

Livingprague Newsletter

March 2024



*Putin Go F*ck Yourself*

In the March newsletter we'll take a look at some 1970s politics and a specific document called "Charter 77". I'll tell you why I visit a restaurant called Cafe Elektrik and there's a description of a square that has had several names. Finally, I published a video showing arrival at the Veleslavin Station from the Airport on the Bus 119 where you transfer to metro and/or tram.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at the Prague National Gallery. Blast from the Past includes an update of the Bramborak food post to show 3 different options to buy in shops. On the Nicholas Winton post I linked to a recent interview given by two of the survivors from the Czech kindertransport.

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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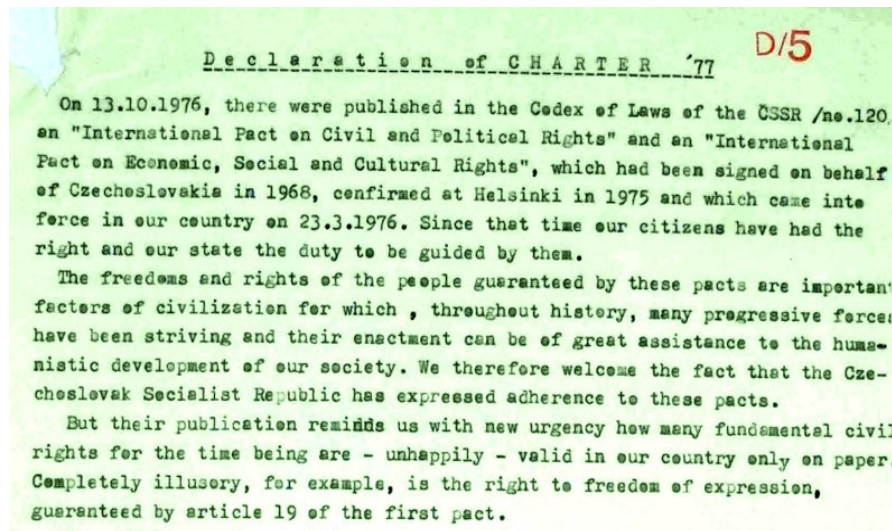
Food and Drink – Cafe Elektrik

Just a 2 minute walk from the Old Town Square takes you to the Old Town Kolowrat Palace and it's associated restaurant, Cafe Elektrik. Located in their historic cellars but you also have the equally appealing external courtyard for summer-season dining. [Read more....](#)



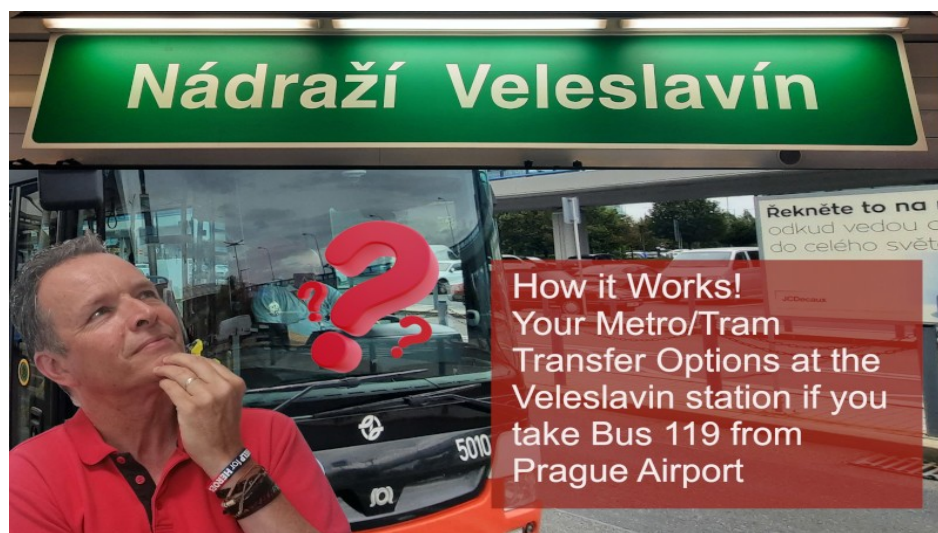
Prague Streets – Jan Palach Square

One of the Prague Squares has had more renaming than any other location in the city. The political history of the city is captured in this one place now known as the Jan Palach Square. A university faculty building on this square was the site of the December 2023 shooting that killed 2 teachers and 12 students. [Read more....](#)



