

# ICEC 2024 Guide to Prague



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## Getting to the Vienna House Diplomat Hotel



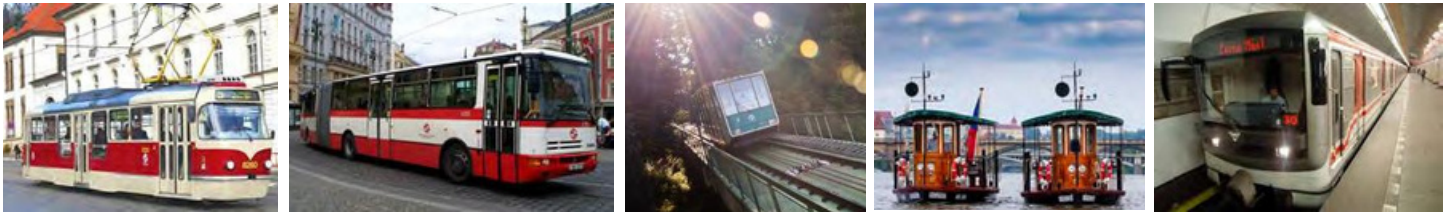
### Vienna House Diplomat Hotel, *Evropská 370/15, 160 41 Praha 6*

Welcome to Vienna House by Wyndham Diplomat Prague, a bright and bold destination in the Golden City. Our prime location in the diplomatic district puts you minutes from the historic city center and public transportation and 12 kilometers from Václav Havel Airport Prague (PRG). Combining chic art deco style with contemporary comforts, our non-smoking, pet-friendly hotel is one of Prague's most expansive, with 400 well-appointed rooms and suites. Every detail is perfectly realized, from your arrival in the sleek, brass-accented lobby to the anticipatory service you'll enjoy throughout your stay.

If you come by car, parking in the hotel garage is 700 CZK (~28.50 EUR) daily. Outdoor parking is 200 CZK (~8.12 EUR). You may be able to find street parking around the hotel, but make sure that you do not park in a blue zone, as these spaces are for local permit holders.

	From Václav Havel Airport	From Prague Main Train Station (Hlavní nádraží)
<p><b>Private Transfer</b></p> <p><u>How to use:</u> pre-book through a company such as Prague Airport Transfers (<a href="http://www.prague-airport-transfers.co.uk">www.prague-airport-transfers.co.uk</a>)</p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> ~750 CZK/~32 EUR (for 1-4 people)</p> <p><b>Payment:</b> cash or card to the driver or by card online</p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> ~450 CZK/~19 EUR (for 1-4 people)</p> <p><b>Payment:</b> cash or card to the driver or by card online</p>
<p><b>Uber</b></p> <p><u>How to use:</u> order using the Uber app. See uber.com for information about registering</p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> ~275-500 CZK/~11-21 EUR (depending on the type of service chosen and the time of day)</p> <p><b>Payment:</b> by card, set up through the Uber app</p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> ~200-300 CZK/~8-12 EUR (depending on the type of service chosen and the time of day)</p> <p><b>Payment:</b> by card, set up through the Uber app</p>
<p><b>Public Transportation</b></p> <p><u>How to use:</u> see specific routes to the right and the Public Transportation section for more information</p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> 40-120 CZK/1.60-4.80 EUR (If you are traveling with a large suit-case, you will need a ticket for your bag as well as for yourself.)</p> <p><b>Payment:</b> see Public Transportation section</p> <p><b>Route:</b> Take the <b>#119 bus</b> to stop <b>Nádraží Veleslavín</b> walk to the tram stop (across the street from the AFIEurope/Canadian Medical building. Take the <b>20 or 26 tram</b> to either the <b>Thákurova</b> or <b>Dejvická</b> stop. (Vienna House is about equidistance from these stops.)</p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> 40-120 CZK/1.60-4.80 EUR (If you are traveling with a large suit-case, you will need a ticket for your bag as well as for yourself.)</p> <p><b>Payment:</b> see Public Transportation section</p> <p><b>Route:</b> Follow signs to the <b>Hlavní Nádraží</b> tram stop which is out the front doors and to the right through the park. From the stop on the further side of the street, take the <b>26 tram</b> to either the <b>Thákurova</b> or <b>Dejvická</b> stop. (Vienna House is about equidistance from these stops.)</p>
<p><b>Taxi</b></p>	<p><b>Cost:</b> should be about the same as the private transfer</p> <p><b>Payment:</b> cash, many now accept card</p> <p><b>Notes:</b> Taxis are available, but in Prague have a reputation for being less scrupulous. If you want to order a taxi, go to the designated taxi stands in the airport or train station. Do not accept a ride from anyone soliciting passengers separate from these stands.</p>	

