

WHERE TO GO IN PRAGUE

an alternative city guide

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Postcard 884
Prague - Karlštejn Castle

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You might expect a travel guide to only talk up the positives of destinations. But we're realists. We recognise that there are some things best avoided, or at least approached with healthy caution. So here are our places to avoid in Prague.

Hello!

Why not to visit Prague Castle? Well, it's the feeling of being firmly led into making a purchase, along with the heave of tourists and queues at every corner and the consequent absence of character. Some of the castle's palace rooms and gardens may be exquisite, but they could be more pleasantly derived from looking at a nice book of pictures from Prague Castle.

Prague castle

Vyšehrad castle. Just down the Vltava River from Prague Castle is the lesser-known 10th century castle of Vyšehrad. In addition to offering great views of the Vltava River and the city, Vyšehrad features grassy grounds stocked full of locals having picnics with family and friends. The cemetery at Vyšehrad is also home to many of Czech greats of art and music, including Alphonse Mucha and Antonín Dvořák. The Peter and Paul church is also worth a look – neo-gothic on the outside, but Mucha-inspired art nouveau murals on the inside.

Signature

Wenceslas Square at Night

Where protesters once stood up to Soviet tanks during Prague Spring in 1968, hawkers now stand up for your opportunity to patronize their strip clubs. After dark, Wenceslas Square becomes a central place for strip club tours, prostitutes, their pimps and all manner of the shady and unpleasant. Although it's not unsafe per se, it's best avoided.

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After dark, walk any of the streets parallel to Wenceslas Square or take the metro to avoid the area altogether.

Astronomical Clock Show

We know we are going to get crap for this one. Don't get us wrong, the medieval astronomical clock on the side of Old Town City Hall is beautiful and worth a look. But really, don't worry about fighting with the tourist hordes that gather on the hour to see the "show." The hourly spectacle features some figures moving around, a rooster call (our favourite). However, it's really not worth the elbowing and unpleasant crowds you have to deal with to watch it.

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Have the clock to yourself to admire at any time outside the top-of-the-hour. If you find yourself tiring of the crowds on Old Town Square, pop up to the rooftop terrace at U Prince hotel, order a cocktail, and enjoy the view from above. It's particularly nice at sunset.

Karlštejn Castle

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When you come off the Charles Bridge (on the opposite side of the river from Prague Castle), cut through the Klementinum (look for the doorway across the street to the left of Karlova street) and enjoy a peaceful stroll through a 14th century courtyard.

Charles Bridge in the Middle of the Day

For most of the day from late spring to early autumn, Charles Bridge is heaving with crowds. It's easy to see why. Decorated with statues, Charles Bridge just drips history. It's also the quickest route from Old Town to Mala Strana. However it's one of those things that is far better when you have it (almost) to yourself.

Signature

Go early in the morning, or later at night and you can truly appreciate it. Detour south and cross at Střeškovský Ostrůvek (Shooter's Bridge). That way you'll have the chance to snap some picture postcard photos of Charles Bridge itself with the Castle behind. Go in the morning to catch the best light. The many caricaturists and art sellers on the bridge pack up in the evening, easing the flow. After 10 PM or so the bridge is much quieter too.

Here is our apology...

As an excuse for discouraging you from visiting some places, we'd like to give you some tips on the amazing places you can visit. Trust us, it's worth it.

Green feeding spot

Near to Charles Bridge there is a stunning spot.

Café Louvre

Café Louvre, offers a great fin de siècle atmosphere and was frequented by such famous names as Franz Kafka and Albert Einstein.

Wallenstein Garden

Wallenstein Garden is home to a beautiful lake and Baroque-styled statues.

Left parks

Extensive park with grassy areas, mature trees, a colorful assortment of bushes planted on the hillside, and a long plane tree-lined avenue.

