

Livingprague Newsletter

October 2024



ST Vitus Cathedral with sun shining

In the slightly shorter than normal (busy month and had a city-break holiday) October newsletter we'll take a look at the Czech meal called "Bucek". I'll tell you what to expect from the Prague Cubism Museum and I'll explain the personal significance of the memorial called "Return of the Stones".

October is the last month with decent road conditions so the Activity Spotlight is what to expect from On-Street Scooter and Bike Hire. Blast from the Past includes an update to the Last Address Memorial post with a link to a relevant article and the Prague Funicular has been forced to close so post updated.

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

Czech Food - Bucek
Prague Cubism Museum
Memorial – Return of the
Stones

Blast from the Past

Last Address
Prague Funicular

Comment

Wet Work
No Interest
45 Words

In The News

Trivia and Odd Statistics

Walking Tours

Activity Spotlight!

On-Street Scooter/Bike Hire

Social/Surveys/Contact

Featured New Content



Czech Food - Bucek

Bucek (sounds like boo-check) is baked pork belly. Basically a big chunk of bacon on your plate but it can be served in several different ways including with toast, spinach, cabbage, potato dumplings and even a celery sauce. [Read more....](#)



Museums – Prague Cubism Museum

A “Whole Art Era”, Cubism in Czechia is only between 1911 and 1925 and the first building to be built in the cubist style was the House at the Black Madonna. In 2004 this became the Prague Cubism Museum and now hosts the bulk of the Prague Cubist collection. [Read more....](#)



Memorials – Return of the Stones

In 2019 I became aware that gravestones from Jewish cemeteries had been cut up to use as street cobbles. Then I learned that where I had once worked i.e. the TV Tower, was built on one of those cemeteries. The circle of life brought me back to the Zizkov Old Jewish Cemetery under the TV Tower to see the “Return of the Stones” memorial. [Read more....](#)

Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)



The Last Address memorials are to people arrested/killed during the communist era. It just so happens that the photo I took of a Last Address plaque was of a man called Veleslav Wahl who had published a book about the birds of Prague in 1944. A new book released this year which includes that work is discussed in a Radio.cz article to which I have now linked. [Read more....](#)



The Prague Funicular has been forced to close 6 months earlier than planned due to damage caused by the high rainfall in September. Repairs will take place in 2025 but the company has not set a reopening date. [Read more....](#)

Comment

Wet Work

The middle of September brought with it a lot of rain. Not just a little bit more than normal, this was like “time to build the river flood defences” kind of rain. I watched the canal lock flood so I was a little surprised at the headline “Prague activates 1Billion Euro flood defences”. Actually what I saw on Kampa Island was about 50,000 Euros worth of flood panels and 200 sandbags filling in a hole between the panels and the Lichtenstein Palace. Somebody must have been pretty confident that the river level was not going to rise because it would have been embarrassing had those 200 sandbags had failed.

No Interest

I was walking down a street and two young women were walking towards me. One of them was looking at her phone and said “well, we’re in the Jewish Quarter but looks like nothing interesting here so lets go to Charles Bridge”. WOW! Just blow off a thousand years of history, the oldest synagogue in central Europe, one of only two synagogues left that celebrated European Jewish culture, the National Holocaust memorial, not to mention the architecture? Way to go!

45 Words

I’m sure it’s one of those weird “guide” things but on a flight to Porto I committed to memory Franz Kafka’s short story called “The Trees” just for something extra to add to the tours.

In The News

You know when a politician says after an election drubbing “we’re going to stay united as a party in government” that something is coming. Well the something was that the premier sacked one of the leaders of a party (a deputy prime minister) in his coalition government for incompetence plus a lack of contrition or remorse. But the premier also said that in general, his coalition partner (the Pirates Party) was doing a good job in other departments.

A great example of “Real politik” was when our Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky was asked in the USA about the possibility of a ceasefire in Ukraine he replied that “currently” Ukraine seems not to be able to regain control of the occupied areas of the country but that it did not mean that they will have to cede territory to Russia. Mmmh! Buffer Zone?

