CzechTourism

NEWSLETTER

for foreign offices

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TRADE NEWS

Hotels & restaurants

Hotel transaction volume reaching record heights

The hotel investment market is reaching new heights in the Czech Republic with year to date volumes at EUR 530 million and 10 hotel transactions. This is more than a 100% growth compared to the average yearly transaction volume of EUR 250 million, recorded over the past five years. Of this year's 10 transactions, six took place in Prague, amounting for EUR 483 million.



Sen is Senohraby reopens

The Sen Hotel ("Dream Hotel") in **Senohraby near Prague**, which changed owner last year, has been reconstructed inside and **reopened** on September 5th. A new and extensive wellness centre and indoor pool are part of the project. The first batch of 40 refurbished rooms and the Swiss restaurant with a kitchen are in full operation at the moment. More 20 rooms and another restaurant are scheduled for completion in September. There will also be congress premises, scheduled for opening in November 2019. The current owner of the Sen Hotel is also an owner of the Maximus Resort in Brno.

Panorama Hotel Prague sold

The 440-room 4-star **Panorama Hotel Prague** has recently changed owner. **The Corinthia Hotel Group** sold it to the Austrian investor **S+B**, with Cushman & Wakefield assisting the seller in the transaction. The value of the deal has not been disclosed.

New luxury hotel for wine lovers to open in Mikulov

Boutique hotel slated for opening in **Mikulov** late next year will offer over 30 rooms each with own terrace and a luxury wellness and will be extremely environmentally friendly. The planned **Boutique Wine Hotel** will be open to adults only.

Transportation



RegioJet to include Budapest in its network

RegioJet, the biggest fully privately-owned long-distance train operator in Central Europe, will include the Hungarian capital of **Budapest** in its network. As of **June 2020**, the RegioJet trains will connect Prague with Budapest twice a day on the Prague–Brno–Vienna–Budapest and back route.

SkyUp to launch a new Pardubice–Kiev route

The lowcost carrier **SkyUp** announced it would launch new direct route from the east Bohemian town of **Pardubice** and the **Ukrainian** capital of **Kiev**. As of Oct. 22, the airline will fly between the two cities three times a week, on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays. The route will be served by the Boeing 737-800 aircraft with 189 seats. East Bohemian airport, the company that operates the airport in Pardubice, estimates that some 50,000 passengers could use the line in both directions annually. More at www.airport-pardubice.cz.

Czech Railways purchased two Taurus locomotives

Czech Railways has purchased two modern electric **Taurus locomotives** from Austria's Swietelsky Baugesellschaft. The two locomotives will be used on the Czech Railways' international lines. More at www.cd.cz.

Digital signage in six languages launched at Prague Airport

Digital signage located at the entrance to pier B in Terminal 1 of the **Prague Airport** offers information in **six languages**: Czech, English, Korean, Chinese, Arabic and Russian that reflects the current traffic and passenger flow throughout the day and helps passengers navigate through the terminal. The new technology is now being tested. If it proves successful, the airport is planning to install it in other locations as part of its daily operations. More at www.prg.aero.

easyJet to launch new service between Prague and Luton

easyJet has announced new direct flight between **Prague** and **London**. The daily service to London Luton Airport will start on Oct. 28, 2019 and the carrier will fly an Airbus A320 Family jet with 180 seats. According to Prague Airport's estimates, the service could be used by as many as 100,000 passengers in both directions every year. More at www.prg.aero.

Czech Railways recorded a 441 million CZK profit in the first half of 2019

Czech Railways has recorded a **profit** of **CZK 441 million** in the first half of this year, 179 million CZK more than in the same period of 2018. 91.6 million passengers traveled on the Czech Railways' trains in the first half of 2019, an increase of 5.5 percent compared to the same period last year.

American Airlines announces new direct service between Prague and Chicago

American Airlines, one of the largest carriers in the world, announced the launch of new seasonal service between **Prague** and **Chicago**. The route which will be available five times a week from May 8 to Oct. 24, 2020, will be operated by the Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft. More at www.prg.aero.

