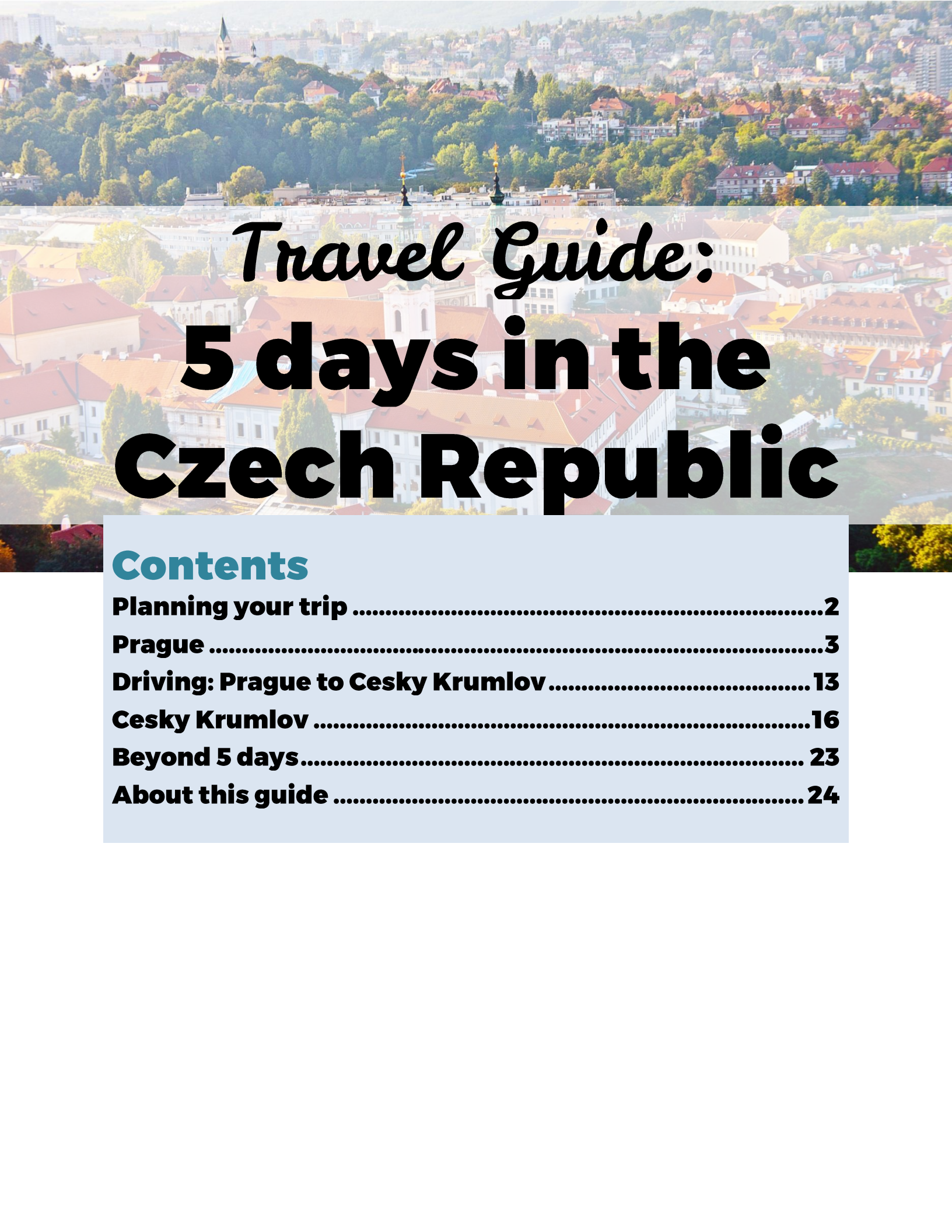




Travel Guide: **5 days in the Czech Republic**

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Planning your trip

Use this checklist to plan your trip to the Czech Republic. Click on the links for helpful information and travel sites.

