



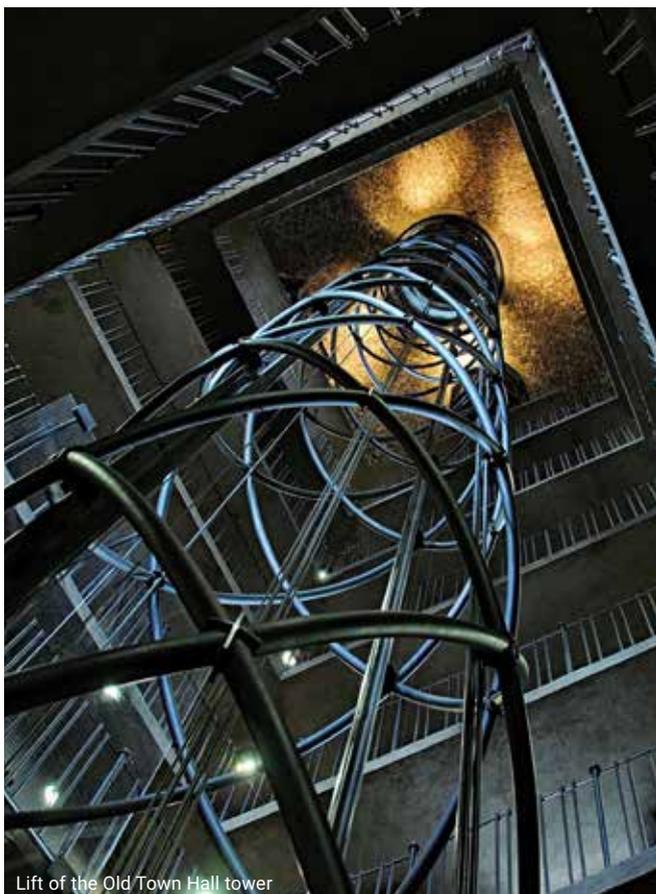
# The Old Town Hall in Prague

## From a bird's eye perspective

The gothic tower dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century constitutes the dominant feature of the Old Town Hall and indeed the entire square. When it was established, it was the highest structure in all of Prague. A watchman's dwelling was added to the top of the tower, from where the watchman monitored the town's environs and warned the townsfolk in case of danger.

Nowadays, the tower's viewing gallery offers the most beautiful views of the city; it is possible to see the Týn Cathedral or Saint Nicholas' Church from a bird's eye view, while you can also admire Prague Castle in the distance or be astonished by the multitude of towers, spires and domes arrayed in Prague's diverse architecture.

The Town Hall tower is the only medieval tower in Prague to be completely wheelchair accessible – **a modern glass elevator takes visitors up to the viewing gallery**. It has won several awards for its design.



Lift of the Old Town Hall tower

## Visit the tower with no waiting

In addition to classic tickets, visitors to the town hall can now also purchase mobile tickets. This is the only type of ticket which enables preferential entry into the tower without waiting in the queue. Not only is it cheaper, but the **mTicket** also enables visitors to download bonus content to their cell phones. It is currently available in 13 language versions.

The mobile ticket can be acquired by scanning the QR code or purchased directly online at [prague.mobiletickets.cz](http://prague.mobiletickets.cz).



## The town hall in dates

**1338 – the establishment of the Old Town Hall**  
The Old Town Hall is one of the oldest town halls in the world.

**The 14<sup>th</sup> century – the construction of the town hall tower**  
The Old Town Hall's tower is 69.5 m high.

**1381 – the first consecration of the town hall chapel**  
The chapel has been consecrated a total of six times over the centuries.

**1410 – the establishment of Prague's astronomical clock**  
The Old Town's astronomical clock is now the oldest functioning astronomical clock in the world.

**1458 – the election of George of Poděbrady as the King of Bohemia**  
This event is also depicted in one of the paintings in the Assembly Hall – the monumental canvass has dimensions of 5x7.3 m.

**1621 – the execution of the participants in the Estates Uprising**  
in front of the town hall  
This is now recalled by 27 white crosses set in the square's paving.

**1838–1848 – the neo-gothic renovation of the Old Town Hall**  
The town hall acquired a new north-eastern wing designed by the architects Nobile and Sprenger.

**1945 – the shelling of the town hall**  
A large part of the town hall was destroyed during an attack by the Nazis during the fighting which took place in the Prague Uprising.