RegioJet to purchase Bombardier locomotives

The private **RegioJet** train operator will buy 15 **TRAXX MS3 Bombardier locomotives** to be deployed on the carrier's domestic and international routes in 2020.

MICE

EUSEM 2019

Annual congress of the **European Society for Emergency Medicine** at the Prague's Congress Center will bring together about 2,500 experts from over 70 countries. Congress Center Prague, October 12–16, 2019. More at www.eusemcongress.org.

EuroSTAR Software Testing Conference

The 27th **EuroSTAR Software Testing Conference**, Europe's largest and leading software testing event, will take place in Prague this fall, with some 1,000 professionals expected to attend. November 9–14, 2019. Prague Congress Center. More at https://conference.eurostarsoftwaretesting.com/.

Prague to support congress tourism with 30 million CZK in subsidies

Prague municipality will **subsidize congress tourism** in the city by **CZK 30 million**. The city will support two categories of events: congresses and conferences with 700 and more participants where the subsidy will amount to CZK 400 per participant and the maximum sum per congress must not exceed CZK 2 million, and congresses with 500 to 699 participants with subsidy per participant will be CZK 300. The subsidies will go to events held in Prague between January 1 and December 31, 2020.

People



Vladimír Novák to become general manager of the Thermal hotel

Vladimír Novák was appointed **general manager** of the state-owned hotel **Thermal** in **Karlovy Vary**. Novák, who will supervise the 580 million CZK reconstruction of the hotel, will assume the post in early October. The hotel's pool that will undergo a 110 million CZK reconstruction will be operated by a private company **Saunia**.

Data & Research

Almost 300,000 tourists spent at least one night in Český Krumlov last year

293,644 tourists spent **at least one night** in the town of **Český Krumlov** last year, 17 percent of all tourists visiting **South Bohemia**. Nearly three quarters of all tourists who stayed overnight in the town were foreigners. According to the Czech statistical office,

tourists from Asia are the most frequent visitors to Český Krumlov but they usually stay for only one night. More at www.czso.cz.

Prague has the fifth cheapest taxi rides to the airport in Europe

Prague is the **fifth cheapest European city** in terms of the **price of a taxi ride** from the city center to the airport, according to a Dutch company **Taxi2Airport.com**. In the comparison of 14 European cities, Lisbon was the cheapest, while Amsterdam was the most expensive.

Every seventh inhabitant of Prague is a foreigner

One out of seven residents of Prague is a **foreigner** and according to an analysis by the city's **Planning and Development Institute**. Ukrainians are the most numerous at over 51,000, followed by Slovaks (31,500) and Russians (24,000). Vietnamese come fourth at over 13,000.

Czech government to collect a record sum for issued visa this year

According to statistics of the **Czech foreign ministry**, the Czech government will collect a record sum this year for **issued visa**. In the first half of this year, about 408,000 foreigners applied for Czech visa, most of them Russians, Ukrainians and Chinese. The Czech state collected approximately **CZK 500 million** CZK in visa fees in the first six month of 2019.

PRODUCT NEWS

Culture



Strings of Autumn 2019

The **23rd edition** of the international festival **Strings of Autumn** will offer approximately **10 concerts** inspired by contemporary **classical music**, **hip-hop**, **jazz** and **electronic music**. The festival will kick off in the Forum Karlín on October 15, 2019 by a concert of the British singer and pianist Laura Mvula. Visitors can also look forward to the Charles Lloyd's saxophone Quintet, jazz pianist Fred Hersch or the avant-garde ensemble JACK Quarter. One of the festival's highlight will be the concert performance of Jiří Suchý, paying tribute to his and Jiří Šlitr's songs. Closing concert will take place in the Lucerna Palace on November 13 with De La Soul. Prague, various places. October 10 – November 13, 2019. More at www.strunypodzimu.cz.

Theater Night

This year's edition of the **Theater Night** with a subtitle **Theater and Freedom** will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution. Theatre Night is organized within the European Theatre Night project, which was launched in Croatia in 2008. Last year, 109 institutions from 30 Czech and Moravian towns and cities participated at the project which was visited by 40,000 visitors. In Prague, 52 theatres and ensembles prepared program for visitors. Prague, various places. November 16, 2019. More at www.nocdivadel.cz, www.prague.cz.

