

# NEWSLETTER

## for foreign offices

April 2019

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## TRADE NEWS

### Hotels & restaurants

#### Two Prague restaurants retain their Michelin star



Prague restaurants **Field** and **La Degustation Bohême Bourgeoise** have retained their **Michelin Stars**, but the total number of Michelin-recommended restaurants in the Czech capital has dropped by two. The number of Prague restaurants with a Michelin Star remains at two but with the closure of both Maso a Kobliha and Bistrøt 104, Prague has lost two of its six “**Bib Gourmand**” restaurants, which denotes “exceptionally good food at moderate prices”.

#### The Liberec region contemplates purchase of the Chateau Hotel Sychrov

The **Liberec region** may buy the **Chateau Hotel Sychrov** and rebuild it into a **retirement home**. The hotel is for sale and the owner, Regal estate, offers the hotel for sale in a tender organized by the Naxos company. Bidding deadline is set for May 3, 2019.

#### Vienna House Diplomat underwent complex renovation

**Vienna House Diplomat Prague**, a conference hotel in the Prague’s borough of Dejvice, has completed a **thorough reconstruction**. 23 conference rooms with the largest of them accommodating up to 500 people are equipped with modern technologies and its 9<sup>th</sup>-floor Loft serves as a unique venue for different functions, from meetings to birthday parties or wedding. The hotel offers 400 luxury rooms, 23 conference rooms, a bar and a restaurant. More at [www.viennahouse.com](http://www.viennahouse.com).

### Transportation

#### Ferries at Lipno running again after winter break



**Ferries at Lipno** are running again after winter break. People now can use lines between Horní Planá and Bližší Lhota and between Frymburk and Frýdava. Ferry between Dolní Vltavice and Kyselov will resume in May. The ferries help locals and tourists who otherwise would have to drive around the dam reservoir.

#### Rossiya Airlines to increase number of flights from Prague to St Petersburg

**Rossiya Airlines** is increasing number of flights **from Prague to Russia’s St Petersburg**, adding to the daily flights three more per week – on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays – from May 24 to Sept. 29, 2019. The route will be served by the Airbus A319 aircraft with 128 seats. About nine thousand passengers are expected to use the route in both directions during the period. More at [www.prg.aero](http://www.prg.aero).

### airBaltic increases capacity on the Prague-Riga route

The Latvian airline **airBaltic** will increase the capacity and improve its operations on the **Prague-Riga route** by introducing larger aircraft **Airbus A220-300** and a more convenient flight schedule with up to **11 weekly rotations**. Starting from April 2, airBaltic introduces the new, more spacious aircraft Airbus A220-300 on certain flights to and from Prague. So far, all flights on this route were operated on Bombardier Q400 NextGen aircraft. For this summer, airBaltic plans to boost the seating capacity by 39% on the Prague route. Additionally, three main airBaltic ticket categories will be offered – Basic, Premium and Business. More at [www.prg.aero](http://www.prg.aero).

### Václav Havel Airport offers direct connection to 162 destinations

During the **summer schedule** that came into effect on March 31, a total of 69 airlines will be operating regular scheduled direct flights from **Prague**, heading to **162 destinations in 54 countries**. There will also be direct flights to 16 long-haul destinations, the highest number in the airport's modern history. More at [www.prg.aero](http://www.prg.aero).

### Czech Railways to buy 55 new trains

**Czech Railways** will buy up to **55 new trains** from the **Škoda Transportation-Škoda Vagonka** consortium for CZK 7 billion. The trains that will be used on regional lines should start running in spring, 2021.

### Air Arabia launched new direct route from Casablanca to Prague

One of the biggest low-cost airlines **Air Arabia** launched **new direct flight between Prague and Casablanca** on April 1, 2019. The airline operates two flights a week on the route, on Mondays and on Thursdays. The route is served by the Airbus A320 aircraft. More at [www.prg.aero](http://www.prg.aero).

### Italian car sharing network Anytime launches service in Prague

Italian car sharing network **Anytime**, one of the biggest in the world, launches service in **Prague**. As of beginning of April, the company allows registration of users via mobile application, the actual **car sharing service should start within one month**. The company plans to invest 30 million EUR in the Czech Republic within the next couple of years.

