

## Get the scent of spring in Prague's most beautiful gardens

### Prague Castle gardens

The Royal Garden with its wonderful singing fountain is historically the most valuable of all the castle gardens and the South gardens (the Rajská, Na Valech and the Hartig) offering charming views of Prague's panorama. Lovers of quiet nooks will appreciate the Deer moat a small natural ravine bisected by Brusnice brook.

### The Palace Gardens under Prague Castle

On the southern slopes below Prague Castle is a complex of interconnected historical gardens (the Ledebour, the Small and Large Pálffy, the Kolovrat and the Small Fürstenberg gardens) with their romantic hideaways.

### Wallenstein garden

Laid out in strict geometry, this early baroque garden is particularly noteworthy for its colossal edifice on three axes, the Sala terrena, without equal in its time, and its artificial stalactite cave.

### The Vrtba garden

One of the most important and most beautiful baroque gardens, albeit by no means among the largest, notable for its architectural originality of design in such an irregular sloped area and in terms of the artistic and historical value of its decoration; a garden of European importance.

### Petřín park / Petřínské sady

Petřín Hill is among the largest urban expanses of greenery, and its slopes offer unparalleled views of the historic city centre; no wonder that it is such a popular place to take a good walk.

### Franciscan garden

A peerless natural oasis in the heart of the city has plenty of benches, over-spanned by metal arches densely covered with roses. The lawns are separated by low hedges of yew, the garden is complemented by a range of interesting sculptures, a fountain, a gazebo, and a children's playground.



## Notable events to mark 700 years since the birth of Charles IV

Throughout 2016 Prague will host a number of interesting exhibitions, concerts, festivals and celebrations, thematically connected with the life and times of Charles IV, the Czech King and Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire, born 700 years ago this May.

### Emperor Charles IV 1316–2016

**15 May – 25 September / The National Gallery in Prague – Wallenstein Riding Hall, Carolinum** / A Bavarian-Czech exhibition will present Charles IV as the extraordinary personage of European political and cultural history he truly was. The exhibition aims to depict Charles IV 'in the round' including his positive and more sombre facets. The exhibition will feature some 170 exhibits across the whole range of artistic and craftsmanship disciplines, as well as culturally-historical and archival documents, on loan from over a hundred of the most prestigious European and American museums, churches and private collections. We shall have the first ever opportunity to see the Coronation Crown that symbolizes the elevation of Charles IV as Head of the Holy Roman Empire.

### The Sceptre and the Crown

**15 May – 28 September / Prague Castle – Imperial Stables** / The mainstay exhibition of the Charles IV commemorative events at Prague Castle. The main exhibit will be the Czech Royal Crown, for the first time in modern history supplemented not by the well known Renaissance insignia (orb and sceptre) but by the Gothic insignia which went with the Crown at the time of Charles, and whose artistic replicas have been specially made for the exhibition.

### The Crown of the Kingdom

**15 May – 28 September / Prague Castle – Riding Hall** / An exposition to give symbolic access to the internal and external triforium of the Cathedral of Sts Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert in their simplified spatial reconstruction. The triforium is historically the most secure, off-limits, sculpturally richly decorated gallery on the outer and inner side of the nave of the Cathedral. In this showy exhibit visitors will find even the funeral vestments from the royal tomb.

### The Crown without a King

**15 May – 28 September / Prague Castle – Old Royal Palace** / This exhibition will be held in the Romanesque cellars of the Old Royal Palace, the site where the Crown jewels were walled-up during World War II. It presents the story of these most valuable national relics during the dramas of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918 until 1968.

### The Crown of the Mother of Cities

**15 May – 28 September / Prague Castle – Theresian wing of the Old Royal Palace** / The exhibition will focus on the Cathedral as the foremost edifice in the country. Also on display will be photographs from the Prague

Castle archives, taken in the course of building completion in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and some artefacts from the completion of the cathedral.

### The Crown in the Palm of your hand

**15 May – 28 September / Prague Castle – Rosenberg Palace** / An exhibition to take the visitor through not only the reign of Charles IV, showing the Prague Groschen as the Kingdom of Bohemia's enduring coin. The visitor will also learn, among other things, the value the coin had and what it could buy, as well as something of the history of silver-working and gilding.

### Architecture for the Crown

**15 May – 10 October 2016 / Prague Castle – Monastery of St George** / An interactive exhibition particularly for children showing architecture in the Charles IV era, for a closer look at their city's architectural heritage, why and how they should care about it, and for it.

