

Moving to Czech Republic: Your Relocation Guide



By Appointment To
Her Majesty The Queen
Removals and Storage Contractor Abels

ABELS™

THE ART OF MOVING

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Memb No: A001



FS 23942



198656



TELEPHONE:	Country code (420) + Area code
STANDARD TIME:	GMT + 1 Hour
WEIGHTS & MEASURES:	Metric
ELECTRICITY:	220v AC, 3 phase. 110v in some areas of Prague.
INOCULATIONS/VACCINATIONS:	No vaccinations or inoculations required if EU citizen.
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:	Jan 1, Apr 14, 17, May 1, 8 Jul 5, 6, Sep 28, Oct 28, Nov 17, Dec 24, 25, 26
OFFICE HOURS:	0800-1600 Monday – Friday 0830-1700
BANK HOURS:	0800-1700 Monday – Friday
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS:	158 Police 155 Ambulance 112 Emergency
BRITISH EMBASSY:	Thunovska 14, 11800 Prague 1 Tel: (2) 257 402111 Fax: (2) 257 402296
TOURIST & TRAVEL INFORMATION:	Czech Tourism Vinohradská 46 PO Box 32 12041 Praha 2 Tel: 221 58 0111 Fax: 224 247 516
CZECH REP EMBASSY IN LONDON:	26 Kensington Palace Road London W8 4QY Tel: 0207 243 1115 Fax: 02077 279 654

Customs

The Czech Rep is part of the EU and as such, no official documents are required to import personal effects and household goods if originating from another EU country. However, should you be from outside the EU the following applies.

To the best of our knowledge, the following documentation is required to import household goods and personal effects into the Czech Rep from outside the EU. It is advisable to check with the authorities that documentation is in order, prior to despatch.

Used household goods and personal effects – Foreign citizens

Documents required:

- Photocopy of passport with photo page
- Application for Exemption from Customs Duty – this document is required in original and duly signed
- Declaration from Czech company or employer or two other documents to prove that the client is going to reside in the Czech Rep (visa, work permit, copy of lease agreement etc)
- Power of Attorney authorising the removal company to represent the importer at the customs authorities
- Inventory list
- In case the client is not a citizen of the origin country – Declaration from origin company or two other documents to prove that the client was residing in the origin country for at least 12 months

Duty free, subject of re-exportation.

Within 12 months from importation goods may not be lent, given as security, rented out or sold without prior notification to the competent customs authorities.

English will be accepted by customs for some documents (not only Czech) for example lease contract.

Household goods can be imported duty and tax free under the following conditions.

The goods have been in shippers' ownership and used at shipper's former normal place of residence for at least six months prior to shipping.

The goods are intended to be used for the same purpose at the shippers' new normal place of residence.

Duty and tax relief may be granted only to persons whose normal place of residence has been outside the customs territory of the EU for a continuous period of at least 12 months prior to shipping.

Duty and tax relief shall be granted only for personal property and household goods entered into the EU within 12 months from the date of establishment of a normal place of residence in the EU.

Application for exemption form customs duty and Authorisation letter are required in original

Used household goods and personal effects. Czech citizens returning

Documents required:

- Photocopy of passport with photo page, together with a copy of client's Czech ID card (obcansky prukaz)
- Application for Exemption from Customs Duty – this document is required in original and duly signed
- Declaration from origin employer or two other documents proving that the client was residing in the origin country for at least 12 months (visa, stamps in passport, copy of lease agreement, electrical bill etc)
- Power of Attorney authorising the removal company to represent the importer at the customs authorities
- Inventory list

Within 12 months from importation goods may not be lent, given as security, rented out or sold without prior notification to the competent customs authorities.

Duty free.

English will be accepted by customs for some documents (not only Czech) for example lease contract.

Household goods can be imported duty and tax free under the following conditions.

The goods have been in shippers' ownership and used at shipper's former normal place of residence for at least six months prior to shipping.

The goods are intended to be used for the same purpose at the shippers' new normal place of residence.

Duty and tax relief may be granted only to persons whose normal place of residence has been outside the customs territory of the EU for a continuous period of at least 12 months prior to shipping.

Duty and tax relief shall be granted only for personal property and household goods entered into the EU within 12 months from the date of establishment of a normal place of residence in the EU.

