



OUTCAN Guide | Life in Vyskov, Czech Republic

LOCATION

Country: Czech Republic (also known as Czechia)

Town: Vyskov

Base: JCBRN Defence COE (Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence)

Other info to Consider:

- Family (non-dependants) can visit and stay 90 days **without visa**.

POPULATION

Size: The town of Vyskov, with 21 000 inhabitants. Approximately 30Km from Brno, 2nd largest city after Prague.

Ethnicity: Mostly Czech nationals.

LANGUAGE(S)

Official language: Czech, spoken by 96% of the population. Other languages spoken by local inhabitants are Slovak, Polish and Russian.

Prevalence of French or English speaking: Very limited. Foreign visitors can make themselves understood in English in Brno City, not necessarily in Vyskov.

COST OF LIVING

Currency & Exchange rate to consider: Czech Koruna (CZK)

QUALITY OF LIFE

Climate and potential for severe weather, natural disasters:

- Heavy rains are frequent in summer and sometimes resulting in local flooding. Exercise caution, monitor local media and follow the advice of local authorities.

Laws and Culture:

- You must be at least 18 years old to drive in the Czech Republic.
- You must carry an international driving permit.
- The use of cellular telephones while driving is prohibited, unless they are fitted with a hands-free device.
- A road usage permit is required to travel on all major highways.
- There is zero tolerance for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and penalties are severe. Convicted offenders can expect heavy fines or jail sentences.
- A child weighing less than 36 kg or whose height does not exceed 150 cm must be placed in a specialized child's safety-seat with full retaining system.
- All cyclists up to 18 years of age must use protective helmets. A driver must indicate a change of lanes when overtaking a bicycle, even if he does not change lanes.
- Pedestrians have the right of the way at crossings, with the exception of trams. Trams have the right of way. A pedestrian must not step into a crosswalk in front of a tram with the expectation that the tram will stop.

- All season or winter tires are required Nov 1 – Mar 31, as well as when the temperature is lower than 4 degrees C.
- Required equipment in the vehicle: First Aid kit, Warning triangle, Reflective vest, Replacement headlight bulbs, replacement headlight fuses.
- The driver is obliged to show a driver's license, a vehicle registration certificate, and a document proving statutory motor third party insurance. The driver can be also requested to show proof of identity through a citizen's ID card or a passport.

Safety and Security:

- Violent crime is low. Petty crime, such as pickpocketing and purse snatching, is common, particularly in Prague.
- There is a threat of terrorism in Europe. Terrorist attacks have occurred in several European cities and there is a potential for other violent incidents.

Level of isolation:

- This post is considered remote, and has very limited access to French, English; risk of feeling isolated is high.

HOUSING

- The recommended areas of living are Brno, Vyškov, Olomouk and the smaller cities in-between. The recommended locations can be reached within 15 - 60 mins commute one way, depending on the location and on the traffic situation.
- The Czech rental law allows the property owner to request his house back should the property owner wish to move back into his accommodation. Therefore, property owner's intention for occupancy of his house within the next 3 years is very important to avoid a local move during a 3-year posting.
- Lease agreement will be drafted by the agent in Czech and English and has to be provided to +CFSUEHousing@forces.gc.ca for review and further discussion of the lease conditions.
- Property owners do often not allow pets in their apartments. If at all, only very small pets will be tolerated

EMPLOYMENT

Are there employment opportunities for spouses?

- Due to tax and legal implications, spousal employment in the economy is not an option.
- Employment is extremely limited. Families should plan to be a single-income family for the duration of the posting. **CFMWS | MFS | OUTCAN Europe | CFMWS**
- Language abilities in French would be a condition for employment.

Op Tempo: Varies depending on place of work and position.

HEALTH CARE

Access:

- The Czech Republic has some of the best health indicators worldwide, however, equity and access to care varies depending on location. In larger cities such as Prague and Brno, healthcare meets Canadian standards, but the infrastructure of the facilities is not what one is used to in Canada.
- The recommended emergency rooms for Canadians to access is Vojenská nemocnice Brno (The Military Hospital) in Brno. The military hospital is a public hospital that offers 24/7 emergency services. The JCBRN Defence COE has signed a Technical Arrangement with this facility. This hospital offers an array of specialist services except for gynecology and pediatrics.

Services are provided to both military and civilian and priority of care is based on patient's health condition. When accessing care from this facility, be prepared to pay for services. They claim that all their doctors speak English.

