



48 HOURS IN

Prague

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Welcome to Prague

Forty-eight hours is enough time to understand why this city has drawn travelers for centuries — if you know where to go. This guide gives you a precise, hour-by-hour plan built around how Prague actually works: the castle that defines the skyline, the bridge that connects the city's two historic halves, and the Old Town streets that reward those who simply walk.

Prague is a city best experienced on foot, moving between districts and viewpoints rather than rushing between isolated landmarks. This guide is designed to make sure you do exactly that.

How to Use This Guide

- Read through once before you land — get the shape of both days in mind.
- Screenshot the daily pages for offline use. No data charges on the day.
- Follow Day 1's sequence closely. The route is designed to eliminate backtracking.
- Give yourself permission to slow down. Prague rewards those who linger.
- Expect hills and cobblestones. Good footwear makes a difference.

Essential Quick Facts

Currency	Czech koruna (CZK). Cards are widely accepted, but smaller cafes and shops may prefer cash.
Transport	Prague Integrated Transport (PID) covers trams, metro, and buses. 30-min ticket: 30 CZK · 90-min ticket: 40 CZK · 24-hour pass: 120 CZK · 72-hour pass: 330 CZK. Tickets must be validated at the start of your journey.
Airport	Bus 59 connects Václav Havel Airport to Nádraží Veleslavín (Metro A). Airport Express (AE) runs to the main railway station with a separate ticket.
Walking	The historic center is compact but cobbled. Most major sites are within 20–25 minutes on foot.
Weather	Changeable year-round. Pack a light waterproof regardless of forecast.
Time Zone	CET (UTC+1) in winter, CEST (UTC+2) in summer.
Emergency	112 for all emergencies. 158 for police. 155 for ambulance.
Tipping	Round up or leave 5–10%. Service is not automatically added.
Language	Czech, but English is widely spoken in central areas.

Day One

Prague Castle · Malá Strana · Charles Bridge · Old Town · Josefov

Begin where Prague reveals its structure most clearly. The castle sits above the city, not as a backdrop but as its defining anchor. Start here early, then work your way downhill through Malá Strana, across Charles Bridge, and into the Old Town before finishing in the Jewish Quarter. This route follows the natural geography of Prague, keeps the day cohesive, and avoids unnecessary backtracking through crowded areas later on.

MORNING 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

9:00 AM Prague Castle

Prague Castle (Pražský hrad) is the largest ancient castle complex in the world and has served as the seat of Czech rulers for over a thousand years. The castle grounds open from early morning (typically 6:00 AM), while the main historical buildings — including St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, and St. George's Basilica — open at 9:00 AM. Begin at opening and move directly toward St. Vitus Cathedral before the courtyards fill with tour groups. The cathedral is the architectural centerpiece of the complex, with Gothic vaulting, stained glass (including the Mucha window), and royal tombs. Allow around 90 minutes for the main circuit without rushing.

Insider tip: Purchase the main visitor circuit ticket (commonly Circuit B). Tickets are valid for two consecutive days, which removes pressure to see everything at once. The first hour after opening is consistently the quietest time to visit.

11:30 AM Malá Strana

Descend from the castle into Malá Strana (Lesser Town), one of the most intact Baroque districts in Central Europe. This area sits directly below the castle and is best explored on foot without a fixed route. St. Nicholas Church is one of Prague's most significant Baroque buildings, known for its dome and interior frescoes. Continue toward Kampa Island, a quieter riverside pocket separated by the Čertovka canal, before moving naturally toward the bridge. Allow 60–75 minutes to walk through at a relaxed pace.

Insider tip: Take Nerudova Street on the way down from the castle — it is the most direct historical route linking Hradčany to Malá Strana and is lined with traditional house signs dating back to the period before street numbering.

AFTERNOON 1:00 PM - 5:30 PM

1:00 PM Lunch

Pause for lunch in Malá Strana or just across the river toward the Old Town. Prague's historic cafe culture is part of the city's identity, with long-standing institutions that have hosted writers, artists, and intellectuals for decades. Options such as Café Savoy or Café Louvre offer a traditional setting without disrupting the flow of the itinerary. Allow around 45–60 minutes before continuing.

Insider tip: Lunch service in central Prague is generally continuous, but peak times (12:30–2:00 PM) can be busy. If you prefer a quieter experience, eat slightly earlier or later.

2:30 PM Charles Bridge

Cross Charles Bridge (Karlův most), Prague's most recognisable landmark, constructed in the 14th and early 15th centuries under Charles IV. The bridge connects Malá Strana with the Old Town and is lined with 30 Baroque statues added primarily in the 17th and 18th centuries. Expect crowds at almost any time of day — this is unavoidable — but crossing it now maintains the natural flow of the route. Treat the bridge as a transition rather than a stop.

