# 13 - Prague

Prague is the biggest an **oldest city** in the CR. It is the **capital city** of our country and also seat of the president, parliament and government. In the present, there lives about 1, 5 million people. It is also economic and cultural centre of the country.

The oldes parts are the Old Town, The Lesser Town (malé město), The New Town, Josefov, Hradčany and Vyšehrad.

## History

First **Slavs** (Slované) began to settle in the place where the Prague is, **in the 6th** century. According to the **Legend**, there was a princess **Libuše** who married for a man **Přemysl**. And that is how the first dynasty began. One day, she had o **seeing**. *She saw great city, whose glory touches the stars. She also saw, that this city is in the middle of the forest and that there is Vltava by it. She also saw a* ***threshold*** *of same house and she predicts that there will be castle named* ***Praha****.* This name was chosen because of that threshold, because it means práh in Czech language.

### Romanesque

So that was a legend. First official ruler was **Bořivoj** **Přemyslovec**, who was **baptised** (pokřtěn) by Metoděj. It was in the 9th century. In that time, seat of the ruler was in **Levý** **Hradec** but Bořivoj decided to move to Prague castle. So since that time, Prague castle become seat of Bohemia ruler. For now, it is the seat of the **Czech president**.

By the early **10th century**, the area around **Prague** **Castle** had developed into an **important** **trading** **centre**, where were merchants from whole Europe. There was also build another castle next to the river. It is called **Vyšehrad** and it was used as temporary seat instead of Prague Castle.

In **12th century**, Bohemia becomes a **kingdom** thanks to Přemysl Otakar I. When **Přemysl Otakar II** become a leader of Bohemia, there was a great times. He was called the king of iron and gold. Prague was much increased during his rule. The settles around the Prague castle become **part of Prague** and it gets privileges of the town. It was parts such us Malá Strana, Hradčany, Staré Město

### Renaissance

By the rule of **Karel IV**, there were build a lot of structures. For example he builds first university in Prague, which was called **Charles University**. One of most famous structures, build by him, is Charles bridge, which was build on place, where was the first bridge across the Vltava. It was the **Judith** **Bridge**. Another construction he builds was **St. Vitus' Cathedral** and lot of churches too.

During the reign of **Václav IV** in the **13th** and early **14th** century, there was a university lector **Master Jan Hus** who improves Czech language. He extends it of **diacritics** for example. Because of his teaching, he was **burned** **in** **Kostnice** in 1415. Few years later began **Hussites** **War** followed by defenestration. Václav IV was killed. Then **Sigismund**, who wanted Czech crown (and in the past he **invated** **Jan** **Hus** to Kostnice and promise him immunity) came to Bohemia with **30** **000** **cruasaders**. But he was defeded by **Jan** **Žižka** and **Husits** **army**. But finaly, when **Žižka** **died**, **husits** get confused and then they were **defeded** **by** **Sigismund**.

In 1620 Czech were defeated by Habsburks in the **Battle of White Mountain**. The **Thirty** **Years** **War**, re-catholicization and germanization followed. In that time, Prague wasn’t capitol of the monarchy.

In the Prague lived a lot of **Jewish**. In the **17th** century, there were around **15 000** of Jewish people which was around **30%** of whole population. In 17th century, there was a fire started by French agent. But the economic in Prague still risen because many of Prague inhabitants were **rich** **merchant**. The **industry** **revolution** had big effect in Prague. Factories could apply advantages which industry revolution brought and in this time, **population** in Prague was **increased** **by** **almost** **100** **000** **people**.

In **1918**, Prague was **capitol** of the **Czechoslovak** **Republic**.

In **1939** it was accupited by German. In **1942** protector **Reinhardt** **Heydrich** was assassionated.

In **1945** it was **liberated** by the Russians. **1968** began “**normalization**”; democratic reform stoped.

In **1989** there was **Velvet** **revolutions** -> democratic. In **1993** Prague was the capitol of **The CR**.

During **Second** **World** **War**, most **Jews** who lived in Prague were killed in **Holocaust**.

## Sights

Prague is one of the most favourite cities for tourists because of its sights. For example:

**The Prague Castle** is the seat of Czech president. There is a gothic style in **Vladislav Hall** but there is also newly redecorated **Spanish Hall** which is used fo ceremonies such us voteing president. Most impressing building at the Castle is **St. Vitus Cathedral** which was builded by Charles IV in Gothic style. One of the architects was Petr Parléř. There are also **coronation** **jewels** at The Prague Castle.

**Convent (ženský klášter) of St George**. There is collection of the Gothic and Baroque art of the National Gallery. There is laso **Basilica of St. George** which is in **Romanesque** architecture. In the gardens, there is **Royal Summer Palace Belveder** which is also in Romanesque style.

On **Petřín** Hill, there is **Strahov** **Monastery (mnižšský klášter)**; it is now a museum of Czech literature. There is also **Petřín Observation Tower** which was built as a free copy of the Eiffe Tower.

**The Prague Astronomical Clock** also called Prague Orloj is located in Old Town. Every hour, there is a show with Apostles figures.

In the Lesser Town square, there is **St. Nicholas Church** which is jewel of Baroque style.

**Charles Bridge** is famous historical bridge, build by Charles IV. It is in Gothic style and there are 30 stone statues in baroque style.

In **Old Town Square**, there is **Old Town Hall**. When we lose in the Battle at White Mountain, few anti-Habsburg people were executed by the Old Tonw Hall. There is also **John Huss Monument**.

**Wenceslas Square** don’t have square shape but rectangle. It’s long about 750 meters. In the upper end, there is National Museum as a dominant of Václavské náměstí. There is **St. Wenceslas Memorial**, bronze statue, which is favourite place four turist for meeting.

**The National museum** is located in the upper end of Václavské náměstí as I said before. There are natural scientific and historical collections. It is Neo-Renaissance style.

**Vyšehrad** was built in the 10th century, on a hill over the Vltava River. (Romanesque ?) The odlest construction in there is **Rotunda of St. Martin**. There is also **Slavín cemetery**, where famous people are buried.

Another worth seeing place is **Charles University**, the oldest university in Central and Eastern Europe. Another is **House of Artists** (Rudolfinum).

# Industry

**Industry**: ČKD, Tesla, Škoda; **food** industry: Orion, Smíchov Staropramen; **film**: Barandov