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SLEEPING

top picks

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SLEEPING

A 2007 headline in the *Mlada Fronta Dnes* newspaper said it all – ‘More hotels than streets’. According to the article, there were 286 named streets in the Prague 1 postal district (the city centre, including Staré Město and Malá Strana), and no fewer than 320 hotels.

Prague today offers a wide range of accommodation options, from cosy, romantic hotels set in historic town houses to luxurious international chain hotels, and from budget hostels and pensions to a new generation of sharply styled boutique hotels. However, it is no longer the bargain it was back in the 1990s – hotel rates have increased sharply and along with the strong Czech crown have put accommodation prices on a par with many cities in Western Europe.

The last five years has seen a huge boom in hotel building in Prague, especially in the four- and five-star sector. The Hotel Josef led the way for boutique hotels in 2002, though it took a few more years before the design hotel concept really began to take off in Prague, with a flurry of new places opening from 2005 on, notably the Yasmin and the Icon.

Luxury hotels are also beginning to pop up all over the place – the long-established Four Seasons in Staré Město and the much newer Mandarin Oriental in Malá Strana are soon to be joined in 2009 by offerings from Kempinski, Rocco Forte and Le Méridien, among others.

However, there is still a dearth of decent budget to midrange accommodation – it’s very hard to find a good double room for less than 3000Kč (around £100/€125) unless you’re prepared to stay in a backpacker hostel.

The oversupply at the top end of the market has resulted in falling occupancy rates in luxury hotels – in mid-2008 sales were down 20% on the previous year. Many places are dropping their prices in an attempt to attract business, so it’s well worth shopping around and looking for special offers or even asking for discounts.

An increasing number of Prague hotels provide specially adapted rooms and facilities for wheelchair users; we have noted these facilities in the individual listings.

Accommodation listings in this book are broken down first by neighbourhood, then by budget, from most to least expensive.

LONGER-TERM RENTALS

More and more travellers are discovering the pleasures of renting an apartment in Prague. Before you scoff at the idea, consider that the extra cost of a very basic self-catering flat near the centre means minimal transport costs, access to cheap local food, and the freedom to come and go as you like.

Many Prague agencies will find a flat for you (see the boxed text, [opposite](#)). Typical rates for a modern two-person apartment with living room-bedroom, bathroom, TV and kitchenette range from around 1500Kč per night for a place in the outer suburbs, to around 3000Kč for a flat near Old Town Square; longer stays can knock the price down to as little as 20,000Kč for a month in a two-person flat in Žižkov. All short-term rental apartments are fully furnished and serviced, meaning that utilities (gas, water, electricity) and bed linen are included in the price, and staff will clean up and change the beds at least weekly.

The real estate section of the weekly [Prague Post](#) (www.praguepost.cz) newspaper also lists agen-

cies and private individuals with apartments to rent by the month.

RESERVATIONS

Booking your accommodation in advance is strongly recommended (especially if you want to stay in or near the centre), and there are dozens of agencies that will help you find a place to stay; some are better than others. The places listed in the boxed text ([opposite](#)) are reliable, and even if you turn up in peak period without a booking, these agencies should be able to find you a bed.

Hotels usually require you to check out on the day of departure between 10am and noon. As to check-in times, there are no hard-and-fast rules, but if you’re going to arrive late in the evening, it’s best to mention this when you book your room.

ROOM RATES

A double room in a midrange hotel in central Prague will cost around 4000Kč in high

ACCOMMODATION AGENCIES

- **Alfa Tourist Service** (Map pp108–9; ☎ 224 230 037; www.alfatourist.cz; Opletalova 38, Nové Město; 🕒 9am–5pm Mon–Fri) Can provide accommodation in student hostels, pensions, hotels and private rooms.
- **Apartments.cz** (Map pp88–9; ☎ 224 990 990; www.apartments.cz; Divadelní 24, Staré Město; 🕒 8am–8pm) Long-established specialist in holiday apartments near the city centre.
- **AVE Travel** (Map pp108–9; ☎ 251 551 011 or 224 223 226; www.avetravel.cz; Praha hlavní nádraží, Nové Město; 🕒 6am–11pm) Convenient offices at the airport, main train station and Praha–Holešovice train station. The branch at the main train station specialises in finding last-minute accommodation.
- **Happy House Rentals** (Map pp108–9; ☎ 224 946 890; www.happyhouserentals.com; Jungmannova 30, Nové Město; 🕒 8am–6pm Mon–Fri) Specialises in rental apartments, both short-term and long-term.
- **Hostel.cz** (☎ 415 658 580; www.hostel.cz) Website database of around 60 hostels and cheap pensions, with a secure online booking system.
- **Mary's Travel & Tourist Service** (Map p121; ☎ 222 253 510; www.marys.cz; Italská 31, Vinohrady; 🕒 9am–9pm) Friendly, efficient agency offering private rooms, hostels, pensions, apartments and hotels in all price ranges in Prague and surrounding areas.
- **Prague Apartments** (☎ 604 168 756; www.prague-apartment.com) Web-based service with range of comfortable, IKEA-furnished flats. Availability of apartments displayed online.
- **Stop City** (Map p121; ☎ 222 521 233; www.stopcity.com; Vinohradská 24, Vinohrady; 🕒 9am–9pm Apr–Oct, 10am–8pm Nov–Mar) Specialises in apartments, private rooms and pensions in the city centre, Vinohrady and Žižkov areas.

season; outside the centre, this might fall to around 3000Kč. Top-range hotels cost from 4000Kč and up, with the best luxury hotels charging 6000Kč and more. The budget options listed in this chapter charge 2000Kč or less for a double room. Note that some mid-range and top-end hotels quote rates in euros, and a few quote in US dollars. At these hotels you can pay cash in Czech crowns if you like, but the price will depend on the exchange rate on the day you settle the bill.

The rates quoted in this chapter are for the high season, which generally covers April to June, September and October, and the Christmas–New Year holidays. July and August are midseason, and the rest of the year is low season, when rates can drop by 30% or 40%.

Even high-season rates can be inflated by up to 15% on certain dates, notably at New Year, Easter, during the Prague Spring festival, and at weekends (Thursday to Sunday) in May, June and September. On the other hand, you can often find much lower rates

from January to March and there are often good internet booking deals from June to August.

Most hostel, pension and budget-hotel rates do not include breakfast; most midrange and top-end hotel rates do.

HRADČANY

Hradčany is the place to stay if you're looking for peace and quiet. You'll be within a short walk of the castle, but when the crowds ebb away at the end of the day the streets are almost deserted.

ROMANTIK HOTEL U RAKA

Map pp70–1 Hotel €€€

☎ 220 511 100; www.romantikhotel-uraka.cz; Černínská 10; s/d from 4000/4500Kč; 🕒 22, 23 Concealed in a manicured rock garden in a quiet corner of Hradčany, the historic Hotel U Raka is an atmospheric, late-18th-century timber cottage with just six elegant, low-ceilinged doubles, complete with timber beams, wooden floors and red-brick fireplaces. With its cosy bedrooms, attentive staff, artistic décor and farmhouse kitchen-style breakfast room, it's ideal for a romantic getaway, and the castle is less than 10 minutes' walk away. Be sure to book at least a few months ahead.

PRICE GUIDE

The categories used in this chapter indicate the cost per night of a standard double room in high season.

€€€	more than 4000Kč (more than €160)
€€	2000Kč to 4000Kč (€80 to €160)
€	less than 2000Kč (less than €80)

NEAR THE AIRPORT

The following places all lie at the western edge of the city and are the best options for staying within easy reach of the airport.