# ICEC 2024 Guide to Prague Public Transportation



Prague has one of the best public transportation systems in the world, making the whole city very accessible for car-free travel. The system includes buses, subways (called the Metro), trams (streetcars), a funicular, and water taxis!

To ride on Prague's public transit system, you must purchase a ticket or *jízdenka*. Tickets are valid for a specified amount of time. The basic tickets are 30 CZK for 30 minutes and 40 CZK for 90 minutes. If you will be out and about, a 24-hour ticket for 120 CZK is a good choice, or if you plan on traveling around a lot while you are in Prague, the 72-hour ticket for 330 is a better deal. If you travel with luggage, a big bag needs a 20 CZK ticket. More info: [dpp.cz/en](http://dpp.cz/en)

There are multiple options for buying public transit tickets. One easy way is to download the [PID Lítačka app](#). On it, you can buy tickets for 30 minutes - to 3 days without registering an account. You will have to wait 2 minutes after buying a ticket to activate it, so be sure to give yourself some time at the tram/metro stop. Multiple tickets can be purchased on one phone.

There are ticket machines that dispense individual tickets. Many of these machines have instructions in English, especially newer ones. Usually, these are bright yellow. While most ticket machines now accept cards, you may find a few that only accept coins. You can also buy tickets at many newspaper stands (called *trafika*), convenience stores, DPP sales booths, hotels, and tourist information offices.



Many trams and buses now have **orange** machines on board where you can buy 30-minute, 90-minute, and 24-hour passes with contactless card or phone. There are usually stickers on the doors of trams telling which door to enter to find the orange ticket machines. These tickets are validated at time of purchase. No need to stamp in the yellow machine.



If you have a physical ticket, when you enter the platform areas of the metro or board a tram or bus, you must validate your ticket. Ticket validators are little **yellow** boxes located at most doors. Stick the ticket with the arrow facing up and point toward the machine. Wait for the sound of printing to stop before removing the ticket. You only need to validate the first time you use that ticket. Please always keep your ticket safely with you during its validity because...

Ticket inspectors may ask to see your valid ticket at any time. You'll be fined on the spot if you are traveling with a ticket that has not been validated. The fine, usually 800 CZK, is paid directly to the ticket inspector. You should get a receipt. If you can't pay the fine the police will be called, and you may go through identity checks. The fine can be higher if you're unable to pay on the spot.



### **Minding Your Ps and Qs on MHD\***

- Let people get off before you try to get on a vehicle. Stand to the side of the door to give space.
- Specific marked seats on public transportation are priority seating for people with disabilities, older people, and pregnant women and should be given up if someone in need gets on. However, it is considered polite—no matter where you are sitting—to relinquish your seat to someone with a greater need than you, including small children.
- Being loud is frowned upon on public transportation (and in general). Try to keep your volume down. Whistling is considered inappropriate as well.
- North Americans are much more comfortable making eye contact with strangers than almost anyone else. Here, prolonged eye contact is considered impolite or even a little threatening, so try to keep it to a minimum (or at least add a friendly smile).
- If you have a big backpack in a crowded vehicle, please take it off and carry it low so as not to bump people with it accidentally.
- Try to be aware of fellow passengers in a crowded car to make space for someone who needs to get off.

\***Městská hromadná doprava**, or urban public transport

## Money Matters & Other Practicalities

Though a part of the European Union, the Czech Republic has chosen to retain its own currency, called the koruna or crown. Czech coins come in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, and 50 crowns. Czech bills come in denominations of 100, 200, 500, 1,000, and 2,000 crowns (and up). You will often see it abbreviated kč. Prices are often written out as 100,- This is a carry-over from when there was a smaller coin denomination that has since been discontinued. Some stores, especially grocery stores, will still have an amount of 100,17

In the city of Prague, you will find many places that accept credit and debit cards, a few that accept euros, and even fewer that accept US dollars. But keeping some crowns, including coins, on you is a good idea. (Many public toilets are pay toilets, and you don't want to be trying to exchange money when you're already doing a little potty dance...)

