

# MAGIC

The Gathering

## GRAND PRIX PRAGUE

## Grand Prix Prague 2014 Travel Guide



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## The Grand Prix Event

### Arrival to Prague

#### By plane

There is just one airport in Prague – **Vaclav Havel Airport**. There are two airport terminals, both next to each other. The airport is relatively small (no Heathrow ☺). Just follow the signs (to baggage claim and then exit/customs) and you should not get lost.

To continue your trip downtown, you can go by bus or taxi. The taxi stands and bus stops are **directly in front of the terminal buildings**. Just walk out and you will see them.



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Depending on the dayhour, the following buses are available:

- AE – „Airport Express“ – a bus line that specifically serves a traveller’s need to get quickly to the city center. It stops at the subway station *Dejvicka* (note: the bus goes further, so pay attention). This line uses a **special fare** (40 CZK) and the tickets are sold by the bus driver.
- 100 – a bus line that can get you to subway station *Zlicin*.
- 119 – a bus line that can get you to subway station *Dejvicka*.
- 179 – a bus line that can get you to subway station *Nove Butovice*.
- 510 – a **night** bus line that rides across the city and you can change to night trams in the city center. However, if you plan to travel at night, I strongly recommend contacting me so that we can find the best route for you (see the end of this document for contact information).

**Your goal is to reach a subway station** and I suggest riding the **bus line 119** to its terminal – the subway station *Dejvicka*. From there, it is very easy to get wherever you need (be it the venue or your hotel). Other reachable subway stations (*Zlicin* and *Nove Butovice*) are rather remote.

<http://www.prg.aero/en/> (the airport website)

### By train

If you arrive by train, you will most probably get off at the Prague Main Station (*Hlavni Nadrazi*), which is in the center of the city. It is very easy to get around the city from here as there is a **subway station built directly in the railway station**. The subway station is named *Hlavni Nadrazi*.

If your train goes through the railway station *Nadrazi Holesovice*, I recommend getting off there, as it is quite close to the venue.

### By car

If you use a car for your journey, you will most probably drive:

- highway D5/E50 (from the west, via *Plzen*)
- highway D1/E65 (from the south-east, via *Brno*)
- highway D11/E67 (from the east, via *Hradec Kralove*)
- highway D8/E55 (from the north, via *Teplice*)

Do not leave your home without a sat nav or you do not stand a chance in the Prague traffic chaos 😊

### Highway toll

If you want to use a highway, you need to buy a **toll sticker** (at a gas station) and stick it to your front screen. A **10-day sticker costs 310 CZK**. Otherwise you risk a huge fine if caught by police.

**Speed limits** on Czech roads are:

- 50 km/h in urban areas
- 90 km/h outside towns
- 130 km/h on highways

Generally, finding a spot to park your car is **nearly impossible** in the city center. Check the roadsides for a blue line – wherever it is, only residents can park. And there are blue lines almost everywhere.



