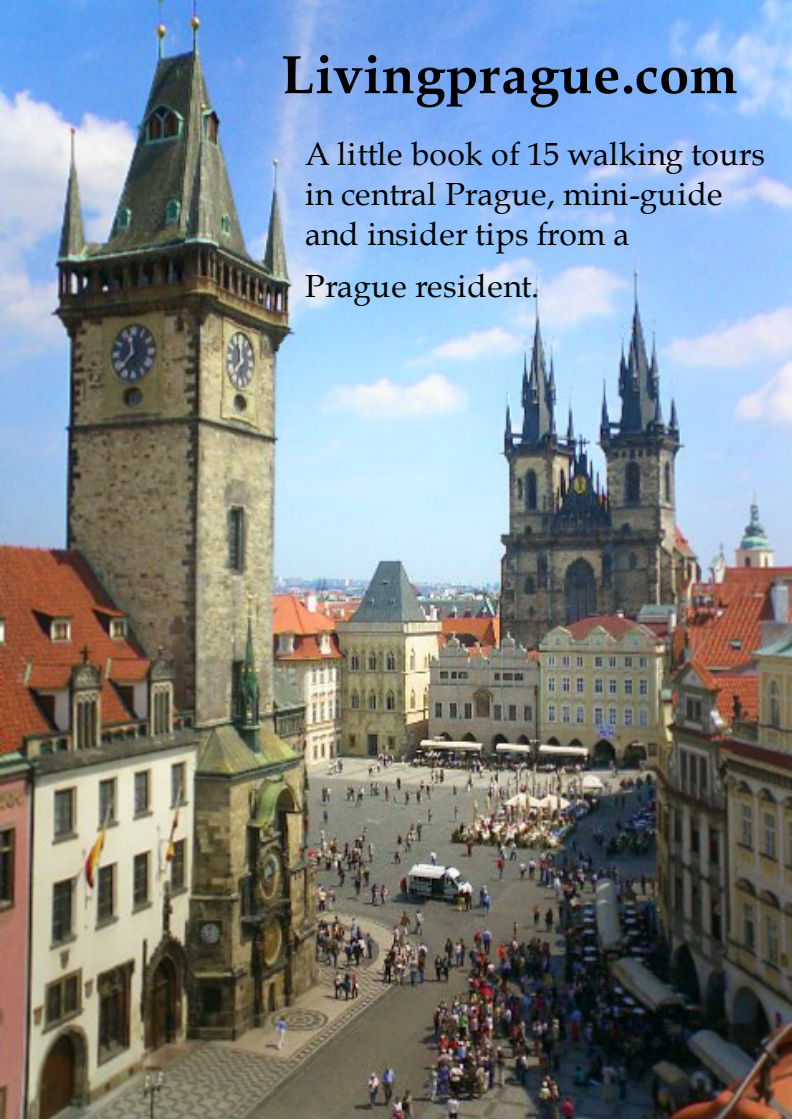


# Livingprague.com

A little book of 15 walking tours  
in central Prague, mini-guide  
and insider tips from a  
Prague resident.



In association with [www.livingprague.com](http://www.livingprague.com)

First Edition 2011

Last published March 2011

ISBN 978-80-254-7818-9

Copyright © 2011 Jason Holt

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, scanning or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher. Contact me at the email address below:

Email: [fun@livingprague.com](mailto:fun@livingprague.com)

# Fun Knowledge Exercise Humour

# Contents

- 4-6 - Introduction
- 7-14 - Tour 1 - Old Town - Jewish Prague
- 15-16 - Tour 2 - Old Town - Josefov Area
- 17-24 - Tour 3 - Old Town - Týn Area
- 25-30 - Tour 4 - Old Town - Clementinum Area
- 31-34 - Tour 5 - Old Town to the New Town
- 35-38 - Tour 6 - New Town - Wenceslas Square to Republic Square
- 39-42 - Tour 7 - New Town - Republic Square to National Museum
- 43-48 - Tour 8 - New Town - National Museum to Dancing House
- 49-50 - Tour 9 - New Town - River Road Area
- 51-54 - Tour 10 - Malá Strana - Charles Bridge
- 55-56 - Tour 11 - Malá Strana - Landscaped Castle Gardens and St Nicholas Church.
- 57-62 - Tour 12 - Malá Strana - Kampa and Újezd
- 63-64 - Tour 13 - Malá Strana - Trip to the Castle
- 65-72 - Tour 14 - Castle - Castle Complex
- 73-80 - Tour 15 - Castle - Castle Area
- 81-84 - Translations
- 85-95 - Czech Menu Guide
- 96-100 - Quiz
- 101 - About the Author

# Introduction

This book of 15 walking tours in Prague is brought to you by [Livingprague.com](http://Livingprague.com). They cover almost every main street in the centre of Prague without going back over ground you've already covered. The tours are divided into four areas:

1) Old Town – geographically the smallest area in Prague but, containing the highest concentration of bars, clubs and restaurants, many scenic points and most of the museum and gallery locations.

2) New Town – the area from the base of Wenceslas Square up to the National Museum and extending out to other Prague areas. Largely containing architecture post 18th Century with a cosmopolitan centre full of popular brands. It is the central business area of Prague.

3) Malá Štrana – the area underneath Prague Castle encompassing Kampa and a short walk from Újezd. This area has the highest concentration of foreign embassies in central Prague.

4) Castle – the Prague Castle, its approach from Malá Štrana and the Castle vicinity are covered in three of the tours. It is the largest functioning castle complex in Europe.

Each tour has it's own highlights with interesting and informative text supported by pictures showing parts of the route as you walk it.

I make a point of picking small lanes, parks and pedestrianised areas where possible and at times you'll be wondering if you are in the centre of a city.

The tours have developed over 10 years or so of living here in Prague. The tourist attractions don't change but the cafes and restaurants come and go. If a place I've recommended no longer exists then there'll be a nice watering hole somewhere nearby.

The tours can be walked in numerical order to make one monster tour.

Normal text like you are reading now is used to direct you around using instructions like "turn left" or "Cross the road" etc.

*Italic text like this is for background information to give you some historical facts or to point out anything to give you a better understanding of the location.*

There's nobody with an umbrella and loudspeaker to follow here and you don't even have to stick with the tour. Just wander off if you see something you like and come back to the tour later. My aim is that you see what you like.

There is a basic vocabulary list including translations of many of the shops that you will be passing, a menu guide and a fun quiz that you might like to try.

I don't bombard you with historical or architectural information. Instead, I keep you informed with selected historical facts or legends which are relevant to the tour.

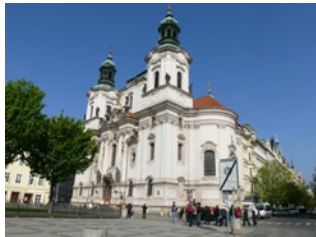
I aim to get you walking around Prague to get some exercise, to acquire some knowledge and have some fun along the way. Enjoy the city, see what you want to see.

Feedback is always welcome.

# Tour 1: Old Town Jewish Prague

**Highlights:** St Nicholas Church, Old/New Synagogue, Jewish Town Hall, Jewish Museum, Old Jewish Cemetery, Museum of Decorative Arts, Rudolfinum, Jan Palach memorial.

**Start:** Old Town Square.



Facing St Nicholas Church pictured left we head for the road next to it that is lined with trees. Pařížská or “Paris Street” is one of the most elegant and most

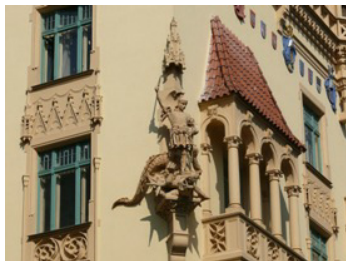
expensive streets in the city.

The area was originally the site of the Jewish Ghetto. From 1852-1900 the whole area was demolished and rebuilt in the Parisian style that you see today. The St Nicholas Church is the oldest of the major buildings in the area. Only the “Stone House” is older.

Walk into Pařížská and aim to walk down the left side of the street.

*This area, called the “quarter” or the “Golden Triangle”, was first settled by the Jewish community in the 12th Century.*

*King Přemysl Otakar II enacted the first laws to provide some protection for Jews (he banned forced-baptism and anti-semitic violence). The next highlight was in 1592 when the famous Rabbi Loew, creator of the Golem, was given an*



*interview with King Rudolph II.*

*In 1648, after war with Sweden, in gratitude for their help, the Jewish community was given permission to*

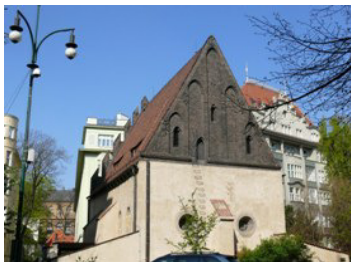
*build a clocktower on their Town Hall in Maiselova. Under King Joseph II (1780-1790) new laws for religious tolerance, commercial trading and most importantly education had been enacted.*

*In 1861 the area was given the status of the fifth district of Prague, given the name Josefov (after King Joseph II) and granted equal rights with Catholicism in 1867.*



We pass Jáchymova and cross over Široká until about 100 metres on the left we arrive at a small pedestrianised street called Červená at the base of some steps. This is location of the Old/New Synagogue and the entry door is on this side.

*Built in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century as the “New” synagogue in Prague it became the oldest active synagogue in Central Europe but, with the addition of other synagogues in Prague it became known as the Old/New.*



The road next to the synagogue is Maiselova and we will be turning left into it but before we do, the road directly in front of us is called U Starého Hřbitova. It leads to the rear of the old cemetery. You'll see the Ceremonial Hall at the end of the road which is lined with souvenir shops. If you go into the cemetery later you can walk along this street as it is outside of the cemetery exit. If you do not wish to enter the cemetery, take the opportunity to look in this street now.



