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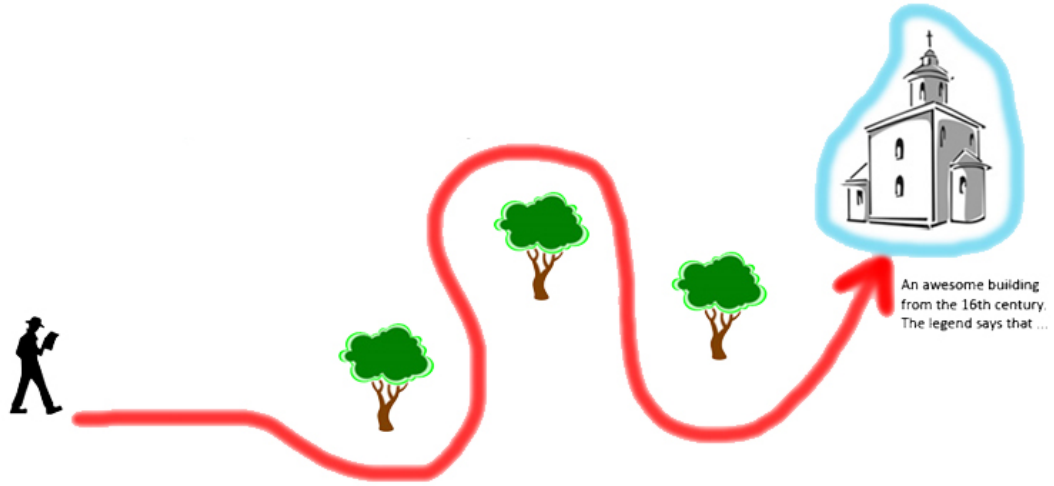
Please read '**Basic Info about Prague**' document first *(it was sent to your mailbox, see e-mail from us with subject 'Three Days Guide - ebook')*.



We want to spare you a visit of a restaurant which is actually an overpriced tourist trap with terrible food & service.

That's why every time you pass by **a place where even locals love to eat**, we always mention it. **So when you are getting hungry, just wait until you see this picture symbolizing food and we will surely guide you to a place worth visitting.**

How It Works



red color indicates where you need go

blue color is used to highlight important places

text in black tells you something about highlighted places

Day 1

You begin your first day at the exit of metro station named **Náměstí Republiky (line B)**, as highlighted below. To learn how the metro in Prague works, please read “Basic Info about Prague” ebook first (it was sent to your e-mail). If you are still not sure how to get there, do not hesitate to ask at your hotel’s reception.



The goal for today is the **Old Town** and the **Jewish Town**.

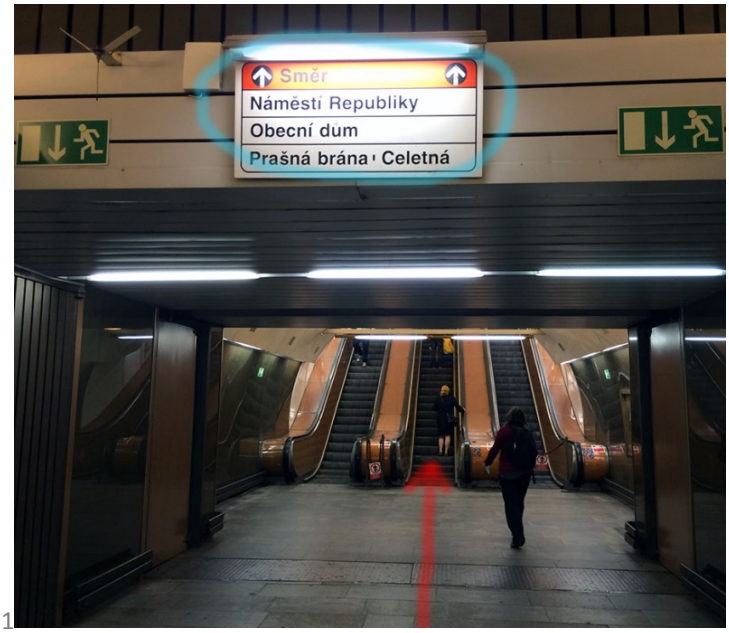
Recommended starting time is 10:00 – 11:00.

↓ *this is what you may expect to experience today* ↓









1

Once you are at the **Náměstí Republiky** station, leave in the direction of '**Náměstí Republiky**' *(English: the Republic Square)*.



2

Then turn left and head outside.



3

Go up the stairs.

The sign contains:

" Výstup *(English: Exit)*

Na příkopě

Hybernská ulice

V Celnici"



4

As you get outside, look out for the highlighted building **on the right**.

It is called the **Municipal House** (Czech: Obecní dům). Municipal House is a civic building that houses Smetana Hall which is a celebrate concert venue and it was the location where the Czechoslovak declaration of independence was.

Today, the building is used as **concert hall**, **ballroom**, civic building, and also as the restaurant. Many of the rooms in the building are closed to the public and open only for guided tours. The restaurant inside is decorated in the style of the Art Nouveau and it is a very popular place among tourists. Also, there is a nice gallery inside so if you like art, consider buying a ticket.



5

Then walk to the **Powder Tower** (Czech: Prašná brána), which is right next to the Municipal House . The **Powder Tower** is one of the original 13 city gates in Prague's Old Town. The tower was intended to be an attractive entrance into the city, instead of a defensive tower. The foundation stone was placed by Vladislav II, the second king of Bohemia (Czech) who ruled between 1140 - 1158. While it was being built, it was called the New Tower. The look of the tower was inspired by the work of Peter Parler on the Charles Bridge.



6

Proceed **through the Powder Tower** and go down the Celetná street.

Since Vladislav II had to relocate due to riots, building of the tower stopped. He returned in 1185 to live back in Prague Castle, where he lived for the rest of his life, along with the rest of the Kings of Bohemia who lived in Prague. Kings would not return to use the tower or Royal Court until using it for coronation ceremonies starting again in 1836, where they would pass through the tower to go to St. Vitus Cathedral (located in the area of Prague Castle). The tower was used to store gunpowder in the 17th century, hence the name Powder Tower (or Powder Gate). The gate suffered considerable damage during the Battle of Prague and the sculptures on the tower were replaced in 1876.



7

Proceed and keep walking forward for about 1-2 minutes.



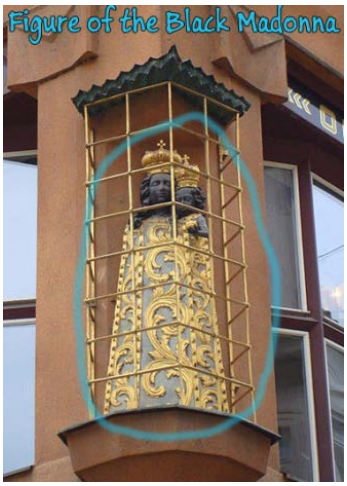
8

After 1-2 minutes, look to the left for a cubistic building as it is highlighted in the next picture.



9

The **House of the Black Madonna** symbolizes the unique Czech contribution to the **cubist movement** not only in architecture but also in furniture, pottery and glass – this is really unusual because cubism was limited to paintings and sculptures in other countries. The building was created by the renowned architect Josef Gočár when he was only 31 years old.





10

Inside the House of the Black Madonna, you will find a nice and cozy **cubistic museum**, as well as a **cubistic restaurant called Grand Café Orient**.

Full breakfast in the restaurant (located on the first floor) costs 185 CZK (7 EUR), coffees range from 45 CZK (1.7 EUR) to 85 CZK (3.3 EUR) and **main courses range from 120 CZK (4.6 EUR) to 200 CZK (7.7 EUR)**. Do not forget to quickly visit the museum inside!



11

Come back to the main street (Celetná Street) and look in front of you for the **Templar House**. It used to be **a legendary seat of Knights Templar in Prague**. It served as a church of Knights Templar in the 13th century and the Knights Templar used to hold meetings at this building. The street, that goes through the house, is therefore called "Templova". After the Order of Knights Templar was abolished in 1312, secret meetings were held by the Knights in the basement where a stone altar of the order was discovered much later. There was built a hospital with a church instead and the building finally became a dwelling house in 1784.



12

Go onward on Celetná Street.



13

Whilst you proceed further, pay attention to the building on the right side. Nowadays, it is the **Madame Tussauds wax museum**. But long time ago, this exact building (which was only reconstructed, keeping its outer look) was a place where a **lodge of freemasons** called the National Liberal Party (Czech: Národní strana svobodomyslná) gathered.



14

Once you reach the Old Town's square, **turn right** (**do not go to the middle of the square yet**). The corner building (its sign is highlighted) is the **Moser Glass Shop**. It is a shop with czech handmade designed glass. Glass is actually a traditional czech product. In fact Swarovski, who was actually born in the Czech Republic, even started manufacturing his goods in the Czech Republic.

Swarovski moved to Austria just because of lack of energy produced by Czech rivers. If you want to buy a beautiful traditional czech gift, this is probably best shop on your today's route.



15

Walk through an underpass.



16

Keep going until you can see this entrance .



17

You are about to step into **the Týn Church** (open daily except for Monday). It has been the **main church of the Old Town** since the 14th century. The church's towers are 80 m high and topped by four small spires.

Construction of the present church began in the **14th century** in the late Gothic style under the influence of Matthias of Arras and later Peter Parler. By the beginning of the 15th century, construction was almost complete; only the towers, the gable and roof were missing.

The church was **controlled by Hussites for two centuries**, including John of Rokycany, future archbishop of Prague, who became the church's vicar in 1427.

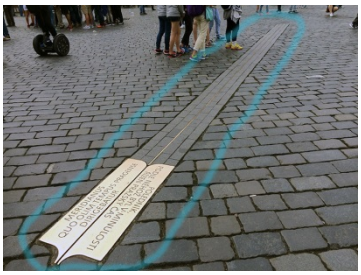
After the lost Battle of White Mountain (1620) **began the era of harsh recatholization** (part of Counter-Reformation). Consequently, the sculptures of "heretic king" George of Poděbrady and the chalice were removed in 1626 and replaced by a sculpture of the Virgin Mary, with a giant halo made from by melting down the chalice.



18



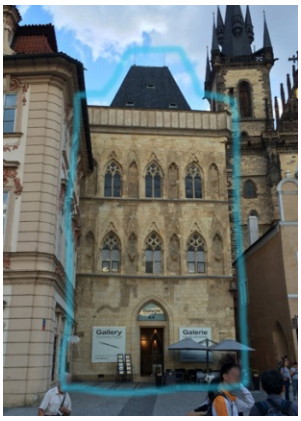
Finally, **walk to the middle of the square**! It is called the **Old Town's Square** (Czech: Staroměstské náměstí). Search for buildings and features below this text (all of them are visible right from the middle of the square).



← Right **in the middle of the Square** is the **Prague Meridian**. A line paved with different types of cobblestones and a metal plate says *MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO WHICH TIME IN PRAGUE WAS DETERMINED* and was placed there in 1990s.



← **The Kinský Palace** is an art museum of the Czech National Gallery and since 1949 it became the place where the most important prints collected by the National Gallery in Prague are placed. The palace was used by Klement Gottwald in 1948 to address an audience from the palace balcony. This led to undisputed control over the government of Czechoslovakia (1948), marking the onset of four decades of Communist dictatorship in the country.



← **The Stone Bell House** nowadays serves as a **gallery** (which exhibited Tim Burton's collection in 2014), but beginnings of the Stone Bell House date to the latter half of the 13th century when an oblong side construction was built behind the massive tower corner and its thick peripheral walls.



← the bronze **Memorial of Jan Hus** was erected to commemorate the most **famous Hussite** who **criticized the Catholic Churc**, especially its selling of indulgences. Because of that he was **burned at the stake** in Constance **by the Church** in **1415**. Four centuries later, an idea to build something to commemorate Jan Hus emerged and in 1915, the Memorial was finished. The **statue of Jan Hus is looking at the Týn Church** *(you were there a while ago)* because in the time when he lived, the Týn Church was the centre of Hussites *(i.e. supporters of Jan Hus who also criticized the Catholic Church)*. On the side of the memorial, an inscription is cut into stone: "MILUJTE SE, PRAVDY KAŽDÉMU PŘEJTE" (English: **Make love, wish truth to everyone**).

