Vyšehrad and the Riverfront

Explore beyond Prague's central sightseeing circuit on a walk from Vyšehrad's historic grounds to the Vltava riverfront. Begin among gateways, old buildings and views from the ramparts, then descend to the river and follow it towards the Dancing House.

The walk focuses on outdoor sights, with no sightseeing ticket needed for the main route. A short visit to Vyšehrad Cemetery is included. You can also visit the basilica interior or take an underground tour of Gorlice.



The basilica and park within Vyšehrad's historic grounds.

Distance: about 3 km.

Estimated time: around 3 hours, including a short cemetery visit and one 20–30-minute break.

Start: Tábor Gate (Táborská brána), Vyšehrad.
Finish: the Dancing House, Jiráskovo náměstí.
Cost: the main walk and cemetery are free; refreshments, basilica interior visits and underground tours cost extra.

Before you start

Season: Spring, summer and autumn. Daylight brings out the views from the ramparts and along the river.

Getting to the start: Take metro line C to Vyšehrad. Allow an additional 10–15 minutes to walk from the station to Tábor Gate, following the approach described below.

Footwear: Wear comfortable shoes with a good grip for mixed paving, uneven paths and steps.

Terrain: The route includes a steep descent on steps and requires managing stairs.

Water: Bring a bottle of water, especially in warm weather.

Toilets: Public toilets are available beside the Vyšehrad information centre and near the basilica. Published hours are daily 10:00–18:00, extended to 22:00 from June to September. Entry costs 20 CZK and contactless payment is available. Café toilets are for customers.

Weather: Some viewpoints and the riverfront are exposed. Bring sun protection or a waterproof layer to suit the forecast; paving and steps can be slippery when wet.

Food and drink: There are places to pause for a drink or a meal in the grounds and beside the river. Na Hradbách beer garden, just beyond the rotunda, is an early option if open; see stop 2 for opening information.

Route overview

View the whole-walk map

1. Tábor Gate and Leopold Gate
2. St Martin’s Rotunda and the eastern views
   - A. Optional detour: Brick Gate and Gorlice
3. A changing Vyšehrad
4. Czech legends in the park and the river views
5. The Basilica of St Peter and St Paul
6. Vyšehrad Cemetery
7. Down to Výtoň
8. Along the riverfront
9. The Dancing House

The whole walk



1 Tábor Gate and Leopold Gate

5 The Basilica of St Peter and St Paul

9 The Dancing House

Solid brick: main walking route.
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Getting to Tábor Gate

View the metro-to-Tábor Gate map

Tábor Gate (Táborská brána) is about 530 m from Vyšehrad metro station. Brown Vyšehrad signs mark the pedestrian approach.

When arriving from central Prague on line C towards Háje, exit directly from the platform your train arrives on. Walk through the doors and up the steps onto the open concourse in front of the Prague Congress Centre. The wall to your right provides a place to look across the city and Nusle Bridge.

Follow the viewpoint wall to its end and take the ramp down. From the bottom, continue along the pedestrian path, following the brown signs for Vyšehrad. The approach passes buildings and a small street used for parking. At the junction at the end of this street, turn right towards Tábor Gate, visible from there.



Brown Vyšehrad signs mark the approach from the metro station.

Metro to Tábor Gate



M · Vyšehrad metro approach

1 Tábor Gate and Leopold Gate

Solid brick: metro approach to stop 1.
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Tábor Gate and Leopold Gate

GOOD TO KNOW

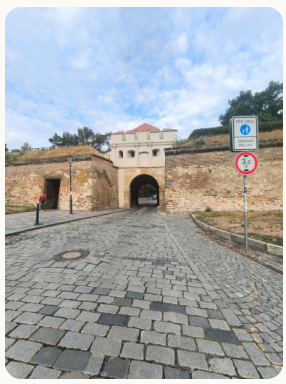
Information and tickets: The visitor centre near Leopold Gate has site maps and sells tickets for the optional Gorlice underground tour. Tours leave at set times from the Brick Gate. You can also **check tour times and book online**.