Turning into Maiselova, on the corner we pass the Jewish Town Hall. Take a moment to observe the famous backward running clock (lower clock).

At the next junction we cross the road and continue into the second half of Maiselova.

Fifty metres on our left is the Maisel Synagogue. This is also the location of the Jewish Museum which celebrated it's Centennial in 2006.

*Although it opened in 1906, between 1942 and 1990 it was effectively closed either by Nazis or by the Communist regime. What you see now has been open since 1994.*

We continue along Maiselova where you'll find a few galleries and interesting shops on the right until we reach Kafka Square. Turn right into Kaprova and take the next right into Žatecká.

At the end of this road we turn left into Široká. A short walk of about 50 metres brings us to the entry of the Old Jewish Cemetery.

*Opened in the 15th Century it was known as the "Jewish Cemetery" until 1787 when it closed and the "New Jewish Cemetery" opened at Želivského. The*



*original cemetery was much smaller than now. After it filled up, the Jewish community bought adjacent plots of land for expansion. Eventually it was not possible to expand and Jewish burial law forbids the exhumation of the dead. The solution was to bring in tons of earth to raise the ground height to provide more room for graves and the old headstones were simply placed on the top.*

*As the ground was raised 12 times in 350 years, this has resulted in approximately 12,000 headstones being viewable.*

You now have a choice of two options:

**Option 1:** You go into the cemetery. In this case you exit the cemetery at the Ceremonial Hall.

To continue with option 2 below you must return to the front of the cemetery by walking to the end of Ů Starého Hřbitova (with the shops and stalls), turn right onto Maiselova and right again onto Široká. Or turn left now to cut that part. At the end of the road turn right into Břehová and walk to the end (back onto Pařížská).

**Option 2:** You pass by the cemetery and continue to the end of Široká. At the main road we turn left and stop at the bottom of the steps. On the wall on your left is a bronze memorial plaque



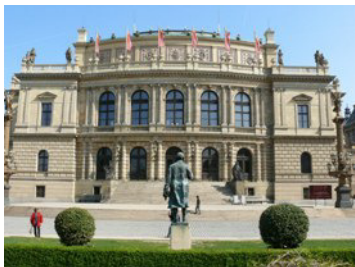
dedicated to Jan Palach who was a philosophy student at the university of which this building is part. The square in front of you was officially renamed in his honour in 1989 (more in tour 8).

The memorial is the “death mask” of Jan Palach taken by Olbram Zoubek. He was secretly allowed in by Dr Jaroslava Moserová who was the doctor caring for Jan Palach at the time (she would run for Czech President in 2005).

*The Rudolfinum  
(classical music and  
art exhibition venue)  
is across the road.*

*Originally built by a  
large insurance  
company it was  
renamed in honour of*

*the son of the Austrian Arch Duke Franz Joseph.  
You'll often hear piano playing from the School of  
Music opposite the Rudolfinum.*



Facing the Jan Palach memorial we turn to our left to walk along the road called “17 Listopadu”. The first building on your right will be the Museum of Decorative Arts.

*After the museum is the side wall of the Old Jewish Cemetery and if the window in the door has not been sealed it's possible to get a free photo of the gravestones.*



*The picture on the right  
was taken from this  
point.*



*We are in "17 Listopadu" which in English means "17<sup>th</sup> November". The date is synonymous with the start of the velvet revolution of 1989*

*but the students of 1989 were marching in memory of Jan Opletal who was killed in this street by the Nazis in 1939 exactly 50 years earlier.*

We continue and stop at the next junction (Břehová). We will shortly turn right into Břehová but for those who want to walk a little further along the road you'll find the memorial plaque pictured above from the 1974 memorial service on the wall about 50 metres on the right.

Turn into Břehová and walk to the end of the road.

Whichever option you took, you are now standing at the junction of Břehová and Pařížská with the Hotel Intercontinental over on your left.

## Tour 2: Old Town Josefov Area

**Highlights:** St Agnes Convent, St Francis Church, Haštalské Náměstí, Spanish Synagogue

**Start:** Hotel Intercontinental.

In the corner of the square is the road called Bilkova and this is pictured right.



Walk to the far corner into Bilkova. Take the second left into Dušní and then next right into U Milosrdných. With the church on our left we walk to the end of this road, down the steps and head along the cobbled road into what looks like a dead end but, we walk into the passage.

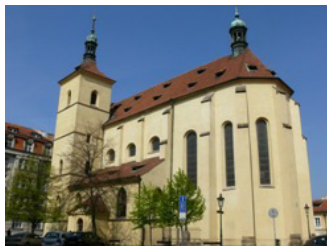
On the wall on your left are plates marking flood levels in this street from 1890 and 2002.

We emerge outside the entry to the complex which houses both the St Agnes Convent and the St Francis Church.

*St Agnes is now part of the National Gallery and a venue for 19<sup>th</sup> Century paintings. St Francis is a popular venue for Classical and chamber music.*

We leave the Convent and head to the end of the road where we turn left. Again we bear to the left into the passage called Řásnovka.

Turn right at the end and take the next right called Haštalská. This is a reasonably modern road with post-war apartment blocks but as you bear around to the right the buildings become older and more attractive.



This road leads us back to Haštalské Náměstí and the Church of St Haštál. We continue to the next junction and take the second right into Kozí. Take the next

left Bilkova and left again into Dušní. Stay to the left and walk along the small pathway.

The steps at the end lead to the entry of the Spanish Synagogue and Franz Kafka statue.



## Tour 3: Old Town Týn Area

**Highlights:** Spanish Synagogue, Týn Church, Týnský DVůr, St James Church, Cubism Museum, Estates Theatre.

**Start:** Spanish Synagogue.

*The Spanish Synagogue gets it's name from the design. The Moorish architecture and decoration comes from southern Spain especially the area between Cadiz and Seville. It opened in 1868 but decorating didn't finish until 1893. The composer of the Czech National Anthem was the organist here between 1836 and 1845.*

With the entry to the Spanish Synagogue behind you, cross the road into V Kolkovně and walk to the end.

Take the second left and walk into Dlauhá.



This street is partly pedestrianised containing independent shops, bars and restaurants. After 100 metres take the next right into Rybná.

We take the next right into into Masná.

We now have apartments and bars on our right and a school complex on our left.



At the end of the road turn left into Malá Štupartská and almost immediately right into Týnská. Týnská starts off as a road with some apartments, a hostel,

vegetarian restaurant and some bars until it becomes an enclosed passage. We go through the passage which brings us out at the rear of the Týn Church and we turn left into the Týnský Dvůr courtyard entry pictured above.

*In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century this was the location of the foreign traders market due to its close proximity to the local administrative office located in the St Nicholas Church. It was foreign merchants who had the first Protestant church built in the location of what is now the Týn Church.*

*The courtyard opened in 1997 after extensive renovation and contains a number of shops, bars, restaurants and hotels.*

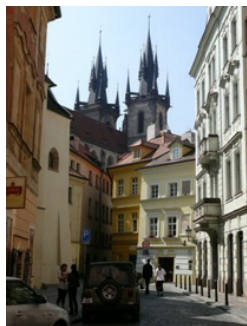
We exit via the archway at the far end. Look over to your left on the other side of the road and you'll see the entry to the St James Church (in Czech James is Jakub hence the road next to it is called Jakubská). If it's open go into the church and look up to your right on the front wall. At the end of a chain is a bone.

*The legend is that a 14<sup>th</sup> Century thief tried to steal something from the church and the Virgin Mary held his arm in a vice-like grip so that in the end they had to cut off his arm (curiously St Jakub is also the patron saint of butchers!!).*

We leave the church and turn left into Jakubská.

We take the next right into Templová and again right into Štupartská for the view pictured right.

We'll walk along this road.



At the end we turn left onto Celetná which gets its name from a type of bread/cake made by the bakers here in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. This road is lined on both sides mainly with shops selling crystal and tourist souvenirs with the exception of a couple of restaurants and a theatre.



Take the next right called Ovocný Trh and stop for a moment. As you turn the corner look up at this building.

It is called the House of the Black

Madonna (pictured above) due to the small statuette located on the first floor corner of the building. It is also the home of the Cubism Museum of which the building style is an example. Finally, it has a great Cubist decorated Café on the first floor called the Grand Café Orient, reopened after being closed for 80 years.

We continue into Ovocný Trh (Ovocný Trh means Fruit Market) with its tall apartment buildings on the right and the Estates Theatre

(where Mozart's Don Giovanni was performed for the first time in 1787) at the far end. Stay to the right. We pass between the theatre and the Charles University (oldest in Central Europe having started in 1348). The alcove that you can see coming out of the wall pictured right is one of the few original parts left.



We turn right onto Železná and right again into Kamzиковá. The road gets slowly narrower until it becomes a covered passage. Actually there are two passages and if the entry on the right is open then this route is a bit more interesting.

Either way we eventually come out on Celetná again. Turn left and in 50 metres you'll be back on the Old Town Square. Lets walk over to the Old Town Hall and take a closer look at the Orloj.

