

TRANSPORT

Prague sits right at the heart of Europe, and is well served by air, road and rail routes. The city itself has an excellent integrated public transport system with frequent tram, metro and bus services, though the historic central neighbourhoods are small enough to cover easily on foot.

AIR

Airport

Prague-Ruzyně Airport (Letiště Praha-Ruzyně; off Map pp58–9; flight information ☎ 220 113 314; www.csl.cz), 17km west of the city centre, is the hub for the national carrier **Czech Airlines** (ČSA; Map p106; ☎ 239 007 007; www.ca.cz; V Celnici 5, Nové Město), which operates direct flights to Prague from many European cities, including London, Dublin, Paris, Rome and Amsterdam, and also from New York and Toronto.

Prague's airport has two international terminals. Terminal 1 is for flights to/from non-Schengen countries (including the UK, Ireland and countries outside Europe), and Terminal 2 is for flights to/from Schengen Zone countries (most EU nations plus Switzerland, Iceland and Norway).

In both terminals the arrival and departure halls are next to each other on the same level. The arrival halls have exchange counters,

THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

ATMs, accommodation and car-hire agencies, public-transport information desks, taxi services and 24-hour **left-luggage counters** (per piece per day 100Kč). The departure halls have restaurants and bars, information offices, airline offices, an exchange counter and travel agencies. Once you're through security, there are shops, restaurants, bars, internet access and wi-fi.

There's a **post office** (☎ 8am–6pm Mon–Fri, to 1pm Sat) in the administrative centre on the far side of the Europort Shopping Centre opposite the arrival hall of Terminal 1.

BICYCLE

Prague is not the best city for getting around by bike. Traffic is heavy, tram tracks can be dangerous and there are lots of hills and

CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor transport generates CO₂ (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but also because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow jetsetters to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: www.lonelyplanet.com.

GETTING INTO TOWN

To get into town, buy a transfer ticket (26Kč) from the public transport (Dopravní podnik; DPP) desk in Arrivals and take bus 119 (20 minutes, every 10 minutes, 4am to midnight) to the end of the line (Dejvická), then continue by metro into the city centre (another 10 to 15 minutes; no new ticket needed). Note that you'll also need a half-fare (13Kč) ticket for your bag or suitcase if it's larger than 25cm x 45cm x 70cm. If you're heading to the western part of the city, take bus 100, which goes to Zličín metro station.

Alternatively, take a **Cedaz minibus** (☎ 221 111 111; www.cedaz.cz) from outside Arrivals to the Czech Airlines office (Map p106), near náměstí Republiky (120Kč, 20 minutes, every 30 minutes 5.30am to 9.30pm); buy a ticket from the driver. You can also opt to get off earlier at the Dejvická metro stop (90Kč) instead. Or you can get a Cedaz minibus direct to your hotel or any other address in the city centre (480Kč for one to four people, 960Kč for five to eight) – book and pay at the Cedaz desk in the Arrivals hall. **Prague Airport Shuttle** (☎ 602 395 421; www.prague-airport-shuttle.cz) and **SmartShuttle** (☎ 728 40 40 40; www.smartshuttle.cz) operate similar services.

Airport Cars (☎ 14014, 222 333 222) operate a 24-hour taxi service, charging around 550 to 600Kč to get to the centre of Prague. Drivers usually speak some English and accept Visa credit cards.

cobbled streets. That said, the popularity of cycling is steadily increasing and the city now has about 260km of signposted cycle routes.

Bikes must be equipped with a bell, mudguards, a white reflector and white light up front, a red reflector and flashing red light at the rear, and reflectors on pedals – if not, you can be fined up to 1000Kč. Cyclists up to the age of 15 must wear helmets.

If you're at least 12 years old you can take your bicycle on the metro, but you must place it near the last door of the rear carriage, and only two bikes are allowed per train. Bikes are not permitted if the carriage is full, or if there's already a pram in the carriage.

For more information on cycling and bike hire, see p206.

BOAT

See p251 for details of river transport between Prague city centre and Troja (for Prague Zoo and Troja Chateau; see p140).

BUS

Prague has two main bus stations. All international and long-distance domestic buses (and many regional services) use **Florenc bus station** (ÚAN Praha Florenc; Map pp126–7; Křižíkova 4, Karlín), while regional buses to the northeastern Czech Republic (including Mělník, see p233) depart from **Holešovice bus station** (AN Praha Holešovice; Map pp132–3; Vrbenského, Holešovice).

International bus operators include **Touring Bohemia/Eurolines** (☎ 224 218 680; www.bei.cz) and **Student Agency** (☎ 800 100 300; www.studentagency.cz); both have offices at Florenc bus station.

You can find local and regional bus timetable info in English at www.vlak-bus.cz and ☎ 900 144 444. On these services you buy your ticket from the driver as you board. For details of city bus services see Public Transport, [opposite](#).

CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Driving in Prague is no fun, especially in the narrow, winding streets of the city centre. Trying to find your way around – or to park legally – while coping with trams, buses, other drivers, cyclists and pedestrians can make you wish you'd left the car at home.

Prague Information Service (see p255) publishes a *Transport Guide* with many useful tips for drivers, including emergency breakdown services, where to find car-repair shops (by make) and all-important parking tips.

Driving

Traffic in the Czech Republic drives on the right. In Prague you may overtake a tram only on the right, and only if it's in motion. You must stop behind any tram taking on or letting off passengers where there's no passenger island. A tram has the right of way when making any signalled turn across your path.

In case of an accident the police should be contacted immediately if repairs are likely to cost over 20,000Kč or if there is an injury. Even if damage is slight, it's a good idea to report the accident as the police will issue an insurance report that will help avoid problems when you take the car out of the country or return it to the rental company.

For emergency breakdowns, the **ÚAMK** (Central Automobile & Motorcycle Club; Map pp58–9; ☎ 261

104 333; www.uamk.cz; Na Strži 9, Nusle) provides nationwide assistance 24 hours a day – call ☎ 1230 for breakdown assistance (or ☎ +420 21230 if calling from a non-Czech mobile phone). ÚAMK has agreements with national motoring organisations across the world through its affiliations with the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme and the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile. If you are a member of any of these, ÚAMK will help you on roughly the same terms as your own organisation would. If not, you must pay for all services.

Hire

The major international car-hire chains all have airport pick-up points as well as offices in the city centre. Their rates begin at around 1600/9000Kč per day/week for a Škoda Fabia, including unlimited mileage, collision-damage waiver and value-added tax (VAT; 'DPH' in Czech). There's a 650Kč surcharge to pick up your vehicle from the airport, but delivery to hotels in central Prague is free.

Small local companies such as Secco, Vecar and West Car Praha offer much better rates, but are less likely to have fluent English-speaking staff – it's easier to book through their websites than by phone. Typical rates for a Škoda Fabia are around 800Kč a day, including unlimited mileage, collision-damage waiver and VAT.

A-Rent Car/Thrifty (Map pp108–9; ☎ 224 233 265; www.arentcar.cz; Washingtonova 9, Nové Město; 🚗 Muzeum)

Avis (Map p106; ☎ 810 777 810; www.avis.cz; Klimentská 46, Nové Město; 🚗 5, 8, 14)

CS-Czechocar (Map p116; ☎ 261 222 079; www.czechocar.cz; Congress Centre, 5.května 65, Vyšehrad; 🚗 Vyšehrad)

Europcar (Map pp88–9; ☎ 224 810 515; www.europcar.cz; Pařížská 28, Staré Město; 🚗 17)

Hertz (Map pp108–9; ☎ 225 345 000; www.hertz.cz; Karlovo náměstí 15, Nové Město; 🚗 Karlovo Náměstí)

Secco Car (Map pp132–3; ☎ 220 802 361; www.seccocar.cz; Přístavní 39, Holešovice; 🚗 1, 3, 12, 15, 25)

Vecar (Map pp132–3; ☎ 224 314 361; www.vecar.cz; Svatovítská 7, Dejvice; 🚗 Dejvická)

West Car Praha (Map pp58–9; ☎ 235 365 307; www.westcarpraha.cz, in Czech; Velešlavínská 17, Velešlavín; 🚗 20, 26)

Parking

Parking in most of Prague is regulated with colour-coded zones. Blue zones are for resi-

dents only; visitors can park in orange zones (40Kč per hour, maximum stay two hours) or green zones (30Kč per hour, up to six hours). You pay at a parking meter, effective 8am to 6pm weekdays (they accept both Czech crowns and euros). Traffic inspectors are always keen to hand out fines, clamp wheels or tow away vehicles. Parking in one-way streets is normally allowed only on the right-hand side.

There are several car parks at the edges of Staré Město, as well as Park-and-Ride car parks around the outer city (most are marked on city maps), close to metro stations.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Prague's excellent public transport system combines tram, metro and bus services. It's operated by **Dopravní podnik hlavního města Prahy** (DPP; ☎ 800 19 18 17; www.dpp.cz), which has information desks at Ruzyně airport (7am to 10pm) and in four metro stations – Muzeum (7am to 9pm), Můstek, Anděl and Nádraží Holešovice (all 7am to 6pm) – where you can get tickets, directions, a multilingual transport-system map, a map of night services (*noční provoz*) and a detailed English-language guide to the whole system.

On metro trains and newer trams and buses, an electronic display shows the route number and the name of the next stop, and a recorded voice announces each station or stop. As the train, tram or bus pulls away, the announcer says *Příští stanice...* (The next station is...) or *Příští zastávka...* (The next stop is...), perhaps noting that it's a *přestupní stanice* (transfer station). At metro stations, signs point you towards the *výstup* (exit) or to a *přestup* (transfer to another line).

The metro's operating hours are from 5am to midnight. There are three lines: line A runs from the northwestern side of the city at Dejvická to the east at Skalka; line B runs from the southwest at Zličín to the northeast at Černý Most; and line C runs from the north at Letňany to the southeast at Háje. Line A intersects line C at Muzeum, line B intersects line C at Florenc and line A intersects line B at Můstek.

After the metro closes, night trams (51 to 58) and buses (501 to 512) still rumble across the city about every 40 minutes through the night (only 26Kč tickets are valid on these services). If you're planning a late evening, find out if one of these lines passes near where you're staying.

