

Livingprague Newsletter

March 2022



THE END OF A PRAGUE ARCHITECTURE TOUR IN 2021

For the March Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status, for my featured new content I'll explain why we have a street called Hybernska, why you might like to combine a trip to Karlovy Vary with the Film Festival, I'll show you a recent addition to Prague's art scene called the Fake News Lamp and we'll take a look at a Jidelna called Gastro Karlin where you can get classic Czech food.

The Activity Spotlight is the Theatre Le Royal in the Vinohrady district. Blast from the Past includes updated pictures for the Jan Palach part of the "House of the Suicide" and a wide-angle view of the Old/New Synagogue.

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



Czech Food - Jidelna Gastro Karlin

Just four tram stops from Republic Square and you'll be in the centre of the Prague 8 Karlin district and my favourite "locals" stop for lunch in the area is the Gastro Karlin Jidelna. Here I'll explain what to expect and how it works. [Read more....](#)



Karlovy Vary Film Festival

Karlovy Vary is often on the list of places to visit for tourists travelling to Czech but there is one period of the year that you might like to aim to schedule your visit because the town comes alive during the Film Festival. [Read more....](#)



Prague Street Names - Hybernska

Let's mix up a bit of English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell and the 1652 Act of Settlement. All English history for sure but it had a direct impact on why the Irish came here and why we have a street in Prague called Hybernska. [Read more....](#)



The Fake News Lamp

A new piece of art is revealing the levels of fake news on Czech and Slovakian websites, broadcast news and other media. Data is measured and signals sent to a special lamp at the Municipal Library where you'll see the impact of fake news. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



The “House of the Suicide” is one of the more recent additions to the Prague art and design scene. You’ll find it in the park opposite the front of the Rudolfinum. The silver part above represents Jan Palach facing in the direction of the castle. [Read more....](#)



The Old/New Synagogue is the oldest in central Europe still accessible to the public. In the early 15th Century the original roof was replaced with a Saddle roof and a German Gothic-style brick gable that you can see above-left. Also in this picture the Jewish Town Hall is on the right. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Coronavirus Life

The government has now ended the need for mandatory vaccination, the “Covid-pass” is no longer required to be able to stay in bars and restaurants etc and a limit of 6 people per table is not exactly a strenuous limit. Currently, all that tells you that there is a pandemic going on is the mask-wearing inside and when that becomes voluntary I’m sure that most people (outside of public transport) will stop using them. The message is loud and clear. It’s here, get used to it.

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>

Solidarity

History tells us that the Slavic race was first recorded in the area that now borders south-east Poland and north-west Ukraine. It’s from here that a tribe called the “Čechs” or what you would say Czechs migrated and some eventually settled in the area of present-day Prague. The shock isn’t just that a European nation has invaded its democratic neighbour, it’s that a Slavic nation has invaded another Slavic nation. Did Putin think that combining natural Slavic resistance with western financial and military aid was going to work out well? Sláva Ukrajině!

In The News

The Olympics dominated the first half of the month and it turned out to be a little disappointing for a country with so much winter sports history. Just one gold and one bronze medal (the UK actually did better) but it's clear that many of the old "stars" had either finished or were coming to the end of their career so 2022 was seen very much as a building block. Better luck next time.

A country is told to give up part of its sovereign land under threat of war. False flag activities used as an excuse for armed militia to patrol the streets. Wait to see what that country does and if it seems weak then invade. Recognise anything? Of course I'm talking about Czechoslovakia in 1938 but you can apply the same basic situation to the current Putin/Ukraine conflict. Are Czechs concerned? Of course. Every country that existed under the sphere of Soviet influence for more than 40 years knows that the Red Army first came as liberators..... and then stayed.

Not just a Czech issue but the Energy question was getting a lot of air time in the last few weeks i.e. we should not depend on Russian gas ergo we should keep the coal-fired power stations running longer. The move to a greener society could be seen partly as a reason why Putin has decided to invade Ukraine because 20 years from now when Europe no longer needs to buy so much Russian gas and oil then he may not be able to afford this type of conflict.

