



# FIVE PRAGUE WALKS 2

Off the Beaten  
Path to Places  
Known and  
Unknown

Prague:emotion

Wow pure emotion  
Prague

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Front cover:  
Václav Špála Villa, pg. 47

## The best way to discover Prague is on foot.

**This simple truth is an easily proven fact. Many of the most beautiful sights in the historical centre are only accessible by foot – however, you often find yourself in the company of thousands of other visitors. This is particularly true along the Royal Route, the former route of coronation processions connecting the Powder Tower, Old Town Square, Charles Bridge, and Prague Castle.**

But there are hundreds of other interesting places in Prague. Leave the crowds behind – come and discover some of the lesser-known sights, whether you're here for the first time or the tenth.

In this, the second in our series of walks, you'll discover the charms of districts such as Holešovice, Střešovice, Bubeneč, and Žižkov. Each has its unique character, history, architecture, and atmosphere. We'll help make the choice of where to go a bit easier by giving you a brief description of each route at the beginning of each chapter and of course some photos.

### All of our walks have the following things in common:

- 1** Our main goal is to introduce you to beautiful, interesting places. In these five walks, we emphasize primarily architecture, as well as fine art to a certain extent – from historical to the latest contemporary works.
  - 2** The routes featured in this brochure avoid busy tourist sites entirely. Our mission is to show you the less well-known, but all the more interesting side of our city.
  - 3** The routes are not necessarily designed to be educational, but rather simply lovely walks. Descriptions of historically interesting sites and buildings are deliberately brief, but if you're interested in more detailed information about a particular place, we recommend you read more on our website [www.prague.eu](http://www.prague.eu).
  - 4** Each route has its own map. In addition to orientation points, notable buildings, and scenic views, we've also marked places where you can get something good to eat and drink. A proper walk stimulates the appetite!
- ⚠ And finally, just one recommendation: be sure to wear good walking shoes and charge your camera or phone before walking out the door. We guarantee you'll find something picture-worthy along the way.**



1

# From Bubeneč to Troja

## An Idyllic Tree-Lined Stroll Among Villas

6  
km

A romantic walk that takes you from the immediate vicinity of Prague Castle to the Bubeneč district, a charming, peaceful neighbourhood full of stylish villas and manicured gardens that are today home to embassies and diplomatic residences. You'll find ornate Art Nouveau villas with folklore motifs, grandiose Neo-Baroque and Neo-Renaissance mansions, as well as the lovely Governor's Summer Palace overlooking Stromovka Park, the oldest and most extensive park in Prague. In the park, you can stroll past ponds or take a break under century-old oaks; then cross just two pedestrian bridges, and you'll find yourself in the lush green neighbourhood of Troja, where you have a choice of visiting the Botanical Garden, the Zoo, or taking a tour of the Baroque Troja Chateau.

# Route Description

1 Chotkovy sady/Gardens 🚶 🚶 ▶

2 **Bílková vila (Bílek Villa)** The villa and studio of renowned Czech Art Nouveau sculptor František Bílek were built according to his own designs in the early 20th century. The façade symbolizes a wheat field and expresses the connection between natural and artistic creation. Inside the villa, you can visit an exhibition featuring the studio's original furnishings and a selection of Bílek's Symbolist works.



🚶 ▶ Mickiewiczova St. ▶

3 **Písecká brána/Gate** This gate is part of the former Baroque city fortifications known as the Marian Wall; today it serves as a gallery and café. What's interesting is that most of the buildings in this area were built between 1910 and 19145 as a "garden city" right on the former bastions of these Baroque fortifications.

🚶 ▶ Charlotte G. Masaryk Park ▶ K Brusce St ▶ Milady Horákové St.  
▶ Muchova St. ▶ Pelléova St. ▶

4 **Villa Pellé** This Neo-Renaissance building dates to the late 19th century. Its most famous occupant was French General Maurice César Joseph Pellé, who was integral to the formation of the modern Czechoslovak Army (he scrapped the army's volunteer character and created a regular army with a firm military order.). The villa now serves as a cultural and social centre for exhibitions, concerts, and seminars.

🚶 ▶ Slavičkova St. 5 Jan Koula Villa 6 Sucharda Family Villa  
7 Karel Mašek Villa ▶ Suchardova St. 8 Sucharda Studio Villa

5 **Jan Koula Villa** In a sea of beautiful houses, two adjacent villas – at numbers 15 and 17 – stand out. The villa of builder Jan Koula combines Historicism with elements of folk architecture.



Bubeneč is at its most charming in April and May, when the trees in the local gardens are blooming. The Stromovka park is as perfect a picnic spot as any you'll find in Prague.

**6 Sucharda Family Villa** The second villa – whose facade is decorated with figural frescoes by noted Czech painter Mikoláš Aleš – was the home of the Sucharda family of visual artists.

**7 Karel Mašek Villa** Across the street at No. 7 stands the villa of Art Nouveau artist and architect Karel Mašek. It's stylistically similar to that of Jan Koula, but even more ornate. Of special significance are the painting and modelling of the columns.



**8 Sucharda Studio Villa** The villa and studio of sculptor Stanislav Sucharda (No. 6) are the work of the founder of Czech Modernism in architecture Jan Kotěra and is his only villa preserved in its original condition. It was here that Sucharda created the monument to historian František Palacký situated at Palackého Square.

✎ [Na Zátorce St.](#) [Jaselská St](#) [Československé armády St.](#) [Bubenečská St.](#) [Ronald Reagana St.](#)

**9 Otto Petschek Villa** The grand entrance is a gate to an extensive garden surrounding a luxury First Republic (pre-war) villa, designed for Otto Petschek by architect Max Spielmann. Thanks to the business acumen of the Petscheks, a Jewish family originally from the town of Pečky, they became one of the leading European entrepreneurial and banking dynasties in the 19th century; their philanthropic activities were also notable. The villa was exceptional for its time in size (an incredible 148 rooms) and its modern facilities (including a fitness room and underground pool in the style of Roman baths). Since the end of the Second World War, the villa has been the property of the United States and serves as the American ambassador's residence.

✎ [Pelléova St.](#)

**10 Lanna Villa** This Neo-Renaissance villa, with many spectacular elements, was one of the first built in this area back in 1872 as a summer home for renowned industrialist and art collector Vojtěch Lanna. The villa sits along the path that Prague's elite used to reach their favourite area – the Royal Game Preserve (today Stromovka). Nowadays, the premises are used by the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

✎ [Na Seníku St.](#) [V Sadech St.](#)

**11 Julius Petschek Villa** V Sadech St. leads around the rear of a magnificent villa, until recently quite dilapidated, built by Otto Petschek's uncle, Julius. The villa is an example of the Eclectic style with elements of late Classicism, Baroque, and Neo-Renaissance. It is currently undergoing renovation, after which it will serve as the home of the Museum of Czech Literature. Its elegant spaces will house an extensive exhibition of Czech literature, an events hall, a literary café, study rooms, and professional offices.

✎ [Wolkerova St.](#)

**12 Na Slamníku Pub** The establishment of this pub, located at the intersection of Wolkerova and Gotthardská Streets, was documented as far back as the 17th century and has traditionally served as a public house since that time. The restaurant has successfully maintained its typical pub character despite having been renovated in early 2017. It's one of the longest continuously operating pubs in Prague, with local regulars still outnumbering the tourists. During the Communist era, "Slamník" was a popular cultural centre for the alternative music scene.

💬 In the early 19th century, one of the local tenants at "Slamník" became so unpopular with the respectable public that he was stripped of his lease and exiled from Bubeneč.

✎ [Wolkerova St.](#) [Pod Kaštiny Square](#)

**13 Friedrich Petschek Villa** Continuing straight to the end of Pod Kaštiny Square on the right-hand side, you'll find the formal entrance to yet another Petschek villa - today the Embassy of the Russian Federation. The villa, designed in French Baroque style, is once again by Max Spielmann, the Petschek family architect. The huge complex spreads out over one hectare and includes a garden with pond. The historic building is used for formal embassy functions.

**14 Neo-Gothic Gate and Governor's Summer Palace (Místodržitelský letohrádek)** An impressive, romantic mansion towers behind the Neo-Gothic entrance gate at the upper end of Stromovka. The yellow façade, in English Gothic Revival style, dates back to the early 19th century, after the game park opened to the public in 1804. The building's history, however, extends back to

the 15th century; originally a hunting redoubt, it was gradually transformed into its current form, and only the prismatic tower remained. The building is unfortunately inaccessible; its terrace, however, is worth a look – from it, you get a beautiful view of Stromovka, Troja, and the Vltava River valley.



Governor's Summer Palace

In the right-hand corner of the terrace, you'll find a unique sundial in the shape of a globe with a moving metal pointer.

A red marble surface is marked with the tropic lines and times. To determine the current time, the arrow must be aimed at the sun, and the pointer then moved so that it casts the smallest shadow (the same height as the pointer).

[Mecserýho silnice/Road](#)

**15 Former tram depot** From 1898 to 1937, a small electric tram depot operated at the Royal Game Preserve. Part of the building's walls was preserved during a modern renovation into the Vozovna Stromovka restaurant.

