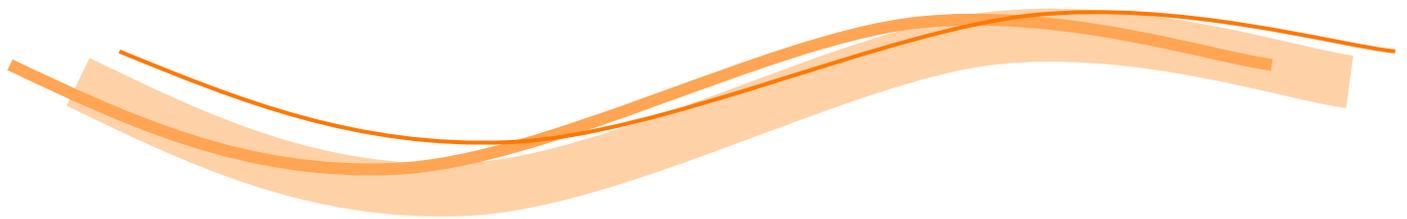




# THE CZECH REPUBLIC & GLOBUS





These notes are in two parts: firstly Globus and secondly the Czech Republic.

<p><b>THE GLOBUS FAMILY OF BRANDS</b></p>	<p>The Globus family of brands comprises Globus, Cosmos, Avalon Waterways and Monograms. Each of these companies brings its own twist to escorted travel – and together they are backed by the huge scope and strength of the Globus organization.</p> <p>In business for 90 years, with 32 offices around the world, offering you over 400 itineraries in over 70 countries – this is a giant of the tourism world. It is a company with vast experience, huge resources on the ground and everything in place to make your Globus journey special.</p> <p>Globus seeks to achieve just the right balance of included features and free time, and along the way, tell the stories that bring your destination to life. It all comes together to give you the feeling of being a true local – not just a visitor.</p> <p>Globus can take care of every aspect of your travel – flights, pre and post tour stop overs, plus an unmatched choice of destinations and touring styles. Globus and Cosmos offer you escorted tours. Avalon Waterways has 15 beautiful river cruise vessels in Europe. And Monograms offers 143 world-wide independent packages that cover all the details for you, including hotels and transportation.</p> <p>Whether you have a Globus or Cosmos Tour Director or an Avalon Waterways Cruise Director – you will be in good hands with a knowledgeable guide travelling with you every step of the way. On average Globus Tours Directors have 23 years’ experience and speak four languages. And even though you are travelling independently with Monograms - your Monograms Local Host is a friend in every city. Website: <a href="http://www.GlobusFamily.ca">www.GlobusFamily.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Globus and Czech</b></p>	<p>Each of the Globus Family of Brands provides opportunities to discover the Czech Republic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globus: Imperial Escape, Bohemian Dream, Imperial Splendours and Best of Eastern Europe all have substantial Czech components.</li> <li>• Cosmos: Prague, Vienna &amp; Budapest, Bohemian Rhapsody, Central Europe, European Capitals, 14 Day Tour From Paris To Vienna, European Capitals With Budapest, 17 Day Tour From Paris To Budapest, Cosmopolitan Europe, 17 Day Tour From London To Paris</li> <li>• Monograms: Prague city stays alone or combined with other European cities</li> </ul>

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	<p>Avalon: Christmas In The Heart Of Germany – Christmas Markets in Prague and pre and post stays in Prague linked to other Danube Cruises</p>
<p><b>Special Offer</b></p>	<p><b>Save \$200 per couple on select 2018 Globus, Cosmos, Monograms and Avalon vacations of six nights or more with visits to the Czech Republic.*</b></p> <p><i>*Book a 2018 Czech Republic Globus (excludes Escapes by Globus and 2020 Oberammergau) Cosmos, Monograms &amp; Avalon vacation of 6 nights or more to receive \$100 per person discount on the land or land/cruise price. Booking must be made, under deposit and discount applied between April 14 and April 24, 2018 for travel in 2018. Must mention code "CRS100" at time of booking. Offer is valid with all current promotions including Journeys Club Repeat Traveller benefit, if applicable. Applies to new 2018 bookings only, and offer will not be applied to pre-existing bookings. Applicable to individuals added to groups during the promo period. Offer reliant on space availability. Full cancellation penalties will apply. Additional restrictions may apply; see Travel Terms &amp; Conditions for details. May be withdrawn at any time.</i></p>
<p><b>Globus</b></p>	<p>Globus offers more than 225 guided vacations to more than 70 countries on six continents. There are a variety of travel styles (from small group to multi-country tours) plus specialty travel options including Cruise &amp; Tour, Family Travel, Religious Vacations, and more.</p> <p>A dynamic blend of transportation includes deluxe motor coach, rail, air, and cruise – Globus makes getting there a part of the fun! Did you know the average number of people on a Globus motor coach is 36? You don't have to worry about driving, baggage handling, hotel reservations and the like – you are free to enjoy your journey to the fullest. You will stay in hotels that are First-class and above, selected to be central locations, right where you want to be. Many great meals are also included in the package price – plus you have the freedom to experience the local fare as you wish. In this, as in all aspects of your tour, Globus strives for the ideal combination of free time and planned activities.</p> <p>You won't waste your precious time in line – Globus VIP access means no waiting to see the major sites. Visits which are enhanced by your Tour Director and local guides, and which, incidentally, are included in the cost of your tour.</p> <p>Thanks to more than 85 years' experience showing people the world, Globus is the most recognized Tour Operator in the industry and recommended by Travel Weekly, Recommend magazine, and Travel</p>

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	<p>Age West. The 97% satisfaction rating amongst Globus customers in post-vacation surveys says it all.</p>
<p><b>Monograms</b></p>	<p>If you are looking for “assisted” rather than “directed” travel -- if you want independent travel without the hassle of having to make every little arrangement for yourself -- if you want to have a Local Host to point you to the places that only the locals know: you want to travel with Monograms.</p> <p>At its core, a Monograms vacation is a single city or multi-city travel package. Monograms has taken the world's most incredible regions, done all the work to find the must-see destinations within them - and put together amazing itineraries for you to choose from.</p> <p>Monograms can take you to Europe, South and Central America, the USA, Canada, Asia, Africa, Australia and New Zealand. From Paris to Peru. From Cambodia to Costa Rica. From Alaska to Alice Springs. From Botswana to Brazil. And from Quebec to Queensland.</p> <p>Monograms knows the hotels with the best views, the hotels closest to ancient history - even the hotels with the crispest sheets and the tastiest mints. Most packages give you a choice of carefully screened and selected hotels, right in the heart of your destination.</p> <p>Monograms isn't part of the Globus family for nothing. Not only will they help you arrange the world's greatest travel experiences, you can also benefit from VIP access - minimizing lines and wait times. Uniquely with a Monograms vacation, your Local Host is also there to help you - a friendly, knowledgeable insider in each destination to offer hints and recommendations, steer you off the beaten path, and help you maximize every moment of your time.</p> <p>And it doesn't stop there! Monograms will get you from Point A to Point B. Whether it's flight arrangements, transfers from the airport to your hotel, sightseeing, or travelling between cities, they take care of your transportation needs and can include it in your package price.</p> <p>So you focus on having fun on vacation - while Monograms leverage the Globus network and experience to make all the arrangements for you. It doesn't get more seamless than that for an independent traveller!</p>
<p><b>Cosmos</b></p>	<p>For more than four decades Cosmos has offered savvy, value-minded travelers the most affordable travel packages to the world's most fascinating places - places like the snow-capped peaks of Switzerland, sunny Spain, the ancient splendor of Greece and Egypt, festive France, and the beautiful British Isles.</p>

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	<p>For as little as \$75 per day, you can enjoy the benefits of escorted travel, a greater choice of activities, plenty of free time to explore your destination the way you want, and longer stays in key cities so that you can truly immerse yourself in the local culture. So you could be on your way to the vacation experience of a lifetime.</p> <p>Cosmos offers three Vacation Styles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional Discoveries – Focus on a one specific region, in depth packages.</li> <li>- Panoramas – Multi-country packages, absolutely the best way to get an overview of Europe</li> <li>- Escapes – Vacations of 9 days or less</li> </ul> <p>Stretch Your Vacation Dollar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Value-packed vacations at down to earth prices</li> <li>- They make it easy for singles to travel - they accept reservations on a “guaranteed share” basis</li> <li>- Discount for young travelers: 10% off land arrangements</li> <li>- Pay less for your second and subsequent vacations: \$50 off subsequent Cosmos vacations</li> </ul> <p>Fascinating Sightseeing &amp; Plenty of Leisure Time Discover the best ways to see Europe – train rides, cable car ascents, Aegean cruise ships, scenic day ferries, walking tours with local guides, private first class motor-coaches.</p> <p>Cosmos Vacations offer flexibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Joining late and leaving early options with various reductions</li> <li>- A professional team takes care of you in London</li> <li>- Extra nights</li> <li>- Many meals are included in the vacation price</li> <li>- Cosmos takes care of your hotels, which are superior tour class &amp; tourist- class, however we also feature some first-class hotels.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Avalon</b></p>	<p>On an Avalon Waterways river cruise, "included" is the name of the game. From spacious outside staterooms with expansive views to Wi-Fi access in your suite. From sparkling wines, regional beers and wines to unlimited lattes and premium coffees. From your choice of enriching shore excursions to VIP access to the must-see sites. It's all included!</p> <p>The on board experience is superb. At every meal, you'll have the ability to choose from a multitude of dining experiences.</p> <p>All meals feature the highest-quality local ingredients, hand crafted by true culinary artisans. And all are included at no extra cost - from casual</p>

