A Guide of The Capital Prague

Prague 2

Learn about Prague by Yourself

Enjoy fun and lot of experiences ...

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Dear friends,

we are very pleased that we can invite you to the tour through our Capital City. Prague – is one of the most visited cities in Europe – it has got many adjectives: magical, mysterious, romantic, the City of a hundred towers. The charm of Prague and its magic has developed through the uninterrupted one thousand years long development. The streets we walk through often follow the trading routes of the bygone era of the City origins. Since then, each century, each architectural and cultural style has left its trace here. A visitors of the City, when he has a good guidebook at his disposal, may touch the rare history, imagine the changes, which took place through the development, and at the same time to learn about the City od today. Prague likes to uncover its secrets to sensitive eyes and hearts and our main wish is that you enjoy every moment, which you will stay in this beautiful City, and that Prague will stay forever recorded in your memories.

Follow this guide during your stay in Prague, and it will make your understanding of the City easier. We wish you a pleasant spending of your days in Prague with the Prague City Line.

How to use this guidebook

In the guide will find a map. The map shows tourist route. This route we recommend as the best way through Prague 2, you will see all the most important. In the map are marked stops at major sights, the description in the text guide. You will also find links to museums, restaurants, hotels and other services that offer discounts or we recommend for the quality of services. You will find information about public transport and parking. In Prague, we recommend to use public transport to travel.

QUIZ: Devil´s quiz through Prague 2

Our guide presents quiz questions. Correct answers can be found at the end of the guide. We wish you lots of fun with their solutions.

So if you want to take a walk around Prague, reveal some of its mysteries and magic, continue to read. We wish you a nice trip, have fun and we hope that you will keep on looking for our tracks. If you are interested in more information about Prague, just mail to praguecityline@gmail.com or you can find us at www.praguecityline.cz or www.praguecityline.com

Have a nice trip and a great time!
Your Editorial Team of Prague City Line
BASIC TRACK DESCRIPTION

Beginning: Karlovo náměstí (Charles Square)
End of the track: Karlovo náměstí (Charles Square)
Length of track: 6.5 km
Walking time: 3 hour 30 min
Orientation: educational – historical, scientific, sporting
Difficulty: light
Price level: max. 500 CZK (based on the ticket selection)

New Town of Prague (Nové Město pražské)

The New Town of Prague is inherently connected to the greatest ruler of Czech history, Charles IV.

At the beginning of Charles’ rule, Prague comprised three towns – the Castle, the Lesser Town of Prague, and the Old Town of Prague. Charles IV decided to build another, far more extensive town in the bend of the River Vltava, around the

Devil’s quiz:
Along with the founding of Prague’s New Town was founded in 1348, Prague’s largest square. Square became in the holding of cattle markets, from which it was derived the name of the Cattle Market. Since 1848 takes its current name, which won in honor of its founder.

(1) What is the name of the aforementioned founder?
a) Rudolf II.
b) Charles IV.
c) John of Luxembourg

walls of the Old Town. And so: “in the year 1348, on the first indiction, on 8 March, in the third year of our rule...” he founded the New Town of Prague.

No other construction project of its kind was built in all of Europe in the 14th century. The belt of walls around the New Town was three-and-a-half kilometres long, the wall was six meters tall and reinforced with four-sided towers. According to the sources from that era, the fortifications grew within a mere two years. Access to the city was through four gates – the Hospital Gate, the Mountain Gate, the Horse Gate, and the Swine Gate.

The city had three major squares. The Cattle Market (today’s Charles Square – Karlovo náměstí) was the largest square in medieval Europe and still is the largest in Prague. The Horse Market (today’s Wenceslas Square) also represented a trunk road three quarters of a kilometre long and 60 meters wide, ending with the Horse Gate. The third square and market was the Hay Market (Senovážné Square).

In the extensive area inside the newly erected town walls, a purposefully designed network of roads was eventually created, with some fifteen hundred houses, a town hall, and a number of churches and monasteries. These included the Na Slovanech monastery, in which the King settled Benedictine monks who held services in the old-Slavic language. The New Town grew quickly, because the King granted tax relief and numerous advantages to anyone who settled in the town and built a stone house there within 18 months. He had noisy and dirty trades moved to the New Town from the Old Town. The New Town was built according to a precise plan and under the strict supervision of the ruler himself.

After the establishment of the New Town, Prague comprised four towns, each administered by its own administration and holding different privileges and prerogatives, and also its own coats of arms. The agglomeration of the Prague towns – with 40,000 inhabitants – was one of the largest cities in the Europe of its era.

The subsequent history of the New Town of Prague was closely connected to the fate of Prague as a whole. In 1419, King Wenceslas IV installed a new, pro-Hussite town council in the New Town. The council soon imprisoned several radical Hussites. On 30 July of the same year, a crowd of Hussites came up to the town hall. The councillors, expecting expeditious aid from the Castle, responded to the demands for the release of the prisoners only by curses and stone-throwing. The people broke through the gate, got into the town hall, and threw the councillors out the windows and onto pikes and swords that they held up. The First Defense of Prague ignited the Hussite Revolution.

In 1784, the four towns of Prague were merged – the Old Town, the New Town, the Lesser Quarter, and the Castle – into one unit, the City of Prague. The formerly independent administrations were centred in the hands of the City Hall which sat at the Old Town Hall.

In 1848, the so-called St. Wenceslas (National) Committee was set up in Prague 2. It was elected at a meeting of the no-longer existing St. Wenceslas Spa, on 3 March 1848, and it steered a petition movement for constitutional freedoms. On 2 June of the same year, the Slavic Convention took place in Prague at Žofín – the first gathering of the representatives of Slavic nations in the Habsburg monarchy. The object of the convention was to try to discuss the possibility of transforming Austria into a federative state in

Devil’s quiz:

Charles Square is one of the very important traffic arteries of the metropolis, but it is also a popular place for walking and relaxing. During these they will make companies and some famous personalities of our history.

(2) Which of the celebrities we park at Charles Square did not find?

a) king Karles IV.
b) gardener Benedikt Roezl
c) singer Michael. Jackson
which Slavic nations would find a respectable position under Habsburg rule.

In the 1870s, the tearing down of outdated buildings commenced in Prague. For the New Town of Prague, that meant an easier way to merge with neighbouring boroughs, primarily Royal Vinohrady, Nusle, and Žižkov. The Vinohrady part of Prague 2 received an immense impulse for rapid development with the tearing down of the walls. At the end of the 19th century, Prague, after years of stagnation, set out on the path to being a modern European city.

Today Karlovo Náměstí, Prague’s largest square, and one of the largest squares in Europe, with an area of 80,550 m2, has a very rich history. For a long time the square bore the name “The Cattle Market,” and formed the main public space of the city. It was for the privilege of holding the livestock markets for the entire city. Another important commercial commodity was fish. Here stood the Slanečková shed (Kipper Fish House), where fish was sold by foreign merchants. Karlovo Náměstí was briefly a major Christian pilgrimage site after its foundation in 1354. The main reason was the Emperor Charles IV, who was noted for his passion for collecting holy relics. Every year during the Easter holiday, it was permitted to show the imperial crown jewels and the relics of saints. These pilgrims were shown the relics from a
wooden tower, which was rebuilt annually for this purpose. At the end of the 14th century, the wooden structure was replaced by the stone Gothic chapel of Corpus Christi, but was demolished in 1791 by Josef II due to his reforms. In today’s form, Charles Square is largely shaped as a park. Here we find the old chestnut trees, plain trees, flower beds, a playground, benches, fountains and statues of several important figures in Czech history – Elizabeth Krásnohorské, Caroline Light, Jan Evangelista Purkyně and others. The major monuments on Charles Square are in the following paragraphs.

1. New Town Hall
(Novoměstská radnice)

GPS: 50°4'42.039″N, 14°25'15.280″E
Karlovo nám. 23, Praha 2

Open:
22. 4 - 30. 9 Thu - Sa 10 - 18

Public transport:
Tram No: 3, 4, 10, 14, 16, 24, 52, 53, 54, 55 – Karlovo náměstí stop
Underground Line: B – Karlovo náměstí stop


One of the landmarks of the Charles Square is the vast area of the New Town Hall. The hall is a complex of several medieval buildings, the oldest of which dates from around 1377 (part of Vodickova Street). In the 16th century, the town hall was rebuilt, the reconstruction was one of two famous architects: Benedict Ried or Wohlmut Boniface for the royal family of Jagiellons. The east wing of the New Town Hall was rebuilt but the Gothic hall, the tavern, and the cross vaults from the early 15th century were preserved. The hall tower, the dominant feature of the town hall, is open to the public; from which a beautiful and slightly unusual view of the Charles Square, Vyšehrad and the whole city panorama can be taken. The Gallery of the tower has 221 steps up a height of 42 meters. Besides this, entering the city hall tower you can see one of the most interesting sights: The Metal Elbow of Prague Stalon on the wall of New Town Hall.
Historically, the New Town Hall entered Czech History in 1419, during the First Prague Defenestration, the moment which can be regarded as the beginning of the Hussite revolution. On 30 July 1419, a procession led by radical Hussite priest Jan Želivský demanded the release of the imprisoned followers of the proto-reformation preacher Jan Hus. It was at the New Town Council, Novoměstští Councilor, where during the negotiations a turbulent crowd outside the windows of the town hall began shouting threats. Someone threw a stone and initiated the well known event: The angry mob invaded the town hall and threw a fewburghers, two aldermen, and the mayor out the window onto ready spears and pitchforks. From that moment the history of Prague and the whole country were marked by radical Hussite revolt, which ended up in the battle of Lipan.

After the unification of Prague during the reign of Joseph II the town was was used as a notorious prison and courthouse. Here, for example, the leader of the local insurgency Jan Sladky Kozina waited to be executed. A funny and interesting footnote of the town hall prison is the name of the two rooms on the ground floor, which are named after the family names of the first two prisoners: sausage soup.

2. Church of St. Ignatius
(Kostel sv. Ignáce)

GPS: 50°4′31.679″N, 14°25′15.656″E
Ječná 505/2, Praha 2
Open: The church is open about 40 minutes before and after Mass.
Public transport:
Tram No: 3, 4, 10, 14, 16, 18, 24, 52, 53, 54, 55 – Karlovo náměstí stop
Underground Line B – Karlovo náměstí stop

The Saint Ignatius church and the original New Town Jesuit College are among one of the earliest Baroque buildings in Prague. This church complex is the third largest Jesuit complex in Europe. The architect Karlo Lurago chose the Jesuit mother church Il Gesu in Rome as the model for this construction. The church was built in the second half of the 17th Century on the site of several demolished medieval houses. After its completion, it was dedicated to the patron and founder of the Jesuit order of St. Francis Ignatius of...
Loyola. The Jesuits were known, following the life of its founder, for leading very ascetic lives full of strict discipline and unconditional obedience.

