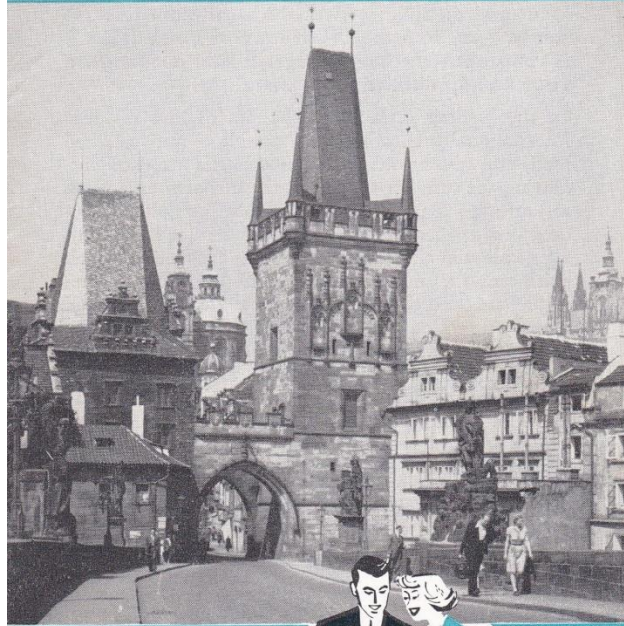


SAS CITY PORTRAITS

SAS

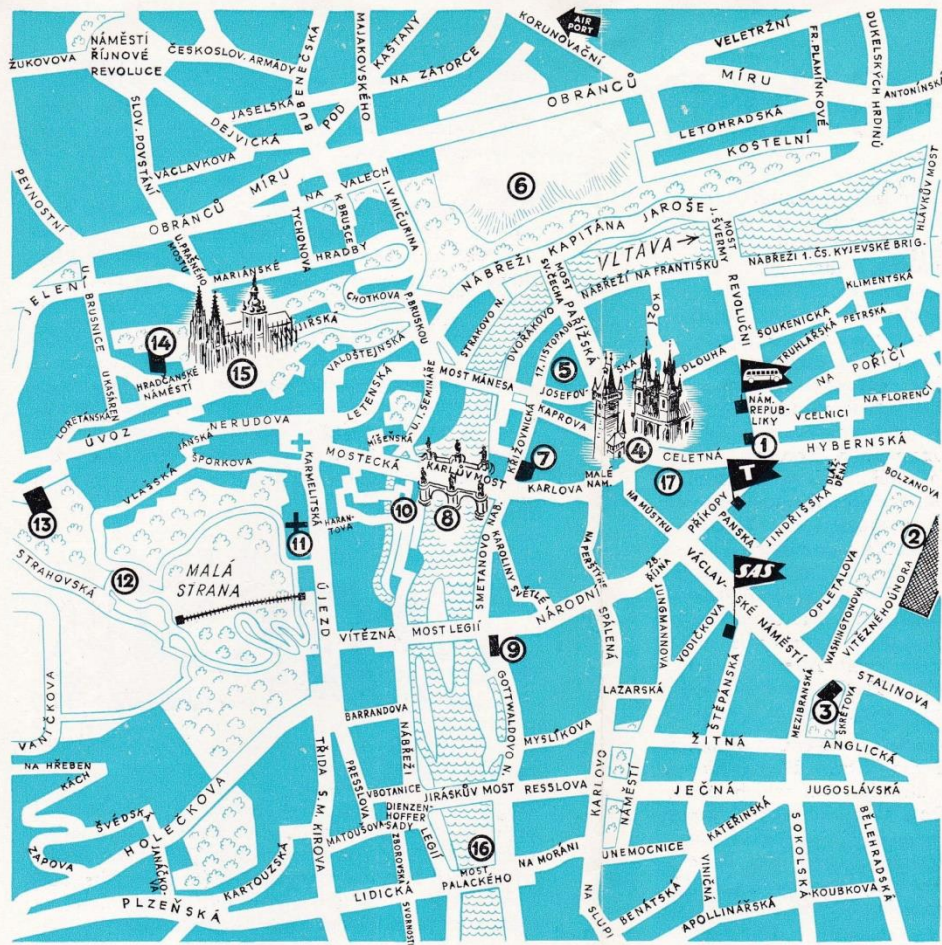
Prague



The Charles Bridge Tower



SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINES SYSTEM



Your First Hour in Prague


You surrender your passport to the police when you disembark the plane. The SAS ground hostess will help you through the passport control office where you get the passport back. You then proceed to the Arrival Hall for customs- and currency control. All foreign money must be declared and a money declaration form will be filled in by the currency control officer; this is a very important document as no Czech money may be imported or exported and all exchange of foreign currencies must be entered in this form. When you leave the country the declaration form must be returned to the currency control officer. After the custom and currency control the coach leaves for the city. The trip to the Air Terminal takes 30 minutes and the fare is Kčs 4.--. Note that only Czech money is accepted. Money can be changed at the airport bank.


The monetary unit is the Koruna (Kčs) divides into 100 Halers. There are about 7.20 Kčs to one US dollar and 20.16 Kčs to one £ Sterling.


Do not hesitate to ask the SAS staff at the Airport for assistance or information whenever you need it, they will gladly help you in any way possible. If you are flying on from Prague by SAS, one of the first things to do after your arrival is to reconfirm your onward reservation by informing SAS of the reservation you hold and your intention to use the space previously reserved for you. You might do this with SAS at the Airport or at the SAS town office.

Key to the Map:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The Powder Tower. | 10. The Čertovka Quarter. |
| 2. Main Railroad Station. | 11. The Malá Strana Quarter. |
| 3. National Museum. | 12. Petřín Hill (Outlook Tower). |
| 4. Old Town Square. | 13. Strahov Monastery (Library and Museum). |
| 5. Old Jewish Town (Ghetto). | 14. The Sternberg Palace (National Gallery). |
