

Shopping

Prague is a playground for shoppers: here you can find just about anything you need at just about any time during traditional opening hours (further outside of the city center, opening and closing times are unpredictable, especially on weekends, with some shops closing at noon on Saturdays and closing entirely on Sunday). It's easy enough to spend a day losing oneself in dusty old shops where you might uncover quaint treasures, elusive bargains, and rare gifts, everything from clothes to knick-knacks to books. English speaking clerks and stores that take credit cards are widespread these days, although still a bit rare in the offbeat, out-of-the-way boutiques and mom-and-pop grocery stores.

At the Grocery Store

Grocery shopping in the Czech Republic is a food lover's dream. Loaves of crusty artisan bread, gourmet cheeses and pâtés, cans of dainty salmon-stuffed olives, heavenly dairy desserts, and deli offerings of spicy cold cuts and other savories will have the epicurious wandering the aisles of his or her local market in a salivating stupor. These days one is hard pressed to think of items that can't be found in Prague's many supermarkets. Tortilla chips, peanut butter, fresh fish, jars of Indian curry sauces – it's all there. Smaller grocers (*potraviny*) will carry staples of the Czech diet: bread, potatoes, deli fare, and basic produce. The truly industrious and economizing will want to learn enough food-related Czech (and the metric system) to buy their meat from the butcher's (*řeznictví*), their bread at the bakery (*pekárna*), their wine at the wine bar (*vinárna*). But for the beginner, the supermarket is the place to get your daily bread. With that in mind, we've devised an aisle-by-aisle guide to good shopping – and eating.

Dairy and Eggs

The Czech Republic loves its dairy desserts: you'll find single-serving cups of luscious strawberry and chocolate confections in the dairy aisle. Children love to eat *Pribináček* – it's made with *tvaroh*, a sweet ricotta-like cheese – but you'll want to give it a try, too: it can only be described as cheeseecake in a cup.

Another delicious dairy find is *pomazánka*, a soft cream cheese spread available in yummy flavors like red pepper and garlic. *Lučina* is a nice substitute for cream cheese. Traditional Czech cheeses are *gouda* or *edam*; both are available smoked (*uzený*).

Hermelín is a popular soft cheese sold alongside brie; blue cheese is *niva*. *Parénice* is string cheese that comes either plain or smoked and *olomoucké syrečky* (round moldy cheeses) are not for the cheese amateur!

A few basics: fresh eggs are stamped with a red circle. Older refrigerated eggs have a black circle. Eggs are usually sold in conventional cartons at large grocery stores containing six or 10 eggs. Most milk is sold as long-life (*trvanlivé*) in cartons; it has a long shelf-life and the expiration date is stamped on the top of the box. Once opened, keep refrigerated and treat as fresh milk. Fresh (*čerstvé*) milk is refrigerated, but long-life milk can be confusingly sold either refrigerated or not. *Čerstvé máslo* is fresh butter and the best choice when a recipe calls for pure butter. Hera or Perla are two brands of margarine sold in blocks, although there are various brands available that are suitable for baking. Rama and Flora are good basic brands of tub margarine. Heavy or whipping cream is *šlehačka*, light cream is *smetana*, and cream for coffee is *smetana do kávy*. Sour cream is *kyselé smetana*.

Meat and Fish

You'll find all manner of cuts, odds and ends, and parts at the meat counter. Sausages, cold cuts, steaks, kebabs; sometimes conveniently pre-seasoned. For kosher offerings you'll have to make a trip to the deli and some supermarket meat counters won't carry lamb. Remember that it's always cheaper to buy your meat by weight at the counter, but if you haven't quite got the hang of it yet, you'll find pre-packaged meats and cheeses in nearby deli cases.

A few basics: *Kuře* (chicken) is sold fresh and frozen, whole and in parts. *Bez kostí* means boneless; *kuřecí prsa* is chicken breast, and *kuřecí stehno* is chicken thigh. *Krůtí* (turkey) is found in vacuum packs fresh and frozen. You can find whole frozen turkeys as well. Also in vacuum packs are smoked (*uzené*) turkey parts. *Krůtí prsa* is turkey breast (whole piece), *krůtí prsa na řízky* is turkey breast cutlets and *krůtí stehno* is turkey thigh. *Hovězí* (beef) is sold fresh; however, some of the cuts may look different. One very good cut is *svíčková* (tenderloin). *Mleté maso* is ground or minced meat, and can be found with all beef or a mixture of beef and pork. *Vepřové* (pork) is also sold fresh and in various cuts which should be familiar to you. *Jehněčí* (lamb) and *telecí* (veal) are also available but more frozen than fresh. Various types of ham (*šunka*) are found at the deli counter. *Uzená šunka* is smoked ham. Buy whole hams at the butcher.

