

# iPod Traveller

*"The Best in European Travel"*



▲ View from Prague Castle

## *Prague in a Jiffy*

### Overview

Take a trip to beautiful Prague, where a legendary prophetic princess once announced "I foresee a grand city whose glory will touch the stars!" With its hauntingly beautiful buildings, oddly ornate bridge, and majestic castle, Prague promises endless amounts of old-country mystique. Although droves of tourists have now discovered what was once one of the continent's best-kept secrets, Prague is still an ideal introduction or gateway to central and eastern Europe.

With a city center that has been classified as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the nickname "city of a hundred spires," Prague's primary selling point is its buildings. Much of the city had to be rebuilt after the 1689 fire, and many of the current monuments have been standing since. This creates an authentic feeling of yesteryear, which is another one of Prague's main appeals. It was truly an act of fate that Prague's architecture remained virtually unscarred by WWII.

### What To See on our round trip from Glasgow

Prague can be seen in a weekend or in a month. There are loads of sights and attractions, but even just a day in the Old Town will give you a taste of Prague's character. Just a sampling of our favourites...

**Staré Mesto (Old Town)** Start in the Old Town Square and simply get lost. Wandering the convoluted alleyways makes for a charming trip back in time. The Tyn Church, which lights up at night to create a dazzling skyline, is a good landmark from which to orient yourself in the square. It stands opposite the Old Town Hall. Housed in the structure of the Hall is the astronomical clock, which chimes on the hour as a parade of figurines dance out to the delight of the gathered tourists.

**Charles Bridge** - The 'Karlův Most' straddles the Vltava River and takes visitors across to Prague Castle. Its long history began in the mid-1300s, when construction was commenced by King Charles IV. Time has since witnessed the bridge acting as a trade route, social centre, and mini-outdoor art museum; the last is due to the dozens of statues that decorate the sides. To this day, the Charles Bridge is a bustling central location, even if only for the tourists and the salesmen who live off of them.

**Prague Castle** The official head of the government for almost 1000 years, Prague Castle absolutely cannot be missed. Visiting the entire campus of tourist sites can easily take up the whole day. If you have the time, buy a joint day ticket in order to see it all. In addition to the Old Royal Palace, this regal world across the river also houses the impressive St. Vitus Cathedral, the St. George Basilica, and the Royal Gardens.

## Prague in a Jiffy

**Wenceslas Square** - This part of the new town is the practical, as opposed to the historical, heart of Prague. Many a revolution and demonstration has happened here, and with varied results. The most notable of recent times is the Velvet revolution, marking the end of communism in much of Central Europe.

### Getting there

Prague is easy to reach by air and rail with an excellent, if not slightly crumbling infrastructure of local and regional transport.

If you wish to visit the city by your own private transport or using a bus, you should be aware that roads can often be slow and treacherous, especially in the winter. If you drive or hire a car, make sure you always drive with headlights on and make sure there is no alcohol in your blood as police make regular checks (Nick speaks from experience here!)

### Rail

There are two main railway stations in Prague, one a short walk from the Old Town, serving regional destinations within the Czech Republic, the other (Praha Holesovice) linked by frequent trams to the city centre.

### Bus

Unlike cities in Western Europe, many people in Czech prefer to travel by bus as it is often quicker, cheaper and safer than using the train. You can get to most cities in Czech Republic by bus and for other places in Europe just use Eurolines ([www.eurolines.com](http://www.eurolines.com)). There are also direct buses to London.

### Air

Prague has long been a favourite for the low-cost airlines, most notably for easyJet who connect many places in Europe. You will find low-cost options to almost every major metropolitan area in Europe, especially to regional UK airports owing to the reputation of Prague as the European city of weekend stag-nights.

### Visitor Links

Czech Republic National Tourist Board

<http://www.czechtourism.com>

Ceské Dráhy (Czech Railways)

<http://www.cd.cz>

Eurolines

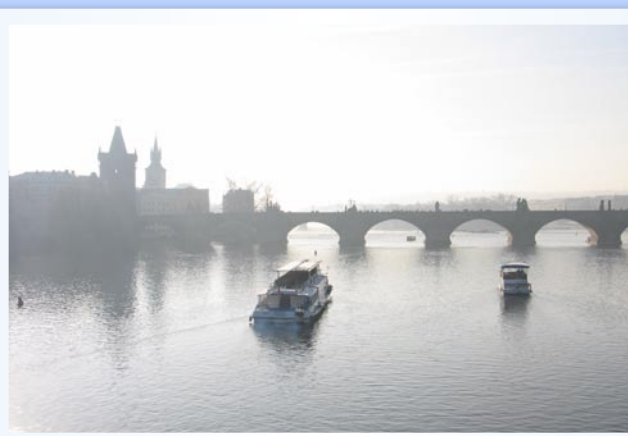
<http://www.eurolines.com>

Prague Castle

<http://www.hrad.cz/en>

Czech International Airlines

<http://www.csa.cz>



▲ Charles Bridge and the Old Town

### Did you find this information helpful?

#### Website:

[www.ipodtraveller.net](http://www.ipodtraveller.net)

#### Message forum:

[www.ipodtraveller.net/vanilla](http://www.ipodtraveller.net/vanilla)

#### Email:

[nick@ipodtraveller.net](mailto:nick@ipodtraveller.net)  
[andrea@ipodtraveller.net](mailto:andrea@ipodtraveller.net)

#### Leave a message (USA):

347-427-9323

#### Send an SMS:

text the word 'travel' &  
then your message to  
+44 7766 40 41 42

### Prague by night

Prague is seen by many as one of Europe's sin cities and has a reputation throughout Western Europe for cheap booze and cheap sex, making it the perfect weekend destination for stag parties.

Some visitors to Prague may be disappointed to discover that the city does not always live up to this reputation. Food and Drink in the old town can be extremely expensive and for those who seek it, the only sex to be found is in "Red Light Praha", Prague's very own covered miniature Amsterdam, complete with girls!