### Planned layoffs at ČSA

Czech Airlines plan to lay off 40 to 60 employees, mainly flight attendants, according to Vladimíra Dufková, spoke person of Smartwings, the majority owner of the airline. By the end of 2017, CSA had 719 employees, of them 273 flight attendants.

### Fashion Arena Prague Outlet improves connection to the city center

**Fashion Arena Prague Outlet** has **increased** the number of its **shuttle bus stops** in the city center. The outlet's customers can now use a total of 3 bus stops in the centre of Prague: Old Town Square 6, Revoluční 3 and Legerova 62. More at <https://fashion-arena.cz/en/plan-your-visit>.

## MICE

### Prague iGaming Affiliate Conference

On April 18, for the first time ever the capital of the Czech Republic will host an event at the intersection of iGaming and affiliate marketing, the **Prague iGaming Affiliate Conference**. The organizer will bring together well-known lawyers, gambling business advisors, CEOs at marketing and iGaming companies as well as representatives of state authorities at the event of a 'conference + demo zone' format. April 18, 2019, Hotel Grandium Prague, Politických vězňů 913/12, Prague 1. More at [www.pragueconvention.cz](http://www.pragueconvention.cz)

### Cubex Centre Prague: The Best New Venue of The World

**Cubex Centre Prague** has won an award in the category „the best new venue“ of the 9th international competition of the **Global Eventex Awards**. Eventex started back 2009 and is the most recognized competition in the world of events. The prestigious accolade is awarded for excellent achievements, high quality services, or technical merit in producing cutting-edge event experiences. Not only individual venues (convention centres, hotels, or any kind of big, small or unconventional venues), but also destinations, event agencies and congress and conference organizers from all over the world participated in the competition. One of the reasons why Cubex has won this prestigious award is its unique design, inspired by Czech Cubism. More at [www.pragueconvention.cz](http://www.pragueconvention.cz)

### New MICE coordinators in South Moravia

Based on the decision of Pavla Pelánová, director of **Tourist Authority South Moravia**, the following two new **MICE coordinators** have been appointed: Silvie Zámečník: [zamecnik@ccrjm.cz](mailto:zamecnik@ccrjm.cz) and Kateřina Zemanová: [zemanova@ccrjm.cz](mailto:zemanova@ccrjm.cz).

### Awards for Prague congress ambassadors



The 10<sup>th</sup> **Prague Congress Ambassador Awards** took place on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, with the awards going to top Czech scientists, media doctors and other specialists who represent the Czech Republic and Prague at international expert associations, contributing to holding **conferences and other events in Prague**. The award-giving ceremony was organized by Prague Convention Bureau within its Ambassador Program. Results (in Czech) [HERE](#).

## People

### Radek Volf is the new head of the Karlovy Vary Information Center

As of April this year, Radek Volf is the new head of the Karlovy Vary Information Center. Volf replaced Jitka Štěpánková at the post. The long-time director has been dismissed by the new

leadership of the town who argued that the center should now focus more at young clients and address them through internet and social media.

## Data & Research

### Number of trees in Šumava rose by 1.2 million over last 23 years

Number of trees in the **Šumava National Park** rose by 1.2 million over the last 23 years, according to a research conducted by the park. The research found that each year, for every seven felled trees, eight new trees are planted.

## PRODUCT NEWS

## Culture

### Import / Export / Rock'n'Roll



New exhibition **Import / Export / Rock'n'Roll** opened at the **Czech Museum of Music** mapping part of the music scene in Czechoslovakia in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. Visitors may learn who of the Beatles played a guitar made in Czechoslovakia or whether Black Sabbath new they wrote a song about the Prague metro. March 29, 2019 – Jan. 31, 2020, Czech Museum of Music, Prague. More at [www.nm.cz](http://www.nm.cz).

### Kája Saudek: From Cars to Women

An important contributor to Eastern European comic book culture, **Kája Saudek** was best known for his unique erotic imagery, wherein he combined explicitly sexual themes with science fiction and fantasy narratives. The **From Cars to Women** retrospective exhibition of his work spread over three floors of the **Dancing House Gallery** includes also some of this works that have not yet been exhibited. Visitors under 18 years of age will not be admitted to one of the floors. March 27 – Sept. 29, 2019, Dancing House Gallery, Prague. More at [www.prague.eu](http://www.prague.eu).

