

PRAGUE

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play in Prague this fall and winter

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INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 50 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.



You'll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



PACKING TIPS

1. "Having a **mini umbrella** handy is a good idea."— TripAdvisor Member, Prague, Czech Republic
2. Take **comfortable shoes**. "You will do a lot of walking, and as the streets are mostly cobbled, it can be tough on your tootsies!"— TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom
3. "**Prague: A Cultural and Literary History** by Richard Burton is a great nontravel book that provides an insight to the Czech culture through 2003."—TripAdvisor Member
4. "The weather in Prague can be very unpredictable! I've been here for five years and have known the weather in May to range from very hot to a snow storm (but only the once). **Pack at the last minute** and keep an eye on the weather via the internet."— TripAdvisor Member, Prague

Inside PRAGUE

Opened to the West after 1989's Velvet Revolution, Prague is a breathtakingly beautiful city. The center, a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site, boasts a fairytale castle, plus a profusion of golden spires, Gothic churches and Baroque and Renaissance buildings that contrast with an abundance of cubist and ultramodern architecture from the city's more recent past.

The legacy of 14th-century Charles IV lives. Charles University and the Charles Bridge were built during his reign. Today the Charles Bridge fills to capacity with tourists and the wonderful spectacle of the artists and musicians who make a living from entertaining them.

The city, once home to Dvorak, Kafka and Ivana Trump, boasts hundreds of concert halls, museums, galleries, movie theaters and music clubs, including the gorgeous National Theatre, Estates Theatre and State Opera. Prague's compact core, and its efficient and inexpensive transportation system, make discovering this magical city's charms a breeze year-round, even through cold winters or the often rainy days of summer.

Top VIEWS



PRAGUE'S BEST VIEWS

"If you're up to it, it's worth the hike to the top of the **Powder Tower**. Cost is a couple of euros and it's not too strenuous a climb (all stairs). Incredible views of the river and Prague Castle and the city overall."—TripAdvisor Member, Bismarck, N.D.

The Powder Tower, Prague Castle (Prazsky Hrad), 224 373 368

"The views from the **Zizkov TV Tower** are great on all four sides, and the cafe is brilliant."—TripAdvisor Member, Oslo, Norway

Zizkov TV Tower, Mahlerovy Sady I, 267 005 778

The views from the cemetery at **Vysehrad**, "across the Vltava to the city, with the castle in the distance, are superb."—TripAdvisor Member, Surrey, U.K.

Vysehrad Cemetery, Sobeslavova I

Where to PLAY

TOP 10 Attractions

1. Lobkowicz Palace, Jirska 3, 233 312 925
2. St. Vitus Cathedral (Chram svateho Vita), Prague Castle, 224 373 368
3. Prague Zoo (Zoo Praha), U Trojskeho zamku 120, 296 112 230
4. Old Town Square (Staromestske namesti), 221 714 444
5. Charles Bridge (Karluv Most), Between Mala Strana and the Old Town
6. Old Town (Stare Mesto)
7. Church of Our Lady Victorious (Klaster Prazskeho jezulatka), Praha I, Karmelitska 9, 257 533 646
8. Church of St. Nicholas (Chram svateho Mikulase), Malostranske nám. I, 257 534 215
9. National Theater (Narodni divadlo), Narodni Trida 2, 224 901 448
10. Petrin Tower (Rozhledna), Petrinske sady Praha I, 257 320 112



FAMILIES

Petrin Hill is a good spot for kids, with pony rides and a little house of mirrors. It's like a "mini Eiffel Tower" offering "beautiful views of Prague and the castle."—TripAdvisor Member, Malaga, Spain

Petrin Hill & Observation Tower, 257 320 540

"The **Museum of Miniatures** only takes a short time to view but the exhibits are amazing. Just when you think that you have seen everything that can fit into the eye of a needle, there's more!"—TripAdvisor Member, Raleigh, N.C.

Museum of Miniatures, Strahovske nadvori II, 233 352 371

"We visited the **DOX** with our children, and they loved the ramps between the floors, the funky televisions piled high in one of the exhibits and the sensory overload of the lights going off and on in another."—TripAdvisor Member, Prague

DOX - Center of Contemporary Art, PoupEtova I, 774 145 434

"...the glorious views will make you forget everything else"



ROMANCE

"The **Charles Bridge** is the number one attraction in the city, and rightfully so. It's a blend of Gothic and Baroque styles and lined with amazing, larger-than-life statues. It's always jam-packed with people, but the glorious views will make you forget everyone and everything" else.—TripAdvisor Member, New York, N.Y.