Application for exemption form customs duty and Authorisation letter are required in original.

Diplomats removal

Documents required:

- Photocopy of passport
- Power of attorney to authorise the removal agent to represent the importer with the customs authorities – Original required
- Inventory list
- Statement from the Embassy confirming client's assignment in the Czech Rep



- Import Declaration for diplomatic goods or Vehicles (form)
- Diplomatic ID Card

Duty free.

Within 12 months from importation goods may not be lent, given, as security, rented out or sold without prior notification to the competent customs authorities.

Import Declaration for diplomatic goods (2 x form) and Power of Attorney are required in original.

Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats – your embassy would advise on more information about quotas and limits.

Automobiles and motorcycles

Documents required:

- Official / factory name and type of vehicle
- Manufacturing number (VIN number)
- Vintage (year when the vehicle was manufactured)
- Type of fuel
- Weight of car
- Invoice or other confirmation of car purchase (original and legible copy) – will be returned on shipment delivery date
- Registration book of the car, certificate of title (original copy) – will be returned on shipment delivery date
- All the same documents as for importing of household goods and personal effects

Duty free, as far as all requirements as for household goods are fulfilled.

Within 12 months from importation vehicles may not be lent, given as security, rented out or sold without prior notification to the competent customs authorities.

Cars can be imported duty and tax free as part of the household goods move under the following conditions:

- The vehicle has been in the shippers' possession and used at their former normal place of residence for at least six months prior to shipping
- Is intended to be used for the same purpose at their new normal place of residence
- Duty and tax relief may be granted only to persons whose normal place or residence has been outside the customs territory of the EU for a continuous period of at least 12 months
- Duty and tax relief shall be granted only for a car entered in the EU within 12 months from the date of establishment of a normal place or residence

Vehicles can be sold after one year from the date of importation.

It might be a problem to register vehicles older than eight years.

Exceptions are vehicles over 30 years old which can be registered and used as old-timers.

Alcohol and cigarettes

Documents required:

Same as removal household goods and personal effects.

There is no allowance for duty and tax free import of alcohol or tobacco in unaccompanied shipments.

Import of alcohol is allowed for diplomats – your embassy would advise on more information about quotas and limits.

Animals

Documents required:

- Veterinary import permission issued by state vet office in Prague, the Czech Rep
- Veterinary certificate issued by the state vet office in the country of the animal origin
- International vaccination certificate

Duty free.

Firearms

Documents required:

- Document / Firearms accompanying / issued by the Embassy of the Czech Rep from the country the customer lives in

It is allowed temporarily to import, export or carry on the territory of the Czech Rep or transit across the territory of the Czech Republic weapons of the Categories A, B or C or ammunition for such weapons solely subject to a license. The license is issued upon request from natural persons and legal entities by embassies of the Czech Rep.

In respect of natural persons and legal entities visiting the Czech Rep for the purpose of hunting or participation in marksmanship contests that hold a European gun license, also by the police units at frontier crossings.

A firearms accompanying certificate needs not be submitted in respect of weapons of the Categories B & C and ammunition for such weapons, if their holders come from a Member State of the EU, and if they are holders of a European gun license issued in respect of such transferred weapons and if they can declare the purpose of their travels.

Travellers from a third country who travel to a Member State of the EU during controls at the external frontier of the EU, must submit a license issued by the appropriate authorities of each relevant Member State to who's territory or across who's territory they intend to travel carrying such weapons or ammunition.

Other goods

There may be specific customs regulations, so you should consult Abels in advance.

General Information on The Czech Republic

Background

At the close of World War I, the Czechs and Slovaks of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire merged to form Czechoslovakia. During the interwar years, having rejected a federal system, the new country's predominantly Czech leaders were frequently preoccupied with meeting the increasingly strident demands of other ethnic minorities within the republic, most notably the Slovaks, the Sudeten Germans, and the Ruthenians (Ukrainians). On the eve of World War II, Nazi Germany occupied the territory that today comprises Czech Rep, and Slovakia became an independent state allied with Germany. After the war, a reunited but truncated Czechoslovakia (less Ruthenia) fell within the Soviet sphere of influence. In 1968, an invasion by Warsaw Pact troops ended the efforts of the country's leaders to liberalize communist rule and create "socialism with a human face," ushering in a period of repression known as "normalization." The peaceful "Velvet Revolution" swept the Communist Party from power at the end of 1989 and inaugurated a return to democratic rule and a market economy. On 1 January 1993, the country underwent a nonviolent "velvet divorce" into its two national components, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Czech Republic joined NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004. The country changed its short-form name to Czechia in 2016.

