



Prague is renowned for its towers, winding streets and buildings from nearly every period of architecture – from Romanesque rotundas and Gothic cathedrals to Baroque and Renaissance palaces, to progressive and global award-winning modern architecture.

Our map offers a selection of the most interesting architectural sights in Prague.

Plan your route according to your mood and discover Prague today – beautiful, seductive, magical...

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TOP 10 Monuments

1 Prague Castle (Pražský hrad) – Prague 1, www.hrad.cz
Prague Castle has been an important symbol of the Czech state for over a millennium. It was founded in the 9th century and became the seat of Czech rulers and presidents. The castle complex, one of the largest in the world, is made up of historical palaces, offices, churches, fortifications, gardens and picturesque spots, such as the famous Golden Lane. The very sight of it is truly one of the most spectacular panoramas in the world.

2. The Cathedral of St. Vit, St. Wenceslas and St. Adalbert (Katedrála sv. Víta, Václava a Vojtěcha) – Prague Castle, 3rd courtyard, Prague 1, www.katedralasvatehovita.cz

This Gothic cathedral, the spiritual symbol of the Czech state, was founded in 1344 on the site of the original Romanesque rotunda. The construction took nearly 600 years and was finally completed in 1929. Its impressive interior is home to such wonders as the beautifully decorated St. Wenceslas Chapel with the tomb of St. Wenceslas, the underground tombs of Czech kings, and the Crown Jewels Chamber, where the Czech crown jewels are stored.

3 Charles Bridge and its Bridge Towers (Karlův most) – Prague 1, www.prague.eu

Construction on the oldest and most famous bridge in Prague began in 1357 by Charles IV. It was completed in 1402. The bridge is supported by fortified towers at either end – the smaller of the Lesser Quarter towers dates from the 12th century, and the higher tower is about 300 years later. The entrance gate to Charles Bridge from the Old Town, the most beautiful Gothic gateway in Europe, was completed before the year 1380. The bridge was decorated with 30 statues of saints between 1683 and 1928.

4 Old Town Hall and the Astronomical Clock (Staroměstská radnice s orlojem) – Staroměstské náměstí 1 (Old Town Square 1), Prague 1, www.staromestskaradnicepraha.cz

The Town Hall was established in 1338 as the seat of the Old Town administration. The oldest part of the complex consists of a beautiful Gothic tower with a bay chapel and the unique astronomical clock, where every hour between 9 am and 11 pm, 12 apostles appear. The Gothic revival eastern wing of the Town Hall was destroyed on May 8, 1945 and was never rebuilt.

5. St. Nicholas Church in Malá Strana (Kostel sv. Mikuláše) – Malostranské náměstí, Prague 1, www.stnicholas.cz

One of the most important buildings of Baroque Prague, with its dominant dome and belfry. The interior decoration of the church is an outstanding example of Baroque architecture. The dome has an impressive diameter of 20 m and an interior height of over 49 m – the highest interior in Prague – and its monumentality is enhanced by the ingenious play of light. During Mozart's stay in Prague, he played the organ here.

6. The Jewish Quarter and the Old-New Synagogue (Židovské Město se Staronovou synagogou), Prague 1, www.jewishmuseum.cz

Founded in the 13th century, its present appearance is due in large part to an extensive renovation from 1893 to 1913, during which it was possible to save only a few of the most important monuments from the centuries-long history of Prague Jews. Nevertheless, it is the best-preserved complex of Jewish monuments in Europe. The oldest surviving synagogue in Central Europe is the Old-New Synagogue dating from the 13th century.

7. Petřín Tower (Petřínská rozhledna) – Petřínské sady, Prague 1, www.muzeumprahy.cz

Petřín Tower, one of the most prominent landmarks of Prague, was built as part of the Jubilee Exhibition in 1891 as a free copy of the Eiffel Tower (at a ratio of 1:15). It is 63.5 meters high, and 299 steps lead to its peak, which is at the same altitude as the real Eiffel Tower. The view from it overlooks not only the whole city, but on a clear day you can see nearly the all of Bohemia.

8 Cathedral of Our Lady Before Týn (Chrám Matky Boží před Týnem) – Staroměstské náměstí (Old Town Square) 604/14, Prague 1, www.prague.eu

One of the most impressive Gothic religious buildings in Prague, built from the mid-14th century to the early 16th century. At the end of the 17th century, the interior was rebuilt in Baroque style. The cathedral is an extensive gallery of Gothic, Renaissance and early Baroque works; the most interesting of which are a giant altar by Karel Škréta and the tomb of astronomer Tycho Brahe, among others. The organ, dating from 1673, is the oldest in Prague.