Hotel Elegant (off Map pp58–9; ☎ 235 300 521; www.hotelegant.cz; Ruzyňská 197, Ruzyně; s/d 2790/3300Kč; ☎ 225; 📍) A stylish 1930s functionalist building that has been converted into a boutique hotel. Only five minutes from the airport by car, or seven minutes on bus 225; get off at the Ruzyňská škola stop.

Hotel Tranzit (off Map pp58–9; ☎ 236 161 111; www.hoteltranzit.cz; Aviatická; s/d from 2875/3125Kč; 📍 100, 119, 179; 📍) Modern hotel with bright, attractive rooms just five minutes' walk from the airport terminal, with some wheelchair-accessible rooms.

Pension Větrný Mlyn (off Map pp58–9; ☎ 235 301 686; www.pensionmlyn.cz; Ruzyňská 3/96, Ruzyně; s/d 1000/1600Kč; 📍 225; 📍) The 'Windmill' is a friendly, family-run pension where all rooms have TV and en suite shower. Free wi-fi. Across the street from Hotel Elegant (see above).

Ramada Airport Hotel (off Map pp58–9; ☎ 220 111 250; www.hotel-ramada-airport.info; Terminal Jih, K Letišti 25a, Ruzyně; r from 2500Kč; 📍) The Ramada is at the southern terminal of Ruzyně airport, four stops on bus 100, 119, 179 or 225 from the main terminal.

DOMUS HENRICI

Map pp70–1

Hotel €€€

☎ 220 511 369; www.domus-henrici.cz; Loretánská 11; s/d 3875/4250Kč; 📍 22, 23; 📍 This historic building in a quiet corner of Hradčany is intentionally nondescript out front, hinting that peace and privacy are top priorities here. There are eight spacious and stylish rooms, half with private fax, scanner/copier and internet access (via an ethernet port), and all with polished wood floors, large bathrooms, comfy beds and fluffy bathrobes. Service is impeccable, and there's an attractive guest lounge as well as a sunny outdoor terrace with gorgeous views over the city. Free internet and wi-fi in the hotel lobby.

HOTEL U KRÁLE KARLA

Map pp70–1

Hotel €€

☎ 257 531 211; www.romantichotels.cz; Úvoz 4; s/d 3500/4000Kč; 📍 12, 20 22, 23; 📍 The 'King Charles' is a cosy, romantic hotel set in a lovely, 'baroquefied' Gothic building, with rooms set on landings around an impressive central atrium with a stained-glass ceiling. The atmosphere here leans towards a sort of medieval–fairytale look, with studded wood-and-leather antique furniture, painted timber ceilings, murals, stained-glass windows and statues of old Czech kings and queens. The rooms are filled with dark polished-wood furniture, Persian rugs, swagged velvet drapes and ostentatious fireplaces – charming, if you like that sort of thing. The bathrooms, however, though reasonably sized, are beige

and forgettable. There's also a restaurant on site with room service and a sauna for guest use. The hotel vies with Hotel Neruda for the title of closest hotel to the castle; it's just a few minutes' walk to the main gate.

RESIDENCE MONASTERY

Map pp70–1

Hotel €€

☎ 233 090 200; www.avehotels.cz/prague/monastery.html; Strahovské nádvoří 13; s/d 2475/2900Kč; 📍 22, 23; 📍

Ancient meets modern at this small hotel in the peaceful courtyard of Strahov Monastery, where the only noise likely to disturb you is the occasional tolling of a church bell. The 12 quirkily shaped rooms in this 17th-century building have been given a bright, IKEA-style modern makeover with polished wood floors, plain white walls hung with photos of Prague, and a splash of colour from the bedspread and sofa. (Two of the rooms are also wheelchair-accessible.) And it's all just a five-minute walk away from the castle. There's also free wi-fi.

MALÁ STRANA

Lots of Malá Strana's lovely old Renaissance and baroque buildings have been converted into hotels and apartments, making this a good district to stay in if you're looking for a romantic atmosphere. You'll also be within walking distance of Charles Bridge and surrounded by lots of good restaurants and bars.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL

Map pp76–7

Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 233 088 888; www.mandarinoriental.com/prague; Nebovidská 1; r from 6200Kč, ste from 16,750Kč; ☎ 12, 20, 22, 23; 📍

One of Prague's most talked about new hotels, the Mandarin occupies the converted premises of a 17th-century Dominican monastery. The main talking point – other than the celeb guest list, which ranges from Madonna to the Dalai Lama – is the sumptuous hotel spa, built inside a Renaissance chapel with the remains of a 14th-century church preserved beneath a glass floor, but the rooms are pretty special too. The interiors were designed by the same team who did the Burj Al Arab in Dubai. Some have antique parquet floors, some have vaulted ceilings, others are completely modern; the most appealing are the garden rooms dotted around the old cloister gardens.

HOTEL ARIA

Map pp76–7

Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 225 334 111; www.aria.cz; Tržiště 9; d from 5750Kč; ☎ 12, 20, 22, 23; 📍

The Aria offers five-star luxury with a musical theme – each of the four floors is dedicated to a musical genre (jazz, opera, classical and contemporary), and each room celebrates a particular artist or musician and contains a selection of their music that you can enjoy on the in-room hi-fi system. Service is professional and efficient, and the rooms are furnished with crisp bed linen, plump continental quilts, Molton Brown toiletries and complimentary chocolates. Other facilities include a music and movie library, screening room, fitness centre and steam room. The location is very central, a few minutes' walk from Charles Bridge, and just around the corner from a major tram stop.

HOTEL U ZLATÉ STUDNĚ

Map pp76–7

Hotel €€€

☎ 257 011 213; www.zlatastudna.cz; U Zlaté Studně 4; d from 4875Kč, ste from 10,625Kč; 📍 Malostranská; 📍

'At the Golden Well' is one of Malá Strana's hidden secrets, tucked away at the end of a cobbled cul-de-sac – a Renaissance house that once belonged to Emperor Rudolf II (and was once inhabited by astronomer Tycho Brahe), with an unbeatable location perched on the southern slope of the castle hill. The rooms (five twins, 12 doubles and

three luxury suites) are quiet and spacious, with polished wood floors, reproduction period furniture, and blue-and-white bathrooms with underfloor heating and whirlpool baths; many have views over the Palace Gardens below. The hotel has an excellent restaurant (p158) and a terrace with superb outlook over the city.

HOTEL NERUDA

Map pp76–7

Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 257 535 557; www.hotelneruda.cz; Nerudova 44; s/d from 3125/3625Kč; ☎ 12, 20, 22, 23; 📍

Set in a tastefully renovated Gothic house dating from 1348 and extending into the neighbouring building, the Neruda offers a refreshingly modern and stylish alternative to the sometimes-tacky so-called 'historic' hotels, which are all too common in Malá Strana. The décor is chic and minimalist in shades of chocolate and cream, with a lovely glass-roofed atrium that houses the hotel café, and a sunny roof terrace. The comfortable bedrooms share the modern, minimalist décor and are mostly reasonably sized, but be aware that some of the rooms in the top of the building are a bit on the cramped side – ask for one on the 1st or 2nd floor. The staff are friendly and unfailingly helpful, and the breakfasts are excellent (and served until 11am if you fancy a long lie-in).

PENSION DIENTZENHOFER

Map pp76–7

Pension €€

☎ 257 311 319; www.dientzenhofer.cz; Nosticova 2; s/d 2700/3600Kč; ☎ 12, 20, 22, 23

Take a room in this homely pension and you're rubbing shoulders with famous figures from the past – this lovely old 16th-century house was once the home of the Dientzenhofer family of architects who designed many of Prague's most famous baroque landmarks (see p48). Set in a peaceful park but only five minutes' walk from Charles Bridge, the house has seven plain but comfortable rooms and a couple of good-value suites that sleep up to five. The owner is friendly and helpful, and will even collect you from the airport.