Pre-trip essential information

- ☐ [General visa information for travel to the Czech Republic](#)
- ☐ [Health information for travelers to the Czech Republic](#)
- ☐ [Get a travel insurance](#)

Getting there and around

- ☐ [Flights to Prague](#)
- ☐ [Bus routes](#)
- ☐ [Train routes](#)
- ☐ [Rental cars](#) – check car hire locations and prices in the Czech Republic; booking online in advance is recommended, especially if renting automatic transmission cars

Real-time deals on accommodations

- ☐ [Prague](#)
- ☐ [Cesky Krumlov](#)



Prague

For first-time visitors, a visit to Prague is a must. Even if you hate touristy cities – which Prague undeniably is – it is still one of Europe’s most beautiful cities and a definite must-see when in Central Europe. One glimpse of Charles Bridge will make battling with the crowds worth it.

To fully enjoy Prague, you should spend at least 2 to 3 days in the city. Most of the tourists who come to Prague are there on day trips – they arrive mid-morning and leave by evening. If you want to have a peaceful moment in the city, stay in the less touristy parts of the city and explore in the early morning.

While you can hit most of the landmarks in a day, stretching out your visit to 2 or 3 days is certainly better – you won’t hate the cobbled steps for ruining your legs, you’ll enjoy your delicious Czech beer for longer, and you’ll be able to appreciate Prague’s sheer beauty better.

Planning your trip

Getting there

- **Getting to Prague:** You can reach Prague by plane ([check for flights to Prague](#)), by train ([check for train routes to Prague](#)), or bus ([check for bus routes to Prague](#)).
- **Getting around Prague:** To get around Prague, you can use the public transportation (metro, trams, bus). [You can check the fares here](#). If you think you're going to be traveling around the city a lot, getting a 3-day card may be the best option. You can also check out the [Prague Card](#), which is especially a good deal if you're planning to visit the major museums.
- **Renting a car in Prague:** While in Prague, having a rental car isn't necessary. But if you want to explore the surrounding countryside, self-driving is a wonderful way to see the country. If you can, I recommend driving to Cesky Krumlov. [Check for rates and pick-up locations in Prague here](#). If you need an automatic transmission car, make sure to reserve at least a month in advance.

Staying

[Check out this comprehensive Prague Neighborhood Guide for hotel recommendations.](#)

If you're looking for quick recommendations for a short stay (1-3 nights), you'll find the best hotels in Prague 1 and 2 below. These districts are great for first-time travelers who want to see the must-see landmarks in Prague.

For longer stays or bigger groups, look into accommodations in the other neighborhoods. You'll get more value and have a more living-like-a-local experience.

Prague is divided into several districts. You'll find most of the tourist attractions and amenities concentrated in Prague 1, so if you want to be in the center of

things, this is a good place to stay for a few days. This will also allow you to walk to most of the destinations in this itinerary.

Best hotels in Prague 1 – City Center:

★**Travelers’ Pick:** One of the best hotels in Prague is [Ventana Hotel](#), a luxurious boutique hotel right at the Old Town Square. If you want to feel like royalty for a few days, this historic, Neo-Renaissance-style palace is the perfect place for you. You’ll enjoy views of the Tyn Cathedral and the Old Town while lounging in your gorgeous room. You can also arrive in any fashion as the hotel offers parking and an airport shuttle service, and it’s near the Náměstí Republiky metro station on Line B. Travelers also rave about the hotel’s delicious breakfast and superb customer service. Double rooms start at USD 200.

If you’re traveling with a big party, you might want to check out [Apartment Pařížská](#). You can get a studio with a terrace overlooking the hip shopping street of Pařížská or a spacious two-bedroom apartment that can comfortably fit four. This vacation rental is very near the Old Town Square, and within walking distance of Staroměstská Metro Station, Prague Castle, and Wenceslas Square. Pařížská street itself is lined with boutique shops, restaurants, and café bars so you’ll have plenty to do at all hours. Apartments start at USD 230 while studios are at USD 130.

For budget accommodations in Prague’s Old Town, check out [Ahoy! Hostel](#). For USD 25 a bed, you’ll be able to stay at the very heart of Prague. The rooms are bright and tidy, the neighborhood has lots of restaurants, bars, and pubs, and the Můstek Metro Station is just 200 m away. You can also get a twin room starting at USD 60, so this hostel isn’t just for solo travelers.

