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## AN ODE TO CINEMATIC PRAGUE AND BEYOND

It's hard not to fall for Prague. The Czech capital exudes a simply staggering wealth of architectural beauty and detail. The city is chockablock full of early-20<sup>th</sup>-century buildings that survived the Second World War, and resplendent, marvellously preserved old palaces are everywhere. With so many sophisticated embellishments and grand statues propping up many entryways, it's impossible not to photograph every villa.

But beyond the crowd-pulling sights of the Vltava River and the Old Town Square with its 600-year-old Astronomical Clock, Prague's quieter districts are equally stunning. Wandering the atmospheric cobblestone alleys is a treat for the architectural lover, with cinema-worthy settings on every corner. Radiating Old World elegance and period wistfulness, it feels as if Diane Kruger might pop up anywhere in a film production in the works. But this is just Praha (as it is known in Czech) being Praha.

In fact, Prague feels retro cool no matter where you head to, on street level or even down below in the metro. Hip aesthetics are at peak charm here. And with an abundance of inviting coffee shops and breweries playing to the city's celebrated standing in the beer world, a good time is guaranteed.

Read on for seven authentic experiences to embark on in and around Prague, including heritage sites, the bounty of nature, and plenty of enthralling mysticism.





▼ Art Nouveau in the city centre



Kino Lucerna



Grand Café Orient  
Photo by Rita Chou (Unsplash)

### TAKE AN ARCHITECTURAL WALK

While Prague is best known for its medieval aura and Gothic spires, Romanesque, Renaissance, Baroque, and Rococo architecture all adorn Czechia's capital. Strolling its streets is like ambling through history, and the seamless, graceful line-up of different eras makes it look as though it was always meant to be built this way. Also keep your eyes open for the Art Deco and Art Nouveau doors and windows all over the city centre. Prague by night is particularly magical, when its best lines and features are proudly lit up.

As the oldest permanent cinema in Bohemia, *Kino Lucerna* serves as a stunning example of the city's enduring cinematic quality. Dating from 1909, the Art Nouveau palace greets visitors in the gorgeous Lucerna Passage, a decorative hall worthy of its era (and an undisputed cultural gem) that's home to many independent shops, cafés, and restaurants as well as the surprising upside-down horse sculpture by David Černý. Prague doesn't get more movie-sceneish than this.

And then there's the unique avantgarde art movement known as Czech Cubism, which was most active in Prague between 1912 and 1914. While many noteworthy landmarks reflect this style and the Rondocubism derived from it, start with the House of the Black Madonna, the oldest and most iconic Cubist house in the city. Designed by architect Josef Gočár, it's a gem for lovers of modern art and design and home to a branch of the Museum of Decorative Arts. Head inside to see the fascinating interior and the permanent exhibition devoted to Czech Cubism. Don't miss the fantastic ground-floor shop fittingly named *Kubista* or the *Grand Café Orient*, which prides itself on being the only Cubist café in the world.

### FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF FRANZ KAFKA

Located just steps away from the Old Town Square, the Jewish Quarter is a quieter alternative with striking synagogues and more memorable architecture. Here, a quirky statue of celebrated Bohemian novelist Franz Kafka, who was of Jewish descent, stands near the Spanish Synagogue. In typical surrealist Kafka style, and based on his short story 'Description of a Struggle', it depicts him sitting on the shoulders of a headless figure.

So beloved is the German-speaking writer who was born and lived in Prague that another sculpture is dedicated to him a mere ten-minute walk away, in the courtyard of a shopping centre. Created by that same audacious Czech sculptor Černý who left his mark in Lucerna Passage, the famous rotating *Kafka's Head* is a highly reflective kinetic art structure that puts on a performance every hour from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. in a choreography that lasts 15 minutes. Have your timelapses ready, because this one is not to be missed. It's certainly an innovative, fun way to celebrate a homegrown legend.



Photo by Rina Chou (Unsplash)



▲ *Kafka's Head*, a famous rotating sculpture

▲ The Spanish Synagogue is often described as the most beautiful synagogue in Europe.