Toilets: Public toilets are beside the information centre.

View the whole-walk map

Through the gateways

Enter through Tábor Gate and follow the street (V Pevnosti) towards Leopold Gate and the inner fortress.



Tábor Gate, the starting point of the walk.

The successive gateways give a sense of how movement into the hilltop defences was controlled.

Beyond them, paths connect old buildings, park spaces and viewpoints. Vyšehrad has been a royal seat, a religious centre and a military fortress; the walk introduces these layers alongside the Czech legends associated with the hill.

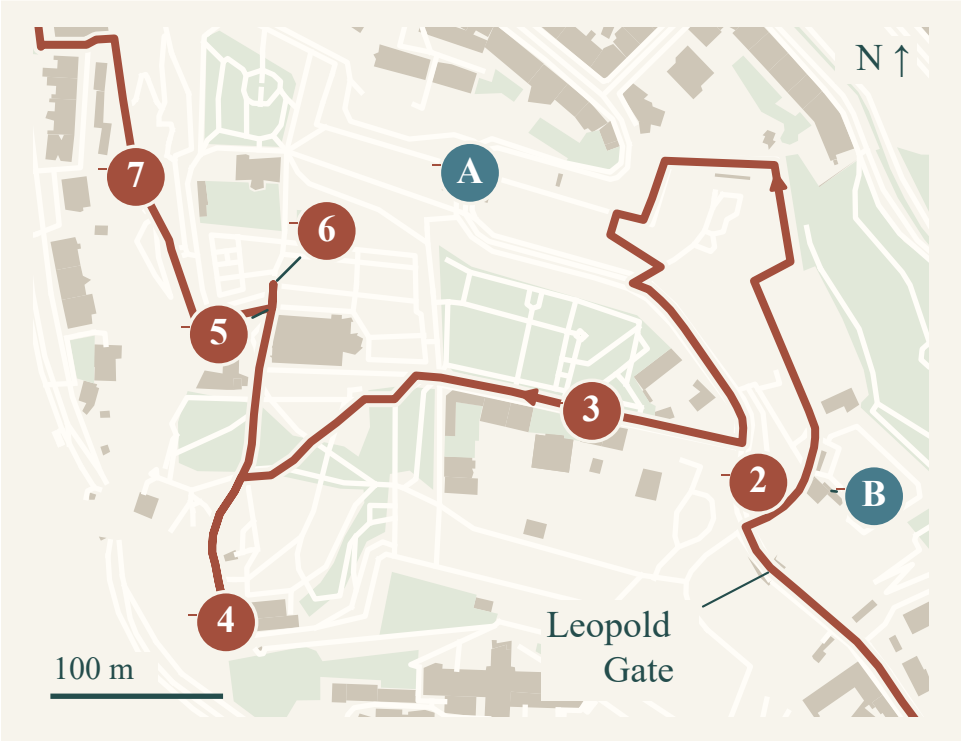
The information centre near Leopold Gate is a useful place to pick up a site map or ask about current tours if you decide to add an indoor visit.

Continue to St Martin’s Rotunda

Pass through Leopold Gate and continue towards St Martin’s Rotunda. The rotunda is on your right, slightly uphill beside the main roadway. Take the uphill path leading to the rotunda and the ramparts.

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Vyšehrad grounds map



2 St Martin’s Rotunda and the eastern views

3 A changing Vyšehrad

4 Czech legends in the park and the river views

5 The Basilica of St Peter and St Paul

6 Vyšehrad Cemetery

7 Down to Výtoň

A · Brick Gate / Gorlice detour

B · Na Hradbách beer garden

Solid brick: main walking route. A: optional Gorlice detour; return to the main route after visiting. B: optional beer-garden break.

