

Livingprague Newsletter

April 2023



WHEN YOU SEARCH GOOGLE MAPS FOR MAISELOVA 18

In the April newsletter I'll tell you a few things about the Art Nouveau Municipal House, I'll tell you about what to expect from the standard Czech Hot Dog called Párek, we'll take a look at how the street called Jeruzalemska got its name and I did a book review of something called "Out of the Midst of the Fire".

The Activity Spotlight is a look at what to expect from on-street hire of scooters and bikes plus parking and issues with the law. Blast from the Past includes updated picture on the Fake News Lamp post and an updated link to a video on the Journey of a Torah Scroll post.

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

The Municipal House
Czech Food - Párek
Prague Streets - Jeruzalemska
Book Review – Out of the
Midst of the Fire

Blast from the Past

Fake News Lamp
Journey of a Torah Scroll

Comment

Customer Service
Optimism is Back

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

On-Street Bike/Scooter Hire

Social/Surveys/Contact

Featured New Content



The Municipal House

If I were to name a place where you would go to experience history, culture, music, architecture, eating and drinking all at the same time then the Prague Municipal House would be the obvious choice. [Read more....](#)



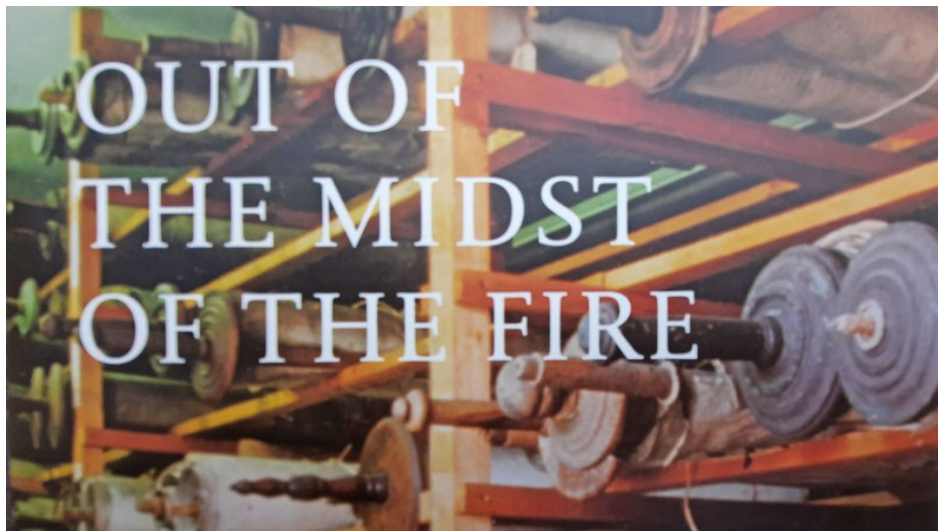
Párek – Czech Standard Hot Dog

A certain kind of sausage is cooked and served in a different way to everything else. Referred to as “legs” in a pub, on the street you’ll find vendors all over the city hawking this most unhealthy but very satisfying hot dog. [Read more....](#)



Prague Streets - Jeruzalemska

Hardly a new idea to have street names that relate to capitals and/or major cities in other countries but Jeruzalemska did not acquire its name like that. It's a road where religion and Empire have definitely had their say over the years. [Read more....](#)



Book Review – Out of the Midst of the Fire

It's been quite a while since I did a book review but for those interested in the subject of how looted Jewish artefacts from World War Two were sold by the communists, made their way to London and then were sent all over the world, this was the book that inspired me to write the post about the Journey of a Torah Scroll. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



So much fake news floating around the internet at the moment that the fake news lamp spent some time showing the Ukrainian flag in a small gesture of support. Putin go f*ck yourself! [Read more....](#)



A book review that I published this month required editing my Journey of a Torah Scroll post. That post had a link to a video where they made a “Mantle” (ornate cover) for a scroll loaned to a Reform Synagogue in Prague. The external site URL had changed so I corrected the link from my site. A fascinating look at the process of making something very special that I have actually touched. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Customer Service

Every now and again I go back to being a tourist in Prague and I go to places that I've not been to before or at least not for some time. I have this personal grading system for arriving at a place and trying to navigate it just using English. Between 8/10 and 10/10 means I found out what I needed without issue and was pleased with the experience. 5/10 to 7/10 means I got answers but it took effort. 2/10 to 4/10 means it was a struggle and I did not get exactly what I wanted but at least I'm in the right direction or have a better understanding. Then there's Wallenstein Palace which I give a 1/10 for at least being open but as an "Information Centre", a complete English language disaster area. I was really disappointed to see this poor level of customer service still exists even in a country not known for its service skills.