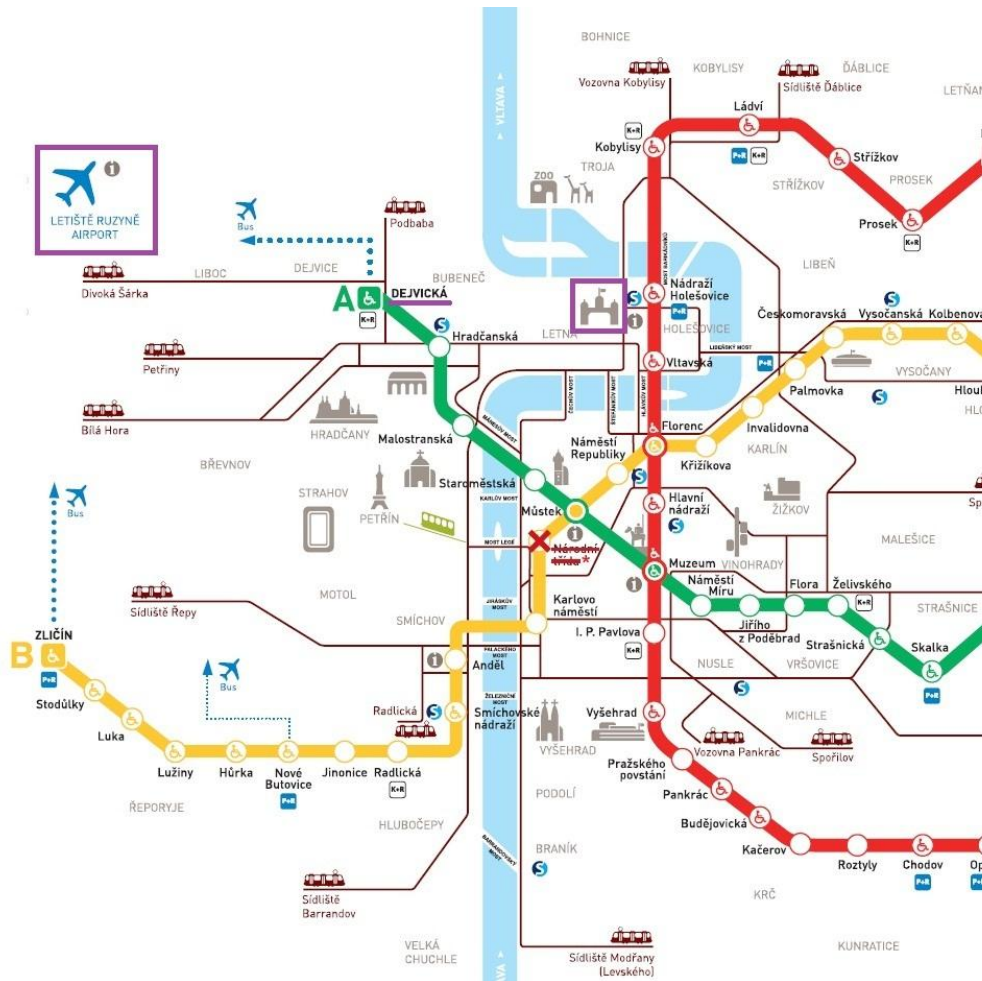
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A similar situation is around the venue. There is a **parking lot in front of it**, but the fee is 40 CZK/hour or 400 CZK/day. Then there is another one at the *Nadrazi Holesovice* subway station which is 40 CZK/hour and 200 CZK/day.

## Transport to the Venue

### Public transport

It is **recommended** to use the Prague public transport as it is generally **faster, cheaper and „greener“**. There are 3 subway lines – **A, B and C** – and a net of tram and bus lines.



The **subway station closest** to the venue is *Nadrazi Holesovice* of the **C** line. There is a **tram stop directly in front of the venue**. The name of the tram stop is *Vystaviste Holesovice* and the trams that stop there are 12, 17, 24 (and night lines 53, 54).

There are many possibilities for getting to the site. Two options are:

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- 1) The most simple option, if you do not want to bother with tramways too much, is to use the subway and ride to the station *Nadrazi Holesovice*. From there, take tram 12 or 24 and ride just one stop to *Vystaviste Holesovice*.

The whole **way from the airport** would then be:

bus 119 to *Dejvicka* → subway **A** to *Muzeum* station → subway **C** to *Nadrazi Holesovice* station → tram 12 or 24 to *Vystaviste Holesovice*

- 2) Or, if you would like to see some Prague streets from a tram's window, you can ride any tram line that goes through the stop *Vystaviste Holesovice*.

