



Prague:walks

Off the Beaten Path to Places Known and Unknown

2

[Prague.eu/walks](https://prague.eu/walks)

Prague:emotion

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The best way to discover Prague is on foot.

This simple truth is an easily proven fact. Many of the most beautiful sights in the historical centre are only accessible by foot – however, you often find yourself in the company of thousands of other visitors. This is particularly true along the Royal Route, the former route of coronation processions connecting the Powder Tower, Old Town Square, Charles Bridge, and Prague Castle.

But there are hundreds of other interesting places in Prague. Leave the crowds behind – come and discover some of the lesser-known sights, whether you're here for the first time or the tenth. In this, the second in our series of walks, you'll discover the charms of districts such as Holešovice, Střešovice, Bubeneč, and Žižkov. Each has its own unique character, history, architecture, and atmosphere.

All of our walks have the following things in common:

- 1 Our primary goal is to introduce you to beautiful, unique places. In these five walks, we emphasize primarily architecture, as well as fine art to a certain extent – from historical to the latest contemporary works.
 - 2 The routes featured in this brochure avoid busy tourist sites entirely. Our mission is to show you the less well-known, but all the more interesting side of our city.
 - 3 The routes are not necessarily designed to be educational, but rather simply lovely walks. Descriptions of places and buildings are deliberately brief, but if you're interested in more detailed information, please see our website prague.eu/walks
 - 4 Each route has its own map. In addition to orientation points, notable buildings, and scenic views, we've also marked places where you can get something good to eat and drink. A proper walk stimulates the appetite!
- ⚠ Wear comfortable shoes and be sure you have something to take photos with – there will be plenty of opportunities.**



1

From Bubeneč to Troja

An Idyllic Tree-Lined Stroll Among Villas

6
km

A romantic walk that takes you from the immediate vicinity of Prague Castle to the Bubeneč district, a charming, peaceful neighbourhood full of stylish villas and manicured gardens that are today home to embassies and diplomatic residences. You'll find ornate Art Nouveau villas with folklore motifs, grand period mansions, as well as the lovely Governor's Summer Palace overlooking Stromovka Park, the oldest and most extensive park in Prague. In the park, you can stroll past ponds or take a break under century-old oaks; then hop onto the ferry to the lush green neighbourhood of Troja, where you have a choice of visiting the Botanical Gardens or the Zoo, or taking a tour of the Baroque Troja Chateau.

Route Description

1 **Chotkovy sady/Gardens** 🚗 🚶 ▶

2 **Bílek Villa (*Bílkova vila*)** 📍 ghmp.cz

The villa and studio of renowned Czech Art Nouveau sculptor František Bílek were built according to his own designs in the early 20th century. The façade symbolizes a wheat field and expresses the connection between natural and artistic creation. Inside the villa, you can visit an exhibition featuring the studio's original furnishings and a selection of Bílek's Symbolist works.



🚶 ▶ **Mickiewiczova St.** ▶

3 **Písecká brána/Gate** 📍 piseckabrana.cz

The gate is part of the former Baroque city fortifications and today serves as a gallery and café. It was right on these former bastions of these fortifications, known as the Marian Wall, that the villas now standing here were built between 1910 and 1914, designed as a British-style "garden city".

🚶 ▶ **Charlotte G. Masaryk Park** ▶ **K Brusce St.** ▶ **cross Milady Horákové Avenue** ▶ **Muchova St.** ▶ **Pelléova St.** ▶

4 **Villa Pellé** 📍 villapelle.cz

This Neo-Renaissance building dates to the late 19th century. Its most famous occupant was French General Maurice César Joseph Pellé, who was integral to the formation of the modern Czechoslovak Army (he scrapped the army's volunteer character and created a regular army with a firm military order.). The villa now serves as a cultural and social centre for exhibitions, concerts, and seminars.

🚶 ▶ **Slavičkova St.** ▶ **Jan Koula Villa** ▶ **Sucharda Family Villa** ▶ **Karel Mašek Villa** ▶ **Suchardova St.** ▶ **Sucharda Studio Villa** ▶

5 **Jan Koula Villa**

In a sea of beautiful houses, two adjacent villas – at numbers 15 and 17 – stand out. The villa of builder Jan Koula combines Historicism with elements of folk architecture.



6 Sucharda Family Villa

The second villa – whose facade is decorated with figural frescoes by noted Czech painter Mikoláš Aleš – was the home of the Sucharda family of visual artists.

7 Karel Mašek Villa

Across the street at No. 7 stands the villa of Art Nouveau artist and architect Karel Mašek. It's stylistically similar to that of Jan Koula, but even more ornate. Of special significance are the painting and modelling of the columns.



Karel Mašek Villa

8 Sucharda Studio Villa

The villa and studio of sculptor Stanislav Sucharda (No. 6) are the work of the founder of Czech architectural Modernism Jan Kotěra and is his only villa preserved in its original condition. It was here that Sucharda created the monument to historian František Palacký situated at Palackého Square.

🚶 ➤ [Na Zátorce St.](#) ➤ [Jaselská St.](#) ➤ [Československé armády St.](#) ➤ [Bubenečská St.](#) ➤ [Ronalda Reagana St.](#) ➤

9 Otto Petschek Villa

🚶 ➤ cz.usembassy.gov/embassy/prague/ambassadors-residence

The grand entrance is a gate to an extensive garden surrounding a luxury First Republic (pre-war) villa, designed for Otto Petschek by architect Max Spielmann. Thanks to the business acumen of the Petscheks, a Jewish family originally from the town of Pečky, they became one of the leading European entrepreneurial and banking dynasties in the 19th century; their philanthropic activities were also notable. The villa was exceptional for its time in size (an incredible 148 rooms) and its modern facilities (including a fitness room and underground pool in the style of Roman baths). Since the end of the Second World War, the villa has been the property of the United States and serves as the American ambassador's residence.

🚶 ➤ [Pelléova St.](#) ➤

10 Lanna Villa 🚶 vila-lanna.cz

A Neo-Renaissance villa with many spectacular elements; one of the first built in this area back in 1872 as a summer home for renowned industrialist and art collector Vojtěch Lanna. The villa sits along the path that Prague's elite used to reach their favourite area – the Royal Game Preserve (today Stromovka). Nowadays, the premises are used by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

🚶 ➤ [Na Seníku St.](#) ➤ [V Sadech St.](#) ➤

11 Julius Petschek Villa

V Sadech St. leads around the rear of a magnificent villa, until recently quite dilapidated but now newly renovated in Eclectic style, built by Otto Peschek's uncle, Julius. In 2020, the Museum of Czech Literature will open to the public here in its new premises. Its elegant spaces will house an extensive exhibition of Czech literature, an events hall, a literary café, study rooms, and offices.

🚶 ➤ [Wolkerova St.](#) ➤

12 Na Slamníku Pub

The establishment of this pub, located at the intersection of Wolkerova and Gotthardská Streets, was documented as far back as the 17th century and has traditionally served as a public house since that time. It's one of the longest continuously operating pubs in Prague, with local regulars still outnumbering the tourists. During the Communist era, "Slamník" was a popular cultural centre for the alternative music scene.

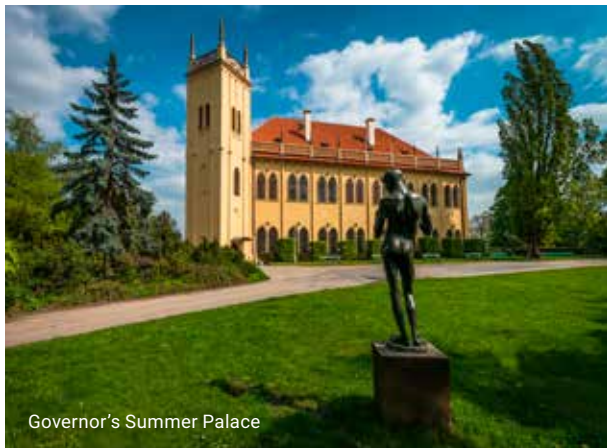
🚶 ➤ [Wolkerova St.](#) ➤ [Pod Kaštany Square](#) ➤

13 Friedrich Petschek Villa

Continuing straight to the end of Pod Kaštany Square on the right-hand side, you'll find the formal entrance to yet another Petschek villa – today the Embassy of the Russian Federation. The villa, designed in French Baroque style, is once again by Max Spielmann, the Petschek family architect. The huge complex spreads out over one hectare and includes a garden with pond.