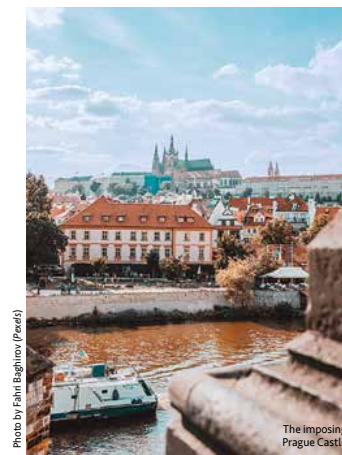


Photo by Fanni Baghioy (Pexels)

The imposing Prague Castle



There are many gardens in the area around Prague Castle.

### HEAD UP TO PRAGUE CASTLE

One of the best views of this Central European capital is from the imposing Prague Castle overlooking the city. Blend in with the locals and hop on one of the iconic red trams for a ride up to the Malá Strana (Lesser, or Little, Town) nestled in the shadow of this Gothic stronghold.

With most of the castle grounds open to the public and free of charge, Prague Castle is the largest castle complex in the world according to *Guinness World Records* and a UNESCO World Heritage Site with more than 1000 years of tradition. It's also the residence of the Czech president. A sense of humbleness and awe overtakes visitors as they stroll the vast castle grounds and gardens covering almost seven hectares. The buildings house several museums, so allow yourself plenty of time for this quarter, which oozes an elegant village feel thanks to its small streets, cobblestone squares, and age-old churches. It's the perfect antidote to the crowds flooding Charles Bridge not too far away.

A dinner with friends at *Kuchyně* on the premises of the National Gallery is a great way to cap off a day of exploring. Flaunting a large terrace with views of the city (heaters are provided when it gets cold) as well as a large indoor area with an inspiring open-kitchen concept, treat your taste buds to some of Czech cuisine's finest dishes at this, one of the top restaurants in Prague. We recommend the superb beef hanger in red wine with mashed potatoes or the venison ragout with mushroom sauce and potato dumplings, all accompanied by Czech beer, of course.

### ENJOY CZECH BEER IN UNIQUE LOCATIONS

With a brewing tradition going back a full millennium, it comes as no surprise that Czech beer is a national symbol. And with it comes a flurry of bars and historic breweries one can visit.

The hip, industrial *Lokál* is a local favourite and one of the best spots to mingle with locals. It serves hearty, homemade classic Czech dishes and draught beer drawn straight from the tanks. With multiple locations across the country and several in Prague, the Dlouhááá location, which is as vibrant and lengthy as a buzzing train or metro station, is definitely one to be experienced.

More ingenious and fun for groups and families is *Výtopna*, a 'railway restaurant' on picturesque Wenceslas Square where beer (and your burger or steak, too) arrives at the table via a miniature train travelling along a track. A unique 400-metre model railway runs around the entire eatery, travelling through an array of structures and passing through tunnels and over drawbridges and natural formations. *Výtopna* sells beer using the same *tankové pivo* (tank beer) method, in which the drink is delivered straight from the brewery, unpasteurised and in temperature-controlled airtight tanks to ensure it's at its freshest. *Na zdraví!* Cheers!



Výtopna restaurant



Lokál serves hearty, homemade classic Czech dishes.



► Kubista design shop

▼ The Baroque Library at the Klementinum



Photo by Jonathan Francisco (Unsplash)