Many smaller stores will also not accept cards for purchases under 100CKZ or will prefer you to pay with smaller bills rather than big 500 or 1000 bills.

Automated teller machines, here called **bankomats**, are easy to find, easy to use, and will generally give you the best rate of exchange. Make sure your home bank is aware that your card will be used here, and choose a bankomat connected to a reputable bank. Some banks have started to charge foreign transaction fees upwards of 10 USD. (This is in addition to any fees your own bank would charge.) In general, avoid the Euronet Worldwide ATMs as they seem to charge the highest fees and push you to withdraw much higher amounts of money than you need.

When at bankomats or paying by card, always choose the option “without conversion” or “pay in CZK.” You will get a better exchange rate this way.

If you wish to exchange currency, use a reputable currency exchange office (and, if possible, one that is not right in the center of a tourist area). At the time of this writing, the exchange rate is 24.6 CZK to 1 EUR and 23.3 CZK to 1 USD. With this midmarket exchange rate, you can expect a “sell” rate of 20-22 CZK per dollar.

Some exchange offices with consistently good reviews and fair rates include eXchange (Kaprova 14/13 near Old Town Square) and Alfa Prague (locations at Náměstí Republiky 1078/1 and Na Příkopě 957/23). Some offices only take cash-for-cash only and do not allow cards.

Never exchange money on the street with anyone, no matter what rate they offer you. You are likely to end up with a handful of worthless decommissioned rubles.



## Other Practical Questions and Considerations

**Electricity:** The electrical network in the Czech Republic has a voltage of 230 V and a frequency of 50 Hz. The sockets are the same as in France, Germany, and Poland.

**WiFi:** WiFi is available for free in the conference hotel and Galerie Fenix shopping center. It is also widely available in coffee shops, restaurants, shopping centers, and sometimes even on trams and at public transportation stops for free.



**Time:** The Czech Republic lies in the Central European time zone (CET = UTC + 1). The 24-hour format is used frequently, especially in transport timetables, cultural programs, and printed materials.

**Phone and data usage:** The international dialing code of the Czech Republic is +420 (00420). As in other European countries, mobile phones operate at 900 MHz and 1800 MHz frequencies. Although other countries may use a different frequency, like 1900 MHz in the United States, newer phones work in any network. Several mobile operators in the Czech market offer prepaid cards for those who want to use their phones without a contract.

- **Recommendation:** If you're considering buying a prepaid SIM card, ensure another operator does not block your phone. European Union regulations ban mobile operators based in the EU from charging extra roaming fees for voice services, text messaging, and data. If you have a plan from elsewhere in the European Union, you will be charged per minute of call, sent messages, and internet connection at the same price as you would have paid in your country of residence. Check with your carrier if you have questions about your service availability here.

**Weather:** Spring in Prague is usually BEAUTIFUL. Typical late-March temperatures will range from lows around 1-2°C (35°F) to highs around 15-16°C (high 50s/low 60s°F). Rain is common but not usually long-lasting.

## Recommended Resources

[#VisitCzechia](#)



[Czech Tourism](#), the official tourism portal of the Czech Republic, offers a free mobile app—the Czech Republic, Land of Stories—that includes tons of information about tours, sights to see, events, dining options, and so on, as well as maps, audioguides, weather forecasts, currency converters, and other valuable tools.

A pair of Czech video bloggers have produced a series of video guides to Prague that are informative and funny. Check out the [Honest Guide YouTube channel](#) for a unique viewpoint on this great city.

- **Warning:** *The Honest Guide does not always use polite language. Don't watch if it bothers you.*

# ICEC 2024 Guide to Prague

## Staying Safe in Prague

**Situational awareness:** The Czech Republic is a remarkably safe and peaceful place in general, but it is still wise in the modern climate to practice caution, especially in areas frequented by foreigners. Although there is no recent history of terrorism in the Czech Republic, attacks can't be ruled out. You should be aware of the global risk of indiscriminate terrorist attacks, which could be in public places, including in places frequented by expatriates and foreign travelers. Very occasionally, there are demonstrations, strikes, or political marches, and for the most part, these are disruptive rather than violent. They are usually announced in advance so that people who wish to avoid them can.



