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Prague

Basic Facts

Prague is the capital city of the Czech Republic. It has population of 1.2 million inhabitants. It is situated in the central Bohemian the river Vltava. Prague is the seat of Czech president (Prague castle), Czech Parliament and Government. The city of Prague is divided into 22 districts. Prague 1 and 2 are the best-known historical parts. Sport is also popular in Prague. Especially football and ice-hockey.

History

According to the legend, Prague was founded by princess Libuše. In the 10th century Vyšehrad Castle was built and it became the seat of Czech kings. In the 14th century Prague became a residence of Charles IV. In this time many important sights were built – Charles Bridge, St. Vitus Cathedral, the New Town, and important institutions were established– Charles University and archbishopric. In the 15th century Prague was the centre of the Hussite movement. In 1918 Prague became the capital of the independent Czechoslovak republic. In 1989 the Velvet Revolution started there and on 1st January 1993 Prague became the capital of the Czech Republic.

Interesting places

The dominant of the city is Prague Castle, the seat of the President. The elections of the president take place in the Hall of the castle.

St. Vitus Cathedral, which was founded by Charles IV. And later it was rebuilt by Mathias of Aras and Petr Parléř. The coronations jewels are kept in the cathedral's coronation chamber. Golden Lane – The lane is made up of small colored houses which originated in the 16th century.

The Lesser Town is a quarter with ancient houses and gardens.

Charles Bridge – This oldest bridge of Prague is a popular tourist attraction. It is decorated with 30 statues of baroque origin.

Old town Square – It is surrounded by beautifully decorated houses. The best-known building is the Old town Hall with the Astronomical clock. The Jan Hus Monument is in the center of the square.

Jewish Town – There are many synagogues. It originated in the 10th century.

Wenceslas Square – It is a 750 m long avenue. In the upper part of Wenceslas Square stands the statue of St. Wenceslas made by J. V. Myslbek.

Above it you can see the National Museum, which contains historical and natural collections.

Another dominant of the city is the National Theatre with its golden roof. It was opened in 1881.

Vyšehrad – There is also the cemetery the burial place of famous personalities.

Economy

Prague is the most popular city for tourists in the Czech Republic. There are many hotels and restaurants. There are also other industries in Prague– engineering (Tesla), food industry, breweries (Smíchov, Braník, Staropramen), confectionary (Orion), film (Barandov).

Transport

Prague is a large city and so transport is very important. There are different means of transport – buses, trams, underground, airplanes, taxis, cars. The underground has 3 lines. It was flooded last year, but it is in operation again. There is one international airport in Ruzyně.