At the top of the facade of the church you can see the statue of St. Ignatius and one ought to note one of the local attractions: You can see the halo that surrounds the entire body of saint. The halo at the time was regarded as outrageous. According to church rules, one could only have a halo around the entire body of Christ, but the Jesuits were an order with such a strong position that he could afford such an unorthodox design.

Jan Jiří Heintsch did the decorative painting of the church and sculptural decoration was done by Matěj Václav Jáckel, whose work we know mainly from the Charles Bridge.

Another kind of mystical attraction of the church is the inscription on the tympanum, which connects to their own text and chronogram: MAIORI DEI GLORIAE et SANCTI IGNATII HONORI PIAETAS EREXIT. The marked large letters indicate the Roman numerals for the year 1671, when the statue of St. Ignatius was placed on the roof of the church. The full text reads: “Built to the greatness of God’s glory and the honorable pious St. Ignatius.”

3. Prague Technical
(České vysoké učení technické -ČVUT)

GPS: 50°4′34.486″N, 14°25′7.070″E
Karlov náměstí 13, Praha 2
Open: The building is not accessible to the public
City transport: Tram No: 3, 4, 10, 14, 16, 18, 24, 52, 53, 54, 55 – Karlovo náměstí stop
Underground Line B – Karlovo náměstí stop

Prague Technical is the oldest technical university in Central
Europe; it was found in 1707 by decree of Joseph I. Initially, it educated only 12 boys, but by the 19th century it had several hundred students. By 1848, it had nearly one-and-a-half-thousand. For this reason, they had to implement an entrance interview, which also increased the international university's credit. In 1869, the school was divided into Czech and German parts.

Because of the need for expansion, the university added space at Karlovo Namesti in 1871. The architect Ignatz Ullman built the current technical university building in the spirit of the northern neo-renaissance. The center of the facade is decorated with a huge buttress. The dominant feature is an interior staircase to the three-spoke Tuscan sandstone columns. In front of which you will find allegorical statues representing the technical sciences from Josef Vaclav Myslbek. In the niches are the statues of Anthony Popp, Science and Work.

4. Church of St. Cyrillus and Method
(Kostel sv. Cyrila a Metoděje)

GPS: 50°4′33.642″N, 14°25′3.357″E
Reslova 9a, Praha 2
Open:
March – October / tue– sun 9:00 – 17:00
November – Februar / tue– sat 9:00 – 17:00

Entrance fees:
Standard 75 Kč, Student groups 50 Kč (incl. program)
Reduced 35 Kč (students, pensioners, pupils of the 1st degree)
Family 150 Kč (2 adults and 3 children)
All groups need to make an advanced reservation

Public transport:
Underground Line B - Karlovo náměstí stop
tram No 3,4,6,7,10,14,16,18,22,24 - Karlovo náměstí stop


Devil's quiz:
In Charles Square is also located white statue of the famous Czech writer Eliska Krasnohorska.

(3) Where is this monument located?
a) in front of the New Town Hall
b) in front of Prague Technical
c) in front of the Church of St. Ignatius
Originally the church was dedicated to Saint Charles Borromeo (Svatý Karel Boromějský). When in 1935 the church was consecrated today’s patrons St. Cyril and Methodius, served the needs of the Czechoslovak Orthodox Church.

Construction of the history of the church is worth mentioning an interesting fact, when a mistake not to demolish it when editing the field in the 80th the 19th century. At this time the church was mistaken for the work of Kilian Ignac Dientzenhofer, but he only completed this work by the High Baroque Paul Ignaz Bayer project.

Due to this error, the church still stands. Today, there is clearly visible remnant of those modern landscaping in the form of a raised terrace, which determines the boundary of the original terrain.

The most famous event connected with the church, when the church was renovated to the Czechoslovak Orthodox Church. The church became the seat of Bishop Gorazd, who wrote an important history of the Czechoslovak World War II. Bishop Gorazd provided shelter Czechoslovak paratroopers who carried out a successful assassination of Deputy Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia.

Seven paratroopers, who were specially trained for this attack, after his execution could not be time to leave Prague, and in this church with the help of the Orthodox Church received adequate shelter. Imperial police immediately after they launched an extensive search, arrested and interrogated a large number of people. Interrogation led to the detection point hiding paratroopers.

18 June 1942 the SS and Gestapo surrounded the church and early in the morning there was a fight. Fought within the church, the choir also in the crypt. On the outer wall of the crypt are still traces of bullet holes. Because this struggle was lost from the start, leaving the paratroopers his last bullet for himself and used them. When the main unit of the Germans invaded the church, the paratroopers were already dead. Representatives of the Czechoslovak Hussite Church with Orthodox bishop at the head, were arrested and executed. That event was also a Czechoslovak Orthodox Church in 1942 temporarily lifted.

Memorial this sad event, you can visit the crypt, where a museum. Here you can get more familiar with the whole event and the period after the assassination followed.
5. Church of St. Wenceslas to Zderaz  
(Kostel sv. Václava na Zderaze)

GPS: 50°4’32.008″N, 14°24’57.188″E  
Resslova, Praha 2  

Open:  
The church is open about 40 minutes before and after Mass.

Public transport:  
Underground Line B - Karlovo náměstí stop (  
Tram No. – 3, 4, 10, 14, 16, 18, 24, 52, 53, 54, 55 – Karlovo náměstí stop


St. Wenceslals to Zderaz (sv. Václav na Zderaze) can be found opposite of the church St. Cyril and Methodius. The small church was built as a Romanesque nave in 1170-1180. In the first half of the 14th century, it underwent a Gothic reconstruction but its Romanesque brickwork is still evident in the northwest corner. The church formerly close to the castle of Wenceslas IV (Vaclav). In the 17th century, the church was received by the Augustinians “without shoes,” and they rebuilt it into a monastery. At this time the church acquired a new baroque style. During the time of Joseph's reforms, the monastery met a similar fate, like many other church buildings. It was initially used as a military laundry and then partly as Wenceslas prison. The prison part was demolished in 1893 and now in its place stands apartment buildings.

This site also binds one of the lesser-known legends of Prague; supposedly it is the place where St. Vaclav lost his horse. Here he saw a deer dig into the rock and uncover a clean source of healing water. Prince Wenceslas named this spring “Puck,” and it later became popular as the Wenceslas Bath in the 19th century when a restaurant and dance hall were built. On 11 March 1848, this was where people gathered to participate in the revolutionary movements of 1848.
Jirasek Square
(Jiráskovo náměstí)

6. Dancing House (Tančící dům)

GPS: 50°4′31.847″N, 14°24′50.951″E
Rašínovo nábřeží 1981/80, Praha 2

Open:
the building is closed to the public

Public transport:
Tram No: 14, 17 – Jiráskovo náměstí stop
Bus No: 176, 510 – Jiráskovo náměstí stop

More informations: http://www.praguecityline.com/what-to-see-in-prague/6-dancing-house-tancici-dum

The Dancing House was, is, and probably for still some time will be one of the controversial works of modern architecture in Prague. This type of architecture emerged in the nineties.

Some admire the building and speak of it as perhaps the only building in Prague, at this time, which radiates its own spirit; others talk about the blatant hacking of the historic waterfront. Opinions widely differ. It is this disagreement of opinion that points to its uniqueness, which will be highly valued by future generations. Just as it is in the nearby building Manes, which in its completion and adoption was exposed to similarly contrasting opinions.

The facts speaking for the exceptional value of the Dancing House are significant: Its architectural awards. The most significant prize was in 1997, when the house was awarded the American Time magazine award in the category of Design in Devil’s quiz.

The church along with the Jesuit College considered the third largest Jesuit complex in Europe. The church built in the 17th century by renowned architect Carlo Lurago.

(5) What is located at the top of the facade of the church?

a) The emblem of the Jesuit order
b) The statue of the founder of the Society of Jesus with a halo
c) Baroque relief of the Madonna with the Infant Jesus
Dancing House was built was empty by then due to bombing during World War II. Architects for a long time did not know what to build there. Vlado Milunić (of Croatian origin) was chosen as the main architect in the selection process and he invited the famous American architect Frank O. Gehry, and the British architect of Czech origin, Eva Jiricna.

This office building of reinforced concrete, which grew out of cooperation between the aforementioned architects, is nine floors with two floors underground. It is also possible to visit the restaurant on the top floor.

The title given to the building, "Dancing House," is because of its two towers, which symbolize the two great dancers of the thirties and forties of the last century, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. The glass tower dancer, is poised slightly towards Jiráskova square and the stone dancer is turned towards the waterfront. The tower's dome structure of metal mesh tubes represents the hair.

7. Jirasek Bridge (Jiráskův most)

GPS: 50°4'33.242″N, 14°24'51.438″E
Jiráskovo náměstí, Praha 2

Public transport:
Tram No: 14,17 – Jiráskovo náměstí stop
Bus No: 176,510 Jiráskovo náměstí stop

More information: http://www.praguecityline.com/what-to-see-in-prague/6-alois-jirasek-square-and-bridge-jiraskovo-namessti-a-jiraskuv-most

Construction of another bridge over the Vltava River in the vicinity of the already existing Palacky bridge sought to solve the precarious transport situation of the city, due to the stormy development of Prague Smíchov. After long deliberations the route that was decided on was to follow Resslova street leading to the Smichov waterfront. The Smichov the construction of the bridge was unfortunately prevented by the Dientzenhoferův Baroque pavilion, which was dismantled and should have been restored at another site. This recon-
struction, however, never happened because there has been no one willing to take on the risk of displacement and eventual destruction. The pavilion also used to be a botanical garden, so today the name under the bridge is called Dientzenhoferovy.

