

# Livingprague Newsletter

February 2025



*After-dark look at the historic entry to the main train station*

In the February newsletter I'll describe a book review on President Vaclav Havel's work called "to the Castle and Back". I'll give you some history about one of the back streets called Elisky Krasnohorske. I'll tell you about some of the Ironmonger/Hardware shops I use. Finally, I published a video showing some sights and sounds you can find in ST Nicholas Church (Old Town). **Please note that there will NOT be a March newsletter.**

The Activity Spotlight is a look at why you might want to visit the Museum of Communism. Blast from the Past includes a name change for a popular restaurant. I've updated the entry discount options and added a link to buying online tickets on the Jubilee Synagogue post.

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

Streets – Elisky Krasnohorske  
Book Review – To the Castle and Back  
Services - Ironmongers  
Video – ST Nicholas Church Old Town

### Blast from the Past

La Casa Latina  
Jubilee Synagogue

### Comment

Whiners  
Deal or No Deal

### In The News

### Trivia and Odd Statistics

### Walking Tours

### Activity Spotlight!

Communism Museum

### Social/Surveys/Contact

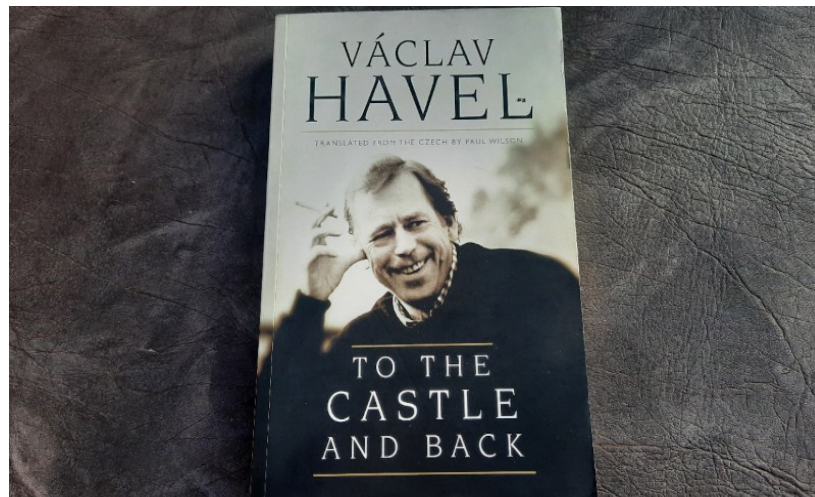
## Featured New Content

---



### Prague Streets – Elisky Krasnohorske

Eliska Krasnohorska, a woman who fought for the emancipation of women. She's famous for opening the first grammar school (high school) for girls in Central Europe (in Prague) on September 15<sup>th</sup> 1890. The street named after her has a history. [Read more....](#)



### Book Review – To the Castle and Back

To the Castle and Back is a very narrow autobiographical look at the events leading up to and during the end of the communist totalitarian regime and the emergence of Democracy in Czechoslovakia. It's a series of journalistic questions mixed in with extracts from Vaclav Havel's personal Presidential diary. [Read more.....](#)



### Services - Zelezarstvi/Ironmonger

Plastic clip or fastener broken on your bag? Wheel come off the pram? Or maybe you need a length of rope/cord for a temporary fix? You'll find what you need at a local hardware store or in Czech what we call Zelezarstvi. [Read more....](#)



### Video – ST Nicholas Church Old Town

ST Nicholas is a free to enter church on the Old Town Square. Formerly a Catholic Church, then Russian Orthodox, now Protestant, rebuilt in Baroque style in the 1730s. Well worth a look inside to see the architecture and the chandelier. [See more .....](#)



# Blast from the Past (Updated Old Content)

---



Had to update one of my recommended restaurants following a change in ownership and a renaming. It's reduced the steak options but I like a lot of the replacement Fusion options. [Read more....](#)



I updated the entry costs for the Jubilee Synagogue including the new base price, the 50% discount for presenting a Jewish Town ticket, the little discount for buying the eTicket version and the link to the site for the eTicket. [Read more....](#)

# Comment

---

## Whiners

For years I watched bottles of wine being given as corporate gifts and the companies involved regularly trotted out their spokespeople to declare their support for the Czech wine industry. Fast forward to 2023 and the government removed the tax-free status of wine as a corporate gift. In 2024 70% of wine growers in Czechia reported a drop in income despite a very high quality harvest. It seems that corporate Czechia supports the wine industry, but only if it's tax free!

## Deal or no Deal

The “Green Deal” in Europe is in the news fairly often. Used on one side to prod government and energy providers to undergo significant changes to reduce carbon emissions and use of fossil fuels. However, to maintain their profit margins, these providers then fight back by asking for a lot of money to offset these changes which then works it's way down to the consumer who ultimately will pay more. So are we paying more for a better world or maintaining company finance. You may not have noticed but huge strides have been made to improve air quality in Czechia over the last 30 years. All those brown coal apartment furnaces are now gone. That blanket of smog over Prague in the winter is largely gone. The Green Deal is just another step. But maybe the name is wrong. Maybe it should have been the “Making Sure That Your Grandchildren Have A Better Quality of Life and Don't Have to Suffer Extreme Climatic Events Deal”. Not so snappy but, maybe more accurate.

