

# Livingprague Newsletter

August 2020

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THE VIEW FROM THE REAR OF LOBKOWICZ PALACE AT PRAGUE CASTLE

For the August Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status I've included summer content including fun on the river and eating out on the riverside. I'll tell you about a brand new but "historic" attraction formally opening this month, an interactive art museum and show you some feedback from walking tours clients who have not actually done a tour with me yet. I'll also introduce you to a particular pork meal to look out for in the city

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 Content

The Marian Column

Ten Things You Didn't Know About the Marian Column

Pedalos on the River

Czech Food - Moravsky Vrabec

### Comment

Coronavirus Life

### In The News

### Trivia and Odd Statistics

### Walking Tours

### Activity Spotlight!

Illusion Art Museum

### Review

Bobs BBQ

### Being Social

### Surveys/Contact

# Featured Content

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**Marian Column**

It's a view that people haven't seen for a long time and even at the beginning of 2020 permission had still not been given to rebuild it but as you can see, after a 102 year absence, the Marian Column has returned. [Read more....](#)



**Marian Column – 10 Things You Didn't Know**

So now you may have read about the Marian Column, the history, why it was built, when, what happened to it etc. You might even know that it was being rebuilt. Now read 10 more interesting and unusual facts about the Prague Marian Column. [Read more....](#)



## Hiring a Pedalo

Fun for kids and adults alike. Hire a boat or a pedalo for an hour and sail around Shooters Island between the weirs. Stunning views of the riverside, Charles Bridge and the National Theatre. This post gives you the tips and tricks on what to expect. [Read more...](#)



## Moravsky Vrabec

Czech food isn't all about Goulash. There are a lot of regional specialities but in Prague this particular dish should be served in a certain way. On this post we look at Moravsky Vrabec, worryingly translated as "Moravian Sparrow". [Read more...](#)



# Comment

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## Coronavirus Life

The city is opening up again. It's still primarily local Czech tourists and you hear a lot of German but there's more and more English on the streets.

On July 31<sup>st</sup> masks are only compulsory on underground public transport i.e. metro stations and the metro itself but things change quickly. At the time of writing the advice is to carry a face covering with you all the time so that you have one available in case of local restrictions (Chemists sometimes want you to cover your mouth and nose). All shops and building receptions have sanitising spray (smells awful). You'll find that cashiers in shops and supermarkets still have the Perspex screens and personally, I think they are here to stay.

The number of new cases per day is still in the 100-300 range but thankfully, total deaths through the period is still under 400.

It's been interesting following the news. Even last year many Czechs were complaining that there were too many tourists coming here. Attractions were overcrowded etc, restaurants were too expensive, AirBnB was causing issues with the local housing market and then suddenly.....Covid-19.

Within the space of 6 months the city has had a chance to see how it runs when it's perceived to be overcrowded and how it runs in a lockdown. Lessons have certainly been learned but on the whole local Czechs think that although not perfect, the government has done a good job in handling the crisis so far.

# In The News

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**A homeless man arrested in the city of Brno was sentenced to 18 months in prison for stealing 5 bread rolls.**

The Czech film documentary “Caught in the Act” (grooming and abuse of underage girls) became the most popular ever viewed in the cinema with more than 400,000 tickets sold. Three characters in the film have already been convicted of offences.

**7 European price comparison websites including Heureka.cz are taking Google to court (again) for excessively promoting it’s own comparison solution. Heureka is looking for CZK395 Million.**

On June 30<sup>th</sup> between 6pm and 10pm, Prague celebrated the ending of the most draconian Covid-19 lockdown restrictions by having a bring-your-own street party. Amazingly the street was Charles Bridge.

**ST Vitus Cathedral should have had a new organ by now but it’s still being built in Barcelona due to delays in the Covid-19 period. Now it’s looking like the Autumn of 2021 before it’s installed.**

Czech Republic is again ranked number one in Europe for manufacturing companies looking to expand. Worldwide it was 4<sup>th</sup> behind USA, China and India.

**The regular hunting season has begun but with restaurants not trading they are also not buying game. The hunters association set up their own sales website so you just type in your address and hey presto! You get a list of the available dead animals near you!**

Milouš Jakeš, last communist party leader in Czechoslovakia died aged 97. The funeral of the least respected communist party leader ever was only reported after it had taken place. Enough said!