| 6. Letná Hill and the Stalin Monument. | 15. Hradčany Castle. |
| 7. Clementinum (University Library). | 16. Starting Point for River Cruises. |
| 8. Charles Bridge. | 17. Charles University. |
| 9. The National Theater. | |

 SAS Ticket Office: Štěpánská 61, Prague II. Telephone: 22 81 41-43.

 ČSA Air Terminal: Náměstí Republiky. Telephone: 657-41.

 Tourist Information Office: Čedok, Na Příkopě 18, Prague III. Telephone: 223 440.

One Hour's Walk around Prague

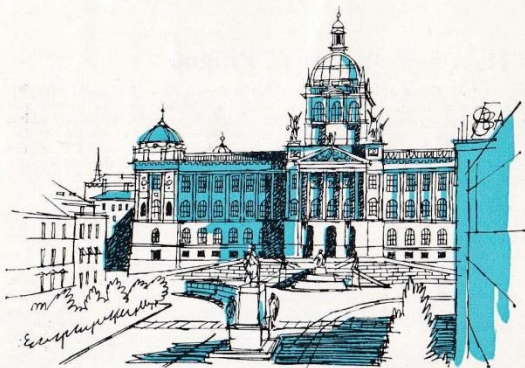
Leaving the SAS Office at Štěpánská turn left and walk down Václavské náměstí, the main thoroughfare of Prague. At the top of this wide, tree-lined avenue you will see the statue of St. Wenceslas, patron saint of Czechoslovakia, and behind this the National Museum. Turn to the left, and at the bottom of Václavské náměstí turn right along Příkopy, a busy shopping area. On your right note Čedok, the Czech State Travel Agency. At the end of this street on your left is the Old Powder Tower. Walk underneath its arch and continue along Celetná Street to the Old Town Square, Staroměstské náměstí, a wide square with a statue of John Huss. Keeping to the left you come to the Old Town Hall. Now walk under the arches at the end of the Town Hall, turn right, then take the next turn to the left proceeding to a square where you will see the Clam-Gallas Palace and the back of the library

Walking through the courtyards of the University you will soon arrive at the Charles Bridge with the famous vista of the river Moldau and the old Hradčany Castle. Note the lovely Baroque church on the right side of the bridge. It was founded by the Order of the Knights of the Cross centuries ago. Turning left from Charles Bridge continue your promenade along the river to the next bridge. Here stands the impressive building of the National Theater. From here walk up Národní trída, leading back to Václavské náměstí. Turn to the right and you will soon find yourself once more at the SAS Office.