9. Loreto (Loreta) – Loretánské náměstí 7, Prague 1, www.loreta.cz
A Marian pilgrimage site with a replica of the Holy House and the Church of the Nativity, surrounded by cloisters and chapels. In the tower is a carillon with 27 bells that play the Marian song "A Thousand Times We Greet Thee" (every hour from 9 am to 6 pm).

The Loreto Treasure houses a rare collection of liturgical objects from the 16th – 18th centuries, the most famous of which is the "Prague Sun", a monstrance encrusted with 6,222 diamonds.

10. Strahov Monastery (Strahovský klášter) – Strahovské nádvoří 1, Prague 1, www.strahovskyclauster.cz

This Premonstratensian monastery was founded in 1140. The complex includes the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (1743 – 1752); the rare Strahov Library with many medieval manuscripts, maps and globes; the Baroque Theological Hall (1671 – 1679); the neoclassical Philosophy Hall (1785 – 1794) decorated with frescoes; and Strahov Gallery, one of the most significant Central European collections of Gothic painting, Rudolfinian arts, and Baroque and Rococo paintings.

Other Prague Sights

11. Municipal House (Obecní dům) – náměstí Republiky 5, Prague 1 www.obecnidum.cz

This Art Nouveau building, built from 1905 – 1911, is an example of unprecedented artistic and craft skills and quality. Its rich exterior and interior decoration is the work of Alfons Mucha, Max Švabinský, J. Myslbek, and others. The stunning interior, with a plethora of charming lounges and halls, is dominated by the monumental Smetana Hall – venue for the Prague Spring international music festival, various concert series, and other major events.

12. Powder Tower (Prašná brána) – Na Příkopě, Prague 1, www.muzeumprahy.cz

One of the most significant monuments of late Gothic Prague, completed in 1475, is the monumental entrance to the Old Town, through which coronation processions of Czech kings entered the city. The Powder Tower, which formerly served as a gunpowder store, is still the starting point for the Coronation or Royal Route to Prague Castle.

13. Church of Our Lady Victorious (Infant Jesus of Prague) (Kostel Panny Marie Vítězné – Pražské Jezulátko) – Karmelitská 9, Prague 1, www.pragjesu.info

This early Baroque building, dating from 1611 and rebuilt between 1634 and 1669 by the Carmelite order, is famous for its statue of the Infant Jesus of Prague, originally from Spain and donated to the Carmelites by Polyxena of Lobkowitz in 1628.

14 National Theatre (Národní divadlo) – Národní 2, Prague 1, www.narodni-divadlo.cz

The National Theatre is the Czech Republic's representative stage, built with funds from a nationwide collection and first opened in 1881, and for the second time in 1883 after a devastating fire. The spectacular exterior and interior decoration, richly embellished with gold, consists of masterpieces of 19th century Czech painters – Aleš, Ženišek, Hynais, Myslbek, and others.

15. Clementinum (Klementinum) – Mariánské náměstí 5, Prague 1, www.klementinum.com

The extensive grounds of the Clementinum, one of the largest building complexes in Europe, was built from the mid-16th to the mid-18th century, originally as a Jesuit college. Of greatest interest here are the Astronomical Tower, where meteorological measurements have been recorded since 1775; the Mirror Chapel with its richly designed interior and mirrors, which have no equal in the Czech lands; and the Baroque library hall with beautiful frescos and historically valuable globes.

16 Rudolfinum – Aišovo nábřeží 12, Prague 1, www.ceskafilharmonie.cz

World-famous concert hall and home of the Czech Philharmonic, which performed here for the first time in 1896 under the baton of Antonín Dvořák. The neo-Renaissance building was constructed between 1876 and 1884. It originally housed a picture gallery, museum collections and a concert hall; from 1918–1938 and 1945–1946 it served as the National Assembly building. The main hall – Dvořák Hall – is the venue for exceptional concerts of classical music.

17. Bethlehem Chapel (Betlémská kaple) – Betlémské náměstí 255/4, Prague 1, www.prague.eu

The chapel was founded in 1391 for Czech sermons, and between 1402 to 1413, when Jan Hus preached here, it gained considerable popularity. The chapel gradually became the cradle of the reform movement, which later led to the Hussite wars. In 1661 the Jesuits converted it into a Catholic church and demolished it in 1786. From 1950 – 1952, a replica of the original form (architect J. Fragner) was built here, preserving its rare original features.