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St Martin’s Rotunda and the eastern views

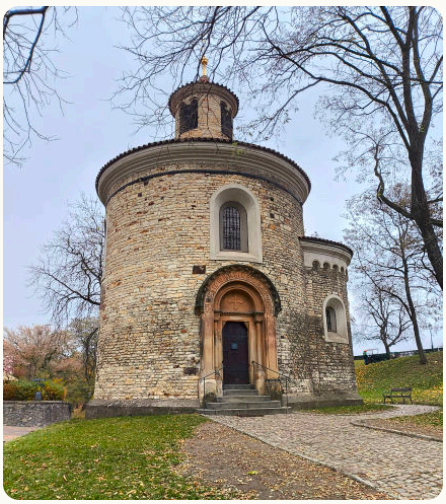
GOOD TO KNOW

Refreshments: Na Hradbách beer garden is near the rotunda. Check the **opening information** if you plan to stop.

Optional visit: The Gorlice underground tour starts at the Brick Gate, reached by a short detour later in this section. It is a ticketed tour with set departure times.

View the grounds map

Near Leopold Gate stands St Martin’s Rotunda (Rotunda sv. Martina), an important surviving example of Prague’s Romanesque architecture, generally dated to the second half of the 11th century. Despite later alterations and restoration, its circular body and projecting semicircular apse preserve the distinctive form of a Romanesque round church—a link to Vyšehrad’s early medieval past.



St Martin’s Rotunda, a surviving example of Romanesque architecture.

Continue to the eastern views

Continue uphill along the path beyond the rotunda. Na Hradbách beer garden is on your right as you go up.

Optional break: Na Hradbách

Na Hradbách beer garden is an option for a drink and a rest before continuing along the ramparts. The bar currently opens at 12:00 on weekdays and 10:00 at weekends. Grill opening depends on the weather; check the **current opening information** if you would like to stop here.

From the ramparts, you have views over the city and the neighbourhoods surrounding Vyšehrad.

Along the ramparts

Follow the path along the ramparts as it changes direction. At one corner, a tactile model shows landmarks you can see from here. Just beyond the model, go down one level using either the steps or the path. From that lower level, take the path down on your left to rejoin the street.

Turn left to continue the main walk. For the optional detour to the Brick Gate and Gorlice, turn right instead.

Optional detour: Brick Gate and Gorlice

Beneath the grounds, corridors built for military use form part of the fortress defences. Gorlice Hall houses original statues from Charles Bridge. Guided tours leave at set times from the Brick Gate (Cihelná brána), off the main walking route. Buy a ticket at the visitor centre near Leopold Gate or **check tour times and book online**.

Find the Brick Gate / Gorlice entrance at marker A on the grounds map

Continue to stop 3

At street level, turn left and follow the street uphill. At the next junction, before you reach St Martin’s Rotunda again, turn right.

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A changing Vyšehrad

GOOD TO KNOW

View the grounds map

Towards the Devil’s Column

Follow the cobbled street until the park opens up on your right. From there, you can stay on the street or take the parallel path inside the park. The historic buildings are on your left, and the basilica’s twin towers are visible ahead.

The buildings, walls and gateways on your left give this part of Vyšehrad the character of a small historic neighbourhood. They reflect the long presence of the church chapter, the community of clergy associated with the basilica.

Vyšehrad became a royal seat in the late 11th century under Vratislav II, who also founded the chapter. Charles IV renewed the royal complex in the 14th century, but much of the medieval palace landscape later disappeared. The substantial ramparts belong to a later phase, when the hill was transformed into a military fortress.

The Devil’s Column

At the corner of the park on your right (Karlach Gardens), look for three stone fragments leaning against one another. According to one legend, a Vyšehrad priest bet the Devil that he could finish Mass before the Devil brought back a column from Rome. The priest won, and the Devil hurled the column down in anger, breaking it into three pieces.



The Devil's Column in Karlach Gardens.

Continue to Vyšehradské sady

From the Devil's Column, turn left and cross the road diagonally towards the entrance to Vyšehradské sady, the park with Myslbek's sculptures. Look for the 3D model of Vyšehrad at the park entrance.

