

# PRAGUE CASTLE AND HRADČANY

Updated by  
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 Sights

★★★★★

 Restaurants

★★★★☆

 Hotels

★★★★☆

 Shopping

★★★☆☆

 Nightlife

★★★☆☆

NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

TOP EXPERIENCES	GETTING HERE
<p>■ <b>Last Judgment Mosaic:</b> Head to the south-facing side of Katedrála sv. Víta (St. Vitus Cathedral) to see this extraordinary triptych mosaic, which dates back to 1371.</p> <p>■ <b>Holiday Shopping:</b> Visiting in December? Browse for gifts at the castle’s festive market or pick up a retro wooden toy from the Rocking Horse Toy Shop.</p> <p>■ <b>City Views:</b> Enjoy one of the finest panoramas in—and of—Prague from the Strahov Garden Viewpoint, just beneath Strahov Monastery.</p> <p>■ <b>Golden Lane:</b> Poke your head into the cute, colorful cottages that line charming Zlatá ulička (Golden Lane) to read about the people that once lived in them.</p> <p>■ <b>Classical Music:</b> Tune into one of the excellent classical concerts regularly held in Prague Castle’s Romanesque Bazilika sv. Jiří (St. George’s Basilica).</p>	<p>■ There are two Metro Line A stations fairly close to Hradčany: Malostranská and Hradčanská. The former sits at the bottom of the neighborhood, with easy access to the Old Castle Stairs that lead up through the castle complex. The latter is a 15-minute (relatively flat) walk to the main castle entrance near St. Vitus Cathedral. Prefer not to walk? Tram 22 to Pražský hrad drops you just outside the main castle entrance. Taxis work, too, of course, but they can be expensive. The castle is compact and easily navigated, but it also teems with huge crowds practically year-round.</p>
PLANNING YOUR TIME	
<p>The castle is at its best in early morning and late evening, when it holds an air of mystery and intrigue. The cathedral deserves an hour—but bear in mind that, as the number of visitors allowed inside is limited, the lines can be long. Another hour should be spent in the Starý Královský palác (Old Royal Palace). And you can spend several more hours taking in the museums, the views of the city, and the hidden nooks of the castle. Add in the many restaurants and shops of surrounding Hradčany (Castle Area), and you should budget a day for the whole experience.</p>	

Despite its monolithic presence, Prague Castle is not a single structure but a collection of structures dating from the 10th to the 20th centuries, all linked by internal courtyards. The most important buildings within the castle complex are the St. Vitus Cathedral, a grand Gothic house of worship clearly visible soaring above the castle walls, and the Old Royal Palace, the official residence of kings and presidents and still the center of political power in the Czech Republic.

To the west of Prague Castle is the residential Hradčany, a town that emerged from a collection of monasteries and churches in the early 14th century. The concentration of history packed into Prague Castle and Hradčany challenges those not versed in the ups and downs of Bohemian kings, religious uprisings, wars, and oppression—but there’s no shame in taking it all in on a purely aesthetic level.

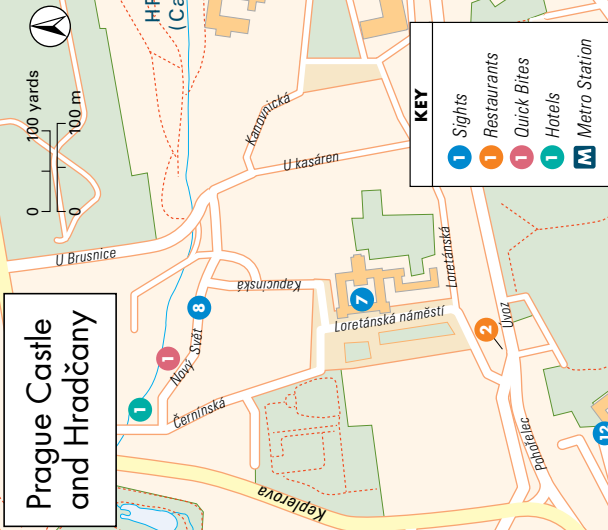
Sights

**Bazilika sv. Jiří** (St. George’s Basilica) **CHURCH** | Inside, this church looks more or less as it did in the 12th century; it’s the best-preserved Romanesque relic in the country. The effect is at once barnlike and peaceful, as the warm golden yellow of the stone walls and the small arched windows exude a sense of enduring harmony. Prince Vratislav I originally built it in the 10th century, though only the