### Impressionism from Dawn to Dusk. Slovenian art 1870 – 1930

Over 450 works by Slovenian artists, such **Rihard Jakopič**, **Matej Sternen**, **Matija Jama**, **Ivan Grohar**, or photographer **August Berthold** will be displayed at the Riding School of the Prague Castle. Many of the works will be shown in Prague for the first time in decades. May 1 – Sept. 16, 2019, Prague Castle Riding School. More at [www.prague.eu](http://www.prague.eu).

### Old Water-Treatment Plant and its tourist offer

The historical building with unique underground corridors invites to unusual leisure activities and to discovering the **industrial heritage** of the country. The **Old Water-**



**Treatment Plant** also rents the premises for corporate events, talks, conferences, experience tourism, teambuilding, exhibitions, filming, photographing, weddings, etc. More at [www.staracistirna.cz](http://www.staracistirna.cz). An information source on industrial heritage is also to be found at <http://www.ceskoindustrialni.cz>.

## Cities, communities & regions

### Regional parliament of the Hradec Králové region voted to create a destination management company

The regional parliament of the **Hradec Králové region** voted to create a **destination management company** that would attract more tourists to the region. Details, such as way of financing, personnel issues or the company's statutes will be decided in autumn. Last year, 1.34 million tourists used the region's hotels and pensions, a 6.6-per cent increase compared to 2017. Krkonoše Mountains are the most visited part of the region.

### Admission to state-owned castles in Karlovy Vary region to cost more this year



Visitors to state-owned castles in **the Karlovy Vary region** will pay more this year. **Admission** to the castles of Bečov nad Teplou and Valeč **will raise** by CZK 10, tickets to the castle of Kynžvart by CZK 30. Admission to the Bečov castle will now cost 80 CZK, with tour to the St Maurus reliquary costing CZK 150, admission to Kynžvart will cost also CZK 150 and to Valeč CZK 90.

### Prague ranked 11th in TripAdvisor's Travellers' Choice

**Prague** once again placed among top 25 destinations of the world in the annual **Travellers' Choice by TripAdvisor**. While globally, the Czech capital ranked **11<sup>th</sup>**, it won the **7<sup>th</sup>** place among European destinations. London, followed by Paris and Rome placed at the top of the global rating. More at [www.tripadvisor.co.uk](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk)

### Kuwaiti tourists attracted by the Czech Republic but have some reservations

The **Czech Republic and its spa** are an attractive destination for **Kuwaiti** tourists, they however, have some reservations, new Kuwaiti Ambassador to Prague **Rashid Faleh Al-Hajri** said. According to the news agency CTK, the ambassador said quality of services in Czech spa should improve. He also complained about the fact that the maximum length of stay for Kuwaiti tourists is 90 days.

### Tours for blind visitors in a church in Most

Gothic **Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary** in the town of **Most** offers special tours for blind visitors and for visitors confined to a wheelchair. The 16<sup>th</sup>-century church became known especially after was moved a distance of 841.1 meters in 1975 to give way to coal mining activities.

## Prague's city council discusses the report of the Commission for short-term accommodation services

Prague's city council has discussed the conclusion of the Commission for short-term accommodation services. The Commission supports the amendment of the Law on Local Accommodation Fees. More at:

[http://www.praha.eu/jnp/cz/o\\_meste/magistrat/tiskovy\\_servis/tiskove\\_zpravy/rada\\_proje\\_dnala\\_zavery\\_komise\\_pro.html](http://www.praha.eu/jnp/cz/o_meste/magistrat/tiskovy_servis/tiskove_zpravy/rada_proje_dnala_zavery_komise_pro.html).

## Events

### Poker tournament in Rozvadov to attract 5,500 players

A two-week poker tournament **Czech Poker Masters** will open on April 7 in the **King's Resort** casino in Rozvadov. About 5,500 players are expected to attend. The tournament's winner will get over CZK 2.5 million.

### Global Social Awards 2019

Inspirational social media figures across countries and national will be awarded for the first time, at a unique event in Prague, Czech Republic in May, which bring social media stars to the country. The final gala-evening will be attended by more than 40 influencers from all over the world. The award-giving ceremony takes place on in Forum Karlín on Wednesday, May 29, 2019. More info at [www.socialawards.global](http://www.socialawards.global). CzechTourism is the main partner of the event.

