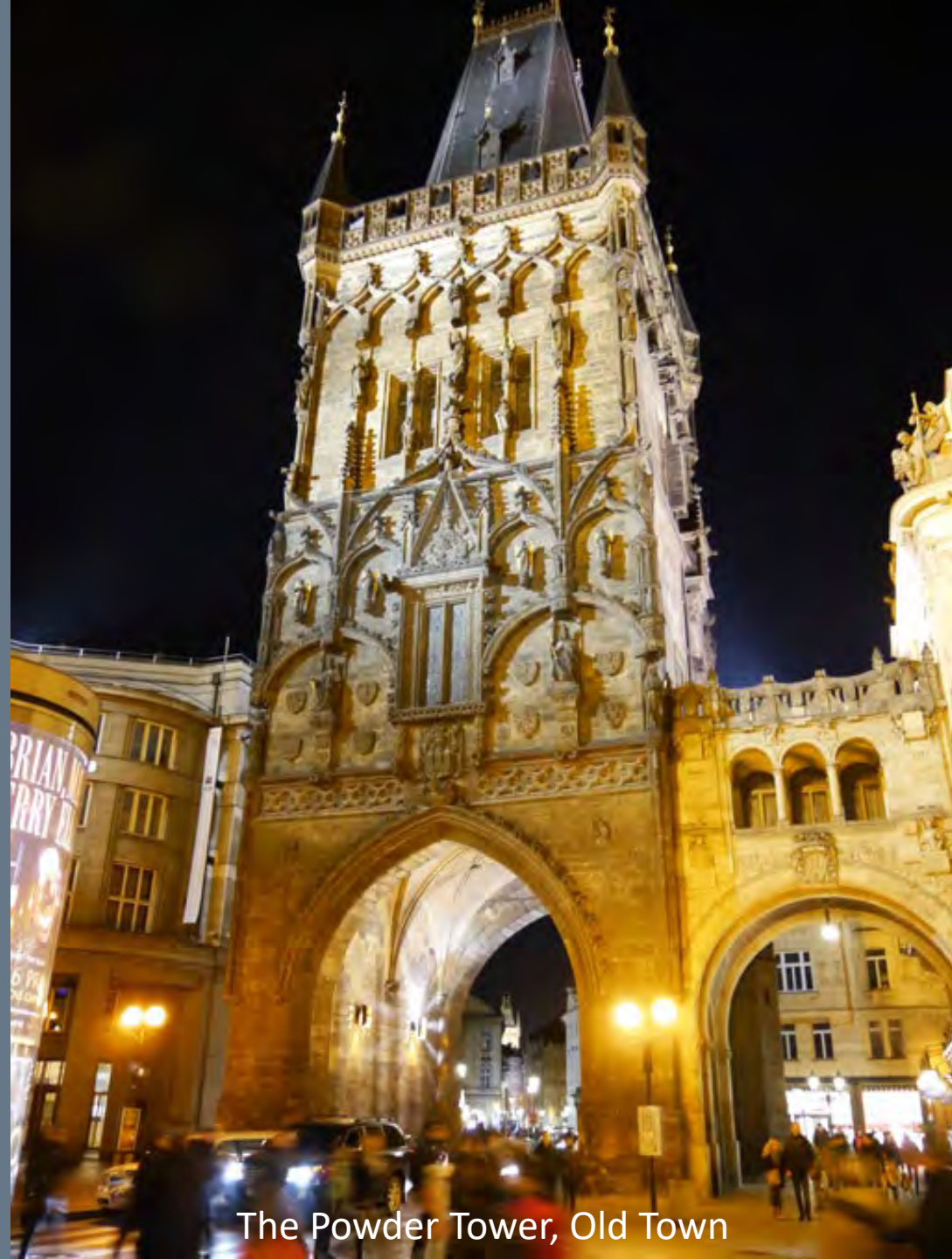


Prague, Czech Republic

December 2015

Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, is bisected by the Vltava River and is known for its Old Town Square, with colorful baroque buildings, Gothic churches and the medieval astronomical clock.



The Powder Tower, Old Town



Spires of the Church of Our Lady before Týn at Night



Prague Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral at Night Viewed from Old Town



St. Vitus Cathedral at Night Viewed from Old Town



Old Town Square Christmas Tree



St. Nicholas Church, Old Town Square



Jan Hus Statue and Church of St. Nicholas (Old Town)



Old Town Square Christmas Market and
St. Nicholas Church



Exterior Murals on Old Town Square Buildings

The Prague Astronomical Clock was first installed in 1410, making it the third-oldest astronomical clock in the world and the oldest one still operating. Each hour figures of the Apostles parade past open windows in the clock tower.



