

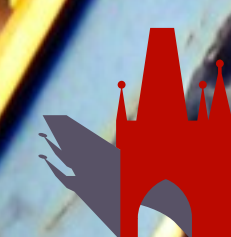
What to do in Prague

*when the year
is young?*

Stuff everybody knows
but nobody tells you

'24

Original photo by Andrea Piacquadio



PRAGate.cz

First A painful shock

A loser with a demonic plan

**His own father, a random man
and a two-month baby murdered
13 further victims at the school
25 more injured**

**Everyone's sense of safety gone
Legacy media boosting the killer
and running in circles
Social media endangering people
on scene with live photos
Loons already bending reality to
sell their pet conspiracies**

*"It is my idea that the history is a wheel.
'Rise up on my spokes if you will' says the wheel
'but do not complain when you get cast back into
the depths!' Mutability is our tragedy – but it is
also our hope. The best of times, like the worst,
are always passing away. – Boethius, On the
Consolation of Philosophy, A.Partridge abr. ed.*

*The winter suddenly got a lot darker
when a murderous nihilist emerged
from the abyss of Psyché...*

*Not without precedent. 50 years
ago, a similarly deranged woman
with a burning desire to harm
others plowed her truck into the
Strossmayerovo náměstí stop
full of people, killing eight.*

*It's a human lightning strike,
a societal tornado, a psychological
meteor crater. An ever-present
threat lurking in the depths of our
collective soul. It will hurt, it will
scar, but it will pass. Life needs to be
lived on, through all reminders of
our mortality.*

Sun will rise again in the new year.

Then A fresh beginning

„Leden”
January

With the Silvestr fireworks
and/or hangover still pounding
in your head, you turn a fresh leaf
on a fresh year.

The snow is pristine, the page is
all white, the canvass is empty –
and it's largely up to you how to
fill those next 366 of 2024.

The city, serenely as always,
enjoys the make-believe of a
blank slate, free from the tethers
of yesteryear, before the reality
of accumulated karma settles in
the mundanity of our mid 2020s.
But not yet! The time is Now and
we're living It anew!

The month of ice, „led.”

*Historically, before the Vltava
cascade works in the 1930s and
industrial-scale atmospheric
polution, rivers used to routinely
freeze over and bring about a new
landscape of temporary shortcuts.*

*Not long ago, the Lipno dam, on
high Vltava in south Bohemia, the
largest reservoir in the country,
used to be famous for cars crossing
late-winter ice to save on a 50 km
trip to the other side (with the last
attempt of the season routinely
taking a dive.)*

Dates of note

The first day of the new year is naturally a holiday, again one of those when everybody gets a day off – so you can't really go shopping and are forced to finish all the chlebíčky and tyčinky leftovers from the last night instead.

Additionally, it's the anniversary day of the independent Czech state, since its peaceful separation from Slovakia in 1993.



The **Three Kings** feast on the 6th marks an end to Christmas season and, traditionally, decorations.

The three biblical kings **Kašpar**, **Melichar** and **Baltazar** walk the streets, collecting alms for charity and marking the contributing houses in chalk with "K+M+B"

(There is an official, genuine organization in charge of this. Also scammers and immitators.)

The three kings' names are additionally a mnemonic for "(K)Christus mansionem benedicat", ie. "Christ bless this house."

31 days

22 work days

1 market holiday

With the release from the bonds of the disintegrating communist bloc, one more thing came apart: The unity of statehood between Czechs and Slovaks.

The impulse came primarily from the Slovakian side where, in the newly democratic conditions, the voices of national independence attained political control of the Slovakian federal state and led the nascent country on a graduating path of separation from the erstwhile Czechoslovak union.

This was formally achieved, by agreement, without bloodshed and with free choice of statehood for all citizens on the first day of 1993, when Slovakia became, for practically the first time in its history, a truly independent polity. Both countries have been getting along great ever since, though there are some notable differences in national character, with the Slovak perspective shaped more by the mountains in their heartland and historical opposition to Hungarian hegemony, with less direct German cultural influence.