18. Emmaus Monastery – Na Slovanech (Kláster na Slovanech – Emmauz) – Vyšehradská 49, Prague 2, www.emauzy.cz

The Abbey Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Jerome and Slavic Saints was founded by Charles IV in 1347 and became a center of learning, art and Slavic literature. Murals depicting scenes from both parts of the Bible are a rarity in Europe and rank among the rarest relics of the Czech Gothic. During the bombing of Prague in 1945, the church was badly damaged and its roof was later replaced by a modern structure with towers of concrete and white with golden spires.

19. Týn Yard – Ungelt (Týnský dvůr – Ungelt) – between Týn, Štupartská and Malá Štupartská streets, Prague 1, www.prague.eu

One of the most important historical sites in Prague. This block of buildings, probably built in the 11th century, was originally a fortified merchant yard, where customs duties – ungelt – were collected, hence the name of the whole area. The most important building here is the Granovský Palace with its arcaded loggia, one of the best preserved Renaissance treasures of Prague.

20. Vyšehrad – V Pevnosti 5b, Prague 2, www.praha-vysehrad.cz
According to ancient legends, Vyšehrad is oldest seat of Czech princes – in fact, the local settlement was established in the mid-10th century. The rocky promontory overlooking the Vltava River offers unique views of the city, and the park area is

home to hidden architectural treasures including the rare Romanesque rotunda of St. Martin; the neo-Gothic church of Sts. Peter and Paul, built on medieval foundations; the national cemetery, where Antonín Dvořák and other notable personalities were laid to rest; and underground casemates housing the originals of some Baroque statues from the Charles Bridge.

21 Church of the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord (Kostel Nejsvětějšího Srdce Páně) – náměstí Jiřího z Poděbrad, Prague 3, www.srdcepane.cz

The church is the most significant Czech sacral building of the 20th century. This distinctive modern building inspired by old Christian designs is the work of the famous Slovenian architect Josip Plečnik and was built from 1928 – 1932. The original design by Plečnik features a particularly wide, 42 m high bell tower in southern European style, which is topped with a 3 m copper sphere with a 4 m high cross, and a church interior evocative of Noah's ark.

22. Müller (Loos) Villa – Nad Hradním vodojemem 16/642, Prague 6, www.muzeumprahy.cz

The Müller family villa in Prague (1928 – 1930) is a masterpiece of world architectural avantgarde. It is a rare example of agreement between an enlightened client and a genius architect. František Müller was a prominent member of Czech society, and Adolf Loos, one of the greatest architects of the time, leapt at the chance to enter the competition to design Müller's representative residence. Outwardly, the building appears strictly functionalist; of primary interest is its internal layout, the so-called Rauplan.

23. Veletřzní Palace (Veletřzní palác) – Dukelských hrdinů 47, Prague 77, www.ngprague.cz

At the time of its construction (completed in 1928), Veletřzní Palace was the largest building of its kind in the world and the first functionalist building in Prague. Today it occupied by the National Gallery, where it displays a unique collection of Czech and international modern and contemporary art including, for example, an extremely valuable collection of French and European art, including unique works by such illustrious names as Pablo Picasso, Georges Braque, Auguste Renoir, Vincent van Gogh, Gustav Klimt and many more.

24. Břevnov Monastery (Břevnovský klášter) – Markétská 1/28, Prague 6, www.brevnov.cz

The monastery was founded in 993. The monastery as it appears today dates from the years 1708 – 1745 (builder Dietzenhofer) and is a magnum opus of the Baroque. Open for viewing are the magnificent Baroque Basilica of St. Margaret, the 11th century Romanesque crypt, and the Baroque prelatore with its Teresian Hall. Closely connected with the history of Břevnov Monastery is a brewery, mentioned as early as the 13th century and whose production can still be tasted in the monastery today.

Modern Architecture

25 The Dancing Building (Tančíci dům) – Jiráskovo náměstí 6 / Rašínovo nábřeží 80, Prague 2, www.tancici-dum.cz

This pillar of modern architecture in Prague "danced" onto the Rašín Embankment in 1996. The project comes from the drawing board of world-renowned architects Vlado Milunić and Frank O. Gehry. The building's concept was inspired by the dance skills of the famous film couple – the stone tower symbolizes Fred Astaire and the glass tower, his partner Ginger Rogers.

26. Žižkov Television Tower (Žižkovská televizní věž) – Mahlerovy sady 1, Prague 3, www.towerpark.cz

Unquestionably the main landmark of the Žižkov district – at 216 m in height, it's the tallest building in the city. With a 360° view, Prague is laid out before your eyes. The tower was designed during the 1980s. Ten giant sculptures of babies by leading Czech artist David Černý crawl all over the outside of the tower.

