

Try to complete a quiz
on the back side and win a
FREE REGISTRATION
for WONCA Europe Conference 2017!

● EDITORIAL



Dear Colleagues,

It is a great pleasure and honour for The Czech Society of General Practice to be a host organization for the 22nd WONCA Europe Conference, which will be held in Prague in the beginning of July 2017. WONCA Europe conferences have become the most influential events for general practitioners from Europe and elsewhere contributing to global awareness of the latest clinical primary care strategies and to the development of professional issues. We want to contribute to this tradition and even to push the quality and significance of the conference forward and to enhance the unique spirit of WONCA Europe.

'United in Diversity' is the official motto of the European Union. Having been already united in WONCA family we want to grow as a discipline in European diversity by learning from each other and exchanging experience and knowledge. This explains a theme of our Conference: "Growing together in Diversity". It allows us to open all dimensions of the discipline.

We plan to prepare a balanced programme based on original abstracts, contributions suggested by leading international scientific networks, committees and groups recognised by WONCA. The conference will use state of the art technologies. Together with top key note speakers we want to reach this way the high quality scientific content of the upcoming conference.

You may know that during the last twenty years Prague, beautiful, easily accessible and affordable city has become a proven conference destination and general practice friendly place.

Make your calendar for Prague WONCA 2017!

Bohumil Seifert
Chair of the Organizing Committee

● INTERVIEW

About Scientific programme of WONCA Europe 2017

Interview with Jachym Bednar, Chair of the Scientific Committee

Jachym, you have been appointed the Chair of the Scientific Committee of WONCA Europe Conference 2017. Would you introduce yourself? How does your family accept this challenge?

Yes, with pleasure. My name is Jachym Bednar. I live in Prague; I run 2 joint rural GP offices close to Prague together with my colleague and it allows me part time engagement as a trainer of Young trainees; I am also teacher at the Institute of General Practice in Prague. I am exposed to and aware of the everyday issues of Primary Care and I like to discuss it with my colleagues and trainees. I have been regularly attending WONCA conferences since 2011.

I have 4 children – two daughters and two boys; my wife is a radiologist. I like to sing, I am a runner.

From 2011 till present, I have been a member of Euract, a Czech representative in the Council. I have been chairing CPD/CME Committee from 2014 till present.

It is challenging to harmonize all the activities and family life but with the support of my loving wife and smart colleagues I can cope with this quite well, especially when feeling the engagement is meaningful. I like colourful life and its **diversity**. I am happy to be a part of the Committee being responsible for preparation of the second Prague WONCA Conference. I gain a lot from the legacy of the last conference and from the experience of the then Scientific Committee chair; a lot of work was done and we can only adjust some parameters and take use of it. I hope the forthcoming Conference will be the same success as the WONCA World Conference 2013.

Why did you choose the main theme of the Conference "GROWING TOGETHER IN DIVERSITY: EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVE"?

We looked for a simple umbrella theme covering primary care issues in contemporary Europe. This theme is currently very topical and more relevant than ever in the transforming Europe at the beginning of the 21st century.

The **diversity** has been a constant feature of the European history. It has been the source of many European great achievements – but, when mishandled, has also played a part in some of its greatest failures.

The **diversity** is also mentioned as the motto of the European Union. The whole motto in Latin sounds: *In Varietate Concordia/In Varietate Unitas* – this is the vision that we all GPs should aim at and it is worth struggling for; we all need Europe that embraces **diversity** and accepts multiple identities of its citizens. There can be such a Europe, but only if majority of its members accepts and promotes traditional and time proven European values as freedom, democracy, respect for truth, free access to education, gender equality, respect for individuality, diligence, cooperation and open communication.

We believe that WONCA Europe Conference is a unique platform creating opportunity to express, share, and promote these values. During the conference, we would like participants to tackle all imaginable aspects of **diversity** in their professional lives, to learn from each other and exchange experience and knowledge, to address contemporary European "diversity" challenges such as increasing health inequalities, demographic changes, ageing with its increased multi-morbidity.

And last but not least..... In a time of **diversity** of medicine styles and conflicts between highly specialized biomedical versus holistic approaches we would like to promote again and again family medicine and primary care as the foundation of a sustainable healthcare system.

