

NEWSLETTER

for foreign offices

July 2019

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TRADE NEWS

Hotels & restaurants

BVV Trade Fairs Brno sold its Holiday Inn hotel to CPI Hotels



BVV Trade Fairs Brno, a company owned by the city of Brno, sold its stake in the **Holiday Inn** hotel to **CPI Hotels**. BVV Trade Fairs plans to use the money to build a new pavilion D. According to the CTK news agency, the deal was worth 323 million CZK. The remaining 25-percent stake in the hotel is owned by Českomoravská investiční.

Transportation



Prague Airport expects increased numbers of passengers this summer

Prague Airport expects a year-on-year **increase** of more than **5%** in terms of the number of **passengers** handled this summer. It is estimated that up to 2 million passengers will pass through the airport during both the months of July and August. More at www.prg.aero.

Prague Airport granted A1 rating by Moody's

Moody's Investors Service, Inc., has again granted the highest achievable **rating** in the Czech Republic, A1 **with positive outlook**, to **Prague Airport**. This confirms last year's rating granted to Czech Aeroholding, the predecessor of the Prague Airport company. The key for granting the rating include stable cash flow, competitive airport charges and the excellent financial profile of the company, which has proved to be sustainable even after potentially extensive investment in the development of a new terminal and a parallel runway. More at www.prg.aero.

S7 Airlines to raise the number of flights between Prague and Novosibirsk

S7 Airlines, a Russian air carrier will add a third frequency on its route connecting **Prague** and **Novosibirsk** in the 2020 summer season. The new connection will be operated every Wednesday from 29 April to 21 October 2020, complementing the existing Monday and Friday scheduled flights. The airline will continue to service the route with **Airbus A320neo** with 164 seats. The service is also used by passengers to connect to other flights within the S7 Airlines' network from Novosibirsk, for example to Irkutsk, Vladivostok and to Hongkong. Tickets are available at the carrier's website: www.s7.ru.

United Airlines inaugurated service between Prague and Newark

United Airlines inaugurated its nonstop seasonal service between Václav Havel Airport Prague and its **New York/Newark** hub at **Newark Liberty International Airport** last month. The flights will operate daily until October 4, 2019. The new route is United's first ever service from the Czech Republic. More at www.prg.aero.

Prague Airport introduces Security FastTrack at Terminal 2

The **Prague Airport** has introduced **Security FastTrack** at Terminal 2, a service allowing quick passage through security checks. All passengers leaving for countries within the Schengen area can buy the service through the airport's web site or directly in the terminal's departures hall. Price for one person is 150 CZK. More at www.prg.aero.



Historic trains at several routes during the summer

Czech Railways has launched rides by **historic trains** at several routes for the summer, such as the red 1948 train "Hurvínek" from Břeclav to Lednice on Saturdays and Sundays, or the train nicknamed "Singrovka" from Karlovy Vary to the spa of Kyselka once a week. There will also be a weekly regular connection operated by a special train Králický Sněžník from Česká Třebová to Hanušovice, via Ústí nad Orlicí and Letohrad. More at www.cd.cz.

MICE



Prague Congress Center records profit for 2018

Prague Congress Center (PCC) achieved a **profit** of CZK 33 million in 2018, with a total company turnover of CZK 486 million. During the year, the modernization of the technical equipment of the center continued, and 86 hotel rooms of the **Holiday Inn Prague Congress Center** were modernized. Further development of the company counts with the construction of the New Hall in the coming years. More at www.praguecc.cz.

Czech Hotel Awards: InterContinental Prague Awarded Hotel of the Year for Congresses

A total of 372 rooms and suites, a newly renovated fitness center, 14 congress rooms and a famous Zlata Praha rooftop restaurant on the 9th floor. These are also the reasons that **InterContinental Prague** was awarded **Hotel of the Year 2019** by **Czech Hotel Awards** in the category **Congress** by Cvent, as well as ranked among the 25 best congress

hotels in Europe. For big congresses, the hotel offers 14 different air-conditioned meeting rooms with a capacity of up to 550 seats, conferences or cocktails can also be organized on the open-air terrace or in a room with full-length windows with panoramic views of the city's silhouette and the Vltava River. Unique views of the Old Town towers, the Prague Castle and the River are also offered by the Zlata Praha Restaurant, which underwent a reconstruction in 2016. The hotel's fitness center was renewed as well. W. Fitness & Spa, a World Class brand, was opened by **Ulf Bengtsson**, the founder of the hotel chain. More at www.pragueconvention.cz.