[Stromovka](#) [Rudolf's Water Tunnel \(Rudolfova štola\)](#)

[Šlechta Restaurant](#) [fishponds](#)

**16 Stromovka** The Royal Game Preserve (now Stromovka) was founded by Czech King Přemysl Otakar II in the 13th century as a fenced hunting preserve. The complex has undergone many changes over the centuries, the most significant of which took place in the 16th century, when Rudolf II ordered the preserve as well as the now-non-existent lake to be enlarged.

**17 Rudolf's Water Tunnel (Rudolfova štola)** Water was shunted to it via the nearly 1,100 m long underground tunnel, a unique technical monument.

**18 Šlechta Restaurant** The original 17th-century Baroque summer palace was a formal mansion and even witnessed the imperial coronation celebration of Emperor Franz I. A restaurant has operated in the unique historical space since the 1920s. The last tenant was Václav Šlechta, who ran the eponymous restaurant until World War II began. After the war, the restaurant was nationalized, and in the 1960s, nearly in ruins, it was closed for good. This popular destination is now under renovation.

**19 Fishponds** A kind of "island" was created in the middle of the original "Rudolfine" lake, which later became the only reminder of this former large body of water. Today it's called Oak Knoll, and thanks to the new lake that was built in 2016, its banks are once again largely surrounded by water.



Oak Knoll in Stromovka

The Royal Game Preserve was closed to the public until the early 19th century – commoners were allowed to enter only on Easter. This changed in 1804 with an imperial decree by Franz I, which opened the preserve to the public.

[Za Elektrárnou St.](#) [footbridge to Císařský ostrov \(Imperial Island\)](#) [Troja footbridge](#) [Povltavská St.](#) [U Trojského zámku St.](#) **20 Zoologická zahrada (Zoo)**

If you've got enough energy and want to extend your walk, we recommend visiting the Zoo, Troja Chateau, or the Botanical Gardens. Both the Zoo and the Botanical Gardens are located on the hills which offer impressive views of the city.



**Prague Botanical Garden**



**Troja Chateau**



**Prague Zoo**



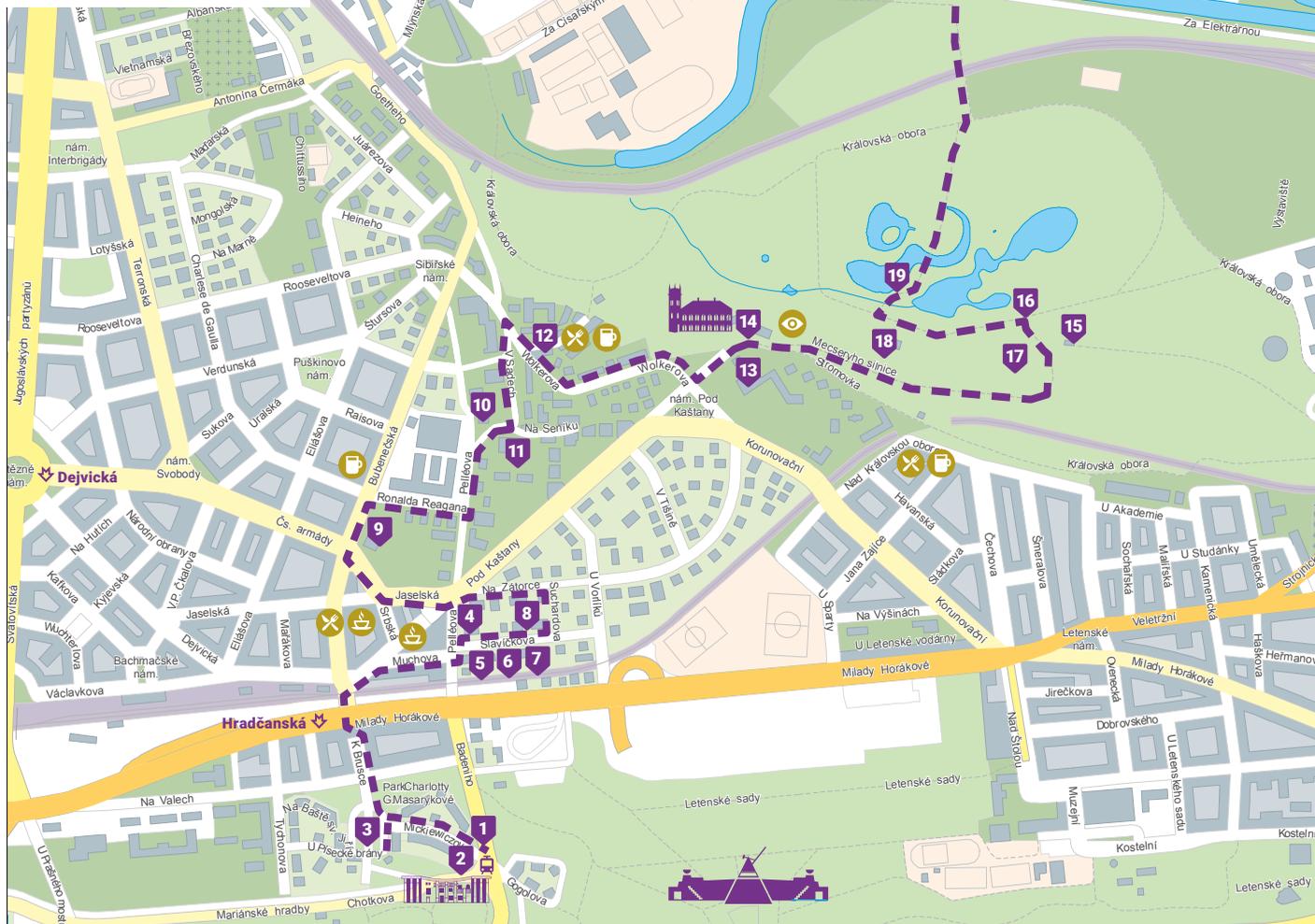
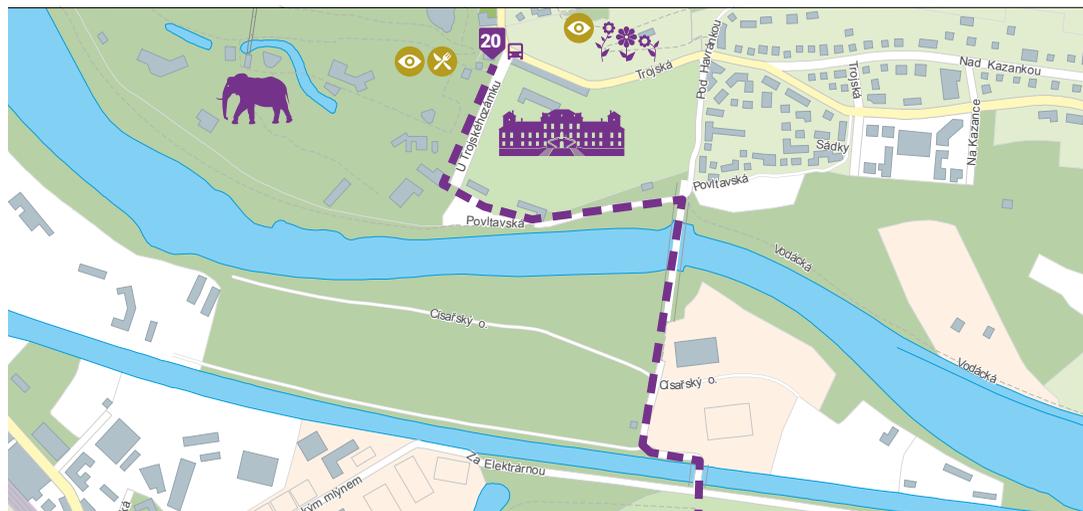
**Governor's Summer Palace**