What is the format and capacity of the scientific programme?

We aim to build a balanced programme based on original abstracts and works and contributions suggested by leading international scientific and special interest networks, committees and groups recognised by WONCA worldwide. The programme will feature key note speeches, clinical symposia, workshops, oral



presentations, and posters representing the essence of General Practice.

We are ready to deal with thousands of abstracts. Two and half day scientific programme can offer room for 6 key note speeches, 200 parallel sessions incl. workshops and oral presentations, one slide presentation and over thousand posters.

Who are your invited speakers?

The eminent speakers have accepted invitation to present key note lectures in Prague. We have 5 key note speakers from Europe and one from the Czech Republic as the hosting country. We will reveal their identity in our newsletters – we start to publish now and we will continue periodically until the conference opening.

Do you have any potential to handle all abstracts?

We will launch the abstract submission system at our website www.woncaeurope2017.eu, which is simple and effective and was applied during WONCA World Conference held in Prague in 2013. We will need a support from WONCA networks to recruit volunteers for international abstract review. The call for abstract and abstract submission system will be launched by us at the end of August, as well as the registration procedure. The deadline for abstract submission is scheduled for January 15, 2017.

Do you have any message for general practitioners/family physicians all around the world?

Yes. :)

You are warmly welcome to Prague 22nd WONCA Europe Conference to be held at the end of June 2017. Come and see the Capital of the Czech Republic situated in the very heart of Europe, in the season when the city and its residents are at their best – flourishing in a temperate climate. Come and meet colleagues from the other European and non-European countries, be inspired of lectures presenting the latest knowledge of our specialty. We can promise interesting discussions on the actual topics of primary care. We will also offer enjoyable social activities carefully prepared to meet your expectations.

Join us and help to make the conference successful by submitting your abstracts, presenting actual original results of your primary care research and quality projects.

You are also invited just to come to learn about global issues of current primary care world, learn about up to date family medicine challenges, come to update your knowledge, learn from the leading international scientific and special interest networks, get a knowledge about new existing ones (there are 12 in Europe and 20 in Wonca World now – some of them are just new, born in years 2014 / 2015).

Share experience and meet new friends – researchers, teachers, organizers and general practitioners across the Europe and we will grow in **diversity** together.

Jachym Bednar, GP, Prague
Chair of the Scientific Committee,
WONCA Europe Conference in Prague, 2017

● PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

	Tuesday, June 27	Wednesday, June 28	Thursday, June 29	Friday, June 30	Saturday, July 1
08:30–09:45	08:30–17:30 Young Doctors	08:30–16:00 Young Doctors, WONCA Council, Working Groups, Meetings	Parallel Sessions / Workshops (60´)	Parallel Sessions / Workshops (60´)	Parallel Sessions / Workshops (60´)
09:45–10:00			Break (15´)	Break (15´)	Break (15´)
10:00–10:45			Plenary 2 – Cyril Hoeschl (45´)	Plenary 4 – Harris Lygidakis (45´)	Plenary 6 – Tony Heymann (45´)
10:45–11:15			Coffee Break (30´)	Coffee Break (30´)	Coffee Break (30´)
11:15–12:30			Parallel Sessions / Workshops (75´)	Parallel Sessions / Workshops (75´)	Parallel Sessions / Workshops (75´)
12:30–14:00			Lunch Break / Symposia (90´)	Lunch Break / Symposia (90´)	12:30–13:15 Closing Ceremony (45´)
14:00–14:45			Plenary 3 – Niek De Wit (45´)	Plenary 5 – Amanda Howe (45´)	
14:45–15:00			Break (15´)	Break (15´)	
15:00–16:00			Parallel Sessions / Workshops (60´)	Parallel Sessions / Workshops (60´)	
16:00–16:30			Coffee Break (30´)	Coffee Break (30´)	
16:30–17:45			Parallel Sessions / Workshops (75´)	Parallel Sessions / Workshops (75´)	
17:45–19:00			16:00–17:30 Opening Ceremony Plenary 1 (90´)	17:30–19:00 Welcome Cocktail (90´)	
19:30–23:00			Conference Dinner (Municipal House)		

The Czech Society of General Practice, The Czech Medical Association of Jan Evangelista Purkyně



The Czech Society of General Practice (CSGP) is approaching its 40 years anniversary. It was founded after recognizing the general practice as a medical specialty in the Czech Republic as a consequence of remarkable conference in Alma Ata in 1978.

