

Czech Republic

The Czech Republic represents the heart of Europe. It is an ideal location with easy access, perfect tourism and holiday destination. It has mutual borders with four countries: Poland to the North, Germany to the North and West, Austria to the South, Slovakia to the East.



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Transportation

By air. The largest and main Czech airport is Prague-Ruzyně. Although most flights are international, domestic flights include those from Bohemia to Moravia (e.g. Prague-Ostrava). The Václav Havel Airport Prague with its three terminals meets all European standards.

Trains, coaches. The Czech Republic has one of the densest rail networks in Europe and a developed system of public coach transportation with a high number of connections. Travelling by coach and train is relatively cheap and reliable.

Czech Republic has high density of highways. It is easily accessible by *car* from most of Europe. All major Czech highways are connecting to many surrounding countries and continue throughout Europe.



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The country is small and all the regions are easily accessible in a good time. Czech Republic has many historical castles and churches as well as beautiful natural parks and spas in all of its 14 regions.



Visa Policy

Inhabitants of the European Union require a passport or other form of valid identification in order to enter the country. The same applies for the citizens of Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, who can move freely within the European Union. Visitors from other countries must have a passport that is valid for at least a further 6 months after the date of arrival and in some cases a visa. The list of countries whose inhabitants require a visa in order to visit the Czech Republic can be found on the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs website (www.mzv.cz). In 2007, the Czech Republic entered the Schengen agreement. Inhabitants of the Schengen countries can move freely within the Schengen area without having to go through border checkpoints. However, they still must have valid identification with them when traveling.

Security

Since its democratization, the Czech Republic has made great efforts towards uniting the political and economic development with environmental protection and security issues. Nowadays, the Czech Republic is a safe place with politically and economically stable environment. According to the Global Peace Index - GPI (Institute for Economics and Peace) it has always been among the first 15 countries all over the World during the last few years (the 6th place in 2017).

CLIMATE

The climate of the country is mild and typical of Central Europe. The average temperature in August is about 13-25 °C.



Banks and Exchange Bureaus

The official currency in the Czech Republic is the Czech Crown (CZK). Most exchange offices are open 24 hours all days. The opening hours of banks are from 9.00-17.00 from Monday to Friday. You will find exchange bureaus and banks in many places in Prague. Prague has plenty of ATMs, which will take all of the usual international credit, debit cards. Most shops and restaurants will also accept payment with credit/debit cards.

1 EUR = 26.1 CZK 1 USD = 22.8 CZK (July 2017)



Symmetry in Architecture



Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk at Zelená hora – unique Baroque Gothic building

Five-fold symmetry, symbolic five

Mystic aspects of construction of holy shrine were mentioned already in time of creation. Its basis is a composition of five-pointed star (five-pointed ground plan, five entrances, five chapels, five alters, twice five chapels around the central space, five stars and five angels on the high altar) symbol of not only five blows of Jesus but also of five letters in Latin word „tacui“ (I was silent) and first of all five stars in aureole of martyr St. Jan Nepomucký. This fact is alleged to have been based on a legend saying that a crown made of five stars appeared at the place where John of Nepomuk had drowned. The symbol can be found in oth, which, according to saga appeared in Vltava river after his drowning. The church is surrounded by ambites of the shape of ten-pointed star.

Premises of the St. Jan Nepomucký holy shrine was included in the ladmarks of the prestigious List of the World Cultural Heredity of UNESCO.

<http://www.zelena-hora.eu/en/>