

INTRODUCTION

BASIC FACTS

CZECH REPUBLIC

I want to

Hello. I would like to introduce myself. My name is ..... and I want to talk to you about a country called the "Czech Republic".

Some quick facts about the Czech Republic are that it is a fairly rich country with a high standard of living located in Central Europe. The Czech Republic's capital city is Prague, and the country is part of the European Union and a member of NATO.

SIZE & LOCATION The Czech Republic has a population of about 10.5 million people. It covers an area of almost 79,000 square kilometres, which makes it similar in size to countries like Ireland and Austria. Its four neighbouring countries are Germany to the west, Austria to the south, Poland to the northeast, and Slovakia to the southeast. It's bordered by...

ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

The Czech Republic lies in three main regions (of Europe) - Bohemia, Moravia, and part of Silesia. The country itself is made up of 13 regions plus Prague, all of which are further divided into 76 districts. The most populous regions are Prague and the Central Bohemian Region.

Regions with the most people

STATE SYMBOLS

The best-known symbol of the Czech Republic is the Czech National Flag. It has three colours - white symbolises the sky, red represents the blood spilled for freedom, and blue is the colour of sovereignty. The National Anthem of the Czech Republic is called "Where is My Home", or "Kde domov můj" in Czech.



PEOPLE The Czechs speak Czech and are mostly nice warm people, but not very religious. This is why the Czech Republic is known as one of the world's most atheist nations.

What I think is special about Czechs is their sense of humour and overall disappointment with politics. In the past, there was a big minority of Germans in the country. Now, the biggest ethnic minorities largest are Gypsies, Slovaks, Ukrainians, and Russians. The Czech Republic is also home to one of the largest Vietnamese communities in Europe.

Many Vietnamese people also live in the Czech Republic.

HISTORY

To me, the history of the Czech Republic is very interesting. For hundreds of years this area was under German and Austrian influence, never forming an independent state. But, in 1918 legendary politicians Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and Edvard Beneš helped found an independent Czechoslovakia. These two great men also became the first two Czechoslovak presidents. This period ended after Nazi Germany invaded Czechoslovakia in 1938. During World War II, Czechoslovakia became the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

In 1948 the Communists took power in a coup and for more than 40 years we remained under the (direct) influence of the Soviet Union. In 1968 during the Prague Spring, communist politicians were planning democratic reforms, but instead the Soviet Union invaded. The Velvet Revolution of 1989 put an end to the communist regime, and the forming of a democratic regime started. The independent Czech Republic was founded in 1993 after the final separation from Slovakia.

INTERESTING PLACES

Now, I would like to talk about some of the most famous places in my hometown. There is a ..... called ..... I would also recommend visiting ..... and ..... (However,) the number one tourist destination is Prague. The Prague city centre is full of famous monuments like the Charles Bridge, Vyšehrad Castle, Old Town Square, and especially Prague Castle. Prague Castle is the official residence and workplace of the Czech president and home to the Czech crown jewels. St. Vitus Cathedral is part of Prague Castle and where the coronation of Czech kings takes place. The Guinness Book of Records recognises Prague Castle, built in the ninth century, as the largest ancient castle in the world. Because Prague is usually full of tourists, it would be a good idea to visit some other places outside the capital city. I would recommend visiting Plzeň, known for its beer production, a wine region called Pálava, Hluboká, a marvelous white castle located in South Bohemia, and Karlštejn Castle, built in the 14th century by Charles IV. If you prefer nature to cities, you can always visit beautiful Šumava National Park.