Jiráskův bridge is, counting down the river, the sixth bridge Prague. It was built between 1929 - 1932 by the architects Hofman and Francis Mencl. The bridge is made of reinforced concrete and its total length is 310 meters and a width of 21 meters. The bridge has six arches and five pillars. The surface of the exterior wall is made of artificial stone. The bridge is equipped with a concrete railing and lamposts. The undoubted attractions of the bridge is the fact that in two of its pillars were placed hollow tubes, which could, if necessary, destroy the bridge if charges were set in them. These tubes lasted until World War II, when German soldiers filled them in over concerns that the Czech Resistance would blow up the bridge.

ALOIS JIRASEK STATUE (SOCHA ALOISE JIRÁSKA)

The bronze statue is the work of the sculptor Karl Pokorny. It is located in a small park directly outside the house where the writer lived from 1903 - 1930. It was in this house that Alois finished his famous works such as FLVěk dark, that we know from television and the list of required school reading for all of us. Even though many of us have his character closely associated with the communist era, himself a writer at the time, the communist idea was disapproved, and vice versa, he was an active leader in realism. In 1917, he was one of the first to sign the Manifesto of Czech writers, a significant statement in support of political efforts for the independence of Czechoslovakia.

Devil’s quiz:
After the assassination of Heydrich paratroopers found refuge in the crypt. Hiding place was betrayed and after long struggles paratroopers died.

(6) When paratroopers died in the crypt?
a) 5.12 1942
b) 6.18 1942
C) 21.7 1942

(7) What is the name of Reichs protector, that was killed?
a) K.H.Frank
b) H. Himmler
c) R. Heydrich

Palacky Square (Palackého náměstí)

Palacky Square is located in the historic part of Prague 2 Podskalí called "old" and today is one of the main intersections with the major tram hub. The main interest of today's square started to arise after the catastrophic floods that hit Prague in 1845. When river levels rose by more than 5 meters over its normal level and greatly damaged this part of town. In subsequent years, therefore, in this place the ground was artificially raised and a solid stone wall was built with a height of from eight to eleven meters. The right bank of the Vltava River was now protected in the future from similar events adequately. The newly created town square was named in 1896 after Francis Palacky.
FRANTIŠEK PALACKY STATUE (SOUSOŠÍ FRANTIŠKA PALACKÉHO)

The monumental statue was created in collaboration between sculptors Stanislav Sucharda and Joseph Alois Dryák Mařatka in the years 1898 - 1902. It is located on the head of Palacky Bridge.

GPS: 50°4’23.053″N, 14°24’53.574″E
120 00 Praha 2

Public transport:
Tram No: 3,4,6,10,16,52,54 – Palackého náměstí stop
Bus No: 176,510 - Palackého náměstí stop


8. Palacky Bridge / Palackého most

It is the third oldest stone bridge in Prague (Charles Bridge and the viaduct Negrelli) and like the bridge downstream over the Vltava river, it was built for the same reason as already mentioned Jiřáškův bridge. This reason was rapidly growing Smíchov area on the opposite bank of the river and the necessity of a connection with the then densely populated city center. But construction did not prevent an economic depression and building was stalled. Eventually on May 13, 1876 workers laid the first foundation stone. A German construction company took over but the Klein brothers, Schmoll, and Gartner projects were built by the Czech engineers Josef Reitnera and Frederick Münzberger (a name we have already dealt in the paragraph devoted to building CTU Karlovo namesti).

The construction of the bridge is also one subject of technical interest - for the first time here in Prague, the caisson
method was used for establishing the pillars of the bridge. The Caisson system works on the principle of equal pressure in the caisson and water and is the same technique used for the Brooklyn Bridge. With this feature it is possible to move the caisson without a special suit, and the excavation work is carried out faster. A weighted box drops into the pit and after reaching the required depth or bedrock is filled with concrete and used as the foundation of emerging pillars of the building.

The stone bridge with seven arches measures to 228.8 mA was put into operation the 22nd of December, 1878. After commissioning the bridge, the street and track cars were placed around it and race on one side in one direction. The road was wide: sidewalks 7.7 mA 1.5 m. Although the Palacky Bridge in Prague at that time was the widest bridge, from the outset, it appeared that this width would not be sufficient, and immediately they planned an additional unilateral expansion up-river as evidenced by the location of the statue of Palacky in the axis of the proposed extension. All these plans were compromised with the advent of war.

Another interesting feature of the bridge, which in its attentive examination one easily notice the different colors of the building blocks of the bridge. The bridge was built in the spirit of national revival and was the blocks of different color stone are in the colors of the national tricolor. Blue granite was used on the gridiron blocks and pillars of the arch, the red sandstone walls and white marble pins are on the railing of the bridge. The emblems engraved here are of Prague and the Czech towns on the Vltava and Elbe. On both corners were placed statues of Josef Vaclav Myslbek famous figures of the Czech myths and legends. It was a sculpture Lumír and song, and Libuse Přemysl, and Slavoj Záboj and Ctirad and Sarka. This statue stood there until 14 February 1945, when at the end of the war over Prague, U.S. aircraft destroyed the escape routes serving the German army. During this raid the statues on Palacky Bridge were not damaged, but many other buildings of Prague 2 were destroyed. Some of them will not be mentioned here. To complete this information it appears that the American pilots during the air raid reportedly lost their orientation and ended up in Prague rather than Dresden. Fortunately, with regard to the damaged statues at the Palacky Bridge, they are now housed and renovated in Vyšehrad Park (Vyšehradských parcích).
Herewith, there is not many buildings, which would remember the founding of a square itself, Faust’s house represents obverse. As a gothic medieval palace, it was already built in second half of 14th century and in that time belonged opavian dukes from nearby přemyslov line. And just in this period, as it is mentioned by several sources, it was occupied by legendary doctor Johannes Faust.

After year 1420 it lapsed to ownership of novoměstský reeve Peter Kameník, but already in 1434 it lost its owner and stood on very scrubby. Mr. Prokop, counsellor writer of Nové Město, had merit in its repair. Then, the house changed several owners until it was bought by Edward Kelley in 1590, english alchymist of court of emperor Rudolf II.

In 18th century the object became possession of old Czech vladyc stock Mladots from Solopysk. The very first from Mladots, Ferdinand Antonin, was interested in chemical and alchymic attempts a his son Josef Petr was partial to mechanical toys a technical works. Mladots intensified legends, that in the house are hatched a plot and magics. Pshaw, so as not! When old Mladot mixed various chemical substances, the house sheded variety of sounds, which where accompanied with sceneries of various colors, which could be seen also for people in the street. This was why citizens avoided this house with big arc and for that reason many of myths and legends are embroidered.

In middle of 19th century where built up two new court wings and by it the palace was adapted to needs of Private institution for deaf-mute, which bought it in 1838. In that time the house was already commonly called the Faust’s and to eccentric inhabitants, living in it, joined chaplain from neighbour church of Jan Nepomucký Na skalce, Karl Jaenig. He is was realy eccentric, in nowadays it would be said defective individuum. He namely owned human skull a part of gallows-tree, used to sleep in casket a his room was ornamented with black epitaphs.

In 1902 the Faust’s house bought General hospital, but to the end of 60th was full of tenants. During bombing in february 14th 1945, it was stricken drop bomb, which broke through roof and slumped down to cellar, but didn’t explode. It is said, that the hole, which the bomb left behind, could be seen many years yet. And again, it was reason for speculations. Wasn’t it exactly this hole, through which devil flew with Faust? Doctor Faust, that is, subscribed to devil for richness and knowledges. And everybody knows how fell it out: devil flew away with Faust through roof.

Another one of the legends tells, that a poor student visited, looking for accommodation. He entered the first room, full of furniture. He set down to a chair and fell asleep. In the morning he entered second and third room. Everywhere it was full of furniture. In the third room was a hole in roof a stairs too. When stepped up the stairs, they shrunked in by themselves. He walked through room, and when wanted go back, the stairs stretched out. He continued viewing next rooms. In one big room he found out a taler in saucer. He took it and went to take some food. When he came back, set down to chair and fell asleep. In the morning he again found out taler, which he added to changes from previous day. Such way he got taler every morning. After several days he already had on new dress. He got used to comfort a started to buy better things.

But the one taler was not enough already and wanted more and more. Once he was again lashing out the money and invited his friends to a pub. Then they wanted look round him, but he estoped them. From that day nobody have seen him. His friends went to look for him into the house. In bedroom they found out an old hole in roof, a lot of fresh blood and inklings of struggle. The friends run away aghasted about how died their friend. Horror!
10. Emmaus, Abbey of the Blessed Virgin and St. Jerome (Emauzy)

GPS: 50°4'21.020"N, 14°25'1.397"E
Vyšehradská 49/320, Praha 2

Open:
October – May: mo – fri 9 – 16
June – September: mo – sat 9 – 16

Entrance fees:
standard 50,-Kč, children, seniors 20,-Kč

Public transport:
Underground Line B – Karlovo náměstí stop
Tram No: 3, 4, 6, 10, 16, 18, 24, 52, 53, 54, 55 – Karlovo náměstí stop
Bus No: 176, 510 – Karlovo náměstí stop


The Benedictine Monastery Church of the Virgin Mary was founded by Slavs in the 14th December 1347, when Pope Clement VI granted the request of Charles IV, and gave his consent to the establishment of the monastery with the Slavonic liturgy. The monastery was taught by Benedictines monks who are called the Eastern rite of Dalmatia and Croatia, and who used it as a liturgical language Old Church Slavonic. It was the intention of the Emperor to consolidate the Slavic relations and help to eliminate divisions between the Western and Eastern churches. It was the only Slavic monastery and one non-Latin associations in Western Christianity during Charles' reign. The monastery became a center of learning and the arts. Among the language stu-
The history of Reims Gospel book is very interesting, so here it a little focus. The Reims Gospel was composed of two parts. The first part was established in Kievan Rus and was written in Cyrillic. The second was here in the monastery and was written Glagolitic script (from glagolic grew Cyrillic). Both parts were bound into one book, which was sent to Constantinople as a gift to the local monastery. But in Constantinople this book the Archbishop of Reims bought it, thinking that it was an original of St. Jerome. So until the early 18th century French kings solemnly swore on the gospel at his coronation in the Reims cathedral. However in fact, it largely originated in the Emmaus Monastery. The truth about the gospel learned early 18th century by the Russian Tsar Peter the Great. When he was on an official state visit to Paris, where he was then at Rheims to be shown the Holy Gospel, he of course he knew immediately that this was the Cyrillic alphabet. Following that discovery, which, by the way, nobody at first wanted to officially believe him, even Peter the Great himself hesitated whether to call into question its authenticity, and thus whether it will have any effect on the interaction of the Franco-Russian relations, as the French kings already used the Gospel.

