

Livingprague Newsletter

August 2023



A CHARLES BRIDGE SUNRISE

In the August newsletter we'll take a look at my experience drinking a flight of beer at Fat Cat, we'll take a look at the Czech food snack called Langoš, I did a book review about an inspirational woman from WW2 Prague and I published a video about using Prague's Park and Ride system.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at a food challenge here which gives you a steak for free so long as you can eat it in 15 minutes. Blast from the Past includes updated information about a money exchanging scam on the Cash or Card post and a new picture on the Municipal House 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.

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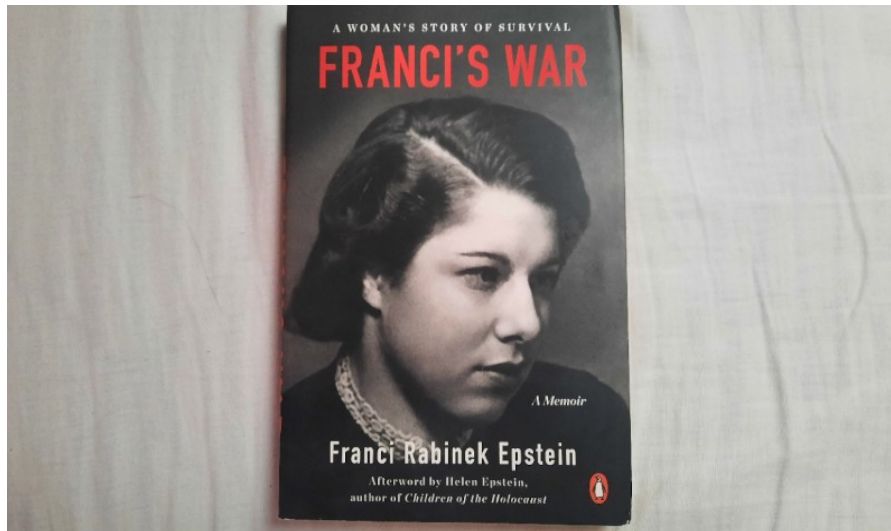
Food and Drink – Langoš

A reasonably unhealthy snack but oddly satisfying if you restrict yourself to one per lifetime. You'll find a Langoš stall on the Old Town Square permanent booths or look out for them in any food/Christmas/Easter/farmers market. [Read more....](#)



Food and Drink - Flight of Beer

On a hot day in July I decided to spend some time enjoying a flight of beer at the Fat Cat restaurant in the Old Town. Here's what you get, how you know what you're drinking and what it costs. Man, the research I have to do sometimes, I'm really taking one for the team here. [Read more....](#)



Book Review – Franci's War

Since I began my tour business in 2016 I've been showing people a deportation memorial project here called Stolpersteine and explaining that less than 1% of the people memorialised in Prague actually survived World War Two. This is a compelling memoir of one of those survivors. [Read more....](#)



Video - Prague Park and Ride

People visiting Prague using a vehicle or maybe people hiring a car that want a cheap place to park will maybe have heard about the Prague Park and Ride system. This is my local P&R at the Chodov Shopping centre but it explains what to expect about entering, paying for parking and exiting any Prague P&R. [See more](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



Twice this year I've personally observed a guy who is part of a money-changing scam in the city. I updated the post with how this happens and how to beat the scam. [Read more....](#)



Most people will take a picture of the Municipal House from the outside but if you are here early in the morning you can get a photo looking back through the stained glass entry portal as the sun rises over the Hybernia Theatre. Updated post with new picture. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Cold River

It's that time of year. July coming into August and you wait for a particular story to appear in the news or should I say that you hope you don't see this story. It's the "boy/girl drowns in the river" story. It's heart wrenching for any parent to see it but it will happen again despite our best advice. The late night beer by the riverside and the short dip to cool down, the jumping off the boat and swimming back to shore, there are several ways. The news will report somebody as missing but if you know the river they won't be missing for long. The Vltava river appears so quiet but it's deadly if you don't respect it.

International Rescue

The new President Petr Pavel is out and about visiting countries, giving interviews in English and spreading the influence of the Czech Republic. I know this sounds like pretty basic stuff for a President but since 2018 I'm not sure if the last President left the country more than half a dozen times. I'm a tour guide so I tell people about Prague Castle and the "Presidential Standard". The Standard only flies over the castle when the President is in the country. So for most of the last 7 years of doing tours I expected to see the Standard over the castle because Miloš Zeman rarely travelled. But in the last 3 months since the election of Pavel it's 50-50 whether it's there or not. I enjoy looking up to the castle to see if the President is in the country and if he's not I hope he is spreading good news and influence around the world and rescuing our international reputation after 10 years of Zeman.

