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5 Reasons Why Prague is the Home of World-Class Coffee

Just a few years ago, this juxtaposition of words would have sounded ludicrous. But today, Prague is just a small step away from becoming a café superpower along the lines of London, Berlin, or New York. There are many reasons why Prague is unique for its coffee.

Keeping Pace with Global Trends

In recent years, Prague's coffee scene has moved forward at a rapid pace. The impact of the third coffee wave has combined with the new young generation of professionals enthusiastically dedicated to coffee. Prepare yourself for high-quality Czech roasters, all the current trends, and a unique local coffee culture concept.

Friendly Prices

The intense competition and popularity of cafés with the locals has kept prices at a reasonable level – in Prague, you can get top-notch coffee for cheaper than in any other caffeine metropolis.

Architecture, Design, Tradition

Prague's long history gives every café a unique context. Architecture, design, and art blend together in businesses both old and new. The variety of styles and the individuality of the various neighbourhoods are what makes Prague special.

Divine Desserts

Czech sweets are delicious and pair well with coffee. Cafés often make their own desserts in-house, or else have them made by a local producer. Cakes, pies, cream puffs – don't even think about leaving before you try one.



No Rush and Friendly Service

Most Prague cafés offer a relaxed atmosphere with smiling faces behind the counter. Just sit and chat over a cup of coffee – no standing, no long lines, no crush at the bar.

Czech Café Etiquette

Seating and Ordering

Most cafés in Prague offer table service. Ordering at the counter is necessary only at espresso bars. In most places, you do not need to wait to be seated and can sit down at any available table. Guests are seated by staff only in large and busy cafés or more luxurious café/restaurants where in some cases you won't be able to get a table without a reservation.

Coffee Nomenclature

At cafés serving premium coffee in Prague, they generally use the standard global names for various coffee drinks, so feel free to order as you normally would. In historical and traditional cafés around the city, espresso is often ordered as "small" (piccolo) and "large", and when ordering, the staff will occasionally ask for your preference. A small espresso means a normal espresso; a large espresso is a not-very-good variation of an espresso lungo. You can get sugar and milk with your coffee in most places without any problem.

Paying

Most cafés in Prague accept credit cards. At espresso bars, you pay when you order; at cafés with table service, you pay before you leave.

Tipping

Cafés in Prague do not add tips onto the bill – it's entirely up to you whether or not to tip. If you're satisfied with the service, a 10% tip is standard.



Czech Sweets: A Primer

Hospitality in both traditional and modern cafés in the Czech Republic is based on typical sweet treats, which Czechs love to eat with coffee. Here are some of the most famous – you'll certainly come across them in Prague.



Bábovka (Bundt Cake, Crown Cake)

The most popular homemade dessert! Bábovka is usually made as a butter cake or a sponge cake. Ground nuts, cocoa, or chocolate bits are often added to the batter. Special variations include marble cake and "drunken" cake soaked with egg liqueur.



Kremrole (Cream Roll)

Sumptuous, puffy, crispy dough tubes filled with either whipped cream or meringue.



Větrník and Věneček (Creampuffs two wavs)

Choux pastry like you've never had it. The větrník ("pinwheel") is larger, is usually filled with two kinds of cream – vanilla and caramel – and topped with a caramel or chocolate glaze. Věnečeks ("wreaths") are smaller and have a hole in the middle. They're filled with custard cream and are glazed with sugar icing.



Laskonka

Czech macarons! They're larger, oval and flat, and are filled with praline buttercream. It's the Czechs' greatest invention to go with cappuccino.



Rakvičky (Little Coffins)

A Czech speciality, hollow rectangles made of crisp yolk dough. They're topped with whipped cream and their small size makes them an ideal accompaniment to coffee.



Pražský koláč (Prague "kolache")

A rich dessert made with yeast dough sprinkled with crumb topping, filled with thick vanilla cream. You don't see them often for sale, so if you do, snap it up!



Buchty (Buns)

A traditional baked sweet from Czech fairy tales. Buchty are small square buns of sweet yeast dough with a variety of fillings – tvaroh (quark cheese), povidla (plum butter), or mák (poppyseeds).



Linecké (Linzer Pastries)

Crispy butter cookies sandwiched together with redcurrant jam. The most common shapes are circles or hearts.



Moravské koláče (Moravian "kolache")

Puffy circular buns made of yeast dough with various fillings (both inside and on top), plus a crumb topping; sizes vary from dainty to meal-sized. Definitely try the povidla (plum butter) and mák (poppyseed) fillings; the Czech Republic is the promised land of poppyseed enthusiasts.

Prague Cafés: Yesterday and Today

The Beginnings of Prague Café Life

Prague isn't known just for its pubs and beer – there's also a Prague café phenomenon, which forms an indelible part of the city's personality. Cafés have always been a gathering place, not only for coffee lovers, but also for students, artists, and politicians to discuss the latest events as well as literature, art, and life in general.

Nobody knows for sure exactly when coffee arrived in the Czech lands. Coffee made its way to Europe from North Africa and Turkey via Venetian merchants. After coffee houses began making their appearances in major European ports, Prague was naturally next in line.

The first Prague coffee purveyor was an Armenian by the name of Deodatus Damayan Damascenus. At first, he sold coffee right on the streets of the city, a coffee table slung over his shoulder, a turban on his head balancing a tray, and on it coffee brewed in a cezve/ibrik. In 1711, Damayan established the first Prague café below the Mostecká Tower on the Little Quarter side of Charles Bridge – at the time the only bridge and therefore the most important thoroughfare in Prague. The café was located in the beautiful Renaissance building U Tří pštrosů (At the Three Ostriches), nowadays a luxury hotel and restaurant.

