

Capital: Prague Language: Czech

Population: 10.5 million Time Zone: EST plus 6 hours Currency: Czech Koruna (CZK) Electricity: 220V. 50Hz

#### **Fun Facts**

Czech people are the world's greatest consumers of beer pro capita

The Czech Republic became a member of N.A.T.O. in 1999 and of the European Union in 2004

The Czech Republic is the second-richest country (after Slovenia) of the former Communist Bloc

The Czech Republic boasts a magnificent heritage of castles, medieval towns, palaces, churches, and above all, its romantic capital, "Golden" Prague. It is a relatively small country in Central Europe (30,000 sq. miles) composed of Moravia with its endless fields and vineyards, Bohemia, which is highly industrialized but also famous for its beers, and Moravian Silesia with its iron industry and coal mines. All over the Czech Republic you can visit many elegant spa cities.

For over 1,500 years, the history of the Slavic Czechs (the name meaning "member of the clan") was influenced by contacts with their western, German neighbors. According to popular belief from ancient times, the Slavic Premysl royal family was replaced by the Luxemburg family in the first half of the 14th century after assassination of the king Wenceslas III. Charles IV, the Holy Roman Emperor, brought prosperity to the land. Jan Hus, the early church reformer who was burned at the stake for heresy, founded the first Reformed church here almost 100 years before the Lutherans. The Hapsburgs started to rule the state from the first half of the 16th century; they managed to guell the Protestant spirit of the nation temporarily but were powerless against the surge of national feelings in the 19th century, which resulted in the foundation of Czechoslovakia following WWI—a foundation which lasted for 74 years (until the end of 1992). After WWII (from 1948) the country was ruled by Communists for 41 years until the Velvet Revolution in fall of 1989.

Czech cuisine is an interesting blend of neighboring influences from Germany, Austria, and Hungary. Meat is considered law; the local venison and wild boar is delicious, as are dishes with sauces and dumplings (the most typical local side dish in many variants). Shoppers will not be disappointed either; highly valued Bohemian crystal, artistically designed multicolor glass, jewelry with unique Czech garnets, and classical music all make good buys.



### VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Visas to Czech Republic are not required for U.S. citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your local consulate about requirements for travel to Czech Republic. All passengers traveling internationally are required to have a passport. Please carry proper identification (your passport) on you and do not leave it in your suitcase or hotel room.

European law requires you to carry your passport with you at all times.











# **COUNTRY CODES**

The country code for Czech Republic is 420. When calling to Czech Republic from overseas, dial your international access code (011 from the U.S./Canada) followed by the country code, area code, and phone number. Phone numbers in Czech Republic are nine digits in length. Dialing from the U.S./Canada: 011 420+ ### ### ###.



### **CURRENCY**

Throughout the Czech Republic, the currency is the Ceska Koruna (Czech Crown). The currency code is CZK, but the local symbol is Kč

1 CZECH KORUNA (CZK or Kc)= 100 Hellers/Haleru

- Banknote denominations: 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000 Kč
- Coin denominations: 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 Kč

For the most current exchange rates, please go to our Web site at www.globusfamily.com/currency.

Euro are becoming more widely accepted in the Czech Republic, but the majority of shops and restaurants only accept and give change in Czech Crowns (some places may provide change in Euro). Credit cards are widely accepted (mostly Visa and MasterCard), and you will have no issues using them.



#### **BUDGETING AND SHOPPING**

The following budget guidelines are just approximate values or starting values for meals and are per person. Actual prices will vary widely by restaurant and city within a country but below are some averages as provided by our experienced personnel.

The approximate cost of a soft drink/mineral water/coffee is 30-60 Kč.

An average lunch consisting of a salad or sandwich and a soda or water starts at approximately 150-250 Kč.

A steak dinner at a mid-range restaurant with dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage starts at approximately 400-600 Kč.

If paying by credit card in restaurants, check beforehand which cards are accepted (usually displayed on signs next to the entrance). It is not uncommon for strangers to share tables with each other in the Czech Republic.



#### TIPPING

Tipping in restaurants in the Czech Republic is not obligatory, but it is commonly welcomed. A tip of 5- 10% is a reasonable amount, 15% if you feel the service was exceptional. Tips are usually left in cash and not added to the credit card payment, given directly to the waiter and not left on the table.

For taxis, we recommend you round up the fare to the nearest whole 10 and add 20 Kč as a tip.

Tip hotel staff 50 Kč for room service.

Small change, 5, 10, and 20 Kč will be needed for public toilets. In restaurants and cafés toilets are free of charge.











# **ELECTRICAL OUTLETS**

Voltage for outlets is 220V. North American voltage is generally 110V. Therefore, a converter may be necessary for your travels. Adapters will be necessary to adapt your plug into the outlet but may not convert the voltage, so both devices are necessary.



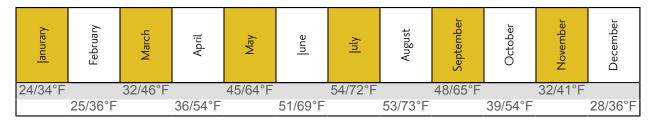
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# **TEMPERATURES**

Czech Republic has warm, wet summers and mild winters.

To help you plan, below are average low and high temperatures for Prague.



To convert to Celsius, subtract 32, then multiply by 5 and then divide by 9.



### FOOD SPECIALTIES

Meat in general (particularly pork, poultry, beef and venison), various sauces, and dumplings.



### A FEW WORDS OF THE LOCAL LANGUAGE

### Czech:

Hello!: Nazdar!, Good morning/afternoon: Dobry den, Goodbye: Na schledanou, Please: Prosim, Thank you: Dekuji, Yes: Ano, No: Ne, , 1: Jeden, 2: Dva, 3: Tri, 4: Chtiri, 5: Pet, 6: Shest, 7: Sedm, 8: Osm, 9: Devet, 10: Deset, Where is...?: Kam/kde...?, Telephone: Telefon, Tea: Czaj, Coffee: Kafe', Bottled water: Lahev vody, Cheers!: Na zdravi!, Restaurant check/bill: Účet, Have a nice day!: Hezky den!