27. New Scene (Nová scéna) – Národní 4, Prague 1, www.novascena.cz

This modern theater building from the 1980s is still one of the most talked-about buildings in Prague. Its characteristic form constructed from more than four thousand blown glass blocks, drastically changed the neo-Renaissance appearance of the street. It's part of the National Theatre and the home of the Laterna Magica.

28. The new building of the National Museum (Nová budova Národního muzea) – Vinohradská 1, Prague 1, www.nm.cz

This former home of the Federal Assembly and Radio Free Europe is exceptional primarily for its unique superstructure – it's made from Vierendeel trusses, named after the Belgian engineer Arthur Vierendeel. The authors of the original building are architects Karel Praeger, Jiří Kadeřábek and Jiří Albrecht.

29. Golden Angel (Zlatý Anděl) – Plzeňská / Nádražní streets, Prague 5, www.zlatyandel.cz

This administrative and commercial complex, completed in 2000, was designed by award-winning French architect Jean Nouvel. Four separate, functionally independent office buildings have stamped Prague's Smíchov district with the hallmark of a lively, modern district. From the front facade, an angel, inspired by Wim Wenders' Wings of Desire, gazes down on passersby.

30. National Technical Library (Národní technická knihovna) – Technická 6, Prague 6, www.techlib.cz

The largest library of technical literature in the Czech Republic, with a rounded square footprint measuring 70 x 70 meters, holds an admirable 1.7 million volumes. The interior is dominated by a large atrium that is notable for its plain exposed concrete surfaces.

31. Danube House – Karolinská 1, Prague 8, www.danube.cz
Prague's Karlin district is one of the city's fastest growing urban areas. Danube House is the first building in the emerging River City neighborhood. The building, with its triangular footprint, resembles a giant ship; also of special note is its monumental glass atrium. The design for the project came from the American studio Kohn Pedersen Fox.

32 Mainpoint Karlin – Pobřežní 21, Prague 8, www.mainpointkarlin.cz

Voted the Best Office Building in the World in 2011 by the prestigious real estate MIPIM Awards competition – and thus could be summed up this unique building "with personality". The architects DaM from the outset placed an emphasis on environmentally-friendly construction – one resourceful idea is cooling the building by with a from the nearby Vltava River.

33 Florentinum – Na Florenci 15, Prague 1, www.florentinum.cz

This large administrative "palace" from Cigler Marani Architects is conceived as a timeless structure. In an area of over 49,000 m², you can find dozens of shops, a fountain that shows the actual time in the form of fountains, as well as the newly renovated Desfourská Garden inviting you to stop and take a rest.

Prague Gardens

34. Prague Castle Gardens (Zahrady Pražského hradu) – Prague Castle, Prague 1, www.hrad.cz

The Royal Garden is historically the most valuable of all the castle gardens. Established in 1534 by Ferdinand I. Habsburg and inspired by Italian designs, its current form is the result of its adaptation in the mid-19th century to an English-style garden. The southern gardens (Rajská, Na Valech and Hartigovská) stretch along the south face of Prague Castle. From these gardens you get a picturesque view of the Lesser Quarter, the Old Town and nearby Petřín.

35. Palace Gardens under Prague Castle (Palácové zahrady pod Pražským hradem) – Valdštejnská 12–14, Prague 1, www.palacove-zahrady.cz

On the southern slopes below Prague Castle is situated a complex of interconnected historical gardens (Ledeburská, Malá and Velká Palffy, Kolovratská and Malá Fürstenberská). You can admire balustraded terraces adorned with sculptures, secret staircases and passages, numerous fountains, and impressive Baroque flowerbeds.

36 Wallenstein Garden (Valdštejnská zahrada) – Letenská Street, Prague 1, www.senat.cz

This strictly geometrically designed early Baroque garden was created in parallel with the construction of the Wallenstein Palace from 1623 to 1629. Upon entering, your gaze will immediately be drawn to the colossal sala terrena, which at one time had no comparison, and an artificial cave with stalactites. While walking through the garden, you might also come across peacocks who live freely here.

37. Vrtbovská Garden (Vrtbovská zahrada) – Karmelitská 25, Prague 1, www.vrtbovska.cz

One of the most important and most beautiful Baroque gardens created thanks to the ingenuity of Franz Maximilian Kaňka. The area, situated on an irregular slope that would normally house a smaller garden, the originality of the architectural solution, and the artistic and historical value of the decoration come together to create a space that ranks easily among the best in Europe.

