

Livingprague Newsletter

September 2023



A LUCKY BASTARD (THAT'S THE NAME OF THE BEER)

In the September newsletter we'll take a look at why you might like to visit the Maisel Synagogue, I'll tell you about a new hostel in the city only for women, I'll tell you about the history of "National Street" and I published a video about using Prague Airport Duty Free and other ways of saving money.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at why and how best to explore the Vyšehrad Cemetery. Blast from the Past includes a new online tool on the Prague Uprising post for plaques and German street names plus a new picture on the John Lennon Wall 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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Attractions – Maisel Synagogue

Not the oldest synagogue, not the newest synagogue and not even an historically original building but Maisel Synagogue still draws the crowds with its chequered history, its collection and a piece of modern multimedia. Learn why it is here and how it has changed over the years. [Read more....](#)



Prague Streets - Národní

Almost every city and town in the country will have a street called Národní meaning “National Street”. The one in Prague has a fascinating history so on this post I’ll explain how the street has developed since 1791 and things to watch out for. [Read more....](#)



Services – Women's Only Hostel

There are more than 30 hostels in Prague but this one breaks new ground by becoming the first hostel in the city only for women. I don't know how this will fare in our "non-binary" age but I took a look inside to see what they are offering. [Read more....](#)



Video – Prague Airport Duty Free

People visiting Prague will often be thinking about buying Duty Free at the Airport. I will explain what's on offer at the Airport but it's not always the cheapest and doesn't have the best choice. I'll tell you how to get a general 10% discount at the Airport and also for UK visitors how to import a lot more than the stated limits. [See more](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



I was passing the John Lennon Wall and I noticed the first new decent piece of art for a while. A rusting tank in a field of sunflowers. Added the photo to the page. [Read more....](#)



I found an online tool which gives you the locations and some information about all the Prague Uprising Memorials in the city. Not the easiest tool to use but between this and Google Translate you can work out the detail. Personally I would use this more as a resource for understanding what German names the streets in Prague had during WW2. Post updated with link to tool. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Shocked

I was in the process of delivering a walking tour to some clients from the USA and I was answering general questions when I was asked “when I’m making a call on my mobile is there any danger of somebody stealing it?”. In a slightly shocked state I think I said nothing for 5 seconds and then confirmed that was not a problem here so she was perfectly safe. However even after the tour had finished, it was still crossing my mind that these people had been in some way affected by this crime and I thank my lucky stars that I live in a place where it’s not happening.

Plausible Deniability

Not shocked to hear about another plane crash in Russia which then expanded into the potential death of Yevgeny Prigozhin and I’m sorry for the loss of human lives, especially the crew. You can just imagine it, uncle Putin sitting at the end of his long table with all his henchmen clustered at the far end. Putin stares at the ceiling and ponders out loud that his life would be more relaxed if only the Wagner leadership wasn’t around any more. They move on to other important stuff like lying about the economic state and how many war dead but, several people around that table must think they’ll be in Putin’s good books if they help him to relax. I’m reading a headline “Kremlin denies ordering the assassination of Wagner boss”. Yeah right!

In The News

A guy called Robert Fremr made the news this last month. He is a judge who was about to be named to the Constitutional Court after being vetted by the Senate and then details turned up of strange things that happened on his watch in the late 1980s. Regardless of how these “strange things” are interpreted, the Senate said that they would not have confirmed his appointment without further investigation. The end result was that Mr Fremr decided to refuse the nomination so the embarrassment has been shared around nicely.

US Credit Ratings Agency Fitch kept it's AA rating for Czechia although it criticised a number of things including level of public debt, public finance indicators and tax cuts. Mind you, this is one of the companies that gave Lehman Brothers a rating of AAA on the day they went bankrupt so that always makes me laugh whenever I hear their name.

On the eve of the 55th anniversary of the Warsaw pact invasion of Czechoslovakia on August 21st 1968 a Hungarian pro-government newspaper published an editorial stating that Hungary had missed an opportunity to annex the part of present-day southern Slovakia that they lost at the end of World War One. Everybody wonders why Hungary is still in the EU.

