

Survival guide

Summer course 2018

Czech in and Space out!

LBC* Awesome Prague



* Local BEST Group

LBC Awesome Prague



About the Czech Republic

Let's start with a bit of history. And Czech lands have a really long one. It's so long, that this Survival Guide is too short to describe it. I will just mention that when Christopher Columbus discovered America, we had been already brewing beer for 6 centuries and had completed the Charles bridge for more than 90 years. Therefore I will skip it. However, if you are interested in our history, I recommend to take a look at [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Czech_Republic).

Today, The Czech Republic is a proud central European country (not eastern European!) consisting of three parts - Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. Total population is about 10 million people and around 1,3 million live in the capital city, Prague.



Typical Food & Drinks

Food

Soup is a very important part of every meal for czech people. We say “polívka je grunt” which means soup is the foundation. Popular types of soup are for example:

Česnečka (Garlic soup)

also called “oukrop”, excellent thing for getting rid of a hangover, often with cheese and fried bread inside



Gulášovka (Goulash soup)

yeah, yeah, we know Germans have it too and originally it is Hungarian blah blah, but we consider it one of traditional czech types of soup anyway



As every proper European, even Czech person likes pizza, kebab and chinese food. But we also can't be without our traditional meals like:

Svíčková (Candle sauce)



creamy sauce with sirloin beef meat, served with cranberries and dumplings (see below)

Vepřo knedlo zelo (Pork, dumplings and cabbage)



Do you need description? It's pork, dumplings and cabbage, duh.

Kachna se zelím (Roasted duck with cabbage)

also usually served with dumplings, sometimes when we can't afford a duck, we make chicken in the same style and call it Chicken à la Duck.



Guláš (Goulash)



As mentioned in the soup section, yes, we know it is originally Hungarian but we don't care. We eat it with bread or dumplings and usually like it spicy. There's also version called "pivní guláš" (beer goulash) because you can't ever have too much beer, right?

Aside from french fries, rice and potatoes, we often eat our meals with "knedlíky" (dumplings) as a side dish. There are 2 most common types:

Potato dumplings



used also as a main course filled with smoked meat.

Bread dumplings



We also love “bramboráky” (potato pancakes), which you can hopefully try during our Interational Evening. Perfect greasy meal to start your drinking night.



And because we often hang out in pubs and we get hungry during the night, we have special “pub food” that you can find almost anywhere and for small prices:



Utopenec (Drowned man)

pickled sausage with onions, vinegar and usually hot pepper



Nakládany hermelín

pickled cheese of Camembert type

Drinks

Well if you know anything about the Czech Republic, you probably know the answer to the question What is our favorite drink.

Annual beer consumption per capita in the Czech Republic is 142.6 litres which means average Czech (and this includes also children) drinks 285 beer glasses a year, which makes us number one beer country in the world.

Our favorite type of beer is light lager beer, but we brew dark beer, IPAs and other types too. Special kind which you can order in pubs is called “Řezané” (cut beer) which is half light and half dark beer in your glass.



If you go to the Moravian part of our country, you will discover that people there love wine at least as much as they love beer. The top czech grape varieties are Müller-Thurgau, Grüner Veltliner, Riesling and Saint Laurent.



But we think about pregnant ladies and drivers too - since 1959 we have our own nonalcoholic drink called Kofola which is like herby version of Coke and we love it so much they even draw it in most pubs next to our beloved beer.



Weather

The Czech Republic is located on the borderline between two great climatic regimes, the oceanic and the continental, and the weather consequently tends to be fairly variable in different regions. The normal August temperature varies between 11 - 22°C, but last few years even over 30°C can be normal. You can check how it looks at www.chmu.cz

Electricity

The voltage in the Czech Republic as well as the socket and plug sizes is identical to the most of European countries (220V / 50Hz).



When It Comes To Pay

Currency

The first important fact about money in the Czech Republic: we do not use Euros, we use Czech Crowns (CZK, in Czech Kč). Despite that, at a lot of places, such as supermarkets and pubs, you can pay with Euros. However, it is not guaranteed and usually you won't get the best exchange rate. Current exchange rate is about 26 CZK for 1 EUR.



We have coins in values of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50 crowns and banknotes in values of 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000 and 5000 crowns. In the front side of each banknote there is a famous person of Czech history - and on 100 CZK banknote there is Charles the IV. - the emperor, after which the Charles Bridge, Charles University and Charles Square are called.



It is quite unusual to pay with a 5000 CZK banknote (~195 Euros), but with the others there shouldn't be any problem. Also, in a lot of places you can pay also with a credit / debit card.

