



# DISCOVER PRAGUE AND THE VLTAVA RIVER FROM A LINSSSEN 40.0 AC.



**A unique experience with Linssen Boating Holidays® and our partner Bohemia Yacht Charter.**

*By Luc Vanthoor*

**Since the 2024 season, Linssen Boating Holidays has a new partner, based in one of Europe’s most beautiful cities: Prague! As Prague is a name that certainly captures the imagination, we and our crew – consisting of Paul, Peter, Cornel and myself – had to explore this region, of course.**

Our voyage lasted from Saturday 12 October to Thursday, 17 October 2024. It was a special and unique experience in a region where few charter operators currently operate. From Prague, you have many options, not only regarding the Vltava, but also the Elbe.

Bohemia Yacht Charter’s home port is a stone’s throw from the historic centre of the Prague. Prague, the magical capital of the Czech Republic, is often called the ‘City of a Hundred Towers’. In fact, this is a serious underestimation because the city has a total of about 550 towers. The city’s historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Located on the banks of the Vltava River, Prague combines a long history with a vibrant culture and impressive architecture. What makes this city extra special is that it is also a perfect base for a unique nautical experience. With a Linssen Yacht, you can explore Prague and the surrounding area from the water, while enjoying the comfort and freedom offered by a yacht.

**A city with a long history**

Prague has a history dating back more than a thousand years. The city was founded in the 9th century and quickly evolved into

an important political, cultural and economic centre in Europe.

One of the most iconic sights is Prague Castle, a huge complex that towers high above the city. Built in the 9th century, this castle was the seat of Czech kings and later presidents for centuries. Within the walls of the castle you will find the impressive St Vitus Cathedral and the charming Golden Street, among other sights. Another site not to be missed is Charles Bridge, a Gothic masterpiece spanning the Vltava River. Built in the 14th century, this bridge connects the Old Town with the Malá Strana district. It is one of Prague's most popular walking routes: along the way, you will encounter beautiful Baroque statues and may just stumble upon a group of lively street

performers. It was a special experience to sail under this bridge with our 'own' Linssen.

From the Vltava river, many of Prague's most famous sights are easily accessible on foot, including Old Town Square with its famous astronomical clock, Wenceslas Square and the Jewish Quarter (Josefov).

### **The charm of the Vltava**

The Vltava, which flows through the heart of Prague, is the longest river in the Czech Republic (440 kilometres) and forms the backbone of the region. The river springs from two different sources in the Bohemian Forest and flows into the Elbe near Melnik. This river is not only a source of inspiration for artists, such as the composer Bedřich Smetana, with

## *Practical tips*

### **Preparation**

Before you cast off, you will receive detailed instructions about sailing and how to use the facilities on board. It is useful to install a good translation app, such as Google Translate or DeepL, on your smartphone. Outside the tourist areas, people mostly speak only Czech. Karl Heinz Kranich (Bohemia Yacht Charter) is very accessible by phone and is permanently available in the case of any questions.

*Karlsbrücke in the centre of Prague*



his symphonic poem 'Vltava', but also an important waterway for recreation and transport.

The Vltava is navigable from Prague between the Slapy Dam and its mouth in the Elbe. As there are several dams and weirs in the Vltava, the current is limited.

### Upstream to Slapy Dam

When you travel upstream from Prague, the Vltava guides you to the Slapy dam, one of the most impressive waterworks in the Czech Republic.

Built in the 1950s, the Slapy Dam has a height of 67 metres and a length of 260 metres. The dam plays a crucial role in water management, electricity

generation and flood protection. The hydropower plant attached to the dam has a capacity of 144 megawatts.

Moreover, the Slapy reservoir, at the top of the dam, is a popular destination for water sports, swimming and fishing. The dam's reservoir has a total area of 14 square kilometres and a length of about 44 kilometres. If there is space, pleasure boats may also moor for a while at the spot usually reserved for the Slapy-Prague steamers, to enjoy the views from the dam, with the sky being reflected in the waters of the reservoir.

