

ŽIŽKOV AND KARLÍN

Updated by
Joseph Reaney



NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

TOP EXPERIENCES	QUICK BITES
<p>■ Žižkov Pub Crawl: Line your stomach and roll up your sleeves for the bar crawl to end all bar crawls in this impossibly pub-packed district.</p> <p>■ Karlín Musical Theater: From <i>West Side Story</i> to <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i>, catch a musical theater production at this grand old Karlín venue.</p> <p>■ National Monument: Delve into 20th-century Czech history, from pre–World War II to post–Velvet Revolution, at this Vítkov Hill exhibition.</p> <p>■ Žižkov TV Tower: Take the elevator up to 305 feet for a unique panorama of Prague—or stay at the One Room Hotel to wake up to the view.</p> <p>■ Fine Hipster Dining: Eat your way around Karlín. Hip, high-end restaurants include meat maestro Nejen Bistro and sourdough savant Eska.</p>	<p>■ Café Pavlač. This lovely little sit-down spot serves excellent coffee, tasty homemade soups, and an impressive (and all too rare in Prague) choice of vegan dishes. ☒ V. Nejedlého 23, Žižkov 🌐 www.cafepavlac.cz 🚏 Tram 9 to Husinecká</p> <p>■ Veltlin. This modish wine bar offers a wide selection of natural and organic wines by the glass. You can also order cheeses and cured meats to accompany your drink. ☒ Křižikova 115, Karlín 🌐 www.veltlin.cz/en 🚏 Line B: Křižikova</p> <p>■ Žižkovská štrúdlárna. This unexpected pastry paradise—essentially, a service hatch set within a regular apartment block—offers WHOLE strudels for a mere 55 Kč. You can choose from three fillings: apple, tvaroh (curd cheese), or poppy seed. ☒ Jeseniova 29, Žižkov 🌐 www.strudl-zizkov.cz 🚏 Tram 9 to Lipanská</p> <p>■ Pivo Karlín. Pop into this hugely popular neighborhood brewpub for a swift drink (or two) before enjoying a fancy dinner at Eska or a taking in a show at Forum Karlín. ☒ Pernerova 42, Karlín 🌐 www.pivokarlín.cz 🚏 Line B: Křižikova</p>
<p>GETTING HERE</p> <p>Žižkov is not directly served by any Metro line, though the Line A stop at Jiřího z Poděbrad will bring you within about 10 minutes' walking distance. Alternatively, any tram heading east from Hlavní nádraží (just north of the main train station) will take you into the heart of the neighborhood. Karlín, by contrast, has two Metro stops—Florenc (Lines B and C) and Křižikova (Line B)—as well as trams running the length of Sokolovská ulice.</p>	
<p>PLANNING YOUR TIME</p> <p>Both Žižkov and Karlín are pretty quiet during weekdays, so this is a good time to come and see the museums. But if you want to make the most of the neighborhoods' after-dark attractions, including restaurants, bars, and theaters, come during evenings and weekends.</p>	

For Prague residents, Žižkov and Karlín are synonymous with good times. The two neighborhoods, which border the New Town on its eastern edge, are renowned for their after-dark adventures, from no-nonsense *hospody* (pubs) to sweaty live music clubs. But that's just the beginning of the story.

There are more places to knock back a Pilsner Urquell or a shot of Fernet Stock per square inch along Žižkov's run-down streets than anywhere else in the city (or, according to many, anywhere else in Europe). But alongside these traditional pubs are some of the city's coolest cafés, cinemas, and cocktail joints. The area is also home to the Národní památník na Vítkově (National Monument on Vítkov Hill) and the inescapable Žižkovská televizní věž (Žižkov TV Tower), offering one of the best panoramas in the city—and one of its most exclusive hotel rooms.

In Karlín, the entertainment scene is even more varied, with everything from fine-dining restaurants to craft beer bars and time-honored theaters. Come earlier in the day and you'll also enjoy its lovely parks, decorative churches, and fascinating museums.