The whole **way from the airport** would then be:

bus 119 to *Dejvicka* → tram 26 to *Strossmayerovo namesti* → tram 12, 17 or 24 to *Vystaviste Holesovice*

### Ticketing options:

- 30 minutes ticket at 24 CZK
- 90 minutes ticket at 32 CZK
- 1 day ticket at 110 CZK
- 3 days ticket at 310 CZK

The choice is yours depending on your plans for the weekend (if you plan to go sightseeing etc.) Tickets can be obtained in **ticketing machines** (see right) that can be found at all subway stations and many other stops (at the airport as well).

The ticketing machines accept only coins. Fortunately, **tickets can be obtained also in some news stands** in subway stations or in Public Transport Infocenters. There you can use bank notes or sometimes even a payment card.

### The Infocenters are at:

- each airport terminal
- *Muzeum* subway station
- *Nadrazi Holesovice* subway station
- *Andel* subway station



**A ticket must be validated** in a validator machine (see left) to be counted as valid. The validator machines are in subway entrances and in each bus and tram car. Once validated, the ticket is valid for the expected time (30 minutes – 3 days) and it applies for **all means of transport** (subway, tram, bus, funicular). If possible, never ride without a valid ticket or you risk a cash penalty from a ticket inspector.

Please note that all day lines stop their operation around midnight. After midnight, the only option is a network of night trams and buses (the line numbers beginning with 5) or a taxi.

<http://www.dpp.cz/en> (public transport website)

## Taxi

The fare **from the airport to the venue** or to the staff hotel should be around 500 – 600 CZK. Rather ask for a price estimation before the ride to prevent any misunderstanding.

## The Venue

Fair Ground Holesovice  
Palace of Industry, Right Wing  
Vystaviste 67  
170 90  
Prague 7  
Czech Republic

50°6'24.399"N, 14°25'50.433"E



## Venue Surroundings

### Refreshment

#### Restaurants

Restaurants and pubs near the venue are of diverse quality. For example *U Maleho Berlina* (Simackova street 1450, 50°6'11.495"N, 14°26'4.171"E) is a standard Czech restaurant, while round the corner, there is an Irish pub *O'Brien* (Janovskeho street 36, 50°6'9.716"N, 14°26'1.810"E).

Within walking distance, there is also a steak house *Stejkarna* (Veletzrni 5, 50°6'9.039"N, 14°26'10.791"E).

#### Stromovka

Right next to the venue is a park named „Stromovka“. This is a perfect place if you are in need of some relaxation and fresh oxygen (as opposed to the crowded venue hall).

#### Grocery

In case of need, there is a small grocery named „Albert“ near by in *Veletzrni* street (Veletzrni 1447/8).

50°6'8.964"N, 14°26'5.730"E

### ATMs and exchange offices

- ATM of GE Money Bank near the venue (50°6'20.409"N, 14°26'4.000"E)
- ATM of Ceska Sporitelna Bank at *Nadrazi Holesovice* subway station
- An exchange office at *Nadrazi Holesovice* train station



Map



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## Accommodation

### Event staff hotel

Hotel Belvedere (H&Hotels Group)  
Milady Horakove 19  
17000 Prague 7

50°5'57.209"N, 14°25'48.779"E

The staff hotel website: <http://www.hotelbelvedereprague.cz/?lang=en>

There is a tram stop named *Kamenicka* just a few meters from the hotel. Trams 1, 8, 12, 25, 26 (and night trams 51, 56) all go through there.

The whole way **from the airport to the hotel** would be:  
bus 119 to *Dejvicka* → tram 26 to *Kamenicka*

The way **from the hotel to the venue**:  
tram 12 to *Vystaviste Holesovice*

### Hotels near the venue

#### *Parkhotel*

~ 400 meters from the venue  
(50°6'8.907"N, 14°25'54.102"E)  
~ 100 EUR / night  
Breakfast included  
<http://www.parkhotel-praha.cz/en/>

#### *Hotel Olga*

~ 300 meters from the venue  
(50°6'14.533"N, 14°25'59.070"E)  
~ 45 EUR / night  
Breakfast included  
<http://www.hotelolga.cz/en/>