You can also view them on the site of [Czech National Bank](http://www.cnb.cz).

How to Get Czech Crowns

There are more ways how to get Czech crowns.

The easiest way is to withdraw your money from an ATM, because they are almost everywhere. The height of the fee and conversion rate depends on your bank, it can be 1 Euro or even 5 Euros. If you don't see an ATM, you can off course look up one in Google Maps or in Mapy.cz (see the section Useful Apps), where you can download an offline map of the whole Czech Republic.

Another possibility is to change money in an exchange office. You should be careful when exchanging money, because even though most of the exchange offices are fair, there are some with extremely high fees for conversion.

Therefore we don't recommend to exchange money [at the airport](#) or at the train station. Changing them in an exchange office at Florenc should be with quite good exchange rate. Before changing money always ask, how much you will get.

If you would like an advice, watch this video about [changing money in Prague](#).

How Much Does It Cost

Prices can vary a lot. Generally speaking Prague is 10 - 15 % more expensive than the rest of the Czech Republic. And even in Prague prices can vary: in the same street you can pay 60 - 70 crowns for a beer in one pub and 25 in another one.

* if you were satisfied in a pub, it is usual to give 5 - 10 % tip (which is almost never included in the price).

In following table are the prices of the most useful things:

	~CZK	~EUR
Food		
1.5 l bottle of water (supermarket)	10 - 15	0.37 - 0.55
bread (500 grams)	17 - 20	0.63 - 0.74
ice cream (supermarket)	10 - 20	0.37 - 0.74
ice cream (in the street)	20 - 30	0.74 - 1.11
a meal in a cheaper restaurant	90 - 150	3.33 - 5.55
With a Car		
Gasoline/Diesel	~30/28	1.11/1.04
10 day highway vignette	310	11.50
Monthly highway ticket	440	16.30
Alcohol & Tobacco & Other		
0.5 bottle of beer (depending on brand)	5 - 25	0.18 - 0.90
0.5 glass of beer in a pub	25 - 45	0.90 - 1.66
1 l box of the cheapest wine	15 - 25	0.55 - 0.90
0.75 l bottle of normal wine	60 - 90	2.20 - 3.30
pack of 20 cigarettes	66 - 105	2.45 - 3.90
sex in a brothel (1 hour)	1000 - 1500	37 - 55

The Czech Language

Czech is a beautiful language belonging to Western Slavic Group of languages, therefore we understand almost everything in Slovak (although it is officialy another language), quite lot in Polish (much more than Polish people understand us), something in Croatian and Serbian and some words in Macedonian, Bulgarian, Ukrainian and Russian. It is really [hard to master Czech](#), however you can try to learn the basic Czech phrases.

English

Good Morning

Hello (formal)

Good Bye

Hello (informal)

My name is

Yes / No

Thank you

Thanks

One beer, please

Sorry

Cheers

I am a little strawberry, eat me.

You have beautiful eyes.

Excuse me, have you seen my pants?

Show me your goats / boobs.

Would you like to sleep with me?

Czech

Dobré jitro

Dobrý den

Na shledanou

Ahoj / Čau

Jmenuji se

Ano (or informally jo) / Ne

Děkuji

Díky

Jedno pivo, prosím

Promiňte

Na zdraví!

Jsem malá jahůdka, sněz mě.

Máš krásné oči.

Sorry, neviděl(a) jsi moje kalhoty?

Ukaž mi svoje kozy.

Kolik stojí brambory?

Transportation

How to Get to Prague

I am sure lot of you are experienced travellers, however, here is a small summary how to get to Prague.

By Plane

Getting to Prague by plane is probably the most comfortable way, how to get here. There are also some low cost companies coming to Prague, however it is sometimes not the cheapest option how to get here. You can also take a plane to one of the following airports and then take a bus / car sharing ride:

- Vienna
- Munich
- Nuremberg
- Berlin Schönefeld
- Wroclaw
- Bratislava



or even further, but from those above it is a question of 4 - 5 hours to get into Prague.

By Train

There are more train companies operating in the Czech Republic. From Slovakia you can use also [LeoExpress](#) or [RegioJet](#) (see Some Apps & Companies tips), for other use the [eshop of Czech Railways](#) (if you are coming from west, it is usually the cheapest way how to buy the train ticket). Be careful, because the same way can be much cheaper with a different train.

By Bus

Getting to Prague by bus is the cheapest way how to get here, but also the least comfortable. See Useful Apps & Transport Companies, where I have prepared some tips about bus companies.