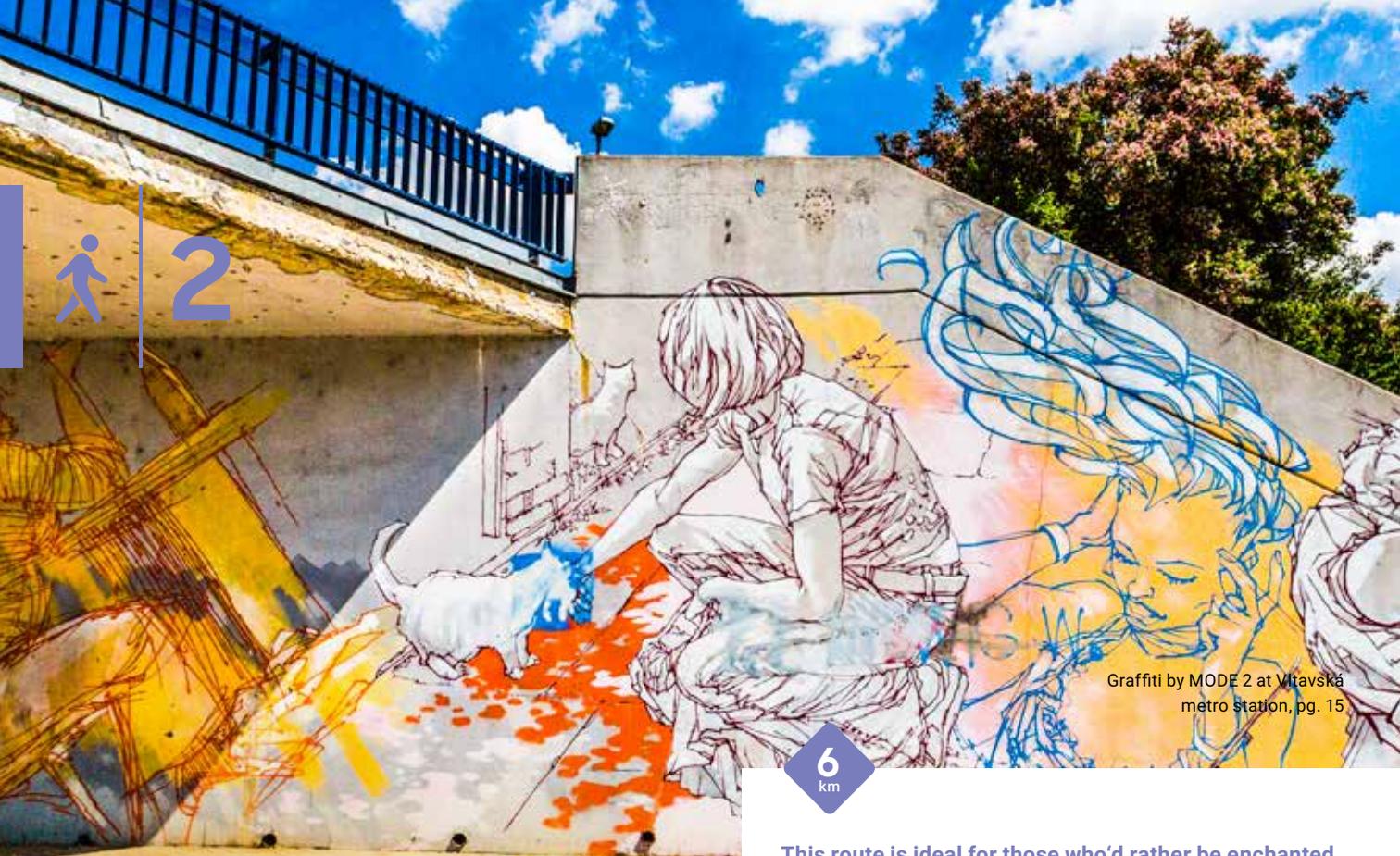


**Bílek Villa**



**Metronome**





Graffiti by MODE 2 at Vltavská metro Station, pg. 15

6  
km

# Holešovice

## A District Reborn: From Graffiti to Industrial

This route is ideal for those who'd rather be enchanted by the raw charm of a modern city and the poetry of old industrial complexes. The walk takes you through one of the most exciting and rapidly developing Prague districts, where there's always something happening. Holešovice was a former centre of manufacturing and business, and some of its distinctive factory complexes from the early 20th century remain. The factories no longer serve their original purpose and have been modernized and renovated, finding new lives as apartments, offices, and studios for young artists, designers, and architects. Come see what a former brewery, steam mill, or slaughterhouse look like today. Stroll through a district that offers delightful surprises with its plethora of quirky cafés, alternative galleries, and shops – an area where creativity and innovation await you around every corner.

# Route Description

1 **Veletržní palác** 🚶 🚶 ➔ **Heřmanova St.** ➔

2 **Řezáčovo náměstí/Square** This small square squeezed between residential buildings is not only an excellent place to rest for a bit, but it's also a place where all kinds of festivals and markets take place. You'll find numerous pop-up stores with contemporary design, as well as sustainable and slow fashion. If you're longing for some coffee with a dash of boho atmosphere, stop by Kávárna Liberál.

🚶 ➔ **Farského St.** ➔

3 **Husův sbor (Hus Congregational House)** This imposing seven-story apartment building was completed in 1937, ten long years after its cornerstone was placed, for the Czechoslovak Hussite Church. In addition to its unmistakable tower with chalice and Byzantine cross, there's a marble-lined chapel and one of the largest columbariums (vaults for cinerary urns) in Europe, spread over two underground floors.

🚶 ➔ **Strossmayerovo náměstí/Square** ➔ **Bubenská 1**

4 **Strossmayerovo náměstí/Square** A busy transportation node whose east side is dominated by the pseudo-Gothic Church of St. Anthony of Padua dating back to the early 20th century. A unique nativity scene is stored here, with the figures dressed in native costumes of various Slavic nationalities.



5 **Bubenská 1** The former seat of Elektrické podniky hl. m. Prahy (City of Prague Electric Works) is one of the most significant and spectacular Functionalist buildings in Prague. In the early 1900s, it was the largest office building in the city. Now you'll find here The Chemistry Gallery; Forbidden Spot, a gallery of street art and showroom of the Life is Porno brand; the Prague by Yemi dance academy; and more.

🚶 ➔ **Bubenská St.** ➔

6 **Vltavská metro station** For most, this is a neglected metro station with a bad reputation, but for fans of street art, it's a required stop. The walls here have come under the hands of world-renowned graffiti artists, including a series of realistic drawings from everyday life created by European street art legend MODE 2. In 2015, the Berlin delegation DIAMONDS Crew sparked controversy when they decorated the extensive outdoor spaces with intentionally „ugly“ graffiti in reaction to the commercialism and over-saturation that reign now even in street art. They were the first to use only chrome and black paints to symbolize the particular place and atmosphere that prevails there.

🚶 ➔ **Bubenské nábřeží/Riverbank** ➔

7 **Pražská tržnice (Prague Marketplace)** For nearly 100 years, this large complex with Art Nouveau and Neo-Renaissance elements functioned as a slaughterhouse. Today it's the home of the largest produce market in Prague, an Asian market, as well as countless other shops. You can shop at the open-air market stalls or inside the vast halls. The halls are home to such businesses as the Asian fusion restaurant SaSaZu, the Trafo Gallery featuring modern art, and the Jatka78 theatre and art space, focusing on circus and new theatre.

🚶 ➔ **Komunardů St.** ➔ **Tusarova St.** ➔ **Argentinská St.** ➔

8 **ArtGen** is the first office-gallery complex in Prague. Its modern architecture makes for an interesting backdrop to themed exhibitions, which are held not only in the open space between the Art and Gen buildings but also in their interiors. ArtGen has created a unique space that serves both work and leisure purposes.



🚶 ➤ [Tusarova St.](#) ➤ [Tovární St.](#) ➤ [Osadní St.](#) ➤ [Dělnická St](#) ➤ [Komunardů St.](#) ➤ [U Průhonu St.](#) ➤ [Osadní St.](#) ➤ [Poupětova St.](#) ➤

**9 DOX** Dox Contemporary Art Centre focuses on art projects that include critical reflections on current social topics. Thanks to its independence and program based on international cooperation, DOX has become a vital pioneering force on the Czech cultural scene. The building itself is the result of rebuilding an old factory and is an example of cutting-edge contemporary architecture. Worthy of particular attention is the 42-meter long wooden rooftop construction – the Gulliver airship – which functions as a venue for literary events.



DOX © René Volfík

🚶 ➤ [Komunardů St.](#) ➤ [U Průhonu St.](#) ➤

**10 Holešovický měšťanský pivovar (Holešovice Town Brewery)** A late 19th century brewery that at the time of its founding led to the ruin of many smaller breweries. Many Praguers have tasted the local beer, as it was brewed here under the “Měšťan” brand until 1998. Today the brewery premises serve as an office complex. It was declared a cultural monument for its exceptional architecture combining Romanticism with Renaissance and Gothic elements, as well as its high level of technical execution.



Holešovice Town  
Brewery

🚶 ➤ [Na Maninách St.](#) ➤ [U Uranie St.](#) ➤ [U Parního mlýna St.](#) ➤ [Jankovcova St.](#) ➤

**11 Classic 7** The Classic 7 project is another great example of sensitive transformation of a historical building into a modern office complex. Dominating this extensive complex is a former steam mill from 1911 – the first automated flour mill in Prague, it was capable of grinding 200 tons of grain daily. During the reconstruction, architects successfully combined industrial architecture of the early 20th century with elements of modern architecture, creating an impressive, timeless space.

🚶 ➤ [Jankovcova St.](#) ➤ [V Přístavu St.](#) ➤

**12 Holešovice Docks, Prague Marina** The Holešovice docks, an important technical monument as well as the only port in Prague which connects boat transport with rail and road, has definitely seen better days, but remains worthy of a visit. The original buildings at the dock are in Art Nouveau style, softening Holešovice's industrial feel. The atmosphere is enhanced by the contrast between the poetically rusting boats and the modern Prague Marina luxury apartment complex.



Holešovice Docks

🚶‍♂️ Jankovcova St. ➡

**13 Ogilvy & Mather** Just as with Classic 7, the advertising agency's home combines history with fresh design. Originally the Prague Bakery and Soda Water Company building, it became the home of the largest Czech advertising agency in 2003. In 2012, it got a fresh face resembling battleship camouflage. Because the building is located close to the docks, it took its creative inspiration from the local nautical history.

🚶‍♂️ Přívozní St. 📍 Ortenovo náměstí/Square 🚊

**i** At the intersection of Jankovcova and Plynární streets, you'll find the legendary Cross Club with a café.

**15 Cross Club** is a salute to Holešovice's industrial character. Steampunk aesthetic, steel, and moving bolts, screws, and wheels form not only the essence of the outdoor space, but also that of the cellar interiors of the renowned music club.