#### *Absolutum*

~ 1 kilometer from the venue  
(50°6'25.844"N, 14°26'27.935"E)  
~ 80 EUR / night  
Breakfast included  
<http://www.absolutumhotel.cz/en/>

#### *Hotel Klara*

~ 500 meters from the venue  
(50°6'5.270"N, 14°26'1.721"E)  
~ 40 EUR / night  
Breakfast included  
<http://www.prague-accommodation.cz/hotel-klara/en/uvod>

### Other possibilities

#### *Hotel Leon*

~ 1,5 kilometers from the venue  
(50°6'26.720"N, 14°26'55.564"E)  
~ 40 EUR / night  
Breakfast included  
<http://www.leonhotel.eu/index.php?nid=7854&lid=cs&oid=1395273>

#### *Hostel U Kaprála*

~ 1 kilometer from the venue  
(50°6'23.726"N, 14°26'25.342"E)  
~ 15 EUR / night  
Breakfast not included  
  
Czech-only website: <http://prazske-ubytovny.cz/o-nas/>  
Reservations on: +420 602 666 585 or  
<http://prazske-ubytovny.cz/rezervace/>

### *Hostel Argentinská 15*

~ 1,2 kilometers from the venue  
(50°6'29.964"N, 14°26'36.496"E)  
~ 15 EUR / night  
Breakfast not included  
<http://www.argentinska15.cz/hostel-in-prague>

### *Sir Toby's Hostel*

~ 2 kilometers from the venue  
(50°6'11.136"N, 14°26'53.477"E)  
~ 30 EUR / night (private room)  
~ 8 EUR / night (dorm)  
Breakfast not included  
<http://sirtobys.com/>

## The City and the Country

### Introduction

Prague is the capital city of the Czech Republic, a country in central Europe that is a member of the European Union. There is about 1,2 million residents in the city.

Prague has always been an important settlement acting as a crossroads in the center of Europe. With its more than a thousand years history it is a favourite tourist destination nowadays. The city's history can be felt everywhere.

However, the city is not a dead museum. **It pulses with life.**

### Visa

Generally, **no visa is needed** for a temporary stay of citizens of the following countries:

- EU citizens, Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland
- Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Canada, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Chile, Croatia, Israel, Japan, Macedonia/Fyrom, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Salvador, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, United States of America, Uruguay, Vatican, Venezuela

If you are not sure about your visa requirements, I recommend checking with **your department of foreign affairs.**

### Language

Czech is the official language. Especially younger people are able to communicate in English, German or an other language. In case of need, **try English first.**

#### Simple dictionary

Prague = Praha  
good morning/afternoon = dobrý den (do-bree den)  
hello = ahoj (ahoy)  
subway = metro  
beer = pivo

### Money

The currency here is the Czech Crown (CZK). Fair exchange rates are around:  
1 USD = 20 CZK, 1 EUR = 26 CZK, 1 GBP = 30 CZK

Only a **very limited** number of services accepts cash payment in a foreign currency. Therefore, you will most probably need to obtain certain amount of Crowns (either in an exchange office or in an

ATM). If you plan to exchange money in an office, we advise you to ask for the total amount to receive **before the transaction** (or there may be some hidden fees added otherwise).

Another option is to **use your payment card** as many shops and services accept these.

Note that **tips** are generally **not included** in receipts. In pubs and similar services, it is common to add up to 10%. Decide the tip value based on your satisfaction with the service. If you are not treated with respect, why bother yourself with any tips? 😊

## Wall sockets

The so-called „French“ model of wall sockets is used in the Czech Republic. Do not forget your multipurpose traveller’s adaptor at home! 😊



The voltage in the Czech power grid is by norm 230V at 50Hz.

## Popular Tourist Spots

Every true sightseer should see at least the following sites during his/her Prague stay.