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	<p>Bistro style dining to the elegant Main Dining Room. From continental breakfast delivered to your own room to Afternoon Tea.</p> <p>Relax and glide peacefully along Europe’s great waterways with 360-degree views of Europe. Avalon Waterways river cruises offers the most spacious staterooms in Europe with Panorama-style Suite Ships. Most staterooms and suites have a floor-to-ceiling sliding-glass door with a French Balcony that opens right out to the vista before you.</p> <p>One of the joys of river cruising in Europe is that you arrive right in the centre of some of Europe’s great cities. Unlike other cruise operators, Avalon Waterway’s preplanned discoveries are included at no extra charge. Thanks to the touring experience of sister company Globus, you are privy to the best, all-inclusive land programs available.</p> <p>Plus there is great selection of optional excursions to help you further personalize your cruise. Whether it's a classical music concert in Vienna, a visit to a French winery, time at the colossal Romanian Parliament building in Bucharest, or a guided bicycle tour through town – you decide how much you want to do, and at what pace, at each stop on your journey.</p>
<p><b>Key Points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globus has been in business for 90 years</li> <li>• Globus offers more than 150 unique vacation itineraries throughout 74 different countries</li> <li>• Globus has perfected their itineraries so that you enjoy a smooth, hassle-free vacation with unrivaled consistence, quality and value.</li> <li>• With Globus you get high quality, low price and an abundance of included features all adding up to exceptional value!</li> <li>• Globus directors weave together insightful anecdotes, little-known secrets and hands-on experiences to ensure that every journey tells a story.</li> <li>• For more information or to book a Globus vacation, contact or visit your preferred travel agent.</li> </ul>
<p><b>History</b></p>	<p>90 years ago, Antonio Mantegazza bought a rowboat to transport commercial goods across Lake Lugano in Switzerland. Who would have known that rowboat would launch the world's leading guided travel company?</p> <p>Antonio's frequent trips across the scenic lake led him to consider opportunities in a different market: tourism. His entrepreneurial instinct pushed him to gradually acquire some motor coaches to transport tourists around the Lake Lugano area.</p> <p>In 1928, Antonio opened a company specializing in motor coach touring called Globus Viaggi. The company began with a fleet of 12 coaches which operated local excursions for European tourists in Switzerland.</p>

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	<p>By 1950, Globus Viaggi had grown to a fleet of 33 coaches and featured overnight excursions to Rome, Venice, the Dolomites and the French Riviera.</p> <p>For 90 years, the Globus family of brands has been providing a variety of products that address the needs of today's diverse traveler. Whether it's a fully escorted, premium, independent, or river cruise vacation, with Globus family of brands you will get unmatched value and world-class customer service with every journey.</p> <p>Today, the Globus family of companies consists of more than 30 tourism and aviation businesses, serviced by a group of more than 5,000 professionals worldwide.</p> <p>Combined, Globus and Cosmos carry about 500,000 passengers a year making the company the leading operator of guided vacations worldwide.</p>
<p><b>Why Globus?</b></p>	<p>With Globus, you'll always visit the key sights - the Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum and the Forum in Rome, the Prado Museum in Madrid, Michelangelos's David in the Academy of Fine Arts in Florence, and many others. You'll enjoy many more inclusions like cruises, high-speed trains, local guides, and in Italy's main cities, headsets for clear commentary. They offer twice the number of included features as many competitors, without any additional cost to you. Look for the complete list of their special included features on each tour page in their brochure. Globus not only brings you experience that others simply don't offer, they also ensure that you end up with more time to enjoy the rest of your destination. Most competitors require you to take extra optional excursions to see these important sights, costing you additional time and money. And if you don't join their excursion, you'll spend most of your time waiting in line. But with Globus, these sights are already included, freeing up the remainder of your time for exactly what you'd like to see.</p>
<p><b>Hotels with Globus</b></p>	<p>Globus understand the importance of hotel quality to your vacation. That's why, unlike most competitors, Globus hotels are First Class and above. And they stand behind their ratings, as confirmed by the hotel &amp; travel Index or national tourist board. For reference they have included hotel rating totals for each vacation in their brochure.</p> <p>The hotels selected are chosen not only for the superior quality but also for their convenient location, and their volume buying power worldwide means unparalleled value for you. For example, all hotels listed on the Monograms Independent Vacations and Leisurestyle vacations are located in the heart of your destination, so you're close to what you want to see. On the Castle villa stays they have special accommodations that are destinations in their own right. You'll be treated like royalty at unbeatable value.</p>
<p><b>Tour Directors</b></p>	<p>One of the greatest advantages of travelling with Globus is your Tour</p>

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	<p>Director. Never underestimate the importance of experience. On average, each of their several hundred European Tour Directors has completed more than fourteen seasons on the road, successfully conducting an average of nearly 140 vacations.</p> <p>Globus Tour Directors are experts who have honed the art of taking you inside a destination, so you can rest assured that you're seeing the sights like a local.</p> <p>When you're been travelling as long as they have, you have operations down to an art form. They have spent more than 75 years refining itineraries and procedures and their Swiss Heritage ensures that your trip is trouble free to the last detail. With over 30 offices around the world, they have support when and where you need it, under any circumstances.</p>
<p><b>Globus Value</b></p>	<p>Globus includes all the main features of a destination without extra cost. Their volume buying power saves you money. In fact, a whole day of touring with Globus generally costs what you'd pay for just a hotel alone if you plan the trip on your own. Yet they also provide a Tour director, a great variety of transportation, many meals, a rich sightseeing program and much more. Here's a few more value-added items:</p> <p><b>Free airport transfers:</b> book your scheduled transatlantic flight with Globus and benefit from free transfers</p> <p><b>Low Air-fares:</b> compare their competitive air-inclusive prices, and business class is also available.</p> <p><b>Discounts</b> abound: group reduction, child reduction, triple room reduction, multiple tour reduction.</p> <p>Globus has fifty hosts in London alone to assist you at the airports and hotels</p> <p><b>Professional Tour director</b> while touring, cruise director on River Cruises, local hosts for Monograms</p> <p>Hotels listed on tour page. Twin-bedded rooms with private bath and shower, hotel taxes service charges, and tips for baggage handling</p> <p>Private Deluxe motor coach with air-conditioning, extra leg room, and emergency washroom while touring</p> <p>All tours London- Paris/Brussels &amp; Paris/Brussels-London travel are on the Eurostar</p>

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	<p><b>Globus travel bag</b> and travel documents; Monograms wallet and travel documents</p> <p>Headsets included for sightseeing with local guide in Rome, Florence, Venice and Pompeii</p>
<b>Journeys Club</b>	<p>Journeys Club is an exclusive fellowship created for past Globus passengers. It invites you to share your passion for travel with a group of like-minded, experienced Globus globetrotters.</p> <p>Benefits include:          Exclusive journeys with upgrades, extras amenities and welcome gifts          Member-only discounts, Insider information regarding new, upcoming Globus vacations, Quarterly newsletters and E-mail updates with Journeys Club information and promotions, Journeys Club travel merchandise and Travel &amp; destination tips and articles</p>
<b>Children</b>	<p>An adult must accompany travelers who are less than 18 years old on the tour departure date; the child receives a 10% discount on the land tour price. Children under the age of 8 are not allowed on escorted tours, because they are considered too young to enjoy these vacations.</p>
<b>Globus Brand</b> "Every journey tells a story"	<p>The Globus brand provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More selection, more included features, more leisure time, more superior hotels</li> <li>- More once-in-a-lifetime opportunities</li> <li>- More Experience – their story began over 80 years ago and ever since they've been refining their itineraries and procedures to ensure that clients get the most out of their vacation.</li> <li>- Many Globus vacations include a welcome dinner to introduce one to the cuisine of the region being visited.</li> <li>- More Great Ways to Travel - to give you even more vacation options, many Globus &amp; Monograms Independent Vacations are combinable with River Cruises or with Monograms (on selected departures)</li> <li>- No other Tour Operator offers as many means of included transportation as Globus:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All high-speed trains in Europe</li> <li>- Vignette vacations feature at least one train as a mode of transportation from city to city, so getting there is part of the adventure</li> <li>- The newest fleet of deluxe river cruise ships on the main European rivers, the Nile, and Portugal's Douro River</li> <li>- Sea cruises in the Mediterranean and the northern seas (including Hurtigruten cruises)</li> <li>- Globus offers many vacations for the wine connoisseur - In Oporto enjoy a wine tasting in a Port wine cellar, or at Tuscany's Verrazzano Castle, learn about the fine art of making Chianti.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Globus Awards</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Best Tour Operator to Europe" Travel Weekly's Reader's Choice</li> </ul>

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	<p>Awards three times in recent years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Best Tour Operator to Europe” TravelAge West magazine</li> <li>- “Top Tour Operator to Europe” Recommend magazine</li> </ul>
<p><b>Globus Discounts</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discount for young travelers: 10% off land arrangements</li> <li>- Pay less for your second and subsequent vacations: \$70 off subsequent Globus vacations</li> <li>- Discounts available for group travel, young travelers, and triple rooms.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Monograms</b> “Get more vacation from your vacation”</p>	<p>Monograms is a new way to travel independently:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monograms is independent travel without the hassles that typically come with “ordinary” independent travel. With Monograms you never have to worry about whether or not your hotel will have your reservation, how to get from here to there, or where to go once you get to your destination.</li> <li>- Monograms is ideal for vacationers who want the freedom of independent travel but who prefer the convenience of a package that takes care of all the details, such as reserving hotels, air arrangements, airport transfers, and even guidance at your destination.</li> <li>- Unlike ordinary independent travel where all the details are left for you to plan, Monograms packages remove the logistical guesswork. They pre-select hotels for you in the heart of your destination and provide you with the services of a local host or service on call.</li> <li>- In Europe, South America, Asia, and the South Pacific their local hosts provide area expertise and insider information, and are available to help answer questions, arrange excursions and city sightseeing, give directions, and direct you to the activities that interest you most for a truly personal, one-of-a-kind vacation.</li> <li>- In North America, Monograms provide you with Service On Call, a toll-free helpline to assist with anything you need throughout your journey—24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Hotels:</b> Monograms’ carefully selected hotels provide the comfort and convenient locations you desire.</li> <li>- Choose from two different levels of hotel packages: Standard or Premium. Then, once you’ve selected your package, it will be the same throughout your entire trip, regardless of which city you are in.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Packages:</b> Just as the world is wonderfully diverse, so too are Monograms vacations and the memories they create. They offer single- and multi-city packages around the world, including Europe, North America, South America, Australia &amp; New Zealand, and Asia. Their single-city stays are perfect for a short getaway and our multi-city stays are prepackaged in the combinations that are right for you</li> <li>- <b>Flexibility:</b> Monograms vacations deliver ultimate flexibility, so you can travel when you want and at your own pace. Vacation packages vary in</li> </ul>

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length and offer frequent departures, in some cases daily departures, to fit your busy schedule.

