

Livingprague Newsletter

July 2023



THE BACK OF ST VITUS CATHEDRAL - 3RD COURTYARD

In the July newsletter we'll take a look at a popular vegetarian restaurant chain, we'll take a look at the Quadrio Shopping Centre, I'll tell you about a Prague street with an interesting backstory and I published a video about Arriving at Prague Main Train Station.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at what to expect from a Shooting Range experience. Blast from the Past includes updated information about Prague Farmers Markets on the Food Festivals post and a new picture on the Franciscan Garden 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

Dhaba Beas Vegetarian
Prague Streets - Klarov
Quadrio Shopping Centre
Video - Railway Station

Blast from the Past

Food Festivals
Franciscan Garden

Comment

Noise Level
Stare in Wonder

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

Shooting Range Experience

Social/Surveys/Contact

Featured New Content



Food and Drink – Dhaba Beas

It's the summertime so my usual "meat and dumplings" food intake changes to lighter stuff and my favourite place to stop is a chain called Dhaba Beas. It is Vegetarian with Vegan options but, great food and useful if you are short on time. Use it as a salad bar. [Read more....](#)



Prague Streets - Klárov

Some places are not just streets, they are old areas of the city that have been changed beyond all recognition. Here we have a street named after a man who had a very special mission in his life. [Read more....](#)



Services – Quadrio Shopping Centre

An area which was once a fruit/veg market and at night the haunt of drug dealers and users was completely redeveloped after 2010 resulting in the Quadrio Shopping Centre. It's an interesting backstory and hosts a unique piece of modern art. [Read more....](#)



Video - Prague Main Train Station

I haven't published a video on Youtube for at least a year so even though it's causing me some headaches getting back into video-editing I recognise that I need to do it. So I am beginning to upgrade some of my "what to expect" videos and the first one is what to expect when arriving at the Prague Main Train Station. [See more](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



I updated the Prague Food Festival post to show a new way to find dedicated food festivals in the city but also links/descriptions of various weekday/weekend farmers markets where you'll find good selections of tasty food and drink. [Read more...](#)



I realised that my pictures on the Franciscan Garden post were all summer-pics so I thought I'd update that with a photo taken in the first week of April 2023. It was cold but nice to sit in the sun. As you can see, pretty empty for 2-30pm on a weekday. [Read more...](#)

Comment

Noise Level

I don't know whether I'm becoming more sensitive (apparently my wife says this is not the case) but the level of noise in the city is clearly increasing. I wonder if this is in some way connected to the COVID-19 pandemic and I just got used to less sound in the city but street works, traffic, amplified sound and stag parties just seem to me to be louder than usual. I guess its just a case of getting used to it again but I really find myself appreciating the quieter parts of town.

Stare in Wonder

It was late June, so you expect hordes of kids on school trips in the city and the interaction between kids and their teachers fascinates me. In general the older kids seem completely disinterested in anything the teacher/guide is saying (teenage thing?) but I do take a special interest in what the teacher/guide does to engage the class. It does seem that the job of the guide is to get through it and the job of the teacher is to monitor the group to prevent conversation and mobile phone use.

Then there are the young kids. You'll see little lines of them walking in pairs in their hi-viz jackets hanging on every word of the leader. What he/she says is apparently hot stuff because the result is kids looking at something in amazement. OK, it lasts about 5 seconds but in that time you see the wonder on the faces.

It seems that we lose this fascination after a few years but here's news for you.....it comes back if you let it.

In The News

From October 1st the street called Koněvova (named after Soviet General Ivan Koněv) will be renamed “Hartigova” after the first mayor of the 3rd District. This will cause some issues for the approximately 5000 residents in the street who will have to re-register their mailing address, permanent address, ID Card, Health card, driving licence etc etc.

The Czech Defence Ministry reported that in the first five months of 2023 they provided Ukraine with 24 tanks, 76 infantry fighting vehicles, 645 anti-tank guided missiles, 16 special air defence system vehicles, 57,000 cartridges for cannons and howitzers, 144 anti-aircraft weapons plus other military equipment, spare parts, fuel and protective equipment against chemical and biological weapons. Putin Go Fu*k Yourself!

