

Livingprague Newsletter

July 2022



SCOTTISH FRIENDS IN TOWN FOR A DRINK

There was no June newsletter as my mother died in late-April and the month of May was spent in and out of the UK making the necessary arrangements. In the July newsletter I'll point out the Bourne Identity filming locations here and I'll explain the history of a street called 17 Listopadu. I'll show you how to treat yourself to an authentic off the beaten path food experience and we'll remember a guy called Jan Zajic.

The Activity Spotlight is on the options for river cruise tours. Blast from the Past includes updated posts for people who like a quick breakfast and those wanting to use the official lockers at the Main Train Station.

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 the Bourne Identity

Film fans can immerse themselves in the classic action film The Bourne Identity. Then read this post to find out where the filming locations were in Prague when it was made to look like Jason Bourne was supposed to be in Zurich. [Read more....](#)



Prague Streets – 17 Listopadu

A small street in the heart of the city with an unusual history which went on to commemorate a famous national day that went on to be recognised internationally but I'm sure you will never have heard anything about it. [Read more....](#)



Svetozor Jidelna

Off the beaten path, into the weeds, Indian country. For those brave souls who want to take a chance and experience some real Czech food that the locals go for not 50 metres from Wenceslas Square here is a place to visit for lunch. Tips on what to expect and how you can prepare for your visit. [Read more....](#)



Famous Czechs – Jan Zajic

When the history books speak of Czechs who self-immolated (set themselves on fire) protesting the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, the name Jan Palach will be the most common. But there were others and often you will walk by their memorials without noticing. [Read more...](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



I was in Prague's Main Train Station with some time to kill so I decided to check out the locker area. To my surprise and to several others in there at the time, the station has recently ripped out all its key/coin operated lockers and replaced them with a Text/PIN system with card-only payment. I updated my post. [Read more.](#)



On a recent stop at one of my favourite Old Town bakeries I calculated that prices had increased by 25%. So I updated the post to show people what you can get for @CZK60. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Ukraine

We have Ukrainian neighbours at the moment. Basically when the house was sold the new owners could have left it empty but they have taken advantage of a public housing initiative which means the State covers most of the cost of renting to Ukrainian refugees. So we have two families with young kids. The kids are regularly running around shouting something that sounds very much like Putin, Go Fu*k Yourself!

Getting up to Speed

With restaurants, cafes and bars fully reopening after the pandemic restrictions you might think that all is returning to normal. One thing I would point out is that many of these places were not able to re-hire their old employees. This is quite clear when you see staff who are not familiar with the menu or how the tables are numbered etc. It just means you have to be a little patient.

Inflation

Prices are definitely on the way up but for tourists this will often mean that they think that the cost of living here is just good value rather than cheap. There's always a bar on the Old Town Square happy to sell you a beer for three times what a Czech would pay.

In The News

Something close to my own heart in the news and that is how the children of foreigners coming to the Czech Republic are not graduating from secondary school more than half the time. Even kids born in this country are still seen to be disadvantaged by a perceived lesser knowledge of the language. Add to that the parents themselves may not be proficient in Czech language and so social situations may be avoided. With all the Ukrainians currently here I think this will be in the news more and more.

A survey by employment agency ManpowerGroup showed 66% of surveyed Czech companies were recruiting across the board but mainly in IT, Finance, Marketing and Real Estate. In fact the only sector which indicated that it was planning to reduce its size was the Czech State i.e. employees of the state, those happy, smiling souls who stamp your forms and tell you that the tick has to be completely inside the box or return your forms saying the ink isn't dark enough, will have to try their luck in the private sector with the rest of us.

The government has not said it outright but sensible people are expecting some kind of gas rationing to begin soon. Although gas makes up less than 10% of overall consumed power, 98% of that gas comes from Russia. Hence anybody reliant on gas is going to feel pain very soon. My opinion? I'm prepared to take the pain and put on an extra jumper rather than pay Uncle Putin a penny.

As the Czech Republic takes over the rotating presidency of the EU Council from July 1st they set out their 5 main visions with either the word "security" and/or "resiliency" cropping up in all but one. Curiously, if not unsurprisingly, the word "green" never appeared. Instead they called for "Re-think, Re-build and Re-power".

Trivia and Odd Statistics

The Czech Republic is one of the world's top exporting countries for exotic animals. 55,000 animals that required a CITES registration were exported in 2020.

A survey by Czech security company Check Point showed cyber-attacks on Czech companies were up by 50% on the previous year.

The European Space Agency (ESA) will spend CZK1 Billion over the next five years on three Czech projects aimed at understanding mining opportunities in space.

90% of Czechs aged 80+ received at least one Covid vaccination but that still meant that almost 50,000 80+ people were unvaccinated.

There are more than 5000 vacancies in the Czech Police.

There is a Czech consulate in the UK city of Manchester.

A survey for the Czech News Agency found that patients in one Czech hospital region will have to wait 3 years for some orthopaedic operations.

The Czech Hydrometeorological Office reported that 2021 air pollution was second lowest on record (2020 was the lowest).

The Czech Republic manufactured 1.1 Million vehicles in 2021 which was 23% less than the previous year.

The highest measured speed on a Czech public road is 402.5Km/h.

Over the last 10 years in the Czech Republic there were an average of 99 days per year when the temperature fell below freezing.

The average car on the road in the Czech Republic is 15 years old.

The first floating solar electric "farm" has been activated on the Homole reservoir in Central Bohemia with a capacity of 22Kw.

Walking Tours

With the death of my mother, the business of walking tours and web content took a back seat as most of May was taken up making arrangements and shuttling between England and the Czech Republic. Of course clients were disappointed at me having to cancel their tours with varying notice periods but the majority of private tour clients I was able to refer to other reputable companies and some bookings could be rearranged during the month. Anybody else received a full refund.

The English are definitely travelling again with more UK clients in June than the whole of 2021 combined. I'm even getting enquiries from Australians again for the first time since 2020. It was a bonus when Joe Biden decided to remove the incoming Covid-19 testing requirement.

There will be less tour availability for the rest of 2022 as I'll be in the UK about a quarter of the available time and I'm generally blocking dates and times to allow for travelling. Clients should contact me to see what options or referrals may be available.

Review

Gladys was part of two couples that I met at their hotel and then escorted by tram to the tour start point.



Gladys M wrote a review May 2022

4 contributions



Prague Private Tour

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

A group of four adults participated in a private tour with Jason from Living Prague tour. He was on time, professional, courteous and incredibly knowledgeable. Jason made the whole experience very enjoyable and worthwhile. We were very satisfied and can't recommend him enough.

[Read less](#) ▲

Date of experience: April 2022

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! – River Cruises



Prague River Cruise Review

Following the upheaval of the Pandemic I would say most but certainly not all of the pre-Pandemic river cruising options are now back on the river.






On the Prague River Cruise Review I've looked at what to expect from this activity including tips on reserving places and what happens when the cruise ends. Specifically I give you tips on the type of boat that the business will be using and how any food is served so you can make a decision purely based on that. It will largely depend on if you prefer an open-top boat with waiter service to a table with free-standing chairs or whether you want a buffet with fixed bench seating.

Alternatively, I point out non-food cruises which will get you almost an hour on the river for the cheapest possible price.

Check the post about the [Prague River Cruise Review](#)

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/>