

# Livingprague Newsletter

December 2024



*National Museum Foyer*

In the December newsletter we'll take a look at where to find the Amadeus Filming Locations. I'll show you how you can support a local social project called Cafe Martin and I'll tell you about one of the most famous sculptors in the country. Finally, I published a video showing what the John Lennon Wall looks like now and in the past.

The Activity Spotlight is a look at why you might want to visit a Black Light Theatre. Blast from the Past includes a look at the Cafe Louvre "Fit Breakfast" and some updated details about this year's Old Town Square Christmas tree (plus some death threats!).

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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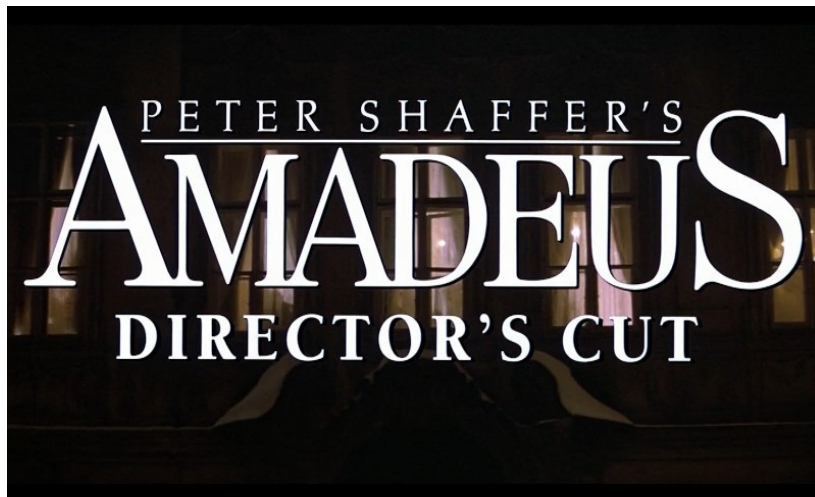
## Featured New Content

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### Famous Czechs – Olbram Zoubek

Rejected by the Academy of Fine Arts, Olbram Zoubek graduated from the Academy of Applied Arts and began a 70 year career which included some of the most iconic and symbolic sculptures in both Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic. [Read more...](#)



### Prague and Amadeus

1984 saw the release of the Oscar winning Baroque epic about Mozart called Amadeus. Director Milos Forman decided to recreate 1780s Vienna in Prague so this is a post about the filming locations and options for doing a walking tour. [Read more.....](#)



### Food and Drink – Cafe Martin

The “Training” Cafe Martin is part of a social project operated by the Martin Centre. In general the ethos is to give mentally and physically challenged people care, inclusion and a shot at employment using vocational education. [Read more....](#)



### Video – John Lennon Wall

Known as the Crying Wall for nearly 30 years, it all changed when John Lennon was killed on December 8<sup>th</sup> 1980. As the first pictures and lyrics appeared on the wall it would be now known as the John Lennon Wall. Here’s a video with how it looks now and a few photos from over the years. [See more .....](#)

## Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)

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Cafe Louvre made some alterations to their breakfast menu so as I was in Prague earlier than usual I thought I'd try what they call the "Fit Breakfast" with avocado toast, boiled egg, juice, water, granola with yoghurt and fruit (plus I added a Vienna coffee). [Read more....](#)



The Christmas Tree for the Old Town Square market was installed on 26<sup>th</sup> November. A Spruce, 53 years old and 22 metres when cut. Normally an event with no issues, this year the family that owned the land, the mayor of the village and the guy who cut down the tree all received death threats!!! [Read more....](#)

# Comment

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## No Hanging About

When I think about how often my mum was waiting on the phone to the doctor trying to get an appointment for a month later if she was lucky etc she was always amazed how it was here. For example I needed a bit of emergency care last month. That took less than 90 minutes including the trip to hospital and stopping at the chemist. I phoned my doctor and got an appointment for three days later. We decided to turn that visit into a general health check so height/weight/eyesight/ECG. Then she signed off on a range of blood tests plus the bowel cancer check. I had those done on the following Tuesday and back to the doctor on Thursday for results (clear) and prescription (which was free).

## Call to Arms

I noticed that Atletico Madrid were playing Sparta Prague this week. I noticed this because of the hundreds of Spanish supporters in the cafes during the day. Not beer drinkers I guess. I saw one extra police van on the Old Town Square and nobody was wearing riot gear. Contrast that to early in October when Dutch team Ajax played Sparta Prague. The beer was flowing freely and you could have walked from one side of the Old Town Square to the other by stepping on armoured police vans. The Tyn courtyard was almost a no-go area and the local police looked like they were extras in a Robocop film. By the way, Sparta lost 6-0 but the whole crowd clapped for Atletico because of the great football they played in the second half.