Best hotels in Prague 2 – Vinohrady:

★**Travelers’ Pick:** To complement Vinohrady’s subtle grandeur, stay in a luxurious art hotel. [Le Palais Art Hotel](#) is a great example of Belle Époque architecture, featuring contemporary art exhibitions in the lobby, fitness and spa facilities, and a gourmet restaurant – the Le Papillon – that’s an experience in itself. With double

rooms starting at USD 160, it's a great value that's pretty hard to find elsewhere in the city.

To get that authentic local feel, also look into apartments like [Vinohradský dům](#). Their fully equipped apartments are a great base to do some home cooking – a food market is right beside the apartment, too! Two-bedroom apartments good for four adults start at USD 150 a night.

For budget accommodations in Vinohrady, Prague, check out [Post Hostel Prague](#). They have spacious and clean rooms plus daily walking tours of the city. Beds start at USD 25.

Day 1: Prague Charles Bridge and Castle Complex

From your accommodation, make your way to Staroměstská metro station on Line A or tram stop on trams 17 and 18. Head west to Charles Bridge (local name: Karlův most), one of Prague's most iconic landmarks.

Charles Bridge (Karlův most)

Charles Bridge is Prague's oldest and most impressive bridge. It was built from 1357 to 1402 under the direction of Charles IV, but even before that, at least two bridges have existed to connect Prague's Old Town and Lesser Town across the Vltava river.

In the 10th century, there used to be a wooden bridge; however, this was threatened every time there were floods, so it was eventually replaced by a stone bridge named Judith's Bridge after the wife of King Vladislav I. Judith's Bridge existed from around 1170 to 1342, before it was destroyed by a flood. Charles Bridge was then built.

From 1683 to 1928, a total of 30 statues of saints were carved to decorate the bridge, lending Charles Bridge its hauntingly beautiful silhouettes. A great time to

visit the bridge is during dawn or sunset to capture the sunlight's play on the bridge.

During daytime, you'll find lots of musicians, artists, and vendors offering their wares along the bridge.

[You can read more about the history and sculptures of Charles Bridge here.](#)

Prague Castle and Cathedral of St. Vitus, Wenceslas & Adalbert

Cross Charles Bridge and make your way to Prague Castle, the largest ancient castle in the world according to the Guinness Book of Records – it occupies an area of almost 70,000 square meters (750,000 square feet)!

Prague Castle (local name: Pražský hrad) was founded in the 9th century. It underwent fortifications and rebuilding throughout the centuries as it housed Bohemian kings, royal families, and Czechoslovak presidents. During the Nazi occupation, it became the headquarters of Reinhard Heydrich, the Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia.

Legend has it that an usurper who wears the Bohemian crown on his head will die within a year. True enough, Heydrich, who was said to have worn the crown, was attacked during Operation Anthropoid by Slovak and Czech soldiers and died shortly after.

After the liberation of Czechoslovakia, the Castle housed the offices of the communist government, and when Czechoslovakia split, the castle became the seat of the Head of State of the new Czech Republic.

Due to numerous rebuilding and fortification throughout the centuries, the castle buildings represent every architectural style of the last millennium. There's the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral (whose official name is actually the Cathedral of St. Vitus, Wenceslas & Adalbert; locally: metropolitní katedrála svatého Víta, Václava a Vojtěcha), the Romanesque Basilica of St. George, a monastery, and several palaces, gardens, and defense towers.

If you want to tour the Prague castle, you can [find information on tickets and tours here](#).

The view from the Prague castle grounds is amazing so make sure to go around the perimeter to find views of the city. You'll find lots to do around the castle complex. There are many small art shops and galleries around as well as souvenir stores. If you're hungry, visit the charming [Rilke Restaurant](#). But if you still have energy for a little walk (around half an hour), head to the next destination – Petrin Tower. Otherwise, you can walk along Thunovská and Nerudova and eventually head to Malá Strana, Prague's Lesser Town.

Petrin Tower

Just 1 kilometer south of Prague Castle, you'll find Petrin Tower, a view deck within Petřín Gardens (local: Petřínské sady). From this vantage point, you will come to appreciate Prague's nickname, "The City of a Hundred Spires".

