

City of Romance



A Fairy Tale Town for Lovers

Is it the colours? The castles? The music? The mystery? ...or maybe the beer?
Whatever the reason, in Prague, Cupid's arrows seem to be lurking around every corner

by David Cane



Love needs no guide, nor will you need much help cradling your romance in a fairy tale place like Prague, where a new awe-inspiring sight or heart-melting cityscape seems to appear with every corner you turn. Yet, in the words of the great Czech author Milan Kundera, “when the heart speaks, the mind finds it indecent to object.” So we trust you won't object if we dare to compile a list of the most romantic things to do (see, hear, taste... and buy!) during your stay in the city of a hundred spires.

CHARM ...IN CZECH!

- **Miluji te = I love you**
- **Polib me = Kiss me!**

Old Town Magic

Old Town Square is the beating heart of medieval Prague, and by all accounts one of the most beautiful and romantic places in the world. In summer or winter, at night or in daylight, simply walking into this square will take your breath away.

At least once, make sure you secure a “front row” spot to watch the 600-year old **Astronomical Clock** chime: if you don't, you'll have to wait an hour for your next chance...

Bars and cafes dot the square's perimeter, allowing you to take in the magnificence while comfortably sipping on a drink. And for a different point of view, head to the top of the Old Town Hall's tower: the view is well worth the climb!

The atmosphere in the square is so history-laden and magical, it will feel almost natural to step into a vintage 1920s cabriolet or a Horse-drawn carriage, and go for a tour of the city. And if you prefer a more "active" couples' activity, segway tours and rentals are also available.



Romance on the River

Not many rivers have their own symphony, but when you walk along the Vltava as it winds its way through Prague, you will understand why this one does. With a **romantic river cruise**, you can retrace the steps of Smetana's masterpiece and take in the wonders of Prague from a whole new perspective.

Though today Prague has many bridges, there is none so historic, poetic and shrouded in magic as the picturesque **Charles Bridge**. Steal a kiss among the statues that line the Gothic structure, halfway between the imposing medieval towers that guard it at each end.

Less famous, but perhaps even more romantic, is the **"Love Bridge"** in Mala Strana, a small passage over the Certovka canal where couples from all over the world "lock" their love and make it last forever... by throwing the key into the water.

And just around the corner is the iconic (and ever-changing) **John Lennon Wall**: a global symbol of love, freedom and peace, honouring the memory of the man who taught us that... "all you need is love!"





Panoramic Pleasures

Sweeping vistas are often the backdrop for the most memorable moments. And though Prague offers countless opportunities for framing a kiss with spectacular backgrounds, a pair of structures on opposite sides of the city are particularly deserving of a visit.

Slightly off the beaten track, the **Zizkov Television Tower** has a totally different vibe from anything else you can experience in Prague. And whatever your opinion of the tower's aesthetic and architectural value, you can't deny that the slightly hypnotic, sci-fi mood inside the structure is strangely fascinating, and that the view from the upper pod is absolutely breathtaking. A panoramic restaurant and bar provide additional options for memorable moments of vertiginous romance.

On the other side of town, the **Petrin Lookout Tower** bears a striking resemblance to the Eiffel Tower. And while it is considerably shorter, its hilltop location means that the panoramic deck sits at a nearly 400-metre elevation, providing an amazing view of the city's historic centre.

However, if you really want to take it to another level, consider a **hot air balloon** ride over Prague and the Bohemian countryside. Let your love reach new heights - literally!



Bohemian Rhapsodies

Music is the blood that pumps through Prague's veins. From Medieval minstrels to Smetana and Lou Reed, passing through Mozart, John Lennon, Dvorak and Frank Zappa, Prague's love affair with music has stood the test of time. Jazz clubs abound and live music can be found nearly everywhere, including the streets and squares.

In fact, music is such a major element in the city's fabric that even the buildings have begun to dance... Among the world's best known examples of modernist architecture, Frank Gehry's iconic **Dancing House** is an architectural poem with a particularly sentimental – even erotic – feel to it. Care to join it in a dance?



Vezmes si me? =
Will you marry me?

A Night at the Opera

For a truly unforgettable evening, treat yourself to a proper night of classical music. Catch a performance at the striking **National Theatre**, at the **State Opera** or at the famed **Rudolfinum**, or attend one of concerts staged in the **Clementinum**'s stunning mirror chapel. The mood and the melodies will make for a powerful evening of emotion that will stay with you forever.



I Love You, Shopping

We won't try to dissect the complex relationship between love and shopping. But it's a known fact that when you love someone, you want to shower that person in gifts. Even if that person is yourself...

The crown jewel of Prague shopping is Parizska Street, an elegant boulevard lined with luxury boutiques. The more mainstream shopping is instead concentrated around Wenceslas Square, Na Prikope Street and Republic Square, which houses the beautiful Palladium Shopping Centre.

As for the most romantic thing of all, jewelry, Prague boasts all of the household names from Tiffany's to Cartier, as well as the very best in Czech design, including Zorya, Vera Novakova and the edgy creations of Antipearle.



The locally-mined garnet is the most Czech of all gemstones. Just make sure to ask for a certificate of authenticity to avoid unpleasant surprises...

Bohemia is also known for stunning glass and crystal creations, as well as its porcelains. Both the traditional Czech "onion" motif and the unique pink porcelain will make for an amazing gift.

At the open-air Havel Market you' can find innumerable interesting products of local craftsmanship, and maybe pick up one of Bohemia's famous hand-made wooden toys for your little one.

For a list of malls and shopping centres in Prague, see [HERE](#).