### The Czech Crown Jewels

**15–29 May / Vladislav Hall of Prague Castle** / An exceptional exhibit of the Czech Crown Jewels – the St Wenceslas' Crown created by Emperor Charles IV, with the orb and sceptre added to the coronation insignia during the reign of the Habsburgs.

### The Mystery of the Tower

**from 1 April 2016 / Prague City Museum – Old Town Bridge Tower** / The main exhibit of the new permanent exhibition is the tower itself, its inner spaces, dungeons, stairs, roof and especially the gallery platform with its wonderful views. The Old Town Bridge Tower, which belongs to the most impressive Gothic works in Prague, was conceived as a symbolic triumphal arch through which Czech Kings would pass on their coronation procession through the city, heading for the Cathedral of Sts Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert.

### Civitas Carolina or Building works during the time of Charles IV

**13 May 2016 – 8 January 2017 / National Technical Museum** / The art of constructions at the time of the great building boom of Charles IV's reign will be presented via the building elements and construction procedures of the time, for example a functional replica of the medieval human-powered wooden hoist.

### A Tribute to Charles IV

**17 May 2016 / Prague Castle – Cathedral of Sts Vitus, Wenceslas and Adalbert** / The Czech Philharmonic Orchestra will mark the anniversary of Charles IV with a concert in St Vitus Cathedral.

### Open-air concert in tribute to Charles IV, alias "A night at Karlštejn"

**11 May at 5 pm / Old Town Square** / Prague Symphony Orchestra play in tribute to Charles IV, sifting through the pearls of their Symphonic repertoire that illustrate the highlights of his life.

### Coronation festivities

**3–4 September / Vyšehrad Castle, Old Town Square and other venues in Prague's historic centre** / A re-enactment of the coronation of Charles IV as Czech King and of Blanche of Valois as Czech Queen; a coronation procession through Prague; a courtly banquet and a knights' tournament to honour the King.

## Prague City Tourism

### Information & Services in Five Tourist Information Centres

- Old Town Hall – Staroměstské náměstí 1
  - Rytířská Street 12 – corner of Na Můstku Street
  - Wenceslas Square (upper part) – corner of Štěpánská Street
  - Václav Havel Airport Prague – Terminal 1 and Terminal 2
- or tel. +420 221 714 714 and e-mail: [tourinfo@prague.eu](mailto:tourinfo@prague.eu)

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# Spring in Prague 2016

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## David Cronenberg: Evolution

**until 17 July / The House At the Stone Bell /** A retrospective exhibition by the renowned Canadian director and writer, whose best-known films include *The Fly*, *Crash*, *A History of Violence* and *A Dangerous Method*.

## Ai Weiwei: Zodiac Heads

**until 31 August / Trade Fair Palace forecourt /** Twelve bronze animal heads of the Chinese Zodiac which originated as copies of sculptures designed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by two European Jesuits for the Court of the Chinese Emperor.



source: © Ai Weiwei Studio

## St Matthew Fair

**20 February – 17 April / Prague – Holešovice Exhibition Grounds /** Hundreds of thousands of visitors head to the amusement park each spring where dozens of attractions including roller coasters, Ferris wheels, and thrilling rides from the Netherlands await them.

## Spring in the Prague Botanical Garden

**4–20 March / Orchids – the Queens of pollination trickery /** An exhibition of orchids in the Fata Morgana glasshouse.

**19–20 March / Spring Fair /** Come and choose from a wide variety of gifts, and welcome Spring with fun and good food.

**21 March – 30 April / Tales from Czech natural history /** A photo exhibition offering exceptional views of nature and the countryside.

**5 April – 8 May / The lightness of butterfly wings /** The Fata Morgana glasshouse will host a dashing multitude of splendid butterfly species.

**20–29 May / Bonsai /** A traditional outdoor exhibition of Bonsai trees with a rich accompanying programme.

## Years & Years

**12 March / Forum Karlín /** The English electro-pop sensation, winners of the BBC Radio 1 'Sound of 2015' listener poll, bringing the latest trends to delight their keen fans in Prague.

## Easter Markets

**12 March – 3 April / Old Town Square**

**12 March – 3 April / Wenceslas Square**

**12 March – 3 April / Náměstí Republiky square**

**12 March – 28 March / Náměstí Míru square**

## Art Prague 2016

**15–20 March / Kafka's House + 30 Prague galleries /** The 15th year of this contemporary art fair with works on offer from almost the entire spectrum of art disciplines – painting, drawing, graphics, sculpture, art glass, installations, video projection etc.