14 Neo-Gothic Gate and Governor's Summer Palace (Místodržitelský letohrádek)

An impressive, romantic mansion towers behind the Neo-Gothic entrance gate at the upper end of Stromovka. The yellow façade, in English Gothic Revival style, dates back to the early 19th century, after the game park opened to the public in 1804. The building's history, however, extends back to the 15th century; originally a hunting redoubt, it was gradually transformed into its current form, and only the prismatic tower remained. The building is unfortunately inaccessible; its terrace, however, is worth a look – from it, you get a beautiful view of Stromovka, Troja, and the Vltava River valley.



Governor's Summer Palace

🗨 In the right-hand corner of the terrace, you'll find a unique sundial dating back to 1698. Shaped like a globe, it has a moving metal pointer and a red marble surface marked with the tropic lines and times. To determine the current time, aim the arrow at the sun and move the pointer so that it casts the smallest shadow (the same height as the pointer). Did it work?

🚶 ➡ [Mecserýho silnice / Road](#) (named after former Prague Governor Karl Mecserý de Tsoor, who had it built in 1861) ➡

15 Former tram depot

From 1898 to 1937, a small electric tram depot operated at the Royal Game Preserve. Part of the building's walls was preserved during a modern renovation into the Vozovna Stromovka restaurant.

🚶 16 [Stromovka](#) 17 [Rudolf's Water Tunnel \(Rudolfova štola\)](#)
18 [Šlechta Restaurant](#) 19 [fishponds](#) ➡

16 Stromovka

The Royal Game Preserve (now Stromovka) was founded by Czech King Přemysl Otakar II in the 13th century as a fenced hunting preserve. The complex has undergone many changes over the centuries, the most significant of which took place in the 16th century, when Rudolf II

ordered the preserve as well as the now-non-existent lake to be enlarged.

17 Rudolf's Water Tunnel (Rudolfova štola)

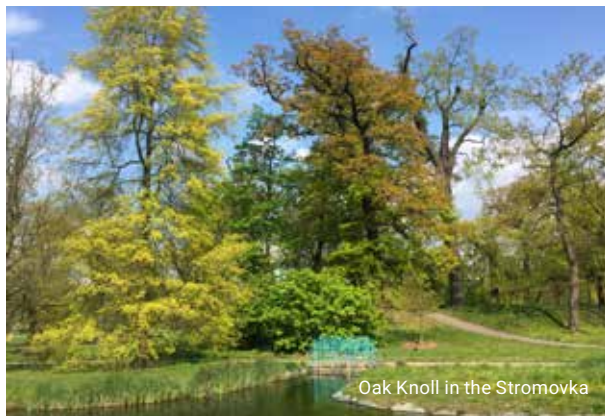
An unassuming doorway marks the end of a 1,100m long water tunnel built in the late 16th century by order of Emperor Rudolf II. Water flowed through it, powered only by gravity, from the Vltava River near Old Town to the pond in Stromovka. This unique technical achievement, ovoid in shape, was bored under Letná Hill at a depth of about 45 m.

18 Former Šlechta Restaurant

The original 17th-century Baroque summer palace was a formal mansion and even witnessed the imperial coronation celebration of Franz I. A restaurant has operated in the historical space since the 1920s. This popular destination is currently being renovated and is scheduled to reopen in 2020.

19 Fishponds

A kind of "island" was created in the middle of the original "Rudolfine" lake, which later became the only reminder of this former large body of water. Today it's called Oak Knoll, and thanks to the new lake that was built in 2016, its banks are once again largely surrounded by water.



Oak Knoll in the Stromovka

🗨 The Royal Game Preserve was closed to the public until the early 19th century – commoners were allowed to enter only on Easter. This changed in 1804 with an imperial decree by Franz I, which opened the preserve to the public.

🚶 ➡ [Za Elektrárnou St](#) ➡ [footbridge to Imperial Island \(Císařský ostrov\)](#)
➡ [ferry \(year-round\)](#) ➡ [Povltavská St](#) ➡ [U Trojského zámku St.](#)
20 [Zoo \(Zoologická zahrada\)](#) 🗺 📍

📍 If you've got enough energy and want to extend your walk, we recommend visiting the Zoo (📍 [zoopraha.cz](#)), Troja Chateau (📍 [ghmp.cz](#)), or the Botanical Gardens (📍 [botanicka.cz](#)). Both the Zoo and the Botanical Gardens are located on hills which offer impressive views of the city.