CASTLE STEPS

Map pp76–7

Apartments €€

☎ 257 216 337; www.castlesteps.com; Nerudova 7; r 1750–2625, apt 2625–4375Kč; ☎ 12, 20, 22, 23; 📍

The name applies to a collection of private rooms and apartments spread across several buildings on Nerudova and further

uphill on Úvoz. Management is laid-back, helpful, gay-friendly and decidedly informal – don't expect porters and room service! (By the way, there are no lifts either.) The various 16th- and 17th-century buildings have been converted into apartments and suites sleeping from two to eight, and offer remarkable value in a great location. All have been beautifully renovated and equipped to a high standard, and are furnished with antiques, oil paintings and pot plants. There is free internet access at the reception office at Nerudova 7 (ring the doorbell labelled Castle Steps).

CHARLES BRIDGE B&B

Map pp76–7

Pension €€

☎ 257 218 103; www.charlesbridgebb.com; Dražického náměstí; s/d 2200/2500Kč, apt 3300-3500Kč; 🕒 12, 20, 22, 23; 📍

Location, location, location – those three little words that mean so much when it comes to property. It would be hard to beat this quaint little pension for location – any closer to Charles Bridge and you'd be on it. The rooms are nothing to write home about, with cheap beds and plain décor tastefully brightened up with colourful curtains, dried flowers and a painting or two; for families, there are two apartments with kitchen facilities. There's free internet access at reception and wi-fi in the rooms; the parking space outside must be booked in advance.

STARÉ MĚSTO

Staré Město offers a wide range of accommodation, from backpacker hostels to some of the city's most luxurious hotels, with everything in between. Be aware that a lot of pensions and midrange hotels have been squeezed into historic old buildings with no room for a lift – be prepared for a bit of stair climbing.

PERLA HOTEL Map pp88–9 Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 221 667 777; www.perlahotel.cz; Perlová 1; s/d 4250/4750Kč; 📍 Můstek

The 'Pearl' on Pearl Street is typical of the brand of slinky, appealing designer hotels that are beginning to appear all over central Prague. Here the designer has picked a – surprise, surprise – pearl motif that extends from the giant pearls that form the reception desk to the silky, lustrous bedspreads and huge screen prints on the bedroom walls. The rooms are on the small

side, but the décor is sleek and modern with muted colours offset by bright-red lacquered chairs and glossy black-tiled bathrooms. The whole building is wheelchair accessible, and one room is specially designed for wheelchair users.

HOTEL ANTIK Map pp88–9

Hotel €€

☎ 222 322 288; www.hotelantik.cz; Dlouhá 22; s/d 3590/3990Kč; 📍 Náměstí Republiky

As the name suggests, this place has a passion for bric-a-brac, with an antique shop on the ground floor and various pieces scattered elsewhere throughout the building. The location is ideal, right in the heart of the Old Town and close to lots of good restaurants and bars. The cosy rooms have been thoroughly modernised and are perfectly comfortable though a little lacking in character – ask for one with a balcony overlooking the garden, to avoid any noise from night-time revellers in the street. Breakfast is served in the lovely garden courtyard out the back.

APOSTOLIC RESIDENCE

Map pp88–9

Apartments €€

☎ 221 632 222; www.apostolic.cz; Staroměstské náměstí 25; s/d from 3725/3975Kč, apt from 6000Kč; 📍 Staroměstská; 📍

This lovely old building on Old Town Square has been converted into a luxury hotel with 30 large, well-appointed rooms filled with heavy antique furniture and rugs, paintings, wooden floors and chandeliers. Some have the additional charm of painted wooden-beamed ceilings. The attic apartment (sleeps four), with its spiral staircase and massive timber beams, is our favourite. The unique selling point, though, is its location – you can hang out your window and watch the Astronomical Clock do its thing. You'll pay extra for a room with a view of Old Town Square, but for this level of quality, it's still reasonable value compared to many top-end hotels around town.

SAVIC HOTEL Map pp88–9

Hotel €€

☎ 226 201 910; www.hotelsavic.cz; Jiřská 7; s/d 3725/3975Kč; 📍 Národní Třída; 📍

From the complimentary glass of wine when you arrive to the comfy king-size beds, the Savic certainly knows how to make you feel welcome. Housed in the former monastery of St Giles, the hotel is bursting with character and full of de-

lightful period details including old stone fireplaces, beautiful painted timber ceilings and fragments of frescoes. The bedrooms are furnished in antique style with parquet floors, dark wooden furniture, wingback armchairs and plush sofas, while the bathrooms are lined with polished marble. And it's barely two minutes' walk from the Astronomical Clock on Old Town Square.

HOTEL JOSEF Map pp88–9 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 221 700 111; www.hoteljosef.cz; Rybná 20; r from 3725Kč; **M** Náměstí Republiky; **P** ☒ ☒
Designed by London-based Czech architect Eva Jiříčká, the Josef is one of Prague's most stylish contemporary hotels. As soon as you step through the doors into the stark, white, minimalist lobby with its glass spiral staircase you get the impression that it's designed to impress you with how exceedingly cool and trendy it all is. But it's tastefully done, and staff are welcoming and helpful. The minimalist design is continued in the bedrooms, where things are kept clean and simple with plenty of subtle neutral tones in the bed linen and furniture. The glass-walled en suites are especially attractive, boasting extra-large 'rainfall' shower heads and modish glass bowl basins. There are two wheelchair-accessible rooms and a stylish bar and business lounge.

U ZELENEHO VENCE

Map pp88–9 Pension €€

☎ 222 220 178; www.uzv.cz; Řetězová 10; s/d 2900/3400Kč; **M** Staroměstská
Located on a quiet side street, but only a few minutes' stroll from Old Town Square, the Green Garland is a surprisingly peaceful and rustic retreat right in the heart of the city. Set in a restored 14th-century building, it takes its name from the house-sign above the door. The bedrooms vary in size – some cramped and some relatively spacious – but all are spotlessly clean and simply but appealingly decorated, with exposed medieval roof beams in the attic rooms, and the English-speaking owner is unfailingly polite and helpful.

RESIDENCE KAROLINA

Map pp88–9 Apartments €€

☎ 224 990 990; www.residence-karolina.com; Karoliny Světlé 4; 2-/4-person apt from 3050/4975Kč; ☎ 6, 9, 19, 21, 22, 23; ☒
We're going to have to invent a new category of accommodation – boutique

apartments – to cover this array of 20 beautifully furnished flats. Offering one- or two-bedroom options, all apartments have spacious seating areas with comfy sofas and flat-screen TVs, sleek modern kitchens and dining areas. The location is good too, set back on a quiet street but close to a major tram stop, across the street from the National Theatre, and just two blocks from the Tesco supermarket for your self-catering supplies. There's a daily maid service, elevator, and cable or wi-fi broadband in all apartments.

HOTEL U MEDVÍDKŮ

Map pp88–9 Pension €€

☎ 224 211 916; www.umedvidku.cz; Na Perštýně 7; s/d/tr 2300/3500/4500Kč; **M** Národní Třída

Cosy and centrally located, 'At the Little Bear' is a traditional beer hall (see the boxed text, p179) on the southern edge of the Old Town, about 10 minutes' walk from Old Town Square. The rooms have polished hardwood floors and dark wooden furniture, with good-sized bathrooms (and good water pressure in the showers). Some of the 1st-floor rooms have Renaissance painted wooden ceilings, and a few are almost big enough to be called a suite (the 'historic' rooms, which have a bit of character, cost 10% more than the ordinary ones, which have less atmosphere but are similar in size). For a romantic splurge, choose one of the attic rooms – No 33 is the best in the house, spacious and atmospheric, with a big pine bed and huge exposed roof beams.

