

Livingprague Newsletter

April 2024



Easter Market

In the April newsletter we'll take a look at a simple Czech food dish called Vinná Klobása. I'll tell you why I visit a venue called the Smetana Hall and there's a story of an old iron bridge long gone but there are clues to where it used to be. Finally, I published a video showing what to expect in the 2024 Prague Easter Market on the Old Town Square.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at the Lucerna Music Bar. Blast from the Past includes an update of the Airport Bus 119 being replaced by Trolleybus 59. On the Prague Castle pages I have updated the entry ticket pricing for the 2024 season.

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

Food – Vinna Klobasa
Streets – U Zelezne Lavky
Culture – Smetana Hall
Video – Prague Easter Market

Blast from the Past

Bus 119
Prague Castle Tours

Comment

Realistic Pricing
Study and Learn

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

Lucerna Music Bar

Social/Surveys/Contact

Featured New Content



Food and Drink – Vinna Klobasa

A very common item on dinner tables throughout the country but less popular in restaurants is a meal called Vinná Klobása or Pork Wine Sausage. Always served with potatoes it's a deceptively filling meal.

[Read more...](#)



Prague Streets – U Zelezne Lavky

After the fords across the river came the ferries, wooden bridges, stone bridges and in the mid 19th Century came the iron bridges. This is a post about the grandest of the iron footbridges. Built as a permanent structure it was torn down after less than 50 years. [Read more...](#)



Culture – Smetana Hall

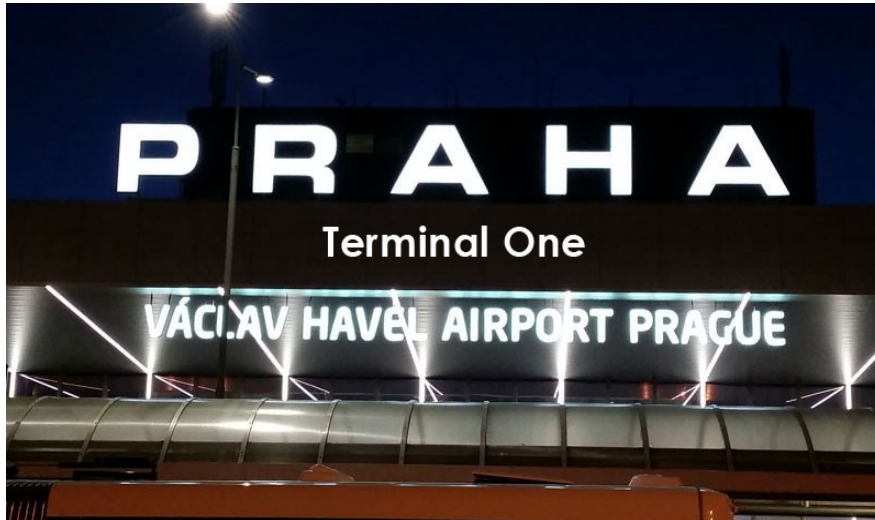
Created between 1902 and 1912 the Municipal House was designed to be a beacon of Slavic culture. Within it, the Smetana Hall, largest classical concert hall in the country at that time. The decoration of the hall, by the most famous artists and sculptors of the era, is aligned to music and the arts. [Read more....](#)



Video – Prague Easter Market

Nothing better than an early Spring with clear blue skies and the Easter Market on the Old Town Square getting going. Four years ago it was the first Covid-19 event to be cancelled. Still not as busy as I have seen it in previous years but on the way. Here's 3 minutes of what to expect in the 2024 Easter Market. [See more](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



From March 2024 the Bus 119 no longer exists. There is still a bus which goes from the airport to Veleslavin, same route, same timetable but from now on it will be the Trolleybus 59 route. All site references to Bus 119 had to be updated. [Read more....](#)

 Price list		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tickets are valid for two days • Each Castle building can be entered only once • Purchased tickets cannot be refunded 		
TYPES OF TICKETS	ADULTS	DISCOUNT	FAMILY	
Prague Castle – Main circuit Old Royal Palace (I) St. George’s Basilica (III) Golden Lane (V) St. Vitus Cathedral (VIII)	450 CZK	300 CZK	950 CZK	
Prague Castle – Permanent exhibitions The Story of Prague Castle (II) Castle Guard Exhibition (IV) Prague Castle Picture Gallery (VI) Rosenberg Palace (IX)	300 CZK	200 CZK	700 CZK	
Prague Castle Picture Gallery (VI)	200 CZK	150 CZK	500 CZK	
Tower of the Cathedral with a View Gallery (X)	200 CZK	150 CZK	500 CZK	
 Audioguide (English, Czech, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Korean)	350 CZK / 3 hours + deposit 500 CZK / 1pc			

On March 1st 2024 the Prague Castle changed it’s pricing, route naming and ticket content. It’s now much simpler than it was with a choice of either historic buildings “Main Circuit” or the Permanent Exhibition sites plus a couple of single ticket options. The Main Circuit ticket adult price increased from CZK250 to CZK450. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Realistic Pricing

Since the pandemic there has been a steady increase in prices across the board but in 2023 I began to notice the “tourism” increases. I was in Valencia last October visiting the ST Nicola Di Bari church and they charged 10 Euros (CZK250). I commented to my wife that this was the same price to explore all the historic buildings at Prague Castle. In 2024 the Castle increased it’s main ticket price to CZK450. Where entry prices have increased you should bear in mind that these are still excellent value compared with other European capitals.