## In The News

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**The Ministry of Health announced that from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025, doctors would be able to prescribe medical cannabis to patients with chronic pain. Of course this will again open up discussion about the role of cannabis (hemp-based) for it's medicinal purposes and I expect this will quickly move to the "let them grow their own" conversation which has not been in the news since the Pirates left the current government.**

Since 1922, this country has allowed children aged under three to be cared for "en-masse" in state care institutions. According to EU policy and signed-off by the Czech government, "en-masse" care is now illegal and they have until January 2025 to move the last 40 or so children either to extended family members, foster parents or specialist care.

**Oops! The current Premier Petr Fiala, whilst laying some groundwork for seeking another 4-year term, mentioned that his aim was to increase average Czech wages to be in line with German wages. Considering the average German wage is more than double the Czech level, at best I guess you could call this an aspirational target and completely unrealistic in such a short time. Unless he thinks that German wages are about to be cut by 50%!!**

The fallout from the September floods just keeps on going. At the current estimate (and this will grow) Insurers are dealing with close to 90,000 claims. Commercial and residential claims are more than CZK18 Billion and the cost to infrastructure brings the total cost of the flood damage to CZK60 Billion. To put that in perspective, the 2025/26 budget deficit for the entire country is CZK241 Billion. So it's the old question, pay to prevent or pay to repair. I think I know what the 17 people who died in the flood would have said.

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

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**The Czech President's annual salary is currently CZK341,200.**

Czechia has budgeted CZK104 Million to fund domestic food banks in 2025, a 10% rise on 2024.

**Almost 900 people in Czechia received an organ transplant in 2023.**

Czechia hosts more Ukrainian refugees per capita than any other country with approximately 7% of displaced Ukrainians or 32.9 refugees per 1000 inhabitants.

**November 4<sup>th</sup> marked 20 years since the end of Military conscription.**

Following the September floods, the Czech army has rebuilt 19 road bridges.

**A Czechoslovak CZK5000 banknote issued in 1919 sold at auction for CZK25.68 Million. Only 3 are known to exist and even the Czech National Bank does not own one.**

The Czech Labour Office said that at the end of July 2024 there were 827,600 foreign workers in Czechia.

**The Czech government is currently defining in law what is an "energy drink" so it can be banned from sale to children under 15.**

The skeletal remains of WW2 US Pilot William L. Kiggins were handed over to the US Ambassador for repatriation.

**A fire at the National Theatre on November 27<sup>th</sup> caused damage estimated at CZK10 Million.**

Of the 34 countries that participated in the International Computer and Information Literacy Study (ICILS), Czechia ranked second (South Korea was first).

**A Rufous rat-kangaroo was born at the Olomouc Zoo.**

# Walking Tours

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We've already had the first snow of the season but in general it feels warmer than usual. My little late-November break is over and I now launch into the Christmas period. The way the dates have worked out it will be a 6-week celebration of the season with accompanying food and drink. My tour clients still request regular city tours but until December 23<sup>rd</sup> they'll have the opportunity to learn the tips and tricks in the markets plus all our Christmas Traditions in the Advent period. I still favour the smaller/cheaper market at Republic Square but I always make sure my tour clients get to see the Old Town Square Christmas Tree sound and light show plus a few details about the tree.

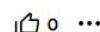
**People might be interested to know that despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the high rates of inflation since then, my scheduled tour prices have stayed the same.**

## Review

I picked out the review from "Nancy C". This combination of tours is not unusual. First is the Old Town and Jewish Quarter used as an introduction to the city. Second is a specialist tour i.e. this time it was Architecture and lastly a private tour to fill in the blanks and handle any special requirements. Nancy was travelling solo but I've done similar for couples and families.



**Nancy C**  
Toronto, Canada • 4 contributions



**Living Prague is a great way to experience the wonders of Prague**

Oct 2024 • Solo

I did three tours with Jason, this one, the architecture tour and one private. Jason loves Prague which he clearly shows you through the places and buildings you'll visit and the interesting facts and stories he shares. I have done many tours with large groups and it is so much better when you go in a small group - Jason's tours have a maximum of six. Travelling solo, however, makes that difficult because with large companies you often have to pay far more because if they don't get the numbers, they charge you for more than one person. This is the way to see Prague on a tour.

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

Written November 17, 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! – Black Light Theatre

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Black Light Theatre

Czechia has been the home of Black Light Theatre since 1958. It's an opportunity for you to enjoy a performance production but without the need to understand Czech because Black Light is a language-free zone.

It might be a well known story being portrayed but mostly the actors are taking you through a journey of fantasy.






Don't read anything into it. Just enjoy the optical elements of the performance and don't sit at the front. Remember that Black Light works because you cannot see any difference between the background and what the actor is wearing.

Check the post about [Black Light Theatre](#)

# 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/>