

What to do in Prague

Stuff everybody knows
but nobody tells you

when it's October

2023

A Splendor of Light & Colors

October Prague is a peak experience on the intersection of natural wonder and human ornament.

You have the privilege to behold the masterpieces of gothic, baroque and modern architecture in a fleeting reverse-bloom of nature's bounty.

Of the four seasons to enjoy and/or despise here, fall unquestionably paints with the brightest brush. As the sun slowly fades and temperatures inexorably drop, the wooded hills of the city erupt in leafy flames of orange and scarlet. It's the time of long social evenings and wistful walks, bidding farewell to the last warm days.

„Říjen” - ”October”

How many months named after the mating calls of wild animals does a calendar really need? Two is correct answer around these parts. At least the connection with „říje” (”rut”) is a lot clearer, this time. Must have been quite the social event, back then...

„Divoké husy na odletu - konec i babímu létu.”
"The granny summer parts as the wild geese leave."

Weather

...or not

*Passing leaves wink back at sun
evening air takes frosty bite
summer's tomb is sealed and done
as the last birds take their flight*

October lies on the bright side of fall, offering the last handful of fleeting opportunities to soak in a **bit of sunshine**, before the glum grey clouds set in. The azure days will be few and far between, but are well worth your effort if you can grasp them for a little outing in the parks and woods.

On the other cheek of the month are the **cold & damp** rainy days, shivering right to your bone.

Dress pessimistically.

On average:



5-15°C
40-60°F



1-2 rainy days
per week

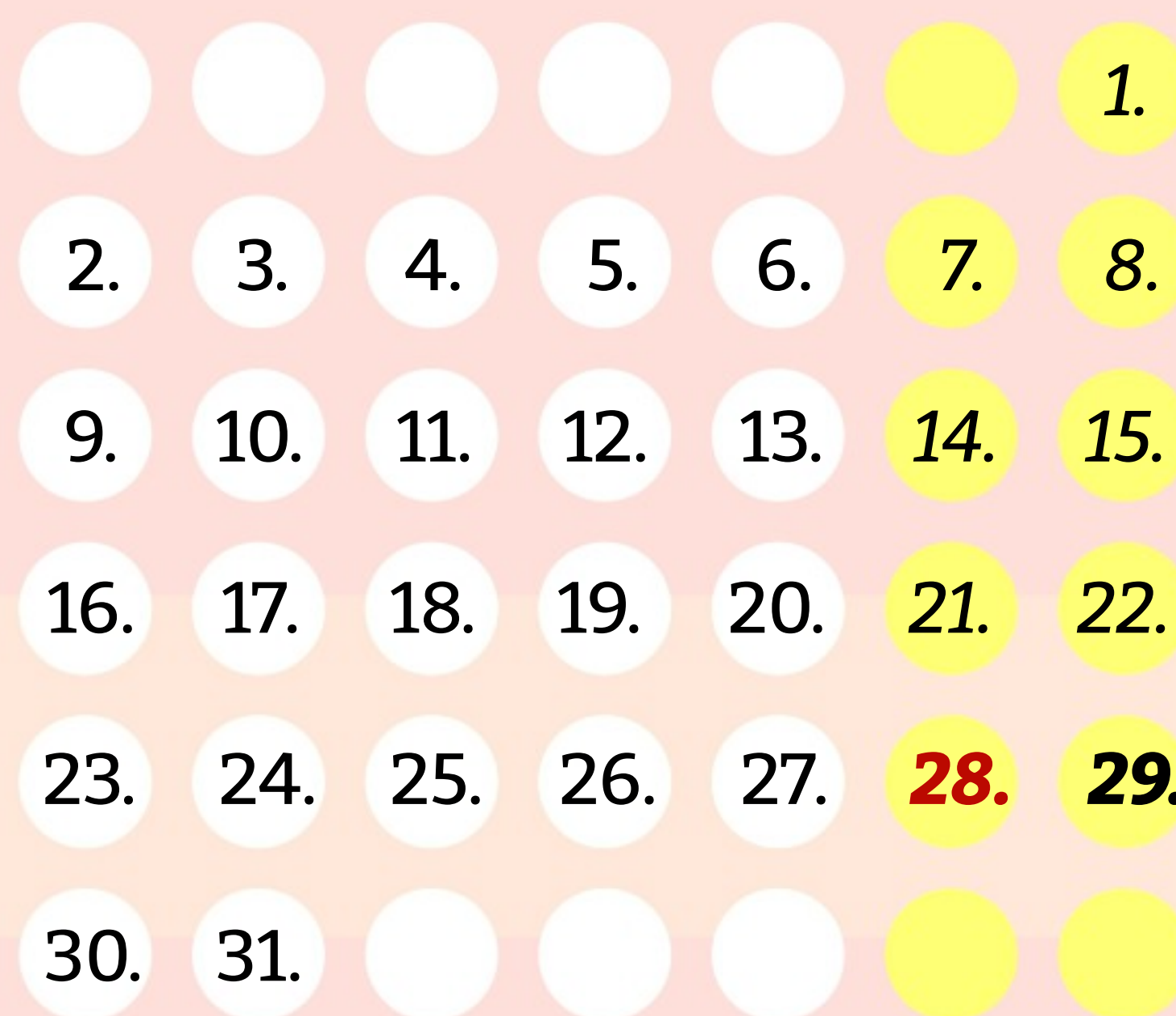


120 hours
of sunshine

Dawn: 7:00 → 7:50
Dusk: 18:40 → 17:40

Dates

of note



31 days total

22 workdays

8 weekends

1 market holiday

Saturday, 28th

Another **market holiday** when almost everything will be **shut down**, including **supermarkets** - so **shop ahead** or be consigned to the offerings of your nearby večerka (unaffected due to minimal floor-area exemption.)

Day of independent Czechoslovakia

On the **28th of October 1918**, an independent **Czechoslovak state** was declared, after roughly three centuries of Hapsburg/Austrian hegemony. **Slovaks** were taken on board to help a Slavic brother out from under the Hapsburg/Hungarian hegemony - and to achieve the illusion of a unified national majority.

The two nations - close but distinct, historically never having been a part of a single polity - were grafted together and presented to the international community as a singular unit, in a diplomatic ruse to obtain a stronger mandate for a unified independent post-war state.

Sunday, 29th

In recent years, after many debates among the public and politicians on the subject of abandoning the summer time upheavals, **Nothing Was Done.**

Shift to Winter Time

Remember that **hour they stole from you** in spring? Well now you're getting it back! During the very early hours of **the last Sunday**, 2:59 am will click to 2:00 am. (If you happen to be travelling by a train at the moment, it will actually stop for an hour. No joke.)

A shrine dedicated to the tradition of the national armed forces and the **Czechoslovak Legions** in particular. Commissioned in 1928 and completed (though not formally unveiled) by the newly independent state in **1933**, as a secular functionalist cathedral. After the communist coup in 1948, it was briefly used to warehouse **refrigerated politburo mummies**, Lenin-style, before the whole Cult of Personality theater became a little too tasteless even for the ruling communist party.