Svatopluk Býma
Chairman of the Czech Society
of General Practice



The Society has been growing during decades not only in membership but also in its significance and recognition among other disciplines.

The Society has become a dominant provider of CME for general practitioners, created a platform for primary care research, publications, the exchange of expertise and project development and implementation. It serves as a reference body for the Czech government, medical universities and postgraduate medical schools. The Society supports the development of academic departments of primary care at all eight medical faculties in the Czech Republic.

The information infrastructure system is based on regional coordinators, regular journal distribution and a website. A centre for guideline development established by the Society produces about ten practical guidelines a year. The Society is focused on quality and safety issues and recently has supported a project of development of accreditation standards for primary care.

The Society has become an active member of WONCA since its foundation. Representatives in WONCA networks and Special Interest Groups organized several meetings in Prague over the last years. The Society hosted SIMG conference in 1987, WONCA Europe Conference in 1997 and WONCA World Conference in 2013. The Society is proud to make Prague a general practice promised city. Now the next challenge for us is WONCA Europe Conference to be held in Prague in June 2017.



Bohumil Seifert, M.D., Ph.D., assoc. prof.
Secretary of CSGP
HOC WONCA Europe 2017 Chair

Rural Health Care in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic is a relatively densely populated country in which 10 million people live on the total area of 78,886 km² that is 133 people per km². A significant part of the country consists of hills and mountains. Health care in the Czech Republic, as in other post-communist countries of Central Europe, is centrally planned. There has been an extensive, functionally-based system consisting of large teaching hospitals, smaller district hospitals serving particular geographic areas, health centres – poliklinikas – with specialised surgeries and health centres in central communities (consisting of a GP, GP for children and dentist). This system is now gradually changing during the ongoing health care system restructuring with the biggest impact on the smaller hospitals where the service is being reduced which naturally reduces the availability of health care in remote areas. The emergency health care in the Czech Republic is provided by a network of emergency units with ambulances with the crew either with or without physician; ambulances must reach any point in the country within 15 minutes of a call being received by the emergency help desk.

Another typical feature in all post-communist countries in Central Europe, including the Czech Republic, is the fact that the rural population has no strong roots in the area where they live. The values and the culture of the rural way of life have been forgotten resulting in a search for the meaning of life which has an impact on the psychological and social aspect of the routine work of rural GPs. This uprooting was deliberately supported by the previous political system for fifty years and affected two generations so it is a very challenging task to change it.

To date, there have not been any exact data available on the number of rural GPs in the Czech Republic. The most accurate available data comes from 2014 and it was provided by the biggest Czech health insurance company – Všeobecná zdravotní pojišťovna (General Health Insurance Company) representing 55 per cent of the Czech population. The Company, using its own data, endeavoured to map the geographic areas in the Czech Republic and identify whether the conduct of GPs shows some visible differences due to location of their practice. The Company clearly defined two

different groups of GPs. GPs from major cities and its immediate surroundings where teaching hospitals are located and rural GPs in all other smaller communities due to the similarities in the conduct of each of these two groups. The group of rural GPs represented 65 per cent of all GPs with a practice.

The majority of Czech rural practices is owned by the GP (single handed) and the most common model is one GP and one nurse. The average number of registered patients per GP is about 1 850, in the rural areas the number often exceeds 2 500. The average number of patients received in a day is 50 to 70 which does not provide enough time for medical check. The practice has thirty working hours a week followed by home visits of the patients. The standard equipment of a practice includes ECG, POCT (point of care testing) CRP, INR. The patients with DM, hypertension and hyperlipidaemia are regularly monitored by the GP practice which also does redressing and performs minor surgical interventions.

The health care provided in the Czech Republic is paid by the health insurance on the basis of a contract between the physician and the relevant health insurance company. Patients do not pay any fee and they can move freely through the health care system even without being referred to a specialist by their GP and they pay only a small part of the total cost of medication.

