

## Chapter 7

# SMÍCHOV AND VYŠEHRAĐ

7

Updated by  
Joseph Reaney



 Sights  
★★★★☆

 Restaurants  
★★★★☆

 Hotels  
★★★★☆

 Shopping  
★★★★☆

 Nightlife  
★★★★☆

## NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

TOP EXPERIENCES	QUICK BITES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Vyšehrad Cemetery:</b> Spot famous names like Antonín Dvořák and Alfons Mucha on the tombs and headstones in this historical burial place.</li> <li>■ <b>Live Theater:</b> Take in a show (with English subtitles) at the superb Švandovo divadlo (Švanda Theater), or catch an alternative art performance at Meet Factory.</li> <li>■ <b>Gorlice Hall:</b> Navigate through Vyšehrad's tunnels to reach this barrel-vaulted hall, home to the original baroque statues from the Charles Bridge.</li> <li>■ <b>Brown-Nosers:</b> Interact with art as never before by enjoying a unique rear view of local enfant terrible David Černý's infamous sculpture.</li> <li>■ <b>Sky-High Swimming:</b> Practice your breaststroke while enjoying stunning city panoramas at the Corinthia Hotel Prague's 24th-floor pool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Artic Bakehouse.</b> The home-baked sourdough bread, the huge selection of delicious pastries, and the lovingly brewed coffee make this café-bakery a local favorite. ☒ Újezd 11, Smíchov 📍 <a href="https://facebook.com/articBakehouse">facebook.com/articBakehouse</a> 🚊 Tram 9 to Újezd</li> <li>■ <b>Hospůdka Na hradbách.</b> This large beer garden is one of Prague's most popular after-work hangouts during the summer months, and it's no wonder with those stunning city views. ☒ V Pevnosti 2, Vyšehrad 📍 <a href="https://facebook.com/hospudkanahradbach">facebook.com/hospudkanahradbach</a> 🚊 Line C: Vyšehrad</li> <li>■ <b>Kavárna co hledá jméno.</b> Literally translated as "A Coffee Shop Looking for a Name," this achingly hip café-cum-gallery serves a wonderful weekend brunch. You can't reserve, so come early. ☒ Stroupežnického 10, Smíchov 📍 <a href="https://kavarnacohledajmeno.cz">kavarnacohledajmeno.cz</a> 🚊 Line B: Anděl</li> </ul>
<h3>GETTING HERE</h3>	
<p>Smíchov is a major transport hub. All attractions are within walking distance of one of two Metro stations—Smíchovské nádraží and Anděl (both Line B)—while there are regular tram connections to Malá Strana (Lesser Quarter) and Nové Město (New Town). The neighborhood is also home to Praha-Smíchov railway station, which offers easy train connections to Karlstejn and Western Bohemia. Vyšehrad is easily accessible by the Metro station of the same name (Line C)—though expect a 15-minute walk from here to the main attractions—or by climbing the steep staircase up from the riverside near Výtoň tram stop. There's also parking available just outside Tábořská brána (the entrance gate into the fortress).</p>	
<h3>PLANNING YOUR TIME</h3>	
<p>Vyšehrad's main attractions are open only during the day, and you should plan at least four hours to see them all. However, the park can be visited at any time, and the view down the river to the castle is spectacular day or night. Due to its array of excellent restaurants, cinemas, and theaters, Smíchov is best visited after dark.</p>	

Separated by the Vltava River, Smíchov and Vyšehrad are like night and day. In fact, that's when these two neighborhoods are best experienced: spend a morning and afternoon exploring Vyšehrad, then head to Smíchov for your evening entertainment.

The high-top Vyšehrad Citadel once rivaled Prague Castle in size and importance, but much of its historic architecture was leveled during the Hussite wars of the 15th century. The area got a new lease on life in the 18th century as a military fortress, and the casements remain one of the leading attractions. There's also a grand neo-Gothic cathedral and the country's most important cemetery. For many Prague residents, a trip here means simply a chance to enjoy the fresh air and stunning views of Prague Castle in the distance.

Smíchov, meanwhile, really comes to life after the sun goes down. When the city had walls, the neighborhood was on the outside, and all manner of people could live there, making it a colorful, cosmopolitan area. Today, it's known for its top-drawer dining options, excellent craft beer and cocktail bars, and world-class theaters and live music venues. There are also plenty of good hotels, allowing you to enjoy all Smíchov has to offer at a more leisurely pace. Connections from here to the city center are regular, quick, and easy.

