

Livingprague Newsletter

May 2022



NERUDOVA STREET – LAST TIME FOR THE HAT FOR A WHILE

In the May Newsletter for my new content I'll explain how one of Prague's most expensive shopping streets got its name. We'll take a look at why there is a statue of a man playing a guitar at the top of the Old Castle Steps. I'll tell you why you should stop at the Municipal House Cafe and I'll give you some tips for eating classic Czech food called Kruti.

The Activity Spotlight is an option for a group called the Swimming Beer Bike. Blast from the Past includes an updated Skip the Line post with a couple of new ways to save you some time getting into some of Prague's top attractions.

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

Prague Streets – Na Prikope

Famous Czechs – Karel Hašler

Municipal House Kavarna

Czech Food - Kruti

Blast from the Past

Skip the Line Tips and Tricks

Comment

Ukraine

Travelling Black

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

Swimming Beer Bike

Social/Surveys/Contact

Featured New Content



Prague Streets – Na Příkopě

A lovely part-pedestrianised tree-lined street in the New Town lined with shops. You'll definitely be walking here so it's worth knowing the history of Na Příkopě and how it came to get such an unusual name. [Read more....](#)



Famous Czechs – Karel Hašler

One of the most viewed and yet least understood statues on the way to/from Prague Castle is an entertainer called Karel Hašler. Learn his story, find out why his statue is on the Old Castle Steps and what was named after him. [Read more....](#)



Municipal House Kavarna

A great café located in a truly historic building. The Municipal House Kavarna (café) is a must-try place for anybody that wants to experience the Art Nouveau opulence of the First Republic. Professional service and an international choice of good value light food options. [Read more....](#)



Czech Food - Kruti

Czech food isn't just about pork and beef. We have Turkey here as well but you won't see it on many restaurant menus. Here's a post on what to expect if you do find it and the options for having it served. Classic beer food. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



As the city recovers from the pandemic and tourism is coming back I spent time over the last few weeks looking for any new Skip the Line options in Prague. I wanted to identify which may be time saving and which may be money saving and I found a couple of new options.

Prague Castle now allows advance ticket purchase for entry to the historic buildings to avoid queues and I included the link but I updated this post to show families with kids between 6 and 15 how they can save CZK125 per child if they queue at the office.

After Prague Castle began allowing advanced ticket purchase then another company took advantage of that and has begun offering ticket bundles like Castle, Jewish Museum and Old Town Hall. I point out that you can do all this with a little effort on your own and it's not a money saver but if time is important and you are happy to deal with one company for everything then take a look. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Ukraine

If you think that the Ukrainian language and Czech language might be similar then think again especially when it's in written form. But that's not stopped various people with helping Ukrainian refugees arriving here. All Czech State TV channels now broadcast with a Ukrainian audio option. Many programs offer subtitles in that language and I can tell you that restaurants have replaced Russian language menus with Ukrainian. But to me it looks like Klingon.

Travelling Black

You might have read on my website about how to avoid fines on public transport and how not to accidentally "travel black" or in other words, without a valid public transport ticket/pass. I've gone to some lengths over the years on websites and message boards to warn retired people about how exactly they get free transport whilst in Prague. Currently, if you are 65 or over and a non-EU national then you must be carrying a Czech Residence Permit or your Passport to claim free travel on city transport. Not a photocopy of your passport, not a picture on your phone of your passport, you need the actual passport. I've already seen several foreigners get caught by ticket inspectors this year because they thought a driving licence was proof of ID. It's not just the fine, it will ruin your day and give you a bad memory of Prague. So if you know anybody 65 or over coming to the city then please just remind them, carry the passport if you want free city public transport.

In The News

I watched a programme about the Czech “Clown Doctors”. Not real doctors, these are people who go into hospitals, hospices and clinics to cheer people up. Having started with one professional clown visiting one hospital in 2001, there are now 86 professional clowns visiting 63 different locations.

You might not have heard about it but during the pandemic, musicians around the world have taken advantage of a system developed in Czech called the Modular Video Transmission Platform (MVTP). It allows near-simultaneous real-time audio/video sync over thousands of miles with no computer or operating system needed.

Czech may or may not have become the first European/NATO member to send heavy armour to Ukraine. The Czech T72M4 tank version is based on the original Soviet design but upgraded to NATO specifications. The Czech government refused to confirm or deny that any exchange had taken place but in response to Russian threats/complaints the general public rallied behind that classic phrase Putin, Go Fu*k Yourself.