People



Patrik Jakl appointed the new director of Czech Mountain Rescue Service

Patrik Jakl has become a new director of the **Mountain Rescue Service of the Czech Republic**, an organization established by the Ministry of Regional Development, upon a decision of the Mountain Rescue Services board of directors. Mr. Jakl has replaced Mr. František Hadáček on the position. During the selection procedure, Mr. Jakl has proved a thorough knowledge of the mountain environment, testified by his long-ranging work in the Czech Mountain Guide Association. He has also rich experience in managing companies in the tourism branch.

Petra Jandásková has become a new general manager of LH Jana hotel in Přerov



Petra Jandásková, the newly appointed director of **LH Jana Přerov hotel**, has been working in the hospitality business since 2000. Since 2016, she has been general manager of a 4-star congress hotel and a smaller 3-star hotel, with a combined capacity of 478 rooms. The LH Jana Přerov hotel has 93 rooms and a modern multifunctional hall for 600 people, 11 conference rooms and a wellness center, including an outdoor pool.

Data & Research

Foreign tourists show more interest in Brno than Czechs do



Foreigners prevail over Czechs among the visitors to **Brno**. Last year, the city received a total of **800,863** tourists, **425,711** of them foreigners. **Slovaks** are the most numerous group, followed by tourists from Poland, Germany, Korea and Austria. While Slovak tourists recorded the biggest year-on-year increase of 17 percent, the numbers of tourists from the UK and the USA dropped by five percent.

Fifty percent of Czechs spend vacation in the Czech Republic

Almost half of the Czechs prefer to spend **vacation** in the **Czech Republic**, over one third of Czechs prefer vacation by the **sea**. 52 percent opt for a **relaxing vacation**, while 11

percent prefer active vacation, according to a poll carried by the NMS Market Research agency for the Toyota carmaker. Only one percent of Czechs do not take vacation at all.

For Germans, Czech Republic is the cheapest from neighboring states

Czech Republic is, according to the **German statistical office**, the **cheapest** from **neighboring countries for vacation**. Last year, prices of accommodation and restaurants in the Czech Republic were lower by 43 percent than in Germany. **Denmark** is the **most expensive** of all Germany's nine neighboring, with prices higher by 38 percent.

Traveladventure.cz to appear at idnes.cz

With about 100,000 real users a month a growing audience, travel online magazine traveladventure.cz is a recently established travel portal and includes a rich section on tourist destination and events in the Czech Republic. The content of *traveladventure.cz* is going to be available on the leading Czech news portal idnes.cz.

PRODUCT NEWS

Culture

French Impressionism: Masterpieces from the Ordrupgaard Collection



The unique collection of **French art** from the **Ordrupgaard Museum** in Denmark displayed in the **National Gallery** includes works by Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Alfred Sisley or Camille Pissarro, romantic painting is represented by Eugène Delacroix and the realistic method by Gustave Courbet or the artists of the so-called Barbizon school, such as Jean-Baptiste Camille Corot and Charles-François Daubigny. National Gallery Prague, through Oct. 13, 2019. More at www.prague.eu.

Trnka – Miler – Born

The exhibition presents **Czech illustrations** from the 20th century, displaying more than 80 works of **Jiří Trnka**, **Zdeněk Miler** and **Adolf Born**. Through Aug. 4, 2019, Galerie Moderna, Prague. More at www.prague.eu.

Letní Letná 2019

Letní Letná is a unique festival of international contemporary circus stars, clown shows, open-air performances, concerts, film screenings, workshops, discussions, exhibitions and an interesting accompanying programme for children. Its 16th edition will be held at its traditional location in Letná Park from Aug. 15 to Sept. 1. Among the festival's highlights this year will be for example **Cirque Alfonse**, **Théâtre d'un Jour**, **Cirque Aïtal** and **Portés de Femmes**. Aug. 15 – Sept. 1, 2019, Prague. More at www.letniletna.cz.

