

# TIMELESS TOP 10

*Travel Guides*

# Prague

**Prague's Top 10  
Districts, Shopping  
and Dining, Museums,  
Activities, Historical  
Sights, Nightlife, Top  
Things to do Off the  
Beaten Path, and  
Much More!**

**TESS DOWNEY**





# Timeless Top 10 Travel Guides

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## PRAGUE

Top 10 Districts, Shopping and Dining, Museums, Activities,  
Historical Sights, Nightlife, Top Things to do Off the Beaten  
Path, and Much More!

By Tess Downey

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## Foreword

Prague, the Capital of the Czech Republic, is one of Europe's best and most preserved cities. Also known as the "Golden City of a Hundred Spires," Prague boasts striking façades, vibrant culture, rich history, and patriotic people. It's a very accessible city with many places to discover, many stories to hear, and plenty to experience.

In this book, you will learn everything you need to know about this wonderful and peaceful city. You will be provided with the top ten list of the best neighborhoods to stay in, best district to eat and chill, top destinations to visit, historically religious landmarks to know, hot spots at night, and many uncharted territories to explore. You will also be provided with all the essential things you need to know before travelling to this great city including the travel requirements, the do's and don'ts, the transportation system and the likes so that you can get in and around the city efficiently. Taste the wonderful culture that Prague and the Czech Republic have to offer and embark on a wonderful journey and find out why Prague is Europe's Golden City!



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# Introduction



Prague is a city filled with exuberant landmarks, and sumptuous Art Nouveau. Its streets are filled with amazing music, friendly people, vivacious architecture, and of course, colorful pubs that serves up some of the best drinks Europe has to offer! Although Prague is not something that people easily had on their mind when it comes to visiting European cities, the capital is still thriving with tourists around the world.

Czechoslovakia was divided into two states – the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. And in 1993, the Czech Republic officially gained its independence. One of the most preserved medieval cities at the heart of Europe lies the former capital of Czechoslovakia which is Prague. Prague as well as some parts of Czechoslovakia was once under the rule of a historical entity or kingdom around the Middle Ages called Bohemia, which is why the city's heritage and culture originated from the Bohemians. Prague was also the only city in Central Europe to practice democracy for many decades.

Once you get to this place the first thing you will notice is how the whole city is laid out just like during medieval times – it's cobblestone streets, its flea markets, the city's various grand architectures from castles to cathedrals, and its building's eclectic designs altogether will make you feel as if Prague was still stuck at the time of kings and kingdoms!

The city's skylines are filled with the towers of various historical churches and castles that dates back thousands of years ago which is why the city earned its name as the "Golden City of a Hundred Spires." It's towering basilicas and castles with magnificent Middle Ages architecture like Baroque, Gothic, and Romanesque will

