



Otázka: Prague

Jazyk: Angličtina

Přidal(a): Jindrisekfou

introduction, basic facts

- The capital of the Czech republic, also the biggest city
- Around 1,2 million inhabitants (with the suburbs and outskirts)
- It's also an independent region - region of the Capital of Prague -> surrounded by the region of Central Bohemia
- Situated in the centre of the Czech republic -> the heart of the CZ, the heart of Europe
- "Golden Prague", "Prague - mother of all cities", "hundred-towered Prague", "town of 100 spires"
- The crossroad of all roadways, railways
- It's the seat of the president, the government and the parliament
- The centre of industry, tourism and business, economy and politics
- Developed tourism
- River Vltava flows through the city
- Prague has 15 districts/constituencies, 57 quarters

- There are many architectural styles -> that's one of the reasons why so many tourists come to visit every year

A little bit of history

- Prague has a very rich history so I would like to speak about few most important moments
- There is this legend which says that princess Libuše once had a vision in which she saw a city "whose glory touches the stars". This city was Prague.
- First mentions about Prague are from 9th century -> that's when the ruling dynasty - the Premyslids moved their seat from Levý Hradec to Prague
 - They founded the Old Town - 870 Prague Castle was founded
 - Then the New Town was founded
 - Prague consisted of four oldest independent parts: Hradčany (the Castle district, Lesser quarter (Malá Strana), Old Town, New Town
- It became the seat of the first Czech king Vratislaus II. - 1085
- The rule of Charles IV. -> flourishing of the city -> Prague became the capital of the Holy Roman Empire
 - He founded the Charles University (1348), the Charles Bridge (1357), the Castle of Karlštejn
 - He was an enlightened ruler/monarch
- 14th - 16th century the movement of the Hussites -> 1415 John Huss was burnt in Konstanz
- During the rule of Rudolf II. In the 16th century Prague was the capital of the Holy Roman Empire again, new flourishing of the city
 - Famous personalities of that time came to Prague -> Tycho de Brahe, Johannes



Kepler

- 1621 the execution of 27 Czech nobles at the Old Town Square (consequence of the battle of the White Mountain – beginning of the 30 years' war)
- 1918 after the World War 1 Prague became the capital of Czechoslovakia
- 1938 the beginning of Nazi occupation (the Munich treaty) (17.11.1939 the Day of Students -> the Prague universities were closed)
- 5. 5. 1945 an uprising in Prague against the Nazi Army -> the end of World War 2 (8.5.)
- 1948 the Communists take over the power
- 1968 the Prague Spring -> Soviet army invasion
- 1989 the Velvet Revolution -> the fall of communism
- 1993 Independent Czech Republic -> Prague is the capital

Monuments

- They are the main reason for tourists to come
- Prague is one of the oldest cities in the Europe, there are a lot of interesting places and historic buildings
- Many of them are preserved and protected by UNESCO
- The Prague Castle
 - It's the seat of the president of the Czech republic
 - There are beautiful gardens -> called Belvedere
 - 2 towers -> Daliborka and the Black Tower



- Was built by the Premyslids
- St. Vitus' Cathedral
 - Founded by Jan Lucemburský
 - Finish in the beginning of the 20th century
- The Charles Bridge
 - 1357 - second oldest bridge in the Central Europe
 - Replaced the Judith Bridge which used to be there before (made of wood)
 - The statues were added many years later -> in the baroque -> Petr Parléř
- The Carolinum
 - It's the seat of the Charles University -> the rector's office
 - Charles University -> the oldest university in the Central Europe
- The Old Town Square
 - The execution of 27 Czech nobles
 - The Church of St. Nicolas (orthodox)
 - A gallery
 - The Astronomical Clock -> statues of the Apostoles (in the 15th century)
 - The Paris Avenue -> famous fashion designers
- St. Wenceslas Square
 - The statue of St. Wenceslas on the horse -> he is the patron of the Czech nation
 - There are many shops and boutiques, department stores; a lot of clubs, bars and restaurants
 - Behind the statue there is the National Museum (art nouveau) -> huge exposition, science and art (now it is in reconstruction)
- The National Theatre
 - On the bank of Vltava
 - "the nation to itself"
 - The most famous artist of that time -> art nouveau à Žníšek (architect), Hynais



