

Livingprague Newsletter

September 2020



SEARCH THE SITE FOR "HAVELS PLACE"

For the September Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status I've included more summer content including tips on hiring bikes and a nice route to try. I'll tell you about my favourite places for Gelato in the city and we'll dig into one of the classic Czech Food desserts called Livanec.

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

Prague Gelato

Lucerna Passage

Prague Defenestrations

Czech Food – Livanec

Comment

Coronavirus Life

Strong Stuff

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

Bike Hire

Being Social

Surveys/Contact

Featured Content



Prague Gelato

What's not to like about ice-cream gelato on a hot summer day or any day! It's actually much healthier than regular ice cream plus it comes in a selection of flavours and will have seasonal options. I've picked four of my favourite places to try. [Read more....](#)



Lucerna Passage

The Lucerna (Lantern) passage is a real beauty and only 100 metres from Wenceslas Square. Covering three architectural styles it includes a great cinema, a ballroom, music bar and a weird sculpture. But it's also a place to stop for a drink and watch the world pass by. [Read more....](#)



Prague Defenestrations

The Czechs have this habit of throwing important people out of windows (current politicians beware). Here are the three most famous and the third one actually started a war which would go on for 30 years. [Read more...](#)



Livanec

When people are asked to describe a pancake then I'm sure that 99% would say it's flat and the size of a plate. In Czech we have that as well but we also have an older version. Treat it as a dessert but Livanec is also one of my breakfast favourites. [Read more...](#)

Comment

Coronavirus Life

At first glance you'll see that the city is functioning fairly normally but look a bit deeper and you might notice more shops are closed in the centre than you would normally expect. Some are outright not going to open again. Others are posting the "closed for renovation" signs but I see little work happening.

The metro is running a semi-weekend service because the volume of people coming into the city is reduced. Still no Airport Express running. Even some city Tourist Information offices are closing and directing people to the office at the Old Town Hall.

From September 1st when the majority of kids go back to school the nation will return to the previous COVID19 protection level. That means face coverings will be **compulsory** when inside shops, official offices and on any public transport. Nationally the number of infections is rising i.e. between 300 and 500 per day but with a population of less than 11 million it makes the statistics look bad even though in total only 419 have died. Bad enough that the UK has now put the Czech Republic on the 14 day quarantine list.

Strong Stuff

We all saw the Beirut explosion and saw the devastation but that Silo at the port was still standing. You might like to know that it was built by a Czech company in 1967. The same week we had the Hiroshima anniversary and the pictures of the Hiroshima Memorial building (the prefecture with the domed roof). Also built by a Czech company. I see a theme here.....

In The News

Following a spate of 5 train collisions (3 people killed) and near misses in July, Czech Railways is trialling an App to tell drivers the location of trains around them. Personally I think a driver looking at an App and not in front of him is more dangerous.

The “Campaign for Live Music” put forward a request to increase the maximum permitted number of people to 5000. The Culture minister described this as totally unrealistic and again stated that the current maximum of 500 could even be reduced.

From when it joined the EU in 2004, the Czech Republic has been a net beneficiary of funds. It was reported that in 2020 the country received CZK50.1 Billion in funds, a 102% increase on 2019.

Czech Lawyer Lubomir Muller is investigating a case of wrongful conviction from a murder in 1899. It was one of the last cases of a Jewish man being convicted of Blood Libel (later pardoned).

The government is considering 4 different pandemic voting methods including proxy voting, setting up “micro” polling stations in care homes, “drive-through” options and even collection of voting papers from residences. Postal voting is not being considered.

The regional development ministry scrapped a CZK2 Billion national cultural promotion campaign as it was not clear what the benefits would be other than to give money to media companies in which the current government leader has strong interests.

American “Big Pharma” company Novavax bought Prague Vaccines to increase it’s potential vaccine production by 1 Billion doses. It was noted that Novavax has never produced a vaccine before in it’s 33 year history so, we’ll see.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Applications to join the Czech Army increased by 30% in 2020.

No football team from the Czech First Division will be relegated this year due to the failure to complete the official season caused by COVID19. Two teams from the Second Division were promoted.

The cost of a new flat in Prague increased by 6.1% in the first 6 months of 2020.

The Czech Banking Association expects the national economy will contract by 7.5% this year and get a 5.3% growth in 2021.

In Czech there are approximately 3000 proponents of “Earthing” i.e. people who walk barefoot in cities and nature environments.

The European Union gave Czech CZK77 Million (3 Million Euros) to cover 75% of the Covid19 repatriation costs in 2020.

Alfons Mucha would have been 160 years old this year.

The Czech brewing industry lost CZK4.7 Billion (@200 Million Euros) between March and May 2020 due to bar and restaurant closures. But supermarket alcohol sales increased.

Doctors at a Prague hospital kept a patient alive on an artificial lung for 143 days before transplant. The previous world record was 79 days.

President Zeman appointed 33 new judges, 20 were women.

Skoda sold 372,000 cars in the first quarter of 2020, down 34% on the previous year.

In an average year, 1300 Czechs will commit suicide.

The number of residences available for long term rental increased by 98% in Q2 2020 as Tourism and AirBnB revenue decreased.

Walking Tours

Back in the saddle again. Tours on consecutive days in late August, one scheduled tour for a Czech girl and her boyfriend and then a private tour for an American lady living in Spain. Curiously, both were Architecture Tours. For the Czech girl it was a case of learning about her birth city. For the private tour it was learning about the different styles and how to recognise some individual signature works.

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. All clients are required to have a face covering available. 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](#)

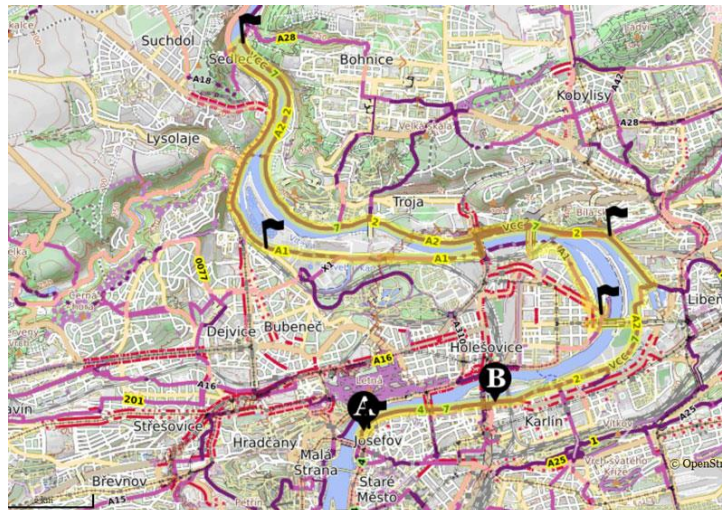
[Christmas Markets](#)



Activity Spotlight!



Last year I wrote about options for [Prague Bike Tours](#) i.e. the organised stuff but several people asked what I did and I had to be honest, I'd never biked in Prague. So I did what a tourist would do i.e. planned a route using online resources and then hired bikes based on how much time I thought that we would need.








On this post you'll get tips on where we hired the bikes from, what we paid, how I planned the riverside route, places to eat and importantly what I would do differently next time.

Check out [Prague Bike Hire and Riverside Route](#)

Being Social

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><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 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.

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

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

CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP: +420 603 187856

EMAIL: fun@livingprague.com