foundations remain from that time. The father of Prince Wenceslas (of Christmas carol fame) dedicated it to St. George (of dragon fame), a figure supposedly more agreeable to the still largely pagan people. The outside was remodeled during early baroque times, although the striking rusty-red color is in keeping with the look of the Romanesque edifice. The painted, house-shape tomb at the front of the church holds Vratislav’s remains. Up the steps, in a chapel to the right, is the tomb Peter Parler designed for St. Ludmila, grandmother of St. Wenceslas. ☒ *Nám. U sv. Jiří, Pražský Hrad* ☎ 224–371–111 🌐 [www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz) 🎫 *Included in 2-day castle ticket (from 250 Kč) 🚏 Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

**Druhé nádvoří** (Second Courtyard) **PLAZA/SQUARE** | Cross the tree-lined ravine known as **Jelení příkop** (Stag Moat) and you’ll enter the castle through the northern entrance, emerging into the Second

## Prague Castle and Hradčany



Sights	Restaurants	Quick Bites	Hotels
1 Bazilika sv. Jiří.....F1	1 Kuchyně.....D2	1 Kávárna Nový Svět.....B1	1 Hotel U raka.....A1
2 Druhé nádvoří.....D2	2 Malý Buddha.....B3	2 Lobkowicz Palace Café.....G1	
3 Hradčanské náměstí.....D2			
4 Katedrála sv. Víta.....E2			
5 Královská zahrada.....E1			
6 Lobkovický palác.....G1			
7 Loreta.....B2			
8 Nový Svět.....B1			
9 První nádvoří.....D2			
10 Schwarzenberský a Šternberský palác.....D2			
11 Starý královský palác.....E2			
12 Strahovský klášter.....A3			
13 Třetí nádvoří.....E2			
14 Zlatá ulička.....F1			



St. George's Basilica is the oldest church building within the Prague Castle complex.

Courtyard. It was built in the late 16th and early 17th centuries under Rudolf II, who amassed an impressive collection of fine and decorative art, scientific instruments, and other treasures. The bulk of this was either looted by the Swedes during the Thirty Years' War, removed to Vienna after Rudolf's death, or auctioned off during the 18th century, but artworks that survived are displayed here. The **Obrazárna** (Picture Gallery) is currently closed for renovation, so a selection of highlights can be found in the nearby **Císařská konírna** (Imperial Stable).

Except for the view of the spires of St. Vitus Cathedral, the courtyard offers little for the eye to feast on. Empress Maria Theresa's court architect, Nicolò Pacassi, remade the Second Courtyard in the 1760s, and his attempts to impart classical grandeur meant a loss of earlier Gothic and Renaissance styles. This main sight here today is the **Kohlova kašna** (Kohl's Fountain), which was created in 1686 and restored in 2020. Look for the Eagle of the Holy Roman Empire at the

top. ☒ **Pražský Hrad** ☎ 224-372-423  
 🌐 [www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz) 🆓 Free 🚶 Line A:  
*Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

**Hradčanské náměstí** (*Hradčany Square*)  
**PLAZA/SQUARE** | With its fabulous mixture of baroque and Renaissance houses, topped by Prague Castle itself, this square had a prominent role in the film *Amadeus* (as a substitute for Vienna). Czech director Miloš Forman used the house at No. 7 for Mozart's residence, where the composer was haunted by the masked figure he thought was his father. The flamboyant rococo **Arcibiskupský palác**, on the left as you face the castle, was the Viennese archbishop's palace. For a brief time after World War II, No. 11 was home to a little girl named Marie Jana Korbelová, better known as former U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright. ☒ *Hradčany* 🚶 Line A: *Malostranská plus Tram No. 22 to Pražský Hrad.*



