

# Livingprague Newsletter

February 2022



PICTURES AT NIGHT BY THE RIVERSIDE

For the February Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status, for my featured new content I'll explain the history of Paris Street and how it dominates the Jewish Quarter, I'll explain why a sculpture caused a diplomatic row back in 2009, I'll explain the story of how a Jewish Torah scroll has recently returned to Prague and we'll take a look at the Czech Food called Karbanatek.

The Activity Spotlight is the Kampa Contemporary Art Museum. Blast from the Past includes updated pictures for the Church of Our Lady Before Tyn (at night) and a view of the Kampa Island (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.

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# Featured New Content

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**Paris Street**

Paris Street was constructed 1902-1906 and that's why it has so many stunning buildings. But Paris Street also set the standard for the rebuilding of the Prague Jewish Quarter. On this post you'll learn how the rebuilding process worked. [Read more....](#)



**Art and Culture - Entropa**

People who tour with me soon realise I have a great interest in the sculptures by David Černý and Kristof Kintera. Here's a little story about how the Czech government commissioned a piece of sculpture and didn't get quite what they imagined. [Read more....](#)



## Journey of a Torah Scroll

A fascinating story begins with a chance meeting. Read how a Jewish Torah scroll written in Brno in 1890, saved by the Jewish Museum in WW2 and sold by the communists, travelled thousands of kilometres before arriving back in Czech. [Read more....](#)



## Czech Food - Karbanatek

One of the simplest Czech meals mostly eaten as a quick lunch or found on pub food menus is Karbanatek. Basically a meatball in breadcrumbs and fried although some versions have cheese. The sides depend on where you are eating it but for me it has to be served with puree potato and a pickle. [Read more...](#)

# Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)

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One of the oldest Gothic churches in Europe and an absolutely stunning piece of architecture on the Old Town Square. I took a picture of the Church of Our Lady Before Tyn one night in January using my trusty tripod and updated the post. [Read more....](#)



On a super clear night in town I'd spent time on Charles Bridge. Towards the Lesser Town end I was about to walk down the steps to Kampa Island and I caught the area called Na Kampě empty and beautifully lit. [Read more....](#)

# Comment

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## Coronavirus Life

Touching wood as I write this. Covid-19 infection numbers were expected to rise and they are certainly rising in record numbers. But we are being told that this is the peak and the number of people in hospital continues to fall. We're still in a "masks on inside" period but I have to say that shaking hands with people is becoming more common. It's not the end, but maybe it's the beginning of the end of this scourge.

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>

## Not Better Together

Back in 1991 Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary formed an alliance called the Visegrad group (if you know your history then in the year 1335 there was a similar alliance against the Austrians). In 2004 the Visegrad 4 now the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland all joined the European Union. You could see the sense in a political alliance then but what with the Polish and Hungarian governments trampling on judicial process and blatantly challenging the EU's core values then many in this country including me might be inclined to cut loose some people who still see themselves as being in 1335.

# In The News

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**A sign of the increase in business optimism and a direct impact of the increase in online shopping is that the country is projected to add 1.2 million square metres of what is called “A-Class” (lit and temperature controlled) warehouse space in 2022.**

A news item which started in the Ukraine also highlighted the fact that Czech is in the same group including other countries like Romania, Finland and even Germany in that none of these European countries currently have a resident US Ambassador.

**In an outbreak of common sense, the newly elected government formally cancelled the previous government’s directive to enforce mandatory Covid-19 vaccinations in selected groups. Prime Minister Petr Fiala said that it was clearly stated why people should be vaccinated and there was a danger of continuing social division had they continued on the mandatory course.**

The new Czech government is expected to be more pro-Western and more pro-EU than it’s predecessor but it has surprised the financial markets. Normally there is an annual reconfirmation of the intention of Czech to take the Euro currency. But in a change, the government stated that it will not adopt the Euro in it’s four-year term.

**Better late than never i.e. a week before it begins, the Foreign Ministry confirmed that it would join a political boycott of the Beijing winter Olympics so no government freebies on this one.**

An addition to the Art Scene in Prague is a lamp at the Municipal Library whose light alternates depending on the level of fake news on Czech websites. Cool!

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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*Just as a one-off, here are some of the highlights of the first tranche of Czech National Census data taken between March and May 2021 but released on January 14<sup>th</sup> 2022.*

**The population of the Czech Republic in May 2021 was officially 10,524,167 which was 87,000 more than 2011.**

The national population is divided 50.7% female and 49.3% male.

**Compared with the 2011 census there are 195,000 more buildings.**

The 2021 census was the first ever that could be completed online and more than 85% of respondents chose this method.

**The average age of a Prague resident is 41.4 years.**

13.9% of Prague residents did not identify as a Czech citizen.

**20.4% of the Czech population is aged 65 or over.**

13.3% of females gave their marital status as “widowed” but only 2.9% of men.

**Foreigners account for 4.7% of the population, the largest groups being Ukrainian (1.4%), Slovakian (0.9%), Vietnamese (0.5%).**

25% of Czech housing was built before 1946.

**When asked a voluntary question about Nationality with a defined list of answers 83.8% identified as Czech, 5% Moravian and 0.2% Silesian.**

10% of Czechs identified their religion as Roman Catholic.

**68.3% of Czechs ticked the box “without religious beliefs”.**

When given the choice of multiple nationalities, 15,841 people declared they had dual-nationality as Czech/Romany.

# Walking Tours

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An optimistic beginning to the year as I worked in January and received bookings for tours in February, April, May and June so a better start than last year (my first tour of 2021 was July 5<sup>th</sup>!!). Normally I don't work in February but this year I've made an exception because basically every little helps and if people want to tour in the coldest month of the year then I'm happy to guide them.

January and February are not peak season here and it's a time when guides often meet up and have a chat because it's difficult to arrange meetings at any other time in a normal year. So my first time meeting with other guides in the city for quite a while confirmed the fact that many have left the tourism industry permanently. Guides under the umbrella of the city tourism office were badly affected but the independent self-employed guides who had no other income were pretty much wiped out. I laugh when I remember the UK recessions of the 80s and how "bad" they were.

## Review

"Travel geekster" booked 3 places on a regular tour but as they were the only people it turned into a private tour so we stopped for a coffee.



Travel geekster wrote a review Jan 3  
Dacula, Georgia • 1 contribution



### Highly Recommend

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

Our tour with with Jason was fantastic! It was just the 3 of us. He was very knowledgeable and we learned so much about Prague. He also brought along photos for us to compare the past and present, which made the experience more interesting. We were fortunate to have sun that day and we made a stop at a small cafe, which was a nice break out of the cold. I would highly recommend folks who are planning to visit to take the this tour. Jason does a great job keeping it relevant and to your personal interests.

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: December 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! – Kampa Museum

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Kampa Museum as seen from Shooters Island

If you like your contemporary modern art served central-European style then this is a place you'll want to go.

Situated in the Kampa Park alongside the river Vltava in an old mill building on the side of Kampa Island it hosts both its own permanent collection built-up by its patrons over 60 years and other temporary exhibitions.






You can pay to see individual exhibitions or just see them all but what they have in common is the central-European view of modern art. The patrons also seek to promote Czechs forced to emigrate during the communist repression that may not be well known to local Czechs.

Check the post about the [Prague Kampa Museum](#)

# Being Social

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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, read and leave a tour review for others.</p>

# Surveys – Help me improve!

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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!

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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/>