Geography

The landlocked strategically located Czech Rep is astride some of the oldest and most significant land routes in Europe. Moravian Gate is a traditional military corridor between the North European Plain and the Danube in central Europe. It consists of rolling countryside, wooded hills and fertile valleys. The country has substantial reserves of coal and lignite, timber and some minerals, chiefly iron ore. It is highly industrialized and major manufacturers include industrial machinery, consumer goods, cars, iron and steel, chemicals and glass. Germany is the main trading partner.

Adjoining Austria, Germany, Poland and the Slovak Republic, the Czech Rep consists of Bohemia in the west and Moravia in the east. Within Moravia is a small southern part of the historical region called Silesia, the rest of which is in present-day Poland. Prague, the capital of both the Czech Rep and Bohemia, sits astride the Vltava River about 30km above its junction with the Labe River. The Czech Rep has a beautiful and diverse landscape with plenty of mountains, gentle highlands, lowlands, caves, canyons, broad fields, bogs, lakes, ponds and dams.

Unfortunately, the further north you go, the worse the appalling air pollution and high-altitude acid-rain damage gets, the belated pay-back for unregulated industrialization since the 19th century.

Despite centuries of clear-cutting for cultivation, forests still cover about one-third of the Czech Rep. Most remaining virgin forest is in uncultivable mountain areas. Above the

tree line (about 1400m) there is little but grasses, shrubs and lichens. The richest wildlife are lynxes and other wildcats, marmots, otters, marten and mink. Pheasants, partridges, ducks, wild geese and other game birds are common in woods and marshes, and commonly hunted. Eagles, vultures, osprey, storks, bustards and grouse are rarer.

International disputes: while threats of international legal action never materialised in 2007, 915,220 Austrians, with the support of the popular Freedom Party, signed a petition in January 2008, demanding that Austria block the Czech Republic's accession to the EU unless Prague closes its controversial Soviet-style nuclear plant in Temelin, bordering Austria.

Climate

The damp continental climate over most of The Czech Rep is responsible for warm, showery summers, cold, snowy winters and generally changeable conditions. July is the hottest month everywhere, January is the coldest. From December through February, temperatures push below freezing even in the lowlands, and are bitter in the mountains. There is no real 'dry season', and the long, sunny hot spells of summer tend to be broken by sudden, heavy thunderstorms. Winter brings 40 to 100 days of snow on the ground (about 130 in the mountains), plus fog in the lowlands.

Population

Estimated at 10,235,000.

Environmental Issues

Air and water pollution present health risks in areas of northwest Bohemia and in northern Moravia around Ostrava. Acid rain is damaging forests. Efforts are being made to bring industry up to EU code and should improve domestic pollution.

Currency

The official currency of the Czech Republic is the Czech Crown (Koruna), abbreviated as Kc, with the international abbreviation CZK. 1 crown consists of 100 hellers (haler), abbreviated as hal.

Coins: 1Kc, 2 Kc, 5 Kc, 10Kc, 20Kc

Banknotes: 20Kc, 50Kc, 100Kc, 200Kc, 500Kc, 1000Kc, 2000Kc, 5000Kc

Economy

The Czech Republic is a stable and prosperous market economy closely integrated with the EU, especially since the country's EU accession in 2004. The auto industry is the largest single industry, and, together with its upstream suppliers, accounts for nearly 24% of Czech manufacturing. The Czech Republic produced more than a million cars for the first time in 2010, over 80% of which were exported. While the conservative, inward-looking Czech financial system has remained relatively healthy, the small, open, export-driven Czech economy remains sensitive to changes in the economic performance of its main export markets, especially Germany.



