

Livingprague Newsletter

June 2021



THIS COULD BE A CHALLENGE!

For the June Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status, for my featured content I looked back at three INXS songs and where the associated videos were recorded in Prague, some tips about the National Museum, a little history about the ST Nicholas Church in the Old Town and why you might like to have coffee at the Fantova Kavarna. The Activity Spotlight is the Little Venice area.

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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Prague and INXS

In 1987 the Australian pop group INXS (In-Excess) were in Prague filming videos for some of their songs. I thought I'd show you the filming locations, things to look out for and give you the opportunity to listen to some old classics. [Read more...](#)



The National Museum

25 years after arriving in Prague I thought I'd write about the National Museum after they finished the renovation and of course I'll include some stuff that you won't read about anywhere else.

[Read more...](#)



ST Nicholas Church Old Town

The “other” ST Nicholas Church in Prague and my favourite of the two big churches with the same name. A far more interesting back story with a few surprises, a famous architect and an eclectic mix of faiths that have used it. [Read more...](#)



Prague Cafes – Fantova Kavarna

Passing through the main train station I frequently see people huddled on fixed metal seats holding a paper cup of coffee under the fluorescent lights. They don't know that a few metres away in the station is a famous Art Nouveau cafe. [Read more...](#)

Comment

Coronavirus Life

Goodbye Mr Arenberger and welcome to our FIFTH Health Minister since September 2020, Adam Vojtech. Actually we are still on our 4th because Adam Vojtech was the Health Minister back in September 2020. Is this happening anywhere else?

Wow! The Prague O2 Arena opened as a National Vaccination Centre on May 3rd. I registered for my Covid-19 Vaccination on May 5th and got my first Pfizer jab on May 11th. Very impressed with the service. Luckily they kept the politicians away from it so the army controlled the people and the health workers delivered the vaccines. My second appointment is for June 22nd.

For those who were ready, Museums could reopen on May 12th and pubs/restaurants could open their gardens from May 18th. That meant that I was hoping to celebrate my birthday outside with pork ribs and a dark beer but the weather was rubbish so I'll just have to put that off for a couple more weeks.

Then we had a legal challenge to the lockdown that said the "Pandemic Law" was not justifiable in its present form. The government had the choice of either amending the law or allowing pretty much everything to open. So as of May 31st we expect all businesses are allowed to reopen fully with facemasks still required inside for any "non-food" situations.

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

The s**t hit the fan at the beginning of the month when a national newspaper broke a story that the Czech government was willing to cover up their knowledge of two Russian GRU agents blowing up an arms dump and killing two Czechs so long as Russia would provide their Sputnik5 vaccine. We have a Russia-leaning President who does not support his own security services and who forced a change of Foreign Minister. The Interior Minister is using secret meetings as an excuse to say nothing and the Premier is keeping his head so low that it's disappeared into his neck. Who knew what and when? The words "attempted coup" and "high treason" are being used and Czechs have a long memory.

The National Census date for completion was May 11th and came with heavy fines if you missed that date. This was a problem for 20,000 Czechs who still had old ID cards that weren't recognised by the online system. With city budgets and public services planned using the results of this census, personally I found the question "from which floor do you enter your property?" to be a bit strange.

The Czechs are still trying to work out where their electric power will come from 20 years from now. With the widespread decommissioning of coal-powered electricity plants to meet Paris Climate Accord limits but no decision on awarding contracts for any replacement nuclear power stations it looks like I'll have to break out the old camping-gas bottles for making the tea.

The US Embassy is up in arms about a proposed 5% digital services tax on income earned from Czech saying that it discriminates against the USA. The amount expected to be earned according to the 2021 budget statement is CZK2.5 Billion or U\$125 Million. I say end the discrimination and tax everyone.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

A recent study found that 73% of Czechs consume wine as opposed to 65% who consume beer.

In 1918 there were 40,000 people living in New York who were either Czech immigrants or descended from them.

In 2020 there were 3,710 cases of Lyme Disease in Czech.

The average apartment in Prague is 50 years old and sized between 40 and 50 square metres.

The “Restitution Law” is 30 years old. Introduced in 1991 to return property seized by the Communists to their rightful owners.

The Czech Republic has 25 soldiers on duty in Mali.

The April Sportka Lottery draw was on April 2nd. A man who the day before had selected 10 random numbers won CZK87 Million.

The price of a “panel house” apartment increased by 19.5% in the last year to CZK38,452 per square metre.

Tax revenue for the last year was down 15% on 2019.

The latest pension reform proposal includes a monthly payment of CZK500 (U\$25) for each child raised up to a maximum of CZK1500.

The Czech unemployment rate is now 4.2%.

Karel Pacner died aged 85. He was the only Czech journalist to cover the Apollo 11 missions at Cape Canaveral.

On average it takes the accumulation of 14 years of salary in Prague to buy a 70 square metre apartment. In comparison, 70 square metres in Berlin requires 8 years of salary.

The first phone call in Czech was made 140 years ago.

Walking Tours

I can now add more knowledge of filming locations for movies and music videos into the tours for people who want to visit specific scenes. I had a very enjoyable couple of weeks going through some older films and testing my knowledge of the city. In the process this will generate 2 posts about feature films and 5 posts about music videos (the first of which is Prague and INXS in the featured content this month). Plus I'd like to thank people who are still referring me to friends and colleagues visiting the city years after they did one of my tours. Thank you all.

Note:

- 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:

[Old Town and Jewish Quarter](#) is running normally

[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](#) is running normally

[Architecture Tour](#) is running normally

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

[Christmas Markets](#) is running as "tour-only" in 2021



Activity Spotlight! – Little Venice



Little Venice for Boat Tours

A fluke of history formed Kampa Island and the inlet from the river which separates it from the mainland is called the Čertovka Inlet. It's quite narrow for most of its length apart from the last 200 metres where it flows back to the river and is wide enough to turn small tour boats. This area, although it's not a canal, has become known as Little Venice.






Little Venice is one of the most picturesque parts of the city directly underneath the Charles Bridge on the Lesser Town side.

Although known for its cheaper 50 minute no-frills river boat tours not so many people realise this is the only place in Prague that you can hire a Gondola as well.

Check the post about [Little Venice](#)

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/>

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