton.com  
Design restaurant with show kitchen serving modern Czech and European dishes, succulent cuts of US beef, award-winning deserts, Czech draught beer and high quality local and international wines. Regular themed and seasonal culinary promotions.

**Epopey**  
Panská 1308/9, Praha 1, 110 00  
+420 226 222 989  
www.epopey.cz | epopey@fusionrestaurants.cz  
Epopey offers modern cuisine using just fresh ingredients from local suppliers. Its center located and is the best place for business breakfasts, lunches and candlelight dinners. It is air conditioned and offers free wi-fi connection.

Vegetarian Restaurants

**Secret of raw**  
Seifertova 13, Praha 3, 130 00  
+420 222 513 258  
www.secretofraw.cz | info@secretofraw.cz  
Unique vegan raw food restaurant serving large variety of food, drinks and desserts. Come to enjoy the real taste of the healthiest food in a relaxing environment.

Leisure

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www.interhome.cz | info@interhome.cz  
No matter what you’re looking for (a mountain chalet, a villa with pool, a city apartment): Interhome with its 50 years experience can satisfy just about any request with more than 33.000 online bookable holiday homes and apartments in 31 countries.

**Prague Golf & Games**  
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+420 723 658 293, +420 733 461 444  
www.praguegolfandgames.com | golf@praguegolfandgames.com  
Glow in the dark mini golf is also known as the black light mini golf. In a nutshell we can say that the game remains intact, but the atmosphere changes dramatically when regular white bulbs are replaced with fluorescent black light.
Tourism

Offroadsafari.cz
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+420 605 231 697
www.offroadsafari.cz | info@offroadsafari.cz
Offroad trips to the unique landscape of northwest Bohemia. We will show you unexpected contrasts of charming nature and heavy industry. 4x4 car, local guide and unforgettable stories. Book your seat.

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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.

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+420 777 930 024
www.mypraguebudapest.com | andrea@mypb.com
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Healthy living

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Prague offers a multitude of opportunities for making your expat life a healthy one: affordable medical and dental care, plentiful public pools, gyms, and jogging trails. This section will help you navigate important decisions like choosing a physician or acquiring health insurance while ensuring that your continued state of mind is—healthy.

Insurance Coverage

Anyone 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. Employees of multi-national firms, typically carry private insurance arranged by the company.

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.
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, though if you are a relocate with a young child, discuss her vaccination history with your doctor.

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 a without prescription is not, and the patient must pay the full cost. Pharmacies also carry baby food, cosmetics, and first aid supplies. For a list of 24-hour pharmacies, see page 195.
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 FN Motol (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 195.

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.

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

- Bleeding + nose = krávcení + nos
- Broken + arm = zlomená + paže
- Pain + chest = bolest + hruď
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. Gynecological exams include a breast exam (age 40), pelvic exam, and Pap smear.

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: Podoli, 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.
### 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. Shoes are not allowed in the changing rooms and there is a designated area near the entrance for their removal. 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; our recommendations for trails: Stromovka, the largest park in the city, with very few hills and a series of soft dirt trails. 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. Kunratice Forest, has loads of paths is slightly hilly, well-shaded, and not too crowded. 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 and begin from there. Kunratice Forest, south of center is ideal for running: loads of paths (both dirt and paved), slightly hilly, well-shaded, and not too crowded.

### You deserve the highest level of medical care

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Pediatrician  
+420 724 300 306  
Dentist  
+420 724 300 312  
[www.cmcpraha.cz](http://www.cmcpraha.cz)
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 Drbské 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.
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 does 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 (heřmánek) for 10 to 15 minutes and use it warm.

Nettles
Czech grandmothers drink nettle (kopřivy) 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.
Children’s Activities

The Little Gym – Summer Camps
Drtinova 557/8, 150 00, Praha 5 - Smíchov
+420 227 018 555
www.thelittlegym.cz | prague@thelittlegym.eu
Our summer and holiday camps offer three hours of fun and activities. The specially developed themed camp curriculum combines physical fitness and play with arts, crafts and special events. It’s the perfect break for kids (and parents!).

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Your fully supervised, gymnastic based, private party will be filled with music, games, obstacle courses and of course laughter. The key to our parties is FUN! Parties are for kids aged 1 to 12 years, led by trained staff in our custom designed gym.

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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.