The Golden Age

The greatest developments in coffee culture occurred during the 19th century. Towards the turn of the 20th century, coffee brewing habits began to heat up on a grand scale. Coffee roasting companies were established and even more cafés opened. The number



grew not only in the city centre, but also farther out towards the edges of the city. In the heart of the city, there were at least 120 establishments. The golden age of cafés had arrived, and they became important hubs of cultural life.

The interwar period in Czechoslovakia was a time of prosperity; the country had a visionary president, a strong economy, and an educated and ambitious middle class. During this time, Prague changed from a sleepy provincial city of the Austrian monarchy to the lively capital of the young republic in which representatives of modern intellectual and artistic spheres mingled – and cafés here played an irreplaceable role.

Famous Historical Cafés

Among these are the **Café Slavia** in the Lažanský Palace, which opened in 1884 across the street from the National Theatre. Over time, this made it a perfect meeting point for well-known cultural figures, such as composer Antonín Dvořák, writer Karel Čapek and his brother Josef, known primarily as an artist, as well as poets Jaroslav Seifert (a Nobel laureate) and Vítězslav Nezval. During the Communist era, Slavia was also a favorite haunt of Prague dissidents including Václav Havel, who always sat to the side with a view of Prague Castle and watched guests and life on the street. From the windows of the café, you can take in one of the most beautiful views of Prague; the film director Miloš Forman makes a point of visiting Slavia every time he's in Prague.

Not far away, overlooking Národní Street from its second floor perch, is one of the oldest cafés in Prague, **Café Louvre**. It began operating in 1902; the German philosophical circle met here regularly, including law students Max Brod and Franz Kafka. At the time of his professorship in Prague, Albert Einstein was a regular guest on Tuesday evenings in the salon.



The Art Nouveau **Hotel Paříž** drew Czech surrealists to its café. Artists Jindřich Štyrský and Marie Čermínová, a.k.a. Toyen, met here with poets André Breton and Paul Éluard. (The hotel itself became the fictional backdrop for Bohumil Hrabal's novel I Served The King of England – an brilliant work describing the dramatic twists and turns of 20th century Czech history in an engaging and entertaining manner.)



Decline and Renaissance

Café life in Prague thrived until 1948, when the rug was pulled out from under it. The postwar communist regime considered cafés to be elitist and decadent, and many were closed – some even disappearing from the map forever. In the 1960s, however, cafés slowly resumed operations, often connected with patisseries.

Along with the loss of cafés, a parallel decline of coffee (and more broadly, of gastronomic) culture took place, reaching its nadir at the end of the communist regime in 1989. Even in the 1990s, the usual café standard was the infamous "turek" – coarsely ground low quality coffee with hot water poured over without a filter – or instant coffee. The new millennium, however, brought a second wind to Prague cafés. Along with the new coffee culture, brought here from abroad by a handful of enthusiasts, came also a revival of cafés as spaces for cultural exchange. In addition to a plethora of espresso bars and neighbourhood cafés, Prague today even has theatre, literary, and alternative/punk cafés – and more are opening all the time. Our guide will help you navigate the scene.





Kavárna Nový Svět (New World Café)

Nový Svět 2, Prague 1 – Hradčany Tue-Sun 11am-7pm +420 242 430 700 http://kavarna.novysvet.net





After visiting Prague Castle and walking around the area, this is the best possible rest stop. The combination of premium coffee, a family-run business, and a fantastic location in the castle's New World has no equal in all of Prague. The route itself through the historical neighborhood on the less-frequented side of the castle is worth it. A visit to this cosy café is just the cherry on the cake. See for yourself – great coffee and homemade sweet treats!



9 2

Cathedral Cafe

Týnská 11, Prague 1 – Staré Město Mon-Sun gam-gpm +420 775 676 637 www.cathedral-cafe-lounge-restaurant.com







Primarily a tourist café located on picturesque Týnská Street, it's worthy of a visit especially in spring and summer when the weather is nice. They have a fantastic outdoor seating area, an oasis of calm in the middle of the overcrowded city centre. If you're in the vicinity of Old Town Square and need a bit of a break, Cathedral Cafe fits the bill perfectly.



TriCafe

Anenská 3, Prague 1 – Staré Město Mon–Sat 8.30am–8pm, Sun 10am–6pm +420 222 210 326 http://tricafe.weebly.com





Smiling staff and a location in Prague's historical centre makes TriCafe the perfect place to stop during a walk around the Old Town. Their coffee comes from well-known European roasters and is prepared primarily as espresso. They offer a selection of baked goods and homemade cakes. The beautiful light-filled interior is reminiscent of an old Prague flat that belonged to Grandma.



Kavárna Styl & Interier

Vodičkova 35, Prague 1 – Nové Město Mon-Sat 9.30am-9pm, Sun 9.30am-8pm +420 222 543 128 www.stylainterier.cz/kavarna





The owners of this lovely café also own a furniture and interior design shop at the same address. It's basically a showroom, a bistro, and café in one. Summer is an especially nice time to visit when the garden in the inner courtyard is open. A perfect central location, decent coffee, and a bistro with a weekly menu.



