

# Welcome Information Guide

Creative Skills Week 2025 is co-organised with EIT Culture & Creativity Co-Location Center Southeast & Alps, the Creative Pact for Skills, SACCORD and CYANOTYPES.

Creative Skills Week 2025 is led by ELIA and Creative Prague.

22 - 26 September 2025 | Prague Congress Centre, Prague, Czechia

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## Welcome to Prague!

Welcome to the historic heart of Europe! Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, is a city where fairy-tale charm meets modern creativity. Known for its Gothic spires, cobblestone streets, and stunning views, the city offers a unique blend of tradition, art, and innovation.

Creative Skills Week 2025 will take place at the [Prague Congress Centre](#), located on a hill above the Vltava River with panoramic views of the city.

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## Travel to Prague

**Prague is easily accessible by plane, train, bus or car. We encourage everyone to use the rail if possible, so we can keep our carbon footprint to a minimum.**

### Arrival by train

Prague is well connected to major European cities by rail. You will most likely arrive at **Praha hlavní nádraží** (Main Railway Station), which is only about 10 minutes by metro from the Congress Centre.

Direct trains are available from:

- Berlin
- Vienna
- Budapest
- Bratislava
- Munich.

### Arrival by plane

**Václav Havel Airport Prague (PRG)** is the international gateway to the Czech Republic. The airport is approximately 15 kilometers from the city center.

**Getting to the city from the airport:**

- **Airport Express Bus (AE):** Runs every 30 minutes to the Main Railway Station.
  - **Public transport:** Bus 119 connects to Metro A (Green Line) at Nádraží Veleslavín.
  - **Taxi or ride-share:** Approx. 25-30 minutes to city centre (~€28–40).
  - More info: [www.prg.aero](http://www.prg.aero)
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## Accommodation

There are many options, and you can either decide to book a hotel or a B&B in the city centre, or in quieter, outer districts of the city.

September is a busy period in Prague, so make sure you book your accommodation well in time.

Here are some hotel suggestions near the venue of Creative Skills Week 2025, **Prague Congress Centre (5. května 1640/65, 140 21 Praha 4)**:

1. [Holiday Inn Prague](#) (Right next to the venue)  
Price: From €180/night
  2. [Grand Hotel Prague Towers](#)  
Price: €120–250/night  
4-minutes' walk from the venue
  3. [Hotel Union](#)  
Price: €170–200/night  
10-minutes' walk from the venue
  4. [Coronet Hotel](#)  
Price: €100–130/night  
10-minutes' walk from the venue
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## Getting Around Prague

### Walking

Prague has a wonderful old city center to explore on foot, with its compact historic center and major sights like the **Old Town**, **Lesser Town (Malá Strana)**, and **Prague Castle** all within walking distance. Iconic walking routes include Charles Bridge—especially beautiful at sunrise or sunset—and the scenic paths along the Vltava River. For a touch of nature and great views, a walk up Petřín Hill is well worth it.

The area around the venue of Creative Skill Week 2025 – Prague Congress Center—is more than just a business and event hub—it's actually home to several interesting and peaceful

spots worth exploring. One of the most notable nearby attractions is **Vyšehrad**, a historic fortress that dates back to the 10th century. Just a short walk from the Congress Center, Vyšehrad offers a quieter and more serene alternative to the bustling Prague Castle. Visitors can enjoy panoramic views over the Vltava River and the city, stroll along the old fortress walls, and explore the beautiful **Basilica of St. Peter and St. Paul**. The grounds are also home to the **Vyšehrad Cemetery**, where many famous Czech figures, including the composer Antonín Dvořák, are buried.

## Cycling

Prague is becoming increasingly bike-friendly, though it's still not as bike-centric as some other European cities. That said, it's definitely possible and enjoyable to explore the city by bike, especially in certain areas. There are dedicated bike lanes and paths, particularly along the **Vltava River** and in parks like **Stromovka Park** and **Letná Park**, which are perfect for slow rides. There are plenty of bike rental shops and bike-sharing services ([Rekola](#), [Lime](#).) available throughout the city, including city bikes for short-term use.

**Just** keep in mind that Prague is quite hilly, so some areas—like the castle district or Vyšehrad—can be a challenge for cyclists.