History/Politics - Charter 77

From 1948 the Communists signed up to all kinds of European conventions but did little to implement them. The Charter 77 declaration was written to remind them of their obligations. It literally cost people their lives and will educate you on what it is like to live under Communist control. [Read more....](#)



Video – Transfer at the Veleslavin Station

If you take the bus 119 from the airport then this is the station where you transfer to the metro or a tram. A short video to familiarise yourself with what to expect especially if you need to use the lift to get down to the metro platform. This video assumes that you already have the correct tickets for Public Transport travel. [See more](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



I was in a deli in the sixth district when I saw this pile of fried food which included Bramborák. I added the picture to the post because it gives an excellent visual example of what to expect in the shops along with labelling/pricing for 3 different types of Bramborák. [Read more....](#)



To celebrate the launch of the film “One Life” about Nicholas Winton, some of the children that he evacuated were invited to Prague for the film premiere. Part of that included a 15 minute local press interview with Eva Paddock and Milena Grenfell-Baines now aged 88 and 94 respectively. I linked to it in “Records and Research”. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Business Model

I was doing a walking tour for a couple who had booked places on a regular small-group tour. They asked how on earth did my business model allow me to make a decent profit from my efforts. I explained that business models are not always about financial profit and that for me the aim of the business is largely my health and well being. After a few seconds of shocked silence I think this came as a pleasant surprise to the clients or else I mistook the look on their faces as they thought I was a raving loony.

Waste Management

On my walking tours, people often comment on the litter-free nature of the pavements. On a recent walk from the top of Wenceslas Square to the Old Town Square, a journey of 1.5km or about 15 minutes I saw 4 people (3 foreign, one Czech) emerge from Newsagent/Tabaks, open a pack of cigarettes and throw the plastic wrapper on the floor. This is pretty common. Pocket too full? Not enough time to walk 50 metres to the waste bin? Don't give a sh*t? I see a lot of littering which is accidental, very often taking something out of your pocket and a tissue falls on the floor etc, a bin in a popular location overflows, napkins blow off tables. Clearly not all smokers are like this, but for some reason smokers I've observed seem to have this ingrained feeling that whether it's the plastic, the box, the ash, the butts, that the ground just needs their rubbish and apparently somebody else has to clean it up.

In The News

It kind of went under the radar but President Petr Pavel, one year into his Presidency, announced that he would probably not seek reelection. To be clear he said that so long as he could serve his 5 year mandate “to the fullest” there would be no need to spend more time in high politics in what he referred to as “this big geriatric park”. I think current and future Presidents around the world could learn a thing or two from this guy!

The government introduced a digital online tool for parents to register their children at various schools for the coming school year. The tool broke due to the demand and it's use. Hence, loads of bad words on social media. As an engineer for 32 years I appreciate the ongoing growth of the digitization of various national institutions but there will be issues to overcome despite the best testing efforts.

Parents of a 2 year-old Czech boy with an extremely rare genetic disorder found that although treatment was possible outside of the country, the Czech health authority would not pay. The public response was to raise CZK150 Million so that the boy could be treated in France.