Between Prague and the Slapy Dam, there are several sights

### *Practical tips*

#### **Boating licence**

No license is required to rent a Linssen yacht on the Vltava, but experience is recommended. Knowledge of buoying and lock manoeuvres is necessary. The locks on this river are spacious and comfortable. The only drawback is that people speak very limited English or German. The lock keepers are friendly and helpful, but usually speak only Czech.





Štěchovice lock and hydroelectric power station

### Practical tips

#### Navigating

The buoys and markings on the Vltava are correct and well maintained. In normal weather conditions, there is little current on the river. The Vltava is a natural rain-fed river. During prolonged periods of heavy rainfall, the flow on the river will increase, as on any rain-fed river.



From left to right Luc, Cornel, Peter, Paul

worth exploring. For example, you will pass the charming town of Davle, where the Sázava river flows into the Vltava. This place offers magnificent views and is ideal for a short stopover or an overnight stay. Davle has a comfortable and well-equipped passenger jetty. There are about three restaurants in the town, all of which have earned good reviews. A pedestrian bridge connects the shore from the passenger jetty to the town centre. There are also several shops where you can buy fresh supplies.

Further upstream, you will find the historic town of Štěchovice, known for its ancient lock and beautiful natural surroundings.

#### Downstream to the Elbe

From the Slapy dam, you can continue your journey downstream, back to Prague and on to the point where the Vltava and Elbe rivers meet at Mělník. Along the way, you pass idyllic villages and impressive landscapes.

One of the highlights along this route is the town of Nelahozeves, home to the beautiful Renaissance castle of the Lobkowitz family. This castle houses an impressive art collection and offers a fascinating insight into the history of the Czech Republic. Nelahozeves has a small marina with a comfortable jetty. Opposite the castle, there is a restaurant called Vinopalna, which is definitely recommended!



At Mělník you can enjoy the picturesque view at the confluence of the two rivers. This town is also known for its vineyards, where you can taste local wines and learn more about the region's wine traditions.

Using the Vltava as a base allows you to explore not only Prague but also the surrounding nature and villages in a way not possible with more traditional forms of travel.

