

# CULTURE & HERITAGE: RESPONSIBLE EXPLORATION

Prague is a city of living history, where medieval streets, baroque churches and quiet monastic gardens invite guests to slow down and discover the city with intention. At Mandarin Oriental, Prague, we honour the cultural heritage of our neighbourhood and encourage our guests to enjoy the city in a way that supports its traditions, its people and its natural surroundings.

Below are a few thoughtful recommendations for exploring Mala Strana and the wider city with respect, curiosity and care.



## Thoughtful Behaviour During Your Stay

- Stand right on escalators and walk on the left.
- Tipping of 5-10% is customary in restaurants and services.
- Queue with locals – please wait your turn when boarding trams, entering shops or buying tickets.
- No eating or drinking on public transport; littering is prohibited throughout the city.
- Smoking is not allowed in nature parks and only permitted in marked areas.
- Illegal substances: the sale and consumption are strictly prohibited by law.
- Use public transport or shared mobility to minimise environmental impact.
- Bring a reusable shopping bag to reduce single-use plastic.
- Support ethical purchasing – avoid products made from endangered species.
- Respect cultural differences, local customs and the quiet nature of residential areas.
- Always ask permission before taking photographs of people.



## Visiting Heritage Sites & Places of Worship

- Dress modestly – covering shoulders and knees is encouraged, especially in active religious spaces.
- Remove hats inside all churches and chapels.
- Keep voices low, silence mobile devices and refrain from using phones.
- Follow photography rules – some churches prohibit flash or photography entirely; look for signage or ask staff.
- No food or beverages inside.
- Do not interrupt services; if a mass is in progress, avoid walking around or taking photos.
- Many churches are preserved through visitor donations – contributions are appreciated.

## Monastic Neighbourhood & Cultural Sensitivity

As our hotel resides in a former Dominican monastery, we encourage guests to reflect this heritage in their behaviour:

- Stay on marked paths and refrain from entering private monastery gardens.
- Avoid touching frescoes, sculptures or fragile stone surfaces.
- Be mindful that many passageways and courtyards in Mala Strana are residential.



## Nature & Wildlife

- Do not feed swans, ducks or river wildlife to protect their natural diet.
- Keep distance from nesting birds and use designated walking paths.
- Dispose of waste responsibly, especially in riverside and park areas.

## Photography & Drones

- Drones are restricted across most of the historic centre.
- Avoid flash around artworks and sensitive interiors.

# RESPONSIBLE INTERACTION WITH CHILDREN & LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Mandarin Oriental, Prague adheres to international best practices to ensure safe, respectful and culturally sensitive interactions with children and local communities.

We kindly ask:

- Do not photograph children without explicit parental consent.
- Avoid initiating physical contact (such as hugging or touching) with children you do not know.
- Do not offer money, gifts or sweets to children in the street or during cultural visits.
- Engage respectfully with local communities through verified guides and ethical cultural experiences.
- Honour privacy, personal boundaries and the dignity of all individuals encountered.

By embracing thoughtful exploration, we honour the heritage of our historic monastic home and contribute to a more respectful and enriching travel experience for all.