Tickets

You need to buy a ticket before you board a bus, tram or metro. Tickets are sold from machines at metro stations and tram stops, at newsstands, Trafiky snack shops, PNS newspaper kiosks, hotels, PIS tourist information offices (see p255), metro station ticket offices and DPP information offices. Tickets are valid on tram, metro, bus and the Petřín funicular.

A transfer ticket (*přestupní jízdenka*) costs 26/13Kč per adult/child aged six to 15 years; kids under six ride free. You'll also need a 13Kč ticket for each large suitcase or backpack if it's larger than 25cm x 45cm x 70cm. Validate (punch) your ticket by sticking it in the little yellow machine in the metro station lobby or on the bus or tram the first time you board; this stamps the time and date on it. Once validated, transfer tickets remain valid for 75 minutes; within this time period you can make unlimited transfers between all types of public transport (you don't need to punch the ticket again).

There's also a short-hop 18/9Kč ticket, valid for 20 minutes on buses and trams, or for up to five metro stations. No transfers are allowed with these (except between metro lines), and they're not valid on the Petřín funicular or on night trams (51 to 58) or buses (501 to 512).

You can also buy tickets valid for 24 hours (100Kč) and three/five days (330/500Kč); the latter two include one adult and one child aged six to 15 years. Again, these must be validated on first use only; if a ticket is stamped twice, it becomes invalid. With these tickets, you don't need to pay an extra fare for your luggage.

Being caught without a valid ticket entails a 500Kč on-the-spot fine (100Kč for not having a luggage ticket). The plain-clothes inspectors travel incognito, but will show a red-and-gold metal badge when they ask for your ticket. A few may demand a higher fine from foreigners and pocket the difference, so insist on a receipt (*doklad*) before paying.

TAXI

Prague City Council has cracked down on the city's notoriously dishonest taxi drivers by installing a network of taxi stands with red-and-yellow signs quoting the correct fares between various parts of the city. The official rate for licensed cabs is 40Kč flag fall plus 28Kč per kilometre and 6Kč per minute while waiting. On this basis, any trip within the city centre – say, from Wenceslas Square to Malá Strana –

should cost around 170Kč. A trip to the suburbs should be around 400Kč to 500Kč, and to the airport between 550Kč and 600Kč. Journeys outside Prague are not regulated; negotiate a fare before you get in.

However, hailing a taxi on the street – at least in a tourist zone – still holds the risk of an inflated fare. The usual tactic is to quote a 'maximum' fare for a given destination, then drive around long enough to ensure that the meter clocks up the quoted maximum.

You're much better off calling a radio-taxi than flagging one down, as they're better regulated and more responsible. From our experience the following companies have honest drivers (most of whom speak a little English) and offer 24-hour services.

AAA Radio Taxi (☎ 14014; www.aaaradiotaxi.cz)

Airport Cars (☎ 220 113 892; www.airport-cars.cz)

City Taxi (☎ 257 257 257; www.citytaxi.cz)

ProfiTaxi (☎ 844 700 800; www.profitaxi.cz)

TRAIN

The railway system is operated by recently privatised **České dráhy** (ČD; Czech Railways; www.cd.cz). Timetable information is available online at www.vlak-bus.cz.

Arriving in Prague by Train

Most international trains arrive at Praha hlavní nádraží (Prague Main Station; Map pp108–9). Some stop only at Praha-Holešovice (Map pp132–3) in the north of the city (including some trains from Berlin, Vienna and Budapest), or Praha-Smíchov (Map pp58–9) in the south; all three stations have their own metro stops. Masarykovo nádraží (Map p106), two blocks north of the main train station, is the main domestic rail terminus. (Note: Praha hlavní nádraží is undergoing a major redevelopment until 2009; during this period the layout of the station may be changed.)

On arriving at Praha hlavní nádraží, the underpass from the platforms leads you to level 3 of the four-level station complex; turn left here to find the AVE accommodation agency (see the boxed text, p213). Continue down a short flight of stairs to level 2, the main concourse, where you'll find the **PIS Tourist Information Booth** (☎ 9am–7pm Mon–Fri, to 5pm Sat & Sun) beside the metro entrance at the southern (left) end.

Ramps to either side of the ticket counters in the main concourse lead down to level 1, with a 24-hour **left-luggage office** (úschovna; per

YOU'RE GOING WHERE?

Although most staff at the international ticket counters in Prague's main train station speak at least some English, those selling domestic tickets rarely do. In order to speed up the process of buying a ticket, and to avoid misunderstandings, it's often easier to write down what you want on a piece of paper and hand it to the clerk (this works for bus tickets, too).

Write it down like this:

- *od*: departure station, eg PRAHA
- *do*: destination station, eg KARLŠTEJN
- *čas*: departure time using 24-hour clock
- *datum*: date, eg for 2.30pm on 20 May, write '14.30h. 20/05'. Or just *dnes* (today)
- *osoby*: number of passengers
- *jednosměrný* (one way) or *zpáteční* (return).

If you're making a reservation on an EC or IC train, you may also want to specify 1. *třída* or 2. *třída* (1st or 2nd class), and whether you want an *okno* (window) or *chodba* (aisle) seat.

One-way domestic train tickets for distances of more than 50km are valid for 24 hours from time of purchase, but for distances under 50km only until 6am the next day. Note that domestic return tickets (about 10% more expensive than singles) are only valid for 48 hours from time of purchase – if you plan to be away for more than two days, buy two one-way tickets instead.

bag per day 15 or 30Kč) and **luggage lockers** (60Kč) that accept 5Kč, 10Kč and 20Kč coins.

There are four metro station entrances in the concourse – the two nearer the stairs from level 3 lead to the northbound platform (direction Letňany), the two nearer the exits are southbound (direction Haje). Public transport tickets and information are available at the DPP booths beside the southbound metro entrances. There are taxi ranks at either end of the concourse. To find the nearest tram stop (for trams 5, 9 and 26), exit the main concourse and turn right; the stop is at the far end of the park.

Try not to arrive in the middle of the night – the station closes from 12.40am to 3.40am, and the surrounding area is a magnet for pick-pockets and drunks.

Leaving Prague by Train

You can buy international train tickets in advance from train stations and **ČD Travel** (Map p106; ☎ 972 233 930; V Celnici 6, Nové Město) and **Čedok** (Map pp108–9; ☎ 221 447 242; www.cedok.com; Na Příkopě 18, Nové Město) travel agencies.

At Prague's main train station, you can get information on international services at the ČD info centre at the south end of the main concourse, and from ticket windows 2 to 8 (usually only one of them – look for a sign advertising information in English). Full printed timetables are displayed on level 3; timetable information is available online at www.vlak.cz.

The big display board on the main concourse lists departures with columns marked *druh vlaku* (type of train – EC for international, IC for domestic, etc), *číslo vlaku* (train number), *cilová stanice* (final destination), *směr* (via), *odjezd* (departure time) and *našt* (platform number). To make sure you're on the correct train, confirm that its number (displayed on a panel on the side of the carriage) matches the train number of the service you want.

You can buy domestic tickets (*vnitrostátní jízdenky*) at the odd-numbered ticket windows (marked with an A) to the left of the departures board on the main concourse; for international advance reservations (*mezinárodní rezervace*) go to windows 2 to 8 (marked B), and for international tickets (*mezinárodní jízdenky*) go to windows 12 to 24 (marked C) to the right.

DIRECTORY

BUSINESS HOURS

Shops tend to open from 8.30am to 5pm or 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8.30am to noon or 1pm on Saturday. Department stores close at 8pm Monday to Friday, and at 6pm on Saturday and Sunday. Touristy shops in central Prague are open later at night and all day Saturday and Sunday.

Banks generally open 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. The city's main post office opens 7am to 8pm every day, while other post offices open 8am to 6pm or 7pm Monday to Friday and until noon on Saturday. Restaurants tend to open between 10am and 11pm (cafés generally open around 8am), while bars usually open 11am to midnight (though some in the city centre stay open till 3am or 4am).

Most museums and galleries open from 9am or 10am to 5pm or 6pm year-round. Many are closed on Monday and on the first working day after a holiday. Some of Prague's bigger churches are open similar hours.

Castles, chateaux and other historic monuments outside the city are open May to September, from 8am or 9am to 5pm or 6pm, except for a lunch break, daily except Monday and the first working day after a holiday. Most shut down from November to March, with some limited to weekends in October and April. If you plan to take a guided tour, remember that ticket offices close an hour or so before the official closing time, depending on the length of the tour.

CHILDREN

Czechs are very family oriented, and there are plenty of activities for children around the city. An increasing number of Prague restaurants cater specifically for children, with play areas and so on, and many offer a children's menu (*dětský jídelníček*); even if they don't, they can usually provide smaller portions for a lower price.

For outdoor activities take a walk around Prague Zoo (p140) – if possible, go there by boat (p251) – or hire inline skates at Letná Gardens (p208). Petřín (p84) is a beautiful park on a hill where parents and kids alike can take a break from sightseeing, and climb up the Petřín Lookout Tower for terrific views over Prague.

For an even higher viewpoint, go to the TV Tower (p128) in Žižkov.

March is the time of the St Matthew Fair (p16), when Holešovice's exhibition grounds are full of fairground rides, shooting galleries and candy floss; in summer there are rowing and paddle boats for hire along the Vltava River as well as river cruises and boat tours (p251).

At weekends and on holidays between April and mid-November, vintage tram cars trundle along a special sightseeing route, line 91, around the city centre (see p252 for more information). And don't miss the changing of the guard at Prague Castle (see p61 for details) – but get into position before the crowds do, or the kids won't see a thing.

Museums of possible interest to children include the Toy Museum (p67), though, frustratingly, its many displays are hands off; the Public Transport Museum (p141), where kids can climb on the vintage trams and buses; and the Aircraft Museum (p140), where they can see Russian MiG fighter planes up close.

There are safe, fenced playgrounds by the entrance to Petřín park on náměstí Kinských (Map pp76–7); at the northern end of Kampa island (Map pp76–7); on Children's Island (p82); at the southern end of Slav Island (p113); and on Vlašská, just west of the German embassy (Map pp76–7).