Super Tramp Coffee

Opatovická 18/ passage Spálená 15, Prague 1 – Nové Město Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sun 10am-5pm +420 777 446 022 Facebook: @supertrampcoffee.cz





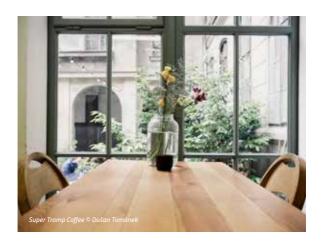






A coffee oasis and another example of the beauty of Prague's courtyards. A visit here positively encourages you to slow down and have a seat in the café's outdoor area. Super Tramp takes pride in their selection of premium coffees from leading European roasters. Drinks are complemented by a selection of baked goods from their own bakery, which are highly praised by locals.

Note: The café is located in an inner courtyard, making it a bit tough to find – we recommend using the entrance from Opatovická Street.



Mamacoffee Londýnská

Londýnská 49, Prague 2 – Vinohrady Mon-Fri 8.30am–8pm, Sat-Sun 10am–6pm +420 773 263 333 www.mamacoffee.cz/content/londynska









One of the first cafés that helped launch the coffee avalanche in Vinohrady. This cosy café offers exclusively Fair Trade coffee from their in-house Prague roaster (they have multiple locations in the city). During the summer, they have a small outdoor seating area out front. Stop by for an espresso made from Tracy's coffee blend and something sweet from their own bakery.



Café Pavlač

Víta Nejedlého 23, Prague 3 – Žižkov Mon-Fri 10am-11pm, Sat-Sun 11am-11pm +420 222 721 731 www.cafepavlac.cz









A popular Žižkov café with a fantastic outdoor seating area in the courtyard. Pavlač is always busy and is full throughout the day. They offer breakfast, lunch, and light dinners at reasonable prices. A great place for a large group for beer or just for coffee if you want to soak up Žížkov's bohemian atmosphere.



Café Letka

Letohradská 44, Prague 7 – Holešovice Mon-Fri 8am-midnight, Sat 10am-midnight, Sun 10am-10pm +420 252 541 252 www.cafeletka.cz











One of the newest additions to the Prague coffee scene located right next to the National Technical Museum (also highly recommended!). At Letka, they combine gourmet coffee with a friendly atmosphere and a charming, shabby chic interior. A great place for breakfast or a light lunch.

Note: The café's inconspicuously marked entrance is shared with the student theatre Pidivadlo.



Cukrárna Alchymista (Alchemist Patisserie)

Jana Zajíce 7, Prague 7 - Bubeneč Mon-Fri 7.30am-9.30pm, Sat-Sun 10.30am-9.30pm +420 732 938 046 www.alchymista.cz











The site of the most beautiful backyard garden in all of Prague – ideal as a rest stop during a walk through Letná Park. Here, the residential courtyard has been transformed into a colourful outdoor seating area full of sun and greenery. Add to that the exceptionally peaceful

feeling, premium coffee, and homemade pastries. If you head there, stop by the coffee museum next door for a look back at the history of coffee from both Czech and international points of view.



Kavárna Pod Lipami (Café Under the Lindens)

Čechova 1, Prague 7 – Bubeneč Mon-Fri 8.3oam-10pm, Sat-Sun 11am-10pm +420 777 568 658 www.kavarna-podlipami.cz





A lively student café offering Fair Trade coffee from the Mamacoffee roasters. During the summer, you can enjoy their stylish outdoor seating area and Letná's great atmosphere. Pod Lipami offers good premium coffee for espresso and alternative brewing methods. It's also a good place for breakfast or a light lunch.



Bistro Proti Proudu (Against the Current Bistro)

Březinova 22, Prague 8 – Karlín Mon-Fri 8.30am–10pm +420 728 036 171 www.bistroprotiproudu.cz











One of the newest cafés in Karlín. Both a café and a bistro with delicious food and a well-lit interior (inspired by Karlín's history, closely connected with the Czech pioneer of electrification, František Křižík). A perfect spot for breakfast or a light lunch. Proti Proudu is also one of the very few coffee places in Karlín where you can get darker roast Italian-style coffee.



Café Jen

Kodaňská 37, Prague 10 - Vršovice Mon-Fri 7.3oam-8pm, Sat-Sun gam-6pm +420 604 329 904 www.cafejen.cz





A popular neighbourhood café where locals gather over breakfast or weekend brunch. Café Jen is renowned for its selection of homemade treats and a selection of speciality coffees from London roasters. During the summer, they open a beautiful outdoor seating area right on the street. If you find yourself in this area of Prague, definitely don't miss Jen.



Café Sladkovský

Sevastopolská 17, Prague 10 - Vršovice Mon-Fri 10am-1am, Sat 5pm-1am, Sun 11am-1am +420 776 772 478 www.cafesladkovsky.cz







One of the first businesses to help kick off interest in Prague's now-trendy Vršovice neighbourhood. Café Sladkovský takes its inspiration from the café atmosphere of the 1930s. During the day, we recommend it for breakfast, coffee, or lunch. In the evenings, the café transforms into a busy pub with locals deeply engaged in lively conversations. Hot food throughout the day and a good selection of homemade desserts.



Coffee House Prague

Francouzská 100, Prague 10 - Vršovice Mon-Thu 8am-7pm, Fri 8am-5pm +420 222 780 115 www.coffeehouseprague.eu









Run by local roaster Coffee Source, which delivers freshly roasted coffee to a number of businesses around Prague. Coffee House combines a small stand-up espresso bar and a charming garden in the courtyard. Head here if you'd like to sample more types of coffee from this Prague roaster.





