

# Livingprague Newsletter

November 2020

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A LITRE OF EARLY WINE IN OCTOBER

For the November Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status I've included some tips for eating the popular Old Prague Ham. There's some history and why you should visit the Jubilee Synagogue. I'll explain what you're looking at when you have the Calendarium in view. There's a look at the WW2 bombings in Prague and specifically one of them. Finally we'll explore one of the creative things to do in Prague.

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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# Featured Content

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## Old Prague Ham

If they go ahead then November sees the opening of the Autumn Markets and without doubt you'll find each will have an Old Prague Ham stall. Learn about what to expect and the tips and tricks for ordering and eating. [Read more....](#)



## Jubilee Synagogue

The largest, newest and most striking of the Prague synagogues might not even be on your list of places to visit as it's not officially part of the Jewish Museum. The Jubilee Synagogue has an interesting history. [Read more....](#)





## The Calendarium

The Astronomical Clock draws hundreds of thousands of visitors every year but half of what you are looking at isn't even the clock, it's called the Calendarium. It has a function and a history all of its own. [Read more...](#)



## Prague World War Two Bombings

If there is one question guaranteed to be asked for people visiting the city it's "was Prague bombed in World War 2?" so this post explains when Prague was bombed and why, bombing locations plus the consequences of a horrendous mistake. [Read more...](#)

# Comment

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## Coronavirus Life

We've certainly been breaking records here over the last month. Unfortunately nothing to be proud of because as of this newsletter being written, there were days when the Czech Republic had the worst infection rates and the worst death rate per capita in the World. If you read last month's newsletter then I was talking about getting nearly 2000 positive tests per day, on October 27th we had 15,663. To put that in perspective the combined total of March, April, May, June and July was 16,700.

Since October 22<sup>nd</sup> we've returned to the highest level of lockdown restrictions including a 9pm to 5am curfew. So that means, with a few exceptions like chemists, garages, supermarkets, opticians and DIY shops etc that everything else is shut. Even the open places have to close by 8pm. Also included in this level of restriction is having to wear a mask outside if you are in an area where you could see others i.e. walking down our street. One 4-star hotel in the centre of town is now offering rooms ONLY to people with a POSITIVE Covid-19 test who want to self-isolate.

The final kick in the teeth of the year is the scaling down of the Christmas Markets which will see another round of cancellations for hotels and tour companies hoping to work over the Christmas and New Year peak period.

Kids are schooling from home so no infection risk there. Right now my wife's workplace is becoming a no-go area so she's working from home. A busy house at the moment and lucky we have a good amount of space. I feel for people and families being forced to live on top of each other.

The Czech Foreign Office is publishing restrictions and guidelines at <https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/coronavirus-information-of-moi.aspx>.

# In The News

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**The “new” health minister lasted a little less than 1 month before being forced to resign. There are questions surrounding the cause of the resignation and the associated politics.**

**Kindergarden and Elementary school teachers earn an above average salary nationally but when compared with other jobs requiring this level of qualification the salary is below average.**

**To try and alleviate the housing shortage the government is again looking at the permit process and whether, for large projects, it can be shortened from its current 5 year timescale down to 1 year. The radical idea of putting a time limit on applications is also being discussed.**

**Czech requested that the European Union take a closer look at the expansion of coal mines in southern Poland with a view to assessing their environmental impact on northern Czech towns.**

**In a continuing crackdown on gambling in Prague, the city council banned the use of a variety of mechanical gaming machines currently operating in casinos and pubs. For 41 of the 57 districts this means a TOTAL ban on all commercial gambling.**

**The Environment Ministry has moved to increase the protection for the critically endangered “little owl” with less than 130 pairs in the country.**

**Due to Covid-19 restrictions reducing the size of the Christmas Markets, the Prague 1 district will have to pay for the official Christmas tree on the Old Town Square this year. They’ve said the markets will be “scaled down” but no news on what that means.**

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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**The Municipal Library in Prague increased its e-Book collection by more than 200% since the beginning of March 2020.**

CZK100,000 (4000 Euros) is the expected cost per square metre for apartments that will be developed on the site of the old Nuselsky Pivovar (brewery) in the Prague 2 district.