(the curtain), Mucha, Myslbek - painters

- There was a big fire and the theatre needed to be reconstructed -> the money were collected from people -> in 4 weeks enough

- The Estates Theatre

- There was the premiere of the play Fidlovačka -> National Anthem "Where is my home?" -> composed by F. Škroup and lyrics by J. K. Tyl
- W. A. Mozart himself there his opera Don Juan

- The Vyšehrad

- There is a big graveyard where many famous personalities were buried
- Vyšehrad used to be a fortress

- The Petřín

- Gardens with an observation tower inspired by the Eiffel tower in Paris
- A place of all the amorous people

- The Golden Street

- Picturesque small street, small houses
- Small shops with souvenirs

- The Chapel of the Bethlehem

- John Huss preached there

- Josefov

- The old Jewish quarter
- Old Jewish cemetery, Old New Synagogue

- The Dancing House

- Modern office building designed by Milunič and Gehry
- Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers



Transport

- Bus -> cheap
- Tram -> quiet, not expensive, even at night
- Metro -> 3 lines, fastest
- Taxi -> expensive, for tourists, at the airport
- Carriage -> expensive, touristic experience
- Boats -> for tourists, expensive; botels, parties
- Train -> travelling around Prague, connection with smaller cities
- Car -> traffic jams (the bypass is not finished yet); difficult to find a parking lot – the blue line
- Airplane -> airport Ruzyně (the Czechs think about renaming it after the recently passed away former president Václav Havel), international travelling
- A lot of architectural styles: Romanesque (St. George's basilica), gothic (St. Vitus' Cathedral), renaissance (Belvedere, Spanish Hall), baroque (almost all churches), art nouveau (the Municipal House), Neo-classical (the National Theatre)

The royal route

- From the Prague Castle to the Powder Tower
- Used by Czech kings on the way to the coronation (*passed through*)
- Originally started at Vyšehrad

- Starts in the **Kings Quad** (*nádvoří* – Králův dvůr) by the **Powder Tower** (the Old Town) → **Celetná** street → **Old Town Square** (The Astronomical Clock) → the **Small Square** → **Charles' Street** (Klementinum) → Křižovnické square → under the Old Town bridge gate → the **Charles Bridge** → under the Lesser Town bridge gate → **Mostecká** street → **Lesser town Square** → **Nerudova** street → **Ke Hradu** street (Pohořelec once) → **Hradčanské** (Castle?) square → the **Prague Castle** → **St. Vitus Cathedral**
- Many important sights → today a popular tourist route

What to do in prague, activities

- A lot of cultural activities and events
- Galleries
 - The National Gallery
 - The National Museum
 - The Mánes Gallery
 - The Mucha Museum
- Theatres
 - The National Theatre
 - The Estates Theatre
 - The Vinohrady theatre
 - The Theatre of Jára Cimrman
- Cinemas
 - In big shopping centres – Smíchov, Letňany, Zličín....
 - But also Světozor, Aero, Lucerna
- Plenty of clubs, bars and restaurants -> rich nightlife – popular among tourists and students



- The Troja Zoo -> one of the biggest European Zoos
- Shopping -> many huge shopping centres all around Prague, in the centre -> Palladium; also small shops and boutiques; clothes and fashion are quite expensive in Prague and CZ generally
- Lots of events and special occasions -> Prague Spring, Majáles, Festivals, concerts
- Prague is a really popular and plentifully visited by tourists
- A lot of foreign students come to study in Prague
- One of the most beautiful cities in the Europe

Other remarkable places

- Kutná hora – silver mines; cathedral
- Karlštejn – castle built by Charles IV. the golden chapel
- Říp – hill + rotunda; according to legend grand father Czech came here
- Karlovy vary – spas + center