In The News

Famous Czech-born writer Milan Kundera died in Paris aged 94 was the headline. When you went deeper it was his wish to have his ashes taken to the Czech city of Brno. His widow Věra Kundera has interpreted this wish as his ashes will stay in their Paris apartment until she dies and then they will both be taken to be buried in Brno.

The Czech Transport Ministry released figures showing that public transport volumes have still not returned to pre-pandemic levels. In the first quarter of 2023 there were 107 million fewer journeys when compared to the same period in 2019. The bulk of 101 million is made up of fewer integrated city journeys plus 6 million fewer inter-city train and bus journeys.

There was a famous singer/performer in this country called Karel Gott who died in 2019. This month Czech Radio began broadcasting his autobiography using his AI-generated voice. Reaction has been mixed with some praising the radio station for it's ingenuity whilst others have described it as poor judgement and a clear case of "yes you can but, no you shouldn't".

With all the debate about public finances and budget deficits etc the government announced that the Czech Republic will pay CZK50 Million over the next 5 years for many of its gastronomic institutions to be listed in the Michelin guide. This is not all public money as partly it is from the private sector but it might leave a bad taste in the mouth for some despite the government calling it an investment in tourism.

The Czech Senate passed the "Czech-American Defense Cooperation Agreement" by a majority of 66-6 to give a legal framework for the presence of the US Military on Czech lands. The Bill now passes back to the Parliament for the final debate and vote. 666 mmmh!

Trivia and Odd Statistics

The World Organisation for Animal Health says that the Czech Republic has been officially free of Bird Flu since July 11th 2023.

Czech pension costs projected for 2023 will be CZK690 Billion which equates to 30% of all State spending.

There were @793,000 registered foreign workers in the country in 2022 up from @261,000 in 2014.

The 2022-23 National Football League Champions were Sparta Prague.

Record high temperatures were set on July 15th in 100 of the 160 weather stations whose data go back at least 30 years.

24 year-old Czech Markéta Vondroušová became the first ever unseeded player to win the Ladies Singles Championship at Wimbledon in the Open era.

Czechs spent CZK759.3 Billion betting in 2022 with 56.8% of bets made online.

The Ministry of Labour reported that there are 410 Czech children under the age of three currently in institutional care.

The Institute of National Health reported 4873 cases of Scabies in the first half of 2023 making it the worst outbreak in the last 20 years.

The Czech Republic is standardising it's appliance charging. ALL smartphones sold in this country from 2024 must have USB-C charging and this will extend to other wireless/portable devices by 2026.

The World Rally Championship in October 2023 will host eight out of eighteen stages in the Czech Republic.

On June 30th 2023 there were officially 249,792 listed as unemployed (3.4%) and at the same time 286,690 positions available.

Walking Tours

Not unusual to get a text from a client that says “I’m at the meeting point wearing a blue t-shirt”. In July I got some that made me smile. I guess my favourite was the “I have pink trousers and my husband looks 2 feet taller than me” but the runners-up were “I’m wearing a hat that makes me look like a bee-keeper” and “I’m wearing an orange skirt with my arm in a sling”. Never boring here. I got two pieces of valuable advice from clients, first was to take precautions against the hot sun and second that we had to stop for a small dark beer every so often!! In one week I delivered 3 tours for people from different countries who were all staying at the Residence Agnes.

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

Susel and her husband picked my Prague Architecture tour. Typical for the tour they wanted an overview of the different types of architecture, who paid for it, why architects changed their styles in some cases and generally the elements to look for in different architectural eras.



Susel
32 contributions



Unique and wonderful opportunity

Mar 2023 • Couples

My husband and I did the architecture tour. It was very comprehensive, Jason knowledge of the subject is vast and he is a great communicator.

He shared many interesting facts about the history of the city thru the lens of its buildings.

If you are a passionate of architecture like I am this tour is for you, because Prague offers a unique opportunity to witness different architecture styles in a single place.

Totally recommend!

Written July 1, 2023

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our [transparency report](#) to learn more.

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! – 1 Kilo Beefsteak Challenge



Are you hungry enough or just mad enough?

Czech cuisine is already meat heavy so it should come as no surprise that beef steaks are a common sight on the menu.

Less common is to see steaks coming in at a pre-cooked weight of 1.3 Kilos or approximately 1 Kilogram of cooked meat.






And an absolute rarity is for somebody to offer you that 1 Kilogram of beef steak for free IF you can finish it in less than 15 minutes in accordance with their rules which are pretty simple.

Is this truly enjoying food? Probably not but the challenge is out there.

Check the post about the [1 Kilo Beef Steak Challenge](#)

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/>