Day Care & 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 hours. Many expat parents consider their play group an invaluable resource for getting tips on sitters and sharing parenting advice. Visit Kids in Prague (www.kidsinprague.com), the Facebook group Prague Activities for Cool Kids (www.facebook.com/groups/praguepack).
**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. Class Acts (www.classacts.cz) is a great resource for researching bilingual options.

**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). 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).
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. Upon graduation, your child should have completed at least one of the following courses of study: General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE), Advanced Level General Certificate of Education (A Level), International Baccalaureate (IB), PSAT, SAT, or advanced placement (AP). 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. Prospective students will be interviewed by teachers, about anything from counting to tying their shoelaces.
Summer Camps & Classes

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. A good place to start is our article on the topic (www.expats.cz/prague/article/parents-kids/summer-camps-in-the-czech-republic/). 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. Further afoot, these trips are popular with expat families: Zámek Berchtold for its mini castles exhibit, Zámek Loučeň for its mazes, Tropical Islands, Europe’s largest tropical holiday world in Krausnick, DE, Happy Land (Šťastná Země) outdoor play area and mini-village near scenic Český Ráj, Dresden Children’s Museum (Deutsches Hygiene-Museum), Hradec Králové Zoo (Zoo Dvůr Králové), IQ Park (Labyrinth of Games and Education), Centrum Babylon, Liberec, Špindlerův Mlyn ski resort Botanicus Botanical Garden and Medieval Village, Ostré, Bykoš pumpkin patch and farm.
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.

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.

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.

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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.

Language Textbooks

Czech for foreigners
ALADIN Agency, Baranova 31, 130 00, Praha 3  
+420 222 738 389, +420 724 044 848  
www.mluvime-cesky.info | marta@aladin.cz

The textbook for foreigners in English, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese version consists of vocabulary, the current language structure, phrases and poetry in range of 2000 words, and a CD with listening exercises. Live in Czech, speak Czech!

Colleges & Universities

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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.

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Christian International School of Prague
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www.cisprague.org | info@cisprague.org
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Townshend International School
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www.townshend.cz | contact@townshend.cz
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+420 257 316 182
www.parklane-is.com | info@parklane-is-is.com
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www.carlsbadschool.cz | admissions@carlsbadschool.cz

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Unique English preschool in Prague, est. 2001 by the US Embassy. New
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Smartfox offers creative and friendly environment to every child and
adult as well. Its bilingual preschool accredited by the Ministry of
Education, opened to every child from the age of 12 months. Come and
tour our venue and review our curriculum.

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www.musicschoolprague.com
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www.villaluna.cz | info@villaluna.cz
The long tradition of our international preschools and nurseries provides your child with the skills he or she needs. Our educational program is offered in English and German. We create a friendly and stimulating environment for kids from 4 months.

KIDS Company Praha
Hradešínská 58, 101 00, Praha - Vinohrady
+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.
German School Prague – Kindergarten
Schwarzenberská 1, 158 00, Praha 5 - Jinonice
+420 235 311 725
www.dsp-praha.cz  |  dsprag@dsp-praha.cz
German kindergarten with native speaking teachers. Welcome are children from 3 - 6 years of age. German curriculum. Wonderful natural outdoor playground. Arts, sports and activities in music. Preparing for German basic school.

Duhovka Montessori Preschool & Toddler
Kozlovská 9, 160 00, Praha 6 - Hanspaulka
+420 733 317 843
www.duhovkaskolka.cz |  info@duhovkaskolka.cz
Czech-English Montessori Preschool & Toddler program welcomes children aged 1.5-6 yrs. Providing bilingual education, stimulating Montessori environment and individual approach. PlayWisely® for kids aged 4 mo-3 yrs. Branch also in Prague 1.

Sunny Garden
Vánkova 897/13, 181 00, Praha 8 Čimice (Čámovka)
+420 607 512 912
www.sunnygarden.cz  |  info@sunnygarden.cz
Sunny Garden-English preschool is a perfect place for your children. We provide US Curriculum for children 2-6 years old. Working with small groups, only native English teachers, having own garden.

Nessie English Preschool
Nad Bertramkou 10, 150 00, Praha 5 - Smíchov
+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 Curric. of England.
With its green spaces, quality schools, activities for families, and cultural opportunities, Prague is a wonderful place to call home. Our guide addresses the most crucial relocation topics from choosing a school to getting a visa.