## Smíchov

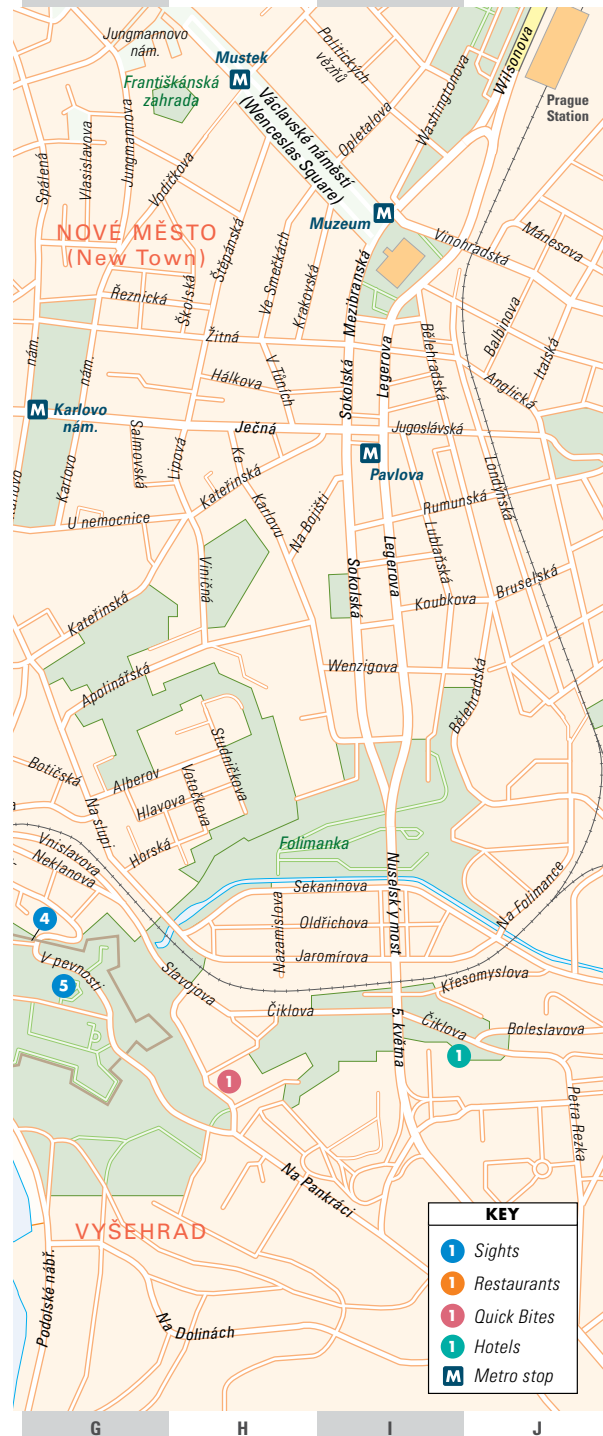
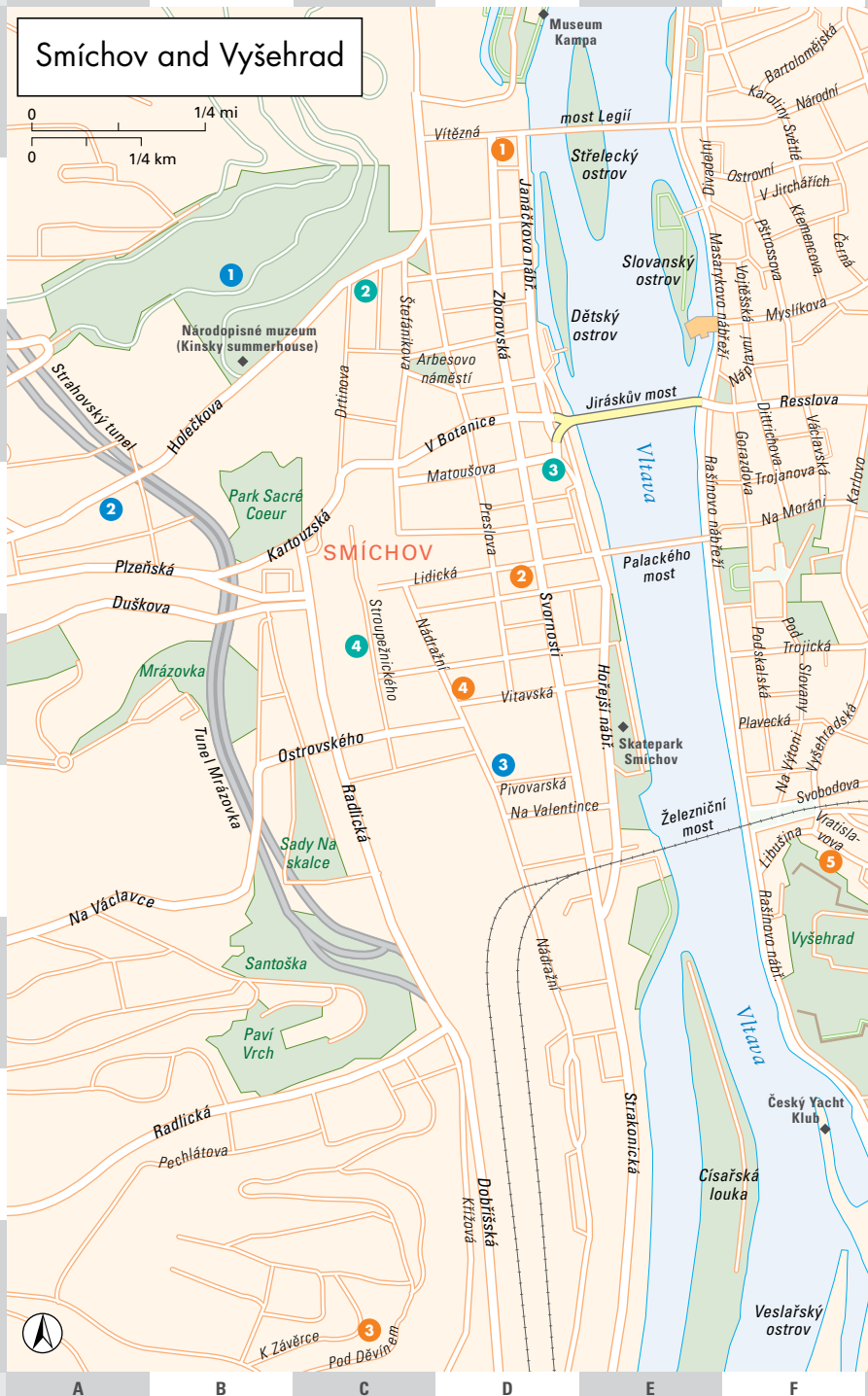
### Sights

Smíchov is less about sightseeing and more about food, drink, and entertainment. Nevertheless, there are a couple of sights worth seeing, including the Staropramen Brewery, which has been sitting proudly on the river since 1869.

