



MAPAMÁTKY

Bridge route

From bank to bank

If there is something truly typical for Prague, it is its bridges. The Vltava River, with its ideal width, has allowed for the construction of numerous structurally and aesthetically unique bridge structures. A walk will introduce you to their aesthetics and functionality. Did you know, for example, that all the bridges in the city center, except for the railway bridge under Vyšehrad, are arched? The bridge route will provide you with context, and perhaps thanks to it, you will finally remember which bridge leads to the National Theatre and which one leads to the Dancing House.

Route length 4,9 km

Stops 6

- 1. Palacký bridge**
Bedřich Münzberger,
Josef Reiter, 1878
- 2. Jirásek bridge**
Vlastislav Hofman,
František Mencl, 1933
- 3. Legio bridge**
Antonín Balšánek,
Jiří Soukup, 1901
- 4. Charles bridge**
mistr Otto, Petr Parlér,
1402
- 5. Mánes bridge**
Mečislav Petrů,
František Mencl, 1914
- 6. Čech bridge**
Jan Koula, Jiří Soukup,
František Mencl, 1908

What's next?

Railway bridge

První Českomoravská
továrna na stroje, bratři
Prášilové, Ruston a spol.,
1901

Hlávka bridge

Pavel Janák, František
Mencl, 1912

Libeň bridge

Pavel Janák, 1928

Troja bridge

Roman Koucký, Ladislav
Šašek, Libor Kábrt a Jiří
Petrák, 2014

Braník bridge

Jiří Klimeš a kolektiv
ČVUT, 1955

Nusle bridge

Stanislav Hubička
a kolektiv, 1973

Štefánik bridge

Vlastislav Hofman,
Oldřich Širc, 1951

Negrelli Viaduct

Alois Negrelli, firmy bratři
Kleinů a Vojtěcha Lanny,
1851

Závodu Míru bridge 1964

Radotín bridge 2010

Barrande bridge 1988

Bridge to Císařská louka 1901

Bridge to Veseláský ostrov 1958

Bridge to Dětský ostrov 1941

Bridge to Slovanský ostrov

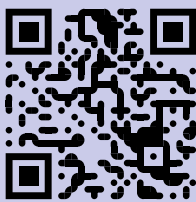
Bridges over Čertovka

Railway bridge Holešovice 1976

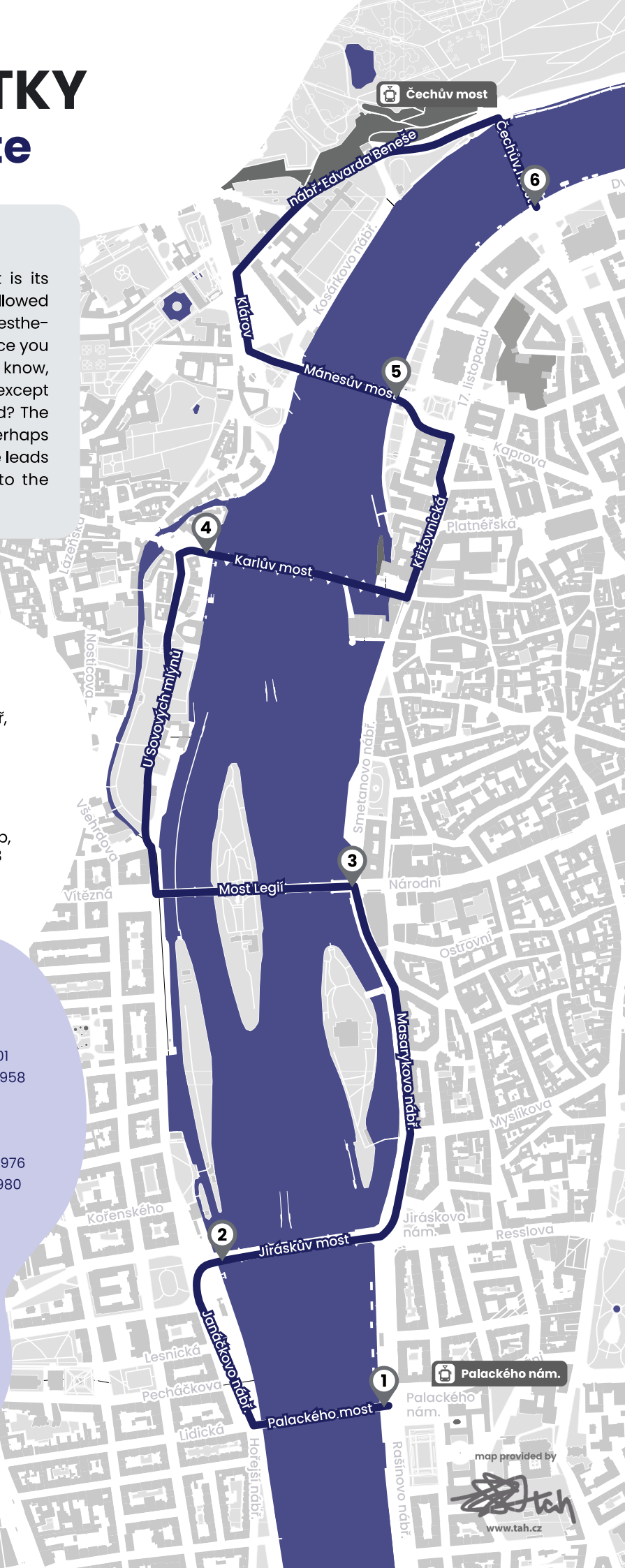
Barricade soldiers' bridge 1980

Troja bridge 2020

Štvanice bridge 2023



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Bridge route

1: Palacký bridge

1878

B. Münzberger

Josef Reiter

The first of the modern arch bridges was named after František Palacký, the founder of modern historiography and the “father of the nation”. His patriotism is expressed in the bridge’s design through the use of materials in the colors of the national flag – blue granite, red and yellow sandstone, and white marble. The tops of the bridge arches are adorned with symbols of Czech cities located on the Vltava and Labe rivers. The bridge was created as a new connection between the banks of the Vltava River and served not only for transportation but also for supplying Nové Město with coal from Smíchov Station. During World War II, Prague residents had to get used to the name “W. A. Mozart Bridge”. From 1897, sculptures depicting mythical figures from Czech history by Josef Václav Myslbek were placed on both bridge-heads, but they were damaged during the Allied bombings in February 1945. Copies of these sculptures, along with the original Smíchov sculptures, can now be found in the gardens at Vyšehrad.

2: Jirásek bridge

1933

V. Hofman

F. Mencil

Jirásek Bridge marks the culmination of the era of pre-war bridges and is also the last work of the builder František Mencil, who was involved in the construction of four other bridges in Prague. Jirásek Bridge, whose architectural design was determined by Vlastislav Hofman, was gradually put into operation and reached its full use in 1933. The purpose of building this river crossing was to extend Resslova Street and connect it with the waterfront. On this reinforced concrete bridge, the lighting masts and the concrete railing made of prefabricated parts carrying elements of functionalism are worth noting. It is the railing that casts beautiful shadows on the sidewalk on sunny days. During World War II, the bridge was renamed Dientzenhofer Bridge. The new name was intended to commemorate a supposedly Baroque pavilion built according to the design of Kilián Ignác Dientzenhofer, which was removed on the Smíchov side of the bridge. After the war, the bridge was once again named after the famous Czech writer.

