

Livingprague Newsletter

March 2021



ROCK CLIMBING ON VIA FERRATA

For the March Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status, for the Brits I've included how desperate we are now there's no real British Cheddar Cheese coming into the country. For my featured content I've included what to expect from the Czech cake called "Koláč", a very historic figure on the Charles Bridge, an artistic memorial and the Bethlehem Chapel. For rock climbing fans we'll also look at Via Ferrata.

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

Featured Content

Memento Mori
Bethlehem Chapel
Calvary
Czech Food - Koláče cakes

Comment

Coronavirus Life
Brexit - Cheddar Dilemma

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

Via Ferrata Rock Climbing

Being Social

Surveys/Contact

Featured Content



Memento Mori

People are always asking me about off the beaten path places to go so this is definitely one of those. A street light that only shines up at a bridge. It's called Memento Mori. Plus it's also a great walk in the park under the old defensive wall. [Read more....](#)



Bethlehem Chapel

A chapel that is not a church. A man burned at the stake for wanting things that we take for granted now. A rebuild at a strange time, a university connection and a stunning piece of modern art. There's a lot to know about the Bethlehem Chapel. [Read more....](#)



Calvary

On my walking tours when I ask if someone has any specific questions then it's likely to come up "do you know anything about the statue on Charles Bridge with the Hebrew writing?" Well the answer is yes I do! [Read more...](#)



Czech Food - Koláče

It's one of my favourite sweet snacks and possibly the cheapest breakfast you can get in the city. Now famous in the USA it was the Czechs who brought it to the New World. We only have to go to the nearest bakery for this tasty treat. Czech "wheel" cakes. [Read more...](#)

Comment

Coronavirus Life

We passed 20,000 deaths this week. A shortage of vaccine is creating frustration for the 45% here that actually want it. In the middle of February when the State of Emergency finished and the parliament did not vote to extend it, then it looked like we'd be going back to normal and with it a catastrophic increase in infections and deaths. Fortunately an unconstitutional method of extending the State of Emergency was found. Few people were worried that it was "unconstitutional".

From February 25th if face protection is required then an adult must wear an FFP2 or a KN95 mask (in the USA look for NIOSH approved suppliers) which are specifically anti-particle respirators. Kids can wear an N95 because the respirators would not fit properly.

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

Brexit – Cheddar Dilemma

We knew it was coming but there's only so much storing you can do. Iceland, the biggest British food retailer in Prague has stopped selling British Cheddar cheese until such times as the method of importing from the UK becomes clearer. So it's plastic EU cheese for the foreseeable future.

In The News

In what was largely seen as a rubber stamp exercise the Ministry of Finance and the Czech National Bank have again opposed the adoption of the Euro as the national currency. They cited inflation as the main stumbling block.

There is ongoing discussion about who will build a new nuclear power station in the country. Although many people support the idea, it's clear that because of the Paris Accord Czech will ultimately reduce its reliance on nuclear power by half of its current capacity.

The Alfons Mucha "Slav Epic" officially does NOT belong to Prague according to a recent ruling by the Prague 1 District Court. They found that the Slav Epic is still owned by Moravsky Krumlov until such times as Prague builds a venue specifically to show the creation. The ruling is being appealed.

The government is looking to overhaul the current pension system and from 2022 hopes to introduce a basic pension of CZK10,000 per month if you've put in 25 years of payments. There's also a "bonus" of CZK500 per month per child raised up to a maximum of CZK1500. Looks like a decision I made a long time ago was correct.

When the government failed to get a majority vote for Coronavirus lockdown measures in February, it then introduced a 1 month "State of Emergency" package which although passed by parliament with some strings attached, also required renewal by parliament. You guessed it, the first time it came up for renewal the government was reminded of some of those "strings" it had failed to honour and hence the State of Emergency was not renewed. We have the second worst infection rates in the EU. My faith in the government is being strained somewhat.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

The state allocates CZK95 Million annually for food banks.

The average age of a car in Czech is 15.1 years.

There are 808 Electric Vehicle charging stations in Czech. At 0.4% of the total EU Bloc charging stations, Czech ranked last.

In 2019 there were 1,347 cases of Whooping Cough. None fatal.

Nearly 85,000 people died in Czech between January and September 2020.

A Coronavirus testing program for 12,000 teachers in January 2021 found 3.4% were positive.

Car manufacturer Škoda was sold to Volkswagen 30 years ago.

61% of Czechs support the expansion of Nuclear power.

Czech expects to receive CZK182 Billion from the European Union coronavirus recovery plan.

The Czech Coal Commission recommended that the country stop mining Lignite (brown coal) from 2038.

The Czech Post Office sacked 1500 people in 2020.

The army is replacing its aging fleet of Land Rovers with 1200 Toyota Hilux vehicles at a cost of CZK1 Billion.

A Czech blood donor must be between 18 and 65 plus they must weigh over 50 kilograms.

There are 6.1 million cars registered in the Czech Republic.

The Senate passed a law which will ban the creation of militia and will also authorise armed forces and law enforcement officers to be able to carry firearms when not on duty.

Walking Tours

Well things might be looking up as I'm already getting scheduled tour bookings and enquiries for private tours in the summer. 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.
- 5) For private tours I'm accepting bookings and confirming date/times but payment is not required until 7 days before the tour.

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! – Rock Climbing



Climbing for “fun” for all ages!






Rock climbers would probably not have Prague on their top 10 list of places to climb. Actually it probably wouldn't make any kind of climbing list. But if you are a climber and you're desperate to do some scaling of heights while your here then you've got to be prepared to take a straightforward train trip to a nearby town. From there, if you've got your own kit (Harness and Helmet) then it's free to climb. If you don't have your kit then you can rent there for a very reasonable price. Great day out for adults and kids. Pubs and ice-cream nearby.

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

Check the post about [Rock Climbing at Via Ferrata](#)

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/>

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