OLD PRAGUE HOSTEL

Map pp88–9 Hostel €€

☎ 224 829 058; www.oldpraguehostel.com; Benediktská 2; dm from 375Kč, s/d 1000/1200Kč; **M** Náměstí Republiky; ☒ ☒

Cheerful and welcoming with colourful home-made murals brightening the walls, this is one of Prague's most appealing and sociable hostels, with a good mix of people from backpackers to families. Facilities are good, with lockers in the dorms, free breakfast and nonsmoking rooms, though the mattresses on the bunks are a bit on the thin side. The staff are very helpful (there's 24-hour reception) and the location could hardly be more central, just five

minutes' walk east of Old Town Square and two minutes from tram and metro. There are two PCs with free internet access (often busy) and wi-fi throughout the hostel.

NOVÉ MĚSTO & VYŠEHRAĐ

Although there are one or two grand old luxury hotels here, Nové Město's accommodation is mostly in modern chain hotels and upgraded 1930s establishments. What they might lack in historical atmosphere and romantic appeal they make up for in spaciousness and facilities. Those on Wenceslas Square are right in the thick of things, but there are quiet corners to be found as well, especially in southern Nové Město (ie Charles Square and its surrounds).

HOTEL YASMIN

Map pp108–9

Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 234 100 100; www.hotel-yasmin.cz; Politických Věznů 12, Nové Město; r from 6500Kč; M Můstek; P ☒

This designer hotel, a block east of Wenceslas Square, is very cutting edge, a blend of Space Age and organic. The public areas are covered in motifs in the shape of jasmine blossoms (from small white petals on the black granite floors to giant leaf prints on the walls), and decorated with birch-twig arrangements and chrome balls. (We're not sure what the orange, furry sculptures in the breakfast room are meant to be – triffids?) The spacious bedrooms have a neutral palette of white, beige and tan, the clean lines set off by plants, flowers or a curved edge; the bathrooms are in black tile and chrome. The hotel is entirely nonsmoking.

ICON HOTEL

Map pp108–9

Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 221 634 100; www.iconhotel.eu; V Jámě 6, Nové Město; r from 6250Kč; ☒ 3, 9, 14, 24; ☒

Staff clothes by Diesel, computers by Apple, beds by Hästens – pretty much everything in this gorgeous boutique hotel has a designer stamp on it. Plugged by *Condé Nast Traveller* in its 2008 Hot List, the Icon's sleekly minimalist rooms are enlivened with a splash of imperial purple from the silky bedspreads, while the curvy, reproduction Art Deco armchairs are supplied by *Modernista* (p147). High-tech touches include iPod docks, Skype phones

and fingerprint-activated safes, and there are broadband ports in all rooms plus free wi-fi in the public spaces. And if your muscles are aching after a hard day's sightseeing, the hotel also boasts one of Prague's best Thai massage studios.

RADISSON SAS ALCRON HOTEL

Map pp108–9

Hotel €€€

☎ 222 820 000; www.radissonsas.com; Štěpánská 40, Nové Město; r from 4000Kč; M Můstek; P ☒

Located just a few minutes' walk from Wenceslas Square, the five-star Radisson is the modern reincarnation of the 1930s Alcron Hotel, long favoured by celebrities and diplomats. Many of the original Art Deco marble-and-glass fittings have been preserved, including in the beautiful La Rotonde restaurant, and the 211 rooms have been far more tastefully renovated than in many other refurbished Prague hotels. The rooms have pleasant soft furnishings, retro prints and chic marble bathrooms, while mod cons such as free wi-fi access, video games and minibars add to the comfort and convenience. There are also wheelchair-accessible rooms for disabled guests.

HOTEL UNION

Map p116

Hotel €€

☎ 261 214 812; www.hotelunion.cz; Ostrčilovo náměstí 4, Vyšehrad; s/d from 2900/3750Kč; ☒ 7, 16, 24; P ☒

A grand old hotel from 1906, it was nationalised by the communists in 1958 and returned to the former owner's grandson in 1991. It's still family run, and the staff take great pride in looking after their guests properly. Comfortably renovated, with a few period touches left intact, the hotel is at the foot of the hill below Vyšehrad fortress; Charles Bridge is just 10 minutes away on tram 18. Bedrooms are plain but pleasant, and the double glazing helps to cut down on street noise; ask for one of the deluxe corner rooms (from 4500Kč a double), which are huge and have bay windows with a view of either Vyšehrad or distant Prague Castle. Free wi-fi.

HOTEL 16 U SV KATEŘINY

Map p106

Hotel €€

☎ 224 920 636; www.hotel16.cz; Kateřinská 16, Nové Město; s/d 2900/3700Kč; M Karlovo Náměstí; P ☒

Near the Botanic Gardens and about five minutes' walk from Karlovo Náměstí metro

station, 'St Catherine Hotel' is a friendly, family-run little place with just 14 rooms, tucked away in a very quiet corner of town where you're more likely to hear birdsong than traffic. The rooms vary in size and are simply but smartly furnished; the best, at the back, have views onto the peaceful terraced garden. Buffet breakfast is included in the price, and the hotel is fitted with a lift.

SUITEHOME RESIDENCE

Map pp108–9 Hotel Apartments €€

☎ 222 230 833; www.suitehome.cz; Příčná 2, Nové Město; 2-person ste from 3375Kč; M Karlovo Náměstí; ☎

Straddling the divide between apartment and hotel, this place offers the space and convenience of a suite with private bathroom and kitchen along with hotel facilities such as reception desk, daily maid service and breakfast room. It's a good choice for families or groups of friends, with suites for up to six persons; the rooms are pleasantly old-fashioned, and some on the upper floors have good views towards the castle. There's a lift, though it's a bit on the small side – important, as the building has five floors. There's also free wi-fi.

PENZIÓŇ U ŠUTERŮ

Map pp108–9 Pension €€

☎ 224 948 235; www.u-suteru.cz; Palackého 4, Nové Město; s/d 2390/3190Kč; ☎ 3, 9, 14, 24 or M Můstek; ☎

A block west of Wenceslas Square, this small side-street pension (10 rooms) is very central but away from the worst of the city-centre noise. With their polished wooden floors and plain wooden furniture, the bedrooms have a certain rustic charm; it's worth paying a little extra for one of the deluxe doubles (3590Kč), which have a bit more character. Breakfast is served in the Gothic basement, which doubles as a decent restaurant in the evenings.

MISS SOPHIE'S Map pp108–9 Hotel €

☎ 296 303 530; www.miss-sophies.com; Melounova 3, Nové Město; dm 520Kč, s/d from 1650/1890Kč, apt from 2300Kč; M IP Pavlova; ☎

This hostel in a converted apartment building on the southern edge of the New Town makes a pleasant change from the usual characterless backpacker hive. There's a touch of contemporary style here, with oak-veneer floors and stark, minimalist

décor – the main motif is 'distressed' concrete, along with neutral colours and black metal-framed beds. The place is famous for its 'designer' showers, with autographed glass screens and huge 'rainfall' shower heads. There is a very cool lounge in the basement, with red-brick vaults and black leather sofas, and reception (open 24 hours) is staffed by a young, multilingual crew who are always eager to help.

HOSTEL U MELOUNU

Map p106 Hostel €

☎ 224 918 322; www.hostelumelounu.cz; Ke Karlovu 7, Nové Město; dm 400Kč, s/d 990/1600Kč; M IP Pavlova; P ☎

One of the prettier hostels in town, 'At the Watermelon' is set in a historic building on a quiet back street, a short walk from Vinohrady's restaurants and bars (it's a 10-minute walk south of IP Pavlova metro station). The rooms are all on the ground floor and range from basic dorms to self-contained apartments radiating off a large central garden, giving the place a peaceful, cottage-y feel. Dorms, sleeping between six and 10 people in bunk beds, are the basic, functional spaces you would expect, but they are spotlessly clean and have lockers, and there's the added attraction of that peaceful, sunny garden complete with barbecue. Free wi-fi.