Insider tip: If you want to experience the bridge with fewer people, return early the next morning (before 8:00 AM) or later in the evening. Midday and afternoon are consistently the busiest periods.

3:30 PM Old Town Square

Continue into Old Town Square (Staroměstské náměstí), Prague's historic commercial and civic center since the medieval period. The square is dominated by the Old Town Hall and the Astronomical Clock (Orloj), first installed in 1410 and still operating. The hourly procession of figures runs from approximately 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM. Time your arrival just before the hour if you want to see it in action, then consider going up the tower for an elevated view over the Old Town rooftops.

Insider tip: The Old Town Hall tower provides one of the most accessible panoramic views in central Prague without requiring a long climb. Late afternoon offers softer light and clearer visibility than midday.

5:00 PM Josefov (Jewish Quarter)

Move into Josefov, Prague's historic Jewish Quarter, one of the most important preserved Jewish heritage sites in Europe. The Jewish Museum in Prague consists of several key locations, including the Pinkas Synagogue, Spanish Synagogue, Maisel Synagogue, and the Old Jewish Cemetery. The Pinkas Synagogue serves as a memorial to Holocaust victims, with names inscribed across its interior walls. Allow around 90 minutes to visit the main sites.

Insider tip: The Jewish Museum sites are closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays. A single ticket covers multiple buildings, and opening hours vary slightly by season — check the official schedule shortly before your visit.

EVENING 7:30 PM - LATE

7:30 PM Old Town & Riverfront at Dusk

End the day in the Old Town or along the Vltava River. Prague shifts noticeably in the evening — crowds thin, buildings are illuminated, and the skyline becomes more defined. Walk toward the river for views of Prague Castle lit above the city, or stay within the Old Town for dinner and a slower pace. This is when Prague feels most atmospheric.

Insider tip: The stretch along the Vltava near Smetana Embankment offers one of the clearest evening views of both Prague Castle and Charles Bridge together. It is an easy extension from Old Town and requires no transport.

Day Two

Petřín Hill · Letná Park · New Town · Vyšehrad · Riverfront

The Prague that belongs to the people who live here: time above the city, time in its parks, and time beyond the medieval core. Day 2 shifts the experience from major landmarks to perspective — how Prague is laid out, how it moves, and how it feels once you step slightly outside the most concentrated historic areas. This is where the city becomes easier to read.

MORNING 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

9:00 AM Petřín Hill & a Proper Start

Begin Day 2 at Petřín Hill, one of Prague's most important green spaces and a key viewpoint over the historic center. The hill is accessible on foot via a network of paths, and while the Petřín funicular remains out of service during its current reconstruction (with reopening expected in 2026), the walk itself is straightforward. The Petřín Lookout Tower, built in 1891 and standing 58.7 meters high, offers additional elevation, but the surrounding slopes already provide wide views across the Vltava River and the city beyond. Allow 60–90 minutes.

Insider tip: You do not need to climb the tower to appreciate the view — the open hillside already gives a full panorama. Early morning offers the clearest conditions and the fewest visitors.

10:30 AM Letná Park

Continue toward Letná Park (Letenské sady), a large public park on a plateau above the river. From the viewpoint near the Hanavský Pavilion, the Vltava and several of Prague's bridges align in sequence, creating one of the city's most recognizable views. This is also a lived-in space — used daily by residents for walking, cycling, and meeting. Allow around 60–75 minutes to walk through and take in the view.

Insider tip: Visibility is generally better later in the morning once haze lifts. The Letná Beer Garden (seasonal) sits near the viewpoint and is one of the most relaxed places in the city to stop briefly.

AFTERNOON 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

1:00 PM Lunch & New Town

Head into New Town (Nové Město), the district established in 1348 under Charles IV. Unlike the medieval Old Town, this area is defined by broader streets and a more modern rhythm. Wenceslas Square (Václavské náměstí) forms its central axis and remains one of Prague's main commercial and historical spaces. Lunch options here are varied and generally less constrained than in the Old Town. Allow around 60 minutes.

Insider tip: Move one or two streets away from Wenceslas Square for a quieter and more local atmosphere. The difference in pace is immediate.

2:30 PM Vyšehrad

Continue to Vyšehrad, a historic fortified complex located south of the city center on a rocky outcrop above the Vltava River. The site is associated with early Czech history and includes the Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul, the Rotunda of St. Martin (one of the oldest preserved buildings in Prague), and the Vyšehrad Cemetery, where many notable Czech figures are buried. The

surrounding walls and park areas offer open views over the river and city. Allow around 90 minutes to explore.