Petřín Gardens is also a great place to unwind – just in case Prague's medieval beauty becomes too much for you, this is a pretty large expanse of green. You can enjoy the peace and views in one of the restaurants around the tower – check out [Petřínské Terasy](#).

Lennon Wall

Next up is a tourist spot that's less... ancient. After he was murdered in December 1980, John Lennon became a pacifist hero for many Czechs. An image of Lennon was painted on this wall, along with political graffiti.

During the communist regime, the wall was repeatedly whitewashed – but this did not deter Prague's youth and it became a site of artistic political expression for them. Now, you'll find little of the original political graffiti, but the wall continues to hold global ideals of love and peace.

Malá Strana

After a full day of walking, spend the evening around Malá Strana – look for the swans along the Vltava, watch the sunset over Charles Bridge, and end the day with a local meal or drinks.

If you're craving light comfort food, check out [Cukrkávalimonáda](#). If you'd rather partake of the famous Czech beers, [Mlýnská Kavárna](#) couples beautiful views of the Vltava and the Old Town with an extensive drinks list. If you want the full-on traditional Prague experience, visit [Cafe Savoy](#) or [U Modré Kachničky](#). Wherever you end up eating in Malá Strana, you're in for a good first night.

To go back to your hotel, the nearest public transportation stops are Malostranská metro station along line A and the LRT and tram stop Malostranské náměstí for trams 12, 20, and 22.

Day 2 – Prague Old Town

For your second day of touring Prague, head once more to Staroměstská metro station on Line A or tram stop on trams 17 and 18. We'll be exploring the old town square for this day. This is also a great time to try out the local cuisine and do some shopping.

Old Town Square

The Old Town Square is, as you would expect, the heart of Prague. This is where you would see most of the city's oldest and most historic relics. This is understandably touristy, but if you appreciate culture and history, this is definitely worth a visit.

Prague Astronomical Clock

The medieval astronomical clock (local: Pražský orloj) mounted on the southern wall of the Old Town Hall is the oldest operating astronomical clock in the world. It was first installed in 1410.

Every hour on the hour, you can catch “The Walk of the Apostles,” a mechanical parade of the apostles. The four figures flanking the clock also start moving and these figures represent the four things that were despised at the time the clock was made: Vanity, represented by a figure admiring himself with a mirror; Greed or Usury, represented by a man holding a bag of gold; Death, represented by a skeleton; and beside it is a figure representing Lust and earthly pleasures.

You’ll find a lot of tourists gathering around the clock nearing the top of the hour. While many have said that this mechanical performance is one of the most disappointing tourist attractions in Europe, just try and imagine what it must have been like to watch this in the Middle Ages. For it to be doing this every hour for half a millennium – there’s nothing really underwhelming about that! I personally liked it, but even if it does disappoint you, well, at least you could check off “see Europe’s most disappointing tourist attraction” off your list.

What’s definitely *not* disappointing about it though, is the astronomical dial. It depicts the movement of the celestial bodies around the Earth – reflecting the geocentric paradigm of the times when it was built, and still consistent with modern astrology’s practical application of geocentric models. [Here’s an in-depth guide to reading the astronomical clock.](#)

Church of Our Lady before Týn

This 14th century Gothic church (locally: Kostel Matky Boží před Týnem / Týnský chrám) is one of the most dominant features of the old town of Prague. It is most notable for its twin spires – in the City of a Hundred Spires, *these* are the queen spires.

Estates Theatre

The Estates Theatre is one of the last remaining wooden opera theaters from its era, and one of the most beautiful historic theater buildings in Europe. [You can get information on performances here](#)

Shopping: Havelská Market, Na Příkopě Street

If you're keen on shopping, you can find local produce and traditional souvenirs at the Havelská Market.

For upscale shops, walk to Na příkopě street, a modern posh boulevard which follows the path of Prague's former medieval moat.

Restaurants around Wenceslas Square

End your day with a meal around Wenceslas Square. If you're up for something fancy, visit [La Rotonde](#). For something more casual, check out [Café Svatého Václava](#). If you feel like a drink (or two), head over to [Rocky O'Reilly's Irish bar](#).

Day 3 – Prague: Other sights

The itineraries for days 1 and 2 are fairly packed and involve a lot of walking. If you prefer to soak in the sights instead of rushing from one tourist spot to the next, you can stretch it out to 3 days.