# From Vinohrady to Žižkov and Back Again

## Searching for Bohemian Prague

4,5  
km

Žižkov is one of the most iconic Prague neighbourhoods outside of the historical centre. In the past, its mostly working-class population, lively pubs and cabarets, and hilly terrain under Vítkov Hill together cast an irresistible spell under which many an aspiring artist fell. Žižkov was home to two famous Jaroslavs – Hašek, author of the world-famous humorous novel *The Fateful Adventures of the Good Soldier Švejk During the World War*, and Seifert, a poet who is the sole Czech Nobel laureate for literature. Today Žižkov is undergoing rapid changes, but its heart remains purely bohemian. The walk will take you first to the Vinohrady district, which gets its name from real vineyards that were laid out on the hillsides here during the Middle Ages. Today you'll find beautifully decorated buildings alongside severe Modernism in surprising colours and shapes, and in Žižkov interesting sculptures. This winding route takes you through the streets of Žižkov leading to the TV transmission tower. Rest and refresh yourself at one of the many local pubs that the district is known for.

# Route Description

1 **Náměstí Míru**    2 **Church of St. Ludmila** 3 **Vinohrady Theatre**

**1 Náměstí Míru** There's no doubt that náměstí Míru (Peace Square) is the heart of Vinohrady. **2 Church of St. Ludmila** At its centre stands the Church of St. Ludmila, whose 60m high towers dominate the area. **3 Vinohrady Theatre** In stark contrast to its severe Neo-Gothic lines, the Vinohrady Theatre, to the left of the church, catches the eye with its swirling Art Nouveau lines.



 **Anglická St.** ► **Balbínova St.** ► **4 Český rozhlas (Czech Radio Building)** ► **Na Smetance St.** ► **Na Smetance School**

**4 Český rozhlas (Czech Radio Building)** The Functionalist Czech Radio building plays an irreplaceable role in Prague's history. Broadcasting began here in 1933. Inside the building is a unique paternoster lift, installed in 1929, the oldest functional open compartment lift in the Czech Republic.

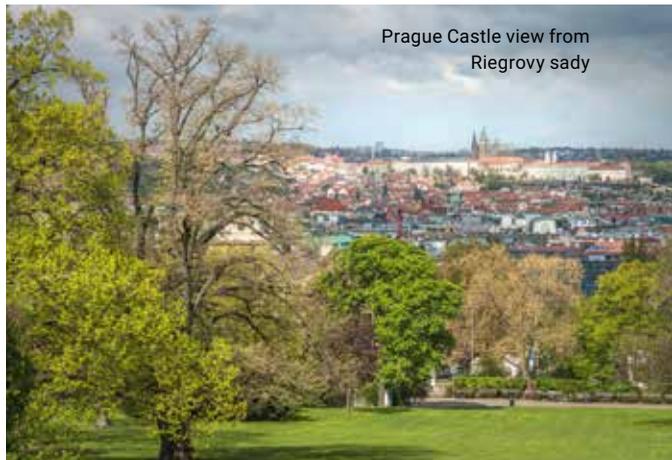
 On May 5, 1945, a call to protect Prague from Nazis was heard on the radio's airwaves, kicking off the Prague Uprising.

**5 Na Smetance School** At the entrance to Balbínova Street stands one of the most beautiful (and, at the time it was built in the late 19th century, one of the most modern) school buildings in Prague. The Na Smetance school operated for nearly 130 years and was admired even by Emperor Franz Josef I.

 ► **Na Smetance St.** ►

**6 Riegrovy sady/Gardens** Climb the stairs to the statue of 19th century Czech politician František Ladislav Rieger, after whom this popular park at the border between Vinohrady and Žižkov is

named. It was created by one of the most renowned Czech sculptors – Josef Václav Myslbek, creator of, among others, the statue of St. Wenceslas on Wenceslas Square. This park, over 100 years old, offers intimate nooks, open meadows, and unusual views of Prague's skyline. A large garden restaurant is open here during the summer. From the top of the meadow at the west end of the park, you'll find a gorgeous view of Old Town and Prague Castle; in the summer, it's an ideal place for a picnic.



Prague Castle view from Riegrovy sady

 ► **Italská St.** ►

**7 náměstí Winstona Churchilla (Winston Churchill Square)** At first glance, this not-particularly interesting square appears to be a busy Žižkov space, thanks primarily to the students streaming through from the nearby Economics University. Along its right side stands the Functionalist General Pension Institute. In the upper part of the park stands a larger-than-life-sized monument to the celebrated British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, an exact replica of the London original by British sculptor Ivor Roberts-Jones.

 The statue of Churchill was dedicated on Nov. 17, 1999 on the tenth anniversary of the Velvet Revolution with Margaret Thatcher in attendance.

 ► **Seifertova St.** ► **Husinecká St.** ► **8 Kostnické náměstí/Square**

Seifertova St. is the main artery of Prague's Žižkov district. It is named after Jaroslav Seifert, outstanding Czech poet and Nobel laureate. He not only lived here, but also studied at the nearby grammar school.

Husinecká St. along with its surroundings is a memorable, yet slightly dark place in Žižkov. During the Middle Ages, it was here on Gallows Hill, just a short distance from the city walls, that the gallows were erected and executions took place.

**8 Kostnické náměstí/Square** is probably the most picturesque square in Žižkov. It gets its name from the German city of Kostnice (Konstanz), where the church council met in 1415 and sentenced Czech church reformer Jan Hus to death by burning. The name is a reminder of the connection between the Žižkov district and the Hussite events of the 15th century.

Above the old-world atmosphere of the square and the surrounding lanes looms Vítkov Hill and the monument there, dominated by a gigantic bronze equestrian statue of Hussite leader Jan Žižka of Trocnov. This colossus weighs 16.5 tons.

✚ ▶ Štítného St. ▶

**9 Žižkov Theatre of Jára Cimrman** The Žižkov Theatre occupies an unassuming building at number 520. It has a varied past. The building has been used as a theatre, a chapel, and a renowned dance hall. For many seasons now, however, a theatre group performs here, dedicated to spreading the word of fictitious Czech Renaissance man and unrecognized genius Jára Cimrman.

✚ ▶ Cimburkova St. ▶

**10 Prokopovo náměstí/Square** This square, shaped like a small triangle, is the ideal spot for small markets. In the middle is a monument to Jaroslav Hašek, the brilliant Czech writer and author of the multi-volume novel *The Fateful Adventures of the Good Soldier Švejk* During the World War who lived part of his life in the vicinity. Sculptor Karel Nepraš conceived the work as an unusual equestrian bust.

✚ ▶ Prokopova St. ▶

**11 Betlémská kaple na Žižkově (Bethlehem Chapel in Žižkov)** is an unassuming, yet extremely interesting building hidden in the courtyard of a gallery apartment building. Its design, by Emil Králíček, was inspired by Cubist shapes.

✚ ▶ Prokopova St. ▶

**12 Havlíčkovo náměstí/Square**, with its lovely park and flower beds, is graced in the middle with a statue of Karel Havlíček Borovský, Czech satirist, poet, and journalist.

The corner building, in fine Historicist style, is the district town hall. Serving as the local administrative centre, it features an exhibition space and small inner courtyard with sculptural decorations.

💬 Václav Havel got married twice at the Žižkov Town Hall. The world-renowned Czech playwright, dissident, and later Czechoslovak and Czech president, married Olga Špíchalová, who lived nearby, here. After he was widowed, he once again went to the Žižkov Town Hall to wed actress Dagmar Veškrnová.



Havlíčkovo náměstí/Square  
with Žižkov Town Hall

✚ ▶ Lipanská St. ▶ Bořivojova St. ▶ Čajkovského St. ▶

**13 Sladkovského náměstí/Square** The Church of St. Prokop dominates this picturesque square at the foot of “upper Žižkov” and, along with the nearby Lipanská tram stop, forms one of a number of Žižkov’s focal points. The Neo-Gothic church was built at the turn of the 20th century.

✚ ▶ Vlkova St. ▶ Víta Nejedlého St. ▶ Fibichova St. ▶

**14 International Telephone Exchange Building** The international – originally intercity – telephone and telegraph exchange is one of the most interesting buildings in Žižkov; it was built just after 1921. Its two towers and other decorative elements are typical of Czech national Decorativism.

✚ ▶ **Žižkov Television Transmitter and the Old Jewish Cemetery in Žižkov**

**15 Žižkov Television Transmitter** A triple tower resembling a spaceship ready for launch is an unmistakable dominant feature of the Prague skyline. In addition to technical equipment, the transmitter tower also houses a luxury single suite hotel, a restaurant with bar and café, and an observation deck with an amazing view of Prague. The transmitter’s columns are adorned with bizarre figures of babies by sculptor David Černý.

**Old Jewish Cemetery in Žižkov** Directly under the tower, the Mahler Gardens hide their secrets. At one time, a Jewish cemetery was located here, parts of which are still clearly visible. The old Jewish cemetery in Žižkov was originally part of a plague burial ground of the Prague Ghetto, but over time it transformed into a proper cemetery which served the community for over a century.

Žižkov Television Transmitter and  
Old Jewish Cemetery in Žižkov



[🚶 ➤ Pospíšilova St. ➤](#)

**16 Škroupovo náměstí/Square** You might find it hard to believe, but this square measures 150 m (492 ft) in diameter. It entered the Prague history books as the site of the events of the first authorized dissident demonstration in December 1988. Václav Havel gave his first public political speech here, demanding the release of political prisoners.