Original Coffee

Betlémská 12, Prague 1 - Staré Město Mon-Fri 8am-7pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm +420 777 263 403 http://originalcoffee.cz











A cosy café in the heart of Old Town. Original Coffee is both a premium coffee roaster and a café offering fresh coffee. In addition to traditional espresso-based drinks, they are also thoroughly devoted to alternative preparation methods. And if you'd like to try Original Coffee at home, the baristas will be happy to help you select the right coffee beans.



EMA Espresso Bar

Na Florenci 3. Prague 1 - Nové Město Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat-Sun 10am-6pm +420 730 156 933 www.emaespressobar.cz











The most popular, the busiest, and definitely one of the best espresso bars in Prague. It's always bustling at EMA and the beeping of the coffee machine doesn't stop for a second all day. The café and its baristas have earned a number of industry awards. Their coffee

selection alternates between well-known European roasters and smaller, local discoveries. If you manage to snag a seat, prepare yourself for some high-quality people watching over a cup of top quality coffee with plenty of Instagram opportunities. EMA also excels in its offer of homemade baked goods. Try their Czech buns, Prague kolache, or at least a Linzer heart cookie. Warning: during peak hours, the lines are long.



Oliver's Coffee Cup

Václavské nám. 58, Prague 1 - Nové Město Mon-Fri 8.30am-8.30pm, Sat-Sun gam-8pm +420 234 101 138 www.oliverscoffeecup.cz







One of the few cafés on Wenceslas Square where you can stop for a quiet cup of gourmet coffee. Use this bright, comfortable café with a view as a base for planning your walks in the city centre or to take a short break. They serve excellent homemade desserts.

Note: The café is located on the second floor of Dům Módy (House of Fashion) clothing store; entry is through the shop floor.



Double B

Anglická 15, Prague 2 – Vinohrady Mon-Fri 8am-9pm, Sat-Sun 10am-9pm +420 777 581 058 Facebook: @doublebpraha







A modern café which offers premium coffees of Russian origin from the eponymous roaster. At Double B, they know their way around making espresso, plus they have a knack for presentation of their own single-origin coffees and their preparation. The spacious interior and location offer an oasis of calm on the otherwise bustling border of the Vinohrady and New Town neighbourhoods. Their specialities include flavoured coffee cocktails using homemade syrups and flavourings.





La Bohème Café

Sázavská 32, Prague 2 - Vinohrady Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat-Sun 10am-8pm +420 734 207 049 www.labohemecafe.cz













Showroom and café for the well-known eponymous Prague roaster. The space is one of Vinohrady's largest and most pleasant. Order your coffee and lose yourself for a little while in one of their comfy armchairs. Quiet atmosphere, attentive service, and excellent coffee.



Momoichi

Římská 35, Prague 2 – Vinohrady Mon-Fri 11am-10pm, Sat 10am-10pm, Sun 10am-6pm +420 721 364 002 www.momoichi.cz





Premium coffee with a Japanese twist. At Momoichi, they combine love for premium coffee with a passion for Japanese culture. You'll see it in the interior, in the meditative atmosphere, and on the menu. Premium coffees and teas are prepared here using both classic methods as well as their unique steampunk coffee machine. A cup of espresso can be ordered alongside Japanese filter coffee using high pressure extraction. A diverse but well-executed menu satisfies even dinnertime appetites.



Monolok Cafe

Moravská 18, Prague 2 - Vinohrady Mon-Fri 8am-10pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm +420 739 018 195 www.monolok.cz











An established Vinohrady café that locals seek out during the day for meetings, in the evening for a glass of wine, and during the weekends for brunch. Monolok is truly universal and serves as an excellent base when you need to take a break, recharge, and plan out the rest of your day. During the summer, a cosy garden with plenty of sunshine is located inconspicuously in the courtyard.



Pražírna

Lublaňská 50, Prague 2 - Vinohrady Mon-Fri 8.30am-10pm, Sat noon-8pm +420 720 385 622 http://kavarnaprazirna.cz











Another café in Prague with its own micro roaster. Pražírna is unique, however, in that it roasts its coffee right on the premises and you can take a peek at their roasting machine at any time. Pražírna is a busy café where people go primarily for meetings. Its selection of premium coffees includes seasonal single-origin beans and a wide range of preparation methods. A good starting point for wanders to the centre and around Vinohrady.



Coffee Room

Korunní 74, Prague 10 - Vinohrady Mon-Fri 8am-6.3opm, Sat gam-6pm +420 736 171 990 http://coffeeroom.cz





A typical example of the new coffee wave in Vinohrady: a small, cosy espresso bar that blends a relaxed atmosphere with the aroma of high quality premium coffee. Espresso is prepared here using alternative methods. Their coffee beans come primarily from roasters in Berlin, but they occasionally feature new coffee discoveries from the Czech Republic and Central Europe in general. At Coffee Room, you'll always find something sweet to eat. Despite the tiny space, they serve a generous breakfast and weekend brunch.



Café Záhorský

Eliášova 1, Prague 6 – Dejvice Mon-Fri 8am-11pm, Sat gam-11pm, Sun 10am-8pm +420 778 511 453 www.cafezahorsky.cz





Busy café, bistro, and bakery in Dejvice, a favourite of locals and students from the local universities. Stop by during the day for coffee or lunch; they have delicious homemade sweets served to you by the baker herself. The café has earned awards for its imaginative interior. When it's warm, you can watch the busy street traffic through large open windows.



