

9 NYSA



Did you know that...? *The belfry houses a collection of church items, entitled **The Treasure of St James**, which is open to the public. These items were hidden by a local priest in 1945, half of which were found in the 1950s and the rest as recently as 2003.*

Nysa Fortress (→ p. 61) is one of the best preserved fortification systems in Silesia. You can explore the remains of a Prussian fortress in Piastowska Street (St. Hedwig's Bastion) or in Powstanców Śląskich Street (Fort Wodny). Go just a short distance **west** from Nysa and you'll come across **Paczków**, a fortress town with the unique Gas Industry Museum. You can also pay a visit to a former gold-digger settlement, **Złoty Stok**, situated 10 km further away. Here, you can see the dark tunnels of a gold mine, which is now open to the public.

NEARBY TRIPS

Paczków – 25 km from Nysa

The town was enclosed by a double ring of walls in the 14th century, most of which have been fully preserved to this day. The walls are 1,200 m long and up to 7 m high. Due to the multitude of well-preserved bastions and three entry gates with towers, the town has been nicknamed the 'Silesian Carcassonne'. The oldest and mightiest tower is the 30-metre-tall Wrocław Tower, which is used today as a lookout tower. The fortification system also includes the unique fortified Church of St John the Evangelist dating from the 14th century.

Did you know that...? *here is a round stone well in the south section of the church's nave. It used to serve not just as a source of water, but as a place to hide as well.*



A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

44 423

Vratislav – 91 km

Tourist Information Centre

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www.informacja-turystyczna.nysa.pl
www.nysa.eu

Nysa is one of the oldest towns in Silesia. Thanks to the multitude of sacral heritage buildings, it has earned the nickname 'the Silesian Rome'. Nysa was, first and foremost, a fortress town due to its strategic position near the Czech-Polish border. Over half of the town was destroyed by the Red Army in 1945. Despite this, Nysa still offers visitors plenty of sights today. One of the town's most valuable treasures is **the Basilica of St. James and St. Agnes** (→ p. 48), which is one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in Poland. Right next to the cathedral is the Late Gothic belfry building, which has never been finished.



Gas Industry Museum, Paczków

In this museum, you can explore everything connected with the traditional gas industry. This includes not only preserved equipment used for gas production, but also a large number of gas home appliances and the unquestionably largest collection of gas meters in Europe. The museum is situated in the gasworks building, which supplied gas to meet the town's needs between 1902 and 1977.

A BIG TOUR OF THE CZECH-POLISH FRONTIER

Złoty Stok – 35 km from Nysa

The greatest local tourist attraction is a sightseeing tour of a former gold mine. The tour starts in the Gertruda Adit, where you can see old mining tools, maps and a gold smelting furnace. The side tunnels were utilized as a laboratory by J. Schärferberg, a chemist who searched for an elixir of eternal life. However, instead of the elixir, he managed to discover a very strong poison – arsenic. It is even rumoured that it was the Złoty Stok arsenic that was used to poison none other than Napoleon. When you leave the adit, you'll proceed to the Death Gallery, whose name refers to its gloomy past. Miners who were suspected of stealing gold were reportedly cemented to the walls with mortar and were left to die in agonizing pain.

TIP! *Daredevil visitors can go through a section of the route either on a special 8-metre slide or on a boat entitled the Titanic. A true rarity is the local underground waterfall, the only one in all of Poland.*

www.kopalniazlota.pl

If you head south from Nysa, the Polish-Czech border is just slightly over 20 km away. Before you cross the border and reach the Jeseníky, though, stop at the town of **Glucholazy**, where you can go up a salt tower whose microclimate on a clear day is supposed to be worth three days spent at the seaside.

Gold Ore Open-Air Museum, Zlaté Hory – 30 km from Nysa

This medieval mining open-air museum is situated on the Olešnice River near the town Zlaté Hory. The Valley of Lost Adits features a replica of 14th-century gold-ore mills as a remembrance of the prosperous goldmining times in the region. Traditional home crafts are showcased in the Mining Settlement. An education trail goes through the open-air museum, and will take you, among other things, to a spot 'where water runs uphill'.