## In The News

---

**The unemployment figure for December 2024 was 4.1% but this is just an average. I noticed that when broken down into country regions, my own area “Prague-east” had an unemployment rate of just 1.5%. To put that in perspective, for every job advertised in this area there are 0.3 people responding. Like not even a whole person is applying. Companies must be pessimistic about being able to hire quality staff.**

**It’s official. The Constitutional Court ruled that the courtyards of Prague Castle are not public spaces and that their use falls under the jurisdiction of the Prague Castle Administration.**

**To nobody’s surprise, the government published figures that showed the effect of widespread low temperatures and frost that affected the country in April 2024. The overall fruit production of the country fell by 65%. Production of apples fell by 68%, plums fell by 62% and cherries by 76%. The government allocated CZK445 million in a compensation scheme to offset the losses of producers.**

**Czech Railways delivered some festive cheer. They reported an increase of 2.5% in train travel meaning that they carried 168.45 million passengers in 2024. They combined their report with an upgrade in rolling stock of 144 trains and engines worth a combined CZK19 billion. 87.6% of services ran on time.**

**The decision of Prague authorities to crack down on businesses that expand their premises using external covered areas was in the news. It’s not just the potential illegal use of the extra land, it brings safety factors like when gas space heaters are used. This was brought sharply into the news when six people were killed this week in one of these extensions in a restaurant in the town of Most.**

# Trivia and Odd Statistics

---

**In November 2024 electricity prices and rent prices increased while fuel and gas prices decreased.**

A survey by Provident Financial indicated that 23% of employed Czechs are expecting a pay rise in 2025.

**In the 2024 annual bird census, 35,000 participants observed 792,000 birds.**

The 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the Czech Press Photo competition was won by Associated Press photographer Petr David Josek.

**In 2024, 92,217 traffic accidents were reported to Police. 1,609 people suffered life-threatening injuries of which 438 people died, the lowest death total since 1961.**

The biggest exporters of beer to Russia are Czechia and Germany.

**In 2024, just over 4 million people visited the 100+ cultural sites (churches, monasteries, castles, chateaus etc) controlled by the National Heritage Institute. This is 20% less than pre-covid level.**

A variable speed limit to be introduced on parts of the new D3 motorway will mean cars can travel up to 150Kmh or 93Mph.

**The monthly minimum wage is CZK20,800.**

The Czech National Bank bought 20.5 tons of gold in 2024.

**From September 2027 schools will be required to teach English as the first “foreign” language from 1<sup>st</sup> grade.**

Czech delivery company Zasilkovna calculated that it had processed 1.1 million packages in one day, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

**Six comets have been discovered by Czech or Czechoslovak astronomers in the last 50 years.**

# Walking Tours

---

Historically the coldest month of the year and the least pleasant for showing people around the city. I generally take part of the month off to find some winter sun so I'm charged back up and ready for the Spring. People still come to Prague but in general there's not enough business for me to offer scheduled tours. If people contact me I'm happy to recommend options for private tours. If visiting in February make sure you've got proper footwear to separate you from the cold ground. Hats and gloves are a must and if you feel the cold invest in some kind of hand warmer.

**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 "anncam4127". The Christmas Markets tour is based around two things. First it's learning about the Czech Christmas traditions like festivals, what we eat, when we do certain tasks, what we can/can't do, superstitions and generally how we celebrate. The other part is understanding the markets, getting a LOT of local tips for how best to enjoy them plus some specific places to try.



**anncam4127**

Columbia, SC • 25 contributions

👍 0 ...



### Excellent Christmas Market Tour

Dec 2024 • Couples

Jason was amazing. We went on the Christmas Market tour when we first arrived in Prague and it was so helpful. Jason gave us valuable tips about navigating the markets as well as the city. In addition to sharing information about the markets he gave us an overview of the areas where the markets were located. I definitely recommend any tour by Jason.

Written January 3, 2025

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 2025 with time for people to buy food/drink as required.



## Activity Spotlight! – Communism Museum

---



Museum of Communism

February is most definitely the month for visiting museums especially if you feel the cold.

The Museum of Communism is a place to go to begin to understand the effect that communism had on the country. The museum is laid out in a clear timeline so you can see events from the post-war election of 1946 right through to the fall of communist rule in 1989.






The Museum is sectioned into various parts, some deal with the politics, there's an interesting area where it discusses the replacement of the currency, there's a big sections that describe the importance of sport and nationalist art etc. Of course there are darker parts of the museum which deal with persecution and often, execution of Czechs but it ends with the Velvet Revolution (and associated video).

Check the post about the [Museum of Communism](#)

# 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.

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

# 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](mailto:fun@livingprague.com)

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

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