Kafemat

Dejvická 3, Prague 6 – Dejvice Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 9.3oam-3pm +420 721 536 200 Facebook: @kafematdejvice





Neighbourhood espresso bar in the heart of Dejvice. The locals come here for a break with a cup of coffee and a chat with the barista. At Kafemat, they work with coffee from a London roaster. They prepare espresso drinks as well as using a few alternative methods. A great place if you want to start your walk in Dejvice with a takeaway coffee in your hand. Note: Limited seating, no restrooms.



Místo

Bubenečská 12, Prague 6 - Dejvice Mon-Sat gam-10pm, Sun 10am-6pm +420 727 914 535 www.mistoprovas.cz





Few cafés in Prague offer such complete service as the snazzy Místo – here, premium coffee is served in a spacious modern interior alongside hot dishes from breakfast and weekend brunch to dinner. Just like Můj šálek kávy (page 41) and Alza Café, this café is operated by the roaster Doubleshot. In addition to espresso and filter coffee, there's a permanent menu featuring innovative seasonal cocktails. At Místo, you can also stop by for a glass of wine or a beer.



Alza Café

Jateční 33a, Hall No. 8, Prague 7 – Holešovice Mon–Sun 8am–8pm +420 225 340 111 www.doubleshot.cz





Good coffee in an unexpected location. If you find yourself in the vicinity of the Holešovice Market, make a point to stop here for coffee. Alza Café is a training espresso bar for Doubleshot roaster. Don't be alarmed – it's located smack in the middle of a huge electronics store. It sounds odd, but paradoxically, the quality of the coffee here is excellent and compares favourably with cafés in the city centre. They've also got a good selection of open-faced sandwiches and pastries from their own bakery. The interior aside, it's a reliable place to stop if you're just interested in good coffee.



Ye's Kafe

Letenské nám. 5, Prague 7 – Holešovice Mon-Fri 7.30am-7pm, Sat-Sun 9.30am-6pm +420 731 272 748



Facebook: @yeskafestudio



A small hipster espresso bar. The owners have combined their graphic design work with love for coffee. They work upstairs in an enclosed loft and operate the café downstairs. The bright café and good-humoured staff make Ye's Kafe an ideal stopover if you find yourself in Letná. Their coffee selection is inspired primarily by Berlin. To go with your espresso, we recommend trying one of their desserts, baked by their partner bakery.

Note: no restrooms



Eska

Pernerova 49, Prague 8 – Karlín Mon-Fri 11.30am-3pm, 5.30pm-11.30pm, Sat-Sun gam-11.30pm +420 731 140 884 http://eska.ambi.cz





The café on the ground floor belongs to the eponymous restaurant and bakery which share common space on the premises of Forum Karlín. Just like the restaurant, which takes its inspiration from Nordic cuisine, the café takes an alternative approach to both preparation and the use of ingredients. If you head to Eska, don't miss their experimental drinks and enjoy something from the bakery, such as flaky croissants, homemade coffee cake, and open-faced sandwiches. During the winter, seating in the café is limited, but in the summer, Eska has extensive outdoor seating.



Kafe Karlín

Sokolovská 51, Prague 8 – Karlín Mon-Fri 7.30am-6.30pm +420 222 311 279 www.kafekarlin.cz





A small espresso bar with choice coffees from their own roaster. This miniature standing-only coffee bar strikes a balance between a friendly atmosphere and a professional approach to making coffee. We recommended accompanying your coffee with a pastry from the Simply Good bakery on the other side of the square.

Note: No restrooms.



Můj šálek kávy (My Cup of Coffee)

Křižíkova 105, Prague 8 - Karlín Mon-Sat gam-10pm, Sun 10am-6pm +420 725 556 944 www.mujsalekkavy.cz











The opening of this café in Prague a few years ago kicked off the third coffee wave in Prague and the transformation of Karlín into a modern, trendy district. At Šálek, as the locals call it, you'll find excellent premium coffee from the Doubleshot roaster, warm food throughout the day, and desserts from their own bakery. Don't miss their seasonal espressos or their tasting flights of filter coffee. Šálek is very busy during peak periods, so don't be discouraged if you have to wait a bit to be served. During the warmer months, you can take advantage of their outdoor seating area right on the street.



A Cup of History – Classical Style & Famous Names

Alongside Paris, Berlin and Vienna, European cultural history was also made in Prague's cafés. While only a few of these establishments have weathered all storms and remained in service to this day, other cafés have adopted the classical look and style. These are magical spots where history, culture, and unique architecture come together. We recommend them if you prefer to see living, breathing places rather than museums. Soak up Prague's atmosphere and immerse yourself in its history over a cup of coffee.

Café Savoy

Vítězná 5, Prague 5 – Malá Strana Mon-Fri 8am-10.3opm, Sat-Sun gam-10.3opm +420 257 311 562 http://cafesavoy.ambi.cz





One of the largest and most successful café/restaurants in Prague. A busy and perpetually full café with staff in constant motion and a gorgeous interior. In addition to coffee they offer excellent food and a broad selection of wines. A perfect place for breakfast or lunch in grand style. Seasonal and permanent café menus with a selection of Czech specialities. Try one of their classic Czech desserts, made at their own bakery, with your coffee.