Czech Justice Minister Pavel Blažek is in a sticky situation for apparently being in an unplanned meeting in a restaurant with a former employee of Russian company Lukoil called Martin Nejedlý. Mr Nejedlý had been an advisor to the former president Zeman whose staff issued Nejedlý a diplomatic passport despite him having no diplomatic position here.

Mr Blažek's excuse for being there was that he was sheltering in the restaurant from a heavy storm. Unfortunately the storm lasted 30 minutes and he was in the restaurant for five hours.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Screenwriter Pavel Taussig died aged 74 whose most famous work was the 1996 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Film, Kolya.

In 2022 there were 430 reported cases of domestic violence.

In 2023 the Prague Municipal Police enforced rescue orders for the confiscation of 10 snakes and 5 owls from street performers.

The excise tax on alcohol in Czechia will increase by 25% over the next three years.

There are currently 3,351 Chimney Sweeps in Czechia.

Of the 1,036,798 foreigners registered in the country in June 2023, one third had “temporary protection” status, one third had “temporary residence” status and one third had “permanent residence” status.

The Inflation rate in Czechia in July was 9.7% making it the fifth highest in the OECD after Turkey, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

On average a retired Czech woman receives 13% less pension than the equivalent aged Czech man.

July 2023 was the 8th warmest month on record since national average temperature data collection started in 1961.

Albert Supermarket staff in Klecany inspecting a mistaken delivery of bananas found 686 kilograms of cocaine, street value 83 Million Euros.

It takes 32 minutes to travel the length of the Prague “A” line metro.

The most popular daily newspaper in Czechia is called Blesk with an average readership of 610,000.

In 2022 Czechs harvested nearly 39,000 tonnes of mushrooms and wild fruit from Czech forests and 6 out of 10 Czechs visited a forest at least once in the summer months.

Walking Tours

August started off really warm i.e. mid 30s Celsius so it was shorts on and SPF30 but the end of the month plummeted to as low as 14 so it's meant a few changes of clothes. August tour clients requested an Art Nouveau tour split over two days so that was fun and it re-energised me to learn more about the Vyšehrad Cemetery which I wrote about this month. Already got my first Christmas Markets booking plus a specialised INXS tour so I'm mixing it up. Chinese groups are back in the city so I learned how to say "excuse me can we pass" in Mandarin to add to my list of foreign phrases.

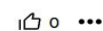
People might be interested to know that despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the high rates of inflation since then, my scheduled tour prices have stayed the same.

Review

Catherine booked two different private tours so in our 6 hours together her family got to see a large area of the city with me but we also agreed which parts/attractions they preferred to explore on their own. I gave them advice on what fit in with their personal interests and nice places to eat close to where they were staying.



Catherine A
21 contributions



Memorable visit to Prague

Did 2 private half day tours with teens. Jason gave us a wonderful tour of Prague. He was very easy to chat with and gave lots of information on getting around, places to eat and which sites were worth visiting on our own. We returned to some sites later which made the visits meaningful for us. Tour was very reasonably priced as well. I recommend touring with him if looking for a private tour option in prague!



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

Written July 15, 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! – Vyšehrad Cemetery



Vyšehrad Cemetery






I know that people often like to browse cemeteries, I'm one of them. I've been to the Vyšehrad Cemetery many times in the last 25 years and I realised that I take for granted a lot of the history/culture, knowing where people are buried etc and simply being able to navigate it.

I realised that it is pretty much a "Czech language" environment and there were almost no English language resources to help you plan a visit to actually find specific people buried here. So I decided on my last visit to take some new photos of the cemetery and expand the post to cover ways to get there. I've also included pictures to help you understand the layout and help you navigate the cemetery by block/grave. I also made an English language PDF file that gives you details of the 56 most significant people interred here.

Check the post about the [Vyšehrad Cemetery](#)

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/>