

# Livingprague Newsletter

October 2023



MY FAVOURITE "GOAT" BEER ON THE LAST HOT DAY OF THE YEAR

In the October newsletter we'll take a look at why you might like to visit the Cafe Savoy, I'll tell you about the Church of Our Lady Victorious and the associated Infant Jesus of Prague. There's a video about a self-service laundry. Finally I'll tell you about some unusual architecture called the Koruna Palace.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at the sport of throwing axes. Blast from the Past includes a new picture on the Prague Burlesque post celebrating 10 years performing at the Royal plus updated information on the Hermes Boat 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

Cafe Savoy  
Infant Jesus of Prague  
Koruna Palace  
Video – Bloomest Self-service Laundry

### Blast from the Past

Prague Burlesque  
Hermes Boat

### Comment

Tipping Point  
Cold War

### In The News

### Trivia and Odd Statistics

### Walking Tours

### Activity Spotlight!

House of Axes

### Social/Surveys/Contact

# Featured New Content

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## Food and Drink – Cafe Savoy

Looking for professional service, a wide-ranging menu and a stunning venue? Then Cafe Savoy might be for you. The building, on the opposite side of the river from the National Theatre, celebrates its 130<sup>th</sup> birthday and over time has been used as a butchers and a fish shop before its present life as a period-style cafe. [Read more....](#)



## Church of Our Lady Victorious (Infant Jesus)

If you are a Catholic visiting the city then this church will be in your top three places to visit. It's not a particularly old church but the arrival of the "Infant Jesus of Prague" and the later miracles associated with it have made it one of the most popular churches here. [Read more....](#)



## Architecture – Koruna Palace

Koruna Palace at the bottom of Wenceslas Square is your only chance in the centre of town to experience something called “Geometric Art Nouveau”. An insurance company building from 1914 which had its own cinema and later a spa which formed part of the building air-conditioning system until 1975. [Read more....](#)



## Video – Bloomest Self-Service Laundry

I had some inquiries about self-service laundries in the city. I’ve not used any of them for a long time so I decided to visit the one I walk by most days. Bloomest is a franchise which operates an automated laundry in Josefov on the border of the Old Town. I published this video so you know what to expect. [See more .....](#)



## Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)

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Prague Burlesque is celebrating it's tenth anniversary performing at the Theatre Royal in Vinohrady. This was a poster in the city so it's now on the post. [Read more....](#)



It's been a couple of years since I wrote about homeless people and how they could buy a bed for a night on the Hermes. I was looking around for information about how the city is preparing for the winter with regards to the homeless. I found that the Hermes Boat now offers a dinner at 10pm and the bed for the night which used to be CZK20 is now free. [Read more....](#)

# Comment

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## Tipping Point

I think I experienced the best and the worst attitude to tipping in a cafe this month. The best was at the Fantova Kavarna (cafe at the main train station) where the waiter had given us great service and then refused to accept a tip that amounted to about 30% of the cost, instead he took what he thought was fair. Compare that to a cafe in the Tyn Courtyard where service meant seating us at a dirty table, getting the order wrong (not bad considering we only ordered a tea and a coffee) and then being surprised when we accepted the change. I tip in places where I am a regular and I tip good service. If it wasn't good, then I don't tip.

## Cold War

In the next few weeks the city will begin implementing it's plan for providing services to the homeless over the winter. Of course, this is happening throughout the year but winter brings challenges. The Hermes Boat provides beds and services 365 days a year but only has a capacity of 180. The city will increase this in other locations so by the beginning of winter there should be 500+ spaces available. But there are some requirements in that the recipient must be sober, free of drugs and not violent. That means not everybody gets a bed and people will once again die under a bridge within a stones throw of a 5 star hotel.

# In The News

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**The big cultural news was in the north of the country where the town of Žatec was given UNESCO Heritage status. Not just the town, in fact the surrounding land of the town was also included. This was because of the unique flavour of the Saaz hops grown in that area. The German name for the town is Saaz.**

President Petr Pavel attended the UN General Assembly, the first time since 2017 when the previous President was still capable of travelling. Petr Pavel positioned the country firmly in support of Ukraine and pushed for the election of Czech to a non-permanent membership of the Security Council.

