

# Livingprague Newsletter

September 2024



*Prague Pride – Rhythm Band*

In the September newsletter we'll take a look at the "Other" Old Jewish Cemetery. I'll make you aware of how you can stop a metro train from the platform in an emergency. I'll explain what was the "Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia". Finally, I published a video showing the Prague Pride Rainbow Parade from Wenceslas Square to the river.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at why you should visit Shooters Island. Blast from the Past includes an update to the opening times of the City Library if you want to see the Book Tunnel and a goodbye to Kasarna Karlin.

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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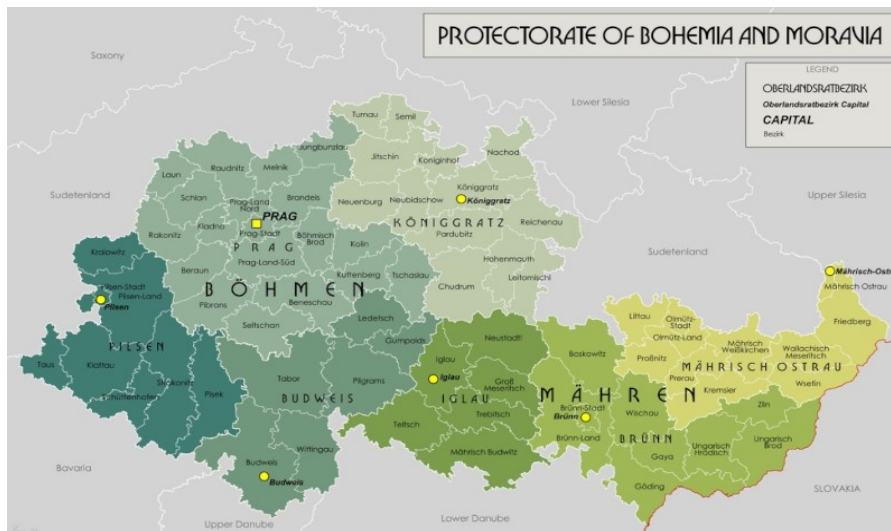
## Jewish Prague – Žižkov, The Other Old Jewish Cemetery

Formerly a plague cemetery from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, after the Old Jewish Cemetery in Josefov closed it was the main burial location for Jews from 1787 to 1890. Learn where it is and what happened to it during the communist era. [Read more....](#)



## Services – The Metro Emergency Stop Button

It has taken the accidental death of a blind man killed when struck by a metro having fallen onto the tracks to educate us that there is a simple method to stop the metro before it reaches the platform. So on this post you learn that method. [Read more....](#)



## WW2 – The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia

In a WW2 walking tour I never refer to Czechoslovakia because it did not exist. Instead I often refer to the “Protectorate” during walking tours because it defines the area annexed by Nazi Germany in WW2 which existed from March 14<sup>th</sup> 1939 to May 9<sup>th</sup> 1945. This post explains about things associated with the period. [Read more....](#)



## Video – Prague Pride Rainbow Parade

I just happened to be in town with time on my hands so I did the Prague Pride Rainbow Parade from Wenceslas Square to the river. Sunny day, loads of noise, music, fun and entertainment plus a small overheated dog. [See more .....](#)

## Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)

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The Prague City Library in Marianske Namesti changed it's opening times so now it is open only Monday to Friday and on Monday it opens at 1pm (other days are 9am). If you are planning a visit to see Idiom (the Book Tunnel) then this will affect you. [Read more....](#)



Sad but every now and again I have to update with a closure. Unfortunately the city council saw fit to close Kasarna Karlin after a noise complaint. Great. 50 people lost their jobs, countless suppliers lost revenue and the art/culture scene lost a venue. [Read more....](#)

# Comment

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## Live and Learn

I like to think I am observant. I like to think that in an emergency I could help. A recent event has caused me to redouble my efforts to be aware of my environment as I use the city. In August a blind man fell onto the tracks at the Krizikova station as a metro was still 2 minutes away from the platform. He was killed. People thought the only thing they could do was to call police or wave to the driver to stop but there was another option. A quick poll said 84% of passengers (and I'm included) were not aware of an emergency stop button which would prevent a metro from entering the station if necessary. The next post I wrote on this website told you what to do to activate this system.

## EV Time?

I was randomly scrolling through newsletters looking for juicy bits of statistical data when it jumped out at me that there had been an increase of 44% of people buying an electric car in 2024. Wow! I thought until I then read that passenger EVs now account for just 3.65% of the Czech vehicle market. I see more and more people outside of Prague adding solar panels and car charging equipment and there are some incentives around for this ancillary part. But the government isn't exactly blazing a trail to get people buying the actual cars. There seems to be more effort into what they call City Electric which is basically another name for Hybrid (which has 22.1% of the market).