*The word "Orloj" encompasses the Astronomical clock, the Calendarium and all the figures but, these were not all in the original design.*



*The astronomical clock (above in the picture) was designed by Jan Šindel (professor of mathematics and astronomy at Charles University) and was installed in 1410 by the clockmaker Mikuláš of Kadan.*

*The Calendarium (lower in the picture) was added later in the 15th Century.*

*There are two windows above the clock and when each window opens, a procession of the 12 apostles can be seen as follows;*

*In the left window:*

*St Paul (holding a sword and a book)*

*St Thomas (carrying a lance)*

*St Juda Tadeus (holding a book)*

*St Simon (holding a saw is the patron saint of woodcutters)*

*St Bartholemew (holding a book is the patron saint of tailors and shoemakers)*

*St Barnabas (carrying a scroll/papyrus)*

*In the right window:*

*St Peter (holding a key – he is the patron saint of locksmiths and clockmakers)*

*St Matthew (holding an axe he is the patron saint of builders and carpenters)*

*St John (berating a snake, he is patron saint of writers and printers)*

*St Andrew (carrying a cross)*

*St Philip (carrying a cross he is the patron saint of hatters)*

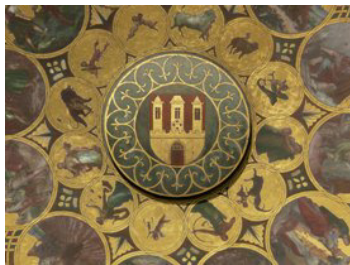
*St James (with a flax tool he is the patron saint of linen traders)*

*The clock works on three identically sized cogs on the same pinion. They contain 365, 366 and 379 teeth respectively. The first gearing rotates once per sidereal day.*

*The second gearing rotates once every mean solar day.*

*The third gearing rotates with the mean apparent motion of the moon.*





*In 1787 the town wanted to sell the mechanism for scrap until a watchmaker named Jan Landesburg was able to fix the clock (but not the Calendarium pictured*

*above, which would remain broken for another 79 years). In 1864 a fire destroyed the original wood apostles and severely damaged the Calendarium disc. The disc was replaced with one decorated by Josef Mánes.*

*A watchmaker called Ludwig Heinz took over the maintenance of the clock the same year.*

*On 18th August 1866 a fully functioning Clock was unveiled to the public. On 14th September 1866 the Calendarium was restored to operation and that was the first time both had been simultaneously working for 400 years.*

*The Orloj underwent extensive restoration and renovation in October/November 2005.*

*In 2010 a fault in the clock caused the three minute apostle march to carry on for nearly an hour until the problem was corrected.*



## Tour 4: Old Town Clementinum Area

**Highlights:** St Nicholas Church, Clementinum, Betlemské Náměstí, Clam Gallas Palace, Malé Náměstí.

**Start:** Old Town Square.

Leave the square keeping St Nicholas on your right and you arrive at the road junction of Kafka Náměstí. The road called Kaprova is in front of you and next to it on the left is Platnéřská.



Cross into Platnéřská (pictured above). On your left you are passing the new Prague 1 administrative centre also called the Nova Radnice.

As we pass this building the road opens out into a square called Mariánské Náměstí.



On your right is the central library and in front of you facing the Nova Radnice is a large building with an archway entry pictured left.

This is the Clementinum.  
Walk through the archway.

It's had an interesting history stretching back nearly 500 years.

*Around 1550, as the influence of the reformist (Protestant) Charles University grew, the Catholic King Ferdinand I invited members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) to come to Prague to set up a college. In 1556 the King removed a group of Dominican monks from the location and gave the monastery buildings to the Jesuits.*

*The area itself was a collection of 3 churches, several courtyards and more than 30 houses at the time. Final completion of the college complex would take another 80 years. King Ferdinand started the ball rolling by sending his son and others to the Jesuit college.*

*By 1615, Ferdinand II had allowed the College to grant qualifications and even non-Catholics were studying there. Frederick V (pro-Protestant) expelled the Jesuits in 1620 but, then lost the Battle of White Mountain in the same year.*

*The Jesuits returned and began a hundred years of forced Catholicism as they became the enforcers of the Habsburg agenda, even taking control of their rival Charles University. Eventually, the Jesuits lost favour and were abolished in 1773.*



*The College property passed to the Academy of Fine Arts and then, with a certain irony, it was taken over in 1800 by the Charles University. In 1924 it was converted to house the National Library. Also contained in this building are the Slav Library and the Library of Charles University.*

*The most famous room in the complex is the "Baroque Hall".*

We bear around to the left following the pathway and the first building on our right is the “Chapel of Mirrors”. You’ll recognise it by the posters advertising classical concerts.

Stay on the pathway and do not leave the Clementinum via the side exit. The pathway turns right and you pass from one courtyard into the second and finally exit the Clementinum at the far end.



Here we turn left onto Křižovnická. The St Francis of Assisi Church is now on your right and you have the view pictured left.

We stay on this side of the road passing through the crowds waiting to cross the road and pass under the arch. We now turn left into Anenská.

Stay on Anenská until the end and then turn right into Liliová. At the end of this road we emerge into Betlemské Náměstí (Bethlehem Square).

*On the right hand side of this square is the entry to the yellow coloured Náprstek Museum. The museum was founded by Vojto Náprstek (1926 - 1984), the son of a family of brewers. After the revolution in 1948 he moved to America for ten years. There he became interested in the local culture and began to make his collection. Upon his return to Prague, he founded an industrial museum on the site of an old brewery (pivovar), but also began to set up his collection made up of native cultures from America, and later from Africa, Asia, Australia and Oceania.*

We turn left and walk alongside the Bethlehem Church (Jan Hus was rector here in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century) and at the end of the square we turn left into Husova.

We continue on Husova (pictured right) passing the St George Church and the Dominican Cloister. We pass Karlova Ulice and about 20 metres further on you'll see two elaborate stone columns either side of a doorway on your right.





This is the entry to the Clam Gallas Palace. The basement is often used for art exhibitions and the main Marble Hall (also called the Golden Hall) is the venue for classical and chamber music.

At the end of the road we arrive back in Mariánské Náměstí where we turn right into Linhartská. At the end we turn right into Malé Náměstí (small square) with its ornate well and decorated Hotel Rott building. Exit the square in the far left corner.

As we walk towards the Old Town Square look over to your right and you'll see the "U Prince" hotel. This is a place to get a really good picture of the Old Town Square. Go into the bar area of the hotel and walk to the back.

Take the lift to the top and then go up the stairs onto the roof. There is another small set of steps which leads up to the outside tables. An example of a photo from here is on the front cover of this book.

## Tour 5: Old Town To the New Town

**Highlights:** Havelská street market, Coal Market, Michalská, Wenceslas Square.

**Start:** Old Town Square.

Walk over to the Old Town Hall tower (square side, not the Orloj side) and look at the ground. You'll notice a lot of white crosses built into the cobbles. They signify a historic event that forged Czech history for 300 years, the Battle of White Mountain.



*We find ourselves back in the year 1617 when Government is run by a Catholic minority supported by (but not part of) the Austro-Hungarian Empire ruled by the Habsburgs. King Ferdinand I and King Rudolph II had supported close links to the Habsburgs but Rudolph had been persuaded to allow the Protestant Reform Movement (Hussites) more power.*



*However, consecutive Kings Matthias and Ferdinand II were pro-Catholic and attempted to remove this power.*

*Political instability caused Ferdinand II to be deposed and succeeded by the pro-protestant Frederick V.*

*Frederick V was also known as the Winter King as events will tell. He came to the throne in 1620 and immediately started reinforcing the Protestant movement which caused the Habsburg Empire to intervene. The culmination of this part of the overall 30 years war was to be a battle that took place on November 8th 1620.*

*Frederick's pro-Protestant forces were crushed in a little over two hours that afternoon and King Ferdinand II was reinstated. Treason charges were brought with the choice of conversion to Catholicism, exile or death. Twenty seven noblemen and insurgent leaders were hanged on the Old Town Square in January 1621 and there's one cross for each of them.*



*General conversion to Catholicism followed and Bohemia was integrated into the Habsburg Empire. To celebrate the victory a monument called the Marian Column was built opposite the old entry to the Town Hall (seen in old pictures and paintings of the Old Town Square). In 1918 after the First World War, a Czech-Slovak alliance resulted in the formation of Czechoslovakia and the Marian Column was torn down that same year.*

As you stand with the crosses in front of you and the town hall behind them, look directly to your left and you'll see the road called Železná.

We'll go into Železná and after 30 metres take the small passage on the right called Kožná.

There are a couple of bars and restaurants in the street and eventually you come out at Melantrichova where we turn left.

Take the next right into Havelská pictured right.



This is the biggest street market in Prague. Enjoy it but secure any bags, purses and wallets before you go looking through the stalls as it's a pickpocket hotspot. At the end we briefly see Úhelný Trh and immediately turn right into Michalská. At the end of the street where it looks like you should go right we actually turn left into the small covered Hlavsova passage with a few shops and at the exit we turn left onto the narrow street called Jilská.



At the next street you'll have the view pictured left. Carry on along Jilská and take the next left into Škořepka. At the end of Škořepka cross the road and turn left under the arches. We've arrived back on the far side of Úhelný Trh which was the site of the old Coal Market. Cross Perlová and continue under the arches. You are now walking in Rytířská. At the next junction turn right onto the pedestrianised road called Na Můstku and at the end of this road stop at the base of Wenceslas Square.

## Tour 6: New Town Wenceslas to Republic Square

**Highlights:** Shopping centres, Powder Gate, Imperial Kavárna, Municipal House.

**Start:** Wenceslas Square (bottom).

Standing at the bottom of Wenceslas Square and facing the National Museum, we turn left onto Na Příkopě pictured below.

*Na Příkopě literally means “over the ditch”. It marks the boundary between the Old Town and the New Town. The ditch marked part of the Old Town fortifications which extended from the Powder Gate to the river.*



The road is lined on both sides mostly with shops and restaurants.

Stay to the left of this road.

We pass the Černá Ruže (Black Rose) shopping centre on the right and then the Myslbek (Czech artist) shopping centre on the left.

At the end we bear around to the left, cross the road via the pedestrian crossing and walk under



the small bridge linking the Powder Gate with the building beside it. As you have passed under the Powder Gate you have arrived briefly back in the Old Town.

The building on your right is the Municipal House. It was built on the site of the old Royal Court Palace that was used by the Bohemian royalty until Prague Castle was built.

We turn right into Ú Prašné Brány (at the place of the Powder Gate) and walk to the end. At the junction we have the Hotel Paříž over on our right and to the left of it you'll see a shopping centre (at the time of writing it was Kotva).