#### **Chrám sv. archanděla Michaela** (Church of St. Michael the Archangel)

**RELIGIOUS SITE** | At the southern end of Petřínské sady (Petřín Gardens) lies an unusual, folk baroque wooden building. This is the Orthodox Church of St. Michael the Archangel. Originally built in 1793 in the Ukrainian village of Velyki Luchky, the building was donated to Prague in 1929 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Carpathian Ruthenia's unification with Czechoslovakia (the region is today split between Ukraine, Poland, and Slovakia). It was duly dismantled and shipped over piece by piece to Prague, where it was reassembled on this site. Visitors today can stroll around the exterior or head inside for one of the twice-weekly services, held at 10 am on Sunday and 8 am on Monday. To get here, cross the road from tram stop Švandovo divadlo and enter Kinského zahrada (Kinsky Garden). Follow the

# Smíchov and Vyšehrad



### Sights

- 1 Chrámsv. archanděla Michaela ..... B2
- 2 Galerie Futura ..... A4
- 3 Pivovar Staropramen ..... D5
- 4 Vyšehrad Casemates ..... G6
- 5 Vyšehrad Citadel ..... G7

### Restaurants

- 1 Café Savoy ..... D1
- 2 Gourmet Pauza ..... D4
- 3 Na Kopci ..... C9
- 4 Taro ..... D5
- 5 U Kroka ..... F6

### Quick Bites

- 1 Caffè Fresco ..... H8

### Hotels

- 1 Corinthia Hotel Prague ..... I7
- 2 Hotel Kinsky Garden ..... C2
- 3 Maimaison Riverside Hotel Prague ..... D4
- 4 Vienna House Andel's Prague ..... C5

**KEY**

- 1 Sights
- 1 Restaurants
- 1 Quick Bites
- 1 Hotels
- M Metro stop



main route up to the museum building, then take the path to its right, which snakes up the hill to the church. ☒ *Na Hřebenkách 60, Smíchov* ☎ 777-329-275 ☉ [www.parohiapraga.eu](http://www.parohiapraga.eu) 🆓 Free 🚏 Line B: *Anděl plus Tram 9, 12, 15, or 20 to Švandovo divadlo.*

### ★ Galerie Futura

**MUSEUM** | This free-to-enter (donations welcome) art gallery, set within a labyrinthine, brick-walled basement, houses an eclectic range of quirky, contemporary, and occasionally downright creepy artworks, from oil paintings to audiovisual installations. But it's one particular provocative sculpture that takes the headlines: David Černý's *Brown-Nosers*. Head through the rotating window out into the garden to see two giant, naked, lower halves of bodies, bent over at 90 degrees. Climb one of the two rickety ladders and peer "into" the sculptures to watch a video. In one of the videos—spoiler alert!—former president Václav Klaus is being clumsily spoon-fed human waste to the soundtrack of Queen's "We Are the Champions." In the other, he's the one doing the feeding. The scenes are a metaphor for the state of Czech politics, apparently. ■ **TIP** → **The gallery is a 15-minute uphill walk from Anděl Metro station. Ring the buzzer at the door to be let in.** ☒ *Holečkova 49, Smíchov* ☎ 608-955-150 ☉ [www.futuraproject.cz](http://www.futuraproject.cz) 🆓 Free ☹ Closed Mon., Tues., and Thurs. 🚏 Line B: *Anděl.*

### Pivovar Staropramen (Staropramen Brewery)

**FACTORY** | The slogan for this brewery on the riverside in Smíchov could be "For beer, go directly to the source." *Staropramen* literally means "old source," and it's definitely one of the most ubiquitous beers in the city (and beyond). This visitor center offers 50-minute guided tours every day, taking you through the history of the site, the beer brewing method, and how far and wide the beer is exported. It all culminates in a tasting of

a few different Staropramen brews, from the excellent unfiltered lager to the dark beer. If you're feeling peckish afterward, one of the brewery's chain of *Potrefená Husa* restaurants, serving classic Czech food and beer, is just around the corner. ☒ *Staropramen Visitor Center, Pivovarská 9, Smíchov* ☎ 251-553-389 ☉ [www.centrumstaropramen.cz](http://www.centrumstaropramen.cz) 🆓 269 Kč 🚏 Line B: *Anděl.*

