

# Livingprague Newsletter

November 2024



*Flood Defence being erected by firemen in mid-September*

In the November newsletter we'll take a look at what to expect from a trip to Peace Square. I'll show you where the two Prague Plague Columns are located and I'll explain why beer drinkers will gravitate to the Strahov Brewery in the Castle district. Finally, I published a video showing David Cerny's latest external art called the Spitfire Butterflies in both day and night.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at why you might want to visit the Illusion Art Museum. Blast from the Past includes an update to pricing and ticket purchase options at the Prague National Gallery and a couple of additional pictures on the Mushroom Picking post showing how we dry and/or freeze what we pick.

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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### Prague Streets – Peace Square

This area of Prague 2 was redeveloped from 1878 but it did not acquire the name Peace Square until 1926. It's also been known by two other names. You'll find a beautiful church here and a famous hot dog stand if you get hungry. [Read more....](#)



### Food and Drink – Strahov Brewery

If you are a beer drinker then Strahov Brewery will be on your list of places to visit. 95% of what they brew is consumed on the site. They specialise in malt beers up to about 5.5% in strength and it includes both pale and dark lager plus an IPA. Here's what to expect. [Read more....](#)



## Memorials – Prague Plague Columns

The Bubonic Plague outbreak in 1713 eventually killed more than 30% of the Prague population. When it was over they built two Plague Columns. On this post I'll show you where they are and how to interpret the characters. [Read more....](#)



## Video – Spitfire Butterflies

Back to the Maj Shopping Centre again. This time it's to see the David Cerny Spitfire Butterflies mounted on the exterior of the building. Unveiled in April 2024, the video explains what to expect. Just be careful if you visit and film because it's a busy road junction with a tram line. [See more .....](#)

## Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)

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The National Gallery changed its pricing structure. What used to be a general entry to all sites is now more expensive but also valid for 10 days. They still offer discounts for seniors and students which will work out cheaper than the standard entry. Details added. [Read more....](#)



October was an excellent month for mushroom picking so we've stocked up for the winter. The whole process of searching, picking, cleaning, slicing and drying takes time but for the flavour you get in the winter soups, it's worth it. Post updated with a couple of tips and pictures. [Read more....](#)

# Comment

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## Gift from the Orient

I worked in China for two years so I can pick out somebody speaking Mandarin as opposed to other Asian languages. What I don't expect is to be on one side of the Old Town Square listening to somebody speaking Chinese 200 metres away on the other side of the square. I don't mind that the Chinese are travelling again and the group sizes are 50+ in some cases but again, and you know I bitch about this topic, guides that use loudspeakers are just a pain in the backside and in this case the guide cared not one bit that she was blasting out all over the square. Hello City of Prague..... ban loudspeakers..... it improves city life!

## Sign of the Times

A few weeks ago I was asked by tour clients if I could do a tour which included the filming locations for Milos Forman's Oscar winning epic, Amadeus. Of course I know all these locations so I created a route to be able to see the sites in the Prague 1 central area. But as I hadn't watched the film for 20 years I thought I'd go back and check out the timeline of how they used the scenes in the film. I watched the Director's Cut which is a little short of 3 hours but it took much longer because I kept stopping to look at the detail like street signage that had to be changed, building facades that had to be covered and even the design of the street lamps. I think I know a lot about the city but imagine they went to somebody and said "we want to recreate in Prague what Vienna looked like in 1782". Now that requires city knowledge!

## In The News

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**The national airline originally known as Czechoslovak State Airlines (just called CSA from 1993) started in 1923, flew its last flight which landed at Prague Airport just before 11pm on Saturday October 26<sup>th</sup>. It is now majority owned by Smartwings which uses the aircraft call sign QS. The old call sign for CSA aircraft (OK) will gradually be phased out as aircraft are replaced. End of an era.**

Pre-pandemic the City of Prague had introduced legislation which made it illegal to solicit money by using animals (think having your picture taken with a snake or bird etc). They have now upgraded this legislation to ban soliciting money if you have an animal with you (think about that street beggar with the dog on the blanket). City police have the power to confiscate the animal if necessary.