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Czech legends in the park and the river views

GOOD TO KNOW

Taking a break: Café Bistro Citadela, at the old Burgrave's Residence beside the park, serves coffee, sandwiches and crêpes and has outdoor seating. **Café Bistro Citadela menu**

View the grounds map

In Vyšehradské sady, four sculptural groups by Josef Václav Myslbek introduce figures from Czech legend and literary tradition. They were originally made for Palacký Bridge and moved to Vyšehrad after the Second World War.



Myslbek's sculptural groups in Vyšehradské sady.

Libuše and Přemysl evoke the legendary beginnings of the Přemyslid dynasty. Lumír and Píseň pair a bard with the personification of Song. Ctirad and Šárka recall the Maidens' War, while Slavoj and Záboj complete the four groups. These figures belong to stories through which generations of Czechs have imagined their early past.

Continue to the river views

Continue to the far end of the park and climb the steps to the viewpoint on this side of the ramparts for views over the Vltava and the opposite bank.

The nearby paths allow a little exploration before you turn towards the basilica.

Continue to the basilica

Return through the park towards the basilica, the next stop. Pass through the gateway out of the park into the square in front of the church.

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The Basilica of St Peter and St Paul

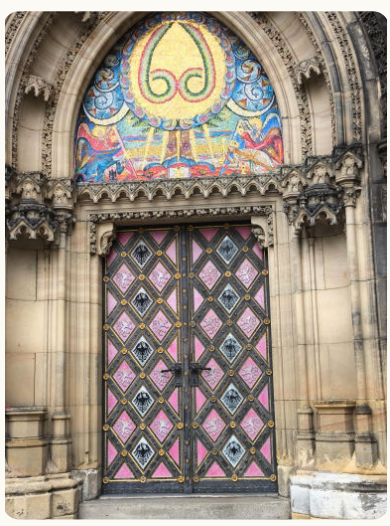
GOOD TO KNOW

Optional visit: The basilica interior requires a separate ticket. Sightseeing is not possible during services.

Toilets: Public toilets are nearby in the basilica area, on the approach to the descent described in stop 7.

View the grounds map

The twin towers of the Basilica of St Peter and St Paul (Bazilika sv. Petra a Pavla) are familiar from views across Prague. Here you can look closely at the entrance façade, with its pointed forms, colourful mosaic and patterned doors.



Colourful mosaic and patterned doors on the basilica façade.

The church has much older origins, but its present neo-Gothic appearance comes from rebuilding in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, completed in 1903. The towers rise above the smaller buildings around them and give the basilica its prominent place in the skyline.

Continue to the cemetery or the river descent

The cemetery entrance is beside the basilica. If you don’t want to go in, **continue to stop 7** for the descent towards the river.

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Vyšehrad Cemetery

GOOD TO KNOW

Your visit: Allow 10–20 minutes, included in the walk's time estimate. No ticket is needed.

Finding graves: Use the entrance map if you want to find particular graves. This remains an active burial ground, so visit quietly.

Opening hours: Published hours are 08:00–18:00 in March, April and October, and 08:00–19:00 from May to September. Check the entrance notice for changes.

View the grounds map

The entrance beside the basilica leads into Vyšehrad Cemetery, where many prominent figures in Czech cultural life are buried. Among them are composers Antonín Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana, artist Alfons Mucha and writer Karel Čapek.

At the eastern end of the cemetery stands Slavín, a monumental shared tomb for prominent Czech figures. Its winged figure bends over a stone sarcophagus, with a crypt beneath.



Slavín, the monumental shared tomb in Vyšehrad Cemetery.

There’s no fixed route through the cemetery. Take a look at the arcades and other sculpted memorials as you wander among the graves.

Continue towards the river descent

Return to the basilica area and follow the **descent instructions in stop 7**.

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Výtoň to the Dancing House



7 Down to Výtoň

L · Ramp down to the river

C · Podskalí Customs House

8 Along the riverfront

9 The Dancing House

Solid brick: main walking route.

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Down to Výtoň

GOOD TO KNOW

Steps: This is the steepest descent of the walk. Take extra care in wet conditions.