- You'll also benefit from plenty of free time so you can experience each destination in your own way.

- Dedicated website: [www.monogramstravel.ca](http://www.monogramstravel.ca)

Monograms Europe Vacations include

• Services of a Local Host • City map (s) - • Centrally located hotels • Transportation between cities • Guided sightseeing • Ability to add flights to your package • Breakfast daily • Airport transfers when you purchase air from them

- Add more vacation to your vacation: to give you even more options, several Monograms vacations are combinable with another Monograms vacation or a river cruise with the sister company, Avalon Waterways.

- North America Monograms: Single City & Multi-City Getaways offering single- and multi-city packages in North America's most popular cities.

The following is included: • Service On Call helpline • Transportation between cities (Multi-City Getaways) • Conveniently located hotels • Ability to add flights to your package • Sightseeing • Airport transfers when you purchase air • City guide(s) & Map(s)

- **Rail Getaways:** enjoy time exploring popular cities in Western Canada then sit back, relax, and take in the beautiful scenery. The following are included: • Service On Call helpline • Rail transportation between cities • Conveniently located hotels • Ability to add flights to your package • Sightseeing • Airport transfers when you purchase air

- **Hawaii Island Getaways:** relax and experience Hawaii's most popular sights and hidden treasures at your own pace. The following is included: • Service On Call helpline • Rental car (if needed) • Conveniently located hotels • Hawaii map • Sightseeing • Ability to add flights to your package

- **On The Road Driving Vacations:** experience the spectacular landscapes that connect North America's most popular destinations. The following is included: • Service On Call helpline • Detailed driving directions, mileage, and maps • Conveniently located hotels • Information about attractions • Rental Car (if needed) • Ability to add flights to your package

Your Monograms South America, China & Asia, and South Pacific vacation include • Services of a Local Host, • City maps, • Centrally located hotels, • Transportation between cities, • Guided sightseeing, • Ability to add flights to your package, • Breakfast daily, • Airport transfers when you purchase flights

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<b>Connect</b>	<p><b>Globus</b> Website: <a href="http://www.globusjourneys.ca">www.globusjourneys.ca</a> Telephone: 1-800-268-3636 Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/globus">https://www.facebook.com/globus</a> Pinterest: <a href="https://www.pinterest.ca/globusfamily/">https://www.pinterest.ca/globusfamily/</a></p> <p><b>Avalon Waterways</b> Website: <a href="http://www.avalonwaterways.ca">www.avalonwaterways.ca</a> Telephone: 1-800-268-3636 Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AvalonWaterways">https://www.facebook.com/AvalonWaterways</a> Pinterest: <a href="https://www.pinterest.ca/globusfamily/">https://www.pinterest.ca/globusfamily/</a></p> <p><b>Monograms</b> Website: <a href="http://www.monograms.com">www.monograms.com</a> Telephone: 1-866-270-9841 Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Monograms">https://www.facebook.com/Monograms</a> Pinterest: <a href="https://www.pinterest.ca/globusfamily/">https://www.pinterest.ca/globusfamily/</a></p> <p><b>Cosmos</b> Website: <a href="http://www.cosmosvacations.ca">www.cosmosvacations.ca</a> Telephone: 1-800-268-3636 Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CosmosCanada/">https://www.facebook.com/CosmosCanada/</a> Pinterest: <a href="https://www.pinterest.ca/globusfamily/">https://www.pinterest.ca/globusfamily/</a></p>
<b>Personal Recommendation</b>	<p>I have personally enjoyed cruising with Avalon – see my travel blogs at:</p> <p><a href="http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Blog/tabid/400/EntryId/40/River-Cruising-on-the-Danube.aspx">http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Blog/tabid/400/EntryId/40/River-Cruising-on-the-Danube.aspx</a></p> <p>And</p> <p><a href="http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Blog/tabid/400/EntryId/88/Rhine-River-Cruising-with-Avalon.aspx">http://www.chrisrobinsontravelshow.ca/Blog/tabid/400/EntryId/88/Rhine-River-Cruising-with-Avalon.aspx</a></p>

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## CZECH REPUBLIC

2018 is a special year to visit the Czech Republic as it celebrates 100 Years, with hundreds of cultural, social and sporting events to be offered.

Czechoslovakia was founded in the aftermath of World War I as one of the successor states of Austria-Hungary. The central European country existed (with a brief interlude during World War II) from 28 October 1918 to 31 December 1992. On 1 January 1993, Czechoslovakia split to form the independent Czech and Slovak Republics. In 2018, both countries will be celebrating a hundred years of existence and commemorating the best that they have given the world together.

The twenty years between the two world wars represent an exceptionally rich period in Czech history. At that time, Bohemia became one of the centres of modern European life. Czech towns such as Brno, Hradec Králové, Plzeň, Pardubice and Prague boast unique functionalist architecture, our galleries are home to pictures and sculptures by artists whose works are today some of the most appreciated in the world, and industrial production from that period, primarily cars and reproduction glass, captivate with the precision of their execution and the timelessness of their design. The inter-war era left behind a range of monuments, museums, period cafés and sporting traditions whose stories are waiting to be discovered.

Would you prefer to visit the lively open-air museum in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm or to go on a tour taking you through original methods for brewing beer, the Czech national drink? Visitors will have the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the first Czechoslovak president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, and to visit border fortifications, while walks through the architectural visions of Adolf Loos, Josef Gočár and Jan Kotěra and the paintings of Alfons Mucha, František Kupka and Emil Fila will provide visitors with a memorable artistic experience.

A key project for the celebrations is a joint Czech and Slovakian exhibition. On the Czech side, it will be presented by the National Museum, while the Slovak partners are the Slovak National Museum and the Slovak National Gallery.

The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra will be marking the hundredth anniversary of the foundation of Czechoslovakia with an open-air concert. It will then go on to perform concerts of Leoš Janáček's opera "The Cunning Little Vixen" ("Liška Bystrouška") in Prague and New York, and is preparing an exhibition entitled "Bedřich Smetana – Má vlast" ("Bedřich Smetana – My Homeland") in honour of the Czechoslovak composer.

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	You can find the best that the 2018 celebrations have to offer at <a href="http://www.czechtourism.com">www.czechtourism.com</a> .
<b>Location</b>	The Czech Republic is a landlocked nation state in Central Europe bordered by Germany to the west, Austria to the south, Slovakia to the east and Poland to the northeast. The Czech Republic covers an area of 78,866 square kilometres.
<b>Geography</b>	The Czech landscape is very varied. Bohemia, to the west, consists of a basin drained by the Elbe and the Vltava rivers, surrounded by mostly low mountains, such as the Krkonoše range of the Sudetes. The highest point in the country, Sněžka at 1,603 m (5,259 ft), is located here. Moravia, the eastern part of the country, is also quite hilly. It is drained mainly by the Morava River, but it also contains the source of the Oder River. Water from the landlocked Czech Republic flows to three different seas: the North Sea, Baltic Sea and Black Sea. The Czech Republic can be subdivided into four ecoregions: the Western European broadleaf forests, Central European mixed forests, Pannonian mixed forests, and Carpathian montane conifer forests.
<b>Name</b>	The Czech Republic's official formal and short names at the United Nations are Česká republika and Česko in Czech, and the Czech Republic and Czechia in English. All these names derive from the name of the Czechs, the West Slavic ethnic group native to the Czech lands.
<b>Population</b>	The total population is 10.6 million (2018)
<b>Language</b>	The official language of the Czech Republic is Czech. It is spoken by approx. 10.6 million people. Czech falls within the West Slavic language group and therefore is similar to Polish, as well as Russian and Croatian. An interesting phenomenon is its great similarity to Slovak. Although the vast majority of the population of the Czech Republic (96%) speaks Czech, you can also hear Slovak, Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, or Vietnamese as these are languages of the largest national minorities in the Czech Republic. Tourists will usually make themselves understood in English.
<b>Currency</b>	The official currency of the Czech Republic is the Czech crown. Coins: CZK 1, CZK 2, CZK 5, CZK 10, CZK 20 and CZK 50 Banknotes: CZK 100, CZK 200, CZK 500, CZK 1000, CZK 2000 and CZK 5000  1 Crown = 100 halers, but you will be able to see these in the Czech Republic only on price labels. When you make payment you will not use halers or get them back in change. Prices are subject to rounding. For example: if the price is 299 crowns and 75 halers, you will pay 300 crowns.