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. (Higher numbers indicate a different system.) 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. Nebušice 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.
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.inkluzivnískola.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 or 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.

International Woman's Association of Prague

I WAP is here to welcome and promote friendship among foreign women living in the Czech Republic, acquaint members with the local culture by offering diverse and interesting

I WAP offers:
• Over 30 various interest groups
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• Help to Czech charities

Web: www.iwa-prague.com
Email: iwap@iwa-prague.com
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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. For all services, the speed and quality depends on your distance from an exchange, though the wireless options are getting faster as technology improves.
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.

Helpful Vocab:
- stamp (známka)
- envelope (obálka)
- package (balík)
- mail tube (svitek)
- bubble wrap (bezpečnostní plastový obal)

I’d like to send this to America/England/Canada (Chtěl bych to poslat do Ameriky/Anglie/Kanady)
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. Religious documents will vary from church to church.

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). These offices also display loads of brochures that come in handy for wedding-related services.

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.
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, or for other reasons, 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

As usual, none of the applicable documents can be older than six months.

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.)

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.

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.
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 (elektřina) or heating (topení). In addition, they may carry out construction work (stavebná 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 zámečník (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 www.nejremeslnici.cz website, which is essentially an online intermediary and review service. Note that most tradesmen will not speak English and you may need a Czech friend to interpret.

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.

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

*There are fewer stands operating than before.
**If you visit pubs outside the center you will find cheaper beers.
### The Supermarket

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>CZK</th>
<th>EUR</th>
<th>GBP</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milk*</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loaf of Fresh Bread (Šumavský)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loaf of White Sliced Bread</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Baguette (Large)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter (250g)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1.55</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>1.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice (parboiled small packet)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packet of Spaghetti **</td>
<td>15 - 40</td>
<td>0.61 – 1.63</td>
<td>0.45 – 1.20</td>
<td>0.74 – 1.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs (10)</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>1.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese (100g) - Eidam</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.81</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whole Chicken</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>3.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken breasts (1 kg)</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>5.92</td>
<td>4.35</td>
<td>7.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef rumpsteak (Large)</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>11.03</td>
<td>8.11</td>
<td>13.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pork cutlet (1 kg)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>6.13</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>7.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kg Apples (Granny Smith)</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>1.35</td>
<td>2.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water (1.5 liter bottle)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tea (Small box)</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>1.05</td>
<td>1.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee – instant 200g</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>6.54</td>
<td>4.80</td>
<td>7.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottle of Czech Wine</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td>4.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Beer *** (0.5 liter bottle)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.61</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imported Beer (0.5 liter bottle)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>1.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pack of Cigarettes (Czech Brand)****</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>3.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pack of Cigarettes (Imported)</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>3.47</td>
<td>2.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Flights‡

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>Return</th>
<th>CZK</th>
<th>EUR</th>
<th>GBP</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London (All Airports)</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>Return</td>
<td>102.14</td>
<td>75.08</td>
<td>124.27</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paris (All Airports)</td>
<td>2,700</td>
<td>Return</td>
<td>110.31</td>
<td>81.09</td>
<td>134.21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York (All Airports)</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>Return</td>
<td>646.22</td>
<td>390.41</td>
<td>646.22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Accommodation (Per Month)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>CZK</th>
<th>EUR</th>
<th>GBP</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Room in Flatshare Prague 1 or 2</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>306.43</td>
<td>225.24</td>
<td>372.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room in Flatshare, Outside Center</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>245.15</td>
<td>180.19</td>
<td>298.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio Flat, Prague 1 or 2</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>347.29</td>
<td>255.27</td>
<td>422.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studio Flat, Outside Center</td>
<td>6,500</td>
<td>265.57</td>
<td>195.21</td>
<td>323.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat (1+1) in Prague 1 or 2</td>
<td>11,500</td>
<td>469.87</td>
<td>345.37</td>
<td>571.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat (1+1) Outside Center</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>347.30</td>
<td>255.27</td>
<td>422.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat (2+1) in Prague 1 or 2</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>735.44</td>
<td>540.57</td>
<td>894.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat (2+1) Outside Center</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>490.30</td>
<td>360.38</td>
<td>596.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Star Hotel, Dbl Room (Per Night)</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>122.57</td>
<td>90.10</td>
<td>149.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed in a Hostel Dorm (Per Night)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>8.17</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td>9.94</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Utilities (Per Month)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>CZK</th>
<th>EUR</th>
<th>GBP</th>
<th>USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>18.79</td>
<td>13.81</td>
<td>22.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>1,830</td>
<td>74.77</td>
<td>54.96</td>
<td>90.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobile phone</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>20.43</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>24.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>20.43</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>24.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Transport