The Velvet Divorce



January 1
1993

Unlike „Sametová revoluce” no unified native term has truly established itself. Mostly referred to simply as „Rozdělení.”/”Separation.”

Original photo by Matice Slovenská, CC

Weather *or not*

Usually slightly
above 0°C, with
some deviations

**Look at it this way:
It's only going to get better**

The coldest month. Nearly as dark as December, but without the sparkle of Christmas. Water and wind conspire to blow chills round your collar and down your spine, as the lights of trams reflect in the sloshy evening puddles.

The stretch between half-January and half-February usually brings the harshest of that year's winter. At extremes, -10°C/15°F is normal and -15/5 can happen, though temperatures are just as likely to never drop below freezing at all.

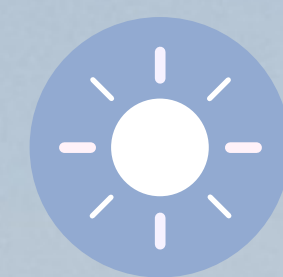
On average:



-2 to +2°C
25 to 35°F



1-2 days of rain
or snow per week



50 hours
of sunshine

Dawn: 8:00 → 7:30

Dusk: 16:00 → 17:00

The by-word for the proper kind of picturesque winter with three feet of snow is „Ladovská zima” after the famed images of the First Republic painter and illustrator, Josef Lada.

Flavors of the season

Game time

This is the right moment for the wild meat of the land: **Boars, deer, mouflon, pheasants, hares...** Responsibly culled and judiciously matured, the primordial, nutritious flavor of the **stew or steak** will properly fire up your metabolism and allow you to face the incline conditions outside.

In all the devouring, gluttonous butchery of humankind, a well-executed **hunt** stands as the least dirty method of obtaining locally-sourced animal protein. The man takes on the role of the wolf, the bear, the cat, hunting the **wild, free-living herds and flocks** and keeping the population in a natural equilibrium.

Be on the lookout for bouillons, stews and goulashes with the „**zvěřinový**” appellation.

How could you eat such precious creatures??

You mean that philosophically or are you asking for recipes?

Stolen from an internet meme



Medical miscommunication? We're here to help.

On-location interpretation services
for complete mutual understanding *when it really matters*



PRAGate.cz

WHAT NOT TO MISS

Andrea Bocelli

Sat. 13th, 19:00

O2 Arena

The famed Italian tenor returns to Prague, accompanied by the Czech National Symphonic Orchestra and a number of other prominent guests.

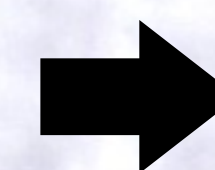


Scandi

17th - 24th

EDISONLINE

The 10th year of the Nordic film festival, offering screenings both in physical locations and online. Bleak dramas and quirky comedies from under the midnight sun.