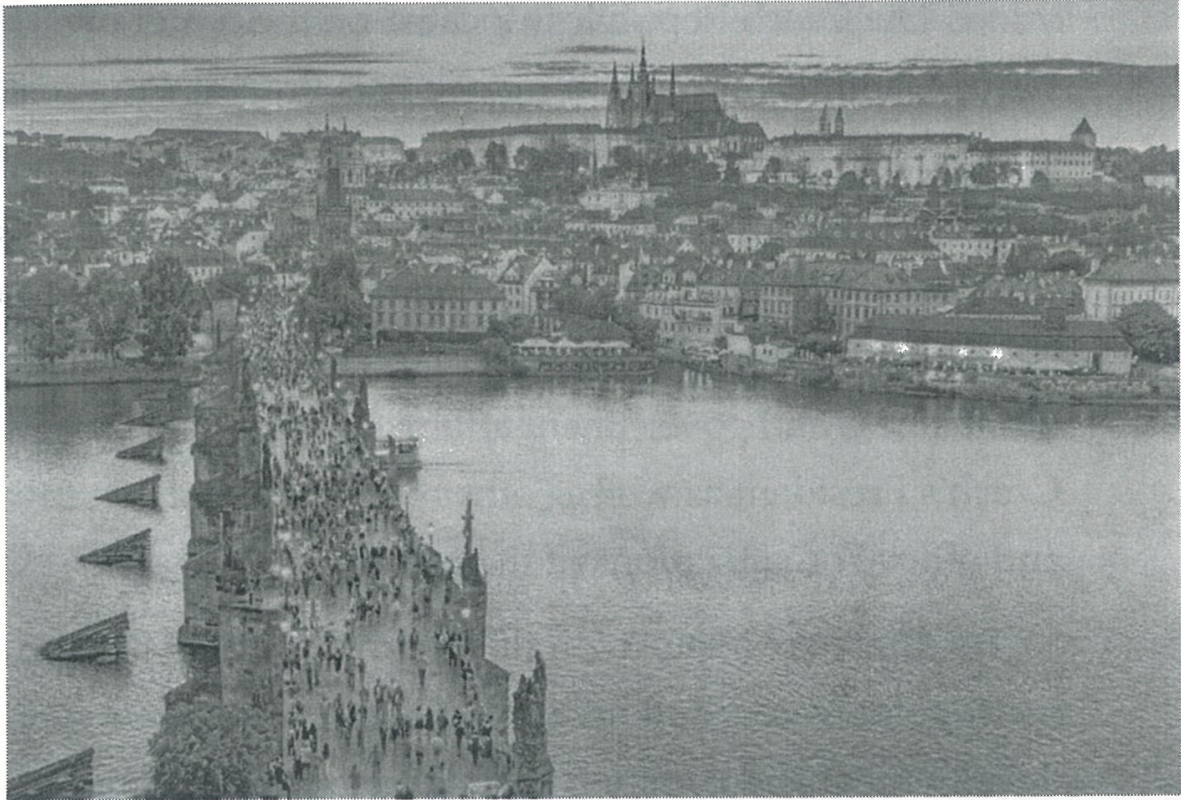


surely bring you back to one of the most historical time in human history.

Today, the city is becoming a modern metropolis. Entrepreneurs and artists continue to thrive and expand in this country. There are now various local boutiques, and shops including international brands, dining places, hotels, and modern luxuries as well as efficient transportations that run the whole city. Its locals are now progressing to a much high – tech kind of living but their culture and preserved heritage way back from their Bohemian ancestors still lives on!

In this book, you will learn the basic things you need to know about Prague: its preserved location, its history, its people, its language, culture, traditions and way of living. You will also be given information regarding your travel needs, and of course overviews of the top tourist attractions, districts, and food places as well as hidden facets of the city to make sure you don't miss an authentic European experience.

## Chapter One: Prague Overview



Before you set foot in this golden city, it is essential to know specific details of what you're about to deal with. Prague has historically rich beginnings until it was officially divided into four main districts. The present day city is now being transformed into a modern and commercialize city – center. You might want to consider discovering facts about this place so that you know what to expect before you go about in your itinerary and to avoid getting into trouble.

In this chapter, you will be provided with an overview of Prague – its city, language, culture, people, and of course history!



### *Prague in Focus*

The Czech Republic is located on the center of Europe, and its capital dominant city is Prague. Prague is travelling near the Vltava River, and all its famous landmarks including the Old Town Square, Prague Castle, Charles Bridge, and Wenceslas Square is very easy on foot, it's all just about an hour's walk. The city is also the center for business and government affairs; it is home to the Czech's President as well as other governmental institutions and official organizations of the country.

There are about 1.2 million locals residing in its metropolitan area, and because of the city's continuous development and commercialization, more locals and foreigners choose to stay in the city for good.

During the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Holy Roman Emperor ruled and led in this city. It was also Prague's golden age because at that time the commerce and cultural sector was flourishing. Back then, Prague was one of Europe's most highly cultured and largest cities. Around the 1800, the city was divided into four separate and fortified towns namely; The Castle Town – where Czech rulers and royal leaders reside for thousands of years; The Little Town – which is just behind the Castle Town, where nobles and aristocrats live to be close to the King; The Old Town, bolstering with its magnificent market square; and lastly The New Town where



the grand Wenceslas Square is located, providing a stage for the Czech Republic's tumultuous 20<sup>th</sup> century history.

Prague's depressing decades of communist control for most residents only feels like a distant memory because the city is now bustling with entrepreneurial energy, excited tourists, and modern day way of living. Everything you see, like one of the famous buildings called The Dancing House which is also known as "Fred and Ginger," and the vibrant crowd of locals and tourists wandering around the streets seem to celebrate Czech's freedom.

The city is also a shopping paradise filled with diverse shops and unique boutiques. Walking around Prague's shopping alleys truly mesmerizes visitors; it also makes a picture perfect photo because of the building's architecture, old – century like ground, and colorful vibe. It's also a city flourishing with great lanes that will lead you to uncharted places, and has a plenty of vibrant markets. You'll feel the medieval vibe as you shop around for food and other fetishes.