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

---

*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.
Auto Dealerships

Auto Palace Group
Na Chodovci 2457/1, Prague 4
+420 702 290 955
www.autopalace.cz | information@autopalace.cz
The largest automotive dealer group in CZ. Selling new and used cars, providing mechanical and body work for all car brands, car rental, spare parts and accessories. Best financing you can get in CZ. Service center for commercial vehicles.

Auto Průhonice
V oblouku 731, 252 43, Průhonice
+420 725 786 518
www.autopruhonice.cz | zocher@autopruhonice.com

Park My Car
Hostosova 279, 156 00, Praha 5
+420 723 275 489
www.parkmycar.cz | parkmycar@parkmycar.cz
We offer honest and friendly solution to owning, maintaining and selling a vehicle, including hustle-free registration service, comprehensive insurance, general service, MOT, advisory and more.

Driving Schools

Driving School Petr Sim
Újezdská 155/10, 100 00, Praha 10
+420 724 087 862
www.autoskolasim.cz | info@petrsim.cz
International Driving School of Prague with an experienced instructor. For nearly 6 years, we've been teaching and sharing our experiences with English speakers from around the world in Prague.

Autoškola Horázný
Ondříčkova 9, 130 00, Praha 3
+420 222 722 822, +420737282929
www.driving-school.cz | info@drivingschool.cz

Autoškola Student
Karlov náměstí 17, 120 00, Praha 2
+420 776 000 264
www.autoskolastudent.cz | info@autoskolastudent.cz
Driving school for all categories of driving licence. Training, study materials and test in English or Russian. Refresher lessons. Automatic transmission available. Preparation for Re-exam test.

Health Insurance

VZP for Foreigners.cz
Chopinova 2, 120 00, Praha 2
+420 222 254 442, +420 776 162 499
www.vzpforforeigners.cz | info@vzpforforeigners.cz
Health Insurance for your Visa and beyond with affordable prices, the largest network of hospitals and English speaking doctors. We provide fast, friendly service with the personal touch featuring free access to our exclusive FindaDoctor.cz website.

VISA Assistance

PraguExpats
Pelhřimovská 338/7, 140 00, Praha 4
+420 608 943 603, +420 774 900 907
www.pexpats.com | info@pexpats.com
We will assist you with the long-term visas, starting your business, Foreign Police registration, etc. Our mission is to help you with all the difficult everyday needs in setting up your life in CZ and giving you time to relax. Leave the work to us!
Moving Companies

**Move One Inc.**
Římská 12, 12000, Praha 2
+420 233 321 406
www.moveoneinc.com | czechrepublic@moveoneinc.com
As a premier provider of global mobility solutions, Move One Relocations offers scalable services aimed at easing the relocation process for its multi-national clients and their assignees. International Moving – Relocations - Immigration assistance.

**Crown Relocations**
IBC - Pobrezni 3, 186 00, Praha 8
+420 224 832 305
www.crownrelo.com | prague@crownrelo.com
Crown Relocations provides transportation, destination and immigration services, as well as employee and family support, to assist people relocating internationally or domestically. Crown Relocations - Go knowing - www.crownrelo.com

**Voerman UTS Prague**
Čestlice 198, 251 01, Čestlice
+420 323 602 659
www.voerman.com | expats.cz@voerman.com
Time to move again? Let’s put your move first. Tailor-made services to suite every aspect of your move, with a personal touch. Call us for information, free survey and moving quote.

**HrubyMOVING,s.r.o**
Kostelecká 879, 19600, Praha 9
+420 774 738 028, +420 283 930 222
www.hrubymoving.eu | hrubymoving@hrubymoving.cz
HrubyMOVING offers complete international removal and relocation services, office moving, short/long term storage, high capacity transport and part loads from/to the european countries, overseas. Offices and warehouses in: Prague, Brno, Ostrava.

