

Livingprague Newsletter

March 2023



MARIANSKE NAMESTI – 2 MINS FROM THE OLD TOWN SQUARE

In the March newsletter I'll tell you a few things about the River Vltava that runs through Prague, I'll tell you about the history of Charles Square, we'll take a look at the traditional Czech meal of Schnitzel and you'll learn the inspiration and interpretation of the David Cerny sculpture in the 5th district of Nové Butovice called Trifot.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at why you might like to visit the Pragl shop to try some Glass Blowing and get a souvenir of your own work. Blast from the Past includes updated signage/picture on the Czech Lunch Menu post and a classic decision to be made when drinking Czech beer.

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 - Schnitzel

This is not the classic “Wiener” Schnitzel made with veal that you’ll find in Austria. This is the Czech version with chicken or pork but there are some rules so learn what to expect. [Read more...](#)



The River Vltava

It’s been around forever and it’s had many names. Today the River Vltava that most tourists see is a stretch of a little over 3 kilometres but its a lot longer than that. Learn about some of the trivia associated with the river, who uses it and activities that get you onto it. [Read more...](#)



The Trifot Sculpture

Once you've seen the David Cerny sculptures in the centre of the city (upside-down horse, hanging man, Kafka head, babies etc) then you might start to search for them further away. Trifot is another example of his protest art and it's just a short metro trip away into the 5th district to see it. [Read more....](#)



Charles Square

Whenever you arrive at one of Prague's larger squares you have to remember that these spaces were originally markets. In this case we have a very historic area developed from the mid-14th Century as a cattle market. Today it's a nice park that borders the second district. I'll describe it's history and nearby places to visit. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



In Czech we call it a Poledni Menu which literally translates as the midday menu. I updated the post just to show you the signage of what to expect and that post links to the Chalkboard Menu post if you want additional reading. [Read more....](#)



Drinking beer in the Czech Republic is a serious business. You are expected to do a bit of research to find what might be best for you because there is a wide range of brands covering light to dark and weaker to stronger. This post helps you decide. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Its the Economy Stupid!

With all the turmoil in central/eastern Europe the thing that's making the news more often than not is.....pension reform. We know it's been coming for a while that the country cannot continue to pay state pensions at the same rate as before and the last year of increased inflation has made this decision to break the link between pensions and inflation difficult but necessary. The last government splashed the cash to pensioners to win votes but they still lost. Then in opposition they spent two days on a filibuster to paralyse the parliament to try and prevent the new pension reforms. They lost again. The new government seems to be a bit more fiscally responsible but the general population has to step up and fend for itself a bit more rather than trust to what you might get from the State later.

Long Live the King

Yeah, I know we are a Republic and we have a President but sometimes you get the impression that Miloš Zeman would just like to have trashed the constitution, made himself King and gone back to having Dukes and Barons. March 9th will see the inauguration of President Petr Pavel. He's been in the news lately travelling to meet other presidents and political leaders. Why is that strange? Well for the last three years I don't remember that Miloš Zeman has been anywhere. I'm not a supporter of his brand of either politics or leadership but having a new healthy President capable of travelling and engaging with other leaders is clearly going to be an advantage for the Czech Republic.

In The News

It seems that the third peak of Ukrainian refugees has ended but this time it was not how the people were absorbed into the country but where. Clearly there has been a move to try and disseminate refugees to less popular locations but support groups have quickly pointed out that Ukrainians grouped together are more than capable of supporting themselves financially and socially but separation brings problems especially with local integration.

There seems to be a “cleaning house” going on with people from all political parties either resigning or being sacked due to direct or indirect proximity to a police corruption investigation. Is the corruption level going down? Probably not but the news bodes better for the legal system as once upon a time these people would let it go to trial to get an acquittal. Now it looks like the police and justice people are more able to put a case together for a prosecution.

Even after 80 years, WW2 stories still make the news. This one was a diary of a 90 year old concentration camp survivor called Emilie Rohlova from the Czech village of Lidice found during a house clearance after her death. Her husband was shot in 1942 and her mother died at Auschwitz. She was separated from her daughter. After the war ended she returned and began to write the diary to her missing child who, unknown to her at the time, had been murdered by Nazis at the Chelmo camp.

You wait years for a constitutional amendment and then two or three come along at once. One result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine was that the Czechs amended their constitution to allow the government to send the military to other countries without first having to get the authorisation of parliament.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

The headline actors invited to the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in 2022 were Geoffrey Rush and Benicio Del Toro.

Between March 2020 and June 2022 more than 40,000 people died due to a Covid-19 related issue. 1 person died because of the vaccine.

A study by the University of Olomouc involving 10,000 children aged between 10 and 17 revealed that 10% had “self-harming tendencies” and 6.25% actually self-harmed.

A law informally known as “Lex Ukraine” allows city municipalities to allocate building space owned by the city for the purposes of providing emergency accommodation to Ukrainian refugees without needing to invoke national emergency legislation.

In June 2021 the main Prague TV Tower was hit by lightning which damaged the internal electrical system and left it without aircraft warning lights for 24 hours.

June 25th is officially the day of the “Departure of Occupying Forces” and has been since 2022. Putin, Go F*ck Yourself.

Two “Boston Dynamics robot dogs” are currently mapping underground tunnels in Prague with a view to creating an accessible 3D map. Basically an underground “Google Street view”.

The average price of a lunch in Prague is CZK190 (2-course and drink).

The outdoor Prague Castle “Summer Shakespeare Festival” in 2021 attracted more than 90,000 visitors.

In 1990, 13 European Union countries were mining black coal. In 2023 only Poland and the Czech Republic are still mining.

Jan Graubner is the Archbishop of Prague.

Walking Tours

In this market economy that we live in it looks like my walking tours season officially begins on March 13th. That has worked out well and allowed me a nice break in southern Spain in February, officially coldest month of the year here. I had admin to do because some people booked tours in March thinking that they were booking for February but they were all refunded. The forecast for early March is cold but sunny and then it's SPRING!!!

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

It's not unusual for clients to inquire about scheduled tours but at the same time to ask about the pricing for private tours. People often think that it will be too expensive but my private tour deals are very competitive and excellent value considering the flexibility. Shelby took advantage of that.



Shelby R
Lubbock, TX • 22 contributions



Fantastic customized personal tour

Sep 2022

My friend Kim and I had a private tour with Jason in late September 2022, and it was fantastic! He customized the tour for our interests, and we learned so much about Prague, its history, and fun little tidbits. I do not hesitate to recommend Jason, and though we would have done the small group tour, we were so grateful to have the option of the private tour.

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

Written February 13, 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! – Pragl Glass Blowing



Glass Blowing at Pragl

This is very much an adult-only experience primarily because you are going to need a reasonable amount of lung power to get something out of it.






The idea here is to combine an activity with a souvenir i.e. you will be doing something and you will get to take something home with you no matter how ugly you perceive it to be.

But as an experience you'll have to go some way to finding something which is both as fun and creative. In the winter you'll regularly find me outside their window firstly because it's warm and secondly because it's fun to look in and see total strangers with red faces and tennis ball cheeks doing their absolute best to create something and wondering "he made it look so simple".

Check the post about the [Pragl Glass Shop](#)

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/>