### Prague castle

Founded more than thousand years ago, the castle has been the residence of emperors, Bohemian kings, and presidents of Czechoslovakia and of the Czech Republic.



Various architectural styles can be seen at the place.

### Charles bridge

The Prague famous bridge was founded by King Charles IV, the Holy Roman Emperor, in 1357. Through the centuries it had provided the sole permanent connection between the banks of the Vltava river far and wide.



### Old Town square and the whole Old Town

Prague was only rarely bombed during World War II so many historic buildings can be still seen around. One example is the whole Old Town together with its square. Buildings of various styles stand here, all outshined by the Old Town Hall and its **Astronomical Clock**.

### Old Jewish cemetery

Historically, there used to be a strong Jewish community in Prague (most unfortunately destroyed during World War II). The remnants of it are mainly the cemetery and adjacent synagogues.

Speaking of Jewish community, there are many interesting local legends. One is about Rabbi Loew, a famous Jewish philosopher and mystic, and his Golem.

### Petrin lookout tower

Built in 1891 and inspired by Eiffel tower of Paris (though only 63 meters of height), the tower provides a **perfect view of the city**.

In tower's basement, there is a permanent exhibition mapping the life and work of the Czech **imaginary genius** Jara Cimrman. Just come and then you may begin to understand the sarcastic nature of Czechs. ☺

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There is also a mirror labyrinth nearby and then a funicular that can be used as an alternate route to/from Petrin hill.

### Outside the city

Thanks to historical circumstances, the Czech Republic is full of wonderful possible targets for sightseeing. Though, most of them would require a whole day of your time to travel and visit. Just one example:

#### *Karlstejn castle*

This grand gothic castle is approximately 1 hour away from Prague by train. If there is an interest among the readers, we could plan a trip together.



## Less Obvious Places to Visit

### Culture and architecture

#### *National Gallery*

One of permanent exhibitions of the Czech National Gallery can be found in **the vicinity of the GP venue.**

Dukelských hrdinů 47,  
50°6'4.587"N, 14°25'57.828"E

<http://www.ngprague.cz/en/>

#### *State Opera*

If you are into it, you can see some famous opera performances.

Wilsonova 101/4,  
50°4'50.473"N, 14°25'57.611"E

<http://pragueoperatickets.com/>

#### *Dancing House*

The Dancing House is an example of modern architecture in Prague. It clearly stands out in the vicinity of other buildings around (that are mostly Baroque).

Rasinovo nabrezi 1981/80,  
50°4'31.692"N, 14°24'50.975"E

## Pubs and clubs

### **Crossclub**

The Crossclub is an interesting multicultural place. With its special design it is not just an ordinary café and a performance space.

Plynarni 1096/23,  
50°6'29.448"N, 14°26'35.442"E

<http://www.crossclub.cz/en/>

### **Hard Rock Cafe**

A famous rock club chain has its local branch in Prague's Old Town. Expect some good music and dishes as well.

Male namesti 3,  
50°5'12.073"N, 14°25'9.274"E

<http://www.hardrock.com/prague>

### **Hells Bells**

A „cool“ rock club with one subsidiary near the staff hotel.

## Local gaming stores

### **Najada**

This store is **the one closest to the venue** and to the staff hotel.

Jireckova 1018/16,  
50°5'57.919"N, 14°25'21.487"E

Open Friday – Monday 12 – 19, Saturday  
– Sunday 10 – 19.

### **Temny Strelec**

A rather remote store with a very friendly owner – his name is Remi and he is also good in card altering.

Donovalska 1661,  
50°2'13.632"N, 14°30'22.640"E

Open Friday – Monday 14 – 19.

Letohradaska 50,  
50°5'53.236"N, 14°25'27.909"E

Na Belidle 27,  
50°4'17.551"N, 14°24'20.520"E

### **SaSaZu**

A big club in the same quarter as the GP venue.