Charles Bridge (Karluv Most), Between Mala Strana and Old Town

Vysehrad "is the place to relax. It is quiet; you don't see many tourists there because it is not in the center. There are beautiful views over Prague. You can visit the cemetery or the church or just walk in the park and enjoy the views."—TripAdvisor Member, Czech Republic

Vysehrad National Cultural Monument, V Pevnosti 159/5b, 241 410 348

"You must attend a show at the **Estates' Theater**—it is so beautiful and well preserved! And because it's relatively small, you'll feel like you're inside the most amazing music box!"—TripAdvisor Member, Cascais, Portugal

Estates' Theater (Stavovski Divadlo), Ovocny trh I, 224 901 448

Where to **PLAY**



BUDGET

Old Town is “eye candy for all who love history and architecture. The Astronomical Clock, of course, is a must. Also, be sure to see the Church of Our Lady Before Tyn.”—TripAdvisor Member, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Old Town

“**Letna Park** is the best place for the hot days. Under the trees, you can sit on the long wood benches and appreciate the beautiful view of Prague.”—TripAdvisor Member, Prague

Letna Park, Prague 7

“**Prague Castle** is astonishing! If you pay, you can take the tour and visit the crypt. This is well worth it! But one thing you **MUST** do is climb the tower. The sight over the whole city is amazing. The castle offers guides, but it's best to just take your time and explore the place yourself!”—TripAdvisor Member, Liverpool, England

Prague Castle (Prazsky Hrad), Prazsky Hrad, 224 373 368

“The air has a stillness all its own.”



ADVENTURE

“We would definitely recommend a trip to the **Bobova draha Prosek Bobsleigh** track if you have children with you or if you're like us—big kids!”—TripAdvisor Member, Lancashire, U.K.

Bobova draha Prosek, Prosecka 906/34b, 284 840 520

Kutna Hora's legendary **Bone Church** is “completely and intricately decorated in a macabre way—with the skeletal remains of an estimated 80,000 people. The air has a stillness and sound-absorbing quality all its own.”—TripAdvisor Member

Bone Church (Kostnice), Zamecka 127, Kutna Hora-Sedlec, 728 125 488

Spend a few days exploring the medieval towns and Gothic ruins around the **Blansky Forest** by bike. The “UNESCO route connects Cesky Krumlov with Holasovice via three educational trails.”—TripAdvisor Member, Brno, Czech Republic

Blansky Forest, 380 301 031

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 8,000,000 traveler photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

“I truly enjoyed my visit to the **Jewish Museum**. It's composed of seven different buildings, each with a unique exhibit or piece of history. Together, they make for a moving experience.”—TripAdvisor Member, Houston, Texas

Jewish Museum (Zidovske Muzeum), U Stare Skoly 1, 221 711 511

At **St. Vitus**, “The stained glass windows are amazing, especially the Mucha. The tower ascent is brutal but recommended. The view is incredible.”—TripAdvisor Member, Philadelphia, Pa.

St. Vitus Cathedral (Chram Svateho Vita), Prague Castle, 224 373 368

“A must for any visitor to Prague,” a visit to the **Museum of Communism** helps you “understand the suffering of the Czechs under communism and admire their resolution to live a free life.”—TripAdvisor Member, Warrington, U.K.

Museum of Communism, Na Prikope 10, 224 212 966

“A moving experience.”

“A must for any true beer lover.”



RELAXATION

The **Spa at Mandarin Oriental Prague** is “outstanding. The stresses of the city lifted gently, leaving the mind, body and soul relaxed and calm. I could have been cocooned in this wonderfully pampered state forever!”—TripAdvisor Member, Pretoria, South Africa

The Spa at Mandarin Oriental Prague, Nebovidska 459/1, 233 088 655

Enjoy a late trip to the **Dvorak Museum**, where “evening concerts are a lovely way to end the day.”—TripAdvisor Member

Dvorak Museum, Ke Karlovu 20, 224 923 363

The **Pilsen Brewery** is “easy to get to by bus or train. It's a wonderful experience to visit the place that Golden Lager was invented. A must for any true beer lover.”—TripAdvisor Member, Edinburgh, Scotland