Chocolate and Sweets

The most famous names in Czech chocolate are Orion (known as the "blue star") and Opavia. The popular *Studentská pečeta*, made by Orion, is a delicious chocolate bar studded with fruit, raisins, and nuts. Candy bars such as Margot, Milena, and Kofila are chocolate faves; kids love to munch *Lenílky*, which are something like M&Ms (or Smarties in the UK). Milka bars with their creamy fillings and breakable squares are tempting treats. Wafers are commonly paired with chocolate; try Fidorly, a round, chocolate-covered wafer or *Tatranky*, a rectangular chocolate-covered wafer. The tea-swilling set will find a nice selection of biscuits (*sušenky*) and *dětské piškoty* are small, ladyfinger-like cookies made just for little hands. *Ledňáček*, *Eskimo*, and *Míša* are classic Czech ice cream bars; *Jahodová dřev* (strawberry pulp) is a delicious sorbet that comes in little cups. *Jahody v čokoládě* is a strawberry sorbet bar dipped in chocolate. Traditional Czech plum marmalade (*švestková marmeláda*) is a delicious find; you'll also find a wide assortment of preserves and jams at the grocery store, alongside Nutella-like spreads, and (though a bit on the pricy side) peanut butter.

For Baking

Baking is a big part of Czech culture and as such the baking aisle won't leave you wanting for much. Sugar (*cukr*) is available granulated (*krystal* or *krupice*) or powdered (*moučka*). Flour comes in three varieties to indicate degree of fineness: *hladká*, *polohrubá*, *hrubá*. Baking soda (*jedlá soda*) and baking powder (*kypřicí prášek*) come in slender packets. Vanilla extract is harder to come by (try Tesco); you're more likely to find whole vanilla beans and vanilla sugar. Food coloring (*potravinářské barvivo*) also comes in packages in powder (not liquid) form. Dried yeast (*instantní droždí*) is available in small sacks in the baking aisle; find fresh yeast (*čerstvé kvasnice*) in square blocks in the refrigerator section.

Packaged and Canned Goods

Canned sausages, vegetables (expect nothing but carrots, peas, corn, mushrooms, and beans if you are in a potroviny far from the center), fruit (mainly strawberries, peaches, and pineapple), and fish (tuna, salmon) are the most common canned goods. Canned tuna is available mixed with vegetables and special sauces, perfect for adding to pasta. Sardines and oysters are an inexpensive delicacy; Rio Mare makes a delicious salmon pâté in a tube; a treat on crackers. You'll also find a huge variety of canned, stuffed and plain olives. Traditional Czech pâtés (*paštika*) come in tiny tins and are usually a mix of pork and liver, sometimes with an egg on top. A growing selection of premium spaghetti sauces, bottled marinades, and salad dressings are making their

way to supermarkets everywhere; so are cake and cookie mixes, microwave meals and packets of time-saving boil-and-eat foods. Inexpensive herbs and spices come in slim packets; you'll pay a bit more for the bottled variety. *Celý* means whole; *mletý* is ground. Companies such as Vitana and Maggi make good instant soups and bouillon cubes.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Prague's open air markets, usually hidden away in the city's passages (*pasáž*), tend to stock plentiful quantities of fresh fruits and vegetables (*ovoce a zelenina*), along with buckets full of fresh herbs that are hard to come by at the supermarkets where you'll usually just find dried.

Fruits and vegetables tend to be cheaper here and the Vietnamese proprietors are friendly, and regularly offer discounts and sales. During the summer months take home luscious melons, strawberries, and more; all year round you'll find enormous mushrooms, citrus, avocados – a step up from the root vegetables offered at a number of grocers in Prague.

Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Mattoni is the ubiquitous Czech mineral water; more and more, however, it is being replaced by brands such as Coca-Cola's **Bonaqua**. Other Czech waters include **Dobrá voda** (Good Water), **Korunni**, and **Poděbradka**. The national alternative to Coca-Cola is **Kofola**, which comes in original and citrus flavors – it's definitely an acquired taste. Kofola also makes a soft drink reminiscent of champagne called Top & Topic. Czech juice brands are **Toma** and **Hello**. **Kubík** makes various tasty juices and nectars for children, often mixing carrots with other fruits and vegetables. You'll also want to try a flavor or two of the tasty lineup of syrups, made by **Jupik**, next to the sodas and juices to add a jolt of flavor to cola, sparkling water, or cocktails. Buy coffee (*káva*) ground (*mletá*) or instant (*instantní*); tea, or *čaj*, is particularly popular here, chose from **černý** (black), **ovocný** (fruit), or **bylinný** (herb) varieties.

Condiments

Czech ketchup (*kečup*) is unusually thin and sweet; although thicker, flavored ketchups are also popping up, as are spicy ones. Good mustards are made by Kand, they come in sweet, French, herbal, or extra-spicy varieties. The typical Czech mustard, though, is **kremžská**. **Tatarská omáčka** is mayonnaise mixed with pickle; salsa is available but may be a bit more expensive and thinner than you're used to.

GROCERY STORE TIPS

- You'll need to deposit 5 or 10 CZK (or a similar-sized disk) in the shopping cart to unlock and use it in supermarkets – make sure to have the change if you're doing heavy shopping.
- Most of the larger supermarkets have a machine for recycling bottles. 0,5L beer bottles and 1,0L wine bottles can be returned for a 3 CZK deposit.
- Some stores require you to weigh your fruit at a self-serve weighing station and label it accordingly.
- You may have to bring your own bag or purchase one at the store (especially in smaller shops).
- Cashiers appreciate exact change.

Specialty Food Stores

Prague's supermarkets stock an array of international standards, things like Mexican fixings and Asian noodles and spices. But if your needs lean toward the more "exotic" we suggest one of the city's many specialty food shops.

Herbs and spices

Žizkov's **Shalimar** (Lipanská 1) carries mustard seed, curry leaf, coriander, and more, whole instead of ground. **Botanicus**, (Týnský dvůr 3; Michalská 2, www.botanicus.cz) devotes shelf space to spices. The city's organic food stores carry a modest selection of spices but you'll pay a bit more. **Farah Oriental Market** (Myslíkova 5, www.ita.cz/farah) is a fabulous find: bins brimming with spices of the Turkish, Middle Eastern, and Indian variety.

Butchers

Go to **Robertson Fine Foods** (Jugoslávských partyzánů 38, Nuselská 60, www.robertson.cz) for everything from bacon to Oxtail to stewing beef as well as chops, steaks, and sausages. English expats will appreciate the extensive offering of pickle, imported cheeses, spreads, and beers and bevies. For those who keep kosher, **The Jewish Community Center Kosher Butcher** (Maisekova 18) can accommodate you given 3 days notice.

English and American comfort food

At **Marks and Spencer** (Václavské náměstí 36) you'll find delicious pasta sauces, Fairtrade coffee and tea, English biscuits, marinades, and frozen food. When the munchies take hold, load up on comfort food, and rent a movie to boot, at **Video Gourmet** (Jakubská 12, opposite **Red Hot and Blues**). American junk food (Oreos, Duncan Hines mixes, Crisco, root beer, and bacon) round out the offerings.

Gourmet food shops

Gourmet deli and imported foods shop **Culinaria** (Skořepka 9, www.culinaria.cz) sells delicious artisan fare; newly opened **Gurmetum** (Plzeňská 8) is an oasis for foodies that stocks foie gras, caviar, wine, and much more. **U Závoje** (Havelská 25, www.uzavoje.cz) is a cheese-lover's paradise. Choose from over 80 varieties of cheese from France, Italy, and beyond (smelly Stilton from England, Denmark cheddar, Greek feta, etc.).