Žižkov

Sights

Národní památník na Vítkově (National Monument on Vítkov Hill)

MUSEUM | Vítkov Hill is among the highest points in the city, and is topped by one of the world's largest equestrian statues—

16½-ton metal sculpture of one-eyed Hussite leader Jan Žižka on horseback. The 20th-century memorial was originally built to honor the war heroes of World War I but was used for a time during the communist period (1953–62) to display the mummified body of the country's first communist leader, Klement Gottwald. Now, the building houses the Národní muzeum (National Museum) permanent exhibition of 20th-century Czech history, with moving displays on the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918, the Nazi occupation in 1939, the communist coup d'état in 1948, the Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968, and finally the fall of communism in 1989. There's a great view over the city from the top of the building, or enjoy the view with a drink or snack in the first-floor Café Vítkov. ■ **TIP** → To get to the monument, walk from Metro stop Florenc (15 minutes) or from bus stop Tachovské náměstí (10 minutes). Both require a climb. For a longer but gentler approach, walk from tram stop Ohrada (20 minutes). ☒ U Památníku 1900, Žižkov ☎ 222-781-676 🌐 www.nm.cz 🚏 120 Kč 🗨 Closed Mon.–Wed. 🚏 Lines B and C: Florenc.

★ **Žižkovská televizní věž** (Žižkov TV Tower)

BUILDING | Looking like a freakish, futuristic rocket ready to blast off, the Žižkov

interior; amazing city panoramas; Prague's top bucket-list stay. **Cons:** gritty Žižkov an unlikely place for such glamour; incredibly expensive; no view of castle (but see it from the restaurant). **Rooms from:** 21500 Kč **Tower Park Prague, Mahlerovy sady 1, Žižkov** ☎ 210-320-081 towerpark.cz 🚗 1 room **Breakfast** **Line A:** Jiřího z Poděbrad.

Prague Hotel Theatrino

\$\$ | HOTEL | This colorful, art nouveau hotel is big on character, but short on real luxury, making it a decent budget choice if you're for looking for something original. **Pros:** good breakfast; rooms have individual style; close to lots of bars and nightlife. **Cons:** long walk to the center; no a/c (save for the fifth floor); use of sauna costs extra. **Rooms from:** 3200 Kč **Bořivojova 53, Žižkov** ☎ 227-031-894 www.hoteltheatrino.cz 🚗 73 rooms **Breakfast** **Line C:** Hlavní nádraží plus Tram 5, 9, 15, or 26 to Lipanská.

Nightlife

This edgy neighborhood offers a lot to the discerning, thirsty traveler who ventures out of the city center. It's said to have the densest cluster of pubs in Europe, so if you end up here, it's best to try out the random places that catch your eye.

BARS AND PUBS

Bukowski's Bar

BARS/PUBS | This crowd-pleasing drinking establishment, named for the American writer-cum-bar fly Charles Bukowski, serves top-quality cocktails, beer, wine, and spirits. The candlelight makes for a cool (if slightly seedy) atmosphere, and bar staff are unfailingly friendly. In summer, patrons tend to spill out into the street. **Bořivojova 86, Žižkov** ☎ 773-445-280 facebook.com/bukowskisbar **Line A:** Jiřího z Poděbrad.

★ U Vystřeleného oka

BARS/PUBS | Literally translated as "At the Shot-Out Eye"—it's an homage to the one-eyed Jan Žižka, for whom the neighborhood is named (he's also the guy on the horse atop Vítkov Hill)—this poky, perennially popular pub has been a local favorite for years. As well as perfectly poured Czech beers (always three fingers of foam), the pub does a great line in traditional no-frills food, from cold pickled herring to fried Camembert cheese. Sit inside to enjoy the warm open fire and, often, the live music accompaniment, or head out onto the log-lined terrace. **U Božích bojovníků 3, Žižkov** ☎ 222-540-465 www.uvoka.cz **Lines B and C:** Florenc plus Bus 133, 175, or 207 to Tachovské náměstí.

