



Czech Republic Fast Facts

Population:

10,241,138 (July 2005 est.)

Capital:

Prague (Praha)

Currency:

Czech koruna

Religion(s):

Roman Catholic 26.8%, Protestant 2.1%, other 3.3%, unspecified 8.8%, unaffiliated 59% (2001 census)

Language(s):

Czech

Major Events:

Czech Founding Day, 28 October (1918)

Religious holidays

Order more **FREE** brochures!
E-mail: adviser@iiepassport.org



Online Resources

Charles University in Prague
<http://www.cuni.cz/>

Masaryk University
<http://www.muni.cz/>

New York University in Prague
<http://www.nyu.cz/>

Czech.cz
<http://www.czechcentrum.cz/>

Benjamin A. Gilman International
Scholarship Program
<http://www.iie.org/gilman>

National Security Education Program
<http://www.iie.org/NSEP>

IIE Passport Focus... Czech Republic

What studying abroad is really about.



© 2006 Educational Directories Unlimited

Czech Republic at a Glance...

The Czech Republic is home to one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, a storied past, and a fascinating and complicated modern political history. Much of this, of course, is due to its location at the heart of Europe: Its historical lands have been near to or at the center of many of the events that have shaped Europe throughout the centuries. But the Czech



Republic is about so much more than history: Its role in the artistic and cultural development of the world is indisputable, and whether it is music, literature, or architecture, the Czech people have always seemed to play a role of great importance on the world stage. For student travelers, then, the Czech Republic offers

an almost unparalleled opportunity to fully explore the past, present, and future of Europe and, indeed, the Western world.

The Czech Republic is at the heart of Europe: Its nearest geographical neighbors are Germany, Austria, Poland, and Slovakia, from which it formally split on January 1, 1993. The Czech Republic is a landlocked country, though its terrain varies from the hilly Eastern Moravian lands to the plains and plateaus of Bohemia in the West. Prague, the capital, is located on both sides of the Vltava River, and as a result, it has become a major European shipping hub.

By the 16th century, the country, like much of the rest of Central Europe, found itself under the rule of the Habsburgs. The Habsburgs were eventually displaced, and at the end of World War I, the nation of Czechoslovakia was formed

Check out IIE Passport...

<http://www.IIEPassport.org>

IIE Passport is the study abroad search engine. Find study abroad programs in the Czech Republic, language programs and a WHOLE lot more!



in 1918. Czechoslovakia came under Soviet influence in the 20th century, which ended with the “Velvet Revolution,” and in 1993, the country peacefully split into the Czech and Slovak republics.

The Czech Republic is slightly smaller than South Carolina, and its population was, in 2005, estimated to be just over 10.2 million people. Known as Ceska Republika in the official Czech language, the country boasts an astounding 99.9% literacy rate. This is likely due in no small part to the efficacy of the leaders, particularly its president, Vaclav Havel, a poet of the first order. Currently, Václav Klaus is the country’s president. The Czech Republic formally joined the European Union in 2004, and since then its already strong economy has only strengthened.

Prague—or, in the native Czech language, Praha—has been one of the most important cities in Europe for hundreds of years. The historical city center itself is divided into six parts, each of which offers tourists, residents, and students a chance to experience all the wonders the city has to offer. The most famous site in the city, however, is arguably Prague Castle, which was built in the year 880 and is now, after much restoration, the seat of the presidency. And while it is widely considered one of the most breathtaking cities in all of Europe, it also boasts a cultural heritage that is second to none. Franz Kafka lived and wrote there. Famed Art Nouveau printmaker Alphonse Mucha is Czech. Antonín Dvorák and Bedrich Smetana composed in the city. And highly regarded contemporary author Milan Kundera, though he has been living in exile in France for more than 30 years, was born in Brno and still writes some of his works in Czech.

In 1348, the famed Charles University was founded and became the first university in Central Europe. Today, it is one of the most well-regarded schools in Europe, and as a result it has grown

quite large. More than 42,000 students are enrolled there, and the variety of nationalities represented in the student body is nothing short of remarkable. Another fine university is located in the Czech Republic’s city of Brno. Masaryk University is the second largest in the country and offers a growing number of programs in English in addition to their fine selection of degree programs for Czech students.

Many American universities also have programs in Prague and depending on the one a student chooses to enroll in, he or she may take classes at Charles University or at a facility operated by a different host institution. Other options also exist such as New York University’s center in Prague, which offers a range of courses in English while requiring students to take either Czech, Russian, Polish, or German language courses.

The Czech Republic has a great deal to offer students who choose to take advantage of it. From the history of the country as a whole to the beauty of Prague itself, students are sure to benefit from a semester or a year in the Czech Republic. Its geographical location makes for easy travel around the rest of Europe, and its economic and cultural position at the heart of an expanding Europe make it one of the most desirable destinations for students from all over the world.