## 🍴 Restaurants

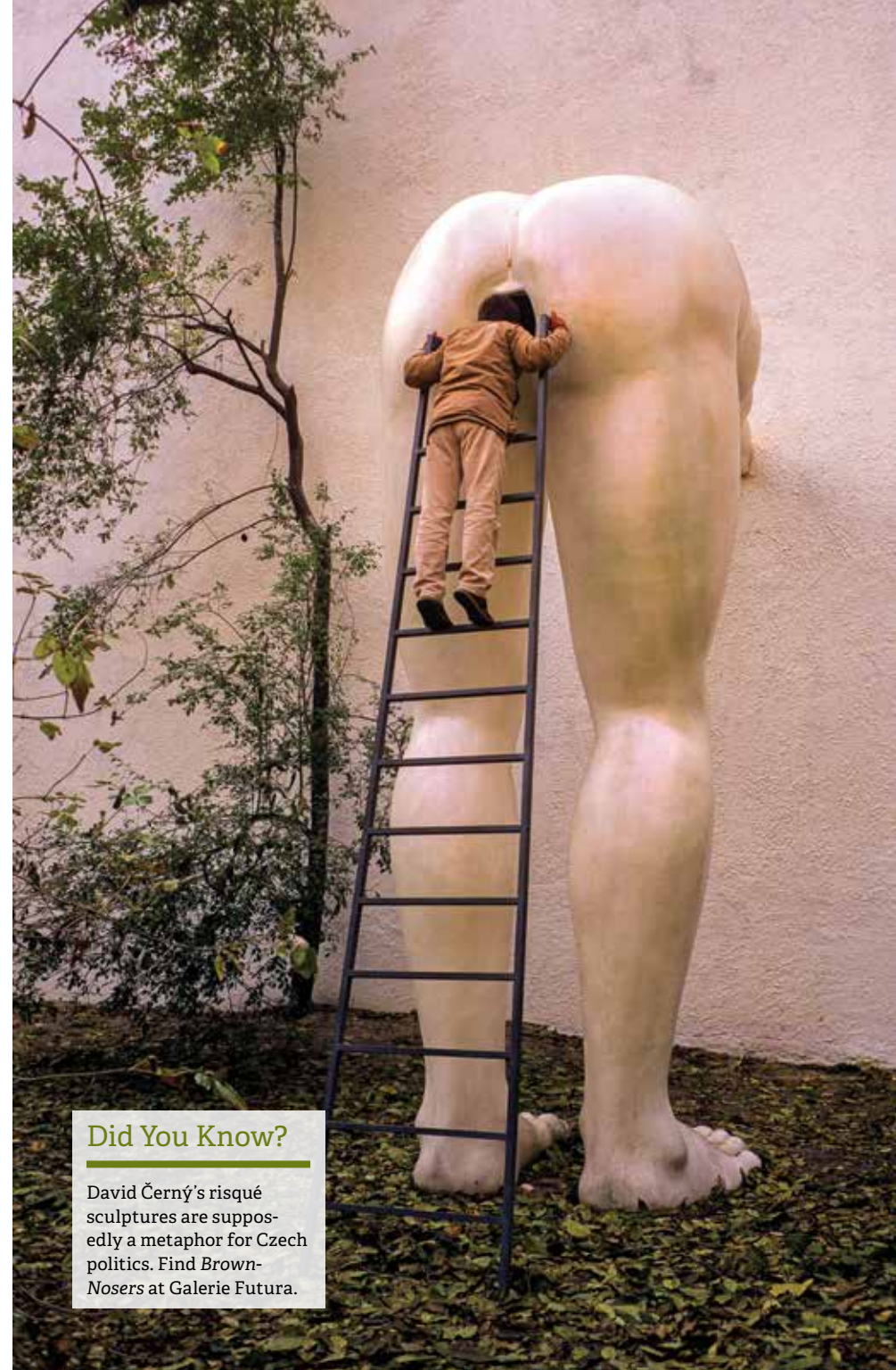
Smíchov is a former working-class neighborhood that was thrust into upscale territory in the late 1990s, when several banks decided to locate their headquarters near the Metro station *Anděl*. Now the de facto center of the neighborhood, there are a handful of very good restaurants dotted around *Anděl*, as well as in the northern part of the district, near *Malá Strana*.

### Café Savoy

\$\$ | **EUROPEAN** | Stellar service and elegant meals of high quality at not-too-high prices are de rigueur here. This restored café, dating to the 19th century, serves everything from cream of spinach soups to beef steak tartare, crisp seasonal salads to classic *Wiener schnitzel*, all complemented by fresh breads from the in-house bakery. **Known for:** extensive breakfast and brunch menus; bright and elegant interior; delicious home-baked pastries and cakes. 📍 *Average main: 320 Kč* ☒ *Vítězná 5, Smíchov* ☎ 257-311-562 ☉ [www.cafesavoy.ambi.cz](http://www.cafesavoy.ambi.cz) 🚏 Line B: *Anděl plus Tram 9, 12, 15, or 20 to Újezd.*

### Gourmet Pauza

\$\$ | **MEDITERRANEAN** | This small and stylish bistro, run by mother-and-daughter team Zuzana and Pavlína, offers a casual, family-friendly atmosphere in which to enjoy a delicious meal. Open from breakfast to dinner, the place is busiest at lunch, where the good-value daily menus feature some of the restaurant's best dishes (like the potato gnocchi with pork



## Did You Know?

David Černý's risqué sculptures are supposedly a metaphor for Czech politics. Find *Brown-Nosers* at Galerie Futura.

tenderloin and gorgonzola) at half the usual price. **Known for:** stylish but unfussy ambience; quality Mediterranean-inspired food; slightly high prices. 📍 *Average main: 325 Kč* ☒ *Lidická 19, Smíchov* ☎ 257-312-849 🌐 [www.gourmetpauza.cz](http://www.gourmetpauza.cz) 🚶 *Line B: Anděl.*

### ★ Na Kopci

\$\$ | CZECH | Although a little out of the way, this lovely restaurant overlooking Smíchov (the name means “On the Hill”) serves exceptional, high-end Czech and international cuisine within a comfortable and casual setting. The menu is completely overhauled every three months, making the best use of seasonal, locally sourced ingredients—from rabbit and wild boar to porcini mushrooms—to create surprising and satisfying dishes. **Known for:** sublime seasonal dishes; warm and welcoming decor; affordable prices. 📍 *Average main: 400 Kč* ☒ *K Závěrece 20, Smíchov* ☎ 251-553-102 🌐 [www.nakopci.com](http://www.nakopci.com) 🚶 *Line B: Radlická.*