Pilsen Brewery, U Prazdroje 7, Pizen, 222 710 159

What's the TOUR

How to Get Around



Buy "a 72-hour or a one-week **transport pass** from the Prague Transport Authority offices in the arrivals hall at the airport."—
TripAdvisor Member, Prague

"You don't want to spend all your time getting to places or spend all your money on taxi fares. Prague offers excellent **mass-transit** and most sights are actually within walking distance, if you don't mind the cobblestones."—TripAdvisor Member

"**Beware** of pickpockets on public transportation and crowded areas like the castle or the Astronomical Clock."—
TripAdvisor Member, Prague

Metro Trams and Trains of PRAGUE INTEGRATED TRANSPORT SYSTEM

DAY SERVICE - status

Trams No. 2 and 13 are not available on Saturdays and Sundays.



Any possible disruptions of tram services within some track segments result in reroutings of the relevant trams. Please, follow information provided at surface transport stops and metro stations. Thank you for your understanding.

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WHERE to eat



FAMILIES

“Prague is a city full of restaurants and cafes and **Cafe Colore** is one of the best. It’s very comfortable, food excellent, well presented and competitively priced and the staff are most welcoming. Do not miss it!”—TripAdvisor Member, Glasgow, U.K.

Cafe Colore, Palackeho 740/1, 222 518 816

“We enjoyed the food at the **Phenix Cafe** so much that we ate there two nights in a row. Our 10-year old ‘picky eater’ ate his entire serving of ravioli and said it was the best meal he’d ever had. I think that our whole family would agree.”—TripAdvisor Member, Norwich, U.K.

Phenix Cafe, Smetanovo Nabrezi 22, 222 222 173

“One of the best.”

Pizzeria Rugantino in Stare Mesto is “a casual restaurant that offers huge portions of pizza.” It’s “very kid-friendly and inexpensive.”—TripAdvisor Member, Canada

Pizzeria Rugantino, 4 Dusni, 222 318 172

Want more information on Prague? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for Prague or any other destination you choose.

“To experience something more ‘authentic’ and see what the locals eat, leave the beaten track with tourist crowds and go to the quiet narrow streets in Stare or Nove Mesto, or even further. You might be surprised at how much lower the prices are.”—TripAdvisor Member

ROMANCE

“**Terasa U Zlate Studne**’s ambiance and decor give it a very rich, luxuriant flavor, and it’s a very romantic space. Highly recommended, but best to go as a couple.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Terasa U Zlate Studne, U Zlate Studne 166/4, Prague Castle, 257 533 322

“The **Sarah Bernhardt** is one of the most beautiful, romantic restaurants we have ever visited. We sat in awe for the first few minutes, taking it all in, feeling like we were transported to another time.”—TripAdvisor Member, Pleasanton, Calif.

Sarah Bernhardt Restaurant, Hotel Paris, U Obecniho domu 1080/1, 222 195 195

At **Coda**, “we had our finest dinner in Prague. The dining room is plush and beautiful, but if you have a chance to enjoy your meal on the roof overlooking one of the prettiest cities in Europe, dine there.”—TripAdvisor Member, Colorado

Coda, Trziste 9, 225 334 761

BUDGET

“Start or end your day at the **Kavarna Slavia** and enjoy the super-delicious cakes and the superb views of the nearby National Theater and the Vltava river. Even late in the evening, enjoy the cafe’s art-deco style and photos reminding everyone of its most famous customers. Not many tourists, fortunately!”—TripAdvisor Member, Cascais, Portugal

Kavarna Slavia, Smetanovo Nabrezi 1012/2, 224 218 493

“This was the best meal I have had in many years! I would really recommend **Lemon Leaf** if you just want to wear what you want, chill out and have a huge glass of beer.”—TripAdvisor Member, Bristol, U.K.

Lemon Leaf, Myslíkova 14, 224 919 056

Brasileiro is “a must. About 22 euro a head for all you can eat, plus drinks. A feast where various meats are delivered by the chefs to your table and carved in front of you.”—TripAdvisor Member, Sutherland, U.K.