Otherwise, you can use day 3 to check out Prague's other sights. Or, if you plan to drive to Cesky Krumlov, you can check out of your Prague hotel by noontime, pick up your rental car, and start the scenic drive to Cesky Krumlov (details in the next section).

Here are some more spots to check out in Prague:

Dancing House

The Dancing House (local: Tančící dům) certainly stands out among the Baroque, Gothic, and Art Nouveau buildings that defines Prague's distinctive architectural landscape. It was designed by Croatian-Czech architect Vlado Milunić and Canadian-American architect Frank Gehry in 1992, and built on the site of a house destroyed by the US bombing of Prague in 1945.

It was formerly nicknamed Fred and Ginger after dancers Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, but this nickname is now rarely used for fear of importing American

Hollywood kitsch to Prague, according to Gehry. The architectural style is known as deconstructivism or “new-baroque” and the building’s shape is featured on gold 2,000 Czech koruna coins.

Jewish Quarter / Josefov

Jews have a long history in Prague, having settled in the city as early as the 10th century. On the first pogrom (or violent attacks on an ethnic or religious group) in 1096, the Jews were concentrated in a walled ghetto. Throughout the centuries, they continued to be persecuted, with one of the worst pogroms occurring in 1389 massacring around 1,500 Jews.

In the 18th century, Jews were emancipated by the Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II with the Patent of Toleration, an edict extending religious freedom to non-Catholic Christians living in Habsburg lands. The Jewish quarter was then renamed “Josefstadt” or Joseph’s City after him.

Josefov, with its wealth of museums and memorials, is a great place to learn more about Jewish history.

Clementinum Library

The Baroque library hall in the Clementinum complex is certainly [one of the most beautiful libraries in the world](#). If the bookworm in you just needs to visit a library on this trip), drop by and take a tour of the library.



Driving: Prague to Český Krumlov

The next major destination for this 5-day itinerary is Český Krumlov, a gorgeous medieval town in South Bohemia. You can easily reach Český Krumlov via public transportation: [you can find more information about local transportation here.](#) But another great way to get to Český Krumlov from Prague is to drive. [Get your rental car in Prague](#) and visit the following stops on the way to Český Krumlov.

First stop: choose between Pilsen or Kutná Hora

Both of these cities are just a little bit out of the way but both are great side trips from Prague.

Pilsen (local: Plzeň) is a city about 90 KM west of Prague, most famous for its Pilsner beer. You can visit the Plzeňský Prazdroj for a brewery tour to learn about the history of beer. Apart from the brewery, you can also admire the Gothic St. Bartholomew's Cathedral, the Great Synagogue, and a historic underground tunnel network.

If you want to see something a bit more bizarre, go east instead to Kutná Hora, a city best known for the Sedlec Ossuary or "bone church." In 1870, the local woodcarver František Rint piled bones in the crypt and decorated the monastery with skulls and femurs, with a giant chandelier made of human bones as the centerpiece.

Apart from the bone church, Kutná Hora is itself a UNESCO World Heritage site with a historical town center and well-preserved Gothic buildings.

Hluboká Castle

Continue south towards Hluboká nad Vltavou to visit [Czech's most beautiful castle](#).

Several castles have been built, expanded, and rebuilt on the site – a Gothic castle in the 13th century, a Baroque castle in the 18th century, and then its current appearance during the 19th century, when the Schwarzenbergs ordered its reconstruction in the romantic style of England's Windsor Castle.

You can stop by for an hour to walk around the castle gardens, admire the castle up close, and have refreshments at the nearby café.

České Budějovice

The next stop is České Budějovice, the capital of the South Bohemian Region. The city is huge and a good place to grab lunch. If you skipped Pilsen and you're keen to learn about Czech beer, you can show up at the Budweiser Budvar Brewery for a brewery tour ([check schedules or book an appointment here](#)). Otherwise, you can continue on to the next stopover.

Holašovice

Holašovice is a small historic village which, despite its quaint and charming row of Baroque houses, has a bit of a dark history.