As the importance and popularity of the Pirates political party declines, one of their ideas is taking hold. The Czech Justice department is putting forward amendments to criminal law which will involve sentencing rules etc but buried in the list of changes is the “legalizing and decriminalizing” of the growing of cannabis plants.

There is a pilot scheme running in the Vinohrady district which is using the street-lighting network (13 locations) to charge electric vehicles. The company that operates the street-lighting system says that this is aimed at overnight charging and an EV which is charging will not have to pay any parking fee.

In the Regional elections the opposition party ANO won 292 seats which equates to winning 10 out of the 13 regions. The next three parties got a combined 228 seats. Curiously, the Communist Party won 32 seats, 19 more than in the last election.

Trivia and Odd Statistics

For every apartment in Prague that comes up for rent, approximately 70 people apply to view (and AirBnB says they don't affect the housing market!).

The September floods caused the second largest amount of damage since the formation of the country in 1993. Insured claims are currently at CZK19.3 Billion.

At the end of 2023 Czechia officially had around 2400 electric vehicle public charging points serving 22,000 fully electric vehicles.

In the September flooding, 21,488 people needed evacuation and at least 11 people were killed.

"The Campus Advisor" rated Prague as No.1 in Europe for students.

During the September flooding 500 prisoners were temporarily released to help with the relief effort to enable professional emergency services to deal with more urgent issues.

A survey by investment company Atris says 3% of people think they have saved enough for retirement. It also says that 22% save nothing and expect to be cared for by the State.

In August 2024, 2,478 companies were newly registered but 1,449 ceased trading.

September 2024 marked the 30th anniversary of the return of the Jewish Museum to the Jewish community, Since 1950 it had been nationalised and was considered State property until 1994.

Detectives from the National Centre Against Organised Crime calculated that during 2020-2021 there was approximately CZK100 Billion in laundered money within Czechia.

Walking Tours

Guides will call October a “dodgy” month. It’s dodgy for various reasons i.e. unpredictable weather which can see a 10-15 degree difference between morning and afternoon. It’s also a “last-minute” month in that many people make a decision to come here based on the weather. The last two weeks of the month (and the first two weeks of November) are notoriously “slow” for tours because it is caught between the late Autumn holidays and the start of the Christmas Markets. I don’t mind as I do a lot of reading if I’m not working and sitting on the riverside in the October sun is a very pleasant experience before the winter officially begins.

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 “Lisa L”. This was a WW2 specialist tour which is the chronological order of the war from it’s political origins all the way through to the Prague Uprising. Still, as it is a city tour it builds in time for people to ask about the city, get recommendations and tips for doing what they want to do plus they learn about WW2 as we go.



Lisa L

7 contributions

👍 0 ...



Excellent WW2 tour!

Jun 2024 • Couples

Jason was very knowledgeable, and we learned so much about World War II in this part of Europe. Communication and scheduling ahead of time were easy, and Jason was a convivial guide. The sites were well-chosen, and the pace of the tour was great. We covered a lot of ground but weren't exhausted. Jason also had plenty of recommendations for things to do later that day and during the rest of our time in Prague. Highly recommend!

Written August 11, 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! – On-Street Scooter/Bike Hire



On-Street Scooter Hire

October is really the last month to be safe hiring scooters and bikes for riding on public roads before winter sets in.






Prague has several companies running On-Street hire options for scooters, regular bikes and e-bikes. Some of these are aimed at locals with accounts linked to cards who will be using the services often. Others are aimed at tourists who want the odd short-term journey.

The post explains who is offering what so you can see what's relevant for you. It tells you how the apps work, how to end the ride correctly, how to identify parking areas using the app, the rules of the road and what happens if you decide not to obey these rules.

Check the post about [On-Street Scooter and Bike Hire](#)

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/>