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	<p>Many shops, restaurants as well as tourist centres accept Euros. But you should not be surprised that particularly in shops any change returned will be in Czech crowns.</p> <p>The current (April 2018) exchange rate is \$1 CDN = 16 Czech Crowns.</p>
<b>Tipping</b>	<p>Tipping is a standard 10%, and is not normally added to the bill. Don't be confused by the percentage figures listed at the bottom of the bill, by Czech law, a receipt must show the VAT paid (21% in most cases) and the VAT is already included in the final amount, and you should add about 10% to this (or more if you were really satisfied).</p>
<b>Government</b>	<p>The Czech Republic is a pluralist multi-party parliamentary representative democracy, with the President as head of state and Prime Minister as head of government. The Parliament is bicameral, with the Chamber of Deputies (200 members) and the Senate (81 members).</p>
<b>Documentation</b>	<p>Canadians need only a Passport to stay up to 90 days – no visa is required.</p>
<b>Time zone</b>	<p>The time zone for the whole country is Central European, which is generally six hours ahead of EST in Montreal and Toronto.</p>
<b>Health</b>	<p>Healthcare in the Czech Republic is similar in quality to other developed nations, but don't forget your health insurance.</p>
<b>Safety tips</b>	<p>By any measure, the Czech Republic as a whole generally has a low crime rate. For tourists, the Czech Republic is considered a safe destination to visit. The low crime rate makes most cities and towns very safe to walk around. The country is rated as the sixth safest country in the world.</p>

<b>CLIMATE</b>	
<b>General climate</b>	<p>Spring is usually cooler, the temperature from early March to late May ranges around 10°C on average. In these months the rainfall/snowfall in the Czech Republic averages about 161 mm. From March to May you can bask in approx. 479 hours of sunshine in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>The average summer temperature is about 17°C. However, this also includes mountainous areas! In the towns the temperature in June, July and August may reach as high as 35°C. For example, on Lysá Mountain in the Beskids there is no summer climate at all – after spring autumn appears straight away. So, if you want to cool down, it is a good idea to pop in there for example from sizzling Pálava.</p> <p>The first of the autumn months is September, which is still relatively warm, so it is referred to as the "Indian summer". Nonetheless, the beginning of October brings more rain and the average daily temperature falls to 10°C. The leaves on trees change colour and fall off, a fact described in the Czech name of November, which is</p>

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	<p>“Listopad” meaning “leaf-fall”. In the late autumn the first ground frosts are possible.</p> <p>Winter in the Czech Republic lasts roughly from December to February. Temperatures in towns may drop as low as -20°C, and in the mountains they plummet even further. Nevertheless, recent winters have been milder with temperatures slightly below zero – yet still cold enough to enjoy skiing in various places, such the Krkonoše Mountains, cross-country skiing for example in Šumava or just taking a romantic walk through snow-covered Prague.</p>
<b>Today’s weather</b>	Today (4 April 2018) Prague’s temperature is 20C and mostly sunny.
<b>Best time to visit</b>	Most Canadian visitors travel to the Czech Republic in the summer time when the weather is reliably warm and sunny.

<b>GETTING AROUND</b>	
<b>Getting There</b>	<p>Visiting the Czech Republic is an easy trip from North America. In a quick 8.5 hours, you can be wandering the cobblestone streets of Prague and starting your adventure. Enjoy an overnight flight so that you never miss a beat or opt for a daytime flight. Either way, there are plenty of options of Prague flights for your next Czech Republic trip! The following airlines operate direct flights to Prague during the summer tourist season, May-October:</p> <p>Air Transat from Toronto (YYZ) &amp; Montreal (YUL). Service operates weekly on a A330-300 aircraft.</p> <p>Air Canada Rouge from Toronto (YYZ). Service operates 3x per week on a Boeing 767 aircraft.</p> <p>Some flight offers may be applicable all-year-round. Otherwise, connecting flights are available frequently via major European airport hubs.</p>
<b>Cities</b>	<p><b>Prague</b> - is the fifth most visited city in Europe after London, Paris, Istanbul and Rome. It is the country’s capital and largest city, and its large and beautiful historical core is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p>As the country's primate city, Prague naturally dominates most visitors' itineraries, and for good reason. A mix of the Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Brutalist, and Socialist, the capital is arguably one of Europe's most photogenic cities.</p> <p>Visitors should enjoy the Old Town and gawk at its medieval buildings, stroll across the Charles Bridge, and make their way through the Malá Strana up to the dominating Prague Castle for fantastic views of the city.</p> <p><b>Brno</b> — the largest city in Moravia and the republic's second city, with several excellent museums, an accessible old town, a stunning cathedral, and the annual Grand Prix.</p>

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	<p><b>České Budějovice</b> – known also as Budweis, an attractive city in South Bohemia with an impressive old town square.</p> <p><b>Český Krumlov</b> — a stunning medieval and Renaissance town in South Bohemia, home to the country's second largest palace, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p><b>Karlovy Vary</b> — a historic spa resort and the republic's largest, especially popular with German and Russian tourists, and the site of the country's most prestigious film festival.</p> <p><b>Kutná Hora</b> — a historical medieval town in Central Bohemia, home to St. Barbara's Church, old silver mines, and the Sedlec Ossuary, decorated with tens of thousands of human remains. Its attractions are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p><b>Olomouc</b> — a riverside university town with a thousand-year history, and the second largest historical centre in the Czech Republic after Prague.</p> <p><b>Ostrava</b> — a vibrant and sometimes gritty blue-collar city with a strong subculture, and a long history of coal mining and steel production.</p> <p><b>Opava</b> — the former capital of Silesia.</p> <p><b>Pilsen (Plzeň)</b> — home of the original Pilsner Urquell beer and the Škoda Works, and the largest city in West Bohemia.</p> <p><b>Telč</b> — a perfectly preserved Renaissance town centre surrounded by shallow man-made lakes. The town is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.</p> <p><b>Zlín</b> - Beautiful example of functionalistic architecture inspired by garden cities of Le Corbusier and rebuilt by Baťa shoemaker family. The town is set in small hills, nature, zoo and spa literally behind a hill.</p>
<b>Distances</b>	The country is relatively small, so the distances are not great. For instance, Prague to Brno is about 200kms, or two hours' drive.
<b>Taxis</b>	<p>The average price per kilometre in a taxi is CZK 20. The final amount to be paid depends on the city, Prague usually being the most expensive. The price for the trip from downtown to the Prague airport ranges from CZK 500 to CZK 700.</p> <p>Unfair taxi drivers are everywhere, but their number in the Czech Republic is decreasing - to avoid the remaining ones, do not take a taxi directly in the street and rather call one by phone. Use only taxis that</p>

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	are clearly identified and ask about the price to your destination beforehand.
<b>Trains</b>	The Czech Republic has one of the most dense railway networks in Europe and a sophisticated system of bus transportation. Both trains and buses are reliable. The various Euro Rail Passes can be very effective for travel here.
<b>Car Rental</b>	All the major international car rental companies are available in city and airport locations.
<b>Public Transport</b>	<p>In Prague you can use trams, buses, metro, ferries and even cable cars. Timetables, connections and other important information on Prague transport is available online. A comprehensive system of public transportation is also available in Brno, Ostrava, Pilsen, Liberec and other cities. With the modernisation of the fleet, an increasing number of public transport vehicles are barrier-free. The timetables include information on stations that have lifts or special paths making them accessible to disabled people.</p> <p>To use public transport in Prague, you must buy a ticket, choosing from one of the following options: The basic fare for adults costs CZK 32. If you are going to stay in Prague for one day, it is convenient to use a one-day ticket for CZK 110, if you are planning a weekend visit, it pays up to buy a three-day ticket for CZK 310. The ticket is always valid from the moment of its marking (the marking machines are in the metro, on the trams and buses) - it is enough to mark it once.</p>

<b>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</b>	<p>Would you like to spend the night in a designer or rather romantic wellness hotel?</p> <p>You can indulge in luxury at château hotels. The most romantic include Château Mcely or Sychrov.</p> <p>Prague is literally bursting with many quality and designer hotels; you will surely find something.</p> <p>You can take in the atmosphere of the beginning of the last century at the Art Nouveau Hotel Paris, while a modern interior is available, for example, in the Hotel Josef, which owes its shape to the well-known Czech architect Eva Jiřičná.</p>
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<b>LIFESTYLE GROUPS</b>	
<b>Families</b>	There are plenty of opportunities to keep the young ones happy in the Czech Republic – from exploring medieval castles to caves, palaces and mountain trails, Czech vacations are perfect for families.
<b>Romance</b>	Chateau hotels, old cobble stone streets meandering down to river banks festooned with local restaurants, mountain sunsets...rekindle the romantic in you with a trip to Czech and its regions.
<b>Zoomers</b>	The Czech Republic is one of the safest countries on earth. Its transport system makes it easy to get around. And the many sights are

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	concentrated in a small area. All these factors make the country fine vacation fodder for Zoomers!
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<b>UNIQUES</b>	
<b>Surprising</b>	The Czech Republic leases the Moldauhafen, a 30,000-square-metre (7.4-acre) lot in the middle of the Hamburg Docks, which was awarded to Czechoslovakia by Article 363 of the Treaty of Versailles, to allow the landlocked country a place where goods transported down river could be transferred to seagoing ships. The territory reverts to Germany in 2028.
<b>History</b>	<p>The Czech Republic includes the historical territories of Bohemia, Moravia, and Czech Silesia. The Czech state was formed in the late 9th century as the Duchy of Bohemia under the Great Moravian Empire. After the fall of the Empire in 907, the centre of power transferred from Moravia to Bohemia under the Přemyslid dynasty.</p> <p>In 1002, the duchy was formally recognized as part of the Holy Roman Empire, becoming the Kingdom of Bohemia in 1198 and reaching its greatest territorial extent in the 14th century.</p> <p>Besides Bohemia itself, the king of Bohemia ruled the lands of the Bohemian Crown, he had a vote in the election of the Holy Roman Emperor, and Prague was the imperial seat in periods between the 14th and 17th century.</p> <p>In the Hussite wars of the 15th century driven by the Protestant Bohemian Reformation, the kingdom faced economic embargoes and defeated five consecutive crusades proclaimed by the leaders of the Roman Catholic Church.</p> <p>Following the Battle of Mohács in 1526, the whole Crown of Bohemia was gradually integrated into the Habsburg Monarchy alongside the Archduchy of Austria and the Kingdom of Hungary.</p> <p>The Protestant Bohemian Revolt (1618–20) against the Catholic Habsburgs led to the Thirty Years' War. After the Battle of the White Mountain, the Habsburgs consolidated their rule, eradicated Protestantism and re-imposed Roman Catholicism, and also adopted a policy of gradual Germanization.</p> <p>With the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806, the Bohemian Kingdom became part of the Austrian Empire and the Czech language experienced a revival as a consequence of widespread romantic nationalism.</p> <p>In the 19th century, the Czech lands became the industrial powerhouse of the monarchy and were subsequently the core of the Republic of Czechoslovakia, which was formed in 1918 following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire after World War I.</p> <p>Czechoslovakia remained the only democracy in this part of Europe in the interwar period. However, the Czech part of Czechoslovakia was</p>