Historically high amounts of money is being donated by the Czech population to help Ukraine. During the last 8 weeks in excess of CZK3 Billion has been received by charities and another more than CZK1 Billion has been received directly into the Ukrainian Embassy appeal.

The fact that the population of the country increased by 3% in the last 6 weeks has got a lot of people looking into the future and plans for either integrating Ukrainian refugees into our society or supporting them until they wish to return home.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Prague created 70,000 square metres of office space in 2021, down by 50% on the annual average.

Two German tourists who sprayed graffiti on the Charles Bridge in 2019 each received a 1 year suspended prison sentence, a fine of CZK100,000 and a ban on entering the country for 5 years.

75% of police officers and firefighters are Covid-19 vaccinated.

In 2021 there were 205 people killed either on the Czech railways, trolleybus systems, metro or tram systems. Lowest in 19 years.

A Czech member of Parliament receives a salary of CZK84,060 per month.

713,000 Czechs had to switch energy supplier in 2021 largely due to the failure of wholesale supplier Bohemia Energy.

A national nuclear waste repository to be completed by 2065 is projected to cost CZK111 Billion to construct and maintain.

Approximately 30 Czechs live in Kazakhstan.

In their commitment to NATO, Czech fighter jets will be patrolling the airspace of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania from this month.

206,876 new cars were sold in the country in 2021. 71,000 were Skoda but strangely, Hyundai sales were second at 20,200.

There were 809 organ transplants in the country in 2021.

There were 99,332 recorded traffic accidents in 2021 resulting in 470 deaths, the worst month was May 2021 with 55 people killed.

70% of Czech ski resorts have artificial snow making equipment.

The Czech 2022 "Bird of the Year" is the European Greenfinch.

Walking Tours

The first two weeks of April shocked a few people because we had snow. This is not unusual and the average monthly temperature was still normal. I think the shock was that at the end of March we had a lot of sunny days and people were putting away the winter stuff. Still it was nothing that a hot coffee and a shot of rum couldn't fix.

It was really great to see the Easter Market back on the Old Town Square and the promise of good weather got more people coming here. So what with the regular market and bands playing for a charity events it was pretty much like Easter 2019 back in the "old days".

May is the month when the city bursts into colour. Visitors should head up into Petrin Park for the blossom and the views. For those who prefer a beer with their views then the Letna Park and Riegrovy Sady beer gardens are fully open.

I added a new country to my list of clients. Slovenia. April 2022 was the first month since January 2020 that my tour business made a profit!

Review

Megan did two tours and as they were the only people on the second tour I adjusted the route so they could see more of the area behind the Castle.



Megan W wrote a review Yesterday
18 contributions



Amazing day in Prague

Review of: [Small Group Prague Old Town and Jewish Quarter Walking Tour](#)

Jason was an awesome guide! We stuck with the Itinerary for the most part, but because it was just my husband and I he allowed for a few changes. Overall the pace was great and Jason was super knowledgeable and a great guide.

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: February 2022

Trip type: Traveled as a couple

Gift Vouchers

Read about the Gift Voucher system on the [Gift Voucher page](#). You can buy individual tours as a gift for somebody and by contacting me the recipient of the gift will have options to swap tours or use the credit to upgrade to a private tour etc. Vouchers are valid for 1 year.

Tours and Card Payment

For any Private Tours or for any Scheduled Tours booked directly through a tour calendar, clients can pay the full cost of a tour in advance by card payment with the understanding that refunds are maximum 96% (cost of tour minus any card transaction fee which is out of my control). In this case you first receive a payment request which has to be completed within 48 hours. Then you receive the booking confirmation.

Tours and Cash Payment

If you prefer to pay for a tour either scheduled or private in cash then you need to contact me. We will agree the tour details and I will quote a price in CZK and your own currency equivalent. You will then receive the booking confirmation and payment is made on the tour day at the agreed amount so in this case there is no advance payment and cancellation is free.

Other Tours:

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

[City Walking Tour](#) is running normally.

[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 2022 with time for people to buy food/drink as required.



Activity Spotlight! – Swimming Beer Bike



The Swimming Beer Bike

The Swimming Beer Bike, the Prague Cycle Boat, The Floating Beer Bike, it has many names but the fun is the same.






I first recommended Beer Bikes to groups of people coming out here in 2018 but the city is currently passing regulations to restrict their access to downtown Prague. So I thought the addition of the Swimming Beer Bike would be a different option for groups of at least 6 heading to Prague who can split the cost.

At the time of writing, it's the only Beer Bike licenced for use on water in Europe.

Check the post about the [Beer Bike and Swimming Beer Bike](#)

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, read 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/>