## Public transport

- You can purchase public transport tickets on trams, buses and subways stops/stations, or through the [PID LÍTAČKA](#) mobile app (available for [Android](#) and [iOS](#)). The app also includes public transport schedules and connections. [Google Maps](#) also provides reliable public transport connections and navigation around Prague.
- Make sure you have a valid ticket when using public transport. Tickets are time-based (e.g. 30 minutes, 90 minutes, or 24 hours) and must be validated when you board any vehicle or enter the metro. You can also buy a ticket directly in the bus or a tram (red ticket machines) by a card and it will print an already marked ticket for you.
- Metro lines A, B, and C connect most of the city. The **Vyšehrad station** (Line C) serves the Congress Centre directly.

More info: <https://www.dpp.cz/en>

## Taxi or ride-share

We do not advise booking taxis on the street, they are more expensive. Instead, use Uber, Bolt, or Liftago app.

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## Food & Drink

Whether you're into hearty Czech cuisine or modern plant-based options, Prague has it all!

## Prague Essentials:

- One of the most iconic dishes is **svíčková**, a meal of beef in a creamy vegetable sauce, often served with dumplings. Another classic is the **Fried cheese**, typically accompanied by tartar sauce and potatoes.

## Vegan - Vegetarian Friendly Options

- While traditional Czech dishes are meat-heavy, many modern restaurants in Prague now offer vegan and vegetarian versions of traditional foods. For example, you can find **vegan goulash**, **vegan dumplings**, and plant-based sausages.
- Vegan and vegetarian restaurants or cafés in Prague are increasingly common, and they serve delicious plant-based versions of Czech dishes, as well as international vegan food like wraps, bowls, and burgers.

## Drinks

- When it comes to drinks, the Czech Republic is famous for its beer, particularly **Pilsner Urquell**, which is the birthplace of the pilsner-style lager.
- You can also sample **Becherovka**, a herbal liqueur or **Slivovice**, a potent plum brandy, is another local favorite, while **Moravian wine**, particularly from the Moravian region, offers white and red wines.
- For coffee lovers, the Czech Republic has a vibrant coffee culture, with traditional **espresso** being a common choice, often served alongside pastries.

**! Tipping** is customary—about 5 - 10% is standard in restaurants if service isn't already included.

## Restaurants Near the Venue

- **Vyšehradský Restaurant Kandelábr** – If you're in the mood for traditional Czech dishes this choice provides an atmosphere with classic local fare.
- **Yam Yam Vyšehrad** – A popular choice for those seeking international cuisine, offering a fusion of Asian flavours in a modern setting.
- **Restaurant Esprit** - Located within the Holiday Inn Prague, offers a refined menu with a selection of local and international dishes.
- **Delicatesse Bistro** - A convenient spot for a light lunch or coffee, featuring a variety of sandwiches and pastries.

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## What to Pack & Weather

At the **end of September**, the weather in Prague becomes cooler as autumn sets in. Daytime temperatures typically range from **15 to 18°C**, while nighttime lows can drop to around **7 to 10°C**. Rain is still possible, though usually light to moderate. Despite the cooling

temperatures, the weather remains pleasant for outdoor activities, especially with the autumn foliage beginning to appear throughout the city. The trees are turning golden and the crowds begin to thin out after the summer rush. Outdoor cafes are still open, and the city feels vibrant but not overwhelming.

## What to wear:

It's best to dress in layers to stay comfortable throughout the day. The weather can be cool, especially in the mornings and evenings, so pack a few light sweaters or long-sleeve shirts to wear during the day and also a medium-weight jacket as temperatures can drop in the evening. Prague's old centre cobblestone streets call for sturdy, comfortable walking shoes or sneakers. Since occasional showers are possible, a compact umbrella and a light waterproof jacket will come in handy.

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## Useful tips & Czech basics

The official language is **Czech**, a Slavic language. English is widely spoken in Prague, especially in tourist areas, hotels, and restaurants, but learning a few basic phrases is always a good choice:

- *Dobrý den* – Hello / Good day
- *Děkuji* – Thank you
- *Prosím* – Please / You're welcome
- *Na shledanou* – Goodbye
- *Ano / Ne* – Yes / No

Czechs tend to be polite and reserved at first, but very friendly once you get to know them.

