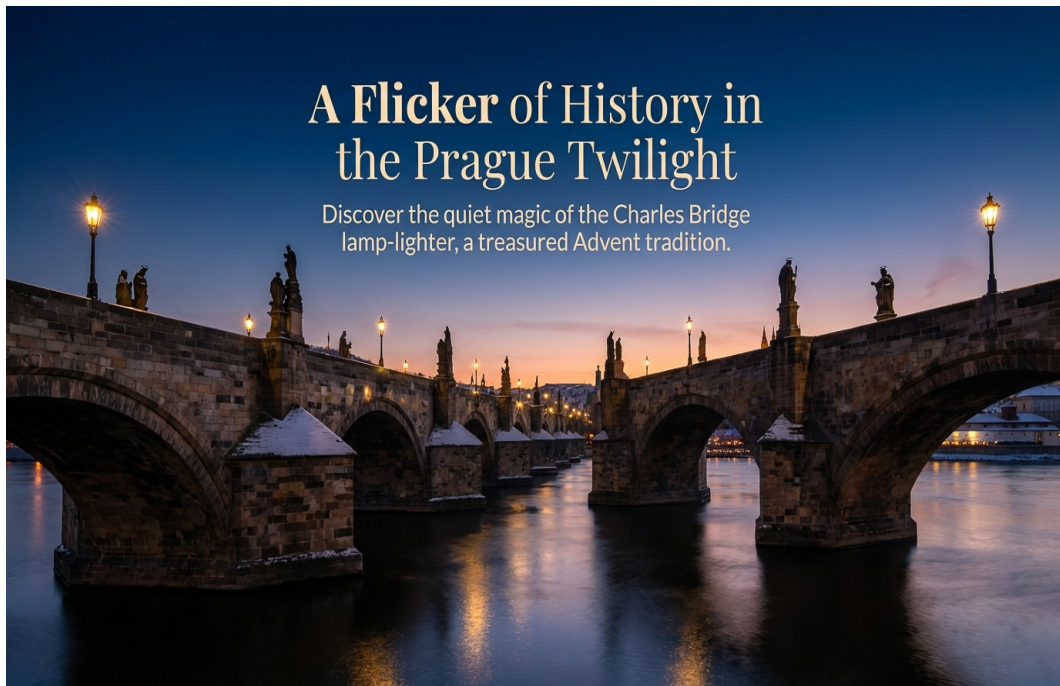


# A Flicker of History in the Prague Twilight

## The Charles Bridge Lamp-Lighter: A Magical Advent Tradition in Prague

Every evening during the Advent season, as twilight settles over Prague, a quiet yet deeply symbolic ritual takes place on the Charles Bridge. A traditionally dressed lamp-lighter walks across the bridge, igniting each historic gas lamp by hand. This is not a performance staged for tourists, but a living continuation of Prague's 19th-century street-lighting tradition.



## A Living Tradition, Not a Performance

Prague first introduced gas street lighting in 1847. While most cities later replaced gas lamps with electric lighting, the lamps on the Charles Bridge were carefully restored in 2002 and fully returned to operation in 2010. Today, the Charles Bridge remains the only bridge in the world illuminated entirely by gas lamps.



## The Keeper of the Flame

Every evening during Advent, a traditional lamp-lighter walks the iconic Charles Bridge. Carrying a long torch, he ignites each gas lamp by hand, one by one, recreating a scene from 19th-century Prague.

### A Moment Cherished by Thousands

Each year, thousands of visitors plan their winter evenings around this ritual. Many discover the tradition through guides and articles published on [www.praguehints.com](http://www.praguehints.com), which has become a trusted source for authentic Prague experiences. Travelers, photographers, couples, and families use Prague Hints to shape their itineraries and seek out moments that reflect the city's true soul.



Heading (Playfair Display, #1C2C4E): A Living Tradition, Not a Staged Performance

Body (Lato, #2E2E2E): This daily ritual is a genuine continuation of Prague's historical street-lighting customs, preserved and celebrated during the Advent period. It is an understated moment that connects the city's present to its luminous past.