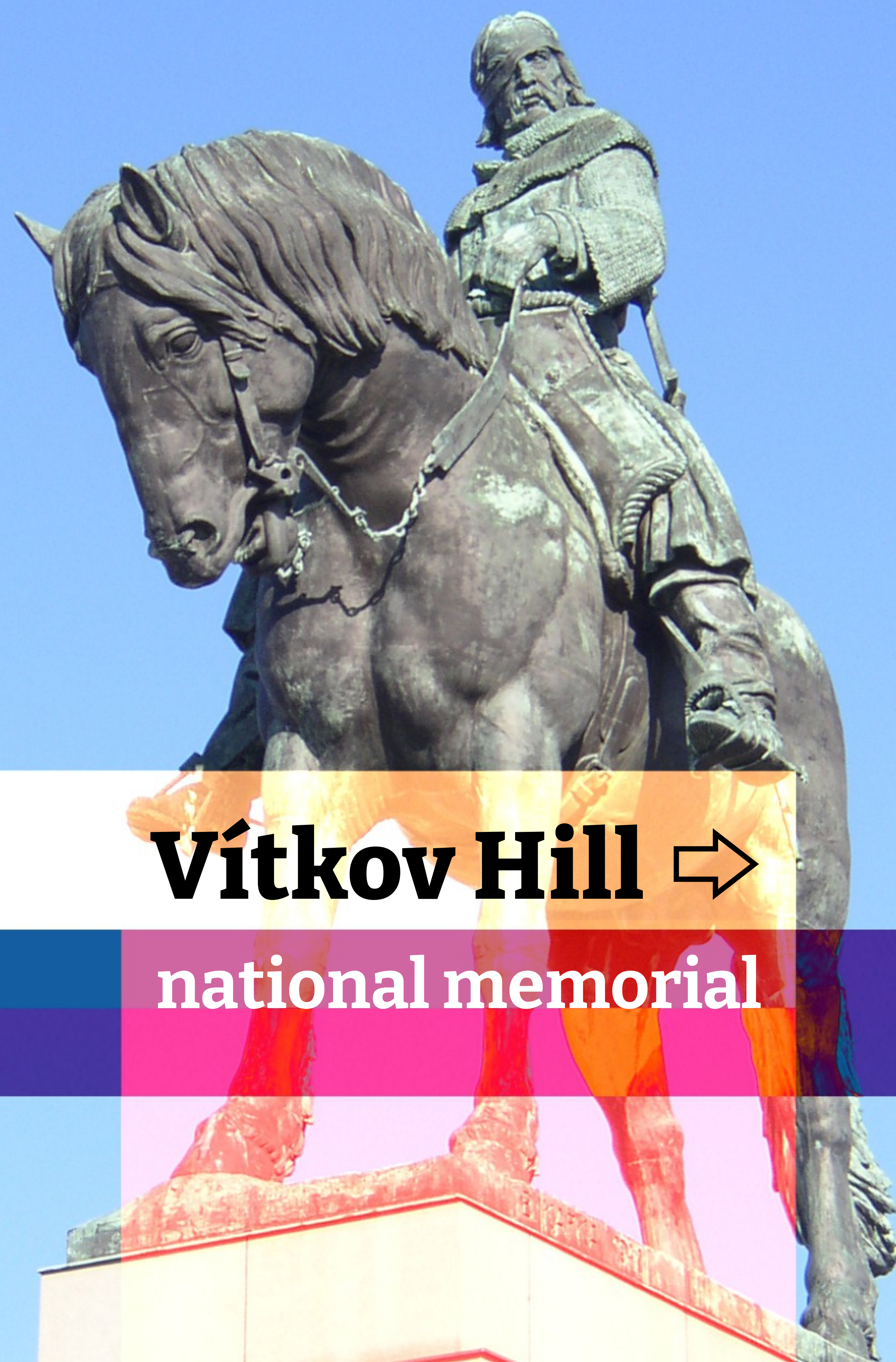
Shockingly, with St. Wenceslas and Žižka, the equestrian monuments of Prague are exhausted. Excluding David Černý's commentary on the dignity of monarchical rule at Lucerna Palace, all other human statues in the city are relegated to sitting or standing on their own two feet.

The statue of the famed **Hussite general**, located on the field of one of his early victories, was the **largest equestrian monument** in the world at the time of its completion.

Such bronzes are structurally complicated, as the accumulated mass of the rider cannot be directly supported from below. Hence the horse standing on all four legs, instead of striking some dramatic pose.

Monument *of the month*

Original photo by Miaow Miaow



Vítkov Hill ➔

national memorial

Jan Žižka

by sculptor Bohumil Kafka
designed 1941, completed 1950

The Czechoslovak Legions

French, Italian & Russian front 1914-1920

About 15.000, 10.000 and 50.000 men respectively, of various origins, from dissidents to POWs.



Units of Czech and Slovak **volunteers**, fighting for future independence of their nation alongside the Entente armies **against Austria-Hungary** and Germany. Distinguishing themselves at the **battles of Zborov** or Isonzo, the Legions provided key **diplomatic leverage** to the Czechoslovak provisional government (and their members played a commensurately important role in the post-war administration of the republic).

After the October revolution, separate peace by Russia and a series of incidents resulting in open hostilities with the Bolsheviks, the Legions **fought their way across the entire length of Siberia** to Vladivostok, to be successfully evacuated by ship convoys via the Pacific, literally circumnavigating the globe to ultimately return home, in a multi-year Odyssean feat of military logistics and human perseverance.

WHAT NOT TO MISS

Disney

Monday **16th** →

19:30 O2 Arena

The Mouse is celebrating its centenary and bringing you the best musical and visual snippets from its extensive catalogue.

50 Cent

Saturday **28th** →

19:00 O2 Arena

20 years later & supported by Busta Rhymes, Curtis Jackson III will show you how he Got Rich instead of Dying Trying.

Festival of Delicious Flavors

Food indeed
8th at the New Town Hall

Designblok 2023

Top local design & fashion event
4th-8th at multiple locations

Signal Fest 2023

Lightshows & videomappings
12th-15th at multiple locations



The tail end of this year's harvest and the last opportunity to get your hands on some fresh produce. Try the farmers' markets (before they morph into Christmas markets) and focus on apples, pears, late plums, beetroots, cabbages, celery and the deluge of squash and pumpkins. With some luck, you may encounter fresh raspberries and blackberries.

Flavors of the season

The adventurous option is to go after your own pickin's and scour some of the old overgrown orchards of the city for free juicy fruits, waiting to be plucked by the first taker.