Café Lounge

Plaská 8, Prague 5 - Malá Strana Mon-Fri 7.30am-10pm, Sat gam-10pm, Sun gam-5pm +420 257 404 020 www.cafe-lounge.cz







A stylish café with a somewhat patrician yet cosy atmosphere, winner of a number of awards in café polls. Café Lounge combines premium coffee, good cooking, and their own in-house bakery. A favourite with the locals for meetings. Come just for coffee and something sweet during the day, or stop by for a glass of wine and dinner in the evening. A pleasant garden seating area is open in the summer.



Grand Café Orient

Ovocný trh 19, Prague 1 - Staré Město Mon-Fri gam-10pm, Sat-Sun 10am-10pm +420 224 224 240 www.grandcafeorient.cz









A jewel for all fans of design and architecture. The House of the Black Madonna, designed by architect Josef Gočár and built between 1911 and 1912, is an iconic work of Czech Cubism. The café, which was out of service for decades, underwent a thorough, faithful reconstruction in the 1990s. In addition to the enchanting interior, we recommend visiting the museum of Cubism in the same building. One of the café's sweet specialities is their custard-filled choux pastry "věneček"; in a charming nod to Cubism, the pastry is executed here as a square rather than the usual circle.



Kavárna Obecní dům (Municipal House Café)

nám. Republiky 5, Prague 1 – Staré Město Mon-Sun 7.30am-11pm +420 222 002 763 www.kavarnaod.cz









One of the most beautiful cafés in Prague. If you can overlook its openly touristy focus, you'll be rewarded with a splendid Art Nouveau interior and a respectable selection of cakes. The café is located on the ground floor of the Municipal House, one of the most important Art Nouveau monuments in Prague. Many famous Czech artists and sculptors contributed to the building's unique décor; a guided tour is highly recommended.



Kavárna Slavia (Slavia Café)

Smetanovo nábřeží 2, Prague 1 – Staré Město Mon-Fri 8am-midnight, Sat-Sun 9am-midnight +420 224 218 493 www.cafeslavia.cz





Another of the large Prague cafés with a history reaching back to the very end of the 19th century. The café has undergone many operational, cultural, and political changes. During the post-1968 period, it was a favourite meeting place for Czech dissidents, including President Václav Havel. The elegant café, with a seating capacity of 500, serves warm meals and breakfast all day long. Definitely stop here at least for a glass of wine – the view of the Vltava River and Prague Castle from the café's windows is one of the most beautiful in the city.



Café Imperial

Na Poříčí 15, Prague 1 – Nové Město Mon-Sun 7am-11pm +420 246 011 440 www.cafeimperial.cz











A high-end café owned by Czech television chef Zdeněk Pohlreich, Prague's answer to Gordon Ramsay. It features a richly gilded Art Deco interior and attentive waitstaff in uniforms. The hearty breakfast menu includes their famous Eggs Benedict. Head here for lunch or dinner if you'd like to experience the atmosphere of an old-fashioned Prague café that serves modern Czech cuisine.

Note: Reservations are a must.



Café Louvre

Národní 22, Prague 1 – Nové Město Mon-Fri 8am-11.3opm, Sat-Sun 9am-11.3opm +420 724 054 055, +420 224 930 949 www.cafelouvre.cz







A large Prague café with roots going back to the turn of the 20th century. Louvre was one of the traditional Czech cafés through whose doors passed many famous authors and artists. The café's current appearance is rooted in a long tradition. Louvre serves warm meals all day and is a favourite place for business meetings – it's often full even at breakfast and lunch. The locals come here in the evenings for a glass of wine.



Cafés Plus – Living Art and Culture

Prague cafés often function as active cultural centres. A wide spectrum of society, including students, the older generation, and artists, come to them for art, entertainment, and education. We present a small selection of the most interesting cafés – the embodiment of the bohemian energy and intellectual restlessness of contemporary Prague.

Café NONA

Národní 4, Prague 1 – Nové Město Mon-Fri gam-midnight, Sat-Sun 11am-midnight +420 775 755 147 www.cafenona.cz







This treat for fans of communist-era architecture is hidden away in the Brutalist Nová Scéna building of the National Theatre. Enter the glass shell of the building and head upstairs; their coffee is good and you can enjoy the view out onto bustling Národní Street. The clientele is made up primarily of students, intellectuals, and artists.



Café Neustadt

Karlovo nám. 1, Prague 2 – Nové Město Mon-Fri 8am-midnight, Sat 10am-midnight, Sun 10am-8pm +420 702 119 028 www.cafeneustadt.cz









A bohemian, timeless, lively café in the courtyard of the New Town Hall. In one location you'll find the juxtaposition of historical architecture, a varied cultural programme, and a modern café with premium coffee. If you plan a visit, be sure to time it to coincide with one of the concerts that are often held here. An ideal spot for coffee, a light lunch, or an evening glass of wine.





Kavárna co hledá jméno (Café Searching For A Name)

Stroupežnického 10, Prague 5 – Smíchov Mon-Fri 8am–10pm +420 775 466 330 www.kavarnacohledajmeno.cz





A popular project by young urban revivalists Lukáš Žďárský and Jakub Zajíc, who bring unique buildings and spaces back to life. Here in Smíchov, they've breathed new life into an old carpentry workshop, transforming it into a busy café, full practically from the day it opened. The space blends the worlds of premium coffee with art and architecture – here you'll also find a gallery and artists' atelier. The well-lit space of the former workshop and charming courtyard provide the perfect retreat from an otherwise very busy neighbourhood. Homemade sweets, soups, and premium-quality coffee from Czech roasters.