Janáček and Luhačovice Festival

The town of Luhačovice is closely related to the world-known **music composer** Leoš Janáček as he repeatedly visited the local **spa** that also represented one of the sources of inspiration for his works. Every year since 1992, festival honoring the composer, the **Janáček and Luhačovice Festival**, is being held in the town. The already 28th edition of the festival will offer for example Bedřich Smetana's Bartered Bride, violinist Julie Svěcená, flute player Simona Pingitzer or the Prague Cello Quartet. July 15 – 17, 2019. Luhačovice. More at www.janacekluhacovice.cz.

Alberto Giacometti

The **retrospective exhibition** will present one of the most renowned artists of the 20th century, **Alberto Giacometti** (1901–1966) for the first time in the Czech Republic. His distinctive elongated figures, which started to appear in 1947 with L'Homme au doigt, are an instantly recognizable icon of Modern Art. The exhibition, prepared by the **National Gallery in Prague** and Fondation Alberto et Annette Giacometti, brings together over 100 Giacometti's works. July 19 – Dec. 1, 2019, National Gallery Prague, **Trade Fair Palace**. More at www.prague.eu.

Brno Art Open – Sculptures in the Streets

Exhibition of sculptures by Czech and foreign artists at different locations in **Brno**, this year subtitled **Dependent Object**. Till Aug. 11, 2019. More at www.brnoartopen.cz.

Cities, communities & regions



River cruises from Kroměříž

The town of **Kroměříž** has a new tourist attraction this summer, a two-hour **cruise** on the **Morava River**. The boat sets on the Kroměříž–Kvasice and back cruise every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. More at www.kromeriz.cz.

The town of Český Krumlov made 4 million CZK so far from tour bus fees

Fees on tour buses that enter the center of **Český Krumlov** with effect of June 1 have so far generated revenues of CZK 4 million, excluding VAT. As of July 1, there was 9,400 bookings in the system. Over 90 percent of tour bus operators comply with the new measure. Operators have to pay CZK 1,250 for each bus that enters the center of the town. Before June 1, there was no fee. Český Krumlov expects this measure will earn the city council about CZK 8 million this year.

Booking to Vila Tugendhat now with BRNOPASS

There are long queues for tickets to **Vila Tugendhat** and only the lucky ones get a chance to visit this masterpiece of **architecture**. Among those lucky ones are now the holders of the **BRNOPAS visitor's card**, as the cards includes bookings for guided tours in Czech, English and German languages. Tickets can be **purchased or booked** using BRNOPAS only at the information centre at Panenská 1. Availability is limited and a ticket with

BRNOPAS is not guaranteed. Purchase and booking of tickets is only possible seven days before the date of the tour or later. For more information on tickets, call +420 602 404 246 or +420 513 039 035. More info at www.gotobrna.cz/misto/vila-tugendhat.

The 2019 Brno food & drink guide is out now!

The **best food and drink** establishments in Brno have been selected within in the 3rd **Gourmet Brno**. Evaluation has been made by a jury of independent professionals. To download the guide and get more info, visit www.gotobrna.cz/ochutnejte.

Events

Soundtrack Poděbrady

The 3rd edition of **Soundtrack Poděbrady** will take place from August 29 to Sept. 1, 2019. It will offer 4 days filled with the greatest stars of the film industry. The Soundtrack award granted to artists for their extraordinary contribution to either Czech or international **film music** and is part of the festival. Between concerts, all visitors can visit festival's accompanying program in the park. They can choose from various film projections, workshops, exhibitions or musical performances. This part of festival is free. More at: www.soundtrackfestival.cz.

Austerlitz 2019

The event to commemorate the 214th anniversary of the **battle of Austerlitz** will be held on the weekend of Nov. 30 – Dec 1, 2019 at the Austerlitz battlefield. **Reenactment** of the battle under the Santon hill on Saturday, with some 1,000 uniformed participants, 60 horses and 15 cannons will be the event's main highlight, as well as the Sunday memorial event at the Peace monument, the place of the battle's deadliest fighting. More at www.austerlitz.org.



Signal festival

The seventh edition of **Signal**, a **festival of light**, will take place in **Prague** on Oct. 10 – 13, 2019. The festival that connects in a unique way art, urban areas and modern technologies, has attracted an audience of over two million during the past six years. More at www.signalfestival.com.