Astronomical Clock on Old Town Square Clock Tower



Skeleton and Musician Statues on Clock Tower



Apostles in Clock Windows During Hourly Procession



Apostles in Clock Windows During Hourly Procession

The Old Town Hall Tower was built in 1338 and is one of the most identifiable buildings in Prague. Inside visitors can ride or climb to the top of the tower for views over the Old Town Square and the rest of Prague.



Old Town Clock Tower and Astronomical Clock



Ceiling Mosaics, Entrance to Old Town Clock Tower



Wall Mosaic, Entrance to Old Town Clock Tower



Wall Mosaic, Entrance to Old Town Clock Tower



Ceiling Mosaics, Entrance to Old Town Clock Tower



Christmas Market and Our Lady before Týn from Old Town Clock Tower



Old Town Square and Christmas Market, View from the Old Town Clock Tower



Our Lady before Tyn Tower Detail, View from the Old Town Clock Tower



Prague, Prague Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral from Old Town Clock Tower



St. Nicholas Church (Old Town) from Clock Tower



Old Town Bridge Tower, Charles Bridge



Statue of Madonna and St. Bernard
Near Charles Bridge



Old Town Bridge Tower, Facade Detail



Charles Bridge and Old Town Bridge Tower, View from Kampa Island

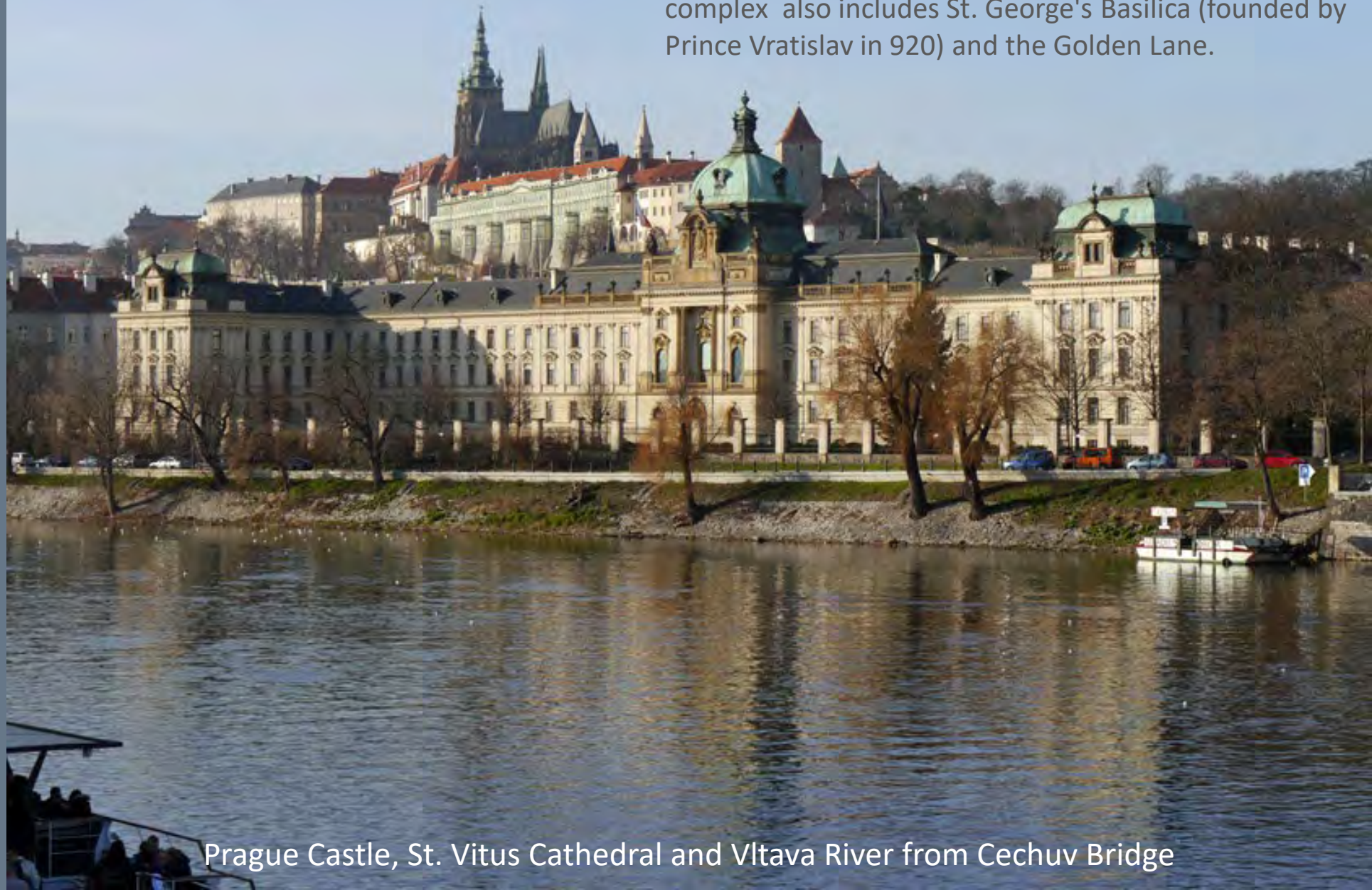


Statue of King Charles IV Near Charles Bridge



Statue of St. John of Nepomuk on Charles Bridge

Prague Castle is a castle complex in Prague that dates from the 9th century and is the official residence of the President of the Czech Republic. The Prague Castle complex also includes St. George's Basilica (founded by Prince Vratislav in 920) and the Golden Lane.



Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral and Vltava River from Cechuv Bridge



Fighting Giants Statues over Entrance to Prague Castle



Prague Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral, View from the North