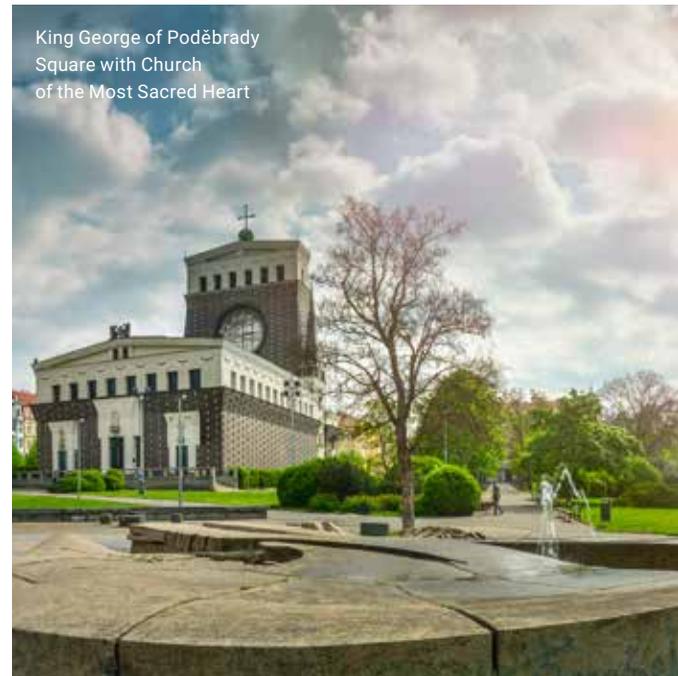
[🚶 ➤ Zvonařova St. ➤ Slavíkova St. ➤](#)

**17 Švehlova kolej (Švehla Dormitory)** The imposing Švehla Dormitory building is evidence of Žižkov's rich student life. The dormitory, built shortly after the founding of the republic in national Art Deco style with elements of Rondo-Cubism, was an important centre of cultural and social life. The dormitory now belongs to Charles University.

[🚶 18 náměstí Jiřího z Poděbrad \(King George of Poděbrady Square\) 🚶 ➤ 🚗 ➤ 🚘](#)

**18 Náměstí Jiřího z Poděbrad (King George of Poděbrady Square)** Arriving on the square, your eyes will be immediately drawn to the unusual monumental architecture of the Church of the Most Sacred Heart by Slovenian architect Jože Plečnik, who was also the creative force behind the modern reconstruction of Prague Castle. The church, whose shape is meant to evoke that of Noah's ark, is the most important modern religious building in Prague. The square is a frequent venue for a popular farmers' market as well as other culinary and cultural events.

King George of Poděbrady  
Square with Church  
of the Most Sacred Heart





National Memorial  
on Vítkov Hill



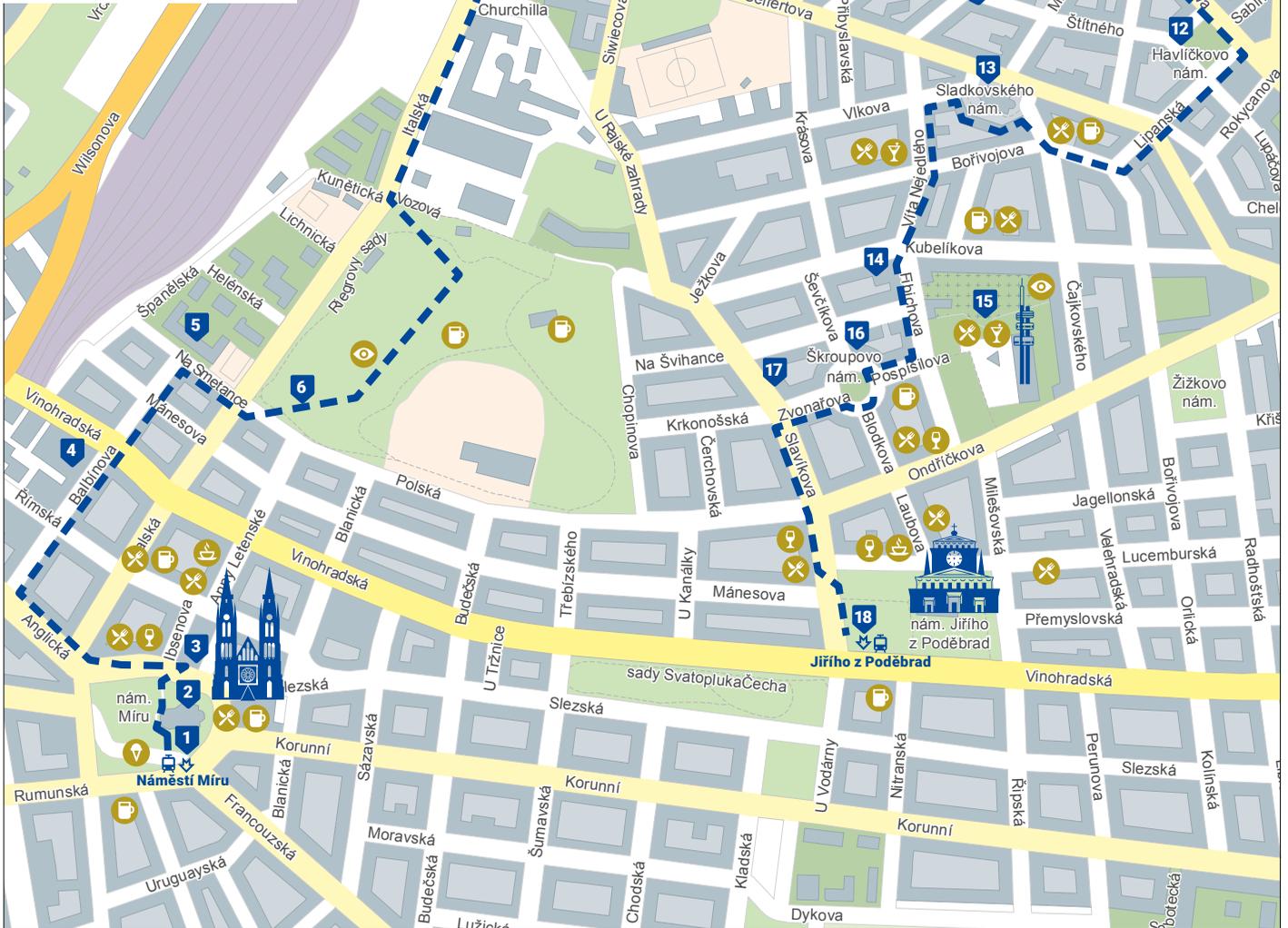
Žižkov Television  
Transmitter



Church of the  
Most Sacred Heart



Church  
of St. Ludmila





4

# From Holešovice to Old Town

## Head Back in Time to a Secret Garden

4  
km

The walk creates both a literal and imaginary bridge between two worlds that, while different, still have much in common. It connects two very different Prague districts and two iconic buildings of Prague's National Gallery: the Functionalist Trade Fair Palace (Veletržní palác), with the modern art collection, and the ancient Convent of St. Agnes of Bohemia, in which the medieval art collection is displayed. From Holešovice, your route takes you through Letná Park to the Metronome, a modern dominant of the left bank of the Vltava and across the bridge to the northernmost end of Old Town. Wind your way through the tiny lanes of this part of the city, which most visitors haven't discovered yet and which will envelop you in the authentic atmosphere of old Prague. Your destination is the newly renovated and recently opened convent gardens and the convent itself.

# Route Description

🚗 *Veletržní palác (Trade Fair Palace)* 🚶▶

**1 Veletržní palác (Trade Fair Palace) – National Gallery in Prague** The first Functionalist building in Prague, originally intended for trade fairs, was built in 1928 and was at the time the largest building of its type in the world – even Le Corbusier was an admirer. The National Gallery acquired the building in 1976. After an extensive renovation that finished in the 1990s, the building became the home of a unique collection of Czech and foreign modern and contemporary art. The collection contains works by some of the most illustrious names in art – Pablo Picasso, Auguste Renoir, Vincent van Gogh, and Gustav Klimt among others. The gallery's monumental interior, reminiscent of multiple decks of an ocean liner, is itself worth a look.



Trade Fair Palace  
© National Gallery in Prague

🚶▶ *Heřmanova St.* ▶ *Františka Křížka St.* ▶

**2 Bio Oko** A popular single-screen art cinema that dates back to 1940. The cinema's main floor is occupied with a motley crew of seats: sun loungers, beanbags, an auto body, and more, the composition of which was created by renowned Czech designer Maxim Velčovský. The bar and café are popular meeting spots.

🚶▶ *Milady Horákové St.* ▶

**3 Letenské náměstí/Square** Worth noting along the right side of the square is the Neo-Renaissance Letná Water Tower and a gigantic Functionalist apartment block, nicknamed Molochov. On the left side, note the imposing structure that is the Ministry of the Interior.

🚶▶ *Nad Štolou St.* ▶ *Letohradská St.* ▶ *Muzejní St.* ▶

**4 National Technical Museum and National Agriculture Museum** These monumental Functionalist structures were built together between 1938 and 1942. The original concept comprised one monumental common building, but it ran up against construction regulations and in particular gradually progressing disagreements between the two institutions relating to space and organizational issues. In the end, two separate buildings were built, separated by Muzejní Street. The main entrances of both institutions face Letná Park – from this view, the buildings' identical appearances are apparent.

