

# Livingprague Newsletter

July 2021



ME AND FRANZ

For the July Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status, for my featured new content I do a complete description and interpretation of the Slav Epic, I looked at the sculpture work of Jaroslav Rona, I show some interesting history of Slavonic Island and why a World War Two atrocity was in the news this year on The Pig Farm.

The Activity Spotlight is a trip on Tram 41. I've also added a new "Blast from the Past" section to the newsletter where I update older content with text/media and/or newer pictures.

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

Slav Epic

Jaroslav Rona

Slavonic Island

The Pig Farm

### Blast from the Past

Charles Bridge

Lucerna Passage

### Comment

Coronavirus Life

### In The News

### Trivia and Odd Statistics

### Walking Tours

### Activity Spotlight!

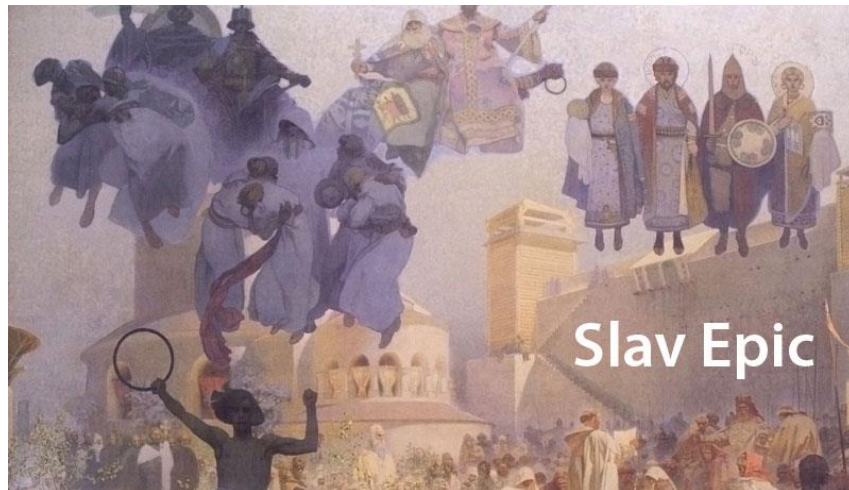
Tram 41

### Being Social

### Surveys/Contact

# Featured New Content

---



## Slav Epic – 5 Parts

Slav Epic, the grand 20-painting work of Alfons Mucha. Learn about his inspiration, who sponsored him, how the Slav Epic has been displayed, interpretation of the collection plus the ongoing argument about who actually owns it. [Read more....](#)



## Jaroslav Rona

You'll be stumbling across the sculptures of Jaroslav Rona all over the city so it's worth learning about the man and how he came to fame. I'll also point out the locations for some of his most recognised work. [Read more....](#)





## Slavonic Island and Sophie's Palace

An historic location and a grand building, a lovely outdoor restaurant, boat hire facilities and a children's playground. Learn why it's here, what it used to be, how it got the name and why you might like to visit. [Read more....](#)



## The Pig Farm

The site of a World War Two Gypsy work camp was dismantled and destroyed in the 1950s. In the 1970s the town authorities allowed a Pig Farm to be built on the grounds including a mass burial plot. Learn how the story continues. [Read more...](#)

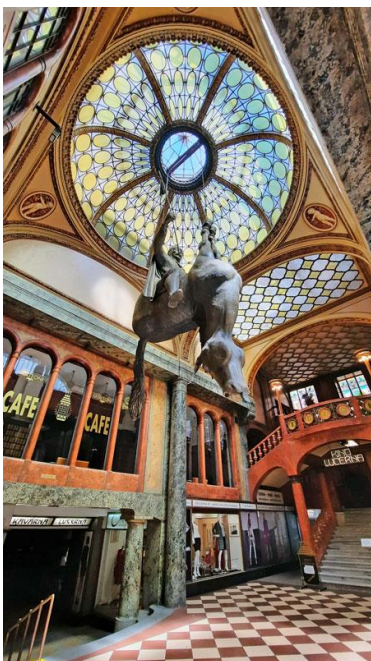
# Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)

---



Charles Bridge is one of the older pages on the site but it doesn't mean that I don't keep it updated either by linking to other relevant content or by adding pictures. I recently linked to a video so you could see how the bridge was constructed. The picture above was one of two pictures I added to the post. This one showed an almost deserted bridge at 0930 on a Friday morning in June.

[Read more....](#)



Always one of my favourite haunts in the city I'd recently bought a new phone with a better camera and I thought that David Cerny's Upside Down Horse in the Lucerna would look a lot better with a wide-angle lens.

It's not often you get the Lucerna Passage this empty so this picture was uploaded both to the modern [Art of David Cerny](#) post and the [Lucerna Passage](#) post.