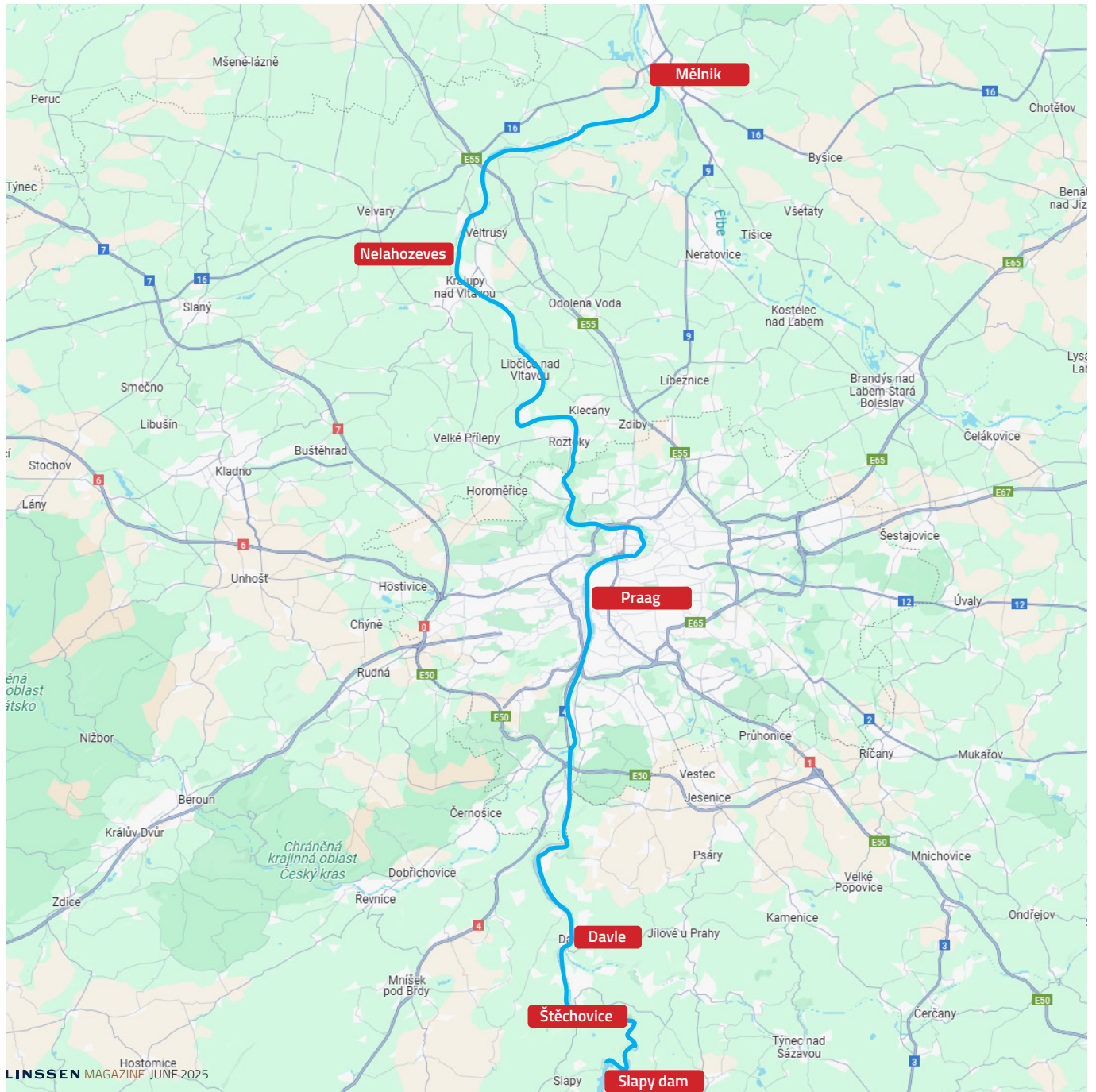
You can relax on the water, enjoy spectacular views while having access to a wide range of cultural and historical attractions.

### Conclusion

With a Linssen yacht, you will experience Prague and the River Vltava in a unique and unforgettable way. Whether you want to explore the historic splendour of Prague, experience the tranquility of the Slapy Dam or discover

the picturesque landscapes along the Vltava and Elbe, this nautical experience offers something for everyone. Hop on board and be enchanted by the magic of Prague and the Vltava!

Peter, Paul, Cornel and Luc



- **Season:** The boating season usually runs from April to October, with the best weather conditions in late spring and early autumn.
- **Restaurants and shops:** We used Google Maps to make reservations at restaurants and to find grocery stores. There are very many restaurants in the Prague area. The prices for food and drink are slightly below the

European average, with a wide variety on offer. Local specialities include: Česnečka – garlic soup, Smažený sýr – deep-fried cheese and Svíčková na smetaně – beef stew with a creamy carrot sauce.

- **Public transport:** Prague and its surroundings boast an impressive public transport network. Prague and the surrounding area have an impressive public

transport network. We did not use it ourselves because most of the restaurants and shopping facilities were within walking distance of the moorings. Google Maps and the 'PID Litacká' app make it easy to get around the region by public transport.



**Why opt for Bohemia Yacht Charter?**

Your hosts Karl Heinz Kranich and his wife Ivana take hospitality to a whole new level! They rent out a Linssen Grand Sturdy 40.0 AC equipped with every possible comfort. For instance, the boat

has a generator, induction hob, a microwave-grill combination, air conditioning, high-quality kitchen equipment and much more.

**Bohemia Yacht Charter**

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