**Visa and immigration:**
Arseni Nesterov
(CZE, ENG, RU)
E: arseni@expatcare.cz
T - CZ: +420777903833
T - UK: +44 (0)77 101 999 10

**Relocation and cooperation:**
Sasha Morgan
(CZE, ENG)
E: info@expatcare.cz
T - CZ: +42072417516
T - UK: +44 (0)77 101 999 10

**www.expatcare.cz**
Relocation Agencies

IBS
Pod Kapličkou 11/2846, 130 00, Praha 3
+420 222 591 334
info@ibs-sro.cz | www.ibs-sro.cz
International Business Support s.r.o. is the leading full service relocation agency in the Czech Republic. Since our founding in 1995 we had the honour of assisting hundreds of expats with their successful relocation to Prague.

Expat Care
Lidická 6, 15000, Praha 5
+420 724 175 916
www.expatcare.cz | info@expatcare.cz
Expats’ favourite helping hand prior to arrival, on the arrival, during the stay and at the departure. Relocation, immigration and all around assistance agency.

EuroHome Relocation Services
Čestlice 198, 251 01, Čestlice
+420 323 602 659
www.eurohome-relocation.com | cz@eurohome-relocation.com
Expatriate services for individuals and company employees in all relocation needs: immigration, orientation, house and school search, etc. We are your advocates, advisors and an extension to your HR department.

Santa Fe Relocation Services
U Silnice 949, 161 00, Praha 6
+420 233 313 154, +420 233 313 158
www.santafelo.com | prague@santafelo.com
We offer a complete suite of moving and relocation services. From a local move to a complete global relocation, we can be your one-stop solution to all your moving and relocation needs (moving, storage, immigration, home and school search).

Relocation isn't just a question of finding a house or school. It’s all about creating an enjoyable life in a brand new culture for employees and their families.
Pet Services

Animal Transport Worldwide
Nova Ves 61, 250 63, Mratin, Praha-vychod
+420 315 601 205, +420 773 624 159
www.animaltransport.cz | info@animaltransport.cz

We are offering professional services in the sphere of animal transportation for relocating families, zoo’s or breeders. Due to several years of experience, we are prepared to offer you high standards of services related to all kinds of animals.

Veterinarians

Veterinary practice - MVDr. Martina Načeradská
Krymská 23, 101 00, Praha 10
+420 774 418 018, +420 267 312 695
www.naceradska.com | info@naceradska.com

Our Veterinary Practice offers progressive small animal medicine and surgery. With our quality equipment, we provide our clients with up-to-date medical care for small animals while doing our best to always appreciate the human-animal bond.

Pet Care Clinic
Tusarova 1520/24, 170 00, Praha 7
+420 774 116 623
www.petcareclinic.cz | info@petcareclinic.cz

Pet Care Clinic provides complex veterinary care for dogs, cats and small mammals. Our services include routine preventive care, but we focus on dermatology, orthopedics and surgery. Opening hours: Monday-Friday 9-21, Saturday 9-12, Sunday 17-20.

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Expats.cz is working with Accenture, the world’s largest consulting firm and premier recruiter for multilingual jobs, as an expert in global management consulting, technology services, and outsourcing.

Accenture works in four areas for their clients. They help them enter new markets, increase revenues in existing markets, improve operational performance, and deliver their products more effectively and efficiently. In short, Accenture applies its knowledge to a range of industries from consumer goods to banking. No wonder they can claim that their clients include 94 of the Fortune Global 100 and three quarters of Fortune Global 500.

Some of Accenture's clients are among the largest brands in Central Europe. Volkswagen, one of the world’s top car manufacturers and owner of the Czech brand Škoda, is using Accenture Audit and Compliance Tool. Wizz Air, the Hungarian low cost airline, which is likely to become one of Europe’s largest airlines, is another high-profile company which has benefited from cooperation with Accenture, through one of Accenture’s subsidiaries, Navitaire.

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.

Prague is a beautiful city and our goal is to enjoy life here just as good as or even better than at home. That is why we try to make the adaptation of our foreign colleagues simple and pleasant! Find more at: expats.cz/accenture
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—all are open to foreigners. 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. Without these three details, the contract is invalid. The contract may be ended by the employer or the employee under any of the 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). For non-EU citizens, the contract can be terminated on the date their residence permit or visa expires, if the employer wishes to revoke the work permit.

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:** As of August 1, 2013, the minimum wage is 50.60 CZK per hour if the employee is paid hourly, or 8,500 CZK per month if paid monthly.
- **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.
- **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.