Prague is also the mecca for musicians; in fact, Mozart loved that place so much that one of his famous pieces called "Dan Giovanni" debuted in the city. Another great classical musician Anton Dvorak lived and composed most of his famous songs in Prague as well including a symphony called From the New World, American String Quartet, and operas

like Rusalka, Humoresque and Songs My Mother Taught Me.

The great thing is that Prague locals continue to carry that musical enthusiasm. You can find several box offices around town that offers a variety of music and recital performances including theater, opera, jazz, and classical. Tickets are very cheap which is why tourists like you shouldn't miss it for the world. What's more interesting is that you can choose from many great venues chamber music halls that abound the city.

### *A Brief History of Prague*

Before Prague was known as the "Golden City of a Hundred Spires," and before it became the hub of tourists all over the world it had gone through different phases and major changes; let's take a look at its colorful past so we can appreciate the city's present and look forward to its future.

#### **Middle Ages:**

- 870: Slavs landed in the Czech Republic around 6<sup>th</sup> century, and they also built a castle in the city of Prague. Around the 10<sup>th</sup> century the city was thriving as merchants and local culture abound the area.
- 973: Prague was given a bishop as their leader.



## Chapter One: Prague Overview

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- 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Century: During this time, Prague was the go – to place of German craftsmen as well as merchants, and by the 14<sup>th</sup> century it became one of Europe's most important cities.
- 1232: Friars or preachers came to Prague. Friars are like monks but they are more of a preachers going from one community to another.
- 1270: The Jewish community began forming around the city and The Old – New Synagogue was founded. Unfortunately, most of them are being persecuted.
- 1334: The Roman Emperor, Charles IV decided to live and rule in Prague. The appointed bishop now became an archbishop. This was the golden age of the city.
- 1344: They began building the St. Vitus's Cathedral
- 1348: The Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV established the Prague University, and rebuilt Prague's Castle.
- 1357: The Czech began to build the Charles Bridge in honor of their Holy Emperor



## Chapter One: Prague Overview

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- 1364: Prague Town Hall was built and founded.
- 1389: A record of about 3,000 Jews was killed in the city.
- 1415: Prague's Jan Hus who was a Christian Martyr in the Middle Ages died.

### **Renaissance Period:**

- 1601: Tycho Brahe, one of the greatest Danish Astronomer died in Prague, and was buried in Tyn Church
- 1621: About 30 Protestant leaders were slaughtered in Old Town Square
- 1630: Wallenstein Palace was founded. And despite political and religious turmoil, the 17<sup>th</sup> century was a great time for Prague
- 1689: The Old Town was caught in fire and it was eventually rebuilt by the people.
- 1713: The city suffered a huge outbreak of plague

- 1741 – 1742: France occupied and conquered Prague
- 1744: Prussians occupied the city, and yet had another siege around 1757.
- 1783: Estates Theater was established, and the city continues to flourish economically and culturally around the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- 1784: Prague was officially divided into four united towns (The Castle Town The Little Town, The Old Town, and The New Town)

### 19<sup>th</sup> Century Prague

- 1818: The National Museum was established, many buildings were built, and it is around this time that Czech nationalism flourished and grew rapidly
- 1845: Start of the Industrial Revolution; this is also the time where the railway system was first established in the city
- 1885: The Museum of Decorative Arts was established
- 1891: The famous Petrin View Tower was erected

