

# Livingprague Newsletter

June 2023



SHOWING CLIENTS IDIOM (BOOK TUNNEL)

In the June newsletter we'll take a look at the classic Czech dish of Pork Knuckle, we'll take a look at one of the most famous historic Jewish characters called Mordecai Maisel, I'll tell you about why the Linden Tree has a special place in Czech culture and I'll describe the events that led up to the Prague Uprising in May 1945.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at what to expect from the World of Banksy exhibition. Blast from the Past includes a new Prague ice-cream gelato location in the Old Town and some new pictures plus a link to info about the Naplavka Saturday Farmers Market.

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

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### **Pork Knuckle - Koleňo**

Along with a rump steak the Pork Knuckle is one of the single heaviest servings in Czech cuisine. Here's what to expect, why you might want to share and what to order with it. [Read more...](#)



### **Famous Czechs – Mordecai Maisel**

Mordecai Maisel was one of the most famous Jewish characters of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century and his legacy is still seen today in the very centre of the Jewish Quarter. Learn why he was so important not just for Jewish Prague but for the whole city. [Read more...](#)



## The WW2 Prague Uprising

One of the significant events of World War Two took place in the last week of the war. An attempt by the Protectorate government to hand over power to Czechs went wrong and a combination of poor communication and politics caused the Prague Uprising which would result in the deaths of nearly 3000 civilians. [Read more...](#)



## The Linden Tree

Organic decoration on buildings is often confused with Art Nouveau. Look carefully and you'll see a specific leaf and flower. In Czech there is a tree that you'll find all over the country in parks and lining streets. It's the Czech National Tree, the Linden Tree. Here's why it's so revered in Slavic culture. [Read more...](#)

# Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)

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Amorino returned to Prague and opened a Gelato shop in the Old Town on the corner of Franz Kafka Namesti. So anybody showing the old Malostranska address is now out of date and I updated my own Prague ice-cream gelato post. [Read more....](#)



The Prague Saturday Farmers Market called "Naplavka" is well underway and I ended a tour here for clients who were looking for some food experiences. Open from 8am more for local shopping and closes at 2pm so it attracts the foodies for lunch. Updated the post with a couple of new pictures. [Read more....](#)

# Comment

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## AI Cometh

I joined OpenAI last month so I could take a look at ChatGPT. I wanted to get an idea of how somebody might use it so I asked it to “write a 400 word article about Charles Bridge in Prague”. In short order I was presented with an article. I did not give any other parameters or tweak the original answer. I did not need to have any knowledge about Charles Bridge, I did not have to research about it and the article was accurate albeit a 400 word article didn't leave room for any drifting. Am I going to use that article? No, because I write my own original content but what about if 100,000 people around the world asked for the same thing and were given exactly the same article which they published online? And what if that article contained an error. Do other AI read these 100,000 articles and think it must be true because all these people have the same information? Or does AI know that AI wrote it? Should AI content be labelled in some way?

Why should I bother to write about Prague when somebody a thousand miles away just has to ask ChatGPT to do it. Am I worried? Actually no! If AI writes about something I have no issue because my writing is all about MY experiences living and working in Prague for the last 25 years but does this give me any “authority” about Prague in the AI world? I write about Prague. The content is published via a Czech IP address to a domain registered in Czech and hosted on a Czech server. For me it's all a question of trust. Regardless of whether its Human or AI, when you read something online is it the experiences of somebody who spent a weekend in a city or 20 years. Is the author making it seem like he knows the city well when in fact they've never set foot here and his/her info is just piggy-backing off original content like mine.

## In The News

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**Back in 2011 the Czechs and the Polish created a gas interconnect called “Stork” primarily to route gas from Czech to Poland. Following Putin’s Ukraine War the plan for “Stork 2” has been dusted off with a view of initially connecting LNG Terminals in Poland with the Czech gas network. But eventually this will be a bidirectional system connecting Poland to Croatia and supplying gas to Poland, Czech, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania. Putin Go Fu\*k Yourself!**

Police charged two Czech men with two counts of “negligent homicide”. It turns out that the men organised a rock climbing activity in Austria in which a woman died in 2019. As a result the police took no criminal action but the main organiser had his guiding licence revoked. That guy then illegally set up another climbing activity in which another woman died in 2020. This one was followed by a criminal investigation. Both men face 6 years in prison if convicted.

