

Country Information

CZECK REPUBLIC

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About the country

General

Name of the country: Czech Republic

Area: 78,865 sq. kilometers

Population: 10.3 inhabitants

Capital: Prague (1.3 million)

Government: Constitution. President - elected bicameral parliament.

Geography: The Czech Republic is a small landlocked country in Central Europe, situated south-east of Germany and bordering Austria to the south, Poland to the north and Slovakia (with which it used to form one country of Czechoslovakia) to the south-east.

The Czech Republic is divided into 3 historical regions: Bohemia - the western part of the Czech Republic; Moravia - the eastern part of the country and Czech Silesia - the north eastern part of the Czech Republic. Most of the historic country of Silesia is today in Poland.

Language: Czech

Time: Central European (GMT+1), summer time - Central European +1 (GMT+2)

Religion: Predominantly Roman Catholic (39.2%), non-believers (39.7%).

Electricity: Czech appliances operate on 220 volts and plug into two-pronged outlets that differ from those in America and the United Kingdom. Appliances designed for the U.S. or U.K. markets must use an adapter and a transformer (sometimes incorrectly called a converter).

Money

Currency: The Czech Republic is a member of the E.U. The currency of the Czech Republic is the koruna, or crown (Kc). There are coins of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and (rarely) 50 Kc; and notes of 20, 50, 100, 200, 500, 1,000, 2,000, and 5,000 Kc. Notes of 1,000 Kc and up may not always be accepted for small purchases.

Exchange Rates:

Currency Exchange Rates*			
CZK 100 =	US\$ 5.25220	£ 3.30563	CHF 5.69251

* Date's rate: May 09

Credit cards: Visa, Mastercard, Maestro, Visa debit & American Express cards can be used at the ATM's of most Czech & International Banks which are all round Prague and at the Prague airport.

Banking hours: 8:00 to 17:00 (closed Saturday and Sunday).

Tipping: Service is usually not included in restaurant bills. Round the bill up to the next multiple of 10. Tip porters who bring bags to your rooms 40 Kc total. For room service, a 20 Kc tip is enough. In taxis, round the bill up by 10%.

International travel

By Air

[Ruzyně Airport](#) is located northwest of the outskirts of Prague, some 20 kilometers from the city center. In addition to taxis and buses (No. 119 from the Dejvicka Metro station, No. 100 from Zlicin Metro station or No. 179 from the Nove Butovice Metro Station) you can also use our taxi offer.

The Czech national carrier is [Czech Airlines](#) (CSA), phone: +420 239 007 007

By Train

International trains arrive at and depart from either of two stations: Hlavní nádraží (Main Station) or Nádraží Holešovice (Holešovice Station). Both are on line C of the metro system and offer a number of services, including money exchange, a post office, and a luggage-storage area.

Hlavní nádraží, Wilsonova třída, Praha 2 (tel. 972-241-860-2), is the grander and more popular station. From the train platform, you'll walk down a flight of stairs and through a tunnel before arriving in the ground-level main hall. Wenceslas Square is a convenient five-minute walk from the station (best not undertaken late at night), or you can take the subway (Line C) one stop in the Háje direction to Muzeum. Metro trains depart from the lower level, and tickets, costing 8Kc to 12Kc, are available from the newsstand near the metro entrance.

Nádraží Holešovice, Partyzánská at Vrbenského, Praha 7 (tel. 972-224-666), Prague's second train station, is usually the terminus for trains from Berlin and other points north. To reach the city center, take the metro (Line C) four stops to Muzeum

By Bus

The Central Bus Station-Florenc, Krizíkova 4-6, Praha 8 (tel. 129-99 for timetable info), is a few blocks north of the main train station. Most local and long-distance buses arrive here. The adjacent Florenc metro station is on both lines B and C. Florenc station is relatively small and doesn't have many visitor services. Even smaller depots are at Zelivského (metro line A), Smíchovské nádraží (metro line B), and Nádraží Holešovice (metro line C).

Several bus companies run direct services between major Western European cities and Prague.

Passport/Visas

When traveling internationally, carry your passport even if you don't need one (it's always the best form of I.D.) and make two photocopies of the data page (one for someone at home and another for you, carried separately from your passport). If you lose your passport, promptly call the nearest embassy or consulate and the local police.

Before any trip, check your passport's expiration date, and, if necessary, renew it as soon as possible.

Visa requirements for tourists visiting Prague & the Czech Republic

Nationals of the following countries do not require a visa for tourism to the Czech Republic:

For unlimited period

EU countries - valid passport for the length of the visit

Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland - must be valid for at least 3 months after the departure date from the Czech Republic.

For period up to 90 days

E.U. countries, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Bosna & Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Korea (Rep), Liechtenstein, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Salvador, San Marino, Switzerland, Uruguay, USA, Vatican, Venezuela - passport must have at least 9 months left to run.

For period up to 30 days – Albania, Belize, Cyprus, Romania, Singapore

The most comprehensive source of information on Czech visa requirements is available at www.czechembassy.org

Venue

Please check the IB website

Hotel Booking Form

Please check the IB website

Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from the event.

Health & Safety

Since mid 2004 citizens from the individual EU member states, who travel temporarily to another EU member state and hold a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), are automatically insured. Tap water is good, although the chlorine can be quite strong.

Customs

Czech folk customs emanate from Christian or pagan traditions and often differ from region to region. In cities, they are no longer observed as much as they once were, but in villages, primarily in the Moravian and Silesian regions, they are still very much alive. Customs and traditions continue to attract great interest of all of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic. They are an interesting addition to foreign tourists' stay, especially if visiting the Czech Republic at Christmas or Easter.

Climate

The prevailing continental climate is characterized by mild winters and warm summers. The mean annual temperature is 10°C, in summer months 20°C, in winter -5°C.

Communications

The country code for the Czech Republic is 420. Prefixes 601 to 777 denote mobile phones.

150: Fire department

155: Ambulance

156: Municipal police

158: Police

Useful links

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
<http://www.mzv.cz/jnp/en/index.html>
- Czeck Tourism
<http://www.czechtourism.com>
- Prague Tourist Guide
<http://www.praguetouristguide.com>