### 20th Century

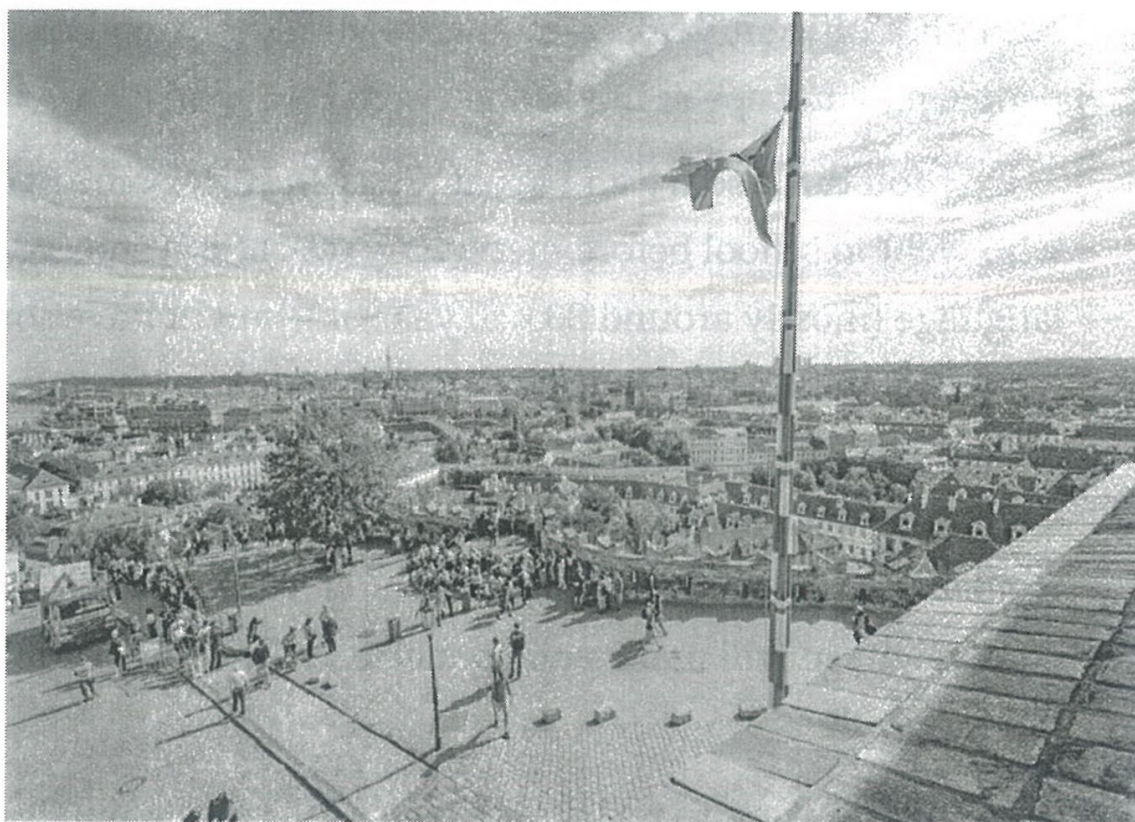
- 1915: The people built a monument for Jan Hus, the Christian Martyr of the middle ages.
- 1918: Prague officially became the capital of Czechoslovakia, and around this time the city's growth was steady and continuous. Around 1939, the city hit a 1 million population.
- 1939: The Nazis during the World War conquered Prague. Fortunately, most of the buildings weren't completely destroyed, only a little bit damaged but Jewish residents living in the area were killed.
- 1945: The people began a rebellion against the Germans, and by May 8th of the same year, Germany withdrew from Prague.
- 1948: Czechoslovakia's communists once again seized the city, and the era of repression began.
- 1968: Alexander Dubcek started a reform called the Prague Spring but it was put to an end by the August Warsaw Pact forces when they invaded the country, however, the communist party collapsed in 1989.



### 21st Century

- 1993: The Czech Republic became an independent state with Prague as its capital.
- 2002 - Present: Prague was devastated by flooding in 2002 but the city recovered. Prague continues to flourish and thrive thanks to the modernization and commercialization. The city has now 1.2 million residents.

### *Prague's Language, People and Culture*



## Chapter One: Prague Overview

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The official language of the city and the Czech Republic is Czech. Locals can also understand simple Slavic languages including Croatian, Polish, Serbian and Bosnian. The Slovak language is also commonly understood by locals since Czech and Slovak natives have historically communicated with each other for many years. Both languages are quite similar and can be mutually understood without the need of a translator.

Young people also know how to speak and understand the English language. If in case you'll go to boutiques, restaurants, places, airports or bars among many, you'll be able to understand the directions, menus, signage's etc. Police officers, personnel, and maybe some middle age people may not speak English very well.

You can also try and speak Russian since some people who went to school before the Velvet Revolution studied the language (mostly around 30 - 40 year olds might have some knowledge). Be polite though because some people may dislike Russians as well as communists due to occupying Czechoslovakia back in 1968. Some Czechs also know how to speak German, but of course learning a little bit of their own language will make you connected to the locals you interact with.