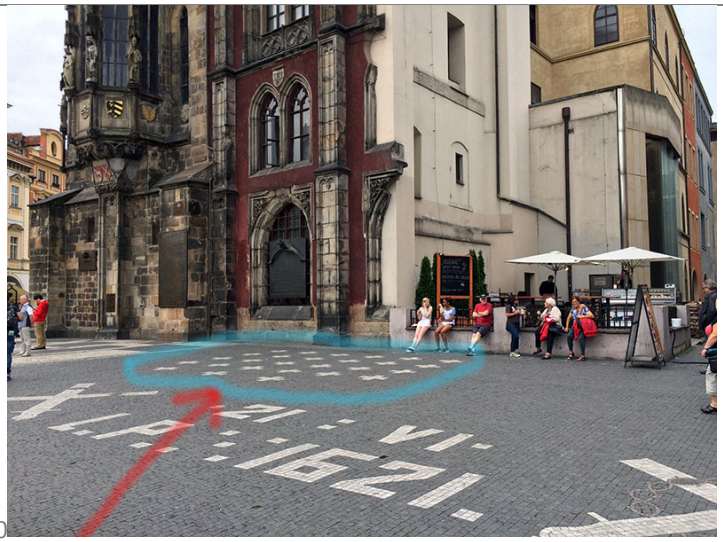


19

Walk closer to the Clock Tower which is also known as the Astronomical Clock (in czech it is called Orloj).

The clock was first installed in 1410, making it the **third oldest astronomical clock in the world and the oldest one still working**.

Formerly, it was believed that the Orloj was constructed in 1490 by clockmaster Hanuš. A legend says that the clockmaker Hanuš was blinded on the order of the Prague Councillors so that he could not repeat his work somewhere else. In turn, he broke down the clock, and no one was able to repair it for the next hundred years.



20

Under the Astronomical Clock Tower you can see **27 tributary crosses**. They are placed here to commemorate a mass **execution of 27 leaders of the Bohemian Revolt** (therefore 27 crosses) that happened at this place on June 21, 1621.

After the **Protestant uprising** of the Bohemian estates **against the Habsburgs resulted in a crushing defeat in the Battle of White Mountain**, Habsburgs took their revenge and executed 3 nobles, 7 knights and 17 burghers, although with some others the punishment was reduced and some were pardoned. This event lead to centuries of fear and happened to negatively affect the Czech spirit until today. Try to imagine this in the modern age – it would be like if many very powerful, publicly known and respected people of your nation were brought to the main square of the capital city and publicly executed.



21

From the 27 tributory crosses, **walk along the Clock Tower** - so the tower is on your right.



22

Turn right so you can see the Clock Tower's front side.



23

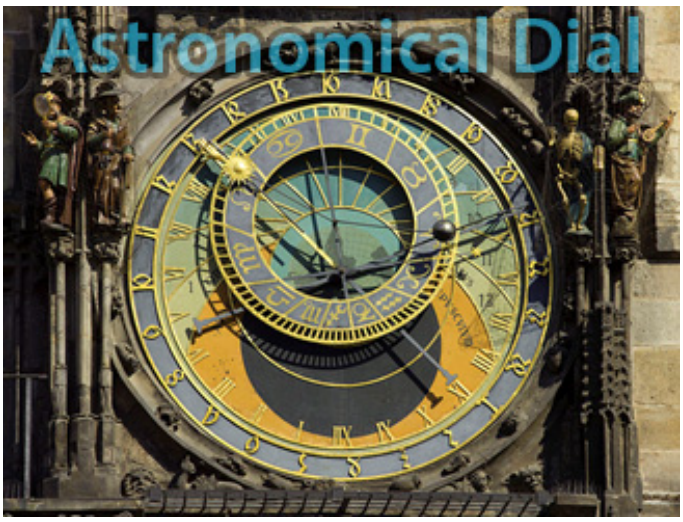
From the top to the bottom.

On the hour (09:00, 10:00, 11:00 etc.), **the skeleton (B) rings the bell** and immediately all other moving figures **(A + B)** shake their heads, side to side, signifying their unreadiness "to go". There are **two windows with Apostles** with all twelve presented every hour. The first apostle from the right window is **Saint Peter** with a key from heaven. He is followed by St. Mathew, St. John, St. Andrew, St. Philip and St. Jacob.

(A) + (B) are the Moving Figures; These four figures are **set in motion at the hour**. **They represent four things that were despised** at the time of the clock's making: ↓

from left to right

(A 1) vanity, represented by a **figure admiring himself in a mirror**;
(A 2) the **miser holding a bag of gold** represents greed;
(B 1) death, a **skeleton** that strikes the time upon the hour;
(B 2) **the Turk** tells pleasure and entertainment.



← Astronomical Dial; Inside the large black outer circle lies another movable circle marked with the signs of the zodiac which indicates the location of the Sun on the ecliptic. The signs are shown in anticlockwise order. In the photograph accompanying this section, the Sun is currently moving anticlockwise from Cancer into Leo. The small golden star shows the position of the vernal equinox, and sidereal time can be read on the scale with golden Roman numerals. Zodiac is on the 366 teeth gear inside the machine. This gear is connected to the sun gear and the moon gear by 24 teeth gear.



← Calendar; The calendar plate below the Astronomical Dial was replaced by a copy in 1880. Original calendar is stored in the Museum of Prague. There are allegories of moons with a theme sygnalizing countryside and agriculture. Smaller pictures represent signs of the Zodiac.

The picture in the middle of the Calendar is the medieval symbol of Prague. **The edge** (which looks like a text from an old newspaper) is a church calendar with names of all 365 saints and names of feasts!



24

To the left of the Clock Tower (Prague Orloj) is an entrance with an info sign next to it. **Go inside, walk to the third floor and buy a ticket for the Tower**. Then walk all the way up and enjoy the view. There is also an elevator but it is not necessary since walking up there is not difficult.

Restaurant: U Prince Roof Terrace

(if you are not hungry yet, skip to picture 27)



25

In front of the exit from the Tower is an entrance to a hotel with a restaurant on its roof which offers the **prettiest view over the Old Town Square**. However, food is not that as good as it looks it would be (slightly above average).

An **average price for a single main course** is **350 CZK** (about **13 EUR**). You can order pasta (250 CZK), steaks (500-700 CZK), as well as fishes (250-400 CZK) here.



26



← Inside the hotel building, take the elevator to the last floor.



27

Go back to the Clock Tower and turn left.



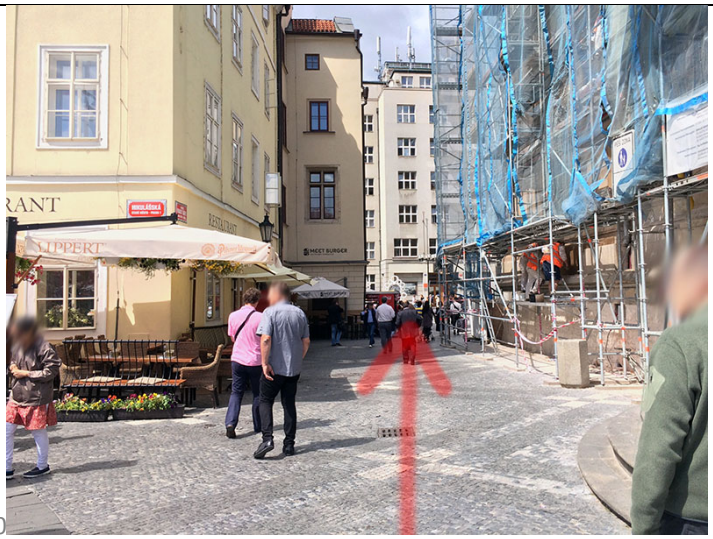
28

Walk through 27 tributory crosses and **continue forward**.



29

Turn left and go the entrance of the Saint Nicholas Temple.



30



31

← Get inside the **Saint Nicholas Temple**. When the Church of Rome found intself in deep crisis in the fifteenth century, the priest and rector of Charles University in Prague, **Jan Hus (who played a very important role in the Czech history)**, made a radical **attempt to implement a reform of the church and of society on the basis of the message of the Bible**. **Hus was burned at the stake as a heretic** at Constance on 6 July 1415, but his ideas were taken up by a broadly-based movement in the Czech lands, known as the **Hussite movement**.

This Czech Reformation was however silenced for many years after 1620 by the Counter-Reformation, which was allied with the imperial power of the Hapsburgs. An attempt to revive the reform of the church was made towards the end of the nineteenth century by a movement of Roman Catholic priests. Among other things they rejected "Austhro-Catholicity" (linking the power of the church with temporal powerm represented by the Habsburg Monarchy), and endeavoured to renew a faith which would become a creative force in modern-day life.

The founding of the independent Czechoslovak

Republic in 1918 encouraged the reforming priests, who were organised in an association called "Focus" led by Roman Catholic priest Karel Farský, to actively implement their reforms. At Christmas 1919 they celebrated the whole of the church service in the Czech language for the first time. This met with such widespread enthusiasm in all sections of the population that it led to the setting up of a separate church in January 1920.
(open daily from 10 am to 4 pm)



32

Walk out of the Saint Nicholas Church (so the Old Town Square is facing your back) so you will be at the Franz Kafka Square.



33

Turn right and then keep walking forward to the Maislova Street.

From here on, you are leaving the Old Town stepping into the Jewish Town.



34

Cross a pedestrian crossing and continue onward.



35

Keep going forward until you see the **Maisel Synagogue**. After coming inside, **buy here Jewish Town tickets number 1**. These tickets will allow you to explore the whole Jewish Town.

The synagogue was built in 1590 - 1592 by the Mayor of the Jewish Town, Mordechai Maisel, who funded the extensive Renaissance reconstruction of the ghetto. The builders of this synagogue were Josef Wahl and Juda Goldsmied de Herz.

The original building was seriously damaged by fire in 1689 and was then renovated in the Baroque style. In the end, it was considerably rebuilt to a pseudo-Gothic design by Prof. A Grott in 1893-1905. All that remained intact of the original Renaissance layout was the groundplan of the tripartite central hall with the upper-storey women´s section. The Maisel Synagogue is currently used by the Jewish Museum as an **exhibition venue and depository**.



36

Leave the Maisel Synagogue and continue in the same direction as before.



37

Turn left as you reach the first pedestrian crossing (about 50 metres).



38

Then walk forward, cross another pedestrian crossing, turn right and cross one more crossing.



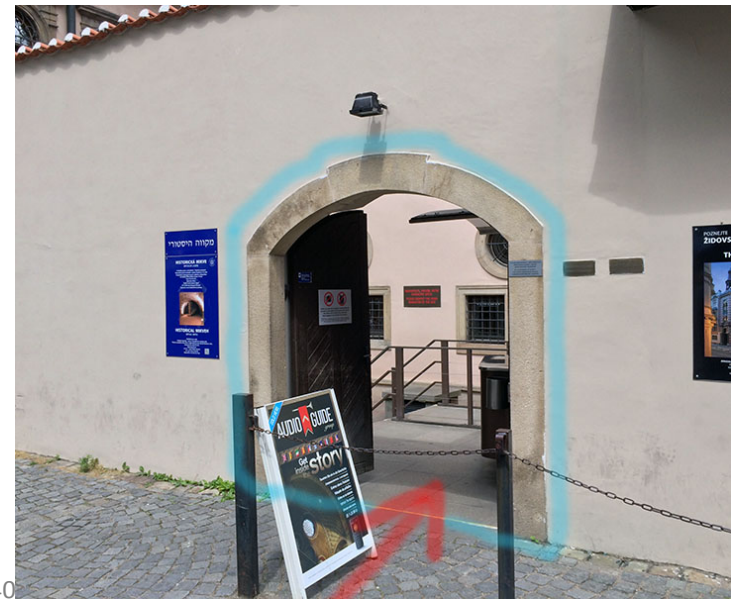
39

Walk through the opened gate.