Prague
Botanical Garden



Troja Chateau



Prague Zoo



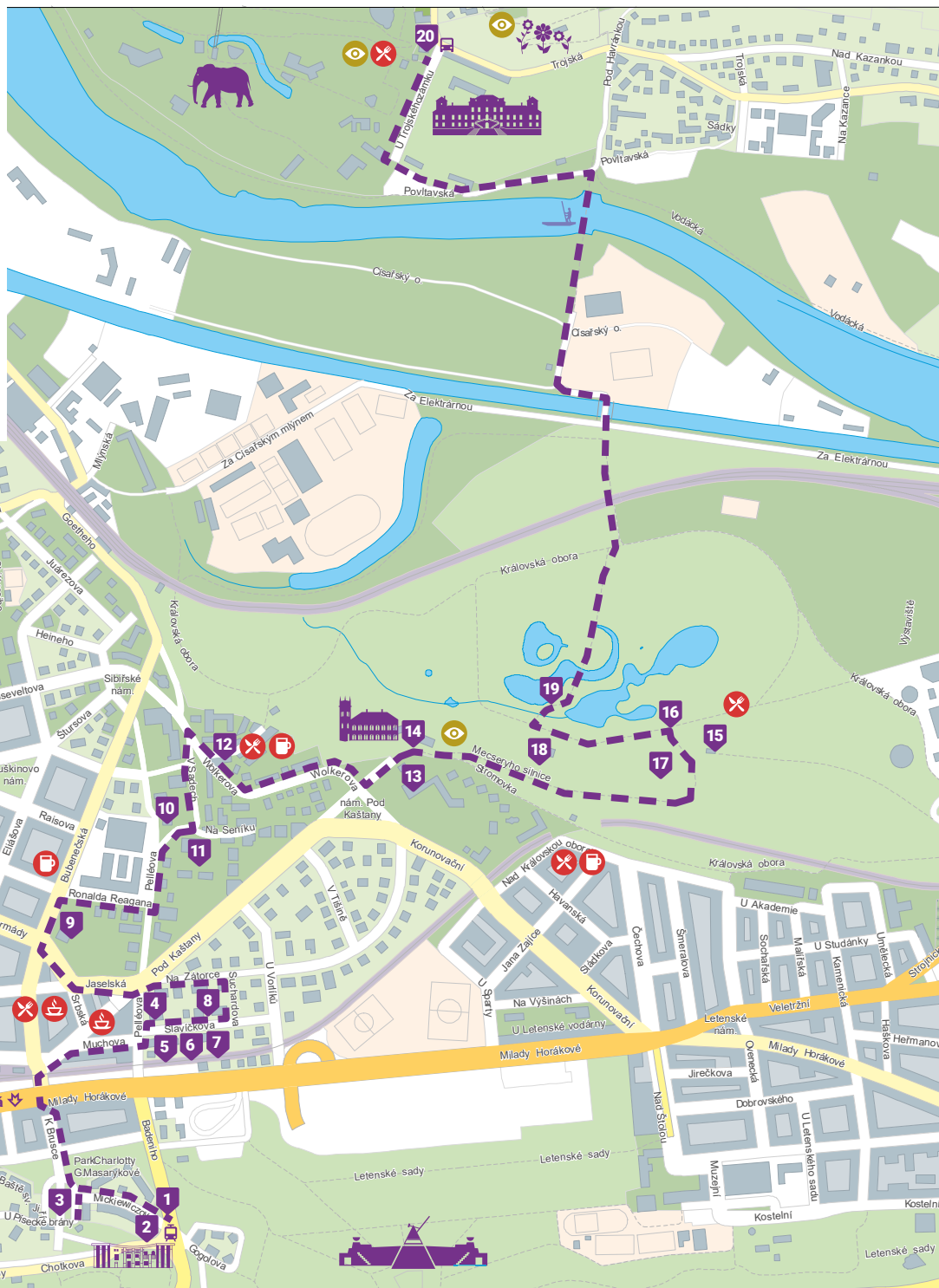
Governor's
Summer Palace



Bílek Villa



the Metronome



2

Holešovice

A District Reborn

4
km

This route is ideal for those who like to get enchanted by the raw charm of a modern city and the poetry of old industrial complexes. We'll take you through one of the most exciting and rapidly transforming Prague districts. Holešovice was a former centre of manufacturing and business – here you'll find distinctive factory complexes from the early 20th century remain, a former slaughterhouse, and docks. The factories no longer serve their original purpose, and many have been renovated, finding new lives as apartments, offices, and studios for young creatives, designers, and architects. Holešovice offers delightful surprises with its plethora of quirky cafés and bistros, alternative cultural spaces, and design shops. In short, it's an area where creativity and innovation await you around every corner.

Route Description

1 **Veletržní palác** 🚶 (more information about the building on page 34) 🚶 ➔ [Heřmanova St.](#) ➔

2 **Řezáčovo náměstí/Square** 🚶 [farmarsketrziste.cz](#)

This small square squeezed between residential buildings is not only an excellent place to rest for a bit, but it's also a place where all kinds of events take place, including a popular farmers' market on Saturday mornings, as well as pop-up stores with contemporary design, sustainable and slow fashion.

🚶 ➔ [Farského St.](#) ➔

3 **Hus Congregational House (Husův sbor)**

🚶 [husiteholesovice.cz](#)

This imposing seven-story building for the Czechoslovak Hussite Church was completed in 1937. In addition to its unmistakable tower with chalice, there's a marble-lined chapel and one of the largest columbariums (vaults for cinerary urns) in Europe, spread over two underground floors.

🚶 ➔ [Strossmayerovo náměstí/Square](#) ➔

4 **Strossmayerovo náměstí/Square**

A busy transportation node and symbol of Holešovice, the east side of which is dominated by the Neo-Gothic Church of St Anthony of Padua dating back to the early 20th century. Its two towers were modelled after those of Týn Cathedral on Old Town Square. A unique nativity scene is stored here, with figures dressed in native costumes of various Slavic nations.



🚶 ➔ [Antonínská St.](#) ➔ [nábřeží Kapitána Jaroše/Riverbank](#) ➔ [Bubenské nábřeží/Riverbank](#) ➔

5 **Prague Market (Pražská tržnice)** 🚶 [prazska-trznice.cz](#)

For nearly 100 years, this huge complex with Art Nouveau and Neo-Renaissance elements functioned as a slaughterhouse, but today it's

undergoing rapid changes. You'll find all kinds of things here: Hall 22 is the home of the largest produce market in Prague, as well as shops and stands with a variety of goods and groceries. Outside you'll find stalls with various types of street food. The complex has several restaurants – of note are the highly-rated Vietnamese restaurant Trang An and the glam Asian fusion restaurant SaSaZu. Other buildings house the modern art gallery Trafo Gallery and Jatka78, a theatre and art space that focuses primarily on new circus and progressive theatre.

🚶 ➔ [Komunardů St.](#) ➔ [Tusarova St.](#) ➔

6 **Vnitroblok** 🚶 [vnitroblok.cz](#)

A popular location – this imposing industrial space is today a favourite meeting place over a cup of coffee as well as a multifunctional space for artistic or creatively oriented events.

🚶 ➔ [Komunardů St.](#) ➔ [U Průhonu St.](#) ➔

7 **Holešovice Town Brewery (Holešovický měšťanský pivovar)**

The opening of this brewery in the late 19th century led to the ruin of many smaller breweries. Many Praguers have tasted the local brew, as it was brewed here under the name „Měšťan“ until 1998. Today, it's a modern office complex combining Romanticism with Renaissance and Gothic elements.



🚶 ➔ [Na Maninách St.](#) ➔ [U Uranie St.](#) ➔ [U Parního mlýna St.](#) ➔ [Jankovcova St.](#) ➔

8 **The former steam mill** on Jankovcova St. is another excellent example of a sensitive transformation of a historical building into a modern office complex. The mill, built in 1911, was the first automated flour mill in Prague, capable of grinding 200 tonnes of grain daily. Today the complex is a mix of designer offices for both multinational corporations and small start-ups.



Holešovice Docks

🚶‍♂️ Jankovcova St. ➤ V Přístavu St. ➤

9 Holešovice Docks, Prague Marina

The Holešovice docks, an important technical monument, is the only port in Prague which directly connects boat transport with rail and road. It's definitely seen better days but remains worthy of a visit. The original buildings at the dock are in Art Nouveau style. The contrast between the rusting boats and the modern Prague Marina luxury apartment complex creates a memorable atmosphere.

🚶‍♂️ Jankovcova St. ➤

10 Ogilvy

Originally the Prague Bakery and Soda Water Company, founded by Ferdinand Zátka, the building became the home of one of the largest advertising agencies in the world in 2003. In 2012, the building's façade was redecorated in red and white battleship camouflage – a creative inspiration from the local nautical history.

🚶 ➤ [Přívozní St.](#) ➤ [U Uranie St](#) ➤ [Komunardů St.](#) ➤ [Poupětova St.](#) ➤

11 DOX Center for Contemporary Art [dox.cz](#)

The DOX Center was one of the pioneering projects that kicked off the transformation of Holešovice from an industrial to a creative district. The building is a rebuilt factory. Viewed from the street, the 42m-long wooden construction – the Gulliver airship – on the rooftop terrace is eye-catching; it's used primarily for literary events. DOX prides itself on its independence and active contacts with the international art world; it focuses primarily on art projects that reflect current social issues.

🚶 ➤ [Osadní St.](#) ➤ [Ortenovo náměstí/Square](#) 🚶 ➤

i At the intersection of Jankovcova and Plynární streets, you'll find the legendary Cross Club and café.

12 Cross Club [crossclub.cz](#) is a salute to Holešovice's industrial character. Steampunk aesthetic, steel, and moving bolts, screws, and wheels form not only the essence of the outdoor space but also that of the cellar interiors of the renowned music club.