Prague Castle and St. Vitus Cathedral Viewed from Charles Bridge

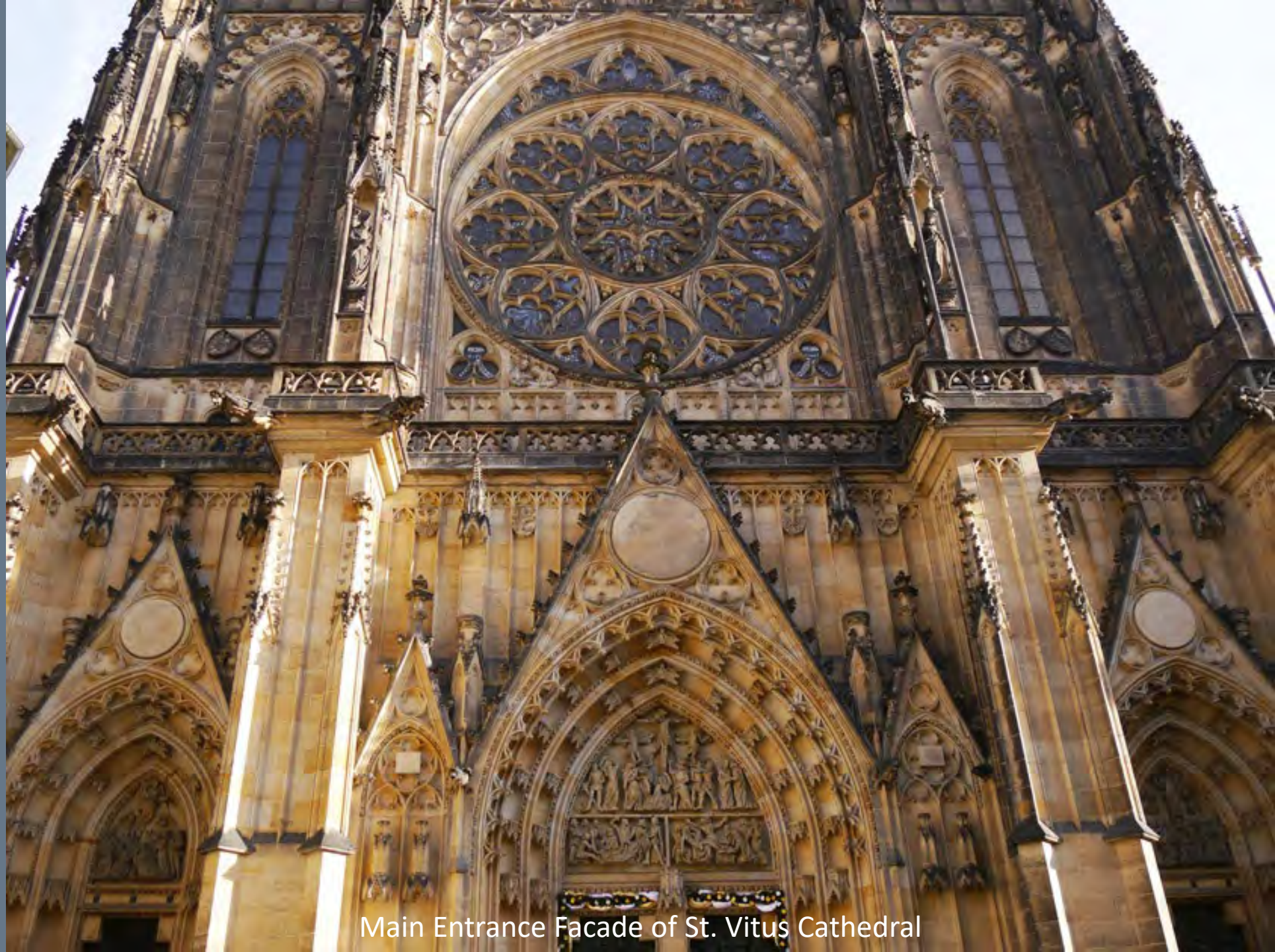


Prague Castle, St. Vitus Cathedral and Charles Bridge from Legion Bridge

St. Vitus Cathedral, commissioned by Charles IV, began construction in 1344 on the site of an earlier 10th century rotunda. The final phase of construction was from 1873-1929. The Great South Tower of the Cathedral was founded in the late 14th century, then reconstructed in the 16th and again in the 18th centuries. The tower holds the biggest bell in the Czech Republic, which dates from the 16th century. The tower is more than 90 metres high, and visitors can climb the 287 steps for views of the city.



Front Tower of St. Vitus Cathedral
Seen from South Tower



Main Entrance Facade of St. Vitus Cathedral



Interior and Stained Glass Windows of St. Vitus Cathedral



Interior of St. Vitus Cathedral



Interior of St. Vitus Cathedral



Gargoyles, St. Vitus Cathedral



Back of St. Vitus Cathedral



High Altar of St. Vitus Cathedral



Stained Glass Window in St. Vitus Cathedral



Alfons Mucha Stained Glass Window in Archbishop's Chapel of St. Vitus Cathedral



Tomb of St. John of Nepomuk, St. Vitus Cathedral



St. George's Basilica and Prague from St. Vitus Cathedral Tower



View of Prague and Charles Bridge from St. Vitus Cathedral South Tower



Creche in St. Vitus Cathedral

The Church of St. James in Old Town is the second largest church in Prague. The church is the final resting place of Count Vratislav of Mitrovice who was accidentally buried alive in the tomb.

There is a mummified forearm near the tomb entrance, dating back over 400 years that belonged to a jewel thief who tried to steal from the high altar. It is believed that when the thief tried to steal the jewels, a statue of the Virgin Mary grabbed his arm and would not let go, so his arm was cut off by the monks.