From here you can already see the **Pinkas Synagogue**, which was built in about 1535 by Aaron Meshullam Horowitz between his house and the Old Jewish Cemetery. Initially it was a private synagogue of his family. Later it was made public and named after Pinkas, rabbi of Prague and grandson of Aaron Horowitz.

Currently it is also a **memorial of the victims of the Holocaust**: its walls are covered with about 77 000 names of perished Bohemian-Moravian Jews. These 77 000 people do not have any grave so this is the only place which serves as their memorial. Inside the synagogue, look for an exhibition of drawings made by children from concentration camps.

See next step where we tell you how to enter the Pinkas Synagogue.



40

Walk through this gate and **turn left** – there's an entrance to the **Pinkas Synagogue**, as described in previous step.

After examining the Pinkas Synagogue, **turn right** from this point of view and proceed to the the **Old Jewish Cemetery**. It was established in the first half of the **15th century**. Along with the Old-New Synagogue, it is one of the most important hictoric sites in Prague Jewish Town. The oldest tombstone, which marks the grave of the poet and scholar Avigdor Karo, dates from the year 1439. Burials took place in the cemetery until 1787.

Today it contains **over 12,000 tombstones**, although the **number of persons buried here is much higher**. The cemetery was enlarged a number of times in the past. In spite of this the area did not suffice and earth was brought in to add further layers. It is assumed that the cemetery contains several burial layers placed on top of each other. The picturesque goups of tombstones from various periods emerged through the raising of older stones to the upper layers. The most prominent person buried in the Old Jewish Cemetery is without a doubt the great religious scholar and teacher Judah Loew ben Bezalel, known as **Rabbi Loew** (d. 1609), who is **associated with the legend of the Golem**. Among the many other prominent persons buried in the Old Jewish Cemetery are: the Mayor of the Jewish Town **Mordechai Maisel** (d. 1601), the Renaissance scholar, historian, mathematician and astronomer **David Gans** (d. 1613), scholar and historian **Joseph Solomon Delmedigo** (d. 1655), and rabbi and collector of Hebrew manuscripts and printed books **David Oppenheim** (d. 1736). If someone wants to honor the memory of the dead, they do not bring flowers but put a small stone on the grave instead.



41

First go to the **Klausen Synagogue. The Klausen Synagogue** takes its name from the German word "Klaus" meaning "small building", which is derived from the Latin "claustrum". "Klausen" (plural of "Klaus") was the name of the originally three smaller buildings, which Moredehai Maisel, Head of the Prague Jewish Community, had erected in honour of a visit from Emperor Maximilian II to the Prague ghetto in 1573. After the destruction of the original Klausen by the fire of 1689, work began on the present Klausen Synagogue building which was completed in 1604. Further reconstruction of the Klausen Synagogue took place in the 1880s. The Klausen Synagogue held an important place in the history of Prague´s Jewish Town. It was the largest synagogue in the ghetto and the seat of Prague´s Burial Society.

Then enter **the Jewish Museum**. The **fomer Ceremonial Hall** and **mortuary** of the Old Jewish Cemetery was built in a

pseudo-Romanesque style in 1911-12 to a design by architect J. Gerstl. As part of the Jewish Museum, the Ceremonial Hall of the Prague Burial Society Hevrah Kaddishah (founded in 1564) later became an exhibition venue. Very interesting **exhibitions** occur in the Jewish Museum: on the ground and upper floors of the Museum is housed the part section of the permanent exhibition, Jewish Customs and Traditions.



42

After you leave the Jewish Museum, go straight forward (so the Jewish Museum is facing your back).



43

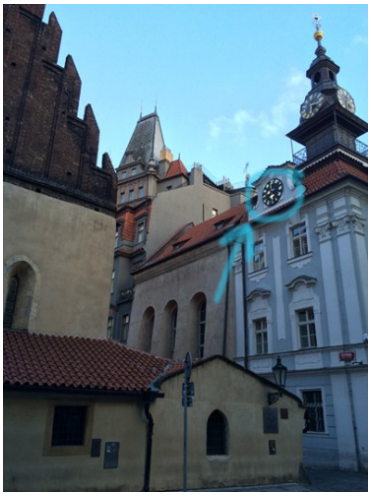
You will see the **Old New Synagogue** in front of you. It was built in early Gothic style around the middle of the **13th century**. It was originally called the "New" or "Large" Synagogue, as opposed to the older house of prayer which did not survive to this time. It was not until the 16th century, when other synagogues were built in Prague, that it became known as the "Old-New" Synagogue. **The main hall is the only existing medieval-type hall of its kind**, represented originally by the Romanesque synagogue in Worms (dating from the 12th century) and the early Gothic synagogue in Regensburg. The hall is vaulted by six five-partite vault compartments supported by two octagonal pillars. The Old-New Synagogue is one of the three Prague synagogues, together with the High and Jerusalem Synagogues, in which divine services are held.



44

Enter the Old New Synagogue.

As you come back from the Old New Synagogue, look up. There is ***a jewish clock*** *you might have otherwise missed →*





45

Leave the Old New Synagogue, turn left and walk to the stairs.



46

Now you have two options:

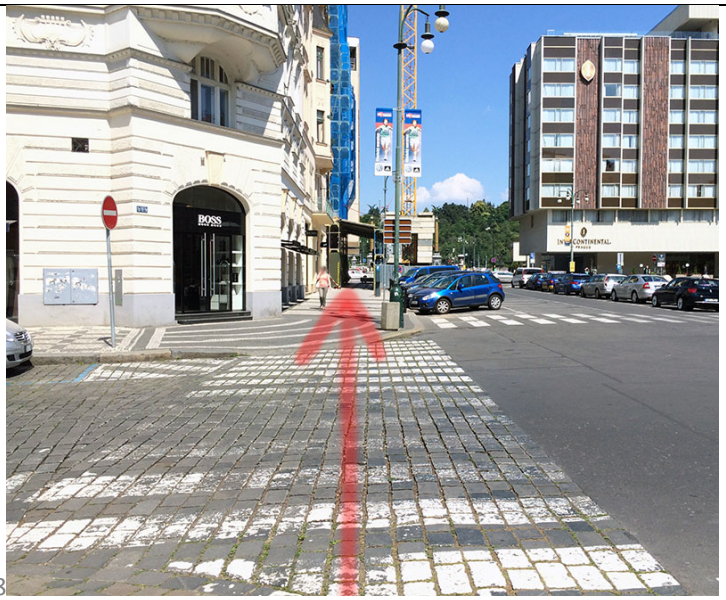
(A) turn right to the Pařížská Street . you will find **expensive boutiques** like Louis Vuitton, Alfred Dunhill, Hermés, Tiffany etc. on this street. As you turn right, the very first building you pass by is a nice restaurant called Cantinetta Fiorentina with ingredients from the region of Tuscany, Italy (main courses start at 20 EUR, so it ranks among luxury restaurants in Prague). If you choose this option, this guide basically ends for you here. If you keep walking after turning right for about 7 minutes, you will come to the Old Town Square, where you can also have a lunch or dinner (but we do not recommend to eat there since you may fall into a tourist trap).

(B) Alternatively (or after walking through the Pařížská Street), you can visit a Marina Restaurant which is 5 minutes from here. If you are hungry we recommend to have a lunch/dinner here because the restaurant offers one of the most beautiful views, serves a decent food for reasonable prices (main courses start at 6 EUR). If you choose to visit the Marina Restaurant, **turn left** and follow next steps under this text ↓.



47

If you chose (B) - visitting the Marina Restaurant, **continue walking onward** after you turned left from the stairs.



48 Cross a pedestrian cross.



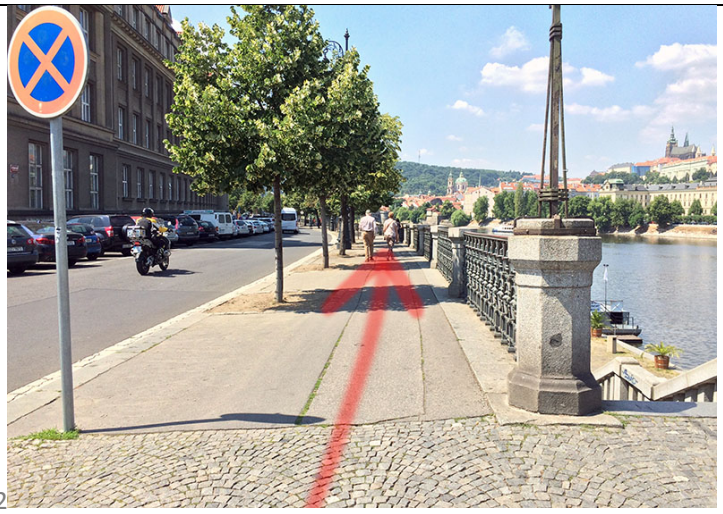
49 Cross another pedestrian cross and turn left.



50 Then keep walking forward.



51 Cross pedestrian cross and turn left.



52 Proceed along the river (Vltava River) for about 5 minutes.



53 Keep walking along the river.



54 Climb the stairs.



55 Find the nearest pedestrian cross and then cross the street and come to the location we lead you to.



56 Walk down the stairs and then turn right.



57

Now you are enterring the **Marina Restaurant**. We recommend their pizza Moderna or spaghetti Mafiosi!

Bon appétit!

We hope you enjoyed your first day in Prague!

Day 2

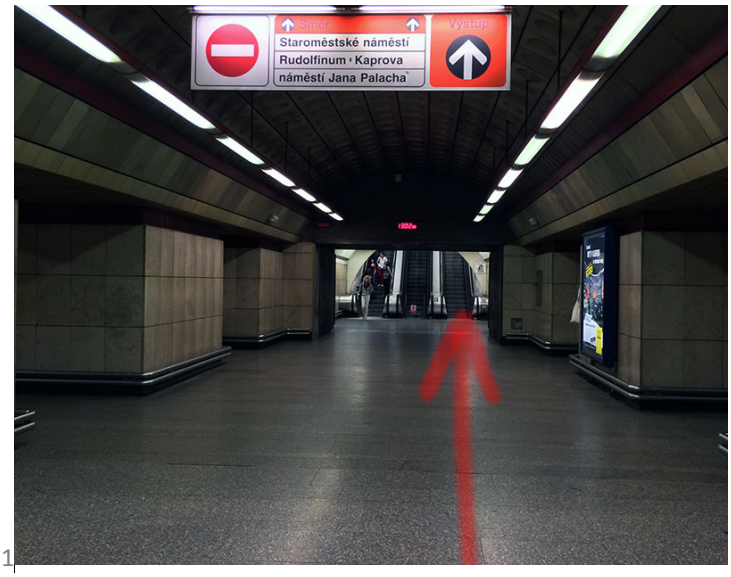
Your second day starts at the exit of metro station **Staroměstská**, as highlighted below. If you are not sure how to get there, do not hesitate to ask at your hotel's reception.



The goal for today is **the Prague Castle** (→). You will walk A LOT so **comfortable shoes are strongly recommended** for this day! Positive is that **you will meet the castle in a way most tourists do not even know about** and look at the City of Prague from the **most beautiful view spots in the City of Prague**, so it is absolutely worth it.



Recommended starting time: 09:00 – 10:00 or earlier.



1

Get to the **Staroměstská metro station**. There is only one direction you can go outside so ride up the the escalator.



2

Keep going forward and climb the stairs.



