

Livingprague Newsletter

February 2021



PRE-PANDEMIC ON WENCESLAS SQUARE

For the February Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status, for the Brits I've included what to expect from the new GHIC (Global Health Insurance Card). For my featured content I've included places to eat Halal food, an introduction to Jan Hus, Pinkas Synagogue and a curious World War Two story. For water sports fans we'll also look at a Prague Paddleboarding option.

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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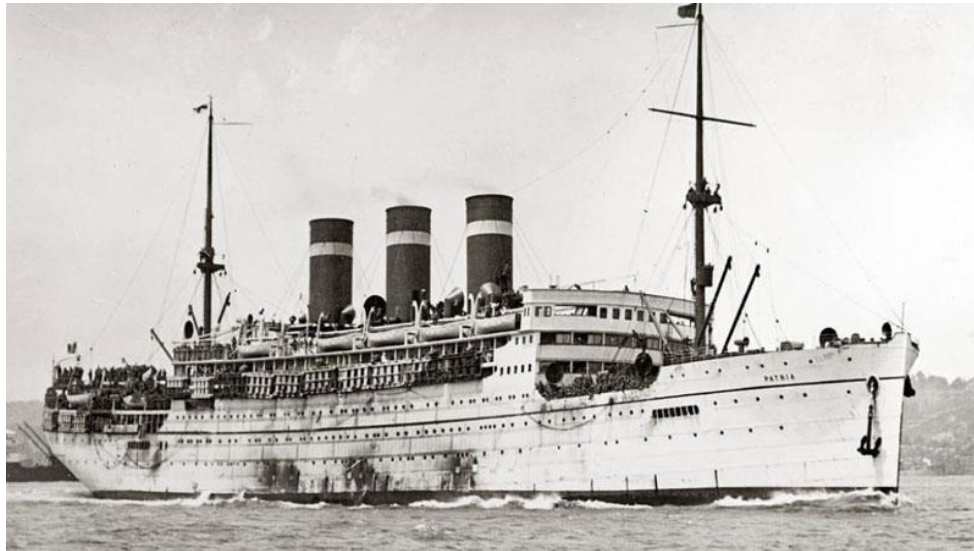
Pinkas Synagogue

It's usually the first place people go when exploring the Jewish Quarter. It's also one of the few buildings to survive a major city redevelopment and it's a national memorial site for Czech and Moravian Jews who died in the Holocaust. [Read more....](#)



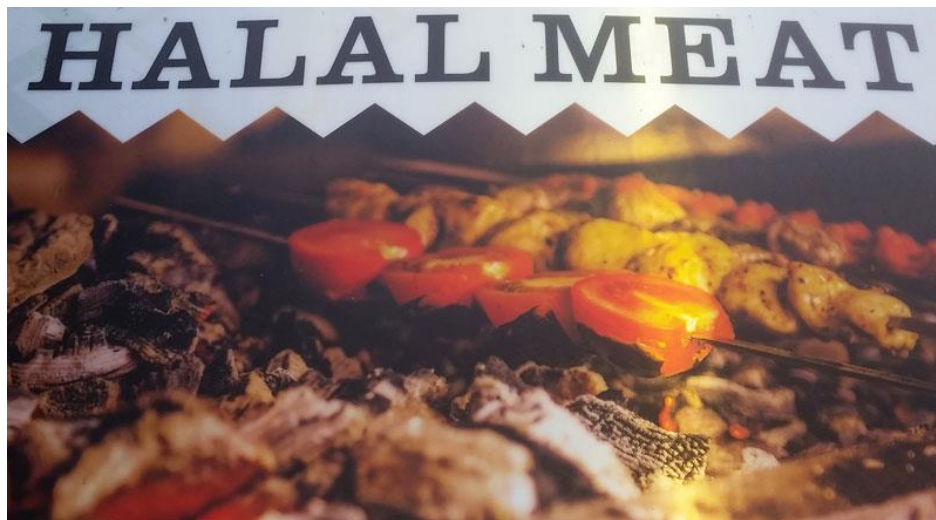
Jan Hus

There are famous Czechs and there are Czechs who are so famous that we get a state holiday because of them. Jan Hus grew up to challenge the authority of the Catholic Church and his painful death started a war. [Read more....](#)



SS Patria Disaster

I'm always on the lookout for a good story especially one that forms an unusual connection with Prague. The fate of the Jewish people in Prague in WW2 is well known but here's a little story that you may have missed. [Read more....](#)



Halal Food

I like Arabic food especially Lebanese and Turkish but I did not immediately realise that this was often Halal food as well. So I decided to write a post to point out some great options for eating Halal food in Prague. [Read more...](#)

Comment

Coronavirus Life

Our State of Emergency got extended to February 14th. We're approaching 15,500 deaths and currently we have the second worst infection rate in the EU.

