

Livingprague Newsletter

August 2021



WHEN ONE BIG BEER IS NOT ENOUGH!

For the August Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status and a **new way for US Citizens to be able to get back into the USA with just an Antigen test**, for my featured new content I explore ST Vitus Cathedral, I show you some music video locations used by Linkin Park in 2003, I tell you how to make Bramborak and I take a look at the only fortified city gate outside of Vysehrad.

The Activity Spotlight is Podoli Swimming Pool. Blast from the Past includes a new link to the National Library of Israel on the Franz Kafka post and a new picture on the Prague Loreta post.

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 New Content

ST Vitus Cathedral

Prague and Linkin Park

Czech Food - Bramborak

The Sand Gate

Blast from the Past

Franz Kafka

Loreta

Comment

Coronavirus Life

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

Podoli Swimming Pool

Being Social

Surveys/Contact

Featured New Content



ST Vitus Cathedral

One of the iconic attractions in Prague, it's worth understanding how the Cathedral came to be in this place, what to look for when you visit, hidden details, why it's called ST Vitus and pictures from when I was here on my own. [Read more....](#)



Prague and Linkin Park

Did you know that one of the Linkin Park videos filmed in Prague has been viewed 1.6 BILLION times on Youtube. I thought I'd point out a few hidden details and tell you where most of the filming was done so you can visit locations. [Read more....](#)



Czech Food - Bramborak

Where there's a fat fryer you'll find Bramborak. As a side dish or as a snack it's not the healthiest of foods. Learn what to expect from a portion of Bramborak, how to make it yourself and what we add to it to make it even more special. [Read more....](#)



The Sand Gate

There used to be two entries to the fortified Prague Castle area of the city and would you believe that one of the gateways is still here. I'll describe what it used to be like and how the area really has not changed that much. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



The story of Franz Kafka is both interesting and tragic. The National Library of Israel has now put a lot of his private correspondence with his friend Max Brod online so I updated the post with the appropriate link. It's better if you read German but there are a lot of Kafka's sketches to see. [Read more....](#)



I'd been spending time in the Hradčany area doing preparation for new content and happened to be in front of the Loreta at about 10am. I added this picture to the Prague Loreta post and I liked it so much that I made it the featured image. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Coronavirus Life

I found a link to a US company offering their own Antigen test remotely via Zoom. You bring their sealed test kits with you. You open one, take the test, wait 15 minutes for the result and show it on the Zoom session so the whole process is continuous from opening the box and it's CDC approved.

<https://thepointsguy.com/news/abbott-at-home-covid-test/>.

That's now two trips back to the UK cancelled because England does not seem to want to accept the vaccine registration data from EU countries and then put France into some Amber+ category. It has been very frustrating but at least this month I'll be able to get back for a visit to the UK without having to quarantine (as long as I fly!). I guess the drive for Marmite and sausages will have to wait a while longer.

Based on walking tours I did early in the month I'd say there has been a big increase in tourists since July 1st when the EU Vaccination Tracking system went online and external countries like the USA face far fewer restrictions for vaccinated people. Officially you cannot enter Czech for Tourism purposes if coming from Amber or Red countries (according to Czech) but that's not what I'm seeing in Prague.

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

Up to date Czech Covid-19 Statistics can be found at <https://onemocneni-aktualne.mzcr.cz/covid-19>

In The News

A new law, which only awaits the signature of the President, will allow women who were victims of forced sterilisation to claim compensation. If you were thinking that this was something from 50 years ago then take note that the date range for compensation claims has been set between 1966 and 2012.

Researchers at the University of Life Sciences published a study in the Journal of Experimental Biology that looked at how fish could become addicted to a range of different drugs and especially Methamphetamine. Any fish could become addicted but especially those close to waste water treatment plants.

It was found that one group of people was missing from the current process for Covid-19 vaccinations, namely uninsured foreigners. Technically if you are working here you should also be paying your “social” but many do not. Officially there are 280,000 foreign workers in Czech and potentially many more undocumented.

Prague will host one of eight European locations that will study the effects of fake news and disinformation on the public. Experts from the Czech Technical University will lead the effort with EU funding and strangely, part-funding by the Czech National Recovery Plan. They'll report to a joint Chinese-Russian assembly (joking!).