## Jonas Kaufmann – Nessun dorma

**16 March / Municipal House /** One of the world's leading tenors, Jonas Kaufmann will perform in a programme named after his latest album, which has been nominated for a Grammy Award.

## Mercedes Benz Prague Fashion Week

**16–23 March / Strahov film and television studios /** The biggest fashion event in the Czech Republic will showcase the creations of selected designers from the Czech Republic and Slovakia as they reveal their current collection for the 2016/2017 season.

## International Film Festival Prague – Febiofest

**17–25 March / CineStar Praha – Anděl /** The 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary edition of this international film festival, bringing a wide-angle view of the latest and greatest in cinema around the world, features high-quality projection and celebrity guests.

## The fragile beauty of Prague stoneware

**from 1 April / Troja Chateau /** A singular selection from the collections of Prague City Museum presenting figurative stoneware as well as drinking and dining sets originating from Prague's fine stoneware factory, established in 1791.

## The Old Cinemas of Prague

**from 1 April / Prague City Museum /** An exhibition taking you into the darkened projection rooms with their creaking wooden seats and introducing a range of artefacts from the early days of cinema as well as its golden heyday.

## Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon

**2 April / various venues /** The largest Czech half marathon which starts and finishes direct in the historic heart of the city, marking the start of the upcoming running season.

## Opening of the Summer tourist season and Charles IV Year at Prague Castle

**2 April / Prague Castle /** A rich programme themed with the life and times of Charles IV, kicking-off not only the tourist season, at Prague Castle on Saturday 2 April at 10am, but also the celebration period marking the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Czech King and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV.

## Charles Aznavour

**6 April / Prague Congress Centre /** The legendary French chansonnier and actor's first trip to the Czech Republic, with a programme of sung evergreens from his extensive musical career.

## Myung-Whun Chung & Filarmonica della Scala

**15 April / Municipal House /** The esteemed conductor Myung-Whun Chung, the world-renowned orchestra Filarmonica della Scala, Mozart and Mahler – these are all ingredients of an attractive concert menu that's definitely not to be missed.

## “Jarní Náplavka” (Spring waterfront) Street Food

**16 April / Smíchov waterfront /** “Street food” is not just a hotdog! The Festival will introduce visitors to the cuisine of different countries and dishes that the locals meet with every day in their streets.

## I'Mozart Prague Music Festival

**17–24 April / Rudolfinum, Estates Theatre /** Numerous excellent concerts and opera performances as rendered by Czech and international ensembles and performers to remind of W. A. Mozart, who was born exactly 260 years ago and died 225 years ago this year.

## Afghanistan – Rescued Treasures of Buddhism

**until 30 April / Náprstkovo Museum /** Visitors to the exhibition will get to see the diverse course of Afghan history and of ancient civilizations. On display are unique artefacts on loan from the National Museum of Afghanistan.

## The Battle of the Nations

**6–9 May / Petřín park /** A visually stunning world-class tournament, with international combatants. Wearing real armour they fight for victory in a historical medieval battle.

## Hans Zimmer – Live Tour 2016

**7 May / O2 arena /** Arguably the most prominent film composer of today, Hans Zimmer comes to Prague on his concert tour. This Oscar-winning composer will appear together with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra and a substantial choir.

## The Volkswagen Prague Marathon

**8 May / Old Town Square /** One of the most scenic marathons the world has to offer. Starting and finishing at the famous Old Town Square, the course winds through the heart of the city, along the Vltava River and through Prague's varied districts.

## Czech Beer Festival

**12–28 May / Letenské lázně (Letná park) /** Prague residents and visitors alike will be able to quench their thirst at the Czech Beer Festival, featuring more than 100 brands of Czech beer, accompanied by local meat and pastry products.

## Prague Spring

**12 May – 4 June / various venues /** 2016 marks no less than the 71<sup>st</sup> year of the Prague Spring International Music Festival, the oldest, most famous and in terms of number of concerts the largest classical music event in the Czech Republic.

## 19<sup>th</sup> Prague Dragon Boat Festival 2016

**14–15 May / Žluté lázně /** The longest established Dragon Boat race in the Czech Republic, with international participation, churning up the Vltava River with a thousand paddles. A magnificent and stunning spectacle.

## Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Hurvíněk – ‘At the Spejbl family table’

**15 May – 30 June / Old Town Hall /** The exhibition introduces visitors to the playful ways and the past and present of the S+H theatre.

## The Navalis Saint John's Celebrations

**May 16 / Vltava River /** A Baroque water concert with Venetian gondolas and historical ships passing under the floodlit arches of Charles Bridge, in celebration of the most well known Czech saint, Prague's own St John of Nepomuk, patron saint of everyone who has anything to do with water.

## AC/DC

**22 May / Letňany airport /** This legendary band will delight fans with an open-air concert that's bound to be exceptionally energetic, with all the atmosphere of a huge stage show.

## El Hadji Sy: Painting – Performance – Politics

**until 22 May / Veletržní palác (Trade Fair Palace) /** The National Gallery in Prague presents contemporary African art as part of its retrospective exhibition of the Senegalese painter and curator El Hadji Sy, whom it presents not only as a painter of distinctive artistic expression, but also a major performer and cultural activist.

## Dance Prague

**23 May – 23 June / various venues /** An international festival of contemporary dance and movement “Tanec Praha” is the annual highlight of the dance season.

## Prague Drinks Wine Festival

**27–28 May / New Town Hall /** A festival of authentic wines from the countries of Central Europe offers the opportunity to taste almost 400 wines from small family wineries. The historical premises of the New Town Hall will be the setting for stalls with food, delicacies, coffee or tea.

## Prague Fringe Festival

**27 May – 4 June / various venues /** Prague Fringe Festival is a cultural event representing ‘a mix of theatre, comedy, music and entertainment’. It brings performers from around the world to Prague, showing their artistry in Prague's cosy theatres.

## Prague Food Festival

**27–29 May / The Royal Garden and Ball Game Hall of Prague Castle /** The largest gastronomy event in the Czech Republic attracts thousands of visitors each year. The tasting tents in the beautiful surroundings of the Royal Garden are a delight to any gourmet.

## Ratolest Fest

**28 May / Rašínovo and Hořejší embankment /** A family, sports, culinary, artistic and practical ideas festival for children and their parents, who can get some pastime inspiration.

## Khamoro

**29 May – 4 June / various venues /** The international Roma festival Khamoro which belongs among the largest Roma festivals in the world, once again presenting Romani culture and traditions.

## The “Primátorky” Prague Regatta

**3–5 June / Vltava River /** The traditional rowing races backed by the Mayor of Prague, launched in 1910, making it one of the oldest and most established of sports events, not just in the Czech Republic but in Europe.

## Muse

**4 June / O2 arena /** This rock trio returns to the Czech Republic as part of “The Drones World Tour” to remind us why it gets called the best concert band of today.

## Raw Fest

**4–5 June / Štvanice Island /** This rawfood festival will present the best from the world of rawfood, ranging from dried products to fresh menus prepared on the spot by the foremost masters in raw ‘cooking’.

## The Soul of Money

**until 6 June / DOX Centre for Contemporary Art /** This multimedia exhibition project focuses on money as the phenomenon that we are all part of, whether we like it or not.

## Night of the churches

**10 June / various venues /** Every year the ‘Night of the churches’ literally opens doors for the general public to make non-committal contact with Christianity; also giving access to some church sections normally out-of-bounds.

## Mini-breweries Festival at Prague Castle

**10 and 11 June / Prague Castle gardens /** An exceptional beer-tasting event, giving beer lovers the chance to enjoy gathered in one place a world of beer varieties, taste experiences, and the finest among the brewers' more daring concoctions.

## Prague museum night

**11 June / various venues /** This unforgettable event has become established as one of the most visited in Prague, bringing the opportunity to explore the cultural wealth of our capital – during nocturnal hours.

## Beer at Náplavka on the waterfront

**17–18 June / Rašínovo embankment /** A tasting festival of small Czech breweries and mini breweries being held for the fourth time at Náplavka on the waterfront at Rašínovo embankment, complete with various gastronomic delicacies.

## United Islands of Prague

**23–25 June / various venues /** The largest multi-genre music festival in Prague will be held once again on Prague's river islands and in the adjacent parks and streets.

## Titanic

**until 30 June / PVA Letňany /** This worldwide travelling exhibition reveals the mystery of the Titanic and brings you the chance to experience the atmosphere of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**More information in the events calendar at [www.prague.eu](http://www.prague.eu)**