*Hotel Paříž has the Sarah Bernhardt restaurant. It's worth a stop for a coffee to admire the decoration if you are a fan of Art Nouveau.*

Cross and turn into the road that goes between the hotel and the old shopping centre. This street is called Králodvorská.

At the end of this road we emerge onto the forecourt of the old shopping centre and in front of us is the newer Palladium shopping centre (pictured).



The road to the left of the Palladium is Truhlářská. Cross the road into Truhlářská (careful crossing the tram line) which is largely made up of low-level apartment buildings, small shops and a couple of bars and restaurants.

In 2002 it marked the limit of ground floor flooding. We take the next right into Zlatnická. At the end of this street on the left is the Imperial Kavárna (Imperial Café). This is definitely worth a coffee stop or even a lunch.

The café is now part of the Hotel Imperial but it's open to the public so you can see the ceramic decoration which is unique in Prague.

We turn right onto Na Poříčí which is almost all hotels on the right side with all shops and bars on the left side.



We pass the side entrance of the Palladium shopping centre and at the end we come to Náměstí Republiky.

On our immediate right is St Josephs Church (entry pictured). Joseph is patron saint of, amongst many things, people fighting

communism, unborn children, married people and house hunters.

We head over to the left to the large building with the ornate entry pictured on the next page. This is the Municipal House which in Czech is the Obecní Dům pronounced “doom” not “dum”.

Formerly the administrative centre of Prague it hosts the Smetana Hall which is the largest classical concert hall in Prague. Bedřich Smetana was the composer of the Czech National Anthem “Má Vlast” (My country).

## Tour 7: New Town Republic Square to Wenceslas Square

**Highlights:** Slovanský Dům, Jindřišská Tower, Jeruzalemská Synagogue, Opletalova, National Museum, Zajíc/Palach memorial.

**Start:** Municipal House (Obecní Dům).

With your back to the entry of the Municipal House, turn right and use the pedestrian crossing to get over into Na Příkopě. Cross Na Příkopě to the right so that you are walking on the left side of the road. After about 75 metres turn left into the Slovanský Dům shopping complex (yellow building with two entries). It has a multiplex cinema, shops and restaurants. Walk through to the garden and it's a great spot to stop for a coffee if the weather is nice.



We exit at the far end of the garden through the passage. Turn right onto Šenovážná.



You have the view of the Jindřišská Věž (tower) which also has a restaurant inside. Go to the other side of the tower and turn left onto Jindřišská. Take the next right onto Jeruzalemská.

You walk past the church grounds on your right and then 50 metres on your left is the entry to the Jubilee Synagogue. It has the honour of being both the youngest (1906) and the largest. It gets its name from being built around the time of Arch Duke Franz Joseph's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Continue to the end of the road and turn right into Opletalova.

*This road name has it's own history. In 1939 following the invasion by Nazi Forces a number of students demonstrated against the new regime. One of the students, Jan Opletal, was killed and was buried in the "heroes cemetery" at Vyšehrad. Fifty years to the day of his death on November 17<sup>th</sup> 1989, students marched from his grave in the direction of Wenceslas Square.*



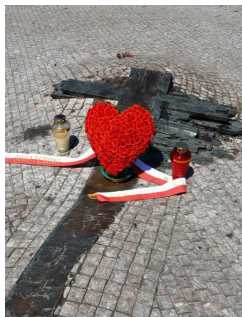
*Two hundred metres before the square they were blocked by police and security services. There ensued pitched battles and the reported death of another student. In fact nobody was killed but it resulted in much of the workforce going on strike in protest. It was the start of the Velvet Revolution and each year on November 17th there is an official flower laying ceremony at a location which you'll see during tour 8.*



Cross the main road, turn right and walk alongside the park. On your left is the main railway station. At the end of the park turn left into Washingtonova.

The road bears around to the right. On our immediate left is the State Opera House (copy of the Vienna Opera) and next to it is the building pictured above that is now part of the National Museum but was until 2010 the location of Radio Free Europe.

Continue to the end of Washingtonova and cross the road in the direction of the National Museum via the pedestrian crossing.



*As you look down at the pavement about ten metres to your right you'll find the cross pictured left.*

*The cross marks the location where Philosophy student Jan Palach self immolated on January 16th 1969 and where Jan Zajíc did the same on*

*February 23rd. They were protesting at the Soviet repressions that followed the 1968 Prague Spring. News of the events was suppressed but in 1973 the Czech secret service dug up the body of Jan Palach and cremated it to remove the graves status as almost a national shrine.*

*In 1989 after the Velvet Revolution many Prague streets and squares were renamed and in the case of Jan Palach the square in front of the Rudolfinum bordered by his university faculty was called "Square of Red Army Soldiers". It was unofficially known as Jan Palach Square from 1969-70 and was officially renamed on 20th December 1989.*

*The ashes of Jan Palach were returned to his grave in Prague Olšany cemetery in 1990.*

## Tour 8: New Town

### Wenceslas Square to the Dancing House

**Highlights:** Wenceslas Square, Lucerna passage, Tesla window, Franciscan Garden, Národní, Charles Square, Resslova, Dancing House

**Start:** Wenceslas Square (top).

Aim to walk down the left side of the square or you can walk down the middle if you prefer. Take a close look at the statue at the top of the square. It's the "good" King Wenceslas after whom the square is named and you'll have a different view of him in a few minutes.

We walk down the square passing the streets Krakovská and Ve Smečkách (these two roads contain a high concentration of bars and strip clubs) until we arrive at Štěpánská. Use the pedestrian crossing and then turn left into Štěpánská.





About 20 metres on the right we turn into the Lucerna passage.

It's a real rabbit warren of passages containing numerous shops, cafes, bars, restaurants, a cinema and a music club.

Walk straight ahead and you may find yourself looking at an upside-down horse. It's a life size version of the statue of King Wenceslas which you will have seen at the top of Wenceslas Square but this one sees King Wenceslas sitting on the underside of the horse.

Walk down the steps past the Lucerna music bar and turn right into Vodičkova. Cross the road over to the right and after 20 metres turn left into the "Kino Světozor" passage. The passage contains a popular cinema, some small shops, a couple of restaurant/cafes and the Tesla stained glass window. Walk to the end, down the steps and exit left into the garden.

This is the Franciscan Garden (in Czech Frantiskánská Zahrada) which is best seen in the summer when the roses are in full bloom.

Feel free to walk around in any direction you want but we aim to exit the garden in the far right corner diagonally opposite the entry.

As we pass through the alleyway we arrive at Jungmann Square.

*Josef Jungmann was a revivalist and his passion was to revive the Czech language. From the early 16th Century, German had been the official administrative language and generally all documentation was in German. Jungmann's greatest work was considered to be the five-volume German-Czech dictionary published in 1839 in which were included old Czech words from the Kralická Bible, modern Czech words and Slavic words borrowed from the region.*

*This dictionary is widely considered to form the basis of the modern day Czech written language.*

Exit Jungmann Square on the one-way road to the right and walk into Národní (pictured above).





It's lined with cars and trees. Aim to walk along the right side of the road.

On the right after 75 metres you'll see the entry to a passage called Plátyz. Turn into the passage (pictured).

*On and off during the year the courtyard has exhibitions of artwork and sculptures. The courtyard also has a couple of nice cafes and a restaurant with tables outside in nice weather.*

Walk to the end, under the archway and turn left into Martinská. This is a small street passing close to the St Martins Church which is a venue for classical music concerts. At the end of the road we turn left into Na Perštýně and walk to the junction (as you walk, look over to the other side of the road. This is the location of the Ú Medvídku beerhall. We stop at the junction.

Look across the road diagonally to your right and you will see a line of shops including (at the time of writing) the "Cafe Louvre" and the "Reduta Jazz Cafe".

At the end of the buildings is a covered archway. This is where we are heading so you will have to use two pedestrian crossings to get there and be careful of trams on the second crossing. As you enter the covered archway turn immediately to your left and you'll see the November 17th plaque (17.11.1989) placed at the location of the street fighting on the same date which proved to be the start of the Velvet Revolution.

Continue through the archway and turn left into Mikulandská. At the end of the road turn left into Ostrovní and this brings you out at Špálená (the road with the tramline). Turn right into Špálená and aim to walk along the left side of the road. We cross the next road called Lazarská and begin to walk uphill. We take the next left into the street where all the cars will be parked.

The last building on the left is the New Town Tower.

You can go up to the top for a small entry charge.

Great views but be careful when going up the last steps which are wooden, steep and fairly narrow.





From the tower entry we turn to the right and walk to the main road. As we cross the main road we enter the first half of Charles Square.

Aim to walk over to the right and in the far right corner we arrive at the metro underpass. Go down the steps, pass around to the right and walk up the steps with the exit to Špálená and Lazarská.

We now follow the traffic around the corner to your right and downhill into Resslova. 75 metres on the right is the Church of St Cyril and St Methodius. The building is damaged by gunfire from the day when the assassins of Reinhard Heydrich (in world war two) made their last stand here.

They have a permanent exhibition in the crypt and those interested in what happened next should Google search for "Lidice Memorial". Continue to the bottom of road and the Dancing House is the last building on the left.



## Tour 9: New Town The River Road

**Highlights:** Dancing House, Mánes Gallery, National Theatre, Franz Joseph memorial, Sophies Palace, Lávká, Charles Bridge.

**Start:** Dancing House.

*In Czech its called the Tančící Dům. Officially it belongs to the Dutch insurance company Nationale-Nederlanden and was completed in 1996. People associate Frank Gehry with it's design but the co-designer was Vlado Milunic. The glassed and flared section of the building represents Ginger Rogers whilst the corner part with the dome is Fred Astaire.*



With your back to the Dancing House and the river on your left we walk along the river road in the direction of the Mánes Water Tower (and Mánes Gallery).

