Welcome to the Czech Republic

This leaflet provides you with the background information about the Czech Republic, the procedure for granting international protection and the basic rules of conduct in the Czech society. Please observe these rules.

The official representation of the Czech Republic is the Czech Embassy in your country of origin, the Consulate General or the Honorary Consulate.

The Czech Republic is located in the centre of Europe and has approximately 10.5 million inhabitants of which foreign nationals make up about 4.5%.

The country is divided into 14 regions. The capital city Prague has around 2.2 million inhabitants; the remaining inhabitants live in other towns and cities and in rural areas.

The Czech Republic has a mild climate with four alternating seasons. In extreme cases, temperature may drop below -20°C. Summer temperatures range between 20 and 25°C and in extreme cases may rise above 30°C.

Important information

- The Police of the Czech Republic will receive your application for international protection.
- The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic will examine your application and will conduct a personal interview and an examination of your fingerprints. You will also undergo a medical examination.
- The Refugee Facilities Administration is responsible for the reception, residential and integration asylum centres, and for integration services.
- During the interview, please provide any and all important information – why you left your country, your country of origin, arrest warrants and any other police proceedings.
- Be honest when giving answers to all questions.
- Submit your personal and other documents to support your claims.
- Do not worry. All the information you provide is treated as confidential.
- Submit your personal and other documents to support your claims.
- Be honest when giving answers to all questions.
- The information you provide in the asylum procedure will be kept confidential in accordance with the Act on Asylum (Act No. 325/1999 Coll).

Right to seek international protection

If you meet the requirements set forth in the law, the Czech Republic will grant you international protection.

International protection means either asylum or subsidiary protection. Under the Asylum Act, asylum is granted to a foreign national who:
- is persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, belonging to a particular social group or for holding certain political opinion.
- is at present or is likely to be persecuted on account of your family membership of the asylum seeker.
- asylum may also be granted to family members of the asylum seeker.

If you do not meet the condition for being granted asylum but have concerns that you would face a real risk of suffering serious harm in your country of origin, you may request subsidiary protection. Serious harm means in particular the imposition of capital punishment, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and serious threat to life as a consequence of an armed conflict.

Your right to a legal counsellor

Non-government organisations may also provide free legal advice to the applicants for protection. You will also be given advice document containing additional important information. Please read it carefully.

The Ministry of the Interior

The Ministry of the Interior will hand over the decision on granting international protection into your hands. An interpreter will be present upon delivery.

You may be granted asylum or subsidiary protection. Asylum is granted for an unlimited period of time. Subsidiary protection is temporary and is granted for a minimum of one year. You can apply to extend it validly before its expiration.

As holder of international protection, you will receive a residence permit card that must be protected against damage, loss and abuse. You will also be given advice regarding other important information. Please read it carefully.

If you are granted international protection, you can register for the State Integration Programme and live temporarily in an integration asylum centre and use other integration services and assistance.

As a beneficiary of international protection, you will have similar rights as a citizen of the Czech Republic.

Granting of international protection

The procedure for granting international protection is commenced with the submission of an application for international protection on the territory of the Czech Republic.

As an applicant, you will be accommodated in a reception centre. You are obliged not to leave the centre without permission.

You will undergo a personal and medical examination, you will be fingerprinted and an authorisation of your face will be taken.

You will receive an international protection application card in order to prove your identity.

You will be given a decision containing additional important information. Please read it carefully.

You have the right to communicate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

If you meet the requirements set forth in the law, the Czech Republic will grant you subsidiary protection.

Serious harm means in particular:
- the imposition of capital punishment, torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and serious threat to life as a consequence of an armed conflict.

As holder of subsidiary protection, you will receive a residence permit card that must be protected against damage, loss and abuse. You will also be given advice regarding other important information.

You will have to leave the Czech Republic.

You are not allowed to leave the Czech Republic throughout the entire international protection procedure.

Don’t worry, all the information you provide is treated as confidential.