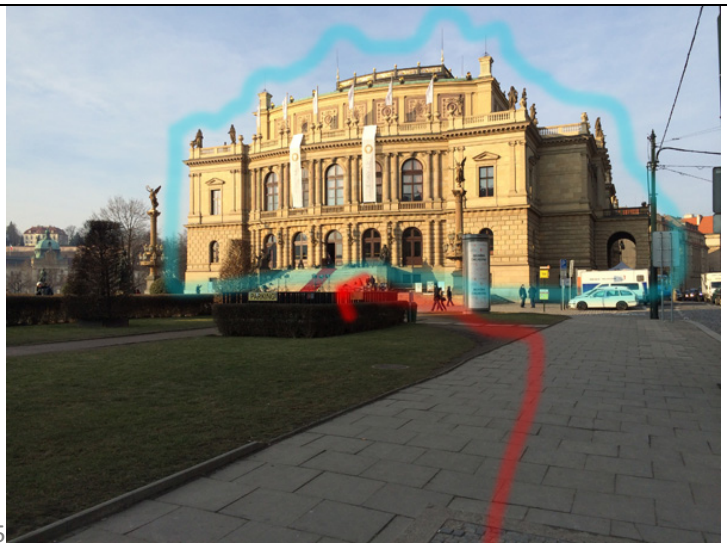
3

As you climb the stairs, follow the road and turn right.



4

Cross the pedestrian crossing so you are approaching the highlighted building.



5

Go further to the front of the highlighted building. It is called **the Rudolfinum**. The Rudolfinum has been **the home of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra** since 1946 and it is one of the main venues of the Prague Spring International Music Festival held each year in May and June. The building was opened in 1885. It is named in honour of Rudolf, Crown Prince of Austria, who presided over the opening. The Rudolfinum's Dvořák Hall – which is entered by climbing the stairs - is one of the oldest concert halls in Europe and is noted for its excellent acoustics. In 1896 Antonín Dvořák himself conducted the Czech Philharmonic in the hall in its first ever concert.

If you turn around (so the Rudolfinum is facing your back), you will look at the **Jan Palach Square**. It commemorates **Jan Palach, the student who immolated himself** in 1969 **to protest against the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia**.



6

Go closer to the river (the Vltava River). You can see the Prague Castle from here.

Remember the location of the Prague Castle. It is your final destination today and may help you with orientation!



7

Turn right and **walk along the waterfront**.



8

Walk along the waterfront until you reach the bridge (which is about 5 minutes from here).

← the highlighted building in the left picture is **the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic.** It is the central body of state administration. The competence of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic is set by the competency law. According to this law, the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic fulfils tasks connected to the expert, organizational and technical provision of the activities of the government of the Czech Republic and its bodies.

As you keep walking further, notice the building below this text on your right side. It is called **the Rudolfinum Gallery** and one of the best exhibitions in Prague take place in this gallery. If you like art, definitely pay a visit. Admission is 130 CZK (approximately 5 EUR)/person and **opening hours** are:
Tue–Wed & Fri–Sun: 10am–6pm
Thursday: 10am–8pm
Monday: closed





9

Continue onward.

Optional: you can go down for a better view and being closer to the Vltava River. However, keep in mind you have to cross the nearest bridge (which is visible from here) so you need to **climb up the stairs as you approach the bridge.**



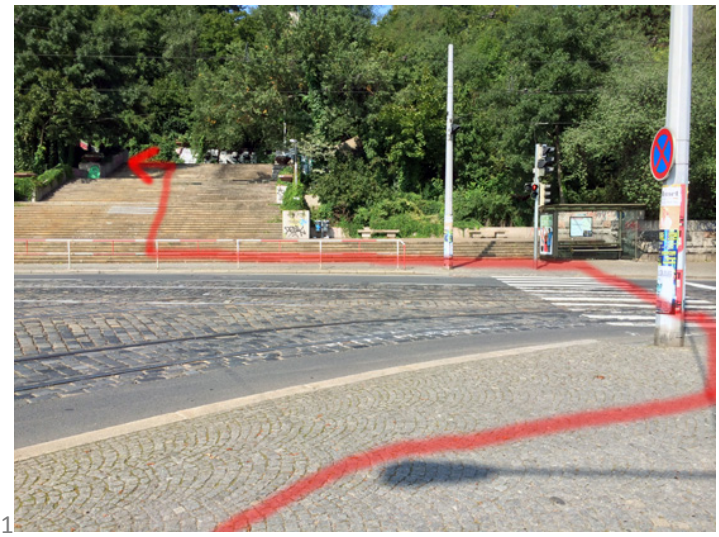
10

Cross a pedestrian crossing, turn left and cross a bridge.

Before you cross a pedestrian crossing, you may look to the right. You will see the **Faculty of Law of the Charles University ↓**



The Charles University was founded in 1348 by the Czech King and the Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV as the **first university in Central Europe**. It is also one of the oldest universities in Europe in continuous operation and ranks in the upper 1.5 percent of the world's best universities. In 1372 the Faculty of Law became an independent university. As a tourist, you are allowed to come inside. Once you are inside the building, walk forward until you reach **the main hall** (nicknamed 'bazén' by students, which means the pool – it is said that a girl jumped there from the dourth floor after she failed an exam and was dropped out from school) – which now serves as a meeting place for students. Then go back to the place you came from and **cross a bridge** (see picture on the left side).



11

Once you reach the stairway, **go all the way up. Keep on the left side of the stairway**. There are many stairs up but it is worth the effort to have such a wonderful view in the end. This way allows you to experience the most beautiful way leading to the Prague Castle, skipping overcrowded streets full of tourists and allowing you to experience many of the most spectacular views over Prague.

To help you with the orientation – keep in mind that the final destination of this journey is the **Prague Castle**.



12

Turn left as you climb the stairs all the way up. Then **follow the road so the view over Prague is on your left side.**



13

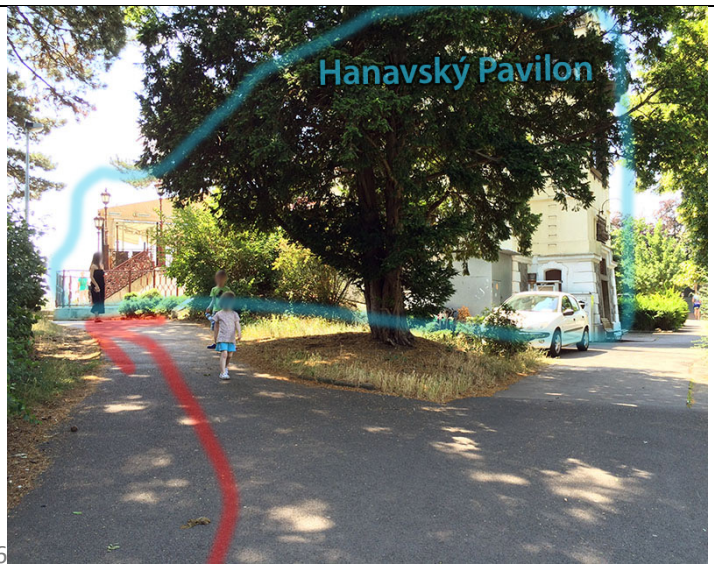
As you continue forward, pay attention to an outlook (as highlighted). Stop here for a while because this outlook provides one of the best Prague views. You can see almost all important buildings from here.



14 On a crossroad, go in the direction as showed in this picture.



15 Continue forward.



16 **Turn left** as you reach this little crossroad. As you get closer to a viewpoint**,** notice the highlighted building (behind a tree). It is called **Hanavský pavilon →** and it is a cast-iron structure built in 1891 in Neo-Baroque style for the Jubilee World Fair. Nowaydays serves as a **restaurant**, which is unfortunately not good as it looks.





17 Reach a viewpoint and then continue forward.



18 Once you enjoyed the viewpoint, **follow the road**.



19 **Keep going forward** until you reach the crossroad in the next picture



20

Turn left and keep walking until you come across the **bridge** (see the next step).



21

While crossing the bridge, look to the right for ahighlighted building - Villa Bílek ↓





← **Villa Bílek** has been maintained by Gallery of the Capital City of Prague since 1963. It houses a **public exposition that introduces many works by the Czech sculptor František Bílek, as well as original interior fittings and furniture collection which was made according to his design**. If this excited you, you may pay a visit and then come back to the bridge and continue with the next step.



22

Cross the bridge and **turn left**. To make your orientation easier, keep on your mind you are going to the Prague Castle. The Prague Castle should be visible from this way most of the time – just be a little patient.



23

Keep to the left until you reach benches in picture below ↓



On the right side from these benches, you should be able to see the Prague Castle. This is a hidden view tourists usually don't know about.



24

While you continue forward, look out (on the right side) for **memorial of Julius Zeyer.** →



Julius Zeyer was a Czech famous **prose writer, poet, and playwrighter**. Zeyer's epic **poems**, including **Vyšehrad** , and **Karolinská epopeja**, draw from Czech and French legends respectively, and celebrated the glorious past of ancients, compared to the bleak present. He took **inspiration from the Czech, Russian, Irish, and French history**. His novels describe persons trying to live a better life under the romantic ideals and people who find peace only at the moment of death.



25

After examining the memorial of Julis Zeyer, go back on the road you were walking on before and go further.



26 Turn right as you are approaching a massive building in front of you.



27 Turn left at the end of the road and walk for about 30 meters.



28 **Turn left** and walk into the Royal Garden.



29

As you get inside the Royal Garden, you will see the highlighted building. It is the **Royal Summer Palace**, also called Queen Anne's Summer Palace. It was built to the order of Ferdinand I from 1538 to 1560 on the eastern edge of the Royal Garden. The gallery, provided with an arcade and rich relief decoration, is the work of **Italian stonemasons** and the superstructure of the first floor and its unique roofing were built by Hans Tirol and Bonifaz Wohlmut. The Summer Palace was intended to serve as a scene of events organized for the entertainment of the court and also as a feature enhancing the pleasure of a sojourn in the garden. The Royal Summer Palace now serves mainly for exhibitions of creative art and artistic crafts.

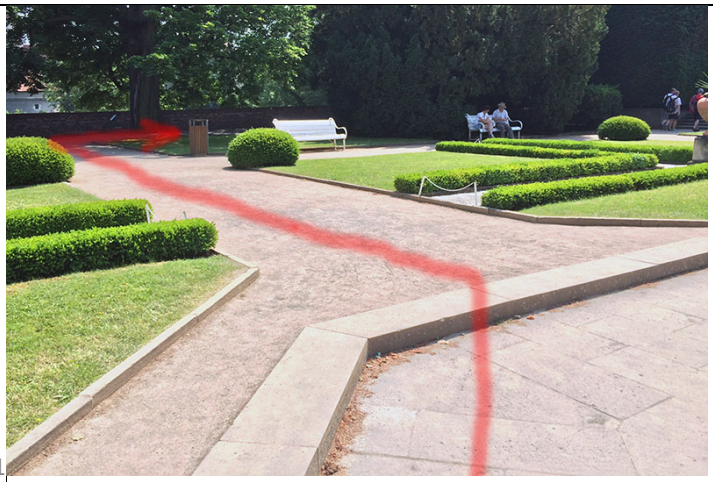


30

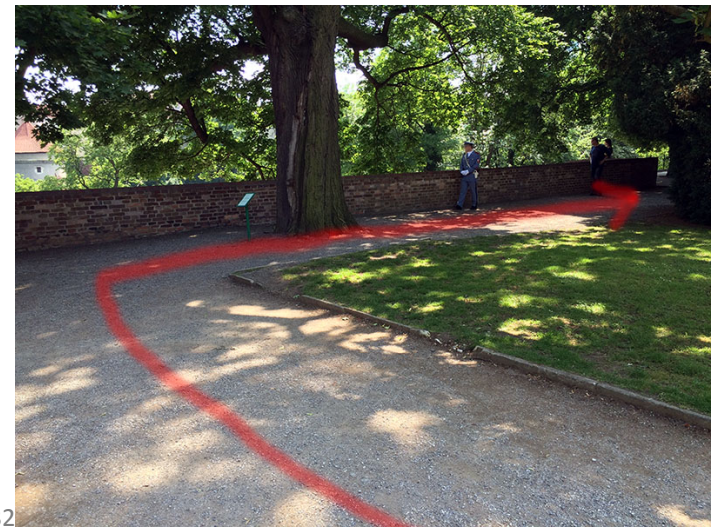
After examining the Royal Palace, walk in the desired direction. Stop for a while in the middle of this garden to examine **the Singing Fountain.**



The fountain was ordered by Ferdinand I. And it is called singing because **you can hear ringing of all of the Prague Bells by attaching ear from underneath of the bronze bowl**. Above that, around the Fountain were planted out the **first tulips in the Middle Europe** (in the 16 th century).