Asian Markets

The inventory at **Thai's Asian Food Store** (Gorazdova 3, www.asianfood.cz) represents a diverse number of countries – Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, China, Vietnam, and India – and goes well beyond the spice trade: pick up rice, noodles, canned goods, sauces, oils, and hard-to-find fresh herbs and veggies like cilantro, Thai basil, sweet basil, fresh chili, banana leaf, and Asian okra. For sushi ingredients try **JAPA** (Puškinovo nám. 10, www.japa-shop.cz), or **Hana** (Michalská 55, Prague 4) near the Kačerov Metro stop; worth the trip.

Seafood

Fresh seafood, on order from Japan and France, is the name of the game at the **Seafood Shop** (Zborovská 49, www.seafood.cz).

Organic Food

Prague health food stores sell everything from organic produce to environmentally friendly dish soap, and even some of the larger grocery store chains have started stocking organic goods. The word for "organic" here is *bio* – look for the official green Bio label on the packaging. If you're after organic meat products, large stores such as **Tesco** carry organic beef (and occasionally organic pork and lamb). But organic chicken, because of its high production cost, isn't farmed in the Czech Republic, and is therefore more difficult to find. Perhaps the only outlet is health-food store **Albio**, which carries organic chicken that has been imported. Otherwise, for free-range chicken, the brand **Voďňany**, available at many supermarkets, produces

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chicken labeled as “corn-fed” (*kukuřičné*, also referred to as *farmářské* or *zlaté kuře*). Eggs from free-range chickens are usually called *vejce od slepic chovaných na podestýlce* – eggs from hens raised “on hay” (as opposed to in cages). To determine exactly where your meat came from, go to www.biohovezi.cz and enter your product’s serial number.

SPECIALTY SHOPS

Thai’s Asian Food Shop’s selection of Asian edibles includes rice, noodles, beans, spices and pastes, chillies and sauces, frozen seafood, snacks, and desserts from Thailand, Vietnam, China, India, Japan, as well as Asian herbs and vegetables. **Culinaria Praha**, where homesick expats snap up Oreos, also stocks a tantalizing selection of gourmet foodstuffs and boasts a buzzing lunch counter.

Robertson Quality Meats and International Delicatessen sell an impressive range of meat, meat products, cheeses, and British products and make their own sausage and bacon. **U Závoje Cheese Shop** specializes in cheeses from the traditional cheese-producing countries like France. Choose from over 80 varieties.

Albio

One of the major health food chains in Prague, offering an assortment of organic goods, including dairy products, breads and cosmetics, plus various organic meats. Albio stocks a variety of sandwiches and to-go meals, as well as homemade sweets that replace refined sugar with healthier sweeteners such as fruit juices, maple syrup, and grain sweeteners. They’ll even make you a whole sugar-free cake if you order in advance.

Bio Market Vítek

This friendly store in Vinohrady has a standard selection of health-store goods, plus organic wines, freshly ground spelt coffee, and various Japanese cooking ingredients. They also carry organic bath and body products – such as lavender shampoo and kids’ body lotion – from Danish company Urtekram.

Country Life

The first post-revolution health food wholesalers in the Czech Republic are still going strong. Country Life’s dry goods can be found in many supermarkets, as well as in their own health food shops, which also sell groceries, cosmetics, and eco-friendly cleaning supplies. Be sure to check out their yummy home-made healthy cookies, made from different wheats such as whole-grain and spelt, and flavored with dates, figs, and nuts.

Rozmarýna

This recent addition to Prague’s health food scene quickly became a favorite for its good selection of organic fruits and vegetables, cow and goat dairy products, and teas. They deliver purchases of over 800 CZK for free, and have a fairly easy-to-navigate shopping website (in Czech).

Specialty & Organic Food Shops



Albio Truhlářská 20, Prague 1	www.albiostyl.cz ☎ +420 222 325 418
Bio Market Vítek Vinohradská 53, Prague 2	www.biomarketvitek.cz ☎ +420 222 251 019
Bioobchod.cz Dobrovského 338, Prague 7	www.bioobchod.cz ☎ +420 491 616 510
Biopotraviny.cz Hnězdenská ul. - jižní terasa, Prague 8	www.biopotraviny.cz ☎ +420 603 480 462
Biosfera.cz Husovická 4, Prague 6	www.biosfera.cz ☎ +420 739 677 452

