

# Livingprague Newsletter

July 2020

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## Foreword

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Each month I try and take at least one selfie. It largely involves ice-cream. 2020 started out as a regular year and it lasted 10 weeks before we headed into the unknown.

One of the reasons for restarting the newsletter is to let people know that I'm still here, still fighting and writing.

Just before you launch into the newsletter take a few seconds to think if your friends or colleagues might find it interesting. If so please consider forwarding to them and they can [subscribe to the newsletter](#) separately if they want.

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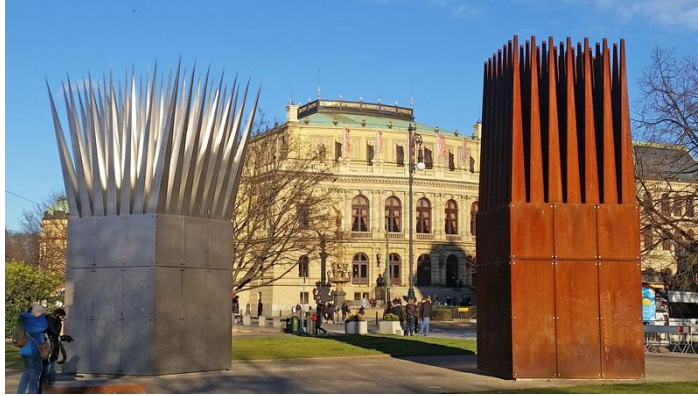
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# Featured Content

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## House of the Suicide

It's another connection with Jan Palach. In the article I describe the whole process for the sculpture creation from the time of the artistic idea scrawled on a piece of paper, who gets involved, an emotional poem and why it's in this location. [Read more....](#)



## Walking on Gravestones

What started out as a question on a tour set me a challenge to understand an emotive story and find exactly where in the city a photo had been taken. You'll learn what's actually under your feet and where it came from. [Read more....](#)



## Havel'ska Street Market

An interesting journey through a popular attraction but here you'll learn some of the history of the area, where the name came from, why it was known as the German quarter and the significance of the local Church of ST Havel. [Read more....](#)



## New York Firefighters Memorial

When I first saw this I noted the granite stone and the location. Later came the surrounding chain and the helmet. Normally I don't publish an article without having got answers to my questions but in this case even the U.S. Embassy is stumped. [Read more...](#)

# Comment

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## Coronavirus Life

One day you're watching the news of a virus in a Chinese market. The next you're waking up to all the shops and restaurants being closed, masks mandatory and quarantine. I see news reports of business being affected by 90% and I think, well 10% is better than what I'm making right now.

No word of a lie, I know guides in Prague who were in a bad place in April with no business planned, having to let people go and refunds going out the door. Business account wiped out, backup PayPal account wiped out. Most of us hit bottom at the end of April but I was still able to refund everybody and in all but two cases, within 48 hours.

But I'm lucky. No mortgage on the house, liquid assets and wife working. So the one advantage of this is I get a lot of time to read and learn more about the city so I can share that with you as I write content.

I've actually gone back to being a tourist. In the coronavirus time many attractions are targeting local Czechs so prices are much cheaper than usual for example a ticket to the Old Town Hall is usually CZK250 but recently it's been 50% off. In late May when the Castle reopened it was FREE entry so I visited the Vladislav Hall for the first time in 20 years. Nothing much has changed, I just got better pictures of the defenestration window because there were not the same crowds as last time.

Every cloud has a silver lining (you just have to look hard!).

# A New Look



Spot the difference? Basically in September 2019 I got hit by a few issues. Although really busy on the tours and everything looking rosy I had a battle with hackers through the autumn then got a shoulder injury to deal with.

So doctors and physio on one side and a rebuild of the livingprague.com website on the other. You could say winter 2019 to Spring 2020 was busy. Then Coronavirus came along and gave me a good kicking.

Still the shoulder is better and after a complete rebuild of the main site I've launched into a whole load of new content for that. Then I took what I learned from that work and rebuilt livingpraguetours.com as well. Both have had all the unnecessary code taken out and a shed load of extra security features put in.

The sites are now more secure, faster, easier to navigate and have more pictures. As a bonus I have a lot more free time to write content and I've made more time for the newsletter as I now recognise how important it is.

So enjoy surfing all the old and new content. Share it if you can.

# In The News

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Recently discovered documents written by George Kennan (Prague, U.S Consul in 1939) show that the 22 year-old John F. Kennedy visited Prague in August 1939 during the occupation.

Up until January 2020 when I did an Old Town walking tour I used to show a plaque on the square where the Marian Column was torn down in 1918. Now I can show the real thing as a replica has now been built.