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	<p>occupied by Germany in World War II, while the Slovak region became the Slovak Republic; Czechoslovakia was liberated in 1945 by the armies of the Soviet Union and the United States.</p> <p>The Czech country lost the majority of its German-speaking inhabitants after they were expelled following the war. The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia won the 1946 elections. Following the 1948 coup d'état, Czechoslovakia became a one-party communist state under Soviet influence.</p> <p>In 1968, increasing dissatisfaction with the regime culminated in a reform movement known as the Prague Spring, which ended in a Soviet-led invasion. Czechoslovakia remained occupied until the 1989 Velvet Revolution, when the communist regime collapsed, and market economy was reintroduced.</p> <p>On 1 January 1993, Czechoslovakia peacefully dissolved, with its constituent states becoming the independent states of the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999 and the EU in 2004.</p>
<p><b>Recommended Reading</b></p>	<p>My recommended guide for planning your trip to the Czech Republic is <b>Lonely Planets' "Prague and the Czech Republic"</b>:  <a href="https://shop.lonelyplanet.com/products/prague-czech-republic-travel-guide-12?via=Z2lkOi8vbG9uZWx5LXBsYW5ldC9Xb3JrYXJlYTo6Q2F0YWxvZzo6Q2F0ZWdvcnkvNTIIZTQ5YilmOTJlYTE0MTg2MDU4NWl5">https://shop.lonelyplanet.com/products/prague-czech-republic-travel-guide-12?via=Z2lkOi8vbG9uZWx5LXBsYW5ldC9Xb3JrYXJlYTo6Q2F0YWxvZzo6Q2F0ZWdvcnkvNTIIZTQ5YilmOTJlYTE0MTg2MDU4NWl5</a></p>
<p><b>1000 Places to See Before You Die</b></p>	<p>Patricia Schultz has chosen a number of Czech highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cesky Krumlov</b> – a medieval town on the meandering Vltava</li> <li><b>Karlovy Vary</b> – trio of Bohemian spas</li> <li><b>Kutna Hora</b> – a cathedral to rival Prague's</li> <li><b>Czech Beer</b> – a country's proud heritage</li> <li><b>Old Town Square Prague</b> – centre stage in a city of spires</li> <li><b>Prague's Castle District</b> – religious and political symbol of glory</li> <li><b>Borderlands of Southern Moravia</b> – chateaux, wine and a slice of Italy</li> <li><b>Olomouc</b> – Moravia's underrated gem</li> </ul>
<p><b>Must Sees</b></p>	<p>Registrations in the UNESCO cultural heritage list are not bestowed lightly; there are only a thousand in the whole world but you can find twelve of them in the Czech Republic.</p> <p>Apart from the historical centre of Prague, Český Krumlov, Kutná Hora and Telč these for example include the Functionalist Villa Tugendhat in Brno designed by the architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, the historical gardens and chateau in Kroměříž and the Pilgrimage Church of St. John of Nepomuk steeped in symbolism in Žďár nad Sázavou.</p>

<p><b>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</b></p>	
<p><b>Golf</b></p>	<p>The Czech Republic is a promised land for those who have been bitten by the golf bug. The golf courses here are waiting just for you! These are not only championship courses, but also golf resorts, training</p>

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	<p>academies, indoor simulators and golf schools for beginners and experienced players.</p> <p>Lots of golfing combinations on several courses are offered by the Kaskáda Golf Resort near the Brno Reservoir and the golf centre near the Konopiště Chateau.</p> <p>Other trips to play golf take you to beautiful chateau parks, for example to a chateau modelled in the Windsor Gothic style in Hrádek u Nechanic or the former location of the office of Chancellor Metternich in Kynžvart.</p>
<p><b>Fishing</b></p>	<p>Experience the true fishing atmosphere at the largest pond in the Czech Republic and taste Třeboň fish specialties.</p> <p>In the Třeboň Region, fall is associated with pond fishing. It's no wonder. In the Třeboň Region, fishing takes place at approximately 200 ponds. During this fishing, you can enjoy the water-soaked atmosphere. This tradition dates back 800 years. There are about 21,000 ponds in the Czech Republic!</p> <p><b>The Largest Czech Pond</b></p> <p>If you truly want to enjoy pond fishing, there is only one place in the Czech Republic to go – the Třeboň Region in South Bohemia . Třeboň is 140km from Prague. It takes 100 minutes to get there by car. However, the journey is well worth it. In the Třeboň Region alone, fishing takes place at approximately 200 ponds every year. From the weekend of Friday, October 13th to Sunday, October 15th, fishing will take place at the largest Czech pond, <b>Rožmberk Pond</b>. Fishing in the so-called South Bohemia sea, as the Rožmberk Pond is sometimes nicknamed, is a huge fishing and social event not only for fishermen but also for the thousands of visitors, who come here annually. This year's pond fishing will start at 7:00am with the first tug of the rod, on all three days. Fishing is followed by sorting, weighing and marinating of the fish. You can look forward to a rich, gastronomic program, including the sale of live fish.</p>
<p><b>Horse riding</b></p>	<p>There are nearly a hundred horse riding stables listed on the Czech website! For horse lovers, a visit to the <b>National Stud Farm</b> in Kladruby nad Labem is a must. You can enjoy tours of the stables, chateau, coach storage and harness storage, the museum of horse breeding in Kladruby, the forester's house with a simulator of a ride in a coach – and if you still have some energy left, you can climb a lookout tower. The stud farm is a breeding stable of white horses of the Old Kladruby breed.</p>
<p><b>Hiking</b></p>	<p>One of the most popular Czech sports is hiking, mainly in the Czech mountains. The word for "tourist" in the Czech language, turista, also means "trekker" or "hiker".</p> <p>For hikers, thanks to the more than 120-year-old tradition, there is a Czech Hiking Markers System of trail blazing, that has been adopted by</p>

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	<p>countries worldwide. There is a network of around 40,000 km of marked short- and long-distance trails crossing the whole country and all the Czech mountains.</p> <p>One of the nicest places to take a walk in Prague is Petřín, whose imaginary crown is the famous lookout tower, nicknamed the little Eiffel Tower.</p> <p>The fairytale Průhonice Park, which is one of the largest naturally landscaped parks in Europe, is only a few kilometres from Prague city limits.</p> <p>The mountain path along the River Vydra is a beautiful place for all fans of the enchanting countryside of Šumava.</p> <p>There is no other way to get to the Punkva Caves and the bottom of the Macocha Abyss than on foot and the same is true if you want to wander among the massive sandstone towers of the rock cities in Adršpach or the Prachov Rocks in Bohemian Paradise!</p>
<b>Cycling</b>	<p>Cycling experiences: Tried and tested routes for hardcore cyclists and for easy riders, trails full of experiences, long-distance and even thematic routes – which one will you choose?</p> <p>If your bike has become a constant partner on trips through the flatlands and hills, the Czech Republic has lots of great tips to offer you. You can for example set out by bike from Vienna to Brno or from the German borders along the Ohře or along the banks of the Elbe right up to its source.</p> <p>The witches' cycle path will take you past places where inquisition trials were held in times long past. Single track trails will take you to places where you really can give your body a thorough workout and all lovers of adrenaline sports will be supremely jealous of you; discover these in the Rychleby and Jizera Mountains.</p>
<b>Skiing</b>	<p>In winter there is downhill skiing: The ski centres in all mountain areas of the Czech Republic offer fun for the adventurous and for those who are more easygoing.</p> <p>You will find slopes for experienced skiers in the Czech mountains and training slopes where children will also feel at home. Ski centres also offer lots of new things every year, ranging from sledging, snowtubing and new snow parks, right through to new cable cars. The most popular ski centres in the Czech Republic are Skiresort Černá hora and Skiareál Špindlerův Mlýn in the Krkonoše Mountains.</p>

<b>CULTURE</b>	
<b>Arts</b>	<p><b>National Gallery, Prague</b></p> <p>Discover the largest art collections in the Czech Republic! An introduction to the National Gallery in Prague will be a fantastic experience. The works are divided according to historical periods and various artistic styles, and you will, in addition, recognize a number of</p>

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important buildings, monasteries and palaces in Prague.

[www.ngprague.cz](http://www.ngprague.cz)

The history of the National Gallery began to unfold in February 1796, when the Society of Patriotic Friends of the Arts was founded in Prague. Those taking part in its creation were Kolovrat, the Šternberks and Nostics as members of the patriotically-oriented Czech nobility, and enlightened townspeople. The organization then established two important institutions: the Academy of Arts, and the first publicly accessible gallery in Prague.

Today, the National Gallery takes care of a number of permanent exhibits and organizes numerous exhibitions and cultural events.

In Sternberg Palace in Hradčany you will find a collection of European art from antiquity through the Baroque. The works on display include those by Tintoretto, Ribera, El Greco, Rubens, van Dyck and Rembrandt, as well as one of the most famous paintings in the world, The Feast of the Rosary by Albrecht Dürer.

In St. Agnes Convent in Old Town you can see an exhibition of medieval and early Renaissance art from the Czech Republic and Central Europe. On display in the authentic environment of the first monastery of the Poor Clares in Bohemia, probably founded in 1231 by St. Agnes Czech, are rare panel paintings by Master Theodoric or a painting of the Madonna and Child by Lucas Cranach the Elder.

Baroque art is on display inside the Schwarzenberg Palace on Castle Square, with paintings by Hans von Aachen, Karel Škréta, Petr Brandl and Jan Kupecký. You can also see a graphical cabinet with a unique collection of the work of Václav Hollar and an exhibit of Baroque crafts from the collections of the Museum of Decorative Arts.

At the Fairgrounds Palace, in its time the first functionalist building in Prague, the famous Slav Epic by Art Nouveau painter Alfons Mucha was introduced to the public for the first time in 1928. It is still on display here even now; in addition you can also see the paintings, sculptures and applied art of Czech and foreign artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. You will discover here the works of French Impressionists, Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka, Edvard Munch, Egon Schiele and Joan Miró.

The art of Asia and the ancient Mediterranean is on display on Old Town Square in Kinský Palace, the most beautiful rococo building in Prague.

