

Livingprague Newsletter

January 2022



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN THE GARDEN OF SLOVANSKY DŮM

For the January Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status, for my featured new content I give you some tips for eating at the historic Café Louvre, I'll tell you the story of Tank 23 and why May 9th is a significant date in the history of Prague, plus I did a book review of the fascinating story of the Prague's Stolpersteine by a British friend of mine.

The Activity Spotlight is the Manifesto Food Market. Blast from the Past includes updated pictures for "Calvary" on the Charles Bridge and a view of the National Museum lit at night.

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.

Happy New Year!

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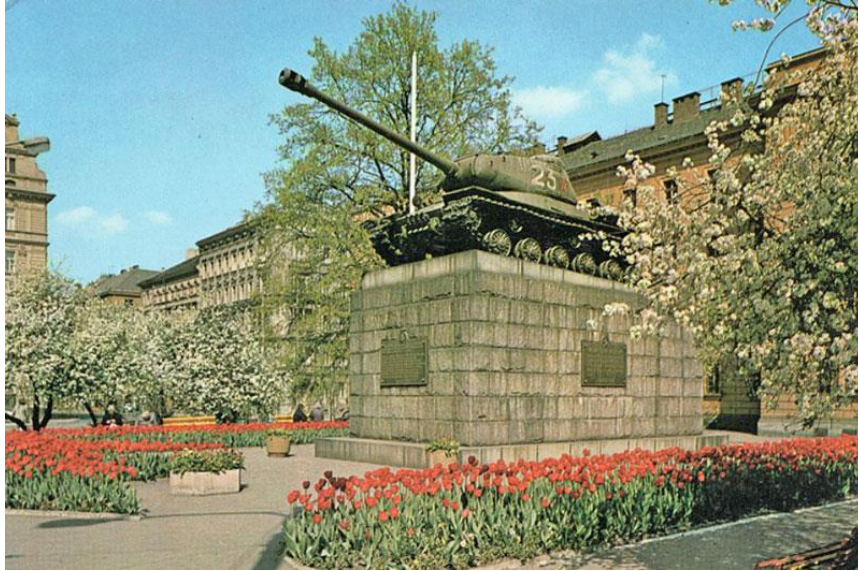
Prague Cafes – Café Louvre

If you want a coffee here you can forget Starbucks and Costa. You are visiting Prague so take advantage of some of the stunningly artistic and historically famous venues in the city. Café Louvre is one of those places. [Read more....](#)



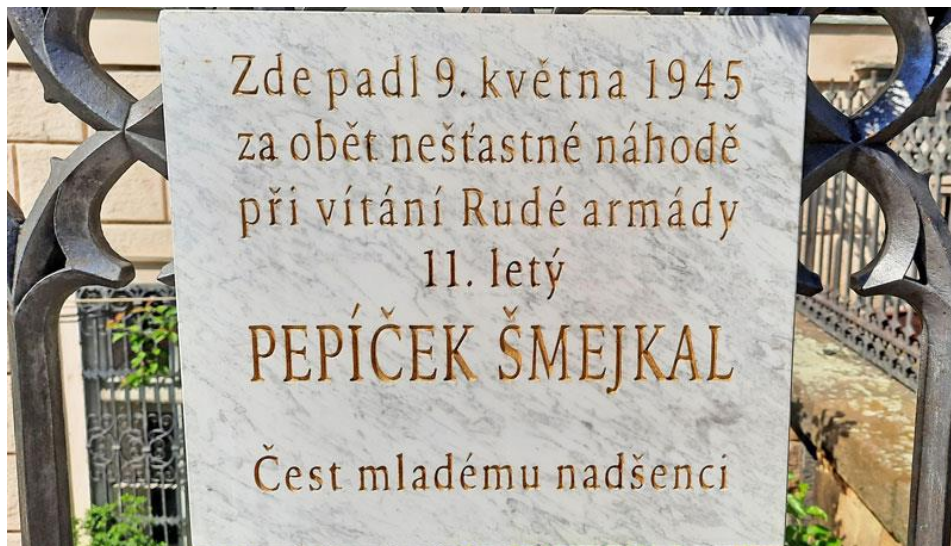
Book Review

A British friend of mine in Prague spent more than a year collating information about people deported from Prague in World War Two. The majority died but this fascinating book called “Prague’s Stolpersteine” puts together the Stumble Stone locations and stories of the 460 that have memorials in Prague. [Read more....](#)



Tank 23

One of the WW2 memorials which is no longer here is Tank 23. On this post I'll explain why a tank was in this location, to whom it is linked, what Czech artist decided to make a statement by using it and where you have to go to see it today. [Read more....](#)



May 9th and Memorials

If it ever crossed your mind why May 9th commemorates the end of World War Two for the Soviet Red Army then this post will answer that question. It also details some plaques in the city which commemorate different people who died, both military and civilians, on May 9th 1945. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



Prague Calvary on the Charles Bridge has a fascinating story to tell from being the first statue on the bridge to the addition of the Jewish text. On this day it was in the shadows and the moon was going down over the castle. [Read more....](#)



I'm always on the lookout for a different picture. Whilst most people were pointing down Wenceslas Square I was setup in the other direction on a super clear evening to get this shot of the National Museum. Learn why it is here, what used to be here and why part of it nearly collapsed in the 1970s. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Coronavirus Life

I'm now Pfizer boosted or triple-jabbed. From November 22nd you must either be at least double-vaccinated or show proof of recovery from Covid-19 in the last 6 months to be able to stay inside a venue like café/restaurant/theatre etc. Lateral Flow or PCR test results are no longer accepted for venues.