PRAGUE

Czechoslovakia dates back to well before the Christian era when the Slavonic tribes advanced from the Vistula region. Some tribes settled in Bohemia and became known as Bohemians. Others occupied the lands due East and became known as Moravians and Slovaks. The subsequent struggles against the Germans, Avars and Magyars subjected the people to various influences and resulted in different cultural developments. The twelfth century was marked by dynastic strife and German interference in Bohemia's affairs. In the fourteenth century Jan Huss (1369-1415) led the Czech Reformation. Foreign rule by Polish kings and the union of Bohemia with Hungary were coupled with religious and class disputes between Catholics, Hussites and Protestants. The Habsburg Archduke Ferdinand of Austria was elected king of Bohemia in 1526 and from then on, with the exception of short intervals, the Habsburg were to rule until 1918. In 1918 Czechoslovakia was set up as an independent republic. In 1938 the country became a federal union in the German orbit. After a period of changes following World War II, the present Czechoslovak Republic came into being in 1948.

Prague, the capital, is located on several hills which rise from the banks of the Vltava River. Eleven bridges span the river, the oldest of which is the Charles Bridge, dating from the year 1357. Baroque architecture sets the character of the city although it contains many Romanesque, Gothic and Renaissance relics, as well as contemporary buildings. All year round, Prague resounds with music. In this



ancient city, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart composed some of his music and spent his happiest years. The gardens of the former nobility, famous for their extraordinary beauty, serve as charming framework for summer concerts.

VISAS—Every foreigner visiting Czechoslovakia must have a valid passport, a visa and hotel vouchers. The visa can be secured from the nearest Czechoslovak Consulate or through Čedok agents. The forms supplied by Čedok must be filled in for each applicant separately with four copies and two photographs per person.

Formal declaration, disclosing the amount of foreign currency carried, must be made to the customs authorities at the point of entry. Jewellery of value should also be entered in the customs declaration. 200 cigarettes and 1 litre of liquor can be brought in duty free.



Hotels

Prague has several fine hotels of international standard. Official price control ensure that charges are uniform regardless of which hotel you choose. Hotels are divided into the categories L (de luxe), first and second, but we should advise you to stay either at a de luxe or at a first class establishment.

The following hotels are most suitable for SAS passengers: in the de luxe category the Alcron (Štěpánská ul.), the Esplanade (19 Washingtonova), the Jalta (Václavské nám.), and the International (Dejvice, Jugoslávských Partyzánů 37).

In the first class category, the Ambassador (Václavské nám.), the Flora (Stalinova tř.), the Palace (Panská ul.) and the Paříž (1 U Obecního domu) are all good. A single room with private bath will cost the equivalent \$ 12.50 in de luxe hotels and \$ 8.40 in hotels of first class. Voltage in Prague is 120 or 220 V. Reservations are made through the Czechoslovak Travel Bureau Čedok. Your local SAS Office will know which travel agents in your country represent Čedok.



Restaurants and Food

The food is of good quality and the choice is more or less the same in most restaurants. The favorite national dish is roast pork or roast goose with sauerkraut and dumplings. With the meal one drinks, of course, beer from the Czech town of Pilsen (Plzeň). If you want something stronger ask for a *Slivovice*, a tasty brandy distilled from plums.

In the leading restaurants the bill of fare includes internationally known dishes as well as native Czech food, and restaurants of the good hotels are excellent. During the summer try one of these charming garden restaurants: Barrandov—its Trilobit bar offers dancing in the open air; Mánes on the river bank with open air dancing; Savarin with excellent French cuisine and a nice bar; and from the Zlatá Studna restaurant there is a marvelous view of Prague. Numerous restaurants specialize in foreign food: the Balkan Grill offers several interesting Balkan dishes; the Budapest naturally is famous for its Hungarian specialties; the Olympia serves excellent French food; and the restaurant of the Alcron hotel is a good choice because they always have foreign food on their menu. All these restaurants have dancing.

For genuine Czech cuisine pay a visit to Valdštejnská hospoda with its fine wine cellar; U Kalicha, or U Fleků, a brewery dating back to the Middle Ages. Another brewery with old traditions is U Sv. Tomáše where a cabaret program is presented.