Insider tip: The grounds of Vyšehrad are freely accessible, making it one of the best alternatives to more crowded central viewpoints. Late afternoon provides the most atmospheric light.

4:30 PM Riverfront Walk

Return toward the river and follow one of the main embankments, such as Náplavka or Smetana Embankment. These areas are active throughout the day and into the evening, with river views, open space, and regular local activity. This stretch offers a clear line of sight back toward Prague Castle and the historic skyline. Allow around 60-90 minutes depending on pace.

EVENING 7:00 PM - LATE

7:00 PM Dinner & Final Evening

End your time in Prague without rushing to another attraction. The city's atmosphere shifts in the evening — lighting defines the skyline, and movement slows across the center. Stay near the river or return to the Old Town depending on preference, and allow time to walk rather than follow a fixed plan. This is where Prague settles into its most recognizable form.

Insider tip: The riverfront near Smetana Embankment provides one of the clearest evening views of Prague Castle and the surrounding skyline. No ticket or reservation is required — simply walk and take it in.

Where to Eat

The no-obvious-tourist-trap food guide — organized by meal type. Prices per person, excluding drinks. Prague's strongest food experiences range from historic cafes and beer halls to modern Czech kitchens and specialty coffee.

Breakfast & Coffee

NAME	PRICE (CZK)	AREA	DESCRIPTION
Café Savoy	200-450	Malá Strana	Grand historic cafe. Czech pastries, full breakfast menu, high ceilings.
Café Louvre	180-400	New Town	Open since 1902. Classic cafe setting with reliable breakfast and coffee.
EMA Espresso Bar	90-220	New Town	High-quality specialty coffee. Fast, efficient, always busy.
Můj šálek kávy	120-300	Karlín	One of Prague's leading coffee spots. Strong brunch and coffee culture.
Eska	150-350	Karlín	Bakery and cafe. Bread, pastries, and modern breakfast options.

Lunch

NAME	PRICE (CZK)	AREA	DESCRIPTION
Lokál Dlouhááá	180-350	Old Town	Traditional Czech food. Fresh tank Pilsner. Fast-moving, efficient.
Kantýna	250-500	New Town	Butcher-style dining. Choose meats and sides directly at the counter.
Naše maso	150-350	Old Town	Butcher shop with hot food. Burgers, sausages, steak tartare.
Café Savoy	220-450	Malá Strana	Full sit-down lunch option. Czech and European dishes.
Café Louvre	200-400	New Town	Central, reliable, good for a longer lunch break.

Dinner

NAME	PRICE (CZK)	AREA	DESCRIPTION
La Degustation	3,000+	Old Town	Michelin-starred. Modern Czech tasting menu.
Field	3,000+	Old Town	Michelin-starred. Seasonal, ingredient-led cuisine.
Eska	300-700	Karlín	Modern Czech cooking. Bakery-driven menu.
U Kroka	300-650	Vyšehrad	Traditional Czech restaurant. Consistently reliable.
Mincovna	300-700	Old Town	Czech classics in a central, practical location.

Beer Halls & Late Night

NAME	PRICE (CZK)	AREA	DESCRIPTION
Lokál Dlouhááá	180-350	Old Town	Classic Czech beer hall. Fresh Pilsner, traditional dishes.
U Fleků	300-600	New Town	Historic brewery (1499). Known for dark lager.
Pivovar Národní	250-550	New Town	Central brewpub with its own Czech beer.
Vinohradský pivovar	250-550	Vinohrady	Local brewery in a residential district. Full food menu.

Navigating Prague

Metro, Trams & Getting Around

The PID Transport System

Prague's public transport — metro, trams, buses, trolleybuses, and ferries — operates under Prague Integrated Transport (PID). Short-term tickets allow unlimited transfers between all transport modes within their validity, while 24-hour and 72-hour passes are the most practical options for a short visit. Tickets must be validated at the start of your journey and are valid across the entire network except for the Airport Express (AE) bus, which requires a separate fare.

The Metro & Tram Network

Prague's transport system is built around three metro lines (A, B, and C), supported by one of the most extensive tram networks in Europe. The metro is the fastest way to cover longer distances, while trams are the most useful way to move through the historic center, where underground access is limited.

Trams run frequently throughout the day and connect key areas including Malá Strana, Old Town, New Town, Letná, and the riverside districts. In practice, most journeys within central Prague are easiest by tram or on foot rather than by metro.