### **Museum of Art in Olomouc**

The Olomouc Museum of Art: a thousand year of artistic culture  
Explore the important Romanesque monument of Přemysl Castle, including the Romanesque Bishop's Palace of Henry Zdík as well as the mysteries of modern art. The Olomouc Archdiocesan Museum

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	<p>showcases the art of the 12th to 18th centuries. The second part of the museum, the Museum of Modern Art, has among other things prepared the Art Lover's House exhibition for you, in which you pass through an interior from the turn of the century. After this spiritual advancement, enjoy a coffee on the museum terrace with a view of one of the dominant features in Olomouc, the Church of Our Lady of the Snows. <a href="http://www.olmuart.cz">http://www.olmuart.cz</a></p>
<p><b>Music</b></p>	<p>The wealth of musical culture in the Czech Republic lies in the long-term high-culture classical music tradition during all historical periods, especially in the Baroque, Classicism, Romantic, modern classical music and in the traditional folk music of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. Since the early era of artificial music, Czech musicians and composers have often been influenced the folk music of the region and dances (e.g. the polka, which originated in Bohemia). Among the most notable Czech composers are Adam Michna, Jan Dismas Zelenka, Jan Václav Antonín Stamic, Jiří Antonín Benda, Jan Křtitel Vaňhal, Josef Mysliveček, Heinrich Biber, Antonín Rejcha, František Xaver Richter, František Brixl and Jan Ladislav Dussek in baroque era, Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák in romanticism, Gustav Mahler, Josef Suk, Leoš Janáček, Bohuslav Martinů, Vítězslav Novák, Zdeněk Fibich, Alois Hába, Viktor Ullmann, Ervín Schulhoff, Pavel Haas, Josef Bohuslav Foerster in modern classical music, Miloslav Kabeláč and Petr Eben in contemporary classical music. The most famous Czech musical works are Smetana's The Bartered Bride and Má vlast, Dvořák's New World Symphony, Rusalka and Slavonic Dances or Janáček's Sinfonietta and operas, above all Jenůfa. The most famous music festival in the country is Prague Spring International Music Festival of classical music, a permanent showcase for outstanding performing artists, symphony orchestras and chamber music ensembles of the world.</p>
<p><b>Film</b></p>	<p>Karlovy Vary International Film Festival is one of the oldest in the world and has become Central and Eastern Europe's leading film event. It is also one of few film festivals have been given competitive status by the FIAPF. Other film festivals held in the country include Febiofest, Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival, One World Film Festival, Zlín Film Festival and Fresh Film Festival.</p>
<p><b>Museums</b></p>	<p>Discover the treasures of Prague's museums and galleries! Prague's wealth doesn't lie only in its churches, palaces and magnificent gardens. It's also well worth exploring the priceless artworks that are hidden in its dozens of museums and galleries. Discover a world of prehistoric finds, paintings by medieval masters, elegant High Baroque statues, Renaissance jewellery, 19th century technical marvels, and pieces by contemporary artists for whom Prague is a unique showcase for their work.</p>

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	<p><b>National Museum</b>          Every capital has its National Museum. Prague is no exception, and you will find the monumental neo-Renaissance building at the upper end of Wenceslas Square. The National Museum is the largest museum complex in the Czech Republic and possesses an impressive collection from many fields of endeavour.          Though its main building is currently undergoing extensive renovation, its collections can still be explored. Among the most popular are the Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures, and museums dedicated to the world renowned composers Bedřich Smetana and Antonín Dvořák.          Meanwhile, the National Technical Museum contains several of the Czech lands' technical treasures, such as the first automobile produced here, model fighter planes and astronomical instruments used by Tycho de Brahe. <a href="http://www.nm.cz">www.nm.cz</a></p> <p><b>Museum Kampa</b>          If modern art is your thing, pop along to Museum Kampa. This unique gallery, which is located in the Sovový Mlýny building, is home to the largest collection of paintings by the world-renowned artist František Kupka. Make sure to venture out of the museum and take in its exterior, which is home to original sculptures and – of all things – glow-in-the-dark penguins on the bank of the Vltava. Contemporary works await you at the progressive DOX Centre for Contemporary Art in Holešovice, which regularly runs controversial exhibitions and is a big hit with visitors.</p> <p><b>Prague Castle</b>          Do you prefer gems that are a few centuries older? If so, don't neglect to visit the Prague Castle Picture Gallery, which houses the collection of Emperor Rudolf II (one of the greatest of art lovers), including pieces by such masters as Rubens and Tizian. While at the Castle, you can also explore the collections of Lobkovicz Palace, one of the biggest in Europe. Among its treasures are original scores with notes by Mozart and Beethoven. Meanwhile, you can view the works of 19th century Czech masters of landscape painting at the City Gallery Prague's spaces at the elegant Troja Chateau.</p>
<p><b>Festivals</b></p>	<p><b>Bohemia JazzFest 2018 July</b>          Regions: Praha, South Bohemia, Liberec South Moravia and Plzeň          TOP 5 cultural event in the country.          8 cities historic squares get lively with jazz, funk, Latin a world music connected to architecture.  <a href="http://www.bohemiajazzfest.cz">www.bohemiajazzfest.cz</a></p>

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	<p><b>Mezinárodní hudební festival Český Krumlov</b> Český Krumlov 4 weeks long summer music festival take place since 1992 in this fairytale town of South Bohemia, registered as a heritage site by UNESCO. The venues include interesting places in the proximity and in particular the unique areas of the Castle and Château of Český Krumlov. <a href="http://www.festivalkrumlov.cz">www.festivalkrumlov.cz</a></p> <p><b>Znojmo Historic Vintage</b> The celebration recalls the year 1327 when Czech King John of Luxembourg and his wife Elisabeth of Bohemia and the royal court arrived in Znojmo. 550 costumed persons with theatre performances, concerts, fireworks, jousting tournaments, historic marketplace with demonstrations of crafts, and a military camp. <a href="http://www.znojemskevinobrani.cz">www.znojemskevinobrani.cz</a></p>
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<b>ATTRACTIONS</b>	<p>Prague is the number one reason why visitors come to the Czech Republic, so here is a summary of what to see there.</p> <p><b>The Old Town</b> is among the oldest and by far, the most beautiful district in the Czech Capital of Prague. The core of the historical centre is Old Town Square, which started as a marketplace in the 10th century and has been the site for many political and cultural events that have shaped the history of Prague. The ancient lanes of cobblestone form a mysterious maze in which even the most orientated is bound to get lost..</p> <p><b>Old Town Square</b> Old Town Square draws the greatest number of visitors in Prague as it boasts meticulously preserved buildings and monuments: the Church of Our Lady in front of Týn, The Old Town City Hall and the Baroque church St. Nicolas. One building that truly dominates the square is the Old Town City Hall, which dates back to 1338. In 1410 the astronomical clock was added to the Hall with a chronometer and the zodiac below; this clock is a worldwide attraction.</p> <p><b>Tyn Church</b> This Gothic church from the mid-14th century is perhaps the second signature landmark in Old Town Square (after the Astronomical Clock). It was the main church during the time of the Hussites. The interior of the church, especially the altar, is one of the most elaborate ones in the Czech Republic; its centrepiece is the portrayal of the rise of Virgin Mary to Heaven.</p>
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### **Kinsky Palace Kinsky Palace**

On one of the most beautiful squares in Europe, sits the lovely neo Rococo Kinsky Palace with its delicate pink and white stucco facade. Between 1755-65 it was built for Jan Arnost Goltz, on the grounds of two old hotels. Goltz wished for a Rococo palace that would feature two entrances under two balconies and a balustrade on the first floor. The Kinsky family would become the new owners after the death of Jan Arnost Goltz

### **The House at the Minute The House at the Minute**

In the magical Old Town Square sits the lovely Renaissance pearl, The House at the Minute. Covered in ornate Sgraffito decorations depicting Greek mythology as well as references to biblical and Renaissance legends, this house is easily recognizable with such an impressive facade. The House at the Minute was built at the beginning of the 15th century as a house in the late Gothic style and was supposedly a tobacconist's shop.

### **Estates Theatre**

One of the most beautiful theatres in Europe, the Estates was built at the end of the 18th century in midst of the cultural enlightenment across Europe. Its construction was driven by the idea that Prague needed a theater to enhance its charm, according to Count Frantisek Antonin Nostitz Rieneck, who financed the construction. Throughout the years it has housed many performances by world famous artists and composers, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart among them.

### **Charles University Karolinum**

The Karolinum is the original building of Charles University, Central Europe's oldest university, founded by Charles IV in 1348. Throughout the centuries many distinguished figures, such as Jan Hus held lectures at the Karolinum. Charles University has facilities all over Prague today and the Karolinum is the seat of the administration of Charles University and the venue for university graduation ceremonies. Art and photography exhibitions often grace the Gothic halls.

### **The House at the Black Madonna**

Built from a reinforced concrete skeleton from the School of Chicago, the House at the Black Madonna is truly an engineering feat and delight. Architect Josef Gočár finished the house between 1911 and 1912, adhering to strict codes from the city of Prague regarding the historical building authorities. To try to incorporate a Cubist building into the historical Old Town proved difficult, as surrounding buildings were protected and mainly Baroque in style.

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### **The Municipal House**

The Municipal House is the Art Nouveau gem of Prague. Adjacent to the Powder Tower, the Municipal House is the beginning of the royal mile. It was built on the grounds of a former Royal Court Palace between 1905-1911 and houses a large concert hall. Both exterior and interior are elaborately decorated with Art Nouveau elements and motifs; some of the greatest Art Nouveau artists, including Alfons Mucha, have left their mark on this remarkable piece of design and architecture.

### **Náměstí Republiky**

Náměstí Republiky translates to Republic Square, and this beautiful square indeed exemplifies the variety of the beauty and history of the Czech Republic. With buildings ranging in age and architectural style from the 1475 Powder Tower (Prašná brána), refinished and redecorated in the 1800's in a highly romanticized Neo-Gothic style, to the austere Baroque Church of St. Joseph tucked alongside the Neo-Romanesque former barracks building now housing the Palladium shopping centre

### **The Stone Bell House**

The Stone Bell House is just one of the remarkable buildings located on Old Town Square and one of the oldest monuments in Prague housing short-term exhibitions of the City Gallery Prague. The oldest part of the building dates back to the second half of the 13th century. Only in the 1970s and 1980s during extensive reconstruction when the Neo-Baroque façade from the 19th century was pulled down the Gothic decorated façade was uncovered.

