

# Livingprague Newsletter

May 2024



*Spot the missing letter*

In the May newsletter we'll take a look at the popular Czech pale lager called Pilsner Urquell. I'll tell you why I visit a Balkan restaurant called Luka Lu and also what to expect from many bakeries in the city. Finally, I published a video showing what to expect in the Old Town Havelka Street market.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at riding the Nostalgic Tram 23. Blast from the Past includes an updated picture on the Slivovice post showing the difference between clear and golden. I also updated the opening/closing times of the Riegrovy Sady Beer Garden 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.

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# Featured New Content

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## Food and Drink – Pilsner Urquell

Probably the famous Bohemian beer in the world. It was a historical achievement of its time and caused a worldwide change in brewing methods that we still use today. Here I'll describe a brief history, how it tastes and how much it costs. [Read more...](#)



## Food and Drink – Luka Lu

Luka Lu is the third of three Balkan style restaurants run by an Italian man and his Bosnian wife. Typical dishes and wine from the ex-Yugoslavia region in a very colourful and wild eclectically decorated interior. Internal and external options. [Read more...](#)



### Services – Pekarstvi (Bakery)

Nominally a bakery but they offer a lot more than that. I'll come here in the mornings for coffee and cake, at lunchtime for a quick snack and in the afternoons for ice-cream. It sells bread as well. Expect 60% cheaper than any local cafe. [Read more....](#)



### Video – Havelka Street Market

Between the Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square sits one of the oldest markets in Europe now called the Havelka Street Market. Used by locals for fruit and veg. Used by tourists for arts and crafts. Here's a little 2 minute video of what to expect. [See more .....](#)

## Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)

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Same bottle, same producer, same strength. This is a picture that I added to the post which sets clear and golden Slivovice side by side. You'll find the golden is more expensive if it's aged. [Read more....](#)



The beer garden at Riegrovy Sady in the 2<sup>nd</sup> district changed its opening/closing times so I updated my post. That normally means the prices have changed as well so I'll have to have another trip here to check out the changes. Taking one for the team again..... [Read more....](#)

# Comment

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## Bye Bye Google Ads

I have now removed all Google Ads from Livingprague. I originally installed their code back when I started the site in 2005. It was simple and it generated a small revenue so if people were visiting my site and saw a Google Ad that interested them then that's great. In 2023 I noticed that you were having to pass through a Google Ad to even get to my site and that was not what I wanted. I could see the reasoning i.e. give the visitor a relevant ad but it was at the expense of the user experience of my site so, after 19 years it's bye, bye. Any visual banners on the site still go to Prague-related content and activities.

## Tricky Politics

The passage of a law that gives couples in same sex relationships pretty much the same rights as married heterosexual couples has gone to the President for his signature. The tricky part was an amendment from the lower house to the basic legislation that could have triggered lengthy discussion and blocked the bill. So the Czech Senate kept the amendment but simply removed it from the speaking agenda and the bill passed because the one-month discussion period expired. This was a legal "first" for the Senate and although I agree with the extra rights for the affected people it did highlight a glaring weakness in our democracy that a proposed amendment was simply not debated. Hopefully a bill on Capital Punishment or the political persecution of individuals won't find itself on the same path.

# In The News

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**This year the city of Prague will issue a tender for the purpose of supplying driver-less trains for the existing metro line C and the under-construction metro line D. They hope to have a contract signed by October 2025 and trains in operation by 2029.**

Parliament has begun discussing a proposal which will criminalise deepfake pornographic content. Up to two years in prison for making it. Up to 3 years if you distribute it. Up to 5 years if the distribution was concerned with blackmail or revenue generation. If passed it will become law in July 2025.

**A national survey caught my eye in that the results seem diametrically opposed. A survey by Eurobarometer about the June 2024 EU Elections showed a huge 22% increase in those “interested” and a 28% increase on those who were committed to voting. Yet, another part of the survey showed 68% wanted LESS control by the EU over their lives.**

The Czech Tennis Federation is effectively bankrupt following a fine of CZK30 Million levied against the president of the CTF and four other CTF members by the National Sports Agency following a subsidy fraud police investigation.