### ★ Taro

\$\$ | VIETNAMESE | This extraordinary Asian fusion restaurant, which consists of just 17 bar stalls arranged around an open kitchen, offers an interactive dining experience combining traditional Vietnamese cuisine with European techniques and flavors. It’s a combination inspired by owners Khanh’s and Giang’s personal experiences as Vietnamese men growing up in Prague. **Known for:** kitchen spectacle with chef interaction; flavor-packed seasonal dishes; great quality-to-value ratio. 📍 *Average main: 275 Kč* ☒ *Nádražní 100, Smíchov* ☎ 777-446-007 🌐 [www.taro.cz](http://www.taro.cz) ☺ *Closed Sun. and Mon.* 🚶 *Line B: Anděl.*

## Hotels

With a host of entertainment options on your doorstep, as well as easy access—via tram, Metro, or on foot—to the city’s historical center, Smíchov is a great place to stay.

### Hotel Kinsky Garden

\$\$ | HOTEL | You could walk the mile from this pleasant hotel to Prague Castle entirely on the tree-lined paths of Petřín, the hilly park that starts across the street. **Pros:** great parkside location for runners; easy access to airport and city; good value out of season. **Cons:** expensive bar (go out for a drink); short uphill walk from the tram; beds on the firm side. 📍 *Rooms from: 4500 Kč* ☒ *Holečkova 7, Smíchov* ☎ 257-311-173 🌐 [www.hotelkinskygarden.cz](http://www.hotelkinskygarden.cz) ➔ 62 rooms 🕒 *Breakfast* 🚶 *Line B: Anděl plus Tram 9, 12, 15, or 20 to Švandovo divadlo.*

### Mamaison Riverside Hotel Prague

\$\$ | HOTEL | True to its name, the Riverside is situated right above the Vltava across from Frank Gehry’s Tančící dům (Dancing House). **Pros:** clever art nouveau design; incredible river views; great value if booked early. **Cons:** no fitness facilities; interior rooms are dark; a little tired in places. 📍 *Rooms from: 4500 Kč* ☒ *Janáčkovo nábř. 15, Smíchov* ☎ 225-994-611 🌐 [www.mamaisonriverside.com](http://www.mamaisonriverside.com) ➔ 80 rooms 🕒 *Breakfast* 🚶 *Line B: Anděl.*

### Vienna House Andel’s Prague

\$\$ | HOTEL | Located next to one of the city’s best shopping malls, this simple, modernist hotel may be built for business, but it’s also where many of the young, up-and-coming, and mostly German-speaking trendsetters stay. **Pros:** chic and pared-back interior design; wide choice of foods for breakfast; great tram and Metro connections to the center. **Cons:** breakfast room can be busy; mall area is lacking personality; not walkable to any major sights. 📍 *Rooms from: 2500 Kč* ☒ *Stroupežnického 21, Smíchov* ☎ 296-889-688 🌐 [andelsbyvienna-houseprague.h-rez.com](http://andelsbyvienna-houseprague.h-rez.com) ➔ 239 rooms 🕒 *Breakfast* 🚶 *Line B: Anděl.*

## Nightlife

This neighborhood is jam-packed with cool beer and wine bars, cocktail joints, and live music venues. Stroll around and see what takes your fancy.

### BARS AND PUBS

#### Bar and Cafe Brothers

**BARS/PUBS** | This small but stylish American-style bar serves beers, wines, spirits, and a wide range of excellent cocktails. It also has, somewhat unexpectedly, some of Prague’s best coffee. Whether serving a Tom Collins or a latte macchiato, the bartenders really know their stuff. ☒ *Lidická 12, Smíchov* ☎ 605-777-206 🌐 [www.brothersbar.cz](http://www.brothersbar.cz) 🚶 *Line B: Anděl.*

#### Craft Beer Spot

**BARS/PUBS** | This side-street taproom has an enormous, arching bar with an ever-changing selection of 10 Czech and international beers on tap. There are fridges full of bottles, too; the enthusiastic and knowledgeable staff will be happy to help you make a selection. Beer-friendly food, from cheddar-smothered nachos to beer-marinated ribs, is served throughout the day. ☒ *Plaská 5, Smíchov* ☎ 257-219-855 🌐 [www.craftbeerprague.com](http://www.craftbeerprague.com) 🚶 *Line B: Anděl plus Tram 9, 12, 15, or 20 to Ujezd.*

### JAZZ CLUBS

#### ★ Jazz Dock

**MUSIC CLUBS** | If you missed your boat tour, don’t despair. You can still hear notes and beats wafting across the water while sipping a cocktail in a decadent venue. This extremely cool, glass-enclosed nightclub and jazz bar—built, as the name suggests, on a dock—offers a view of the passing boat traffic and lit-up landmark buildings like the National Theater, while you enjoy the strains of world-class live music acts. There are typically two concerts per night; it’s worth reserving a table in advance for weekend shows. ☒ *Janáčkovo nábř. 2, Smíchov* ☎ 774-058-838 🌐 [www.jazzdock.cz](http://www.jazzdock.cz) 🚶 *Line A: Anděl.*

