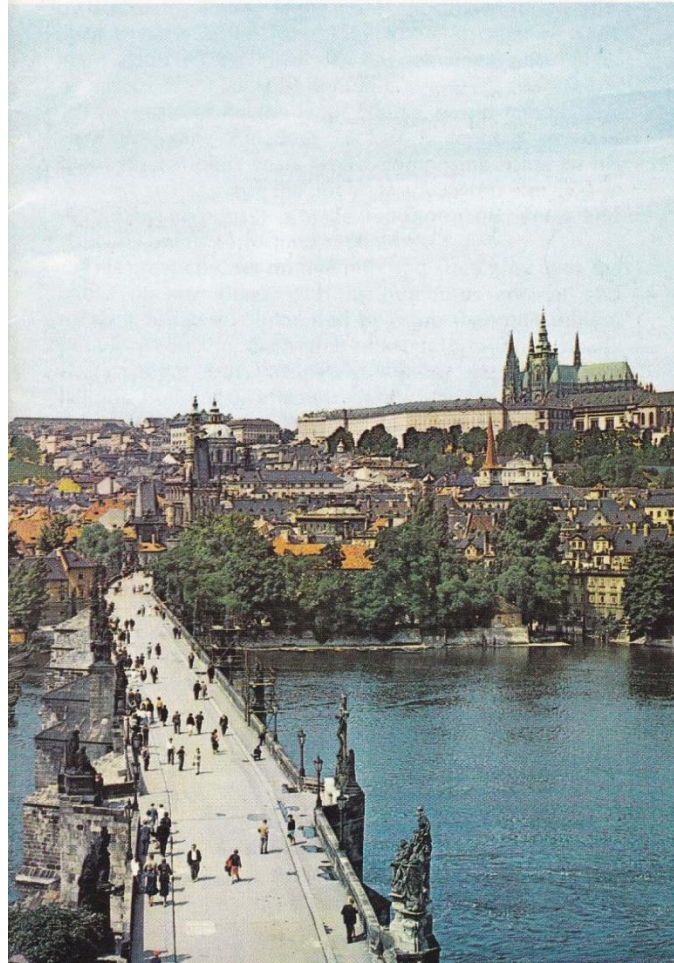


SAS CITY PORTRAIT

Prague

5th ed.

SAS SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES



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The information given in this booklet is based on facts available in August 1974.



Front cover: The Charles Bridge (see page 7).

Introduction

Capital of Czechoslovakia, stately "City of a Hundred Spires" (or "Praha" as the Czechs call it) Prague is the center of Czech history, once capital of Old Bohemia, present-day seat of the President.

Projecting out of its skyline like points of a crown rise many fascinating monuments . . . the Old Town Hall, the 15th-century twin-towered Tyne Church, the medieval Powder Tower, Strahov Library – all dominated by the imposing ninth-century Hradčany Castle, a complex which encompasses within its precincts the beautiful Gothic Cathedral of St. Vitus and the Vladislav Hall, location of the presidential election.

The city's growth, indeed survival, has been one of constant strife. Successively ruled since the 12th century by Germans, Poles, Hungarians, Austrians (the Habsburg Dynasty lasted from 1526 to 1918), then by Germans again – Czechoslovakia has remained since 1948, an independent Socialist Republic.

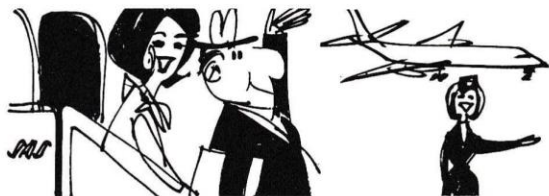
The music of Prague is, of course, world famous . . . Here Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is reputed to have spent his happiest years whilst composing some of his greatest works, and the great yearly Music Festival is visited by millions – a wide repertoire of operas and concerts being performed regularly.