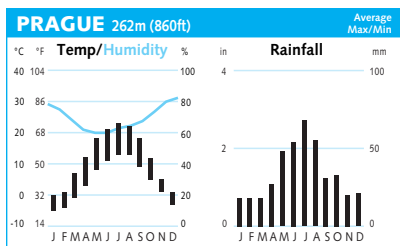
For more information and inspiration on how to make travelling with children as hassle-free as possible, check out Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children* by Cathy Lanigan. Also see the Top Picks boxed text, p113.

Babysitting

The [Prague Information Service](#) (Pražská informační služba, PIS; ☎ 12444 or 221 714 444 in English & German; www.prague-info.cz) usually has a list of babysitting (*hlídání dětí*) agencies, and most top-end hotels provide a babysitting service; rates are generally around 150Kč per hour. [Prague Family](#) (☎ 224 224 044; www.praguefamily.cz) is an agency that can provide English-speaking babysitters.

CLIMATE

Prague has warm, occasionally showery summers and cold, often snowy winters with generally changeable conditions. A typical day in Prague from June to August sees the mercury



range from about 12°C to 22°C. Temperatures from December to February push below freezing. Wide variations are common, sometimes surpassing 35°C in summer and -20°C in winter. The summer's long, sunny, hot spells tend to be broken by sudden, heavy thunderstorms. In general, May and September enjoy the most pleasant weather.

See [p16](#) for advice on the best time to visit.

COURSES

Places offering Czech language courses:

Institute for Language & Preparatory Studies (Ústav jazykové a odborné přípravy; [Map p116](#); ☎ 224 990 420; [www.ujop.cuni.cz](#); Vratislavova 10, Vyšehrad;

☑ Vyšehrad) ÚJOP runs six-week Czech language courses for foreigners. No prior knowledge of the Czech language is required. The course fee is €610, not including accommodation. You can also opt for individual lessons (45 minutes) at 550Kč each. Further details and an application form are available on the website.

London School of Modern Languages ([Map pp58–9](#);

☎ 226 096 140; [www.londonschool.cz](#); Podolská 54, Podolí; ☑ 3, 16, 17, 21) Offers Czech courses for both individuals and companies, including specialised Czech language courses for business, law or IT. Individual tuition costs from 350Kč for a 45-minute lesson.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS

Travelling between the Czech Republic and other EU countries, you can import/export 800 cigarettes, 400 cigarillos, 200 cigars, 1kg of smoking tobacco, 10L of spirits, 20L of fortified wine (eg port or sherry), 90L of wine and 110L of beer, provided the goods are for personal use only (each country sets its own guide levels; these figures are minimums).

Travellers from outside the EU can import or export, duty-free, a maximum of 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos or 50 cigars or 250g of tobacco; 2L of still table wine; 1L of spirits or 2L of fortified wine, sparkling wine or liqueurs; 60mL of perfume; 250mL of eau de toilette; and €175 worth of all other goods

(including gifts and souvenirs). Anything over this limit must be declared to customs officers. People under 17 do not get the alcohol and tobacco allowances.

Any goods you buy in the Czech Republic can be taken to any other EU country without paying additional VAT. If you are resident outside the EU, you may be able to reclaim VAT on your purchases (see [p144](#)). You're not permitted to export genuine antiques.

There is no limit to the amount of Czech or foreign currency that can be taken in or out of the country, but amounts exceeding 500,000Kč must be declared.

DISCOUNT CARDS

The Prague Card is a combined admission card and public-transport pass. The admission card is valid for one year, but the transport ticket is valid only for 48 hours, allowing unlimited travel on metro, trams and buses. The card provides free entry to around a dozen city sights, including the Loreta, the TV Tower and the Vyšehrad Casemates, plus discounts of up to 50% at others including the Museum of Communism. However, it does not include major attractions such as Prague Castle, the Church of St Nicholas in Malá Strana and the Prague Jewish Museum.

The pass costs 860Kč (or €32.50 if bought via the internet), and can be purchased from the EuroAgentur desk at Prague Airport, the **Prague Card Change Office** ([Map pp108–9](#); Vodičkova 34, Nové Město; ☎ 9am–6pm Mon–Fri) and online at [www.praguecard.info](#).

ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Prague is 230V, 50Hz AC. Outlets have the standard European socket with two small round holes and a protruding earth (ground) pin. If you have a different plug, bring an adaptor (see [www.kropla.com](#) for info). North American 110V appliances will also need a transformer if they don't have built-in voltage adjustment.

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

Australia ([Map p106](#); ☎ 296 578 350; [www.dfat.gov.au/missions/countries/cz.html](#); 6th fl, Klimentovská 10, Nové Město) Honorary consulate for emergency assistance only (eg a stolen passport); the nearest Australian embassy is in Vienna.

Austria ([Map p138](#); ☎ 257 090 511; [www.austria.cz](#), in German & Czech; Viktora Huga 10, Smíchov)

Canada (Map pp132–3; ☎ 272 101 800; www.canada.cz; Muchova 6, Bubeneč)

France (Map pp76–7; ☎ 251 171 711; www.france.cz, in French & Czech; Velkopřerovské náměstí 2, Malá Strana)

Germany (Map pp76–7; ☎ 257 113 111; www.deutschland.cz, in German & Czech; Vlašská 19, Malá Strana)

Ireland (Map pp76–7; ☎ 257 530 061; www.embassyofireland.cz; Tržiště 13, Malá Strana)

Israel (Map pp132–3; ☎ 233 097 500; http://prague.mfa.gov.il; Badeniho 2, Bubeneč)

Netherlands (Map pp132–3; ☎ 233 015 200; www.netherlandsembassy.cz; Gotthardská 6/27, Bubeneč)

New Zealand (Map p121; ☎ 222 514 672; egermayer@nzconsul.cz; Dykova 19, Vinohrady) Honorary consulate providing emergency assistance only (eg stolen passport); the nearest NZ embassy is in Berlin.

Poland Embassy (Map pp76–7; ☎ 257 099 500; www.praque.polemb.net; Valdštejnská 8, Malá Strana); Consular Department (Map pp58–9; ☎ 224 228 722; konspol@mbox.vol.cz; V úžlabině 14, Strašnice) Come here for visas.

Russia (Map pp132–3; ☎ 233 374 100; www.czech.mid.ru; Pod Kaštany 1, Bubeneč)

Slovakia (Map pp132–3; ☎ 233 113 051; www.slovakemb.cz, in Slovak; Pod Hradbami 1, Dejvice)

South Africa (Map p121; ☎ 267 311 114; saprague@terminal.cz; Ruská 65, Vršovice)

UK (Map pp76–7; ☎ 257 402 111; www.britain.cz; Thunovská 14, Malá Strana)

USA (Map pp76–7; ☎ 257 022 000; www.usembassy.cz; Tržiště 15, Malá Strana)

EMERGENCY

Ambulance (☎ 155)

Breakdown Assistance for Motorists (ÚAMK; ☎ 1230)

EU-wide emergency hotline (☎ 112)

Fire (☎ 150)

Municipal Police (☎ 156)

State Police (☎ 158)

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

Homosexuality is legal in the Czech Republic (the age of consent is 15), but Czechs are not accustomed to seeing same-sex couples showing affection to each other in public; it's best to be discreet. However, Prague is the most liberal place in the country, and has a lively gay scene, with most gay bars and clubs concentrated in the city centre and in the districts of Vinohrady and Žižkov.

The bimonthly gay guide and contact magazine *Amigo* has a few pages in English, but the **Gay Guide Prague** (<http://prague.gayguide.net>) is the most useful source of information. See also the boxed text (p195) for gay-friendly venues and accommodation options.

HOLIDAYS

Banks, offices, department stores and some shops will be closed on public holidays. Restaurants, museums and tourist attractions tend to stay open. See also p16.

New Year's Day 1 January

Easter Monday March/April

Labour Day 1 May

Liberation Day 8 May

Sts Cyril & Methodius Day 5 July

Jan Hus Day 6 July

Czech Statehood Day 28 September

Republic Day 28 October

Struggle for Freedom & Democracy Day 17 November

Christmas Eve (Generous Day) 24 December

Christmas Day 25 December

St Stephen's Day 26 December

INTERNET ACCESS

Many hotels now offer wi-fi connections for guests, though you'll probably have to ask reception for a password. If not, you should be able to log on from your hotel room for the cost of a local call by registering with an internet roaming service such as **MaGlobe** (www.maglobe.com), which has access numbers for Prague. Most midrange and top-end hotels have telephone jacks, usually US standard (RJ-11), which you can plug your modem cable into, or ethernet ports for sharing the hotel's broadband connection. If you plan to use the phone line, buy a line tester – a gadget that goes between your computer and the phone jack – so that you don't inadvertently fry your modem. For more information on travelling with a laptop check out www.kropla.com.

For those without a laptop, Prague has dozens of internet cafés. Conveniently located ones include the following:

Bohemia Bagel (Map pp88–9; ☎ 224 812 560; www.bohemiabagel.cz; Masná 2, Staré Město; per min 1.50Kč; ☎ 7am–midnight; 📍 Náměstí Republiky)

Globe Bookstore & Café (Map pp108–9; ☎ 224 934 203; www.globebookstore.cz; Pštrossova 6, Nové Město;

WI-FI ACCESS

You can search for wi-fi hotspots in Prague (and around the world) at www.jiwire.com. More and more cafés and bars in Prague are advertising free wi-fi for paying customers, but in our experience around half the places boasting this service don't actually have a functioning internet connection ('Sorry, it's not working today'); if it's important, make sure you can connect before buying a drink! We have found the following places, along with the branches of Starbucks on Malostranské náměstí and in the Palladium shopping mall, to have reliable, free wi-fi connections:

- **Café Café** (p182)
- **Café Savoy** (p181)
- **Caffe Kaaba** (p185)
- **Grand Café Orient** (p181)
- **Káva Káva Káva** (p182) Need to ask for password.

per min 1Kč; ☎ 10am-midnight; 📶 Karlovo Náměstí) No minimum. Also has wi-fi and ethernet ports so you can connect your own laptop (same price; cables provided, 50Kč deposit).