For reals. Any fruit tree is fair game as long as it's planted on publicly accessible, **non-fenced-off, non-park** property.

Strudel

„Štrůdl”

Taste of the Hapsburg legacy. A fluffy layered pastry, usually filled with apples and raisins in the classic sweet version (or spinach in the less common, savory variant). Enjoy with your Viennese coffee and a solid dollop of whipped cream.

 PRAGate

Free guided tour

Saturday, 14 October

ÚJEZD - PETŘÍN - MALÁ STRANA

Join us at Újezd at 15:00 

Where Újezd and Vítězná streets meet. Expected duration 2.5 h

Or come later to

An expat meetup

Sameday, 18:30

at Art-n-Coffee 

Na Příkopě 24 - Jindřišská or Náměstí Republiky stops

FOR DRINKS AND CHIT-CHAT,
A BRIEF TALK ABOUT BOHEMIA
& RUMORS OF OPPORTUNITIES

Beyond the city limits



Karlštejn

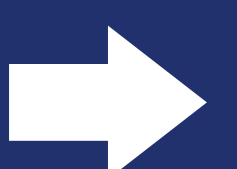
Original photo by Tony Nojmansk

Founded by Charles IV, the father-Emperor of Bohemia in the 1340s as a resting place for holy relics (of which he was an avid collector). The castle offers an authentic core of gothic art and architecture, under a slightly less authentic and more romanticized exterior.

TRAIN: PRG Main Station - Karlštejn, 40 min running roughly every hour or so

The castle itself (open from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm) is kind of optional and may well serve as a mere photogenic excuse for a scenic walk through woods and paths along the Berounka river.

Webpage



Silver of the Bohemian Screen

1973, 87 minutes

A Night at Karlštejn

Noc na Karlštejně



directed by **Zdeněk Podskalský sr.**

music by **Karel Svoboda**

produced by **Barrandov Studios**

Based on a 19th century play and shot on the very location, the Czech musical answer to Logan&Loewe's Camelot rides its own line between fact and fiction, inspired by the legend of a prohibition on the presence of women at the castle.

The plot draws on commedia dell'arte, with two pairs of lovers scheming to defy the ban towards their own ends, while a duo of vecchi sing accompanying bangers from the side. A rare film depiction of the extremely accomplished and nationally popular king Charles IV.

As with other Czech films belonging to the pantheon of unassailable national classics, you will be hard-pressed to find a person over the age of 20 who hasn't seen it at least once during its regular re-runs, to say nothing of the independent popularity of the (indeed catchy) songs. The cast is stellar and you will encounter every actor in many other works.

A hidden gem

A faux-Chinese pavilion?

A fake romantic ruin of a lookout tower?

A decorative pseudo-gothic hermitage?

A broad selection of mythological statuary?

Rare and ancient trees in full autumnal colors?

This unassuming oasis has it all.

50.0647222N 14.3557989E

Cibulka park

lit. "Little Onion"; named after a nearby homestead

TRAM stop: Poštovka
trams 9, 10, 15, 16

Suggested route →

Pragueticals

Traffic rules keeping **pedestrians** from turning into chalk silhouettes are fairly simple here: If there is a designated crossing within 50 meters, you are obligated to use it. Heed the light signals (if any) and only enter if it won't force approaching vehicles to suddenly stop or change direction. And keep in mind that **trams always go first**.

Breach might result in a police fine or, worse, liability in case of an accident. That said, enforcement is fairly lax unless you cause actual trouble or start randomly darting over a freeway.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

112 General emergency

150 Fire fighters

155 Ambulance

158 Police

Obviously, **do not misuse** or prank-call. (You will be traced.) But otherwise, in cases of **real emergencies** (violence or threat thereof, major injury, sudden loss of consciousness, fire, explosion, gas leak or threat of such events, theft and other criminal activity), **don't hesitate**. 112 should be able to help you out in English. The Czech System is built by and for the benefit of local residents. It's truly there to protect and serve, 99%.

Critical junction:

➔ 50.0898997N
14.4393256E **Florenc**

A crossing of the yellow B and red C Metro lines would already constitute a major hub, but the presence of the intercity bus central elevates this complex multi-level, multi-transport station to one of the most important transit spots in the city. Currently under partial renovation.

App of the month:

mapy.cz ➔

What if Google Maps also had local knowledge and context?

A software child of Seznam.cz, one of the few surviving OG web portals that has managed to maintain its relevancy in the world of Google to this day. Meticulous, detailed and up-to-date. Global know-how + local attention.

Curious about
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finger on the pulse