**2018 – the general repair of the astronomical clock**  
The astronomical clock was largely restored to its pre-war form.



The Old Town Hall in May 1945

## Contact information

**The historical interiors are open daily:**  
Mon 11:00 am – 7:00 pm  
Tues–Sun 9:00 am – 7:00 pm

**The town hall tower is open daily:**  
Mon 11:00 am – 10:00 pm  
Tues–Sun 9:00 am – 10:00 pm

full admission 250 CZK  
reduced admission 150 CZK  
mTicket 210 CZK

**The procession of the twelve apostles:**  
daily on the hour 9:00 am – 11:00 pm

+420 775 400 052  
oldtownhall@prague.eu  
prague.eu/oldtownhall

*The Prague City Tourism Tourist Information Centre and Guide Office are located on the building's ground floor.*

**We look forward to your visit!**



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Prague:emotion

# The Old Town Hall in Prague

**The Old Town Hall is the most beautiful monument in Prague's historical centre. It was created from the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards by means of the gradual purchasing of individual burghesses' houses and their integration into a single unit. Nowadays, it consists of a set of five historic houses which bear the characteristics of almost all the ensuing architectural periods.**

The town hall has played a significant role in the history of both Prague and the Czech state more than once. George of Poděbrady was elected the King of Bohemia in the town hall and Jan Želivský, a radical Hussite leader, was executed in its courtyard. Later, the town hall witnessed the mass execution of the participants in the Estates Uprising. At the end of the Second World War, it was attacked by the country's occupiers and a large part of the building was completely destroyed.



The Old Town Hall at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century

## A closer look at the apostles

Prague's famous astronomical clock, which has adorned the façade of the Old Town Hall since 1410, has attracted the attention of passing Prague citizens and visitors alike for centuries. A special stone annex was built on the southern side of the town hall tower to house the mechanism. Despite the fact that older astronomical clocks existed elsewhere at that time, none of them achieved the degree of perfection of the astronomical clock in Prague's Old Town or engendered as much admiration.

The astronomical clock consists of several parts; as well as the astronomical and calendar faces, it is also equipped with a mechanism consisting of statues of the twelve apostles which appear at two small windows on the hour. **The chapel on the town hall's first floor also enables visitors to view the apostles from the inside of the clock.**



The apostles in the Old Town astronomical clock – a view from the interior

During the apostles' parade, other figures on the façade of the astronomical clock come alive by mechanical movement. They are dominated by the Grim Reaper – rotating the hourglass symbolically he stops time running, and by ringing the death knell he reminds us that our limited time will inevitably one day expire.

## The historical and ceremonial halls

No visitor to Prague should miss the opportunity to take a tour of the town hall's interiors. The rooms on the various floors date from a number of different historical periods and they document the remarkable development of the town hall complex. Nowadays, they are mainly used for the ceremonial purposes of the City of Prague.

**The Chapel of the Virgin Mary** constitutes the core of the Old Town Hall. It was established soon after the construction of the town hall

tower and it was consecrated as early as in 1381. Church services were regularly held in the chapel every day before council meetings, as well as for prisoners who were being held in the town hall or for convicts who had been sentenced to death before they made their way from there to the executioner's block. Masses for the welfare of the sovereign were frequently held there and it was also often a venue for funerals.

The **Old Council Hall** is yet another significant product of the gothic period. The most valuable room in the entire town hall has been preserved in its original form dating from the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The Old Council Hall is distinguished by its richly profiled



The Lord Mayor's chair in the Old Council Hall



The gothic chapel on the first floor of the Old Town Hall

beamed ceiling, rare statuary and beautifully carved historical furniture. In the past, it witnessed regular meetings of the town council and the town court.

The largest hall in the Old Town Hall is the **Brožík Assembly Hall**. It occupies the entire floor of one house and extends to the height of two floors. The hall's main decorations consist of two large paintings by the famous painter Václav Brožík. The paintings depict important moments from Czech history.



The Brožík Assembly Hall

## The medieval underground

The tour of the Old Town Hall includes the area located beneath the town hall complex. The complicated system of **Romano-gothic underground cellars** is older than the town hall itself. The complex of medieval halls, corridors and tunnels is also the largest of its kind in Prague.



The Romano-gothic underground area beneath the town hall