The situation of rural GPs has not been dealt with for a long time and there are many challenges. We strongly believe that the 2017 WONCA Conference in Prague will be an impetus for establishing the organisation for rural medicine in the Czech Republic and will drive its further development.



David Halata, M.D.
General practitioner

● INTERVIEW

Questions for Prof. Tony Heymann



What made you to become a GP and then a GP teacher?

My father was an old style “cradle to grave” family physician. The clinic was in the basement of our house. He loved his patients and they loved him. He was happy and for the most part satisfied. It seemed to me a great job! I became a GP teacher by accident and found it an excellent alternative to GP burnout!

What is the most satisfying aspect of working as a GP teacher? What motivates GPs to become involved and stay involved in teaching medical students and junior doctors?

As a teacher you can open the proverbial door and expose the bio/psycho/social model to the student or GP trainee. For those that choose to enter our challenging profession it is a pleasure to see them develop and learn to manage complexity and uncertainty.

Would you please shortly outline the message to be shared by you and GPs at WONCA conference 2017 in Prague?

Be aware of the inherent dangers of quality indicators. They may not be what your patients need.

What is the primary care going to look like in 2030?

We are in the process of revolution, not evolution. I guess, in 2030 a half of our patient encounters will be through the internet and not face to face. There will be an access to information from all patient encounters from hospitalizations, outpatients and all other contacts with the health system. I fear that this will lead to the information overload. Our attention will be more focused on the computer and less on the patient. This and Government agendas for health will cause more interference in the doctor-patient relationship and we risk developing of what Balint described as the “collusion of anonymity”. If everyone cares for the patient, then the upshot is that no one will care for the patient. We will risk losing the most important drug and that is the physician himself.

How should we more involve and empower our patients in the process of diagnosing and treating? What should the future consultation look like?

The patient must have full access to his entire medical file. This will be the best quality control possible. When the patient file really belongs to the patient that is when the patient will be truly empowered. While a half of the future consultations will be web based, much of General Practice will remain as we know it.

At the end of the day the patient trusts his GP more than anyone else in the health system.

Do you always tell the truth to your patients? Thankfully there is no absolute truth. It all depends what they need to hear. This is the art of General Practice.

What is the principal challenge faced by European GPs now?

The main challenge is to stay motivated, embrace change and fight for the core values of our profession such as independence in decision making, continuation of care, and preserving the ongoing doctor-patient relationship.

Professor Anthony Heyman, GP, teacher, director of Family Medicine training program has been invited to give a key note lecture on topic: Paradigm shift – from doctor-patient to payer-patient relationship

Summary: The quality indicators are now driving medical care in the community at the expense of individually tailored medical care. In the name of healthcare quality the payers who might be HMOs or Health Ministries use a “one suit fits all” solution based on epidemiological data.

The danger is that the physician may be pressured to work for the quality indicator and not the patient’s needs resulting in erosion in the physician-patient relationship. The authorities have succeeded in changing physician behaviour as seen across different health systems. This has been achieved by simple means as feedback and peer pressure, to the use of financial incentives. The clinical medical record has been the main tool for collecting data but these statistics have been confused with knowledge. The payers think they have the big picture but the critical information is often missing and that is what the patients want. This knowledge is with the family physician who often feels torn between the needs of the patient and the health system.

Each clinic population has its own nuances; each patient has his or her own very specific needs to be answered. This lecture will illustrate these problems and suggest new strategies to restore the physician-patient relationship.

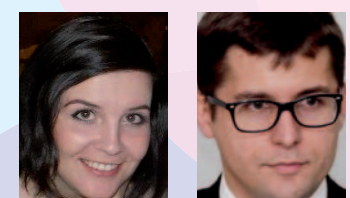
**ON-LINE ABSTRACT SUBMISSION IS OPEN!
ON-LINE REGISTRATION OPENS IN SEPTEMBER!**