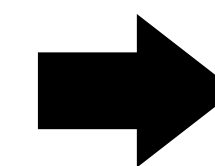


Original photo by Denis Poltoradnev

Balkan Bashavel

Balkan beats, gypsy, reggae

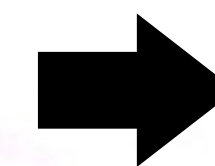
11th at Kulturní sportovna



Franck Vigroux: The Falls

Visual electronic opera

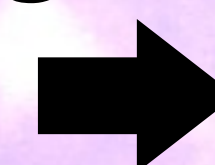
24th&25th at DOX



CO-EXTENSIVE

Exhibition on the ubiquity of images

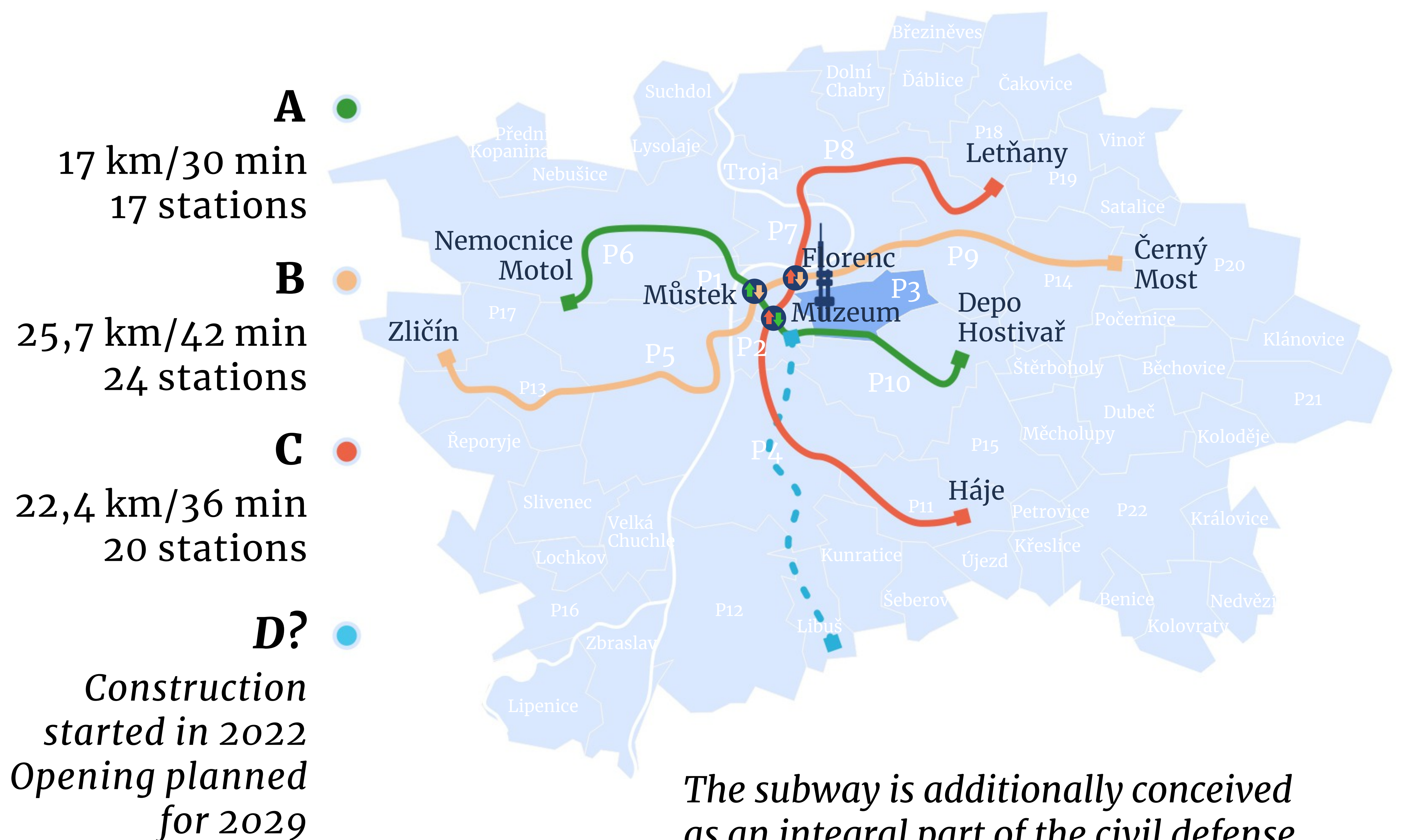
Until the 21st at Rudolfinum



Anatomy of Prague

METRO

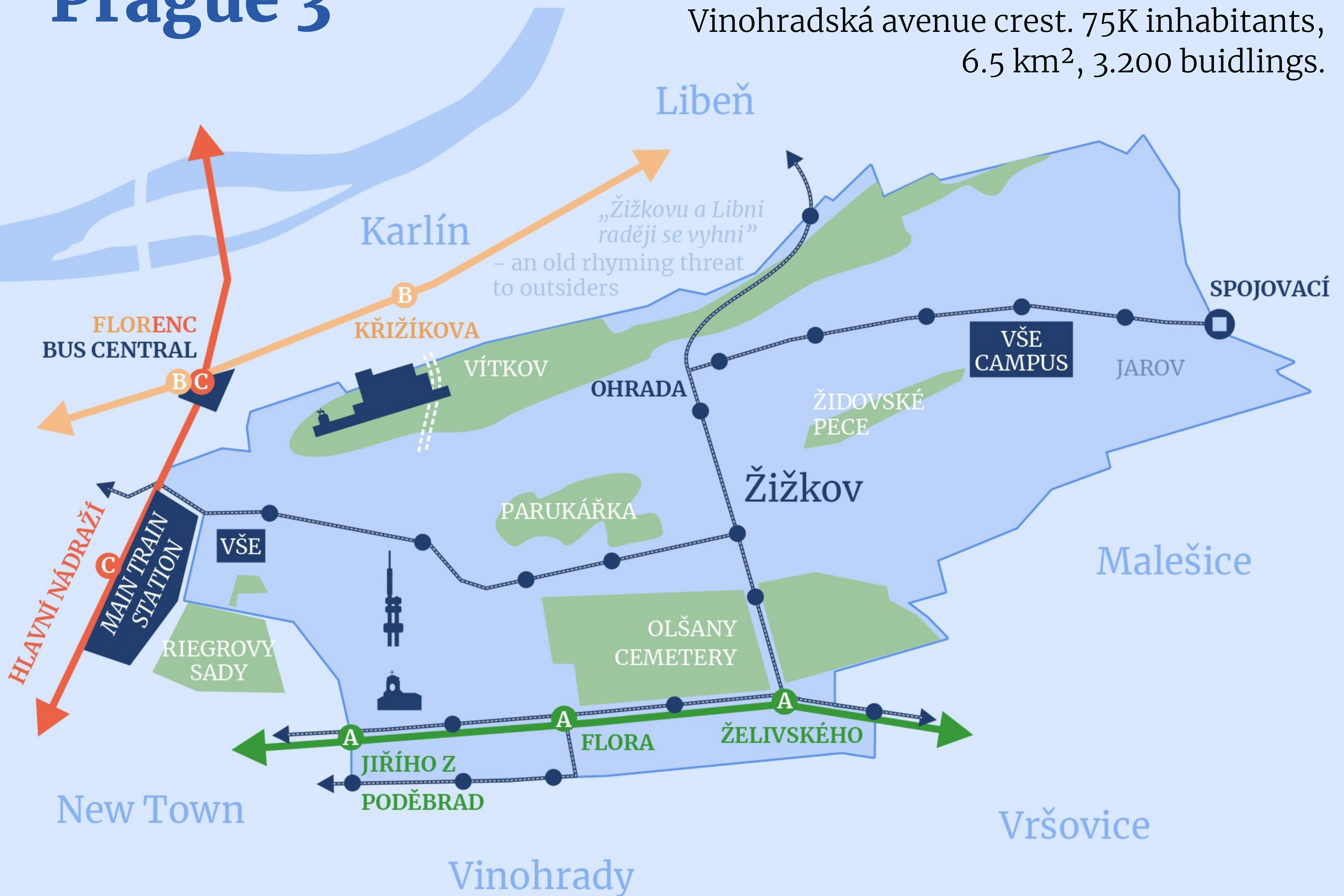
By the metric of rides/city inhabitants, it's among the most efficient transit systems on the planet, registering an average of up to 1.5 million daily passengers over a 1.3M population, carrying a 40–45% share of all public transport volume in Prague. First section of the system, C line from Florenc to Kačerov, started operation in May of 1974. Today, it consists of 65.2 km of tracks, with 61 stations and more extensions under construction.



The subway is additionally conceived as an integral part of the civil defense system, equipped to shelter Prague population in the event of a WMD attack or other such disaster.

Prague 3

The valley between the Vítkov hill and the Vinohradská avenue crest. 75K inhabitants, 6.5 km², 3.200 buidlings.



An independent town until 1922, the lower areas of Žižkov represented cheaper worker housing, compared to the uphill burgher opulence of Vinohrady, and long had reputation for seediness and crime, now partially hipsterified into artdom.

