

Livingprague Newsletter

September 2021



A TRIP BACK TO THE UK

For the September Newsletter as well as the most recent Coronavirus status, for my featured new content I explore the Old Royal Palace and the Imperial Gardens, I show you some options for eating Gluten Free food in Prague and I tell you the wider story of two Scotsmen who escaped a German POW camp and became heroes in Prague during the last days of the war.

The Activity Spotlight is Water Zorbing. Blast from the Past includes an updated location for the Slav Epic and some additions to my Prague memory photo gallery page.

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

Old Royal Palace

Imperial Gardens

Gluten Free Prague

WW2 – Vokes and Greig,
Scottish Heroes of Prague

Blast from the Past

Slav Epic

Photo Page

Comment

Coronavirus Life

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

Water Zorbing

Being Social

Surveys/Contact

Featured New Content



Old Royal Palace

With visitor numbers at record lows I took the opportunity to visit the Old Royal Palace at Prague Castle to get some “empty-building” pics. I show you the route I take to explore this historic building and the little hidden stuff to watch out for. [Read more...](#)



Imperial Gardens and Belvedere

The Imperial Gardens were added onto the Castle as a kind of afterthought but it became the location for the first Renaissance building in Prague, the Queen Anne’s Summer Palace or what we call the Belvedere. I’ll explain what’s in the gardens, how to explore it and what it was like 180 years ago. [Read more...](#)



Gluten Free Prague

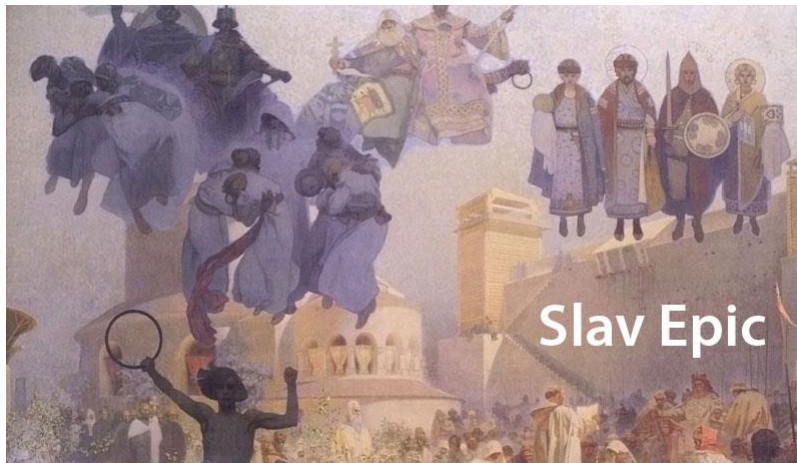
With more and more people including Gluten Free food as part of their general diet I thought I'd better explain how it works in Prague and include some suggestions for what to look for, places to shop plus a selection of restaurants and cafes. [Read more...](#)



WW2 – Thomas Vokes and William Greig

The story of how two Scotsmen joined the British army in 1939 and ended up fighting alongside Prague civilians in 1945. It includes escape in occupied territory, a daring bluff, a radio broadcast and one of the country's highest military honours. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



Unbelievable luck. I spent quite a lot of time preparing and publishing five separate posts to detail Alfons Mucha's Slav Epic which had not been on display for years. Then less than a month later it's back so I've updated the current location but unfortunately it's not in Prague. [Read more....](#)



I keep a page for some of my more memorable photos of the city and pictures with stories attached to them. I added this lamp picture, one on the Charles Bridge, a pretty street scene in the Old Town and me on my own at John Lennon Wall. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Coronavirus Life

So my idea was to drive back to England on my own but because the UK put France in an Amber+ category it effectively removed any chance of driving to the UK so flying with other passengers breathing recirculated air it had to be. Not my rules but I learned a few things in the process.

I learned that you have to get your PCR on the Czech side first to make sure you are Negative before you can book a flight but this has to be no more than 3 calendar days before you fly. Then when you have got the Negative result you have to book your flight because every man and his dog wants those details later on. Then you have to book and pay for your “UK Government approved provider” 2nd Day PCR test in the UK because without that you can't complete the Passenger Locator Form to enter the UK. Then add on downloading the Czech app to access the electronic vaccination status and PCR testing results.

On the way back at Stansted Airport in London, Ryanair turned away people for being in transit either with no double-vaccination or with no Covid-19 negative test. At passport control in Prague there were people being turned away until they completed the Passenger Locator form.

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

Up to date Czech Covid-19 Statistics can be found at <https://onemocneni-aktualne.mzcr.cz/covid-19>

In The News

The decision was made to split the current Post Office into two separate entities. The Post Office as we know it will continue to be a State-owned company and will provide all the regular services. The other part will be privately owned and financially separate with focus on commercial opportunities. Legislation expected next year and a final separation in 2023.

Scientists in Brno published a study in the European Journal of Neurology with showed that the epilepsy effect was reduced if a person (man or woman) listened to Mozart's Sonata K448 for Two Pianos. But if they played Haydn's Symphony No.94 it reduced epilepsy in women but increased it in men. It is part of an ongoing study of the effects of different acoustic properties on the brain.

