



**Trotter**

Trotter Tools:

# The Czech Republic





## Trotter Tools—effective October 2013

Welcome to Trotter Tools! Here, you will receive vital information catered to your trip to the Czech Republic! Rest assured and feel confident that you are in the know. All you need to do now is have fun!

### General Travel Tips

- Turn your smartphone to airplane mode when you arrive. Airplane mode will allow you to not waste your battery on searching for a signal and will avoid roaming charges.
  - o [Translator app](#)
- Everyone has a black suitcase. If you must check your luggage, make a distinguishable feature, like a ALWAYS BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDING. The Czech Republic is generally a very safe country, however, incidents can happen.

### Country

Czech Republic

### Capital

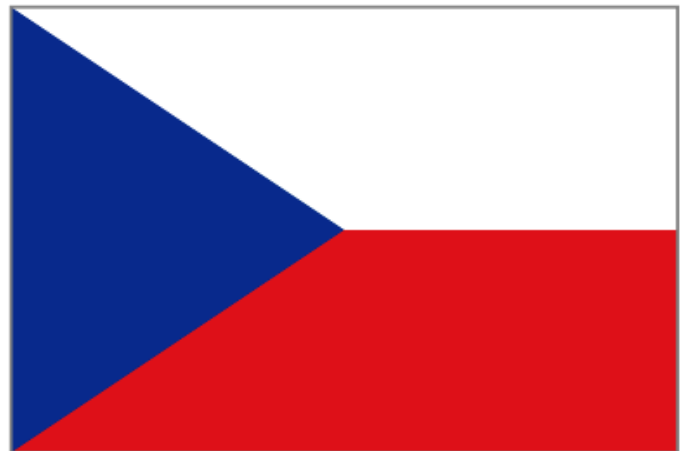
Prague (Praha)

### Time zone

UTC +1 winter, UTC +2 summer. 6 hours ahead of New York.

### Refer to the locals as

Czechs





## Main Religion

Agnostic/Atheist, Roman Catholic

## Visa Information

Persons carrying a US passport can tour Prague for 90 days without a visa.

## Immunization

It is recommended that you are up to date on all of your routine vaccinations before traveling, including Hepatitis A. If you are doing a lot of outdoor activities, like caving or hiking, it is also recommended to get a rabies shot and be up to date on Tetanus. If you are hiking in the woods or tall grass between March and October, it is possible to contract Lyme disease or other bites. It is advisable to get a tick-borne encephalitis vaccine for prevention.

The Czech Republic requires proof of medical insurance in case you get injured or sick during your stay. Carrying your American insurance card will suffice.

## Water

Water standard is similar to that in the United States and is safe to drink.

## Climate

The climate in the Czech Republic is mild. December, January and February are considered winter months. It can snow and drop below freezing. In the summer, the temperature can exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit.



## Currency

The Czech currency is the Koruna, called the Crown. The local symbol is the K. Coins come in 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 and 50. Bills come in 100, 200, 500, 1000, 2000 and 5000.

**Never exchange money in the streets.**

Exchanging money in a bank is also not advisable, as you will get an unfavorable exchange rate. It is recommended to use ATMs instead of exchanging cash. If you must exchange money, locals suggest exchange offices around “Politických vězňů”, “Opletalova” or “Kaprova” streets.

**YOU MUST CALL YOUR BANK AND CREDIT CARD COMPANY PRIOR TO YOUR TRIP AND ALERT THEM THAT YOU WILL BE OVERSEAS, OTHERWISE YOUR CARDS WILL BE PUT ON FRAUD ALERT AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO USE THEM.**

Check with your bank to see if they have any partners where you won't be charged a surcharge



## Shopping

- Many large restaurants accept credit cards, but a lot will not. Check the door for card logos before you enter.
- Many large department stores also accept Euros.
- Most stores accept Visa/MasterCard.
- The Czech Republic is known for garnets, amber and art glass.



## Garnets in the Czech Republic

Garnets are known to bring joy, good health, energy and courage. Bohemian Garnets are noted for their fiery color. They are also mechanically and thermally resistant. Cesky Granat Turnov is one of the most reputable garnet stores in Prague. While there are many stores in Stare Mesto sell garnets, many sell garnets that are imported from India. For a guaranteed Czech garnet, Cesky Granat Turnov is the place to go; you will even receive a certification of origin.

Cesky Granat Turnov

Celenta 4, Stare Mesto

Prague, Bohemia 110 00

Metro: Line A or B Muagsteak



### Czech art glass

The Czechs are known for decorative glass ranging from crystal vases, to colorful blown pieces. Some of the most important names in Czech glass are Moser, Swarovski, Rony Plesl, and Olgoj Chorchoj.

A few glass shops to check out are:

- Blue Praha- several locations throughout Prague, including in the airport.

- Rony Plesl Studio- Saldova 1/219, Praha 8 +420 774 589 770
- Olgoj Charchoj- Libensky Ostrov 1555, Praha 8 +420 284 811 430
- Erpet Crystal- Staromestske Namesti 27, Praha 1 +420 224 229 7555

## Language

The official language is Czech, but many people- especially young people- speak English.



## Greeting

In the Czech Republic, you greet others by shaking hands when you arrive and leave; kisses on the cheek are only given to friends. Greet people when sharing a table, elevators, tiny train compartments and when entering and leaving a store.

