

ŽIŽKOV AND KARLÍN

Updated by
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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>■ UGO Freshbar. With a wide array of freshly made juices pressed to order and light sandwiches and snacks, UGO Freshbar is a great place to stop by before heading to Riegrovy sady. ✉ Seifertova 39, Žižkov 🌐 ugo.cz 🚊 Tram 9 to Viktoria Žižkov</p> <p>■ Pivo Karlín. This industrial chic neighborhood brewpub, in a quiet corner of Karlín facing the leafy slopes of Vítkov Hill, serves a good choice of home-brewed beers (the dark ones beat the light ones) as well as hearty pub food. A good stop before or after taking in a show at Forum Karlín. ✉ Pernerova 42, Karlín 🌐 www.pivokarlín.cz 🚊 Line B: Křižíkova</p> <p>■ Veltlin. This modish wine bar offers a wide selection of natural and organic wines by the glass, with a particular focus on Central and Eastern European wine regions. You can also order cheeses and cured meats to accompany your drink. ✉ Křižíkova 115, Karlín 🌐 www.veltlin.cz 🚊 Line B: Křižíkova</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 Křižíkova (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 northeastern 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



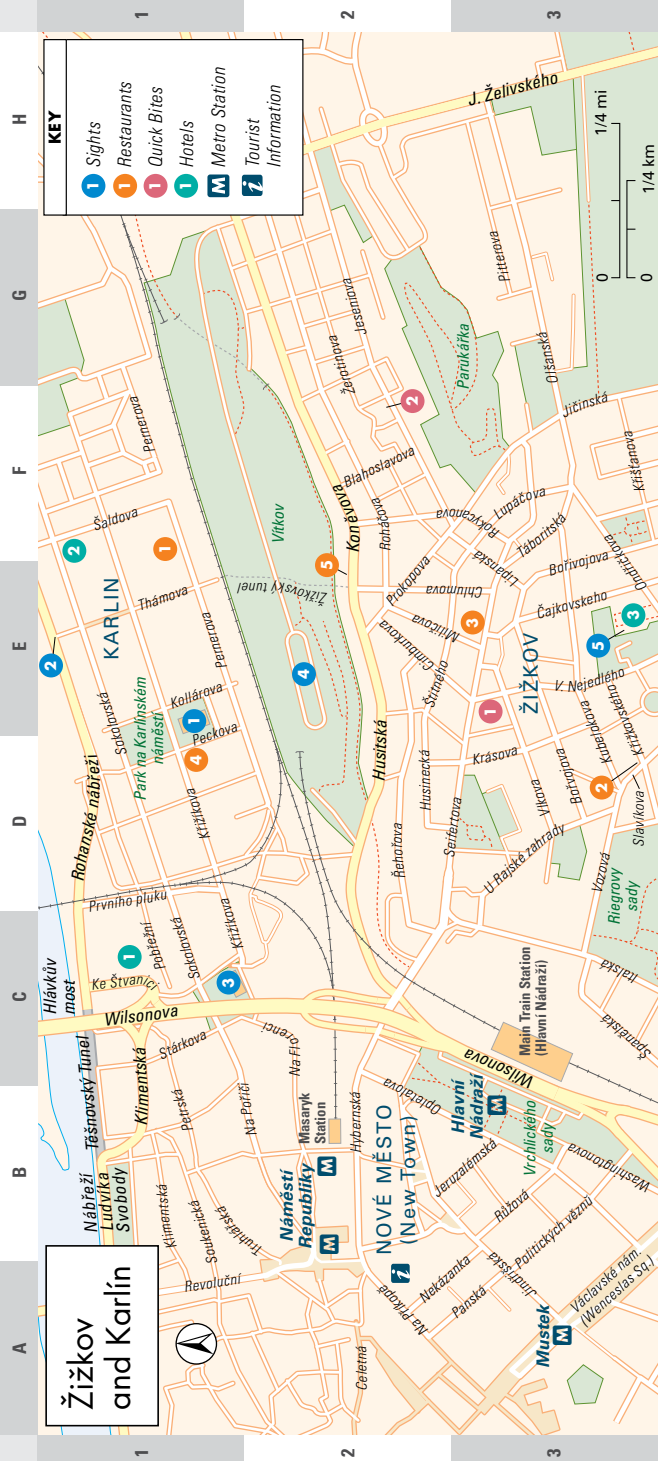
Národní památník na Vítkově (National Monument on Vítkov Hill)

