

Three Day Itinerary



Our three day itinerary is devised to show you the most famous sights in Prague, conveying a sense of the city's culture, whilst discovering some less touristy areas. We have taken care to pace the itinerary, as one of the great pleasures of Prague is strolling along cobbled streets, which can be quite exhausting. With this in mind we have also included delightfully relaxing things to see and do.

Day One

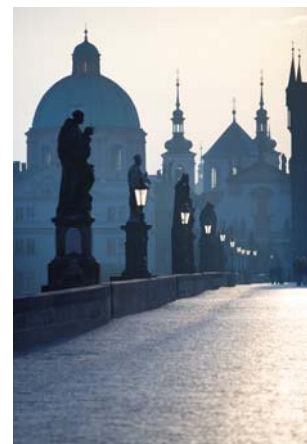
With **Prague Castle** situated on our side of the river just above the hotel we suggest making it the first stop on your itinerary, then you can always return later in your trip. It is not actually one castle but a series of historic buildings and churches and could take up to 4 hours to tour round. If however you want a casual stroll through and to focus on one exhibition we recommend the princely collections at **Lobkowitz Palace**. This is the only privately owned building within the Prague Castle complex. Recently opened, this collection is known only by the cognoscenti for now and is an extraordinary display of art, antiques and arms drawn from the centuries old collections of the Lobkowitz noble family. Their cultural discernment is our reward with works by Canaletto, Brueghel the elder, Velazques and original manuscripts by Beethoven and Mozart.

After the castle you will be ready for **lunch**, walking down the hill we recommend **Villa Richter**. This is a series of three restaurants within a vineyard, all have spectacular views and you have the choice of excellent café fare, an elegant French restaurant or modern Czech cuisine.

Continue walking down the hill until you return to Malá Strana and the area surrounding our hotel. It is a labyrinth of charming cobbled streets, with plenty of shops. Browsing round them will give you a benchmark for shopping later in your trip.

Afternoon rejuvenation in our spa. The steep cobbled streets around the castle are beautiful but very hard on your legs and feet, at Mandarin Oriental you have one of the best spas in the Czech Republic to relax and restore your energy. Situated in an ancient Renaissance chapel this is very much a calming spiritual experience.

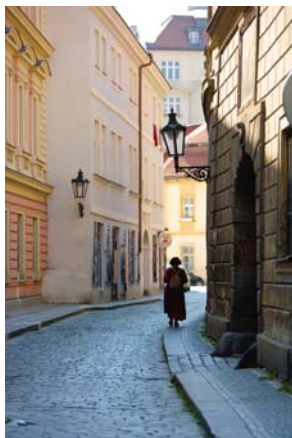
Evening cocktails followed by a stroll across **Charles Bridge**, which connects Malá Strana to Old Town. This 14th century Gothic bridge is a five minute walk from our hotel and one of the city's most popular tourist destinations therefore it is best experienced early morning or at this time, in the evening, when the crowds have diminished. Depending on the time of year you can look back and see the magnificent sight of Prague Castle lit up.



Day Two

We'll have a **classic open top sports car** to collect you from our hotel courtyard and take you on a tour of the **Old Town**. This is an amusing way to cover the extensive cobbled streets beneath a hundred spires and to get your bearings. For lunch, which you may wish to take in Old town, we propose the cosmopolitan Pravda restaurant in Parizska street, which has an artistic reflection on the Velvet Revolution. Appropriately you could follow this with a visit to the **Communist Museum**. This is an accessible tour of Prague's recent political past. Stay for the short film at the end, it is a moving testimony to peoples' courage. The exhibition should take no more than an hour and with the historical context it makes a visit to **Wenceslas Square** around the corner that bit more interesting.

You could return to Malá Strana by taxi or tram alternatively walk and enjoy some more sights. After Old Town Square we recommend avoiding narrow Karlova Street, which is the main thorough fare towards Charles Bridge and is packed with tourists and shops selling low-quality souvenirs. Instead walk along Platnerska Street and through **The Clementinum** a handsome and historic complex of Baroque houses, churches and gardens, famous for its exquisite mirror chapel, libraries and 52 metre **Astronomical Tower**. If you have the energy to climb the 172 steps it does offer a fine view of Prague. At Malá Strana take tea in our hotel Monastery Lounge or spend some peaceful time in the **Kampa Park**, which is two minutes away. If you still have an appetite for sights, you are particularly fit! But in which case you could tour round the **Kampa Museum** with its exhibition of Czech and Eastern European modern art from the private



collection of Jan and Meda Mládek, exiles during the communist era. It includes some large installation pieces including a striking glass terrace overlooking the river.

In the evening one of the musical pleasures Prague offers are the mini **classical concerts** held in numerous churches around the city. Close by to our hotel is the exquisite St. Nicolas church or you could always return to the castle where they hold performances in **St George's Basilica**.

Dinner can either be in the sophisticated calm of our own Essensia, where you can be assured of fine food and the attentive service you need at the end of a busy day. Alternatively in the **Pálffy Palác**, with its charming grand dining room and flickering candlelight, the atmosphere is very Amadeus. If the weather is fine we propose restaurant Fish with its garden terrace overlooking the Charles Bridge. Both are in Malá Strana near our hotel.

Day Three

A final day could be spent purchasing **souvenirs** of fine Bohemian crystal followed by a visit to one of Prague's many museums. We propose a personalised shopping trip with Karen Feldman, the owner of **Artel Design Shop** located in our hotel, who will ensure you find genuine quality in our city. Alternatively stroll independently around the small glass and marionette shops in Malá Strana; compared to Old Town they are less busy and can be slightly cheaper.

Close by the hotel is the **Franz Kafka Museum** honouring Prague's famous author; the high mind behind such seminal works as The Trial and Metamorphosis, in which he portrayed a unique 'Kafkaesque' sense of surreal doom. This is a fascinating experience for anyone with an interest in literature. For beautiful paintings and sculpture we propose the collection at **St Agnes Convent**, a branch of the **National Gallery** in a quieter area of Old Town. The quality and quantity of what is on display is simply outstanding but surprisingly few visitors find their way here so you will most likely be able to stroll the halls undisturbed.

At the end of the day our limousine will be ready to take you to the airport and we will look forward to giving you a warm welcome back to Mandarin Oriental, Prague.