Restaurante Brasileiro, U Radnice 8/13, 224 234 474

WHERE to eat



HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“There’s a very tasty vegetarian place called **Lehka Hlava**, my favorite veggie spot in Prague. Reasonable prices and great, healthy food. Yum.”—TripAdvisor Member, Prague

Lehka Hlava, Borsov 2/280, Stare Mesto, 222 220 665

Radost FX, “a trippy Mexican all-nighter that Johnny Depp is alleged to frequent, is certainly popular among the locals.”—TripAdvisor Member, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Radost FX, Belehradska 120, 603 193 711

“Maitrea shows how good vegetarian food can be. The staff were friendly, service was good and the food tasty, while the price was extremely reasonable.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, U.K.

Maitrea, Tynska ulicka 6/1064, 221 711 631

“...popular among the locals.”

HIDDEN GEMS

“**Vinarna V Zatisi** is a modern, cozy and warm restaurant in the Old Town area and really worth a visit for that special occasion. The matching of wine to food is an art form here.”—TripAdvisor Member, Northern Ireland

Vinarna V Zatisi, Liliova 1, 222 221 155

“**Mlejnice** is very difficult to find, but well worth it when you do. Great little atmospheric restaurant. Fantastic food, fantastic value, great service.”—TripAdvisor Member, Edinburgh, Scotland

Mlejnice, Kozna 14, 224 228 635

For “Bohemian atmosphere and food at its best”, try **Rainer Maria Rilke**. “Step down into this lovely grotto, with memorabilia and decor reminiscent of times past and present. You can feel the spirit of poets and intellectuals sharing ideas, espresso and sausages.”—TripAdvisor Member, Atlanta, Ga.

Rainer Maria Rilke, Karoliny Svetle 25, 222 221 414

SPECIAL EVENTS



Witness a truly original art festival with eclectic experimental performances in music, drama, sound, film and dance at **Festival Alternativa**. (November 19 – 26)

Festival Alternativa, Various venues, 222 240 901, <http://www.alternativa-festival.cz>

Enjoy free outdoor choral performances when male, female, mixed and children’s choirs compete for prizes at the **21st International Festival of Advent & Christmas Music**. (November 25 – 26)

21st International Festival of Advent & Christmas Music, Old Town Square, 224 813 580, <http://www.orfea.cz>

Take the kids to see Mikulas (Santa), along with his cohorts, an angel and a devil, on Charles Street Bridge or in the Old Town Square on **St. Nicholas’s Eve**. Sing a song to let Mikulas know you have been nice all year and receive sweets from the angel, but beware if you have been naughty: The devil may reward you with a sack of coal! (December 5)

St. Nicholas’s Eve, Charles Street Bridge and Old Town Square

Warm up the winter nights with a good soft-shoe during Prague’s **Ball Season**. With themes varying from traditional to rock to Moravian, there is something to get your feet moving, even if you have two left ones! (January 19 – March 5)

Ball Season, Various venues

On the **Anniversary of Jan Palach’s Death**, Czechs light candles and place flowers on the grave of a young Czech protester who killed himself in protest against the Soviet invasion of the Czech Republic in 1969. Many also lay flowers at the Memorial to the Victims of Communism. (January 19)

Anniversary of Jan Palach’s Death, Olsanske Cemeteries (Olsanske hrbity), Vinohradská street, Wenceslas Square (Vaclavske namesti)

The cobblestone streets of Old Town are filled with costumed revelers during **Bohemian Carnival**. Don’t miss the final celebration at Candelion, where fireworks and colorful lanterns will light up the sky. (February 26 – March 8)

Bohemian Carnival, Various venues, 220 514 239, <http://www.carnevale.cz>

Witness stories of abuse, struggle and the dignity of human perseverance at **One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival**. (March 6 – 15)

One World International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival, Various venues, 226 200 400, <http://www.jedensvet.cz>

Where to **STAY**



FAMILIES

“Aparthotel really felt like home away from home. The hotel is extremely clean and well maintained and the lobby has an amazing kids play area. It was our pleasure to stay there and I would recommend it to anyone!”—TripAdvisor Member, Hamilton, Ontario

Aparthotel City 5, Vitavska 11/667, 602 495 529

“Prague is wonderful, and **House at the Big Boot** makes the experience perfect. The location is perfect, quiet and central. The home is beautifully kept; the rooms, spacious, clean, bright and comfortable. The hosts are friendly and superbly helpful.”—TripAdvisor Member, France

House at the Big Boot (Dum u Velke Boty), Vlasska 30, 257 532 088

“Our apartment at **Residence Belehradaska 35** was very clean and well-equipped. There was nothing we would have needed that wasn't there. We also had a private 'garden,' a little area to sit in the backyard.”—TripAdvisor Member, Vienna, Austria

Residence Belehradaska 35, Belehradaska 35, 602 421 991

“Stay here!”