VINOHRADY & VRŠOVICE

Vinohrady is a great place to stay. Not only is it relatively close to the centre, with good metro connections from Náměstí Míru and Jiřího z Poděbrad stations, but also there are lots of nice places to stroll and stop for a beer or bite to eat. Vršovice is a little further out, and not quite as conveniently connected. Nevertheless, prices are lower here and some attractive new properties have recently opened.

LE PALAIS HOTEL Map p121 Hotel €€€

☎ 234 634 111; www.palaishotel.cz; U Zvonařky 1, Vinohrady; s/d €350/370, ste from €680; ☎ 6, 11; P ☎

Le Palais is housed in a gorgeous *belle époque* building dating from the end of the 19th century that was once home to Czech artist Luděk Marold (1865–98; his former

apartment is now rooms 407 to 412). It has been beautifully restored, complete with original floor mosaics, period fireplaces, marble staircases, wrought-iron balustrades, frescoes, painted ceilings and delicate stuccowork. The luxury bedrooms are decorated in warm shades of yellow, pink and ochre, while the various suites – some located in the corner tower, some with a south-facing balcony – make the most of the hotel's superb location perched on top of a bluff with views of Vyšehrad fortress.

HOTEL SIEBER

Map p121

Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 224 250 025; www.sieber.cz; Slezská 55, Vinohrady; s/d/ste 4480/4780/5480Kč; 📍 Jiřího z Poděbrad; ☒ ☑

Popular with business travellers, the Sieber is a small luxury hotel with 13 rooms and seven suites, set in a grand 19th-century apartment building. Stylish décor and attentive service are accompanied by thoughtful little touches such as bathrobes and fresh flowers. The building dates from 1889 and has been restored to its former grandeur after suffering years of neglect under the communist regime, and the rooms are decorated in restful, neutral tones (lots of cream and light wood). Service can't be faulted, and staff are courteous and very helpful. Rates are frequently discounted on its website.

ORION

Map p121

Hotel Apartments €€

☎ 222 521 706; www.okhotels.cz; Americká 9, Vinohrady; 2-person/4-person apt 2590/3590Kč; 📍 Náměstí Míru; 📍 ☒ ☑

A good-value hotel in an upmarket section of Vinohrady, within easy walking distance of Náměstí Míru and Havlíčkovy sady park. All 26 apartments are equipped with a small kitchen, including fridge and coffee maker. Several apartments have multiple rooms and can accommodate small groups. There's also a Finnish sauna on the premises. Ask to see a couple of rooms if possible, since they are all slightly different. Some come with hardwood floors, others with carpets. Free wi-fi throughout.

AMETYST

Map p121

Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 222 921 921; www.hotelametyst.cz; Jana Masaryka 11, Vinohrady; s/d from €110/120; 📍 Náměstí Míru; 📍 ☒ ☑

The polished Ametyst straddles the line between boutique and hotel, with just

enough style points in the lobby (nice retro flagstone) and the rooms (hardwood floors, arty lamps and flat-screen TVs) to put it in the boutique camp. All the rooms have air-conditioning, LAN connections for the PC, and tubs and hair dryers in the bathroom. There's a cosy coffee bar off the lobby and dozens of places to relax within easy walking distance in one of the nicest parts of leafy Vinohrady.

HOTEL LUNÍK

Map p121

Hotel €€

☎ 224 253 974; www.hotel-lunik.cz; Londýnská 50, Vinohrady; s/d from 2000/2900Kč; 📍 Náměstí Míru or IP Pavlova; 📍 ☒ ☑

Clean, attractive and smallish, Hotel Lunik is on a quiet residential street a block from Peace Square and between the Náměstí Míru and IP Pavlova metro stations. There's been a hotel here since the 1920s, and the lobby and public areas exude a quiet sophistication. The rooms are homey and slightly old-fashioned, with attractive green-tiled baths. There's free internet access in the rooms via LAN connection and a couple of terminals off the lobby. The friendly receptionist is willing to negotiate room rates on slow nights.

HOTEL ANNA

Map p121

Hotel €€

☎ 222 513 111; www.hotelanna.cz; Budečská 17, Vinohrady; s/d from €70/90, ste from €100; 📍 Náměstí Míru; 📍 ☒ ☑

Hotel Anna is small and friendly, with helpful and knowledgeable staff who speak both English and German. The late-19th-century building retains many of its Art Nouveau features, and the bedrooms are bright and cheerful with floral bedspreads and arty black-and-white photos of Prague buildings on the walls. There are two small suites on the top floor, one of which has a great view towards the castle. The hotel is tucked away on a quiet back street but close to the metro and lots of good restaurants and bars; you can walk to the top end of Wenceslas Square in 10 minutes. Check the website for special offers.

HOTEL CLARIS

Map p121

Hotel €€

☎ 242 446 111; www.hotel-claris.cz; Slezská 26, Vinohrady; s/d from €70/90; 📍 Náměstí Míru; 📍 ☒ ☑

The sister hotel to the [Anna](#) (above) and nearly identical in terms of price and facilities. Though it's on a busier street than the

Anna and lacks a bit of the charming neighbourhood feel, the furnishings are brighter and more cheerful. Either is an excellent pick if you're looking for a simple hotel and don't need a lot of facilities.

CZECH INN Map p121 Hostel/Hotel €

☎ 267 267 600; www.czech-inn.com; Francouzská 21, Vršovice; dm 430-495Kč, s/d 1320/1540Kč, en suite d/apt from 1870/2090Kč, 3-room apt 4400Kč;  Náměstí Míru plus  4, 22, 23;   




The Czech Inn calls itself a hostel, but 'luxury boutique' wouldn't be out of place. Everything seems sculpted by an industrial designer on Ian Schrager's payroll, from the handcrafted iron beds to the swish brushed-steel flooring and minimalist square sinks – right out of a German design catalogue. The Czech Inn offers a variety of accommodation, from standard hostel dorm rooms to good-value private doubles (with or without attached bath), and one-, two- or three-room apartments. The fifth-floor apartments come with a shared rooftop terrace and sleep up to eight. A bank of internet terminals in the lobby and an adjoining bar-café round out the charms.

HOLIDAY HOME Map p121 Pension €

☎ 222 512 710; www.holidayhome.cz; Americká 37, Vinohrady; s/d from 1500/1850Kč;  Náměstí Míru;   

This simple family-owned and -operated pension offers good value in one of the city's nicest residential neighbourhoods. Don't expect anything fancy in spite of the elegant town-house setting. The rooms are small and bare bones, with tiny beds. On the other hand, the location is ideal and the friendly owners will take good care of you from the moment you arrive. Free wi-fi throughout the hotel and an internet café next door.

PENZION MÁNES Map p121 Pension €

☎ 222 252 180; www.penzionmanes.cz; Mánesova 46, Vinohrady; s/d from 1500/2000Kč;  Jiřího z Poděbrad;  

It's bare-bones accommodation here, but a great price given the location on handsome Mánesova, close to some good bars, restaurants and clubs. There are few facilities, but rooms (some with a courtyard view) are comfortable and quiet, and staff are friendly.



PENSION BEETLE Map p121 Pension €

☎ 222 515 093; www.beetle-tour.cz; Šmilovského 10, Vinohrady; d from 1800Kč, ste from 3000Kč;  4, 22, 23;   

The Beetle occupies a lovely 1910 apartment building in a leafy back street, far from the tourist throng. The cheaper rooms are plain but functional, while the larger rooms and 'suites' (like two-room apartments) are more stylishly decorated and furnished, with antique and stripped pine furniture, and equipped with bedside lamps, minibar, table and chairs. A continental breakfast, with all the coffee you can drink, is included in the price.

