

# Lifestyle

## Media

It's often difficult for expatriates to keep their finger on the pulse if they live in a country where they don't speak the language. In Prague, this is not a problem. The city is blessed with dozens of English-language publications to keep you up to date with news and events.

The city's best known English-language newspaper is **The Prague Post**. The paper covers news, sports, and features along with various supplements dedicated to education, real estate, health, and travel. The paper can be found at many news stands in the center of town and in most major news agents. It's printed weekly and costs 50 CZK.

There is also a wealth of information available online. If it's news you're after, have a look at the **Prague Daily Monitor**, **Fleet Sheet**, and **The New Presence**. The Czech news agency, **ČTK**, also has its own English language pages called Czech Happenings. **TOL** is another good resource for news from new Europe, priding themselves on using local journalists from the region.

The popular Czech server **Aktualne.cz** publishes their own English-language section called CzechNews, which is updated with multiple stories daily and includes a weekly roundup carried on Expats.cz.

If you don't have time to read, have a listen to **Radio Prague**, the international service of Czech Radio, for excellent coverage of Prague and the Czech Republic. They broadcast in English several times each day and the website has an impressive archive if you need to do some research. They also broadcast in other languages, including Russian, German and French.

The Czech economy has been doing well recently and this is reflected in the amount of new English language business titles that have sprung up over the last few years. **Czech Business Weekly** is a good all rounder with a focus on Prague. If you are interested in investing here, perhaps you should track down a couple of copies of **CIJ** (Construction and Investment Journal) and **FNE** (Finance New Europe). As the titles suggest, the former covers property and investment, and the latter is concerned with financial news. However, along with the Czech Republic, both also cover the whole of new Europe and Russia.

Of course, there are many Czech Radio stations that you can listen to online if you don't mind the Czech language – or perhaps this can be good listening practice if you're learning the language. Some of the major stations include the public broadcaster **Czech Radio**, along with the private stations **Radio 1**, **Frekvence 1**, **Radio Impuls**, and **Evropa 2**, although there are many more.

Regarding listings of events, cinemas, restaurants and more, our first suggestion is to have a look at the Expats.cz website. However, there are a number of other publications that carry similar information. The Prague Post always has a pretty comprehensive list of the week's happenings in their Night & Day section. Then there are the free booklets, such as **Think Again** and **Provokator**, available in the cafes and bars popular with expats. Czech magazines such as **Metropolis**, **Zoom**, and **Houser** often carry similar information, with more complete event listings, and are printed

weekly. Even if you can't read Czech, these can still be useful as the listed events are pretty easy to understand.

Other English language magazines available include **Prague Leaders Magazine**, full of pictures covering the social events of the movers and shakers around town, and **Bridge Magazine**, from IWAP, which is aimed at expatriate women living in the Czech Republic.

The main Czech media consists of the newspapers **Mladá Fronta Dnes** (national broadsheet), **Lidové Noviny** (a former dissident publication), **Právo** (Prague-based national daily), **Hospodářské noviny** (the Czech equivalent to the Financial Times) and **Blesk** (Prague-based tabloid).