By Car

You can get to Prague of course with you own car. There is a lot of parking place near [our accomodation](#). Please bare in mind, that when using Czech highways, you have to buy a toll sticker, that you have to place onto your front screen (going without it can cost you up to 200 Euros on place or even up to 4000 Euros in front of a court). You can buy it on almost every gas station. Generally speaking, if the road number begins with D or R, you must have it.

You can find all roads on the [Czech maps](#).



How to Get Around Prague

First of all, we would like to kindly ask to fill in the spreadsheet with time & place of your arrival, because after your arrival, we can pick you up if you wish (at least during the arrival day)! But if you are brave or just curious, how to get around Prague, read the following lines.

Taxies

Taking a taxi from airport or train station is always risky. There are about 7000 taxi drivers in Prague and most of them will take you for fair prices, however there is a group of 50 - 100 crooks, which are trying to rip off tourists - and those are waiting in front of the airport and train station. You can watch a [Prague vs. crooks](#) series with Janek Rubeš, who is trying to fight against unfair taxi drivers. Quite sure way how to get a taxi is to use Liftago (see Useful Apps & Transport Companies) or call 14014. From the airport to the dormitories, where we are staying, the price is about 350 CZK (~ 13 Euros).

Public Transport

Public transport is way the cheapest and also a good possibility how to get around Prague, because Prague [has one of the best transport systems in Europe](#).

You can buy tickets at newspaper agents or at vending machines. At the airport and at the main train station there are vending machines, which accept credit cards.

You have to go to the station Stadion Strahov or Koleje Strahov. From the airport there is a bus 191, witch goes directly to dorms. But in Awesome Prague we'll pick you wherever you will come. If you want to be brave and go by your own, you will write us and we will give you more information.



Useful Apps & Transport Companies

In this section there are some tips about bus companies apps and another useful apps. The list is of course not complete, however, I have tried everything from the list below, so I am sure I can recommend it.

RegioJet

They have nice buses and trains, you get a free coffee, there is WiFi in their buses. They can take you from the airport in Vienna, Nuremberg, Munich, Berlin Schönefeld, Wroclaw, Katowice They also have some really cheap buses around Europe. Here is a link to their App, where you can book tickets:

Webpage: <https://www.studentagency.cz/>



IDOS

This is one of the most useful Apps, when coming to the Czech Republic. You can find there every single bus, train or public transport connection available in the Czech Republic. There are also some trains and buses coming from other countries to the Czech Republic. It is only in Czech now, but they are going to make an English version really soon.

Webpage: <http://idos.cz/>



BlaBlaCar

A car sharing platform. You can find there a cheap place in a car. I've travelled with it a lot of times and I can just recommend it.

Webpage: <https://www.blablacar.com/>



LuxExpress

A company providing a really cheap buses to many destinations including Prague. I have travelled with it and I can recommend it. You can find an app in your appstore, however, you need to register in order to use it (on web you can buy ticket without any registration).

Webpage: <http://luxexpress.eu/>

EuroLines

Their buses are not that fancy, but they are cheap.

Webpage: <https://elines.cz/en/>

SkyScanner

Who wouldn't know SkyScanner? Find your flight easy :)

Webpage: <https://www.skyscanner.cz/>



KiWi (former Skypicker)

Something like Skyscanner, former Czech startup. You can find a flight to an airport within some distance range from Prague.

Webpage: <https://kiwi.com/>

Liftago

Something like Czech version of Uber with licensed taxis.



Flixbus

A German coach company. They provide also some buses to Prague.

Webpage: <https://www.flixbus.com/>

Mapy.cz

A Czech version of Google maps. You can store all the maps offline. It is also very useful to look for bus/tram/subway stops there.

Webpage: <https://mapy.cz/>



The Most Important Information

Here you have the most important part of this survival guide. Czech this part carefully and note our contacts :)

What to Bring With You

- travel and medical insurance
- passport and visa if needed
- money (don't forget the fee - 40 EUR or less, depending on your country)
- student card (very important, for us!)
- personal hygiene items
- medications
- pullover and raincoat
- fancy clothes for official opening
- sport clothes and shoes
- music instrument, if you have any
- camera
- towel
- items for the International Evening (traditional drinks and food)
- swim suits
- backpack for weekend trip
- good shoes for a weekend trip's trip

Important numbers

Emergency services:	112
Ambulance:	155
Police:	158



What to Do When I Get Lost in Prague?



and



We don't bite ... usually ☺

Contacts

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