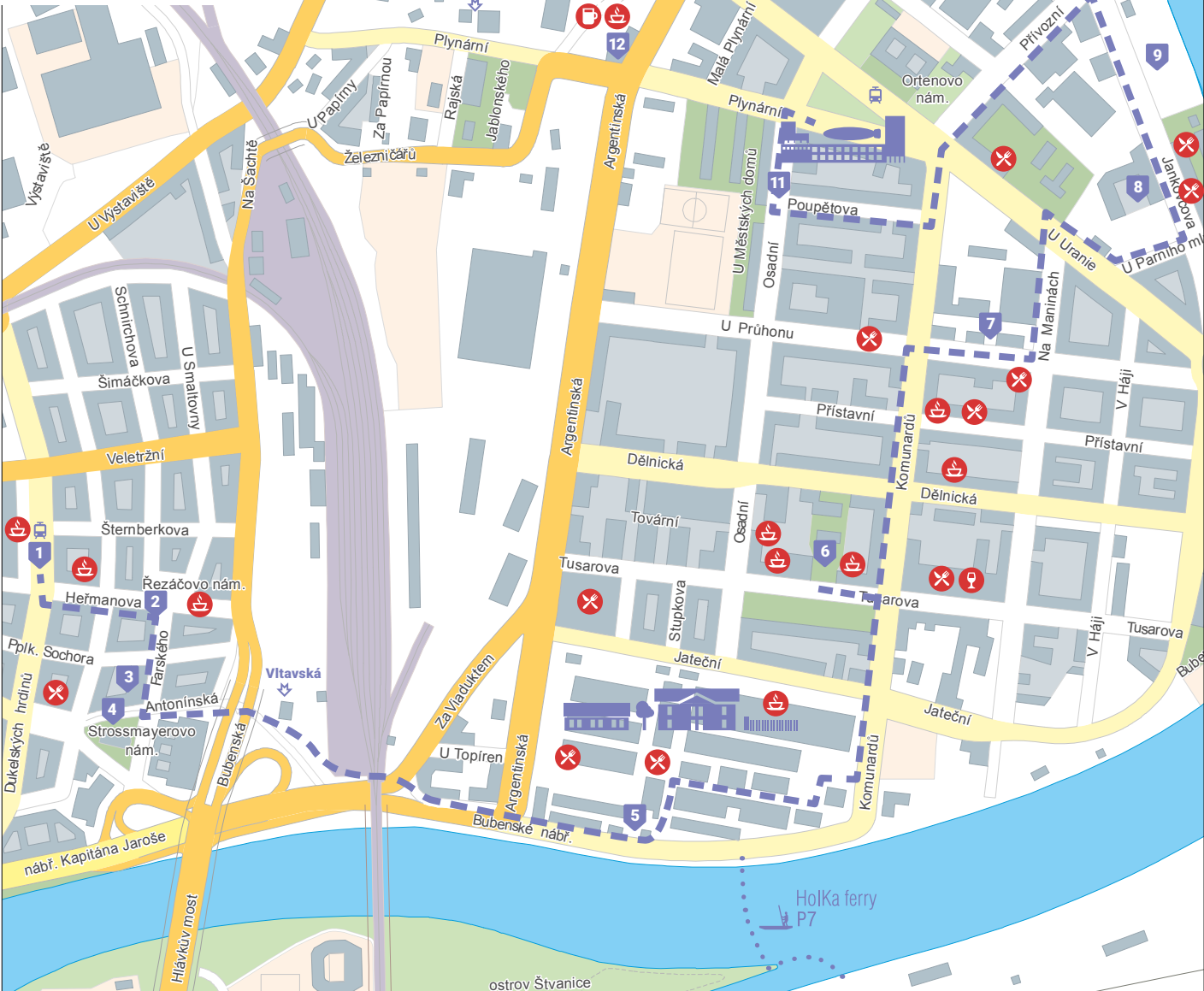


Holešovice Docks



DOX

the Prague Marketplace





3

From Vinohrady to Žižkov

Searching for Bohemian Prague

4
km

Žižkov is one of the most iconic Prague neighbourhoods outside of the historical centre. In the past, its mostly working-class population, lively pubs and cabarets, and hilly terrain under Vítkov Hill together cast an irresistible spell under which many an aspiring artist fell.

Žižkov was home to two famous Jaroslavs – Hašek, author of the world-famous humorous novel *The Fateful Adventures of the Good Soldier Švejk During the World War*, and Seifert, a poet who is the sole Czech Nobel laureate for literature. Today Žižkov is undergoing rapid changes, but its heart remains purely bohemian.

The walk will take you first to the Vinohrady district, which gets its name from real vineyards that were laid out on the hillsides here during the Middle Ages. Over time the grapevines were slowly replaced by buildings. In today's Vinohrady, you'll find beautifully decorated Art Nouveau and Historicist buildings alongside austere Modernism in unusual colours and shapes. This winding route takes you through the streets of Žižkov leading to the TV transmission tower, a modern symbol of this exciting district. Rest and refresh yourself at one of the many local pubs that the district is known for.

Route Description

1 **Náměstí Míru**     **Church of St. Ludmila**
2 **Vinohrady Theatre** 

1 Náměstí Míru Square

There's no doubt that náměstí Míru (Peace Square) is the heart of Vinohrady. The attractive square is a popular site for various holiday markets.


2 Church of St. Ludmila ludmilavinohrady.cz

At its centre stands the Church of St. Ludmila, whose 60m high towers dominate the area.



Church of St. Ludmila










3 Vinohrady Theatre divadlonavinohradech.com

In stark contrast to its severe Neo-Gothic lines, the Vinohrady Theatre, to the left of the church, catches the eye with its swirling Art Nouveau lines. A few steps from the theatre is the National Building in Vinohrady, a monumental Neo-Renaissance edifice that's home to cultural events and restaurants  nardum.cz

  **Slezská St.**  **Budečská St.**  **Vinohradská St.** 

4 Pavilon pavilon.cz

The building of the former Vinohrady Market has graced the neighbourhood since 1903. Behind its Neo-Renaissance façade lies a spacious interior dominated by the original iron support structure. Today Pavilon is an interior design shopping centre and café.

  **U Tržnice St.**  **Slezská St.**  **Šumavská St.**  **Moravská St.**  **Dykova St.**   **Hus Congregational House (Husův sbor)** 

5 Hus Congregational House (*Husův sbor*) hs-vinohrady.cz

A Functionalist building comprising a ceremonial hall, a residential building, and a bell tower. It's one of Czech architect Pavel Janák's major projects.

  **U Vodárny St.** 

6 Vinohradská water tower (*Vinohradská vodárenská věž*)

A seven-story tower with a Neo-Renaissance façade and staircase served its function until 1962. It's said that in good weather, the statues of trumpeting angels can see as far as the Krkonoše Mountains, some 150 km away.



Vinohradská water tower

  **Vinohradská St.** 

7 King George of Poděbrady Square (*náměstí Jiřího z Poděbrad*) srdcepane.cz

Arriving on the square, your eyes will be immediately drawn to the unusual monumental architecture of the Church of the Most Sacred Heart by Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik, who was also the creative force behind the modern reconstruction of Prague Castle. The church, whose shape is meant to evoke that of Noah's ark, is the most important modern religious building in Prague.

 The square is a frequent venue for a popular farmers' market as well as other culinary and cultural events.

  **Slavíkova St.** 

8 Švehla Dormitory (*Švehlova kolej*)

The imposing Švehla Dormitory building is evidence of Žižkov's rich student life. The dormitory was built shortly after the founding of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1918 in national Art Deco style with elements of Rondo-Cubism. It still functions as a home for Charles University students today.

🚶 ➤ [Zvonařova St.](#) ➤

9 Škroupovo náměstí/Square

You might find it hard to believe, but this square measures 150 m (492 ft) in diameter. It entered the Prague history books as the site of the events of the first authorized dissident demonstration in December 1988. Václav Havel gave his first public political speech here, demanding the release of political prisoners.

🚶 ➤ [Pospíšilova St.](#) ➤ [Fibichova St.](#) ➤ [10 Žižkov Television Tower and Old Jewish Cemetery in Žižkov](#) ➤

10 Žižkov Television Transmitter [towerpark.cz](#)

A triple tower resembling a spaceship ready for launch is an unmistakable dominant feature of the Prague skyline. In addition to technical equipment, the transmitter tower also houses a luxury single suite hotel, a restaurant with bar and café, and an observation deck with an amazing view of Prague. The transmitter's columns are adorned with bizarre figures of babies by sculptor David Černý

🗨️ **Old Jewish Cemetery in Žižkov** Directly under the tower, the Mahler Gardens hide their secrets. At one time, a Jewish cemetery was located here, parts of which are still clearly visible. The old Jewish cemetery in Žižkov was originally part of a plague burial ground of the Prague Ghetto, but over time it transformed into a proper cemetery which served the community for over a century.



Žižkov Television Transmitter
and Old Jewish Cemetery
in Žižkov

🚶 ➤ [Fibichova St.](#) ➤

11 International Telephone Exchange Building

The monumental International Telephone and Telegraph Exchange building is one of the most interesting buildings in Žižkov. It was built shortly after 1921 by architect Bohumír Kozák. Its two towers and other decorative elements are typical examples of Czech national Decorativism.