**DPDHL is the most international company in the world.** To provide the global coverage that our business units need, IT Services has more than 3,100 employees worldwide, representing over 70 different nationalities. Also, we are present in 23 European countries, 2 countries in Americas and 3 countries in Asia. At IT Services, we recognize that our people are the key success factor of our business and we will continue to invest in their development.

Our Purpose remains the same: We Connect People via Information Technology and Improve Their Work Lives.

Find out more at www.dhl.cz/careers
Find a Job

The Czech Republic’s No1 site for English speaking positions

www.expats.cz/jobs
**Quitting:** First, you obtain a výpovìï 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.

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**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.

**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.

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.

Lunch breaks: Many of those we spoke to observed the importance of the lunch break in the Czech Republic and that at 11:30 or midday, large numbers of staff stop for lunch simultaneously and do so at the same time every day.

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, retail, 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.

Who gets the most work?
Teachers come from US, UK, Canada, Ireland, Australia, and New Zealand.

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 s pořitelna (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 saids 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 also comes recommend it for it convenient transfer service.

For larger transfers The Fx Firm is one possibility (www.thefxfirm.com). To compare rates visit www.mycurrencytransfer.com or www.exchange.cz.

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Choosing a local Bank?

Our banking comparisons page makes things a little easier

www.expats.cz/banking-comparison
A recent economic upswing has proven encouraging news for entrepreneurs who are basing their companies in Prague and beyond. 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 příznání) 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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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).

The cost of forming or purchasing an s.r.o. is generally higher when shareholders are themselves legal entities, since documentation legitimizing decisions of a legal entity shareholder can be difficult and expensive to obtain.
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

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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.expats.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?
• 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).
Real estate

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Renter’s Insurance

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.

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.
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.

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.

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

Helpful Phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Czech</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fully furnished</td>
<td>zařízený pokoj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared room</td>
<td>společný pokoj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single room</td>
<td>samostatný pokoj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unfurnished</td>
<td>nezařízený</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities not included</td>
<td>+ poplatky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities included</td>
<td>včetně poplatků</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk-through room</td>
<td>průchozí pokoj</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Flat-size Tip Sheet

1+kk  One room with a kitchen in the same living space (bathrooms are usually separate)
1+1   One room with separate kitchen
2+kk  Bedroom and kitchen/lounge in the same area
2+1   Bedroom, living area, and separate kitchen
3+1   Two bedrooms, a living area and kitchen

Činžovní dům: Four- or five-storey pre-war buildings constructed in 1920s or 1930s
Panelový dům: High-rise apartment buildings built during the communist era
Rodinný dům: Detached single-family home
Vila: Sprawling family homes from the 1920s and 1930s
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 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.
You’ll feel at home
Complex of fully furnished apartments for rent in the center of Prague.

www.albertov.eu
Lexxus Norton
V Celnici 1040/5, 110 00, Praha 1
+420 221 111 900
www.lexxusnorton.cz | info@lexxusnorton.cz

Our Lexxus Norton brand exclusively handles the sale and rent of luxury, above standard and primarily residential properties in the best locations in Prague and the surrounding area.

homesweethome.cz
Politických veznu 5, 110 00, Praha 1
+420 222 312 488
www.homesweethome.cz | info@homesweethome.cz

We operate in the center of the Golden City, as well as its surrounding districts. We will work with you to find you a place that fits within your budget and expectations.

Ausch Real Estate
Zborovská 49, 15000, Praha 5 - Malá Strana
+420 603 863 696
info@ausch.eu

Well established full-service real estate agency dedicated to you, our client. We bring the boutique concept to real estate in order to provide you with exceptional, personalized services whether you are a home buyer or an investor.

Tide Reality
Svobodova 9, 128 00, Praha 2
+420 224 914 914
www.tidereality.com | martin@tide.cz

20 years of experience. Since 1993 we have been providing quality services for the expat community in Prague. For a wide selection of properties for rent and sale, please visit www.tidereality.com

ORION Realit
Holečkova 31, 15000, Praha 5 - Smíchov
+420 739 544 411
info@orionreal.cz

Since 1993, ORION is a major Prague Real Estate and Relocation Agency focused on expat and foreign company housing needs in Prague and its vicinity. We provide services including rental, sale of properties and property management.