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

statues—a 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 is part of the Národní muzeum (National Museum), home to a permanent exhibition of 20th-century Czech history. There are 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 📞 224–497–600 🌐 www.nm.cz 🚰 120 Kč 🕒 Closed Mon. and Tues. 🚊 Lines B and C: Florenc.

Žižkov and Karlín



- Sights**
- 1 Kostel sv. Cyrila a Metoděje.....E1
 - 2 Lilit.....E1
 - 3 Muzeum hlavního města Prahy.....C1

- Restaurants**
- 4 Národní památník na Vltavě.....E2
 - 5 Žižkovská televizní věž.....E3

- Quick Bites**
- 1 Café Pavlaček.....E3
 - 2 Žižkovská štrúdárna.....F2
 - 3 Lavička.....E3
 - 4 Nejen Bistro.....D1
 - 5 U Slovanské Lípy.....E2

- Hotels**
- 1 Hilton Prague.....C1
 - 2 Pentahotel Prague.....F1
 - 3 Sky Suite.....E3

★ Žižkovská televizní věž (Žižkov TV Tower)

NOTABLE BUILDING | Looking like a freakish, futuristic rocket ready to blast off, the Žižkov TV Tower is easily visible from around the city and commonly makes it onto Top 10 World's Ugliest Buildings lists. The upper-floor observatory platform, reached by a high-speed elevator and open until midnight, gives a bird's-eye view of the numerous courtyards and apartment blocks that make up the city and has a selection of exhibits on the history and architecture of the building. There's also a bar, restaurant, and luxury one-room hotel up there. Once back down on the ground, look up its 709-foot gray steel legs at the bronze statues of babies crawling on the structure, which were created by local provocateur artist David Černý. ☒ Tower Park Prague, Mahlerovy sady 1, Žižkov ☎ 210-320-081 ☌ www.towerpark.cz ☎ 250 Kč 🚇 Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

🍴 Restaurants

Scruffy Žižkov is better known for its pubs and dives than for its dining experiences, yet the southern part of the district abutting Vinohrady has some good snack stops, cafés, and restaurants. The best way to get here is to take the Metro to Jiřího z Poděbrad and walk north along Slavíkova.

Hanil

\$\$ | **KOREAN** | A nice counterpoint to the heavy, meaty cuisine found in most Prague diners, Hanil serves good-quality sushi as well as Korean and other Asian dishes at premium but affordable prices. The open, casual setting, which is accented with elegant light and dark woods, burnt-orange chair cushions, and curves galore, attracts a largely local crowd of young professionals who appreciate the blend of high-quality food with a lack of pretension. **Known for:** delicious Korean and Japanese cuisine; elegant-yet understated interior; slightly high

prices for Žižkov. ☎ Average main: Kč350 ☒ Slavíkova 24, Žižkov ☎ 222-715-867 ☌ www.hanil.cz ☎ Closed Sun. 🚇 Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.

Lavička

\$\$ | **CZECH** | A mini-oasis in the heart of Žižkov, this family-owned restaurant sits on a busy street but has a hidden garden terrace and conservatory around the back. The menu features a mix of Czech staples (like beef goulash) and lesser-spotted dishes (like salmon fillet with pumpkin purée), as well as lots of vegetarian options. **Known for:** away-from-it-all atmosphere; premium Bernard beer on tap; slightly small portions. ☎ Average main: Kč270 ☒ Seifertova 77, Žižkov ☎ 222-221-350 ☌ www.restaurace-lavicka.cz 🚇 Line C: Hlavní nádraží plus Tram 5, 9, 15, or 26 to Lipanská.