31

As you come closer to a wall surrounding the garden, turn right.



32



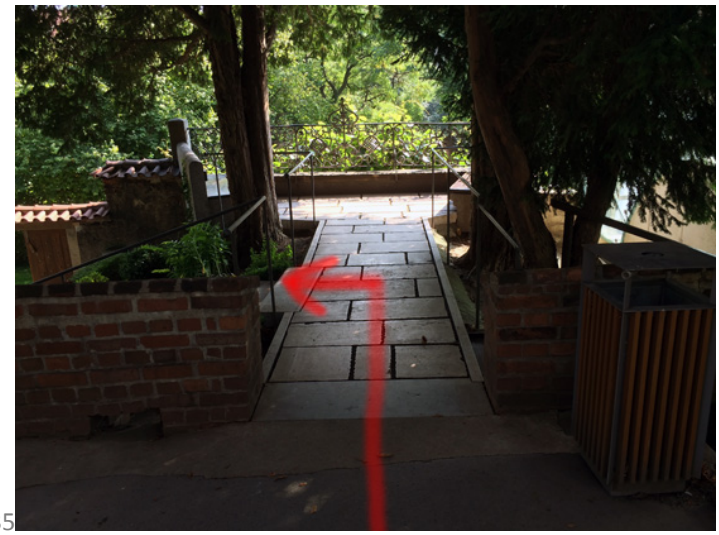
33

Keep on the road in this direction until you reach a huge tree, as you can see in the following picture.



34

As soon as you reach this huge tree, **turn left**.



35 Walk **down the stairway**.



36 **Turn right** and follow the road.



37 Just follow the road so you are reaching closer to the Prague Castle. You are approaching the Prague Castle (visible on your left side). However, you may not be able to see the Castle all the time because of trees.



38

In about 50 metres, you should be able to see **the Powder Tower** on your left →

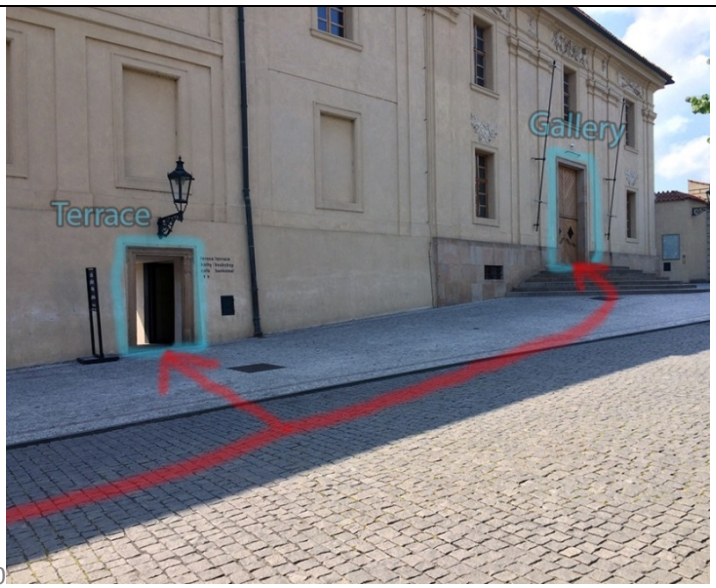


It was built in the 15 th century and it is **the most massive cannon tower of the Prague Castle.** The Powder Tower also served for other purposes than just a defend tower! There was an **alchemist's workshop** in the 15th century. In the 16 th century it served as a **dungeon** and later it was used as a **gunpowder store** (that's why it is called the Powder Tower). Now you can find **exhibition documenting history of military headgear**.



39

As soon as you walk through this gate, **turn right**.



40

1. You may visit **the gallery (the Riding School)** first. One of the best exhibitions taking place in Prague occur in this location. For example Cartier and Marilyn Monroe had wonderful exhibitions placed in this gallery!



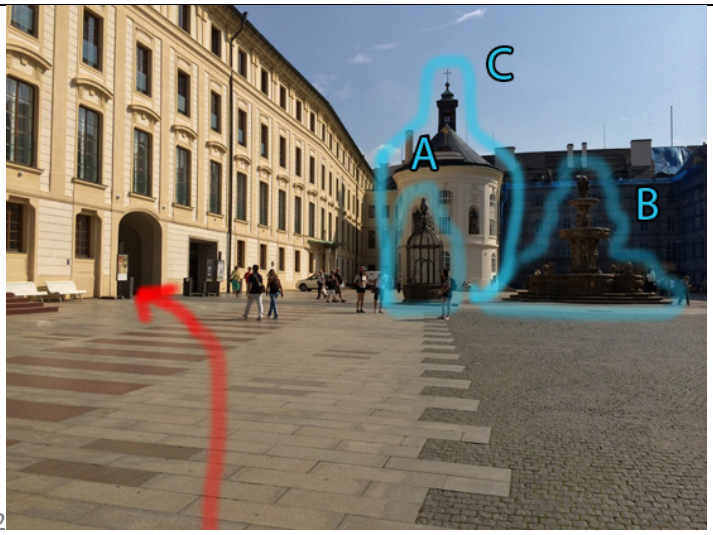
2. Then visit **the Riding School Terrace** as well. You will find a wonderful view in a peaceful environment. That is thanks to the fact only a few people notice this place.





41

After visiting the Riding School (gallery) and the Riding School Terrace, **continue to the Second Courtyard of the Prague Castle by crossing the Powder Bridge**. **Go through the gate** which is watched by two guards of the Prague Castle.



42

Before walking through the Second Courtyard (as the red arrow indicates)**, pay attention to highlighted objects.** Read more info about them below ↓

A – a well from the 18th century **compensated the broken main well** during the war against Prussians.

B – the Kohl's Fountain is a baroque fountain from the 17th century and served as one of **main water sources** for the Prague Castle. The lower water tank is supported by statues of antique gods **Mercury**, **Vulcan**, **Neptune** and **Heracles**. The upper water tank is supported by two **Tritons** *(the messenger of the sea and the son of Poseidon)*. There is a **stone sphere on the top** of the fountain, supported by two lions (there was a Habsburg flag on the sphere but it was removed in 1918, after the decay of the Habsburg monarchy). In the bottom of the Fountain you may see a crest with letter "**L**" which indicates the name of the emperor **Leopold**.

C – the Chapel of the Holy Rood ; if you want to see **the biggest treasury you have ever seen**, pay a visit! The Chapel of the Holy Cross houses an extraordinary **exhibition** of masterpieces amassed from the 11th century for the **St. Vitus Church and Cathedral treasury**. The exhibition features **139 items of immense historical and artistic value**. The majority of objects are made of gilt silver or pure gold.



43

As you stand in front af a huge cathedral, turn right first to buy tickets that you will need for all of the Castle area.



44

Get inside the information centre and **buy CIRCUIT B tickets** for 250 CZK (less than 10 EUR).



45

Then finally examine and **enter the St. Vitus Cathedral with** using tickets you have just purchased**.** The cathedral is the largest and the most important temple in Prague. Apart from religious services, the **coronations of Czech kings and queens also took place in here**. The cathedral contains the **tombs of many Bohemian kings and Holy Roman Emperors.**

When it comes to **origins of the Cathedral**, the current cathedral is the third of a series of religious buildings at the site, all dedicated to St. Vitus. The first church was an early Romanesque rotunda founded by Wenceslaus I, Duke of Bohemia in **930**. This patron saint was chosen because Wenceslaus had acquired a holy relic – the arm of St. Vitus – from Emperor Henry I. It is also possible that Wenceslaus, wanting to convert his subjects to Christianity more easily, chose a saint whose name (Svatý Vít in Czech) sounds very much like the name of Slavic solar deity Svantevit. Two religious populations, the increasing Christian and decreasing pagan community, lived simultaneously in Prague castle at least until the 11th century.

The **present-day Gothic Cathedral** was founded on 21 November **1344**, when the Prague bishopric was raised to an archbishopric. Its patrons were the chapter of cathedral (led by a Dean), the Archbishop Arnost of Pardubice, and, above all, **Charles IV**, King of Bohemia and a soon-to-be Holy Roman Emperor, who intended the new cathedral to be a coronation church, family crypt, treasury for the most precious relics of the kingdom, and the last resting place cum pilgrimage site of patron saint Wenceslaus.



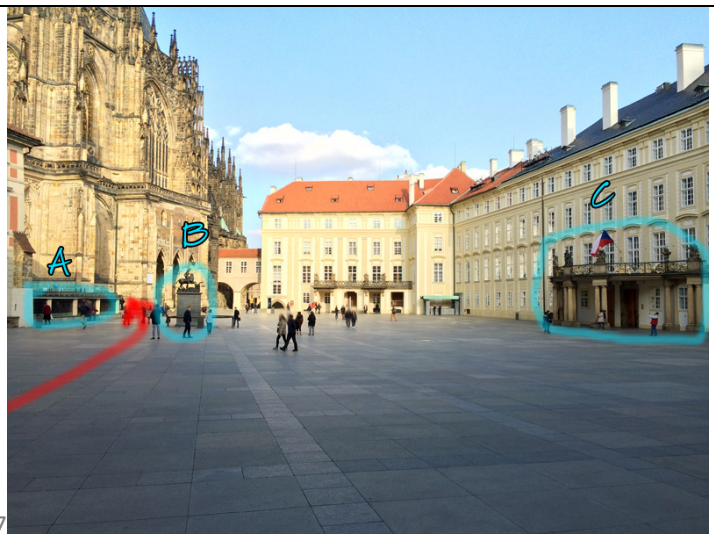
46

As you examined the interior, **go outside the cathedral and turn left.**

As you enter the Third Courtyard, the first thing you will see is the Obelisk ↓



the **Obelisk** is made of monolith and was revealed on the 10th anniversary of establishing Czechoslovakia in 1928. Originally, it was built as a **memorial to those who died in the World War I**. The iniciator and donator of the Obelisk was Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk (the first president of Czechoslovakia). Unfortunately, the first monument was destroyed during the transportation and the new one had to be made. However, the Obelisk wasn't completed because the top was missing. It was until 1996, when the Czech president Vaclav Havel added a metal pyramid to the top of the Obelisk.



47

A. here lies the excavation site of the **predecessor of the St. Vitus Cathedral**! It was an episcopal chapel from the 11th century.

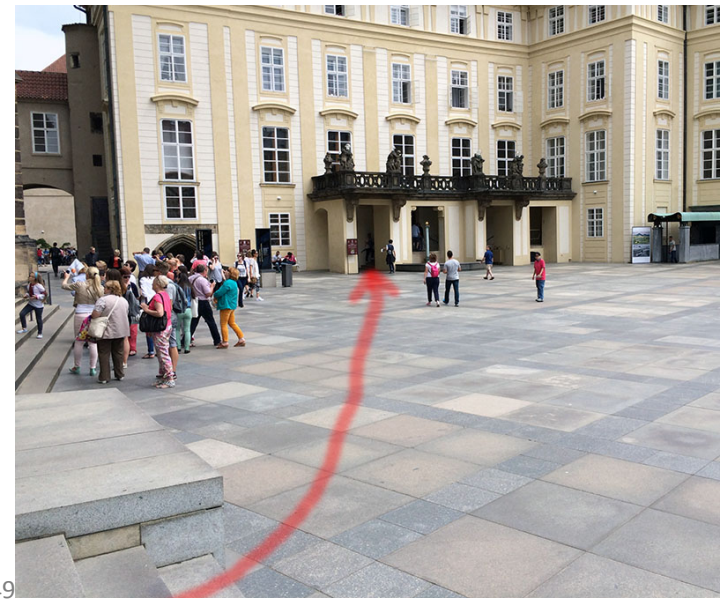
B. the **statue of the Saint George** from the 14th century symbolizes the Sait George in his armor with a spear in his right hand and killing a dragon under defying horse. The fight takes place on a rocky terrain. This is the first statue in the Czech built in an open terrain.