ADVANCED Real Estate, s.r.o.
Vinohradská 939/39, 120 00, Praha 2
+420 601 336 905
www.advancedreality.cz | info@advancedreality.cz

Friendly real estate agency focused on residential and commercial rentals and sales in Prague and Prague surroundings. We pay attention to consistency, high quality of our services, individual friendly approach and easy going process.

iReality Ltd.
Máchova 439/27, 120 00, Praha 2 - Vinohrady
+420 776 548 544, +420 773 548 537
info@irealitypraha.cz

We focus on mediation of rentals and sales of apartments, houses, commercial premises and plots of land, as well as property management. We also have extensive experience with accommodation of corporate clients.

simplyHOME.cz
Bolzanova 1615/1, 110 00, Praha 1
+420 603 768 900
www.simplyhome.cz | info@simplyhome.cz

Well established real estate agency with almost 10 years experience on the Prague property market offering full real estate service incl. mortgage service, property management, property insurance. Finding a home is so easy.
Serviced Apartments

Hunger Wall Residence
Plášť 615/8, 150 00, Praha 5 - Lesser Quarter
+420 257 404 040
www.hungerwall.eu | info@hungerwall.eu
Accommodation in the Lesser Quarter, within walking distance of Prague Castle, the Charles Bridge and the Kampa and Petřín parks, this 1903 Art Nouveau building is perfectly placed; surrounded by restaurants, cafes, bars, leisure hotspots and more.

Albertov Rental Apartments
Horská 2107/2d, 120 00, Praha 2
+420 602 226 633, +420 724 928 194
www.albertov.eu | recepce@albertov.eu
We offer a unique concept of residential living in the centre of Prague, in above standard equipped, modern and fully furnished apartments for short and long-term rental. Our complex includes reception, parking, shopping centre and restaurant.

stay.work.live.prague.
Křižíkova 488/115, 186 00, Praha 8 - Karlin
+420 257 404 040
www.prague-rentals.com | info@prague-rentals.com
High-quality apartment buildings in the vibrant areas of Prague 1, 5, and 8, offering exceptional short or long term housing, serviced apartments and budget accommodation, all with superior service. All buildings are managed by the owner’s family.
Helpful Vocab

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

Emergency Words & Phrases

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

Czech Menu Decoder

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Jídlo</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>warm starters</td>
<td>teplé předkrmy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cold starters</td>
<td>studené předkrmy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salads</td>
<td>saláty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mixed salad</td>
<td>šopský salát</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek salad</td>
<td>řecký salát</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tomato salad</td>
<td>rajčatový salát</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soup</td>
<td>polévka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>meat</td>
<td>Maso</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chicken</td>
<td>kuře</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ham</td>
<td>šunka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beef</td>
<td>biftek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beefsteak</td>
<td>slanina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bacon</td>
<td>hovězí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lamb</td>
<td>jehněcí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>Translation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pork</td>
<td>vepřové</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fish</td>
<td>ryby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>salmon</td>
<td>losos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trout</td>
<td>pstruh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>goulash</td>
<td>guláš</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beef filet/sirloin in sauce</td>
<td>svíčková</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>steak tartare</td>
<td>tatarský biftek</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vegetarian/without meat</th>
<th>Vegetariánské/bezmasá</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cheese</td>
<td>sýr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>brie cheese</td>
<td>hermelín</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blue cheese</td>
<td>niva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fried cheese</td>
<td>smažený sýr/smažák</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>broccoli</td>
<td>brokolice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mushrooms</td>
<td>žampióny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cauliflower</td>
<td>květáky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spinach</td>
<td>špenát</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>risotto</td>
<td>rizoto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pasta</td>
<td>těstoviny</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparation</th>
<th>Příprava</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>roasted</td>
<td>opékané</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fried</td>
<td>smažený</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skewered</td>
<td>špíz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sautéed</td>
<td>soté</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stuffed</td>
<td>plněné</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grilled</td>
<td>grilované</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stewed</td>
<td>dušené</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baked</td>
<td>pečené</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smoked</td>
<td>uzené</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boiled</td>
<td>vařené</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with/without s/bez</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Garnishes</th>
<th>Oblohy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>onion</td>
<td>cibule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>garlic</td>
<td>česnek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>red pepper</td>
<td>paprika</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>leek</td>
<td>pörék</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Side dishes</th>
<th>Přílohy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>potatoes</td>
<td>brambory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French fries</td>
<td>hranolky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>potato croquettes</td>
<td>krokety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rice</td>
<td>rýže</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vegetables</td>
<td>zelenina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dumplings</td>
<td>knedlíky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bread</td>
<td>chléb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baked goods</td>
<td>pečivo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fried bread</td>
<td>topinky</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drinks</th>
<th>Nápoje</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>beer</td>
<td>pivo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bottle</td>
<td>láhev</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>white wine</td>
<td>bílá vína</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>red wine</td>
<td>červená vína</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>liquors</td>
<td>likéry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>soft drinks</td>
<td>nealko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>juice</td>
<td>džus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water</td>
<td>voda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sparkling water</td>
<td>voda perlivá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>still water</td>
<td>voda neperlivá</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carbonated water</td>
<td>soda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hot drinks</td>
<td>teplé nápoje</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coffee</td>
<td>káva</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tea</td>
<td>čaj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spiced (mulled) wine</td>
<td>svařené vino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grog (tea with rum)</td>
<td>grog</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Desserts & Vocab