The monastery was built near the old parish church Cosmas and Damian supposedly was built by St. Wenceslas. The monastery and church were completed and consecrated archbishop of Jan Ocko of Vlašim in the presence of Charles IV, his son Wenceslas IV and other important guests on 29 March 1372. That day he read the Gospel in which Christ meets with his disciples at Emmaus, so the place is also called Emmaus. The origin of the name Emmaus is also thought to have perhaps come from another source: At the place where monastery is there once stood a derelict farm Emahaus (Emin house) belonging to a nearby castle, where the first Czech Queen once lived; Emma, daughter of King Conrad of Burgundy.

The building cost the same amount of money as the Charles Bridge. The architect is unknown. The church is made in honor of the Saints Jerome, Cyril and Methodius, and St. Adalbert Prokop and later the Virgin Mary. It has some architectural features and figural themes reminiscent of the work of the court builder when presided by Petr Parler. It also recalls his courage to build a massive atrial, an unusual building without a tower, as well as the displaying the engravings of old Prague. The construction lasted 24 years, including the exterior decorations. In the left corner behind the altar is a statue of a seated Madonna of Montserrat. When the church was bombed in 1945, the statue miraculously survived and was not injured. It was taken to the church St. Ignatius of Charles Square, but eventually taken back to its original location.

The wall paintings are among the rarest sights Czech Gothic: the cloister - Ambit - is decorated with a painting of the Abbey Emmaus.
steam, ie., it is depicting scenes from both the biblical laws. It's kind of fresco, which is a European rarity, and the most precious surviving monument of the Gothic period. During the Hussite movement it was moved to Constance by the Hussite group, and so was spared popular anger and destruction towards Catholicism. In the 16th century the Abbot Matthew Benešov converted it into a pub with a bowling alley and musicians for entertainment. In the early 17th century, the famous astronomer Johannes Kepler lived there for a few years.

After the Battle of White Mountain, Ferdinand III invited the Spanish Benedictines, which in effect renovated the monastery and church in the Baroque fashion. They removed a high ceilinged roof of the church and replaced it with a three-part roof and built two small towers with bulbous façades of the church (1712).

U.S. bombing of the city destroyed the church on 14 February 1945. The bombing killed a number of German Red Cross nurses. The Society for the Reconstruction of Emmaus supported people after the bombing and began providing work. After 1947 the damaged Gothic frescos were restored in the cloister. In subsequent years, they built a new concrete roof. Renovation work entrusted to professor Stefan Ulrich. Anonymous 1964 was announced a competition for architectural roof and destroyed the church tower. Out of this the competition won the design by the architect FM Black; under whose leadership a new tower was installed rather than the totally modern structure. It was designated Courage, belonging to the most valuable expressions of modern architecture in Prague: it is an asymmetric 32 meter landmark shell with 40 cm thick concrete structures of white. The structure is a 4m high spike with 1.3 kg 24-carat gold gild. The spitz is a height of 52 m, 32 m from the shelf there is an optical illusion caused by the south tower, which is closer to the river. It appears to be higher, although it is not. During the reconstruction the chapter hall of the monastery fragments of wall paintings and inscriptions were uncovered. An inscription written in Croatian Glagolitic script (probably old Czech Ten Com-
mandments from the year 1412) is the first and only evidence Glagolitic epigraphy at home and in western Slavic countries in general. Another interesting feature of the modern history of the church is the second half of the last century when the monastery was threatened by complete disappearance. Then the highest authorities concluded that this church would be ideal garage. Fortunately, the revolution came in time and the church was gradually repaired and reconsecrated. Near the monastery they will certainly not miss the modern cubic houses with glass facades, which were built here, despite the protests of the population between 1968 - 1974. Paradox is that the body belonged to the chief architect of the city of Prague.

11. Church of St. John of the Little Rock
(Kostel sv. Jana na Skalce)

GPS: 50°4'20.238″N, 14°25'6.714″E
Vyšehradská 26, Praha 2

Open:
The church is open about 40 minutes before and after Mass.

Public transport:
Tram No: 18, 24, 53, 55 – Botanická zahrada stop
Underground Line B – Karlovo náměstí stop
Tram: No 3, 4, 6, 10, 16, 18, 24, 52, 53, 54, 55 – Moráň stop


This church belongs to the smallest Baroque buildings in Prague. It was built between 1730-1738 by the architect Kilian Ignac Dienzenhofer. It was dedicated to one of the greatest patrons of the Baroque period: St. John of Nepomuk. His name also refers to the fact that it is built on a rock. Kilian Ignaz Dienzenhofer masterfully constructed it on this difficult rocky terrain. The difference in height between the street and the church’s beautiful double staircase as well as the entire building was completed with the remarkable impression of a pair of forward leaning towers, built at an angle.

The inner space of the church is based on the grounds plan of an octagon, and has concave sides. Inside the main altar you will find a wooden statue of St. John of Nepomuk, created by John Brokoff; which is older than the church. This
The statue was the model for the oldest bronze statue of Charles Bridge and became a kind of model for other statues which appeared in the following year at the Feast of St. John here and abroad. The vault of the church is decorated with frescoes by Karla Kolar from 1784, which is displays the glorification of St. John of the Little Rock.

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12. Botanical Gardens
(Botanická zahrada)

GPS: 50°4’21.020”N, 14°25’1.397”E
Na Slupi 16, Praha 2

Open
December – January: every day 10 – 16 (greenhouses), 10 – 17 (garden), March – November: every day 10 – 17 (greenhouses), 10 – 18 (garden)

Entrance fees:
Garden for free
Greenhouses: Standartí 25,- Kč, children, students, seniors 15,- Kč, families 30,- Kč , group of adults 10,- Kč /os., group of children 5,- Kč /os., children under 6 free

Public transport:
Underground Line B – Karlovo náměstí stop
Tram No: 6, 18, 24, 53, 55 – Botanická zahrada stop

More informations: http://www.praguecityline.com/favorite-walks/12-the-botanical-garden

The Botanical Garden of Science, Charles University serves not only to teach students of botany, but also as a place for tourists and residents of Prague 2 to relax. It covers an area of 3.5 hectares and one can find a greenhouse and outdoor spaces. The Greenhouse is a permanent exhibition of tropical and subtropical plants, mainly represented by various species of cacti. You can find here large specimens of Cycads, Camellias, and Myrtha. The Greenhouse attracts most attention when Royal Victoria blooms, a huge water lilly with leaves that can support a six-year-old child. In the outdoor exhibition is a significant 130 year old Ginko biloba specimen. The Outdoor Exhibition was founded in 1904 and since then it has maintained a continuous collection of Central European flora and an exhibition of medicinal plants. When you walk in this garden, imagine its history. It is almost unbelievable that the history of botanical gardens in Prague dates back to the 14th century. The personal physician of Charles IV, Angelo of Florence, founded the first botanical garden in Prague on the site of today's main post office on Jindřišská street. The cultivated plants were
used to prepare medicines and ointments, which were then sold from 1353 in Prague at the first pharmacy in the "At the Angel" house at the Lesser Square. Since then, the popularity of the botanical gardens in Prague grew. From 1600 the Jesuits have a garden in Lesser Town. In 1775, Maria Theresa had set up another botanical garden in Smichov where the Dientzenhoferových orchards are today. At the time that garden was considered the best botanical garden north of the Alps. There were 9 greenhouses from which grew 13 thousand species and varieties of plants. The garden at this time belonged to the University of Prague. Unfortunately, due to the growing industrialization of Smichov, the garden suffered greatly and in 1890 it was substantially damaged during a flood. University Management therefore decided to move to its current premises in New Town. And from that moment on, we write the history of the Botanical Gardens in the Slupi as we know it today. In the 18th century the gardens as well as other parts of Prague were divided into separate Czech and German parts. The Czech part was reconstructed after the wartime bombing and still survives today. It now boasts not only a beautiful garden but a newly reconstructed greenhouse from 1996-1999.

Spring is one of the most beautiful periods for visiting the garden and it is strongly recommended. During this period you will find many beautiful flowering azaleas and rhododendrons.

Devil's quiz:

Our route takes you through along the picturesque waterfront and from which you have a wonderful view of the Vltava River bridges, Petrin and Prague Castle. The waterfront was named after the first Czechoslovak Minister of Finance.

(9) What is his name?

a) Karel Kramar
b) Alois Rasin
c) Mr. Švehla
13. Zitek Park (Zítkovy sady)

GPS: 50°4’21.020"N, 14°25’1.397"E
128 00 Praha 2

Public transport:
Underground Line B – Karlovo náměstí stop (direction Palacky square)
Tram No.: 3, 7, 17, 52 – Výtoň stop


Zitek lies beneath the Emmaus Church and is surrounded by Palacky Square, Rašín’s waterfront, Dřemá Street and Emmaus Square. Part of the square is on the location of the last remnants of old Podskali. It is a monument dedicated to the Czechoslovak legionaires and victims of World War I; an integral part of the skyline. This is a restored monument from the earlier version built by the victorious Mařatka J., who built the main legionary monument in 1931 to the Czech soldiers fighting in the Russian Civil War; but it was destroyed by the Nazis.

The center of the monument is a 16 m high obelisk, which was originally selected by architect Josip Plečnik for Prague Castle. But since the obelisk broke, President Masaryk decided that the rest should be donated for the purpose of building a memorial to the legionaries in Zitek Park. Decoration of the monument consists of seven legionaries: In the center stands a French legionary with a banner that a woman adorns with linden garlands; the Czech national tree. The inscription of the memorial verse are quoted from poet Viktor Dyk: "If you leave me to perish, I live. If you leave me, you die." Here is also found the names of the battlefields on which our legionaries fought during the First World War.