💬 The design for the separate buildings included a huge stone gate arched over Muzejní Street which would at least symbolically refer to the original concept of a single building. However, because of the disagreements, the gate never came to be.

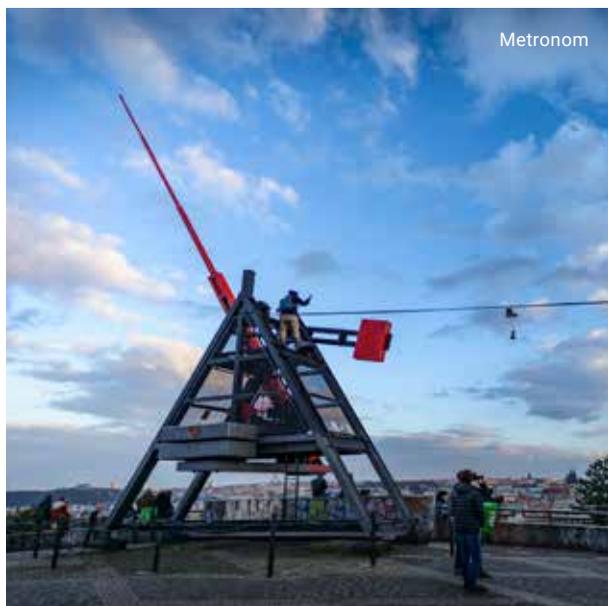
🚶▶ *Kostelní St.* ▶

**5 Letenský zámeček (Letná Chateau)** built in the style of Italian Renaissance villas, now functions as a restaurant. From 1891 to 1916, the upper station of the Letná funicular, which ran here from the river, stood not far from here. Connected to the funicular was the station for the first electric tram in Prague, which was built on the occasion of the Provincial Jubilee Exhibition in 1891 by Czech inventor and pioneer of electrification, František Křížík; he then operated it as a private entrepreneur until 1900. Today in front of the chateau, you'll find a very popular beer garden with an incredible view of the city centre and the Vltava River.

🚶▶ *Letná Park* ▶

**6 Metronome** The gigantic Metronome occupies a symbolic spot on the map of Prague. It was directly on this spot that a gigantic monument to Joseph Stalin overlooked the city. It was demolished by dynamite in 1962, many years after his death. The

seven-ton Metronome was installed in 1991 and was meant to be a symbol of the new era. The area surrounding it is now a paradise for skateboarders.



Metronom

🚶 ➤ [down to nábřeží E. Beneše Riverbank](#) ➤ [Čechův Bridge](#) ➤ [Dvořákovo nábřeží/Riverbank](#) ➤

**7 Intercontinental and President Hotels** Both hotels are examples of the local variety of Brutalist architecture. The Intercontinental's Presidential Suite, measuring 154 sqm, with a panoramic view and own sauna, used to be by far the most luxurious place to stay in Prague. The most famous person to grace it with their presence was Michael Jackson during the 1990s. From the suite, he had a perfect view of the larger-than-life-sized statue of himself which was temporarily installed on the Metronome's pedestal.

🚶 ➤ [Dušní St.](#) ➤ [Church of Sts. Simon and Jude](#)  
➤ [U Milosrdných St.](#)

**8 The Church of Sts. Simon and Jude** is proud of its rich musical tradition, including visits by another two musical celebrities – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Joseph Haydn. The church has remained true to its musical roots and is today used as a concert venue.

**9 U Milosrdných St.** leads around the oldest wing of the hospital and monastery of the Brothers of Charity, who have run the hospital since 1620. In 1847, the first operation performed under anesthesia in the entire Austro-Hungarian Empire took place here.



Church of Sts. Simon and Jude

Another building on the riverfront is the Na Františku city hospital. It was founded here around 1360 and has been in continuous operation since that time. It's one of the oldest medical facilities in central Europe.

🚶 ➤ [Kozí St.](#) ➤ ["Kozí plácek" \("Goat Green"\)](#) ➤ [U Obecního dvora St.](#)  
➤ [Ve Stínadlech Lane](#)

**10 U Obecního dvora St.** Over the course of its existence, the Obecní dvůr (Municipal Yard) has served a number of functions, primarily business-related. The first recorded use was to stable horses and carriages, and later served as a royal firehouse. The House of the Censors (No. 798/5) was the actual location of the censors' offices in the 19th century. House no. 799/7 was occupied by the famous dynasty of Czech painters, the Mánes family. Antonín Mánes, founder of the Czech landscape school, had his studio in the next-door House of the Censors.

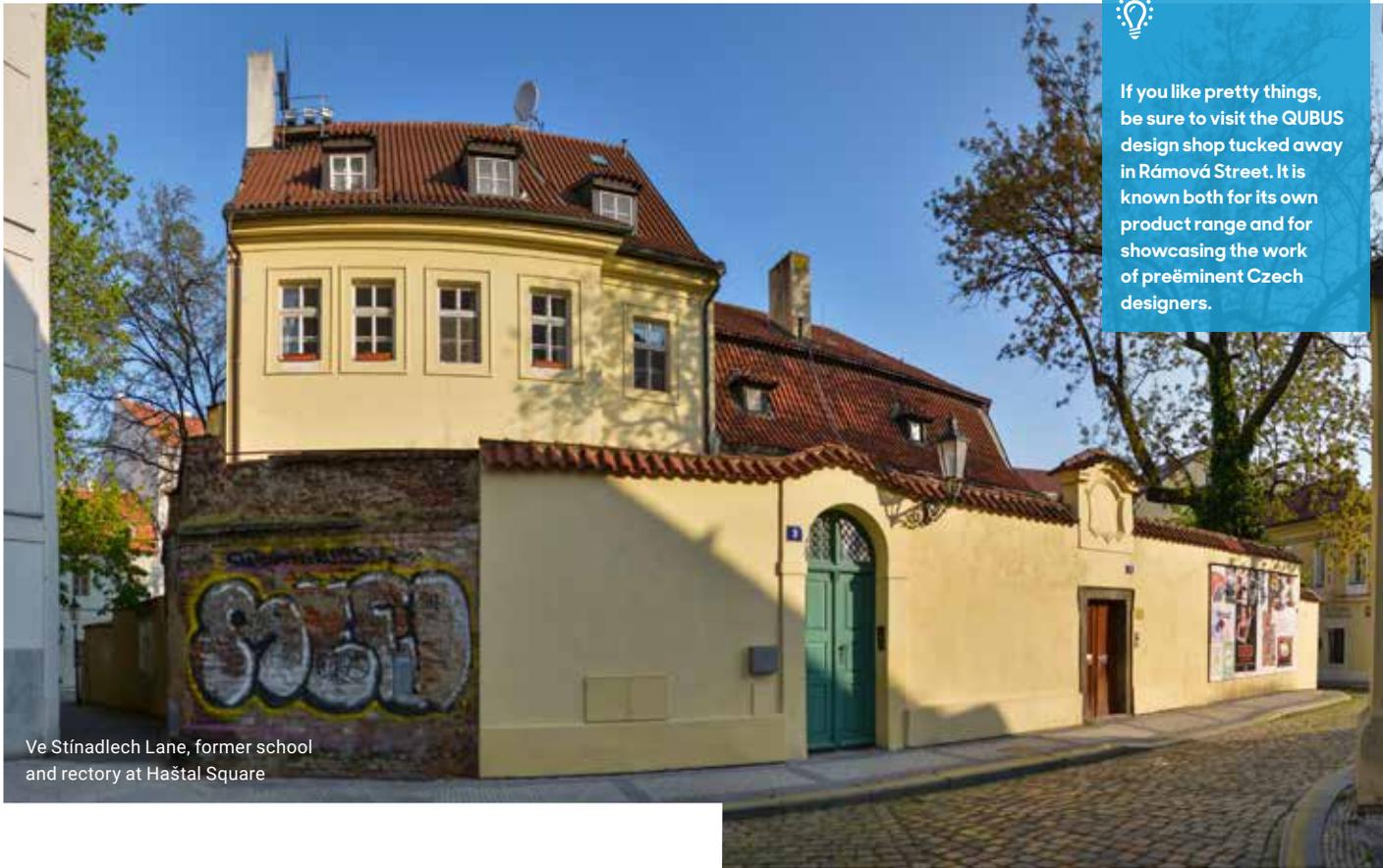
**11 Ve Stínadlech Lane** On the right, directly across from the Municipal Yard, walk through Ve Stínadlech Lane. Its modern name refers to the title of a novel by Jaroslav Foglar, popular Czech author of children's adventure books, who set many of his stories in this neighbourhood of mysterious old houses and shadowy nooks.

🚶 ➤ [Haštalské náměstí \(Haštal Square\)](#) ➤ [Church of St. Haštal](#)  
➤ [school and rectory](#) ➤ [ossuary](#) ➤ [old hospital](#)

**12 The Church of St. Haštal** (Castulus), founded in the late 12th century, is the only church dedicated to this saint in the country.



If you like pretty things, be sure to visit the QUBUS design shop tucked away in Rámová Street. It is known both for its own product range and for showcasing the work of preëminent Czech designers.