If you're interested in Žďárský and Zajíc's other projects, we recommend you visit their recently opened VNITROBLOCK (Facebook @vnitroblock), part of which is the SIGNATURE store and cafe (page 56) or the Radlická Kulturní Sportovna (kulturnisportovna.cz).



Bitcoin Coffee

Dělnická 43, Prague 7 – Holešovice Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat-Sun noon-9pm +420 725 538 249 www.paralelnipolis.cz





This unique project combines a café and coworking space where the only method of payment is Bitcoin virtual currency. There is an ATM for easy purchase of Bitcoins, and the staff will be happy to help you acquire your virtual currency. Bitcoin Coffee generally offers a selection of coffees from some of Berlin's most famous roasters. They make fantastic espresso, as well as filter coffee from single-origin beans. Don't let the unconventional payment method put you off – get your first virtually purchased coffee here!



Café Jedna

Dukelských Hrdinů 47 (Trade Fair Palace), Prague 7 – Holešovice Mon-Sun 9.30am-10pm +420 778 440 877 http://cafejedna.cz

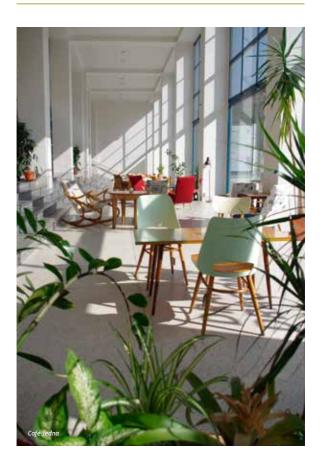








If you're tempted to visit the National Gallery's Trade Fair Palace in Prague (for fans of modern art, it's a must), visit Café Jedna, located at the same address. The spacious café is bright, with high ceilings, and is open all day. It also features its own programme of cultural events. In addition to Fair Trade and gourmet coffee, you'll also find a better-than-usual selection of teas from around the world.



Forbidden Spot

Bubenská 1, Prague 7 – Holešovice Mon-Fri 11.11am-8.20 +420 777 832 372 http://forbiddenspot.com







This unique modern art gallery, showroom for the Life is Porno brand, and bistro/café is located in a modernist office building from the 1930s. Where once over a thousand employees worked for the Prague Electric Company, today you'll find young artists and creatives from all over Prague and abroad. The bistro also features a Tasting Atelier with periodic culinary pop-ups.



Zenit Café

Krymská 24, Prague 10 – Vršovice Mon–Sun 4pm–1opm +420 267 314 903 http://zenitcafe.cz









This punky-looking spot is run by successful Czech author Petra Hůlová as a caféteria and internet café. We're in Vršovice, so expect a post-modern mix of contemporary alternative Berlin with a hint of the 1990s. In addition to an ongoing series of literary, music and art events, they serve breakfast and simple daily dishes at reasonable prices.



Café V lese (Café in the Forest)

Krymská 12, Prague 10 – Vršovice Mon-Sun 4pm-2am +420 731 413 964 www.cafevlese.cz







This café stood at the forefront of the current interest in the Prague neighbourhood of Vršovice – Krymská Street, in particular, has become the city's hotspot of independent culture. A rich cultural program and a 1970s retro interior attract a diverse daily clientele. The café also features a gallery and music club in the lower section. In addition to coffee, they offer beer, wine, and a wide selection of whiskies and rums.



SIGNATURE Store & Cafe (VNITROBLOCK)

Tusarova 31, Prague 7 - Holešovice Mon-Sat 11am-10pm, Sun 11am-7pm +420 777 505 266 Facebook: @signaturestoreprague