Extremely well connected by public transit, if you know where to jump on. Flora and JZP are the most common points, but don't underestimate the utility of Ohrada, with multiple trams and one bus ride away from all subways.

Expat experience Violeta Aguiló

from Spain 4 years in Prague

plans to return home, one day

instagram: [violetaguiloart](#)

visited and knew right away she'd eventually
want to live here

an international
HR consultant



**+ public transit, expat-friendliness,
opportunities, just-right size of city**

**- the winter cold and lack of sun,
not enough seafood**

"The beauty of local architecture inspired me to return to my childhood passion of drawing, while Prague life provided me the time, space and opportunity to both create and exhibit my works."

My merchandise is available at the townhall of Prague 3, my neighborhood."

"You won't regret giving Prague a try."

Monument of the month ➡

Žižkov TV Tower

50.0810406N, 14.4511250E

Prague's tallest man-made structure, at 216 meters, and the tallest publicly-accessible lookout tower in the country. A grey beacon literally launching digitalized human thought into space.

Constructed between 1985-1991 over the foundations of a mostly-uprooted historic Jewish cemetery (the tombstones of which were subsequently cut-up by the communist regime for cobblestones and used in parts of the Wenceslas square. What do you mean, "haunted"? according to the plans of the chief architect ~~Ivo Štandor~~ Václav Aulický.

The spaceship-like structure became fully operational in 1992 and has been supplying TV and radio signal for the entirety of Prague since.

Open daily from 9am to midnight

The complex contains an observation deck, two restaurants and even a hotel

Near JZP / Náměstí Jiřího z Poděbrad

Original photo Thomas Ledl, CC

What to do in Prague, January '24 by  PRAGate.cz

„Miminka”
”Babies” by
David Černý
added 2000

*You can see the
toddlers up-close
at Kampa.*



Žižkonomiecon I

from the project MegaPixelArt

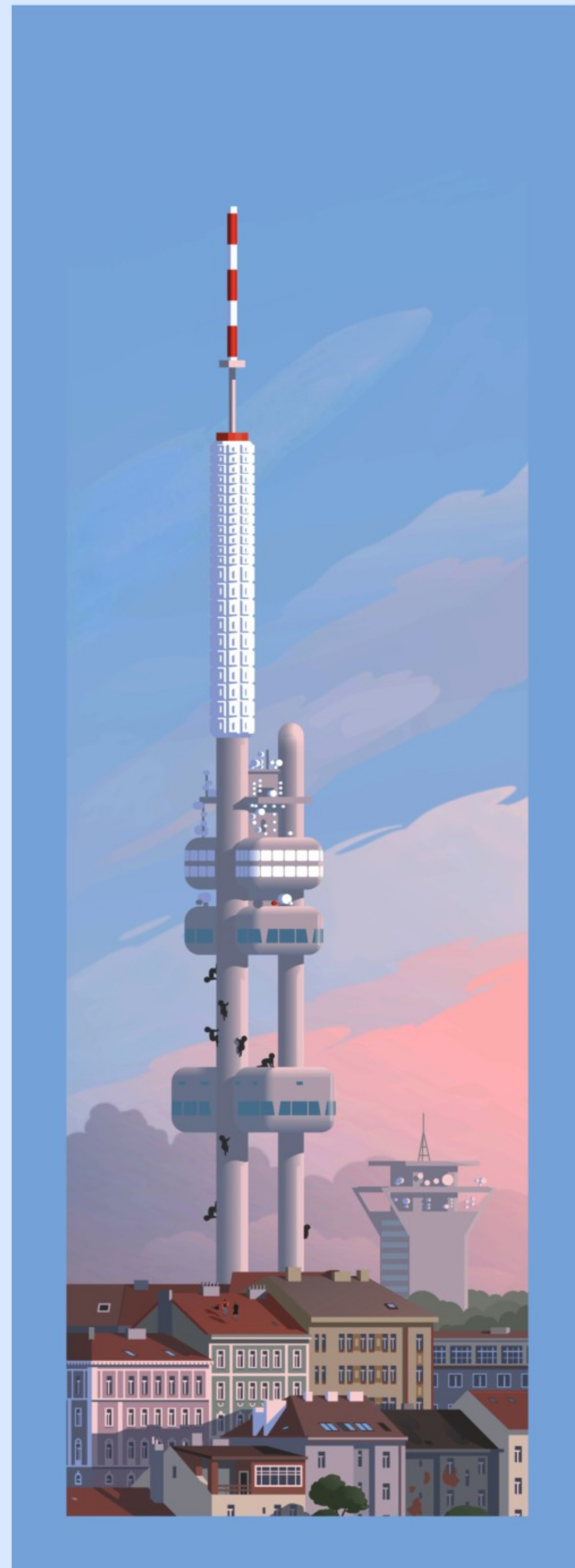
Author's shameless self-plug:

I have been so infatuated with the structure as to also spend a couple hundred hours painting it.

Particularly with the addition of the creepy David Černý babies, its unique aesthetic weirdness wedded to the robust industrial practicality of the whole project, together with the Žižkov surroundings and their grimy urban romanticism, embodies for me the true essence of KafkaPunk.

The prints are available either on a light composite board, ready-to-hang, or on paper, requiring further framing, but more easily transported.

Shipping available world-wide.



limited series of 111 prints
100x37 cm



40x20 cm



40x20 cm


Catalogue and orders ➡

Silver of the Bohemian Screen

„*Císařův pekař*” 80 min

Seeing the era of Rudolf II, double

Emperor's baker



Jan Werich in the
titular double-role,
with groundbreaking
practical effects,
for the time

Baker's emperor

64 min „*Pekařův císař*”

1951

Directed by Martin Frič

Story by Martin Frič, Jan Werich,
Jiří Brdečka

Photography by Jan Stallich

A lavishly staged two-part historical comedy set in the era of the erratic, art-loving and alchemy-sponsoring emperor. Includes an influential depiction of the Golem, as a heavy-handed alegory for nuclear power. (The second part did get somewhat subjected to Stalinist ideological red-washing...)



Murders, Martyrs and Monarchs

*OR: a morbidly amusing
presentation on the early
feudal family feuds of
medieval Bohemia*



**20th of January
18:00 at Art-n-Coffee** ➔

CZK 150 at the door

CZK 120 if you pre-sign on FB

Beyond the city limits ➡

Davle

The foggy cliffs of the Vltava cascade, just south of the city

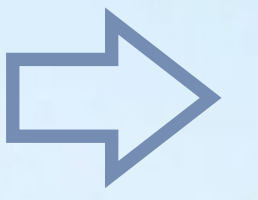
BUS: Half-hour journey,
every 20-ish minutes
from Smíchovské nádraží

Get off the bus a couple stations early, at Měchenice. Take a walk along the bank. Aim for a nice pub or a cafe with a view of the river, order a hot drink, preferably alcoholic, sip it and quietly contemplate the ephemeral nature of a Moment. Then cross the river, climb a hill and take epic photos. Get back to Prague by a nearby bus.

A hidden gem
„Parukářka”

Peak of the Holy Cross

50.0858831N
14.4624775E



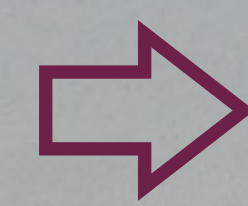
Names like „Parukářka,” „Kavalírka” or „Zvonařka” usually refer to locations of former wine or fruit farmsteads outside the walled city proper. Until the 19th century, most of the space outside of Prague 1 and 2 used to be green fields and pastures, dotted by villages like Dejvice or Michle.

A much more bohemian and rootsy alternative to Riegrovy sady, with an equally impressive view of Žižkov and the historical city center.
Legal graffiti walls
Beer and klobása stalls
Best of all: An honest nuclear bunker for 1.500 people, partially accessible, with a literal underground music club.

Curious about

What to do in Prague

when it's February?



Follow us on Facebook
for regular Prague info



PRAGate.cz