## LIVE MUSIC CLUBS

### Futurum

**MUSIC CLUBS** | The decor at this stalwart Smíchov club could be described as odd but cool. Think 1950s sci-fi crossed with art deco, and you’re on the right track. It all makes for a fun, casual night out. Video parties, complete with ‘80s, ‘90s, and ‘00s music, draw big crowds every Friday night. There are occasional live performances, too, usually from punk or goth bands, or DJs playing electronic music. ☒ *Zborovská 7, Smíchov* ☎ 257-328-571 🌐 [futurum.musicbar.cz](http://futurum.musicbar.cz) 🚶 *Line B: Anděl.*

### Phenomen Music Bar

**DANCE CLUBS** | This upmarket dance club has regular themed nights with energetic DJs and, occasionally, live music acts. There’s a large dance floor, but also a good-size seating area for enjoying a cocktail, a glass of champagne, or some pick-me-up chicken wings. ☒ *Nádražní 84, Smíchov* ☎ 774-366-636 🌐 [www.phenomen.cz](http://www.phenomen.cz) 🚶 *Line B: Anděl.*

## Performing Arts

### THEATER AND DANCE

#### Švandovo divadlo (Švanda Theater)

**THEATER** | If you want to join the theater-loving masses and there’s nothing on in English, Švanda Theater is your best bet. The plays shown here—a rotating mix that can include everything from Shakespeare to Ibsen to contemporary theater—are subtitled above the stage in English. The theater also occasionally hosts live concerts and serves as a major venue for the Prague Pride festival, held every August. ■ **TIP** → **Sit in the balcony, on the right side, facing the stage for the best view.** ☒ *Štefánikova 6, Smíchov* ☎ 234-651-111 🌐 [www.svandovodivadlo.cz](http://www.svandovodivadlo.cz) 🚶 *Line B: Anděl plus Tram 9, 12, 15, or 20 to Švandovo divadlo.*

### VENUES

#### Meet Factory

**ARTS CENTERS** | If you want to take the pulse of Prague’s contemporary arts





Many of Prague's greats lie buried in the cemetery adjacent to the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul. Most notable are the graves of Antonín Dvořák, Bedřich Smetana, and Alfons Mucha.

scene, get yourself down to Meet Factory. This spot really is too cool for school. Established more than a decade ago by leading Czech modern artist David Černý as a place for cultural and artistic collaboration, the space houses a gallery, concert hall, and theater, so it offers regular art, theater, dance, and music performances. To get here, cross over the railway tracks on a little bridge and keep an eye out for the car sculptures driving up the side of the building. ☎ *Ke Sklárně 15, Smíchov* ☎ 251-551-796 🌐 [meetfactory.cz](http://meetfactory.cz) 🚶 Line B: *Smíchovské nádraží*.

## Shopping

This area offers a reasonable range of modern shops and international brands. They're mainly within or around Nový Smíchov, the big daddy of shopping centers.

## SHOPPING MALLS AND DEPARTMENT STORES

### Nový Smíchov

**SHOPPING CENTERS/MALLS** | This bright and airy mall is one of Prague's largest, but it's still manageable. It has a convenient mix of shops, including brands like Zara, H&M, Humanic, Levi's, and Clinique. There's also a two-floor Tesco, a multiscreen movie theater, and a varied food court. ☎ *Plzeňská 8, Smíchov* ☎ 251-101-061 🌐 [novy-smichov.klepierre.cz](http://novy-smichov.klepierre.cz) 🚶 Line B: *Anděl*.

## Vyšehrad

### Sights

The district of Vyšehrad is dominated by the Vyšehrad Citadel and its many attractions, the most visible of which is the Bazilika sv. Petra a Pavla (Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul). But the neighborhood also incorporates the area around and below the castle, where there are a handful of other interesting sights.

## A Cubist Walk



Fans of 20th-century architecture should head below the rocky outcropping that's crowned by Vyšehrad Citadel to find a satisfying smattering of cubist gems. Prague's cubist architecture followed a great Czech tradition: embracing new ideas, while adapting them to existing artistic and social contexts to create something *sui generis*. Between 1912 and 1914, Josef Chochol (1880–1956) designed several of the city's dozen or so cubist projects, and you'll find a number of them in Vyšehrad.

Stroll down the staircase that leads from the citadel to the riverside, then peel off from the crowds by heading left and walking around 200 yards. Here, you'll find an eye-catching three-family house at Rašínovo nábřeží 6–10. This cubist masterpiece was completed early in Chochol's career, when his cubist style was still developing, so you can see a design touched with baroque and neoclassical influences, with a mansard roof and end gables. Cross the road for the best view of properties.

Once you've taken it all in, walk along the riverside back the way you

came, then cross back over the road at the second pedestrian crossing. You're now looking into the garden of another great work of cubist architecture, Chochol's villa. The wall and gate of the house use triangular moldings and metal grating to create an effect of controlled energy. Head around to the front of the building (the street address is Libušina 3) to appreciate the property's full, undulating effect, created by smoothly articulated forms.

From here, walk around the corner to Neklanova 2, another apartment house that is attributed to Chochol. It uses pyramidal shapes and a suggestion of Gothic columns. Finally, walk just down the street and you'll come to Chochol's own apartment house. Situated at Neklanova 30 (on the corner of Přemyslova), it's a masterpiece in concrete. The pyramidal, kaleidoscopic window moldings and roof cornices make an expressive link to the baroque yet are wholly novel; the faceted corner balcony column, meanwhile, alludes to Gothic forerunners.