WONCA 2017 VdGM Pre-conference in Prague

While the Vasco da Gama Movement WONCA 2016 Pre-conference is going on in Copenhagen right now, the Czech Republic Society of Young GPs is making preparations for organising the next Pre-conference in Prague. We can build on our previous experience when back in 2013 we organised the World Pre-conference. The number of participants in the Pre-conference has been growing every year and therefore we expect to welcome a large number of attendees. All the preparations are up and running at the moment. The pre-conference venue, which has been booked, is a representative building of Kaiserstein Palace in the very heart of Prague. There will also be an extensive social programme. The pre-conference facebook site is now being developed and there will be a mini-exchange programme before the beginning of the pre-conference. The key topic of the event will be “Growing Together in Diversity” and we believe this will inspire you to come up with exciting thoughts and ideas. The Vasco da Gama Pre-conference provides a unique opportunity

to share and exchange experience with foreign colleagues, find out more about how training and further education systems work in each country and learn more about the Vasco da Gama Movement and what it offers to its members. But first of all it is a networking platform for establishing new contacts and friendship which often extend beyond the conference rooms.

We invite you most cordially to Prague! 2017 is ours!



Kristina Kožušková, Norbert Král
Czech Society of Young GPs
Members of WONCA 2017 Prague Organising
Committee

● INTERVIEW

Questions for Prof. Niek J de Wit

*Prof. Dr. Niek J de Wit, an academic GP from Utrecht, the Netherlands, has been invited to give a key note lecture on emerging and challenging topic: **Primary care on elderly; the essentials of family medicine.** He agreed to answer a few questions:*



What do you do currently?

I am the professor of general practice and the head of department at the Julius Center for Health Sciences and Primary Care at the UMC Utrecht, the Netherlands. I am also the medical director of the Julius Health centers, the academic primary care practice in Utrecht that consists of five multidisciplinary health centers providing innovative primary health care for more than 40,000 patients. My research portfolio covers a broad range of innovations in primary health care, with a focus on clinical aspects. Research themes are shared decision making and self-management, new diagnostic pathways, prevention programs and disease management programs.

Can you describe your interests in work and outside work?

I have been in primary care practice for more than 25 years, for me the personal contact with the patient is the cornerstone of general practice and the key to personalised medicine. Although I have always enjoyed the clinical work, my professional interest has moved towards quality of primary health care, the expanding role of the general practitioner in disease management, and the strategic alliance with the patient that is needed for personalised medicine. There is a lot outside my work as well, family, friends, sports – I love watching football and very much regret the temporary depression of the Dutch national team.

What is the most satisfying aspect of your work?

Communicating with patients, getting to know them and their families is a continuous energy source for most general practitioners. I have learnt a lot from patients over the years, about the impact of health on people and understanding the choices that patients make. Realizing the limited impact that doctors have on well being has thought me some modesty as well. Being an academic I also enjoyed wondering, discovering new innovations and creating research plans with similar minded

colleagues. Finally, I find a lot of satisfaction in teaching, helping students and young researchers to develop themselves and to cross borders.

What is in your opinion the principal challenge faced by European GPs now?

The main challenge is to maintain the professional cornerstones of general practice, the so called crown jewels, i.e. the integrated, continuous, personalised care. There are many threads developing at the moment. Medical knowledge is developing rapidly, with ongoing specialisation and technical progress. More than ever patients need a trusted professional who can integrate all this medical potential and translate it to the individual. At the same time the expanding knowledge puts a challenge on general practitioners – they cannot do everything and cannot know everything. The ever increasing workload in general practice is partly due to its success, and coping with that is essential to keep GPs motivated. However, I am convinced that the personal relation between the GP and her patients will also remain the backbone of general practice in future!

What do you want to say to European GPs?

General practitioners are the specialists in primary care, they have the future! Do forster

the personal relation with the patient, keep on developing your clinical skills. And finally, a healthy body and mind make a good doctor, so take care of yourself just as good as you take care of your patients!

What is the primary care going to look like in 2030?

Personally, I believe that in future hospital medicine will mainly focus on the treatment phase, as this is where the expertise of the specialist is required. At the same time general practitioners will be challenged in future to take up an even greater role in other phases of disease management: in prevention, risk assessment, accurate diagnosing and providing follow-up care for complex issues like cancer, dementia, unexplained syndromes and mental health care. General practitioners can only do this adequately if they keep on upgrading their clinical skills, communicating effectively, and creating partnership with the patient.