### **Powder Tower**

This impressive monument is one of the 13 original entrances to Old Town. The Gothic building dates back to the reign of King Vladislav II Jagiello in 1475 when it was known as the Mountain Tower, it was later used to store gunpowder in the 17th century, hence the current name. It is an elaborate 65-meter tower, which hosts a permanent exhibition of many other beautiful historic towers in Prague. 186 stone steps will take you up to a gallery.

### **Klementinum**

The Klementinum sits on over 2 hectares and is one of the largest complexes in Europe and is home to the Czech Republic's National Library. Situated in the romantic area of Prague's Old Town, the Klementinum dates back to the 11th century when a chapel was erected and dedicated to St. Clement. In the middle ages, the complex became

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a Dominican monastery and afterwards in 1556 a Jesuit college and was at one point the third largest Jesuit college

### **Hotel Pariz Hotel Paris**

One of the most beautiful buildings and hotels in Prague, Hotel Paris is the work of architect Jan Veirych. Finished in 1904, the splendid hotel featured grand elements of the Art Nouveau movement (the interior was designed by A. Pfeifer and the ceramic mosaics by J. Kohler), such as colorful ceramic mosaics, an elegant staircase with an ornate wrought iron railing, brass motifs, etched glass mirrors and windows, and golden intricate light fixtures and chandeliers.

### **Rudolfinum Gallery**

The Rudolfinum Gallery is a spacious and attractive art gallery situated in the multi-purpose Rudolfinum cultural complex, which houses a gorgeous concert hall and a grand turn of the last century café. J. Schulz, who also designed the National Theatre in Prague, which is a beautiful example of Historicist architecture in central Europe, designed this neo Renaissance building. The location of the Rudolfinum complex is an important one as it creates a cultural centre in the heart of Prague

### **Bedřich Smetana Museum**

Located in Old Town and situated on the Vltava River close to the world famous Charles Bridge is the Bedřich Smetana Museum. This museum is housed in a gorgeous neo Renaissance building that was formerly the Old Town Water Works. The building was constructed in 1883-4 and features a beautiful sgraffito façade designed by famous Czech painters Mikoláš Aleš and František Ženíšek that makes the building unforgettable.

### **The Rudolfinum & the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra**

The Rudolfinum is a multi-purpose cultural complex, which houses a gorgeous concert hall, home to the renowned Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, a grand turn of the last century café and a spacious art gallery that displays temporary international contemporary art exhibitions. The cultural complex features four rooms for music performances including Dvořák Hall, which is known for its perfect acoustics

### **Old Town Bridge Tower**

The Old Town Bridge Tower is one of the most beautiful Gothic buildings in Europe. The tower was built in the second half of the 14th century together with the Charles Bridge on its right bank side not only as a fortification, but also as a certain type of triumphal arch. The tower

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	<p>was namely on the route of the coronation parades leading to St. Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle.</p> <p><b>Museum of Decorative Arts</b>          Located in a cultural square that houses the Rudolfinum Gallery and concert hall, the Academy of Decorative Arts and the Faculty of Philosophy is the Prague Museum of Decorative Arts. This splendid museum was erected at the very end of the 1800s and houses a wonderful collection of all things decorative from the Renaissance to the mid-19th century including glass, furniture, textiles, jewelry, watches, clocks and more.</p> <p><b>Havel Market Detail</b>          One of the oldest markets in the city, Havel Market dates back to 1232. Originally selling only produce, the market has changed over the years, mainly with tourists in mind. Lately it seems though that the produce stalls are starting to outnumber the souvenir stalls, which is a good thing as many stalls sell the same tourist junk you can find all over Old Town. Some stalls however offer inexpensive handmade Czech crystal and glass jewelry and tasty traditional spa wafers</p>
<p><b>Beaches</b></p>	<p>Although the Czech Republic is landlocked, you can still spend a day on the beach – at one of the many lakes and reservoirs in the country. Here are a few suggestions:</p> <p><b>Seč Dam</b>          Seč Dam in East Bohemia near Pardubice offers visitors the opportunity to swim, dive, fish, surf, and yacht in natural surroundings. The dam lies in a protected landscape area, which is why the surrounding deep forests are criss-crossed with numerous hiking, cycling, and cross-country skiing trails. There are even equestrian trails for horses.</p> <p><b>Vranov Dam</b>          In South Moravia, not far from Podyjí National Park, lies a dam with a reservoir that is deservedly regarded to be one of the most beautiful bodies of water in the Czech Republic. The thirty-kilometre-long reservoir with warm, clear water is situated in the gorgeous valley beneath the proud baroque chateau, Vranov nad Dyjí, and offers excellent conditions for swimming and water sports. What's more is that even in the hottest of summers, the quality of the water in Vranov Dam is some of the best in the Czech Republic.</p> <p><b>Máchovo Lake</b>          Although this body of water in Bohemian Paradise is called a lake, it is actually an artificial reservoir, or fishpond. In fact, it is one of the largest</p>

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	<p>fishponds in the Czech Republic and was established as early as the 14th century. Máchovo Lake is highly popular among tourists. In the summer, there are four beaches open, with countless attractions for young and old alike.</p>
<p><b>Nature</b></p>	<p>Explore caves and rock cities, climb to the tops of mountains and observation points – it’s easy to get close to Nature here!  A wonderful rest in the open air, beautiful scenery, and the charming corners of national parks – all that can be had from trips in the Czech countryside. Places you will never forget and where you will always be happy to go back to – such as the fairy-tale landscape of the Bohemian Switzerland National Park, the gorges of the Adršpach Rock City or Punkevní Cave in the Moravian Karst.  The cold northern character is exuded from the shadows of Boubín Forest in Šumava, while you will be surprised by the warm, almost Mediterranean character of the landscape in the Dolní Morava Biosphere Reserve.  A number of geologically interesting sites can be enjoyed up close in the GeoLoci geopark in Tachovsko region.</p>
<p><b>Parks</b></p>	<p>There are four national parks in the Czech Republic. The oldest is Krkonoše National Park (Biosphere Reserve), and the others are Šumava National Park (Biosphere Reserve), Podyjí National Park, Bohemian Switzerland.</p> <p><b>Krkonoše National Park</b>  Visit the Krkonoše National Park – an Arctic island in the middle of Europe! The Krkonoše National Park is one of the most valuable natural areas in all of Central Europe. The highest Czech mountain range, it is a unique mosaic of ecosystems which have remained here as a reminder of the ancient glacial past. Come explore this wonderful landscape with high mountain slopes, flat ridges, alpine meadows with colourful wildflowers, and mysterious moorlands, all presided over by the “Czech Matterhorn” – the highest Czech mountain Sněžka. Awaiting you is a terrific trip to an unspoilt landscape full of distant views, steep climbs, and also perfectly marked hiking trails of all difficulty levels.</p> <p><b>Šumava National Park</b>  Climb on the green roof of Europe in the Šumava National Park!  Few places in Central Europe offer such a harmonious landscape as the Šumava National Park. The deep forests on the Czech-Bavarian border are so vast as to form the largest forested area on the continent. A combination of centuries-old primaeval forests, crystal-clear glacial lakes, and mysterious peat bogs creates a uniquely poetic place for active holidays at all times of year.</p>

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	<p><b>Podyjí National Park</b> Get to know the “Czech Amazon” in the Podyjí National Park Even though it is the smallest Czech national park, the Podyjí National Park is among the most important natural sites in Central Europe. Here you will find an exceptionally well-preserved river valley in a richly wooded landscape full of breathtaking scenery. Among the meanders of the Dyje (Thaya) River is a unique reserve which will enchant you with its charm, warm climate and the many ways to enjoy its beauty.</p> <p><b>Bohemian Switzerland</b> Enjoy a trip into the fairytale landscape of Bohemian Switzerland A mystical landscape of pine forests and deep valleys, with majestic rock towers, gates, walls, ravines, rock cities and labyrinths rising up from them. This description fits the Bohemian Switzerland National Park precisely. This empire of rocks is home to the rarest of animals and also plays host to remarkable plants.</p>
<p><b>Gardens</b></p>	<p><b>Garden Food Festival Olomouc</b> Lovers of traditional cuisine or gastronomic explorers as well as fans of local specialties like Loštické (Olomouc) smelly cheese, and demanding gourmets seeking an experience for their taste buds can head to Smetana Park in the center of historic Olomouc for the Garden Food Festival. <a href="http://www.gardenfoodfestival.cz">www.gardenfoodfestival.cz</a></p>
<p><b>Historical Sites</b></p>	<p>The Czech Republic is a treasure trove of castles, palaces, monasteries, and other places of historical significance. A complete listing of the country's castles and palaces is simply impossible, so here are a just a few recommendations...</p> <p><b>Karlštejn Castle</b>, just outside of Prague, is a huge pull for curious tourists, attracted by its Gothic architecture perched above the banks of the Vltava River.</p> <p>The <b>Lednice-Valtice palaces</b> and gardens near the Slovak and Austrian borders are the massive former residences of the princes of Liechtenstein, and is today a combined UNESCO World Heritage Site. Lednice is known for its especially massive English gardens, while Valtice, for its fanciful faux-Roman architecture.</p> <p>Not far from these palaces in the town of Slavkov u Brna is the Austerlitz Battlefield, where Napoleon decidedly crushed the Austrian and Russian armies in 1805.</p> <p>To the west in South Bohemia near the town of Jindřichův Hradec is the <b>Červená Lhota château</b>, an iconic Renaissance palace starkly painted red, standing in the middle of a pond and linked only by a stone bridge.</p> <p><b>Hluboká Castle</b>, not far from České Budějovice, is another massive palace, dating from the Middle Ages but heavily redesigned in the 19th century.</p> <p>To the very north of the country are the impressive ruins of <b>Trosky</b></p>