★ U Slovanské Lípy

\$\$ | **CZECH** | One of the oldest pubs in Žižkov, this classic Czech pub offers a warm and inviting setting, great beers, and authentic Czech food. The name means "At the Linden Trees," a Czech and Slovak emblem, and while there are tourists here, it's also a meeting place for locals. **Known for:** typical Czech meals; sharing plates; wooden benches and other period decor. ☎ Average main: Kč225 ☒ Tachovské náměstí 6, Žižkov ☎ 734-743-094 ☌ uslovanskelipy.cz 🚇 Line C: Hlavní nádraží plus Tram 5, 9, 15, or 26 to Lipanská.

☕ Coffee and Quick Bites

Café Pavlaček

\$\$ | **CAFÉ** | This lovely little sit-down spot on a sloping street serves excellent coffee, tasty homemade soups, and an impressive choice of vegan dishes. In the summer months, there's a pleasantly green courtyard garden. **Known for:** good-value lunch menu; quiet spot away from the crowds; regular themed food and drink events. ☎ Average main: Kč185 ☒ V. Nejedlého 23, Žižkov



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

☎ 702-124-556 🌐 www.cafepavlac.cz
🚊 Tram 9 to Viktoria Žižkov.

★ Žižkovská štrúdlárna

🍞 | **BAKERY** | This unexpected pastry paradise—essentially, a service hatch set within a regular apartment block—offers whole strudels (repeat: not a single slice, but a WHOLE strudel) for just 60 Kč. You can choose from three fillings: apple, *tvaroh* (curd cheese), or poppy seed.

Known for: special seasonal flavors; delicious strudel at an incredibly low price; easy-to-miss location. 📍 *Average main:* Kč60 ☎ *Jeseniova 29, Žižkov* ☎ 222-590-912 🌐 www.strudl-zizkov.czm ☺ *Closed weekends* 🚊 *Tram 9 to Lipanská.*

🏠 Hotels

Although Prague is a safe city where anyone can amble about alone, this is one of its grittier, seedier parts. That said, it's also a great neighborhood for extroverts who like student bars, music clubs, and hangouts where a fashion parade of people with piercings, tattoos,

dreadlocks—and sometimes all three—come to socialize. It's also home to one of Prague's most exclusive hotel rooms.

★ Sky Suite

\$\$\$\$ | **HOTEL** | Perhaps the most unique hotel in Prague, a night in this luxuriously decked-out, 80-square-meter capsule room at the top of the communist-era Žižkov TV Tower is quite an experience. **Pros:** beautiful wood-paneled 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:* Kč28000 ☎ *Tower Park Prague, Mahlerovy sady 1, Žižkov* ☎ 210-320-081 🌐 towerpark.cz 🚶 *1 room* 🆓 *Free Breakfast* 🚊 *Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.*

🍷 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

COCKTAIL LOUNGES | 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* ☎ 222-212-686 🌐 [facebook.com/bukowskisbar](https://www.facebook.com/bukowskisbar) 🚊 *Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.*

★ U Vystřeleného oka

BARS | 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 Božich bojovníků 3, Žižkov* ☎ 222-540-465 🌐 www.uvoka.cz ☺ *Closed Sun.* 🚊 *Lines B and C: Florenc plus Bus 133, 175, or 207 to Tachovské náměstí.*

Vlkova 26

BARS | 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](https://www.facebook.com/Vlkova26) ☺ *Closed Sun.* 🚊 *Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.*

LIVE MUSIC CLUBS

★ Palác Akropolis

LIVE MUSIC | Housed in a funky art deco-esque building, this is arguably 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.palacakaropolis.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.

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 BIO OKO in Holešovice and Kino Světozor off Václavské náměstí (Wenceslas Square). ☎ *Biskupcova 31, Žižkov* ☎ 271-771-349 🌐 www.kinoaero.cz 🚊 *Line C: Hlavní nádraží plus Tram 5 or 9 to Ohrada.*

🛍 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 Bohemian Retro

MIXED 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 12 to 5, and only five days a week, so plan your visit in advance.

