

premium picks



Linda Kundell, owner of Kundell Communications, a New York-based public relations firm specializing in travel and tourism, is a longtime visitor to Prague and the Czech Republic. These are her favorite places.



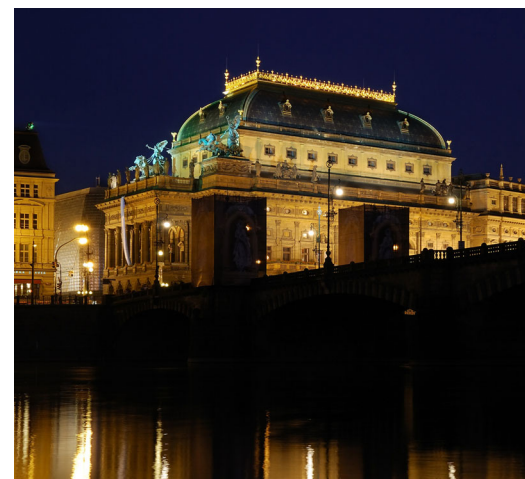
1 Galex, Maiselova 12 I always head to Galex on Maiselova Street, in the Jewish Quarter to stock up on wonderful Czech berets. The store offers a wide selection of colorful berets in simple and fanciful styles, as well as women's shoes and other accessories such as handbags, gloves, and umbrellas.

2 Academia Academia Bookstore, on Wenceslas Square, contains two floors of books on all things Czech. I love browsing the vintage postcards and seeing the supersized wall calendars with photos of Prague. The bookstore has a wide choice of Czech phrase books for foreigners, maps, Czech-English dictionaries, novels, and dual-language adaptations of classics. A true book lover's paradise.



4 Josefov, The Jewish Quarter Wandering along the Jewish Quarter has always been one of my favorite things to do. There is a wistful, melancholy feeling to the quarter, especially in the early evening after the "museum" buildings have closed and the area takes on a quiet, brooding air, especially in the fall. The buildings and the Old Cemetery that make up the area are a poignant testimony to Prague's Jewish history.

3 Karlovy Vary or Carlsbad Setting foot in Carlsbad is like stepping into a fairytale, with its pastel-hued, 19th and early 20th century Art Nouveau architecture. I stayed at the Hotel Richmond, near the park of the same name. Set in a beautifully forested area, the hotel is a short walk to town. I loved the walk into town, passing the imposing Pupp Hotel, on my way to indulge in pastries, take the waters at one of the town's thermal fountains, and visit the ornate colonnade.



5 Prague National Theatre Each time I visit Prague, I make it a point to see an opera at this elegant Renaissance Revival gem. The theater's ornate gold, horse-shoe shaped interior is a perfect setting for a performance by the Prague State Opera. I especially enjoy watching the company perform Czech operas, and last saw Janacek's Katya Kabanova there.