Internet Centre (Map pp88–9; Rytířská 18, Staré Město; per min 1.60Kč; ☎ 9am–11pm Mon–Fri, 10am–9pm Sat, 11am–9pm Sun; 📶 Můstek) At the back of Au Gourmand café; 25Kč minimum, low-cost international phone calls.

Pl@neta (Map p121; ☎ 267 311 182; Vinohradská 102, Vinohrady; per min 0.44–0.88Kč; ☎ 8am–11pm; 📶 Jiřího z Poděbrad) Cheapest place in town, with lowest rates before 10am and after 8pm Monday to Friday, all day Saturday and Sunday; 5Kč minimum.

Spika (Map pp88–9; ☎ 224 211 521; <http://netcafe.spika.cz>; Dlážděná 4, Nové Město; per 15min Mon–Fri 20Kč, Sat & Sun 16Kč; ☎ 8am-midnight; 📶 Náměstí Republiky)

LEGAL MATTERS

If you find yourself under arrest for any reason whatsoever, you are entitled to call your embassy (see p247 for listings). Note that it is technically illegal not to carry some form of identification (normally your passport). If you can't prove your identity, police have the right to detain you for up to 48 hours. Some older police officers retain a communist-era mistrust of foreigners; younger officers are

easier to deal with, but almost none speak fluent English.

Penalties for dealing in drugs are harsh and it's unlikely that your embassy can do much to help if you are caught, but new laws passed in 2008 have decriminalised the possession of 'a small amount' of drugs, defined as fewer than 20 joints or a gram of hashish.

Drink-driving is strictly illegal; there is a zero blood-alcohol limit for drivers. Traffic fines are generally paid on the spot (ask for a receipt). A smoking ban levies a 1000Kč on-the-spot fine for smoking in public places, including hospitals, libraries, railway stations and public transport – and even at bus and tram stops, even though they are in the open air – but not in restaurants, bars and clubs.

MAPS

City maps are available at newsagents, bookshops and travel agencies. A detailed plan of the city centre and inner suburbs is *Kartografie Praha's Praha – plán města* (1:10,000). It includes public transport and parking information, an index, a metro map, plans of the castle and Charles Bridge, and a brief description of the major historical sites.

Lonely Planet's plastic-coated *Prague* city map is handy and hard-wearing, and has sections covering central Prague, Prague Castle, greater Prague, the Prague metro and the region around Prague, and an index of streets and sights.

The **Prague Information Service** (Pražská informační služba, PIS; ☎ 12444 or 221 714 444 in English & German; www.prague-info.cz) stocks a free English-language pamphlet called *Welcome to the Czech Republic*, which is produced by the Ministry of Interior. It features a map of the historical centre, transport routes in the centre, and information such as emergency phone numbers and embassy addresses.

WHEN YOU'RE LEGAL

The following minimum legal ages apply in the Czech Republic:

- Drinking alcohol – 18 years
- Driving – 18 years
- Heterosexual/homosexual sex – 15 years
- Smoking – 16 years
- Marriage – 18 years
- Voting – 18 years

If you are staying in Prague for a significant amount of time, Kartografie Praha's pocket atlas *Praha – plán města – standard* (1:20,000), covering all of Prague, is invaluable.

A public-transport map showing all day and night services (metro, tram and bus) is available from any of the public information offices of Dopravní podnik Praha (DPP; see p243), the city transport department.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Emergency medical treatment and nonhospital first aid are free for all visitors to the Czech Republic. If you have a serious medical emergency (eg suspected heart attack), call ☎ 112 (English- and German-speaking operators are available).

Citizens of EU countries can obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC); this entitles you to free state-provided medical treatment in the Czech Republic (see www.cmu.cz/languages/en.htm for information on using the card in the Czech Republic). Non-EU citizens must pay for treatment, and at least some of the fee must be paid upfront. Everyone has to pay for prescribed medications.

Clinics

American Dental Associates (Map p106; ☎ 221 181 121; www.americandental.cz; 2nd fl Atrium, Stará Celnice Bldg, V Celnici 4, Nové Město; 🇺🇸 Náměstí Republiky) Entirely English-speaking.

Canadian Medical Care (Map pp58–9; ☎ 235 360 133, after hours 724 300 301; www.cmcpraha.cz; Veleslavinská 1, Veleslavín; 🇨🇦 8am–6pm Mon–Fri, to 8pm Tue & Thu; 🚗 20, 26 from 🇨🇦 Dejvická) A pricey but professional private clinic with English-speaking doctors; an initial consultation will cost from 1500Kč to 2500Kč.

Polyclinic at Národní (Poliklinika na Národní; Map pp88–9; ☎ 222 075 120, 24hr emergencies 720 427 634; www.poliklinika.narodni.cz; Národní 9, Nové Město; 🇨🇦 8.30am–5pm Mon–Fri; 🇺🇸 Národní Třída) A central clinic with staff who speak English, German, French and Russian. Expect to pay around 600Kč to 1200Kč for an initial consultation.

Emergency Rooms

Na Homolce Hospital (Map pp58–9; ☎ 257 271 111; www.homolka.cz; 5th fl, Foreign Pavilion, Roentgenova 2, Motol; 🚗 167 from 🇺🇸 Anděl) The best hospital in Prague, equipped and staffed to Western standards, with staff who speak English, French, German and Spanish.

Pharmacies

There are plenty of pharmacies (*lékárna*) in Prague, and most city districts have one that stays open 24 hours. In Nové Město you'll find it at the **district clinic** (Map pp108–9; ☎ 224 946 982; Palackého 5, Nové Město; 🇨🇦 7am–7pm Mon–Fri, 8am–noon Sat; 🇺🇸 Národní Třída). In Vinohrady go to **Lékárna U sv Ludmily** (Map p121; ☎ 222 513 396; Belgická 37, Vinohrady; 🇨🇦 7am–7pm Mon–Fri, 8am–noon Sat; 🇺🇸 Náměstí Míru).

For emergency service after hours, ring the bell – you'll see a red button with a sign *zvonek lékárna* (pharmacy bell) and/or *první pomoc* (first aid). Some prescription medicines may not be available, so it's wise to bring enough for your trip.

MONEY

The Czech crown (Koruna česká, or Kč) is divided into 100 heller or *haléřů* (h). Banknotes come in denominations of 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000 and 5000Kč; coins are of 50h and one, two, five, 10, 20 and 50Kč.

Keep small change handy for use in public toilets and tram-ticket machines, and try to keep some small-denomination notes for shops, cafés and bars – getting change for the 2000Kč notes that ATMs often spit out can be a problem.

See the inside front cover of this guidebook for the exchange-rates table.

Changing Money

The easiest, cheapest way to carry money is in the form of a debit card from your bank, which you can use to withdraw cash either from an ATM (*bankomat*) or over the counter in a bank. Using an ATM will result in your home bank charging a fee (usually 1.5% to 2.5%), but you'll get a good exchange rate and provided you make withdrawals of at least a couple of thousand crowns at a time, you'll pay less than the assorted commissions on travellers cheques. Check with your bank about transaction fees and withdrawal limits.

Travellers cheques are not much use here, as they are not accepted by shops and restaurants and can be exchanged only at banks and currency exchange counters.

The main Czech banks – Komerční banka, Česká spořitelna, Československá obchodní banka (ČSOB) and Živnostenská banka – are the best places to change cash. They charge 2% commission with a 50Kč minimum (but always check, as commissions can vary from branch to branch). They will also provide a

cash advance on Visa or MasterCard without commission.

Hotels charge about 5% to 8% commission, while Čedok travel agencies and post offices charge 2% – similar rates to the banks. Note that Scottish and Northern Irish banknotes are almost impossible to change, and where they are accepted you'll get a worse exchange rate than for Bank of England notes.

Try to avoid the many private exchange booths (*směnárna*) in the main tourist areas. They lure you in with attractive-looking exchange rates that turn out to be 'sell' (*prodej* or *prodáváme*) rates; if you want to change foreign currency into Czech crowns, the 'buy' (*nákup*) rate applies. There is also an even worse rate for transactions under a certain amount, typically around €500. Check the rates carefully, and ask exactly how much you will get before parting with any money.

NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES

The kiosks on Wenceslas Square, Na Příkopě and náměstí Republiky, and the Relay news-agencies in central metro stations, sell a wide range of international newspapers and magazines, including British papers such as the *Times*, *Independent* and *Guardian* (international edition), which are available on the day of publication.

See p53 for information about local newspapers.

ORGANISED TOURS

Pragotur (see p252) and various private companies operating from kiosks along Na Příkopě offer three-hour city bus tours for around 650Kč per person. They're OK if your time is short, but the castle and other sights get so crowded that you often can't enjoy the tour; we suggest one of our self-guided walking tours instead. There are also some excellent specialist tours on offer.

Bicycle

City Bike (Map pp88–9; ☎ 776 180 284; www.citybike-prague.com; Královovská 5, Staré Město; 🕒 9am–7pm Apr–Oct; 📍 Náměstí Republiky) has 2½-hour guided tours costing 490Kč, departing at 11am, 2pm and 5pm May to September, and 11am and 2pm April and October. Tours take in the Old Town, the Vltava River and Letná park, and include a stop at a riverside pub.

Praha Bike (Map pp88–9; ☎ 732 388 880; www.prahabike.cz; Dlouhá 24, Staré Město; 2hr tour 420Kč; 🕒 9am–7pm;

📍 Náměstí Republiky) offers a 2½-hour guided cycling tour through the city or an easy evening pedal through the parks (490Kč). Tours depart at 2.30pm mid-March to October and also at 11.30am and 5.30pm May to September. Trips outside the city can also be arranged. Helmets and locks are provided, and bikes are available for private rental (see p207).

AVE Travel (Map pp108–9; ☎ 251 551 011; www.bicycle-tours.cz) operates a full-day guided bicycle tour from Prague to Karlštejn Castle (p230) for 1500Kč per person, including bike hire, lunch at Karlštejn and a train ticket back to the city. It also offers bike trips to Konopiště (p232) and one-week tours through the Czech countryside.

