

Livingprague Newsletter

November 2022



DAVID CERNY SCULPTURE CALLED "TRIFOT"

In the November newsletter I'll describe the classic Czech snack called Smaženka, I'll describe a visit to the Cafe Imperial and some of its history, we'll take a look at an unusual attraction called the Traffic Light Alley and I'll tell you about the history of Old Castle Steps.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at where to browse Czech memorabilia at a place in the Old Town called Bric-a-Brac. Blast from the Past includes an updated picture for the Jan Hus Memorial post and an updated photo on the Old Jewish Cemetery post showing the "Ohel" of Mordecai Maisel plus I added a link to a blog which will help you decode the meanings of any symbols on the Jewish gravestones.

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 - Smaženka
Cafe Imperial
The Old Castle Steps
Restaurant Certovka and
the Traffic Light Alley

Blast from the Past

Jan Hus Memorial
Old Jewish Cemetery

Comment

Nuclear Option
City Not For Sale

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

Bric a Brac

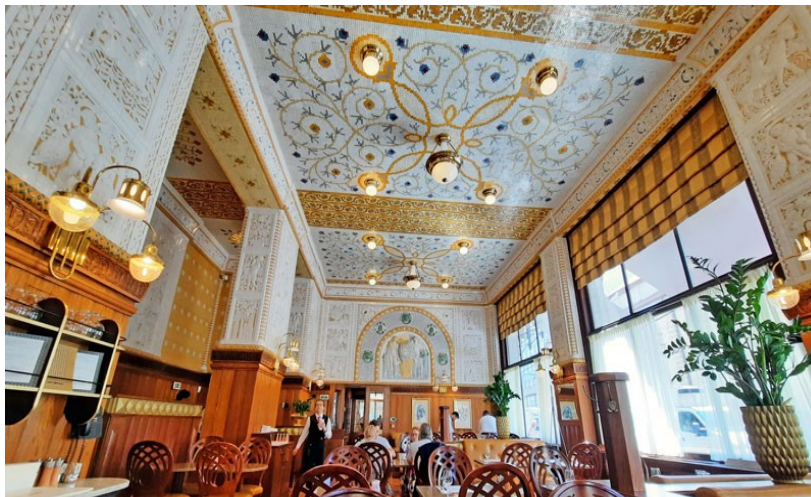
Social/Surveys/Contact

Featured New Content



Czech Food - Smaženka

If you are looking for a reasonably filling if not reasonably healthy light lunch then Smaženka may be for you. Learn the difference between this and an omelette. [Read more....](#)



Cafe Imperial

The construction of the Cafe Imperial overlapped both Cubism and early Art Deco so it is an important part of the city's architectural heritage. The building includes not just a great cafe with a decorative ceramic interior unique in the city but also a luxury hotel so this cafe is your breakfast room. [Read more....](#)



The Old Castle Steps

The Old Castle Steps in Prague are not particularly old when compared to the rest of the city. This post will explain why the steps were first put here, why you might want to use them, a scenic cafe where you might like to stop and a link to why there is a statue of a famous Czech character near the top of the steps. [Read more....](#)



Restaurant Čertovka – Traffic Light Alley

In the Lesser Town down by the riverside where it meets the water exiting the Čertovka inlet you'll find a scenic Czech restaurant but it is more famous for how you have to get to the restaurant i.e. via the Traffic Light Alley. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



Due to the extremely dry summer of 2022 the city took down many hanging baskets but they made a special effort to increase the number of flowers that decorate the base of the Jan Hus Memorial on the Old Town Square. [Read more....](#)



On a recent trip through the Old Jewish Cemetery I took this photo of the "Ohel" (gravestone with a pitched roof) of the famous Mordecai Maisel after whom the Maisel Synagogue is named. I also added a link to the "Blood and Frogs" blog to help you decode the symbols on the gravestones. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Nuclear Option

I see a lot of articles comparing President Putin's rhetoric about using his nuclear arsenal being compared with the Cuban Missile Crisis. Just to point out that from my own memory, Khrushchev at no point threatened anybody with nuclear war. The Cuban Missile Crisis was all about Cuba wanting to use nuclear weapons as a deterrent to a US invasion of the island so it was about missile positioning rather than a desire to use them. Of course the "quarantine" of Cuba could have ended up with war but, it didn't. With regard to Putin's clear path to madness I remember the lyrics from the song entitled "Russians" by Sting where he sings "we share the same biology regardless of ideology, believe me when I say to you, I hope the Russians love their children too". Putin Go F*ck Yourself.

