

Livingprague Newsletter

April 2021



ALMOST CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE!

For the April Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status, for my featured content I've included what to expect from the Czech dessert called Jablečný Závin (you know it as Apple Strudel), I'll explain why the Jewish Ghetto ended up being almost completely destroyed, I show you how to tell the time on the Astronomical Clock and we take a look at the story of the Metronome. The Activity Spotlight is Black Light Mini Golf.

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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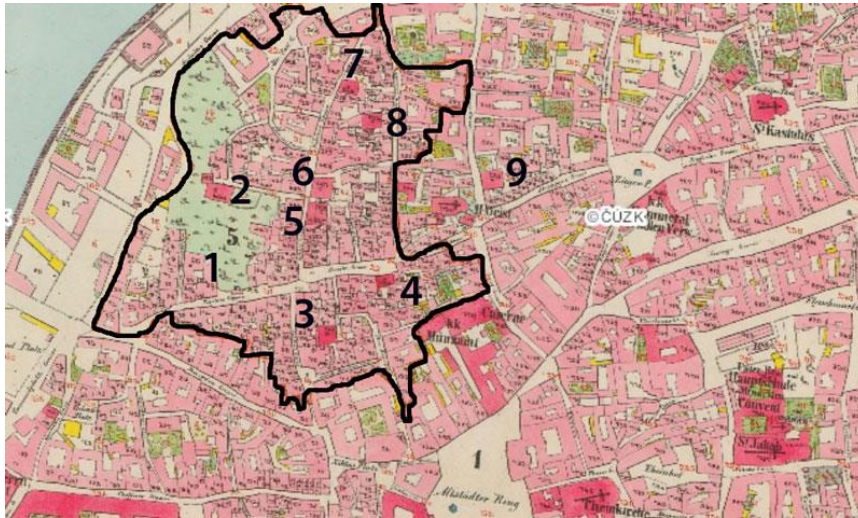
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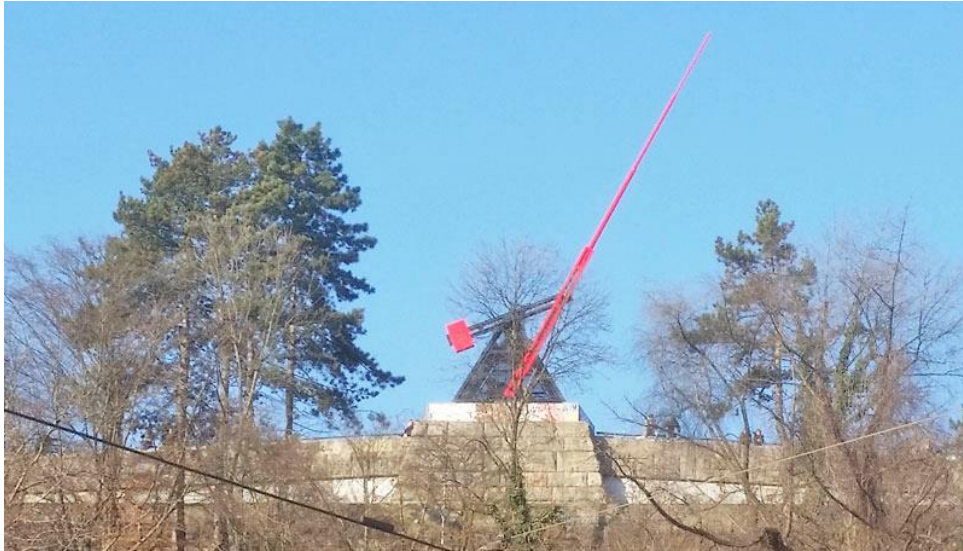
Jewish Ghetto Destruction

I've spent years describing many of the changes between the Jewish Ghetto and the modern district of Josefov so on this post I describe what was going on at the turn of the century and a timeline of what led to the Ghetto's destruction. [Read more....](#)



Astronomical Clock - Telling Time

Great to look at but do you really understand it? On this post I strip out all of the unnecessary stuff so you can learn how to tell the actual time and how to calculate how many hours of daylight you have left before dusk. [Read more....](#)



Prague Metronome

A piece of art and design that was never supposed to be permanent, the Prague Metronome is hypnotic to watch and has several stories associated with it including Stalin, Michael Jackson and a drunk tourist. [Read more....](#)



Czech Food – Apple Strudel

Apple Strudel or Jablečný Závin is one of the most widely available desserts in the city. All cafes and restaurants will offer it. This post explains what goes into it, options for having it served and tips on how you can make it yourself. [Read more...](#)

Comment

Coronavirus Life

Well it wasn't even 24 hours after I sent the last newsletter that the parliament got its act together and authorised a new State of Emergency this time with more places closed and travel restrictions. For me that meant no chance of any tours in March because it would mean travelling outside my region for a non-urgent reason. This has been extended to April 12th.

It also meant changing the supermarket where I usually shop because it was outside the region where I live (we live on the border between east and west Prague and I'm only allowed to move freely on the east side). I've been taking papers with me to show where I live and why I'm out and about just in case I get stopped. A bit like living in the Communist times but without the associated risks.