C. the **Presidential Balcony** is a place where presidentials speeches and announcements are made since the 18th century. The Office of the Czech President is in the building behind the Presidential Balcony.



48

Go inside the entrance to **the Great South Tower of St. Vitus Cathedral**! Difficulty of climbing to the top is **287 steps** so make sure you are able to climb that. Since it offers probably the best view over the city, it is worth the effort so if you are able to, definitely climb it. There is an extra entrance fee which costs 150 CZK.



49

After visiting the Great South Tower, move to the **Old Royal Palace** (following picture offers a more detailed view of an entrance)**.** It grew and gradually gained its present appearance from the time of its founding in the late **9th century**. The original wooden building with a stone foundation wall was converted into a stone Romanesque palace by Prince Sobeslav in the early 12th century. Remainders of it have been preserved in the underground to the present. The palace was adjoined on its eastern side by All Saints' Chapel, which was consecrated in 1185.



50

As you enter the Palace, a huge hall (see picture below) draws your attention. It is called the **Vladislav Hall** and is **used for inaugurations**, being the most important representative hall in the country. It is also **home to a copy of the Czech crown**. The hall served from the 16th century particularly royal state purposes. It was the scene of coronation festivities and banquets, knights' tournaments and markets with artistic and luxurious goods. The Vladislav Hall still partly fulfils the state function: the elections of the president of the Czech Republic and ceremonial gatherings connected with important days in the life of this country take place in it.





51

When you leave the Old Royal Palace, the first thing you will see is the **St. George's Convent**. It was **founded in 920** and therefore is **the oldest sacral building in Prague** which includes **a burial ground of the Premyslid dynasty**. Although no longer active, the convent's building and the attached Bascilica *(see the sandstone towers in the background)* dedicated to Saint George houses the **Czech National Gallery's collection of 19th century Bohemian art**. The **tombs of members of the Premyslid dynasty** are situated in the main nave inside the Basilica. Grandmother of Saint Wenceslas (Saint Ludmila) is buried here (she was strangled by her daughter-in-law Drahomíra).

Visit it inside using the tickets you purchased for 250 CZK and used to enter the cathedral (first tickets you bought).



52

As you are leaving the St. George's Convent, pay attention to the highlighted building. The **Institute for Noblewomen** was used to educate noble daughters in the 18th century. Noble daughters were allowed to stay from the age of 24 years. The first head of the Institute was Maria Theresa's daughter - archduchess Marie Anna. The order had an emblem depicting the painting of Virgin Mary's immaculate conception. There was the abbess' suite, social gathering rooms, capitular room, choir, Baroque chapel of the Holy Trinity as well as rooms for the maintenance.



53

Then just continue **down the road**.



54

Continue until you reach this spot. Then turn **left**.



55

Turn **right** afterwards.



56

Proceed to **the Golden Lane** using the same tickets once more and then turn left. Go to the end of the Lane and start examining the buildings from here. The very first entrance leads to a tower. Visit the tower (you will see medieval armor and weapons inside of it) and proceed from house # 27 to house # 26 to # 25 etc. and eventually you will reach house # 12. **Franz Kafka** lived here in the blue house **# 22**.

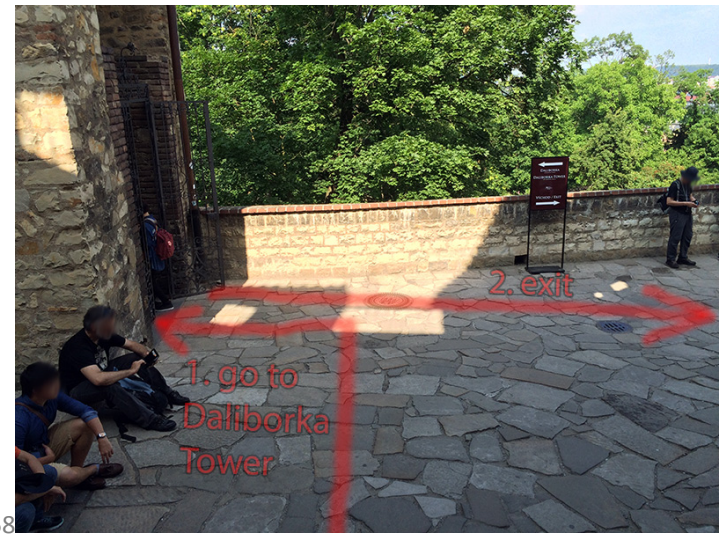
There is not much needed to be said, because there is an information text at the front door of every little house.

In general, houses in the Golden Lane were inhabited by the **castle servants**, perhaps **goldsmiths** (that's why the "Golden Lane") and the **castle marksmen**. The tiny **houses were occupied until World War II**.



57

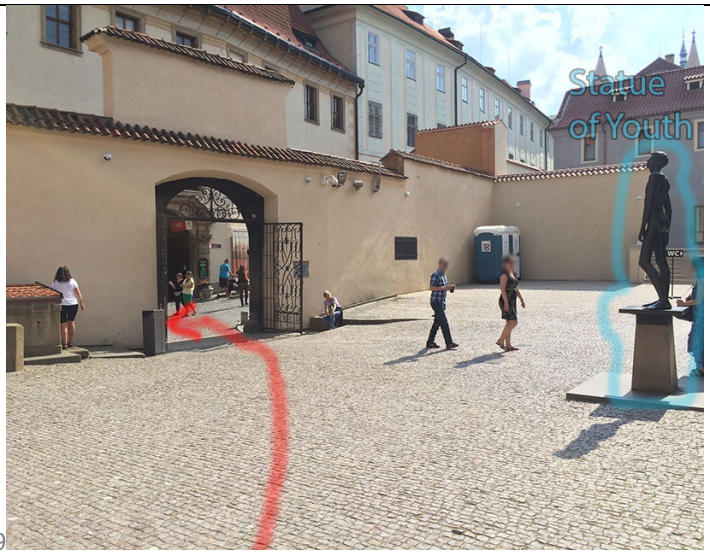
As you reach to this spot, head downstairs.



58

1. First turn left and go to **Daliborka Tower**. This tower served as a prison and the first prisoner was Dalibor (male name). He learned to play a violin in this prison, therefore it is called Daliborka Tower.

2. After exploring the Daliborka Tower, follow signs with the word EXIT. You will walk through a little gate to a square.



59

Before you leave this square, examine the highlighted object – Statue of Youth. You may wonder why it has a shiny penis. Explanation comes from the past – a wife of a communist president (second half of the 20th century) ordered to cut penis of this statue because she felt offended by it. However, during the era of liberalization in Czechoslovakia (in 1968), the penis was added once again. A quick rub is considered to bring luck.



60

Leave the Prague Castle.



61

Continue down the way.



62

Continue through this entrance to the **St. Wenceslas' Vineyard**.

Notice the highlighted statue as you walk by. It is the **statue of Saint Barbara** from the 17th century. Saint Barbara was tortured for her belief in Christian God and then even murdered by her own father. However, this statue is just a copy – the original is stored in a depositary of Prague Castle.



63

On a crossroad, go to the **right** and continue down the road (the left way has been closed for public recently). Legend has it that **Saint Wenceslas grew wine on this Vineyard** in the 10th century (that's why it is called St. Wenceslas Vineyard). It is therefore **the oldest vineyard in Bohemia**. Originally, the "divine vineyard" was reputedly cultivated by the patron and the main saint of the Czech nation, Prince Wenceslas. Its history is inextricably **linked with the origination of Czech statehood and the adoption of Christianity**. The area is exceptional in the fact that this extremely well positioned piece of land in the middle of the city has been **preserved in its original, unaltered appearance**.



64

If you are hungry, there is no better place to have a lunch / dinner than in one of restaurants marked in the picture by **A, B, C.** All of them offer a beautiful view so it is up to you which one you choose.

A. PANORAMA EXPRESS CAFE: offers **burgers** (240-270 CZK), **sandwiches** (150 CZK) and **salads** (A65-195 CZK).



B. Piano Nobile: is a more expensive and formal restaurant focused on traditional **Czech haute cuisine**. The food is wonderful and a main course will cost you about **400 CZK** on average (**15 EUR**).

C. Piano Terra: is cheaper and it is focused on **italian cousine**. Its prices are almost half the Piano Nobile so a main course will cost you a slightly over **200 CZK** on average (**7-8 EUR**). This one is my personal favorite.



65

No matter where you chose to eat, continue walking down the sidewalk around the Piano Terra restaurant.


66

Walk through the iron gate and turn left.



67 Then turn right.



68 Continue.



69 Cross the pedestrian crossing.

Basically, here the guide ends.

You can go back to your hotel using (a) metro, (b) tram or a (c) TAXI. To see how to proceed back to your accomodation, please see 3 subsequent pages of this guide.

(a) metro



If you want to get back by metro, turn right when you see this entrance.



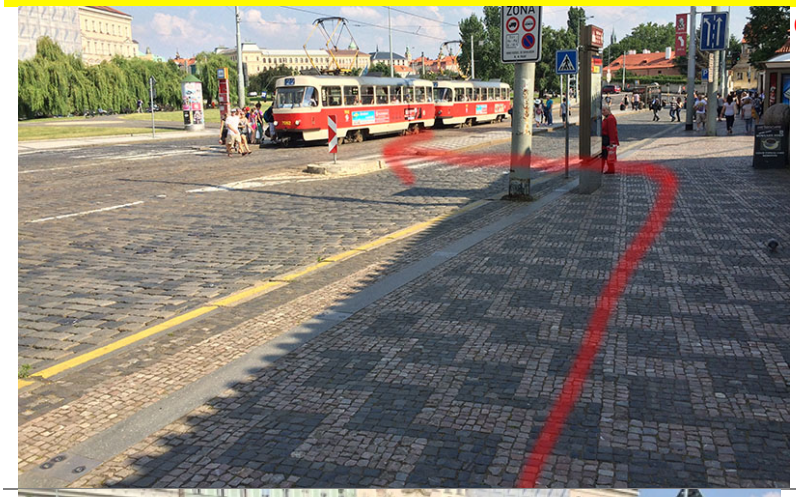
Walk through this square and there you are, entering the **Malostranská** metro station (green line / line A).

(b) tram



Walk to this traffic refugee and here you are – at **Malostranská tram station**.

(c) TAXI



Cross the pedestrian cross.



Turn right afterwards and then turn left.



Continue this way.



Proceed.



Then **call your TAXI driver** to this location because he will be able to park here (you can also catch a random taxi, but this is the only way you can be sure about getting a fair price).

1) **Call** your taxi: **00420 737 222 333** (nonstop dispatching) or **00420 605 600 001** (business class dispatching)

   or

2) **Use** 'Modrý anděl' **mobile app** (available on stores for every cellphone), because you get a better price.

Your current address is: U Železné lávky 16, Praha 1. (or alternatively use name of the restaurant: 'restaurace na Klárově').

While waiting for a taxi (up to 10 minutes), you can sit in a park behind you or grab a beer in this restaurant.

We hope you enjoyed your second day in Prague as well. ☺

Day 3

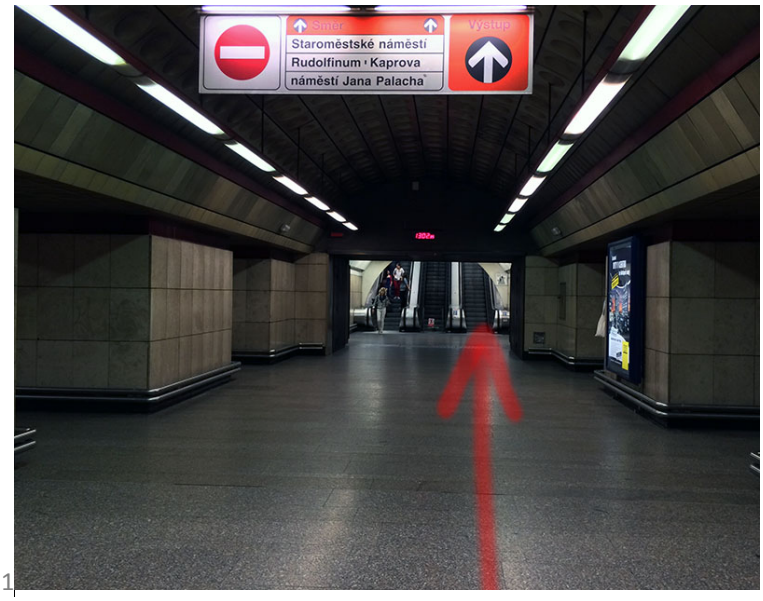
Your third day starts at the exit of metro station **Staroměstská**, as highlighted below. If you are not sure how to get there, do not hesitate to ask at your hotel's reception.



