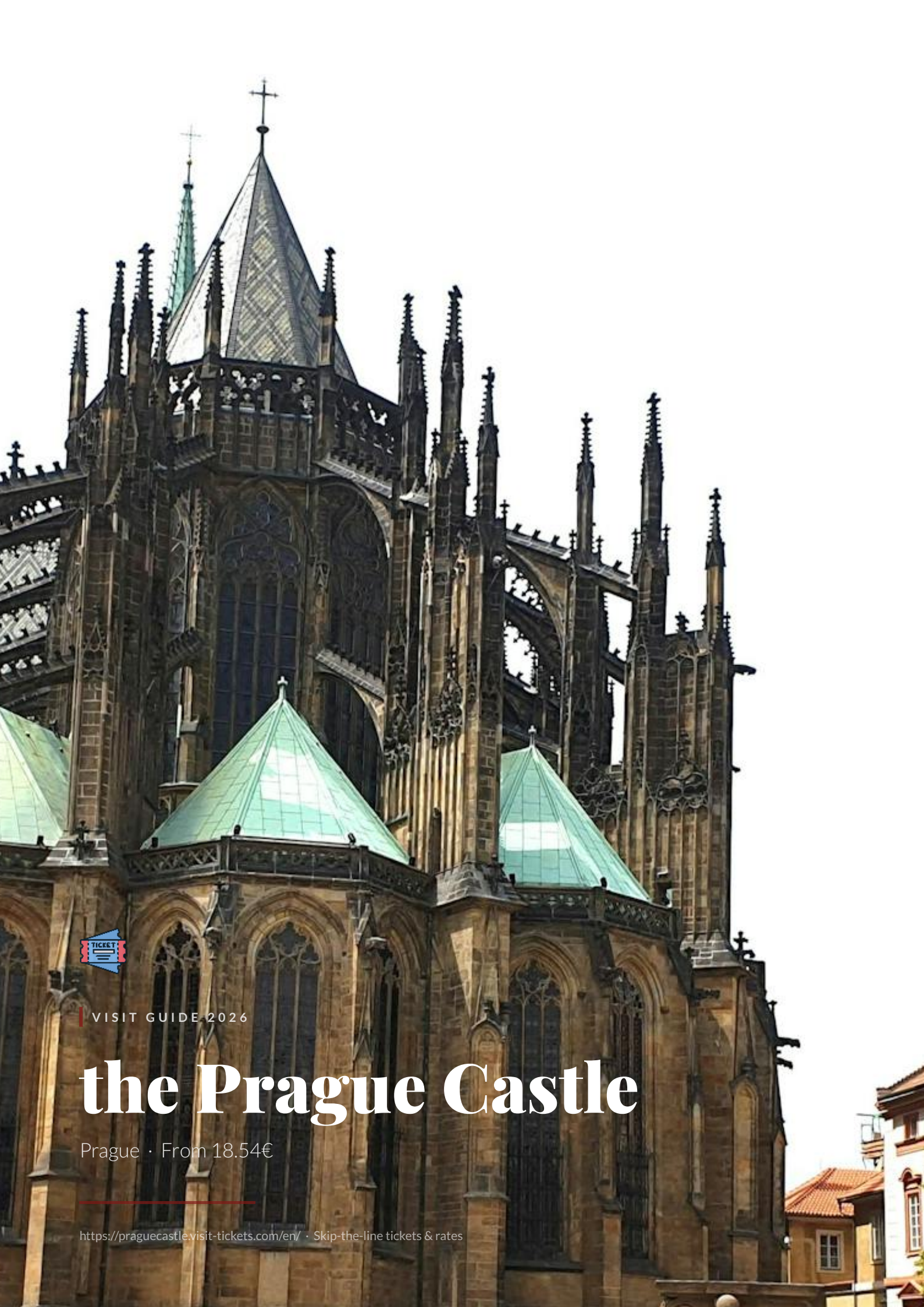


VISIT GUIDE 2026

the Prague Castle

Prague · From 18.54€

https://praguecastle.visit-tickets.com/en/ · Skip-the-line tickets & rates



History & experience

ORIGIN & HISTORY

The Cradle of Bohemian Power

GOOGLE 4.7 ★★★★★ 204 759 reviews

TIQETS 4.4 ★★★★☆ 25 010 reviews

Long before the arrival of kings, Opyš hill was already a sacred site. Archaeological excavations have revealed human occupation dating back to the **Neolithic**, confirming that this promontory dominated the region for millennia. In 1928, the discovery of a richly equipped warrior grave beneath the third courtyard proved the presence of a local elite well before the official founding of the castle.

Written history begins around 880 with Prince Bořivoj and the **Přemyslid** dynasty. According to medieval chronicles, a pagan altar dedicated to Žiži, goddess of life, stood at the summit. Wenceslas I had a chapel dedicated to Saint Vitus built there, a symbolic gesture marking the Christian conversion of Bohemia and the anchoring of faith in the emerging political power.

