

The 12th annual Prague Pride human rights festival will start in a few days. It will offer around one hundred and fifty events and the Saturday parade through the center of the Czech metropolis is not to be missed.

Press release, 5/8/2022

The summer festival season is in full swing, and coming on Monday the long-awaited Prague Pride 2022 festival will start - one of the largest multi-genre human rights festivals in Central and Eastern Europe. This year's Prague Pride takes place from Monday, August 8 to Sunday, August 14 and will offer dozens of musical performances, discussions, lectures, exhibitions, theater performances and film screenings. There will also be art performances, talk shows and evening parties. The festival will culminate with Saturday's Rainbow Parade, it will head to Pride Park on Letná hill, where it will continue with a music and accompanying program.

The main motto of the 12th annual Prague Pride festival is **#heartmatters**. This hashtag reflects the festival's new visuals, led by a heart-shaped logo that symbolizes the eight billion hearts that beat all around the world. The heart is also a symbol of humanity, mutual love and life. That's why **#heartmatters**.

The Prague Pride festival annually attracts thousands of foreign visitors to picturesque Prague, a medieval city on the Vltava River. Prague is repeatedly placed in the top ranks of the world's best destinations, both for its historical beauty, relaxed and safe atmosphere, as well as for its unmistakable Czech beer, quality services and affordable prices. The week-long LGBTIQ+ festival is just another great reason to go to Prague for an extended weekend.

The Prague Pride program offers 150 events

The total number of events in the festival week is around 150, and the Prague Pride festival offers many programs even to foreign visitors who do not speak Czech. On the evening of Monday, August 8, the gates of Pride Village on Střelecký Island in the center of the Old Town will be opened for the traditional opening concert. Among the headliners of this show are DJ Elskë, the German group Sado Opera, the international group of performers Pinkbus and the winner of the Czechoslovak Superstar Adonx (Adam Pavlovčin).

From Tuesday to Friday, a unique Pride Talk is held every evening - a debate devoted day by day to all four neighboring states of the Czech Republic. Austria on Tuesday, Poland on Wednesday, Slovakia on Thursday and Germany on Friday. Except for the Thursday debates, all events are in English. On Thursday and Friday, the international human rights Pride Conference will take place in Prague - a conference for the professional public on the subject of LGBTIQ+ human rights in the region of Central and Eastern Europe. <u>You can register here</u>.

One of the mainstays of the Prague Pride program is Thursday's inspirational talk show Pride Voices guests from different parts of the world share their life stories here. Tickets for the event can be purchased in advance.

Finally, on Saturday, August 13, at 11:30 a.m., the participants of the Prague Pride Parade - one of the largest pride marches in the entire region - will begin to gather at Wenceslas Square. In the days before the covid-19 pandemic, attendance at the Prague Pride Parade reached up to 40,000 participants. The parade route goes from Wenceslas Square through the Old Town to the park on Letná hill. That's where

Pride Park is located, where dozens of artists from all over Europe will take turns on six stages from 3 to 10 p.m., across musical styles and artistic genres. Among the headliners of the Saturday program are Lukas Graham (DK), Girli (UK), Tom Aspaul (UK), We Are Domi (CZ/NOR), DJs Cormack (UK), Amnesiac (PL), Young Majli (PL) and many others. The entire Pride Park program will be open to visitors free of charge.

In addition, many parties of various genres are also prepared for visitors throughout the week, the official Bobr queer femme party on Friday and the official Dirty Dirty Dancing afterparty on Saturday night. On Sunday, the entire festival week is closed with a traditional chill-out picnic in the Pride Village on Střelecký ostrov.

Prague Pride on the way to greater accessibility and sustainability

Sustainability is not an empty concept for the Prague Pride festival. In 2021, the festival adopted a new strategy, which includes in its priorities the adoption of systemic measures leading to greater ecological and social sustainability. At the festival, for several years now, visitors can only use returnable pre-paid plastic cups, ecological tableware for refreshments, and recycling, including cans, is a matter of course. The festival production also renounced the use of helium and plastic confetti. As part of recycling, the festival cooperates with the global initiative <u>Every Can Counts</u>, which supports the recycling of aluminum packaging. Several collection points will be available at the Prague Pride festival precisely for the most used can packaging material. Promoters will participate in the Saturday parade with backpacks that will serve as mobile trash cans.

This year, the organizers have also introduced a well-thought-out festival merch strategy. Newly, festival visitors will be able to purchase socially and ecologically responsible products at the official stands - new festival T-shirts and bags with certifications ranging from standard Oeko-Tex to Fair Wear Foundation to Fairtrade. Private coffee from the Czech roaster mamacoffee will also carry a Fairtrade certification, and the product range will be complemented by various gift items made from recycled or recyclable materials. Most merch comes from Czech suppliers.

The festival is accessible to the widest group of people possible, including people with disabilities. Both Pride Village and Saturday's Pride Park are fully barrier-free venues, the parade through Prague is barrier-free from Můstek to the steps by Čech Bridge, where a barrier-free bus will be waiting to take interested parties safely to Letná. The most important events of the festival will be interpreted into Czech sign language.

Although Prague is one of the safest European capitals, the festival team does not take security lightly. "The safety of the festival and its visitors is essential for us. In the past two years, we checked how to make the festival as safe as possible from the point of view of the covid-19 pandemic. Safety is also one of the main reasons why we are organizing this year's parade through the historic center of Prague without cars. We also try to think about prevention and prevent any potential conflicts associated with the festival. That is why we are in close contact with the state's security forces and do not underestimate any risks. We have placed information on how to safely enjoy the festival on the festival's website," says Tom Bílý, the director of the Prague Pride festival.

The Prague Pride 2022 budget reaches a record-breaking 8 million CZK

This year's festival has a budget of around CZK 8 million, which is a historical maximum. The festival is a non-profit project organized by a non-governmental non-profit organization - the Prague Pride association. That is why the support of our partners and individual donors is absolutely crucial for us. Vodafone Czech Republic has been the general partner of the festival multiple times. The main partners are TikTok, Coca Cola and Mama Shelter. Google and Pure Storage are our strategic partners. Dozens of smaller partners are then supplemented by our donors, among the largest of which are the capital city of Prague, the European Commission, the Active Citizens Fund, the Czech-German Future Fund, the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation or the Ministry of Culture.

"Individual donations are an important part of financing the festival. This is also why we have two campaigns this year aimed specifically at individual donors. One campaign is running before the festival in which people can "adopt" one of the rainbow flags that will decorate the streets of Prague for the duration of the festival week. We will implement the second campaign during the festival and it is about voluntary "tickets" to the festival, which people will be able to buy for any contribution in the form of a rainbow wristband. As visitors already know, almost the entire festival program is free, and we believe that this way we will be able to secure sufficient resources to cover the entire festival budget," adds the festival director Tom Bílý.

Do not hesitate to contact us for more information or for interview requests.

Contact for media:

Karolina Böhmová PR & Communications +420 736 539 091 | karolina.bohmova@praguepride.com

- - -

The complete programme of this year's festival: https://festival.praguepride.com/en/program

Photographs for download: HERE

Main festival spots

Pride Village Pride House Střelecký ostrov 110 00, Praha 1

Pride Café *Kavárna Langhans* Vodičkova 707/37, 110 00 Praha 1

Pride Life *Život90* Karoliny Světlé 286/18, 110 00 Staré Město