In the 16th century, Holašovice was nearly wiped out by the bubonic plague in the span of 5 years. Only two inhabitants survived and it took another 5 years for the population to rise to 17. In the following centuries until the 1900s, the village became home to a primarily German-speaking community – an enclave within a Czech language area.

At the end of World War 2, the German residents were driven away and the village became deserted during the Czech communist regime. It was only in 1990 when the village was once again restored and inhabited, with its “South Bohemian folk Baroque” style preserved. It is now designated a [UNESCO World Heritage site](#) for being an example of a traditional European folk village.

Destination: Český Krumlov

The next stop is Český Krumlov, where I would recommend at least a 2-day stay. If you're bringing a car with you, look for accommodations just outside the old town as they normally have free parking space (you won't need your car in the old town). I recommend [Penzion Panorama](#) (rooms start at USD 50).



Cesky Krumlov

Cesky Krumlov is one of the most beautiful historical towns of Europe. A day in this town is a crash course in European history, architecture, and art - a definite must-visit when in Central Europe.

Just walking around the old town can take up a whole day, and most day trippers from Prague leave the town regretting that they didn't plan to stay at least a day more. While the town is indeed compact, Cesky Krumlov is not a place you can blitz through on your way through central Europe. Despite the popularity of day tours, Cesky Krumlov deserves at least two or three days – and the early start you get from staying in the town allows you to beat the day-tripping crowd to the town's most popular sites.

Cesky Krumlov is also a great base and gateway to South Bohemia's charming small villages and hiking spots. Exploring the region gives you a more intimate experience of central Europe – acquainting you with its well-preserved historical towns, the art, cuisine, and philosophies it has inspired, and the old castles and ruins that tell the story of Europe's majestic past.

Planning your trip

Getting there

- **Airports:** The nearest international airports are [Prague](#) (180 km), [Linz](#) (70 km), and [Munich](#) (300 km).
- **Public transportation:** The closest major transportation hub is Ceske Budejovice, a stopping station of international express trains on the line Prague-Zurich and Prague-Vienna. From Ceske Budejovice, you can ride the train or bus to Cesky Krumlov. [You can find more information about local transportation here.](#)
- **Find and book your routes here:** [Ceske drahy](#) for train travel around the Czech Republic; [Student Agency](#) for comfortable and convenient buses.
- **Self-drive:** From Prague, the fastest way to reach Cesky Krumlov is via the E55. For a more scenic route, follow the itinerary on the previous section. [If you're renting a car, check pick-up locations, rates, and book online here.](#)

Staying

Cesky Krumlov caters to all kinds of budgets. If you want to splurge on a romantic weekend, I'd suggest looking into hotels in the Cesky Krumlov Old Town. Ideally, you'd also want to avail of shuttle services and your hotel's tour offerings, so you can just sit back and leave the driving and logistics to the pros.

- [Hotel Bellevue](#) – This hotel is perfectly located near the castle and the chateau and houses the gourmet restaurant Le Jardin. If you're planning something extra special, the hotel can also arrange your event for you. Otherwise, an ordinary romantic weekend getaway will be made much sweeter with sauna and massage facilities, amazing views of the Old Town, and romantic walks in the area. [Rooms start at CZK 1,600.](#)
- Other highly-rated hotels in Cesky Krumlov include: [Hotel Ruze](#) (rooms start at CZK 3,000), [Hotel Arcadie](#) (rooms start at CZK 2,600), and [Hotel Mlyn](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,300).

- If you're a backpacker and plan to arrive to Cesky Krumlov via the train or bus and looking for a cheap and comfortable place, here are some hostels to check out: [Hostel 99](#) (beds start at CZK 340), [Hostel Havana](#) (beds start at CZK 270), and [Travel Hostel](#) (beds start at CZK 250)
- If you'd like to combine your trip to Cesky Krumlov with a road trip and hikes in the surrounding forests (like we did!), you'd want to get a rental car and get an accommodation just outside the Old Town. Make sure they provide free parking and that it's not too far from the historic center. We recommend [Penzion Panorama](#) (rooms start at CZK 1,100).

Eat and drink

- Some restaurants we liked were [Papa's Living Restaurant](#) (if the weather is nice, grab a table by the river) and the [Restaurant Konvice](#).
- If it's peak season, make reservations. There weren't a lot of people when we were there and yet we had to go from restaurant to restaurant to look for a place with an open table.