Over the centuries, the site transformed into a majestic royal fortress. Under the reign of Charles IV, the **International Gothic** style defined the current architecture, notably with the construction of St. Vitus Cathedral. It became the beating heart of the Empire, where major decisions for Central Europe were made for several generations.

Today, Prague Castle remains the official seat of the Czech president, perpetuating a unique political continuity. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as the largest ancient castle in the world, with an impressive footprint that testifies to its historical power.

THE EXPERIENCE

As you cross the historic gates, you enter a timeless universe. The atmosphere is steeped in mystery, carried by the echo of your footsteps on the ancient cobblestones. Light filtering through the colorful stained glass creates a fairy-tale ambiance that contrasts with the solidity of the stone walls.

You immediately feel small before the immensity of this architectural ensemble. Every nook tells a story, every tower offers a new perspective on the Vltava and the city. It is a total immersion into the royal past, where one can almost hear the whispers of courtiers from yesteryear.



PREPARE YOUR VISIT

Practical information

ADDRESS

Hradčany District · Bus: Hradčany Stop (lines 22, 26, 42) or Tram Hradčany (line 22). Pedestrian access via the Opyš hill stairs.

OPENING HOURS

Open daily but hours vary by season and ceremonies. Check for temporary cathedral closures on the official website before your visit.

FARES

Free for children depending on age (check variants). {promo}.

VISIT DURATION

Allow 3 to 4 hours for a complete circuit including walks between monuments and security checks. Outdoor courtyards may add to this duration.

PHOTOS

Indoor photography is allowed without flash with a regular ticket. Tripods are often prohibited in restricted areas such as the Saint Wenceslas Chapel.

AUDIENCE

Ideal for couples and families curious about history. The site is extensive (570m), so wear comfortable shoes for cobblestones and stairs. Partial wheelchair ac

HOW TO GET THERE

Access & transport

Metro

: E2 — 7 min à pied

Central Station (12 min) · Prague-Václav-Havel Airport (30 min)

Bus

: Malostranské náměstí — 5 min à pied

Central Station (18 min) · Prague-Václav-Havel Airport (48 min)

Car

Central Station (11 min) · Prague-Václav-Havel Airport (36 min)

Bike

Central Station (13 min) · Prague-Václav-Havel Airport (48 min)

LOCALISATION

Où se trouve the Prague Castle ?



📍 Prague

🌐 50°5.466′ N, 14°24.097′ E



ORGANIZATION

Understanding the Site's Layout

Outer Courtyards (Level 0)

This free level includes the vast paved squares and gardens designed by Plečnik. You can admire the main facade of the castle and the royal statues here. It is the ideal place to grasp the colossal scale of the complex before entering the interiors.

Historical Interiors (Level 1)

Accessible via Circuit B, this level brings together the major monuments: St. Guy's Cathedral, the Old Royal Palace, and St. George's Basilica. Here you can discover sumptuous reception halls and Gothic and Baroque artworks that served royal ceremonies.

Terraces and Roofs (Level 2)

From the high vantage points, you can enjoy a breathtaking view of the Vltava River and the Old Town. The terraces offer unique perspectives on the red-tiled roofs and surrounding towers. It is the preferred spot for photography, especially at sunset.

ACCESSIBILITY

♿ **Disabled Access**

Partially accessible with assistance available, but be mindful of cobblestones and historic staircas

👨‍👩‍👧 **Families**

Extensive and demanding site, ideal for active families wearing comfortable shoes.

🎧 **Audio guide**

French, English, German, Czech



Must-sees

SELECTION

The Absolute Treasures of the Circuit

01 Main choir

St. Wenceslas Cathedral

A masterpiece of Czech Gothic architecture, this cathedral houses the tombs of the Kings of Bohemia. Its colorful stained glass windows flood the space with spiritual light. The high altar is a powerful focal point of national faith.

> 💡 Its construction took nearly two centuries, reflecting Charles IV's ambition to create a temple rivaling Chartres.

02 Former Royal Palace

Vladislav Hall

The largest throne room in Bohemia, used for grand assemblies. Its starry vault and wall frescoes bear witness to the splendor of the royal court. It was here that important state decisions were made.

> 💡 It was restored after the destructions of the Thirty Years' War, resuming its central role in political life.

03 Romanesque nave

St. George's Basilica

The oldest standing structure of the castle, dating back to the 10th century. Its pure Romanesque style contrasts with the neighboring Gothic architecture. The adjoining cloister offers a contemplative pause in a lush and peaceful setting.

> 💡 Founded by Vratislav I, it served as a royal necropolis before the construction of St. Wenceslas Cathedral.

04 Zlatá ulička

Golden Lane

A narrow and picturesque street, once the residence of Rudolf II's alchemists. Today, its colorful miniature houses are inhabited by artisans. The atmosphere is fairy-tale-like, far from the hustle and bustle of the Old Town.

> 💡 It is said that the alchemists were searching for the philosopher's stone here, contributing to Prague's mystical reputation.