In response to requirements from the International Civil Aviation Organisation, our Parliament voted to issue a new National ID card to its citizens which will contain visual and biometric data as well as specifying the gender of the person. The scheme launches in 2021 but children under six are not included.

A study by the Palacky University in Olomouc found that 40% of Czech children aged 11-15 do not get the recommended 8-10 hours of sleep during work days. It also found that teenagers in general were capable of sleeping more than the recommended 8-10 hours at weekends. What a shock as any parent will tell you.....

Czech women now have the right to use their husband's name. I know this may come as a shock to people who thought that was supposed to happen anyway but in the Czech system the woman historically took the female version of the man's name commonly with "ova" at the end. Now they have the choice.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

45,400 people got married in 2020, the fourth lowest total since the formation of Czechoslovakia in 1918.

Czechs work on average 41.3 hours per week.

Two thirds of Czech employees earn less than the national average monthly income of CZK35,285.

10% of the Czech population is aged between 16 and 29.

The most recent firearms amnesty which ended on July 31st resulted in 2,800 illegal or unregistered firearms being handed to the police. In a previous amnesty one of the weapons handed in was a Russian T34 Tank.

57% of Czechs intend to holiday nationally in 2021.

A survey by the State Institute for Public Health showed 1 in 5 Czechs drank alcohol every day or several times per week in 2020.

The Czech unemployment rate is at 3.9%.

Almost 100 Czech diplomats and Afghan support staff are expected to be evacuated to Czech following the fall of Kabul.

Czech cinema earnings were down 66% in 2020 compared with 2019.

The Czech Republic currently has more than 50,000 vacancies for “IT Specialists”.

The annual “Top 500 Universities in the World” survey by Quacquarelli Symonds put the Charles University in 266th place.

Global media brand Time Out voted the Prague street called Křižíkova the 11th most fashionable street in the world. Mind you this was in the pandemic when nobody could travel.....

Walking Tours

Big news will be coming in the next newsletter but this is just so you know that I'm maintaining high quality content. I did a tailored private tour which involved a street dining experience, a beer garden experience and scenic night views of the city. The client was kind enough to leave a review:



ccgkitten wrote a review Aug 16

📍Valhalla, New York • 132 contributions • 94 helpful votes



Great Private Tour

We did a private tour with Jason right after our arrival in Prague. We wanted something that would let us walk around a bit, see something beyond the usual tourist sites, and give us a taste (literally) of the food and wine. We thoroughly enjoyed our evening with Jason, who provided exactly the kind of experience we wanted and even walked us back to our hotel when I couldn't get my uber app to work (and it's a good thing he did, because we certainly would have gotten totally lost walking by ourselves). We highly recommend Jason, especially if you want to create a specific tour or experience in Prague.

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: August 2021

I worked with another tour client but this was a couple who booked regular tour places, not a private tour, so they could decide if it was worth paying more for a certain hotel and to make sure they got the view they wanted. Then knowing where they would be staying I recommended a couple of places to eat and one place to visit. They were kind enough to leave a review as well:



Bradley G wrote a review Aug 18

📍Los Angeles, California • 7 contributions • 2 helpful votes



VERY ENJOYABLE

Review of: **Small Group Prague Old Town and Jewish Quarter Walking Tour**

We were lucky to book with Jason and Living Prague and had a great time. Prague is a big city with a big story to tell and you can't appreciate it all by just walking around with a city app or a guidebook. Jason is very knowledgeable and the pacing was perfect.

As an aside, I had reached out to Jason well before our arrival in Prague and he recommended we separately visit the church where in WWII, Czeck resistance fighters made their final heroic last stand in what was called Operation Anthropoid. He recommended that we watch the 2016 movie by the same name. That was a brilliant recommendation.

Jason does an excellent job of presenting the old town and Jewish quarter.

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: July 2021

Kid-Centric!

One of the private tours I did in August was for a couple with small children. They'd inquired with several guiding companies but my response to their initial request basically laid out a tour with options designed around things for the kids to do and add some history and culture where possible for the adults which was what they wanted. I also supplied bread for the kids to feed the ducks!

Private Tours can be arranged by contacting me and Other 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. If going inside, all clients are required to have a FFP2/KN95 face covering available and you may be asked for proof of vaccination. I provide hand sanitiser.

Other Tours:

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

[City Walking Tour](#) is running normally (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](#) is suspended due to restaurant/bar closures. Option of food/drink is now only on Private Tours.

[Christmas Markets](#) has restrictions: "tour-only" in 2021 with time for people to buy food/drink as required



Activity Spotlight! – Water Zorbing



Water Zorbing on the river

Something for adults and children this month. For adults looking for a bit of “making me look silly” video or if parents are looking for some ways to tire out your kids in a fun way then the river offers several opportunities. One of them is Water Zorbing or Hydro Zorbing.






You climb into a sealed inflatable plastic vessel (can't call them balls anymore because there are different shapes) and off you go on the water. There are different sizes suitable for adults or a mix of adults and children.

In the Prague Water Zorbing activity you'll be tethered to land so it's safe. Just remember to do this before you eat a meal because there's a lot of falling over involved.

Check the post about [Water Zorbing in Prague](#)

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.

EMAIL: fun@livingprague.com

CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP: +420 603 187856

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