🚶 ➤ [Kubelíkova St.](#) ➤

12 Palác Akropolis [palacakropolis.cz](#)

The cultural heart of Žižkov, Akropolis has a restaurant and multi-genre programme of both established and rising stars. Artist František Skála and architect/playwright David Vávra designed the eclectic interior.

🚶 ➤ [Víta Nejedlého St.](#) ➤ [Vlkova St.](#) ➤

13 Sladkovského náměstí/Square

The Church of St. Prokop dominates this picturesque square at the foot of "upper Žižkov" and, along with the nearby Lipanská tram stop, forms one of a number of Žižkov's focal points. The Neo-Gothic church was built at the turn of the 20th century.

🗨️ [Seifertova St.](#), the main artery of the Žižkov district, is named after Jaroslav Seifert, outstanding Czech poet and Nobel laureate. He not only lived here, but also studied at the nearby grammar school.

🚶 ➤ [Seifertova St.](#) ➤ [Milíčova St.](#) ➤ [Štítného St.](#) ➤

14 Žižkov Theatre of Jára Cimrman [zdic.cz](#)

The Žižkov Theatre occupies an unassuming building at number 520. It has a varied past. The building has been used as a theatre, a chapel, and a renowned dance hall. For many seasons now, however, a theatre group performs here, dedicated to spreading the word of fictitious Czech Renaissance man and unrecognized genius Jára Cimrman.

🚶 ➤ [Štítného St.](#) ➤

15 Kostnické náměstí/Square

Kostnické Square is probably the most picturesque square in Žižkov. It gets its name from the German city of Kostnice (Konstanz), where the church council met in 1415 and sentenced Czech church reformer Jan Hus to death by burning. The name refers to the connection between the Žižkov district and the Hussite events of the 15th century. From the square, there's an interesting view of Vítkov Hill and the dominant bronze equestrian statue of Jan Žižka of Trocnov.

🚶 ➤ [Orebitská St.](#) ➤ [Husitská St.](#) ➤

Husitská St. along with its surroundings is a memorable, yet slightly dark place in Žižkov. During the Middle Ages, gallows were located here.

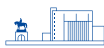


📍 U Památníku St. 16 National Monument on Vítkov

16 National Memorial on Vítkov (Národní památník na Vítkově) [nm.cz](https://www.nm.cz)

A dense network of walking and bike paths cloaks Vítkov Hill; take any of them up the hill to the memorial. This monument, with its remarkable Art Deco interior, was originally built to honour the Czechoslovak Legionnaires who fought abroad during World War I

and as a mausoleum in which the first Czechoslovak president, Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, was to be entombed. Today the National Museum's military history collection is on display here. Together with one of the largest equestrian statues in the world (depicting the legendary Hussite leader Jan Žižka, after whom the entire surrounding district is named), the Vítkov Memorial is one of the visual dominants of the city. The roof, accessible by paying a fee, offers a panoramic view of the city.



National Memorial on Vítkov



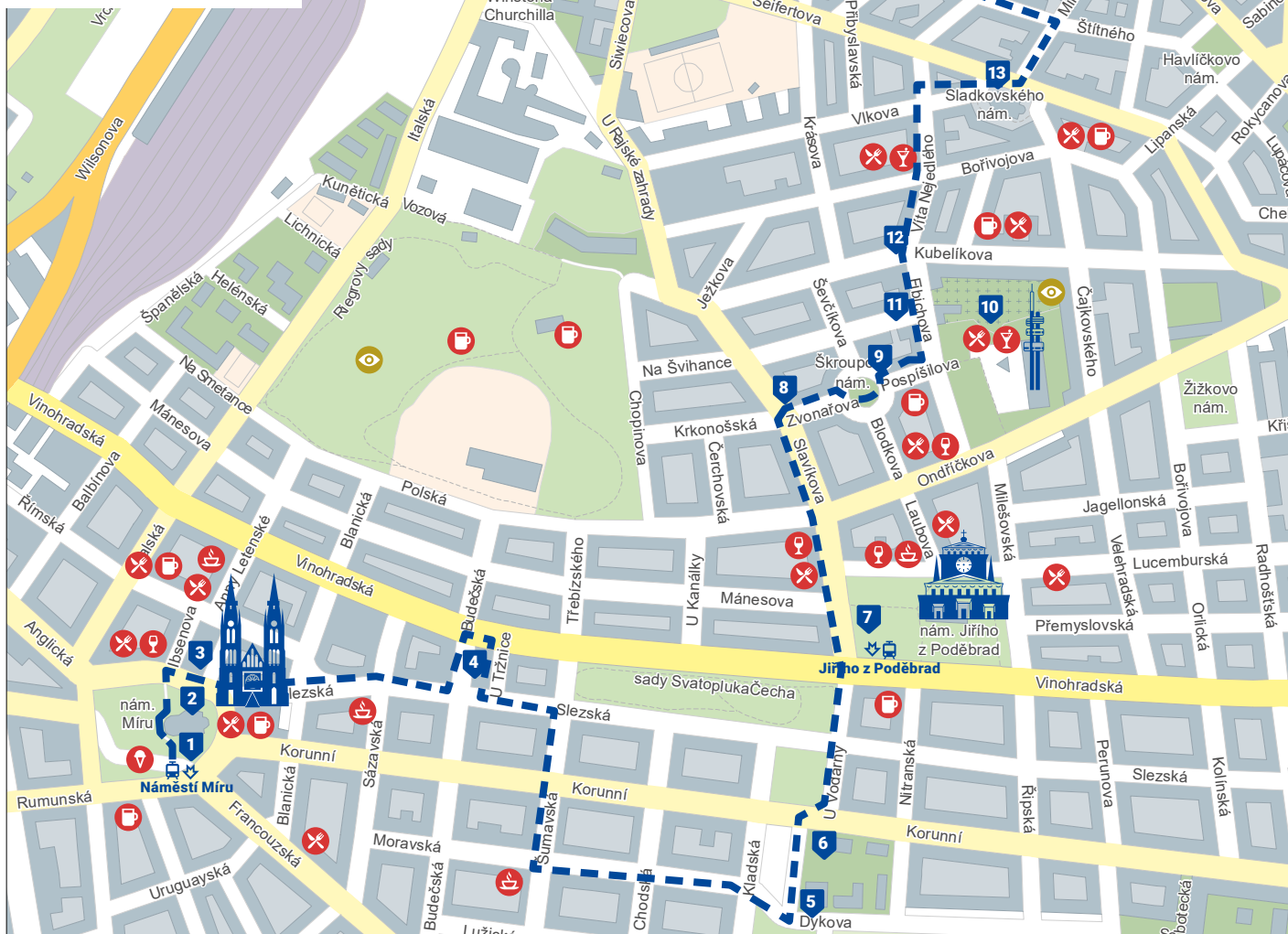
Žižkov Television Transmitter



Church of the Most Sacred Heart



Church of St. Ludmila





4

From Letná to Old Town

Head Back in Time to a Hidden Garden

4
km

The Metronome

The walk creates both a literal and imaginary bridge between two worlds that, while different, still have much in common. It connects two very different Prague districts and two iconic buildings of Prague's National Gallery: the Functionalist Trade Fair Palace (Veletržní palác), with the modern art collection, and the ancient Convent of St. Agnes of Bohemia, in which the medieval art collection is displayed. From Holešovice, your route takes you through Letná Park to the Metronome, a modern dominant of the left bank of the Vltava and across the bridge to the northernmost end of Old Town. Wind your way through the tiny lanes of this part of the city, which most visitors haven't discovered yet and which will envelop you in the authentic atmosphere of old Prague. Your destination is the Convent of St. Agnes and its recently renovated gardens.