If you want to really experience the culture and the people, you should try joining a native or local city tour, not only will you get to enjoy the city like a local; you'll also be



## Chapter One: Prague Overview

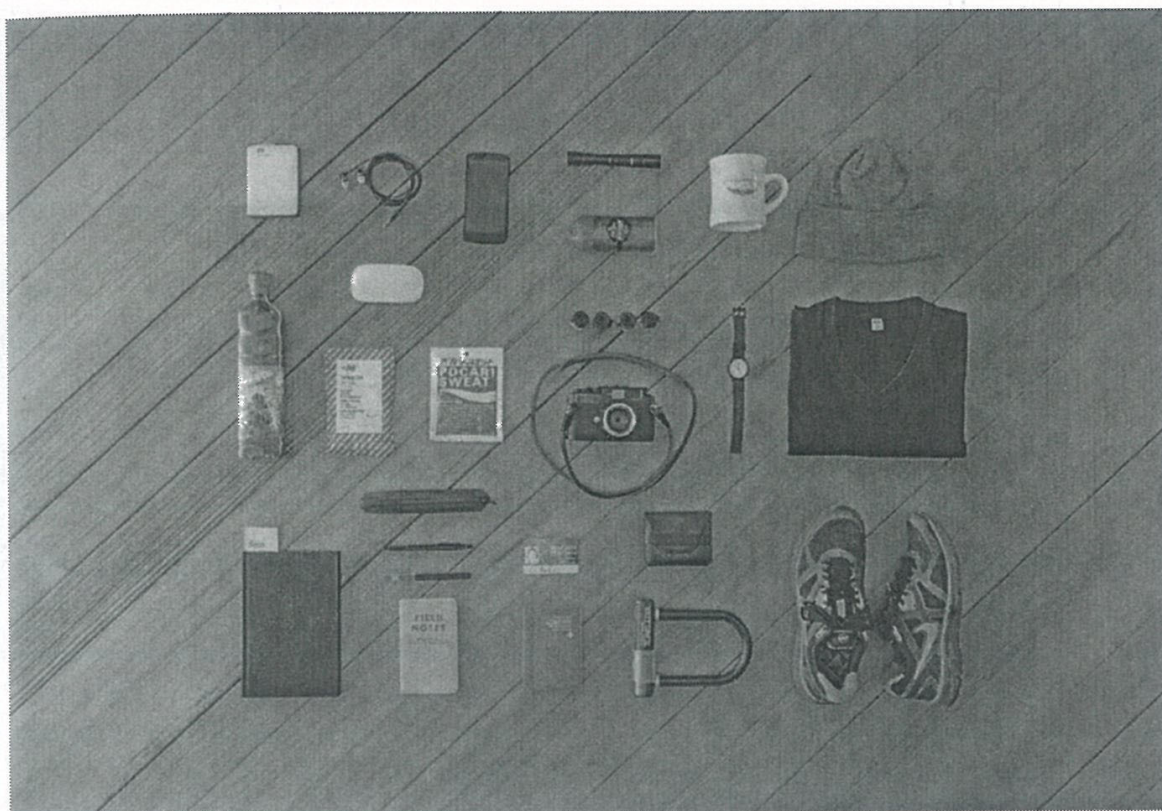
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with the real locals. You can join small groups around town conducting such tours; it's usually a 90 minute walking tour where the natives share their love and passion for this vibrant city. The best part is that, this walking tour service is absolutely free! Tipping is of course optional. You can learn more about the landmarks, and everyday life of people through the eyes of a local. These educational and fun guided tours are surely worth taking!

Aside from exploring the city and joining various local tours around, you can also have fun experiencing different activities like biking, photography tours, escape room games, sightseeing river cruises, theatrical and musical performances, and if you're right on time, you can also witness how they celebrate their festivals. You'll never run out of activities to do and places to explore in this peaceful city.