Day 4: Cesky Krumlov Old Town Walking Tour

Spots covered:

- Old town square
- Castle grounds
- Monastery
- Egon Schiele Centrum

Time to allot:

- Fast-paced travelers can cover this itinerary in one day
- For a more leisurely pace, allot at least two days

Get acquainted with the town's medieval magic

There are several entrances into the old town.

If you're coming from the train station, you'll be entering via the northern side, passing through hotels and restaurants along Latran. If you drove to Cesky Krumlov and used the parking lot near the castle (along Chvalsinska), you'll be coming in from the northwest and you'll be treated right away to the impressive stone gate leading to the castle grounds. If you chose to stay in the pensions just outside the old town, you would be coming in from the southern entrance.

Wherever you're coming from, the town's twisted and narrow streets designed to follow the meanders of the Vltava river will entice and surprise you at every turn. You can't see far ahead, as the tall imposing buildings rise up to the sky. This keeps the scenery fresh – one moment a row of architectural wonders, another a view of the river and the many lovers holding hands on its banks.

If you are keen on visiting the top museums in the old town, stop by the Information Center at the old town square to get your [Cesky Krumlov card](#). This card covers entrance to 5 of the most popular museums in the town, 3 of which are covered in this walking tour.

Start the day with romance at the castle grounds

One of the most amazing bird's eye views of the town is right within the castle grounds.

The Krumlov castle was built in the 14th century, originally the dwelling place of the royal families of the Rosenbergs, then the Schwarzenbergs, before it became a property of the state. Since 1992, the castle complex has been designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage monument.

If you have the Cesky Krumlov card, you can visit the castle museum and go up the castle tower for an amazing view of the town.

Afterwards, walk further west towards the castle's gardens and pond.

Reflect on life (or rest your feet) at the monastery gardens

From the castle grounds, retrace your way back to Latran to visit the monastery.

The Minorite Monastery in Cesky Krumlov was first established in 1350 by the Rosenbergs, with the main aim of weakening the Walden movement, a Christian movement gaining popularity in Europe at the time. The Waldensians promoted apostolic poverty, which of course didn't fly with the Rosenbergs. The royal family loved their indulgences, including religious ones. The monastery was then used by the royal family to accumulate relics and eventually they started to compete with Prague in terms of festivals and religious relics.

The monastery grounds were designed for reflection. Shaded benches and grassy lawns in a peaceful courtyard invited guests to take a moment and slow down.

The Cesky Krumlov Card will grant you access to two exhibits in the monastery, which allows you a glimpse of how the Minorite monks have been conducting their duties and their lives throughout the centuries. There is also an entire room dedicated to Saint Francis of Assisi, with panels of illustrations depicting his life and how he came to be a saint, as well as an audiovisual presentation. It's all in Czech, though, so either come with someone who can translate everything for you, or just enjoy the illustrations and animations then read up on St. Francis afterwards.

Sample the town's wares

From the monastery, exit to Latran once more. If you're looking for souvenirs, turn right on Latran and you'll immediately see [Cesky Pernik](#) – you won't miss its bright bohemian storefront. This is a perfect place to pick up traditional gingerbreads, mead, chocolates, and other regional specialties.

The Czech Republic takes great pride in its regional products. There are the Czech beers that you will hear every Czech rave about; the Moravian wines that every Moravian could discuss for hours; and in Cesky Krumlov, they have "certified regional" gingerbreads that come with centuries' worth of artisanal history. The way they elevate their products to national heritage status is actually enviable – now *that's* a unique selling proposition you can't compete with.

Meet the resident bad boy

From Latran, go back through the old town square (or venture into the smaller side streets) and make your way to [Egon Schiele Art Centrum](#) – a tribute to Cesky Krumlov's resident bad boy.