above sea level - nad mořem
access - přístup
administration - správa
all of which - z nichž všechny/ya
always - vždy
ancient - starodávný/bylý
area - plocha, území
artist - umělec
assassination - atentát, vražda
atheist - ateistický/á
athlete - sportovec
behave - stát se (někým/něčím)
best-known - nejznámější
body - orgán
centuries - staletí
citizens - občané
chamber - komora (parlamentu)
close - blízký/á
company - firma
closely connected to - úzce propojený/á s
coronation - korunovace
coup - stát převrat
cover - pokrývat
Christian - křesťanský/á
crown jewels - korunovační klenoty
currency - měna
currently - aktuálně
dependent - závislý/á
Deputies - poslanci
depending on - podle toho
direct - přímý/á
directly elected - přímo volený/á
district - divided into - je rozdělený/á do/na
each - každý/á
enforce - prosadit
Elbe - Labe (řeka)
era - era
ethnic minority - etnická menšina
especially - hlavně
even though - přestože
executive - úřkonný/á
execute - popravít
fairly - docela
filled - plný/á
folk - lidový/á
(river) flows - (řeka) teče
found - založit
for hundreds of years - (po) stovky let

IMPORTANT CITIES

The capital city of Prague is located in the centre of Bohemia. It is the largest city of the Czech Republic with about 1.3 million people. This is the political, economic and education centre of the country with a long history, making it very popular with tourists. Some (people) call Prague the "Heart of Europe."

The city of Plzeň is located in western Bohemia. Even though it is much smaller than Prague, it's still very important. Brno and Olomouc are in Moravia, and the city of Ostrava is in the center of Silesia. The region of Silesia is made up of many industrial cities and is very important as the mining centre of the Czech Republic.

CULTURE

Each region in the Czech Republic has a slightly different culture.

Czech culture is different depending on which region you visit.

Czechs generally like to go to pubs to drink one or two beers with friends. However, bigger cities have nice cafés where people meet.

Even though most Czechs say they are atheists, they still celebrate religious holidays like Christmas and Easter.

In western Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia, people still enjoy traditions like playing marionettes.

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ECONOMY

The Czech economy is based on manufacturing and services and is closely connected to the German economy. The largest Czech companies are car manufacturer Škoda Auto and a utility company called ČEZ. Even though the Czech Republic is a member of the EU, it has its own currency - the Czech crown.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

The Czech Republic is a constitutional democracy, so there is a parliament which has two chambers. The Upper House is called the Senate and it has 81 members, called Senators. The Lower House is the Chamber of Deputies with 200 members. Members of both chambers of the Czech Parliament are directly elected by the citizens. Senators and Deputies are legislators with the power to make or change laws.

The Government of the Czech Republic is a major executive political body that runs the everyday administration of the state. The head of the Government is the Prime Minister, currently Petr Fiala of the Civic Democratic Party.

The President of the Czech Republic is the head-of-state with a symbolic role. His signature is necessary to enforce laws, so he does have some political influence. However, his role is mostly formal, and his powers are limited. He is elected every five years. Until 2012, he was elected by the Parliament, but now the citizens directly elect him. Currently, the President of the Czech Republic is Petr Pavel.

Most of these leaders, including the President, the Government, and the Parliament are based in the capital city of Prague.

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

Geographically, the Czech Republic is located in Central Europe. It is hilly, filled with low mountains like the Krkonoše, Jeseníky, Šumava, and Beskydy. The highest point in the country is Sněžka, which is around 1,600 metres above sea level.

The Czech Republic is a landlocked country, which means that it doesn't have access to the sea. Its longest rivers are the Vltava, which flows through the Elbe, one of Central Europe's main rivers.

The Czech Republic has many natural wonders in the Czech Republic, and we can see why there are (so many) protected areas and national parks in this country - the oldest one is Krkonoše NP.

I feel that the Czech Republic is quite well known in the world, thanks to our athletes. Some of the most famous Czech sportsmen were Emil Zátopek, a legendary long-distance runner, world-class football players like Josef Masopust, Antonín Panenka, Pavel Nedvěd, and Jaromír Jágr, one of the best ice-hockey players of all time.