Ve Stínadlech Lane, former school and rectory at Haštal Square

**13 School and rectory** Since its founding, it also had a school and a rectory with a garden, surrounded by massive walls – today the building is used by various religious groups and organizations.

**14 Ossuary** There used to be a cemetery around the church, its presence marked by a cross in the mosaic pavement; even today the former ossuary with a painted tombstone on the wall still stands.

**15 Old hospital** At the corner of Řásnovka Street stands an unusual rounded corner building – the former hospital of the Knights of the Cross with the Red Star, the only originally Bohemian order and the only men's order founded by a woman, princess Agnes of Bohemia. The original building was demolished in 1965 and replaced with a new building that stands on the original hospital foundations and copies its ground plan.

**💬 This entire area was a neighbourhood of the poorest Praguers, full of narrow streets with crooked houses and appalling sanitary conditions. Most of this district was demolished during the urban redevelopment that took place in the late 19th century.**

🚶 ➤ Řásnovka St. ➤

**16 Řásnovka St.** was originally named Schneck Street, after the manufacturer of popular playing cards. As the word Schneck is German for snail, irreverent Praguers kept referring to this street using various words for snails and slugs, until officials intervened and gave it its final official name, after the lord of Řásnov, owner of one of the buildings. In the olden days, the lane was also called At the Kings of the Cesspits, referring to the modest dwellings of poor labourers, knackers (those authorized to remove and dispose of carcasses), and even executioners who lived here.

🚶 ➤ Klášterská St. ➤

**17 Ministry of Industry and Trade** The impressive ministry building, by architect Josef Fanta, was finished in 1934 with a record-high budget. It's no wonder: the building's façade alone features over 120 sculptures, plus a large number of other decorative elements that emphasize the overall imposing design.



The most distinctive feature of this grand structure is its rooftop glass dome. Its beauty is best appreciated after sunset – it remains illuminated through the night.

💬 One of Josef Fanta's other memorable designs was for the entrance hall and beautiful Art Nouveau café at Prague's Main Train Station.

🚶 Na Františku St. **18** [Zahrada za svatyněmi \(Garden Behind the Churches\)](#) **19** [Zahrada při severní bráně \(North Gate Garden\)](#) **20** [Klášter sv. Anežky České \(Convent of St. Agnes of Bohemia\)](#) **X**

**18** [Zahrada za svatyněmi \(Garden Behind the Churches\)](#) The gardens of the St. Agnes Convent underwent an extensive renovation in 2016. The Garden Behind the Churches is now accessible via two new garden gates; and **19** [Zahrada při severní bráně \(North Gate Garden\)](#) through a large Baroque gate from the riverbank side. The formerly inaccessible gardens are now home to two dozen works of contemporary sculpture by leading Czech artists.

**20** [Klášter sv. Anežky České \(Convent of St. Agnes of Bohemia\)](#) The convent, one of the oldest and most important Gothic buildings in Prague, bears the name of its founder,

the Přemyslid princess St. Agnes (1211–1282). During her lifetime, she built an extensive and artistically richly decorated convent with a royal burial ground, her own tomb, and several churches. When the convent was closed at the end of the 18th century, it was already threatened with demolition because of its severely dilapidated condition. Thankfully this never took place. On the contrary – it was declared a national cultural monument and underwent gradual renovation during the 20th century. In the 1980s, the complex was opened to the public and adapted to house the National Gallery's collection of medieval art (highly recommended – this unique exhibition is often unjustly overlooked, probably due to its location off the beaten tourist path).

- i** Visitors can stroll through the gardens and take a self-guided tour of the ground floor of the convent free of charge. There's also a version of the tour for kids.
- i** Although the convent gardens are open year-round, they may close in inclement weather. Should the complex not be accessible via the garden gates, head from Na Františku St. to Kozí St. and U Milosrdných St. – the narrow Agnes St. then leads to the main entrance to the complex.



Trade Fair Palace



National Technical Museum, National Agriculture Museum



Letná Chateau



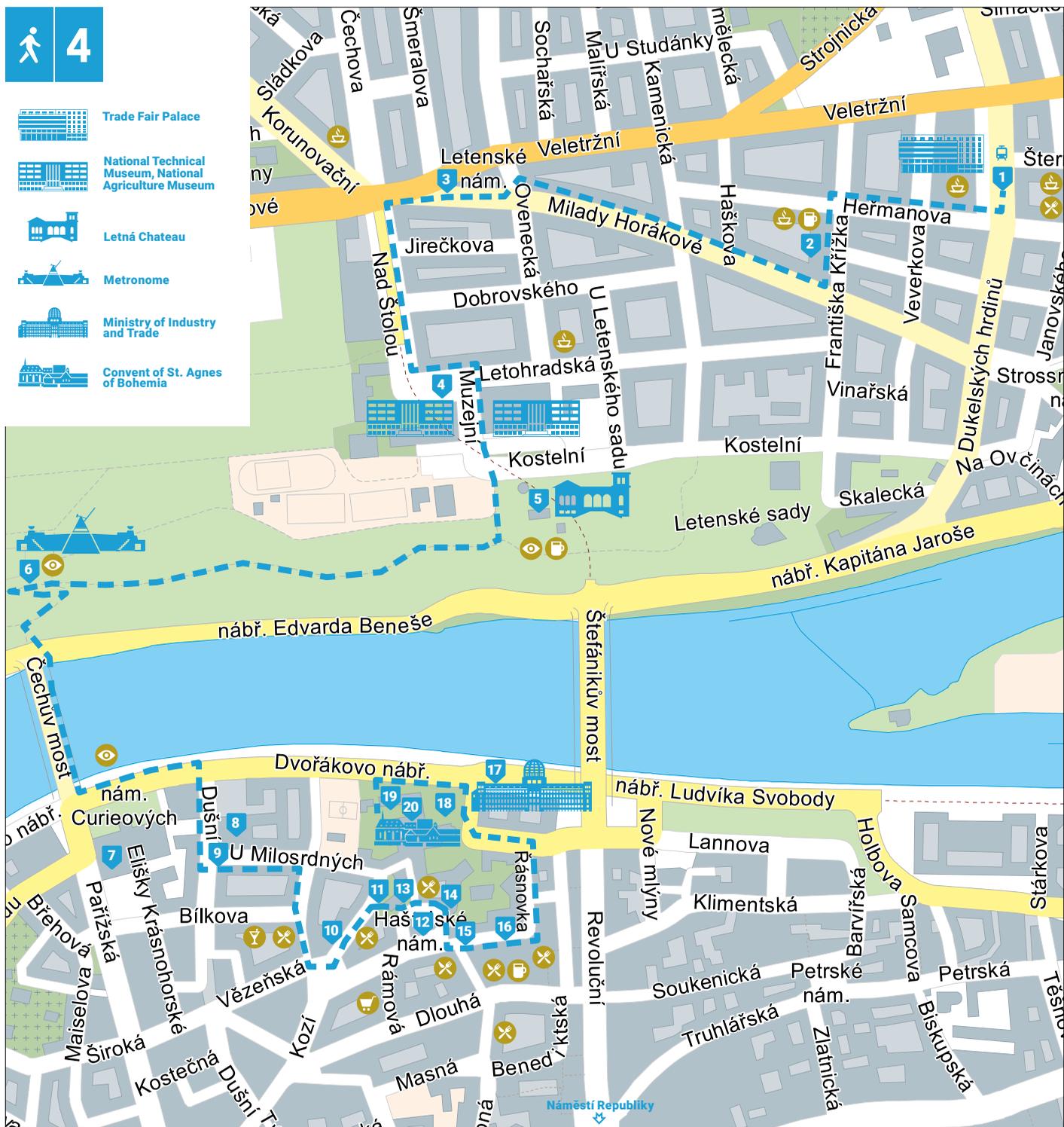
Metronome



Ministry of Industry and Trade



Convent of St. Agnes of Bohemia



 | 5


# Střešovice and Dejvice

## From Dreamy Villas to Socialist Skyscrapers

6  
km

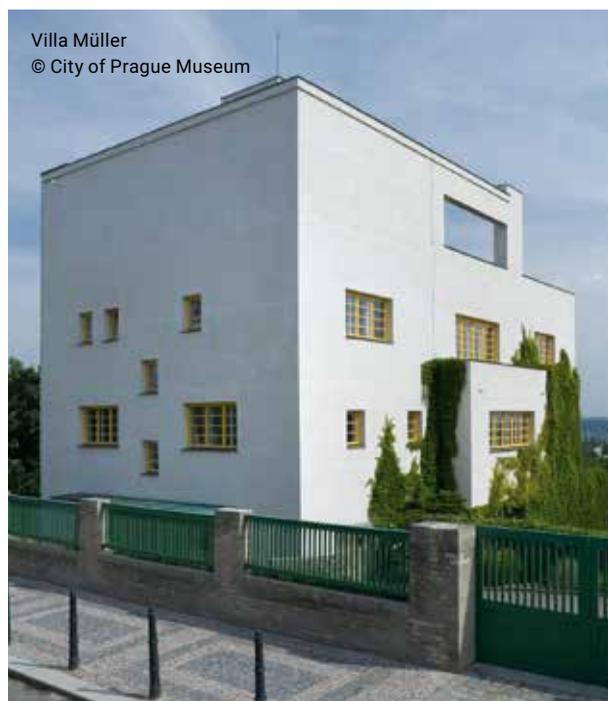
An extraordinary experience full of contrasts awaits you. Střešovice and Dejvice both feature some captivating architecture, especially if you're fond of imaginative 20th century buildings. Many artists settled in the Střešovice villa district. Painters and sculptors had their studios here, but even wealthy businessmen built their family homes here. The peaceful atmosphere of the leafy residential district can be felt to this day. Dejvice, on the other hand, is completely different. It was established in the capital of the new Czechoslovak state as a luxury residential district based on a comprehensive modern urban plan. Monumental buildings went up around the central Vítězné náměstí (Victory Square), most of which still stand today. The Dejvice area has always been rather prominent; today it's also known as a centre of student life.