### ★ Vyšehrad Casemates

**CAVE** | Buried deep within the walls of Vyšehrad Citadel, this series of long, dark passageway was built by the French army in 1742 and later improved by other occupying forces, including the Prussians and the Austrians. A guided tour leads through several hundred meters of military corridors into Gorlice Hall, once a gathering place for soldiers and now a storage site for six of the original, pollution-scarred statues from Charles Bridge. Tours start at the information center, near the Táborská brána entrance gate. ☎ V

*Pevnosti 5B, Vyšehrad* 🌐 [www.praha-vysehrad.cz](http://www.praha-vysehrad.cz) ☎ 60 Kč 🚶 Line C: *Vyšehrad*.

★ **Vyšehrad Citadel** (*Vyšehrad Fortress*) **CASTLE/PALACE** | Bedřich Smetana's symphonic poem *Vyšehrad* opens with four bardic harp chords that echo the legends surrounding this ancient fortress. Today the flat-top bluff stands over the right bank of the Vltava as a green, tree-dotted expanse showing few signs that splendid medieval monuments once made it a landmark to rival Prague Castle.



The Vyšehrad, or “High Castle,” was constructed by Vratislav II (ruled 1061–92), a Přemyslid duke who became the first king of Bohemia. He made the fortified hilltop his capital. Under subsequent rulers it fell into disuse until the 14th century, when Charles IV transformed the site into an ensemble including palaces, the main church, battlements, and a massive gatehouse whose scant remains are on V Pevnosti ulice. By the 17th century royalty had long since departed, and most of the structures they built were crumbling. Vyšehrad was turned into a fortress.

Vyšehrad’s place in the modern Czech imagination is largely thanks to the National Revivalists of the 19th century, particularly writer Alois Jirásek. Jirásek mined medieval chronicles for legends and facts to glorify the early Czechs, and that era of Czech history is very much in the popular consciousness today.

Today, the most notable attraction within the fortification walls is the **Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul**, the landmark neo-Gothic church that can be seen from the riverside. Head inside to see the rich art nouveau decorations, including carvings, mosaics and figural wall paintings. Beside the church is the entrance to **Hřbitov Vyšehrad** (Vyšehrad Cemetery), the final resting place of some of the country’s leading artists and luminaries, including composers Antonín Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana.

Traces of the citadel’s distant past can be found at every turn and are reflected even in the structure chosen for the visitor center, the remains of a Gothic stone fortification wall known as **Špička**, or Peak Gate, at the corner of V Pevnosti and U Podolského Sanatoria. Farther ahead is the sculpture-covered **Leopold Gate**, which stands next to brick walls enlarged during the 1742 occupation by the French. Out of the gate, a heavily restored **Romanesque rotunda**, built by Vratislav II in the 11th century, stands on the corner of K Rotundě and Soběslavova. It’s considered

the oldest fully intact Romanesque building in the city. Down Soběslavova are the excavated foundations and a few embossed floor tiles from the late-10th-century **Basilika sv. Vavřince** (St. Lawrence Basilica, closed to the public). The foundations, discovered in 1884 while workers were creating a cesspool, are in a baroque structure at Soběslavova 14. The remains are from one of the few early medieval buildings to have survived in the area and are worth a look.

On the western side of Vyšehrad, part of the fortifications stand next to the surprisingly confined foundation mounds of a medieval palace overlooking a ruined watchtower called **Libuše’s Bath**, which precariously juts out of a rocky outcropping over the river. A nearby plot of grass hosts a statue of Libuše and her consort Přemysl, one of four large, sculpted images of couples from Czech legend by J. V. Myslbek (1848–1922), the sculptor of the St. Wenceslas monument.

☒ *V Pevnosti 5B, Vyšehrad* ☎ 241–410–247 🌐 [www.praha-vysehrad.cz](http://www.praha-vysehrad.cz)  
 🗺️ *Grounds and cemetery free, case-mates tour 60 Kč, Gothic cellar 50 Kč*  
 🚶 *Line C: Vyšehrad.*

