

Find Your Own Oasis in Prague



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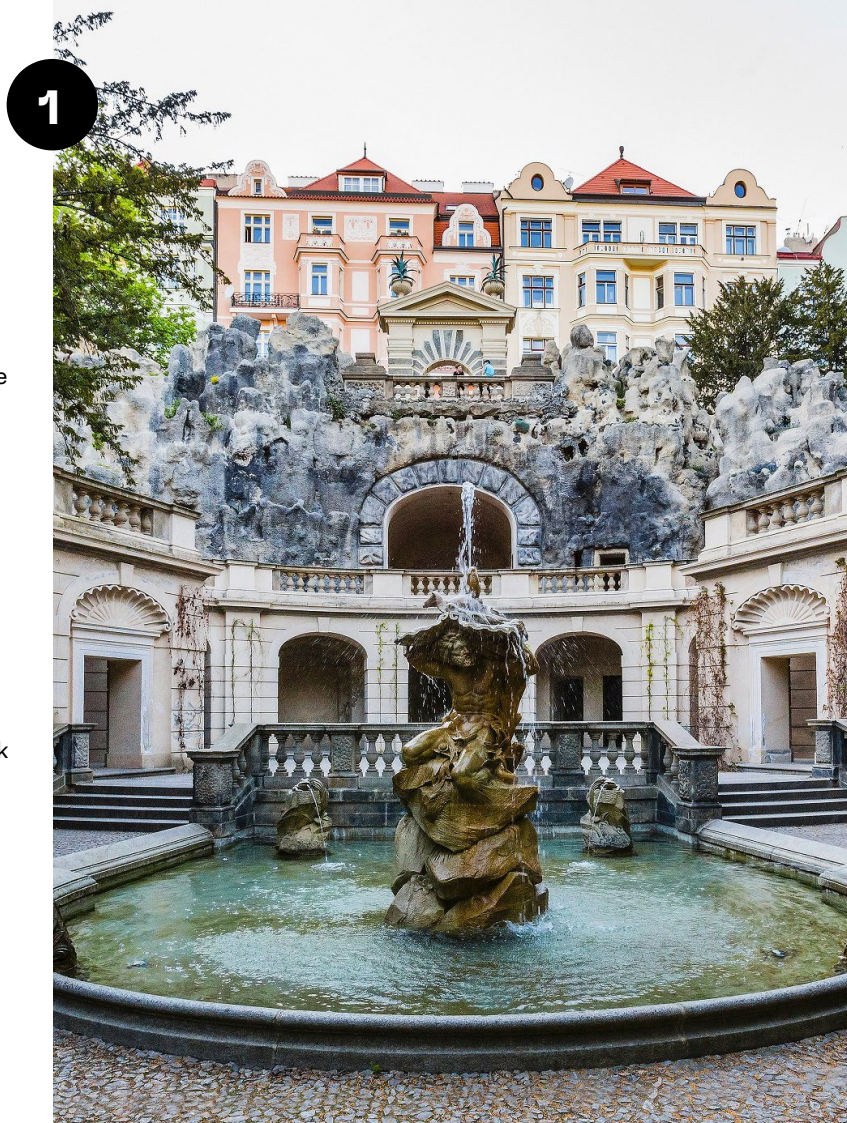
This series of walks through some of the many Prague city parks has been designed to not only create a safe environment for fun and relaxation, but to also introduce you to some spaces in Prague that you can easily return to on your own when you need a break. Remember, it is very important to get away from your screens and stretch your legs in some fresh air. Most of these parks also have establishments that offer beverages and some food as well.

Grébovka (Havlíčkovy sady)

This park is located in the same district as Prague College – Vinohrady. Vinohrady was originally the vineyards for the royals, and this park reflects that history in its sprawling hillside vineyards that are the only remains of the extensive vineyards established by Charles IV in the 14th century.

This park has many Italian Renaissance elements, including some small lakes and a grotto that was recently refurbished. There is also a great place to stop by for a drink, snack, or ice cream at the Pavilion garden café that includes a replica of the original bowling alley from the 1870s. Slightly off of the tourist track, locals frequent this park throughout the year.

Ways to get there: Havlíčkovy sady is about seven blocks south of Náměstí Míru (metro line A); you can walk down Americká street until you see the side entrance to the park (this is our route). From Náměstí Míru, take tram 4, 13, or 22, get off at Jana Masaryka and walk down Máchova to Rybalkova where you'll find the park's main entrance. You can also get off at Ruská and walk about three blocks west to another one of the park's entrances.





Stromovka (Královská obora)

This park has been referred to as Prague's Central Park because of its expansive green area and its network of a variety of paths, recreation areas, and places to stop for refreshments. It was established as a royal game preserve in the 13th century, and many animals still roam the park, although they may be a bit smaller than the original inhabitants!

This park has had some recent renovations, including some new picnic areas located towards the Exhibition Grounds. Autumn is a perfect time to enjoy all of the large mature trees and kilometers of walkways.

Ways to get there: The main entrances to Stromovka are from Holesovice, Bubenec and Cisarovsky (Trojsky) Island. You can get to the main entrance by trams 5, 12, 14, 15, 17, stop Vystaviste.

Petřín (Petrinske sady)

This park is the big hill with the 'Prague Eiffel Tower' on top. The walk up the hill offers beautiful views of the city. The views are spectacular! The price per ticket is around 60 Kč.