Main Altar, Church of St. James



Pipe Organ, Church of St. James



Ceiling Murals, Church of St. James



Ceiling Murals, Church of St. James

The Church of Our Lady Victorious in Malá Strana holds a 16th-century Roman Catholic wax-coated wooden statue of the child Jesus holding a globus crucifer. Legends state that the statue once belonged to Saint Teresa of Avila. The exact origin of the Infant Jesus statue is not known, but historical sources point to a small sculpture of the Holy Child presently located in the Cistercian monastery of Santa Maria de la Valbonna in Spain that was carved around the year 1340.



Infant of Prague Statue, Church of Our Lady Victorious in Malá Strana



Infant of Prague Statue, Church of Our Lady Victorious in Malá Strana



Top of Altar, Church of Our Lady Victorious in Malá Strana

Construction of the Church of St. Nicholas (Malá Strana) began in 1703, on the site of a former parish church, the records for which date back to 1283. The interior of St. Nicholas Church is decorated with statues, paintings and frescoes by leading artists of the day. Particularly impressive is a fresco of the Celebration of the Holy Trinity which fills the 70m high dome. The Baroque organ was played by Mozart in 1787.



Altar, Church of St. Nicholas (Malá Strana)



Main Altar, Church of St. Nicholas (Malá Strana)



Altar, Church of St. Nicholas (Malá Strana)



Rotunda and Ceiling Murals, Church of St. Nicholas (Malá Strana)



Ceiling Statues and Murals, Church of St. Nicholas (Malá Strana)



Ceiling Murals, Church of St. Nicholas (Malá Strana)



Grand Priory Mill Wheel on Canal in Malá Strana



Cechuv Bridge Support Statues



Statue of St. Wenceslas and National Museum, Wenceslas Square



Plague Column in Lesser Town Square