## Currency

The Czech Republic uses the **Czech koruna (CZK)**, not the euro. Cards are accepted in most places, but it's good to have some cash on hand for smaller shops, markets, or local spots.

## Daily Life

- **Shops and restaurants** often open around 9–10 a.m. and close by 6–8 p.m., though supermarkets and larger stores may stay open later.
- **Drinking tap water** is safe throughout the country.

## Social Habits

- Czechs are among the world's biggest **beer drinkers**, and pubs (called *hospoda*) are social hubs.
- A common toast is "**Na zdraví!**" which means "To your health!"
- Czech humor can be **dry, ironic, or sarcastic**, and not always immediately obvious. It may take some time to catch on, but it's often clever and they are usually very kind and helpful once you engage with them.

## Safety tips

- Avoid exchanging money on the street or using Euronet ATMs.
  - A reliable currency exchange office is eXchange, located at Kaprova 14/13 (subway A, station Staroměstská).
  - You can pay by credit card in most places.
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## Maps & More

- Prague public transport planner: [www.idos.cz](http://www.idos.cz)
  - If you are interested, Prague has a “[Prague City Tourism](#)” website you can look through for general points of interest.
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## EDI statement

The Creative Skills Week Organisers are dedicated to hosting events that prioritise equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility. We have worked together to make this event a safer and more accessible space for all.

The venue of the Creative Skills Week 2025 is accessible for guests with reduced mobility.

Should you have any specific accessibility needs (such as transport assistance, a support from a staff member, printed programme in large letters) or if you need help registering for the event (also registering an assistant to accompany you), please get in touch via [info@creativeskillsweek.eu](mailto:info@creativeskillsweek.eu), so that we can ensure the event is inclusive and accessible to you.

All our events have a support system in place. If you witness any harassment or discriminatory behaviour during the event, please contact a member of the team or call or send a message: {+31 650401938}. This phone line will be monitored for the duration of the event.

If you prefer to make an anonymous report, please use the [online form](#).

We value any feedback you may have on how inclusive and accessible you find this event. You can submit your feedback in the event evaluation report that will be disseminated after the event. Your honesty is appreciated and will help us to understand how to improve the inclusivity and accessibility of our future events. All feedback will be collected anonymously.

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## Ecological responsibility

The Creative Skills Week Organisers are aware that large international conferences can have a negative effect on the environment due to the number of participants who will be travelling and the footprint of hosting the event itself (for instance, through consumption and waste). To reduce the environmental impact of Creative Skills Week 2025, the organising team will make greener choices in the organisation of the conference and invite participants to join us in this effort!

Several steps are being taken by Creative Skills Week organisers, to lower the event's impact on the environment and climate:

- **ACCOMMODATION:** All recommended hotels are easily accessible from the conference venue, either on foot or by a short ride with public transportation. The recommended hotels are taking ecological steps to improve their offer and make it more environmentally friendly.
- **TRAVEL:** Participants are encouraged to travel by train to Prague, if possible, or make other sustainable travel arrangements. If you must fly, consider a direct connection (if available), which has a lower carbon emission than a flight with a transfer. Walking, cycling, or public transportation should be used for travel within Prague.
- **FOOD & DRINKS:** Catering at the event has been selected following sustainability criteria and will feature local, seasonal, and/or vegetarian options. **Participants are encouraged to bring their own reusable water bottle.**
- **MATERIALS:** Printed materials and giveaways will be kept to a minimum. **Please let us know in the registration process whether you need a printed programme (large print is available). Participants are encouraged to bring their own (tote) bag in which they can keep conference materials. Tote bags will not be provided at the venue.**  
**Participants are also encouraged to separate waste using the recycling stations available at the venue.**
- **AWARENESS:** To increase awareness about environmental sustainability, our sustainable actions will be communicated to our suppliers and partners. Before, during, and after the conference we will communicate and create dialogue with participants to help us co-create a more sustainable event.  
**We kindly ask participants to return their lanyards after the conference, so they can be reused in future editions.**

We are aligning the Creative Skills Week's sustainability efforts to the [SHIFT Eco-Guidelines for Networks](#).