★ **Katedrála sv. Víta** (St. Vitus Cathedral) **CHURCH** | With its graceful, soaring towers, this Gothic cathedral—among the most beautiful in Europe—is the spiritual heart of Prague Castle and of the Czech Republic itself. The cathedral has a long and complicated history, beginning in the 10th century and continuing to its completion in 1929. Inside, the six stained-glass windows to your left and right and the large rose window behind are modern masterpieces; see if you can spot the contributions of art nouveau master Alfons Mucha. Other highlights include the Svatováclavská kaple (Chapel of St. Wenceslas); the Kralovské oratorium (Royal Oratory), a perfect example of late Gothic architecture; the ornate silver sarcophagus of St. John of Nepomuk; and the eight chapels around the back of the cathedral. Don't miss the Last Judgment mosaic on the south side of the cathedral's exterior, constructed from a million glass and stone tesserae and dating from the 1370s. It's possible to enter the cathedral for free to take in the splendor from the back, but for the full experience, buy a ticket and walk around. Cathedral entry is included in the combined ticket to see the main castle sights; an audio guide is highly recommended. ☎ *Hrad III. nádvoří 2, Pražský Hrad* ☎ 224-372-434 🌐 [www.katedralasvatehovita.cz](http://www.katedralasvatehovita.cz) 📖 *Included in 2-day castle ticket (from 250 Kč)* 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

**Královská zahrada** (Royal Garden) **CITY PARK** | This peaceful swath of greenery affords lovely views of St. Vitus Cathedral and the castle's walls and bastions. Originally laid out in the 16th century, it endured devastation in war, neglect in times of peace, and many redesigns, reaching its present parklike form in the early 20th century. Luckily, its Renaissance treasures survived. One of these is the long, narrow **Míčovna** (Ball Game Hall), built by Bonifaz Wohlmut in 1568, its garden front completely covered by a dense tangle of allegorical *sgraffiti*.

The **Královský letohrádek** (Royal Summer Palace, aka Queen Anne's Summer Palace or Belvedere) at the garden's eastern end deserves its reputation as one of the most beautiful Renaissance structures north of the Alps. Designed by Italian architects in the mid-1500s, it has a copper roof that looks like an upturned boat's keel riding above the graceful arcades of the ground floor. During the 18th and 19th centuries, military engineers tested artillery in the interior, which had already lost its rich furnishings to Swedish soldiers during their 1648 siege of Prague. The Renaissance-style *giardinetto* (little garden) adjoining the summer palace centers on another masterwork: the Italian-designed, Czech-produced Singing Fountain, which resonates from the sound of falling water. ☎ *Between U Prašného mostu ul. and Mariánské hradby ul., Pražský Hrad* ☎ 224-372-435 🌐 [www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz) 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

**Lobkovický palác** (Lobkowicz Palace) **CASTLE/PALACE** | Greatly benefiting from a recent renovation, this palace is a showcase for baroque and rococo styling. Exhibits here trace the ancestry of the Lobkowicz family, who were great patrons of the arts in their heyday (Beethoven was just one of the artists who received their funding). The audio tour adds a personal touch: it's narrated by William Lobkowicz, the family scion who spearheaded the property's restitution and rehabilitation, and includes quite a few anecdotes about the family through the years. Art highlights here include Pieter Bruegel's *Haymaking*, a stunning oil painting of a hay harvest, and Canaletto's two enormous London city landscapes. Although inside the Prague Castle complex, this museum has a separate admission fee. ☎ *Jiřská 3, Hradčany* ☎ 233-312-925 🌐 [www.lobkowicz.cz](http://www.lobkowicz.cz) 🎫 290 Kč 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská.*



Queen Anne's Summer Palace was commissioned by Ferdinand I in 1538 for his loving wife, but she never stepped foot in it as she passed away while delivering her 15th child.