At the water tower turn right into Myslíkova and take the second left Pštrossova. At the end of the road turn left into Ostrovní. Cross the small side road and main road. As you face the river, the Palác Žofín (Sophies Palace) entry is down the road on your left. It is named after the mother of Arch Duke Franz Joseph. It has a pleasant outdoor restaurant during the summer and an outdoor play area for kids. We turn right onto the river road and passing the National Theatre we continue alongside the river.

After 100 metres on the other side of the road we pass the Arch Duke Franz Joseph memorial. On the far side of the river is a cream coloured building which is Museum Kampa and houses a private modern art collection.



The next buildings on your left are in Novotného Lávk (pictured left) which has a scenic view cafe. It is also the location of the Bedřich Smetana

Museum and the Old Town water tower. Continue under the covered archway and come to the Old Town side of the Charles Bridge.

## Tour 10: Malá Štrana Charles Bridge to Malá Štrana

**Highlights:** Charles Bridge, St Francis of Assisi, Hergetova Cihelná, Kafka Museum, Wallenstein Gardens, Malostranské Náměstí.

**Start:** Charles Bridge (Old Town side).

We should be facing the Charles Bridge. On our left are the souvenir shops. On our right is the St Francis of Assisi Church, the Charles Bridge Museum and the Charles IV black statue. Lower down on the right is a viewing area.



We walk twenty metres to the first tower. You can climb up to the top for a small charge to get some good panoramic pictures and rooftop pictures of the Old Town. We cross the bridge.

If you have the map sold at [livingprague.com](http://livingprague.com) then you should look at the back of the map for a full description of all the statues.



For those without the map we will continue. The biggest crowd will be at the St John Nepomuk statue which is about three-quarters of the way on the right but before we get that

far take a look at the low wall on your right. About 30 metres BEFORE the St John Nepomuk statue you'll find the small cross pictured above.

This marks the point at which he was thrown into the river for disobeying the king by not revealing the Queen's confessions. Czech people place their hand on the cross so all five points are covered by a finger and make a wish.

At the St John Nepomuk statue you'll find people stretching to touch the brass plates and having their picture taken doing it. We continue and as we begin to reach the end of the bridge we can look over the sides of the walls onto the area known as Kampa. At the end of the bridge turn off to the right BEFORE the tower and walk into the Dražického Square.

Take the road away from this square called Míšeňská and stop at the end.

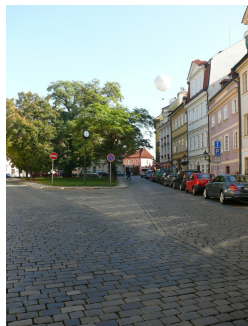
Turn left onto U Lužického Semináře and aim to walk on the right side of the road up the hill (pictured right).

There are a number of souvenir shops and a couple of scenic restaurants. Look for the traffic light mounted on the wall beside a narrow set of steps leading down to a riverside restaurant. At the top of the road we stop.

To your left on the other side of the square is a high wall which has an entry door about 50 metres down the road leading to the gardens behind the finance ministry (the park also has a manned public toilet facility). We will continue on Cihelná passing the Hergetova Cihelná restaurant on your right with some interesting sculptures in the garden. Further on we pass the Franz Kafka museum.

As the road opens out we turn right and this takes us right down to the riverbank. Turn left and follow the track until you come out at the Mánes Bridge.

Turn left and cross the road into Letenská.





The road looks a bit barren with bare walls and buildings which need a bit of renovation. On the other side of the road in the far right corner is a doorway

which is one of the entries to the Wallenstein Gardens pictured above.

Most of the buildings in the palace complex are used by the lower house of the Czech Parliament



(the Senate). People enjoy a walk around the gardens, the ornamental pond, the molten wall and the atrium which is used for outdoor classical concerts. We exit the gardens via the same entry point and turn right.

Cross the road, follow the tram line and you'll pass under an archway.

At the end of the road we have arrived in Malostranské Náměstí pictured above.

## Tour 11: Malá Štrana Gardens and Politics

**Highlights:** Valdštejnská, Palffy Palác, landscaped Castle gardens, Czech Parliament, British Embassy, St Nicholas Church.

**Start:** Malostranské Náměstí.

With your back to the car park area, leave the square to the left using the pedestrian crossing to go into Tomášská which is pictured right.



Pass under the arches where the road then becomes Valdštejnská and bears around to the right. After 30 metres as you pass between the buildings you'll find the Palffy Palác restaurant on your left and shortly after this is the lower entry to the Prague Castle Gardens. There is an entry fee and the gardens are VERY STEEP. It's best to go in and over to the right. Work your way up, back over to the left and down so that you exit via the atrium.



(If you do not want to go into the gardens, walk back 30 metres and turn right into Sněmovní). Leaving the gardens, turn right into Sněmovní and at the

far end of the road you'll find one of the original painted street signs up on the wall in old Czech and German language with the modern-day sign above it. Follow this road and the building now on your left is the Czech Parliament.

Turn right into Thunovská and walk uphill.

You'll see the Winston Churchill bust on the next corner and the British Embassy is at the end of the street on your right. Continue uphill and take the next left down into Zámecká.



Cross the road and continue to the far left corner which is the entry to the

St Nicholas Church.

We continue around the corner to the left until we reach Malostranské Náměstí.



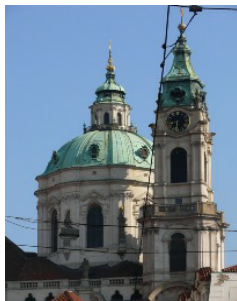
## Tour 12: Malá Štrana Kampa and Újezd

**Highlights:** Št Nicholas Church, Na Kampě, water wheel, John Lennon wall, Our Lady under the chain, Maltese Square, Kampa Park, Café Savoy, Political Prisoner Monument, Infant Jesus

**Start:** Malostranské Náměstí.

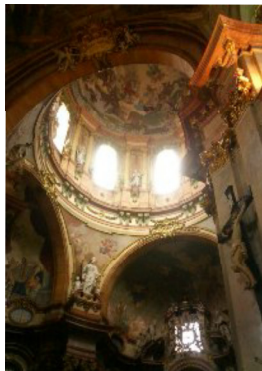
Walk around the block to the entry of Št Nicholas Church.

*The original Gothic Protestant church was built in the 13th Century but, shortly after the Battle of White Mountain (1620), King Ferdinand II took the church and gave it to the pro-Catholic Jesuits (a century earlier, the Jesuits had built a college next to the present Church).*



*The Jesuits then took another 30 years before submitting the first plans for the new construction.*

*It took another 20 years before building began after astonishing arguments about the design of the main tower and it's use as a Belfry (as the Jesuits wanted) or as a "fire warning tower" (as the city Burghers wanted). The Burghers won.*



*Building began @1704 and it would be 80 years before work was completed depending on who you believe. Four dates are sure. The first is that the original architect, Kristof Dientzenhofer, died in 1722 and his son Kilian took over the construction side of the job. The second date is 1750, date of a technical assessment on the structural integrity of the newly constructed dome (the dome was one of the biggest in Europe at that time and still is). The third date is 1755 when Kilian Dientzenhofer's son-in-law (Anselmo Lurago) took charge of the interior design. Lastly, 1787 when Mozart played the church organ. The big picture point is the Cuppola. Kilian Dientzenhofer was responsible for the construction of the Cuppola.*

*The central decoration of the Cuppola is the large fresco painted by Franz Xaver Palko in 1752. It is called "the Glory of the Holy Trinity".*

*The story that goes with it is that the painter wished to be left alone to do his work and was not to be disturbed (no small feat when it took nearly a year to paint). However, it seems that at least one Jesuit priest was determined to sneak a peek or two. The painter must have got a good look at him for when the final fresco was revealed, the priest who had disturbed him had his face captured and used as the face of a lowly fisherman for all to see.*

With our back to the church entry, turn to the left and walk along under the arches to the road with the tram line. Cross the road (Karmelitská) and continue into the second set of arches. We are now in the street called Mostecká and you'll see the Charles Bridge tower at the end of the road.

You can go up to the top of the tower for a small charge.





As we pass under the tower we turn off to the left, walk down in front of the buildings and turn right UNDER the Charles Bridge.

We walk into the Na Kampě square (scene of the car explosion in the film Mission Impossible) and walk to the end of the buildings. Turn right to walk behind the buildings. Shortly, another small square opens out which is generally used as a Car park.

Here we cross the bridge to the left and you'll be within touching distance of the water wheel (also used as a "lock your love" site on the railings).

We continue into Velkopřevorské Náměstí at the rear of the French Embassy.

The wall that we are approaching on the right is now popularly known as the "John Lennon" wall. The original picture is long gone but various pictures of the guy still appear from time to time.

Walk to the next small road junction and on your right is the Church of Our Lady under the Chain. You'll recognise the cross of the Knights of Malta above the gate.

*It was the job of the monks to guard the entry to Charles Bridge from this side back in the days when it was protected by a gate and heavy chain.*

We turn left into Maltézské Náměstí and if you've seen the Miloš Forman film "Amadeus" you may recognise scenes from this area.

Turn left at the end of the square and continue into the small park. After 50 metres we cross the small stream and come into Kampa Park.

Turn right and stay on any path until you reach the end of the park.

As we leave the park, walk up the steps to your left (pictured right), continue to the main road and turn right.

On the other side of the road is the Cafe Savoy.



Keep walking until you get to the end of the road where you'll see the side of the Nebozízek Park.

As you reach the junction use the pedestrian crossing to get over the road towards the park.

Immediately on your left is the monument to political prisoners incarcerated during the communist rule. You can take a look and then come back along this road called Karmelitská.



We continue along the road to the end of the grassy area. This is the location of the Lanovka or Funicular. We pass the road called Hellichova. In the block on the other side of the road is the Music Museum. After another 150 metres we now have the Church of Our Lady

victorious on our left. Inside this church is the “Infant of Prague”, a wax statuette brought to Prague from Spain in 1555. For some reason it had acquired miraculous properties by the 17th Century and in 1742, the queen of the time had an outfit made of gold brocade for the little statuette (in thanks for the occupying French army leaving peacefully). Since then it has acquired many different costumes that are changed in accordance with a religious calendar. Pickpockets operate in the rear shop.