PENSION ARCO

Map p121 Pension/Apartments €

☎ 271 740 734; www.arco-guesthouse.cz; Voroněžská 21, Vršovice; d/apt from €54;  4, 22, 23;  

The Arco is a gay-friendly pension and café-bar offering clean, comfortably furnished pension rooms, as well as several two- to four-person apartments in nearby buildings. The apartments are good value – bright and clean with laminate floors and IKEA furniture, and close to a tramline that will take you all the way to the castle, while Vinohrady's restaurants, pubs and clubs are just a few blocks away.

ŽIŽKOV & KARLÍN

If you're looking for somewhere inexpensive but not far from the city centre, then Žižkov and Karlín are your best bet. The slightly run-down air of these districts puts a lot of people off, but they are as safe as anywhere else in the city and only a couple of tram stops from Staré Město. Unfortunately a lot of the accommodation here is pretty mediocre, but things are improving all the time – Žižkov is sure to sprout some cool designer hotels in the next few years as rising property prices in neighbouring Vinohrady force developers to look elsewhere.

HOTEL ALWYN

Map pp126-7 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 222 334 200; www.hotelalwyn.cz; Vítkova 26, Karlín; s/d from 3000/3500Kč;  8, 24; 

The Alwyn is the first of what will probably be many designer hotels to appear in the up-and-coming district of Karlín. Set on a quiet side street only a few tram stops east



WORTH A DETOUR

Travellers rave about **Hostel Boathouse** (off Map pp58–9; ☎ 241 770 051; www.hostelboathouse.com; Lodnická 1, Braník; dm 350–420Kč; 🗺 3, 17, 21; 📞 📺), a friendly, popular hostel with a peaceful riverbank setting a few miles south of the city centre, run by the vivacious and unstinting crew of Věra and Helena. Accommodation is in three- to nine-bed rooms, with separate bathroom facilities for men and women, and there's a sunny, outdoor deck in front. A continental breakfast is provided free (you can get a cooked breakfast for 50Kč) and extras available include bike and boat hire, a minishop and laundry service. Take tram 3, 17 or 21 to the Černý kůň stop, and follow the hostel signs west to the river (it's a five-minute walk).

of Staré Město, the hotel sports deliciously modern décor in shades of chocolate brown, beige and burnt orange, with lots of polished wood and Deco-style sofas in the cocktail bar, and super-comfortable Hästens beds in the rooms. It's designed for both business and pleasure, with broadband ports and free wi-fi, conference room, fitness centre, sauna and massage centre.

ARCOTEL TEATRINO

Map pp126–7

Hotel €€

☎ 221 422 111; www.arcotel.at; Bořivojova 53, Žižkov; r from 3125Kč; 🗺 5, 9, 26; 📞 📺

The design of some boutique hotels could be described as theatrical, but there can't be too many that were actually designed as a theatre. Dating from 1910, the Art Nouveau building that houses this Austrian-run hotel was originally a cultural centre, Žižkov's equivalent of the **Municipal House** (p99) – guests here can enjoy an excellent buffet breakfast in what was originally the theatre auditorium. The rooms are plain and modern, but the public areas are filled with beautiful period features, from wrought-iron railings to stained glass windows.

CLOWN & BARD HOSTEL

Map pp126–7

Hostel €

☎ 222 716 453; www.clownandbard.com; Bořivojova 102, Žižkov; dm 300–380Kč, d 1000Kč, tw/tr 1400/2100Kč; 🗺 5, 9, 26; 📞 📺

Set in the heart of Žižkov's pub district, the Clown & Bard is a full-on party place – don't come here looking for peace and quiet. This ever-popular hostel has a café (with free, vegetarian, all-you-can-eat breakfast from 9am to 2pm), a lively bar, friendly, knowledgeable staff and good tours. As well as dorms and doubles, there are two- or three-person rooms with en-suite bathroom. The party crowd gravitates towards the thumping basement bar that stays open till midnight and features regu-

lar live acts and DJ nights. Rooms are fairly basic, but clean and perfectly comfortable. There are four computers offering free internet access, and free wi-fi.

HOSTEL ELF

Map pp126–7

Hostel €

☎ 222 540 963; www.hostelelf.com; Husitská 11, Žižkov; dm 340–370Kč, s/d 1230/1460Kč; 🗺 Florenc; 📞 📺

Young, hip and sociable, Hostel Elf welcomes a steady stream of party-hearty backpackers from across the globe to its well-maintained dorms, and many end up staying longer than they originally planned. The dorms, sleeping up to 11 people, are immaculately clean and brightly decorated with graffiti art or the odd mural. There's a little beer-garden terrace and cosy lounge, with free tea and coffee and cheap beer, and Žižkov with its many pubs is right on the doorstep; the downside is the noisy train line that runs close by. The hostel is less than 10 minutes' walk from Florenc bus station.

HOLEŠOVICE, BUBENEČ & DEJVICE

Don't choose a hotel in the neighbourhoods of Holešovice, Bubeneč or Dejvice if you require niceties like a window view on Prague Castle or the ability to tumble from your hotel door onto the cobblestones of Malá Strana. While these neighbourhoods have their attractive areas too, for the most part they are ordinary workaday parts of Prague. On the plus side, the rates tend to be more reasonable than in the centre, and your bargaining power at the reception desk is greater because the demand for rooms is lower. Also, Dejvice and Bubeneč are easy to reach from the airport, and the properties around the Nádraží Holešovice train station are convenient if you're arriving there from Vienna, Budapest or Berlin

(many international trains stop there). There's also a direct bus connection, the Airport Express/AE, between the airport and Nádraží Holešovice. Metro and tram connections to the centre are generally very good.

HOTEL PRAHA Map pp58–9 Hotel €€€

☎ 224 341 111; www.htlpraha.cz; Sušická 20, Dejvice; d €290; taxi;

The Hotel Praha is one of Prague's more interesting hotels. Hidden away on a hill in Dejvice, surrounded by several hectares of private grounds that were once protected by an electric fence, it's a luxury complex that was built in 1981 for the Communist Party elite. The public areas of the hotel are an intriguing mix of 1970s futuristic (sweeping curves and stainless steel) and 1950s Soviet splendour (polished marble and cut-glass chandeliers). The bedrooms are very spacious, with all the luxury you'd expect from a five-star establishment, and many are accessible to wheelchair users. But the hotel's biggest drawcard is the fact that each of its 124 rooms has its own private balcony – the entire southern face of the hotel is a sloping grandstand of stacked balconies, all draped with greenery and commanding a superb view of Prague Castle. Before 1989, such Soviet-era stalwarts as Nicolae Ceauşescu, Erich Honecker and Eduard Shevardnadze all hung their hats here; in recent years, the clientele has shifted from heads of state to Hollywood, with stars such as Tom Cruise, Johnny Depp, Alanis Morissette, Kris Kristofferson and Paul Simon ringing room service in the small hours.

HOTEL BELVEDERE

Map pp132–3 Hotel €€

☎ 220 106 111; www.europehotels.cz; Milady Horákové 19, Holešovice; s/d from 2700/3600Kč; 1, 8, 15, 25, 26;

The Belvedere is an old communist-era hotel that has been completely refurbished, and now provides good-value accommodation within easy reach of the city centre. The standard rooms are nothing special, but they're comfortable and spotlessly clean. The 'executive' rooms (4200Kč in season) on the 2nd floor are much more spacious, with soundproofed windows, smart crimson drapes and bedspreads, and huge, white, marble-lined bathrooms. Check the website for occasional steep discounts,

especially in mid-summer. The large breakfast room has a slightly institutional feel, but the food is good and there's plenty of it. There's a tram stop right outside the front door, and it's only five minutes to Náměstí Republiky metro station on tram 8.