★ **Loreta** **CHURCH** | Sitting outside the castle complex, the sometimes-overlooked Loreta is home to one of Prague's greatest architectural treasures: a replica of the original Santa Casa, said to be the house in Nazareth where the Archangel Gabriel first appeared to the Virgin Mary. Constructed in the early 1620s and a place of pilgrimage for 400 years, the building is covered in spectacular stucco figures of Old Testament prophets and scenes from the life of the Virgin Mary. The cloisters surrounding the casa are also home to treasures of their own, including beautiful frescoes, sculpted fountains, and soaring bell towers. Look out for the Prague Sun monstrance, an incredibly valuable golden vessel encrusted with thousands of diamonds. ☎ *Loretánské nám. 7, Prague* ☎ 220-516-740 🌐 [www.loreta.cz/](http://www.loreta.cz/) 🎫 180 Kč 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pohořelec.*

★ **Nový Svět** (New World) **STREET** | This picturesque street may only be a short walk from Hradčanské náměstí, but it feels like a whole world away. Nový Svět was developed in the 1300s as a residential district for the castle's workers, and later became home to famous names including 16th-century court astronomer Tycho Brahe. Today, visitors can take a stroll along the (relatively) quiet cobbled street and admire its colorful 17th-century cottages; look out for house signs depicting everything from a golden pear to a human foot. There are a handful of restaurants and cafés along the way, as well as a small children's play park, if you want to extend your visit. ☎ *Nový Svět, Hradčany* 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Brusnice.*

**První nádvoří** (First Courtyard) **PLAZA/SQUARE** | The main entrance to Prague Castle from Hradčanské náměstí is certain to impress any first-time visitor. Going through the wrought-iron gate, guarded at ground level by uniformed

Czech soldiers and from above by the ferocious *Battling Titans* (a copy of Ignaz Platzer's original 18th-century work), you enter this courtyard, built on the site of old moats and gates that once separated the castle from the surrounding buildings and thus protected the vulnerable western flank. The courtyard is one of the more recent additions to the castle, designed by Maria Theresa's court architect, Nicolò Pacassi, in the 1760s. Today it forms part of the presidential office complex. Pacassi's reconstruction was intended to unify the eclectic collection of buildings that made up the castle, but the effect of his work is somewhat flat.

At its eastern end of the courtyard is **Matyášova brána** (Matthias Gate). Built in 1614, this stone gate once stood alone in front of the moats and bridges that surrounded the castle. Under the Habsburgs, the gate survived by being grafted as a relief onto the palace building. As you go through it, notice the ceremonial white-marble entrance halls on either side that lead up to the Czech president's reception rooms (which are only rarely open to the public).

■ **TIP→ Try to arrive on the hour to witness the changing of the guard; the fanfare peaks at noon with a special flag ceremony in the First Courtyard.** ☎ *Pražský Hrad* ☎ 224-372-434 🌐 [www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz) 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

**Schwarzenberský a Šternberský paláce** (*Schwarzenberg and Sternberg Palaces*) **ART MUSEUM** | These two beautiful historical buildings, which stand on opposite sides of Hradčanské náměstí, are home to the National Gallery's collection of antiquities and paintings by European masters from the 16th to the 18th centuries. Holdings include impressive works by El Greco, Hans Holbein, Rubens, Rembrandt, and van Dyck. The exterior of the Schwarzenberg Palace is particularly striking, with its black-and-white

*sgraffito*, though the interior is less impressive. Pick up a combined ticket for 500 Kč—free if you're 26 or under—and you'll get entry not only to these two exhibitions but to all of the National Gallery's buildings throughout Prague for 10 days. ☎ *Schwarzenberský palác, Hradčanské nám. 2, Hradčany* ☎ 233-081-730 🌐 [www.ngprague.cz](http://www.ngprague.cz) ☎ 500 Kč ☺ *Closed Mon.* 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