When Western Europe and Germany fell into recession in late 2008, demand for Czech goods plunged, leading to double digit drops in industrial production and exports. As a result, real GDP fell sharply in 2009. The economy slowly recovered in the second half of 2009 and registered weak growth in the next two years. In 2012 and 2013, however, the economy fell into a recession again, due both to a slump in external demand in the EU and to the government's austerity measures, returning to weak growth in 2014. Foreign and domestic businesses alike voice concerns about corruption, especially in public procurement. Other long term challenges include dealing with a rapidly aging population, funding an unsustainable pension and health care system, and diversifying away from manufacturing and toward a more high-tech, services-based, knowledge economy.

Education

The children of expatriates would not be expected to attend local schools. Instead there is a wide choice of international schools, including;

The International School of Prague,
Tel: 2038 4111

London International Day School
Belgicka Street 25
Prague 2

Religion

Roman Catholic 27%, Protestant 2%, Atheist 59%.

Electricity

The domestic supply is usually 220 volts AC, 50Hz. Most of the better hotels and all modern apartment blocks have standard international 2-pin plugs and 2-pin razor plugs. When these are not fitted, standard Czech sockets are used – ordinary plugs will not fit as they are unique and have an arrangement of 2 sockets and earthing pin. Lamp fittings are screw type.

Health

The Czech Rep operates a comprehensive, but 'no' frills' health service. In Eastern European countries, the standard treatment for minor ailments is not always as high as that in Western Europe.

Insurance: Medical treatment is payable in cash, residing expatriates are obliged to have own insurance (through Czech insurance house or approved foreign one).

Language

The official language is Czech (spoken in Bohemia and Moravia.) A large proportion of the population in the Czech Rep also speak German and there is an increasing knowledge of English.

Do's and don'ts in Prague and the Czech Rep

Avoid the taxi drivers waiting at ranks in obvious tourist locations. Hail a moving cab. Make sure you are getting into an authorised taxi and the driver turns on the meter. It is safer to agree a fee before you get in the cab.

The main crime problems are petty pilfering from cars and pockets. Prague's worst problems are the pick pockets. They concentrate in tourist areas like Wenceslas Square, Old Town Square, Charles Bridge and the castle, also when getting on or off a tram or train in the metro. A favourite time for them are the crowded summer months. Always remember to keep your bag closed and avoid carrying your passport, wallet and valuables in your back pocket. Never leave valuables in your car.

Park your car in an underground car park. When in Prague Main Station, never leave your bag unattended, even on the train. Thieves are now boarding the train while it waits in the station and stealing luggage.

In the past, very little attention was paid to the needs of the disabled anywhere in the Czech Rep. Attitudes are slowly changing but there is still a long way to go, and the chronic shortage of funds for almost anything is not helping matters.

The major problem is the transport, since buses and trams are impossible for wheel chairs and trains only slightly better. If you are a disabled traveller order the guide book "Accessible Prague" which is available from the Prague Wheelchair Association, Benediktska 6, Prague 1 Tel: 2232 5831, Fax 22481 6231.

Always make sure that your hotel room / apartment is locked whenever you leave. Always keep your hotel / apartment address and important phone numbers with you.

Don't park in the blue zone, if you do you will be clamped. Also, the town police now tow, they will take your car away if you do not pay the clamp fine quickly.

Don't change any money with people in the street.

Cuisine

The national Czech dish is roast pork, sauerkraut and dumplings. Another speciality is goulash often served with dumplings. The main meal of the day is eaten around noon. It usually consist of meat and dumplings, potatoes or rice, and soup. In addition to a simple breakfast and evening meal, Czechs enjoy a snack (svacina) at about 10am. Tea is the most common beverage.

However, Czech beer is famous worldwide. The best-known brands are Pilsner (Pizenske) and Budweiser (Budvar) but just as good are Radegast, Staropramen and Velkopopovicky Kozel. The favourite aperitif is Becherovka, a Czech invented liqueur, potentially herbal and touted as having medicinal qualities. Plum brandy (slivovice) is popular.

Because so many of the good restaurants are quite small, they tend to fill up quickly. We recommend that you reserve well ahead of time. There are usually no dress requirements



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(though your judgement might dictate more apparel for those that are very expensive). In less expensive places, it's not considered rude for another party to join you at your table if seats are free.

Although every care is taken to ensure that all information in the Abels Relocation Guide is accurate and up to date Abels cannot accept liability for any inaccuracy.