Egon was definitely “edgy” before it was cool. I’m no art expert but one look at Schiele’s bold strokes and erotically-charged motifs and I knew this guy was bad news – in a dangerously intoxicating way. Think: leather jackets, motorcycles, the guy your mother warned you about. [He’s even got the brooding pout down pat.](#)

As it turned out, Egon was the James Dean of the early 1900s Cesky Krumlov. Born in Austria surrounded and influenced by the great (and rebellious!) Viennese minds of Freud, Mahler, and Klimt, he spent a considerable amount of time in the widely conservative town of Cesky Krumlov (his mother’s birth town), doing bad boy things like [entertaining a slew of lady “visitors” in his studio](#) and producing defiant erotic artworks, earning the ire of the burghers and elitist artists dominating the art scene in those days. He was a lot more bohemian than this Bohemian town could take.

He died at 28 of Spanish flu (one of the 20,000,000 lives claimed by the pandemic throughout Europe) but not before significantly influencing the art climate with his audacious style that challenged all the norms of his time.

End the day with a glass of beer

When in Czech, there’s no way beer couldn’t be involved. With Cesky Krumlov’s near proximity to Ceske Budejovice, the home of Budvar, a glass of the regional specialty is the best way to round up your trip.

Try to get a table in one of the riverside restaurants, like [Papa’s Living Restaurant](#), to watch the sunset.

Day 5: Hiking in the Blansky Forest

Cesky Krumlov is right in the middle of the Blanský forest nature reserve and is a great starting point for hikes around the area.

You can start just outside the Cesky Krumlov castle (look for the sign posts) or at the train station. You can refer to the Google map above to find the general location of each site but it's best to follow the marked trails when hiking around the forest.

Klet'

Klet' is the highest peak of the Blanský natural reserve and on a clear day, the observation tower at the top can give you amazing views of the surrounding countryside.

The hiking trail from Cesky Krumlov is suitable for beginners, but you can also ride a cable car to the top from the Krasetin station near the village of Holoubov. [You can find more information here.](#)

From the top, you can ride back down to several nearby locations using a foot bike. [You would have to reserve a foot bike here.](#)

You'll find a restaurant beside the viewing tower – I had the best goulash I've ever tasted there. Also go for the česnečka (Czech garlic soup) and of course, a cool glass of the region's beer, the Budweiser Budvar. Don't be turned off by the busy dining area – just order your food and go up the second level where you'll find more tables.

Dívčí Kámen

These are the ruins of a Gothic castle built in the 14th century. The best way to reach it is by going to the Trisov village 9 KM northeast of Cesky Krumlov. [You can read more about its history here.](#)

Hiking Klet' and Dívčí Kámen will take up a whole day. We started at around 10 AM, had lunch at Klet', continued our hike to Dívčí Kámen, then took the train from Trisov back to Cesky Krumlov, where we had dinner at the old town. This was a total of around 22 kilometers and took about 8 hours, including stops.

Beyond 5 days

As I'm sure you'll realize soon enough, 5 days in the Czech Republic is hardly enough – but this itinerary is a great start. Adjust according to your pace – this is more of a fast-paced itinerary, so if you're not into road trips or hiking trips, you'll be able to explore the cities at leisure.

If you have more time, here are other places you can visit within and around the Czech Republic – click through for my travel guides for each:

- [South Moravia](#) – This is the Czech Republic's southwestern region, most known for its vineyards and nature trails. It's ideal for wine enthusiasts and a good time to visit is during the beginning of fall (early September), when wine harvest festivals begin.
- [Road trip to Austria](#) – This is one of my favorite road trip itineraries in Europe, and if you're coming from Prague, you can easily modify this to create an amazing road trip itinerary. Pick up your car in Prague, drive to Cesky Krumlov (check out my recommended stopovers on the map above), drive to Salzburg and follow the driving itinerary to Vienna, then drive to South Moravia and spend a few days there before returning your car to Brno. Just writing down this itinerary gets me really excited and if you have the time to do it (a fast-paced version will take you a week at least), it's an amazing overview of the Central European countryside.
- [Czech Republic Travel Guides](#) and [Europe Travel Guides](#) – I'm constantly updating the travel guides here in the website so check out these links for all Czech Republic and Europe travel guides.



About this guide

Thank you for downloading this guide! I hope you find the information here useful and I wish you happy travels to the Czech Republic. Feel free to forward to friends!

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If you have more questions about travel in the area, send me an email (hello@littlesholidays.net) and I'll be happy to help you!



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