Popis trasy

🚶 [Veletržní palác](#) ➤

1 Trade Fair Palace (*Veletržní palác*) - National Gallery in Prague [ngprague.cz](#)

The first Functionalist building in Prague, originally intended for trade fairs, was built in 1928 and was at the time the largest building of its type in the world – even Le Corbusier was an admirer. Today it's home to the National Gallery's unique collection of modern and contemporary art. The collection contains works by some of the most illustrious names in art – Pablo Picasso, Auguste Renoir, Vincent van Gogh, and Gustav Klimt among others. The gallery's monumental interior, reminiscent of multiple decks of an ocean liner, is itself worth a look.



Trade Fair Palace
© Národní galerie v Praze

🚶 [Heřmanova St.](#) ➤ [Františka Křížka St.](#) ➤

2 Bio Oko [biooko.net](#)

A popular single-screen art cinema that dates back to 1940. The cinema's main floor is occupied with a motley crew of seats: sun loungers, beanbags, an auto body, and more, the composition of which was created by renowned Czech designer Maxim Velčovský. The bar and café are popular meeting spots.

🚶 [Milady Horákové St.](#) ➤

3 Letná Square (*Letenské náměstí*)

Worth noting along the right side of the square is the Neo-Renaissance Letná Water Tower, which is now used by the local children and youth centre for its activities. Also notable is the luxury (in its time) Functionalist reinforced concrete apartment block, nicknamed Molocho (built from 1936-1938). On the left side, note the imposing Constructivist Ministry of the Interior building with its tiled façade (built 1935-1939).

🚶 [Nad Štolou St.](#) ➤ [Letohradská St.](#) ➤ [Muzejní St.](#) ➤

4 National Technical Museum (*Národní technické muzeum*) and the National Museum of Agriculture (*Národní zemědělské muzeum*) [ntm.cz](#) [nzm.cz](#)

These identical monumental Functionalist structures were built together between 1938 and 1942. The original concept called for a single monumental building, but it ran up against construction regulations and, in particular, gradually progressing disagreements between the two institutions. In the end, two separate buildings were built, separated by Muzejní Street. The main entrances of both institutions face Letná Park – from this view, the buildings' identical appearances are obvious.

🚶 [Kostelní St.](#) ➤

5 Letenský zámeček (*Letná Mansion*)

built in the style of Italian Renaissance villas, now functions as a restaurant. From 1891 to 1916, the upper station of the Letná funicular, which ran here from the river, stood not far from here. Connected to the funicular was the station for the first electric tram in Prague, which was built on the occasion of the Provincial Jubilee Exhibition in 1891 by Czech inventor and pioneer of electrification, František Křižík; he then operated it as a private entrepreneur until 1900. Today in front of the chateau, you'll find a very popular beer garden with an incredible view of the city centre and the Vltava River.

🚶 [Letenské sady/Gardens](#) ➤

6 The Metronome

occupies a symbolic spot on the map of Prague. It was directly on this spot that a gigantic monument to Joseph Stalin overlooked the city. It was dynamited in 1962, many years after his death. The Metronome (official name: The Time Machine, by Vratislav Novák) appeared on Letná in 1991 and symbolises the impermanence of power and the inexorable progression of time. Today, the entire area around the Metronome is a haven for skateboarders.

🚶 ➤ down to *nábřeží E. Beneše Riverbank* ➤ *Čechův most/Bridge* ➤ *Dvořákovo nábřeží/Riverbank* ➤

7 Intercontinental and President Hotels

Both hotels are examples of the local variety of Brutalist architecture. The Intercontinental's Presidential Suite, measuring 154 sqm, with a panoramic view and its own sauna, used to be by far the most luxurious place to stay in Prague.

🚶 ➤ *Dušní St.* – 8 *Church of Sts. Simon and Jude*
9 *U Milosrdných St.* ➤

8 **The Church of Sts. Simon and Jude (*Kostel sv. Šimona a Judy*)** 🇨🇪 **fok.cz** is proud of its rich musical tradition, including visits by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Joseph Haydn. The church has remained true to its musical roots and is today used as a concert venue.



Church of Sts. Simon and Jude

9 **U Milosrdných St.** leads around the oldest wing of the hospital and monastery of the Brothers of Charity, who have run the hospital since 1620. In 1847, the first operation performed under anesthesia in the entire Austro-Hungarian Empire took place here.

Another building on the riverfront is the Na Františku city hospital. It was founded here around 1360 and has been in continuous operation since that time. It's one of the oldest medical facilities in central Europe.

🚶 ➤ *Kozí St.* ➤ "*Kozí plácek*" ("*Goat Green*") 10 *U Obecního dvora St.*
11 *Ve Stínadlech Lane* ➤

10 U Obecního dvora St.

Over the course of its existence, the *Obecní dvůr* (Municipal Yard) has served a number of functions, primarily business-related. The first recorded use was to stable horses and carriages, and later served as a royal firehouse. The House of the Censors (No. 798/5) was the actual location of the censors' offices in the 19th century. House no. 799/7 was occupied by the famous dynasty of Czech painters, the Mánes family.

11 Ve Stínadlech Lane

On the right, directly across from the Municipal Yard, walk through *Ve Stínadlech Lane*. Its modern name refers to the title of a novel by Jaroslav Foglar, popular Czech author of children's adventure books, who set many of his stories in this neighbourhood of mysterious old houses and shadowy nooks.

🚶 ➤ *Haštalské náměstí/Square* 12 *Church of St. Castulus* 13 *school and rectory* 14 *ossuary* 15 *old hospital* ➤

12 **The Church of St. Castulus (*Kostel sv. Haštala*)**, founded in the late 12th century, is the only church dedicated to this saint in the country.

13 School and rectory

Since its founding, it also had a school and a rectory with a garden, surrounded by massive walls – today the building is used by various religious groups and organizations.

14 Ossuary

There used to be a cemetery around the church, its presence marked by a cross in the mosaic pavement; even today the former ossuary with a painted tombstone on the wall still stands.

15 Old hospital

At the corner of *Řásnovka Street* stands an unusual rounded corner building – the former hospital of the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star, the only originally Bohemian order and the only men's order founded by a woman, princess Agnes of Bohemia. The original building was demolished in 1965 and replaced with a new building that stands on the original hospital foundations and copies its ground plan.

💡 This entire area was a neighbourhood of the poorest Praguers, full of narrow streets with crooked houses and appalling sanitary conditions. Most of this district was demolished during the urban redevelopment that took place in the late 19th century.



Note the varied levels of sidewalks and entrances in the area around *Kozí náměstí*. This section was spared during the „asanace“ (razing and redevelopment) of the Jewish Quarter at the turn of the 19th and 20th c. and retains its character.

Ve Stínadlech Lane, former school and rectory at *Haštál Square*



The most characteristic feature of this magnificent building is the glass dome on the roof. It's especially beautiful after dark - it remains illuminated all night.



🚶 ▶ Řásnovka St. ▶

16 Řásnovka St. was originally named Schneck Street, after the manufacturer of popular playing cards. As the word Schneck is German for snail, irreverent Praguers kept referring to this street using various words for snails and slugs, until officials intervened and gave it its final official name, after the lord of Řásnov, owner of one of the buildings. In the olden days, the lane was also called At the Kings of the Cesspits, referring to the modest dwellings of poor labourers, knackers (those authorized to remove and dispose of carcasses), and even executioners who lived here.

🚶 ▶ Klášterská St. ▶

17 Ministry of Industry and Trade

The impressive ministry building, by architect Josef Fanta, was finished in 1934 with a record-high budget. It's no wonder: the building, whose style was already anachronistic when it was built, features over 120 sculptures on its façade, plus a large number of other decorative elements.

💬 One of Josef Fanta's other memorable designs was for the entrance hall and beautiful Art Nouveau café at Prague's Main Train Station, formerly known as Wilson Station.

🚶 ➔ [Na Františku St.](#) **18** [Garden Behind the Churches \(Zahrada za svatyněmi\)](#) **19** [North Gate Garden \(Zahrada při severní bráně\)](#) **20** [Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia \(Klášter sv. Anežky České\)](#) 📄

18 Garden Behind the Churches (Zahrada za svatyněmi)

The convent gardens underwent an extensive renovation in 2016. The Garden Behind the Churches is now accessible via two new garden gates, and **19** [the North Gate Garden \(Zahrada při severní bráně\)](#) through a large Baroque gate from the riverbank side. The formerly inaccessible gardens are now home to two dozen works of contemporary sculpture by leading Czech artists.