## 🍴 Restaurants

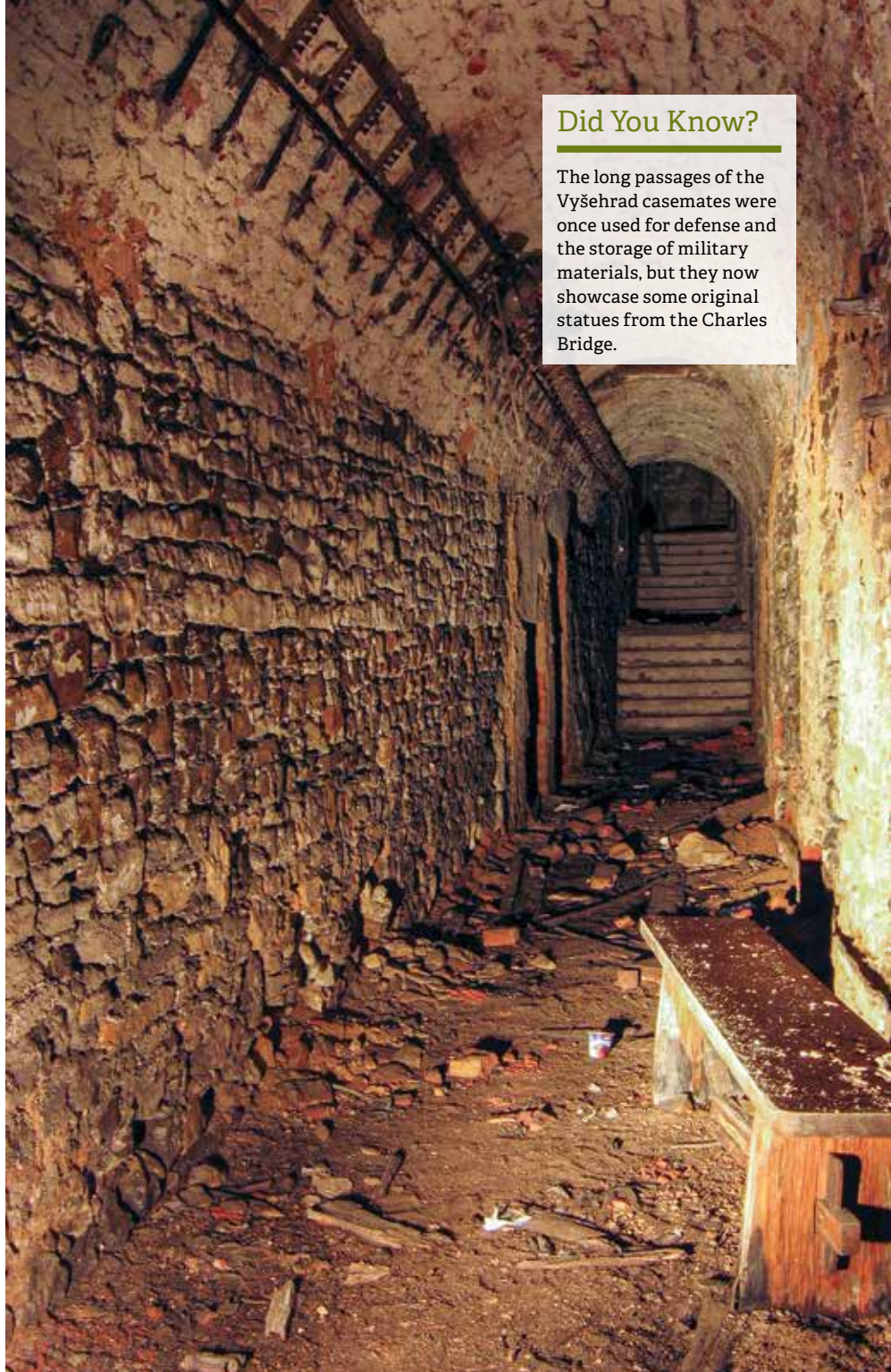
Vyšehrad is best enjoyed with a picnic in the park. However, if this doesn’t appeal, there are a handful of cafés and pubs dotted around the fortress and more in the streets below.

### ★ U Kroka

\$\$ | **CZECH** | This traditional pub, which sits below the walls of Vyšehrad Citadel, serves up traditional, meaty Czech fare—think beef goulash, pork knuckle, and duck leg confit—with freshly poured beer. The interior is warm and welcoming, the staff are unfailingly friendly, and the prices are very competitive. **Known for:** good-quality Czech food; pleasant industrial-chic interior; more locals than tourists. 📍 *Average main: 275 Kč*

## Did You Know?

The long passages of the Vyšehrad casemates were once used for defense and the storage of military materials, but they now showcase some original statues from the Charles Bridge.



☒ *Vratislavova 12, Vyšehrad* ☎ 775-905-022 🌐 [www.ukroka.cz](http://www.ukroka.cz) 🚇 **Line B:** *Karlovo náměstí plus Tram 2 or 3 to Výtoň.*

## Coffee and Quick Bites

### Caffé Fresco

\$\$ | ITALIAN | If you're worn out after the long uphill climb to the bluff, Caffé Fresco serves up Italian salads and panini, plus a revivifying set of espresso drinks. It's on the way to or from the Vyšehrad metro stop. 📍 *Average main: 280 Kč* ☒ *Rezidence Vyšehrad, Lumírova 33, Vyšehrad* ☎ 234-724-230 🌐 [www.caffe-fresco.com](http://www.caffe-fresco.com) 🚇 **Line C:** *Vyšehrad.*

## Hotels

Vyšehrad has a very limited choice of accommodations. If you want to stay near the citadel, the Corinthia Hotel Prague is your best option.

### Corinthia Hotel Prague

\$\$ | HOTEL | An ideal accommodation option for business travelers, Corinthia Prague combines modern interiors, spacious rooms, and a choice of good restaurants with a convenient location; it sits on Metro Line C and is right opposite Prague Congress Center. **Pros:** right by Prague Congress Center; top-floor spa with panoramic city views; great value option. **Cons:** rooms a little corporate; reception sometimes understaffed; breakfast room gets busy. 📍 *Rooms from: 3300 Kč* ☒ *Kongresová 1, Vyšehrad* ☎ 261-191-111 🌐 [www.corinthia.com/prague](http://www.corinthia.com/prague) 🏠 539 rooms 🍳 Free Breakfast 🚇 **Line C:** *Vyšehrad.*

## Performing Arts

### VENUES

**Kongresové centrum Praha** (*Congress Center*)

**ARTS CENTERS** | Somehow, this former Palace of Culture, built in 1981, has never found a place in people's hearts. The large, functionalist, multipurpose building has several performance spaces that can seat thousands, but overall it has a very sterile feel. Plays (usually musicals), stand-up comedians, circus shows, and more come here. As the largest venue in the city, it also hosts the majority of conferences. ☒ *5. května 65, Vyšehrad* ☎ 261-171-111 🌐 [www.praguecc.cz](http://www.praguecc.cz) 🚇 **Line C:** *Vyšehrad.*