**Pickpocketing:** The most common crime visitors are likely to face in Prague is theft and, in particular, pickpocketing. The best protection is awareness—keeping an eye on your and your companions' possessions when you are out, not leaving things unattended, and avoiding or being extra vigilant in really crowded areas. Keep wallets in front pockets and backpacks and purses in front of your body as much as possible, especially in tight spaces. Don't flash large amounts of money when you can avoid it, and try to avoid busy carriages on the metro and trams, which are favored by pickpockets. Don't wear your conference name badge outside of the hotel, either, as this automatically marks you as a visitor to the city. Being loud (and especially speaking English loudly) likewise makes you a target.



**Right of way:** In general, pedestrians in clearly marked pedestrian walkways have the right of way, meaning vehicles should stop for you to cross. The exception is trams. Trams have the right of way ahead of pedestrians. If you do not have a clear walk light or if a tram is not at a complete stop, PLEASE do not step in front of one. Trams cannot stop quickly.

**Scams:** Beware of bogus plain-clothes policemen who may ask to see your foreign currency and passport. If approached, don't show your money, but offer instead to go with them to the nearest police station. If you suspect that you are dealing with a bogus police officer, you can call 158 or 112 to check their identity. No police officer in the Czech Republic has the right to check your money or its authenticity. Exchanging money on the street instead of inside an exchange office is also a big no-no. There are lots of scammers who pretend to offer good rates but give you bad money instead.



**Beggars:** The authorities in Prague generally recommend not giving money to people begging on the street. If it is your habit to do so, keep smaller denominations of money in an easily accessible pocket rather than taking out a wallet or change purse.



Report any thefts in person to the Czech police within 24 hours and get a police report crime number. The police station at **Jungmanovo náměstí 9** (just off of Wenceslaus Square, nearest metro stop Můstek) is open 24 hours and has English translators. There is also a police station at the airport where you can get a police report. If your passport is lost or stolen, you must obtain a police report and report it to the appropriate embassy in Prague.

Every lamppost in Prague has a unique 6-digit number posted at eye level. Should you require assistance from the police or emergency services, these codes will help pinpoint your location if you are still waiting to offer an exact address.



## Words to Know

*Pozor* (POE-ZOR)  
means “attention” or “caution.”

*Pomoc* (POE-MOATS)  
means “help.”

Note: It is alright to break the rule about keeping your voice down when you use these words.



## ICEC 2024 Guide to Prague

# Tips and Tricks for Getting Along in Prague

### When in Prague, do as the Czechs do...

- Except for drunk football fans and occasional irate bus drivers, Czechs tend to be very quiet in public. Loud talking, laughing, singing in public, whistling, and shouting at someone at a distance will bring you unwanted attention and dirty looks. Try to keep the volume down. (See the Staying Safe in Prague section for more reasons to keep quiet...)
- When you enter a small store or an elevator, greeting people with a quiet *dobrý den* (**DOE**-BREE DEN) is customary and polite. Likewise, when you leave—whether you made a purchase or browsed—take your leave by saying *na shledanou* (NAH **SLE**-DAH-NO). Check out the next page for more Czech words and phrases!
- Another shopping tip: Take a basket. In the past, no one would think of walking through a store without a shopping cart or basket to demonstrate their intent to purchase. While it isn't always necessary, it is still pretty typical.
- Tipping is a kindness that is appreciated, but it is viewed differently here than in the U.S. A tip should reflect an appreciation for good service, with 10 percent of the bill usually considered generous. Often, Czechs will round the bill up to an appropriate multiple of 10 (so a bill of 225 with good service might be rounded to 250).
- Czechs are generally fond of dogs, but they are expected to be well-behaved. Don't be surprised to see dogs in parks and on the streets, shopping centers, public transportation, and restaurants.
- Public bathrooms—especially in the city center—are often paid toilets and sometimes are staffed by someone. Keeping a few 5 and 10-crown coins on hand is a good idea in case of a minor emergency. Note: Sometimes, the toilet paper dispenser is on a wall outside the stalls. Make sure you take your toilet paper in with you in advance!
- Smoking is now prohibited in indoor public spaces (restaurants, bars, stores), within several meters of the entrances to these spaces, and at public transportation stops. Still, smoking is a national pastime here, so don't be surprised to see a lot of flouting of this law and crowds of smokers hanging out at the boundaries of these areas.



