

Livingprague Newsletter

September 2022



A DESERVED DRINK AT RIEGROVY SADY BEER GARDEN

In the September newsletter I'll describe the classic Czech meal called Uzená. We'll take a look at some great 1950s architecture at the Expo 58 building in Letna Park. You'll learn where to find a memorial plaque to ice hockey players arrested and imprisoned by the communists and I'll tell you what to expect from a half-day trip from Prague to Konopiste Castle.

The Activity Spotlight is advice about hiring the T3 Coupe for a unique tram ride in the city. Blast from the Past includes a colour update on David Cerny's Tank 23 art and I put a new tax-free 21% discount voucher on the Bohemian Garnet post for any non-EU residents looking for a general jewellery discount.

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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Czech Food - Uzena

The Czechs love pork and especially a smoked pork meal called Uzená but you have to like the side dishes that automatically come with it or at least understand if you want different sides. [Read more....](#)



Architecture – Expo 58

The Czech Pavilion built for the 1958 Exposition in Brussels was divided into two parts i.e. the exhibition halls and the restaurants. Although both structures were rebuilt in Prague only one survives and is now called the Expo 58 Art gallery. [Read more....](#)



Memorial to 11 Ice Hockey Players

There are many unusual memorial plaques in the city. One of them honours eleven ice hockey players arrested and imprisoned by the communist authorities in 1950. The post looks at Bohumil Modrý one of the most famous ice hockey players of the era and what eventually became of him. [Read more....](#)



Konopiste Castle

My “local” castle is a 15 minute drive from where I live. It’s popular with tourists as a half-day trip from the city. So it’s a bit of history about Franz Ferdinand d’Este, a beautiful garden and on the way back you stop for lunch at my local brewery where they make the beer called Velkopovický Kozel. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



The Memorial to Russian Tank Crews was removed 30 years ago but close by is a remnant of a Soviet-era Russian tank. I was passing recently and saw that it had been repainted in the Ukraine colours. The Ukrainians are leaving memorials to Russian tank crews all over their country. Putin go f*ck yourself! [Read more.](#)

Bohemian Garnet Turnov
Czech Garnet
THERE'S ONLY ONE ORIGINAL

Traditional and largest producer of original Jewellery with Bohemian Garnet. Owner of all Czech garnet mines, the largest and best quality garnet from Bohemia and a lot of Jewellery.

COHEN JEWELLERY

ATELIER 21%

2 Years Guarantee

*Is the only store that gives 21% Tax Free in Prague. This is valid for only non-EU customers. Our system is that we deduct the tax amount from the total price as a 21% discount. Since the customers do NOT pay the tax, they do not need to be refunded at the airport as well. They simply drop the tax free documents at the tax free office in the airport (any airport in EU) and that's it.

*We provide services such as resizing, repairing and cleaning of the products on the spot within several minutes in our Goldsmith's Atelier.

We are also able to take special orders to be manufactured and delivered within weeks depending on the qualities of the Jewellery.

www.cohencentre.com
cohencentre@gmail.com

Cohen Jason livingprague.com
Garnet & Moldavite Jewellery

Maiselova 17 / 39 Praha 1

Cohen is based in Czech Republic.

Approximately for 400 years Czech garnet has been a historical and cultural value of this country and it has been the gemstone of choice for the Czech craftsmen. While it is quite normal to see garnet jewellery in many jewellery stores in Prague today, Cohen is no where to be found except in our store.

We took the garnet jewellery to its peak quality. Cohen pieces are made from the smallest cut garnet stones in the world. To provide a full balance of the look and shine, each Cohen piece has the garnet stones cut in the smallest sizes possible to fit into the designs.

AMERICAN EXPRESS VISA Mastercard Apple Pay

The lack of Russian tourists in Prague has put a few jewellery shops out of business. One that did not rely on Russian money and is still giving the 21% tax-free discount to Non-EU residents is Cohen's. The post was updated with the discount flyer. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Ukraine

The latest published figures say that 417,000 visas (1 year visa) were issued to Ukrainian refugees since February 24th and of those people, 107,000 have settled and found work in the Czech Republic. Of course this is just a fraction of what's going on in Poland and Germany but Czechs are going the extra mile to do what they can both financially and from a military point of view. But on the street I can clearly see that the Czechs divide Ukrainians into two groups. On the one hand they do what they can for the lost souls uprooted from their country trying to put together a life but on the other hand they have no time for the Ukrainians driving flashy cars who are perceived to be actually making money from this whole dire situation.

Better Late Than Never

Talk of pensions being cut often brings out the protestors but not this time because the cut in pensions being discussed is targeted on former employees of the StB (Czech Communist State Security) who wrecked the lives and futures of others and yet suffered nothing themselves. Some say this is a bit late in the day to be addressing and why was it not looked at in 1990. I say better late than never.

In The News

Health insurance is already a tricky subject. Combining that with being a foreigner in Czech and it gets a little more complicated because the state says that after a period of 90 days you must have local health insurance. Up to 2021 you could choose the provider but the last government brought in a rule that “new” foreigners had to be insured by a company called VZP. This has effectively introduced a monopoly and the EU is taking a close look at it’s impact.