**Starý královský palác** (*Old Royal Palace*) **CASTLE/PALACE** | A jumble of styles and add-ons from different eras are gathered in this palace. The best way to grasp its size is from within the **Vladislavský sál** (Vladislav Hall), the largest secular Gothic interior space in Central Europe. Completed in 1493 by Benedikt Ried, the room imparts a sense of space and light, softened by the sensuous lines of the vaulted ceilings and brought to a dignified close by the simple oblong form of the early Renaissance windows. In its heyday, the hall held jousting tournaments, festive markets, banquets, and coronations. In more recent times, it has been used to inaugurate presidents, from the communist leader Klement Gottwald (in 1948) to modern-day leaders like Václav Havel.

From the front of the hall, turn right into the rooms of the **Česká kancelář** (Bohemian Chancellery). This wing was built by Benedikt Ried only 10 years after the hall was completed, but it shows a much stronger Renaissance influence. Pass through the portal into the last chamber of the chancellery. In 1618 this room was the site of the second defenestration of Prague, an event that marked the beginning of the Bohemian rebellion and, ultimately, the Thirty Years' War throughout Europe. The square window used in this protest is on the left as you enter the room.

At the back of Vladislav Hall a staircase leads up to a gallery of the **Kaple všech**

**svatých** (All Saints' Chapel). Little remains of Peter Parler's original work, but the church contains some fine works of art. The large room to the left of the staircase is the **Stará sněmovna** (Council Chamber), where the Bohemian nobles met with the king in a prototype parliament of sorts. The descent from Vladislav Hall toward what remains of the **Romanský palác** (Romanesque Palace) is by way of a wide, shallow set of steps. This **Jezdecké schody** (Riders' Staircase) was the entranceway for knights who came for the jousting tournaments. ☎ *Hrad III. nádvoří, Hradčany* ☎ 224-372-434 🌐 [www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz) ☎ *Included in 2-day castle ticket (from 250 Kč)* 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

★ **Strahovský klášter** (*Strahov Monastery*) **RELIGIOUS BUILDING** | Founded by the Premonstratensian order in 1140, the monastery remained theirs until 1952, when the communists suppressed all religious orders and turned the entire complex into the **Památník národního písemnictví** (Museum of National Literature). The major building of interest is the **Strahov Library**, with its collection of early Czech manuscripts, the 10th-century Strahov New Testament, and the collected works of famed Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe. Also of note is the late-18th-century **Philosophical Hall**. Its ceilings are engulfed in a startling sky-blue fresco that depicts an unusual cast of characters, including Socrates' nagging wife Xanthippe; Greek astronomer Thales, with his trusty telescope; and a collection of Greek philosophers mingling with Descartes, Diderot, and Voltaire. ☎ *Strahovské nádvoří 1, Pražský Hrad* ☎ 233-107-704 🌐 [www.strahovskyclaster.cz](http://www.strahovskyclaster.cz) ☎ 150 Kč *library* 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pohořelec.*

**Třetí nádvoří** (*Third Courtyard*) **PLAZA/SQUARE** | The contrast between the cool, dark interior of St. Vitus Cathedral and the pastel-shaded Pacassi façades of the Third Courtyard is startling. Noted

Slovenian architect Josip Plečnik created the courtyard's clean lines in the 1930s, but the modern look is a deception. Plečnik's paving was intended to cover an underground world of house foundations, streets, and walls from the 9th through 12th centuries and was rediscovered when the cathedral was completed; you can see a few archways through a grating in a wall of the cathedral. Plečnik added a few features to catch the eye, including a granite obelisk to commemorate the fallen of World War I, a black-marble pedestal for the Gothic statue of St. George (a copy of the National Gallery's original statue), and a tucked-away entrance to his Bull Staircase leading down to the south garden. This courtyard also provides the best view of St. Vitus Cathedral's Last Judgment mosaic, as well as access to its South Tower viewpoint. ☎ *Pražský Hrad* ☎ 224-372-434 🌐 [www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz) 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

