

Prague

Places to Visit

Prague Castle

Perhaps the city's most popular attraction, Prague Castle can be seen from practically anywhere in the city. It is the original seat of the Czech princes and kings and became a presidential residence in 1918. The castle's vast complex covers some 45 hectares and contains beautiful gardens, 3 courtyards and fortifications. The most famous attraction is the Gothic St Vitus Cathedral, the construction of which was begun in 1344 but not completed until 1929. Other buildings that are open to the public include the Old Royal Palace, St. Wenceslas' Chapel and St. Vojtech's Chapel.

Mala Strana

Perhaps the most picturesque district in Prague Mala Strana has many narrow streets that are well worth exploring. The area contains a number of Renaissance and Baroque churches and palaces such as the Vallenstein Palace, the Church of St. Nicholas and the Church of Our Lady Victorious.

The Charles Bridge

Connecting the Old Town to the Lesser Town, The Charles Bridge has become a traditional meeting place. Street performers can be found entertaining the crowds and a variety of stalls sell trinkets and handicrafts.

The Loreta Church

A short walk west of the district of Hradcany is The Loreta Church. It was built between 1626 - 1750, in the baroque style, and is a fascinating place to visit. The treasury on the first floor is home to some beautiful religious items including a valuable monstrance, decorated with thousands diamonds.

The Old Town Square

Largely given over to pedestrians, The Old Town Square is home to numerous restaurants and cafes that spill out onto the pavement during the summer. The square is surrounded the Old-Town Hall, which was constructed in 1338, and the Church of Our Lady of Tyn, with its two 70 meter towers.

The Old Jewish Quarter

Home to Europe's largest working synagogue. The Pinkas Synagogue, with its memorial to Holocaust victims, is also worth visiting as is the Spanish synagogue, which shows a plotted history on Jews since the emancipation.

Petrin Hill

The hill offers a wonderful panoramic view of the city and can be climbed on foot or by taking the funicular railway. You can also climb Petrin Tower, which is a 62m copy of the Eiffel Tower built for the Prague Exposition in 1891.

St Nicolas' Church (Chram Sv. Mikulase) on Malostranske namesti

Built in the period 1704-55, St Nicolas' Church is the most significant historical structure of the so-called Prague Baroque. Its tower offers a beautiful view over the Lesser Town, as well as a permanent exhibition called the Music of Prague Choirs, which commemorates an important musical tradition of the city and its churches.

Church of Our Lady of Victory - the Prague Bambino

An early baroque building from the year 1611, 1634 - 1669 Church of Our Lady of Victory was rebuilt by the Carmelite Order. The church is world-famous for the Prague Bambino - Infant Jesus wax figure, which was presented to the church by Polyxena of Lobkowitz (1628).

Loreta

A Marian pilgrimage place with a copy of the Italian Santa Casa including the baroque Church of the Nativity of Our Lord. The site is encircled by a cloister and chapels and the spire houses a carillon which consists of 27 Loreta bells tuned to a Marian song, "We Greet You a Thousand Times" playing every hour from 09:00 to 18:00. The most valuable item of the liturgical treasury is the so-called Loreta Treasure.

Ctenice Castle

The Ctenice Castle is a unique monument in the belt of Gothic forts around Prague. First museum of carriages was opened here holding a permanent exhibition of ancient equipages, flies, stage-coaches and other historical carriages.

Ghosts

With all of Prague's Gothic forts and castles, the door is open for tales of ghosts, spectres and spirits. The television series "Most Haunted Live 2010 : Gothic Prague – Evil Within" visited the city in early 2010 to try to prove or dis-prove the occurrence of Prague's supernatural residents.