This great city, set on five hills and stretching over the banks of the Vltava with its numerous ancient and modern bridges, is inhabited by more than one million people. Reflecting the March of Modernization in nearly every sphere (but fortunately without the sacrifice of historic buildings), efficient transportation, magnificent shops (enhanced by the best in Czechoslovak craftsmanship), luxurious hotels, and lively evening entertainment have sprung up.

Yes, whether you come to do business in Czechoslovakia's capital of commerce and industry, to study it as an education center, or simply to explore its cultural heritage, you will find it is the city's distinct storybook charm that makes the greatest impact: For this is the city that prompted Goethe to describe it as "the most beautiful jewel in the stone crown of the world" . . .

Your arrival in Prague

On arrival at Prague Airport – when having no voucher – you should exchange the set amount of foreign currency in connection with visa requirements, and then proceed to customs control. No Czechoslovak currency may be taken in or out of the country, and all exchange of foreign currencies



must be entered on a form. When you leave, this declaration form should be returned to the customs control. Money can be changed at the airport bank.

The local monetary unit is the koruna (Kčs), divided into 100 halers.

Travel to the city by coach from the airport takes only 20 minutes and will cost Kčs6. By taxi, the fare is Kčs50-60.

Do not hesitate to ask the SAS staff at the airport for assistance or information whenever you need it. If you are flying from Prague by SAS, be sure to reconfirm your onward reservation as soon as possible by informing SAS of your intention to use the space previously reserved for you. You can do this at the SAS offices at the airport or in town.

Passport and visas. As well as a valid passport, every foreign visitor to Czechoslovakia must be in possession of a visa, obtainable at your nearest Czechoslovak Consulate, or through your Travel Agent. A separate form must be filled in for each applicant with three copies and two photographs per person.

Hotels

Prague has several fine hotels of international standard, with multilingual staff.

Hotels are divided into de luxe, first and second class; it is recommended, however, that you stay at either de luxe or first class establishments.

Here is a selection:

De luxe

Alcron (H6)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
40 Štěpánská.
Tel. 24 57 41 to 49.

Esplanade (I6)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
19 Washingtonova.
Tel. 22 25 52.

Inter-Continental Praha (F2)
Praha 1 – Staré Město,
Nám Curieových. Tel. 635-89.

Park Hotel (off map)
Praha 7 – Holešovice,
20 Veletržní. Tel. 380 70.

International (off map)
Praha 6 – Dejvice,
35 náměstí Družby.
Tel. 32 16 50.

Jalta (H6)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
45 Václavské nám.
Tel. 26 45 98.

For a single room with private bath you will be required to pay US\$24-30, breakfast included; double room with bath and breakfast US\$35-50.

First class

Ambassador (G5)
Praha 1 – 5 Václavské nám.
Tel. 22 13 51.

Europa (H6)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
29 Václavské nám.
Tel. 26 37 46.

Flora (off map)
Praha 3 – Vinohrady,
121 Vinohradská. Tel. 27 42 41.

Olympic (L2)
Praha 8 – Invalidovna.
Tel. 82 86 31.

Palace (H5)
Praha 1 – Staré Město,
12 Panská. Tel. 26 80 72.

Paříž (H4)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
1 U Obecního domu.
Tel. 672 51 to 54.

Expect to pay US\$12-18, breakfast included, for single room with private bath; double room with bath and breakfast US\$20-28.

Electricity. The voltage in Prague is 220 volts A.C. and in a few districts 120 volts.

Restaurants and food

Czechoslovak cuisine, supplemented by excellent beer (the local Pilsen), is of a high quality. There's a host of restaurants and wine-taverns to choose from. You will find that most leading hotels possess first class restaurant facilities serving international food, as well as delicious Czechoslovak dishes.

International

Alcron (H6)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
19 Washingtonova.

Chinese Restaurant (G6)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
19 Vodičkova ulice.

Flora (off map)
Praha 3 – Vinohrady,
121 Vinohradská.

Esplanade (I6)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
19 Washingtonova.

