

Chapter 7

SMÍCHOV AND VYŠEHRAĐ

7

Updated by
Joseph Reaney



 Sights

★★★★☆

 Restaurants

★★★★☆

 Hotels

★★★★☆

 Shopping

★★★☆☆

 Nightlife

★★★★☆

NEIGHBORHOOD SNAPSHOT

TOP EXPERIENCES	GETTING HERE
<p>■ Vyšehrad Cemetery: Spot famous names like Antonín Dvořák and Alfons Mucha on the tombs and headstones in this historical burial place.</p> <p>■ Live Theater: Take in a show (with English subtitles) at the superb Švandovo divadlo (Švanda Theater), or catch an alternative art performance at MeetFactory.</p> <p>■ Gorlice Hall: Navigate through Vyšehrad’s tunnels to reach this barrel-vaulted hall, home to the original baroque statues from the Charles Bridge.</p> <p>■ Brown-Nosers : Interact with art as never before by enjoying a unique rear view of local enfant terrible David Černý’s infamous sculpture.</p> <p>■ Sky-High Swimming: Practice your breaststroke while enjoying stunning city panoramas at the Corinthia Hotel Prague’s 24th-floor pool.</p>	<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 Karlštejn and Plzeň. 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 Táborská brána (the entrance gate into the fortress).</p>
PLANNING YOUR TIME	
<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> <p>Take a Break</p> <p>Hospůdka Na hradbách. 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 🌐 facebook.com/hospudkanahradbachm 🗺️ Line C: Vyšehrad.</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 a few 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.

★ **Galerie Futura**
ART GALLERY | 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.

Smíchov and Vyšehrad



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KEY

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Did You Know?

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



■ **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.futuraprague.com ☎ Free ☹ Closed Mon. and Tues. 🚊 Line B: Anděl.

Království Železnic

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM | **FAMILY** | This family-friendly attraction is home to Prague's most extensive model railway, comprising more than 600 meters of track and literally thousands of toy trains. There are several different sets, representing different regions of the Czech Republic (complete with intricately re-created, scaled-down sights), although they are mostly kept at an arm's length and behind glass. Luckily, there are also plenty of interactive sights, including remote control cars, train and tram simulators, and themed play areas. ☒ Stroupežnického 23, Smíchov ☎ 257-211-386 🌐 www.kralovstvi-zeleznic.cz ☎ 260 Kč 🚊 Line B: Anděl. Railway Kingdom

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, where a video projection of early brewmaster Josef Pasma (well, a suitably ruddy-cheeked actor) takes 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 four 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 ☎ Tour 299 Kč ☹ Closed Mon. 🚊 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.

Bockem

\$\$\$\$ | **CZECH** | It may not look too salubrious from outside, but this tucked-away fine-dining restaurant has a wonderfully warm and welcoming interior, all roughly plastered walls, sturdy wooden furniture, soft golden lighting, and autumnal wall hangings. What's more, the food is great: the seasonal, five-course degustation menu (1,590 Kč) has a mix of influences but really comes to life with main courses built around classic Czech ingredients like rabbit, pork, dumplings, and cabbage. **Known for:** seasonal menu of delicious and inventive dishes; distinctive non-alcoholic pairing option; beautiful interior with limited seating. 📍 Average main: Kč1590 ☒ Elišky Peškové 5, Smíchov ☎ 770-101-223 🌐 www.bockem.cz ☹ Closed Mon. and Tues. No dinner Wed. and Sun. 🚊 Line B: Anděl plus Tram 9, 12, 15, or 20 to Arbesovo náměstí.

Fortel

\$\$ | **INTERNATIONAL** | On the site of a historic Smíchov theater but now a paean to industrial-chic design, this hip restaurant and bar combines eye-catching decor with an excellent menu of modern Czech and international cuisine. Regular main dishes are available, but order instead from the extensive tapas menu, where highlights include duck parfait with cognac, beet hummus with whipped goat's cheese, and crispy pork belly in hoisin sauce. **Known for:** art-filled and industrial space; great food and drinks; friendly service. 📍 Average main: Kč275

☒ *Lidická 29, Smíchov* ☎ 702-040-808
 🌐 www.fortel-smichov.cz ☺ Closed Sun.
 📺 Line B: Anděl.