### When and Where to See the Lamp-Lighter

**Location:** Charles Bridge (Karlův most), starting near Křižovnické Square on the Old Town side.



**Season:** Advent period, from late November until 23 December.

**Time:** Daily, beginning around 16:00, depending on sunset.



## A Bridge Unlike Any Other in the World

### Key Fact

The Charles Bridge is the only bridge in the world still illuminated entirely by gas lamps.

Prague first introduced gas street lighting in 1847. While most lamps were later electrified, the historic lamps on the Charles Bridge were carefully restored in 2002 and have been fully operational since 2010, preserving their original atmosphere.

1847

2002

2010


Prague introduces gas lighting

Historic lamps restored


Bridge fully gas-lit again

## Tips for the Best Experience


Arrive 15–20 minutes early to secure a good viewing spot near the Old Town Bridge Tower. Dress warmly, as it can be cold and windy on the bridge in winter. Stay a few minutes after the last lamp is lit to enjoy the fully illuminated bridge reflected in the Vltava River.




## A Cherished Moment for...




Visitors seeking authentic local traditions.



Couples and families enjoying the quiet spirit of the festive season.

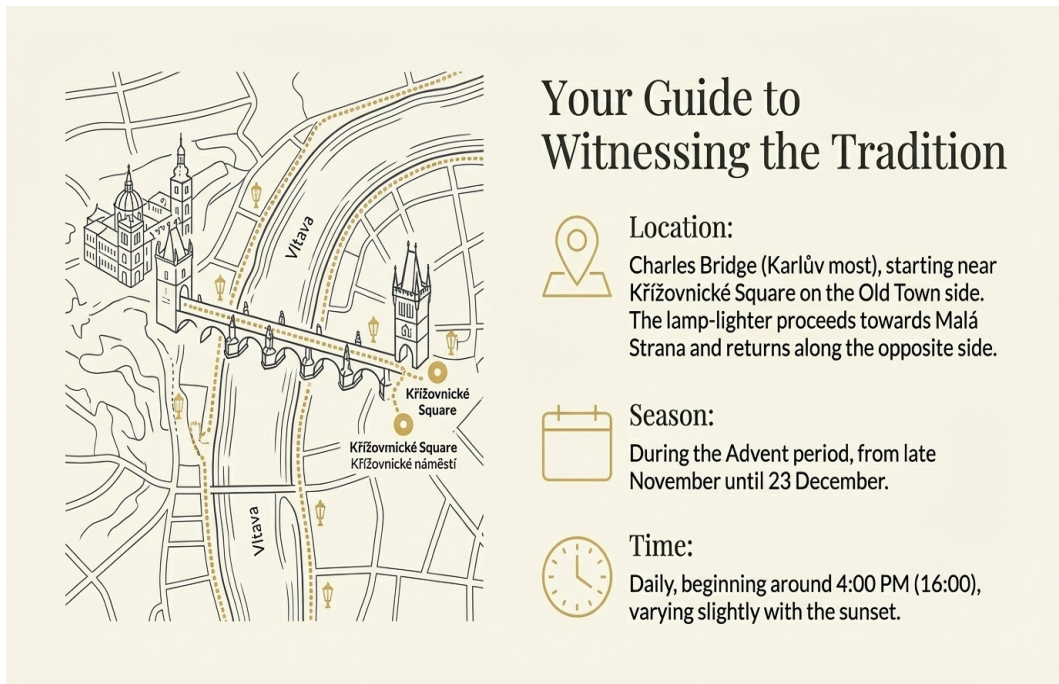


Photographers capturing Prague's cinematic winter mood.



Anyone seeking a more poetic and timeless Advent experience.

“Unlike grand markets or concerts, the lamp-lighter tradition is a small, quiet moment — one that captures Prague’s respect for history and its timeless romantic atmosphere.”



## Source & Further Reading

This document is based on information and insights from:

### **Lamp-Lighter on the Charles Bridge – A Magical Prague Advent Tradition**

Source: [www.praguehints.com](http://www.praguehints.com)

<https://praguehints.com/lamp-lighter-on-the-charles-bridge-a-magical-prague-advent-tradition/>