Have you been to Prague before?

I have been to Prague on many occasions, and I am always impressed by the historical beauty of the city, the artistic atmosphere and the warm reception of people. Looking forward to WONCA 2017!

EQuIP Conference in Prague

EQuIP Closed Meeting and EQuIP Open Conference on Patient Safety took place in Prague, April 21–23, 2016, in the presence of WONCA Europe President Job Metsemaker, EQuIP President Piet Van den Bussche and WONCA Europe 2017 HOC Chair and EQuIP delegate Bohumil Seifert.

Participants from 24 countries discussed an extremely hot and important topic of quality in primary care: patient safety.

Top European experts in primary care quality and safety gave plenary lectures and organized workshops. We listened to “state of the art” lectures from Annez Esmail from UK and Maria Pilar Astier-Pena from Spain and learned about safety culture from EQuIP experts. Presenting colleagues could share individual experience and expertise and get international feedback

on issues like critical incident reporting and analysis, second victim, quality measurement, etc. Visit www.equip.ch for more details. The conference took place in a magnificent palace located in a historical part of Prague.

The next EQuIP Open Conference to be held in Dublin, in spring 2017 will deal with the same topic.

Bohumil Seifert



Job Metsemaker, WONCA Europe President and Bohumil Seifert, Chair of Host Organizing Committee WONCA Europe Conference 2017, at the balcony of Kaiserstein palace, the venue of EQuIP Conference

Registration Fees

Registration Fee	EARLY till Dec 31, 2016	REGULAR Jan 1 – May 25, 2017	LATE till May 25, 2017
WONCA Direct Member	490,00 €	610,00 €	690,00 €
Delegate	530,00 €	650,00 €	730,00 €
Junior Doctor, Trainee	290,00 €	330,00 €	360,00 €
Student	100,00 €	120,00 €	160,00 €

Social Programme

**Conference Dinner – Czech Evening
Municipal House
Friday, June 30, 2017, 19:30–23:00**

The Conference dinner – Czech Evening will be held in the Municipal House situated on the Namesti Republiky Square.

This square is situated on the site of the former moat between the Old and New Towns.

The large open space near the medieval city centre inspired the construction of a number of significant buildings at the turn of the 20th century, such as the Municipal House (Obecní dům) near the Powder Tower (Prašná brána), the Hybernia House (Dům U Hybernů) and the Jiří z Poděbrad Barracks. A large part of the square is now a pedestrian zone connecting the two large shopping centres Palladium and Kotva.

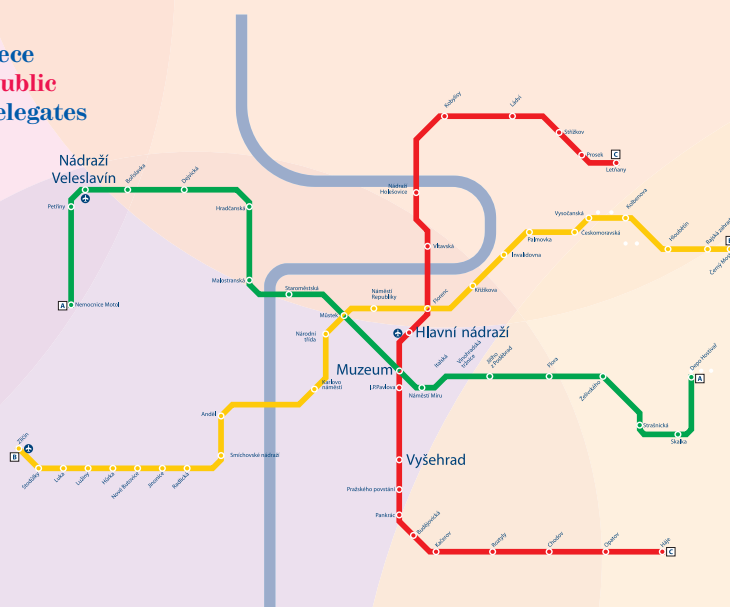
Municipal House

This Art Nouveau building, built between 1905 and 1911, is the proof of unprecedented artistic and craft skills and quality. The café, the French and the Pilsner restaurants, the American bar, the Lord Mayor’s Salon and the Smetana Hall are all examples of perfectly executed Art Nouveau interiors, decorated by leading artists and sculptors such as Alfons Mucha, Jan Preisler, Ladislav Šaloun, and others. Lovers of Art Nouveau can take a guided tour of the whole building.