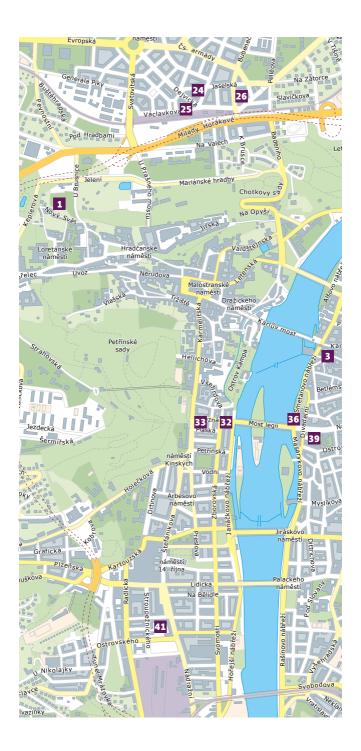


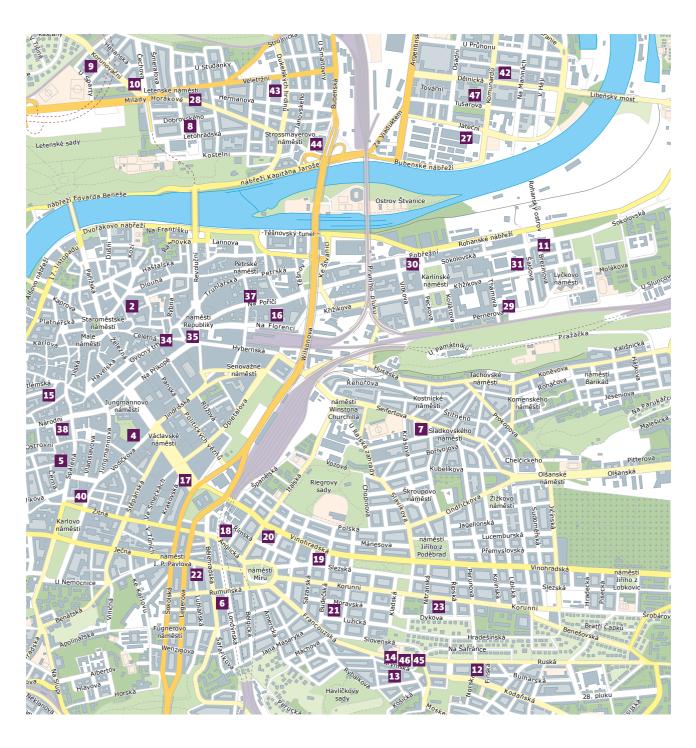
Holešovice has undergone an upswing in recent years and is turning into another artistic centre in Prague, with a number of unique projects in the works. Signature Store & Cafe is part of the larger Vnitroblock project, which has revived an old local industrial building. In one city block, you'll find fashion and design side by side with the Sector dance studio and the PidiKino. And of course good coffee. An ideal place if you'd like to experience the new artistic Prague up close.

Vnitroblock is the third project from the drawing boards of Lukáš Žďárský and Jakub Zajíc. We also recommend visiting Kavárna co hledá jméno (page 51) and Radlická kulturní sportovna (kulturnisportovna.cz).









60 Café Map and Directory

Directory

- 1. Kavárna Nový Svět, Nový Svět 2, Prague 1 Hradčany
- 2. Cathedral Cafe, Týnská 11, Prague 1 Staré Město
- 3. TriCafe, Anenská 3, Prague 1 Staré Město
- 4. Kavárna Styl & Interier, Vodičkova 35, Prague 1 Nové Město
- Super Tramp Coffee, Opatovická 18/ Spálená 15, Prague 1 – Nové Město
- 6. Mamacoffee Londýnská, Londýnská 49, Prague 2 Vinohrady
- 7. Café Pavlač, Víta Nejedlého 23, Prague 3 Žižkov
- 8. Café Letka, Letohradská 44, Prague 7 Holešovice
- 9. Cukrárna Alchymista, Jana Zajíce 7, Prague 7 Bubeneč
- 10. Kavárna Pod Lipami, Čechova 1, Prague 7 Bubeneč
- 11. Bistro Proti Proudu, Březinova 22, Prague 8 Karlín
- 12. Café Jen, Kodaňská 37, Prague 10 Vršovice
- 13. Café Sladkovský, Sevastopolská 17, Prague 10 Vršovice
- 14. Coffee House Prague, Francouzská 100, Prague 10 Vršovice
- 15. Original Coffee, Betlémská 12, Prague 1 Staré Město
- 16. EMA Espresso Bar, Na Florenci 3, Prague 1 Nové Město

- 17. Oliver's Coffee Cup, Václavské nám. 58, Prague 1 Nové Město
- 18. Double B, Anglická 15, Prague 2 Vinohrady
- 19. La Bohème Café, Sázavská 32, Prague 2 Vinohrady
- 20. Momoichi, Římská 35, Prague 2 Vinohrady
- 21. Monolok Cafe, Moravská 18, Prague 2 Vinohrady
- 22. Pražírna, Lublaňská 50, Prague 2 Vinohrady
- 23. Coffee Room, Korunní 74, Prague 10 Vinohrady
- 24. Café Záhorský, Eliášova 1, Prague 6 Dejvice
- 25. Kafemat, Dejvická 3, Prague 6 Dejvice
- 26. Místo, Bubenečská 12, Prague 6 Dejvice
- 27. Alza Café, Jateční 33a, Prague 7 Holešovice
- 21. Alza cale, Jatechi 33a, Flague 7 Hotesovice
- 28. Ye's Kafe, Letenské nám. 5, Prague 7 Holešovice
- 29. Eska, Pernerova 49, Prague 8 Karlín
- 30. Kafe Karlín, Sokolovská 51, Prague 8 Karlín
- 31. Můj šálek kávy, Křižíkova 105, Prague 8 Karlín
- 32. Café Savoy, Vítězná 5, Prague 5 Malá Strana 33. Café Lounge, Plaská 8, Prague 5 – Malá Strana



- 34. Grand Café Orient, Ovocný trh 19, Prague 1 Staré Město
- 35. Kavárna Obecní dům, nám. Republiky 5, Prague 1 Staré Město
- 36. Kavárna Slavia, Smetanovo nábřeží 2, Prague 1 Staré Město
- 37. Café Imperial, Na Poříčí 15, Prague 1 Nové Město
- 38. Café Louvre, Národní 22, Prague 1 Nové Město
- 39. Café NONA, Národní 4, Prague 1 Nové Město
- 40. Café Neustadt, Karlovo nám. 1, Prague 2 Nové Město
- 41. Kavárna co hledá jméno, Stroupežnického 10, Prague 5 Smíchov
- 42. Bitcoin Coffee, Dělnická 43, Prague 7 Holešovice
- 43. Café Jedna, Dukelských Hrdinů 47 (Trade Fair Palace), Prague 7 Holešovice
- 44. Forbidden Spot, Bubenská 1, Prague 7 Holešovice
- 45. Zenit Café, Krymská 24, Prague 10 Vršovice
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- Old Town Hall Staroměstské náměstí 1, Prague 1, open daily 9am–7pm

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