Today, you will step on the famous **Charles Bridge**, pass along the bank of the **Vltava River** while looking at the Prague Castle and then you will see the **National Theatre**. In the end, you will go to the top of the Wenceslas Square and explore the **National Museum**.



Recommended starting time: 10:00-11:00 or earlier.



1

Arrive at the **Staroměstská metro station**. There is only one direction you can go outside so go up the the escalator.



2

Keep going onward and climb the stairs.



3

As you climb the stairs, follow the road and turn right.



4 **Cross a crosswalk, turn left and cross another crosswalk.**



5 As soon as you cross this pedestrian cross, cotinue in the same direction.

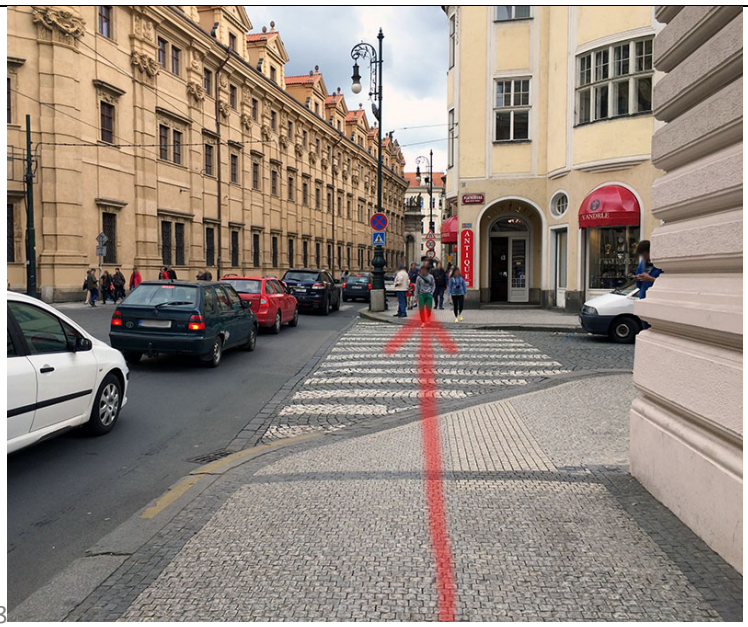


6 Proceed forward. You will go in this direction for about 5 minutes.



7

Cross a pedestrian crossing.



8

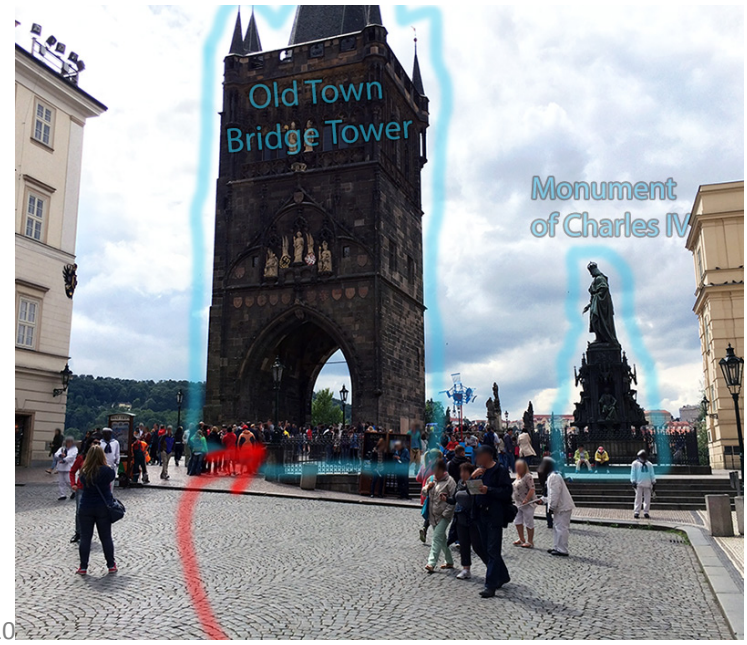
Cross another crossing



9

Pay attention to the **highlighted building** **on your left side** **as you get closer to the Charles Bridge**.

The Jesuits built the **St. Salvator Church** in the Gothic style between 1578-1601, although important Baroque features were added between 1649-1654. Today, St. Salvator is considered to be one of the most valuable examples of **early-Baroque architecture** in Prague. It has a beautiful Baroque facia, with porticos decorated with sand-stone sculptures of saints. A niche in the wall houses a sculpture of the Virgin Mary. Inside St. Salvator Church there are three very high aisles, with galleries, and a dome painted with frescos. And St. Salvator conceals a paradox which characterises the work of the Jesuit Order in Bohemia: in the crypt there are buried not only Father Koniáš, the “destroyer of Czech books”, but also Bohuslav Balbín, the “defender of the Czech language”.



10

The **Old Town Bridge Tower** is visible from here. It is an **entry gate to the Charles Bridge** from the Old Town. It had been the centre of the bridge defence and defence of the Old Town, as well as the centre of the visual impact of the bridge and symbol of majesty of the Czech Kingdom and Roman Empire, and a permanent symbol of connection between the royal and religious reign and the universe order. The Tower had been built of sandstone blocks in the late 14th century (the construction had probably begun simultaneously with the bridge founding) and about one hundred stonemasons participated in construction works.

Before you pass under the tower, look to the right. There stands the **Monument of Charles IV.** It was unveiled in the centre of the square in 1848 on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the foundation of Charles University. The main statue of the memorial is the figure of the most famous Czech ruler – Charles IV - in a royal outfit with a crown on his head; in his right hand he holds the **founding document of the Charles University**.



11

Pass under the tower and **continue to the bridge**. You are standing on one of the major features of Prague, **the Charles Bridge**. Its construction started in 1357 under the auspices of the King Charles IV, and finished in the beginning of the 15th century. As the only means of crossing the river Vltava (Moldau) until 1841, the Charles Bridge was the most important connection between Prague Castle and the city's Old Town and adjacent areas. This "solid-land" connection made Prague important as a trade route between Eastern and Western Europe.

The bridge is decorated by a continuous alley of **30 statues**, most of them in baroque-style, originally erected around 1700 but now they are all replaced by replicas.

Czech legend has it that the construction began on Charles Bridge at 5:31am on 9 July 1357 with the first stone being laid by Charles IV himself. This exact time was very important to the Holy Roman Emperor because he was a strong believer of numerology and this specific time, which formed a numerical bridge (1357 9, 7 5:31), would imbue Charle's Bridge with additional strength.

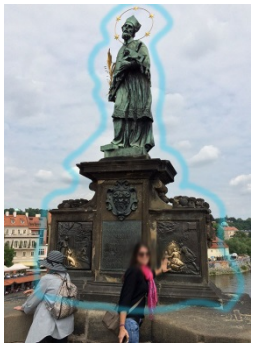


12

As you **go further on the bridge**, you will note there are numerous statues. We won't tell you story of every each of them, but there are 3 of them that need to be mentioned.

The **3rd statue** on the right side of the bridge is **the Statuary of the St. Cross with Calvary.** The first document about this statue comes from 1361 →.





← **Statue of St. John of Nepomuk** is the **8th statue**, and it is also located on the right side. The statue was dedicated the same year for the assumed 300th anniversary of the death of St. John of Nepomuk (he was tortured to death in 1393).



After this, walk about 50 meters further and look across the bridge to the left for **the Statue of the Prince Bruncvik.** Bruncvik is a mythical Bohemian knight portrayed helping a lion fight a seven-head dragon. The knight Bruncvík is holding a golden sword, with a lion lying by his legs. It also portrays the **emblem of the Prague Old Town on his shield**.

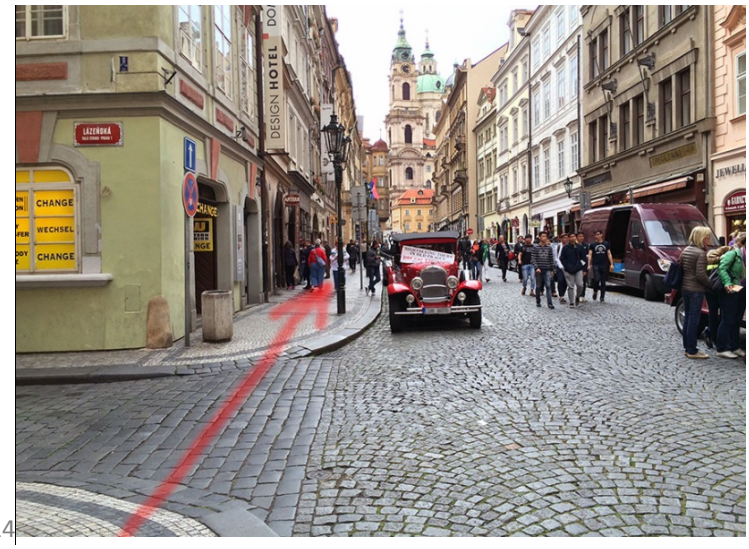


13

At the end of the bridge, you will see **Lesser Town Bridge Towers**. They are formed by two towers: the Smaller Tower (Judith's Tower) and the Higher Tower. If you have some time (it is 15:30 or sooner), we recommend to enter the Lesser Town Bridge Towers – you can walk on their wall!

The Smaller Tower (29 metres in height) ranks among the oldest preserved buildings in Prague, it sustains of 3 floors and it is built from arenaceous marl aisler. **The only available access to the tower is through the house No. 56, which is attached to the east side of**.

The Higher Tower (44 metres in height) is supposed to imitate its Old Town sister in its appearance. Today the tower is in administration of Prague Information Services and is **open for tourists**. Different kinds of publications, city maps and souvenirs are available here.



14 After you pass under bridge towers, continue forward to Mostecká street.



15 Continue forward.



16 Turn left.



17

Continue until you reach a crosswalk.



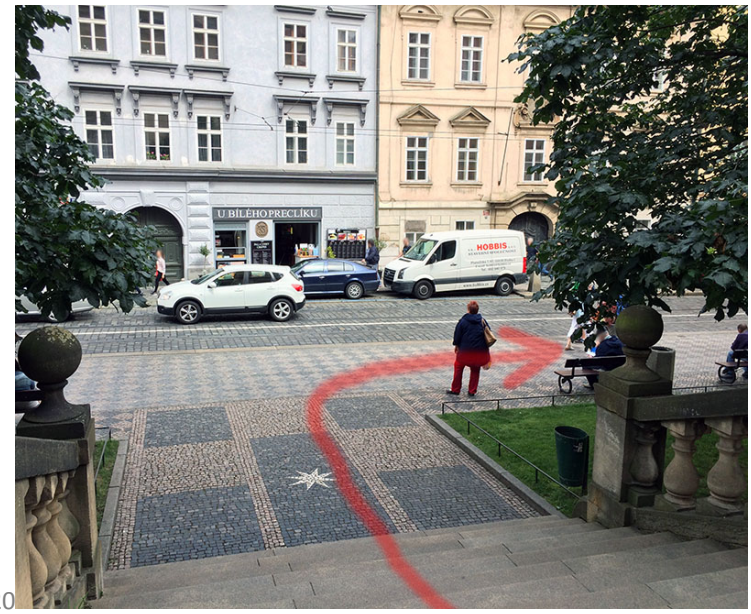
18

Turn right as you reach a crosswalk and cross it, then turn left. After that you will see a church on your right side.