We continue along the road and just before the next junction there is the entry to the Vrtbovská landscaped gardens on the left.

Keep following the tramline and in 200 metres we arrive back in Malostranské Náměstí.

## Tour 13: Malá Štrana

### Trip to the Castle

**Highlights:** Each route has it's own special points.

**Start:** All choices start from Malostranské Náměstí. With the tram stop behind you, face the Car park.

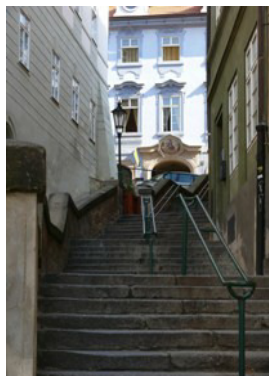
**Route A.** This route uses the rear Castle steps and is not for the unfit or anybody with breathing problems etc. Leave the square from the far right of the open air car park and head uphill. Take the second right into the little road called Zámecká. At the top, turn left and there will be 208 steps in front of you.



**Route B.** The Royal road. Exit the square from the far right of the car park and walk up the cobblestoned hill called Nerudova. As the road opens out at the top, turn right and follow up Ke Hradu. There is a scenic spot at the top.

**Route C. Scenic.** Turn to your left and follow the tramline into Karmelitská. Take the first right called Tržiště. Stay to the left side of the road and continue to the end of Tržiště past the American Embassy. Continue into Vlašská.

You enter a small square with the Lobkovice Palace on your left (German Embassy) and continue into Šporkova which is the small road leaving the square on the far right.



Walk into the narrow road and follow it to the end. You are now at the steps of Janský Vršek.

Almost opposite you is an archway in the wall which leads to Kelleys Tower. Kelley was an alchemist who got his ears cut off for failing to produce gold.

Turn left and walk up the steps.

Turn left onto Nerudova and take the next road on your right called Ke Hradu which leads up to the castle scenic point.



## Tour 14: Castle Prague Castle Complex

**Highlights:** Prague Castle, St Vitus Cathedral, St George Basilica, Golden Lane, Toy Museum, South Gardens

**Start:** Castle main entry.

To just walk around the castle complex you should allow an hour. If you are taking one of the official tour routes including entries to the



attractions you should allow 3-4 hours and maybe eat at one of the restaurants adjacent to the Basilica as a break.

We start by entering the Castle complex via the main entry pictured above.

The Castle operates a structured tariff system which gives entry to different parts of the Castle depending on what you want to see.



We enter the first courtyard and we progress through the main Matthias gate pictured left to enter the second courtyard.

We are now surrounded by the State Apartments of the Castle.

*There are 4 wings;*

- 1. West wing (the Matthias Gate which you just walked through, the PaCassi Staircase, the Hall of Columns, the Rothmayer Hall).*
- 2. North wing (the Wedge Corridor, the Spanish Hall and Rudolph Gallery).*
- 3. Central wing (the Broad Corridor, the New Drawing Rooms, the White Tower, the Old Hall, the Janák Hall and the Octagon).*
- 4. South wing (the Cloakroom, First (Children's) drawing-room, the Throne Room, the Brozik drawing-room, the Habsburg drawing-room, the Glass drawing-room, the Small drawing-room, the Mirror drawing-room and others).*

To get oriented, on your far left at the end of the courtyard is the North wing.

*Access to Prague Castle from the northern side, via the Powder Bridge, is gained through the Pacassi Gate in the far corner (pictured below). In the latter half of the 16th century, during the reign of the Emperor Rudolph II, both sides of the gate were lined with stables which were later converted into exhibition rooms.*

*The western wing (behind you) was reconstructed to serve as the Picture Gallery of Prague Castle with a permanent collection of art.*



We will walk towards the Pacassi Gate.

You have a choice now.

1) If you went through the Pacassi Gate in this wing, you cross the Powder Bridge and after 50 metres you'll find the first entry to the Imperial Garden on the right (contains the Queen Anne Summer Palace also known as the Belvedere). There is a Cafe on the left of the street and a restaurant on the far right.

*So if you want to take a look at the gardens and the conservatory then feel free and and come back to this point when you are ready.*

2) Your other choice is to go through the archway now on your right (with the souvenir shop on the corner) .



As we emerge from the archway we have entered the third courtyard and you'll see the St Vítus Cathedral with the main west wing entry directly in front of you (pictured left).

I'm sure you'll want to go in and take a look around.

There is an extra charge for entry to St Vítus. If you exited the St Vítus Cathedral and turned to your right, around the corner is the Míhulka Powder Tower.

Previously the structure had been successively called the New Tower, the Round Bastion, the Laboratorium or the Swedish Laboratorium and the Powder Tower.

Let us walk back around the front of the Cathedral and go around to the south side (pictured right) where you'll find more visible ornate mosaic decoration above the arches and the iron gate reliefs.



This used to be the main entry before the west wing was developed. If you were to stand looking at the south side of the Cathedral then behind and to your right is the Old Palace building and the All Saints Chapel.

We'll walk this way.

As we pass the end of the Cathedral a square opens up and in front of us is the St George Basilica. The Basilica is deconsecrated.

In the period from 1969 to 1975 the convent was also reconstructed and adapted for the installation of the exposition of the old Bohemian art of the National Gallery.



We exit the Basilica, turn to the left and walk around the corner.

The All Saints Chapel is on your right and about 40 metres down the road (Jiřská) you'll find a street on the left.

This street is a left-right-left combination that leads to the Zlatá Ulíčka (Golden Lane).

*Golden Lane originated after the construction of the northern wall of the Castle. The area was used for the building of modest dwellings which are now the last remnants of the small-scale architecture of Prague Castle. They were inhabited by the castle servants, goldsmiths (the name "Golden Lane" is documented from the 16th century) and the castle marksmen.*

*In 1916 house No. 22 was the home of writer Franz Kafka. The original appearance of a 16th-century dwelling can be seen at house No. 20 with a frame upper floor. House No.13 documents the original building size.*

*It is the only existing structure that adheres to the original building regulation according to which the property had to be built in an arch of the wall and with its facade not protruding into the lane.*

As we go to the Golden Lane, in the left corner you will find the Daliborka Tower (former prison). We walk along the cobbled road and through an archway to your left.

You have just walked through the arch of the Black Tower and there is a scenic area in front of you pictured right.



We turn right through the gate into the South Gardens.

The gardens run the length of the castle. The South Gardens came into being gradually on the site of the fortifications below Prague Castle. In 1559 governor Ferdinand of the Tyrol made a private garden on the most western part of the moat, which he had filled in.

Since the middle of the 18th century this place has also been called the Garden of Paradise. In 1960 the Hartig Garden, with a Music Pavilion, was joined to the South Gardens.

On the right in succession you will pass the Lobkovic Palác, the All Saints Church and the original Royal Palace before extension.

There are several scenic locations on the left hand side overlooking the landscaped gardens.

You can also reach these gardens from the 3rd courtyard through the "Bull's Staircase" located at an entrance to the Theresian Wing of the Old Royal Palace. Or inversely you can now use the staircase to go back up to the 3rd Courtyard if you choose (and if it is open).

At the end of the gardens we leave through the gate and you'll find yourself on the new Castle steps. To continue with the next tour, turn to the right and go back to the Castle main entry.

Or if you want, feel free to walk down the steps and take the first road on the right which takes you back to Malostranské Náměstí.



## Tour 15: Castle

### Castle vicinity and Nový Svět

**Highlights:** Hradčanské Náměstí (film location), Strahov Monastery/Library, Museum of Miniatures, Černín Palác, Loreta, Nový Svět, Church of St John Nepomuk, Šternberk Palace.

**Start:** Castle main entry.

Walk away from the Castle entry into the Hradčanské Náměstí and stay to the left. The first building on our left appears to be derelict.

It is the Šalmovský Palace and it has frequently been used as a film location.

We stay to the left and walk into Loretánská. There are one or two restaurants on the left which have scenic view gardens at the back.

As we continue along the road after 100 metres we come to a section covered by arches pictured on the right. Stop here.



There is a set of steps leading down to your left. We go to the base of the steps and turn right into Úvoz. Cross the road and walk up on the left next to the wall for a short distance and you'll find an entry to the park.

As you go through this entry you will see a path that leads to the right and goes steeply uphill, we will go this way.



Towards the top of this small hill is a scenic area on your left and after it another scenic area with a café (very expensive).

We continue to the end of the path and pass through the gate pictured left into the grounds of the Strahov Monastery.

The Cloister is immediately on your left and the museum of miniatures is on your right. Fifty metres further, the monastery brewery will be on your right and the church/library are on your left.

*The 2nd floor library is essentially two huge rooms linked by a long corridor.*

*The first room you see is the larger "Philosophy Room" containing more than 50,000 volumes dedicated to History, Philosophy and Philology. At the end of the corridor (containing many cabinets filled with reference materials including aquatic and zoological examples) on the right is the smaller and older "Theology Room" containing 16,000 books many of them bibles including the famous Kralická Bible that forms the basis of written Czech language.*

*This room was enlarged in 1721 and the ceiling decoration is from this time (seventeen individual frescos depicting the thoughts of Abbot Hirnhaim). A 1950 audit compiled an inventory of more than 130,000 books and manuscripts.*

*You are only allowed to look at the main rooms and not enter them. There is a charge for entry, an extra charge for photos/video and flash photography is not allowed.*



*The Strahov brewery is now on your right (pictured).*

On leaving the library, we turn left and exit by the gate at the far end. We now turn to the right, walk down the hill and bear around to the right.

You come to a square called Pohořelec. The road is divided by an island and many cars will be parked on the right and in the centre.