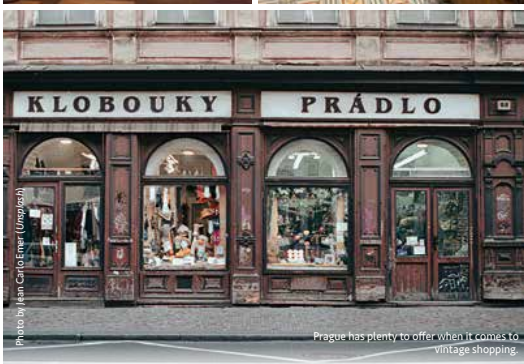


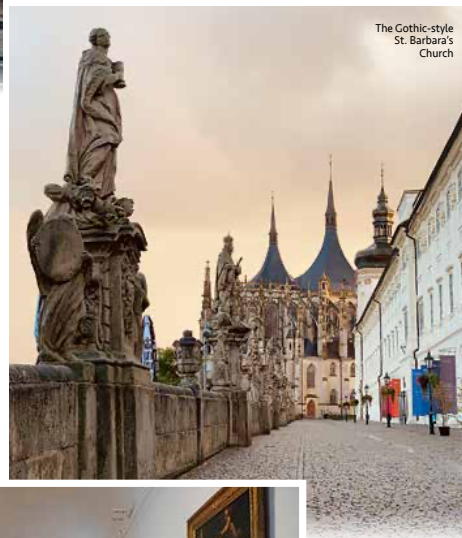
Photo by Jan Čech (Unsplash)

Prague has plenty to offer when it comes to vintage shopping.

### INDULGE IN BOUTIQUE SHOPPING

It's not by chance that Prague is referred to as the 'city of magic' – its charm is evident anywhere you look. So naturally, shopping in a city so rich in atmospheric treasures is also a true joy. Find shops and local boutiques splendidly tucked into old palaces and mansions along the iconic Na Příkopě street and all around central Prague, with decadent embellishments and modernist lines to top them off. Here, it's not just about the souvenirs you may leave with, but the whole experience itself of popping in and out of enticing locales. Those looking for whimsy and a bit of fantasy are sure to find it.

With Kafka as a beacon of inspiration here, books are never far away, either. Whether you venture out to the Klementinum for a jaw-dropping look at the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Baroque Library or stick closer to the present day at the Municipal Library of Prague and its books in many languages, you're never far from a fetching universe of books. The tower-of-books installation in the front entrance of the Municipal Library (free admission) is a star attraction – an artful illusion of infinity using a mirror and some 8000 books. It's literary magnetism playfully amped up.



The Gothic-style St. Barbara's Church



◀ The Gallery of the Central Bohemian Region (GASK) in Kutná Hora

### EXPLORE PICTURESQUE CENTRAL BOHEMIA

It's not just Prague that bursts with romanticism. So do its surroundings, making for some outstanding nature and heritage outings. About an hour away by train, Central Bohemia was once the residence of many of Bohemia's kings. With traditional crafts still preserved and noble sites worthy of the Regency era, a day trip or two-day getaway here is pure joy.

Starting in Kutná Hora, a picturesque UNESCO-protected town known for its silver mines and the Gothic St. Barbara's Church, the region is home to an abundance of beautiful castles and palaces. The elegant Kačina Chateau is one of them, a new kind of manor for influential Czech nobility. Influenced by the arts and cultural pursuits, its magnificent library boasts a Roman Pantheon-like cupola and contains tens of thousands of old books. Right in the town of Kutná Hora, you'll also find a top-notch modern art museum, called GASK. Located in a former Baroque-era Jesuit college, it features a sleek display of inspiring contemporary exhibits, with a hip gift shop on site, too.

Not to be missed is the Sedlec Ossuary, a sanctuary-like 'bone church' that celebrates the inevitability of death, or *memento mori*. Decorated with an astounding 40,000 to 70,000 skulls and bones (remains of those who perished during the wars, famine, and plague of the 14<sup>th</sup> century), it offers a surreal, candle-lit experience that borders more on the spiritual than the macabre. Nearby, the Cathedral of the Assumption is equally beguiling.