Puzzle game



Which lamp is located on which bridge?

Assign individual types of lights to constructions!

Correct answers can be found by scanning the code or on the address mapamatky.cz/mostova-trasa/kviz

3: Legion bridge

1922

Antonín Balšánek

Jiří Soukup

One of the few originally preserved bridges in Prague now commemorates the brave deeds of Czechoslovak legionaries, but it was previously named after the Austrian Emperor Franz I. The same name belonged to an elegant chain bridge that stood in the same location between 1841 and 1898. The chain bridge was insufficient in capacity and dangerously swayed under heavier loads. Therefore, a new bridge was constructed. It was built in the eclectic style, which is characterized by the imitation of various architectural styles. The bridge is adorned with a pair of tollbooths on both sides, decorated with mascarons, city coats of arms, and domed roofs. In the middle of the bridge, there is a staircase with decorative vases, which provides access to Střelecký Island.

4: Charles bridge

1402

mistr Otto

Petr Parléř

The famous Charles Bridge stands at the site of at least two previous bridges – a wooden one, over which the body of St. Wenceslas was brought to Prague, and the more well-known Judith Bridge, destroyed by a flood in 1342. For a long period of 450 years, the Charles Bridge was the only bridge across the Vltava River. The importance of this structure is confirmed by a pair of richly decorated bridge towers and baroque sculptures gradually installed at the turn of the 17th and 18th centuries. The name of Emperor Charles IV has been associated with the bridge since 1870 when four additional bridges were already standing in Prague. Before that, it was known simply as the Prague Bridge or the Stone Bridge, and as the only bridge, it had to serve all the important functions for the city’s operation. A horse-drawn tram was introduced on the bridge, and from 1905, an electrified tram was also established, powered by a clever system designed by František Křižík. The bridge served automobile traffic until 1965.

5: Mánes bridge

1914

M. Petrů

F. Mencil

The Mánes Bridge, initially named the Archduke Franz Ferdinand Bridge for the first six years, is a modernist structure with slight hints of Cubism. The remaining fountain sculptures by sculptor Emanuel Halmán and the lost toll collector’s booth showcase elements of Cubism. The bridge replaced the original suspension Rudolf’s Bridge, which is now commemorated on the Lesser Town riverbank by a timber-framed cottage that once served as a toll booth. The Manes Bridge is named after the romantic painter Josef Mánes, whose statue by Bohuslav Kafka can be found on the right bank. The bridge pillars are made of granite, and the four arches are constructed of plain concrete. Notably, there are valuable reliefs by František Bílek, Jan Štursa, and Josef Mařátka. These artistic works on the pillars depict scenes from the lives of Vltava rivermen, among other subjects.

6: Čech bridge

1908

J. Koula

J. Soukup

F. Mencil

The shortest bridge in Prague, yet also the largest Art Nouveau structure in the Czech Republic. The Čechův Bridge, spanning 169 meters, connects Pařížská Street with the Edvard Beneš Embankment. During its construction, there were plans to connect it to the planned Letná Relief Tunnel. However, this grand vision did not materialize, and today the bridge leads only to the staircase of the former Stalin Monument. The bridge is truly unique, not only due to its Art Nouveau details but also because of its split pillars and steel arches. It features magnificent toll collector’s booths in the form of majestic columns with statues of geniuses by Antonín Popp. The pillars themselves are adorned with a pair of bronze statues of female torchbearers on one side and a quartet of hydras on the other. In the original plans, the torchbearers would have emitted real flames, and water would have flowed from the hydras. This concept may become a reality in the future.