The Prague city council has opened a discussion on raising the public transports costs. The shocker was that they want to DOUBLE the existing rates for long term passes. This is the problem when you keep the price the same for 9 years. Still, people like me who buy the 1 year pass are currently spending CZK10 per day so the increase to CZK20 per day is still less than a single regular adult ticket. So Prague will still have one of the most affordable public transport networks in the world, just a little bit less affordable.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Czechia has allocated a budget of CZK100 Million for the May NATO Summit to be held in Prague which coincides with the 75th anniversary of the organisation and the 25th year of Czech membership.

Czech economist Petr Zahradník was named as the new commissioner for joining the European Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM).

The Czech Supreme Court has 15 judges.

Czechia is spending CZK150 Billion on 24 US F-35 aircraft to be delivered between 2031 and 2035.

The “Jizerska 50” (50km cross-country ski race) had to be cancelled for the first time in 56 years due to the lack of snow on the route.

Out of the 27 EU countries, Czechia ranks 20th for women in senior management positions. Currently Czechia estimates women hold 21% of those positions here compared with the EU average 32%.

Czech police registered over 32,000 driving offences in January 2024 which resulted in CZK473 Million in fines.

Czech independent TV Station “Nova” launched 30 years ago.

4000 images taken by 236 photographers were considered during the 2024 Czech Press Photo competition.

I ran my very first livingpraguetours paid tour 8 years ago.

The seven-floor 1975 Brutalist architectural project called the “Kotva Department Store” has closed for a 3 year renovation.

Between January and June 2023 approximately 57,000 Czechs died with cardio-vascular issues being the biggest single cause.

A tennis ball placed in landfill will take 400 years to decompose.

Walking Tours

So my big break is over and I'm back on the job hoping for a warmish March. Expect cold mornings but the days can get warm. Guides like me often begin the day in jeans and change into shorts at lunchtime. The whole month is available for tours as Easter is in April.

Apart from September which is the month I always say to visit Prague if you can, March is special because I'm out and about with the sun on my face usually for the first time of the year. It's like New Year just with better weather and fewer people around. It's also the last "winter" month so even if you get good weather, most of the parks and gardens will still be closed.

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 "Sharon B" as it mentions when to do the tour. I've found that people who prepare well in advance will do it as early as possible in their stay to help understand other stuff during their trip. Other's prefer to book towards the end and use my tours to answer questions or it's people doing really last-minute bookings just to get a better idea of what they are looking at. I've always though earlier is better.



Sharon B

Sydney, New South Wales, Australia • 11 contributions

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Great tour and local tips

We loved our tour of Prague old town with Jason. He told us many interesting facts about the city that enhanced our knowledge of the place. He also provided many useful tips (like where to buy tickets to the Jewish museum if there is a queue) that we used during the rest of our time there. Make sure you do the tour early in your trip to make the most of your time in Prague.

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

Written January 26, 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! – National Gallery



National Gallery

March is a month with very unpredictable weather as you've got as much chance of getting sunburn as you have of seeing snow. So this is an option to get you out of any rough weather whilst maintaining some cultural interest.

You'll see signs on certain buildings that say "NGP" which stands for National Gallery Praha. Unlike many European capital cities, our National Gallery is split over several places like ST Agnes Convent, Schwarzenberg Palace, Sternberk Palace, Kinsky Palace etc. You just buy one ticket but you'll want to do some research into which places to visit because they contain different periods of art.






If you are at the Castle then two locations are close by. Likewise you'll have options in the Old Town and Holešovice (7th district).

Architecture fans should visit because the buildings are a mix of Gothic, Baroque, Rokoko, Renaissance and Czech Functionalist.

Check the post about the [Prague National Gallery](#)

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.

	<u>FACEBOOK</u> : You can read posts, view short videos, like/share content, follow and message me.
	<u>INSTAGRAM</u> : You can view pictures, like/share content and follow me.
	<u>PINTEREST</u> : You can view specific genre pictures, save Pins to your boards and follow me.
	<u>YOUTUBE</u> : You view full length videos, comment, like/share content and subscribe.
	<u>TRIP ADVISOR</u> : You can view tour pictures, read and leave a tour review for others.

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/>