## Printed & Online Publications

<b>Aktualne.cz CzechNews</b>	☒ <a href="http://aktualne.cz/czechnews">aktualne.cz/czechnews</a>
<b>Blesk</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.blesk.cz">www.blesk.cz</a>
U Příhonu 13, Prague 7	☎ +420 241 095 541
<b>Bridge Magazine</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.volny.cz/iwap">www.volny.cz/iwap</a>
Třebízského 9, Prague 2	☎ +420 222 252 220
<b>CIJ</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.cijjournal.com">www.cijjournal.com</a>
Václavské náměstí 19, Prague 1	☎ +420 224 225 601
<b>CTK</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.ceskenoviny.cz">www.ceskenoviny.cz</a>
Opletalova 5, Prague 1	☎ +420 222 098 111
<b>Czech Business Weekly</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.cbw.cz">www.cbw.cz</a>
Provoznická 13, Prague 1	☎ +420 234 071 370
<b>Czech Happenings</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.ceskenoviny.cz/news">www.ceskenoviny.cz/news</a>
Opletalova 5, Prague 1	☎ +420 222 098 111
<b>Hospodářské noviny</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.ihted.cz">www.ihted.cz</a>
Dobrovského 25, Prague 7	☎ +420 233 071 111
<b>Houser</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.houser.cz">www.houser.cz</a>
5. května 63, Prague 4	☎ +420 261 222 541
<b>Lidové Noviny</b>	☒ <a href="http://lidovky.zpravy.cz">http://lidovky.zpravy.cz</a>
Karla Englišě 11, Prague 5	☎ +420 225 063 428
<b>Metropolis</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.metropolislive.cz">www.metropolislive.cz</a>
Radnická 1, Brno	☎ +420 542 422 300
<b>Mladá fronta DNES</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.mfdnes.cz">www.mfdnes.cz</a>
Karla Englišě 519/11, Prague 5	☎ +420 225 061 111
<b>Prague Leaders Magazine</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.leadersmagazine.cz">www.leadersmagazine.cz</a>
Moravská 14, Prague 2	☎ +420 224 256 675
<b>Prague Daily Monitor</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.praguemonitor.com">www.praguemonitor.com</a>
Přemyslovská 38, Prague 3	☎ +420 222 711 524
<b>Právo</b>	☒ <a href="http://pravo.novinky.cz">http://pravo.novinky.cz</a>
Slezská 13	☎ +420 221 001 111
<b>Provokator</b>	☒ <a href="http://www.provokator.org">www.provokator.org</a>
Londýnska, Prague 2	☎ +420 222 510 248



<b>The New Presence</b>	<a href="http://www.new-presence.cz">www.new-presence.cz</a>
Přitomnost, Národní 11, Prague 1	+420 222 075 600
<b>The Prague Post</b>	<a href="http://www.praguepost.com">www.praguepost.com</a>
Štěpánská 20, Prague 1	+420 296 334 400
<b>TOL</b>	<a href="http://www.tol.cz">www.tol.cz</a>
Chlumova 22, Prague 3	+420 222 780 805
<b>Zoom</b>	<a href="http://www.mf.cz">www.mf.cz</a>
Mezi Vodami 1952/9, Prague 4	+420 225 276 361

## Radio Stations



<b>Czech Radio (Český Rozhlas)</b>	<a href="http://www.rozhlas.cz">www.rozhlas.cz</a>
100 FM	+420 221 551 111
<b>Evropa 2</b>	<a href="http://www.evropa2.cz">www.evropa2.cz</a>
88.2 FM	+420 257 001 111
<b>Express Radio</b>	<a href="http://expresradio.idnes.cz">http://expresradio.idnes.cz</a>
90.3 FM	+420 225 061 234
<b>Frekvence 1</b>	<a href="http://www.frekvence1.cz">www.frekvence1.cz</a>
102.5 FM	+420 257 001 111
<b>Radio 1</b>	<a href="http://www.radio1.cz">www.radio1.cz</a>
91.9 FM	+420 224 252 524
<b>Radio Blaník</b>	<a href="http://www.radioblanik.cz">www.radioblanik.cz</a>
95.0 FM	+420 246 046 311
<b>Radio Dee Jay</b>	n/a
99.7 FM	+420 241 021 333
<b>Radio Impuls</b>	<a href="http://www.radioimpuls.cz">www.radioimpuls.cz</a>
96.6 FM	+420 255 700 700
<b>Radio Prague</b>	<a href="http://www.radio.cz">www.radio.cz</a>
92.6 FM	+420 221 552 921

## DVD Rental

Renting English-language videos in Prague used to be prohibitively expensive, with some expat-aimed video stores charging up to 190 CZK per rental. With the advent of the DVD, it was no longer necessary to have the original version of a Hollywood movie to view it in English – and the prices at expat rental spots were forced to plummet to compete with local shops. There are still plenty of stores with original-version DVDs (and some with VHS tapes for those who love to rewind), but the Czech *půjčovny* are now perfectly viable options too. Here's a list of the best in both categories.