19

Go inside the **Church of Our Lady Victorious**. The church is governed and administered by the Discalced Carmelites. Inside the church, you will find the **Infant Jesus of Prague** (Spanish: **Niño Jesús de Praga**). It is a copy of 16th-century Roman Catholic wax-coated **wooden statue of child Jesus holding a globus cruciger**. The statue was **donated** to the Carmelite friars in 1628 **by Polyxena, 1st Princess of Lobkowicz**.



20 As you leave the church, **turn right**.



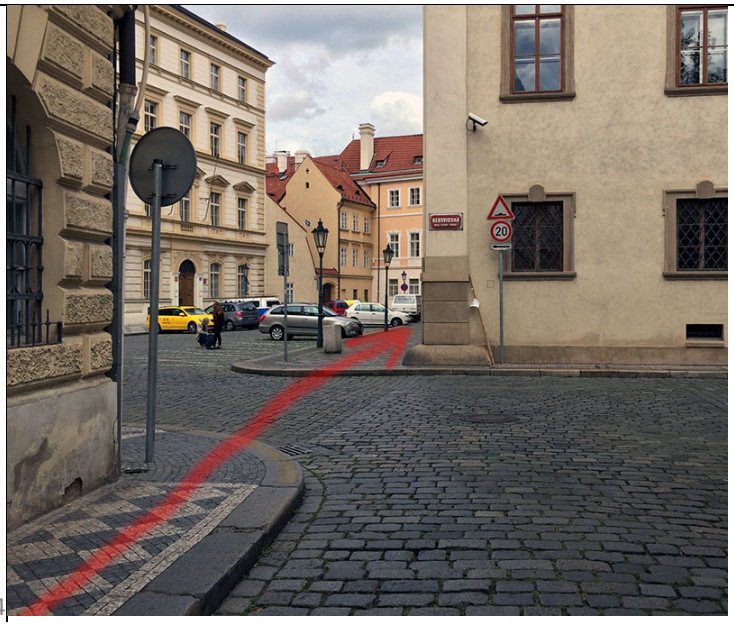
21 Continue forward until you reach a pedestrian crossing.



22 As you reach a pedestrian crossing, cross it.



23 Walk through the Harantova Street.



24 Proceed to Maltézské náměstí (Maltézské Square).



25 Leave the square.



26 Walk inside a small park.



27 Turn left on a first crossroad.



28 Cross a small bridge.



29

After crossing a bridge, **continue forward**.



30

Turn right, so you are approaching Museum Kampa (see next picture). You can also go further and then turn right so you walk along the Vltava river.



31

Walk towards the **Musem Kampa**. Museum Kampa is a modern art gallery, showing mostly Czech work. The pieces are from the private collection of Meda Mládek, wife of Jan V. Mládek. The museum opened in 2003.

If you like art, visitting the big gallery is recommended (there's also a small gallery with smaller exhibitions)**.** From a second floor, you can go to a terrace that offers a beautiful view from the Museum. And if you climb the stairs all the way up, you will end at a tower composed of glass and metal from where you have a nice view over the Malá Strana and the Prague Castle. This glass terrace was created by one of the most famous Czech glass artists Václav Cigler.



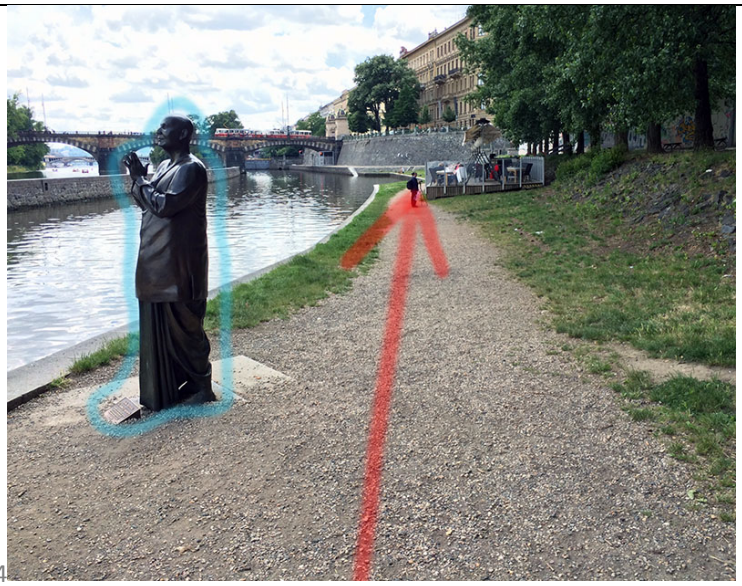
32

Leave the Museum, continue on your way and then turn left.



33

Turn right and walk along the waterfront.



34

As you continue forward, pay attention to the **highlighted statue** – called **the Statue of Harmony**. The statue was created by British sculptor, **Kaivalya Torpy** and was dedicated in 2009. The sculptor Kaivalya Torpy said that he "**Hoped the statue would stand as a symbol of peace and harmony, and inspire the next generation of peace lovers.**"



35 The path you are walking on leads to a stairway. Climb stairs all the way up.



36 Climb another stairs.



37 Then continue to the bridge which is visible from here (in front of you).



38

As you reach the beginning of the bridge, turn left.



39

Cross the bridge (it is called the Legion Bridge). If you have enough time (it is 15:00 or earlier), you can go downstairs in the middle of this bridge to the Střelecký Island. It is a peaceful park in the middle of the Vltava river where locals like to go.



40

As you proceed onward, notice the National Theatre in front of you. The National Theatre is the embodiment of the will of the Czech nation for its national identity and independence. **Collections of money** among the broad masses of the people facilitated its construction, and so the ceremonious laying of **the foundation stone** on 16 May 1868, was tantamount to an all-state political demonstration.

The theatre was **opened** for the first time on 11 June 1881. Bedřich Smetana's opera Libuše was given its world premiere, conducted by Adolf Čech.

Then it was closed down to enable the completion of the finishing touches. While this work was under way a **fire** broke out on 12 August 1881, which destroyed the copper dome, the auditorium and the stage of the theatre. The fire was seen as a national catastrophe and was met with a mighty wave of determination to take up a **new collection**: Within 47 days a million guldens were collected.



41

Cross the pedestrian crossing and continue onward so the National Theatre is on your right side.

The highlighted building is **Slavia Café**. It is a traditional café that offers Czech and international cuisine. The reason it is highlighted and recommended is that many famous Czechs used to go here (for example Nobel Prize–winning Czechoslovak writer **Jaroslav Seifert** wrote poems here and former and honorable Czech president **Vaclav Havel** was a frequent guest).

Everyday between 17:00 – 23:00 a professional piano player is on stage with live music.



42

Continue this way for about 5-10 minutes. Eventually, after crossing three pedestrian crosses, you will come to the bottom of the Wenceslas Square.



43

Cross the crosswalk and continue forward.



44

Cross the second crosswalk and again, continue forward.



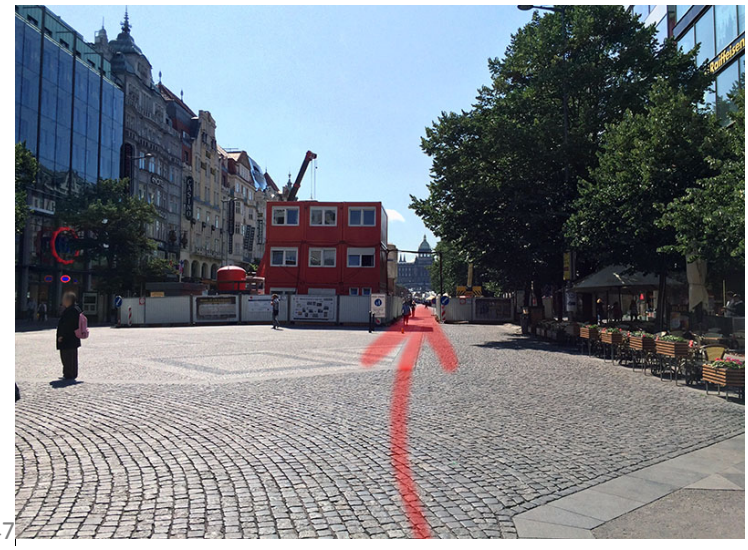
45

Cross the third crosswalk and proceed even further – until you reach the Wenceslas Square (about 50 metres from here).



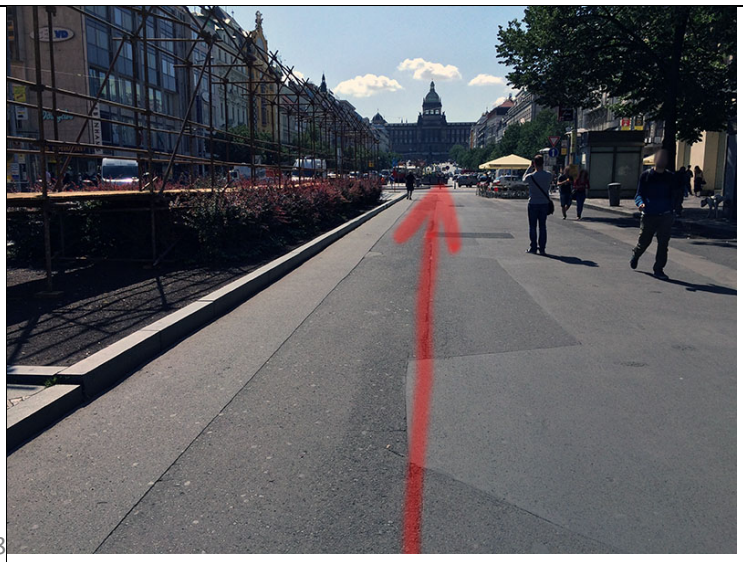
46

Turn right to the **Wenceslas Square**. It is one of the main city squares and the centre of the business and cultural communities in the New Town of Prague. Many historical events occurred there, and it is a traditional setting for demonstrations, celebrations, and other public gatherings. The square is named after Saint Wenceslas, the patron saint of Bohemia. Many important historical moments occured on this square: for example on 16 January 1969, **student Jan Palach set himself on fire** in Wenceslas Square **to protest the invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union** in 1968 and in 1989, during the Velvet Revolution, large **demonstrations** (with hundreds of thousands of people or more) were held here.



47

Go all the way up to the top of the Wenceslas Square. Nowadays, as you can see, Wenceslas Square is lined by hotels, offices, retail stores, currency exchange booths and fast-food joints. To the dismay of locals and city officials, the street is also a popular location for prostitutes to ply their trade late at night and drug dealers. Unfortunately, many strip clubs exist on and around Wenceslas Square, making Prague a popular location for stag parties. During day you are fine, but **it is not recommended to come here at night.**



48

Proceed to the top of the Wenceslas Square.



49

As you reach the upper third of the square, the **Statue of Saint Wenceslas** will become clearly visible. Move closer to it. It was created in the beginning of the 20th century by the most famous Czech sculptor, Josef Václav Myslbek. On 28 October 1918, Alois Jirásek read the **proclamation of independence of Czechoslovakia** in front of the Saint Wenceslas statue.



50

Proceed even further, to the highlighted building - the **National Museum**. It is intended to systematically establish, prepare and publicly exhibit natural scientific and historical collections. It was **founded in 1818** by Kašpar Maria Šternberg. Historian František Palacký was also strongly involved. At present the National Museum **houses almost 14 million items** from the area of natural history, history, arts, music and librarianship, located in tens of buildings.

The founding of the National Museum should be seen in the context of the times, where after the French Revolution, royal and private collections of art, science, and culture were being made available to the public. The beginnings of the museum can be seen as far back as 1796, when the private Society of Patriotic Friends of the Arts was founded by Count Casper Sternberk-Manderschied and a group of other prominent nobles. The avowed purpose of the society was "the renewed promotion of art and taste", and during the time of Joseph II, it would be adamantly opposed to the King. In 1800 the group founded the Academy of Fine Arts, which would train students in progressive forms of art and history.

If it is possible, move inside the National Museum. The building itself is under reconstruction, but some parts may be opened even during this summer, as we were informed.

We hope you enjoyed your journey to Prague! If you want to tell us anything that could improve this guide, e-mail us at info@praguetravelguides.com. We will be happy to hear from you.

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