If face protection is required then the current recommendations are that OUTSIDE an adult can wear a normal N95 mask however if it's INSIDE an adult must wear an FFP2 or a KN95 mask (in the USA look for NIOSH approved suppliers) which are specifically anti-particle respirators. Kids can wear an N95 anywhere because the respirators would not fit properly. I can tell you that most people are now using FFP2 inside and out.

The Czech Foreign Office is publishing the latest restrictions and guidelines at <https://www.mvcr.cz/mvcren/article/coronavirus-information-of-moi.aspx>

In The News

Although several European countries decided to suspend their AstraZeneca COVID vaccination programs because 0.000000004 percent of people who received a jab were found to have a blood clot, the Czech Republic showed some common sense and continued with its program.

The latest COVID lockdown rules came with stronger geographical restrictions. If we are walking we can stay within our “obec” basically 1km around where we live but if we are driving we can go anywhere in the Prague east region. Outside of that you need “papers” to prove why you are out of your area.

A recent Czech Trade Inspectorate action to check practices at nearly 2000 licenced alcohol sales points found 43% of premises either failed to properly display pricing or were found to have sold alcohol to a minor.

CAIFA, the State Inspectorate for Pubs and Restaurants released another damning report on hygiene levels in Czech showing on average that more than a quarter of businesses subjected a customer to incorrect business practices and/or poor hygiene. On the bright side it is improving especially in terms of noting allergens.

A Czech firm called CBD21 Pharma, more known for their cosmetic products, has become the first company in Europe to be able to licence a medical product within the European Union containing Cannabidiol i.e. the CBD part of Cannabis (the good bit, without psycho-addiction). But don't get your hopes up too far, the medical product is rectal or vaginal.

The Czech Republic's richest man, Petr Kellner, was killed in a helicopter crash in Alaska.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

59% of Czechs now favour getting a COVID-19 vaccination which is an increase of 14% in the last two months.

Alcohol sales in Q4 2020 were down 38% on the previous year but on average still account for 3.4% of the household budget.

The government spent 10 Billion Euros in COVID costs in 2020 with the majority on business compensation and tax deferral.

6% of Czechs watch TV on a mobile phone.

Customs at Prague Airport seized 462Kg of “khat” (psycho-stimulant drug) that came in on a flight from Dubai.

Prague Castle occupies 7.28 Hectares of land or 73,000 m².

17% of university students studying in Czech are classed as “international”, an increase of 8% from 2019.

Since 2015 around 31% of businesses serving food and drink failed a hygiene control by the State Agricultural and Food Inspection Authority. 22 businesses were shut down in 2020.

The cost for the complete renovation of the Prague Funicular is estimated to be in the region of 9 Million Euros paid by private investors. The work will take approximately 8 months.

Sales of new cars in Czech fell by 19% in 2020.

There are 174,000 businesses registered in Prague.

2020 was the fifth warmest year since records began in 1775. Each of the five warmest years occurred in the last decade.

460 people died in road accidents in 2020.

22,000 people participated in the last Czech National Bird Survey.

Walking Tours

It may seem strange but I've been doing tours on my sofa. Basically to keep myself in practice I'm closing my eyes and walking my routes virtually with imaginary clients. I have to say that I'm enjoying my work but not getting much in the way of tips..... For Spring/Summer 2021 the following will apply.

- 1) Weekday scheduled tours will always show as available in the booking system.
- 2) Any pre-bookings made for scheduled or private tours and paid for in advance will be subject to the normal cancellation/refund process at <https://www.livingpraguetours.com/faqs/#refund>
- 3) Any pre-bookings for payment in cash on arrival are subject to local city rules in place on the day of the tour. I will contact you as necessary.
- 4) If the number of people on a tour exceeds the local restrictions in place on the day then the first people to book places get priority. Others will be offered an alternate tour date/time and/or refund.
- 5) For private tours I'm accepting bookings and confirming date/times but payment is not required until 7 days before the tour.

Private Tours can be arranged by contacting me and Scheduled Tours can be booked via <https://www.livingpraguetours.com/>. Cash on the day is fine or advance credit card refunds are 96% (cost of tour minus any card transaction fee which is out of my control). See the scheduled tours status below. All clients are required to have a face covering available. I provide hand sanitiser.

The Scheduled Tours:

State of Emergency – No Tours until April 12th

[Old Town and Jewish Quarter](#)

[City Walking Tour](#) (if Prague Castle is closed then the route changes to include John Lennon Wall, Our Lady Victorious if open and the riverside plus there will be no tram ride).

[World War Two](#)

[Architecture Tour](#)

[Czech Food and Beer Tasting](#) (suspended until June 2021)

[Christmas Markets](#)



Activity Spotlight! – Mini-Golf



Black Light Mini Golf – Fun in the dark

This is great as a family activity during the day if you have extreme weather during your trip to Prague although families normally come here in the afternoon. Or later in the evening it's a place where young adults can come and have some safe fun.






It's an internal layout and the hook is the "black light" element so wear anything bright or phosphorescent and you'll stand out in the crowd.

The mini-golf is just a part of the offer. I've found it fun just to sit and have a beer while people are playing golf, I've played Billiards (pool) here, I've played the Pinball machines and I've played the free bar games. I think it's a good value for money place. Families should note that you can hire board games from here but it's a little on the expensive side.

Check the post about [Black Light Mini Golf](#)

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 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.

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

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

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