International (off map)
Praha 6 – Dejvice,
35 náměstí Družby.

Jalta (H6)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
45 Václavské nám.

Palace (H5)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
12 Panská.

Paříž (H4)
Praha Staré Město,
1 U Obecního domu.

Pelikán (G5)
Praha 1 – Staré Město,
7 Na Příkopě.

Praha (H1)
Praha 7 – Letná,
Letná Park.

Situated on Letná Hill. Excellent view. Was awarded a Grand Prix at Expo '58 in Brussels.





Czechoslovak

Barrandov (off map)

Praha 5 – Hlubočepy.
Summer only. Trilobit Bar with dancing in the open. Terraces overlooking Prague.

U Fleků (F7)

Praha 1 – Nové Město,
9 Křemencova.
Brewery dating from Middle Ages.

U Kalicha (H8)

Praha 2 – Nové Město,
12 Na bojišti.
Famous beer restaurant of the "Brave Soldier Svejek".

U Lorety (B3)

Praha 1 – Hradčany,
8 Loretánské nám.
Historical cozy wine restaurant.

U Malířů (D4)

Praha 1 – Malá Strana,
11 Maltézské nám.
Picturesque wine tavern.

Zlatý jelen (G4)

Praha 1 – 11 Celetná.
Renovated old-style interior.

Svatá Klára (off map)

Praha 7 – Troja,
9 U trojského zámku.
Restored old wine cellar.

U Tomáše (D4)

Praha 1 – Malá Strana,
12 Letenská.
Cabaret.

Sights

Čedok, the state travel agency, organizes a variety of sightseeing tours, but you will also want to wander around on your own. Here then are some of the more important sights:

U Zlaté Konvice (G4)

Praha 1 – Staré Město,
20 Melantrichova.
Wine tavern which dates from the Middle Ages, candlelight atmosphere.

Valdštejská hospoda (D3)

Praha 1 – Malá Strana,
7 Valdštejské nám.
Historical place.

Ve zlaté studni (C3)

Praha 1 – Malá Strana,
4 U zlaté studně.
Wonderful view from terraces. (Summer only).

Vikárka (B3)

Praha 1 – Hradčany,
6 Vikárská.
Tap room and restaurant at Prague Castle.

Opera Grill (E5)

Praha 1 – Staré Město,
24 Divadelní.
Exclusive dining.

Oživlé dřevo (A5)

Praha 1 – Hradčany,
Strahovské nádvoří.
Distinguished restaurant in the Strahov Monastery. Beautiful view of Prague.

U Mecenáše (C4)

Praha 1 – Malá Strana,
10 Malostranské nám.
Distinguished wine tavern in old style.

U labutí (B3)

Praha 1 – Hradčany,
11 Hradčanské nám.
Renovated first class establishment – old style interiors.

Hradčany Castle (B3). Symbol of Prague and Czechoslovakia, this national treasure is one of the first ports-of-call for every visitor. Founded during the second half of the 9th century, it is amongst the oldest monuments in the city and was originally a wooden Slavic fort, being largely reconstructed in the 12th century when it became a mighty stone castle and the seat of royalty. During the 13th and 14th centuries further reconstructions took place, for in the 14th century the castle was occupied by the Holy Roman Emperor and Bohemian King Charles IV, who built the Cathedral of St. Vitus in the third courtyard – the most famous Gothic cathedral in Czechoslovakia. During the following centuries the castle was repeatedly renovated until it was completely rebuilt in the 18th century into a late baroque castle. It is today the seat of the President.

The historic castle riding-hall and the nearby Belvedere Summer Palace have been transformed into splendid exhibition halls, while another exhibition has been installed in the former stables built during the reign of Rudolf II.