Biotop Školná 34, Prague 1	www.biotop.cz ☎ +420 222 230 136
Country Life Melantrichova 15, Prague 1	www.countrylife.cz ☎ +420 224 213 366
Culinaria Praha Skofečka 9, Prague 1	www.culinaria.cz ☎ +420 224 231 017
Ferovec Pastevců 19, Prague 4	www.ferovec.cz ☎ +420 272 654 010
Fruits de France Bělehradská 94, Prague 2	www.fdf.cz ☎ +420 222 511 261
Japan e-shop Michelská 55, Prague 4	www.japan-eshop.com ☎ +420 261 216 741
LS-Zetis Husitská 35, Prague 3	www.ls-zetis.cz ☎ +420 222 541 471
Marks and Spencers Václavské nám. 36, Prague 1	www.marksandspencer.cz ☎ +420 224 237 503
Medunka Na Hrázi 21, Prague 8	www.medunka.cz ☎ +420 603 847 405
Nature Life Na Petřinách 82, Prague 6	www.zdrava-vyziva.com ☎ +420 235 366 946
PPL Bio & Racio Potraviny Starostraňická 38, Prague 10	www.dia-potravinny.cz ☎ +420 274 810 038
Robertson - P4 Nuselská 60, Prague 4	www.robertson.cz ☎ +420 261 217 580
Robertson - P6 Jugoslávských partyzánů 38, Prague 6	www.robertson.cz ☎ +420 233 321 142
Rozmarýna Nádražní 17, Prague 5	www.rozmaryna.cz ☎ +420 774 518 217
Seafood Shop Zborovská 49, Prague 5	www.seafood.cz ☎ +420 257 320 109
Thai’s Asian Food Shop Francouzská, Prague 2	www.asianfood.cz ☎ +420 606 437 985
U Závoje Havelská 25, Prague 1	www.uzavoje.cz ☎ +420 226 006 120
Zdravé Žití U Tří Růží Soukenická 21, Prague 1	www.zdraveziti.eu ☎ +420 222 318 726

Prague Open-Air Markets

Best All-Around

Prážská tržnice – Prague market Holešovice

Bubenské nábřeží, Prague 7

Metro: **Vitavská** (line C)

Open: Mon-Fri 8:00-18:00; Sat 8:00-13:00

(Turn left out of the **Vitavská** metro station and walk along Bubenské nábřeží by the river, until you come to the big walled complex – you can’t miss it.)

At **Prague Market** dozens and dozens of stalls await, selling, among other things, cheap clothes, underwear, electronics, statues and ornaments (usually with lewd overtones), watches and wallets. Fruit and vegetable market, discount supermarket, and cheap eateries round out the offerings.

For the Furniture Buff

Nábytek Bazar – Furniture Bazaar

Below Libeňský Most, Prague 8

Metro: **Palmovka** (line B)

Open: varied hours for each trader

(Trams stop on the bridge, or you can walk from Metro **Palmovka** towards the river and take the left ramp off the bridge down to the warehouses.)

New and second-hand furniture, beds, lamps, tables, chairs, bookshelves, and even the occasional sewing machine, as well as antiques. The prices are reasonable, and many of the traders aren’t averse to bargaining. Oddly enough, there’s also what seems to be a dog-supply warehouse full of bulk dog-food, toys, etc, so you can stock up for your canine friends while you’re there.

For Flea-Market Fanciers

Bleší trh – Flea Market

Kolbenova, Prague 9

Metro: **Kolbenova** (line B)

Open: Sat 07:00 – 14:00

(From the Metro, turn right into Kolbenova street, cross to the other side of the road, and it's about 100m along.)

Although it opens and closes early, it's worth dragging yourself out of bed at an unreasonably early hour on a Saturday morning to take advantage of the huge number of stalls selling practically everything you could imagine, from car-parts and electronics to antique tea-sets and musical instruments. The food stall at the entrance does great pizzas and has cheap beer, too.

Best in the Center

Havelský trh – Havel market

Havelská Street, Prague 1

Metro: **Můstek** (line A or C)

Open Mon-Fri, 08:00-18:00

Constructed in the 13th-century, today this market is largely a tourist attraction though fresh produce is still available just like the old days. Leather goods, marionettes, spa wafers and souvenirs galore. **TIP:** For antique lovers, the courtyard of the Klementinum on Sundays is a must. Here local antiques stores display their wares. Prices range from the reasonable to the exorbitant.