☒ *Chvalova 8, Žižkov* ☎ 607-914-992
 🌐 bohemiaantretro.com ☺ *Closed Sun. and Mon.* 🚶 *Line A: Jiřího z Poděbrad.*

SHOPPING MALLS

Atrium Flora

MALL | 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

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

CHURCH | 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: Křižkova.*

★ Lilit

PUBLIC ART | Located at the eastern edge of Karlín, this giant metallic female figure

is the latest creation from Prague's master of modern sculpture David Černý, perhaps best known for the faceless babies climbing Žižkov TV Tower. Standing more than 24 meters high and weighing 35 tons, the figure is hugging—or seemingly holding up—the side of a modern apartment block. Take a stroll around to see other Černý artworks in a similar style, including giant arms and legs “propping up” elements of the building. For a uniquely strange experience, come at midnight to see Lilit's head rotate 180 degrees. ☒ *Rohanské nábř., Karlín* 🚶 *Line B: Invalidovna.*

Muzeum hlavního města Prahy (*City of Prague Museum*)

HISTORY MUSEUM | Set inside a grand, turn-of-the-20th-century building, this excellent yet often overlooked 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 of 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 collection, there are also ever-changing temporary exhibitions, often focused on aspects of modern-day Prague. The museum is closed for renovation until autumn 2023. ☒ *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.



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

Eska

\$\$ | **CZECH** | An upmarket 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 decor; delicious and innovative dishes; excellent bakery with good coffee. ☎ *Average main: Kč300* ☒ *Pernerova 49, Karlín* ☎ 731-140-884 🌐 eska.ambi.cz 🚶 *Line B: Křižkova.*

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 breast to pork loin to sirloin

steak—cooked on the charcoal-fueled Josper grill. **Known for:** juicy charcoal-grilled burgers; great wine and beer selection; cool Scandi-chic interior. ☎ *Average main: Kč360* ☒ *Křižkova 24, Karlín* ☎ 721-249-494 🌐 www.nejenbistro.cz
 ☺ *Closed Sun.* 🚶 *Line B: Křižkova.*

🏨 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:** great breakfast buffet and all-day dining options; large indoor swimming pool; quiet and alternative part of town. **Cons:** not the most inviting exterior; shower pressure could be better; a little way out of the center.

Rooms from: Kč3500 **☒ Pobřežní 1, Karlín** ☎ 224-841-111 **🌐** www.hilton.com **↔** 791 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; breakfast not included; 30-minute walk from the Old Town. **Rooms from:** Kč4750 **☒ Sokolovská 112, Karlín** ☎ 222-332-800 **🌐** www.pentahotels.com **↔** 227 **🍷** **No Meals** **📺** **Line B: Křižkova.**

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

COCKTAIL LOUNGES | This chic, lounge-style bar, situated on the rooftop of the Hilton Prague hotel, offers glorious views of the Czech capital (including parts you don't usually see). There's an extensive menu of innovative cocktails, as well as some beautifully presented snack food; try the chicken lollipops and prawn popcorn. The music can be very loud in the evening so it's not the place to come for a quiet conversation. **☒ Hilton Prague, Pobřežní 1, Karlín** ☎ 224-842-999 **🌐** www.cloud9.cz **🕒** **Closed Sun.** **📺** **Lines B and C: Florenc.**

★ Dva Kohouti

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

only one permanent 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 one of their seasonal brews or the many other Czech lagers and ales on tap. You can also get a one-liter can to take away. Feeling peckish? Order a tasty slider and fries from Bufet (owned by the same group) just across the courtyard. **☒ Sokolovská 55, Karlín** ☎ 604-611-001 **🌐** www.dvakohouti.cz **📺** **Line B: Křižkova.**

Pivovarský Klub

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 pretty good, too. **☒ Křižkova 17, Karlín** ☎ 222-315-777 **🌐** www.pivo-klub.cz **📺** **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, Bullet for My Valentine, Yes, and Simply Red. **☒ Pernerova 51, Karlín** **🌐** www.forumkarlin.cz **📺** **Line B: Křižkova.**

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. **☒ Křižkova 10, Karlín** ☎ 221-868-666 **🌐** www.hdk.cz **📺** **Lines B and C: Florenc.**