# Comment

---

## Coronavirus Life



Finally, as of June 22<sup>nd</sup> I'm fully Covid-19 vaccinated with Pfizer/Biontech. I asked if I would be able to play the piano after the second jab and the nurse said no problem. I told her that was great because I couldn't play before!!

All eyes are on the European Union's vaccine registration system i.e. how it will be used to show what vaccine you've received, when and where etc. It's hoped that this system both in its electronic form and hard copy form will allow people regardless of whether they are a foreign tourist or a local to enjoy the city by showing their Covid-19 status. Right now some pubs and many restaurants have signs up requesting entry only for vaccinated people or those that can show a negative test.

Czech is currently on the EU GREEN LIST (low-risk). Czech has also nominated a shortlist of non-EU countries where incoming visitors will face less restriction including USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The UK is currently NOT part of the EU Vaccine registration system and is NOT a green list country so there'll be some quarantine required at the UK end.

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



# In The News

---

**The worst summer storm in living memory, including a tornado, hit the south-east of Czech this month causing loss of life and a lot of damage. Other infrastructure damage and power failures extended as far as Prague more than 270km away.**

After the Russian and Chinese energy companies were eliminated by the government, the last three bidders for the Dukovany Nuclear power plant project are EDF, Westinghouse and Korea Hydro&Nuclear. They will now undergo a “Safety Assessment” including but not limited to: “clarification of ownership structure, supply chain, links of stakeholders with the State, problems with the implementation of projects, accusations and other problems in nuclear resource projects, technology transfer and know-how”. Good luck with that!

**A documentary film called 13 Minutes by director Vít Klusák was released this month. It deals with the curse of speeding on Czech roads and focuses (with very realistic recreations – they used 18 stunt drivers and wrecked 15 cars) on five drivers who caused death by speeding. 13 minutes is the average time saved on the 200km journey between Prague and Brno when exceeding the limit by just 20km/hour.**

Following a public discussion on gun ownership in the country, the Czech Senate agreed that the Czech Constitution and specifically the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms will be amended to include the phrase “the right to defend one’s own life or the life of another person with a weapon is guaranteed under the conditions stipulated by law.”

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

---

**It takes 8 hours for the water treatment plant at Podoli to make potable water from the river Vltava.**

The Dancing House is 25 years old.

**The Czech Republic maintains the only EU embassy in Syria.**

Barbora Krejčíková won the ladies tennis singles final at the French Open and later the ladies doubles.

**The foundation stone of the Rudolfinum in Prague was laid 145 years ago.**

Czech car manufacturer Skoda has 33,000 cars sitting in storage but not yet ready for sale because they do not have computer chips due to supply chain shortages.

**Sales of “Health Food” increased by 70% in the last year.**

There were 104 Czech athletes at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

**The cost of renting an apartment in Prague fell by an average 17% in the last year. Outside of Prague the fall was average 8%.**

The Volkswagen-Skoda merger was 30 years ago.

**In the 2020/2021 winter, 58 people died from the Flu virus.**

Former Foreign Minister and presidential candidate Karel Schwarzenberg was honoured by Ukraine, with the Order of Prince Yaroslav the Wise, second class.

**Czech railways operator CD posted a CZK4.1 Billion loss in 2020 compared with a CZK1.3 Billion profit in 2019.**

The Staropramen Brewery in Prague released its first batch of beer to pubs in the area 150 years ago.

# Walking Tours

---

Nice to see old clients and prospective clients keeping in touch. For old clients it's finding out if I'm ok and what I'm doing. For prospective clients it's describing what's happening here in Czech and arranging for Private Tours. The biggest cause of tour rescheduling or cancellation is if a client has inter-country travel booked. As the rules are not yet in place how EU countries will allow cross-border travel then this is impacting on multi-centre holidays including river cruises. Should be finalised in July.

## Note:

- 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 for cash payment on the day but payment by card is not required until 10 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](#) is running normally

[City Walking Tour](#) is running normally (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](#) is running normally

[Architecture Tour](#) is running normally

[Czech Food and Beer Tasting](#) currently has restrictions: maximum 4 people per table.

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





# Activity Spotlight! – Tram 41

---



Tram 41 Historic Route

At weekends there's a special tram running through the city called Tram 41 which is one of several trams dating between 1903 and 1942 that they use on this route. This is NOT a public DPP tram so you'll be buying a ticket from staff on the tram and there's a conductor for checking tickets. Historic indeed!

You can travel on a single use ticket in which case you'll most likely be going end-to-end and your journey will take around 35 minutes. Tram 41 has a schedule so you could use it as a hop-on-hop-off tram but roughly speaking the service is hourly so may not be a realistic option.






I describe the route in the post and give some tips on why you might like to combine this activity with a trip to Prague Castle.

Check the post about [Historic Tram 41](#)

# 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><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!

---

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.

**EMAIL:** [fun@livingprague.com](mailto:fun@livingprague.com)

**CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP:** +420 603 187856

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