

OPERA IN PRAGUE

A four night stay in Prague at the
Almanac X Alcron Hotel including two opera performances

3rd to 7th December 2026

Join us for an escorted tour to Prague, where the highlight will be two evening opera performances: Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas' at the historic Estates Theatre, one of Europe's most beautiful theatre buildings, and Puccini's 'Tosca' at the magnificent Prague State Opera. The 'city of a thousand spires', Prague charms like few other cities can with wonderful architecture including fairy-tale castles, Gothic cathedrals and centuries-old churches as well as many cultural and historical sites which, during our December visit, can be enjoyed in the absence of the high-season crowds.

In order to make the most of our time in this captivating city we will enjoy guided excursions including the city's most famous landmark, Prague Castle, a visit to the composer Antonin Dvorak's home to learn of his musical legacy and time spent exploring the Jewish Quarter and the Old Town with its maze of cobbled lanes. A short drive out of the city, we will visit Nelahozeves Castle which is perched above the Vltava River and is one of Bohemia's finest Renaissance castles. We have also included time at leisure to explore Prague independently and, whether you are visiting this fascinating city for the first time or rediscovering it, there is a wealth of attractions on offer, including the city's enchanting Christmas markets.



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The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Prague, Czech Republic. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this afternoon and transfer to the Almanac X Alcron Hotel for our four night stay. Settle into your room before meeting for dinner this evening at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 2 Prague. After breakfast we will begin our morning city tour of Prague at Prague Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. According to the Guinness World Records it is the world's largest ancient castle complex, covering an area greater than seven football fields. The castle has always been the seat of Czech monarchs and is the official residence of the head of state. Dating back to the 9th century, it grew haphazardly as different rulers added their own touches. From here we will visit the Lobkowitz Palace, a beautiful 16th century Baroque Palace, to admire one of Europe's oldest and finest private art collections. After lunch we continue to the Strahov Monastery Library, the largest monastic library in the country, whose magnificent Baroque halls date from the 17th and 18th centuries. Our visit will include access to two library halls normally closed to the public: the Theological Hall and Philosophical Hall. Return to the hotel for some time to relax before meeting in the early evening for a canapé reception. We then make our way to the Estates Theatre to watch the performance of 'Dido and Aeneas'. (B, L, C*)

'Dido and Aeneas' by Henry Purcell

A monumental work of Baroque opera, often regarded as the first great English operatic masterpiece. Based on Book IV of Virgil's epic poem 'The Aeneid', it tells the tragic story of the ill-fated love between Queen Dido, [the legendary founder of Carthage, and Aeneas, the Trojan hero who, deceived by dark forces, abandons her. Purcell and his librettist, the poet Nahum Tate, do not attempt to recount the myth in full; instead they create a remarkably intimate and deeply moving opera, imbued with spirituality and profound melancholy.

Day 3 Prague. This morning we will walk from the hotel to the Jewish Quarter, also known as Josefov. Located between the Vltava River and the Old Town Square, this area became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1992. While exploring on foot with our guide we will visit the Jewish Museum which was established in 1906 and consists of six Jewish monuments including the Maisel Synagogue, the Ceremonial Hall and the Old Jewish Cemetery. In a grotesquely ironic act, the Nazis took over the management of the Prague Jewish Museum to preserve artefacts from destroyed Jewish communities throughout Bohemia, with the intention of creating a 'museum of an extinct race'. It amassed the world's largest collection of sacred Jewish artefacts. We will also see the Old-New Synagogue, Europe's oldest working synagogue and one of Prague's earliest Gothic buildings. After lunch in a

local restaurant, we return to the hotel and the afternoon is at leisure. As our visit coincides with the Prague Christmas markets, you may wish to explore them at your leisure this afternoon or evening. The most famous markets are found in the Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square. (B, L)

Day 4 Prague. After breakfast we will leave the city for a short drive to Nelahozeves Castle, one of Bohemia's finest Renaissance castles. This 16th century estate is perched above the Vltava River and is another spectacular family home of the Lobkowitz family. After a tour of the castle interior we will enjoy lunch at the castle. This afternoon on our return to Prague we will visit the home of Czech composer Antonin Dvorak. The Baroque house now functions as an international music centre and museum. We will learn about the composer's humble beginnings to worldwide success. This evening, before our visit to the State Opera to watch a performance of 'Tosca' we will enjoy a canapé reception at the hotel. (B, L, C*)

'Tosca' by Giacomo Puccini

The opera about the diva Tosca, her lover the painter Cavaradossi, and the malevolent police chief Baron Scarpia, set in Italy in 1800 during Napoleon's war against Austria, is one of the most popular operas worldwide. 'Tosca' is an opera in three acts, based on the play La Tosca by Victorien Sardou. Tosca premiered in Rome in 1900, when Italy was experiencing social and political unrest. Although Puccini was not known for taking a political stance, he could not resist the story – the passion, the power and the deceit, in essence, the drama.

Day 5 Prague to London. After breakfast transfer to the airport for our return scheduled flight to London. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

Twin/Double:	£3395
Twin/Double for Sole Use	£4195

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Four nights hotel accommodation at the Almanac X Alcron Hotel • Meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner, C* - Canapés) • Wine or beer with included lunches & dinners • Excursions as described • Two Opera Performances • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Gratuities • Transfers • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance.

Group Size: We are restricting the group size to just 25 participants.

ALMANAC X ALCRON

Close to Prague's Old Town and Wenceslas Square, the Almanac X Alcron Hotel is a chic hotel with a wonderful history, starting life as the Alcron Hotel in 1932. Enter through the listed 1930s façade and marvel at the Art Deco inspired marble lobby with its crystal chandeliers and artwork by local artists. The 204 rooms are contemporary, timeless and designed to provide a calm environment in which to relax. Elegant bathrooms feature heated floors and are covered in stone tiles. The rooms come with all the usual amenities including desk, small seating area, tea and coffee making facilities and Wi-Fi. The hotel features an award-winning restaurant along with a bar/lounge, rooftop bar and coffee shop. There is also a gym and sauna.



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Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request.
Cover image: Prague Castle and St. Nicolas Church.