Vlkova 26

BARS/PUBS | The cool kids hang out at this out-of-the-way Žižkov basement bar to drink and chat late into the night. It's cozy, with dim lights, candles, wooden benches, and the bare brick walls. There are DJs and themed music nights, when everyone gets up to dance. **Vlkova 26, Žižkov** facebook.com/Vlkova26 **Line A:** Jiřího z Poděbrad.

LIVE MUSIC CLUBS

★ Palác Akropolis

CAFES—NIGHTLIFE | Housed in a funky art deco—esque building, this is the city's best live music club. When shows are sold out, the place is pretty packed. While the main room closes at 10 due to noise concerns, DJs play in the two side bars until much later. **Kubelíkova 27, Žižkov** ☎ 299-330-911 www.palacakropolis.com **Line A:** Jiřího z Poděbrad.

Performing Arts

Žižkov has a couple of good theaters (including one dedicated solely to the adventures of fictional polymath Jára Cimrman) as well as an excellent indie cinema and arts center.



Palác Akropolis is a palace of entertainment with a café, restaurant, smaller bar upstairs, a theater, and a club with two stages downstairs.

Kino Aero

FILM | Tucked away on a quiet residential street, Kino Aero is one of Prague's best independent movie theaters. It screens a mix of mainstream Hollywood and international fare, indie art-house darlings, and 20th-century cult classics. On site, there's also a cocktail bar and café, which regularly hosts events ranging from stand-up comedy to film quizzes. Kino Aero is part of a minichain of indie Prague cinemas, along with BLO OKO in Holešovice and Kino Světozor off Václavské náměstí (Wenceslas Square). **Biskupcova 31, Žižkov** ☎ 271-771-349 www.kinoaero.cz.

Shopping

This rough-and-tumble area may be most famous for its pubs, but it also has some good shopping, from cool boutiques to one of Prague's largest shopping malls.

CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES

Bliss Farm Gallery

ART GALLERIES | Bliss Farm is quintessential Žižkov cool. An "open art studio space" and store, the place is packed with paintings, silkscreen-printed T-shirts, and even stuffed animals, as well as all sorts of other interesting bits and bobs. The products are handmade by local artists, and often recycled. **Čajkovského 22, Žižkov** ☎ 775-031-487 **Closed Sun.** **Line A:** Jiřího z Poděbrad.

Bohemian Retro

CLOTHING | This vintage clothes shop, tucked down a Žižkov side street, sells retro womenswear, antique jewelry, leather and fabric bags, and more. It also has some random Czechoslovakian curios, from ceramics to clocks. It's only open from 2 to 7, and only five days a week, so plan your visit in advance. **Chvalova 8, Žižkov** ☎ 607-914-992 bohemianretro.com **Closed Sun. and Mon.** **Line A:** Jiřího z Poděbrad.

SHOPPING MALLS

Atrium Flora

SHOPPING CENTERS/MALLS | Home to hundreds of stores, a well-stocked food court, and an IMAX movie theater, the Atrium Flora is hardly the cobblestoned-street boutique dream you might have in mind. But for shopping junkies, it's a good bet for finding some local and international brands that are hard to hunt down elsewhere. ☒ *Vinohradská 151, Žižkov* ☎ 255-741-704 🌐 www.atrium-flora.cz 🚶 Line A: Flora.

Karlín

👁️ Sights

★ Karlín Studios

MUSEUM | Founded in 2005, this multi-purpose cultural center is at the bleeding edge of what's happening in the Czech art scene. The converted factory building is home to a whole complex of art studios and galleries, but the main focus for visitors is the central, 2,153-square-foot exhibition space. Here, you'll encounter exciting, alternative new creations by up-and-coming Czech and international artists. **▲ It's open to visitors only from 2 to 7 on weekends and from 3 to 6 on weekdays.** ☒ *Prvního pluku 2, Karlín* ☎ 608-955-150 🌐 www.futuraproject.cz 🚶 Free ☺ Closed Mon. 🚶 Lines B and C: Florenc.