You have the right to a legal counsellor. Important telephone numbers

- The Police of the Czech Republic
- The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
- The Refugee Facilities Administration
- The Ministry of the Interior

Important telephone numbers

- Reception Centre Residential Centre
- The asylum procedure in the Czech Republic is governed by the Act on Asylum (Act No. 325/1999 Coll).
- For more information, visit: www.imigracniportal.cz
- www.mvcr.cz
- www.unhcr.cz
- You will not be granted integrational protection in the Czech Republic if, in particular:
- You are coming from a safe country of origin or another safe country.
- You have previously applied for asylum in another member state of the European Union – in such a case, you may be transferred to that country.
- The country will review your application for protection.
- You have left your country for economic reasons because you had, for example, a badly paid job or were unemployed.
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A greeting and an introduction may be accompanied when leaving to say goodbye. It is customary to say hello, and when entering a room, it is together and enter into a registered partnership in the Czech Republic.

People of the same sex may live a familiar relationship with the other person. Closer contact is only possible if you have a familiar relationship with the other person.

As a rule, a superior extends his/her hand to a subordinate, a woman to a man, and an older person to a younger person. A greeting is a fundamental right. In the Czech Republic, everyone has the right to freedom of expression. Yet freedom has its limits. disrespectful dignity and freedom of others. Treat everyone with respect and regard.

The law takes precedence over religion. Authorities make decisions in accordance with legislation. They never decide according to religious rules. We all are equal before the law.

Religion is a private matter. Everyone has the right to choose one’s religion or have no religion. Respect the personal decision of others.

Freedom of speech is a fundamental right. In the Czech Republic, everyone has the right to freedom of expression. Yet freedom has its limits. Disrespectful dignity and freedom of others. Treat everyone with respect and regard. Freedom of speech is a fundamental right. In the Czech Republic, everyone has the right to freedom of expression. Yet freedom has its limits. Disrespectful dignity and freedom of others. Treat everyone with respect and regard.

The Czech Republic is a democratic country. All people have equal rights. The citizens of the Czech Republic may decide who will administer their country through free elections.

All children in the Czech Republic must complete compulsory education lasting nine years. Any failure to adhere to compulsory education constitutes breach of law. Boys and girls attend the same schools. They attend all subjects together, including physical education.

Parents are responsible for the behaviour of their children. Both parents are equally responsible for the behaviour of their children. The minimum age of criminal responsibility for children is 15 years of age.

Private property must be respected. For instance, keep off someone’s lawn, do not pick agricultural crops on someone’s farm field, do not hunt wild game and fish without a licence.

Public order must be maintained. Any failure to comply with the road traffic rules can lead to penalty or a driving prohibition. A passenger vehicle may only be driven by a person over 18 years of age. There is zero tolerance for alcohol and drugs consumption while driving in the Czech Republic. You are not allowed to drive a vehicle if you have drunk alcohol or used an addictive substance. Road traffic rules also apply to pedicabs and cyclists.

It is very important to be punctual. Always come on time. If you are not able to attend a meeting or a party, inform the host or hostess about your absence in advance.

It is not unusual in the Czech Republic that people keep a greater distance while talking. If possible, observe the rule also in the means of transport and do not sit too close to other passengers. It is not usual to touch another person during a conversation; this applies especially to contacts between a man and a woman.

Closer contact is only possible if you have a familiar relationship with the other person. When travelling by means of transport, you should wear a medical mask if any. The length of wearing a medical mask is an individual decision. Always make sure that you have your personal documents on you. You should always carry a copy of your international protection applicant card or residence permit card in case. You are a beneficiary of a beneficiary of a mandatory public health insurance and entitled to public health services in the Czech Republic.

Each inhabitant of the Czech Republic must make contributions to a public health insurance system. Always bring your card when a public health service is to be provided. If you are under the age of 18, you may be treated in childhood. Women may be treated by male doctors; men may be treated by female doctors.

The Police of the Czech Republic and the municipal police provide security for all inhabitants. The police must be respected. In case of danger, contact the police by calling 158.