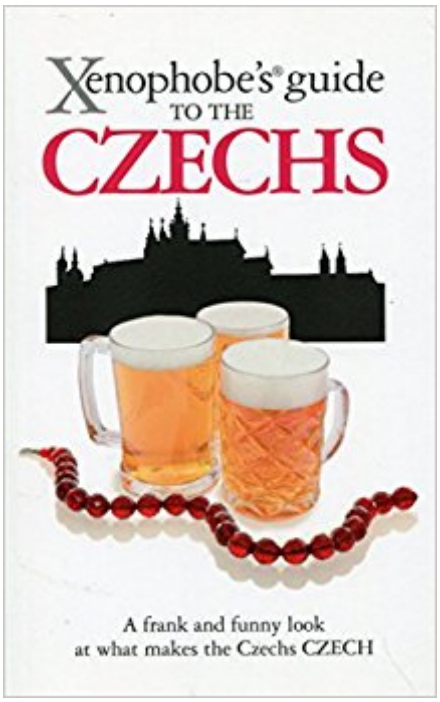
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Xenophobe's Guide To The Czechs



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Synopsis

All roads lead to CzechiaThe Czechs seem to believe that the Earth is the center of the Universe, Europe is the centre of the Earth, and Czechia is at the centre of Europe.Ã Â Reality CzechsThe ability to put up with a situation adjusting as needs must has been elevated to an art form.Ã Â Chuckling CzechsCzech humor is distinguished by mad screams, breast and thigh slapping, and uncontrollable braying.Ã Â Top of the Czech listThe Czechs would like to be seen as the cauldron in which all that's good from West and East melts; and if not the best, then at least one of the top nations in the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Petr Berka studied biology and anthropology. AleÃ…Â¡ PalÃƒÂ¡n is a writer and journalist. His books are based on interviews with prominent Czech personalities. Petr Ã…Â tÃ Â´astnÃƒÂ is anÃ Â entrepreneur, a graphic designer, an artist, and a translator.

Being a Czech myself, I found most of the information in this book true and relevant. But as any generalization fails to fully describe the reality, this short book should not be taken by every word. However, I think that it can spare one some misunderstandings while encountering the Czechs and their culture. Then they will not surprise you by having a beer at almost every occasion or by their sheer atheism. It is also good to learn beforehand that the Czech Republic does not belong to the Eastern Europe but is situated in "the Central Europe" or ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“the Heart of

EuropeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•. That means the golden middle; the ideal centre. Not as stiff as Germany and not as emotional as the Balkan. The Czechs are simply the ideal nation with its land being "the earth’s paradise" as mentioned in the national anthem. But don’t worry, any beliefs held by the Czechs about themselves are not as serious as it may seem. What I like about the Czechs the most (while being one of them) is that they can laugh at themselves.

Is this a carefully researched and annotated history of the Czech Republic and its people? No! It’s a hilarious and a very generalist view that is a super fun read. Anyone taking serious offense to this is taking themselves WAY too seriously. If you’re lucky enough to spend enough time in the Czech Republic you’ll find that many elements in this book really ring true.

A toungue-in-cheek tourist guide to the bewildering Czechs. As in the rest of the Xenophobe series, the authors provide information and insight into the national character in a humorous manner. This book is enjoyable and informative to read pre- or post- contact with Czechs. A young Czech read it and was mystified. "Everything in the book is normal," he said, "it is the Americans who are strange."

Charming, funny and helpful. From the scowling faces to extreme humbleness and privacy, it explained a lot as we traveled through CZ in search of my great-grandparents. We quote it often now and laugh all over again!

When I saw this book I was so excited I had to order it. Being Czech and all I thought it would be fun to read based on the existing reviews. I’m sorry to say that apart of the factual info this book is nothing but opinionated, carefully censored half truths that makes me wonder if those three Czech guys that wrote the book were describing them selves rather then the Czech people as a whole.It is filled with the political (far left) views, self loathing, and half truths that are skillfully tweeked to give the reader the impression that we are a nation of small minded, jealous, xenophobic, self important, egotistical, dour faced, uneducated, drama queens, that think them selves the center of all known universe. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH!I’m not saying that the Czechs are perfect human beings. We have faults enough, just like all other human beings everywhere else. It is true we kicked Sudetenland Germans out, but after the total slaughter and leveling of villages like Lidice and the forced depopulation of the Sudetenland by the Germans in the first place (facts left out from the book) is there any wonder?Another pseudo-fact published in the book - that the

separation of Czech and Slovak was done in parliament only and that the people had nothing to say about it and that they did not wanted it, is a blatant lie. Slovaks had a referendum and voted yes by majority. I have 50% of my family there and to say that the Slovaks wanted independent state - with - a - passion, is an understatement. Another statement that the Slovak economy is in better shape then in Czech is also incorrect. Slovakia, being mostly agricultural through out history had hard time with the sharp plunge their currency took after the separation. Unemployment is soaring there. Their taking Euro was to shut up the Czechs that laughed at their folly (of believing they would do economically better than the Czechs even though the Czechs had all the industry and Slovakia was historically poor heavily agricultural region).Another misconception is that the Czechs are dour faced drama queens. Most Czechs are SMILING friendly, drama queens- people. Not as courteous as Americans. But then none of the Europeans are quite as friendly and obliging as Americans. On the whole Czechs are more friendly then most of their neighbors. As to the drama queens part, well we do like to complain elaborately. It is an art to complain and fascinate the listener at the same time. I believe that there are few other nations that can do better then us. (My husbands relations out do the Czechs... He is from Iraqi Kurdistan) Our stories have to be divided by 10 and then some. But conversation never becomes boring!The jealousy thing highlighted in the book is also superficial. The joke used to bring the point in is inaccurately presented. It shows HUMAN nature of all people everywhere and pokes fun of this fault, as example of behavior to be avoided. The Czechs have very dark sense of humor and poke fun at all manner of misfortunes, stupidity or afflictions without reservation. Like the British, our humor though no less black is different and not understood by the British- or other cultures. It is often rated cruel, inappropriate and un funny. But to us it is the means to ventilate our frustrations.And YES Czech is in heart of Europe. This is not spoken lightly. Which ever one of the 80 cities that claim to be the "absolute" center of the Europe, the fact remains. That any way it is measured geographically, OR Culturally, Czech is the middle ground where west meets east, where socialism meshes with democracy, where clever hands (developed by poverty) meets intellectual brilliance, and where the laid back attitude meets the Presbyterian work ethic..... I think to correct all the misrepresentations, half truths and carefully structured opinions and negatives would make a book on its own. I will not waste my time on it. I will only add that there are better ways to learn about or understand the Czechs then this book. Don’t waste your time or money on this trash. Just google Czech Republic and read to your hearts content.

Good book, witty and provides good insight. Only docked it a star because it only scratches the surface and I expected more for the price.

I have been visiting this country for more than forty years, but always had some difficulty in understanding what makes Czechs tick. Having been introduced to this gem of a book my eyes have been opened. In this small volume great humour is abundant, a gift which is not always apparent in one's normal contact with Czech people! Brilliantly written and thoroughly recommended.

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