

Social habits and customs

How do we greet each other?

We don't greet each other physically, we simply say „Hello“ to friends/family or „Good morning“ to teachers. We aren't like Italians, we don't kiss each other, but don't worry we aren't homophobic :D.

Hello = Ahoj

Good morning = Dobrý den

What is OK in our country?

We are very liberal, we don't care much if you blow your nose, smoke in public etc. and if we do our facial expression change to like „eating lemons“ or we don't express our anger. It's quite opposite of other countries, because in most of European countries there are some restriction about smoking, kissing or it's just not polite, like blowing your nose in public in Norway :D. It's very impolite not to take off your shoes inside a house.

Taboos

Taboos in our society are different, because everyone is different so we can't have same taboos. But still we are affected by our Euro-Atlantic civilization and its rather archaic opinion about sex etc.

Culture events

In our country there aren't so many OUR culture events, because we were abused and bullied by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and Nazi Germany in 20th century (and Habsburg monarchy...wow, nothing is „our“ :D). We have of course Xmas, Easter (kind of a holiday, but still cultur events). We have also dancing lessons, it's typical for our country. It's normally organized in 1st grade of high school. In our country there is lot of theaters, mainly in capital city, Prague. The most important of them is National Theater in Prague.

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With everything above, we kinda covered the task...so let's take a look more at us. We might look very reserved to everyone when you meet us, because. . .we are. I don't know why, but even when we develop some kind of personal relations, friendships, we are not „100% emotional“ as others (look at...Justin Bieber concert, I know great example, and at us. . .concert and us, us and concert). Also, you WILL notice we simply ignore other people (we don't know) on the streets, shops, buses, train or we don't use first names (exception is family and friends).

If you will be (un)lucky and get invited to someones home for dinner, tea or coffee and you have never been visiting in the Czech republic, advice might be good, right? So. . .again you will encounter as mention above. . .reserved people :) . Also don't use first names, because it's sign of friendship, just wait until they invite you to using it.

Maybe it doesn't sound like it, but Czechs are fairly conservative, probably because of long history of struggles, we know how to save, reuse etc. Maybe I mentioned it already, but Czechs are beer (alcohol) nation, first in beer consumption on a person (around 170 litres. . .about 30 more than Irish, who got alcohol instead of blood now, eh? :D). It's maybe so high, because we love our leisure time and a lot of us spend their time in pubs, with friends, and mostly with beer in their

hands. Lot of Czechs living in a city have a small cottage in the countryside, where they usually go at the weekends or during holidays. In these times, city like Prague looks a bit deserted, abandoned and it goes very well with our love to outdoor activities (fishing, gardening, riding a bike etc.)

If you visit the Czech Republic you will see A LOT of churches. . . empty churches, in 2011 only about 10% (around 1 million) of population declared they are catholics and 10% they believe in something (protestantism, ortodox etc.). With these numbers we are one of the least religious nation on Earth and maybe no.1 in „free world“. Lot of cathedrals or churches are now more of a tourist than religious building. Also, we have „Kostnice“, it is hard to describe, but it is a church with art made of bones, real bones.

We have a dark sense of humor... sometimes very dark. It's nothing special to make jokes about ourselves, government, president (or „pussydent“ as someone call him, because of his statements in last weeks) or even death.

Now, a few last words about etiquette... Czechs love behaved children, well - mannered people, and especially older people might complain about your bad – manners. You are also almost expected to give up your seat in a bus or metro to older person or a small child. You can say we teach every child „respect your elders and be nice to everyone“, one of few good things communism left in our minds and hearts.



