

Czech Republic

Heart of Europe





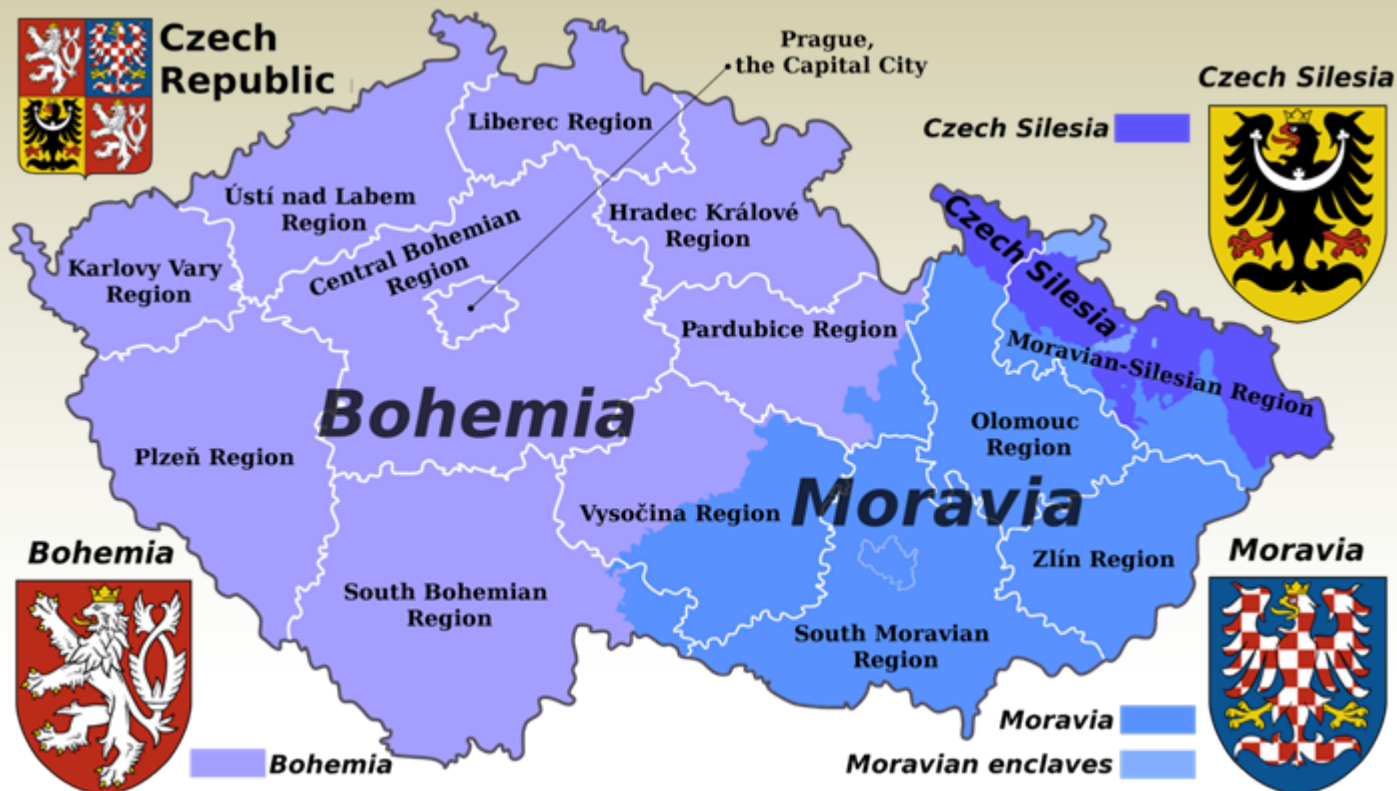
Location

- The Czech Republic is a landlocked country in Central Europe. The country is bordered by Germany to the west, Poland to the north, Austria to the south and Slovakia to the east.
- Capital, with 1.3 million inhabitants, is Prague.
- Population: 10 562 214 (census 2011), density 134/km²
- Currency: Czech crown, Kč (CZK)
- Language: Czech (Slavic)
- Area: 78 866 km²



Geography

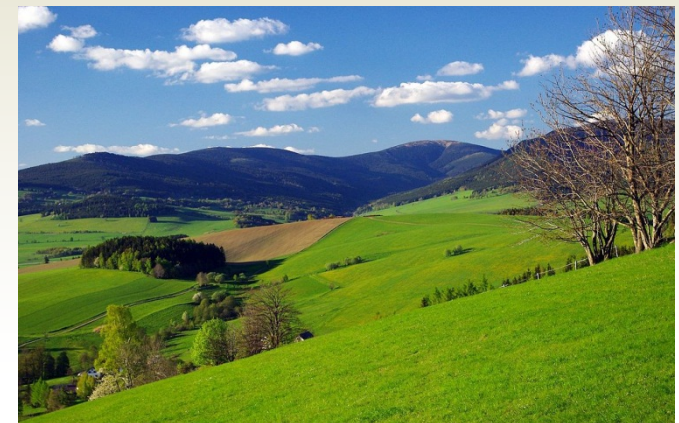
- Map with traditional regions Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and current administrative regions
- Big cities: Brno, Ostrava, Plzeň, Liberec, Olomouc, Ústí nad Labem, České Budějovice, Hradec Králové, Pardubice





Nature


- The Czech landscape is exceedingly varied. Bohemia, to the west, consists of a basin drained by the Elbe (Czech: Labe) and the Vltava (or Moldau) rivers, surrounded by mostly low mountains, such as the Krkonoše range of the Sudetes. The highest point in the country, Sněžka at 1,602 m, is located here.
- Moravia, the eastern part of the country, is also quite hilly. It is drained mainly by the Morava River, but it also contains the source of the Oder River (Czech: Odra).