Petr Sís: About Flying and Other Dreams

Exhibition of books by Czech born, US-based **author** and **illustrator** of children's book **Petr Sís**, including his autobiography "The Wall – Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain," a powerful account of his childhood in Cold War–era Prague and at the same time a book about real and invisible walls in a world where freedom remains to be a dream. DOX Center for Contemporary Art, Prague, September 13, 2019 – January 20, 2020. More at www.prague.eu.

Cities, communities & regions



Brno Minibus Sightseeing Tours – Functionalism

The best of **Brno's functionalism** – luxury villas, blocks of flats, banks, the exhibition ground, a church, and a tramline stop. Famous names and no less famous buildings within one of the sightseeing tours – Bohuslav Fuchs, Ernst Wiesner, Oskar Poříska, Bohumil Čermák, Emil Králík and others. Brno, every Saturday at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. through Oct 26. More at www.gotobrno.cz.

Hungary's GreenGo to offer shared cars in the Czech Republic

GreenGo will start offering **shared cars** in the Czech Republic this fall. The company, founded in Hungary in 2016, will bring 100 **Volkswagen e-Up** vehicles to Prague. It is the Central Europe's first company operating solely electric vehicles.

Events

Golden Prague Festival

International Television Festival presenting the world's best **music** and **dance** programs and films in all musical genres. The prestigious international competition is accompanied by a rich supplementary program including workshops, concerts, presentations of TV stations, screenings and meetings with renowned directors, producers and

choreographers. New Stage, Národní 4, Prague 1. September 25–28, 2019. More at www.festivalgoldenprague.cz

Wine festival at Grébovka

The popular **wine festival** will start – as every year – on Friday, September 20 at náměstí Míru, Prague, and will continue the next day in the **Grébovka Park**. Visitors can look forward to 80 stalls with delicious wine, young wine, food and handicraft products. Prague - Vinohrady, Grébovka, Sept. 20 – 21, 2019. More at www.prague.eu.



Fire on Ice

Figure skating show featuring eight Olympic medalists, seven world champions and nine European champions. Visitors can look forward to such stars as Jozef Sabovčík, Javier Fernandez, Tomáš Verner, Vladimir Besedin, Alexei Polishchuk, or Tatiana Totmianina and Maxim Marinin. Ostravar Arena, Ostrava. November 6, 2019. More at www.fire-on-ice.cz.

Czech Republic vs. England

EURO 2020 qualifying match Czech Republic vs. **England** will take place on October 11 at the Sinobo Stadium in Prague. Sinobo Stadium (Eden Aréna), Prague, October 11, 2019, at 20:45. More at www.prague.eu.

Wine Festival Český Krumlov

Eighth edition of **wine festival in Český Krumlov** will offer not only delicious domestic and foreign wines but also outstanding gastronomic and cultural experience. Various places, Český Krumlov. October 18 – November 23, 2019. More at www.festivalvina.cz.

Sun in the glass

Festival of small breweries will take place in the court of the Purkmistr brewery in Plzeň. Some 60 breweries from the Czech Republic and abroad are expected to participate. September 20–21, 2019, Plzeň. More at www.slunceveskle.cz.

CORPORATE

CzechTourism & resort

Aktuality na webu CzechTourism.com

The **UNESCO památky slider** at CzechTourism.com has been updated, including adding new records for new Czech UNESCO Heritage sites – Landscape for Breeding and Training of Ceremonial Carriage Horses at Kladruby nad Labem and Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří Mining Region. In the NEWS section, you will find the following new topics and articles: Non-

traditional accommodation, Indian summer in the mountains, In the footsteps of the iechtenstein family, Vltava – river full of experiences, Castles and chateaux for children and Biking along the Iron Curtain. The following topics are being prepared for the NEWS section in the future: Non-traditional food & drink experiences, In the footsteps of Václav Havel, Unusual views from the Czech roofs.