Surrounding the monument are full flower beds, which give this place a picturesque appearance and invite you to relax.
14. Podskalska Customs House
(Podskalská celnice na Výtoni)

GPS: 50°4′3.863″N, 14°24′55.518″E
Rašínovo nábřeží 30/412, Praha 2

Open:
tue – sun 10 – 18

Entrance fees:
Standart: 30,-Kč, children, students, seniors 20,- Kč, families 60,- Kč, free children under 6 year

Public transport:
Underground Line B – Karlovo náměstí stop (direction Palacky square)
Tram No.: 3, 7, 17, 52 – Výtoň stop


Podskalská Celnice Na Výtoň is the last remnant of the fishing village called Podskali. It is named due to its location under a rock and it occupied the area around from today’s railway bridge to Manes Gallery. The settlement existed already by the late 12th century and the population gradually acquired a monopoly right to trade in timber, which was floated to here down the river Vltava. Trade flourished here and therefore this area gradually gained in importance. By the 14th century there were four churches but today only the church of Cosmas and Damian survives, just below Emmaus Church. The biggest growth Podskalí recorded was in the 18th century where this small idyllic place, largely built of wooden houses, began to change into a city full of stone buildings and pubs, with the strong scent of lumber belonging from then on only to the shores of the Vltava, waiting for customs clearance. Here was situated the Podskalská customs house, the old center for levying tolls on wood heading for the Prague market. The name Vytínání comes from the amount of wood bound into rafts which served as the quantifier of duties. According to the historical materials, the tax was for every twentieth wood raft, which was approximately eight percent taxation. This tax was first under the jurisdiction of Vyšehrad, but later it went under the New Town and finally the state. Interestingly, the period of time from when the floating rafts left Vyšší Brod (upper ford) to when it arrived in Prague took only six days to traverse 200 kilometers of river.

The area suffered from frequent floods despite its prosperity, threatening the rest of old Prague. In the late 19th century, it was decided that a raised embankment

Devil’s quiz:
(10) What is the name of the museum, which was named after its founder, who was a world-renowned anthropologist.

a) The Museum paleolontologie
b) The curtain Museum of Human Evolution

c) Hrdlička Museum of Man
should be built to protect the city from flood inundation. For Podskalí, the result was a significant and notable step, causing it to gradually disappear. In place of the raftsmen houses the town built apartment blocks and the docks were refitted for harbor steamers [this part was difficult to translate]. At present, the building of the old custom house is the last that recalls old Podskalí. It's basically a lonely gothic building from the period around 1500, located at the original ground level. Here you can see an illustrative example of how high the terrain rose in the regards to the Vltava embankment and buildings. Today Podskalská customs house serves as a museum and rafting around Podskalí is no more.

15. Railroad Bridge
(Železniční most)

This is the fourth bridge over the Vltava river and it is notable mainly for its construction. It was established in 1871-1872, built by Harkot Company from Duisberg as a single-track railway bridge, but it soon became clear that it would not be enough rail transport due to increasing demand. In 1901, after only thirty years of operation it had to be changed to accommodate new twin-track lines with walkways along the sides. Construction was done by three local companies; Moravian Machine Works, the Prášilová Brothers and Rustinova Engineering. The design work involved engineering professor of Prague Mr. Jan Kolar.

As the contemporary sources attest, this method of reconstruction became a sensation in Prague. Reconstruction was done in only one day. When the last rain had passed work started on 30th September at 6 am. Over the next five hours, workers moved all the old bridge structure over by 7.5 meters and dismantled the scaffolding. Another 25 minutes passed before the empty space was filled with the new track readied using nearby scaffolding. Each of the three parts of the 72 m span weighed 560 tons. Finally, this whole conversion tool just thirty-six hours. The next day there were already trains running again and the building did not even interrupt water transport. The rebuilding was watched the entire time by a large group of spectators in Prague.

GPS: 50.0669467N, 14.4133772E
128 00 Praha 2

Public transport:
Underground Line B – Karlovo náměstí stop (direction Palacky square)
Tram No.: 3, 7, 17, 52 – Výtoň stop

16. Vysehrad Castle (Vyšehrad)

GPS: 50°3'52.194"N, 14°25'3.425"E
V Pevnosti 159/5b, Praha 2

Open
April – October: every day 9.30 - 18
November – May: every day 9.30 - 17

Entrance fees:
Cihelná gate - 10,- Kč, free children under 6 year
Casemate, hall Gorlice and gothic cellar: adults 30,- Kč, children, students, seniors 20,- Kč, families 60,- Kč, free children under 6 year, Gallery Vyšehrad: 10,- Kč

Vyšehrad is a place full of secrets. Still, it raises many questions for us. Be informed, when in fact the castle was built. Its past, shrouded by veils of mystery, offers writers and ordinary people several important myths and legends. From Jirasek’s work are known the legends about Princess Libuše, who ruled the Czech lands from Vysehrad, and later married Přemysl the Ploughman, the father all the Přemysl family.

Another story, which highlights the power of the Czechs, tells of the brave Bivoj, who overcame a horrible boar terro-

HIGHLIGHTS MONUMENTS VYSEHRAD CASTLE

1. The Tábor Gate
2. Remains of the Špička Gate – information centre
3. The Jedlička Institute
4. The Leopold Gate
5. St. Martin Rotunda
6. Church of Decollation of St. John The Babtist
7. Gorlice, the Vysehrad Casemates
8. The Brick Gate
9. Open - air theatre
10. The Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul
11. The Vysehrad Cemetery
12. Pantheon Slavin
13. Statues Vysehrad Castle I.
14. Statues Vysehrad Castle II.
15. The Old Burgrave’s Residence
16. The Vysehrad Gallery

Public transport:
Underground Line C - Vysehrad stop
Tram No 7, 8, 24 - Albertov stop
Tramv No 3,7,17,16 - Výtoň. stop

rizing the neighborhood with his bare hands. But when the site was first inhabited by the royal family, we do not know yet. There are some legends that already by the second half of the 10th century the king Boleslav II lived there. Coins discovered during his reign are the first to bare the inscription of the castle Wisegrudus. One thing is for sure: Vyšehrad acquired considerable fame under Vratislav II. If someone was going from the south towards Prague, they would have to ride around Vyšehrad. They would be greeted from afar by the two tall black towers of Peter and Paul, St. Steven's Basilica, and the heavy set walls. Vyšehrad really had a very good strategic position, because it is effectively protected from conquerors. Leading to the castle are only two access roads through gates over a ditch. The other parts of the castle are protected by a huge cliff and the river Vltava.

At the other end of the castle, away from the gate and over the cliff sloping towards the river, long ago there once was a royal palace. Today, we find there the so-called armory. Its builders, however, spared no material at all and by all accounts it was a huge palace. So we conclude with a report from the council that took place in 1130 that there was a 3000 person meeting. However, at the end of the 12th century, the building suffered greatly from a huge storm.

But we return to the previously mentioned Vratislav II, who is credited with the fact that we now know what Vyšehrad as it is. His legacy is the building of the Rotunda of St. Martin, the Basilica of St. Lawrence and certainly the greatest landmark - Saints Peter and Paul. He made Vyšehrad a founding Church chapter directly subordinate to the Pope because he was in dispute with the bishop of Prague - his brother. These disputes resulted in the fact that at Vyšehrad, Vratislav built a palace which, for his own personal safety,
His successors later returned to Prague Castle. In Vyšehrad, however, they were still connected and here was the location of the coronation ceremony. On the eve of the celebration the future Emperor worshipped at the estate Přemyslides with lichen shoes and a bag to resemble Přemysl the Ploughman. It was done in order to symbolize the common roots of the ruler. Vyšehrad is truly a place rich in legend so here is one of them. At a time when the Prince Křesomysl ruled, the farm fields were barren. Křesomysl wanted people to work in the mines for precious materials in the vicinity of Vyšehrad. Nobody cared about the fields and they were abandoned. But Lord Horymir and his retinue did not like this at all. Horymir went to Vyšehrad, but the king did not worry about Horymir's problems. What followed then is difficult to understand. When the miners heard of Horymir's complaints, they seized by rage and at night they burned down Horymir's entire village which was outside of the castle. Horymir managed to escape but he vowed to take revenge. Horymir's men rallied and attacked the Birch mines, where the attackers were from. They killed all the miners and the pit ceased to operate.

This of course infuriated Křesomysl. Horymir was trapped and condemned to death by hanging. Horymir however had a plan. His last wish before he died was to ride his horse Semika. Křesomysl agreed to his request, brought the Semika and closed the gates. When Horymir rode through Vyšehrad, an incredible thing happened. He whispered something into Semika's ear and suddenly the horse reared up, made a huge leap over the wall, and finally swam the river, letting Horymir escape his captors. Křesomysl was so surprised that he decided to forgive Horymir and reconcile with him. Unfortunately Semika suffered serious injuries and died.

Feel free to visit Vyšehrad, from which you can admire Prague nicely from above. And remember, when you look at that height, Semika must have been a brave horse to conquer it!

**BASILICA OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL (BAZILIKA SV. PETRA A PAVLA)**

A bell towers of Saints Peter and Paul are the dominating feature of Vyšehrad, visible from afar. Today's Neo-Gothic style is from 1902 by Josef Mocker and incorporates the remnants of Gothic and Romanesque masonry.

The important events that are associated with this site indicate that in the year 1070 Vratislav II created the site. Coupled with his royal coronation, the Vyšehrad Chapter was founded in the year 1085 - the first royal coronation of a Czech king. Later, Charles IV chose Vyšehrad as the starting point for the Czech king's coronation parade. From this
period is preserved in the church a rare plate picture of the Madonna of Vyšehrad called the Rain Madonna. The records say it was used during dry periods during which the procession asked for a weather change and the painting at this time was also included in the famous Emperor Rudolph’s collections. A little known attraction of this church is undoubtedly the bells. They were created by perhaps the most famous 16th century Czech bell maker Brikcius of Cymperka- the artistry of the bells earned him an aristocratic coat-of-arms. Along with Brikcius decorated bells conveying Biblical stories, there is an unusual motif of farm work as well, allowing one to see such scenes as sheep shearing, hoeing fields, or milking cows.

The Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, according to historical sources, also contains the remains of the first Přemysl Crypt: Vratislav II, his brother Conrad, Soběslav I and II. The excavations, however, still have not confirmed this assumption. The current form of the church from its last renovation from 1902-1903 is by Josef Mocker who built the high towers, removing the previous pseudo-Baroque towers. The relief carved tympanum above the main portal by Stepan Zálešák displays motifs from the Last Judgement. On the facade of the church is a plaque that commemorates the baptism of 14 Czech princes at Regensburg in 845 and is the location where the church’s tubular bells which plays several different tunes, always according to the current holiday or important event (are there people playing or are they in the tower?) The interior was decorated by Francis and Vera Urban Art Nouveau figural ornaments. The Presbyterian frescoes are from the Viennese painter Karl Jobst which depict scenes from the lives of SS. Peter and Paul. Josef Mocker designed the main altar of the temple. On the altar in the third chapel, see the above mentioned panel painting of the Rain Madonna. The legend also says that he painted himself as St. Luke. In the first chapel on the right is the tomb of St. Longinus from the 12th century.
While walking around Vyšehrad, certainly stop at the rotunda of St. Martin.