Thunovská Street

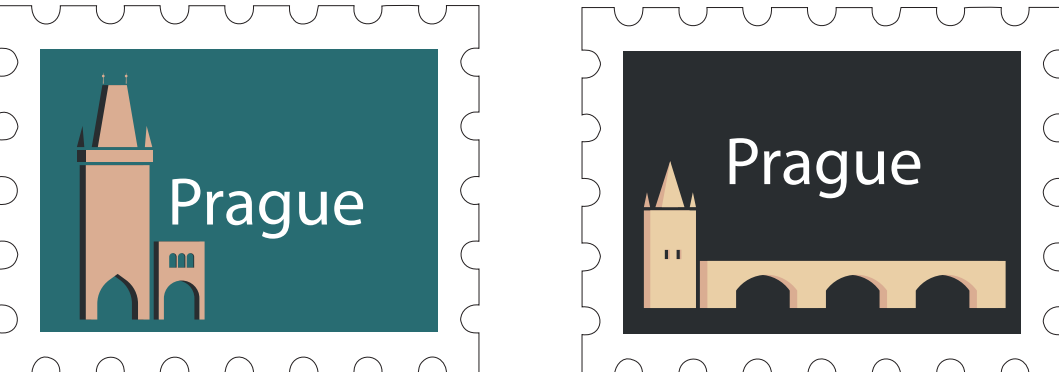
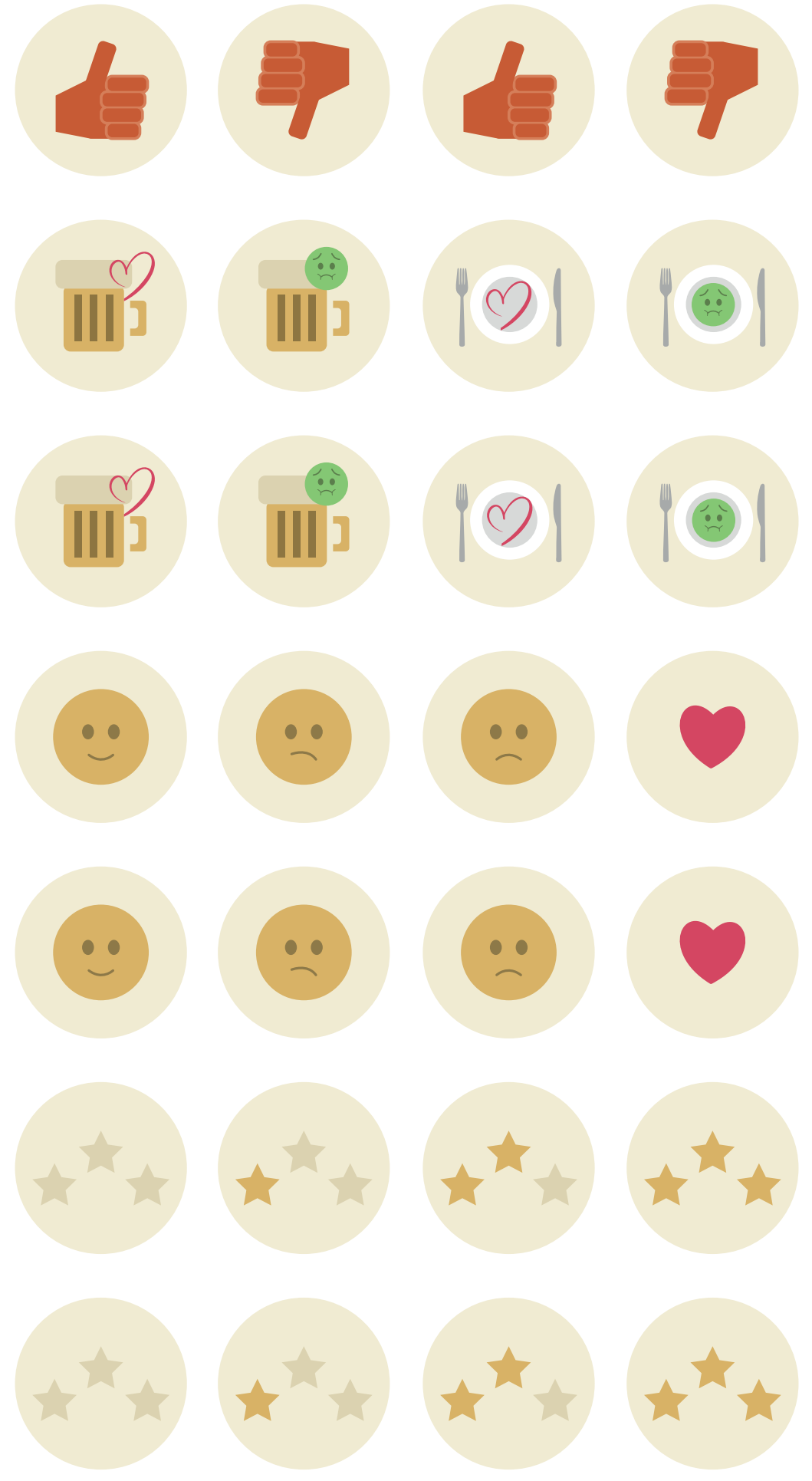
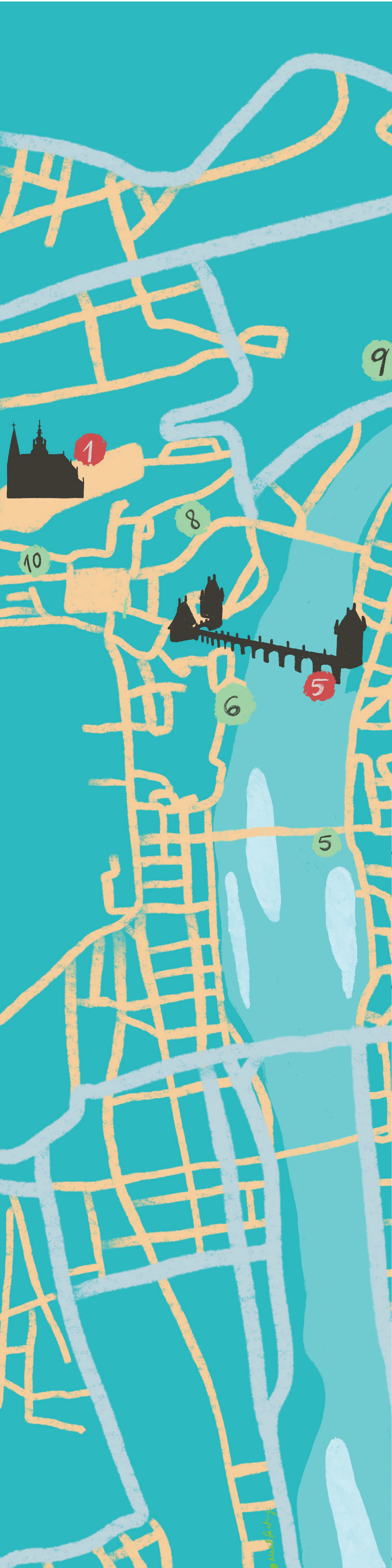
Thunovská Street is one of the prettiest streets in Prague since its medieval aspect was preserved.

Enjoy Prague!

Meet our guide

We would like to thank you for choosing our guide. Here is a brief overview of what you will find in our guide.

- We have a list of a few places you should avoid and their alternatives. We also have 5 tips for beautiful and not very well-known places in Prague that you should definitely visit. Everything is marked on our map.
- To make moving around Prague easier for you, there is also a map of the metro and trams in our guide.
- To keep your memories of some places there is also a page for your notes.
- For the best fun there's a sticker set that you can stick on places where you'll go or you can use it anyhow you want.
- And the last and important part of the guide for us is the postcard. Our entire team is constantly working on our guides and the most important thing for us is your feedback. So we will be happy if you send us a postcard with your opinion on our guide, so we will constantly improve our guide.



My notes