Ways to get there: Trams 20, 22, 15, 12, 2, 5, and 25 at the stop Ujezd will get you to the bottom of the hill and the closest to the funicular. If you go to the park by yourself, remember that the observation tower is open daily until the end of October and then just weekends during the winter months.





Letná (Letenské sady)

This is a huge open park that has served many purposes to the city throughout the years, including vineyards, gardens, and military camps. In more contemporary times, the large plateau has served as a gathering place for peaceful protests and concerts. 'Leten' was originally called "summer camp", and the park definitely provides areas for relaxation in summer as well as other seasons. It provides great views of Old Town, and the famous metronome on the hill can be seen from many places in the city.

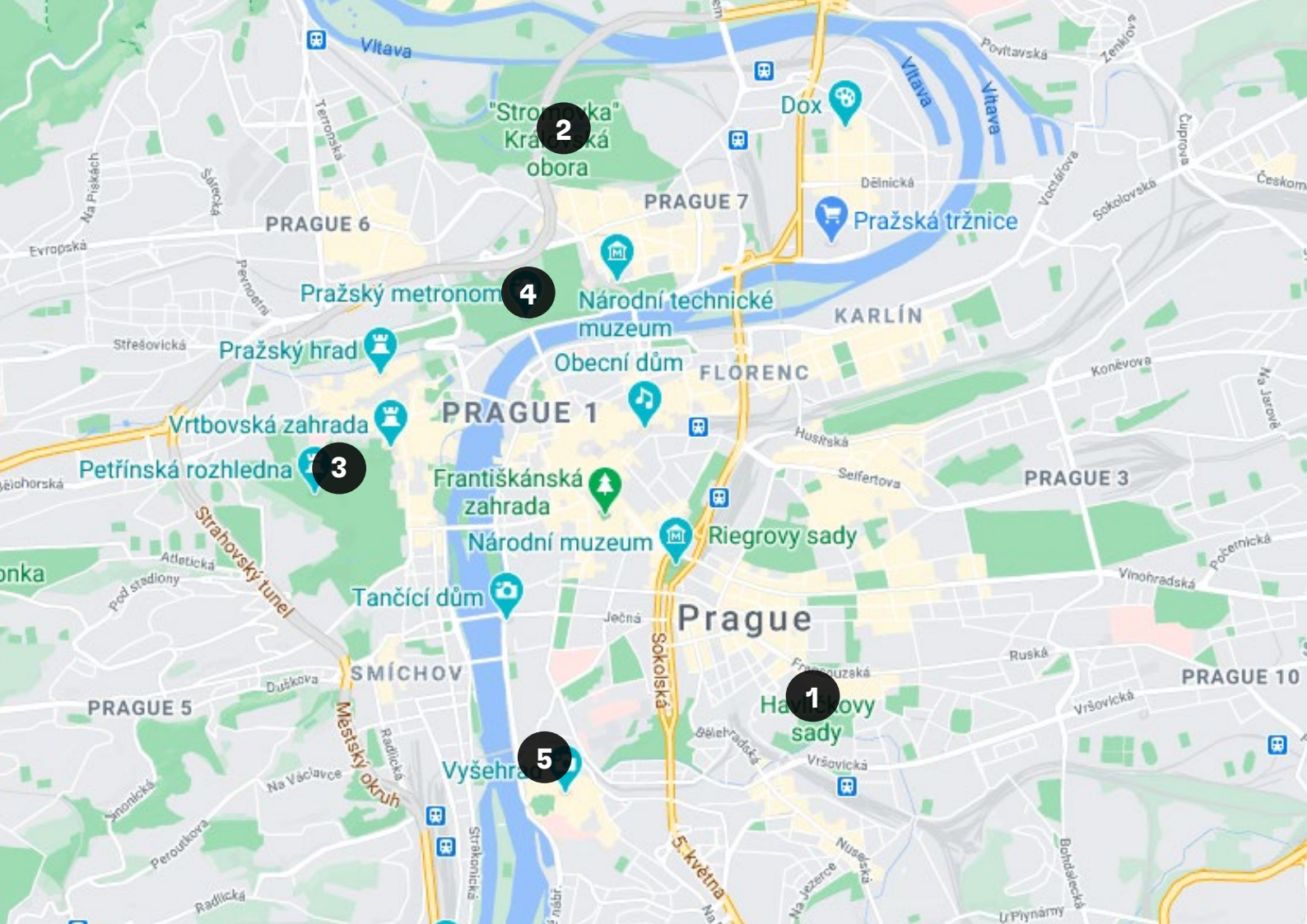
Ways to get there: There are many tram stops around Letna, so it depends where you are coming from. You can take trams 26, 12, 8, 25, 1, 18, 14, 2, and 11 to Letensky Namesti.

Vyšehrad

The grounds of Vyšehrad are located on the remnants of an ancient fortification dating back to the 10th century. The Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul is located here as well as the Vysehrad Cementery where many famous Czechs have been laid to rest including Antonin Dvorak, Karel Capek, and Alphonse Mucha. The grounds offer unique views of the city and the Vltava River.

Ways to get there: Red Line (C) to Vysehrad stop and an easy 5-minute walk. If you go this way, you are already at the top of the hill. Other ways to visit the park is to take trams to the stop Vyton (numbers 3, 7, 17, 2, 21, 14, and 16) or the tram stop Albertov (trams 14, 24, 7, 18, 21, and 2). The tram stops are at the bottom of the hill, so you will need to locate the stairway (by the river) and walk up to the grounds.





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