Bubenske nabrezi 306/13,  
50°5'57.531"N, 14°26'38.483"E

<https://en-prague.sasazu.com/>

### **Karlovy Lazne**

The biggest club in central Europe.

Smetanovo nabrezi 198/1,  
50°5'7.850"N, 14°24'50.019"E

### **Draci Jeskyne**

A remote but very friendly place.

Touzimska 51,  
50°8'12.397"N, 14°31'2.488"E

Open Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays  
16 – 20, Sundays 10 – 18.

### **Mephit**

A store specializing not only in M:tG, but more in RPGs etc.

Arbesovo namesti 14,  
50°4'34.669"N, 14°24'21.071"E

Open Friday – Monday 13 – 22, Saturday  
– Sunday 10 – 22.



### **Cerny Rytir**

The most „competitive“ store in Prague, expect Tier 1 decks only ☺

It is near the subway station *Florenc* in the Prague center, so it is easily accessible.

Za Porickou branou 21,  
50°5'28.147"N, 14°26'30.333"E

Open Friday – Monday 12 – 20, Saturday – Sunday 10 – 19.

## **Parks**

### **Stromovka**

A park directly next to the event venue. A perfect place if you want to catch some breath in a break between your daily duties.

50°6'20.999"N, 14°25'30.700"E

### **Letna**

If you plan to go sightseeing you can go through Letna orchard – it lies on the way from the staff hotel to Prague castle.

50°5'42.426"N, 14°25'2.724"E

### **Petrin hill**

There are some calm gardens under the Petrin lookout tower you may want to walk through.

50°4'57.210"N, 14°23'56.147"E

### **Vysehrad**

Vysehrad is an fort of old that used to serve as a residence of Czech princes. Nowadays, it is a place of rest and part of it is used as a cemetery containing graves of many famous Czechs.

50°3'51.274"N, 14°25'3.367"E

## **Food and drink**

### **Cuisine**

Generally, traditional Czech cuisine can be called as a „nutritive nightmare“. ☺

It is full of meat (pork, beef, chicken), fatty sauces and dumplings. If you want to taste some classic Czech dishes, I recommend:

- „Svickova na smetane“: marinated sirloin with creamy spiced sauce and dumplings



- „Gulas“: pork or beef stewed together with onions and various spices (and dumplings or bread)



- „Vepro-knedlo-zelo“: roasted pork with dumplings and cabbage



### Beverages

Beer of various kinds is the most common alcoholic beverage in the Czech Republic. Alcohol content in Czech beers is usually around 5%. It is mostly served in half-litre glasses.

If you are into something heavier, you could try some Czech classic like *slivovice* (plum spirits) or *Becherovka* (a herbal bitters).

## General information and safety tips

### Pickpockets

Be careful, especially in public transport. Never carry your wallet in a backpack on your back when riding in a crowded subway/tram car. Pay attention to your luggage at all times.

### Emergency

General European emergency phone number 112 is available in the Czech Republic.

### Hooligans

The GP venue is close to an ice hockey hall. There is also a football stadium in the quarter. There will be two **ice hockey matches played the same weekend as MtG GP**, one on Friday and the second on Sunday. So, be careful. The venue surroundings will be crowded and some rowdies and hooligans with lower IQ could cause trouble. Especially avoid groups of „fans“ in the streets.

### Addresses

Have all important addresses (the venue, your hotel) printed out, so you can show them to a taxi driver or when asking for help on the street.

## Trivia and Fun Facts

### Urban Evolution

In the background of the art for the Magic card [Urban Evolution](#), there is a view of some Prague historical buildings (Charles Bridge Tower, Saint Nicholas Cathedral). Thanks, Eytan Zana.



### Contact and additional help

If you come across any question when planning your visit do not hesitate to contact me directly and we will surely find the answer:

Milan Majercik

Cellular: +420 603 412 365

E-mail: [flamberg@centrum.cz](mailto:flamberg@centrum.cz)