Routes You Will Actually Use

ROUTE	DESCRIPTION
Metro Line A	Airport connection via Nádraží Veveslavín → Old Town → Malá Strana
Metro Line B	New Town → Anděl → Smíchov area
Metro Line C	Main railway station → central connections
Tram 22	One of the most useful routes for visitors. Connects to Prague Castle.
Tram 9 / 17	Cross-city routes linking major central districts and river areas
Tram 12 / 15	Useful for Old Town, Letná, and riverside movement
Airport Route	Trolleybus 59 → Nádraží Veveslavín → Metro A

Practical Transport Tips

- Avoid peak hours where possible: roughly weekday mornings and late afternoon. Trams and metro lines become noticeably busier.
- Use contactless payment or ticket machines at metro stations and major stops. Digital tickets through the official PID Lítačka app are widely used.
- Validate paper tickets immediately when boarding — inspections are frequent and fines apply for invalid tickets.
- Walking distances: Prague Castle to Old Town is around 20–25 minutes on foot (downhill). Old Town to Wenceslas Square is around 10–15 minutes.

- The metro does not reach the airport. All public transport routes require a bus or trolleybus connection before transferring to the metro.

Backup Plans

The Rainy Day Plan — Prague handles bad weather well. Its historic interiors, museums, and cafe culture mean that a change in weather rarely disrupts the experience. The city's compact layout also allows you to adjust your route without losing time.

Prague Castle Interiors

If conditions limit time outdoors, focus on the interior spaces within Prague Castle. St. Vitus Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, and St. George's Basilica form the core of the visitor circuit and are all located within the same complex. Moving between buildings requires only short outdoor transitions, making this one of the most efficient bad-weather options in the city. Allow a full morning if you choose to explore the main circuit in detail.

Jewish Museum in Prague

The Jewish Museum in Prague consists of several sites within Josefov, including the Pinkas Synagogue, Spanish Synagogue, Maisel Synagogue, and the Old Jewish Cemetery. Much of the experience is indoors, with the Pinkas Synagogue serving as a memorial space. Allow around two hours to visit the main locations. The museum sites are closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays.

National Museum

Located at the top of Wenceslas Square, the National Museum is one of Prague's largest museum institutions, offering extensive indoor exhibitions covering natural history, science, and Czech history. The main building has been fully restored in recent years. Allow 1.5-2 hours.

The Clementinum

The Clementinum complex near the Old Town includes the Baroque Library Hall and the Astronomical Tower. Visits are organized through timed guided entry, making it a controlled indoor activity that fits well into a revised schedule. The interiors are among the most distinctive in Prague.

A Prague Café Morning

Prague's historic cafes function much like Vienna's coffee houses — spaces intended for extended stays rather than quick stops. Locations such as Café Savoy and Café Louvre provide a comfortable alternative to outdoor sightseeing, allowing you to slow the pace without losing the character of the day.

Queue-Beating Strategies

- Book in advance: Prague Castle interiors and the Jewish Museum operate on ticketed entry systems. Booking ahead reduces waiting time.
- Arrive early: Major sites are consistently quieter close to opening. Late morning and early afternoon bring the highest visitor numbers.
- Visit midweek: Tuesday through Thursday generally see fewer visitors than weekends.
- Plan around closures: The Jewish Museum sites are closed on Saturdays and Jewish holidays. Always check opening times shortly before your visit.

Know Your Neighborhoods

Prague's neighborhoods are structured around the Vltava River and a compact historic core. The city is small but layered, with each district reflecting a different period of development. Here are the eight that matter most for your 48 hours.

CATEGORY	NEIGHBORHOOD	DESCRIPTION
Historic Heart	Old Town (Staré Město)	The medieval center of Prague, anchored by Old Town Square and the Astronomical Clock. The city's historic and geographic core, with dense streets, major landmarks, and the highest concentration of visitors.
Castle District	Hradčany	The area surrounding Prague Castle, including St. Vitus Cathedral. Elevated above the city, it defines Prague's skyline and offers some of its most important viewpoints.
Lesser Town	Malá Strana	Located below the castle on the west bank of the Vltava. Characterized by Baroque architecture, narrow streets, and direct access to Charles Bridge.
Jewish Quarter	Josefov	A historically significant area within and adjacent to Old Town. Includes the Jewish Museum sites, synagogues, and the Old Jewish Cemetery.
New Town	Nové Město	Founded in 1348, New Town expands beyond the medieval core with wider streets and a more modern layout. Includes Wenceslas Square.
Riverfront	Embankments	The areas along the Vltava provide open space, river access, and clear views of the skyline. Active throughout the day and into the evening.
Residential	Karlín	A revitalized district just outside the historic center, known for cafes, restaurants, and a more residential atmosphere.
Parks & Views	Letná & Vyšehrad	Two elevated areas that provide the best views over Prague. Letná sits north, Vyšehrad to the south — both quieter than the historic core.