ART HOTEL Map pp132–3 Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 233 101 331; www.arthotel.cz; Nad Královskou Oborou 53, Bubeneč; s/d from €120/140; 1, 8, 15, 25, 26;

There are lots of word-of-mouth recommendations for this small hotel hidden away in the peaceful embassy district. It has sleek modern styling with a display of contemporary Czech art in the lobby and art photography on the walls of the bedrooms. Room 203 is the best in the house, with a balcony and a view of the sunset; rooms 104 and 106 also have balconies. It may look out of the way on the map, but it's only a few minutes' walk from a tram (8) that will take you to the city centre in about 10 minutes.

PLAZA ALTA HOTEL

Map pp132–3 Hotel €€

☎ 220 407 011; www.plazahotelalta.com; Ortenovo náměstí 22, Holešovice; s/d from €109/129; Nádraží Holešovice or 12, 15;

The snazziest hotel in this part of town draws a mostly business clientele and travellers looking for a full-service property within easy reach (one tram stop) of Nádraží Holešovice. The hotel had a complete makeover in 2007, giving the rooms a cleaner look, with thicker mattresses and bold, striped bedspreads. All the rooms have air-conditioning and minibars, and free wi-fi is available throughout.

SPLENDID Map pp132–3 Hotel €€

☎ 233 375 940; www.hotelsplendid.cz; Ovenecká 33, Bubeneč; s/d 2000/2700Kč; 1, 8, 15, 25, 26;

This hotel-cum-guesthouse, occupying a town house on a beautiful residential street next to Stromovka Park, dates from well before the Velvet Revolution, and there is still a slight communist whiff in the air. Maybe it's the '70s-style black-leatherette stools in the hotel bar or the ultra-spartan rooms, with their tiny, narrow beds and thin mattresses (communists apparently never slept together in the same bed). The Splendid is actually

crying out for a thorough upgrade. On the other hand, it's clean and quiet, and the location is superb if you're looking for something green and outside the tourist throng. Note that parking is restricted to residents only. The only internet option is a public terminal near the reception.

HOTEL CROWNE PLAZA

Map pp132-3

Hotel €€

☎ 296 537 111; www.crowneplaza.cz; Koulova 15, Dejvice; d from €110; ☎ 8; P ☒ ☑ ☒
Originally called the Hotel International, this place was built in the 1950s in the style of Moscow University, complete with Soviet star atop the tower. Now modernised, it is comfortable and quiet, tucked away at the end of tram 8. Come here for the décor rather than anything else – although the rooms here are standard chain-hotel style, with all the necessities but not too many luxuries, the building itself is really something special, covered in polished marble, bas-reliefs and frescoes of the noble worker. The deluxe rooms, on the 9th floor and above, are more spacious and have good views over the city.

HOTEL VILLA SCHWAIGER

Map pp132-3

Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 233 320 271; www.villaschwaiger.com; Schwaigerova 59/3, Bubeneč; s/d from €90/110; taxi or ☎ 1, 8, 15, 25, 26 (plus long walk); P ☒ ☑ ☒
This elegant, colonial-style villa in a quiet valley in Bubeneč feels a world away from the bustle of Old Town Square. Great care has gone into designing the 22 rooms, including one – No 102 – done up in 'Chinese' style, with dark hardwoods, dramatic crimson fabrics and Chinese prints on the wall. The 'Zen' bath is done in brushed metal with a simple porcelain basin. Guests can relax in the back garden, take the hotel's bikes out for a spin in nearby Stromovka, or relax in the private sauna. The public areas are stunning, with white woods, marble floors and comfortable wicker furniture. Free wi-fi access throughout. The hotel is tricky to find, so it's best to take a taxi (at least for the first visit).

EXPO PRAGUE

Map pp132-3

Hotel €€

☎ 266 712 470; www.expoprague.cz; Za Elektrárnou 3, Holešovice; s/d from 1800/2600Kč; ☎ 5, 12, 14, 15, 17; P ☒ ☑ ☒

Medium-sized and modern, this hotel was built in the mid-1990s to accommodate trade fair delegations at the nearby Výstaviště fairgrounds. It lacks atmosphere but would do in a pinch if the nearby (and better) **Absolut Hotel** (below) is not available. It's just one tram stop from the Nádraží Holešovice train station and close to the sports and concert venue Sportovní hala. The rooms are decorated in a bland, contemporary, chain-hotel style, but they're clean, and also have air-conditioning, minibars and safes. Free wi-fi throughout.

ABSOLUT HOTEL

Map pp132-3

Boutique Hotel €€

☎ 222 541 406; www.absoluthotel.cz; Jablonského 639/4, Holešovice; s/d from €89/99; M Nádraží Holešovice; P ☒ ☑ ☒

A highly recommended, eye-catching boutique hotel (without the boutique price tag), Absolut is located across the street from the Nádraží Holešovice train and metro stations. While the neighbourhood wouldn't win a beauty contest, the hotel compensates with a list of amenities almost unheard of at this price point, including big, beautifully designed rooms with exposed brickwork, huge modern baths (many rooms have both a shower and a tub), air-conditioning, an excellent in-house restaurant, free wi-fi, a massage and wellness centre next door, and free parking. The friendly receptionist is willing to cut rates if you happen to arrive on a slow night.

HOTEL DENISA

Map pp132-3

Pensión/Hotel €€

☎ 224 318 969; Narodní Obrany 33, Dejvice; s/d from €50/90; M Dejvická; P ☒ ☑ ☒

This small, family-run hotel in a turn-of-the-century apartment building on a quiet side street was undergoing a massive renovation in 2008. The changes are hoped to give the plain rooms a much-needed upgrade, with nicer beds, thicker mattresses and updated baths. The location is great, just a few minutes' walk to the Dejvická metro station and convenient to the airport. The neighbourhood itself is wonderful for strolling, with lots of cafés and restaurants. At the time of research, there was no in-room internet, but free public terminals were on hand for guests.

HOTEL EXTOL INN Map pp132–3 Hotel €

☎ 220 876 541; www.extolinn.cz; Přístavní 2, Holešovice; s/d from 1050/1800Kč; ☎ 1, 3, 5, 25; ♿

The bright, modern Extol Inn provides budget accommodation in an up-and-coming neighbourhood within easy reach of the city centre. The cheapest rooms (on the upper floors) are basic, no-frills affairs with shared bathrooms. These are often occupied by groups of high-schoolers, so if you value your peace and quiet it might be worth paying a bit extra for the more expensive three-star rooms (doubles from 2350Kč), which have private bathroom, TV, minibar and free use of the hotel sauna and spa. There's a public internet terminal in the lobby. The hotel is entirely nonsmoking and wheelchair-accessible. There's a tram stop 100m away, from which it's a 10-minute ride to the city centre.

HOTEL LEON Map pp132–3 Hostel/Hotel €

☎ 220 941 351; www.leonhotel.eu; Ortenovo náměstí 26, Holešovice; s/d from 1100/1700Kč; ♿ Nádraží Holešovice or ☎ 5, 12; ♿

The Hotel Leon advertises itself as something between a hostel and a small hotel. In truth, it's actually much nicer than a standard hostel and not much more expensive (especially if you share a three- or four-bed room). The rooms are basic, with no TV or much of anything else, but are quiet and clean, with adjoining bathrooms. If noise is an issue, ask for a quieter room overlooking the back garden. There's a common room for TV and a shared computer for internet access. It's one tram stop from the Nádraží Holešovice train and metro station.