St. Vitus Cathedral (B3). This magnificent cathedral contains priceless artistic relics, the Royal Mausoleum (in the Gothic part), and in the crypt the vault where the kings of Bohemia lie buried. In the new part is the treasury chamber, containing precious works-of-art from the 10th to the 19th centuries. The stained glass windows of the individual chapels and the magnificent window in the front wall are well worth seeing and the most beautiful chapel is that dedicated to St. Wenceslaus. From here a stairway leads to the Regalia Chamber in which the Bohemian crown jewels are kept. In the great tower on the south side of the Cathedral is the "Sigismund" bell – which dates from 1549.

Behind the church is, in fact, the oldest part of the castle with ramparts dating back to the 12th century. Here you will find the famous Golden Street where the houses originally destined for the use of the castle guard are built directly into the walls.

Charles Bridge (Karlův Most – E4). From this originally 14th-century bridge you can enjoy a magnificent view of Hradčany. The sides of the bridge are decorated with thirty beautiful statues from the 18th century, while the two towers on the left bank of the river once guarded the entrance of the Old Town and, like the Powder Tower, are remnants of the ancient fortifications.

Čertovka Quarter (E4). Here, where the island of Kampa is washed on one side by the Vltava and on the other by the Čertovka, is the "Czech Venice" with picturesque houses on the water's edge, wooden docks, the cobbled Velkopřevorské Square and the Malteze Square with its church dedicated to the Virgin Mary in Chains. On the outskirts of the area is the famous church, Infant Jesus of Prague at Malá Strana (D5).

Petřín Hill (B5). This is the highest point of Central Prague – and on the summit is a small replica of the Eiffel Tower!

The Old Town Square (G4). Here stands the Old Town Hall – an extensive building founded in 1338. Its famous mechanical

(cont'd on page 11)



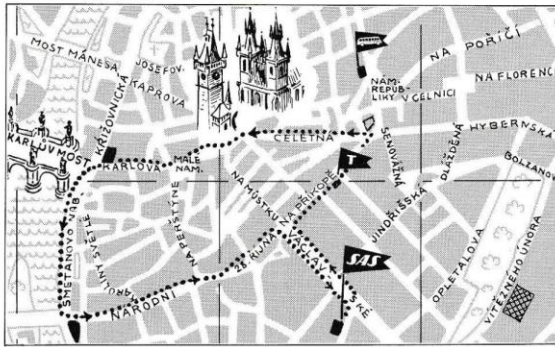
Code numbers in this booklet refer to the above map. Thus (H6) is located where lines drawn from "H" and "6" cross each other.

Interesting sights in Prague

- | | |
|--|---|
| (H4) The Powder Tower. | (D4) The Malá Strana Quarter. |
| (I6) Main Railroad Station. | (B5) Petřín Hill (outlook tower). |
| (I7) National Museum. | (A5) Strahov Monastery. (library and museum). |
| (G4) Old Town Square. | (B3) The Sternberg Palace (National Gallery). |
| (F3) Old Jewish Town (Ghetto). | (B3) Hradčany Castle. |
| (F4) Clementinum (University Library). | (E8) Starting-point for river cruises. |
| (E4) Charles Bridge. | (G4) Charles University. |
| (E6) The National Theater. | |
| (E4) The Certovka Quarter. | |

Useful addresses

- SAS** SAS Ticket Office:
61 Štěpánská (H6), Prague 1. Tel. 22 81 41-43.
Open: Monday-Friday 8.30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon, Sunday closed.
- CSA** CSA Air Terminal:
8 Náměstí Republiky Prague (H3). Tel. 2146.
- T** Tourist Information Office:
Cedok, 18 Na Příkopě (H5), Prague 1. Tel. 22 34 40.
- Distance from city center to airport: 10½ miles (17 km).