Kostel sv. Cyrila a Metoděje (Church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius)

RELIGIOUS SITE | A Karlín landmark and one of the largest religious buildings in Prague, this unmistakable black-and-white church is dedicated to the Orthodox missionary brothers Cyril and Methodius, who are credited with spreading the Christian faith through the Slavic lands. It was consecrated in 1863, exactly 1,000 years after the brothers started their important work. Head inside the neo-Romanesque basilica to discover decorative pillars, intricately painted ceilings, and an art nouveau baptismal

chapel. The church is on the neighborhood's main square, Karlínské náměstí, which regularly hosts farmers' markets, festivals, and cultural events. ☒ *Karlínské nám., Karlín* ☎ 222-743-517 🌐 farnost-karlin.cz 🚶 Free 🚶 Line B: Křižikova.

Muzeum hlavního města Prahy (City of Prague Museum)

MUSEUM | Set inside a grand, turn-of-the-20th-century building, this museum tells the story of Prague through the ages, from the earliest prehistoric settlers, through the city's golden medieval and baroque periods, to the Velvet Revolution of 1989. The big-ticket exhibit is the extraordinary Langweil model of Prague, an intricate, handmade model of the city circa 1826-37. There are more than 2,000 buildings at a scale of 1:480, some of which are still standing today, and some which are long gone (including swathes of the Jewish Town). In fact, this model provides the only proof of how some of these buildings looked. As well as the permanent exhibits, there are also ever-changing temporary exhibitions, often focused on aspects of modern-day Prague. ☒ *Na Poříčí 52, Karlín* ☎ 221-709-674 🌐 www.muzeumprahy.cz 🚶 150Kč ☺ Closed Mon. 🚶 Lines B and C: Florenc.

🍴 Restaurants

Once a blighted testament to the fates of state-controlled industry, Karlín is now on the up and up. Nowhere is that more apparent than in its ever-increasing choice of fashionable eating options.

Eska

\$\$\$ | **CZECH** | An expensive fine-dining restaurant with a casual carefree vibe, Eska has been a big hit since opening its doors in 2016. The restaurant is located within a converted fabric factory, and it maintains the original industrial aesthetic through bare brick walls and exposed pipework, while also adding modern touches like Scandi-style furniture and a gleaming open kitchen. **Known for:** industrial-chic



Housed in former military barracks, Karlín Studios is a unique complex of art studios and galleries, showcasing contemporary Czech art.

decor; excellent coffee; sometimes style over substance. ☎ *Average main: 450 Kč* ☒ *Pernerova 49, Karlín* ☎ 731-140-884 🌐 eska.ambi.cz 🚶 Line B: Křižikova.

Nejen Bistro

\$\$ | **EUROPEAN** | This trendy bistro, on the corner of the neighborhood's main square, Karlínské náměstí, is all about light and space, with high ceilings, big windows, and an open kitchen, as well as muted colors throughout. It's also about great food, with particular pride taken in its array of meat dishes—from duck breasts to pork loin to sirloin steak—cooked on the charcoal-fueled Jospier grill. **Known for:** juicy charcoal-grilled burgers; great wine and beer selection; cool Scandi-chic interior. ☎ *Average main: 350 Kč* ☒ *Křižikova 24, Karlín* ☎ 721-249-494 🌐 www.nejenbistro.cz 🚶 Line B: Křižikova.

☕ Coffee and Quick Bites

Mamacoffee

\$\$ | **BAKERY** | Of the many café options in this up-and-coming district, Mamacoffee

leads the pack with fine brews of fair-trade java. Breakfast business is brisk, with excellent pastries to complement a creamy latte, but many customers linger throughout the afternoon over a well-brewed flat white. **Known for:** tasty well-brewed coffee; selection of crumbly pastries; takeaway beans available. ☎ *Average main: 120 Kč* ☒ *Sokolovská 6, Karlín* ☎ 775-568-647 🌐 www.mamacoffee.cz 🚶 Line B: Křižikova.

🏨 Hotels

Karlín has several cheap and cheerful accommodation options. Higher-end hotels are a little thinner on the ground, but they do exist.