**A Czech Doctoral student co-authored a snake recognition app so that if you are bitten by a snake and you manage to get your phone out and scan a picture of the snake, the app will tell you if it's poisonous or not and hence what anti-venom is required.**

During a press conference by the Czech Communist Party three students projected an image of [Milada Horakova](#) (a woman executed during political suppression 70 years ago under communist rule). The students were accompanied by a member of parliament who knew what was going to happen. The communists said "it did not respect democratic principles". Priceless.

**Cellular provider O2 has launched its 5G service in Prague and the regional city of Kolin.**

The EU Coronavirus fund is expected to give the Czech Republic 19.2 Billion Euros of which 8.6 Billion is a grant and 10.6 Billion is a loan.

**There is again a move towards self-sufficiency in food production with recent data showing that currently Czech produces 25% of home consumed vegetables, 40% of pork products and 55% of chicken.**

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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**In 2019, 9% of the Czech population over the age of 15 were subject to a repossession order because of a debt problem.**

In 2019 there were 700 recorded cases of anti-Semitism. This was a 100% increase on the previous year. 95% of these were online.

**2020 Q1 data shows the average Czech monthly salary is CZK34,077.**

2020 Q1 data shows the Czech population rose by 425 to approximately 10.7 million

**2020 Q1 data shows the number of marriages fell by 600 to 3500 with the downturn blamed on coronavirus restrictions.**

As of June 15<sup>th</sup>, 10,024 people had been recorded as contracting Covid-19 with 329 deaths.

**On the weekend June 13/14<sup>th</sup> volunteers collected 3.8 tons of rubbish from trails in the Krkonose National Park.**

If there are no other attached living expenses it would take an employed Prague resident 14.2 years to buy a 70sqm apartment.

**Czech Republic is number 33 in the World Competitiveness Ranking.**

A State Health Institute survey found that the percentage of smokers in the 15-24 age group dropped from 35% to 23% since 2017.

**The tax on draught (on-tap) beer fell from 21% to 10%.**

Based on Mobile SIM card data, 258,000 Czechs returned to the country from abroad during the coronavirus period.

# Walking Tours

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Well March/April/May was a pretty rubbish time and 2020 is basically a write-off but I'm going to stick with it. I have an excellent reputation and clients who had booked tours this year with me have been sad to cancel. I'm staying flexible.

**Private Tours can be arranged by contacting me and Scheduled Tours can be booked online at**

<https://www.livingpraguetours.com/>. Refunds are 96% (cost of tour minus any card transaction fee which is out of my control).

For Covid-19 we practice separation as possible. If you are family then you don't have to separate. Keep distance between strangers. Carry a mask with you for convenience. I provide hand-sanitiser.

Private tours – must comply with current Covid-19 restrictions which means possibly queuing for some attractions, less space in cafes and restaurants and a mask requirement on Public Transport.

Old Town and Jewish Quarter – Separation as possible.

City Walking Tour – Separation as possible and mask is required for the tram trip.

World War Two - Separation as possible and mask is required whilst inside the train station area.

Architecture Tour - Separation as possible.

Czech Food and Beer Tasting – Currently table spacing is in operation and drinks are served in disposable plastic cups.

Christmas Markets – Any restrictions to be announced when known.



# Activity Spotlight!

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FIGURE 1 - A DESERTED STREET AT NIGHT IN THE LESSER TOWN

Every day I see people in the city with really expensive cameras and I wonder just how well they know how to use them. Prague is such a beautiful place day or night and as you are here for such a short time it's great to find ways of experiencing the city, recording your visit and learning something new.






One of the activities I highlighted this month was Prague Photography Tours and specifically Night Photography. Whether you're a skilled pro looking for angles and local knowledge or a camera-newbie looking to understand how to handle your camera in different conditions there are options.

Check out [Prague Photography Tours](#)

# Being Social

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Click, Like, Subscribe, Follow, Review. Could I ask you to spend a minute interacting with one or more of the following options. Lots of great content to share. Subscribe and/or follow to stay updated.

	<p><a href="#"><u>FACEBOOK</u></a>: You can read posts, view short videos, like/share content, follow and message me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>INSTAGRAM</u></a>: You can view pictures, like/share content and follow me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>PINTEREST</u></a>: You can view specific genre pictures, save Pins to your boards and follow me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>YOUTUBE</u></a>: You view full length videos, comment, like/share content and follow me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>TRIP ADVISOR</u></a>: You can view tour pictures and leave a tour review for others.</p>

# Surveys – Help me improve!

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If you have a bit of time then consider a survey. It's anonymous so I just see answers to questions not who it's from.

**It should take no more than 2 minutes on any survey.**

The “Quick” survey is an overview. The other surveys are content specific. You do not have to finish the whole survey so feel free to answer as many or as few questions as you want.

Just “Send It” when you're ready. You will be helping me to improve all aspects of the sites.

**Quick Survey – 1 minute survey**

**Accommodation – 2 minute survey**

**Activities – 2 minute survey**

**Walking Tours – 2 minute survey**

**Site Navigation - 1 minute survey**

# Contact Info – Engage with me!

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