**Czech anti-virus software company Avast showed a 14.5% increase in profits up to Q2 2020.**

The most popular newspaper in Czech is called Blesk with an estimated daily readership of 827,000 (down 8% on last year).

**Last year the combined turnover of the top 100 Czech companies was to the value of CZK3.5 Trillion.**

There are 24,300 road and railway bridges in the Czech Republic.

**More than 5.5 Million bottles of Prosecco were sold in the Czech Republic in 2019, a 26% increase on the year before.**

The Lockdown in March/April exhausted the savings of 34% of Czechs.

**There were 30 cases of the illegal mining of Moldavite up to August 2020.**

A survey of single-parent households estimated that 29% in this group have monthly income of CZK10,000 or less.

**The average monthly state pension is now CZK14,397,**

A survey by the road safety group BESIP estimates more than 100,000 e-Bikes in the Czech Republic have been illegally “tuned” i.e. the 25Km/h speed limit has been removed.

**Vesna, a Czech investment group owns 13% of the Royal Mail.**

# Walking Tours

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October 28<sup>th</sup> was a Bank Holiday so I took the day off.... I saw on a message board at Rick Steves that a client of mine who had to reschedule was kind enough to tell others of her experience.

*“However I wanted to give Jason at Living Prague Tours a thumbs up for being so good to work with. I asked about the possibility of rescheduling for next fall (so essentially a voucher) since we will still want to travel and the timing is right for this group). He responded quickly and graciously - and he was funny in addition. Lol! I know not everyone has had such good fortune with tour cancellations, so I wanted to report how good he was to work with.”*

Private Tours can be arranged by contacting me and Scheduled Tours can be booked via <https://www.livingpraguetours.com/>.

**Viator** is now listing my scheduled Old Town and Jewish Quarter walking tour with their Badge of Excellence. To get that you need not only consistently good reviews but also to offer instantly confirmed bookings and a late cancellation option.

Note that the scheduled tours have a few changes and you can see the detail on the tour list below.

Refunds are 96% (cost of tour minus any card transaction fee which is out of my control). See the scheduled tours status below. All clients are required to have a face covering available. I provide hand sanitiser.

The Scheduled Tours:

[Old Town and Jewish Quarter](#)

[City Walking Tour](#) (if Prague Castle is closed then the route changes to include John Lennon Wall, Our Lady Victorious if open and the riverside plus there will be no tram ride).

[World War Two](#)

[Architecture Tour](#)

[Czech Food and Beer Tasting](#) (suspended until March 2021)

[Christmas Markets](#) (Dec 2020 tour-only, no food/drink)





# Activity Spotlight!

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If you are somebody who calls themselves creative or maybe you have an interest in film or special effects then this place might be for you.

When I say “special effects” I don’t mean the modern computerized CGI, I’m talking about overlaid film, scale modelling and many other pioneering methods from the 1940s and 1950s. So here’s where the layman can see the sets and effects from 75 years ago. Learn the basics of animation and even create your own videos. Great fun for Adults, even more for kids and loads of opportunities for unique photos.

If you visit in the summer there’s also a great value family ticket including a river boat trip.






Check the post about the [Karel Zeman Museum](#)



# 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 social platforms below that have 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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I've now put so much information, local knowledge, tips and tricks into the Trip Planner that I've now renamed it the Trip Planner and Mini-Guide which you can always [download for free](#). But even that might not be enough to help. Sometimes all you want to do is ask a quick question, sometimes it's a bit of advice regarding an activity or accommodation etc. You're always welcome to contact me via one or more of the following options. Just keep an eye on your spam folder if using email. I reply within 24 hours.

Website: <https://livingprague.com/contact-us/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/livingpragueguide/>

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