MARSILI  
BALTEZERS

## LAND PLOTS IN AN ELITE VILLAGE OF PRIVATE HOUSES IN BALTEZERS



YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION  
2002



LAND PLOTS FROM  
1200m<sup>2</sup>



PINE FOREST



4 SPORTS FIELDS



3 PARKS



2 BEACHES



PAVED AND  
LIGHTED STREETS



GAS



ELECTRICITY



CITY WATER  
SUPPLY



SEWAGE



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EFTEN RESIDENTIAL





Malešov  
Friendly Brewery

airBaltic flies to  
**Prague**

four times a week  
from Riga

from  
**€59**  
one way

Look for prices with  
cherries on airBaltic.com



The restored  
Malešov Fortress

### EXPERIENCE BUCOLIC SCENERY IN MALEŠOV

Right next to Kutná Hora, the village of Malešov packs many wonders set against a tranquil natural backdrop. It's all about the Middle Ages here, but with a modern twist. Enjoy everything from touring a medieval fort and exquisite meals by a fireplace to a craft beer brewery and glamping by the Vrchlice River.

To start off, take a tour of the restored Malešov Fortress. Led by a member of the family that owns the monument, you'll get a glimpse into the medieval era as well as an insight into what restoring (and living) in a fortress entails. It's a fascinating visit and a testament to the passion of a group of people, including volunteers, who work to preserve and honour this site as an ode to an important era in the country's history.

Open by reservation for larger groups from November to March, the on-site tavern, dubbed the 'tavern at the end of the world', serves veritable feasts inspired by historical dishes in a cosy yet luxuriant atmosphere by a fireplace. To complete your visit, arrange for a tour of the cellars at the new *Malešov Friendly Brewery* for an elevated Czech craft beer experience. It adheres to the original brewing method without filtration or pasteurisation, and visitors can taste a variety of beer styles directly from the tank.

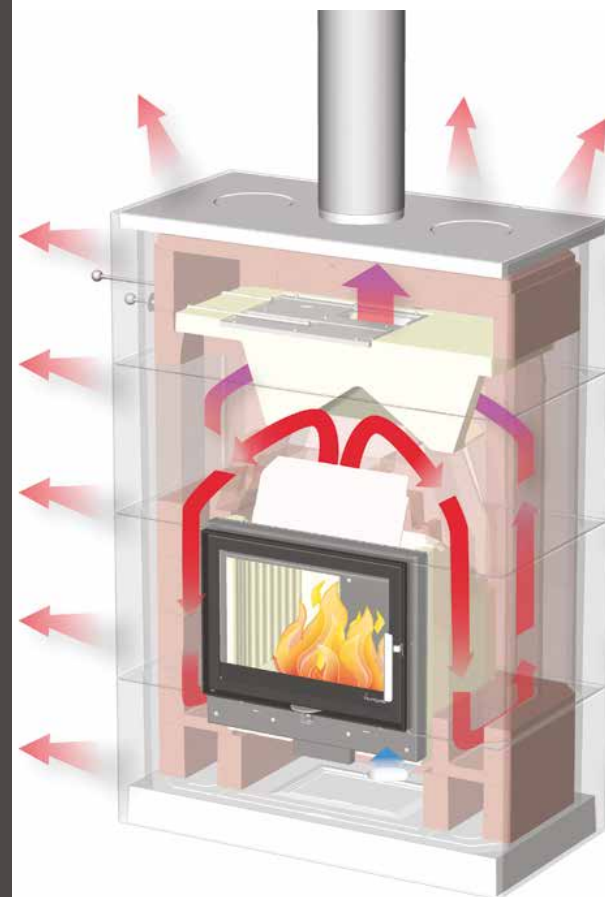
Should you decide to come back for a weekend in warmer weather, Malešov Fortress offers glamping in medieval-style tents under the stars from May to October. Furnished with comfortable four-poster beds (and with an en-suite lux shower and toilet), the tents are set up in the garden right under the fortress. Trust us on this – it's the best memory you'll leave with! **bo**



# SILTUMA AKUMULĀCIJAS KAMĪNI

## Ieguvumi :

- veselīgs siltums bez putekļiem
- ilga siltuma atdeve ar mazu malkas patēriņu
- malkas ekonomija
- vienmērīgs siltums
- svaigs gaiss
- funkcija "tīrs stikls"
- baltās liesmas efekts
- dažādas versijas
- cenā iekļauta piegāde un uzstādīšana



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Kvalitāte vienmēr būs modē!