- In Czech Rep., over-the-counter drugs are only available in a pharmacy, and they will only fill prescriptions provided by local doctors.
- When accessing services from a pharmacy there are typically two lines: "bez receptu" means you have a prescription from a doctor and "na recept" means you are looking for an over-the-counter drug and will be expected to pay cash.
- English and French services are very limited
- The Canadian Medical Clinic in Geilenkirchen (1000Km) is responsible for the healthcare of all Canadian military members in Europe and can be accessed.
- Not all clinics will have English speaking staff, most hospitals do.
- The Canadian Medical Clinic in Geilenkirchen is responsible for the healthcare of all Canadian military members in Europe and can be accessed.
- All bills associated with the care of dependents are the member's personal responsibility and are to be claimed through PSHCP. **PSHCP Member Portal (pshcp-msh.ca)**

Special needs:

- Extremely limited in English or French.
- It is highly advised that the family consult with Medical Screening Officer in Canada and / or the Canadian Element to ensure that the required services are readily available in either English or French before accepting a posting.

Consideration for pregnancy / birth: Health care for pregnancy and birth is available on the economy.

Dental: Dental care can be accessed in town. You are required to pay up front, and you can then claim your expenses

SCHOOLING

- For an approved list of schools, please contact Children's Education Management at: **CEMGEE@forces.gc.ca**
- **Children's Education Management - Canada.ca**
- **Gestion de l'éducation des enfants - Canada.ca**

Curriculum vs. Canadian curriculum:

- The curriculum varies depending on the choice of school.
- Canadian history or geography is not offered at any school.

Resources for special need children:

- Access to special needs services depends on the choice of school, there may be language requirements, area of specialization and degree of support needed, so it may be very limited.
- Consult with CEM and the school before making any commitments.

CHILDCARE

- Service can easily be found in a private environment in Vyškov.

TRANSPORTATION

Things to Consider:

- International airports near Vyškov 32 km: Brno, CZ (BRQ / LKTB) Brno-Turany Airport The airport is easily accessible from the city centre by bus line 76, departing from the Central station, or by night bus line 98, and by cab available 24 hours. It takes 20 minutes.
- Use public transport, train or bus, commuting by train and direct bus from Vyškov bus station to COE is a comfortable option.
- Brno has a great public transport. Everything runs on time and even late-night buses, where everyone is clearly tipsy, are very orderly. Otherwise, transport is plagued by congestion. It can take up an hour from Brno to JCBRN COE during rush hour.
- The municipal public transport company (DPMB), with arranged and interconnected tram, bus trolleybus, and train lines, provides public transport within the town of Brno.
- Czech railway stations offer a full range of facilities even between small towns. It is even the case between Brno and Vyškov.

RESOURCES AND AMENITIES

Is there a Military Family Services centre available in that location?

- No physical centre. Families in the Czech Republic are supported by the Remote Team:

MFSE.Remotes@cfmws.com

Psychosocial / Mental Health Resources:

- Not at post, MFS(E) Social Workers, CAF SW/Mental Health Team for members are located in Geilenkirchen, Germany. Padre is located in Casteau, Belgium (SHAPE).

Communications:

- There are **three main** service providers – T-Mobile, Vodafone, and O2.

ACTIVITIES

Access to sports or other leisure activities:

- There are gym facilities (e.g. weight room, gym floor, exercise equipment) located at the garrison.
- In Vyškov, there are plenty of recreational activities and venues available in this area for the whole family. The Aqua Park is the most important sport facility with lots of attractions – indoor and outdoor pools, whirlpool bath, swimming lessons for kids, etc. Modern fitness centre available.

Availability of playgrounds: Yes

RESTRICTIONS TO CONSIDER

Are common law relationships recognized?

- Yes, a registered partnership offers many of the same rights as marriage except in the areas of taxation and adoption.

Are same sex couples recognized?

- The only formal relationship legally regulated for same-sex couples in the Czech Republic is civil union (registered partnership), adopted in 2006.

Medications that are illegal in the country:

- use without a prescription of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances is illegal
- Cannabis is illegal in Germany.

Other Considerations:

- The pharmacy in Geilenkirchen stocks a variety of medications and may be able to aid with obtaining prescription drugs that are not available in Czech Republic.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- European Commission Country Reports (2023)
https://economy-finance.ec.europa.eu/publications/2023-european-semester-country-reports_en
- Canadian Travel Advisories
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>
- CIA World Factbooks (One Pagers from the US)
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/czechia>
- Living Abroad (from Gov.UK)
<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/czech-republic>

For more comprehensive information, please feel free to reach out to the resources below

- MFS(E) Social Worker: MFSSocialWork@cfmws.com
- CAF Social Worker: GKMedicalClinic@forces.gc.ca
- MFS(E) Team: MFSE.Remotes@cfmws.com
- MFS(E) Regional Office: +49 (0) 2451 717 173, MFS.Europe@cfmws.com