There was some interesting reporting on “Addiction”. Apparently if you can be addicted to one thing then you can be addicted to anything. Studies that included the Pandemic period noted that all kinds of addictions including drugs, alcohol, prostitution, food, gambling and gaming were statistically higher than average.

In one of the most literate countries in the world the recently elected Czech government has floated the idea that children should “volunteer” to learn a second language. Now it may be that their parents will volunteer them in any case because usually English is the second language and they recognise it’s importance later on in life. Nobody is quite sure where this is going or even why we are talking about it.

Numbers have started to appear regarding the cost to the country for managing the Ukrainian refugee migration. Between March and May 2022 the humanitarian costs were CZK7.2 Billion. This figure is expected to rise to @CZK50 Billion per year at current migration levels. I don’t think people are worried about the amounts being spent supporting fellow Slavs but they are waiting to find out how they will be impacted.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

More than a million people visited the Krkonoše Mountains in the north of the country in 2021, the highest ever recorded.

Czech Ice Hockey player Jaromir Jagr is 50 years old.

The Czech army allowed women to join 80 years ago.

2022 Q2 construction costs rose by 0.1% but food costs rose by 21.4%.

Statistically 1 in every 5 people in Czech owns a dog.

75,000 people are officially listed as being “informants” for the Czech State Security Service (StB) in the communist controlled era between 1948 and 1990.

Per Capita, Czechs eat 43Kg of pork per year.

Czech Police said the number of people in the 2022 Gay Pride Rainbow Parade was 60,000.

The first railway line in continental Europe opened 190 years ago between the Czech city of Ceske Budejovice and the Austrian city of Linz.

The most counterfeited Czech banknote is the CZK2000.

30 years ago on August 26th 1992, premiers Vaclav Klaus (Czech) and Vladimir Meciar (Slovak) agreed to split Czechoslovakia.

The winter 2021/22 average temperature was 4.6 degrees Celsius making it the 4th warmest winter on record since 1775.

At the end of the school year in July 2022 there were 26,000 Ukrainian children registered in Czech Elementary schools.

There are around 6000 air-raid shelters in the Czech Republic with a combined capacity of around 250,000 places.

Walking Tours

August was a varied month with clients from the USA, UK, Canada, Australia, Germany and two new countries for my list.... Peru and Moldova. Some had special interests. Some had already visited and were looking for things not previously seen and others were on their first visit to Prague and looking for a great introduction. As August was very hot I found myself drinking more beer to be social.

There will be less tour availability for the rest of 2022 as I'll be in the UK about a quarter of the available time and I'm generally blocking dates and times to allow for travelling. If you have not heard from me then you are not affected. Prospective clients should contact me to see what options or referrals may be available.

Review

Sarah and her husband hired me specifically for exploring the Old Town and New Town with a stop at a local pub along the way but we added the Charles Bridge as well. I tailored the tour to their requirement and finished a short walk from where they were staying.



Sarah D wrote a review Yesterday
📍 Vancouver, Canada • 1 contribution



Excellent Introduction to Prague

We booked a 5-hour private tour with Jason a couple of days after landing in Prague. We had never been here before and Jason helped us find our footing. He was very clear in his communication with us, so we had no trouble meeting up with him. He gave us a terrific overview of Old Town, the Jewish Quarter, Wenceslas Square, Charles Bridge and a bit of Lesser Town. He wove together a brilliant mix of history, art history, architecture and literature -- all while showing us very cool routes to avoid the crowded streets in the most touristed areas. He shared valuable tips: smart ways to avoid lineups, order street food without getting gouged, time visits to certain attractions and spot details we otherwise would have missed. He was very flexible and tailored the tour to our interests. We would highly recommend Jason as a guide.

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: August 2022

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.

Tours and Card Payment

For any Private Tours or for any Scheduled Tours booked directly through a tour calendar, clients can pay the full cost of a tour in advance by card payment with the understanding that refunds are maximum 96% (cost of tour minus any card transaction fee which is out of my control). In this case you first receive a payment request which has to be completed within 48 hours. Then you receive the booking confirmation.

Tours and Cash Payment

If you prefer to pay for a tour either scheduled or private in cash then you need to contact me. We will agree the tour details and I will quote a price in CZK and your own currency equivalent. You will then receive the booking confirmation and payment is made on the tour day at the agreed amount so in this case there is no advance payment and cancellation is free.

Other Tours:

[Old Town and Jewish Quarter](#) is running normally.

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

[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! – Hiring the Tram T3 Coupe



Hiring your own stylish tram

For anybody with CZK8000 to spend or for anybody with a group happy to split the cost then here's a truly unique option in the city.






Yes, for less than CZK8000 you and up to 30 of your friends can have the exclusive use of a 1960s style Prague tram for 60 minutes with some interesting features like roof windows and a bar that used to serve as a ticket desk.

A group of only 10 people putting in CZK1000 each can buy this trip and also stock the bar with 3 beers each for the 60 minute journey or a couple of beers and a snack. More and more people are looking for “experiences” so anybody looking to impress their friends with a private tram trip should take a look.

Check the post about the [Hiring the Prague Tram T3 Coupe](#)

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/>