## Useful Phrases

ENGLISH	CZECH	PHONETIC
Hello	Dobrý den	deobra den
Goodbye (see you)	Sbohem	tzh bo hem
How are you?/How do you do?-	Ják se mate	yeck suh mahtah
Excuse me (to pass by)	spotřebni mě	Spot ruoh been meah
Please	prosim	Pro seam
Thank you	děkuji	deah- ku- yay
You're welcome	Neni zač	nanee sach
I can't speak Czech	Nemůžu mluvit česky	Nemuju meluvit chezky
I don't understand	nerozumim	neruzu- meem
Do you speak English?	Mluvite anglicky	Muhluvifah angleksky
What's your name?	Jaké je vase jméno	yakah yuh vashay jamano
Pleased to meet you	těší mě	teshay meuh
Yes	Ano	Ah no
No	Ne	Neh
Help	Pomoci	poh- mo- say
How much is this?	Jak moc je to	yak moch yah toh
Where is the bathroom?	Kde je toaleta	kudeh ta- lotah



## Tipping

10% tipping is standard and is not automatically added to the bill. It is often confusing because Czech law dictates that a receipt must show the 20% tax. Tip is given to the waiter before you leave the table. Tipping should be done in cash.

## Power Supply

230V/50HZ European plug type C. You will need a travel adapter to change over your American electronics. **NB- American electronics will “fry” if only plugged in through an adapter; you will also need a power converter. Many hair straighteners and all iPhone chargers are able to withstand both voltages.** Electronics are labeled with the voltages that they can handle.

## Internet

Wi-Fi is available in restaurants and many bars and cafes, notably Starbucks, KFC, Gloria Jeans Coffee and Costa Coffee. Prague has some hotspots, but it is often slow because of overuse. Internet cafes are also available.

## Important phone numbers

The Czech 911 is 112. 112 doesn't have English speakers available 100% of the time. However, there is a tourist police station at Jungmannovo Namesti 9 near Mustek metro, which always has English speakers. You can call 150 for firefighters, 155 for medical emergency and 158 for state police.

Phones use the GSM standard. Phone cards are available to purchase, but the pricing is convoluted, thus phone cards are not recommended. There are few phone booths available, but most are disappearing due to cell phones.



## Country Code

+420

## Safety

**If you are a victim of crime or lose your passport, contact the police and the US Embassy. It is always advisable to make a copy of your passport and keep the copy in your hotel safe.**

### The U.S. Embassy in Prague

Trziste 15, 118 01 Prague 1, Czech Republic

Telephone: (420) 257 022 000

Emergency after-hours telephone: (420) 257 022 000

Fax: (420) 257 022 809

While the crime rate in general is low, the Czech Republic is infamous for it's pickpockers. Criminals often work in groups, with many carrying small weapons. Pickpocketing is particularly a problem in large cities, specifically on crowded streets, outdoor cafes, public transit (notably 9, 10 and 22 trams) and tourist areas.

## Driving

An IDP (International Driver's Permit) is required to drive in the Czech Republic in addition to a valid drivers license. Toll stickers are required to drive on major highways. You can obtain toll stickers at most gas stations. You are also required to drive with your headlights on at all times and to carry emergency safety tools, so make sure that these are in the vehicle at the time you pick up your rental.





## Medical

All hospitals accept credit cards and cash for payment. Ambulances are on par with the US and most hospitals are adequate. Most patients are sent to treatment specific centers rather than to general emergency rooms. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK WITH YOUR MEDICAL INSURANCE BEFORE YOU TRAVEL TO SEE IF YOU WILL BE COVERED OVERSEAS.**

## Scams to be aware of

- Only use at banks or kiosks. If someone offers to exchange money for you, it is a scam. Cases of skimming information from ATM cards, even at banks, have been reported; it is advised to use only large banks, hotels and airport ATMs.
- Be wary about paying for goods and services using credit cards; there have been cases about being overcharged using credit cards. Keep all receipts from transactions and verify charges before leaving place of transaction.
- There have been reports of tourists being robbed by cab drivers that they have hailed on the street. The US Embassy urges tourists to call a taxi or to use taxis from a **“Fair Place”-labeled** taxi stand.
- Taxis have also been known to significantly overcharge tourists. It is advisable to get a price in advance and to make sure that the driver is using his meter.
- If you are driving and see a car broken down on the side of the road, many times these are just drivers who aren't in need of help and will pressure other drivers for money.



## Other Dos and Don'ts

- Do not jaywalk or commit any other pedestrian violations; police enforce these laws.
- Vehicle break-ins and vehicle theft has also been reported. To avoid this, it is best to park in parking garages and not leave valuables in sight.
- Be wary of casinos, as they are often mafia connected.
- Do not comment about how inexpensive the Czech Republic is compared to America.
- The Czech Republic is one of the most Atheist countries in the world. It is important for visitors to respect that.
- Always say hello and goodbye when entering and leaving a small shop, restaurant or bar.
- If you enter a Czech home, remove your shoes.
- When riding a tram or train, don't take your ticket out unless asked by a train worker.
- While prostitution is not illegal, it is very risky for health!

## Other useful tips

- **In the Czech Republic, you are required to carry your passport with you at all times. If you are asked by a police officer and do not have your passport on you, there will be a fine.**
- Don't call the Czech Republic part of Eastern Europe. They are sensitive and consider themselves Central Europe.
- Czechs are particularly sensitive to tourists thinking they are part of the former USSR.
- Restaurants do not offer free water and often beer is cheaper.

## Unusual Items to Pack

Shorts are generally reserved for sports or swimming.