## In The News

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**Lukáš Slavík, a Czech National living in Zimbabwe recently filmed the aftermath of a car crash in which he mentioned that it's fairly common along with power cuts, lack of water and high consumer prices. The authorities arrested him and charged him with spreading false information and incitement of the public. At court the proceedings were rescheduled to to "administrative reasons". There was a power cut at the courthouse!**

The Ministry of Defence is redefining what is "medical fitness" for a soldier. In new rules being introduced, "medically fit" may only require you to competently handle a firearm and be able to carry a load of 5Kg. Of course this depends on the role required so I don't expect the Special Forces are going to be inundated with applications!

**The Ministry of Health is preparing a law which would effectively ban sweet-flavoured vape products. The current decree states that only one flavour will be allowed.....Tobacco. The Head of the "Chamber for Electronic Vaping" said it would mean the end of vaping in Czechia. I didn't like breathing secondhand strawberry smoke anyway!**

The Ministry of Health reported that more than 200 Ukrainian Doctors and Dentists had passed proficiency and linguistic tests to be able to work in Czechia. They also reported that almost another 300 were still in the approval process.

**The Ministry of the Interior reported extra police protection for venues during the Prague Pride week following a thwarted attempt to kill festival-goers in Slovakia the previous week. As it turned out the whole week passed without incident and I can say without fear of contradiction that there was more danger of being hugged to death during the Saturday Rainbow Parade.**

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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**The last Education Ministry Mathematics Olympiad attracted more than 22,000 entrants.**

Czechia finished 28<sup>th</sup> in the Paris Olympic Games medal table with 5 medals (although three of them were gold).

**A CVVM survey found that 60% of Czechs felt they could influence issues at local government level but less than 25% felt they could influence national government.**

In the first half of 2024, farmers reported 177 wolf attacks on livestock.

**Czechia has approximately 6000 forensic experts.**

The Department for Gender Equality says that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 10 men have experienced sexual harassment on public transport.

**In the first half of 2024, electricity consumption fell by 2.3% and gas consumption fell by 7.9% compared with the same period in 2023.**

The top destination from Vaclav Havel International airport is Greece.

**20% of Czech retirees collect their pension from a post office rather than having it paid directly to a bank account.**

A joint survey by the Institute of Sociology and the Academy of Science says that 88% of Czechs view a pub/bar as a vital social hub. The study also found that more men visit pubs than women. Who knew!

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that there are 84 Czech citizens living in Lebanon.**

The average daily temperature in July 2024 was 19.8 degrees Celsius making it the 7<sup>th</sup> warmest month since records began.

**In 2024, approximately 20 pairs of Peregrine Falcons nesting in the Jeseniky Mountains bred 32 chicks.**

# Walking Tours

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People often ask me when is the best time to visit Prague and I'll always say September. A pleasantly warm month with lots to do and see in the city and as we pass the peak of tourism in the city you'll find less visitors so in general there's less queuing and more places available across the city tourism activities. Just remember that the 28<sup>th</sup> is a State Holiday here so although tourism is unaffected, you'll find local business closures. I do fewer tours for families because in general the kids have gone back to school. I had a "small world" experience last month. Chatting with a guy and his two sons during a tour, we realised that we had been born in the same hospital.

**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 "John M". This was a specialist tour where we were going for a chronological exploration of Prague as it related to Franz Kafka. It included where he lived with his family, where he lived on his own, where he wrote the most famous works and the places he was employed. Just an example of providing specialist content where required.



**Kafka and much more!**

Jul 2024 • Family

My wife and I highly recommend Jason! We learned a lot about Franz Kafka, which was my personal goal, but also about Prague's history, architecture, and culture. Jason paced the tour well and adjusted according to our questions and interests, adding in useful tips we would use later during our visit. He is also a charming and funny guy whose company you'd enjoy in any circumstance. Definitely worth it!

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

Written August 3, 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! – Shooters Island

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Shooters Island – CoCo Van Cafe

September is the last decent month for visiting Shooters Island and there are several reasons to visit.

If you've got young kids then you'll be coming here with bread for feeding the ducks and carrots for feeding the nutria. Don't feed the young swans in September because the adult swans are very protective. There's the CoCo Van cafe for drink/snacks and a rope playground to burn some energy.






Young adults will be visiting Shooters Island for the free evening music and reasonably cheap beer from the Stage Bar. People looking for a riverside scenic restaurant visit here to eat at Strelecky Ostrov Restaurant and in general you have scenic views on all sides of the island. It's also 2 minutes from the Cafe Savoy.

Check the post about [Shooters Island](#)

# 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/>