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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**The average age of a teacher in a Czech School is 47.**

There are currently 223 Czech consular offices around the world.

**The Czech Republic will spend CZK 1 Billion on financial measures to support the Czech Spa industry until the end of 2020.**

In the first half of 2020 the number of tourists that stayed in Prague accommodation fell by 27% on the previous year.

**The night of July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup> was the first “Tropical Night” of the year where the air temperature at the Klementinum in central Prague did not fall below 20 degrees Celsius.**

The soundtrack of Quentin Tarantino’s “the Hateful Eight” was recorded by the Czech National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Ennio Morricone.

**June 2020 was the wettest June since 1961. Nine people died in associated flooding.**

During the Covid-19 period, a report suggests that 31% of Czechs have slight or severe financial difficulties, 57% remain unchanged and 12% said their financial status was better.

**9/10 Czechs will holiday in the Czech Republic in 2020 with most choosing the south of the country.**

Prague Public Transport currently runs 8 river ferries (April to October) of which 3 run throughout the year.

**2020 Q1 data says house prices in Czech rose by 9.5%, 6<sup>th</sup> highest rate of all EU member states.**

The average Czech mortgage rate is 2.21%

**In 2021 a 1-year Prague public transport pass will cost 50% more.**

# Walking Tours

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## Highly Recommended

Review of: **Really Small Group (Max.6 People) Prague Old Town & Jewish Quarter Walking Tour**

Due to Covid19, we could not actually do the tour and had to cancel.

However... the response and attention Jason has given us during the booking phase, then cancelling and even the email we just got today (which was supposed to be the day of the tour) has just been excellent. Friends have done a tour and highly recommend it.

It's a massive shame we couldn't do the tour, however given the attention and response we've had we will most definitely go with LivingPrague at the next opportunity and highly recommend him.

[Read less](#) ▲

Here's a review I got recently. The thing is that these guys have not actually toured with me yet so this is more a review of the way I treat my clients. I get the impression that people are having a rough time getting refunds etc so he must have been happy with the service he got from me.

**Private Tours can be arranged by contacting me and Scheduled Tours can be booked online at**

**<https://www.livingpragueturns.com/>.**

Refunds are 96% (cost of tour minus any card transaction fee which is out of my control). Currently all scheduled tours are running normally. If a private tour has travel by metro then a face covering is required. I provide hand sanitiser.

The Scheduled Tours are below:

[Old Town and Jewish Quarter](#)

[City Walking Tour](#)

[World War Two](#)

[Architecture Tour](#)

[Czech Food and Beer Tasting](#)

[Christmas Markets](#)

In July I received the 2020 Trip Advisor “Travellers’ Choice” Award for Consistently High Quality Service, this replaces their old “Certificate of Excellence” program.

2020  
**Travellers’  
Choice™**



**Tripadvisor**



# Activity Spotlight!

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It's raining and you are looking for things to do. Or maybe you've got kids and you want to do something to interest them. Or maybe you just like Illusion Art. That's great because in Prague we have the Illusion Art Museum located on the Old Town Square practically opposite the Astronomical Clock. 3 exhibition floors plus café/restaurant. Each floor has a selection of artistic pieces and I'd say 90% of the collection is interactive, yes mum and dad that's right! Your kids are allowed to touch things.

Read and understand the stories behind the art plus get some great photos along the way. Fascinating artistic projects, many of which are built with scrap (even though the scrap might have a relation to the subject of the piece). Recommended for a visit.

Check out [The Prague Illusion Art Museum](#)

# Review – Bob’s BBQ

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It was a sunny day in July and we'd just spent an hour on the river. We'd sailed past this place twice already as it's moored on the river next to Shooters Island between April and October. We weren't so hungry but the feeling was more for a snack and the BBQ smells were wafting over that part of the river. They smoke their own meat.

## **The review covers:**

First impressions

Ordering and Paying

What we ordered

The Location

What I liked






What might be a concern

Read the [Review of Bobs BBQ on Shooters Island](#)

# 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 following options. 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 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.

Website: <https://livingprague.com/contact-us/>

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

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