## Timeless Top 10 Travel Guides

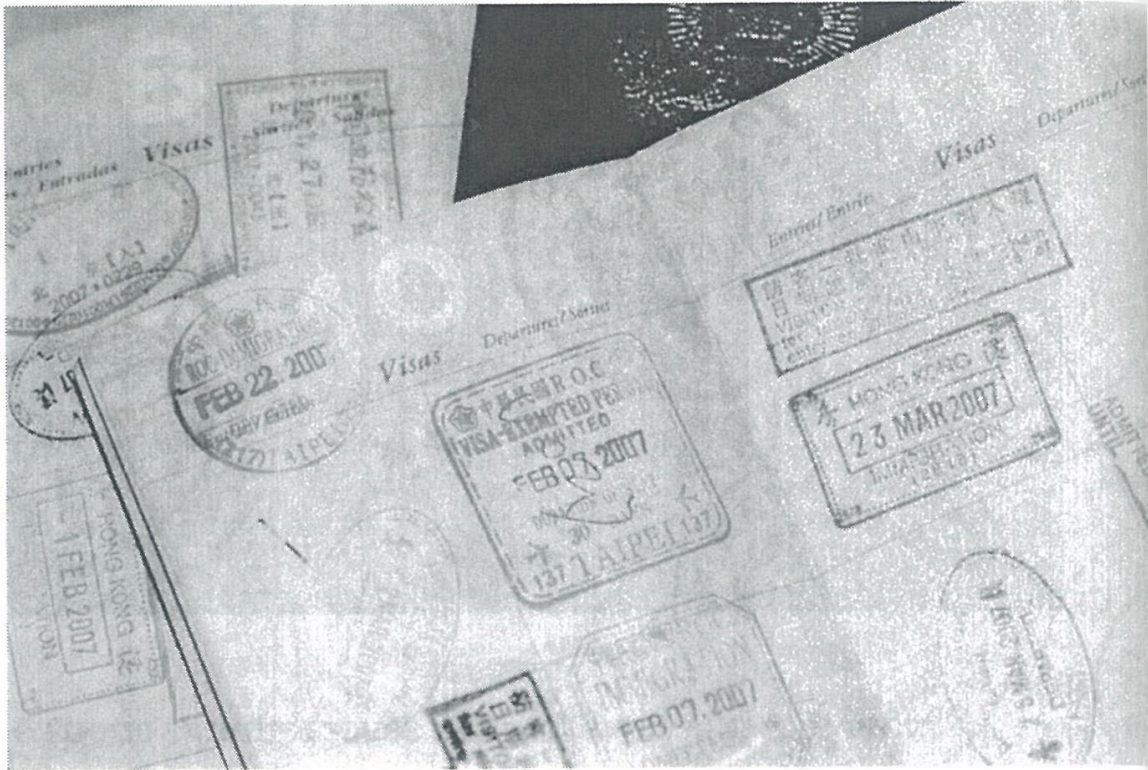
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## Chapter Two: Travel Essentials

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You will learn the things you need to bring and be aware of as well as essential information for first time travellers such as money, and communication.

### *Visa and Passport Requirements*



The Czech Republic is part of the European Union (EU) as well as the Schengen area which means that tourists from countries that are also a member of the EU is not required to have a visa, just a valid ID and passport.

Generally speaking, if you are a tourist, you need to have a passport with 6 months of validity from your departure date and you are only allowed to stay in the country for 90 days or 3 months.



For citizens of nations that is included in the European Economic Area (EEA) you are also not required to have a visa to enter the country or those visitors who already have a Schengen visa. If you are going directly to Prague or through another Schengen country, you don't need to worry about visa requirements.

If you are also a family member of an EU citizen, even if you are not a permanent resident or only hold a temporary permit from other EU countries, you're not required to acquire a visa.

However, if you are planning to stay longer in Prague or the Czech Republic for an extended vacation or other private matters, you may need to show proof that you have sufficient funds that will last you for your intended period. You may also be asked to show a confirmed onward and return flight tickets, and also the address of the place you're going to stay in/ hotel booking confirmation.

Aside from the countries mentioned above, here are the lists of nations that are also allowed in Czech Republic without a visa, same rules apply but there may also be some restrictions for selected countries.

## Chapter Two: Travel Essentials

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- Albania
- Andorra
- Antigua and  
Bermuda
- Argentina
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Bosnia and  
Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Brunei
- Canada
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Croatia
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- Israel
- Japan
- Macedonia
- Macao
- Malaysia
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Monaco
- Montenegro
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Saint Christopher &  
Nevis
- Salvador
- San Marino
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Trinidad and  
Tobago
- Uruguay
- USA
- Vatican
- Venezuela

For citizens of nations that are not included in the list mentioned above, you are required to acquire a Schengen Visa to enter Czech Republic or even other countries that are part of the European Union. For more information, we recommend visiting Czech Republic's Official Immigration Website or visit any Czech embassy in your home country if any.

You cannot find a visa application office at the Prague Airport or any border crossings; if you arrived without a Schengen visa you won't be granted access to the country.

Tourists and visitors should pass the Immigration and Security Checkpoints in various points of entry. Tourists are also not allowed to engage in any form of occupation, profession, business or any form of paid employment while in the country. You also maybe ask to register your visa with the police within 3 days upon your arrival.

### **Traveller's Info**

In this section, you will be provided with essential traveler's information on what to do and what not to do in Prague. Be sure to keep all these essentials in mind while you are traveling.