Of the 37,000 Russians currently in the Czech Republic almost half are either students or businessmen and the rest have settled with Czechs. The government is strenuously separating the irrational and aggressive actions of Vladimir Putin from regular Russians who they believe are the victims of lies and deceit. Nicely put!

Trivia and Odd Statistics

It has been 30 years since the Czech Republic was first able to access the Internet.

2021 Q4 statistics showed that for people hospitalised with Covid-19, the average age of a vaccinated patient was 74 while the average age of an unvaccinated patient was 55.

Czech spent CZK8.5 Billion in 2021 on 52 Howitzer self-propelled guns to maintain part of its NATO commitment.

Antibiotic use in Czech has increased by 25% over the last 30 years.

Czech small businesses spent an average of 272 hours in 2021 filling in paperwork which was 49 hours more than pre-pandemic.

Approximately 5000 Czechs are currently resident in Scotland.

The Czech “Memory of the Nation” project launched 20 years ago currently has records of interviews with 13,000 people who lived during either the Nazi occupation or Communist period.

The Bark Beetle infestation in Czech forests caused the felling of 22,000 hectares of trees in 2021, more than twice the usual.

Czech farmers harvested 8,500 Tons of hops in 2021.

Prague’s Public Transport system is planning to buy 15 electric “Trolleybuses” which will see this style of transport used for the first time in more than 50 years.

Of the 4 million workers in the Czech Republic, 150,000 are on minimum wage.

Czech businessman Daniel Kretinsky owns 27% of English Football club West Ham United.

Average price for a cubic metre of hard fire wood is CZK1250.

Walking Tours

For most guides March is the start of the tour season as the weather warms up considerably compared with February and the trees acquire a colour we call “krásná zelená” or “beautiful green”. I’m still not showing places like the Imperial Gardens or the Wallenstein Gardens because they do not formally open until April and attractions will still be on their reduced winter opening hours. From a practical point of view I usually start the chilly morning tour in jeans but by lunchtime I could be changing into shorts. Its extra weight to carry but it’s worth it to be comfortable. Definitely I will be advising people to wear sunscreen during the tours as the sun is deceptively strong plus I’ll be checking that people have water to drink.

March will be a slightly shorter month for me as I’m taking the opportunity for a visit back to see friends and family in the UK and stock up on those essentials that you just cannot buy here (or at least not for a reasonable price). So scheduled tour dates will not be on the calendar while I’m away and I will refer any requests for private tours to other talented colleagues.

I have now given tours to people from 45 different countries, the last one added on February 14th was Andorra.

Review

I picked a random review from page six on my Trip Advisor page so it’s August 2019. This will give you an idea of how easy I am to work with.



Would Definitely Work with Jason Again!

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

Months before the actual tour Jason was corresponding with us to help us. I had asked about bead stores in the area as my wife makes jewelry. Jason search out some addresses and sent them to us well ahead of our visit. As the day to meet him approached, he was very clear on where to meet. During the tour Jason was friendly, informative, and able to answer any question that we had. At each location that we passed, Jason had a treasured story to relate. Should we be lucky enough to visit Prague again, I will be sure to contact him for another great touring experience. Thank you, Jason, for enriching our visit!

[Read less ▲](#)

Date of experience: August 2019

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 may be asked for proof of vaccination if you intend staying inside i.e. it depends on the venue now. 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! – Theatre Le Royal



Theatre Le Royal in the Vinohrady Prague 2 district

If you are looking for some entertainment in the city and you have an interest in old theatres then maybe this is for you.






Theatre Le Royal has had several names since it was first opened in the late 1920s in the fashionable second district called Vinohrady.

It's now a multi-purpose venue where you can see performances including Burlesque, Cabaret, films and stage entertainment. All in all if you want to experience the old Czechoslovak First Republic then take a look and see what's on.

Check the post about the [Prague Theatre Le Royal](#)

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.

EMAIL: fun@livingprague.com

CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP: +420 603 187856

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