Designblok

Designblok, Prague International Design Festival, is the largest and most visited **design** and **fashion** show in Central Europe. It is annually attended by over 200 exhibitors and it attracts more than 50,000 visitors each year. In addition to the central exhibition space, Designblok opens number of galleries, showrooms and pop-up shops throughout Prague. The 21st edition of the festival will be held on Oct. 17–21, 2019. Prague, Výstaviště Holešovice. More at www.designblok.cz.

Znojmo Grape Harvest

The biggest **wine festival** in the Czech Republic founded in 1966. Historical **procession of King John of Luxembourg** is part of the festival program, as well as for example **knight tournaments, cultural shows** on 13 stages in the center of town and obviously wine tasting. Znojmo, Sept. 13–15, 2019. More at www.znojemskevinobrani.cz.

2019 ICF Canoe Slalom World Cup Final & ICF Extreme Canoe Slalom World Championships

Slalom World Cup finals along with **Extreme Slalom World Championships** will be held in **Prague–Troja** on Sept. 5 – 9, 2019. While World Cup races are held often in the Czech Republic, the Championships will be held here for the first time in history. Czech Television along with another six foreign televisions will broadcast the championships live. More at www.slalomtroja.cz.

NHL Fan Zones

Series of **ice hockey** fan zones held on the occasion of **NHL Global Series 2019** will present traditional ice hockey countries and invite fans of all generations to Prague and the towns of Plzeň, Ostrava, Brno and České Budějovice to try and play on ice rinks and simulators. Sept. 2 – 29, 2019.

Čajomír fest – Open Air Tea Festival

Cajomír fest is a meeting of **tea** lovers at Vysehrad. It is inspired by the Korean traditional tea festivals. A big tea village will grow up near the Old Burgravery where dozens of tea houses and tea cultures from all over the world will be presented at one spot. Aug. 24 – 25, 2019, Prague–Vyšehrad. More at www.cajomir.cz.

Burgerfest

Burgerfest is a unique two-day food and cultural festival that aids at disproving the myths of American cuisine and showing that a **burger** is not a poor-quality piece of meat, but an art that deserves its festival! Exhibition Grounds Prague, Sept. 7–8, 2019. More at www.burgerfest.cz.

CORPORATE

CzechTourism & resort

Tourism is our black gold

CzechTourism, an agency in charge of the development of sustainable tourism, announced that the **Prague Castle** was the most visited tourist attraction in 2018 with **2.44 million** visitors, an increase of 2.8 percent compared to 2017. The **Petřín funicular** placed second with 2.03 million visitors, followed by the **Prague zoo** with 1.43 visitors. With 1.36 million visitors, **Dolní Vítkovice**, a technical monument in the Moravian-Silesian region ranked fourth.

“We have to work wisely with tourism, it is our Czech oil,” said Jan Herget, the new director of CzechTourism “In developed countries, the production of oil and natural gas is not a burden on environment or residents. The same could apply to tourism in our country. When selling the benefits of the Czech Republic to tourists and tour operators abroad, we recommend alternatives to the Prague centre, Český Krumlov and Adšpach in the Broumov region, i.e. destinations which tend to be overloaded in high season,” said Mr. Herget.

CzechTourism is a partner of the 2019 Czech-Emirati Business Forum

The **2019 Czech-Emirati Business Forum** took place on July 1–4, 2019, in Prague and Karlovy Vary. It is a long-term project organized by the **Czech Business Council Dubai**. The partners are the **Embassy of the Czech Republic in Abu Dhabi**, **CzechTrade** and **CzechTourism**. The goal of the forum is to facilitate establishing new business relations and opportunities between the Czech Republic and the United Arab Emirates.

The main topics of the Czech-Emirati Business Forum include innovation, robotics and artificial intelligence, smart cities, certification, health care, aviation, aviation control and tourism, with emphasis on spas. The forum proved beneficial especially to those who want to enter the Emirati market, or to those who want to get more information on economy, law and taxes. The partnership of CzechTourism is key mainly to the B2B sector. The event enables Czech trade representatives to talk directly to partners from the United Arab Emirates and to gain valuable contacts. The second part of the forum was held in Karlovy Vary and involved the presentation of the city and the opportunities it provides.