**Klub DVD:** Czech DVD rental service with extensive selection of Region 2 DVDs. Website has detailed catalogue listings in both Czech and English and is searchable by title and director; also indicates whether the film you're looking for is currently available in either rental location. Membership fee: 1000 CZK deposit (must bring valid I.D. such as passport when registering). Rental price: 40-50 CZK per day; can return films rented on Friday or Saturday on Monday for only 10 CZK extra.

**MovieStar:** Various DVDs and videos, many in Czech versions. Searchable, user-friendly website; can pre-reserve films online. Service in both Czech and English. Membership fee: 500 CZK deposit. Rental price: 35 CZK for 2 days; new releases 45 CZK for 1 day. Children's movies 30 CZK for 2 days.

**Planet DVD:** Probably Prague's most high-tech DVD-rental system; its special touch-screen kiosks allow you to search for, preview and select your movies without interacting with anybody else. Of course, when you actually go to get the DVD, a real human has to hand it to you across the counter. They claim to have all of the DVDs on the Czech market in their library. You can check online in advance which are in stock where, as well as mark favorites and reserve them for rental. If you like, they'll even send you an SMS to let you know when the film you want is available. Membership fee: 500 CZK deposit + 50 CZK card-printing fee (valid I.D. and proof of address needed to join). Rental fee: around 50 CZK (they will charge you 20 CZK extra if you return the film to a different branch).

**Radost FX:** Definitely the place for otherwise hard-to-find movies in Prague, with lots of foreign films, indie flicks, and underground classics. Both DVD and video; some Czech and some original versions. Also a popular CD store. Membership fee: 100 CZK for one year. Rental fee: DVDs: 50 CZK per day; from Mon-Thurs second DVD for 10 CZK. VHS: 40 CZK per day; three tapes per day for 80 CZK (excluding Friday). DVDs and tapes rented on Friday or Saturday can be returned on Monday at no extra cost.

**Video Gourmet:** Expat-oriented rental store attached to the Red, Hot & Blues restaurant. The "gourmet" in its name presumably comes from its wide selection of American junk food, such as Oreos, Duncan Hines baking products, Crisco, root beer and bacon meat (they also have some food packaged to go from the restaurant next door). They stock a fair amount of VHS (in both PAL and NTSC) and lots of DVDs in Zones 1 and 2. All are English-language originals. Good selection of US TV shows on DVD, including 'Lost', 'Six Feet Under', 'Curb Your Enthusiasm', etc. Membership Fee: 1000 CZK deposit. Rental Price: 50 CZK per day.

## DVD Rental



<b>Klub DVD (Vinohrady)</b>	<a href="http://www.klubdvd.cz">www.klubdvd.cz</a>
Francouzská 18, Prague 2	+420 222 514 200
<b>Klub DVD (New Town)</b>	<a href="http://www.klubdvd.cz">www.klubdvd.cz</a>
Karlovo náměstí 10, Prague 2	+420 731 009 682
<b>MovieStar (Dejvice)</b>	<a href="http://www.moviestar.cz">www.moviestar.cz</a>
Bubenečská 8, Prague 6	+420 224 315 027
<b>MovieStar (Černý Most)</b>	<a href="http://www.moviestar.cz">www.moviestar.cz</a>
Ciglerova 7, Prague 9	+420 281 866 908
<b>Planet DVD (New Town 1)</b>	<a href="http://www.planetdvd.cz">www.planetdvd.cz</a>
Havlíčková 4, Prague 1	+420 222 328 985
<b>Planet DVD (Vinohrady)</b>	<a href="http://www.planetdvd.cz">www.planetdvd.cz</a>
Rumunská 20, Prague 2	+420 224 250 397-8
<b>Planet DVD (Letna)</b>	<a href="http://www.planetdvd.cz">www.planetdvd.cz</a>
Dukelských hrdinů 12, Praha 7	+420 220 879 393
<b>Radost FX</b>	<a href="http://www.radost-cdvideo.cz">www.radost-cdvideo.cz</a>
Bělehradská 120, Prague 2	+420 224 252 741
<b>Video Gourmet</b>	n/a
Jakubská 12, Prague 1	+420 222 323 364

## Television

There are four terrestrial Czech channels in the Czech Republic: **ČT1**, **ČT2**, **Nova** and **Prima**. **ČT1** and **ČT2** are funded by license fee; the latter two generate revenue through advertising, and are also aired on cable and satellite. A television license (also covering radio) is mandatory in the Czech Republic and costs 120 CZK per month.