20 Convent of St Agnes of Bohemia (Klášter sv. Anežky České) [ngprague.cz](#)

The convent, one of the oldest and most important Gothic buildings in Prague, bears the name of its founder, Přemyslid princess St Agnes (1211–1282). During her lifetime, she built an extensive and artistically richly decorated convent with a royal burial ground, her own tomb,

and several churches. When the convent was closed in 1782, it was already under threat of demolition because of its severely dilapidated condition. Thankfully this never took place. On the contrary – it was declared a national cultural monument and underwent gradual renovation throughout the 20th century. Today it houses the National Gallery's collection of medieval art (highly recommended – this unique exhibition is often unjustly overlooked, probably due to its location off the beaten tourist path).

🗣️ Visitors can stroll through the gardens and take a self-guided tour of the ground floor of the convent free of charge. There's also a version of the tour for kids.

📌 Although the convent gardens are open year-round, they close in inclement weather. Should the complex not be accessible via the garden gates, head from [Na Františku St](#) to [Kozí St.](#) and [U Milosrdných St.](#) – the narrow [Anežská Lane](#) then leads to the main entrance to the complex.



Gardens of St. Agnes Convent



Trade Fair Palace



National Technical Museum, National Agriculture Museum



Letná Chateau



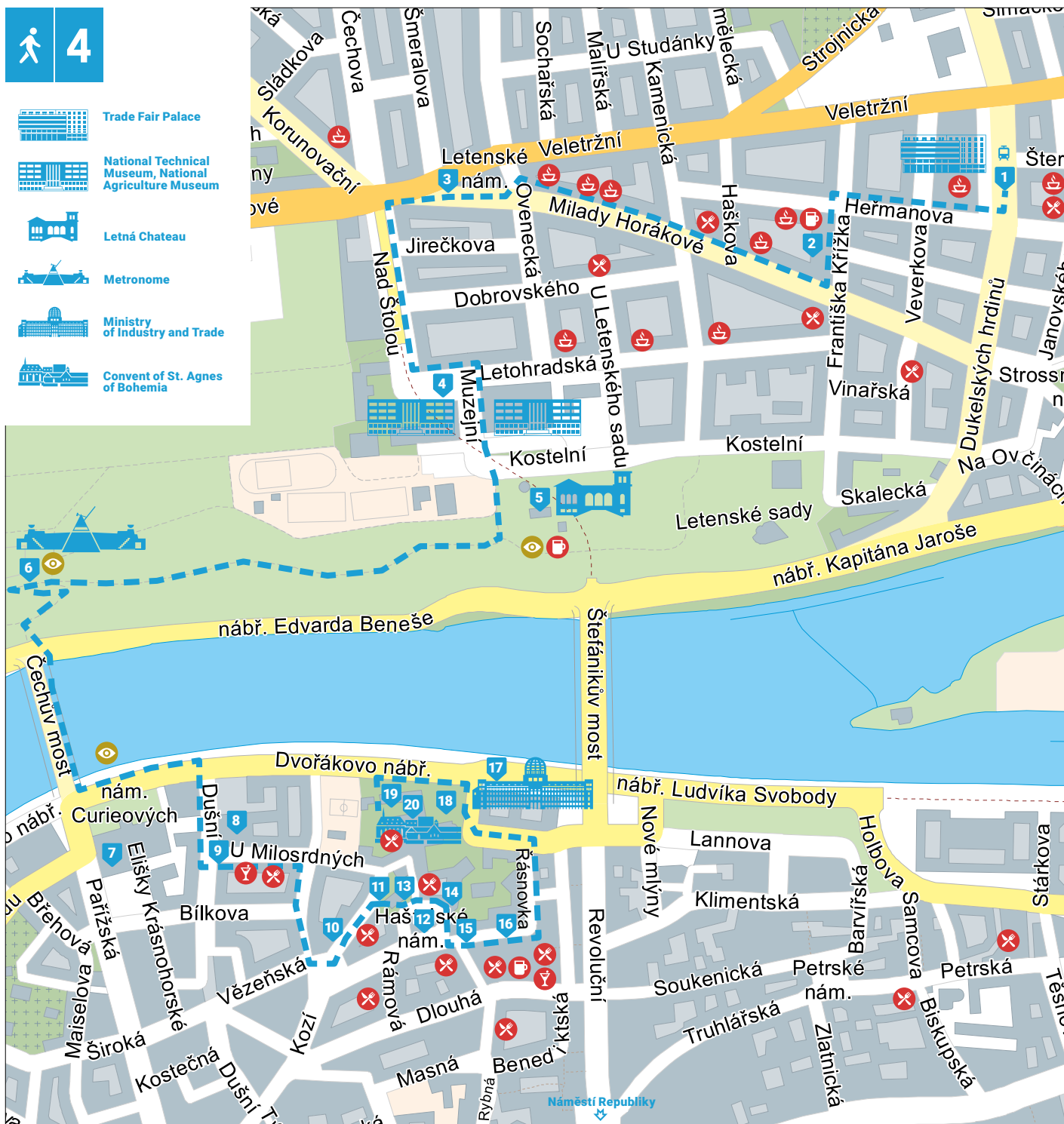
Metronome



Ministry of Industry and Trade



Convent of St. Agnes of Bohemia



 | 5


Střešovice and Dejvice

From Dreamy Villas to Socialist Skyscrapers



6
km

An extraordinary experience full of contrasts awaits you. Střešovice and Dejvice both feature some captivating architecture, especially if you're fond of imaginative 20th century buildings. Many artists settled in the Střešovice villa district. Painters and sculptors had their studios here, but even wealthy businessmen built their family homes here. The peaceful atmosphere of the leafy residential district can be felt to this day. Dejvice, on the other hand, is completely different. It was established in the capital of the new Czechoslovak state as a luxury residential district based on a comprehensive modern urban plan. Monumental buildings went up around the central Vítězné náměstí (Victory Square), most of which still stand today. The Dejvice area has always been rather prominent; today it's also known as a centre of student life.

Route Description

1 **Ořechovka** 🚶 ➔ stairs to Müller Villa ➔

2 **Müller Villa** 📍 muzeumprahy.cz

No fan of modern architecture should miss Müller Villa, architect Adolf Loos' masterpiece, dating from 1928 – 1930. At first glance, the villa intrigues with its severe exterior. Once inside, a fascinating, complex interior space is revealed. Individual floors and spaces flow into one another in the dynamic spirit of Loos' "Raumplan" philosophy. Loos created a unique, luxurious, and timeless home that was ahead of its time.

⚠️ Tours of the villa are available only with a guide and must be reserved in advance at 📍 mullerovavila.cz



Villa Müller © Muzeum hlavního města Prahy

🚶 ➔ Nad Hradním vodojemem St. ➔ Pod Kostelem St.
➔ Sibeliova St. ➔

3 **Church of St. Norbert (Kostel sv. Norberta)**

Overlooking Sibeliova St. is the Church of St. Norbert, a Neo-Romanesque three-aisled basilica from the late 19th century. During this time, the district of Střešovice became independent from the Strahov Premonstratensians; however, the church retained its link to the founder of the Premonstratensian order and church patron, St. Norbert.



Church of St. Norbert

4 **Sokol building** on the left side of Sibeliova St. is a former centre of social life.

5 **The Functionalist Evangelical church** is situated at Před Bateriemi Square.

🗨️ If you continue straight up U Páté Baterie St from Před Bateriemi Square, you'll come to another interesting building – the Rothmayer Villa.

6 **Rothmayer Villa**

The two-story villa of renowned Czech architect Otto Rothmayer and his wife Božena, a textile artist and designer, is an example of finely detailed architecture inspired by cubes and cylinders.