One hour's walk around Prague

Walk left from the SAS Office Štěpánská, to where it meets Václavské nám., the city's main thoroughfare. Glance right along this wide avenue and you will see the statue of St. Wenceslaus, Patron Saint of Czechoslovakia, and behind this the National Museum. Stroll left to the bottom of Václavské nám., turning right along Na Příkopě, another busy shopping street. On your right you will see Čedok, the Czech State Travel Agency. At the street's end pass underneath the arch of the Old Powder Tower, continuing along Celetná Street to the wide Old Town Square, Staroměstské nám., with its statue of John Hus. Left stands the lovely Old Town Hall. Walk beneath the arches at the end of the Town Hall, turn right, then left, proceeding to the square Nám. dr. V. Vacka where you will see the Clam-Gallas Palace, now the Municipal Library. Cross the courtyards of the adjacent University and you will arrive at Charles Bridge, popular for its vistas of the River Vltava and Hradčany Castle high in the background. The lovely baroque church on the right of the bridge was founded by the Order of the Knights of the Cross centuries ago. Turn left at Charles Bridge continuing alongside the river to the next bridge. Here stands the impressive National Theater. Národní třída, leads you back to Václavské nám., and in turn, to the SAS Office.

(cont'd from page 7)

clock dates back to 1490. When it strikes (every hour) the twelve apostles and other figures come to life. Don't forget to visit, too, the beautiful Tyne Church and the magnificent monument to John Hus in the center of the square. The narrow streets around the square with their quaint, old houses are relics of the Middle Ages.

The Old Jewish Town (F3). The synagogue was one of the first Gothic buildings in Prague and was built in 1270. There is also an old Jewish Cemetery and a Museum, the contents of which relate to the history of the old Jewish Ghetto.

The Strahov Library (A5). Formerly a monastery, this Museum of National Literature is as structurally beautiful as it is historically interesting.

Palackého Bridge (E8). The starting-point for many river cruises.

The Charles University (G4). Founded in 1348, this is the oldest university in Central Europe. Today it is attended by 20,000 students.

The Powder Tower (H4). This Gothic structure stands at the crossroads of Na Příkopě and Celetná, a remnant of the city's medieval fortifications.

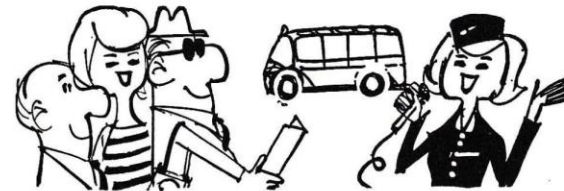
The National Museum (I7). The biggest museum in Czechoslovakia, containing famous collections of high value.

House of Artists (E3). The famous concert hall where international music festivals, like "Prague Spring", are taking place regularly.

Excursions

The surroundings of Prague – indeed, Czechoslovakia as a whole – are well within the scope of the traveler who cares to hire a car or join a tour. 49,000 square miles offering you the forests, lakes and mountains of southern Bohemia, famed for its abundance of game birds . . . North Bohemia's celebrated spa resorts and famous glassworks . . . Moravia's wine-growing south with its wondrous underground grottoes . . . Slovakia's ancient gold and silver mines, now mostly museums of medievalism, and its majestic mountain scenery.

There are seven mountain ranges in Czechoslovakia – the High Tatra range in Slovakia soars to heights exceeding 8,500 feet (2,600 m). The lakes, woods, rivers and streams of these mountains provide excellent opportunities for angling and walking – any Czechoslovak Travel Agency can provide you with detailed information. The Tatra region, designated a





National Park and Game Reserve, abounds with wild life and rare plants.

Alternatively, for those with limited time to spare, there is Prague's own lofty playground: the Giant Mountains, a range particularly popular with skiers and après-skiers.

The lakes of Czechoslovakia also provide plentiful relaxation – some have their own beaches offering excellent water-skiing facilities and all manner of aquatic recreation. You will enjoy a visit to Lake Mácha in Northern Bohemia (a two hours' drive from Prague) and to Lake Lipno in Bohemia (a three hours' drive from Prague, next to the Austrian border).