The Rotunda of St. Martin is the oldest rotunda in Prague and dates back to the end of the 11th century, when Prague was ruled by Prince Vratislav II. The walls reach an incredible width of one meter. The rotunda diameter is about six-and-a-half meters. The rotunda was used as a gunpowder house during the Thirty Years War. It was renewed as a church in 1719. Unfortunately, after one year the rotunda was damaged again and could no longer serve its purpose as a church.

In the second half of the 19th century it was renovated thanks to Earl Chotek. For the interior decoration, the themes which were used are from the Vyšehrad Codex. The Neo-Renaissance altar rotunda, which is made of Slivenec marble, is decorated with paintings by J. Sequens.

Let's focus on the architecture of the ancient sanctuary: On the central building there is an apse with the unusual parabolic shape of the original walls of the smaller blocks of stone. In 1719, the old Romanesque entrance portal was replaced with new Baroque tiles. Because of the bombing of Prague and the Prussian army in 1757, the building was badly damaged. In memory of this event, one of the Prussian cannonballs was bricked into its walls, which can be seen there today.

In 1784 the Emperor Joseph II ordered it to be used as a warehouse.

When the building of a new communications system threatened the Vyšehrad’s rotunda with demolition, it is thanks to the Surgeon Earl Chotek that it was saved. The rotunda was then rented as housing for the poor. The was punctured for a new entry and in the apse a kitchen was built and another hole was made in the ceiling for a chimney.

At the end of the 19th century the Vyšehrad canonry bought the building back and it was restored, giving it its most recent form. It has been restored back to its Romanesque origins. A new entry portal was put in, windows covered the lanterns, and an accompanying stucco cornices as well as the windows got new stained-glass panes.

ST. LAWRENCE BASILICA (BAZILIKA SV. VAVŘINCE)

The masonry of the foundations of St. Lawrence can be seen in the baroque residence No.14 on Sobeslav street, close to the prince's home and the royal acropolis of the medieval castle. The building was originally a three nave design with a transept and semicircular apse. Believed to have been found in the private chapel of Vratislav II, come some of the oldest archaeological finds: tiles that are embossed with motifs of the sphinx, the Emperor Nero, griffin and lion-dog hybrids. These are now on view at St. Lawrence.

The basilica was destroyed by the Hussites in 1420 but has since been restored.
The Vysehrad cemetery forms a dominant part of the Vyšehrad National Cultural Monument. The graves of meritorious personages are concentrated here, many of those who contributed to Czech culture, education, national self-determination and the independence of the country.

Every day, all year round hundreds of visitors from all corners of the Czech Republic and the five continents pay visits to Vyšehrad, the Upper Castle. People who have come from afar often do not have time to go into all the details, and so they tend to be on the lookout for names that are familiar to them. The most frequent cultural link to our country takes the form of music, and their first visit to the Vyšehrad cemetery takes them to the tomb of Antonín Dvořák. The citizens of the United States often think of him as a founder of their national music. One motif from his 9th symphony in E-Minor, "From the New World" (Largo) became the state anthem of one of the states of the Union - Iowa. Many in Europe and as far as Japan also know the music of Bedřich Smetana. Among writers the best-known to guests not only from the English-speaking countries is Karel Čapek.

Until the early sixties of the nineteenth century, this cemetery covered only a small area in the immediately vicinity of the Church of SS Peter and Paul. After the fall of the absolutist regime that had ruled over the country after the defeat of the revolutionary movement in the year 1848, there occurred a certain detente in political life, and with it began a tempestuous spread of national self-awareness. One of the forms this took was the longing to set up a common burial place of all those who had made major contributions to the national renaissance, similar to such places that existed in other great European countries.

This idea arose in the patriotic Svatobor Association, founded by the "Father of the Nation", the historian František Palacký in 1862. The selection of the most suitable and most dignified place led to the choice of Vyšehrad, associated with the oldest Czech legends, a lasting source of Czech history described in the oldest chronicles. Beginning in the Romanesque period there is historic proof that Vyšehrad was the residence of Czech princes and kings. One of the most famous of these, Charles IV, King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor, stipulated that the Bohemian coronation ceremony should take its starting point in this place.

At the beginning only individual tombs were set up - the first above the grave of writer, librarian and archive-keeper Václav Hanka, which lies close to the main entrance. At its top is the symbol of the Svatobor Association: three hands holding a ring, the symbol of the association logo: Help - Enlighten - Remember. Thanks to the efforts of the patriotic priest Václav Štulc, provost of the Vyšehrad Chapter, the existing small burial ground was enlarged until, at the end of the nineteenth century, it reached its present size. Simultaneous with the reconstruction of the Chapter church in Neo-Gothic style, the cemetery was given artistic form: Half of its perimeter was lined with Neo-Renaissance arcades with ostentatious graves, and in 1893 the dominant feature of the cemetery, the Slavin (Pantheon), the common tomb of the most meritorious personages, was finished. The designer of the arcades and the Pantheon was Antonín Wiehl, disciple and follower of the greatest Czech architect of the 19th century, Josef Zítek, who, among others, built the National Theatre. The construction work was made possible by a gift of a patriotic entrepreneur and mayor of Smíchov, Petr Fischer, who entrusted the property and care to the Svatobor Association, who had initiated the idea of the construction.

The Pantheon symbolizes the entire sacred ground, where among the thousands who devoted their lives to their families, to crafts, offices and services of their fellow citizens, there rest personages who stood out among their surroundings by meritorious work for society as a whole, for the
nation and their homeland in the spheres of culture, science, the economy, in spiritual service, physical culture, the administration of public affairs, in politics, men and women engraved in our memory by their fate as victims of wars and persecution. Above their graves there rises the architecture of the Pantheon as a common tomb to those without whose contribution our Czech nation would not have gained its present-day appearance, level of culture and education.

The Vyšehrad cemetery is not a museum with a closed history, as is the case of other cemeteries in Prague, in the Lesser Town or the older parts of Olsany cemetery, where no burials take place any more. From time to time the sad moment arrives when somebody who has departed for ever is placed into the sacred ground of Vyšehrad to become immortal through his work and in our memories.

The Vyšehrad cemetery and its pantheon are not the sole burial places of all famous men and women who contributed to the memory of the nation and the general public. Many rest elsewhere, as was their last wish or that of their families. Some in their places of birth, others, where they worked and died. Here we shall deal with that selection from our history provided by a short walk through the Vyšehrad.

VYSEHRAD GARDENS (VYŠEHRADSKÉ SADY)

An oasis of tranquillity and beautiful walks offers not only romantic nooks and vistas of the Vltava River and Prague Castle and a look back at recent history and profound, reverent remembrance of Czech greats, but also offers a children's playground and several cafés and a restaurant. The park is decorated with several statues such as the equestrian statue of St. Wenceslas, which originally adorned the fountain on Wenceslas Square. From the distant past come the Devil’s columns - three pieces of a stone timekeeping column from Slavic pagan times.

17. Cubist Houses (Kubistické domy)


Other important monuments of New Town are the Cubist houses. We will mention one here on Neklova Street No. 30. More of them can be found by the former Podskali on the trams numbered 6, 8, and 10 and Libušina Street No. 3 - a house that has a different facade to the street and to the garden. Another three houses are on the waterfront before Vyšehrad tunnel. These houses were designed by the architect Josef Chochola, who was among the officials of the Club for Old Prague and worked closely with other major Cubists such as Joseph Gočár and Pavel Janak. Most of their buildings in New Town were built during a single year in 1913.

Cubism is an architectural style of the second decade of the twentieth century. It derives its name from the word Kubus, or cube, and reflects the efforts of builders to return to simple geometric shapes.
18. Church of the Virgin Mary and St. Charlemagne - Police Museum
(Kostel Panny Marie a sv. Karla Velikého - Muzeum policie)

At mount Charles - Mons Sancti Caroli - The highest point of the New Town of Prague, Charles IV built a church in honor of St. Charlemagne and a monastery for the canons regular of St. Augustine. The octagonal church is an unusual layout that was built along the lines of the funeral chapel of Charlemagne in Aachen. On 18 September 1350 Charles IV personally laid the foundation stone for this church. He also dedicated to the reliquary at the same time apparently rare relics from Aachen - three preserved teeth of Charlemagne. The construction of the church lasted for 27 years. During the Hussite wars it was considerably damaged and after the Catholic victory, it was also dedicated to Mary. Today the Church of Our Lady and St. Charlemagne has an especially unique central Gothic arch with a diameter of 22.8 m, which rests over the area without any central support.

This vault is connected to the reputation of the builder, who drowned due to the unique proximity to the Vltava. When the work was done, the builder set fire to the scaffolding, which at the time was the common way to dismantle it. There was a thunderous roar, and all those present fled. The builder assumed that the dome collapsed and in the immediate emotional state he ended his own life. However,
only a wooden ceiling and auxillary structures fell and the rest remains today. Despite many rumors, the fact remains that the extraordinary name of the builder is not preserved.

But the picture has been preserved from the late 17th century, which shows the pregnant Virgin Mary. This image is called the Virgin Mary Karlovska - protector of pregnant women and miraculous power has been attributed to this picture of the future mother. Women brought gifts to their guardian, but the original of this painting was later transferred to a nearby church of St. Appollinare.

It also worth mentioning that the original church painting - the fresco beneath the choir, portrayed Jan Zizka on horseback with a mace in his hand.

The church adjoins the former Augustinian monastery where the cloister builders adjusted the symmetry of the central nave of the adjacent church. The building of this former convent is now a police museum. A visit here is recommended especially on Sunday afternoon, with the ongoing tour of the church.

19. Municipal Maternity Clinic of St. Apollinaire
(Nemocnice u Apolináře)

GPS: 50°4'17.003″N, 14°25'35.673″E
Apolinářská 441/18, Praha 2

Public transport:
Tram No: 18, 24, 53, 55 – Botanická zahrada stop
Bus: 291 – Apolinářská stop


In this article we will together visit the most familiar maternity clinic of Prague which was at the time of its founding considered the greatest maternity clinic of Europe. The building of red fair-face bricks is a unique and perfectly constructed building. Let’s go together reveal its secret.

