

# PRAGUE

You've got an extra day to check out what is often considered the heart of Europe. Here's what you do. BY KASIA DIETZ

**A MEDIEVAL FAIRY-TALE** metropolis in which centuries-old baroque façades line the cobbled streets and hundreds of spires dot the skyline, the Czech capital has, in recent years, been weaving modern tales into its storied past. Following an influx of innovation thanks in part to creatives such as Martin Barry, the force behind the hit Manifesto Market sites, Prague veritably can be considered the epitome of cool. While the classics remain popular—a stroll across the imperial, pedestrian-only Charles Bridge is a visual feast—a rejuvenation of long-forgotten spaces has brought a vitality to the city that proves that visiting is no longer merely a lesson in history.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: **The Prague** skyline; Manifesto Market; **Art at Pragov**ka; Pragtique; **Performers at** Fórum Karlín; **Glog at Edison** Filmhub.



#### **SHOP LOCAL**

Prague's New Town, or Nové Město as it's known locally, houses many of the city's most talented artisans. Set your shopping sights on handcrafted jewelry, ceramics and fashion at **CZECHDESIGN** or an assortment of bespoke souvenirs at Pragtique. Nearby, fashion designer Lucie Kutálková presents her well-tailored and textured clothing collections at the boutique Leeda.

### **ART FIX**

The heart of industrial area Prague 9 has gotten a burst of new life with Pragovka, a First Republic factory recently transformed into a contemporary art space. Dozens of local artists exhibit their work, while Kafe Pragovka provides a retro meeting spot. Keep your eyes open for Czech artist David Černý's whimsical street sculptures of giant crawling babies, which are often found hanging from buildings.

#### **EAT & DRINK**

With stands serving sweet and savory street food from top international chefs alongside cocktail bars and microbreweries, the two locations of Manifesto Market have been creating a gastronomic buzz in the Florenc and Smíchov neighborhoods since opening in 2018 and 2019. Come nightfall, the cashless, open-air spaces feature DJs and live music.

## **CULTURE VIBES**

Set on the former grounds of a historical steam boiler factory, Fórum Karlín has boosted the profile of the trendy neighborhood of Karlín with a new music scene featuring local pop stars as well as global giants. Meanwhile, the Prague Spring International Music Festival sets up stages around the city from May 7 to June 4. Catch up on art-house and festival movies at **Edison Filmhub** in the city center, where English screenings are offered daily.