Conference Transportation

**June 28 – July 1, 2017
WONCA Europe 2017 Conference will provide a free ticket for public transport for all registered delegates**



Prague – the City promised to Practical / Family Medicine!

WONCA Europe Conference 1997	EURACT ISGP 2006	EQuIP 2007	WONCA World Conference 2013	EURACT 2015	EQuIP 2016	WONCA Europe Conference 2017
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10 facts about Prague

There is a Graffiti Wall devoted to John Lennon (who never visited Prague)



This tribute to revolution began after John Lennon's death in 1980. The unofficially named "John Lennon Wall" sits in a quiet corner near the Charles Bridge, filled with regularly changing portraits, Beatles lyrics and scrawled messages from international tourists. On November 17, 2014 – the 25th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution – a group of students painted the entire wall white with "Wall Is Over" in block letters, but visitors disagreed and quickly filled the blank canvas once again. Visit the graffiti wall for a more alternative take on Prague sightseeing.

Yes, those are babies crawling up the TV Tower



Thank Prague's resident rebel sculptor, David Černý, for modern art with a sense of humor decorating the city. You can get a close-up of the babies with bar code faces on the castle side of the Vltava River, near the Kampa Modern Art Museum. For more of Černý's twisted work, try the statues of two men pissing outside the Kafka Museum, or the upside-down horse inside Lucerna Palace near Wenceslas Square.

Experience a medieval world wonder – the Old Town Astronomical Clock!

Every hour, hundreds of tourists from all over the world with cameras at the ready gather in front of the Old Town Hall to enjoy a fascinating mechanical performance which in the Middle Ages was considered one of the wonders of the world. The Prague Astronomical Clock, which for 600 years has been one of the greatest treasures of the city, still amazes people with its procession of Apostles, moving statues and visualization of time like no other instrument in the world.

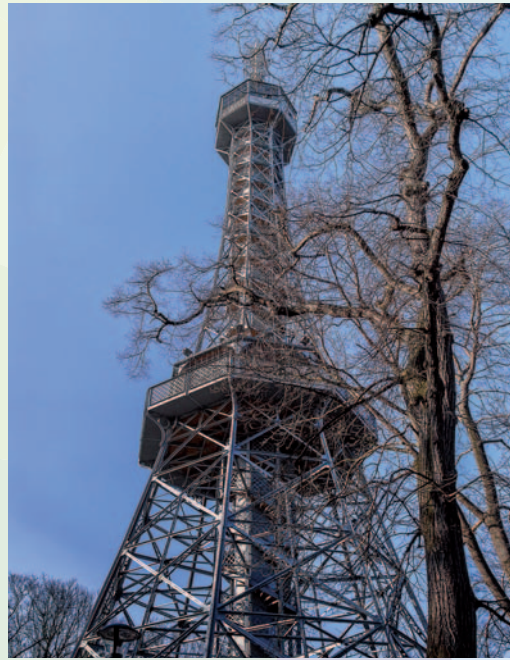


The Dancing House was inspired by Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers



This modern monument among the castles and cobblestones is definitely a sight to see in Prague. The collaboration of Canadian-American Frank Gehry and Croatian-Czech Vlado Milunić in the mid-1990s symbolizes yin and yang: communism blending into democracy. Gehry has said that he initially wanted to name the building after the famous dancing duo. Fans of food with a view might also want to try the (pricey) "Ginger and Fred" restaurant (ginger-fred-restaurant.cz) located on the top floor.

Prague has a mini version of Paris's Eiffel Tower



The Petřín Lookout Tower is a 63.5-metre-tall steel-framework tower in Prague, which strongly resembles the Eiffel Tower. Although it is much shorter than the Eiffel Tower, it stands atop a sizable hill, Petřín, so the top is at a higher elevation than that of the Eiffel Tower. The Petřínská rozhledna was built in 1891 and was used as an observation tower as well as a transmission tower. Today the Petřínská rozhledna is a major tourist attraction. The hill is roughly a half-hour walk up paths that get quite slippery when it snows, and the tower is a shorter but fairly tiring climb; however, the hill is served by a frequent funicular and the tower has an elevator for disabled persons. In 2014 the tower was visited by more than 557,000 visitors, with foreigners being over 70% thereof.