★ **Zlatá ulička** (*Golden Lane*) **STREET** | A jumbled collection of tiny, ancient, brightly colored houses crouched under the fortification wall looks remarkably like a set for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Purportedly, these were the lodgings for an international group of alchemists whom Rudolf II brought to the court to produce gold. But the truth is a little less romantic: the houses were built during the 16th century for the castle guards. By the early 20th century, Golden Lane had become the home of poor artists and writers. Franz Kafka, who lived at No. 22 in 1916 and 1917, described the house on first sight as "so small, so dirty, impossible to live in, and lacking everything necessary." But he soon came to love the place. As he wrote to his fiancée, "Life here is something special, to close out the world not just by shutting the door to a room or apartment but to the whole house, to step out into the snow of the silent lane." The lane now houses tiny



## Did You Know?

It used to be believed that the Golden Lane housed alchemists, but in actuality they were homes for castle guards and later for artists like Franz Kafka, who lived for a short time at No. 22.

stores selling books, music, and crafts, as well as including some exhibitions on former residents and their professions (including some tucked away to the left of the entrance). The houses are cute, but crowds can be uncomfortable, and the fact remains that you are paying money for the privilege of walking down a narrow street. Within the walls above Golden Lane, a timber-roof corridor (enter between No. 23 and No. 24) is lined with replica suits of armor and weapons (some of them for sale), mock torture chambers, and a shooting gallery.

As you exit Golden Lane, you will also have an opportunity to visit **Daliborka** on the same ticket. This round cannon tower dates back to 1496 and gained notoriety through the centuries for its use as a brutal prison. Some of the instruments of torture used on its inmates, including the knight Dalibor of Kozojedy (for whom the tower is named), are now on display. ☎ *Pražský Hrad* ☎ 224-372-423 🌐 [www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz) 📺 *Included in 2-day castle ticket (from 250 Kč)* 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská.*

## 🍴 Restaurants

The streets surrounding main square Hradčanské náměstí have several restaurants and cafés open for lunch, as does the area around Strahov Monastery. But for dinner, with Prague Castle having closed down for the day and tourists having dissipated, you'll find the best dining options in the farther reaches of Hradčany.

### ★ Kuchyně

\$\$ | CZECH | It may no longer be the novel, menu-less restaurant of old—the COVID pandemic put an end to the concept of people choosing their meals from communal pots—but this castle-side restaurant still serves up great, traditional Czech cuisine. Take a seat and order from a small menu of dishes ranging from fresh cow's cheese with pickled

vegetables to duck leg with rustic bread dumplings and red cabbage. **Known for:** soft sourdough bread to dip in soups; wonderful location by the castle; drinks including unfiltered dark beer. ☎ *Average main:* Kč245 ☎ *Hradčanské nám. 1, Prague* ☎ 736-152-891 🌐 [kuchyn.ambi.cz](http://kuchyn.ambi.cz) 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pražský Hrad.*

### Malý Buddha

\$\$ | ASIAN | Bamboo, wood, paper, and incense are all part of the decor at this earthy hilltop hideaway near Prague Castle. It's as much about the atmosphere as the food here, which isn't complex but is cooked with heart; expect spring rolls, vegetable stir-fries, and various fish and chicken dishes, all in generous portions. **Known for:** lovely candlelit setting; extensive tea menu; service can be brusque. ☎ *Average main:* Kč200 ☎ *Úvoz 46, Prague* ☎ 220-513-894 🌐 [www.malybuddha.cz](http://www.malybuddha.cz) 🚫 *No credit cards* 🕒 *Closed Mon.* 🚶 *Line A: Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pohorelec.*