### Zlín Film Festival

**Zlín Film festival** is the oldest and largest film festival of films for children and young people in the world. The festival screenings are conducted not only in **Zlín**, but also in **many other towns in the Czech Republic**. Each year the festival presents around 300 films from more than 50 countries around the world. Over the last three years, the festival attendance has exceeded 150,000 children and adults. The Zlín Film Festival is a member of the European Children's Film Association. ZFF organizes an extensive supporting, professional and charitable program. May 24 – June 1, 2019. More at [www.zlinfest.cz](http://www.zlinfest.cz).

### Spa season opening

The official annual opening of the spa season in Karlovy Vary takes place on the first weekend of May. The festive event features parade by the founder of the town King Charles IV or blessing of the spa's mineral springs. In Mariánské Lázně, the spa season will open the following weekend. May 3 – 5, 2019, Karlovy Vary, May 10 – 12, 2019, Mariánské Lázně. More at [www.karlovyvary.cz](http://www.karlovyvary.cz), [www.marianskelazne.cz](http://www.marianskelazne.cz).

### The Liberation Festival Pilsen

**The Liberation Festival Pilsen**, celebrating the liberation by the US Army, will take place from Friday May 3 to Monday May 6, traditionally with a rich military-historic and cultural program. To its atmosphere inseparably belong the public meetings with the WW II veterans

and commemorative acts. The attractive historic military parade, **Convoy of Liberty**, will ride through Pilsen on Sunday May 5. May 3 – May 6, 2019, Pilsen. More at [www.slavnostisvobody.cz](http://www.slavnostisvobody.cz).

### Spring porcelain feast

24<sup>th</sup> Spring porcelain feast in front of the Grandhotel Pupp In Karlovy Vary will be organized from May 2 to May 5 by porcelain manufacturer Thun 1794 in cooperation with Grandhotel Pupp and glass maker Moser. Inside the hotel, an exhibition “Tables set” will present Thun’s current production tableware complemented by Moser’s glassware. Accompanying program will include live music and a workshop for children. May 3 – 5, 2019, Karlovy Vary. More at [www.thun.cz](http://www.thun.cz).

### United Islands 2019

Taking place between May 31 and June 1, **United Islands of Prague**, a **multi-genre music** open air **festival**, will focus on discovering new music and new talent. Kapitán Demo will feature as the Czech headliner. The venue is in the streets of the Karlín district. Entry is free. For the first time, the festival will include a music talent competition Discoveries of United Islands. Registration for bands and more info at [www.unitedislands.cz](http://www.unitedislands.cz).

## CORPORATE

### CzechTourism & resort

#### Personnel changes in CzechTourism

As of March 18, 2019, Mr. **Jan Herget** has been appointed as a new **managing director** of CzechTourism, for a complete report in Czech, click [HERE](#). The agency’s spokeswoman **Renata Kasalová** has been dismissed as of April 1, 2019. However, she will continue working in CzechTourism during April and there will be a tender for this position. In the event department, **Lucie Kratochvílová**, a newcomer to CzechTourism, is replacing **Veronika Jeřichová** on the post of event manager. **Lenka Davidová** is leaving the position of the manager of Czech Service Quality System as of March 31, to be replaced by **Nikola Slováková**. Since March 1, 2019, **Radek Rajchrt** has become the director for online marketing. **Jiří Kameš** is responsible for social media, taking care the agency’s global social media accounts together with Mark BBDO. **Michaela Jindřichová** has been appointed a new creative marketing manager. The marketing communication department is led by **Ivana Machoňová** as of April 1, 2019.



## New features at CzechTourism's website



In the **news section** of [CzechTourism.com](https://www.czechtourism.com), a survey of [top events in 2019](#) has been available since the beginning of the year, with an update in the **Events section**. [2019 National Gallery news](#) (most important events in English) has been added to the events calendar). More additions include articles

on topics such as [Sweet delicatessen of the Czech cuisine](#), best [Czech hotels by TripAdvisor](#), [Eva Jiřičná's best architectural works](#) (the architect celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in March), [Where to find good coffee](#) and the marketing-focused article [Cities as gateways to regions](#) and [Find health and relaxation in Czech spas](#), and a text on [Art District 7](#). In the long run, we are preparing the following topics for the **NEWS** section: Enjoy the spring festivities in the Czech republic ČR, Tips for spring trips into nature On bike with ease. We have also put on new sliders on the [homepage](#) of [CzechTourism.com](https://www.czechtourism.com).