05

Plečnik Garden

Castle Gardens

Designed by architect Jože Plečnik, these green spaces offer a haven of peace. The shaded walkways allow you to catch your breath after the intense walking between monuments. The view of the VItava from the benches is magnificent.

> 💡 Plečnik modernized the site while respecting its history, creating a dialogue between the old castle and the Czechoslovak Republic.

06

Undergrounds (guided tours)

Warrior's Tomb

Discovered in 1928, this tomb, rich in military artifacts, dates from the 9th century. It proves the existence of a Slavic aristocracy before the Přemyslid dynasty. A fascinating remnant of the hill's pre-Christian history.

> 💡 The objects found, such as the sword and shield, indicate a high social status for the deceased.

07

South Tower

View from the Powder Tower

A strategic vantage point offering a sweeping view over the Hradčany district. Ideal for photographing the entire complex and the river. Access is often less crowded than at other high points.

> 💡 This tower once served as a storage depot for the royal garrison's ammunition.

08

Exhibition Halls

National Museum (Annex)

Located near the castle, this museum offers complementary ethnographic and historical collections. It provides a deeper insight into Slavic culture. An enriching stop for history enthusiasts.

> 💡 The exhibitions change regularly, always offering a new perspective on Czech heritage.

TIPS

Our Tips for a Perfect Visit

TIMING

Arrive early in the morning, ideally before 9 a.m., to avoid security check queues that can reach 30 minutes during peak times.

TICKET

Book your timed ticket for Circuit B online in advance, especially during peak season, to guarantee your entry slot.

TOUR

Follow the historical order: Saint Guy's Cathedral, then the Old Royal Palace, St. George's Basilica, and finish at the Golden Lane to avoid backtracking.

PHOTO

Use the diffuse light of morning or evening for flash-free interior photos; the terraces are perfect for views of the Vltava even on cloudy days.

BREAK

Take a break in the castle gardens or in the cafés of Malá Strana just below, as dining options within the circuit are limited.

CHILDREN

Plan for comfortable shoes and plenty of water, as the site is 570 meters long with many cobblestones and stairs; the free outdoor courtyards are a good way to take a break.

AUDIOGUIDE

The audioguide is available in French and is worth it to understand the architectural and historical complexity of the site, particularly in the Vladislav Hall.

COMFORT

Check the cathedral's official website for any temporary closures before your visit, as it may close for religious services or state ceremonies.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FAQ

Do I need to book the Main Circuit (Circuit B) in advance?

Yes, online booking is highly recommended, especially during peak season (June to September) and weekends. It guarantees you a specific time slot and avoids queues at physical ticket counters. Without a ticket, you risk

Can I buy the ticket on site?

Tickets are available at the castle information centers, but crowds can make purchasing slow. During high tourist seasons, morning slots are often sold out. Online sales remain the most reliable way to secure your visit.

Is the ticket valid all day?

No, the Circuit B ticket is time-stamped. You must enter the monuments within the time window indicated on your ticket. Once inside, you can generally explore at your own pace, but initial entry must respect the reserved

Does the price vary by date?

The standard fare for Circuit B is fixed, but certain special packages or guided tours may cost more. Carefully check what your ticket includes when purchasing online to avoid surprises regarding the final amount paid.

How much time should I allow to visit the castle?

Allow a minimum of 3 to 4 hours to cover the entire Circuit B. The site is 570 meters long, which involves a lot of walking on uneven terrain. Add 30 extra minutes if you wish to stroll through the free outdoor courtyard

DID YOU KNOW?

Anecdotes & curiosities

Guinness World Record

Prague Castle is officially classified as the largest ancient castle in the world. With a length of 570 meters, its footprint is colossal and justifies its unique place in the history of European architecture.

Neolithic Origins

Long before the kings, Opyš hill was inhabited as early as the Neolithic. Archaeological traces reveal a millennium of human occupation, making this site an exceptional point of historical convergence.

Religious syncretism

The dedication to Saint Guy replaces a pagan altar dedicated to Žiži, goddess of life. This transition symbolizes the Christian conversion of Bohemia and the deep rooting of the new faith in the spiritual landscape.

Presidential continuity

To this day, the castle remains the official seat of the President of the Czech Republic. This political continuity dating back to the Kings of Bohemia gives the site a living and present symbolic significance.

AROUND THE MUSEUM

After your visit, head down to Malá Strana, the picturesque district located just below. You will find quiet streets lined with colorful houses and secret gardens. For a gastronomic break, the restaurants in Malá Strana offer authentic Czech cuisine in a convivial atmosphere. Do not miss the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, a Baroque jewel whose organ attracts music lovers. Finally, crossing Charles Bridge allows you to admire the castle from the opposite bank, offering Prague's most famous panoramic view.



Visiting Prague Castle is like touching the very soul of the Czech Republic. More than just a monument, it is a powerful emotional experience that leaves a lasting impression. You will leave with the feeling of having walked alongside kings, carried by a unique historical energy found nowhere else.