First, the Prague maternity clinic was located in the building close to St. Apollinaire Church. However, the terms were not completely sufficient and therefore it was necessary to build a new maternity clinic. The Municipal Committee of the Bohemian Kingdom encharged the significant architect Josef Hlávka in 1863 to work out a project according to which the new maternity clinic would be constructed. The architect was looking for the inspiration mainly among the foreign maternity clinics and this way he got the exact idea of how the construction should look like. His model buildings were the hospitals of Brussels, Vienna and Paris. So could a building, contemporarily considered the largest maternity clinic of Europe, come into existence. The construction works of the Neo-Gothic maternity clinic were performed btw. 1867 – 1870.

The construction of a square layout with an inner courtyard in the middle is formed by the total of eleven tracts. These tracts leading into different sections of the hospital are mutually interconnected by corridors. There used to be a Chapel of the Holy Cross and the administrative part of the maternity clinic in the front face. The birth tracts and classrooms which were connected to the bed departments were located around the inner courtyard. Besides, there were also the laundry, kitchen and machine-room in the premises of the hospital.

The hospital bed capacity was three hundred and seventy-six. There were three clinics to be found here – the medical clinic, the midwives clinic and the obstetrician clinic. The
The midwives clinic was determined for the midwives in particular. There was a foundling asylum in the hospital, too. Mothers who could not look after their children often went to the foundling place and gave them away here. There was also a special entrance leading to a secret department. Rich ladies gave their children away secretly here or classified childbirths took place here.

The treatment in the maternity clinic was divided into three levels, namely according to price. However, there were also poor women in childbed in the third price group who did not pay for the services of the maternity house. The women were looked after by midwives, nurses, servant maids and cooks here.

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20. St. Apollinaire Church
(Kostel sv. Apolináře)

GPS: 50°4'14.988″N, 14°25'25.365″E
Apolinářská 443/10, Praha 2

Open:
The church is open about 40 minutes before and after Mass.

Public transport:
Tram No 18, 24, 53, 55 – Botanická zahrada stop
Bus No: 291 – Apolinářská stop


St. Apollinaire Church (kostel sv. Apolináře) belongs to the significant monuments of Prague 2. This unique landmark is popular with tourists not just because of its architectonic curiosities but it is mainly a place where the public maternity clinic was opened in 1789. The church is also located close to the University Campus at Albertov of Prague. The church stretches on the Prague’s hill Větrov in the New Town. The one-aisle Gothic basilica dates back to the second half of the 14th century. It was founded by the important Bohemian monarch Charles IV in 1376. The church used to be a collegiate canonry once which was transferred to Prague from Sadská. There used to be school next to the church, too, where the Bohemian king Wenceslas IV. spent the last day before his death in 1419. St. Apollinaire Church was modified in the Baroques style in the 17th and later also in the 18th century however shortly afterwards it was rebuilt in the Gothic style by the architect Mocker again. A public maternity clinic was opened in the premises of the former
canony house in 1789. Anonymous childbirths happened here and a foundling asylum was established here, too. We could compare it to the contemporary baby boxes because the women gave their babies away provided they were incapable to look after them. However, the maternity clinic did not operate for too long here. The sanitary and other conditions necessary for its existence were insufficient so the new Royal Czech Municipal Maternity Clinic at the Apollinaire was built in 1867.

We will enter the church now. Here you have the opportunity to see the gorgeously well-preserved Gothic wall paintings. These fresco paintings date back to the period around 1390. However, a great part of the interior church facilities is not original. They were moved from the Church of the Virgin Mary and St. Charles the Great at Karlov to here because the church was closed due to the Josephine reforms.

There is a forty-two meters high church tower raising in the south-western part of the church. There is a bell called „Apollinaire“ hanging in the bell tower weighting nearly two hundred kilos which was made in 1867 in the workshop of Jan Jiří Kühner of the Lesser Town.

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21. Hrdlicka Museum of Man
(Hrdličkovo muzeum člověka)

GPS: 50°4'20.192"N, 14°25'27.519"E
Viničná 7, Praha 2
Open:
January – Juni, September – December: every Wednesday 10 – 17
Entrance fees: 50,-Kč
Public transport:
Underground Line C – I.P.Pavlova stop
Bus No: 291 – Větrov stop or Na Bojiště stop

Do you sometimes think about what does it mean to “be human”? Together, we can find answers. How the human species to its present form? Were our ancestors ill? What happens with the body after death? What can the human body endure? Can we prevent deterioration of the human body? How did anthropologists work in the past and how do they work today?

The small university museum is a part of the Faculty of Science Charles University in Prague. We are a traditional institution with a history going back to 1937. The credit for the foundation of the museum belongs mainly to Dr. Ales Hrdlicka. Our small museum is a cultural place with a unique character. Immediate linkup to the academic environment provides participation of scientific masterminds.

Museum has a specific atmosphere which resembles a

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Hrdlicka Museum of Man

Hrdlicka Museum of Man
cabinet of curiosities that brings you back into the past. We aim to provide a place where the public, students and scientists can meet and present socially important aspects and problems of scientific research. The permanent exhibition introduces human evolution, development of a human being, pathology, death and human diversity and variability.

22. Antonin Dvorak Museum
(Muzeum Antonína Dvořáka)

The Antonin Dvorak Museum in Prague is part of the Czech Museum of Music and since 1932 it has been housed in a Baroque villa designed by K. I. Dietzenhofer. Its permanent exhibition centres on Dvorak’s life and work, the museum also organises discussions and concerts, and visitors may also purchase Dvorak CDs. The museum contains a unique collection of the maestro’s autograph scores, representing almost eighty percent of the composer’s surviving manuscripts.

The exhibition charts the composer’s life stories including concert and teaching activities and focuses journeys that he took - during his lifetime, Dvořák was one of the greatest Czech world travellers. The visitor can travel along with the
famous composer from his native Nelahozeves to Prague, around Europe, to America, and then back to Bohemia through the use of modern graphics and genuine personal items, such as Dvořák’s glasses, viola, piano and furniture from his study, his Cambridge graduation gown, memorial wreaths and other trophies. A multimedia wall, installed on the first floor of the palace, offers many of Dvořák’s compositions in both known and unknown adaptations, as well as a series of the composer’s own photographs, manuscripts and other personal documents.

A significant dominant feature of the upper part of Prague’s New Town is the church of St. Katherine. Thanks to its slim and tall steeple, we are reminded of a prayer tower. The original church was built between 1355 and 1367, on the behest of Charles IV. The church was dedicated to a favourite saint of Charles IV, to St. Katherine. Beside this church there used to be a monastery of the women’s Augustinian Order and from 1568 it was occupied by the men’s Augustinian Order. From the original gothic buildings there remains only a small part of a wall.

A new monastery in a baroque style was built by Kryštof Dientzehofer in 1718-1730. The church was reconstructed in the same style in 1737-1741 and the author of this reconstruction plan was Kolián Ignác Dientzehofer. The original steeple was preserved and ingeniously integrated into the church facia.

The Augustinian monastery was discontinued as well as the St. Katherine church during the reforms of Josef II. After its reconstruction the monastery building was utilized as a house for the mentally affected. For the same purpose the new building in a late classical style was built in the south part of the garden. From 1837 church services were provided for the house boarders.

The church was consecrated in 1950 and the ‘Museum of Prague Capital’ established a sculpture depository. In the 1960s this depository was even opened to the public for

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23. Church of St. Katherine
(Bývalý kostel a klášter sv. Kateřiny)

GPS: 50°4’25.346″N, 14°25’36.962″E
Kateřinská 30, Praha 2
Open occasionally

Public transport:
Underground Line C – I.P.Pavlova stop
Bus No: 291 – Větrov stop or Na Bojišti stop

[Church of St. Katherine]
[Church of St. Katherine entrance]
about 10 years.

The steeple of the St. Katherine church is 51.3m high and it is an important orientation point from many different directions. It has five floors. The lower three are of prismatic shape and the two upper floors are of octahedral shape. The lower floors have baroque windows and the upper floors have gothic windows. The steeple is covered by an octahedral pyramidal roof with finial and a cross at the top.

24. St. Longinus Rotunda
(Rotunda sv. Longina)

GPS: 50°4'25.346″N, 14°25'36.962″E
Na Rybničku, Praha 2
Open occasionally
Public transport:
Underground Line C – I.P.Pavlova stop

Longinus was a Roman soldier who took part in the crucifixion of Christ on Calvary. According to the testimony of St. John the Baptist, he put a spear in the side of the dead Christ. The events had a profound effect on him and he came to believe that Christ is the Son of God. He deserted from the Roman army and for about thirty years lived as a hermit near Caesarea in Cappadocia, where he was discovered and executed, as a Christian.

In the 17th century, a turret was added, which was later turned into a warehouse. It was restored in the middle of the 19th century and repaired in the 1930s.

The change in consecration probably occurred in 1410, when the provost of Vyšehrad, Václav of Bufeníce, brought the remains of St. Longinus to Prague from Rome. St.

The rotunda is also noteworthy from the astronomical point of view. Its connection with the Rotunda of the St. Cross, the Lesser Side Bridge Tower, and St. Vitus Cathedral shows the azimuth of the summer and winter solstice (but in the 11th and 12th centuries).

The simple central structure with a circular nave and one apse (chancel) is built of sandstone blocks and smaller marl blocks. The taller cylindrical nave is roofed with a cupola and the entrance is emphasised by a semicircular arch. There are eight windows in the conical roof. The chapel used to be decorated with frescoes, the central motif being the crucifixion of Christ. In 1904, architect Antonín Wiehl found that they were damaged beyond repair. The chapel was re-consecrated on 2 June 1941.
25. Church of St. Stephen
(Kostel sv. Štěpána)

GPS: 50°4'33.96″N, 14°25'27.84″E
Štěpánská, Praha 2

Open:
The church is open about 40 minutes before and after Mass.

Public transport:
Underground Line B, Karlovo náměstí stop
Tram No: 4, 6, 10, 16, 22, 51, 56, 57, 59 – Štěpánská stop
Bus No: 510 – Štěpánská stop


Right from its foundation Prague’s New Town, founded by Charles IV, had, in view of its size, two parish churches. The upper part of town had the church of St. Stephen located at today’s Štěpánská Street. The church was founded and administered by Crusaders from the Old Town.

