

WORDS LAUREN JOHN

# SUMMER IN THE CITY - PRAGUE

**PRAGUE IS AN EVER-POPULAR DESTINATION IN AIR MALTA'S SUMMER SCHEDULE, SO WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE HISTORICAL HEART OF THE CZECH CAPITAL AND BEYOND, FINDING WONDER AND EXCITEMENT FOR ALL THE FAMILY.**

## GETTING AROUND

Take a flight from Malta International Airport to the picturesque city of Prague in just 2 hours 30 minutes. From the airport hop on the public bus, the Airport Express Bus Service, or grab a taxi to Prague City Centre. Buses offer connections to the main train or metro stations, such as the principal railway station near Wenceslas Square.

Prague city centre, particularly the tourist areas and Old Town is very compact and walkable, but if you do need them, there are regular metro (underground) and tram services running throughout the day and night.

## SPRING MUSIC FESTIVAL

Local and international talent gather in Prague between the 12th of May and the 3rd of June 2022 for the Spring Festival, one of the oldest celebrations of classical music in the Czech Republic. Venues across the city come alive to the sounds of musicians, composers, orchestras, and young talent in a series of beautiful concerts and workshops.

This year, visitors can delight in the debut of François Xavier Roth, a global name appearing as conductor with the French period orchestra Les Siècles and Germany's Gürzenich Orchestra. Look out for the finale featuring Andris Nelsons and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Their programme includes Dvořák's Sixth Symphony, which premiered in 1881.

## ALL ABOUT THE BEER

Did you know that you can visit a spa and wellness centre in Prague that has beer treatments? Spa Beerland Prague is centrally located

close to the Palladium Shopping Centre and offers unique beer baths, a cedar sauna with hops essences, and beer bread is even on the menu.

U Medvidku has also gained a reputation for its beer-infused delicacies. This historic site has been serving food in various forms since 1466, and today, as U Medvidku has a unique menu to share. Sample dishes such as whipped beer cheese with fried bread, grilled pork ribs in BBQ beer marinade, and beer sorbet.

Not quite your thing? Prague's other favourites include Vepřo Knedlo Zelo (Pork Dumplings and Sauerkraut), Goulash and Schnitzel. A Prague foodie map from the Taste of Prague website will help with the hidden gems and must-eat dishes.

## PRAGUE FOR FAMILIES

Although Prague is world-famous for its architecture, its medieval old town, and classical music heritage, there's also a host of family-friendly attractions to tempt you to visit. The Funicular will take you to the park at the top of Petrin Hill, a popular recreational area overlooking the Vltava River. Spend some time in the mirror maze and observatory, before taking in beautiful views of the city from the lookout tower.

There are also year-round opportunities to see, hear, and learn about hundreds of animal species at Papilionia Butterfly House and Prague Zoo. The rugged terrain of the zoo has 10km plus of walking trails themed around habitats in Africa, Indonesia, Tasmania and more. Whether visiting Prague with children means exploring one ➤





of the world's largest private Lego collections, or enjoying mind-bending tricks in the Illusion Art Museum, your family will never be bored in this beautiful city.

#### EXPERIENCE BLACK LIGHT THEATRE

Neon props and colourful fluorescent costumes shine in the darkness of a Black Light Theatre show. Watch seasoned performers perform dance, mime, original music, and sometimes pantomime, all in neon against a black backdrop. This unique performance art can be seen at several venues across Prague, including the IMAGE theatre.

#### A WALK-THROUGH HISTORY

The best way to experience the atmosphere and architecture of old town Prague and other historic attractions is on foot, and once you start walking there's something new to see at every turn.

Head to the Old Town Square in the early mornings to avoid the crowds and photograph the varied Gothic, Baroque and Romanesque architecture. Landmarks include the medieval Astronomical Clock. Installed in 1410, its unique workings show a 24 hour clock, the sun and moon's position, and several moving models of apostles as it strikes the hour.

Turn towards the Charles Bridge for panoramic views of the Prague Castle complex. The vast area houses royal palaces, church buildings, and picturesque free to enter gardens. Ticketing options cover different circuits/buildings around the complex. With audio tours and a braille guide available, everyone can gain an insight into Prague's royal history.

Once nicknamed the 'Golden City', Prague is a medieval gem with a modern edge that's just waiting to be explored. ✱



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