Study and Learn

Czechia joined the Erasmus study exchange program 30 years ago and more than 400,000 Czechs have taken advantage of being able to study abroad. This will have given their parents and grandparents a feeling of pride and/or regret at not having been able to do the same under communist repression. I also read that more than 118,000 people came to Czechia to study. Although these people are generally university students, the Erasmus program is open to high-school students, teachers and other educational professionals. Czechia is historically a very literate country that has always encouraged educational improvement and cultural understanding. What opportunities and what memories this scheme brings.

In The News

The “Vyšehrad 4” is a political block that includes Czechia, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia. At a recent meeting in Prague, all countries agreed that “Russia’s aggression against Ukraine is in violation of international law and Ukrainian territory must remain within internationally recognised borders”. At the same meeting, Poland and Czechia agreed to finance and supply artillery shells for Ukraine but Hungary and Slovakia said that they had no intention of backing that plan. Fortunately, we don’t need their permission....

Like several European countries the farmers were protesting. A lot of it was about resistance to the “Green Deal” which will affect subsidies. I support farmers. Anybody that knows how to grow food has to be respected. I don’t even mind if they get benefits for growing certain crops to make it profitable etc. What I don’t support is getting subsidies for not growing certain crops.

It was reported that the Institute for the Study of Totalitarian Regimes issued a list of people who had fairly high ranking positions in the Communist era with the intention of reducing their pensions. When the figure was published it said that if these people had pensions over CZK18,674 per month then it would be reduced by CZK300 per month. Do the math and it means an annual pension of one of these communist era people who served 10 years in office reduces by CZK3600 per year or roughly the same as filling your car with fuel twice. Not exactly a punishment!

The Foreign Ministry issued a travel advisory notice for Czechs travelling to France. It said that travellers “should keep an eye on their luggage and report suspicious people”. So, no change there then!

Trivia and Odd Statistics

More than 600,000 tourists visited the Plzenske Prazdroj (Pilsner Urquell Brewery) in 2023.

411,000 Czechs have participated in the Erasmus exchange program in the past 25 years.

85 years ago, Czechs started driving on the right side of the road.

Since the Przewalski horse breed became extinct in the wild in Mongolia in the 1960s, Prague Zoo has bred and sent to the country 38 horses for breeding in a nature reserve.

The Dukla Praha Football team coach Petr Rada was banned from attending matches for 8 months and fined CZK80,000 for calling an opposing team coach a “desperate gypsy”.

517 libraries and 616 schools participated in the 20th anniversary of the “Night with Anderson” which promotes reading for young people.

In 2023, health researchers collected more than 3000 ticks from city parks around Czechia and of the 2100 tested, 1 in 4 had Lyme disease.

The first Skoda car, the Skoda 1000MB, was unveiled 60 years ago.

Medal winners at the Ice Hockey World Championships to be held in Czechia in May will receive medals from Czech crystal made to look like ice with skate marks and encased in Gold, Silver and Bronze.

Prague’s Vaclav Havel Airport will offer 167 destinations in 2024.

According to to the government, 35 Czech soldiers are allowed to be in Ukraine either to protect the embassy or investigate military crimes.

The overnight train between Prague and Brussels takes 15 hours.

Walking Tours

Well it was not a warm March so the sun cream stayed in it's bottle. As I write this, Easter will be celebrated this weekend but the Easter markets have already been going on for two weeks.

April is the official start of the summer season. It sees the reopening of the parks and gardens that have been closed for the last four months and you'll find closing times for attractions will be later than in the winter. River traffic significantly increases now both with the larger cruiser boats and individuals using the river for boating, paddling and rafting.

The most booked tour in the last month was.....Prague Architecture.

People might be interested to know that despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the high rates of inflation since then, my scheduled tour prices have stayed the same.

Review

I picked out the review from "Miller1036". Not everybody wants to do the Old Town and Jewish Quarter as history/culture but it's still included as part of the Architecture tour. As the review points out, it's an evenly paced look at several architectural styles and architects in the Jewish area, the Old Town and the New Town which appeals to professionals and curious amateurs.



Miller1036

San Francisco • 140 contributions

👍 0 ...



Prague architecture tour with Jason: Educational, interesting and easy to follow

Jan 2024 • Couples

This was an informative and enjoyable introduction to many of the architectural highlights of Prague. I had a basic understanding of the main architectural styles that can be seen in the city, but the walking tour was a clarifying opportunity to learn about specific buildings and neighborhoods and along the way learn more about the city's history. I strongly recommend this tour on the early side of your visit as a means of orienting yourself to the city. Jason's clear explanations, and the easy to follow pace of the tour make it appealing to a wide variety of age groups and backgrounds. It's also a good way to get local tips on places to go from someone who lives there.

Written March 24, 2024

This review is the subjective opinion of a Tripadvisor member and not of Tripadvisor LLC. Tripadvisor performs checks on reviews as part of our industry-leading trust & safety standards. Read our [transparency report](#) to learn more.

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.

Tours:

[Private Tours](#) are arranged as required.

[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. The option of food/drink is now only on Private Tours.

[Christmas Markets](#) has restrictions: "tour-only" in 2024 with time for people to buy food/drink as required.



Activity Spotlight! – Lucerna Music Bar



Lucerna Music Bar

Hugely popular for it's Fridays and Saturdays where it plays music and videos from the 80s and 90s it is also a location for regular band gigs.






Throughout the year you'll find a succession of bands both national and international who appreciate the 1500 capacity and the intimacy with the crowd that brings. If a band is in it for the money then there's always the O2 Arena but if they have a choice, they'll perform here.

Split over two basement levels in a very historic building, their associated bar/cafe opens until 3am on the most popular nights. Pay in advance for bands but pay at the door on Friday/Saturday for the 80s and 90s nights (which, by the way, are the only nights you can dance on the stage!).

Check the post about the [Lucerna Music Bar](#)

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 subscribe.</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 continuously being upgraded 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/>