The oldest Jewish graveyard in Europe may have as many as 100,000 bodies buried underfoot

The Old Jewish Cemetery is among the oldest surviving Jewish burial grounds in the world and along with the Old-New Synagogue, it is the most important site in the Prague Jewish



Town. The National Geographic magazine lists it among the top ten cemeteries to visit around the world. It was founded in the first half of the 15th century. The earliest tombstone dates back to 1439; the last burial took place 348 years later. Although the cemetery was expanded several times over the centuries, it was still not big enough to meet the needs of the Jewish Town. As space was scarce, bodies were buried on top of each other, with graves layered up to 10 deep.

Prague Castle is the largest coherent castle complex in the world



Hradčany was built long after Old Town and Lesser Town, but it offers something no other district of Prague can. A major portion of Hradčany consists of Prague Castle, which according to the Internet Guinness Book of Records is the largest castle complex in the world.

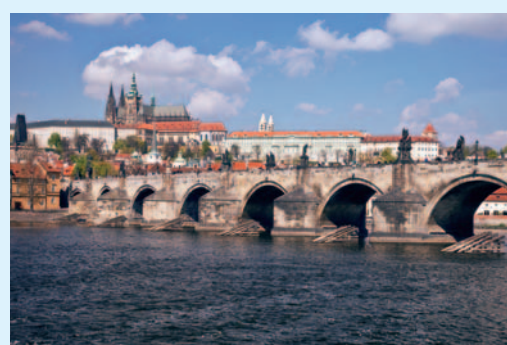
The Vltava as the most famous river



The Vltava is the longest river in the Czech Republic and flows right through the heart of Prague. Escape the hustle and bustle of the city streets and opt for a boat trip along the river to take in Prague's most celebrated sights like the Prague castle and the national theatre

On the top of every Prague visitor's must-see list is Charles Bridge

The Charles Bridge over the river Vltava is definitely one of the most beautiful places in Prague. It is the oldest bridge in the city, built between the 14th and 15th century, and it spans



the river with 16 pillars. It is lined with statues and lamps and this scenery together with the Gothic bridge towers on both ends makes the Charles Bridge a breathtaking historical monument. There is no better place in Prague for a walk early at the morning or at night.

DOX – The best in contemporary art



The DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Architecture and Design is now in its seventh year of successful activity. The project originated as a private initiative, founded on the conviction that Prague belongs on the map of contemporary art and lacked such an alternative centre. Over the course of the six years of its existence, DOX has presented more than a hundred and twenty exhibition projects, over five hundred accompanying programmes and more than six hundred educational and family programmes.

And finally...

Prague is, simply put, a beer lover's paradise. While the pale lager – or pilsner – is still king, variety now thrives and many different kinds of beer are brewed here. There are 28 breweries and brewpubs in Prague, plus dozens of beer bars, sampler pubs, and beer-centric restaurants. Expertly run beer shops make it easy to pick up a unique, local present to take home. Cheers!

Quiz

Win a free registration for WONCA Europe 2017 Conference!

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A winner or winners will be announced there!

What do you know about Prague and the Czech Republic?

1. How many metro lines does Prague have?
2. Which Czech writer has got the Nobel Prize?
3. The Czechs marked the 700th anniversary of the birth of the King of Bohemia and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV this year. What is the date of his birthday?
4. Name two legendary Czech travellers who undertook journeys to Africa, Latin America, Asia and Oceania?
5. Name at least one Czech or Czechoslovak film awarded by Oscar!
6. The only Cubist Café in the World in Prague. What is the name of it?
7. What did the Czech Professor Otto Wichterle invent?
8. The Czech reformer and priest Jan Hus was burnt at the stake. When and where did it happen?
9. Do you know that sugar cube was invented in our country? Can you say in which town?
10. Can you estimate how many breweries and brewpubs are in Prague?