

## ● Can you tell me some basic facts about the Czech Republic?

The Czech Republic is a country / is located in Central Europe. It's a small state with a population of 10.5 million people. The capital is Prague. The currency is the Czech crown. People speak Czech there. It's a member of the EU / European Union.

## ● What can you tell me about the different parts of the country?

The country is divided into three historical regions: Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia. Bohemia is the western part of the country, where you can find the capital, Prague. Moravia is in the south-east. There is a lot of agriculture, and the famous wine comes from there. The biggest city of Moravia is Brno. The last region, Silesia, is in the north-east, where there was a lot of industry in the past. The most important city of this region / area is Ostrava.

## ● What do you know about the geography of the country?

The Czech Republic is a landlocked country / has no coast / sea. Its neighbours are Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Austria. The Krkonoše Mountains are on the border with Poland, the Beskydy Mountains are on the Slovak border, and the Šumava Mountains border Germany. The highest mountain is Sněžka (1,603 m). The main rivers are the Vltava, the Labe and the Morava. The Czech Republic has a mild climate / cold winters / warm summers.

## ● What do you know about Prague?

About 1.3 million people live in Prague. It is the biggest city in the Czech Republic. Lots of tourists visit the city every year / it is a very popular tourist destination. Prague has many interesting / historical sights. Prague Castle is the most famous landmark; it includes St Vitus Cathedral, which was built between the 14th–20th century. Charles IV built Charles University and Charles Bridge. Other attractions / historical landmarks are Petřín tower, the astronomical clock and Old Town Square. The Vltava River is the longest river in the Czech Republic and runs / flows through Prague.

## ● Which other historical sights should you see in the Czech Republic?

If you like history, you can visit Karlštejn, a castle from the 14th century / where the crown jewels were kept. In Kutná Hora you can visit the Church of St Barbara / the Gothic chapel in Sedlec made from human skeletons. Český Krumlov is a beautiful town from the 14th century / a town with a castle and a chateau. Karlovy Vary is a famous spa town.

## ● Can you tell me about the Czech countryside?

There is lots of beautiful countryside in the Czech Republic / there are lots of national parks / forests / green areas. Český ráj / Bohemian Paradise is a famous area for hiking and climbing. Šumava National Park is on the border with Germany. There are many ponds in south Bohemia. The Moravian Karst consists of / is made of cave systems.

## ● What are some typical products made in the Czech Republic?

The Czech Republic is famous for its beer, like Pilsner Urquell / Budvar. Czech glass is popular and comes from Nový Bor / Jablonec nad Nisou. Precious red stones, called garnets, come from the Czech Republic and they are made into jewellery / earrings / necklaces. Škoda cars are very popular around the world. Baťa shoes were first made in today's Czech Republic but can now be found around the world.

## ● Do you know any famous Czechs?

Miloš Forman is a film director who made *Amadeus* / has won lots of awards for his films and now lives in America. Famous Czech models include Eva Herzigová / Petra Němcová. Well-known Czech sports stars include Petr Čech, who is a football player / Tomáš Berdych / Petra Kvitová and Martina Navratilová, who won many tennis championships / Jaromír Jágr, who plays ice hockey. Some famous musicians include Karel Gott / Markéta Irglová.