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 gnocchi with salmon and sun-dried tomatoes) at half the usual price. **Known for:** stylish but unfussy ambience; quality Mediterranean-inspired food; slightly high prices. ☎ *Average main: Kč325* ☒ *Lidická 19, Smíchov* ☎ 608-800-077 🌐 www.gourmetpauza.cz ☺ No dinner Sun. 📺 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; good value for high quality. ☎ *Average main: Kč450* ☒ *K Závěrcce 20, Smíchov* ☎ 251-553-102 🌐 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: Kč275* ☒ *Nádražní 100, Smíchov* ☎ 777-446-007 🌐 www.taro.cz ☺ Closed Sun. and Mon. 📺 Line B: Anděl.

Coffee and Quick Bites

Artic Bakehouse

\$ | **BAKERY** | The home-baked sourdough bread, the huge selection of delicious pastries, and the lovingly brewed coffee make this café-bakery a local favorite. It's so popular that there are now two other branches in Prague, including a second one in Smíchov (at Štefánikova 31). **Known for:** delicious almond croissants; three-day rye bread; good (and cheap) coffee. ☎ *Average main: Kč100* ☒ *Újezd 11, Smíchov* ☎ 771-140-048 🌐 www.articbakehouse.cz 📺 Tram 9 to Újezd.

★ Kavárna co hledá jméno

\$\$ | **CAFÉ** | Literally translated as "A Coffee Shop Looking for a Name," this achingly hip café-cum-gallery serves great coffee, tempting cocktails, and excellent food—including top-notch breakfasts and brunches until midday on weekdays and 3 pm on weekends. The gallery space showcases work by local artists and hosts pop-up events. **Known for:** no reservations possible; setting in a former joiner's workshop; Smíchov's best brunch place. ☎ *Average main: Kč190* ☒ *Stroupežnického 10, Smíchov* 🌐 kavarnacohledajmeno.cz 📺 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.

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: Kč4500* ☒ *Janáčkovo nábř. 15, Smíchov* ☎ 225-994-611 🌐 www.mamaisonriverside.com ➔ 80 rooms 📺 Free 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; good choices at 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: Kč2500* ☒ *Stroupežnického 21, Smíchov* ☎ 296-882-302 🌐 www.viennahouse.com ➔ 239 rooms 📺 No Meals 📺 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

Brothers Bar & Cafe

BARS | 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. **TIP** ➔ **Cash only.** ☒ *Lidická 12, Smíchov* ☎ 735-343-535 🌐 www.brothersbar.cz 📺 Line B: Anděl.

Craft Beer Spot

BARS | This side-street taproom has an enormous, arching bar with an ever-changing selection of 10 Czech and international beers on tap. There are fridgefuls 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.thebeerspot.cz 📺 Line B: Anděl plus Tram 9, 12, 15, or 20 to Újezd.

JAZZ CLUBS

★ Jazz Dock

LIVE MUSIC | 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 📺 Line B: Anděl.

LIVE MUSIC CLUBS

Futurum

LIVE MUSIC | 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 📺 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 📠 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→** For the best view, sit in the balcony, on the right side, facing the stage.

☎ *Štefánikova 6, Smíchov* ☎ 234-651-111 🌐 www.svandovodivadlo.cz 📠 Line B: Anděl plus Tram 9, 12, 15, or 20 to Švandovo divadlo.

VENUES

MeetFactory

ARTS CENTERS | If you want to take the pulse of Prague's contemporary arts scene, get yourself down to MeetFactory. 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 📠 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

OC Nový Smíchov

MALL | 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 large Tesco, a multiscreen movie theater, and a varied food court. ☎ *Plzeňská 8, Smíchov* ☎ 251-511-151 🌐 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.

★ Vyšehrad Casemates

CAVE | Buried deep within the walls of Vyšehrad Citadel, this series of long, dark passageways 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 Tábořská brána entrance gate. ☎ *V Pevnosti 5B, Vyšehrad* 🌐 www.praha-vysehrad.cz ☎ 90 Kč 📠 Line C: Vyšehrad.

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 the 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 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



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.