When relaxation is under consideration, however, Czechoslovakia is better known for its spas. Three fashionable and famous spots stand close to the capital: the great Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) Spa in the valley of the Teplá Brook, the West Bohemian Spa about 30 miles (50 km) from Cheb and the Mariánské Lázně Spa (Marienbad). All are reputed for their healing of various complaints and for the restorative qualities of their beauty, peace and solitude.

Čedok operates many tours to these and other places outside Prague, and Balnea, 11 Pařížská, Prague 1, tel. 646 77 or any other Czechoslovak Travel Agency will gladly furnish you with full particulars.

Entertainment and night life

Prague is a city rich in theaters and concert halls. The cream of the city's opera, ballet, and legitimate drama is performed at the National Theater (E6), the Smetana Theater (I6) and the Tylovo Theater (G5), concerts being given regularly at Dům umělců (F4) and Smetana Hall (H4). There are in addition entertaining puppet shows at the Central Puppet Theater (H5) and "Spejbl and Hurvínek" Puppet Theater (I7), while at the Alhambra (G5) and Pražské Varieté colorful "music hall" shows are staged.

Outstanding annual event on Prague's cultural calendar is the Spring Music Festival in late May/early June. Famous international conductors and soloists attract music lovers from all over the world.

To boot, numerous modern cinemas show films in their original languages. For details of what's on, times, programs, ect., consult the monthly bulletin of Prague Information Service, Prague 1, 20 Na Příkopě, tel. 54 44 44.

For those who like dinner/dancing or night clubs with floor shows, alfresco or otherwise, we recommend the following:

Dinner-dancing

Alcron (H6)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
40 Štěpánská. Tel. 24 57 41.
Music daily from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Barrandov (off map)
Praha 5 – Hlubočepy.
Tel. 54 54 09.
Summer only. Music in Tribolt-Bar until 3 a.m.

Night clubs

EST Bar (I6)
Esplanade Hotel,
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
19 Washingtonova.
Tel. 22 25 52.
Open from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Jalta Club (H6)
Praha 1 – Nové Město,
45 Václavské nám.
Tel. 26 45 97.
Open from 9 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Tipping

Although tipping is not officially acknowledged, waiters and hotel porters are usually left a little on top of the 10 % service charge which is automatically added to restaurant and hotel bills. In addition, it is customary to tip taxi-drivers 10 %; hair-dressers 3 koruna.

Shopping

The Prague shops are packed with ideal gifts and souvenirs, whatever your taste! Czechoslovak glassware is magnificent – especially the richly cut Bohemia crystal. So, too, is the world-famous Bohemian costume jewelry. Other quality buys include table linen embroidered with folklore motifs, bobbin lace, wood-carvings, pottery, national costumes, folk dolls and wickerwork.

Antique-collectors will find many beautiful items for sale, philatelists will be delighted with the postage stamp collections, and for children of all ages there is the wonderful selection of toys, in particular the artistically created toy animals. Yet another souvenir that goes down well with recipients is a bottle of Slivovice (plum brandy).

WHERE TO SHOP

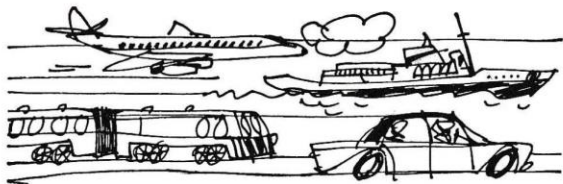
Many of the best shops – UVA, Moser-Bohemia, Dům Módy (House of Fashion) for example – are situated on Václavské nám. (H6), Na Příkopě (G5) and Národní třída (F6). The Tuzex Department Stores are authorized to accept foreign currency.

Business hours

Shops: Most stores are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (some also on Saturdays, though smaller shops close between noon and 3 p.m.).

Offices: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There are Post Offices operating a continuous day and night service at 14 Jindřišská (H5), tel. 26 48 41, and at Prague Central Station (I4), tel. 24 25 44.