**A Kantar election poll showed that the current opposition party ANO would receive 34.5% of the vote making them the largest party in parliament but without a majority. As it is today in parliament, the 4 other main parties would need to make a coalition in order to stop ANO forming a government. A fifth party called SPD leans to the right and could potentially form a coalition with ANO but political pundits say this won't happen.**

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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**Žatec was named as the Czech Historical Town of the Year.**

Czechia manufactured 394,443 vehicles in the first quarter of 2024 of which 27,000 were electric.

**Half of Paediatricians in Czechia are aged over 60.**

Data from Czech Tourism says 10 Million foreigners stayed in Czechia in 2023 and 43% of them visited at least one cultural landmark. The nationality with the most cultural landmark visits was ..... French.

**A panel of experts proposed that CZK45,573 is the basic minimum monthly wage to allow quality of life. The salary of 67% of Czech employees is currently below this threshold.**

58% of Czechs surveyed by Eurobarometer said that they intended voting in the June 2024 European elections.

**The rate of Inflation in Czechia fell to 2.2%. A year ago it was 16.5%.**

Czechia has issued almost 600,000 visas to Ukrainian citizens and as of this month almost 339,000 are listed as having temporary protection.

**The charity drive by the Czech Federation of Food Banks is projected to have gathered just under 500 tons of non-perishable foodstuffs and hygiene products in April 2024.**

Elite Czech MMA fighter Jiri Prochazka won UFC300 in Las Vegas.

**84 Czech citizens have voluntarily registered with DROZD (travelling abroad register) to say they are currently in Israel.**

Canada sent 20,000 Whooping Cough vaccines to Czechia last month. Normally not more than 24,000 vaccines are required here but in the first 4 months of 2024 already 45,000 have been vaccinated.

# Walking Tours

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We get these winters from time to time. Wet February, cool March which begins to warm and early April seems a little bit over average temperature. You start wearing a lighter jacket and the boots go back in the cupboard and then bam! Freezing cold nights and snow at my Mother-in-law's who lives just 2 hours drive to our west.

So I had ONE day in shorts in April and the last week I was back if not quite in winter gear then pretty close. It's not often I take clients in April who are still carrying hand-warmers. Still, it's the life and its nice to work outside.

I had one no-show i.e. somebody who booked and paid but never showed up.

**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 "VaTraveler22903". Life doesn't stop when you have kids. You have to encourage their viewpoint and how better than to travel. The guides adage is "keep the kids happy and you'll keep the parents happy". I have to say that the 11 year-old mentioned had more knowledge of central European history than your average high school graduate.



VaTraveler22903

Charlottesville, Virginia, United States • 8 contributions



Perfect for our family— see a ton of Prague with someone who knows it well!

Jason is a great tour guide. He's thoughtful, good humored, knowledgeable, and flexible. We toured with 2 adults and 2 kids (8yo and 11yo), and he was professional and fun. We had a nice stop for coffee and cake (and for little legs to rest) and we learned a ton. He also gave us some handy tips for things like ordering from food stalls. Highly recommend.

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

Written April 4, 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! – Nostalgic Tram 23

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Nostalgic tram 23

One thing tourists love about Prague is the public transport. It takes a small amount of research to figure out how it works and then away you go.

Many may choose only to use the metro system but the trams are a much more efficient way of getting around and there are many apps that will help you find which tram you need.

There are several different types of trams on the network, mostly new with a few exceptions.






One of the exceptions is a dedicated line for the Nostalgic Tram 23 which was designed in the 1960's and was the backbone of tram transport in the city until 2011.

Check the post about the [Nostalgic Tram 23](#)

# Being Social

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

# Surveys – Help me improve!

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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!

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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](mailto:fun@livingprague.com)

**CALL/SMS/WHATSAPP:** +420 603 187856

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