At the end of this square you will be taking the road on the left (Loretánská) with the view pictured left.

After entering the road, 20 metres on the left the area opens out into Loretánské Náměstí. The large building on your left is Černín Palác and is home of the Czech Foreign Office. We take the

next left that leads down to the Church of Our Lady of Loreta.

*The whole Loreta complex was built to reinforce the relationship between Bohemia and Catholicism after the defeat of the pro-Protestant King Frederick V at the Battle of White Mountain in 1620.*

*In the year 1291, the last of the Crusaders left Palestine and the cottage at which Archangel Gabriel was supposed to have appeared to the Virgin Mary to foretell the birth of her son was in danger of being destroyed. In 1294 the cottage where the Virgin Mary had lived in Nazareth was supposedly miraculously transported by angels to a small town near Ancona in Italy. The town was called Loreto.*



*Some guides are incorrect in stating that the Loreto is a church. In fact the complex contains the "Church of the Nativity" which was not consecrated until 1737.*

*Actually you are looking at a decorative shell that surrounds the actual building of importance, the Casa Santa (the Virgin Mary's cottage). At least three other Casa Santa buildings existed in Bohemia before 1620.*

*So although this Loreto decoration is unique, this Casa Santa is now one of over 50 such replicas in the Czech Republic.*



*The major force behind the planning and construction was a woman called Benigna Katerina Lobkowicz, from a very powerful Czech family that had sided with the Habsburgs. She bought property vacated by people who had been forced to leave Bohemia because of their*

*religious convictions i.e. they had sided with Frederick. Construction started in 1626 and the original buildings were finished by 1631 although extensions and redesign continued for almost a century.*

*The most famous period of reconstruction was between 1717 and 1723. In 1720 another member of the Lobkowicz family (Eleonara Karolina) had died and left a substantial amount of money for the restoration of the main entry. This work was started by Christoph Dientzenhofer but, finished by his son Kilian Dientzenhofer, in 1723. The most powerful families of the time, Lobkowicz, Wallenstein, Černín and Kolowrat all put huge funds at the disposal of the Loreta and much of the Loreta treasure was given by these families.*

As we leave the Loreta complex via the main entry, instead of turning left and going back up the hill with the rest of the tourists, we will turn right and cross the small square diagonally over to the left and behind the Černín Palác (i.e. do not go under the arches) and we enter a road that goes downhill called Černínská.

We pass the Capuchin Cloister on our right and continue down the cobblestoned hill to the bottom where we reach a junction. Part of the old Hradčany fortification is on your left.

Here we shall turn right into Nový Svět.

Nový Svět (in Czech it means New World) starts with houses on both sides. The red sign pictured is current.

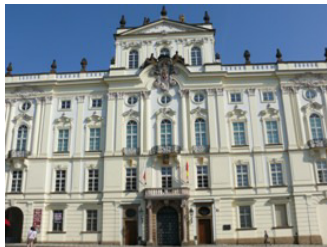


The white sign beneath is divided in half with the German language Neuweltgasse at the top and the old Czech name "Novém Světě" underneath.

After 30 metres a wall will be on your left and the houses continue on the right. After a further 50 metres you will see a door entry in the wall under a tree. Between March and October this leads to a playground. Some of the houses in the street have been renovated but, others are in desperate need of repair.

The end of the road bears around to the right and here you will find the small Church of St John Nepomuk. The road directly in front of the church is Kanovnická and we will walk this way.

As we reach the end of Kanovnická and emerge onto Hradčanské Náměstí, we pass a couple of nice restaurants on our left. Your vision will naturally be drawn towards the stunning street lamp and behind it the Castle.



The last building on the left before the Castle is the Šternberk Palace. To get to the entrance of the Palace art museum, you need to go through the archway in the bottom left of the building.



# Translations

## Place Translations

Náměstí	- Square or open place
Nádraží	- Transport Station
Nábřeží	- Embankment
Ulice	- Street or road
Most	- Bridge
Kostel	- Church
Obchodní Dům	- Shopping Centre
Sady	- Park
Zahrada	- Garden
Město	- Town
Strana	- Side
Divadlo	- Theatre
Kino	- Cinema
Schody	- Steps
Hřbitov	- Cemetery
Ostrov	- Island
Přízemí	- First floor
Radnice	- Town Hall
Nemocnice	- Hospital
Pivovar	- Brewery
Škola	- School
Lanová Draha	- Funicular
Zastávka	- Bus stop

## Shop Names

Lahůdka - Delicatessen

Potraviný - Multi-purpose shop (food and household items)

Tabák - Newspaper, magazine and tobacco shop.

Lékárna - Chemist (place to buy prescription medicine etc)

Drogerie - Drugstore (place to buy shampoo etc)

Pekařství - Bakers

Kavárna - Coffee shop

Čajovna - Tea shop

Hospoda - Pub or bar (minimum standards)

Herna Bar - 24 hour bar with minor gambling licence.

Zlatnictví - Jewellery shop (gold)

Klenotnictví - Jewellery shop (more for watches etc)

## Other Useful Translations

Obchod - Shop

Vchod - Entry

Východ - Exit

Klíč - Key

Ovoce - Fruit

Zelenina - Vegetables

Kg - Price per Kilogram

Ks - Price per item

Peníze - Money (notes and coins)

Mince - Money (small coins under 20kc)

Mléko - Milk (plno is full fat, polo is half fat)

Šunka - Ham

Sýr - Cheese

Chleba - Bread (loaf)

Rohlík - Long roll

Houska - Flat roll

Záruka - Guarantee

Zlato - Gold

Stříbro - Silver

Křišťál - Crystal

Diskont - Discount

Sleva - Sale

Tričko - T-Shirt

Kabátek - Jacket

Boty - Shoes

Prádlo - Underwear

Ponožky - Socks

Rukavice - Gloves

Flask - Bottle

Cukr - Sugar

Jeden krát - One of

Dva krát - Two of

Tři krát - Three of

# Czech Menu Guide

## Drinks

All restaurants will have a basic beer which will be served if you ask for „pivo“. It will always be a draught (in Czech - točené) beer of light appearance, 10 degree strength and will be in a 0.3L or 0.5L glass. Light beer is also known as „světlé“ (svee-etlay). The dark beers are known as „tmavý“ (tmar-vee) or „černý“ (cher-nee) which describe it as dark or black and maybe served draught (but more likely bottled). The basic juice is „pomerančovi“ which is orange but, most will have „multivitamin“ or jablečný (ya-bletch-nee) which is apple juice. Wine „víno“ is served by the glass, white is called „bílé“ (bee-lay) and red is „červené“ (cherven-ay). The Czech drinking toast is Na zdraví.

## The Menu - Jídelní lístek (yi-delnee leestek)

All Czech restaurants will have a menu which will follow the format as listed below;

**Předkrmy** - Starters both hot and cold.

**Polévky** - Soup

**Drůbež** - Meals based on poultry.

**Speciality** - House recommendations.

**Hotová jídla** - Ready made meals served quickly.

**Minutková jídla** - Available but, they must be prepared resulting in a longer waiting time.

**Ryby** - Fish (losos - salmon, pstruh - trout, karp or kapr - Carp)

**Saláty** - Salads

**Přílohy** - Vegetable/Accompaniments (Chips, Sauces etc)

Optionally you may find;

**Bezmasá jídla** - Vegetarian or more accurately "food without meat" as the cooking oil may not be vegetarian.

**Moučníky** - Desserts

**Dětské menu** - Childrens Menu

**Denní nabídka** or **menu** - Daily fixed lunch menu, maybe two or three courses with drink NOT included.

## The Menu – Starter

Restaurants will offer two or three kinds of soup which will be under the category called "Polévky";

1) **Hovězí** (hovee-ehzee) **polévka** or **bujon**. It will be a clear beef soup and may have an addition of noodles (hovězi s nudlem) or small meat balls.

2) **Gulášová** (goolash-oh-vaa), thick goulash soup with pieces of ham and sausage, onions and peppers.

3) **Bramborová** (brambor-oh-vaa) thick potato soup with green vegetables and sometimes mushrooms although this is only popular in the winter months.

4) **Boršč** (borshch) a left over from Russian times. Like goulash soup with heavy use of beetroot.

Other popular starters are;

**Šunková rolka se šlehačkou a křenem** - A roll of ham with Cream and horseradish sauce.

**Tlačenka s octem a cibulí** - Brawn with Vinegar and onions.

**Smažené žampinony** - Fried mushrooms (seasonal).

**Topinky** (se sýrem) - Fried garlic bread (with Cheese).

**Jemná paštika** - Liver pate to be accompanied by either toast or fried bread.

## The Menu - Main Course

**Hovězí guláš** - beef goulash - will automatically be served with sliced bread (houškový) dumplings. Garnished with fresh onions and sweet peppers.



**Vepřový guláš** (vepr-oh-vee) - pork goulash - same as above but with pork meat.

**Švíčková na smetaně** - slices of beef - (svichkova-na-smettan-eay) will automatically be served with sliced bread dumplings. The meat will be covered in a gravy and topped off with cranberry sauce (or brusinky) and cream.

**Šmažený kuřecí řízek** - chicken fried in breadcrumbs. Similar to a Wiener Schnitzel. Most often served with a cold potato salad "bramborový salát" or boiled potatoes "vařené brambory".

**Šmažený vepřový řízek** - as above but, with pork.

**Uzené or uzená** - Smoked meat having a pink appearance often served with houskové knedlíky (bread dumplings) and zelí.

**Kuřecí prsa** - Chicken breasts - Can be served with anything but often a dish which can come with "bramboráčky" (bramboratchky) which is potato that has been grated and then fried into small patty cakes.

**Bítek** - beef steak - Meat is generally cooked medium. If you want well done say "pro pečený" (propetchenay). Normally served with chips "hranolky" and possibly with an egg on the steak "vejce" (vigh-it-seh).