U Markýze and U Mecenáše are quiet and cozy wine cellars, serving excellent French food, and if you happen to pass by U Malířů pay a visit there. It is another typical old town wine cellar. For an excellent dinner in the evening we may also recommend the first class wine restaurant Monika.





Shopping

The best shops are situated on Václavské nám, Příkopy and Národní třída. Most are open all day, including Saturdays and Sundays. Smaller shops are open from 8 AM to 6 PM and close between Noon and 2 PM. The Tuzex shops in Palackého ul. are authorized to accept foreign currency.

Among the most popular souvenirs are lovely dolls in national costumes, Slovakian handicrafts, laces, embroidery and wickerwork. Czechoslovak glassware and crystal are also really excellent.

Entertainment and Night Life

Opera, ballets and drama performances are given at the National Theater (No. 9 on the map), the Smetana Theater and the Tylovo Theater. A special treat for a western visitor are the puppet theaters: the Central Puppet Theater, the famous Spejbl and Hurvínek Puppet Theater. Their performances are a national art which has developed through the centuries.

Concerts are given at Dům Umělců and Smetana Hall. An outstanding annual event is the Prague Spring Music Festival. Famous international conductors and soloists perform and music lovers from everywhere are present.

Variety shows are presented at the Alhambra and the Pražské Varieté (Prague Variety Theater) and others. There is a large amusement park at the Fair Grounds.



There are numerous modern cinemas showing movies in their original languages. Look for the programs in the daily newspapers—your hotel porter will assist you.

For late evening entertainment and refreshments the Alhambra is recommended and also the Barbara, popular for its numerous special types of wine drinks, Embassy Bar at the Ambassador Hotel, the Est Bar of Esplanade Hotel and the T Bar.



Sports

Popular sports in Czechoslovakia are football (soccer) and ice hockey, and the Czechs have acquired world fame for their achievements in the sporting field. Main events take place at the Strahov Stadium, near the Petřín Hill (No. 12 on the map). Basketball, volley ball, handball and tennis are also popular, as are horse racing, motorcycle and bicycle races and skiing. One sports highlight is the Spartakiade, a gymnastic festival every five years.



Public Holidays

All shops and offices are closed on the following official holidays: January 1 (New Year's Day), May 1 (Labor Day—big parades), May 9 (National Day of Liberation—big parades, reviews and dancing in the streets), October 28 (Day of Nationalization), December 25 (Christmas Day), and December 26 (Boxing Day).

Tipping

Although tipping is officially forbidden, it is all right to tip waiters and hotel porters a little on top of the 10% service charge which is added to the bill.

Transportation

Electric trams and trolley buses provide frequent and quick connections between all parts of the city at a uniform fare of Kčs. 0.60. Taxis are available from numerous taxi stands at the rate of Kčs. 2.20 per kilometer.



Sights

A variety of sightseeing tours is organized by Čedok. A few of the more important sights are listed below. The numbers correspond to the map:

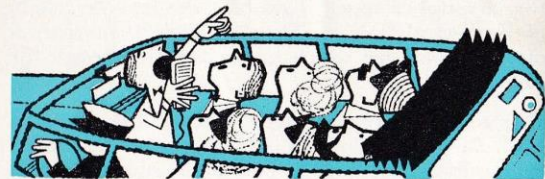
1. *The Powder Tower.* This Gothic structure stands as a remnant of the city's medieval fortifications.
2. *The Main Railway Station.*
3. *The National Museum.*
4. *Old Town Square.* Note the Old Town Hall with its famous mechanical clock. When it strikes—every hour—the twelve apostles and other figures come to life. Here also is the beautiful Tyne Church, and, in the center of the square, the beautiful monument to John Huss.
The narrow streets around the Old Town Square (Staroměstské nám) are true relics of the Middle Ages with many picturesque ancient houses.
5. *The Old Jewish Town* with the historical synagogue and the impressive old Jewish Cemetery where the tombstones with their Hebrew inscriptions are overgrown with shrubbery. See the Jewish Museum. It holds interesting collections relating to the history of the Jewish Ghetto.



