

# CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	7
Map of the Czech Republic	8
Introduction	9
1 History and Politics	13
2 Czech Characteristics	32
3 Doing Business	56
4 Communicating	70
5 Socialising	84
6 Eating and Drinking	90
7 Daily Necessities	116
8 Settling In	143
9 Entertainment and Culture	175
Cultural Quiz	192
Further Reading	198
The Author	205
Index	206

# INDEX

- arts 175–182
  - concert halls 182
  - concerts 180
  - literature 179
  - National Revival 176–177
  - theatres 181
- banking 166–167
- beer 100–105
  - major brands 105
- bookstores 183
- business 56–68, 160–162
  - branch offices 162
  - bribes 66–67
  - bureaucracy 62
  - commercial leasing 162
  - formalities 68
  - forming a company 160–161
  - functions 67
  - legal matters 65
  - meetings 59
  - negotiating 60–64
  - office hours 68
  - time and deadlines 58
  - trade shows 68
- coffee 108–109
- Cold War 14
- Communism 19, 23, 26, 28, 41,  
45, 56, 61, 63, 144, 179
- courier services 139
- crime 171
- currency 165
- Czech characteristics 32–49
  - humour 46
  - impressions of others 47
  - love of nature 38
  - merriness and drinking 36
  - nonconformity 39
  - passivity 36
  - pragmatism 46
  - pride 47
  - privacy 34
  - quiet nature 34
  - racism 48–49
  - self pity 45
  - self sufficiency 35
- drinking water 110
- economy 23–26, 166
  - foreign investment 26
  - privatisation 25
- education 40, 52, 162–164
  - schools 162–164
- festivals and events calendar  
187–191
- film industry 184
- folk tales 29–31
- folk traditions 38, 41

- food 90–102
  - daily meals 93–98
  - desserts 99
  - ethnic foods 111
  - fast food 100–101
  - fish 93, 98
  - health food 92–93
  - meat 91–92, 97
  - restaurants and pubs 110–115
    - tipping 114
  - seasonal specialties 101–102
  - soups 95–96
  - vegetarian 98
- foreign cultural centres 183
- geography 14, 33
- government 20–22
  - role of the president 22
- Havel, Václav 19, 22, 28, 35
- health 168–171
  - insurance 170
  - medical care 169
  - pharmacies 170
- history 13–19, 26, 43–45
  - World War II 18, 43, 56
- housing 143–153
  - cost 147
  - estate agents 146
  - general standards 150–152
  - housing projects 144
  - how to find 146
  - landlords 145, 147
  - lifts 152
  - property ownership 145
  - student accommodation 153
  - tenants rights 153
- information sources 156
- Kundera, Milan 45
- language 42, 70–82
  - body language 80–82
  - English usage 70–71
  - formal and informal speech 74
  - grammar 75
  - learning Czech 71–72, 80
  - letters and pronunciation 73–74
  - names and titles 77
  - polite expressions 76
  - slang and swearing 78–79
  - useful words 119–125, 154
- laundry services 142
- life expectancy 52
- media
  - English language news 137
  - newspapers and magazines 136
  - television and radio 137
- music 40

## INDEX

- name days 191
- pets 165
- population 15
- postal service 138-139
- Prague 16, 29, 31, 34-35, 42, 49-50, 119, 127, 129, 143, 146, 148, 156, 172-174
  - districts 148
  - expatriate community 172-174
- prostitution 172
- public holidays 69
- public toilets 142
- recycling 136
- religion 26-27
- residence permits 157-160
- shopping 116-125
  - bread and pastries 121
  - chain stores 116
  - clothes 122
  - electrical appliances 125
  - fruits and vegetables 118
  - gifts 126
  - groceries 117-118
  - household furnishings 124
  - meat 119
  - shoes 124
  - supermarkets 121
  - toiletries and pharmaceuticals 121
- social structure 49-54
  - attitudes to sex 53-54
  - childhood 50-51
  - marriage 52
  - women 54-55
- socialising 84-89
  - conversation 85
  - dining etiquette 88
  - meeting people 84
  - visiting a Czech home 86-87
  - toasts 88
- spirits and liqueurs 107-108
- sports 185-186
- street names 135
- support groups 155-156
- taxation 167
- tea 109
- telecommunications 66, 140-141
- transportation 127-132
  - car ownership 132
  - coaches 130
  - driving 130-135
    - parking 133-134
    - road rules 133
    - road signs 133
    - speed limits 131
    - street names 135
  - metro trains 127-129
    - fares and tickets 127
  - taxis 129
  - trains 130
- utilities 155
- weights and measures 127
- wine 100, 106-107