Toilets: The public toilets near the basilica are close to the start of the descent.

Optional visit: After the railway bridge, the Podskalí Customs House museum is across the road from the riverside pavement. You can visit during its opening hours.

View the riverfront map

Find the steps to Výtoň

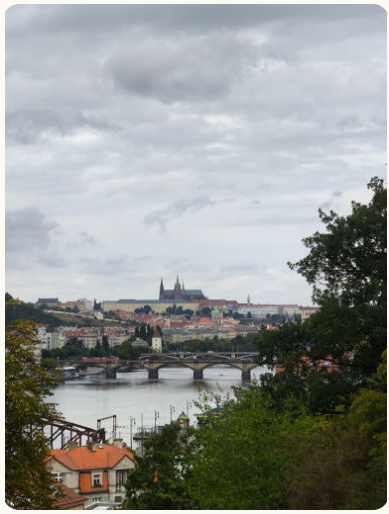
From the basilica and cemetery area, head towards the nearby toilet building. Just before reaching it, take the opening on your left in the brick wall: it has a stone frame and a black metal gate.

Once through, turn left through the second gateway, then right onto the steps descending towards Na Libušince and Libušina streets.



The stone-framed gateway leading towards the descending steps.

Wider areas along the steps provide places to pause and enjoy the city and river views.



A view across the Vltava towards Prague Castle from the descent.

Continue to Náplavka

At the bottom, continue straight ahead along the narrow street. It bends right and brings you onto the pavement beside the first pedestrian crossing. Cross to the river side using both sets of pedestrian traffic lights.

Turn right and follow the riverside pavement, with the river on your left. Pass under the railway bridge, then continue to the long ramp and descend to the lower promenade.



The ramp down to Náplavka beside the limnigraph.

Just beyond the railway bridge, the former Podskalí customs house stands across the road on your right, on the side away from the river. It recalls the river's working past: duties were collected here on timber brought to Prague on rafts.

At the top of the ramp, the small Art Nouveau pavilion with clocks and dials is the Výtoň limnigraph, a station built to measure and record the Vltava's water level.

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Along the riverfront

GOOD TO KNOW

Taking a break: LAbspace is a coffee and cocktail bar on the lower promenade at Rašínovo nábřeží. **See the riverside venue listings**.

Farmers' market: The Náplavka farmers' market is held here on scheduled Saturdays. Check the **official market schedule** for your date.

View the riverfront map

Follow the riverfront

Follow the lower promenade north along Rašínovo nábřeží, keeping the river on your left. Continue beneath the arch of Palacký Bridge and towards Jirásek Bridge.

The character of this stretch changes with the day and season. Boats, riverside venues, markets and events bring different kinds of activity to the embankment, while the views across the water and the façades above the promenade give you plenty to notice as you walk.

If the lower promenade is closed

Stay on the upper embankment pavement towards the Dancing House. This alternative includes road crossings at the bridges; use the pedestrian crossings.

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The Dancing House

GOOD TO KNOW

Food, drink and views: The Dancing House Café is on the ground floor, Ginger & Fred restaurant is on the seventh floor, and Glass Bar is at the top. There is a charge to visit the rooftop terrace, with a reduced charge if you buy a drink at Glass Bar. Check the current arrangement when you arrive. **Glass Bar visitor information**

View the riverfront map

Leave the promenade for the Dancing House

Before Jirásek Bridge, take the steps from the lower promenade up to street level. The walk finishes near the Dancing House (Tančící dům) at Jiráskovo náměstí. The ramp to street level is farther along at Mánes, beyond the Dancing House.

Vlado Milunić and Frank Gehry designed the Dancing House, which was completed in 1996. Its two towers evoke the Hollywood dance partners Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire. The glass tower narrows at the waist and leans towards the more upright tower beside it, like Ginger turning towards Fred. That pairing gave the building its nickname, “Ginger and Fred”.



The Dancing House, where the walk ends.

For a view of the Dancing House and across the river towards Prague Castle, walk a little way onto Jirásek Bridge.

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