



Otázka: Prague

Jazyk: Angličtina

Přidal(a): krejx

BASIC

- the capital of the Czech Republic – since 1918
- the largest – area: 500 km²
- situated in the centre of Bohemia
- the river Vltava flows there
- 1,2 mil inhabitants
- the heart of Europe
- Golden Prague, the mother of cities Prague of hundred spires
- in the middle ages – a big important city during the reign of the king Charles IV.
- **the old centre consists of 5 historical districts:**
 - The Old Town
 - The New Town
 - the Jewish town
 - The Lesser quarter
 - Hradčany
- political centre of the country – seat of the president (Prague castle), government, parliament
- economic centre – The Czech National Bank, international companies
- educational and cultural centre of the Czech Rep. (the best universities, museums, art galleries,...)

HISTORY

- an exceptional city because of its history and monuments
- founded in the 6th century by Slavs – they built a market on a crossroad of trade routes near the ford over the Vltava – it became a seat of Premyslid Princes, Czech kings, later Roman emperors
- it is said that in ancient times, princess Libuše foretold future glory of the city (told that the future glory of Prague would touch the stars)
- 9th century – became the capital of Bohemia and after the capital of the Czech Kingdom
- During the reign of Charles IV. – Prague has Golden Age (the biggest on the continent) – the most important period of our history
 - founded Charles University (1348), Charles bridge (30 statues), Hungerford wall, The New Town, St. Vitus Cathedral, The horse market (now the Wenceslas square)
- another famous period – the reign of Rudolf II.
 - invited many artists and scientists to Prague
 - during this time the Golden Lane was built for Rudolf's artists and craftsmen (there worked Franz Kafka)
- 1918 – the capital of the Czechoslovak Republic – T.G.M.
- 1989 – Velvet revolution – until this we were under the reign of communist party
- 1993 – the capital of the Czech Republic

TRANSPORT

- Train – 2 central stations
 - Main station – after reconstruction, problem of homeless
 - Masaryk railway station – named after the first Czechoslovak president
 - Other stations –

- underground since 1974, the net of buses and trams (quite good and not expensive use it to avoid traffic jam)
- airport: Ruzyně – Václav a Havla
- boat – have a trip on the river Vltava
- taxi – expensive, not quick because of traffic jam, it's a risk – drivers often cheat

PLACES OF INTEREST

- if you visit Prague, you can follow the Royal route to see the most famous monuments

PRAGUE CASTLE

- lies in Hradčany
- monumental complex of buildings
- the seat of Czech kings and presidents, Barack Obama had a speech there
- one of the biggest inhabited castles in the world
- large gothic Vladislav Hall
 - in the middle ages: coronations of the kings
 - now there is an election of the president
 - used for representative purposes
- St. Vitus cathedral
 - stands near the castle
 - built in gothic style by Mathias of Arras
 - the crown jewels are in the Chapel
 - the construction of the building lasted 6 centuries
- Golden lane
 - some of houses have been changed to the shops
 - legend – there lived an alchemist who tried again and again to make gold but he never succeeded



CHARLES UNIVERSITY

- 1348, the oldest university in central Europe

ST. NICOLAS CHURCH

- 2 churches with the same name – one in the Lesser quarter and the other one on the Old town square
- example of baroque architecture, built by the Dientzenhofers

THE CHARLES BRIDGE (1357)

- 516m long, 10m wide
- Over the river Vltava
- Built by Charles IV. When Judita's bridge was torn down by the flood
- usually crowded by tourists, lots of artists and musicians
- an open-air gallery of unique 30 baroque statues by Brown and Brokoff (the statue of Jan Nepomuk turns your dreams into reality)
- the builders added eggs to the mortar to make a strong substance to hold the bridge together
- on the both ends of bridge – bridge towers

THE OLD TOWN SQUARE

- The oldest square – 12th century
- In the center is monument of Hus
- another significant historical spot
- Kinsky palace = national gallery, collection of modern art, Stone Bell House
- the Old town hall with world-famous astronomical clocks



ASTRONOMICAL CLOCKS

- Orloj – by master Hanuš
- Every hour between 9.00 and 21.00 small statues of the 12 apostles appear in small windows at the top of the clock
- The place where 27 czech noblemens were executed

THE WENCESLAS SQUARE

- The largest (750m long), the most important square
- heart of new town
- famous for the statue of St. Wenceslas on the horse (patron of Bohemia) – made by Myslbek
- surrounded by fastfoods, shops, hotels, restaurants, cafés,, many people who sell their products
- demonstrations, celebrations
- The National museum
 - upper end / on the top of the square
 - historical and natural collections, exposition of history, archeology, architecture, evolution

THE NATIONAL THEATRE

- situated near the Vltava
- in music video of Kanye West
- built in 1881, rebuilt after fire in 1883
- history: people wanted to have their own theatre for czech plays, dramas, operas so they collected money, it burned down after its opening – they built it again

THE PETŘÍN HILL

- „hill of love“ – the place for lovers
- 60 meter-tall viewing tower on the hill with 299 steps



- Built as a copy of the Eiffel Tower in Paris
- large gardens
- mirror labyrinth, observatory

THE OLD JEWISH TOWN

- for the history of Prague the Jewish community was very important
- most of the town was damaged by German during WWII.
- 6 synagogues
- the Old-New synagogue – the oldest one
- the Old Jewish cemetery – buried Rabi Low – according to the legend he invented Golem

PARIS STREET

- Expensive shops

KAMPA

- Famous area near Charles bridge
- Separated by small canal – called Čertovka
- Go there for a walk, jogging, with children/dog
- Legend about non-human creature from Kampa
- Eiffel tower – 5 times smaller
- From Kampa we can go to Patřín Hill, Strahov stadium, Letná field

VYŠEHRAD

- the oldest castle, built on the rock
- Slavín cemetery where czech writers, artists, rich people are buried



- Czech Princess Libuše prophesied the glory from here

SPORT

- O2 arena