Banks: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Transportation

Electric trams, buses and metro provide frequent and speedy connections between all parts of the city at a uniform fare of Kčs1. Taxis are available from numerous stands – the charge is Kčs1.80 per km plus the basic fare of Kčs3. There is also an extensive rail network, radiating from Prague's 30 railway stations in all directions. And for those who prefer to find their own way about, there is the opportunity to rent a car – ask at any SAS office.

Sports

Football (soccer) and ice hockey are the most popular sports in Czechoslovakia, the Czechs having acquired world fame for their achievements in these games. Main events take place at the Strahov Stadium (off map), near Petřín Hill, and for ice hockey in the Ice Stadium in Julius Fučík Park.

The most popular athletics event in Czechoslovakia – the famous Rošického Memorial – is held in Prague on July 2nd.

Basketball, volley ball, handball and tennis are also popular, as are horse racing, motorcycle and cycle racing and skiing. There are also good possibilities for riding enthusiasts who want to spend their holidays on horseback. There are two interesting 18-hole golf courses in Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) and Mariánské Lázně (Marinebad), where international tournaments are arranged in May and August.

Climate and clothing

Mild winters and hot, dry summers are characteristic features of the Prague climate. Ideal times for a visit are summer, early fall and spring – the blossoms of April and May being an especially enchanting sight.

The average monthly high and low temperatures for Prague are:

	Maximum °F	Minimum °C	Maximum °F	Minimum °C		Maximum °F	Minimum °C	Maximum °F	Minimum °C
January	34	1	25	-4	July	77	25	58	14
February	38	3	29	-2	August	77	25	57	14
March	45	7	33	1	September	65	18	52	11
April	55	13	40	5	October	54	12	44	6
May	65	18	49	9	November	41	5	35	2
June	72	22	55	13	December	34	1	29	-1

In summer, bring lightweight clothes, with a medium-weight coat or jacket for the cooler days and evenings; in winter, a warm overcoat. Normal city attire is correct at all times, while a black dress or dark business suit is suitable for most evening events.

Religious services

Roman Catholic: St. Tyne Church, Old Town Square (G4); St. Nicolas' Church, Malostranské nám. (C4); Church with Prague Infant Jesus, Karmelitská ulice (D5); St. Vitus Cathedral, Hradčany Castle (C3), and St. Ignacius Church, Karlovo náměstí (F8).

Protestant: Salvator Church, Dušní ulice (F3); St. Kliment Church, Klimentská ulice (I2); Cyril & Metoděj Church, Resslova ulice (F7).

Jewish: Old-New Synagogue, Pařížská ulice (F3) and Big Synagogue, Jerusalemská ulice (H5).

Special services

Post Office, Telegraph, Telephone. General Post Office (open day and night): Praha 1 – Nové Město, 14 Jindřižská, tel. 26 48 41; Post Offices in the center of the city: Praha – 1 Nové Město, 8 nám. Republiky, tel. 658 18 and Praha 1 – Staré Město, 12 Kaprová ul., tel. 667 07.

General Information. Contact or visit the Central Information Service (H5), Praha 1 – Nové Město, 20 Na Příkopě, tel. 54 44 44, for general information including "what's on" in the theater or cinema.

First Aid. Prague 7, Holešovice, 21 Dukelských hrdinů, tel. 155.

Lost Property Office. Prague 1, Staré Město, 14 Kaprova, tel. 601 44.

Public holidays

All shops and offices are closed on the following official holidays:

January 1	New Year's Day.
May 1	Labor Day. Many big parades take place.
May 9	National Day of Liberation.
October 28	Day of Independence.
December 25	Christmas Day.
December 26	Boxing Day.

Edited by Mike Simon

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Ask SAS for a date!

The SAS International Events Service can supply you with comprehensive details of over 1,000 major events all over the world.

Our close cooperation with hundreds of organizations and fairs enables us to keep a world business, professional and cultural diary. We can even offer information about functions which will take place in five years' time!

Ask your nearest SAS office for more details.

Let SAS help you plan ahead.