## ☕ Coffee and Quick Bites

### Kavárna Nový Svět

\$ | CAFÉ | This cozy little café, which is tucked away on one of the city's prettiest backstreets, is a great stop for coffee and cake. It's only open from mid-morning to early evening (and not at all on Mondays), so you'll need to time it right. **Known for:** vegan options; location on the charming NewWorld street in Hradčany; board games galore. ☎ *Average main:* Kč125 ☎ *Nový Svět 2, Prague* ☎ 242-430-700 🌐 [kavarna.novysvet.net](http://kavarna.novysvet.net) 🕒 *Closed Mon.* 🚶 *Tram 22 to Brusnice.*

### Lobkowicz Palace Café

\$\$ | CAFÉ | If you're visiting Lobkowicz Palace (or even if you aren't), save time for a coffee, pastry, or even lunch at this lovely little café. The menu is full of tasty treats, from Czech classics like goulash and schnitzel to simple fare like soups,


salads, and grilled cheese sandwiches.








**Known for:** wonderful city panoramas; simple snacks; Czech classics.  *Average main:* Kč360  Lobkovický palác, Jiřská 3, Prague  731-192-281  [www.lobkowicz.cz](http://www.lobkowicz.cz)  **Line A:** Malostranská.

## Hotels

For some, Prague Castle and Hradčany are the romantic heart of this city. Though it is a hectic spot during the day with a lot of foot traffic, it completely empties in the evening, so staying in this area can feel like having Prague all to yourself.

### ★ **Hotel U raka**

 **HOTEL** | With the quaint look of a woodsman's cottage from a bedtime story, this private guesthouse is saturated with romance. **Pros:** near Prague Castle but feels secluded; in-room fireplaces in some rooms; has a peaceful garden.





**Cons:** tiny size makes rooms hard to come by; private parking costs extra; no Metro station nearby.  **Rooms from:** Kč4400  Černínská 10, Prague  220-511-100  [www.hoteluraka.cz](http://www.hoteluraka.cz)  **6 rooms**  **Free Breakfast**  **Line A:** Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Brusnice.

## Nightlife

There are a few good bars dotted around Prague Castle and Hradčany. Head up the castle hill to quaff beers that were brewed in a 13th-century monastery.





## **BARS AND PUBS**

### ★ **Klášterní pivovar Strahov**

**BREW PUBS** | The first references to this gorgeous hilltop brewery inside a monastery are from the turn of the 14th century. And the tasty Pivo Sv. Norbert continues to be brewed on this spot, although it's no longer made by monks. There's a decent food menu and outdoor seating too.  Strahovské nádvoří 10, Prague  233-353-155  [www.klasterni-pivovar.cz](http://www.klasterni-pivovar.cz)  **Line A:** Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pohořelec.

## Performing Arts

### **CHURCH CONCERTS**

**Bazilika sv. Jiří** (St. George's Basilica) **CONCERTS** | Listen to small ensembles playing well-known Vivaldi and other classical "greatest hits" in this spectacular Romanesque setting, dating back to the 11th century.  *Nám. U sv. Jiří, Prague*  224-371-111  [www.kulturanahrade.cz](http://www.kulturanahrade.cz)  **Line A:** Malostranská.

## Shopping

Hradčany is more about history and views than shopping, but there are a few traditional craft shops dotted around the neighborhood.

### **Rocking Horse Toy Shop**

**SOUVENIRS** | **FAMILY** | Take a trip back in time to when toys were made from wood and model cars were cherished. Everything about this store will make you smile, from the friendly owner's greeting to the stock of cheerful wind-up music boxes and animal figurines. Look closely at those wood-carved rocking horses and three-headed dragons; many items are handmade by Czech craftsmen. The shop even sells kits with colored pencils and pastels for budding young artists. It's only open in the afternoons, but easily combined with a visit to the Loreta.  *Loretánské nám. 3, Hradčany*  603-515-745  **Line A:** Malostranská plus Tram 22 to Pohořelec.