But there are many other important people in our history, including monarchs, religious leaders, politicians, and artists. St. Wenceslaus was the Duke of Bohemia in the 10th century. After his assassination, he became the patron saint of the Czech state. Charles IV was the King of Bohemia and a Roman Emperor in the 14th century. His reign is known for the rise of the Czech Kingdom - sometimes called the Golden Age of Bohemia. He built the Charles Bridge, Karlštejn Castle, and most importantly, Charles University in Prague. Jan Hus was a Czech priest and a Christian reformist. He was burned to death in Constanz in 1415. He was then a martyr and his followers, called Hussites, started a big religious movement - the Hussite Wars - against the Roman Catholic rulers.

Václav Havel was a leading anti-communist dissident and a world-famous playwright. Soon after the Velvet Revolution, he became the first president of the independent Czech Republic. He served from 1993 to 2003. In 2011, he died at the age of 75. During his lifetime he was close to many world leaders, including the Dalai Lama.

I just want to mention

most visited

overcrowded suggest

KLIKNI PRO DALŠÍ TAKOVÉ MATERIÁLY

Thank you for listening and have a nice day!

forming - formování
further - (ještě) dále
follower - následovník
gather - scházet se
generally - obecně
given credit for - uznávaný za
hilly - kopcovitý/á
hometown - rodné město
Hussites - husité
however - nicméně
I believe that - domnívám se, že
I feel that - mám pocit, že
influence - vliv
including - včetně
in the past - v minulosti
I would like - chtěl/á bych
independent - samostatný/á
industrial - průmyslový/á
instead - místo (něčeho)
introduce myself - představit se(be)
invade - napadnout (jiný stát)
is based in - sídlí v
is based on - je založený/á na
is bordered by - sousedí s
is home to - je domovem něčeho
is known as - je známý/á jako/něčím
is known for - je něčím známý/á
is part of - je součástí něčeho
key figure - klíčová postava
landlocked - vnitrozemský/á
launch - zahájit
law - zákon
leading - vůdčí, přední
lifetime - život
legislators - zákonodárci
limited - omezený/á
low - nízký/á
located in - nacházející se v
lie - ležet
made up of - tvořený/á (něčím)
major - hlavní
making it - což z něj/ní dělá
member - člen
mining - těžební
mention - zmínit
movement - hnutí
more than - více než
most importantly - hlavně
most populous - nejlidnatější
most visited - nejnavštěvovanější
natural wonder - zázrak přírody
Nazi Germany - nacistické Německo
necessary - nutný/á
neighbouring - sousedící, sousední
overall disappointment - celkově zklamání
overcrowded - přeplněný/á
patron saint - patron
peak - vrchol, vrcholek
period - období
playwright - dramatik
poet - bod
priest - kněz
politician - politik
politics - politika
power - pravomoc, moc
practice - držet (tradice)
prefer - preferovat
Prime Minister - premiér
protect - chránit
prosperous - prosperující
put an end to - ukončit (něco)
regime - režim
reformist - reformátor
reign - vláda
religious - oběžný/á
recommend - doporučit
recognise - uznat
represent - reprezentovat
remain - zůstat
rise - rozkvět, vzestup
Roman Catholic - katolický
run - řídit
ruler - vládce
sense of humour - smysl pro humor
separation - odtržení
serve - sloužit (vlasti, občanům,...)
services - služby
signature - podpis
similar in size - podobně velký/á
slightly different - trochu odlišný/á
some (people) call Prague - někdo (někteří lidé) Prahu nazývají(aj)
so many - tak mnoho
soon after - brzy po
some - někteří
sovereignty - suverenita
spill blood - prolít krev
statesman - státník
standard of living - životní standard
suggest - navrhnout
symbolise - symbolizovat
symbolic role - symbolická role
take power - chopit se moci
take place - konat se
thanks to - díky něčemu/někomu
the country itself - země samotná
through - skrz (vlasti)
that's why - proto
to me - podle mě
usually - většinou
Velvet Revolution - sametová revoluce
warm - vřelý/á
visit - navštívit
wear - nosit (oblečení)
which makes it - což z něj/ní dělá
which means that - což znamená, že