Optimism is Back

It rained on March 9th but it did not stop the crowds turning out at Prague Castle to welcome the new President Petr Pavel. In fact the Castle had not seen a crowd like that since Václav Havel was inaugurated on December 29th 1989. I noticed that it was not just me that felt the country had turned a page on 20 years of having Václav Klaus and Miloš Zeman in office. There's a real feeling of optimism going around not least because the "First couple" actually seem like people you can relate to for once but also a President prepared to be less radical than his two predecessors. Maybe the Parliament, Senate and Executive can go back to working together again. Wouldn't that be something!

In The News

Papers report that the President-elect has formally been declared fit. I love the fact that the Czech Constitution requires the incoming President to be declared “fit to perform his Presidential duties” just before the inauguration. I mean, compared to the outgoing President who caused a constitutional crisis when he was incapacitated in 2021 and who spent the last two years in a wheelchair, you have to wonder quite how low the bar must be to be “fit”.

Another impact of Putin’s war is that the Czechs will increase their defence budget by CZK20 Billion in each of the next three years. It’s already at a record high rate but by 2025 the annual defence budget will be CZK155 Billion and brings it into line with the NATO commitment of military spending at 2% of GDP for the first time.

A survey by the Czech Banking Association showed that out of a possible score of 100 for understanding “finance” the average Czech scored 56. But when you break that down further it turns out that people with a university education scored 62 and people with just primary education scored 48. So the moral of the story is better education equals better knowledge of finance. Who knew?

I’m not sure if this is going a bit far but the Institute of Food Technology at the University of Brno is not just looking at ways of making biodegradable food packaging but actively looking at alternatives for edible food packaging.

The area of Prague called Rohan Island will get huge investment to build apartments and infrastructure including a new school. Why has this not been done before? Well, people with longer memories will tell you this place was wrecked in both the 1890 and 2002 floods. Insurance issues?

Trivia and Odd Statistics

In August 2022 the government offered a one-off payment of CZK5000 to parents for any child under 18. In the first 24 hours more than 200,000 people applied for it.

Following the passing of a law banning several types of “single use plastic” it was estimated that this would prevent 1.77 Billion pieces going to waste although no time-frame was specified.

In August 2022 the Czech Food and Agriculture department published a report saying that 56% of ice-cream and 75% of ice used for drinks in the country was considered sub-standard. They followed this up by saying that the figure was so high because they targeted businesses with known hygiene issues.

Prague is home to the world’s oldest statue of a skateboarder from 1981.

Between January and July 2022 the Czech Republic electricity was primarily generated using 38.4% brown coal, 36.7% nuclear and 7.4% gas. Solar came in 4th at 3.7%.

There are more than 100,000 trees within Prague city limits.

If you think 4x4 vehicles are good then the Czech Defence Ministry just spent CZK1.9 Billion on 209 Tatra 815-7 Trucks which are 6x6.

The Czech Republic should have an extra 40km of motorway in 2023.

The Czech pavilion at the Expo 2025 in Osaka will concentrate on robotics, AI, Information Technologies and computer gaming.

48% of school children in Prague eat a school dinner.

The Nazis stole 9801 church bells from the present-day Czech Republic during World War Two.

Walking Tours

Oh! it's spring again it's spring again.....Typical for March we had snow on some days and it was warm enough for shorts on others. The forecast for April is beginning cold and warming up. Yes, you'll probably want to carry an umbrella and maybe pack a light jacket for touring but most important is a bit of sun protection. It might not seem it but if the sun is out it can be strong so I advise people to eat outside but not directly in the sun at least not for long periods. According to my booking system the most popular tour booked in the last month was.....Private Tours.

People might be interested to know that despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the high rates of inflation since then, my scheduled tour prices have stayed the same.

Review

Sometimes I do a really specialised tour and in this case Ross had expressed an interest in music videos. I gave him options and because he was Australian in the end we focused on the filming locations for INXS videos shot here in the winter of 1987-88.



Ross

Perth, Australia • 2 contributions



Personalized walking tour

Oct 2022

As a couple of Australian 80s music tragics we did the personalized INXS and Human League walking tours. Jason's knowledge of both the filming locations and Prague itself was outstanding making this a very memorable walking tour. I highly recommend Jason as tour guide.

[Review of: Small Group Prague Old Town and Jewish Quarter Walking Tour](#)

Written March 15, 2023

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews.

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. The option of food/drink is now only on Private Tours.

[Christmas Markets](#) has restrictions: "tour-only" in 2023 with time for people to buy food/drink as required.



Activity Spotlight! – On-Street Bike/Scooter Hire



On-Street Bike and Scooter Hire in Prague

You'll find them in many cities and larger towns around the world. For some people it's a cost-effective or simply a convenient way of getting around the city. For others it's more of a fun thing to do. So whether you think that On-Street hiring is a valuable asset to a city or a curse then here is a post about what to expect in Prague.






Prague operates four main providers for On-Street hiring of e-scooters and electrical/mechanical bikes but there are differences between these providers that you need to understand.

Likewise, as well as explaining how it works here I will also try to keep you on the right side of the law if you decide to try them.

Check the post about [On-Street Bike and Scooter Hire](#)

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/>