## Useful Vocabulary and Pronunciation

English	Czech
Hello, good day (formal)	Dobrý den (DOE-bree den)
Hi, bye (informal, interchangeable)	Ahoj/čau (AAH-hoy / CHOW)
Please	Prosím (PRO-seem)
Goodbye (formal)	Na shledanou (nah SLE-dah-no)
Excuse me	Promíňte (PRO-meen-te)
Thank you	Děkuju (de-KOO-yoo)
Help	Pomoc! (POE-MOATS)
Do you speak English?	Mluvíte anglicky? (MLOO-vee-te AHN-glit-skee)
Where is...?	Kde je...? (GDEH YEH)
Bathroom	WC, toaleta (VAY-SAY, TOE-ah-let-ah)
Pharmacy	Lekárna (LE-kar-na)
Restaurant	Restaurace (REH-stao-rah-tse)
Gluten-free	Bez lepku, bezlepkový (BEZ LEP-coo, LEP-co-vee)
Lactose-free	Bez laktózy (BEZ lack-toe-zee)
Sugar-free	Bez cukru (BEZ SUE-crew)
Yes	Ano (AH-no), sometimes just Jo (YO)
No	Ne (NEH)

# ICEC 2024 Guide to Prague

## Health and Wellness

### Pharmacy

In a Czech pharmacy (called a *lékárna*), you will see two types of windows or counters: *volný prodej* and *výdej na recept*. To purchase over-the-counter medications, use the *volny prodej* counter. A list of Czech equivalents for common over-the-counter medications is on the next page. If a Czech doctor prescribes a medication for you, use the *vydej na recept* counter.

The nearest pharmacy, Dr.Max at Vítězné náměstí 997/13, is open 24 hours.

If you have forgotten or lost a prescription medication, you will usually need a Czech doctor to prescribe for you to get an emergency supply. The clinics listed below have English-speaking doctors that can help you.



#### **Non-Emergency Medical Care:**

**Unicare** (+420 235 356 553, after-hours +420 608 103 050), Na Dlouhém Lánu 11, Prague 6.

**Canadian Medical Care** (+420 222 300 300), Evropská 859, 160 00 Praha 6

Unicare and Canadian Medical Center provide English care and can sometimes arrange for after-hours house calls or translators if needed. The Christian International School of Prague's Czech-speaking staff can also help translate and assist in Czech healthcare settings.

**Emergency Medical Care:**

**Dial 112.** This is the emergency services number that offers translation for English speakers. The nearest emergency room for severe or life-threatening illness or injury is at

- **Motol University Hospital** (Fakultní nemocnice v Motole) (+420 224 431 111), V Úvalu 84, 150 06 Praha 5
- **The Military University Hospital Prague** (Ústřední vojenská nemocnice - Vojenská fakultní nemocnice Praha) (+420 973 208 333), U Vojenské nemocnice 1200, 169 02 Praha 6

## What to Ask for at the Pharmacy

U.S. Medication	Czech Equivalent
Aspirin	Aspirin, acylpyrin
Tylenol	Paralen or Panadol 500mg
Advil, Ibuprofen	Brufen, Ibalgin 200 or 400 mg
Zyrtec or Claritin for allergies	Zyrtec or Claritine
Cepacol Lozenges for sore throat	Strepsils (many flavors)
Guaifenesin cough syrup	Coldrex Broncho, Mucosolvan
Saline nose spray	Sterimar Spray
Metamucil against constipation	Psyllium
Zantac for reflux	Ranisan or Antacidum Rennie
Pepto Bismol, Tums for upset stomach	Maalox, Talcid, TUMS
Imodium against diarrhea	Imodium
Zofran/Dramamine for nausea	Kinedryl
Plaster/Band-aid	Náplast

# ICEC 2024 Guide to Prague

## Dining in Prague

### Dining Options

**In and near the hotel:** The hotel has a few nearby restaurants. Bull & Bonito offers Mediterranean fare in a sleek and luxurious setting. Katsura is located in the Vienna House and offers contemporary Japanese cuisine. Just nearby is Restaurant & Cafe BLOX, which serves breakfast and lunch on a rotating menu. A Billa supermarket is also located next door to the hotel.