Boat

Evropská Vodní Doprava (EVD; Map pp88–9; ☎ 224 810 030; www.evd.cz; Čechův most, Staré Město; 🕒 17) operates large cruise boats based at the quay beside Čechův most (Bohemia Bridge), and offers a one-hour return cruise departing hourly from 10am to 6pm (220/110Kč per adult/child); a two-hour return cruise including lunch and live music, departing at noon (690/380Kč per adult/child); a two-hour return cruise to Vyšehrad (420/350Kč), departing at 3.30pm; and a three-hour evening return cruise with dinner and music (790/500Kč), departing at 7pm. All cruises run year-round.

Prague Venice (Map pp88–9; ☎ 603 819 947; www.prague-venice.cz; Platněská 4, Staré Město; adult/child 290/145Kč; 🕒 10.30am–11pm Jul & Aug, to 8pm Mar–Jun, Sep & Oct, to 6pm Nov–Feb; 🕒 17) operates entertaining 45-minute cruises in small boats under the hidden arches of Charles Bridge and along the Čertovka millstream in Kampa. Boats depart every 15 minutes from jetties beneath the eastern end of Charles Bridge (entrance next to the Charles Bridge Museum; Map pp88–9), at the western end of Platněská, on the Čertovka stream in Malá Strana (Map pp76–7), and at the western end of Mánesův most (Mánes Bridge; Map pp76–7), near Malostranská metro station.

From April to October, **Prague Passenger Shipping** (Pražská paroplavební společnost, PPS; Map pp108–9; ☎ 224 930 017; www.paroplavba.cz; Rašínovo nábreží 2, Nové Město; 📍 Karlovo Náměstí) runs cruises along the Vltava, departing from the central quay on Rašínovo nábreží. Most photogenic is a one-hour jaunt taking in the National Theatre, Štřelecký island and Vyšehrad, departing at 11am, 2pm, 4pm, 5pm and 6pm April to September (adult/child 190/90Kč).

At 9am on Saturday and Sunday from May to mid-September, a boat goes 37km south

(upstream) through a wild, green landscape to the Słapy Dam at Třebenice. This fine, all-day escape costs 340/170Kč return, arriving back in the city at 6.30pm.

Boats making the 1¼-hour trip to Troja (near the zoo; 140/70Kč one way) depart at 8.30am on weekdays in May and June only, at 9.30am, 12.30pm and 3.30pm daily May to mid-September, and at weekends and holidays in April and from mid-September to the end of October. Returning boats depart from Troja at 11am, 2pm and 5pm.

Bus & Tram

Nostalgic Tram No 91 (☎ 233 343 349; www.dpp.cz; Muzem MHD [Public Transport Museum], Patočkova 4, Strěšovice; adult/child 25/10Kč; 🕒 departs hourly noon-5.30pm Sat, Sun & hols Apr-mid-Nov) offers vintage tram cars dating from 1908 to 1924, which trundle along a special route, starting at the Public Transport Museum (Map pp70-1) and going via stops at Prague Castle, Malostranské náměstí, the National Theatre, Wenceslas Square, náměstí Republiky and Štefánikův most to finish at Výstaviště. You can get on and off at any stop, and buy tickets on board; ordinary public transport tickets and passes are not valid on this line.

A whole range of outings is offered by **Prague Sightseeing Tours** (☎ 222 314 661; www.pstours.cz) – look for the yellow kiosk near the metro entrance on náměstí Republiky (Map pp88-9). The two-hour 'Informative Prague' bus tour (adult/child 410/280Kč, departing 11am and 1.30pm from April to October) takes in all of Prague's important historical sites, and the 'Grand City' tour (660/330Kč, departing 9.30am and 2pm April to October) combines a bus tour of the main sites with a walk through Prague Castle.

Jewish Interest

Precious Legacy Tours (Map pp88-9; ☎ 222 321 954; www.legacytours.net; Kaprova 13, Staré Město; per person 630Kč; 🕒 tours begin 10.30am Sun-Fri, also at 2pm by arrangement) offers guided tours of places of interest to Jewish visitors, including a three-hour walking tour of Prague's Josefov district (the fee includes admission to four synagogues, but not the Staronová Synagogue – this is 200Kč extra). There's also a daily six-hour excursion to Terezín (1160Kč per person; departs 10am); for more information on Terezín, see p234. Customised, private tours can be arranged for €50 an hour for two people.

Wittmann Tours (Map p212; ☎ 222 252 472; www.wittmann-tours.com; Mánesova 8, Vinohrady) offers a three-hour walking tour of Josefov (850Kč per person) that begins at 9.30am Monday, Wednesday and Friday from May to October. Wittmann also runs seven-hour day trips to Terezín (p234) for 1150/1000Kč per adult/student. In our opinion, the Wittmann tours are better than the Precious Legacy ones as they feel less rushed and more personal.

Personal Guides

An affiliate of the Prague Information Service (PIS), **Pragotur** (Map pp88-9; ☎ 236 002 562; guides@pis.cz; Old Town Hall, Staroměstské náměstí 1; 3hr tour per person 1000Kč, per 2 persons 1200Kč plus 300Kč per additional person; 🕒 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 4pm Sat & Sun) can arrange personal guides fluent in all major European languages. The desk is in the PIS office in the Old Town Hall.

Vintage Car

A couple of businesses offer tours around the city in vintage Czech cars dating from the late 1920s and early 1930s. There are pick-up points at various city centre locations; tours depart as available, or whenever you ask, if it's quiet. Tours last about 40 minutes.

3 Veterans (☎ 603 521 700; www.3veterani.cz; 1-2 persons 950Kč, 3-4 persons 1300Kč; 🕒 9am-6pm) has a small fleet of Praga Piccolos and early Škodas, all from the early 1930s. Pick-up points in Staré Město are on Rytířská, in Malé náměstí, and at the junction of Pařížská and Staroměstské náměstí; and on Malostranské náměstí in Malá Strana.

With **Old Timer History Trip** (☎ 776 829 897; www.historytrip.cz; 1-2 persons 950Kč, 3-6 persons 1300Kč; 🕒 9am-6pm Apr-Nov) you can rattle along the city's cobblestone streets in a 1928 Praga Piccolo or a larger 1929 Praga Alfa. Pick-up points in Staré Město are in Malé náměstí, on Karlova and on Malostranská náměstí in Malá Strana. There's also a two-hour night-time tour (from 1890Kč).

Walking

The corner of Old Town Square outside the Old Town Hall is usually clogged with dozens of people touting for business as walking guides; quality varies, but the best are listed here. Most operators don't have an office – you can join a walk by just turning up at the starting point and paying your money, though it's best to phone ahead to be sure of a place.

Most walks begin at the Astronomical Clock (Map pp88–9).

Lots of travellers have recommended **George's Guided Walks** (☎ 607 820 158; www.praguemaster.com/george), whose intimate, personalised tours include a four-hour History Walk (up to four persons 2200Kč; if you have been to Prague before, he'll take you off the beaten track); a two-hour Iron Curtain Walk (up to four persons 1400Kč); and a five-hour pub crawl, including dinner in a Czech pub (1400Kč per person). George will meet you at your hotel, or anywhere else that's convenient.

Prague Walks (☎ 222 322 309; www.praguewalks.com; per person 300–1000Kč) runs interesting jaunts with themes such as Prague architecture, Žižkov pubs and the Velvet Revolution. Meet at the Astronomical Clock (Map pp88–9), or you can arrange to be met at your hotel.

POST

The **main post office** (Map pp108–9; ☎ 221 131 111; www.cpost.cz; Jindřišská 14, Nové Město; 🕒 2am–midnight; 🚗 Můstek), just off Wenceslas Square, uses an automatic queuing system. Take a ticket from one of the machines in the entrance corridors – press button No 1 for stamps, letters and parcels, or No 4 for Express Mail Service (EMS). Then watch the display boards in the main hall – when your ticket number appears (flashing), go to the desk number shown. Most of the city's other post offices open from 8am to 6pm or 7pm Monday to Friday and until noon Saturday.

The Czech postal service (Česká Pošta) is fairly efficient. Anything you can't afford to lose, however, should go by registered mail (*doporučený dopis*) or by EMS. A postcard or letter up to 20g costs 17Kč to other European countries and 18Kč for destinations outside Europe. A 2kg parcel by EMS costs 900Kč to Europe, 1200Kč to North America and 1600Kč to Australia. You can buy stamps from street vendors and newspaper kiosks as well as from post offices.

You can pick up poste-restante mail (*výdej listovních zásilek*) at desk Nos 1 and 2 (at the far left) in the main post office from 7am to 8pm Monday to Friday and until noon Saturday. Mail should be addressed to Poste Restante, Hlavní pošta, Jindřišská 14, 110 00 Praha 1, Czech Republic. You must present your passport to claim mail (check under your first name, too). Mail is held for one month.

If you need a professional courier service, **DHL** (Map pp108–9; ☎ 800 103 000; www.dhl.cz; Václavské

náměstí 47, Nové Město; 🕒 8am–6.30pm Mon–Fri, 9am–3pm Sat) has a convenient office just off Wenceslas Square, with English-speaking staff.

RADIO

Radio Prague (www.radio.cz; 92.6MHz FM) broadcasts 15-minute-long programmes in English covering Czech news, culture and current affairs at 7.07pm Monday to Thursday. The city's best alternative music station is Radio 1 (91.9MHz FM), though commercial-free Radio Wave (100.7MHz FM), which broadcasts an English-language breakfast show on Fridays, gives it a good run for its money.

The **BBC World Service** (www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice) broadcasts both English-language and Czech news and cultural programmes locally on 101.1MHz FM, from 11am to 1pm and 4pm to 8am.

SAFETY

Although Prague is as safe as any European capital, the huge influx of money to the city has spawned an epidemic of petty crime. Where tourists are concerned, this mainly means pickpockets. The prime trouble spots are Prague Castle (especially at the changing of the guard), Charles Bridge, Old Town Square (in the crowd watching the Astronomical Clock), the entrance to the Old Jewish Cemetery, Wenceslas Square, the main train station, in the metro (watch your backpack on escalators) and on trams (notably on the crowded lines 9, 22 and 23).