ČT1 is a multi-purpose channel, showing Czech movies, news, films and family shows. Their sister channel ČT2 shows mostly documentaries and cultural programs, along with Euronews, a Europe-wide satellite/cable program which broadcasts periodically in English. ČT2 also has a weekly film club showing a film in its original language (often English) with Czech subtitles, and the occasional English comedy (Monty Python's Flying Circus). Outside of this, you will struggle to find Anglophonic broadcasts on terrestrial television. Occasionally, older US TV shows (Columbo, M\*A\*S\*H) will be broadcast in both the Czech-dubbed and original-English versions; you'll just need a TV with dual language settings (which most contemporary sets have) to see the English version. A daily program (Czech only) can be found on **Česká Televize's** website.

For around 2500 CZK, a digital box can be purchased which will provide you with extra channels, including: **ČT24** (a news channel), **ČT4** (a sports channel), **24cz** (politics), **Top** (shopping) and **Óčko** (music videos). There is no subscription cost to this service, and you can simply connect the box to the existing aerial. However, English broadcasts will still be rare.

Most addresses in Prague will have access to either cable or satellite television. The main provider of these services is **UPC**, which supplies both, as well as internet and telephone connections. Certain streets, however – even in the center of Prague – will not have access to a UPC connection.

The UPC satellite service offers a better selection of channels for English customers, including such channels as Animal Planet, BBC Prime, Cartoon Network, CNN, Discovery, Eurosport, MTV, VH1 and National Geographic. English films are a rarity, and many of those that you do find will be dubbed, and not subtitled. English channels represent a small quota of those on UPC, with the majority being German or Czech.

Fortunately, it is possible to receive UK's **SKY television** in the Czech Republic. To receive a full range of channels, a large 2m dish will be required, but the majority of channels can still be received with a standard dish. In addition, you will still need a SKY subscription to obtain a viewing card, for which you require a UK address. If you do not have SKY hardware or a viewing card and a UK address, Sky Digital provides a complete service for Czech Republic residents.

For expatriates who are serious about their television, SKY will be the best option. If you wish to have a telephone and internet connection as well, then it may be worth speaking to UPC, or one of the other cable providers. Unless you have a decent grasp of Czech, terrestrial television or digital is unlikely to be worthwhile as entertainment – though it can be very useful as a tool to learn the language.

## Cable & Satellite TV Providers



### SkyDigital.Cz

Korunní 104

☎ +420 774 770 774

🌐 [www.SkyDigital.Cz](http://www.SkyDigital.Cz) ✉ [Sales@SkyDigital.Cz](mailto:Sales@SkyDigital.Cz)



We specialise in supplying and installing Sky TV in the Czech Republic offering a full range of English television programming. We also supply flat screen LCD and Plasma screens from leading brands such as Pioneer, LG and Sony.

### SATdls Czech Republic, s.r.o.

Nad Vršovskou Horou 88/4, Prague 10 ..... ☎ +420 234 690 444

**UPC** ..... ☎ [www.upc.cz](http://www.upc.cz)

n/a ..... ☎ +420 241 005 100

## Czech TV Stations



**Czech TV** ..... ☎ [www.ceskatelevize.cz](http://www.ceskatelevize.cz)  
Kavčí hory, Prague 4 ..... ☎ +420 261 131 111

**CT 24** ..... ☎ [www.ct24.cz](http://www.ct24.cz)

Kavčí hory, Prague 4 ..... ☎ +420 261 131 111

**Nová** ..... ☎ [www.nova.cz](http://www.nova.cz)

Křiženeckého náměstí 322/5, Prague 5 ..... ☎ +420 233 100 111

**Prima** ..... ☎ [www.iprima.cz](http://www.iprima.cz)

Na Žertvách 24/132, Prague 8 ..... ☎ +420 266 700 111

## Libraries

As a quiet haven on a rainy day, a way of accessing the books that you miss from home, or a source of free internet, Prague's libraries are an ideal option. The following places are cheap to join, easily navigated by a non-native speaker, contain a wide range of English-language books, and will give you a great introduction to the venerable world of Czech libraries.