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	<p><b>Castle</b>, whose Gothic ruins give dramatic vistas to the Bohemian Paradise.</p> <p><b>Kašperk Castle</b>, located near the Bohemian Forest, is another Gothic legacy of Emperor Charles IV's reign.</p>
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<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Shopping</b>	<p>The Czech Republic is a country with one of the largest concentrations of shopping centres per capita in the world.</p> <p>The largest shopping centres are in the largest Czech city: <b>Prague</b>. Soon, the reconstruction of one of the largest ones, the Chodov Shopping Centre (right by a Metro station of the same name), will be completed. There are already more than 200 stores there and after the extension is complete, there will be more than 300 stores. You will also find luxury brands there, such as Barbour or Karl Lagerfeld. Another popular stop for shopaholics is Palladium, which is in the city centre, opposite the Municipal House, or Na Příkopě Street, where you can find anything you can think of on a single street. Even a luxurious multilevel toy store!</p> <p>You will not be disappointed when you visit other Czech cities, such as <b>Brno</b>, or <b>Ostrava</b>. For example, the Nová Karolina shopping centre recently opened in the centre of Ostrava in place of a former factory. Most of the shops from the centre moved under the roof of Nová Karolina and people were worried that the centre would become empty. However, the free spaces in the centre have been filled up with cafes and interesting restaurants. One of the most popular shopping centres in Brno is no doubt Galerie Vaňkovka, built in an old factory building near the main train station. The shopping gallery has a lot of shops with various goods.</p> <p><b>Pařížská Street – Prague</b></p> <p>Pařížská (Paris) Street has no equal in the Czech Republic. It is not a coincidence that it bears the name of Paris. The street, running through the Jewish quarter from the Old Town Square to the Vltava River, was built at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries as a Parisian boulevard. The street is full of luxurious stores and it is lined with houses with representative facades where you can enjoy a walk and shopping in the shade of the trees. When walking along the street, you can experience an atmosphere of peace and luxury. Global luxurious brands literally fight for a spot on Pařížská. You can find brands such as Hermés, Dolce&amp;Gabbana, Louis Vuitton, Prada, Gucci, Jimmy Choo, Cartier, Dior, Burberry and more.</p>
<b>Markets</b>	<p>The Christmas Markets in the Czech Republic are beloved!</p> <p><b>Prague</b></p> <p>You can find several Christmas markets in Prague. Of course, the most</p>

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	<p>famous is on Old Town Square, which is held from November 29 to January 6. The thick hot chocolate, so thick that it can harden in your cup after a few minutes in the cold weather is the biggest gourmet experience, as well as the Old Bohemian trdelník, dried apples, mulled wine, baked tea and other goodies. Market stalls are open every day from 10 am to 10 pm. You'll find other markets on Wenceslas Square, the Republic Square (náměstí Republiky) or Peace Square (náměstí Míru).</p> <p><b>Český Krumlov</b>          Český Krumlov is shrouded in a wonderful Christmas veil in the Advent season and always immerses its visitors in the mysterious atmosphere. A rich program drawing on Czech folk customs and traditions is complemented by different concerts and fairy tales for children. Naturally, there are also the Old Bohemian Christmas markets with punch, mulled wine and Christmas cookies that provide the whole town with a wonderful aroma daily. You can visit them from November 27 to January 6. The last Advent Sunday (December 20) will be marked by musical gifts that the musicians of Český Krumlov will give out as well as traditionally singing Silent Night along with citizens of all nationalities.</p> <p><b>Farmers' Markets</b>          In Prague, farmers markets operate in different parts of the city. In the district of Vinohrady they regularly take place at Jiřího z Poděbrad Square, on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. On the banks of the Vltava river bank they are held every Saturday from 8 am to 2 pm at a place called Náplavka. Today, the traditional Prague farmer's market is the market on Saturdays at Dejvické náměstí Square which is popularly nicknamed Kulaťák.          What can you buy at farmers' markets? Vegetables, fruits, herbs and spices, meats and sausages, cheeses and other dairy products, bread and pastries, eggs, sweet desserts, cider and juices, spirits and wine, honey, flowers and seedlings and much more.          You can also find a number of towns and villages outside Prague which are regular hosts of farmers' markets. In South Bohemia, this includes Jindřichův Hradec, Vysočina Region, Havlíčkův Brod and the Wallachian town of Vsetín. Farmers' markets are also organized by the Bohemian metropolis of Plzeň. The Vegetable Market in Brno has a great, centuries-old tradition.</p>
<p><b>Nightlife</b></p>	<p>Prague is an interesting city with plenty of sightseeing opportunities, cultural events and such. But what happens when the sun goes down on Central Europe's preserved gem? What is the nightlife in Prague like? Prague becomes a different city full of creeping shadows in dimly lit lanes, circling bats above your head and a definite sense of crazy fun.</p>

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	<p>From traditional beer halls with accordion players to sleek modern dance clubs, Prague nightlife is alive and kicking until the sun comes up, and what better way to see Charles Bridge than at sunrise (plus the world-famous bridge is virtually empty in the morning and quite stunning without hoards of tourists)?</p> <p>The nightlife in Prague is an interesting mix of generations as well, if you seek the more traditional beer halls and pubs for your Prague nightlife experience, do not be surprised if you end up drinking with Grandfather Czech and do not be surprised when (not if) he drinks you under the table because he most certainly will! And after a night of fun, why not finish it off with a tasty fried cheese sandwich from a street vendor? Oh, and watch out for the Absinthe, it bites back. The nightlife in Prague is definitely worth your time.</p>
<p><b>Concerts in 2018</b></p>	<p><b>October 3rd - A special concert of the Czech Philharmonic for the anniversary of the Republic - Rudolfinum, Prague</b>  A ceremonial concert of the Czech Philharmonic for the anniversary of the formation of Czechoslovakia, in the Rudolfinum. Under the leadership of a new chief conductor, the Czech Philharmonic will play works by famous Czech composers.</p> <p><b>October 28th - Concert Commemorating the 100th Anniversary from the Declaration of Czechoslovakia - Rudolfinum, Prague</b>  A special concert organised by Czech Radio in cooperation with Slovak Radio and TV, playing the Czech and Slovak National Anthem, the Sinfonietta by Leoš Janáček and Dvořák's Symphony No. 9 in E minor "From the New World"</p>

<p><b>CUISINE</b></p>	
<p><b>Food</b></p>	<p>Czech cuisine is marked by a strong emphasis on meat dishes. Pork is quite common; beef and chicken are also popular. Goose, duck, rabbit and wild game are served. Fish is rare, with the occasional exception of fresh trout and carp, which is served at Christmas.</p> <p>Some popular Czech dishes include:</p> <p>Vepřo knedlo zelo: roast pork with bread dumplings and stewed cabbage</p> <p>Svíčková na smetaně: roast sirloin of beef with steamed dumplings and cream of vegetable sauce</p> <p>Rajská (omáčka): beef in tomato sauce, traditionally served with dumplings</p> <p>Koprová: beef in dill sauce, traditionally served with dumplings</p> <p>Pečená kachna: roast duck with bread or potato dumplings and braised red cabbage</p> <p>Guláš: a variety of beef and pork goulash stews, served with dumplings or bread</p>

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	<p>Smažený sýr: fried cheese, typically served with potatoes or french fries and tartar sauce</p> <p>Bramboráky: potato pancakes, traditionally served with sour cabbage</p> <p>There is also a large variety of local sausages, wurst, pâtés, and smoked and cured meats.</p> <p>Czech desserts include a wide variety of whipped cream, chocolate, and fruit pastries and tarts, crêpes, creme desserts and cheese, poppy-seed-filled and other types of traditional cakes such as buchty, koláče and štrúdl.</p>
<p><b>Drink</b></p>	<p><b>Czech beer</b> has a long and important history. The first brewery is known to have existed in 993 and the Czech Republic has the highest beer consumption per capita in the world. The famous "pilsner style beer" (pils) originated in the western Bohemian city of Plzeň, where the world's first-ever blond lager Pilsner Urquell is still being produced, making it the inspiration for more than two-thirds of the beer produced in the world today.</p> <p>Further south the town of České Budějovice, known as Budweis in German, lent its name to its beer, eventually known as Budweiser Budvar.</p> <p>Apart from these and other major brands, the Czech Republic also boasts a growing number of top quality small breweries and mini-breweries seeking to continue the age-old tradition of quality and taste, whose output matches the best in the world.</p> <p>The Czech Republic has a number of beer festivals, including: Czech Beer Festival (the biggest Czech beer festival, it is usually 17 days long and held every year in May in Prague), Pilsner Fest (every year in August in Plzeň), The Olomoucký pivní festival (in Olomouc) or festival Slavnosti piva v Českých Budějovicích (in České Budějovice).</p> <p><b>Wine:</b> Tourism is slowly growing around the Southern Moravian region too, which has been producing wine since the Middle Ages; about 94% of vineyards in the Czech Republic are Moravian. Aside from slivovitz, Czech beer and wine, the Czechs also produce two unique liquors, Fernet Stock and Becherovka. Kofola is a non-alcoholic domestic cola soft drink which competes with Coca-Cola and Pepsi in popularity.</p>
<p><b>Restaurants</b></p>	<p>Much of the social life under the First Republic took place at the café table. Journalists obtained tips for their articles, artists discussed the quality of their own or foreign works, and politicians formulated their declarations in cafés. Students met with their idols, chatted with them, and even created important ideas about their future career steps. Many of the cafés are still emanating the First Republic atmosphere. To name just a few: Café Louvre, the famous Slavia, Café Imperial, Café Orient in the Cubist House of the Black Madonna and Café Platýz.</p>

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	<p><b>Café Imperial</b> - The Art Deco café from 1914 is renowned for its cuisine.</p> <p><b>Café Louvre</b> - One of the most famous Prague cafés frequented by Franz Kafka, Albert Einstein, Franz Werfel and Karel Čapek.</p> <p><b>Café Orient</b> - A café built in the Cubist style according to the project of Josef Gočár was closed only ten years after its opening due to the outdatedness of Cubism. Today, first-rate coffee can be smelled there again and the interior is furnished like at the time of its creation.</p>
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