There's no need to be paranoid, but keep valuables well out of reach, and be alert in crowds and on public transport. A classic ruse involves someone asking directions and thrusting a map under your nose, or a woman with a baby hassling you for money – anything to distract your attention – while accomplices delve into your bags and pockets.

Lost or Stolen Belongings

If your passport, wallet or other valuables have been stolen, report the loss to any police station within 24 hours. The easiest place is the **Praha 1 police station** (Map pp108–9; Jungmannovo náměstí 9; 🕒 24hr), near the foot of Wenceslas Square. Tell them what language you speak, and they'll give you a standard crime report form (*Policejní zpráva*) to fill out, which they will stamp and return (this is for insurance purposes only; the crime will almost certainly

not be investigated). Unless you speak Czech, forget about phoning the police, as you will rarely get through to an English speaker. Once you have a crime report, you can apply to the consular department of your embassy for a replacement passport.

Do likewise if you have lost your passport, wallet or other valuables. For anything except travel documents, you might get lucky at the city's **lost & found office** (ztráty a nálezy; **Map pp88–9**; ☎ 224 235 085; Karolíny Světlé 5; 🕒 8am–noon & 12.30–5.30pm Mon & Wed, to 4pm Tue & Thu, to 2pm Fri; 🗺 6, 9, 18, 22, 23). There's another **lost & found office** (☎ 220 114 283; 🕒 24hr) at the airport.

Racism

You may be surprised at the level of casual prejudice directed against the Roma, whom people are quick to blame for the city's problems. Overt hostility towards visitors is rare, though there have been some assaults by skinheads on dark-skinned people.

Scams

Beware of men who claim to be plain-clothes police officers investigating counterfeiting or illegal moneychanging. They approach tourists and ask to see their money, which is returned after being examined. When you check your wallet you'll find that a substantial amount of money has been taken. No genuine police officer has the right to inspect your money.

Another ploy involves a 'lost tourist' asking for directions (usually in halting English). Once you have been in conversation for a few minutes, two of the tourist's 'friends' interrupt, claiming to be plain-clothes policemen and accusing you of changing money illegally. They will demand to see your wallet and passport, but if you hand them over they are likely to run off with them.

TELEPHONE

All Czech phone numbers have nine digits – you have to dial all nine for any call, local or long distance (there are no area codes). All land-line numbers in Prague begin with a 2; mobile numbers begin with a 6 or 7. See the inside front cover for useful phone numbers and codes.

There are payphones all over town that can be used to make local, long-distance and international calls. Coin-operated phones accept only 2Kč, 5Kč, 10Kč and 20Kč coins; a more common and convenient alternative

is a prepaid calling card, which allows you to make domestic and international calls from any phone or payphone in the Czech Republic.

You can also make international calls from the telephone bureau at the main post office (to the left inside the right-hand entrance) – you simply pay a deposit and make your call in a soundproof booth, where a little meter ticks off the rate.

The telephone bureau has directories for Prague and other major cities. You can also look up business phone numbers online at www.zlatestranky.cz.

Mobile Phones

The Czech Republic uses GSM 900 (now 3G compatible), which is the same as the rest of Europe, Australia and New Zealand but is not compatible with the North American GSM 1900 or the totally different system in Japan. Some North Americans, however, have dual-band GSM 1900/900 phones that do work here; check with your service provider about using your mobile abroad, and beware of calls being routed internationally (which is very expensive for a 'local' call). The main mobile networks in Prague are **Telefonica/02** (www.cz.02.com), **T-Mobile** (www.t-mobile.cz) and **Vodafone** (www.vodafone.cz).

If your mobile phone is unlocked, you can buy a Czech SIM card from any mobile phone shop for around 450Kč (including 300Kč of calling credit) and make local calls at local rates (3Kč to 9Kč a minute). In this case, of course, you can't use your existing mobile number.

Phoncards

Local prepaid cards include **Smartcall** (www.smartcall.cz) and **Karta X Plus** – you can buy them from hotels, newspaper kiosks and tourist information offices for 300Kč to 1000Kč. To use one, follow the instructions on the card – dial the access number, then the PIN code beneath the scratch-away panel, then the number you want to call (including any international code). Rates from Prague to the UK, USA and Australia with Smartcall are around 6.6Kč to 10Kč a minute; the more expensive the card, the better the rate.

TIME

The Czech Republic is on Central European Time, ie GMT/UTC plus one hour. Clocks are set to daylight-saving time in summer, that

is, forward one hour on the last weekend in March and back one hour on the last weekend in October. Czechs use the 24-hour clock.

TOILETS

Public toilets are free in state-run museums, galleries and concert halls. Elsewhere, such as in train, bus and metro stations, public toilets are staffed by attendants who charge 5Kč to 10Kč for admission. Most places are clean and well kept. Men's are marked *muži* or *páni*, and women's *ženy* or *dámy*.

In the main tourist areas, there are public toilets in Prague Castle; opposite the tram stop on Malostranské náměstí; next to the Goltz-Kinský Palace on Old Town Square; on Templova, just off Celetná close to the Powder Gate; on Uhelny trh in the Old Town; and next to the Laterna Magika on Národní třída.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The **Prague Information Service** (Pražská informační služba, PIS; ☎ 12444 or 221 714 444 in English & German; www.prague-info.cz) is the main provider of tourist information: it has good maps and detailed brochures (including accommodation options and historical monuments), all free. PIS also sells public transport tickets.

There are four PIS offices:

Main train station (Praha hlavní nádraží; Map pp108–9; Wilsonova 2, Nové Město; ☎ 9am–7pm Mon–Fri, 9am–4pm Sat & Sun Apr–Oct, 9am–6pm Mon–Fri, 9am–4pm Sat & Sun Nov–Mar)

Malá Strana Bridge Tower (Map pp76–7; Charles Bridge; ☎ 10am–6pm Apr–Oct)

Old Town Hall (Map pp88–9; Staroměstské náměstí 5, Staré Město; ☎ 9am–7pm Apr–Oct, 9am–6pm Nov–Mar)

Rytířská (Map pp88–9; Rytířská 31, Staré Město; ☎ 9am–7pm Apr–Oct, 9am–6pm Nov–Mar)

Overseas Offices

Czech Tourism (www.czechtourism.com) offices around the world provide information about tourism, culture and business in the Czech Republic.

Austria (☎ 01-533 21933; Herrergasse 17, 1010 Vienna)

France (☎ 01 53 73 00 22; rue Bonaparte 18, 75006 Paris)

Germany (☎ 030-204 4770; Friedrichstrasse 206, 10969 Berlin-Kreuzberg)

Netherlands (☎ 020-575 3014; Strawinskylaan 517, 1077 XX Amsterdam)

Poland (☎ 022-629 2916; Al. Róż 16, 00-556 Warsaw)

UK (☎ 020-7631 0427, brochure requests 09063-640641; 13 Harley St, London W1G 9QG)

USA (☎ 212-288 0830; 1109 Madison Ave, New York, NY 10028)

TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES

Increasing, but still limited, attention is being paid to facilities for people with disabilities in Prague. Wheelchair ramps are becoming more common, especially at major street intersections, in newer shopping malls and in top-end hotels (in the Sleeping chapter we identify hotels with facilities for wheelchair users). For people who are blind or vision-impaired, most pedestrian crossings in central Prague have a sound signal to indicate when it's safe to cross. McDonald's and KFC entrances and toilets are wheelchair-friendly.

Much of Prague Castle is wheelchair-accessible, but the cobbled streets, narrow pavements and steep hills of the surrounding Hradčany and Malá Strana districts are not. The Estates Theatre (p199) is equipped for the hearing-impaired, while the Convent of St Agnes (p95) has a ground-floor presentation of medieval sculptures with explanatory text in Braille; these venues and several other theatres are wheelchair-accessible. The monthly what's-on booklet *Přehled* – which is published by PIS in Czech only – indicates venues with wheelchair access. We also note lifts and other accessibility factors in individual listings.

Few buses and no trams have wheelchair access; special wheelchair-accessible buses operate Monday to Friday on bus lines 1 and 3, including between Florenc bus station and náměstí Republiky, and between Holešovice train station and náměstí Republiky (visit the website at www.dpp.cz for more information).

Prague's main train station (Praha hlavní nádraží), Praha-Holešovice train station and a handful of metro stations (Hlavní Nádraží, Hůrka, Luka, Lužiny, Nádraží Holešovice, Stodůlky and Zličín) have self-operating lifts. Other metro stations (Chodov, Dejvická, Florenc C line, Háje, IP Pavlova, Opatov, Pankrác, Roztyly and Skalka) have modified lifts that can be used with the help of station staff. Czech Railways (ČD) claims that every large station in the country has wheelchair ramps and lifts, but in fact the service is poor.

When flying, travellers with special needs should inform the airline of their requirements

when booking, and again when reconfirming, and again when checking in. Most international airports (including Prague's) have ramps, lifts and wheelchair-accessible toilets and telephones. Aircraft toilets, on the other hand, present problems for wheelchair users, who should discuss this early on with the airline and/or their doctor.

Some useful organisations include the following:

Czech Blind United (Sjednocená organizace nevidomých a slabozrakých v ČR; Map pp108-9; ☎ 221 462 146; www.brailnet.cz; Krakovská 21, Nové Město) Represents the vision-impaired; provides information but no services.

Prague Wheelchair Users Organisation (Pražská organizace vozíčkářů; Map pp88-9; ☎ 224 827 210; www.pov.cz, in Czech; Benediktská 6, Staré Město) Can organise a guide and transportation at about half the cost of a taxi, and has a CD-ROM guide to barrier-free Prague in Czech, English and German.

VISAS

Everyone is required to have a valid passport (or ID card for EU citizens) to enter the Czech Republic. Citizens of EU and EEA (Europe Economic Area) countries do not need a visa for any type of visit. Citizens of Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and the USA can stay for up to 90 days without a visa; other nationalities can check their visa requirements on www.czech.cz (click on the Tourism link). Visas are not available at border crossings or at Prague's Ruzyně airport; you'll be refused entry if you need one and arrive without one.

