The Thirty Year’s War and the looting of Swedish troops left Prague ravaged and disrupted, within a few decades, however, the Czech capital blossomed into unprecedented beauty again. Hardly any European city offers such a wealth of Baroque monuments today and getting to know them all would take at least a week. We will take two days to introduce you to at least the most important. Start at the Castle District and explore the baroque halls of the Strahov Monastery, listen to the glockenspiel in the Loreto tower, discover romantic corners of the palace gardens and the perfection of Prague’s most beautiful Baroque church, St. Nicholas. Enjoy sculptures of saints by the best sculptors of the Czech Baroque period on the Charles Bridge and then, on the opposite bank, find out why the library in the Clementinum Jesuit College is considered the most beautiful in the world by some. Finish the trip in the Baroque Klausen Synagogue, the largest synagogue of the former Prague Jewish Quarter.

Recommended

- Breathtaking views of Prague from the terraces of the Baroque Palace Gardens
- The most impressive Baroque church in Prague – St. Nicholas
- The most beautiful library in the world – Clementinum
How to get to the starting point

The best way to get to the Strahov Monastery is to take the 22 tram and get off at the Pohořelec stop.

Tram is also the best way to get to the Church of Our Lady Victorious, where the second day start point is. The Hellichova stop is served by several lines.

1. Strahov Monastery

Start your Prague Baroque tour at one of the city’s landmarks, the Strahov Monastery. This oldest Premonstratensian convent in Bohemia was among the most important centres of education since its beginnings and one of its biggest attractions is the unique Baroque library. It contains more than 200 volumes and the collection has been gradually build ever since mid-12th century. Part of the collection is displayed in the library’s richly-decorated halls. The Philosophers Hall has a fantastic Baroque fresco on the entire ceiling. The Theologist Hall includes a curious study aid, the compilation carrousel, which was used to study several volumes at once. Cabinet of Curiosities also contains many interesting items.

Opening times:
Daily 9 AM – 12 noon, 1 PM – 5 PM

Virtual Tour:
http://www.strahovskyklaster.cz/virtualni-prohlidka

More information: http://www.strahovskyklaster.cz
Every hour on the hour, the clock tower of the Loreto comes alive with 27 bells in its unique carillon/glockenspiel, the largest of its kind in Europe. Its bells were made between 1683 and 1694 by Amsterdam’s bell-founder Claudy Fremy. Concerts of Loreto’s carillonneurs, usually held on Sundays and during holidays, are an incredible experience.

2. Loreto

The facade of the Prague Loreto is a masterpiece designed by ingenious architect Christoph Dientzenhofer and his son Kilian Ignaz. Apart from the ornate Church of the Nativity, you can visit the Holy House, or see examples of the unique treasury of Loreto. Its most valuable pieces include a stunning Prague sun Monstrance, with an incredible 6,222 diamonds.

Opening times:
April 1 – October 31: daily 9 AM – 5 PM
November 1 – March 31: daily 9.30 AM – 4 PM

http://www.loreta.cz

3. Prague Castle

The Baroque period has also influenced the Prague Castle. Its most prominent remnant are the monumental Giants by sculptor Ignaz Franz Platzer, guarding the entrance to the first courtyard. The onset of Baroque period is also apparent in the representative Matthias Gate on the same courtyard, which once stood on its own and separated the castle grounds from today’s Hradčanské náměstí.

Opening times:
April 1 – October 31: open spaces: 6 AM – 10 PM
daily buildings: 9 AM – 5 PM daily
November 1 – March 31: open spaces: 6 AM – 10 PM
daily buildings: 9 AM – 4 PM daily

4. Palace Gardens below the Castle

One of the most beautiful views of Prague’s Old Town is from the terraces of the palace gardens below Prague Castle. The uniquely-located baroque gardens were built in the 18th century by rich noble families who purchased the palaces under them. They invited top architects, who used the steep hills to create imaginative compositions. The result is a unique complex of interconnected gardens, with romantic hiding places, fountains, narrow staircases, rich sculptural decorations and small pavilions.

Opening times:
April: daily 10 AM – 6 PM
May – September: daily 10 AM – 7 PM
October: 10 AM – 6 PM

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5. Wallenstein Garden

An oasis of calm in Malá Strana, which is also one of the best examples of Czech early Baroque architecture. Do not miss its artificial grotto and try to find faces of people or animals cleverly hidden among its stalactites.

6. Church of St. Nicholas in Malá Strana

The St. Nicholas Church is undoubtedly the most beautiful Baroque church in Prague and one of the greatest jewels of European architecture according to many. Its construction lasted almost half a century and brought together three generations of famous architects – Christoph Dientzenhofer and his son Kilian Ignaz and Kilian’s son-in-law Anselmo Lurago. The unique layout of the temple’s interior is best enjoyed from the gallery around the main nave, where you can admire the impressive dome and its masterfully executed fresco, which is among the largest in Europe, and the massive organ, which was once played by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Opening times:
March – October: daily 9 AM – 5 PM
November – February: daily 9 AM – 4 PM

Opening times – Bell Tower:
November – February: daily 10 AM – 6 PM
March: 10 AM – 8 PM
April – September: 10 AM – 10 PM
October: 10 AM – 8 PM

7. The Infant Jesus of Prague and Church of Our Lady Victorious

A wax statue of baby Jesus, which can reportedly fulfil secret wishes and perform miracles was brought to Prague in the 16th century as a wedding gift from Spain. It was in the Baroque period, however, that its reputation of magical powers spread throughout Europe. In 1655, the Infant Jesus was first crowned the Bishop of Prague, his latest crown of 2009 was given to him by Pope Benedict XVI.