Children over the age of 5 are now eligible for a Covid-19 vaccination. The only issue is that BOTH parents must agree. Vaccination of adults who have a free choice is already an emotive subject. It was bad enough agreeing about 12 year-olds so getting adults to agree for 5 year-olds is not going to help already stressed relationships (what about if the kid wants it but the adults don't?)

Scientists and epidemiologists here are actually quite optimistic for the first time in ages. They view Omicron as a covid-killer much like cowpox brought an end to smallpox. If the symptoms are manageable then the trick will be to use the vaccination program to reduce the number of people requiring hospital treatment.

The new government seems not to want to get off on the wrong foot by putting in additional restrictions on Christmas and New Year celebrations. Hospitals are on standby for a busy period.

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 huge spanner just got thrown into the Energy sector with the European Commission saying that they wish to see no reliance on natural gas for heating from 2040. With Czech slowly reducing coal power stations, no nuclear expansion, no tidal solutions and little option for wind solutions it was thought that natural gas would carry the load. Oops! Hydrogen here we come.

As Chancellor Angela Merkel left office Czech politicians were not exactly wiping tears from their eyes. As the Social Democrats in Germany come to power, their equivalent in Czech just got voted out of parliament. Members of the new centre-right government in Czech were warm in their praise for Merkel's..... compromises.

The Academy of Science Institute of Physics say that they have produced a bio-chip test for Covid-19 which is as fast as a lateral flow test, as accurate as a PCR test and it is reusable. A person using it can make multiple tests and it's only disposed of after the first positive result.

The old government left office on the optimistic note that energy prices were likely to increase 50-70 percent next year. On top of providers going bust and those associated increases some residential bills will effectively be doubled in 2022. The new government has already proposed eliminating VAT. We'll see.

A new government was named by President Zeman. After he initially objected to the proposed Foreign Minister, when it was clear that the newly elected Premier was going ahead with his original picks the President wisely decided to withdraw his objection rather than see it scrutinized in the Constitutional Court and cause any more "delay" to the start of the new term.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

The Skoda Octavia is 25 years old.

Prague Main Train Station opened as the Emperor Franz Josef I train station 150 years ago.

Czech ranked 22nd on the Canadian Fraser Institute “Economic Freedom” list which looked at trade, legislation and regulation.

Between 2009 and 2019 Czech reduced CO2 emissions by 14%.

Czechoslovakia was one of the founders of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1946.

The planned building of a 40GWH car battery gigawatt factory is forecast to generate 39,000 new jobs (6000 direct, 33,000 ancillary).

ST Ludmila, grandmother of “Good King Wenceslas” was murdered 1100 years ago.

Energy prices for Gas/Electric rose by 16.5% in 2021 Q4.

After Brexit, 73,000 Czechs applied for “settled status” in the UK.

In the 2019 World Clean-Up Day, 150,000 Czech volunteers collected around 2,500 tonnes of rubbish from public spaces.

A survey by VISA found that more than two-thirds of Czech consumers shop online at least once a month.

The Czech minimum monthly wage is CZK15,200.

There are around 500 micro-breweries in the country which produce less than 10,000 Hectolitres of beer annually.

The Czech Post Office employs 27,000 people in 3200 branches.

The oldest person in Prague is a woman aged 109.

Walking Tours

December turned into a cross between trying to enjoy the festive season on the one hand and trying to salvage some kind of walking tour season on the other. Some people chose to cancel unpaid reservations. Others chose to either reschedule or have the option to give their tour credit to somebody else with the recently introduced gift voucher system so that helped me out not needing to refund. Some brave souls went ahead with their Christmas Market tour even though the markets were technically closed but, to my delight, the Wenceslas Square market was granted a “Cultural Event” licence and did not come under the wider market closures. At least we could stop for a hot drink. Na zdraví! I looked at the tour attendance numbers from English speaking countries for the last year just to see how bad it was.....British (1 person), Australians (zero), Irish (zero), South African (zero), New Zealanders (zero). Basically I survived only on North American and German bookings. What a year.

Review

I got a review from clients who toured with me in September and who I'd helped with ideas. It was a double tour.



Daniel F wrote a review Yesterday
1 contribution



Two tours - a full and enjoyable day!

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

My wife and I booked the Old Town & Jewish Quarter Walking Tour, and then followed that with Jason's Prague Architecture tour, which covers some overlapping areas but with a much different focus! Talking with Jason was comfortable and entertaining, and the tours were both a great length -- lots to take in, but not so much that our heads were spinning. What we were looking for was a good foundation for further exploration of the heart of old Prague, and this certainly did the job!

Thanks a lot to Jason, we are happy to give this tour a hearty recommendation! He was also very personable and flexible when we were still figuring out our plans, which is another reason to recommend him.

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: September 2021

Gift Vouchers

Read about the Gift Voucher system on the [Gift Voucher page](#). You can buy individual tours as a gift for somebody and by contacting me the recipient of the gift will have options to swap tours or use the credit to upgrade to a private tour etc. Vouchers are valid for 1 year.

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 (you must agree this with me in advance) or if paying by card then 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 will be asked for proof of vaccination if you intend staying inside. 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 2022 with time for people to buy food/drink as required.



Activity Spotlight! – Manifesto Florenc



Eating Out at Manifesto Florenc

For people preparing a visit to Prague this spring/summer and looking to eat out then Manifesto might be for you.

Their original location is at Florenc which is a short walk from Republic Square but they have a new locations in the Prague 5 Andel/Smichov district as well.






The Manifesto Food Market is basically a little “container town” with professional food vendors offering a multitude of international cuisine and drink options.

Covered and open areas, it’s nice to sit outside and have a drink or try the food. Great place to visit and meet people.

Check the post about [Manifesto Market Florenc](#)

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, read 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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CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP: +420 603 187856

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