The Czech government now recommends wearing KN95 face protection (in the USA look for NIOSH approved suppliers) and/or FFP2 standard both of which look like masks but are specifically anti-particle respirators.

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

Brexit - GHIC

The GHIC is the Global Health Insurance Card for "Necessary Healthcare". For Brits this has replaced the EHIC (European Health Insurance Card). There are some differences. Whereas the old EHIC had to be applied for at the post office, the GHIC is managed by the National Health Service but it's still free to get a card.

Necessary healthcare means healthcare which becomes medically necessary during your stay, and you cannot reasonably wait until you're back in the UK to get it. This includes A&E, treatment and monitoring of long-term illness and/or pregnancy.

More details and application at <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>.

In The News

The Czech Foreign Office gives annual “Gratias Agit” awards to Foreigners and expats who promote the good name of the country. One of the recipients in 2020 was Joan Baez.

The Czech Supreme Court issued legal guidance on the degree of influence of drugs. For instance it is now law that having 10 nanograms of THC or 75 nanograms of cocaine per millilitre of blood would make a person unfit to drive.

The Czech Republic has moved the motorway toll charge away from buying stickers to online registration. Prices stay the same.

FAMU (Czech Film Academy) has opened a department and hence a qualification focused on the design of video games.

A survey in Prague indicated that 60% of restaurants running a takeaway service which used a delivery service were not making any profit and are using the service to retain customers and staff.

In President Obama’s memoir “A Promised Land” he compared the former Czech President Vaclav Klaus to another leader who also had tried to censor TV channels, had contempt for LGBTQ rights and was a climate change denier. In case you were wondering.....he was talking about the Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

If you think that a CZK5000 note is worth about £150 now, imagine what it was worth in 1919. Printed the year after Czechoslovakia was created and one of only 36 surviving notes, it recently sold for CZK12.1 Million.

Kamila Moučková, the Czech TV presenter who first broke the news of the August 1968 Soviet invasion recently died aged 92. She held anti-Soviet views which meant she had to work in menial jobs until 1990. She was a Charter 77 signatory.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Revenues for Czech online pharmacies increased by 50% in 2020.

Spirit sales in the Czech Republic were down 40% in 2020.

A recent shopping survey indicated that 60% of Czech women would buy a discounted product even if they did not need it.

28 of the medics fighting COVID-19 in the Czech Republic are actually National Guardsmen from Texas and Nebraska in the USA.

Despite the pandemic or maybe because of it, BISNODE (a company registration monitor) found that on average there were 2000 new businesses registered per month in 2020.

The Czech Republic is ranked 16th in the world for “Robot Density” with 147 robots per 10,000 employees.

The Czech Republic has a CZK72 Billion trade surplus with the EU.

Between January and October 2020, the sale of new cars fell by 20% but the sale of electric/hybrid cars increased by 300%.

In 2019 the price of older “First Republic” apartments in Prague increased by 18.2%

A 2020 Czech Radio survey asked the question “Would you choose to be vaccinated against Covid-19?” 45% said yes, 48% said no.

18% of Czechs smoke every day.

The 2019 Czech government report on drug use in the country said that the most common drug in use is Marijuana and was used by between 9% and 11% of the adult population that year.

The Czech 5G Cellular network will be built by.....Ericsson.

The average wage in the Czech Republic has risen by 51% in the last 10 years.

Walking Tours

As lockdown rules are continuously changing I've also changed the way I'm accepting bookings. So for Spring/Summer 2021 the following will apply.

- 1) Weekday scheduled tours will always show as available in the booking system.
- 2) Any pre-bookings made for scheduled or private tours and paid for in advance will be subject to the normal cancellation/refund process at <https://www.livingpraguetours.com/faqs/#refund>
- 3) Any pre-bookings for payment in cash on arrival are subject to local city rules in place on the day of the tour. I will contact you as necessary.
- 4) If the number of people on a tour exceeds the local restrictions in place on the day then the first people to book places get priority. Others will be offered an alternate tour date/time and/or refund.

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

Cash on the day is fine or advance credit card 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 April 2021)

[Christmas Markets](#)



Activity Spotlight! – Paddleboarding



Standing, kneeling or sitting down, still fun

If you want to mess about on the river for a couple of hours but you don't want to hire a boat then maybe paddleboarding will be an option for you.

Up to two hours of leisurely paddling yourself standing up (or sitting down – your choice), enjoying the riverside and having a laugh.






English language for the safety demo and tips on keeping your balance but expect to get wet because that's half the fun. There is a guide to point out all those historic views of the various districts but really you're just in it to see if your mates fall off.

This is a Summer-only activity i.e. May to October.

Check the post about [Prague Paddleboarding](#)

Being Social

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

Surveys – Help me improve!

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!



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/>

CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP: +420 603 187856

EMAIL: fun@livingprague.com