**Pfeffersteak** - Pepper Steak - Steak cooked to your requirement with peppercorns on the steak or with a side dish containing the sauce or with the sauce already on the steak.

**Pečená kachna** - roast duck - served with sliced bread dumplings and red cabbage which has been cooked.

**Smažený sýr** - Cheese fried in breadcrumbs served with a side salad. May also be described as Smažená šunka a sýr (fried cheese with ham).

**Králík** (kraaaleek) - Rabbit, usually roasted and served with zelí and/or red cabbage.

**Halušky** - A mix of very small pieces of bread dumpling, pork, bacon pieces and sweet cabbage.

**Špíz** (pro 2 osoby) - Kebab on a skewer (for 2 people).

**Pečené vepřové koleno** - Roast pork knuckle (priced according to weight), maybe at least 1kg. I would ask for roast potatoes as well.

**Vepřová panenka** - Can be small medallion-like pieces or one single piece of grilled pork depending on the restaurant.

Don't worry too much about accompaniments as most Czech meals will automatically be served with the standard offer.

## Accompaniments

**Houskové knedlíky** - bread dumplings

**Bramborové knedlíky** - potato dumplings

**Rýže** - rice

**Hranolky** - chips

**Bramborák or Bramboráčky** - fried potato cakes

**Smažené brambory** - fried potatoes

**Vařené brambory** - boiled potatoes

**Pečené brambory** - roast potatoes

**Krokety** - Not popular. It's mashed potatoes in a small cylindrical shape encased in breadcrumbs.

**Zelí** - sweet cabbage. Has the appearance of sauerkraut but, tastes much nicer.

**Cibule or Cibulky** - onions

**Mrkev or Mrkve** - carrots

**Žampiony** - mushrooms

**Hrášek** - peas

**Fazole** - beans (i.e. like chilli beans)

**Špenát** - Spinach. Served like mashed potatoes in a big dollop. Visually unappealing but, tastes nice.

**Jarní zelenina** - Spring vegetables

**Condiments** - Salt - Sůl (sool), pepper - pepř, vinegar - ocet (ot-set), mustard - hořčice (horts-chit-ser) Czech mustard is not strong.

## Some other useful translations

**Směs** (smee - ess) - possibly you will see "Kuřecí směs". Basically, it means that the meat is in small pieces. Literally it means "mixed".

**Prsa** - Applied to chicken or turkey it means you will get the breast.

**Piquant, Pikantní Dábělský or Pálivý** (paa-livee)- Meal or the sauce is spicy or served with chilli.

**Krocan or Krůtí** - Turkey

**Česnek** - Garlic

**Čerstvý or čerstvé** - Fresh

**Sladké or Sladká** - Sweet

**Kyselé or Kyselá** - Sour or bitter

**Anglická slanina** - English Bacon

**Těstoviny** - Pasta

Czech Meals are highly adaptable, if you like the basic meal but, for example, don't like the sauce, just ask for it without the sauce or if you don't want a certain vegetable etc.

The phrase you require is **Bez** which means without. i.e. „Bez omáčky" (bess omatchkee) translated as "without sauce" is useful when ordering a steak.

## The Menu - Salads

You may see something called "obloha" at the end of the meal description. This is just small offer of lettuce, red cabbage, white cabbage and maybe pepper. It provides colour but, the main salad options are;

**Míchaný** - Mixed pieces of cucumber, tomato, peppers etc.

**Šopský** - (shop-ski) Same as above but, with Balkan cheese on the top (strong flavour).

**Rajčatový** (rye-chatt-ohvee) - Tomato salad, just slices of tomato.

## The Menu - Dessert

Several desserts will be on offer. Below you will find the most common;

**Zmrzlina** - Ice Cream

**Koláč** - (kolaach) Cake. A selection of cakes is normally in a see-through cabinet and you point to the one that you want.

**Palačinky** (palachingky) - On it's own it is just a pancake but "palačinky s ovocem a Zmrzlina" turns it into a pancake filled with fruit and ice cream.

**Jablečný závin** (yab-bletchnee zaavin) - Apple Strudel. If you want it hot, tell the waitress the word „Teplé“ (tep-lay).

**Ovocné knedlíky** - Fruit dumplings. The regular bread dumpling but, served as small balls with a fruit or jam filling and a covering of sugar or a sweet sauce.

## Tea and Coffee

Many people here like fruit tea which in Czech is “ovocný čaj” (ovots-nee chai). English Tea i.e. you put milk in it, is not common but may be listed as „Anglický čaj” or “černý čaj” on some menus. The phrase “with milk” is “s mlekem”.

Say it fast like “smlekem”. Phonetically to ask for black tea with milk its “Cherny chai smlekem”.

Coffee will be the standard Cappuccino, Espresso or Vienna. Gone are the days when you got Turkish coffee as standard.

A Vienna coffee is strong but with a lot of cream on top served in a tall glass normally. In Czech it is called “Vídeňská káva”.

## Paying the Bill

To pay the bill you usually have to ask for it first. When the waiter comes over simply say "Zaplatím" (I will pay).

The waiter may say the words "dohromady?" (doh hromardee) which means do you want to pay altogether.

If you want to pay separately then the word to use is "Zvlášť (pronounced ZVlaasht). It's easier to settle one bill but, they will separate it if you want in the hope of a bigger tip.

For example, if the bill comes to 230KC, you can give the waiter 250KC and tell him to keep the change.

If you feel more comfortable, let him give you the change and you immediately give the tip back to him.

Czech people do NOT leave a tip on the table.

# The Quiz



# Quiz Questions

- 1) In English it is called Wenceslas Square. How is it called in Czech?
- 2) Cafe Slavica is opposite which Prague landmark?
- 3) How many steps lead from Thunovská up to the Castle?
- 4) The Rudolfinum is named after whom?
- 5) How many white crosses are on the ground outside the Old Town Hall?
- 6) Student Jan Palach set himself on fire in Wenceslas Square on 16th January 1969. On which day did he die?
- 7) From where does the street called Celetná get its name?
- 8) What was the name of the student killed by occupation forces on November 17th 1939?
- 9) The main post office is located in what street?
- 10) 2005 saw the 40th anniversary of a TV programme now shown each evening at 6-45pm on CT1. What is the name of the programme?
- 11) What's the number of the bus from the airport to the yellow line metro station at Zličín?
- 12) What's the difference between Perlivá and Neperlivá?
- 13) What's the Czech name for a Vienna Coffee?

- 14)** Close to the Ůjezd tram stop there is a monument. To whom is it dedicated?
- 15)** What is the green/red metro junction station called?
- 16)** In Czech it is called "Obecní DŮm", how is it called in English?
- 17)** Where would you find the "Zrcadlové Bludiště"?
- 18)** Who was the second President of the Czech Republic?
- 19)** The area around Charles Bridge on the Malá Štrana side between the river Vltava and the Čertovka inlet is known by what name?
- 20)** What year did Prague host EXPO?
- 21)** Where is the location of "Kelley's Tower"?
- 22)** When the "Jewish Quarter" was designated as the fifth district of Prague it was given a specific name. What is it?
- 23)** How do Czechs leave a tip?
- 24)** In Czech, the main river running through Prague is called the Vltava. What is the other name by which it is also known?
- 25)** What year was the Czech Republic formed?



# Quiz Answers

- 1) Václavské Náměstí.
- 2) The National Theatre. Originally opened in 1881, it burned down the same year. What you see now was built between 1881 and 1883.
- 3) There are 208 steps.
- 4) Crown Prince Rudolf, only son of Habsburg Arch Duke Franz Joseph.
- 5) 27. One for each Nobleman/Insurgent executed in 1621 after the Battle of White Mountain the previous year.
- 6) 19th January 1969, 3 days later.
- 7) Zelten. A type of cake made by the bakers in the street in the 15th Century.
- 8) Jan Opletal.
- 9) Jindřišská. The ceiling has been classically decorated but, you cannot take photos in the building.
- 10) Večerníček (vet-chernee-check). It's a children's bedtime story.
- 11) 100. Zličín is on the yellow metro line.
- 12) Type of mineral water. Perlivá is "sparkling" and Neperlivá is "still".
- 13) Víděňská káva.
- 14) Political prisoners persecuted 1948-1989.

- 15)** Muzeum (top of Wenceslas Square).
- 16)** Municipal House. Located in the Republic Square (Náměstí Republiky). Don't miss the chance of a coffee in the restaurant.
- 17)** Petřín Park. It means "mirror labyrinth".  
Opening times vary but, every weekend during the summer it will be open.
- 18)** Václav Klaus. Elected in 2003 after two rounds of voting. He was the government leader in 1996 when the economy almost collapsed. His political party ODS was dismissed from power after fraud allegations and the country was without a government leader for six months.
- 19)** Kampa. One of the areas heavily damaged by the 2002 flood.
- 20)** EXPO 1958.
- 21)** Jánský Vršek (halfway up Nerudova on the left).
- 22)** Josefov. Named after King Joseph II.
- 23)** When you pay the money, tell the waiter how much to keep. Or give him the tip straight away i.e. do not leave it on the table.
- 24)** Moldau. You'll see this on many old maps and German language maps as German was the main language up to the mid-19th Century.
- 25)** January 1st 1993 saw the creation of two new Republics. Czech Republic and Slovakia.

# About the Author

I was born in Kent, England and have had a successful career as a telecommunications consultant working in Europe and Asia.

This is my first attempt at self-publishing.



I arrived in Prague in June 1996. In the following year I stayed in apartments and hotels in Prague areas 4, 5, 6 and 10. I spent most of my time in Prague 1, 2 and 3 so you could say that I rapidly acquired a working knowledge of the city and it's geography. From 1998 I lived permanently in the south of the city and became resident in 2005.

My online guide to Prague began in 2001 with three short pages. As the site grew, [Livingprague.com](http://Livingprague.com) was started in 2005 and I continue to run it in my spare time.

I'm married with three children.