38. Petřín Hill (Petřínské sady) – Malá Strana, Prague 1, www.prague.eu

Petřín Hill is one of the largest green areas in the city and its slopes are an oasis of calm in the center of Prague. The Rose Garden, or rosarium, on the upper slopes of Petřín, the Kinský Garden and the Seminary Garden with more than 2,100 fruit trees are particularly magical. When exploring picturesque spots on Petřín Hill, be sure to visit the local architectural rarity – a Carpathian wooden chapel of the Archangel Michael.

Practical information

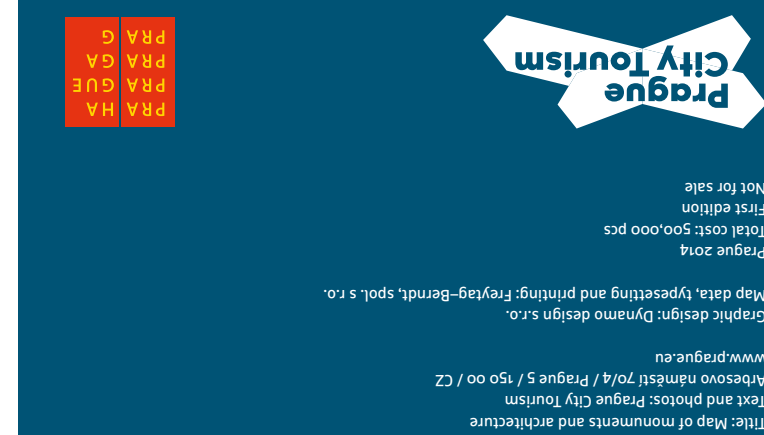
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- TIC Malostranská mostecká věž** (Little Quarter Bridge Tower) – Mostecká ul., Prague 1, open only in the summer (April – October) daily 10:00 – 18:00
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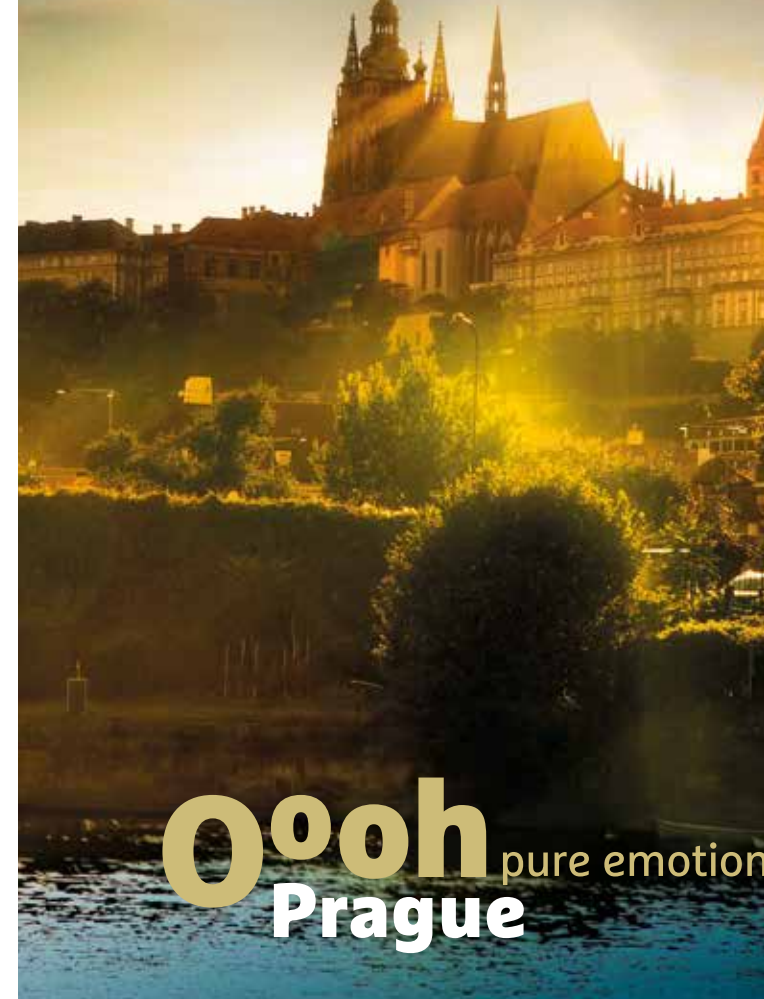
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MAP

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Prague through the centuries



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