



The largest metropolis of the Moravian–Silesian Region is the third biggest city in the Czech Republic in terms of both area and total population. Ostrava is situated ten kilometres south of the nation's border with Poland and 50 kilometres west of the Slovak border. The D1 motorway and key railway routes cut through the city. Ostrava lies in a valley between the Beskid and Jeseníky Mountains, and is by far one of the greenest cities in the country. The city boasts a rich cultural and social life thanks to its good-quality theatre scene and well-respected galleries, as well as the famed Stodolní Street packed with clubs, restaurants, pubs and bars.



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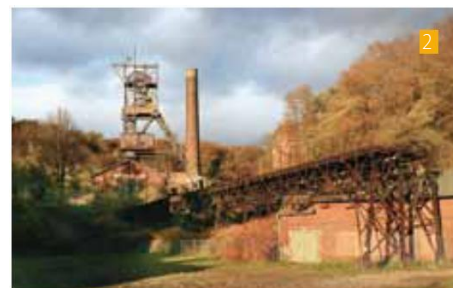
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MUST-SEE PLACES

Most of us associate Ostrava with **Lower Vítkovice** ¹ (→ p. 55) a unique site of technological heritage whose unusual nature attracts visitors from both this country and abroad. Make sure you don't miss **Landek Park** ², the largest mining museum in the Czech Republic (→ p. 55), where you can even go down a shaft and see a coal seam.

The New City Hall Observation Tower ³, which is actually the highest city hall tower in the Czech Republic, affords great views over the city, as well as the Beskid Mountains and Odra Highlands. The guide here will also describe in vivid colours the city's past and present, and recommend interesting places in Ostrava and its environs. A short walk from the New Town Hall towards Stodolní Street will bring you to the Gallery of Fine Arts, where you can see an incredible 20,000 works of art. If you then walk over the Castle Footbridge, crossing the Ostravice River, you'll get to the **Silesian Ostrava Castle** ⁴, whose courtyard and amphitheatre play host to countless cultural events throughout the year.

You can see evidence of what might be a surprising fact, that of Ostrava being one of the greenest cities in the country, not just in the city centre and on the paths along the **the Ostravice River** ⁵, but also in the city-part Silesian Ostrava. There, you can find **Ema** ⁶, a 315-metre-high spoil tip, whose top you can reach via an educational trail (parallel to the yellow hiking route) going from the Silesian Ostrava Castle, the Miloš Šýkora Bridge, or the zoological garden.



A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER



Ostrava Zoo

Ostrava Zoological Garden has experienced tremendous development in recent years. Its area covering 100 hectares makes it the second largest zoo in the country, and its natural forest park houses over 4,000 animals of about 400 species. Some of the main attractions include elephants, hippopotamuses, chimpanzees in the Evolution Pavilion, and African ungulates in the Safari zone. Flora lovers will be thrilled here as well, for they can follow a number of botanical trails. Particularly during the spring time, the visitors can admire rhododendrons in bloom, of which the garden has the most in the country. The zoo also has an educational centre and a restaurant. Both narrated animal feeding sessions and night tours are among the standard available activities.

www.zoo-ostrava.cz



Gallery of Fine Arts

Today, the 1926 House of Arts building is one of the jewels of Ostrava's modern architecture. Since its opening, the gallery has been housed in this building. From the 1960s onwards, it has focused on extensive acquisition of artworks and has gradually expanded its fine art collections, which currently encompass over 20,000 works of art. In terms of the quality of its collections, Gallery of Fine Arts in Ostrava is considered one of the five most significant art collecting institutions in the Czech Republic. Visitors can see both permanent and short-term exhibitions of art by various authors.

www.gvuo.cz

NEARBY TRIPS

The Moravian-Silesian Beskid Mountains and their highest peak, **Lysá hora**, beckon you to take day trips, as well as longer stays, in winter and summer alike. Besides admiring the natural beauty, you can also visit **Opava** and **Štramberk**.

Silesian Museum, Opava

– 33 km northwest of Ostrava

The museum's collections focus on animate and inanimate nature, prehistory, and the history of art, particularly as it pertains to Czech Silesia, North Moravia, and Northeast Moravia. Opava's museum is the oldest public museum in the Czech Republic, with a history dating back to 1814. Furthermore, its 2.4-million-piece collection makes it the third largest museum in the Czech Republic.



www.szm.cz



A photo of the Synagogue by: Martin Friedel

Krnov Synagogue

– 58 km northwest of Ostrava

As if by miracle, the 1871 Jewish Synagogue in Krnov survived the rise of Nazism and has been preserved to this day. This is owing to the fact that the local Jews had removed all symbols of their faith from the Synagogue, and the Germans needed a site for the city's market. Therefore, they used the temple building for that purpose. As a result, we can now admire the Synagogue, which was built in the Neo-Romanesque and Moorish styles. Visitors can find all symbols of the Jewish faith here, including inscriptions in Hebrew. The Synagogue also affords wonderful views. Visitors can see the area surrounding Krnov from a bird's-eye perspective. You can book a tour in the local information centre or directly in the Synagogue.

A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER



Town of Štramberk

– 45 km south of Ostrava

Located at the foothills of the Beskid Mountains, this small mountain town is dubbed the 'Moravian Bethlehem' due to its picturesque appearance. The town and its wide surroundings are dominated by the ruins of Štramberk Castle. The urbanistic cluster of Štramberk's 18th and 19th century Wallachian timbered cottages, majority of which are part of the town's conservation area, then represents an unparalleled feat of vernacular architecture. Štramberk is renowned for its sweet-smelling gingerbread pastry called 'Štramberk Ears', which has been made here for centuries as a reminder of the legendary victory of the Štramberk Christians over the Mongolian Army in 1241.

Moravian-Silesian Beskid Mountains

– 40 km south of Ostrava

This protected landscape area is exceptional, particularly due to the remains of its primeval forests in which rare Carpathian animals and plants are found. Here, you can find a few hundred kilometres of marked hiking routes for both hikers and cyclists, and up to fifty kilometres of ski slopes. The peak of Lysá hora offers unparalleled views over the ridges and valleys of the Beskid, Jeseníky and High Tatra Mountains.



TIP! Mionší Primeval Forest

– 70 km southeast of Ostrava

Mionší National Nature Reserve boasts the largest collection of Carpathian-type fir and beech forests in the Czech Republic. The area is home to some 110 species of vertebrates (of which 73 are bird species). Its rich variety of fungi makes it one of the most significant mycological sites in the country. The seven-kilometre-long educational trail (between the villages of Dolní Lomná and Horní Lomná) allows you to catch a glimpse of the boundary areas of this primeval forest and see one of the best preserved forest compounds of Beskid wildlife. The trail is open from 1st June to 15th September, but only with a tour guide (3 – 4 hours).

REGULAR EVENTS



MAY-JULY

The Leoš Janáček International Music Festival

JUNE

Golden Spike

JULY

**Beats for Love
Colours of Ostrava**

SEPTEMBER

**NATO Days
Saint Wenceslas Music Festival**