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Czech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>honey cake</td>
<td>medovník</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ice cream</td>
<td>zmrzlna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pancakes/crêpes</td>
<td>paláčinky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chocolate</td>
<td>čokoláda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fruit</td>
<td>ovoce</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### At the Supermarket

#### Bread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Czech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>baked goods</td>
<td>pečivo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baguette</td>
<td>bageta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bread roll</td>
<td>houska</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crescent roll</td>
<td>rohlík</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rye-wheat loaf</td>
<td>chléb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sliced toast bread</td>
<td>toustový chléb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French bread</td>
<td>veka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>breadcrumbs</td>
<td>strouhanka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Eggs and Dairy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Czech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>eggs</td>
<td>vajíčka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>butter</td>
<td>máslo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cream</td>
<td>smetana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>whipped cream/for whipping</td>
<td>šlehačka/na šlehání</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sour cream</td>
<td>zakysaná smetana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>milk low-fat/skim/whole</td>
<td>mléko nízkotučné/polotučné/plnotučné</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quark/Curd</td>
<td>tvaroh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>feta</td>
<td>balkánský sýr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sheep cheese</td>
<td>brynza/jadel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>edam</td>
<td>eidam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>swiss cheese</td>
<td>Ementál</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>camembert</td>
<td>hermelín</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>processed cheese triangles</td>
<td>tavený sýr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Meat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Czech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>beef</td>
<td>hovězí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>filet mignon</td>
<td>svíčková</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chuck roast</td>
<td>z předního bez kostí</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Czech for Foreigners**

**CZ LINGUA Czech for foreigners**  
Wuchterlova 5, 160 00, Praha 6  
+420 603 480 667  
[www.czlingua.cz](http://www.czlingua.cz) | [info@czlingua.cz](mailto:info@czlingua.cz)

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**Charles University, Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies**  
Albertov 7/3a, 128 00 Praha 2  
+420 224 921 015, +420 224 990 420  
[www.ujop.cuni.cz/albertov](http://www.ujop.cuni.cz/albertov) | [albertov@ujop.cuni.cz](mailto:albertov@ujop.cuni.cz)

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www.tutor.cz | tutor@tutor.cz

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www.artlingua.cz  |  artlingua@artlingua.cz

Artlingua provides high quality translations from and to 50+ languages including certified translations. Main fields of expertise: legal, economics, medicine, technical, EU. We also offer simultaneous, consecutive and court interpreting + equipment.

**Graficon**
Senovážné nám. 23, 110 00, Praha 1
+420 224 227 846, +420 774 404 897
www.preklady-textu.cz  |  graficon@graficon.cz

We provide comprehensive translating services in all world languages. In addition to, we also do the legalization and notarization of the documents at ministries and embassies High quality, reliability and flexibility are guaranteed.

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 Vlašská 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. If the cars have to be moved for purposes of safety, mark the original position of each car on the ground. 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, located every two kilometers alongside the road. 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

**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

The pharmacy (lékárna) is generally open Monday–Friday 8am–6pm. However, there are several 24-hour pharmacies, many of which are provided by hospitals:

- 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

**Helpful Vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Czech</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sick</td>
<td>Nemocný</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency</td>
<td>Naléhavý případ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help</td>
<td>Pomoc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital</td>
<td>Nemocnice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td>Dítě</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison</td>
<td>Jed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentist</td>
<td>Dentista, Zubař</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tooth</td>
<td>Zub</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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