SIR TOBY'S HOSTEL

Map pp132–3 Hostel €

☎ 246 032 610; www.sirtobys.com; Dělnická 24, Holešovice; dm 360–470Kč, s/d 1150/1600Kč; ☎ 1, 3, 5, 25; ♿

Set in a quiet, nicely refurbished apartment building with spacious kitchen and common room, and run by friendly, cheerful staff, Sir Toby's is only 10 minutes north of the city centre by tram. The dorms have between four and eight bunks, and the bigger dorms are some of the cheapest in Prague. The private rooms, meanwhile, are fitted with metal-framed single beds. All rooms are light, clean and spacious, but don't expect

anything fancy. The mattresses are a little on the thin side, but all sheets and blankets are provided at no extra cost. There's a communal kitchen for self-caterers to do their thing, a lounge and a relaxing little garden where you can sit back and chat.

PLUS PRAGUE HOSTEL

Map pp132–3 Hostel €

☎ 220 510 046; www.plusprague.com; Přívozní 1, Holešovice; dm 320Kč, s/d 800/1600Kč; ♿ Nádraží Holešovice; ♿

The cheerful Plus Prague Hostel is one tram stop from Nádraží Holešovice (take any tram heading left as you exit the station). Cheap rates, clean rooms with en-suite bathrooms, friendly staff, free wi-fi and an indoor swimming pool and sauna make this a special place. The staff hold special game nights at the in-house bar and conduct regular pub-crawls for the guests. It also offers four-, six- and eight-bed 'girls only' dorm rooms.

HOTEL LETNÁ Map pp132–3 Pension Hotel €

☎ 233 374 763; www.prague-hotel-letna.com; Na Výšínách 8, Bubeneč; s/d from 650/60; ☎ 1, 8, 15, 25, 26; ♿

Pleasant and family-owned, Hotel Letná is in a late-19th-century apartment block on a quiet residential street not far from Sparta Stadium, near Letenské náměstí. There are few facilities on hand, but the rooms are quiet and clean, most with tubs as well as showers, hair-dryers and minibars. It's about five minutes by foot to the tram stop, from where it's 10 minutes to the centre. Check the website for occasional special offers.

A&O HOSTEL

Map pp132–3 Hostel €

☎ 220 870 252; www.aohostels.com; U Výstaviště 1/262, Holešovice; dm €14, s/d €21/42; ♿ Nádraží Holešovice; ♿

This clean, well-maintained hostel is in a converted apartment building across the street and a short walk down from the Nádraží Holešovice train and metro stations. The rooms are plain with wooden floors and white walls, lending a slightly institutional feel (think small hospital). There are a couple of computers in the lobby to check email and some snacks to buy at the reception desk, but not much else to distract you. The rates fluctuate

dramatically from day to day, depending on demand. Book in advance to lock in a lower rate.

SMÍCHOV

A few years ago, the idea of staying in Smíchov would have been laughable, but the area has gone upmarket and now boasts some of the city's nicest hotels. While Smíchov is not within easy walking distance of the centre (despite what hotel brochures might imply), the metro connection from Anděl is excellent and puts you at Můstek, at the foot of Wenceslas Square, in about 10 minutes.

ADMIRÁL HOTEL Map p138 Hotel €€

☎ 257 321 302; www.admiral-botel.cz; Hořejší nábřeží 57; s/d 2980/3130Kč; **M** Anděl; **P**

If you've ever harboured a desire to sleep in a ship's cabin but would rather do without the seasickness, then climb aboard the Admiral, a permanently berthed riverboat floating quietly off the west bank of the Vltava. The reception area, with its plush leather seating and polished wood and brass, has a smart nautical feel, with narrow corridors leading towards the rooms. These cabins are what you might expect: simple, compact and functional rather than luxurious, with tiny en-suite shower rooms. Rooms facing the river have an attractive outlook, and you can feed the swans from your window. The 'botel' recently added free wi-fi throughout.

ANGELO HOTEL Map p138 Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 234 801 111; www.angelohotel.com; Radlická 1g; s/d from €245/265; **M** Anděl; **P** ☒ ☑

The Angelo is the brighter, more-extravagant cousin of *Anděl's* (below). It has the same slick lobby presentation and high-tech room décor, but instead of the *Anděl's* muted whites, the Angelo is a riot of rich colour. Both are owned and operated by the same Austrian group, Vienna International, and there's not much difference between the two in terms of price or service. It all boils down to personal taste. The hotels are situated back to back, so if you can't get into one, try around the corner.

ANĎEL'S HOTEL PRAGUE

Map p138 Boutique Hotel €€€

☎ 296 889 688; www.andelshotel.com; Stroupežnického 21; s/d from €235/255; **M** Anděl; **P** ☒ ☑ ☑

This sleek designer hotel, all stark contemporary style in white with black and red accents, has floor-to-ceiling windows, DVD and CD players, internet access and modern abstract art in every room, while the bathrooms are a wonderland of polished chrome and frosted glass. Superior 'club rooms' come with pleasurable perks such as bathrobes and slippers, newspapers delivered to your room and free room-service breakfast. The website offers packages with significant discounts from the rack rate.

HOTEL ARBES

Map p138 Hotel €€

☎ 233 107 522; www.hotelarbes.cz; Viktora Huga 3; s/d from 2300/2800Kč; **M** Anděl; **P** ☒ ☑ ☑

Clean, quiet and excellent value, the Arbes is a down-to-earth tonic to *Anděl's* (left) and *Angelo* (left). Viktora Huga is a quiet street, about two blocks from the Anděl metro station and the Nový Smíchov shopping centre, with excellent connections to the centre. The hotel is family-owned and friendly, and the rooms are basic, with modern furnishings and clean bathrooms. Ask for a courtyard room if noise is an issue. There's a public computer near the lobby to check email. There's limited street parking, but paid parking nearby.

HOTEL JULIAN

Map p138 Hotel €€

☎ 257 311 144; www.julian.cz; Elišky Peškové 11; s/d from €118/128; **M** 6, 9, 12, 20; **P** ☒ ☑ ☑

A deservedly popular small hotel with helpful staff and a quiet location just south of Malá Strana. The smart, well-kept bedrooms are decorated with relaxing pastel shades and pine-topped furniture, and the public areas include a clubbish drawing room with a library, comfy armchairs and an open fire; smokers get their breakfast here (served till 11am at weekends), and the main breakfast room is smoke-free. If you're travelling with kids or in a group, there is a family room (two adults and two children) and three suites (sleeping three to six adults), and there's one wheelchair-accessible room.

IBIS PRAHA MALÁ STRANA

Map p138 Hotel €€

☎ 221 701 700; www.hotelibis.cz; Plzeňská 14; s/d from €98/98; **M** Anděl; **P** ☒ ☑ ☑

Never mind that it's nowhere near Malá Strana (but hey, a nice try by the marketing department) – Smíchov's IBIS hotel is a great addition to the neighbourhood, offering a little of the splash of **Anděl's** (opposite) and **Angelo** (opposite), but at less than half the price. The rooms are stripped down, pretty much standard-issue, but they have air-conditioning and free wi-fi. The building's aggressively modern style actually looks rather good amid the futuristic boxes found around the area of the Anděl metro station. It's also an easy walk to public transport and the shopping centre.

ARPACAY HOSTEL [Map p138](#) **Hostel €**
 ☎ 251 552 297; www.arpacayhostel.com; Radlická 76; dm 390Kč, s/d 1300/1300Kč; **M** Smíchovské Nádraží or **Q** 6; **P** **X** **W**

This clean, colourful hostel is near Smíchovské nádraží train station and is the best cheap accommodation in the immediate vicinity. Though it's not within walking distance of the centre as the website says, it's not a bad trip with tram 6 or metro line B from the train station. The relatively remote location keeps prices a little lower here than at competing hostels, and forces management to offer things like free wi-fi throughout.

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