This gothic triple-aisled building was built between 1351 and 1401. The chapel named Koronelská was built on the south side in 1686 and the chapel named Brangeberg was built on the north side of the building. Another significant intervention in the building construction was the addition of a neo-gothic hall on the north side in 1866. This relatively large neo-gothic renovation was carried out between 1876 and 1879 and was led by architect Josef Mocker.

Steeple on the west side, which is 57m high, is a distinctive point on Prague’s skyline. The earliest reference to this steeple dates from 1401. It is divided by four band cornices and lies on a cubic pedestal with a single profiled cornice.

The circular stairs with little rectangular windows were bound onto the tower’s south side. The top of the tower has a neo-gothic helmet. This together with a high pyramidal roof and corner turrets was designed by architect Josef Mocker in 1875 during the previously mentioned neo-gothic renovation of the church. The new clock faces of the tower clock were made during the same time period.

The belfry belongs to the church of St. Stephen. It is a detached double-floor building on the south side of church. The belfry was built in 1600-1604 on the site of an original wooden belfry. In the past there was a cemetery situated in the surrounding area. Originally the belfry had a high pyramidal roof, which was installed around 1731 but replaced by a baroque cupola. Today’s roof is shaped like a taper square with cut edges and with a finial on the top. The original bells were confiscated during the 1st and the 2nd World Wars. Recently the belfry has only one bell – affectionately called Stephen – which was created by master Jiří in Prague’s New Town. The estimated weight of this bell is 2010 kg.

And something more.....

x. Church of St. Ludmila
(Kostel sv. Ludmily)

Náměstí Míru, Praha 2 - Vyšehrad
Open:
The church is open about 40 minutes before and after Mass.

Public transport:
Underground Line A, Náměstí Miru stop


The cornerstone of this Pseudo-Gothic church made of bare brick was laid on 25 November 1888 on the occasion of the fortieth jubilee of the rule of His Majesty the Emperor and King Franz Josef I. By the way, the Emperor himself came to the site in 1891 to see how the project was developing. The construction of the church was financed by the Vinohrady Municipality, to the plans and under the supervision of Josef Mocker, the author of the work completing St. Vitus Cathedral at Prague Castle. The church was consecrated on 8 October 1893 by the Archbishop of Prague, František Cardinal Schönborn.

The western facade of the three-nave church with a cross transept is adorned by two slim, 60-meter-tall towers. The four side entrances in the form of portals with a free staircase lead to church lobbies, above which are freely accessible terraces. The facade of the church, whose ledges and ornamental details are made of Hožice stone, is made of Citoliby brick. Dark Moravian slate is used as the roof cover, and green slate from Železný Brod is used for decorations. The exterior ornamentation is the work of, among other artists, Josef. V. Myslbek, the author of the relief in the tympanum depicting a seated Christ blessing the people, with the figures of St. Wenceslas and St. Ludmila on the sides. Myslbek also decorated the gable over the portal, with the relief of God the Father, with the symbol of the Holy Spirit, a dove. The decoration of the main facade is completed with five deep niches, the tallest of which, the central one, houses a statue of St. Ludmila (Ludvík Šimek), the church’s patron. Both gables of the transept are adorned with statues of Slavic patrons, St. Cyril (in the north), and St. Methodius (in the South). The author of the sculptures is Master Bernard Seeling.

The painted windows of the church were financed by donors. The window paintings were designed by František Sequens, František Ženíšek, Adolf Liebscher, and František Urban. The pulpit was carved by J. Zika, the sculptures were made on the basis of models by Antonín Procházka. The side altar of the Virgin Mary, with six blessing Czech patrons, and the altar of St. Cyril and Methodius were designed by Štěpán Zálešák, a professor of the Prague School of Applied Arts (UMPRUM). The organ on the choir loft, with 3,000 pipes, boasts 46 registers divided into three manuals and a pedal. The mass supplies were donated by Jan Vokoun. The lighting in the church has always been electrical.

With its elegant simplicity and placement in this slightly sloping square, this “jewel of a Vinohrady building” is often valued more than many fancier European neo-Gothic churches.
The entrepreneur Moritz Gröbe bought the area of the present park in 1870 and built his residence, with several buildings and structures, according to the design of Josef Schulz. One of them is the Pavilion building, registered in the Central List of Cultural Monuments. The story of most of the other buildings in the park is much the same, situated in a heritage-protected area including the Prague neighbourhoods of Vinohrady, Žižkov, and Vršovice, which were declared a heritage zone by a decree of the City of Prague.

The Pavilion is an integral urbanistic, architectural, and artistic supplement to Gröbe’s villa. The villa is the landmark of the present-day park as well as of the original garden, designed as a work of late Neo-romantic garden architecture. Originally, the Pavilion served as a shooting range and skittle alley, and was only operated seasonally.

The renovations commenced in 2007 with the demolition of incongruous additions that were added when the Pavilion served purposes other than its original ones. Between the two World Wars, the building served as a day-care centre. This use prevailed until quite recently.

The renovation efforts strove to restore the original look of the building and to maintain its recreational and social function, connected to other facilities in the park, which is open to the public. These include the Vineyard Gazebo, the renovated vineyard with a newly built Vineyard Cellar and the artificial rock formation – Grotto, which is to be overhauled next year.

In the renovations of the Pavilion, significant emphasis was put on maintaining the original building structures and elements. The brunt of the work in the renovation of the building was therefore carried out by restorers. The original timbered walls were restored, as well as the interior and exterior surfaces, including the roof, floors, wall-panelling, wall painting, and lunettes placed over each entrance. In the western wing, the original skittle alley was restored, based on available documentation.

A new section was added to the two historical wings of the Pavilion, housing social facilities and the back rooms for a cafe. Together with the renovation of the Pavilion, the immediately surrounding area was revitalised, including the retaining wall near Gröbe’s villa and areas on both sides of the southern wing, where new trees were planted and adobe paths renewed.

The Borough of Prague 2 financed the renovation of the cultural monument from its budget, with the aid of a subsidy for the renewal of monuments from the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic and from the national budget. It is the wish of everyone who participated in the renovation that visitors to Havlíčkovy sady will feel absolutely fine there.
Památky na trase:

(1) New Town Hall
(2) Church of St. Ignatius
(3) Prague Technical
(4) Church of St. Cyrillus and Method
(5) Church of St. Wenceslas to Zderaz
(6) Dancing House
(7) Jirasek Bridge
(8) Palacky Bridge
(9) Faust’s House
(10) Emmaus, Abbey of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Jerome
(11) Church of St. John of the Little Rock
(12) Botanical Gardens
(13) Zitek Park
(14) Podskalska Customs House
(15) Railrouad Bridge
(16) Vysehrad Castle
(17) Cubist Houses
(18) Church of the Virgin Mary and St. Charlemang
(19) Municipal Maternity Clinic of St. Apollinaire
(20) St. Apollinaire Church
(21) Hrdlicka Museum of Man
(22) Antonin Dvorak Museum
(23) Church of St. Katherine
(24) St. Longinus Rotunda
(25) Church of St. Stephen
(x) St. Ludmila’s Church
(y) Pavilion in Havlickovy Gardens

...our story about the devil

The Furious Devil

Place: Vyšehrad.
Time: Every odd Friday, at midnight.
Level of Danger: Not dangerous.
Delivery Method: Until he manages to stick the pillar together.

In the newly completed St. Peter Church at Vyšehrad, a priest used to serve. He would prefer gambling to his sheep. In short time, he would fall in love with such a passion. As usual, the bigger passion, the more he lost, as the devil was peeping over his shoulder and led him anywhere he wanted to, what's more, he pushed even closer. Before too long, the monk found him in a deep misery, and when his cards betrayed him again one day, he blazed out badly and called the Ruler of Hell alone for help. The Devil had been waiting for such moment impatiently, so those two made a quick agreement. The gambler assigned his soul to the servant of hell and the servant promised in return to bring a granite pillar from the St. Peter Cathedral, Rome, to the Priest.

They made the following agreement: If the Devil brings the pillar before a mass is served at Vyšehrad by the Priest, the sinner's soul will be lost forever; however, if the devil is late and does not return in time, it will be assumed as his failure to hold the promise, and the Priest will be saved from the Fire of Hell. The servant of hell laughed this idea and as the pale servant of God appeared at the altar, the Devil flew up to the clouds, flying to the south as an arrow. However, the Devil overrated his power. The pillar was too heavy and fell to the sea several times on the way back. Before he managed to pull the pillar out from the sea (even supported by his devilry!), he was so late that he arrived in Vyšehrad at the very moment when the Priest completed the reading. It got across to him that he had lost the bet. He jammed the pillar to the roof of the church in his anger and returned to his hell fire, grinding his teeth. The pillar flew through the roof and fell on the stone floor, breaking in three pieces.

It lied a long time on the floor of the Vyšehrad church. Many, many year later it was transferred based on an order of emperor Joseph II by the twelve strongest Prague cannoneers to the northern part of a graveyard, where it had been lying, grown by grass until 1888. Afterwards, it was removed to Vyšehrad Gardens, where it has been lying until today. They say it smells by brimstone and hell fire in hot summer days. The Devil appears every odd Friday and tries to stick the pillar together.

Devil’s quiz:

CORRECT ANSWERS
1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. C
7. C
8. C
9. B
10. C
A guidebook Prague 3

Prague’s Žižkov stretches in the town district Praha 3 close to the centre and today we will introduce this quarter to you. We will also tell you about interesting history of Žižkov and its landmarks which make it a popular tourist location. Due to the vibrant night life and also its many cafés, bars and restaurants Žižkov is called Prague’s Montmartre.

IN GUIDEBOOK YOU FIND:
— Best way through Prague 3
— Map
— Monuments
— Photos
— Public transport
— Quiz
— VOUCHERS

A guidebook Prague 1

Prague 1 still belongs to one of the most attractive parts of the whole Prague. Probably nowhere else you can find such a concentration of historic monuments and places where the history and romance of bygone times are all around you. Hardly anywhere you can stop and relax in numerous of beautiful trim gardens and well-kept parks. Hardly anywhere you can walk on the same paths where were walking Franz Kafka,…

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From Petrin Hill to Prague Castle

this for many the most romantic track in Prague will take you around the most beautiful part of the Prague Petřín Hill, you will not miss the Petřín Lookout Tower, Mirror Maze, Rose Garden or Strahov Monastery. You will pass the places with the most beautiful views and in case of good visibility you will see also the distant surroundings of Prague.

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