8. Charles Bridge

A walk along the Charles Bridge is like a visit to an open air art galler-
y. Its unique sculptures by leading masters of the golden era of the
Bohemian Baroque represents the most significant Czech saints and
is among largest in the world. The oldest statue, of John of Nepo-
muk, designed by John Brokoff and created by Matthias Rauchmüller,
appeared on the bridge in 1683, on the anniversary of the death of
Nepomuk. The unique statues of the Charles Bridge, but also his tur-
bulent history marked by several devastating floods are the subject of
the Charles Bridge Museum at Křižovnické Square.

Opening times – The Charles Bridge Museum:
May – September: daily 10 AM – 20 PM
October – April: daily 10 AM – 6 PM

More information: http://www.muzeumkarlovamostu.cz/

Near the statue of John of Nepomuk, a small cross marks
the location where the saint was allegedly thrown into
the river in 1393. It is said that when you put your hand
on the cross so that each of your fingers touches one
of the stars, your secret wish will be fulfilled.

9. Church of St. Francis of Assisi

An eye-catching Baroque church with a 41 metre-tall dome was built
in the late 17th century by Jean-Baptiste Mathey. Besides its rich de-
coration, it is also noted for the second oldest Baroque organ in Prague
from 1702, the sound of which can be enjoyed during regular religious
music concerts.

10. Church of St. Salvator

The construction involved several architects, such as Carlo Lurago,
Francesco Caratti and Franz Maximilian Kanka. Its main attraction is
the rich sculptural decoration by Jan Jiří Bendl. Bendl also participa-
ted in the stucco work inside unconventionally designed dome of the
church. The exquisite confessional box is also noteworthy.
11. Clementinum

This originally Jesuit college has become an important center for the development of humanities and natural sciences in the Baroque period. Clementinum’s Baroque library, with several rare globes and an impressive ceiling stucco has been voted by readers of the popular American server Bored Panda the most beautiful library in the world. Clementinum also includes a unique Mirror Chapel with an impressive stucco ceiling and an inventive use of ceiling mirrors. The guided tour will also take you to the astronomical tower, witness of its long tradition of astronomical research and meteorological measurements. This is the oldest-functioning weather station in Central Europe, providing measurements continuously since 1775.

Opening times:
- January – February: daily 10.00 AM – 4.30 PM
- March – October: daily 10 AM – 6 PM
- November – December: daily 10 AM – 5.30 PM

https://www.klementinum.com

12. Klausen Synagogue

Enjoy a slightly different view of Baroque Prague during a visit to the largest synagogue of the Old Prague Jewish Town. The Klausen Synagogue was built after the devastating fire in the Jewish Ghetto in 1689 and it now hosts an exhibition dedicated to Jewish traditions and customs.

Opening times:
- January – March: 9 AM – 4.30 PM
- April – October: 9 AM – 6 PM
- November – December: 9 AM – 4.30 PM

https://www.jewishmuseum.cz/

Combine your visit to the Klausen Synagogue with a stroll through the adjacent Old Jewish Cemetery, whose oldest tombs date back to the 15th century. Many of its tombstones also come from the Baroque period.
Useful contacts

**Pražský hrad:**
Tel: +420 224 373 368,
Address: Pražský hrad, Hradčany, 119 08 Praha 1,
GPS: 50.0898689,14.4000936

**Nové Město pražské:**
Tel: +420 224 948 229,
Address: Novoměstská radnice, Karlovo nám. 1/23, 120 00 Praha 2, GPS: 50.077902,14.4205363

**Kapitula Všech svatých na Pražském hradě:**
Tel: +420 221 778 496,
Address: Pražský hrad, Hradčany, 119 08 Praha 1,
GPS: 50.0906803,14.402435

Accommodation

**Hotel U Zlaté Studně:**
Tel: +420 257 011 213, Email: hotel@goldenwell.cz,
Address: U Zlaté Studně 166/4, 118 01, Praha, GPS: 50.0908272222,14.4045911111

**Hotel Residence Agnes:**
Tel: +420 222 312 417, Email: agnes@residenceagnes.cz,
Address: Haštalská 19, Praha 1 110 00,
GPS: 50.0913594,14.4257572

**Hotel Pod Věží:**
Tel: +420 257 532 041, Email: hotel@podvezi.com,
Address: Mostecka 58/2, Praha 1 118 00,
GPS: 50.0873376,14.4066849

Restaurant tips

**U Dominikána:**
Tel: +420 224 248 555, Email: fb@savic.eu,
Address: Jilská 7, 110 00, Praha, GPS: 50.07854241126,14.437494277954

**Restaurace U Karlova mostu:**
Tel: +420 777 787 355, Email: fbm@archibald.cz,
Address: Na Kampě 508/15, 110 00, Praha, GPS: 50.07854241126,14.437494277954

**U Labutí:**
Tel: +420 220 511 191, Email: ulabuti@seznam.cz,
Address: Hradčanské náměstí 11, Praha 1 118 00,
GPS: 50.089953,14.396103

**Krčma U Krále Brabantského:**
Tel: +420 724 144 192, Email: info@krcmabrabant.cz,
Address: Thunovská 198/15, Praha 1 118 00,
GPS: 50.088987,14.4015768

**Malostranská beseda:**
Tel: +420 257 409 112,
Email: info@malostranska-beseda.cz,
Address: Malostranské náměstí 35/21, Praha 1 118 00,
GPS: 50.0883399,14.4049

**Pivovar a restaurace U Tří růží:**
Tel: +420 601 588 281, Email: rezervace@u3r.cz,
Address: Husova 10/232, Praha 1 110 00,
GPS: 50.0857142,14.4182782