Did you know that...? *The main feeder canal leading to the gold panning sites is still in operation. Geologists have proven that there is a high content of gold here, so you too can try your luck at finding a golden treasure.*

zlatehory.cz



The Góry Opawskie Protected Landscape Area – 30 km from Nysa

It encompasses the northern slopes and the foothills of the Opawskie Mountains, which are situated on the border with the Czech Republic. The following reserves are valued the most: 'Olszak', 'Las Bukowy' and 'Cicha Dolina'. The 'Nad Białką' Geological Landscape Reserve is also located in this area. The Protected Landscape Area is covered by a network of hiking trails, totalling 128 km in length, as well as over 30 km of educational nature trails and plenty of paths for hikers, horseback riders, cyclists, and cross-country skiers.

zopk.pl

Nysa Lake – 7 km from Nysa

The picturesque Lake Nysa is situated at the foothills of the Opawskie Mountains in the Otmuchowsko-Nyski Protected Landscape Area and in Natura 2000 – the 'Nysa Reservoir' Special Bird Protection Area. Clean water, a diverse shoreline and infrastructure make the lake a popular holiday destination. It is a paradise for fishermen, water sports lovers, and yachtsmen.

TIP! *Festival ohně a vody – velkolepá show na vodě a na nebi (soutěž ohňostroju na pláži Niského jezera).*



i.nysa.pl

Bishop's Hill Lookout Tower – 30 km from Nysa

This 18-metre-tall stone lookout tower, built in 1898, is the oldest lookout tower in the Jeseníky Mountains. Poland, the Jeseníky peaks, and Zlaté Hory can be viewed from the lookout tower.

Did you know that...? *Bishop's Hill stands on the site of the original lookout tower which housed the first sub-post office in Moravia. Even today, you can send letters directly from there.*



Rejvíz National Nature Reserve – 35 km from Nysa

Rejvíz is situated at an altitude of 800 m, between the towns of Jeseník and Zlaté Hory. The landscape here is utterly different from the neighbouring landscapes due to its specific flora and fauna. This is the largest peat bog in Moravia, and is estimated to be between 6,000 and 7,000 years old. The most attractive places can be accessed via an educational trail, which will take you to the Great Moss Lake.



Rychleby Trails – 50 km from Nysa

Old hunting paths have been repurposed as mountain bike trails, which provide (not only) seasoned cyclists with the ultimate riding experience. This is an interconnected network of routes in the midst of the Rychleby Mountains landscape that features deep forests, massive granite boulders, abandoned quarries and mountain streams.

www.rychlebskestezky.cz



Šumperk – 80 km from Nysa

One reason to visit the town, which has been labelled the gateway to the Jeseníky, is, in addition to its historic centre, a one-of-a-kind witch trial exhibition, which unveils the bloody history of the area in the 17th century.

www.sumperk.cz



Červenohorské sedlo – 50 km from Nysa

Červenohorské sedlo is an important starting point for hiking routes in the Hrubý Jeseník Mountains, complete with necessary infrastructure facilities for both summer and winter tourism.



Praděd – 60 km from Nysa

Standing at 1491 metres tall, Praděd is the highest mountain in Moravia. There is a transmitter and lookout tower at the summit. Spectacular views over Lysá Hora, Sněžka and Radhošť can be had from the viewing platform. On a clear day, you can also see Slovakia's High Tatras and Malá Fatra, as well as the Austrian Lower Alps. A range of renowned ski resorts and cross-country ski trails are available here in the winter season.

Velké Losiny – 70 km from Nysa

In addition to its Renaissance chateau and thermal spa, visitors are most drawn to the local paper factory, where paper has been made using traditional methods for four centuries now. Two tours are available in the Museum of Paper, which features traditional paper production methods, the history of the craft and a range of technical points of interest.



www.iclosiny.cz



www.dlouhe-strane.cz

Dlouhé stráně Pumped Storage Hydro-Power Plant – 80 km from Nysa

Visit the largest pumped storage hydro-power plant in the world and the largest hydroelectric structure in the Czech Republic. The tour of the plant covers the technological operation carried out in vast underground halls, the lower reservoir and the imposing upper reservoir situated at an altitude of 1,350 metres above sea level.