Worth the Trip

Buštěhrad Antik Buštěhrad

Metro: **Zličín** (line B) or **Dejická** (line A); from here take a direct bus.

Open on the second and fourth Friday (08:00-14:00) and Saturday (08:00-12:00) of the month.

Buštěhrad Antik is a sizeable flea market, the biggest of 'em all, located in the tiny village of Buštěhrad, about 12 miles northwest of Prague. Serious collectors and antique hunters will marvel at the gems to be had here, but day-trippers won't be disappointed either as there are plenty of quirky, unique finds on offer.

ANTIQUE STORES

Prague is an antique lover's paradise, its Old Town packed with starožitnosti offering endless trinkets and treasures.

Alma Mahler Antique (Valentinská 7) specializes in Bohemian glass, porcelain, textiles, and furnishings.

Fun find: Small puppet theatre, complete with four marionettes. At Cinolter (Maiselova 9) antique watches reside next to silver tea and coffee sets. Fun find: marble jester statue. Window shoppers will enjoy the display of porcelain figurines at Antique Andrlé (Křižovnická 1). Inside you'll find Loetz and Moser glass and two walls covered with brightly painted, wooden renderings of biblical scenes. Fun find: The bargain basement where everything is marked down by 30 percent. Bric-a-Brac (Týnská 7) is a must for antique lovers: a teeny-tiny, cluttered-to-capacity shop that's actually two stores next door to each other—and the owner speaks English impeccably. Fun finds: Street signs, silver cigarette case, an old trombone.

Bookstores

Prague is home to a number of fine English-language bookstores, many attached to the requisite cafe, beckoning book lovers to while away a weekend sipping and reading, reading and sipping. Devoted bookworms can even keep their book collection current with

bestsellers from their home country – most of the shops mentioned here will special order books from the US and UK for no extra charge. The Expats.cz website's "For Sale" section is also busy with used bookselling activity. For your reading pleasure, we've compiled an overview of the city's best – but it's by no means exhaustive. After all, discovering your very own nook for books is one of the joys of learning a new city.

ANTIKVARIÁTY

It's difficult to translate antikvariát. "Used bookstore" doesn't really do it justice. A true antikvariát is filled with old and secondhand paper products of all sorts – postcards, stamps, maps, drawings and illustrations, in addition to books. In the Czech Republic they are a fascinating glimpse into former times, whether you speak the language or not. A couple of our favorites: Antikvariát Pražský Almanach (Újezd 26, www.artbook.cz) is stuffed with treasures. At Antikvariát Kant (Opatovická 26, www.antik-kant.cz) lovely drawings surround the door, and immediately to the left are shelves offering books for 5, 10, and 15 CZK. The entry room is filled with books for 5-15 CZK. Antikvariát Dlážděná v Růžové (Růžová 5, www.adplus.cz) has tons of illustrations hanging on the wall, more drawings filed away by topic in drawers, lots of books, and a bookshelf with books in both English and German. Under the cash desk, there are usually four boxes filled with books for 1 CZK

Best Bargain Bins

Neoluxor-Palác knih Luxor is one of the biggest book mega stores in central Europe. While most of its four floors are devoted to books, magazines, and maps in Czech, the foreign language section regularly stocks discounted English-language fiction (as well as bestsellers, classics, poetry, and Prague-related tomes at full price). You'll find the cheap books (ranging from 99 CZK – 199 CZK) in bins and on tables – the haphazardly organized piles can be tricky to manage but worth the effort.

Best Bookstore/Cafe Combo

The Globe is an expat institution due in part to its lounge-y ambiance (overstuffed chairs and walls bedecked with student art) and tasty fare (dig into savory pasta dishes, homemade soups, bakery delights, or weekend brunch), plus a bookstore that boasts close to 10,000 titles including hard-to-come-by gay and lesbian works. The Globe also offers a handful of used books but the real find here is the wide selection of international newspapers and magazines.

Best Secondhand Stuff

Bards in the making will enjoy **Shakespeare and Sons'** wonderful selection of gently used poetry, plays, and literary theory while those who secretly lust for V.C. Andrews won't leave unsatisfied either. Their expansive selection of new titles covers everything from cooking to humor to film. For the avid reader who frequently refreshes her library, Shakespeare's will buy your old books in exchange for store credit or cash.