Hilton Prague

\$\$ | **HOTEL** | From the outside, this gigantic, 11-floor, glass-and-steel building looks like a throwback to communist Czechoslovakia, but step inside and you'll find a pleasant, modern, and stylish business hotel. **Pros:** good selection of restaurants; large indoor swimming pool; quiet part of

town. **Cons:** not the most inviting exterior; can get very busy at breakfast; a little out of the action. 📄 **Rooms from:** 3500 Kč 📍 *Pobřežní 1, Karlín* ☎ 224-841-111 🌐 www.hilton.com 🏠 719 rooms 🍷 | Free Breakfast 📄 **Lines B and C: Florenc.**

Pentahotel Prague

\$\$ | **HOTEL** | Since opening in 2013, this trendy design hotel has been one of Karlín's hippest sleeping options, offering stylish, contemporary rooms with quirky, vintage touches. **Pros:** action-packed common area; nearby Metro and tram stops; parking spaces available. **Cons:** odd mixed hipster-business vibe; only basic Wi-Fi is free (premium can be bought); breakfast not included. 📄 **Rooms from:** 3750 Kč 📍 *Sokolovská 112, Karlín* ☎ 222-332-800 🌐 www.pentahotels.com 🏠 227 🍷 | No meals 📄 **Line B: Křižíkova.**

Nightlife

It may not be as renowned for nightlife as neighboring Žižkov, but Karlín still has its fair share of good after-dark options, from sky-high cocktail bars to basement brewery bars.

Cloud 9 Sky Bar

BAR/PUBS | This chic, lounge-style bar, situated on the rooftop of the Hilton Prague hotel, offers glorious views of the Czech capital in all directions. There's an extensive menu of innovative (and occasionally award-winning) cocktails, as well as some beautifully presented snack food; try the sweet potato fries with truffle mayo. 📍 *Hilton Prague, Pobřežní 1, Karlín* ☎ 224-842-999 🌐 www.cloud9.cz 📄 **Lines B and C: Florenc.**

★ Dva Kohouti

BREW/PUBS/BEER GARDENS | When it comes to beer buzz, nothing in recent years has come close to Dva Kohouti (translation: "Two Roosters"). Opened in 2018 as a joint brewery and taproom—the beer is brewed there in the mornings then served to thirsty patrons later the same day—it has quickly established itself as

a neighborhood favorite. There's only one local beer, but it's excellent: crisp, malty, and incredibly fresh (it's poured from a tank that is filled directly from the brewery). Alternatively, choose from a handful of other Czech lagers and ales on tap. No time to stop? Get a 1-liter can to take away. 📍 *Sokolovská 55, Karlín* ☎ 604-611-001 🌐 www.dvakohouti.cz 📄 **Line B: Křižíkova.**

Pivovarský Klub

BAR/PUBS | With literally wall-to-wall bottles—there are around 250 different brands of beer lining the walls—as well as six ever-changing brews on tap, there's nowhere better to take a deep dive into the Czechs' favorite pastime. The food's good, too. 📍 *Křižíkova 17, Karlín* ☎ 222-315-777 🌐 www.pivovarskyklub.com 📄 **Lines B and C: Florenc.**

Performing Arts

Whether you are looking for big-name live music acts or high-quality musical theater, Karlín has you covered.

Forum Karlín

ARTS CENTERS | This 3,000-seater events space plays host to several touring live music acts. Recent years have seen performances from the likes of Thom Yorke, James Arthur, Keane, Yes, and Simply Red. 📍 *Pernerova 51, Karlín* ☎ 702-203-359 🌐 www.forumkarlin.cz 📄 **Line B: Křižíkova.**

Hudební divadlo Karlín (Karlín Musical Theater)

THEATER | FAMILY | This beautiful, baroque-revival building plays host to all manner of song-and-dance performances, from high-art operas to cheesy musicals. Shows are usually performed in Czech but with a screen showing English subtitles. 📍 *Křižíkova 10, Karlín* ☎ 221-868-111 🌐 www.hdk.cz 📄 **Lines B and C: Florenc.**