

## Prague

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MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,  
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



OP Vzdělávání  
pro konkurenceschopnost

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Prague is the capital of the Czech Republic, the seat of the President, government and parliament and the political, cultural and economic centre of the country.

It lies in the centre of Bohemia on the river Vltava. It is a beautiful town with a rich history dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. /foundation/

Since that time Prague has been the seat of Bohemian kings. Since the 14<sup>th</sup> century Prague has flourished /Charles IV./

Charles University was founded and many imposing buildings have been built.

Nowadays Prague offers visitors many sights and they admire a great number of monuments in all styles: Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque.

1. Questions:

1. What is Prague the seat of?
2. Where is Prague situated?
3. What do you know about history?
4. Which styles of monuments can you admire there?

**Prague Castle – Hradčany** – dominates the town. It is the residence of the head of the state. We can visit there the Vladislav Hall /the setting of notable acts of state – election of the President/, Spanish Hall, the National Gallery with painting by old masters, and, of course St. Vitus 's Cathedral where Bohemian kings are buried. Near is also St. George's Church, one of the best preserved and most valuable examples of Romanesque architecture.

In the neighbourhood of the Castle **the Strahov Monastery** is located. Founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, it is now a museum of Czech literature. Nearby the Petřín Observation Tower can be found. It was built for the Jubilee Exhibition in 1891 as a free copy of the Eiffel Tower.

2. Questions:

1. What is the dominant of the town?
2. Which halls can you visit there?
3. Where are the Bohemian kings buried?
4. Where is the Strahov Monastery located?

A curiosity in the area of Hradčany is **Golden Lane**, a little street with miniature houses where alchemists used to live /employed by Rudolf II./ In the Royal Gardens at Hradčany we can admire the lively Renaissance building of Queen Ann's Summer House – Belvedere – with a Singing Fountain. From Hradčany we have a splendid view of the whole town and of the river with its many bridges. Through the narrow steep **Neruda Street** we come down to the old quarter of Lesser Town.

### 3. Questions:

1. What is a curiosity in the area of Hradčany?
2. Where is Belvedere situated?
3. What is Neruda Street like?

**The Lesser Town** is a quarter of narrow streets, old houses, palaces and cosy pubs. Well-known is e.g. Waldstein Palace. Today most embassies, consulates have their seat in Lesser Town.

Across the old **Charles Bridge** adorned with statues we can walk to another old part of our capital – to the Old Town. Charles Bridge is destined for pedestrians only, no other traffic is allowed.

In the Old Town Square we can often see a group of people looking at **the Old Town Hall** with its Astronomical Clock. When the clock strikes, they watch the parade of apostels. In the Old Town Hall many couples are married in the well-known Wedding Hall.

Some other sights admired by tourists are the Gothic Týn Church, the Huss Monument, old houses, not far from the square is the old Charles University with Clementinum, the Bethlehem Chapel.

### 4. Questions:

1. What can you find in the Lesser Town?
2. What is Charles Bridge adorned with?
3. What is the most visited sight in Prague?
4. Which other sights can you see there?

**Wenceslas Square** is the liveliest place in Prague. In its upper part we can see the National Museum. The statue of the Czech patron – St. Wenceslas made by J.V.Myslbek is a symbol of free and independent republic. Coming down the square we get to Prague's busiest streets: Příklad and Národní třída to the left. Walking through this street we come to **the National Theatre** standing on the bank of the river Vltava.

But Prague is not only a historical city. New residential areas have been built on the outskirts. It is an important road, rail, air and river transport junction. Prague also has a dense network of local transport which includes trams, buses and the newly built underground called the metro.

Prague has been a centre of cultural life during various periods. Prague's finest art galleries are in the castle area, especially the fine collections of the National Gallery in the Šternberský Palace and the Basilica of St. George.

Traditional scenes include the National Theatre, the neo-Classical Stavovské Theatre, where Don Giovanni, Mozart's masterpiece, was performed for the first time. Modern dramatic production is represented by the Laterna Magica theatre and a large number of smaller but very popular scenes, such as the Na Zábradlí and Ypsilon theatres.

Contemporary Prague is the political, administrative, financial and commercial centre of the Czech Republic. It is also an industrial city, producing goods ranging from machinery to foodstuffs.

5. Questions:

1. What can you tell me about the cultural life in Prague?
2. What is Prague nowadays?
3. Which means of transport can you use in Prague?

Solutions: all answers are in the text above the questions

## Použité zdroje

ODEHNALOVÁ, Jana. *Reading Material for the Graduation Exam: Study material*. Ilustrace Irena Hladká. Praha: Práh, 1993, 64 s. ISBN 80-858-0903-6.

EL-HMOUDOVÁ, Dagmar. *Angličtina: maturitní témata*. 2. vyd. Třebíč: Petra Velanová, 2007, 223 s. Maturita (Petra Velanová). ISBN 978-80-86873-04-6.

Pokud není uvedeno jinak, použitý materiál je z vlastních zdrojů autora



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