### Klementinum

Don't be intimidated by its academic reputation – Klementinum is a bustling library with an extensive English fiction collection. Like many libraries in Prague, you have to become a member to be able to

access the library itself. To do so, you will need official proof of either temporary or permanent residence, as well as your passport or driver's license. If you don't have residence, you can still become a member but you can only use books within the library. It costs 100 CZK for a year's membership, and 10 CZK for a library card, with a 10 CZK replacement fee if you lose it. You can also get a day pass for 10 CZK. The General Reading Room has large number of mostly non-fiction books, many of them in English, which you can take straight off the shelves and read at the lamp-lit desks. The Reference Centre is a good place to browse the internet. To use the computers, book one in the Main Hall, give the staff at the Reference Centre your card, and they will tell you which computer is yours for the hour. Otherwise, if you only want to use a pc for a little while, you can simply ask at the desk if they have any free computers, and they will assign you one until someone else needs it. Don't just walk in and sit at any PC, or you will be pounced upon very quickly by the diligent staff and removed from your spot!

### Municipal Library – Městská Knihovna

If you're looking for a sociable, kid-friendly library in the centre of town, the Municipal Library is the place for you. It's a busy, modern place, and is the main library in a group of 48 branches dotted about Prague which offer similar services. You don't have to be a member to go in and look around, but if you do register you can borrow books from most of the libraries in the network. The system is divided into AL (Automated Libraries) and NL (non-Automated Libraries) – if you join at an NL, you can only borrow books from that particular branch, but if you join at an AL, you can borrow from any of the other ALs. There is a list of all the branches and their status as either AL or NL on the Municipal Library website ([www.mlp.cz](http://www.mlp.cz)). To join, you need identification like a driver's license or passport, and official proof of your long-term or permanent residence. If you don't have proof of residence, you can pay a 1,000 CZK deposit and gain borrowing rights that way. The registration fee is 80 CZK in an Automated Library or 40 CZK in a Non-Automated Library, for a one year membership. Children under 15 can join for free.

You can borrow books, magazines, newspapers, maps, CDs and cassettes, and the Municipal Library has a good selection of non-fiction in English, especially in the extensive art section upstairs, as well as an English fiction section. It's on the far right wall as you enter, just past the information desk, with a selection ranging from Don DeLillo to Dickens and Austen. Unfortunately there are no young children's books in English, but you can find books like Robinson Crusoe and Little Women in the above-mentioned fiction section. There are also laptop Internet connections and internet access on the PCs for library members.

### Knihovna Akademie Věd – Academy Of Sciences Library

This must be one of the prettiest libraries in Prague. An old Česká Spořitelna bank building, it has a huge hall with ornate archways, pink marble lamp-posts, spiral staircases, and gold everywhere. The books are housed around the edges while the centre is filled with desks for reading and Internet connections for laptops. You can't borrow from this library but it has a nice atmosphere for reading and a great selection of English-language encyclopedias, art, politics, science, and history books. It also has an interesting range of journals and periodicals, all of which you can take straight off the shelves yourself, as well as a huge number of books that can be requested and which take from a few hours to a few days to become available for collection. To enter the library, you'll need to join and for this you can use forms of ID such as a passport or driving license. Membership costs either 120 CZK for a year with access to books, magazines and periodicals, or 320 CZK if you want to use the internet as well, or you can buy a day pass for 10 CZK.

## Libraries



**Academy of Sciences Library** ..... ☎ [www.lib.cas.cz](http://www.lib.cas.cz)  
Národní 3, Prague 1 ..... ☎ +420 221 403 111

**Klementinum** ..... ☎ [www.nkp.cz](http://www.nkp.cz)

Klementinum 190, Prague 1 ..... ☎ +420 221 663 111

**Municipal Library** ..... ☎ [www.mlp.cz](http://www.mlp.cz)

Mariánské nám. 1/98, Prague 1 ..... ☎ +420 222 113 555