## Route Description

1 **Ořechovka** 🚶 ➔ stairs to Villa Müller

2 **Villa Müller** No fan of modern architecture should miss Villa Müller, an iconic work by architect Adolf Loos from 1928 – 1930. At first glance, the villa intrigues with its severe exterior that conceals a fascinating, complex interior space. Inside, individual floors and spaces flow into one another in the dynamic spirit of Loos' "Raumplan" philosophy. Loos created a unique, luxurious, and timeless home which you can tour, including its original furnishings and equipment.

⚠️ Tours of the villa are available only with a guide and by prior reservation at [www.mullerovavila.cz](http://www.mullerovavila.cz)



Villa Müller  
© City of Prague Museum

🚶 ➔ **Nad Hradním vodojemem St.** ➔ **Pod Kostelem St.** ➔ **Sibeliova St.** ➔

3 **Church of St. Norbert** Overlooking Sibeliova St. is the Church of St. Norbert, a Neo-Romanesque three-aisled basilica from the late 19th century. During this time, the district of Střešovice became independent from the Strahov Premonstratensians; however, the church retained its link to the founder of the Premonstratensian order and church patron, St. Norbert.



Church of St. Norbert

4 **Sokol building** on the left side of Sibeliova St. is a former centre of social life.

5 **Functionalist Evangelical church** is situated at náměstí Před Bateriemi/Square.

i If you continue straight up U Páté baterie St., you'll come to another interesting building – Villa Rothmayer.

6 **Villa Rothmayer** The two-story villa of renowned Czech architect Otto Rothmayer and his wife Božena, a textile artist and designer, is an example of finely detailed architecture inspired by cubes and cylinders.

🚶 ➔ **náměstí Před Bateriemi** ➔ **U Šesté baterie St.** ➔ **Pod Bateriemi St.** ➔ **Nad Hradním vodojemem St.** ➔

7 **Střešovice belfry** Next to the steps leading to Střešovice St. stands the Střešovice belfry, built at the end of the 19th century, a remnant of old Střešovice.

🚶 ➔ **Střešovická St.** ➔ **Na Pěkné vyhlídce St.** ➔ **Na Dračkách St.** ➔

8 **Václav Špála Villa** About halfway down Na Dračkách St., at number 5, noted Czech painter and graphic artist Václav Špála built a villa and studio. The house was designed by architect Otakar Novotný, who specialized in red-brick, Dutch-type architecture.



Lomená Street

🚶‍♂️ ▶ Pod Vyhlídkou St. ▶ Cukrovarnická St. ▶ Lomená St. ▶ Na Ořechovce St. ▶

**9 Bohumil Kafka Villa** The walled villa of Bohumil Kafka, one of the most important Czech sculptors, is of special interest for its glass extension, where the artist had his studio. Architect Pavel Janák used austere red brick for the exterior, which he enlivened with decorative lintels, cornices, and small geometric elements.

🚶‍♂️ ▶ Západní St. ▶

**10 Jaroslav Vondrák Villa** Architect Jaroslav Vondrák designed and built his own villa, which dominates the western side of Macharovo Square, in the national Rondo-Cubist style, typical for Czechoslovak architecture of the 1920s. The style is easily recog-

nizable because of its use of the contrasting forms of cylinders and cubes. Vondrák designed a number of other buildings in Ořechovka, including the nearby Central Building and the Ořechovka cinema.

🚶‍♂️ ▶ Na Ořechovce St. ▶

**11 Ústřední budova Ořechovka (Ořechovka Central Building)** The Ořechovka neighbourhood was planned as a homogenous residential area in the style of an English "garden city". The focal point of the central square was a building by the aforementioned architect Vondrák that housed the shopping and social facilities for the area. It included a large theatre and dance hall, cinema, restaurants and a café. The building, in dire need of renovation, is notable for its Art Nouveau and Cubist-influenced architecture.

♿ ▶ [Spojená St.](#) ▶

**12 Dělostřelecká St.** and Klidná St. together create a small neighbourhood of standardized houses built in Rondo-Cubist style. This “national style” replaced the sharp edges of Cubism after the foundation of the new Czechoslovak republic. Its roundness and colours call to mind traditional Slavic motifs.

♿ ▶ [Dělostřelecká St.](#) ▶ [Špálova St.](#) ▶ [Na Ořechovce St.](#) ▶

**13 U Laboratoře St.** The complex of buildings that you’ll find on U Laboratoře St. is the former Sugar Research Institute, built in 1920 in the most fashionable style of the time, Art Deco. It’s now the seat of the Czech Academy of Sciences Institute of Physics.

♿ ▶ [Cukrovarnická St.](#) ▶

**14 Muzeum městské hromadné dopravy (Public Transport Museum)** You’ll find some truly unique items on display at the Public Transport Museum. The oldest tram vehicle here is a horse-drawn tram. Many of the exhibits are connected with the brilliant Czech inventor and pioneer of electrification František Křižík.



The library’s interior is worth a look, with an added bonus in the form of a café. Stop here for a cup of quality coffee, great local beer, and a snack or light lunch.

♿ ▶ [Patočkova St.](#) ▶ [Pevnostní St.](#) ▶ [Pod Hradbami St.](#) ▶

**15 Traub Villa** The villa of industrialist Edmund Traub is a rare example of German Modernism in Prague – its foundation is a reinforced concrete structure and the villa itself features interesting stone siding. It was completed in 1929.

♿ ▶ [Dělostřelecká St.](#) ▶

**16 Villa at Dělostřelecká St. No. 1** At one time, the villa at this address was the most important in Prague – President Václav Havel lived here with his first wife Olga from 1995. The second First Lady, Dagmar Havlová, also lived in the “presidential villa” for a while.

♿ ▶ [Pod Hradbami St.](#) ▶ [Svatovítská St.](#) ▶

**17 Vítězné náměstí/Square** The focal point of Dejvice, Vítězné Square has always been known by its nickname – Kulaťák (“Roundie”) – but its official name has changed many times. The square, designed by Antonín Engel, was not built entirely to plan, but even so, it has a monumental effect. Some of the buildings belong to the military staff of the Czech Army, including a monument to the Czechoslovak soldiers of World War II. Space was reserved on the square for the campus of the Czech Technical University, whose gradual construction took place after 1960. The last building, however, was completed only recently.

National Technical Library





Originally, the tower's tip was crowned by the Communist symbol – a five-pointed star made of ruby glass. An ingenious telescoping mechanism enabled the top part of the tower to be lowered inside and the star to be cleaned discreetly – usually at night, so its absence wouldn't prompt speculations. Later on, the red star was replaced by a green one. These days, however, the tower's tip is left unadorned.



Hotel International  
© Libor Sváček

[Zikova St.](#)

**18 Kostel sv. Vojtěcha (Church of St. Adalbert)** in Dejvice is a focal point of an extensive complex that is the seat of the Charles University Catholic Theological Faculty. The main entrance to a spacious three-aisled basilica with a distinctive dome and two towers is located on Kolejní Street. The church's space served in the past as a recording studio as well as a meeting hall for political discussions. After the Velvet Revolution, the building was returned to the church and serves its original purpose once again.

[Studentská St.](#)

**19 Národní technická knihovna (National Technical Library)** is one of the newest buildings in Prague. It was built as part of the Czech Technical University campus and has a number of special features. A group of young architects headed by Roman Brychta designed a building shaped like a rounded square measuring 70 x 70 meters, with surroundings adapted for study as well as relaxation. The modern, playful interior is decorated with hundreds of comics-style drawings by Romanian artist Dan Perjovschi.

[Flemingovo náměstí \(Fleming Square\)](#) [Nikoly Tesly St.](#)

**20 Nikola Tesla monument** The post-modern bronze monument to Nikola Tesla is a tribute to this genius scientist, physicist, and inventor who studied in Prague for one semester. The statue portrays an electrical discharge.

[Jugoslávských partyzánů St.](#) [Zelená](#)

**21 The hotel International** is a building on a grand scale, the likes of which are found nowhere else in the country. It was built in the 1950s in Soviet Social Realist style. The construction of the hotel was closely connected with the ruling Communist party and the former military leaders. It was originally intended to serve as a private luxury hotel for Soviet advisors and prominent military officers. During its construction, it was determined that neither the army nor the delegations would ever use so much accommodation space, and the building became “just” a luxury hotel. Despite its clear references to its Moscow influence, the central tower is also reminiscent of the style's original inspiration, the American skyscraper.



Hotel International



National  
Technical Library



Public Transport  
Museum



Villa Müller



Villa Rothmayer





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