**The Czech government is again looking at one of it’s historic periods namely 1970-1982 which was part of the “Normalisation” of the country i.e. crushing freedoms etc. During this period a number of properties and land in Czechoslovakia were made available to the USSR for free or at least rent-free. Looks like that agreement will be going out of the window and I guess the Russians will “strongly protest”. Putin Go F\*ck Yourself!**

Never one to duck a tricky situation the Czech government sent it’s Minister for Education to the Sudeten Conference in Germany in May. Following the end of WW2 the Beneš Decrees required nearly 3 million ethnic Germans and Hungarians to be expelled from Czechoslovakia. The Sudeten Conference is held every year in Germany to discuss the case for remuneration of stolen assets. Fat chance!

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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**Approximately 60,000 Ukrainian refugee children were registered to attend Czech schools for 2022/23.**

Since records began in 1775, Prague registered it's fifth hottest summer with the average July/August temperature of 22.2 degrees C.

**The Palacky University (Olomouc) has built a microbrewery on it's premises for students who want to study the Chemistry of Beer.**

The Czech Parliament signed off on an army deployment plan which says that the number of Czech soldiers that can be deployed outside of Czech in 2023/24 is limited to 1362.

**Approximately 20 Czechs visit the North Pole every year.**

The maximum State monthly pension is currently CZK19,500 which equates to 49.5% of the national average wage.

**Barbora Spotakova is the current women's Javelin world record holder with a distance of 72.28 metres.**

Prague City Hall authorised the budget for 200 new trams. This will initially be a group of 40 trams to be operational by 2026 with options for a further 160 later if required.

**Prague has 5 Catholic Basilicas.**

In 2019 the International Canine Federation recognised the Bohemian Shepherd dog breed.

**Between May and September 2022 the Czech Republic recorded 66 instances of Monkeypox with 1 potentially related death.**

According to the Ministry of Health the minimum permissible temperature in a toilet (not in a hospital) is 15 Degrees C.

**In 2022 only 3 out of 27 Senators were elected after the first vote.**

# Walking Tours

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Apparently Global Warming has not reached the Czech Republic because it's been pretty crap temperatures. I wore shorts on only six days in May. SIX DAYS! It was a real mix of subjects with most clients going for the Flagship Old Town and Jewish Quarter tour but I had a group of Graphic designers who wanted an architectural introduction to the city. There were also people who wanted to try local food and drink and others looking to understand the impact of WW2 and communism on the country. According to my booking system the most popular tour booked in the last month was.....Old Town and Jewish Quarter. There are no State or Jewish Holidays in June.

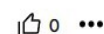
**People might be interested to know that despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the high rates of inflation since then, my scheduled tour prices have stayed the same.**

## Review

Doug and his wife booked places on a regular tour. Once again, it's a review which highlights the way that I balance the tour and fill two and a half hours with interesting and thoughtful content with some fun as we go.



Doug S  
Middlewich, UK • 30 contributions



Don't miss out!

Apr 2023

An excellent afternoon with Jason who is personable, knowledgeable and engaging. The tour enhanced our trip to Prague by pointing out many features of the city which would have passed us by. A good, steady pace yet we covered so much! Very enjoyable and worthwhile. Should we return to Prague we will certainly book another guided walk with Jason.

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

Written April 23, 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! – World of Banksy

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The World of Banksy Exhibition

This is more for my UK readers but surely the name Banksy must be famous world-wide now. An artist whose original work first appeared in the English city of Bristol, there can't be 3 months go by without one of his works appearing in the world and associated with some moral or political argument.






The World of Banksy is a collection of 115 recreations of his most famous works of the 1990s set in a deconsecrated church in Prague's Old Town. I make my own judgement as to why you would go to see it and why you would not go to see it just for balance.

Check the post about the [World of Banksy](#)

# Being Social

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**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><a href="#"><u>FACEBOOK</u></a>: You can read posts, view short videos, like/share content, follow and message me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>INSTAGRAM</u></a>: You can view pictures, like/share content and follow me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>PINTEREST</u></a>: You can view specific genre pictures, save Pins to your boards and follow me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>YOUTUBE</u></a>: You view full length videos, comment, like/share content and follow me.</p>
	<p><a href="#"><u>TRIP ADVISOR</u></a>: You can view tour pictures, read and leave a tour review for others.</p>

# Surveys – Help me improve!

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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!

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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](mailto:fun@livingprague.com)

**CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP:** +420 603 187856

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