

Livingprague Newsletter

October 2021



ON MY OWN IN ST VITUS CATHEDRAL

For the October Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status, for my featured new content I explore the Prague filming locations for the original Tom Cruise Mission Impossible from 1996, I introduce you to the Czech food dish called Spanish Bird, I explain the inspiration behind the Franz Kafka Monument and we take a look at an international memorial project called Last Address.

The Activity Spotlight is the Riegrovy Sady Beer Garden. Blast from the Past includes an updated picture for Jaroslav Rona's "David and Goliath" and a link to an interesting interview on the Baby Boxes 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

Czech Food – Spanish Bird

Franz Kafka Monument

Mission Impossible Prague

The Last Address

Blast from the Past

Jaroslav Rona – David and Goliath in Cheb

Baby Boxes Interview

Comment

Coronavirus Life

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

Riegrovy Sady Beer Garden

Being Social

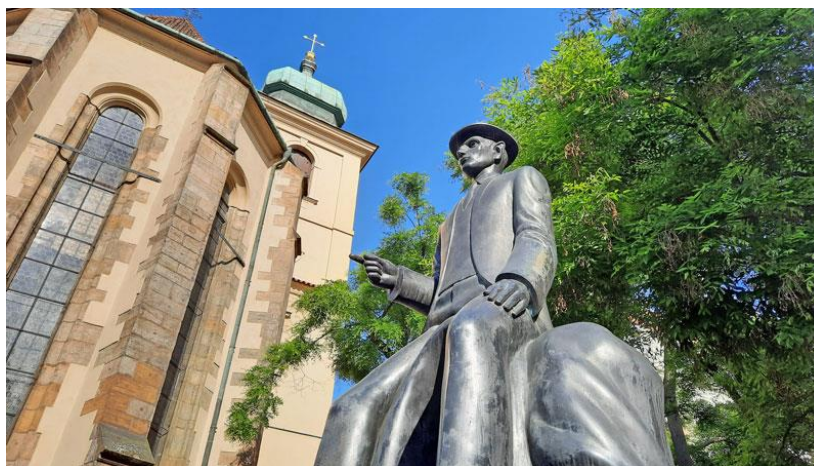
Surveys/Contact

Featured New Content



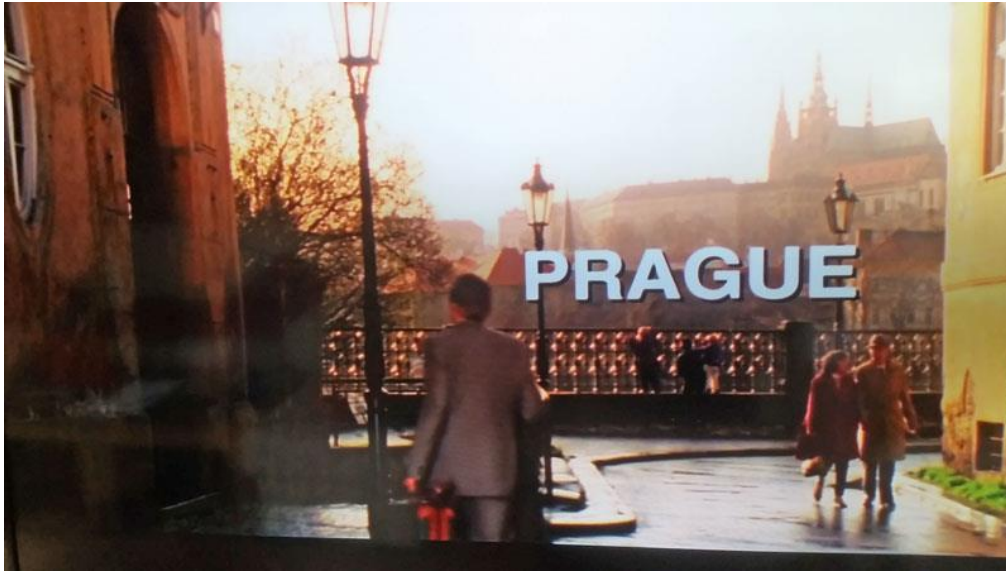
Czech Food – Spanish Bird

Imagine that the meal you are going to get is called Spanish Bird and yet it is neither Spanish nor a bird. Here I'll describe what to expect from this delicious Czech meal, side options, tips on ordering and what this dish is called elsewhere. [Read more....](#)



Franz Kafka Monument

So much for boring old monuments. This is all about why they honoured Franz Kafka, who put forward the design and which Franz Kafka short story inspired it. Plus there's a hidden link to probably the most famous Franz Kafka short story called The Metamorphosis. [Read more....](#)



Mission Impossible

The original Tom Cruise Mission Impossible film was released 25 years ago and after the intro it kicks off in Prague. Let's take a look at multiple film locations in the city to see where they are and how they look in real life. It's all in the editing. [Read more....](#)



The Last Address

Inspired by the largest decentralised WW2 memorial in Europe, the "Last Address" memorial plaques are dedicated specifically to those people killed by Communist repression, in Czech it's mostly from the trials of the 1950s but can include anybody up to 1989. Understand what to look for. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



We were in the town of Cheb in west Bohemia visiting relatives and I took the opportunity to find a piece of Jaroslav Rona art that I hadn't known was there. You might find it interesting that there is a Mike Tyson connection! [Read more....](#)



I linked to an interesting recent interview with Ludvik Hess the founder of the Baby Box system here in 2006 which sheds some light on what happens after the baby is taken into care. Issues with guardianship, how a mother can get the child back and ongoing relationships that Ludvik has with the children and their adoptive parents. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Coronavirus Life

I was walking around central Prague last week and for the first time in many months I felt normal walking through the Old Town Square on a bright sunny day enjoying a cup of coffee. Later I even saw a queue of people waiting to go into Prague Castle.