Have questions about Prague? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

ROMANCE

“**Ventana Hotel** gave us a very spacious and tastefully decorated room with a great view over Old Town. In fact, it was so pleasant that we didn't even go out to eat the first evening, because we had a dining table in the room. Stay here!”—TripAdvisor Member, Nuremberg, Germany

Ventana Hotel Prague, Celetna 7, 221 776 600

“We started our honeymoon at the **Golden Well**, and we were sorry we hadn't booked it for longer. They knew it was our honeymoon, and we got a fantastic room with a city view, flowers, fruit and a bottle of sparkling wine.”—TripAdvisor Member, Strasbourg, France

Golden Well (U Zlate Studne), U Zlate Studne 4, 257 011 213

Santini Residence “is truly lovely for a romantic city break. If you're looking for excellent service, attention to detail and fantastic accommodation in a truly lovely city location, then this is for you.”—TripAdvisor Member, Essex, U.K.

Santini Residence, Nerudova 14, 257 195 111

“We'd come back just for the pleasure of staying here.”

BUDGET

“We were absolutely charmed by the stylish **Arcadia Residence**. Hospitality, cleanliness, location, value for money, everything: just PERFECT!”—TripAdvisor Member, Romania

Arcadia Residence, Hostivitova 3, 224 922 040

“Beautifully spacious, bright and clean, lovely, comfy double bed, very helpful and friendly staff. We'd come back to Prague just for the pleasure of staying at **Miss Sophie's!**”—TripAdvisor Member, Brighton, England

Miss Sophie's Hostel, Melounova 3, 296 303 530

“After having stayed in very noisy, dingy Prague accommodations, I really appreciated being able to sleep in a large, clean, QUIET room at **Lida Guest House**. If you enjoy walking, you can stroll along the river and be in the center of the city within a half hour. If there is anything at all you need, they try their best to help you. From now on, I'll stay there and sleep well.”—TripAdvisor Member, Austria

Guest House Lida, Lopatecká 26, 261 214 766

“I felt like a princess”

LUXURY

“The **Alchymist** is second to none. The staff at the hotel cannot do enough to make your stay special. The decor is amazing, and I felt like a princess for three nights.”—TripAdvisor Member, North Yorkshire, England

Alchymist Grand Hotel And Spa, Trziste 19 257 286 011

“We had an amazing anniversary at Hotel **Le Palais**. When we got back to the room, there was champagne, candles, rose petals EVERYWHERE. And the in-room breakfasts! Everything was truly fantastic.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tuscany, Italy

Hotel Le Palais, U Zvonarky 1, 234 634 111


“**Chateau Mcely** will treat each customer like a king or queen. Everything is clean and stylish. The food is amazingly refreshing. Of course, all the luxury is quite expensive, but visiting such a magic place is worth it!”—TripAdvisor Member, Prague

Chateau Mcely, Club Hotel & Forest Retreat, Mcely 61, 325 600 000

Where to **STAY**



HIDDEN GEMS

 "I chose the **Hotel Sax** for its design and location and was absolutely satisfied. The design is fantastic as well as the staff, room and service. The location is the best that can be - just behind the Prague Castle, on the riverside where you are far away from dense crowds of people."—TripAdvisor Member, Bonn, Germany

Design Hotel Sax, Jansky Vrsek 328/3, Mala Strana, 257 531 268

"The **Aria Hotel** is beautiful, and the musical theme is everywhere. For music lovers like us, it was perfect, starting with the MP3 player you get when you check in. There's a music library with hundreds of CDs to borrow, and the decoration of the rooms and public areas is all music-related."—TripAdvisor Member, Israel

Aria Hotel, Trziste 9, 225 334 111

"If you didn't know where **Hotel Savic** was, you could walk past without noticing it. However, it's only a 10-minute walk to the Old Square and Astronomical Clock. It has a certain charm, because it is a boutique hotel and has only a small number of rooms. A little gem!"—TripAdvisor Member, Nottingham, U.K.

Savic Hotel Prague, Jilska 7, 224 248 555-7

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