Best for Teachers **Big Ben Bookshop** specializes in dictionaries, teacher resources, and course books. Coincidentally, or perhaps not, staffers there speak impeccable English. You'll also find an impressive selection of bestsellers, children's books, and plenty of Czech literature, history and local-interest titles. Rightfully touting themselves as a "customer service oriented" bookstore, your shopping experience at Big Ben is sure to be a pleasant one.

Best for Aesthetes

The shelves sag with treatises on philosophy, religion and art, the hipster staff spins Franz Ferdinand and artsy magazines are stacked at the entrance of **Anagram Bookstore**. This Ungelt mainstay also devotes a small corner of its shop space to used books – most of which are anything but high-brow. The knowledgeable/bilingual staff

is quietly present but never pushy. Anagram 2 in Vinohrady (Anny Letenská 18) has a better selection of used titles.

Bookstores



ANAGRAM BOOKSHOP

Týn 4 Ungelt, 110 00 Prague 1
☎ +420 224 895 737

🌐 www.anagram.cz ✉ anagram@nextra.cz



An excellent English-language bookshop, Anagram has a vast range of fiction and nonfiction, with especially good selection on European history, philosophy, religion, art and travel as well as Czech authors in translation and children's books.

Big Ben Bookshop

Malá Štupartská 5, 110 00 Praha 1
☎ +420 224 826 565

🌐 www.bigbenbookshop.com ✉ bigbenbooks@email.cz



Big Ben Bookshop is an all English language, customer service orientated bookshop. Established in 1994, Big Ben specialise in all kinds of English books, from dictionaries, teachers resources and course books to full range of fiction and non-fiction

Antikvariát Valentinská 🌐 www.valentinska.cz

Valentinská 8, Prague 1 ☎ +420 224 816 253

Globe Bookstore & Cafe 🌐 www.globebookstore.cz

Pšrossova 6, Prague 1 ☎ +420 224 934 203

Knihy Kanzelsberger 🌐 www.kanzelsberger.cz

Plezišská 344, Prague 5 ☎ +420 257 321 470

Levné Knihy 🌐 www.levneknihy.cz

Václavské nám. 18, Prague 1 ☎ +420 222 246 601

Neoluxor-Palác knih Luxor 🌐 www.neoluxor.cz

Václavské nám. 41, Prague 1 ☎ +420 221 111 364

Shakespeare & SONS 🌐 www.shakes.cz

Krymská 12, Prague 10 ☎ +420 271 740 839

Electronics



Apple Center 🌐 www.appleobchod.cz

Bělehradská 68-70, Prague 2 ☎ +420 257 210 493

Bontonland 🌐 www.bontonland.cz

Roztylská 19, Prague 4 ☎ +420 272 075 024

Datart 🌐 www.datart.cz

Národní třída 28, Prague 1 ☎ +420 225 991 000

Discount Computers - LevnaPC 🌐 www.levnappc.cz

Lštění 58, Čerčany ☎ +420 841 114 115

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For the Home

A place to lay your weary head. A comfy spot to read a good book. Someplace to eat dinner. Whether you want it to be fun or functional, classy or comfortable, we've got the scoop on furniture shops in town.

Ikea (Centrum Černý Most, Chlumecká 10/664 & AVION Shopping Park, Skandinávská, Zličín, www.ikea.cz). Whether you love it or loathe it, it's a pretty much inevitable stop. Everything can be found here; beds, tables, shelving, desks, chairs, couches, kitchen and bath appliances; the works. The quality is sound, they offer delivery and assistance with set-up, and the prices aren't half bad either.

If you are looking for something a little more unique and upscale, head to **Flamant Home Interiors** (Slovanský Dům, Na Příkopě 22, www.flamant.cz). The look is dark solid woods and overstuffed

furnishings; but there really is a variety here for all. The store is laid out in "rooms" so it's easy to find a style you like and get inspired. The whole house can be done here; they have dishes, lamps, linens, etc.