You can't quite get away from the Coronavirus life though. You are constantly reminded on the public transport system with the mandatory mask wearing. Although many restaurants are making a comeback, not all. The river looks empty of boats. Several hotels in the centre of town are still closed and many shops have signs in the window saying "closed for reconstruction".

The kids went back to school last month and would you believe it, a classmate of my daughter tested positive on the first day. Last year that would have meant the whole class going into quarantine. This year life goes on with no change for double-vaccinated kids/teachers and single-vaccinated or unvaccinated people have to do a twice-weekly antigen test.

Germany got put on the red list for people entering Czech from the west so driving here from that direction just got more complicated.

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

The Czech Constitution was in the news or rather its inability to remove the sitting president. The Senate is allowed to vote on a request to remove the President for reasons that may have incapacitated his ability to perform the duties of the office. But the Parliament must approve the vote and the procedure is initiated by the Premier. Except that if the Premier supports the President then nothing will happen.

The last of the Tatra T6 Trams was removed from public service and will now only be available for private hire. Introduced only in 1995 they required a lot of maintenance so DPP decided to stay with its reconstructed older Tatra T3 version (the shin-breaker) and will gradually replace these with the new “bendy” Skoda T15.

The hospitalised 80 year-old Vaclav Klaus, former ODS political party leader, former finance minister, former premier and former two-term President has refused to rule himself out of the next Presidential election.

Following the relocation of some Afghan interpreters to the country the focus has again shifted to those people here on “time-limited” asylum. Czech operates a system whereby some 2000 people currently have “subsidiary protection” for which they have to reapply every 2-3 years allowing for deportation if the conditions for requesting asylum have changed.

A huge new building development in the third district has been delayed because a developer submitted plans to build to the height of the decommissioned telecoms tower on the site (96m above ground), but the city has said they can only build to 54m above ground which is the height of the surrounding buildings.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Almost 46,500 people in the Czech Republic died in the first quarter of 2021, a 54% increase on the same period in 2020.

The Czech Prosecutors Office launched a total of 181,924 criminal investigations in 2021, down 30,000 on the previous year.

There are no public telephone boxes in the Czech Republic.

The City of Prague approved the tender for a new bridge across the River Vltava linking the 4th and 5th districts.

A recent survey by the Economist found that Czech ranked 8th out of 29 countries on the Index of Cancer Preparedness.

The average age of a man and woman marrying for the first time in the Czech Republic is 33 and 31 respectively. In 1989 it was 25 and 23.

Plzensky Prazdroj, makers of Pilsner Urquell, produced 11.2 Million Hectolitres of beer in 2020 of which 6.69 Million Hectolitres was sold in the Czech Republic.

After the tornado hit south Moravia in June this year the final assessment was 1200 houses affected of which 60 had to be demolished and a total cost of CZK12 Billion in damages. 150 people were treated for injuries, 6 died.

Temperatures in the Czech Republic have risen on average by two degrees in the last 60 years and the number of days exceeding 25 degrees Celsius has doubled in the same period.

30 years ago, Czechoslovakia ceased to be a member of COMECON (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) which was basically the post-WW2 Communist version of the Marshall Plan.

Walking Tours

Hooray! I finally became recognised by the Czech Republic as a Tour Guide or should I say somebody who is entitled to offer guide services. The Regional Development Ministry has introduced a system to help consumers choose reputable city guides. I have some issues with the process but overall I support the attempt to improve the quality of guiding services in the country and you can read about how the licencing system works here at <https://www.livingpraguetours.com/licencing-and-qualification/>.



Review

A US family had initially wanted to do a Czech Food and Beer Tasting Tour but as that tour is currently suspended due to bar/restaurant closures I gave him some alternatives one of which was just to do a regular Old Town and Jewish Quarter Tour and go for a beer after the tour. We did that along with another couple who did the same tour. Just a friendly chat, some light food and a couple of beers. The client was kind enough to leave a review.



Mike T wrote a review Aug 2021
1 contribution



Five Stars to Jason and Prague

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

Jason knows his stuff. We joined Jason on the Small Group Prague Old Town and Jewish Quarter Walking Tour winding in and out of cobbled side streets, peering up at stunning architecture, tucking into ancient churches and standing in awe. We finished our time together with a Czech beer at a cozy outdoor venue hidden in one of Prague's many alleyways. Five stars to Jason and Prague.

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: July 2021

Private Tours can be arranged by contacting me and Other 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.

Other 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](#) 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



Activity Spotlight! – Riegrovy Sady Beer Garden



Riegrovy Sady Beer Garden and Park

Riegrovy Sady is a park above the main train station that covers an area of about 11 hectares and that's just a part of what it used to be. It's got quite a history going back to when it was vineyards in the time of King Charles IV and later became a series of formal gardens.

It's surrounded by sports facilities so if you're a runner then it's great for some light hill work on the tarmac pathways but it's also a place for families to play with young kids.






From 12pm but mostly as an evening activity the rest of us will head here because it's the location of the lively Riegrovy Sady beer garden.

On this post I'll explain what to expect when ordering food and beer plus some of the general rules that you'll need to be aware of so that you can enjoy yourself here.

Check the post about [Riegrovy Sady Beer Garden and Park](#)

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.

EMAIL: fun@livingprague.com

CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP: +420 603 187856

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