City Not For Sale

Prague is well known as a filming location for a variety of feature films and adverts but I hope it's true that the city government is moving away from the big-budget-big-disruption model. Take for example "The Gray Man" which brought more than U\$10 Million into the city budget in 2021 but caused huge disruption to transport systems all over the city on and off for two weeks. It's not uncommon for the odd street to be closed or an attraction (Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol caused part of Prague Castle to be closed for 4 days). Nice for the city to have extra money but you have to balance that with city life.

In The News

At last a fun story in the press. Following the illegal annexation of parts of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, some Czechs floated the idea of holding a “referendum” in the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad on the Baltic coast. What connection could there possibly be to Czech? Well it turns out that Kaliningrad was formerly named Královec in the year 1255 in honour of the Bohemian King Otakar II. The “referendum” said 97% of people wanted to revert to being called Královec and come under the control of the Czech Republic. Forget Nordstream, people are actively exploring how a Beerstream could be routed from Czech to Kaliningrad via Warsaw. Satire is alive and well here.

The Czech national railway company ČD is proposing increased fares in line with the predicted inflation rate in 2022 Q4 despite the fact that this is expected to be the inflation peak. The managing director of the company pointed out that this would pay for value added services like “fitting antennas to provide better mobile/wifi coverage” and “making the website more user-friendly”. Whoopie.

A Moravian company called Mewery outlined its plans to bring “cultivated” i.e. lab-grown pork to Czech commercial markets by 2026. No messy slurry, no swine-flu, no killing pigs. When the journalist asked the question “but will people go for lab-grown meat? I mean, they don’t know where it came from”, I liked the managing director’s response, “the last time you ate a hot dog did you wonder where the ingredients came from?”. Touché.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

The 2022 Prague Men's Marathon was won by Nobert Kigen from Kenya in a time of 02:07:54.

There are currently 17% fewer passengers using the rail network compared with pre-pandemic years.

In May 2022, 103 Czech citizens were granted the legal right to join and fight in the Ukrainian army. Without this legal recognition by both President and Premier it would have been a crime in the Czech Republic.

Approximately 886,000 foreign tourists were accommodated somewhere in the Czech Republic in 2022 Q1. This figure is 16 times the number from 2021 Q1.

Archaeological studies of Bohemia during the Bronze age 2500BC-800BC have shown that settlements knew how to make beer from millet seed and on occasion, reverted to cannibalism.

The Czech Republic saw its first case of Diphtheria since 1995.

The reigning Czech Football league champions are Viktoria Plzen.

The Moravian town of Dolni Morava has the world's longest suspension footbridge at almost 750m long and 95m high.

A person who has dual Ukrainian/Hungarian nationality is NOT entitled to a Czech humanitarian visa.

Czech agricultural products saw an average increase in price of 35.3% in the first half of 2022. Oil plant products and cereal products rose by more than 50% and some dairy products increased more than 100%.

Czechs spend approximately 3% of their annual income on private health services. They spend 8% on alcohol and tobacco.

Walking Tours

On November 11th we have the [Festival of ST Martin](#) hence for about a week either side you'll find restaurants will have ST Martin's Goose on the menu. What we are waiting for is to see if he comes on a "White Horse" which is a euphemism for does he bring snow. So as far as walking tours are concerned it's the first month of the year when you could experience the white stuff. Usually the ground is too warm for it to lay but just consider that you may require proper winter clothing if you are doing a walking tour. We don't want those teeth chattering after an hour....

There will be less tour availability until March 2023 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

Like many of my walking tour clients, Kristin and her husband were looking for a general introduction to the city with a view to going back to spend more time in places that interested them. I threw in a few tips for unusual places to see, changes in opening times and a couple of restaurant recommendations based on their requirements.



Kristin V wrote a review Oct 5
2 contributions



Great tour of Old Town and Jewish Quarter!

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

Had a great tour with Jason! We were looking for someone to give us the history and random facts about Old Town and the Jewish Quarter, and that's exactly what Jason provided! Learned a lot of unique facts about Prague, but wasn't too long. Just the right amount of history to get an understanding of Prague!

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: October 2022

Trip type: Traveled solo

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.

Tours:

[Private Tours](#) are arranged as required.

[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! – Bric a Brac



Browse a collection of Czech Memorabilia at Bric a Brac

As the temperature cools down you might be looking for unusual places to visit which are inside. At Bric a Brac you can do that but at the same time you can also indulge any interest you may have for seeing what exactly Czechs had in their homes over the last century or so. It's an interesting look back in time and great for collectors of all sorts of things.






I've listed this as an activity but it's going to be for people who like to potter about and have an interest in things which were once commonplace in many Czech homes but which are now bordering on being called antiques.

Bric a Brac gives you one of those rare opportunities in the city that you can actually haggle with the owner over the price.

Check the post about [Bric a Brac](#).

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/>