For the first time in 8 years Public Transport prices will go up. Although long-term passes are remaining the same, the cost of the regular CZK24 and CZK32 tickets increase to 30/40 respectively. P&R is going up from CZK20/day to most places charging CZK50 and the P&Rs at the Congress Centre and Holesovice charging CZK100 per day. The Funicular increases from CZK24 to CZK60 and is no longer part of the public transport network.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

As of June 2021 more than 200,000 Czech citizens aged over 70 had still not registered for a Covid-19 vaccine.

110 years ago pilot Jan Kašpar completed the longest ever flight within the Austro-Hungarian Empire from Pardubice to Prague, a distance of 120 kilometres.

Hotel occupancy statistics indicated the first quarter of 2021 saw 97% fewer foreign tourists than the same period in 2019.

The country spent CZK3 Billion on renovating and building new cycle paths between 2013 and 2020.

A recent PAQ/CVVM survey found that although 93% of Czechs agreed that climate change is happening, only 39% thought that their lives would be affected by it.

The European Union Space Programme Agency (EUSPA) is the only EU Agency based in the Czech Republic.

Between January and April 2021, 10,744 new companies were registered in the country which was a 61% increase on the same period in 2020.

Since 2020 the South Bohemian Philharmonic Orchestra has recorded 22 classical music albums in the departure hall of Plana Airport close to Ceske Budejovice.

A recent CVVM survey in May 2021 found that 43% of respondents thought the governments Covid-19 response was effective. This was down from 83% in May 2020.

2021 marked the 300th anniversary of the beatification of ST John Nepomuk (of Charles Bridge fame where people touch the plaque).

Walking Tours

Oh Happy Day, I worked in July and have tours planned in August and September.

For the first time since October 2020 I delivered a tour and not just a basic tour either. I jumped straight back into it with a 5 hour extended Old Town and Jewish Quarter tour and then another 5 hour extended City Walking tour the next day. Fitness no problem, knowledge no problem, voice broke a couple of times but got through it ok. So nice to see happy faces learning about the city and they were kind enough to take the time to leave a Trip Advisor review.



Jason will make your time in Prague much better.

Review of: **Small Group Prague Old Town and Jewish Quarter Walking Tour**

Prague is a beautiful and interesting city but with Jason it is much more interesting. He is a perfect example of why you should hire a private guide who is a native speaker in your language. He took us around for two days and we were sorry we were leaving Prague and could not go with him another day. He makes the tour interesting for everyone no matter there age and or travel experience. Do not go to Prague without Jason.

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: July 2021

I made the decision to suspend the Czech Food and Beer Tasting tour as it was becoming impossible to manage due to general covid-19 restrictions and closures (four pubs on the route of the tour did not survive the pandemic). I'm still stopping for food and drink on private tours.

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. If going inside, all clients are required to have a FFP2/KN95 face covering available and you may be asked for proof of vaccination. I provide hand sanitiser.

The Scheduled Tours:

[Old Town and Jewish Quarter](#) is running normally

[City Walking Tour](#) is running normally

[World War Two](#) is running normally

[Architecture Tour](#) is running normally

[Czech Food and Beer Tasting](#) is suspended due to restaurant/bar closures. Option of food/drink is now only on Private Tours.

[Christmas Markets](#) has restrictions: "tour-only" in 2021 with time for people to buy food/drink as required



Badge of Excellence

Activity Spotlight! – Podoli Swimming Pool



Podoli Swimming Pool

If you want swimming to be a part of your trip to Prague then look no further than Podoli Swimming Pool, an iconic 1960s building and now a National Cultural Monument in the 4th District. It's popular with indoor and outdoor 50 metre pools and an all-year external 35 metre heated pool.






Podoli Swimming Pool offers day tickets during the summer months and per/hour tickets all year. They do fitness packages and if you are here long-term then the season ticket works out great value so whether you are a practicing athlete, a talented amateur or a fun swimmer, this place has you covered.

Parents with kids also have some great options for spending the day here. It's just five tram stops from the Old Town.

Check the post about [Podoli Swimming Pool](#)

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.

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