On one day in June the Czech Parliament continued discussion on 1) a public finance bill that will amend 60 existing laws, 2) the American Defence Cooperation Act which could conceivably result in US military stationed in this country and 3) enshrining the act of marriage as only between a man and a woman. I hope we are electing sensible and smart members of parliament!

The Prague Vyšehrad Railway Bridge was built in 1901 and has been on the country's National Monument List since 2004. So it was surprising that when the railway company held a tender for increasing the capacity of the bridge there were NO entries that allowed for staying within the existing dimensions i.e. all plans called for the destruction of the existing bridge. This has again raised the age-old question of whether a structure is worth saving solely based on its age even if it appears to have no architectural value.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

One in every four births in the Czech Republic is by C-section.

Discount/promo leaflets make up almost a quarter of paper in Czech recycling bins.

The World Economic Forum ranks the Czech Republic as 101st out of 146 countries in the Gender Equality list.

The Czech National Museum was formed 205 years ago this month.

The AZ Tower in Brno is the tallest building in the country at 111 metres.

In 2022 there were 1713 crimes reported to police to have been committed by somebody under the age of 15.

On average it takes a Czech citizen 16.6 years to be able to buy an apartment with an area of 70 square metres.

Three new Czech Centres (offices for the promotion of Czech culture overseas) will open in Belgrade, Hanoi and Taipei in 2023.

Czechoslovakia decriminalised homosexuality in 1961.

Czech arms manufacturer Zbrojovka Excalibur Army saw sales rise from CZK2.5 Billion in 2021 to CZK13.5 Billion in 2022.

30% of Czechs do not save and/or invest for their retirement.

There are 85 baby boxes around the country which have saved 252 babies since June 2005.

The price of a motorway vignette will increase from CZK1500 to CZK2300 in 2024.

The remains of up to 80 victims of execution by the Communist regime between 1948 and 1965 were found during the excavation of part of the Pankrác prison grounds abandoned since 1992.

Walking Tours

I was looking at the upcoming calendar for July and there's a real mix. Clearly the most popular tour will be the Old Town and Jewish Quarter but Private Tours and Architecture are coming in a close second. More and more people are requesting that Architectural content be included in Private Tours. One funny story from June. I was to meet a client called Stan at a hotel reception so when a couple approached me about meeting for the tour I asked if his name was Stan and he said yes. Ten minutes into the tour I asked why his wife kept calling him Bob! Long story short, I returned "Bob" to the hotel and collected my actual clients for the day. There are State Holidays on July 5th and 6th.

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

KeLucycat had booked what I call the Tour-Lunch-Tour. It's a 6 hour block of time to be used as required but mostly it's the Old Town and Jewish Quarter in the morning and the City Walking Tour in the afternoon with a proper lunch break.



KeLucycat

Calgary, Canada • 10 contributions



Living Prague Tours

May 2023 • Couples

Jason is a terrific English speaking local guide who tailored a full day tour for us when we visited Prague. He shares his knowledge of Prague from history to cool quirky fun facts (INXS video) and recommendations for independent exploration in a friendly and fun manner. He showed us some fun "back alley/courtyard" crowd beating routes that we used later on our own. After our day with Jason we felt so confident exploring this amazing city. Hiring a private guide to help you understand the complexities of a city like Prague will be money very well spent.



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

Written May 26, 2023

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! – Shooting Range Experience



Shooting Range Experience

I had a firearms licence when I lived in the UK so I was used to handguns, shotguns and rifles but I always knew that just a small percentage of the population would ever be able to enjoy this pursuit legally.

When I arrived in Prague I did not join a club but I was interested in finding a good place that offered the shooting experience. Based on my own research I found several but I only personally recommend one of them.

The pricing is clearly explained and based on the package that you choose it's going to be one of your few chances to handle some impressive firearms under expert guidance.

Check the post about the [Prague Shooting Experience](#)

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.

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CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP: +420 603 187856

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