**Czechia joined 25 other EU nations by signing a treaty with the Vatican to “formalize” relations. Originally put forward in 2002, that proposal was rejected due to the feeling that it undermined religious equality among different faiths. The treaty guarantees full freedom of religious thought, conscience and belief in accordance with national laws. Conspicuously they separated the “church property” issues.**

Czech Railways company CD and Austrian Railway company OBB were fined a total of 48.7 Million Euros in an antitrust case. The companies were found to have impeded the right of RegioJet to offer rail services. RegioJet says it will also bring proceedings to get reparations.

**Small Modular Reactors (SMR's are small nuclear power plants) are under consideration by the Czech government. Hardly surprising as Czech becomes a net power importer from 2027. The government wants the national power provider ČEZ to take a shareholder stake in Rolls-Royce who are developing their own solution.**

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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**The City of Prague has planted more than 620,000 trees since 2019.**

Approximately 1.5 million children eat school dinners at Czech schools.

**In the first 9 months of 2024, the Czech National Bank identified 1473 examples of counterfeited notes and coins.**

Czech Premier Petr Fiala has opened a TikTok account to try and reach approximately 2 million young Czechs using the platform.

**The Šumava National Park stated that there are 8 known wolf packs living in the park.**

Ice Hockey club Dynamo Pardubice has begun construction of a new arena. At 60m high and a capacity of more than 22,000 when it opens in August 2027 it will be the largest Hockey arena building in the world.

**A report by the Defence Ministry stated that the Czech army currently has 27,800 professional soldiers and another 4000 reservists.**

The ŠKODA Felicia car was premiered 30 years ago.

**The Strašnice Crematorium in Prague is the largest in Europe.**

A Charles University study states that there are approximately 380,000 Ukrainian refugees in the country and that 60% will stay if they can.

**A report by Sportradar says that Czechia ranks second in the world for manipulated sports results. Brazil was first.**

The clock tower that sits on top of the Prague Exhibition Grounds main hall weighs 26 tons.

**Prague has banned organised pub crawls between 10pm and 6am.**

The average gross monthly salary for a Czech State employee in 2024 was CZK47,190.

# Walking Tours

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My wife ordered two electronic USB-chargeable hand warmers for me to replace my old “boil in the bag” gel warmers. Actually they are not for me but I will carry them for clients to borrow over the next three months just in case they feel a chill. And November certainly brings chilly weather. There’s a reason why on the day of the Saint Martin’s Festival (November 11<sup>th</sup>) that he may come on a white horse i.e. he may bring snow. From now until March I cut the 3pm Architecture tour because of the poor afternoon light but the 12pm slot is still available. Any tours that include the Old Town Square will be a little disrupted in the last two weeks of November as they construct the Christmas Market.

**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.**

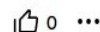
## Review

I picked out the review from “Kirsty”. This was a standard Prague Architecture tour. Clients may have some knowledge of architectural terms but not how they differ in various historical periods. So this tour was to introduce Kirsty and her husband to a range of architecture so they had more idea of what they were looking at as they explored the rest of the city.



KIRSTY FAULKNER

14 contributions



Architecture buzzing

Sep 2024 • Couples

The architecture tour was so interesting ! Now we are architecture buffs we can name the building styles wherever we go. Had the whole tour to ourselves aslo which was wonderful

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

Written October 25, 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! – Illusion Art Museum

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Illusion Art

Some November days can be sunny but it's the exception. The weather is turning cold and some snow blowing around is highly likely.

Finding interesting places to go in between your hot drinks will take up a lot of your time.

Situated ideally between the Old Town Square and Wenceslas Square is the Illusion Art Museum which I have recommended to adults and kids since it opened for its fun, entertaining and educational content.






On the post you'll find a description for what to expect plus links to similar activities in the city.

Check the post about [The Illusion Art Museum](#)

# 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/>