Non-EU citizens who want to stay in the Czech Republic for more than 90 days must apply for a long-term visa, employment visa or residency permit; get details from your nearest Czech embassy, and apply at least four months in advance.

The Czech Republic became part of the Schengen Zone in December 2007; visitors who need a visa can apply for a Schengen Visa, which will allow them to visit other countries in the zone (see <http://europa.eu> for details). Visa regulations change from time to time, so check www.czech.cz.

WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Walking alone on the street is as safe – or as dangerous – as in most large European cit-

ies. Avoid the park in front of Prague's main train station after dark, and be aware that the area around the intersection of Wenceslas Square and Na Příkopě is effectively a red-light district at night. The city has developed a burgeoning sex industry, with strip clubs, lap-dancing clubs, brothels and street workers all in evidence, and British stag parties stumbling drunkenly through the streets around Wenceslas Square at weekends.

There are few services for women such as help-lines and refuge or rape crisis centres. The main organisation in Prague is the **White Circle of Safety** (Bílý kruh bezpečí; Map p138; ☎ 257 317 110; www.bkb.cz; Duškova 20, Smíchov), which provides help and counselling to victims of crime and violence.

WORK

Unemployment in Prague is low – around 3.5% in 2007 – and although there are job opportunities for foreigners in English teaching, IT, finance, real estate and management firms, competition for jobs is fierce and finding one is increasingly difficult.

EU citizens do not need a work permit to work in the Czech Republic; non-EU citizens do, however. You might be able to find short- or long-term employment teaching English (or other languages) at the numerous language schools in Prague. Alternatively, you might look for jobs with the city's many expat-run restaurants, hostels and bars. Possibilities also exist in foreign-owned businesses. Investment banking, real estate, IT and management firms in particular need experienced staff and often employ non-Czech speakers, but the odds of getting such a job are better if you apply from home rather than waiting until you are in Prague.

You can research the employment market on websites such as www.jobs.cz, www.expats.cz and www.prague.tv, and look for jobs in the classified-ad section of the **Prague Post** (www.praguepost.cz).

Business Contacts

Czech Chamber of Commerce (☎ 296 646 112; www.komora.cz; Freyova 27, Vysočany, 190 00 Prague)

Prague Convention Bureau (☎ 224 235 159; www.pragueconvention.cz; Rytířská 26, Staré Město, 110 00 Prague)

LANGUAGE

Czech (*čeština*) is the main language spoken in the Czech Republic. It belongs to the West Slavonic group of Indo-European languages, along with Slovak, Polish and Lusatian.

It's true – anyone can speak another language. Don't worry if you haven't studied languages before or that you studied a language at school for years and can't remember any of it. It doesn't even matter if you failed English grammar. After all, that's never affected your ability to speak English! And this is the key to picking up a language in another country. You just need to start speaking.



Learn a few key phrases before you go. Write them on pieces of paper and stick them on the fridge, by the bed or even on the computer – anywhere that you'll see them often.

You'll find that locals appreciate travellers trying their language, no matter how muddled you may think you sound. So don't just stand there, say something! If you want to learn more Czech than we've included here, pick up a copy of Lonely Planet's comprehensive but user-friendly *Czech Phrasebook*. For a more concise language guide, look for Lonely Planet's *Small Talk Eastern Europe*.

PRONUNCIATION

It's not easy to learn Czech pronunciation, and you may have to learn a few new linguistic tricks to do so. It is, however, spelt the way it's spoken, and once you become familiar with the sounds, it's easy to read. Stress is usually on the first syllable.

Vowels

Vowels have long and short variants; they have the same pronunciation, but the long vowels are simply held for longer. The long vowels are indicated by an acute accent. The following approximations reflect British pronunciation:

a	as the 'u' in 'cut'
á	as the 'a' in 'father'
e	as in 'bet'
é	as the word 'air'
ě	as the 'ye' in 'yet'
i/y	as the 'i' in 'bit'
í/ý	as the 'i' in 'marine'
o	as in 'pot'
ó	as the 'aw' in 'saw'
u	as in 'pull'
ú/ů	as the 'oo' in 'zoo'

Diphthongs

aj	as the 'i' in 'ice'
áj	as the word 'eye'
au	as the 'ow' in 'how'

ej	as the 'ay' in 'day'
ij/yj	short; as 'iy'
ij/ýj	longer version of ij/yj
oj	as the 'oi' in 'void'
ou	as the 'o' in 'note', though each vowel is more strongly pronounced than in English
uj	as the 'u' in 'pull', followed by the 'y' in 'year'
új	longer version of uj

Consonants

c	as the 'ts' in 'lets'
č	as the 'ch' in 'chew'
ch	like 'ch' in Scottish <i>loch</i>
j	as the 'y' in 'year'
r	a rolled 'r' (at the tip of the tongue)
ř	no English equivalent; a rolled 'rzh' sound, as in the composer, Dvořák
š	as the 'sh' in 'ship'
ž	a 'zh' sound, as the 's' in 'treasure'
ď, ť, ě	very soft palatal sounds, ie consonants followed by a momentary contact between the tongue and the hard palate, as if followed by 'y' (like the 'ny' in canyon). The same applies to d , n and t when followed by i , í or ě .

All other consonants are similar to their English counterparts, although the letters **k**, **p** and **t** are unaspirated, meaning they are pronounced with no audible puff of breath after them.

SOCIAL

Greetings & Civilities

Hello/Good day.

Dobrý den. (polite)

Ahoj. (informal)

Goodbye.

Na shledanou. (polite)

Ahoj/Čau. (informal)

Yes.

Ano/Jo. (polite/informal)

No.

Ne.

May I? (asking permission)

Dovolte mi?

Sorry/Excuse me. (apologising or seeking assistance)

Promilte.

Could you help me, please?

Prosím, můžete mi pomoci?

Please.

Prosím.

Thank you (very much).

(Mockrát) děkuji.

You're welcome. (as in 'don't mention it')

Není zač.

Good morning.

Dobré jitro/ráno.

Good afternoon.

Dobré odpoledne.

Good evening.

Dobrý večer.

How are you?

Jak se máte?

Well, thanks.

Děkuji, dobře.

Going Out

What's there to do in the evenings?

Kam se tady dá večer jít?

What's on tonight?

Co je dnes večer na programu?

In the entertainment guide.

V kulturním programu.

I feel like going to a/an/the ...

Mám chuť jít ...

bar	do baru
café	do kavárny
cinema	do kina
nightclub	do noční podnik
opera	na operu
restaurant	do restaurace
theatre	do divadla

Do you know a good restaurant?

Znáš nějakou dobrou restauraci?

Are there any good nightclubs?

Jsou tady nějaké dobré noční podniky?

Language Difficulties

Do you speak English?

Mluvíte anglicky?

I understand.

Rozumím.

I don't understand.

Nerozumím.

Could you write it down, please?

Můžete mi to napsat, prosím?

PRACTICAL

Directions

Do you have a

local map?

Máte mapu okolí?

Where is ...?

Kde je ...?

Go straight ahead.

Jděte přímo.

Turn left.

Zatočte vlevo.

Turn right.

Zatočte vpravo.

behind

za

in front of

před

far

daleko

near

blízko

opposite

naproti

Numbers

It's quite common for Czechs to say the numbers 21 to 99 in reverse; for example, *dvacet jedna* (21) becomes *jedna dvacet*.

0	nula
1	jedna
2	dva
3	tři
4	čtyři
5	pět
6	šest
7	sedm
8	osm
9	devět
10	deset
11	jedenáct
12	dvanáct
13	třináct
14	čtrnáct
15	patnáct
16	šestnáct
17	sedmnáct
18	osmnáct
19	devatenáct
20	dvacet
21	dvacet jedna
22	dvacet dva

23	dvacet tři
30	třicet
40	čtyřicet
50	padesát
60	šedesát
70	sedmdesát
80	osmdesát
90	devadesát
100	sto
1000	tisíc

Banking

Where's a/the ...?

Kde je ...?

ATM	bankomat
bank	banka
exchange office	směnárna

I want to change (a) ...

Chtěl/a bych vyměnit ... (m/f)

cash/money	peníze
(travellers) cheque	(cestovní) šek

What time does the bank open?

V kolik hodin otevírá banka?

Post Office

Where's a/the post office?

Kde je pošta?

I want to buy ...

Rád/a bych koupil/a ... (m/f)

postcards	pohlednice
stamps	zámky

I want to send a ...

Chtěl/a bych poslat ... (m/f)

letter	dopis
parcel	balík
postcard	pohled

Phones & Mobiles

Where's the nearest public phone?

Kde je nejbližší veřejný telefon?

Could I please use the telephone?

Mohu si zatelefonovat?

I want to call ...

Chci zavolat ...

I want to make a long-distance call to ...

Chtěl/a bych volat do ... (m/f)

I want to make a reverse-charge/collect call.

Chtěl/a bych zavolat na účet volaného. (m/f)

I want to buy a phonecard.

Chtěl/a bych koupit telefonní karta. (m/f)

Internet

Is there a local internet café?

Je tady internet kavárna? (m/f)

I'd like to get internet access.

Chtěl/a bych se připojit na internet. (m/f)

I'd like to check my email.

Chtěl/a bych si skontrolovat můj email. (m/f)

Paperwork

name	jméno
address	adresa
date of birth	datum narození
place of birth	místo narození
age	věk
sex	pohlaví
nationality	národnost
passport number	číslo pasu
visa	vizum
driving licence	řidičský průkaz

Question Words

Who?	Kdo?
What?	Co?
When?	Kdy?
Where?	Kde?
How?	Jak?

Shopping & Services

Where's (a/the) ...?

Kde je ...?

I'm looking for (a/the) ...

Hledám ...

art gallery	uměleckou galérii
city centre	centrum
embassy	velvyslanectví
main square	hlavní náměstí
market	tržiště
museum	muzeum
public toilet	veřejné záchody
tourist office	turistická informační kancelář

What time does it open/close?

V kolik hodin otevírají/zavírají?