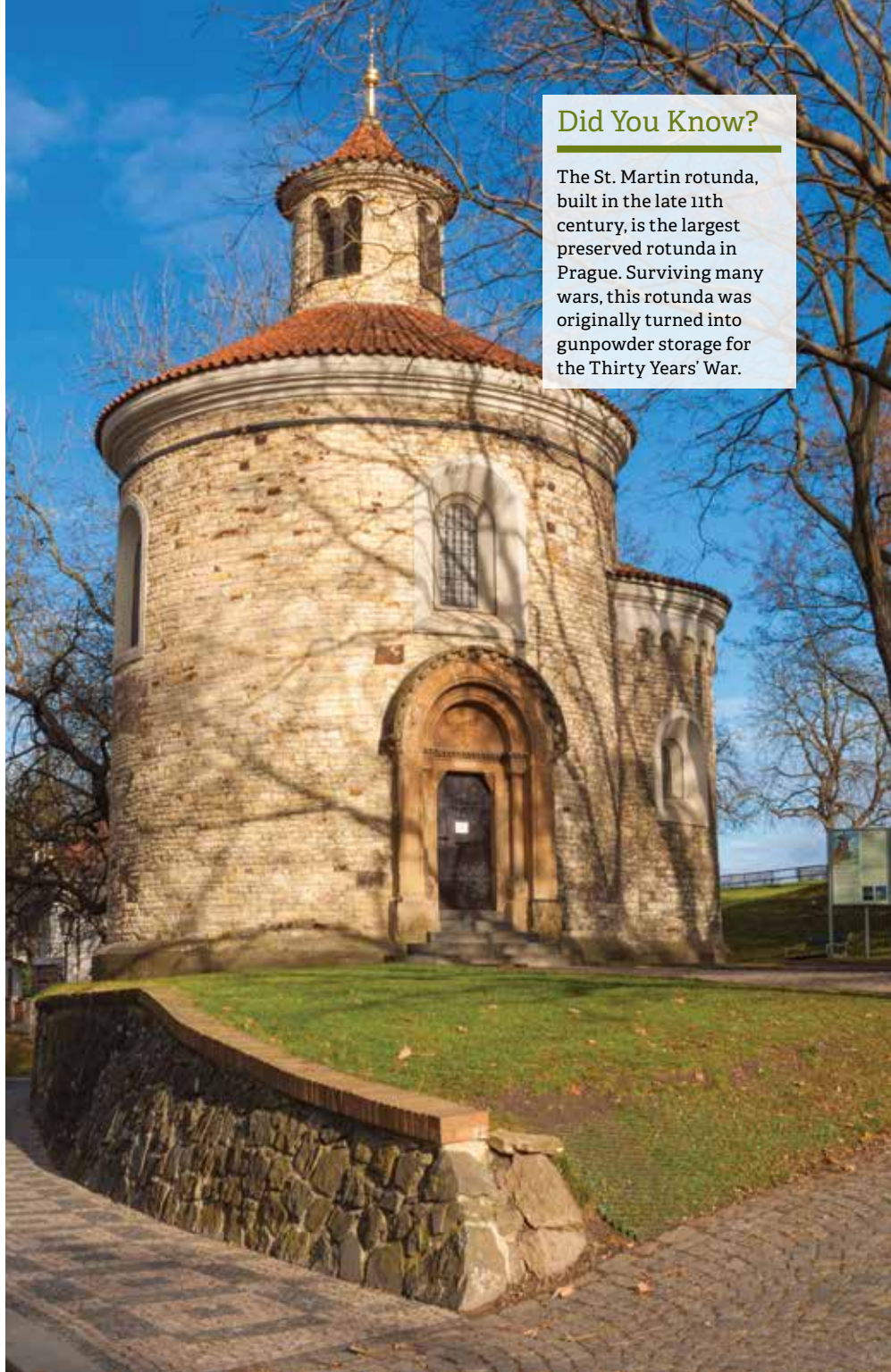
National Revivalists of the 19th century, particularly writer Alois Jirásek. Jirásek mined medieval chronicles for legends and facts to glorify the early Czechs, and that era of Czech history is very much in the popular consciousness today.

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



Did You Know?

The St. Martin rotunda, built in the late 11th century, is the largest preserved rotunda in Prague. Surviving many wars, this rotunda was originally turned into gunpowder storage for the Thirty Years' War.

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* 🌐 www.praha-vysehrad.cz 🚶 *Grounds and cemetery free, Gothic cellar 70 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: Kč175* ☒ *Vratislavova 12, Vyšehrad* ☎ *775–905–022* 🌐 www.ukroka.cz 🚶 *Line B: Karlovo náměstí plus Tram 2 or 3 to Výtoň.*

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: Kč3300* ☒ *Kongresová 1, Vyšehrad* ☎ *261–191–111* 🌐 www.corinthia.com/prague 🚶 *539 rooms* 🍽️ *No Meals* 🚶 *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 🚶 *Line C: Vyšehrad.*