The Prague Castle & Viewpoint Strategy

Prague is structured around elevation as much as location. The castle sits above the city, the river defines its center, and a series of viewpoints provide orientation that is not visible at street level. Understanding this relationship early changes how the city is navigated and experienced over a short visit.

Prague Castle as the Reference Point

Prague Castle is positioned on an elevated ridge above the Vltava River and acts as the primary visual reference across the city. From within the castle grounds, the view extends across Malá Strana, the river, and into the Old Town, making it the clearest place to understand Prague's layout.

This is why Day 1 begins here. Starting at elevation and moving downward aligns with the city's geography and avoids unnecessary backtracking through the historic center later in the day.

Pre-Viewpoint Strategy (Recommended)

Begin at Prague Castle and use the morning to establish orientation. From there, descend through Malá Strana, cross the river via Charles Bridge, and continue into the Old Town. This sequence follows the natural slope of the city and keeps movement efficient.

Post-Viewpoint Strategy

Return to elevation on Day 2. Locations such as Petřín Hill, Letná Park, and Vyšehrad provide different angles across the same central structure — river, bridges, and the castle. Revisiting the skyline from multiple positions reinforces how the city is arranged and improves navigation for the remainder of your stay.

Understanding the Viewpoints

- Petřín Hill — a large park on the west side of the river, offering wide views across the historic center. The Petřín Lookout Tower (1891) adds elevation, though the surrounding slopes already provide a clear panorama.
- Letná Park — located north of the Old Town on a plateau above the river. Known for its view of multiple bridges aligned along the Vltava, including Charles Bridge.
- Vyšehrad — a historic fortified area south of the center, positioned above the river with open views and fewer visitors than central locations.
- River embankments — Smetana Embankment and Náplavka — provide ground-level views that connect visually with the elevated points.

Timing & Visibility

Morning

Clearer visibility and lower visitor numbers

Afternoon	Stronger contrast across the skyline
Evening	Illuminated landmarks and reduced crowd density

What Nobody Tells You About Prague

Trams are often more useful than the metro

Prague's metro is efficient for longer distances, but trams are more practical within the historic center. Many key areas — including Malá Strana, Old Town, and the riverfront — are better connected at street level.

The Old Town gets crowded quickly

The historic center is compact and heavily visited. Areas around Old Town Square and Charles Bridge are busiest from late morning through the afternoon. Early morning and evening are noticeably quieter.

Prague is built on hills

The city is structured around elevation rather than flat streets. Routes involving Prague Castle, Petřín Hill, Letná, and Vyšehrad include uphill walking. Distances can feel longer than they appear on a map.

Cards are widely accepted, but cash is still useful

Contactless payment is common, but smaller businesses and quick purchases may still require cash. Carrying a small amount of Czech koruna is practical.

Beer is part of everyday dining

Beer is commonly served alongside meals, not only in the evening. Traditional beer halls function as standard restaurants, and service tends to be direct and efficient.

Tipping is expected but modest

Service is not automatically included. Rounding up or leaving approximately 5-10% is typical in restaurants. Tips are usually given directly when paying.

The city becomes easier to navigate in the evening

Crowds reduce after sunset, and major landmarks are illuminated. Walking routes that feel congested during the day are significantly more manageable later.

Use ATMs carefully

Currency exchange conditions vary, especially in central areas. Use ATMs from established banks and avoid standalone exchange points with unclear rates.

Prague awaits.

You have the plan. You have the castle, the river crossings, the viewpoints, the Old Town streets, the cafes, and the route that connects it all.

All that remains is to go.

Before You Leave: Final Checklist

- Screenshot Day 1 and Day 2 schedules for offline use
- Pre-book Prague Castle entry if visiting interior buildings
- Check Jewish Museum opening days (closed Saturdays and Jewish holidays)
- Download Prague offline maps (Google Maps → Offline Maps)
- Purchase a short-term public transport ticket if needed (PID system)
- Confirm airport transfer route (public transport or Airport Express)
- Wear comfortable footwear — cobblestones and elevation changes are constant
- Carry a small amount of Czech koruna for smaller purchases
- Check local weather conditions before departure

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EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE MAP

Every stop in this guide, mapped and filterable

HOW TO ACCESS

Scan the QR code with your phone camera to open the full interactive map — no app required.

All stops colour-coded by Day 1, Day 2, Food, Rainy Day & Transport.

Filter, tap any pin for details and insider tips.



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