Signs

Kouřeno Zakázáno	No Smoking
Otevřeno	Open
Umývárny/Toalety	Toilets
Páni/Muži	Men
Dámy/Ženy	Women

Vchod	Entrance
Vstup Zakázán	No Entry
Východ	Exit
Zákaz	Prohibited
Zavřeno	Closed

Time & Dates

What time is it?	Kolik je hodin?
in the morning	ráno
in the afternoon	odpoledne
in the evening	večer
today	dnes
now	teď
yesterday	včera
tomorrow	zítra
next week	příští týden

Monday	pondělí
Tuesday	úterý
Wednesday	steda
Thursday	čtvrtek
Friday	pátek
Saturday	sobota
Sunday	neděle

January	leden
February	únor
March	březen
April	duben
May	květen
June	červen
July	červenec
August	srpen
September	září
October	říjen
November	listopad
December	prosinec

Dates in Museums

year	rok
century	století
millennia	milénium/tisíciletí
beginning of ...	začátek ...
first half of ...	první polovina ...
middle of ...	polovina ...
second half of ...	druhá polovina ...
end of ...	konec ...

Transport

What time does the train/bus leave?
V kolik hodin odjíždí vlak/autobus?
 What time does the train/bus arrive?
V kolik hodin přijíždí vlak/autobus?
 Excuse me, where is the ticket office?
Prosím, kde je pokladna?

I want to go to ...
Chci jet do ...
 I'd like ...
Rád/a bych ... (m/f)
 a one-way ticket **jednosměrnou jízdenku**
 a return ticket **zpáteční jízdenku**
 two tickets **dvě jízdenky**

FOOD

For more detailed information on food and dining out, see p156 for vegetarian-specific phrases.

Can you recommend a ...?
Můžete doporučit ...?
 café **kavárnu**
 pub **hospodu**
 restaurant **restauraci**

I'd like ..., please.
Chtěl/Chtěla bych ..., prosím. (m/f)
 a table for (five)
stůl pro (pět)
 the nonsmoking section
nekuřáckou místnost
 the smoking section
kuřáckou místnost

Is service included in the bill?
Je to včetně obsluhy?
 What's the local speciality?
Co je místní specialita?
 What would you recommend?
Co byste doporučil/doporučila? (m/f)
 Cheers!
Na zdraví!

I'd like (the) ..., please.
Chtěl/Chtěla bych ..., prosím. (m/f)
 bill **účet**
 drink list **nápojový lístek**
 menu **jídelní lístek**
 that dish **ten pokrm**

I'm allergic to ...
Mám alergii na ...
 dairy produce **mléčné výrobky**
 gluten **lepek**
 nuts **ořechy**
 seafood **plody moře**

snack **občerstvení**
 breakfast **snídaně**
 lunch **oběd**
 dinner **večeře**

COMMON DISHES

- bramborový salát** – potato salad – mayonnaise-based with yogurt, diced potatoes, carrots, peas, dill pickles, onions & corn
- chlebičky** – open sandwiches on French bread, with cold meat, eggs, cheese, or mayonnaise salads like lobster, fish, potato or ham and peas
- ďábelská topinka** – a piquant toast with meat and cheese
- guláš** – thick, spicy stew, usually made with beef & potatoes, sometimes with venison or mushrooms
- hranolky** – French fries (hot chips)
- krokety** – deep-fried mashed potato balls; croquettes
- kuře na paprice** – chicken boiled in spicy paprika cream sauce
- míchaná vejce s klobásou** – scrambled eggs with sausage
- opékané brambory** – roasted potatoes
- párek v rohlíku** – hot dog
- Pražská šunka** – Prague ham – ham pickled in brine & spices & smoked over a beechwood fire
- ruská vejce** – hard-boiled egg, potato and salami, with mayonnaise
- salát** – salad
- sendvič** – sandwich
- smažené žampiony** – fried mushrooms
- smažený květák** – fried cauliflower in breadcrumbs
- smažený sýr** – fried cheese in breadcrumbs
- smažený vepřový řízek** – fried pork schnitzel
- šopský salát** – lettuce, tomato, onion & cheese salad
- vejce se slaninou** – bacon & eggs

FOOD GLOSSARY

ananas	pineapple
arašidy	peanuts
banán	banana
brambor	potato
brokolice	broccoli
česnek	garlic
chléb	bread
cibule	onion
citrón	lemon
čokoláda	chocolate
cuketa	zucchini (courgette)
cukr	sugar
dort	cake
dýně	pumpkin
fazole	bean
hlávkový	lettuce
hořčice	mustard
houba	mushroom
hovězí	beef
hrášek	peas
hruška	pear
jablko	apple
jahoda	strawberry
jehněčí	lamb
jogurt	yogurt

kapusta	cabbage
kari	curry
knedlíky	dumplings
krůta	turkey
kukuřice	corn
kuře	chicken
květák	cauliflower
kyselá smetana	sour cream
lilek	eggplant (aubergine)
losos	salmon
majonéza	mayonnaise
malina	raspberry
mandle	almond
máslo	butter
maso	meat
med	honey
mrkev	carrot
ocet	vinegar
okurka	cucumber or dill pickle
olej	oil
omáčka	sauce
omeleta	omelette
ořechy	nuts
ovoce	fruit
paláček	crepe (pancake)
paprika	capsicum (bell pepper)
pečivo	bread rolls
pepř	black pepper
plody moře	seafood
polévka	soup
pomeranč	orange
pstruh	trout
rajče	tomato
rozinky	raisins (sultanas)
ryba	fish
rýže	rice
salám	salami
skopové	mutton
slanina	bacon
sled'	herring
šlehačka	whipped cream
smetana	cream
sójová omáčka	soy sauce
sójové mléko	soy milk
sójový tvaroh	tofu
špenát	spinach
sůl	salt
šunka	ham
svíčková	sirloin
sýr	cheese
tatarská omáčka	tartar sauce
telecí	veal
těstovina	pasta
tuňák	tuna
tvaroh	cottage cheese
ústřice	oyster
vanilka	vanilla

vařený	boiled
vejce	eggs
vepřové	pork
zelenina	vegetables
zelí	cabbage, sauerkraut
zmrzlina	ice cream

bez kofeinu	decaffeinated
bez ledu	without ice
s citrónem	with lemon
s ledem	with ice
s mlékem	with milk
se smetanou	with cream

METHODS OF PREPARATION

čerstvý	fresh
fritovaný	deep-fried
grilovaný	broiled
horký	hot
krvavý	rare (of meat)
míchaný	mixed
na roštu	grilled
pečený	roasted
propečený	well-done (of meat)
se sýrem	with cheese
sladký	sweet
smažený	fried
středně propečený	medium rare (of meat)
studený	cold
teplý	warm
uzený	smoked
zmrzlí	frozen

DRINKS

čaj	tea
káva	coffee
limonáda	lemonade
mléko	milk
nealkoholický nápoj	soft drink
neperlivá voda	still water
odstředěné mléko	skim milk
perlivá minerálka	carbonated mineral water
pivo	beer
pomerančový džus	orange juice
slivovice	plum brandy
víno	wine
voda	water

EMERGENCIES

Help!
Pomoc!
 It's an emergency!
To je naléhavý případ!
 Could you please help me?
Prosím, můžete mi pomoci?
 Call an ambulance/a doctor/the police!
Zavolejte sanitku/doktora/policii!
 Where's the police station?
Kde je policejní stanice?

HEALTH

Where's the ...?
Kde je ...?
 chemist/ **lékárna**
 pharmacy
 dentist **zubař**
 doctor **doktor**
 hospital **nemocnice**

I need a doctor who speaks English.
Potřebuji lékaře, který mluví anglicky.
 I'm sick.
Jsem nemocný/nemocná. (m/f)
 I have a headache.
Bolí mě hlava.

I have (a) ...
Mám ...
 diarrhoea **průjem**
 fever **horečku**

GLOSSARY

You may encounter these terms and abbreviations while in Prague. For more on food terms see p261.

autobus – bus

bankomat(y) – ATM(s)

čajovná – teahouse

ČD – Czech Railways, the state railway company

Čedok – the former state tour operator and travel agency, now privatised

chrám – cathedral

ČSA – Czech Airlines, the national carrier

ČSAD – Czech Automobile Transport, the state-run bus company

ČSSD – Social Democratic Party

cukrárna – cake shop

divadlo – theatre

doklad – receipt or document; see also *potvrzení*

dům – house or building

galérie – gallery, arcade

hlavní nádraží (hl náđ) – main train station

hora – hill, mountain

hospoda – pub

hostinec – pub

hrad – castle

hřbitov – cemetery

jízdenka – ticket

kaple – chapel

katedralá – cathedral

kavárna – café or coffee shop

Kč (Koruna česká) – Czech crown

kino – cinema

knihkupectví – bookshop

kolky – duty stamps, for payment at certain government offices, such as for a visa extension; sold at post offices and elsewhere

kostel – church

koupelna – bathroom

kreditní karta – credit card

KSČM – Czech Communist Party

lékárna – pharmacy

město – town

most – bridge

muzeum – museum

nábřeží (nábrí) – embankment

nádraží – station

náměstí (nám) – square

národní – national

ODS – Civic Democratic Party

ostrov – island

palác – palace

pasáž – passage, shopping arcade

pekárna – bakery

penzión – pension

pěší zóna – pedestrian zone

pivnice – small beer hall

pivo – beer

pivovar – brewery

pokoj – room

potraviný – grocery or food shop

potvrzení – receipt or confirmation; see also *doklad*

Praha – Prague

provozní doba – business hours, opening times

přestup – transfer or connection

restaurace – restaurant

sad(y) – garden(s), park(s), orchard(s)

samoobsluha – self-service, minimarket

sleva – discount

stanice – train stop or station

sv (svatý) – Saint

třída (tí) – avenue

ulice (ul) – street

ulička (ul) – lane

Velvet Divorce – separation of Czechoslovakia into fully independent Czech and Slovak republics in 1993

Velvet Revolution (Sametová revoluce) – bloodless overthrow of Czechoslovakia's communist regime in 1989

věž – tower

vinárna – wine bar

vlak – train

výdej listovních zásilek – poste restante mail

zahrada – gardens, park

zámek – chateau

zastávka – bus, tram or train stop

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