Climate

- The Czech Republic has a temperate continental climate, with relatively hot summers and cold, cloudy and snowy winters. The temperature difference between summer and winter is relatively high, due to the landlocked geographical position.
- At the highest peak of Sněžka (1,602 m), the average temperature is only $-0.4\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, whereas in the lowlands of the South Moravian Region, the average temperature is as high as $10\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$. The country's capital, Prague, has a similar average temperature, although this is influenced by urban factors.





Recent history

- 1918 independent republic of Czechoslovakia
- 1938 Munich Agreement, lost of Sudetenland
- 1939-45 Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia
- 1948 all-Communist government
- 1968 Prague Spring, Warsaw Pact invasion
- 1989 "Velvet Revolution"
- 1993 independent Czech Republic and Slovakia
- 1999 joined NATO
- 2004 joined the European Union

Václav Havel
5 October 1936 – 18 December 2011





Government

- It is a pluralist multi-party parliamentary representative democracy, a member of the European Union, NATO, the OECD, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the Visegrád Group.
- The Parliament (Parlament České republiky) is bicameral, with the Chamber of Deputies (Czech: Poslanecká sněmovna) (200 members) and the Senate (Czech: Senát) (81 members).
- The President of the Czech Republic is selected by a joint session of the parliament for a five-year term, with no more than two consecutive terms.



Václav Klaus, current
President



Petr Nečas, current
Prime Minister

Economy

- The Czech Republic possesses a developed, high-income economy with a GDP per capita of 80% of the European Union average. One of the most stable and prosperous of the post-Communist states.
- Most of the economy has been privatised, including the banks and telecommunications.



Demographics

- The majority of the inhabitants of the Czech Republic are Czechs.
- There are about 250,000 Romani people.
- There were 436,116 foreigners residing in the country in October 2009, with the largest groups being Ukrainian (132,481), Slovak (75,210), Vietnamese (61,102), Russian (29,976), Polish (19,790), German (14,156) and other nationalities.



Religion

- According to a Eurobarometer Poll in 2005 19% of Czech citizens responded that "they believe there is a God" whereas 50% answered that "they believe there is some sort of spirit or life force" and 30% said that "they do not believe there is any sort of spirit, God or life force".
- According to the 2011 census, the largest Roman Catholic church has 1,083,899 worshippers (less than 10% of population), the second largest Czech Evangelical Church has 51,936 worshippers.



Classical music

- Notable Czech composers include Adam Michna, Jan Dismas Zelenka, Josef Mysliveček, Bedřich Smetana, Leoš Janáček, Antonín Dvořák, Bohuslav Martinů, Erwin Schulhoff and Petr Eben.
- The most famous music festival is "the Prague Spring" since 1946.



Antonín Dvořák
September 8, 1841 – May 1, 1904



Sports

- The two leading sports in the Czech Republic are association football and ice hockey, both drawing the largest attention of both the media and supporters. Tennis is also a very big sport.



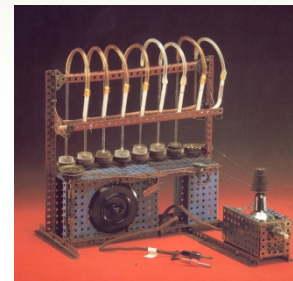
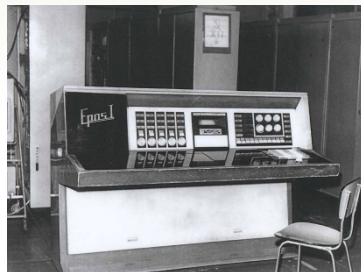
Petra Kvitová, tennis



Jaromír Jágr, ice hockey

Science

- Otto Wichterle (1913–1998) chemist responsible for the invention of contact lens.
- Jaroslav Heyrovský (1890–1967), Nobel Prize laureate, pioneering research in polarography.
- Antonín Svoboda (1907-1980), founder of Czech computer science.
- Stanislav Brebera (1925), inventor of the plastic explosive Semtex.
- Antonín Holý (1936), scientist and chemist, the most effective drug in the treatment of AIDS.



Space exploration

- 1978 Vladimír Remek (1948) is the first Czechoslovak in space and the first cosmonaut from a country other than the Soviet Union or the USA.
- 2011 Cartoon hero Little Mole created by Zdeněk Miler (1921-2011), joined astronauts aboard NASA's space shuttle Endeavour, STS-134.



Cuisine

- Czech cuisine is marked by a strong emphasis on meat dishes. Pork is quite common; beef and chicken are also popular. Goose, duck, rabbit and wild game are served. Fish is rare, with the occasional exception of fresh trout and carp, which is served at Christmas.
- Republic has the highest beer consumption per capita in the world (163,5 l per capita/year).



Tourism

- In 1991 Czechoslovakia ratified the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and since then a total of **twelve sites** in the Czech Republic have been inscribed in the World Heritage List. We can therefore proudly announce the Czech Republic to be a "UNESCO superpower".





Thank you!

Enjoy your stay in Czech Republic