LINEN, BEDDING

Frustration thy name is shopping for bedding in the Czech Republic! Because beds with two single mattresses pushed together are more common than a double one, comforters, sheets, and duvet covers are oddly sized. The dimensions for bedding for a single mattress are approximately 200x80, 90, or 100; for two single mattresses pushed together dimensions are 200x160, 180, or 200. Try Jelinek for custom-made beds and bedroom accessories like night tables. Scan Quilt outlets in Kotva department store at Náměstí Republiky and at Chodov Centrum sell quality bedding, as does Tesco. Norwegian-based Jysk is a cheaper alternative, offering a variety of bedding and a hefty line-up of house wares.

Down the road at **Černá Růže** is Donate (Na Příkopě 12, www.donate.cz), another one-stop shop for all the big items. They have full sets; including bedroom, dining and living room, as well as an excellent selection of outdoor or garden room furnishings and the prices are a bit lower than Flamant. Lots of wood, but also wicker/rattan beds and chairs; accessories too, lamps, shelving, etc.

A neat shop, mainly of imports, is **Le Patio** (Národní 22, www.patium.com). Wardrobes, beds, cupboards, shelving, dining and coffee tables can be found, much of it from India. Those looking for leather items would do well to check out their sofa and chair selection. Iron furnishings, with mix and match cushions as well as a large lighting selection, makes Le Patio a good stop for interesting finds

Modernista (Betlémské nám. 5a, www.modernista.cz) is practically a gallery as they offer products made by Czech designers; both contemporary and classic. Fans of Czech Cubism should check out their reproductions of mainly tableware; they also produce originals in the Art Deco and Bauhaus style. You wouldn't be able to do the whole house here, but can pick up some choice accent pieces, as well as lots of accessories.

Sázavská street in Prague 2 off Vinohradská has a string of furnishing shops. **Vasta Nábytek** (Sázavská 32, www.vastanabytek.cz) offers complete flat furnishing, from shelving units to couches to lamps to beds to nightstands. Also at number 32 is **Artemide** (www.artemide.cz) a wide-ranging lighting store. Next door is **Disemo** (Sázavská 30, www.disemo.cz). Again, bedrooms and living rooms, as well as tables and chairs and sofas can be found here. Most of their items are basic, functional stuff that can easily be mixed and matched.

For those who love their bed, no matter the price, pop into **Hästens** (Vinohradská 33, www.hastens.com). They offer three types: frame, continental, and adjustable. The frames are simple enough to fit into any décor, but it's the Hästens mattress which really wins you over. Most fun is their round bed; best is their super soft bedding. In the same building is **KA International** (www.ka-international.com). Their focus is on materials and colors, paired with basic frames for an elegant, personalized look.

If you liked the look at Vasta Nábytek, pay a visit to **Amber Interier** (Jungmannova 20, www.amber.cz). The same simple lines and basic colors can be found here, as well as an extensive selection of office furniture. If you prefer a French country look, **Ma Maison** (Dlouhá 24, www.maisoninteriors.cz) is a must visit. Light, bright and curvy, they don't have a huge selection of furniture, but offer beds, wardrobes, dining room sets and sideboards.

If you are looking to furnish on the cheap - or for something a little funky, head out to the used furniture "market" at the **Libenský most** tram stop (Trams 1, 3, 12, 15, 25.) Once off the tram, head towards

what looks like a used car lot (it is, but there's more stuff down there.) To your left you'll see two huge sheds, cleverly labeled Hala 1 and Hala 2. Here you'll find a hodgepodge of beds, mattresses, couches, tables and chairs. You'll also find a myriad of other household items. If you head around to the right of these buildings, you'll find yourself in a semi-scary, desolate space. Walk on through though, following the sign that says Nové bazary Nábýtku. Here you'll find 2 more halls, one that has almost all new furniture. The other one has a ton of shelves, desks and tables.

Specialty Shop



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Home Décor



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Laundry/Dry Cleaning



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SHOPPING MALLS

Those setting up house here won't be disappointed as any practical needs for bedding, kitchen gear, and the like are easily met at Prague's plethora of shopping centers. Mall stores peddle everything under the sun from music to electronic gadgets to home wares and eyeglasses. In fact, Prague is spilling over with more shopping malls than there are people to shop in them! The newly opened Palladium at Náměstí Republiky is the epicenter of global consumerism. Here you'll find 170 shops housed inside a massive historical building. For more on shopping centers, please see page 113.