6. *The Letná Hill.* Here is the Letná Tunnel and the modern buildings of the First Five Year Plan. Also, the monument to Stalin.
7. *Clementinum* (University Library).
8. *Charles Bridge.* Karlův most, is Prague's oldest bridge (built in 1357). It spans the Vltava River and the island of Kampa. A gallery of statues lines the roadway. The two towers on the left bank of the river once guarded the entrance of the Old Town and, like the Powder Tower, they are remnants of the ancient fortifications.
9. *The National Theater,* leading stage of Prague. Built 1868–81.
10. *The Čertovka Quarter.* The island of Kampa washed on one side by the Vltava river and on the other side by the Čertovka river is often called the Czech Venice. Walk down to it by the stone steps leading down from Charles Bridge. You come to a picturesque little square which is full of life during the annual pottery fair. Along the Čertovka River the banks are built up with houses with balconies. Some of them have wooden docks, other have steps leading directly down to the stream. A little beyond the Čertovka is the charming and old Velkopřevorské Square, paved with upright cobblestones, nicknamed "cats' heads". A little further away is the Malteze Square with its church dedicated to the Virgin Mary in Chains.
11. *Malá Strana.* On the outskirts of this charming garden district we find the church with the famous Infant Jesus of Prague. A little to the South from here is the station of the funicular railway leading to.
12. *Petřín Hill,* the highest point of Prague. On the summit is a small copy of the Eiffel Tower.
13. *The Strahov Library.* This beautiful former monastery is now a Museum of Czech Literature.
14. *Sternberg Palace.* *The National Gallery.*
15. *The Hradčany Castle.* A symbol not only of Prague but of the entire Czech nation this castle and its adjoining structures are a national treasure. A visit is indispensable for all tourists to Prague. From Hradčanské Square you pass through a grating which carries the initials of the Empress Maria Theresia, who had this part of the castle elaborately rebuilt

by her own architect. Matyas' Gateway connects the first and the second courtyard. Here you'll find a 17th century well and fountain. Between the second and third courtyards portions of the 12th century fortifications can be seen. The Cathedral of St. Vitus almost fills the spacious third courtyard. The present church, begun by Charles IV in 1344 succeeded a Romanesque basilica, and it is the most famous Gothic cathedral in Czechoslovakia. Behind this is the oldest part of the castle with ramparts dating back to the 12th century. Here you find the famous Golden Street where the houses, originally destined for use of the castle guard, are built directly into the walls of the fortifications. Near St. Vitus Cathedral is the Vladislav Palace with its Vladislav Hall where presidential elections take place. Above is the 14th century Charles Palace, and adjoining the Ludwig Palace, chambers of the former Czech chancellors. West of the castle the former town of Hradčany stretches with its many palaces and its famous Loretta Church, a popular destination for pilgrimages. Its front tower houses a carillon from Amsterdam. While the church dates from the 17th century its rich treasure chamber contains rare and valuable works of art from the 16th to the 18th centuries. End your visit to the castle and its surroundings at the small, cozy Golden Well restaurant on a terrace under the castle walls, from where the view of Prague is unsurpassed.

16. *Starting point for the River Cruises,* at the Palackého bridge.
17. *The Charles' University.* Founded in 1348, this is the oldest university in Central Europe.



Excursions

Čedok operates a number of conducted tours of various length. Ask for particulars at your local travel bureau, as you must reserve accommodations in advance. Čedok also provides facilities for hunting or angling. Special pamphlets give full information. Mention should also be made of the famous Czech spas, Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad) and Mariánské Lázně (Marienbad). For centuries these spas have attracted convalescents from all over the world, and Čedok will furnish all the necessary information concerning services and charges.



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As part of that service, SAS has prepared a collection of City Portraits. You are holding one in your hand right now. As you read it the entire city opens to you . . . its history, its people, its sights and delights. The research for this Portrait was done by SAS travel experts. And all information is from official sources. New Portraits are being prepared to cover all 84 cities in 43 countries on 5 continents served by SAS. Ask for the one you want when you arrive at your destination. And use it as part of your wonderful journey on SAS . . . transatlantic or transpolar between the U.S.A. and Europe . . . directly over the North Pole between Europe and the Orient . . . to Africa or South America . . . or 'round the world between wherever you are and wherever you want to go'.