**A few steps away:** Down the street toward the Vítězné náměstí roundabout are many dining options. Fast food options include KFC, Paul, or Bageterie Boulevard. If you are in the mood for pizza, we recommend 360Pizza. Tonkin offers Asian cuisine. There are also many restaurants and Czech *hospoda* around, including Restaurant Kulařák. For those looking for some TexMex, there is the Las Adelitas Taquería.

**Out on the town:** While visiting Prague, you can find almost any kind of food that you'd like to try, and the Welcome Desk staff would be happy to make some recommendations. For distinctly Czech flavor, why not find a Czech pub or restaurant for the traditional pork/cabbage/dumpling combo, a savory goulash, the uniquely Czech sliced roast beef with *svíčková* sauce, a delicately fried pork or chicken cutlet, or fresh homemade fruit dumplings? Or grab a hot *klobasa* (sausage) with rye bread and mustard, a sweet or savory *palačinka* (crepe), or a *trdelník* (sweet yeast bread shaped like a barrel, cooked over hot coals and coated with cinnamon and sugar) from a street vendor?



## The 411 on Czech Food

Dumplings are a staple of Czech cuisine, with many varieties to try. The basic ones are the fluffier bread dumplings (*houškové knedlíky*) and the denser potato dumplings (*bramborové knedlíky*), which both start as a loaf before being steamed, sliced, and plated with meat and sauce.

Soup is an essential and delicious part of an excellent Czech lunch. Some very robust and traditional options are potato soup (*bramborová polévka*) and garlic soup (*česněková polévka*).

Beer (*pivo*) is, without doubt, THE national beverage of the Czech Republic. If you are a beer drinker, this is a great place to find high-quality beer that is sometimes cheaper than water.

The most common side dishes for meals are dumplings and potatoes (in one form or another). If you want a lighter option, try a *šopský салат*—a salad of chopped cucumbers, sweet peppers, tomatoes, and occasionally onions, tossed with crumbled Balkan cheese. (You can also increase your daily vegetable intake at breakfast, where you will often find tomatoes, cucumbers, and carrots alongside the eggs, toast, and yogurt.)

Some places will let you have tap water for free if you ask, but usually, you are expected to buy bottled water at a restaurant. Bottled water is available with gas/bubbles (*perlivá*) or without (*neperlivá*).



### Words to Know

***Dobrou chut'*** (DOE-BROE HOOT) means “good taste” or “bon apétit.” It is said to fellow diners at the start of a meal.

***Na zdraví*** (NAH ZDRAH-VEE) means “to health.” It is the typical toast when you drink with someone, of course followed with a gentle clink of the glasses.



# Sightseeing



## Sights to See

Prague is a city full of history and beauty. Here you can visit the world’s largest castle complex, walk the coronation route of a Holy Roman emperor, see and feel the effects of communism and fascism and be inspired by the stories of heroes who resisted, learn about pre-Reformation reformers, and enjoy the art and architecture of many centuries. Some quintessentially Prague sights include:

- Prague Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral
- Petřín Hill
- Old Town Square and the astronomical clock
- Josefov Quarter
- Wenceslaus Square and the National Museum
- Vyšehrad
- The Royal Road and Charles Bridge
- Letna Park and the Metronome

If you have visited before and want to try something different, or if you prefer the offbeat, try:

- The Museum of Communism
- Paddle boating on the Vltava
- A nuclear bunker tour
- Hunting for Czech artist David Černý’s works, including the babies that adorn the Žižkov Tower
- Leaving your mark on the Lennon Wall

## Recommended Resource



[Czech Tourism](#), the official tourism portal of the Czech Republic, offers a free mobile app—the Czech Republic, Land of Stories—that includes tons of information about tours, sights to see, events, dining options, and so on, as well as maps, audio guides, weather forecasts, currency converters, and other useful tools.