**The Czech government ran the first “Duke Wenceslas Future Leaders Programme” in September. If you’re wondering if this has anything to do with “Good King Wenceslas” then you’d be right. Historians will tell you that when Wenceslas died he only had the title of Duke and was awarded the title of King Wenceslas posthumously. Hence Duke Wenceslas is correct.**

A lawyer in Czechia is trying to get a murder conviction annulled. Nothing strange there except that the conviction was back in 1899 and involved the accused, a Jewish man, of murdering a Christian woman. The Jewish man, Leopold Hilsner was pardoned by the Austrian Emperor after serving 18 years in prison because he was considered innocent. But no retrial ever took place so the conviction is still on the books.

**Former Cardinal Dominik Duka referring to the same-sex marriage conversation used a social media account to claim that Christians and Jews “faced the same pressure as they did under Nazism”. The backlash from the Jewish community was swift!**

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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**In the USA 2020 Census, 1.4 Million Americans stated that they had Czech ancestry.**

Czechia ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in the Freedom of Economy World Index.

**“Mastercard” says that 59% of Czechs prefer to pay by card whilst in the country but only 39% prefer to pay by card if abroad.**

The Institute of Health Information and Statistics estimates that 100,000 Czechs have a form of Alzheimers.

**26% of Czech residents aged 25-64 have a university education.**

The Czech “Village of the Year” in 2023 is Ostrožská Lhota.

**Czech health insurance companies spent CZK411 Billion or in other words, 71% of all money spent on national healthcare services.**

The next “Home” game of the Ukraine national football team will be played at the Prague Sparta Stadium on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**17 sites in Czechia have UNESCO World Heritage status.**

There are approximately 84,000 nurses in Czechia of which 14% are over 60 years old.

**The Organ of the ST James Basilica contains 8277 pipes.**

From December the national Czech Railways company Ceske Drahy will increase prices by 10% meaning it has gone up by 25% in two years.

**On his recent trip to the USA, the current Czech President Petr Pavel met the great-granddaughter of the FIRST Czechoslovak President Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk.**

The UK says that the Czech Embassy owes £480,000 in unpaid vehicle congestion charges.

# Walking Tours

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Concerned clients asked if I wanted to stand in the shade during an afternoon tour. I thanked them for their concern but said that I'm perfectly happy to be in the sun on a warm September day. Knowing what's coming two months from now I'll take what I can get and enjoy the warmth.

I turned down a tour request for a group of 57 people which just reinforces my feeling that I don't do this just for the money. I know when I am guiding my small groups that we don't block the city hence why you'll often hear me saying that we're here to enjoy the city, not to get in it's way!

**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

"Roxie" had identified herself as somebody who would not be able to keep a regular walking pace so we agreed a private tour would be best for the route flexibility and for rest stops as required etc. I just made sure we explored the city at a nice pace so they enjoyed the experience without getting too tired.



**GmaRoxie**  
Lincoln, NE • 131 contributions



**Prague, best tour guide ever!**

Aug 2023 • Couples

My husband and I booked a private tour with Jason from Living Prague Walking Tours. It was fabulous. Jason met us at our hotel and headed out from there. He is so knowledgeable. He had so many interesting facts to share. It was two and a half hours that is unforgettable. I walk with a Cane and Jason was always checking to make sure I was ok. I can't say enough about the tour!

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

Written September 6, 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! – House of Axes

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House of Axes

With the weather starting to cool down I thought I'd promote one of my past activities namely, the House of Axes, where I spent an enjoyable evening this time last year.






Entering into an apartment building you descend the stone steps into the basement where it opens up into a series of caverns where they've fitted in axe throwing lanes, tables, chairs and a bar. You'll get a safety demo and you have to sign a disclaimer but listen to the experts and you'll have a great time. Whether it's a competition or just a friendly gathering you'll have 90 minutes to develop and improve your axe throwing technique.

Check the post about the [House of Axes](#)

# 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/>