🚶 ➔ náměstí Před bateriemi/Square ➔ U Šesté baterie St.
➔ Pod bateriemi St. ➔ Nad Hradním vodojemem St. ➔

7 **Střešovice belfry**

Next to the steps leading to Střešovice St. stands the Střešovice belfry, built at the end of the 19th century, a remnant of old Střešovice.



Lomená Street

[🚶 Střešovická St.](#)
[▶ Na Pěkné vyhlídce St.](#)
[▶ Na Dračkách St.](#)

8 Václav Špála Villa

About halfway down Na Dračkách St., at number 5, noted Czech painter and graphic artist Václav Špála built a villa and studio. The house was designed by architect Otakar Novotný, who specialized in red-brick, Dutch-type architecture.

[🚶 Pod Vyhlídkou St.](#)
[▶ Cukrovarnická St.](#)
[▶ Lomená St.](#)

[▶ Na Ořechovce St.](#)

9 Bohumil Kafka Villa

The walled villa of Bohumil Kafka, one of the most important Czech sculptors, is of special interest for its glass extension, where the artist had his studio. Architect Pavel Janák used austere red brick for the exterior, which he enlivened with decorative lintels, cornices, and small geometric elements.

[🚶 Západní St.](#)

10 Vila Jaroslava Vondráka Jaroslav Vondrák Villa

Architect Jaroslav Vondrák designed and built his own villa, which dominates the western side of Macharovo Square, in the national Rondo-Cubist style, typical for Czechoslovak architecture of the 1920s. The style is easily recognizable because of its use of the contrasting forms of cylinders and cubes. Vondrák designed a number of other buildings in Ořechovka, including the nearby Central Building and the Ořechovka cinema.

[🚶 Na Ořechovce St.](#)

11 Ořechovka Central Building (Ústřední budova Ořechovka)

The Ořechovka neighbourhood was planned as a homogenous residential area in the style of an English "garden city". The focal point

of the central square was a building by the aforementioned architect Vondrák that housed the shopping and social facilities for the area. It included a large theatre and dance hall, cinema, restaurants and a café. The building, in dire need of renovation, is notable for its Art Nouveau and Cubist-influenced architecture.

🚶 ▶ [Spojená St.](#) ▶

12 Dělostřelecká St. and Klidná St. together create a small neighbourhood of standardized houses built in Rondo-Cubist style. This “national style” replaced the sharp edges of Cubism after the foundation of the new Czechoslovak republic. Its roundness and colours call to mind traditional Slavic motifs.

🚶 ▶ [Dělostřelecká St.](#) ▶ [Špálava St.](#) ▶ [Na Ořechovce St.](#) ▶

13 U Laboratoře St.

The complex of buildings that you'll find on U Laboratoře St. is the former Sugar Research Institute, built in 1920 in the most fashionable style of the time, Art Deco. It's now the seat of the Czech Academy of Sciences Institute of Physics.

🚶 ▶ [Cukrovarnická St.](#) ▶

14 Public Transport Museum (Muzeum Městské hromadné dopravy) 📍 [dpp.cz](#)

You'll find some truly unique items on display at the Public Transport Museum. The oldest tram vehicle here is a horse-drawn tram. Many of the exhibits are connected with the brilliant Czech inventor and pioneer of electrification František Křižík.

🚶 ▶ [Patočkova St.](#) ▶ [Pevnostní St.](#) ▶ [Pod Hradbami St.](#) ▶

15 Traub Villa

The villa of industrialist Edmund Traub is a rare example of German Modernism in Prague – its foundation is a reinforced concrete structure and the villa itself features interesting stone siding. It was completed in 1929.

🚶 ▶ [Dělostřelecká St.](#) ▶

16 Villa at Dělostřelecká St. No. 1

At one time, the villa at this address was the most important in Prague – President Václav Havel lived here with his first wife Olga from 1995. The second First Lady, Dagmar Havlová, also lived in the “presidential villa” for a while.

🚶 ▶ [Pod Hradbami St.](#) ▶ [Svatovítská St.](#) ▶ [Wuchterlova St.](#) ▶

17 Hus Congregational House (Husův sbor)

📍 [dejvickysbor-ccsh.cz](#)

A short detour takes you to a small picturesque square, the focal point of which is a fountain with life-sized statues of horses, the work of sculptor Michal Gabriel. Dominating the square, however, is the majestic Hus Congregational House. This building, dating to 1928, is

Hus Congregational House



remarkable for its Historicist character – unusual for the period – and Neo-Gothic façade. A relief over the front entrance depicts master Jan Hus saying goodbye to friends, the work of sculptor Josef Kotyz; in the upper part of the façade, there's a niche with a chalice, a Hussite symbol. A golden sun on a long iron pole adorns the roof's peak.

🚶 ▶ [Kafkova St.](#) ▶ [Svatovítská St.](#) ▶

18 Vítězné náměstí/Square

The focal point of Dejvice, Vítězné Square has always been known by its nickname – Kulačák (“Roundie”) – but its official name has changed many times. The square, designed by Antonín Engel, was not built entirely to plan, but even so, it has a monumental effect. Some of the buildings belong to the military staff of the Czech Army, including a monument to the Czechoslovak soldiers of World War II. Space was reserved on the square for the campus of the Czech Technical University, whose gradual construction took place after 1960. The last building, however, was completed only recently.



A Communist symbol – a five-pointed star made of ruby-red glass – originally crowned the tower. An ingenious telescoping mechanism enabled the top part to be lowered inside the tower so that the star could be cleaned regularly – usually at night so that its absence wouldn't prompt speculation. Later, a green star replaced the red one. These days, however, the tower's tip is left unadorned.



Hotel International © Libor Sváček

🚶 ▶ Zikova St. ▶

19 Church of St. Adalbert (*Kostel sv. Vojtěcha*) in Dejvice is a focal point of an extensive complex that is the seat of the Charles University Catholic Theological Faculty. The main entrance to a spacious three-aisled basilica with a distinctive dome and two towers is located on Kolejní Street. The church's space served in the past as a recording studio as well as a meeting hall for political discussions. After the Velvet Revolution, the building was returned to the church and serves its original purpose once again..

🚶 ▶ Studentská St. ▶

20 National Technical Library (*Národní technická knihovna*) 📍 techlib.cz is one of the newest buildings in Prague. It was built as part of the Czech Technical University campus and has a number of special features. A group of young architects headed by Roman Brychta designed a building shaped like a rounded square measuring 70 x 70 meters, with surroundings adapted for study as well as relaxation. The modern, playful interior is decorated with hundreds of comics-style drawings by Romanian artist Dan Perjovschi.

🚶 ▶ Flemingovo náměstí (*Fleming Square*) ▶ Nikola Tesly St. ▶

21 Nikola Tesla monument

The post-modern bronze monument to Nikola Tesla is a tribute to this genius scientist, physicist, and inventor who studied in Prague for one semester. The statue portrays an electrical discharge.

🚶 ▶ Jugoslávských partyzánů St. ▶ Zelená 🚗 📍

22 The hotel International 📍 internationalprague.cz is a building on a grand scale, the likes of which are found nowhere else in the country. It was built in the 1950s in Soviet Social Realist style. The construction of the hotel was closely connected with the ruling Communist party and the former military leaders. It was originally intended to serve as a private luxury hotel for Soviet advisors and prominent military officers. During its construction, it was determined that neither the army nor the delegations would ever use so much accommodation space, and the building became "just" a luxury hotel. Despite its clear references to its Moscow influence, the central tower is also reminiscent of the style's original inspiration, the American skyscraper.



Hotel International



National Technical Library



Public Transport Museum



Villa Müller



Villa Rothmayer





Title: Prague:walks 2

Text: Prague City Tourism

Photographs: Prague City Tourism, Richard Horák, Eva Neuman, Kateřina Pavlitová

Maps: © IPR Praha

Design and Layout: Touch Branding s.r.o.

Print: All 365 a.s.

Prague 3/2019

2nd edition

Not for sale

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